



Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as your Big Sir for 2014; I am honored. I would also like to thank our outgoing Big Sir, **Terry Marchione**, for his leadership and dedication during 2013. During **Terry's** tenure, our branch continued to prosper and I hope to provide similar leadership so the branch is even more prosperous in 2014.

As I look forward to 2014, I see some challenges as well as some opportunities ahead for our branch. The challenges include growing our membership and converting our branch finance mechanism from voluntary to dues based. I'm sure we can overcome these challenges, providing you continue to bring guests to our luncheons and you pay your dues by Dec 31.

As to opportunities, the future is really bright! Our branch has a well deserved reputation in SIR-dom as one of its "best" branches and we can build on that reputation by continuing to offer collegiality and activities our members want as well as by fostering a sense of volunteerism within the branch so members step up to fill leadership positions. I'm also looking forward to celebrating the branch's 25th anniversary during 2014. **Bill Holly**, our Little Sir, will be providing more information on this as it becomes available.

No doubt you're aware that we'll continue to hold our monthly meetings at Boundary Oak throughout 2014 as the need for a temporary relocation to another venue has been postponed until at least 2015. Additionally, our 2014 Courseco contract includes no changes from last year's contract. Thus, we'll continue to enjoy the same \$25 luncheon cost and special bar prices as in 2013.

I would be remiss if I neglected to send a shout-out to **Steve Dawkins** for his superb work in arranging our December Ladies Day Luncheon. Great job as always **Steve!** The full house enjoyed a lively social hour with friends followed by an excellent meal and the harmony and humor of

January Luncheon
Featuring
Scott Hein freelance nature and conservation photographer
Gathering time - 11:00 am
Seating time - 11:45 am



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Santa Korfhage-Claus maybe promising nice things for **Doreen** and Sir **Art Ainscough** if they behave?
- At the December Ladies Day Luncheon -

HouseBlend, a local male a cappella quartet. What a great way to celebrate the Christmas season!

Finally, I would like to remind you that our monthly BEC meeting is open to all members and I invite you to attend. It's a great way for members, particularly newer members, to see the administrative side of the branch and to get involved with its management. We meet monthly, except May and December, in the Lakeview Room at Boundary Oak at 9:15 am prior to our luncheon.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Sir **Jonathan Korfhage**, the front line welcoming staff on duty for the November SIR Remembrance Luncheon.

Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

1st Monday at 10 am at various members' homes. Contact Fred Bolton for details. Bring a lunch.

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Lo McCarley** on Dec. 2. First place went to **Jim Brown** with 5840 points, second

to **Dick DeVoe** with 4810 and third to **Jim Jackson** with 4710. Our next game will be at the home of **Bill Rees** on January 6th, 2014.



Photo by Bill

Sally and Steve Sprague at the SIR 146 dinner dance

Membership

Steve Sprague

Our Branch 146 Membership Numbers:

Our membership numbers did not change this month. The new member induction function took a break because of the December Ladies Day Luncheon. So....we still have the 266 active members (including six



Honorary Life Members) that were reported last month. We currently have one applicant awaiting BEC approval.

Status Changes: None

December Luncheon Attendance:

A total of 250 members and guests enjoyed the Ladies Day Luncheon.

Our Inactive Roster remains at 23 members.

Cribbage

John Pearl

Six merry men gathered at **Barney Meade's** home on Wednesday, December 18th, for our annual Christmas party (sorry **Dennis Hallett**, you missed it). The usual money exchange took place, with our host, **Barney Meade**, taking first place, and **John Boyan** taking second place. Our group's newest member, **Jim Stedman**, former Big Sir and State President, quickly got into the swing of things, taking third place. The also-rans will not be named for fear of embarrassing them. **John Pearl**, Chair mcppearl@astound.net B/N 81 Speak to Chuck Campbell about your January free lunch.



Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge 1 group played at **Bob Yolland's** home on Dec 16. **Terry Marchione**, the lone substitute at the game, walked off with top honors, scoring 44.5 pts. **Fred Bolton** and **Bob Donahue** tied for second place with scores of 41pts and **Lynn Freeman** took 4th place with a score of 40 pts. Our next game will be played at **Bill Rees's** house on Jan 20.



Little Sir's Corner

Bill Holly

This is the time of the year for the changing of the guard so to speak. Like past Little Sirs before him, **Doug Eisner** is probably relieved to pass on the responsibility of finding luncheon speakers. Now that it is my turn, I hope I can achieve the high standard that he has set.



The 2014 speaker committee consisting of **Brad Hatcher, Dave Pierce, John Pearl** and I will try to provide speakers on a variety of topics for our monthly meetings. However, you can also help. Many of the suggestions for speakers have come from our members or from their spouses. This month's speaker came as a suggestion from **Pam Rammell**, wife of **George Rammell**.

Our speaker for the January 9th luncheon is Scott Hein. Scott is a freelance nature and conservation photographer whose passion is photographing the native plants, wildlife, and landscapes of the American West. Although his explorations have taken him from Alaska to Antarctica, the wild lands and parks surrounding Mount Diablo near his home in Concord remain his favorite photo locations. Scott strives to be a naturalist first and a photographer second and believes that the best way to become a better nature photographer is by improving his knowledge of natural history.

Scott's images have appeared in many local, regional, and national publications including *Bay Nature*, *Diablo Magazine*, *California Wild*, *Outdoor California*, and in newspapers ranging from the *San Francisco Chronicle* to the *New York Times*. His images have also been used in several books, including most recently, *Rare Birds of California*, and *Fifty Places to Go Birding Before You Die*. (For a sneak peek go to his website: <http://heinphoto.com>)

Scott's images are used by a number of non-profit conservation and environmental organizations to support their conservation and land preservation efforts. He currently

serves as President of the Board of Directors of Save Mount Diablo, a land conservation organization based in Walnut Creek. Scott received *Diablo Magazine's* Threads of Hope award in 2007 in recognition of his volunteer efforts supporting land conservation. I hope you will enjoy Scott's presentation as well as some of his insights about Mount Diablo.



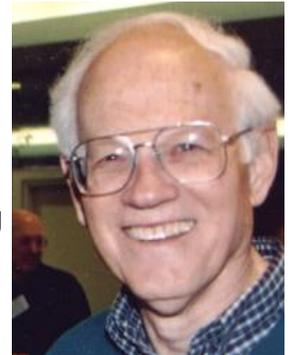
Photo by Gary Schaub

Phyllis Bolton, Susan Kaplan, Jerry Kaplan and Fred Bolton at "A Grand Night for Singing", the Diablo Theatre Co. production at Leshner Center on December 4

Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley

George Zurich and Susi Cherry hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on December 18th. The Couples Duplicate Bridge finished the eleventh



year. Nine of the founding couples are still with us. Unfortunately **Jim and Allison Todhunter** needed to drop out. We will miss them. The group thanked **Fred Bolton** for subbing for **Janet Yolland**. As for the bridge results, **Carl and Anne Johnson** took first place with 39 points. **Margot Somerville and Daphne Merritt** came in second with 38 points and, in third place, was **George Zurich and Susi Cherry** with 35 points. In fourth place, **Bob Yolland and Fred Bolton** tied with **Jim Brown and Adrienne Morrison** with 31 points. **Bill and Margaret Rees** will host the next bridge on January 15th.

Chickens: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.



GOLF

Ray Weisz

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats:

We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak.

Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each player.

In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players.

There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date. For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October.

Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer Away Golf. Do you enjoy competing against other SIR players from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.

Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events.

All of our golfers should be receiving GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Ron Binder, Steve Conte, Paul Fama and Ken Donnelly on the 9th at Boundary Oak GC

Masher Register

Reply by January 15, 2014.

A complete package of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you at a later date.

Make checks payable to:

"SIR Branch 146 – Monterey Mashers".

Mail to: Lew Thompson, 1830 Cleveland Ct.,
Concord, CA 94521.

-----CUT HERE-----

Name _____

Companion _____

Couples package- Two Golfers: - \$690
Room 3 nights, Banquet, Party. 2 golf rounds each- two golfers.

Couples package - One Golfer: - \$570
Room 3 nights, Banquet, Party. 2 golf rounds- one golfer.

Companion to play golf Monday only:
add \$72.

Companion to play golf Tuesday only:
add \$47

Total enclosed.....

Banquet Choices: Filet Mignon with Fresh Vegetable Medley _____

Baked Salmon with Fresh Vegetable Medley..... _____

Vegetarian..... _____

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, March 30 thru Tuesday, April 1
for the 2014 gathering of the

MONTEREY MASHER GOLF TOURNAMENT
in Monterey, California. Included are 3 nights
lodging, breakfasts, a couple of in-house cocktail
parties and a round of golf at

PACIFIC GROVE MUNI & LAGUNA SECA GC
The awards banquet will be on Tuesday evening.

Questions?

Ask any committee member below.

**Lew Thompson, Dick DeVoe
Dick Richmond, Dennis Hallett**

Fishing Report

Paul Dubow



The cold weather chilled our fishing activities this month, but just a bit. It has been a banner year for rockfish and ling cod and that continued right up to year's end with two very successful outings.

Carl Moyer, Gordon Linebaugh, and George Vogt journeyed out of Pacifica in **Carl's** boat and returned with a limit of both species as well as some crab caught south of the Golden Gate. Fishing north of the Gate was equally rewarding for **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146, who hosted **Gene Schulting** of Branch 146 and **Gordon Linebaugh** on his boat and hauled in several meals' worth of rockfish and ling cod.

In the Delta, **Carl Moyer** and **Rich Fiscina** fished for sturgeon but did not land any keepers. But **Rich** and **Joe Miscione** caught a bevy of stripers in Montezuma Slough, which is **Joe's** favorite hunting ground.

Nor did the cold weather nip the fishing at our old standby, Shadow Cliffs Reservoir. **Harry Sherinian** landed the largest trout, with a big rainbow weighing in at seven pounds. A few days later, **Dick Thomson** picked up a big trout while fishing with **Harry** and **Terry Miller**. And then **Gene Schulting** and his son caught a respectable string of trout at the reservoir.

Don Mittelstadt flew to Louisiana to fly fish for redfish and after an epic struggle, landed a fourteen pounder.

Our February and March outings include several trips to Shadow Cliffs and San Pablo Reservoirs for trout, to the Delta for sturgeon, and to Lake Berryessa for trout, bass, and kokanee. You are welcome to join us even if you have never fished or have not fished for a while.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 23rd at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, but you can join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30. For further information, please contact Big Fish **Dick**

Thomson (925-944-1760), secretary treasurer **Romano Gnusti** (925-376-3313) or branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** (415-495-6504).

Photo by Paul Dubow



Branch 146's **Gene Schulting** showcasing a day's catch north of the Golden Gate



SIR Branch 146 Luncheon

January 9, 2014

Salad

Mixed Green Salad

Citrus Segments, Parmesan Cheese
Chive Vinaigrette

Entrees

Cider Brined Pork Tenderloin

Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Port Wine Sauce and Pear Compote

Or

Herb Marinated Pacific Dory

Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables
Caper Butter Sauce

Dessert

Arturo's Famous Apple Pie

Crème Anglaise and Whipped Cream



Photo by Bill Schultz

L to R, **Bill Schultz, Doug Eisner, Norm Baietti** and **Don Rhoads** at a SIR modified scramble. **Don Rhoads** just putted in from off the green on the 11th at Boundary Oak GC for a birdie for team **Eisner/Rhoads**.



Note from the Editor

We're looking for a Branch 146 member who would like to try his hand at the job of newsletter editor (-in-training). Requirements are a pc and the Microsoft Publisher program. I will work with the candidate for as long as it takes to get up to speed to share the job of editor.

Jeff Baily SIR Call Editor

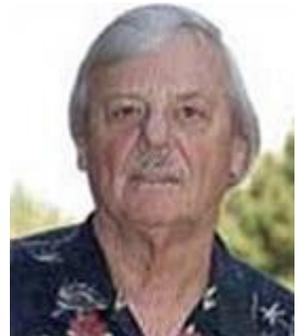
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Anne and Carl Johnson enjoying the Ladies Day Luncheon

*Lost in the woods, a hiker spends two days wandering
around with no food. Finally, he spots a bald eagle,
hits the bird
with a big rock and eats it.
A park ranger stumbles on the scene and
arrests the man for killing
an endangered species.
In court, the hiker explains that he was on the edge of
starvation and had no choice.
"Considering the circumstances, I find you not guilty,"
says the judge. "But I have to ask what did the eagle
taste like?"
"Well, Your Honor," the hiker replies,
"it tastes like a cross between a
whooping crane and a spotted owl." Lo McCarley*

Hiking
Rich Ahlf



Happy New Year! Do you want to get in shape this year and have a good time? Come join our new hiking group for our first hike. We'll start off with a relatively easy hike to see what kind of shape we're in on Mt. Diablo on Friday, January 10. Come join us at the Regency Gate in Clayton at 9:am for about a three hour hike.

Directions—Drive out Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right on Clayton Road (*which changes its name to Marsh Creek Road*). Go about three miles, turn right on Regency Drive and go to staging area at the end. Walk down the hill to the gate.

Rain Cancels Spouses are welcome

I have set up a new email address

sir146hiking@gmail.com

or rahlf@sbcglobal.net

Tels: Home **925-672-2514** Cell **925-550-4967**

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were camping. They'd gone to sleep beneath the night sky, when Holmes awoke and shook his companion. "Watson, look at the night sky and tell me what you see." "I see millions of brilliant stars," Watson answered. "And what does that tell you?" asked Holmes. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are countless galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically speaking, Saturn is in Leo. Theologically I see that God is all-powerful and that we are small and insignificant. And you, Holmes, what does it tell you?" Holmes paused. "What I see, Watson, is that someone has stolen our tent!"

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

The Mac Users meet the *first Monday* of every month at 10 AM at the Thurman Casey Library on Oak Grove Road. We finish by noon.

Max Burchett and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac.

If you have or may have an interest please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list you will receive an email from us from time to time and we will let you know of items that are of interest to Mac users.



If you were one of the lucky winners of the tree we had as a centerpiece for the Christmas Luncheon you have what is known as a Lawson False Cypress. This tree is hardy, has a conical upright form and is a slow grower. It never gets over 10 feet and can be grown along borders or as a specimen tree in a garden. It likes full sun, moist well drained soil and involves minimum care. I have one and will give it a try, even though full sun is a problem in my yard.

It has been a tough year for frost sensitive plants. If they have dead looking leaves etc. let them be until early spring. Don't be in a hurry to cut them back as what is left of the plant still gives them further protection from cold weather. Also don't give up on your plants. Some may surprise you and come back. I have a Lantana that always looks like a goner, but around April it rewards me with green shoots. Hang in there and have faith in Mother Nature.

Our next Garden Club meeting is at Heather Farms at 9:30 AM on Thursday, January 23rd to prune roses. Happy New Year Everyone.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ken Donnelly in his appropriate getup for the Christmas season



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ken and Lynn Kratz enjoying their time at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Sandy Wagner, Dick Kincaide, Karen Binder and Alice Schultz at the Zio Fraedo dinner

ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)
Malcolm Hendry



ROMEO meets on the third Thursday at 6:30pm. We did not meet in December to make way for the holidays; however, our annual visit to the Walnut Creek Yacht Club for their

"Lobster Fest" is set for January 16. ROMEO will meet this month at 5:30pm. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, or those favorably reviewed in the media.

Come join us and experience dining in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with your fellow Sirs and other male guests.

WALNUT CREEK YACHT CLUB

This will be our second annual "Lobster Feed" at the WCYC. This acclaimed sea food restaurant features lobster dinners every January, this year priced at \$20.14. Other non-seafood dishes are available along with full bar and extensive wine list. Management asks us to pay in cash, to accommodate separate checks for our group. Also, when you respond, please let me know if you want lobster. Space is limited to the first sixteen.

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do -- write a letter to these men? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen could look for them while they deliver the mail? Or better yet, arrest them while they are taking their pictures!

Lo McCarley

Cooking II

Bob Yolland



Cooking II had a great Christmas lunch at the beautifully decorated home of **Corrie and Susan Oranje**.

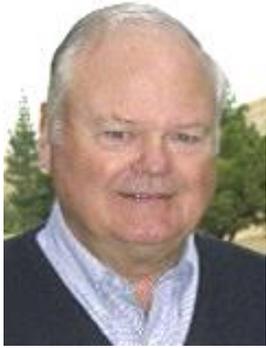
Corrie started us off with several special hors d'oeuvre including chunky deviled eggs, a fine selection of gouda cheeses with crackers and bread sticks and his specialty - a great roast pepper spread. He makes it by grilling the peppers on high heat until they are black, then peeling off the blackened skin, dicing the peppers and marinating them with garlic, salt and olive oil for several hours. The result is an excellent sweet pepper spread that goes well on sour dough sliced bread. Of course we had a fine selection of wines to go with the food. Once at the table **Corrie** served won ton soup and an entree of grilled Ahi tuna on salad greens with a nice vinegar based dressing, complete with pomegranate seeds. For dessert we enjoyed apple strudel and ice cream. Thank you **Corrie** for a great meal and time.



Dale Haukland after winning his table's flowers

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| SIR Call Newsletter Group | |
| Editor | Jeff Bailly |
| Proofreaders | Dick DeVoe and Cal Tucker |
| Assistant Editor | Rich Ahlf |
| Labeling & Mailing | Bill Cammerer |
| Internet Posting | Webmaster Jack Hockel |

Money can't buy you happiness but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery.



Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman

May 13, 2014: Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece. A 16 day cruise aboard a privately owned Grand Circle small ship with a maximum of 50 passengers. Ports of Call include Zagreb, Split, Hvar,

Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Butrint, Albania, Corfu, Delphi and Athens. Prices range from approximately \$4595 to \$6170 depending on accommodations and airfare. Trip also includes 37 meals, 12 exclusive tours with personal headsets, home hosted dinners, and resident Grand Circle Program Director. Contact **Ken Richter**, 689-6217.

Sep 19-Oct 3, 2014: Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage. 14 night trip starting in Bergen, Norway with a stay at a Superior First Class Hotel before boarding your working Norwegian coastal vessel designed for comfortable cruising. You will visit 34 ports of call, with 12 orientation walking tours with Program Manager. Additionally cost of \$4649 includes accommodations, 36 meals, audio headsets, all transfers and baggage handlings. Post trip to Copenhagen, Denmark also available. This trip will sell out fast. Contact **Bob Spellman**, 934-8428.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



June and Bob Donahue at the December Ladies Day Luncheon

Poker Club 1

Frank McNamee

Poker Club #1 had a new experience on 12/11/13 when they traveled to **Don Martin's** new residence at Stoneridge Creek in Pleasanton. The five who made the trip for the poker game all came away amazed at the beautiful facilities that they have built there. The day's winners were **Rich Hanford**, our driver **Bill Cammerer** and **Frank McNamee**.

We will meet for the first time in 2014 at **Bill Cammerer's** home on January 7th.



Member Relations

Happy Holidays to all Sirs and their families. Your Survey Committee will present its recommendations to the BEC for discussion/approval at the Jan 9 meeting. We will report on our plans and commitments next month.



I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap... Bob Hope

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you... Winston Churchill

Lo McCarley

Book Corner

Ken Richter

The Book Corner will start another year at the January SIR Luncheon.

The support and participation by our members has been overwhelming. Several ladies at the December luncheon were hoping the Book Corner would have been open. I let them know that the Corner will be open at the May Luncheon.

With the cold weather in the area a great activity is reading a book by a warm fire. If there any questions in January please contact **Hank James**.

The Book Corner is open in the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.



Photography

Richard Hockenbrock

We are less than a month away from the kick-off of the SIR146 Photography Group on January 17th at the Contra Costa County Library on Oak Grove Road.

Although the library doesn't open until 10am, we have special permission from the library staff to commence our meetings at 9am. So far we have twelve people who have signed up including spouses of two non-attending members. We have a wide open agenda planned for the coming year and will cover any device that can take a picture including smartphones, tablets, and of course inexpensive to expensive cameras depending on the attendees interest.

We plan to spend about equal parts of each meeting covering composition and varying picture subjects with the remainder on equipment and post processing software and techniques. To get started we are asking everyone who's attending to bring ten photos on a flash drive or SD card to show and discuss at our first meeting. These can be award winning photos or photos of problems that you are having with your picture taking.

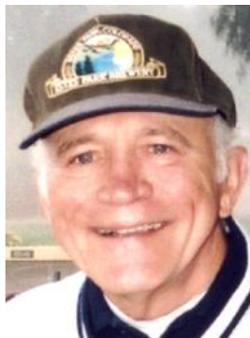
We have space to accommodate thirty people or more and there is still time to sign up. So if I have peaked your interest please send me an email at rhock@pacbell.net

Meetings will be held every third Friday of the month.

Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

The January game will be at the home of Sir **Chuck Bobinecz** and will be hosted by Sir **Skip Thomas**. Skip would like to start the new year the way he ended last year as the big winner. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month from 1pm to 4pm. Our regular members are **Rich Hanford, Garth Cummings, Pete Gates, Frank Rockwell, Skip Thomas, Chuck Bobinecz** and **Bob Mehus**. We don't have a regular winner.



Genealogy

Verner Laursen



The Genealogy group meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd in Concord. We start at 1:30 and go for about 2 hours.

We have assistance from the staff at the Family History Center. At this Center we have access to many sites that might have the information you are seeking. We are here to help those who are beginners and those who have some or a lot of information about their family. You do need access to a computer to enter your information. If you are a beginner at genealogy we will help you avoid our mistakes.

Our group did not meet in November and December because of the proximity of the day to Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are starting again in January.

If you have or may have an interest please contact me and I will put you on my mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from me from time to time and I will let you know of items that are of interest to genealogists.

Verner Laursen

vlaursen@astound.net

Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

'Tis the season but the cards were not very charitable on Dec. 3rd. **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** hosted the six regular couples in their home charmingly decorated for the holidays and were rewarded with 3rd place (3120). **Doug** and **Patti Eisner** were 2nd (3410) and **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione** were 1st (4050). The true rewards were the usual great DeVoe munchies, Christy's tasty dessert, and the warmth and fellowship we all share at these events. Happy Holidays!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Kirby and Ramona Narcisse arriving at the December Luncheon

SIR 146 Niners Golf

Vern Laursen

The SIR 146 Niners golf group tees off at 9:30 AM at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we go to the SIR's lunch and on Thanksgiving when we know better than to play golf. Rain may be a hindrance for some. Last year we did play in the rain one time. We do enjoy a good lunch after our round. We miss our good friend **John Denham** and his stories at lunch. If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Mondays I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesdays I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who does or does not show up.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Ted and Sandi Coggiola enjoying Branch 146 Ladies Day

Remarks overheard in restaurants...

"I've had better food in prison".

*"The waiter repeatedly called my aging parents
"Coach" and "Darling"."*

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

Allen Espenmiller

The SIR Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday January 22, 2014 8:00 am at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our guest speaker will be Tom Kopas from Pring Turner Capital Group. He will update the firm's secular and cyclical outlook for stocks, bonds and commodities. Packed with fresh new material based on their unique, internationally recognized research, this program will answer many of today's topical questions, including: *What's ahead for the Economy in 2104? Where are we in the Current Business Cycle and how can this information Help Investors? Which is the bigger risk, Inflation or Deflation? Are Bonds still safe?*

Mr. Kopas will discuss what asset allocation decisions will bring investors profitably through this cycle, and where the risks and opportunities are for investors now and in the coming months and years.

Tom is one of most popular guest speakers having been invited to the \$ums Investment Group each year since 2002. He is the principal and portfolio manager at Pring Turner Capital Group in Walnut Creek. Tom co-manages the Pring Turner Business Cycle ETF (NYSE symbol DBIZ), an actively managed ETF based on Pring Turner's "Six-Stage business cycle investment strategy. In addition Mr. Kopas co-authored a book published by McGraw Hill entitled *Investing in the Second Lost Decade*.

The Legends Restaurant opens at 7:00 am so plan to have a leisurely breakfast prior to the meeting along with your fellow members. Plan to attend this informative meeting and bring a prospective Sir.

Co-Chairmen: Allen Espenmiller (Br-174) [925-376-3977](tel:925-376-3977) George Schulze (Br-8) [925-429-1756](tel:925-429-1756) Leary Wong (Br-8) [925-457-0807](tel:925-457-0807)

*Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself
"Lillian, you should have remained a virgin."
... Lillian Carter, mother of President Jimmy Carter
Lo McCarley*



Walkers

John Lewis



Every Friday at 9:30 am
at various locales.
Call **John** or just show up.
Rain cancels any walk.

JANUARY 2014 WALKS

- Jan 3: HAP MCGEE PARK
Alamo
Meet: 680 South to El Pintado off ramp..
Sharp right to El Gonda to end.
Walk: Around park.
Coffee: Pascal French Oven, Danville
- Jan 10: LAFAYETTE TRAIL EAST
Lafayette
Meet: Lafayette Community Ctr., St. Mary's
road
Walk: East on Trail
Coffee: Terzetto's, Moraga
- Jan 17: INSPIRATION POINT
Orinda
Meet: Parking lot
Walk: West on trail from parking lot
Coffee: Starbucks, Theater Square, Orinda
- Jan 24: NEW LIFE CHURCH
Alamo
Meet: 680 south to Livorna Blvd. Exit left
onto Danville Blvd. Turn right into Church pkg.
Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail
Coffee: Pete's, Alamo Plaza
- Jan 31: HEATHER FARMS WEST
Walnut Creek
Meet: Parking lot
Walk: West on canal trail
Coffee: Sweet Affair, Ygnacio Plaza



Phil Goff



Derek Southern

Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

Phil Goff and **Derek Southern** Co-chairs

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all Sirs and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, January 16th at 9:30 am.

Barry Brown and **Derek Southern** will demonstrate free video 'phone' calls using laptops, tablets smart phones etc. and will discuss the necessary and inexpensive equipment you will need.

They will discuss video messaging 1:1 (rather than video conferencing with tens or hundreds of participants). They will demonstrate three free programs which support 1:1 easily (more people if you pay for a subscription), and may show one which permits multiple attendees (up to 25 for free). To make the presentation more interactive they are planning to include some audience members, with laptops, tablets, or smart phones to demonstrate how different platforms can communicate. The programs to be featured are Skype, Google Hangout, Faceview and Teamviewer.

Time permitting there will be an opportunity to ask questions of the Group gurus.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies, but some months are free, so come and see if January is one of those!

I was married by a judge.

I should have asked for a jury. -- Groucho Marx

Lo McCarley



Photo by Bill Schultz

Walt and Sue Busenius and **Dick DeVoe**
at the recent Branch 146 Dinner Dance.

Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out January restaurant selection has been made! I am pleased to let you know that we will be dining at the Blackhawk Grille in Danville on Wednesday January 15 in the new year. This restaurant is in a beautiful setting in Blackhawk Plaza shopping center. We will be in the private Oak Room, which overlooks the restaurant with the open kitchen on one side and the magnificent aquatic landscape with flowing fountains on the other side. The executive chef Jason Bergeron is known for a new American cuisine with French influence using the freshest ingredients – you will not be disappointed with our menu! The capacity is about 40 diners for this event and will no doubt be one of the finest dinners we've had until now.

The special menu we've selected includes as a starter the chef's seasonal soup or the Blackhawk signature salad. Entrée selections will be the Tavern Steak – marinated sirloin with garlic herb butter, Penne Jambalaya with andouille sausage, chicken and prawns in a Cajun cream sauce, or Chicken Picatta in a caper butter sauce. We will have a selection of the chef's seasonal desserts, with coffee, tea, or soft drinks. The all-inclusive cost is \$43 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity.

We would be pleased to have you join us regulars, as well as new participants in this fun SIR activity. You may send your reservation check made out to SIR 146 to Bruce Borgman, 3611 Winchester Place, Walnut Creek 94598 by Jan. 9, 2014. We will start a bit earlier – 5:00pm for our no host social hour, with dinner at 6:00pm. Blackhawk Plaza is located about 5 miles south on 680, turn east on Sycamore Valley Road for another 5 miles to the shopping center. Ample parking is available.

For questions email Bruce at bborgman@aol.com, or call 932-3961 – and join us for this special dinner!

I have never hated a man enough to give him his diamonds back.

Zsa Zsa Gabor



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bill and Margaret Rees enjoying the hour at the December Ladies Day Luncheon

Henny Youngman One Liners...

*I told the doctor I broke my leg in two places.
He told me to quit going to those places.*

My dad was the town drunk. Most of the time that's not so bad; but New York City?

*A Jewish woman had two chickens.
One got sick, so the woman made chicken soup out of the other one to help the sick one get well.*



Photo by Bill Schultz

Left to Right - **Ben Gleason, Alan Elnick, Norm Baietti, Bill Schultz**. Moments after this photo was taken these hardy lads teed off with a 39 Degrees(f) temp.



Sunshine

John Pearl

Let us keep the following
Sirs in our thoughts and
prayers during January.
We look forward to their
continued healing and
return to good health...

Guy Rudberg
Chuck Bobincez
Elmer Kaprielian
Bob Van Luchene

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support
and encouragement during his illness.
A friendly call is usually always welcome.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me
know by e-mail or phone so that our Sir
membership can be advised.

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

925-934-6920



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am.

(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)

We usually have three or four pool games
going when we meet on the 1st & 3rd
Mondays at 1:30am at Masse's 2721 North
Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5 for as
long as you want to play. We also have SIR
members from other branches joining us and
we usually play about 2 hours, but not
everyone stays for the final curtain.
Haven't played in years? Come join us.
All Sirs in our Area 2 are welcome.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bob and Marianne Adams
pausing for a pic at the Ladies Day Luncheon

Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

We gathered at **John Boyan's** for the year's
final contest. At halftime
Max Hinkle had a
commanding lead (18½, a
77% game) over a tight
pack vying for second:

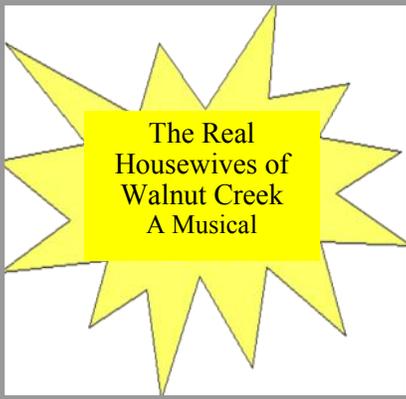


Brad Hatcher (16), **Rich Ahlf** (15½), and
Tony Greco (15). Those three played
equally well in the second half to cop the
money: **Brad** (32), **Rich** (31½), and
Tony (29). **Max** was fourth, and **John B** and
Dave Steinberg finished above average.
The rest of us had the good fortune of
participating in some unusually interesting
hands and enjoying **John's** gracious
hospitality. Wait 'til next year!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Monnie and Chuck Eichten at
the Ladies Day Luncheon



Theatre Gary Schaub



SIR Theatre Party in April
 “The Real Housewives of Walnut Creek” comes to Walnut Creek!

SIR members and guests are welcome to attend the April 25 performance of The Real Housewives of Walnut Creek -- a zany pop musical having its world premiere at Leshar Center for the Arts. You’ve heard of the Real Housewives in Orange County, Atlanta and New Jersey – now the housewives come home to the East Bay! The SIR Theatre Party is Friday, April 25 at 8:15 pm in Leshar Center’s intimate Stage 3 Theatre.

Produced by Center Repertory Company for a limited engagement, “The Real Housewives of Walnut Creek”: The musical is inspired by one of America’s favorite TV series. It will provide all the nastiness and cat-fights made famous by the popular television series. This wild evening of theatre features Joanne, Lula, Penny, Beezus and Babette as they tape the “reunion special” before a studio audience.

The local version was written by and stars Molly Bell, who co-wrote and starred in 2011’s popular “Becoming Britney”. The Contra Costa Times saluted her performance in that show as having “all the energy of Red Bull blended with jet fuel and stirred by a tornado.” In “The Real Housewives of Walnut Creek” she exposes the world of reality television set to an original musical score. A limited number of reserved seats have been set aside for the SIR members and guests. Reservations can be accepted until March 18, or until our allocation has been exhausted. The group rate for tickets is \$30.00 each, and can be reserved through Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1758 Candelero Court,

Walnut Creek 94598. An early response is recommended.

Tickets will be distributed in the lower lobby of the Leshar Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:30 p.m. on April 25. Parking is available in the adjacent city garage.

Questions? Call **Gary** at (925) 938-5454.



Photo by Gary Schaub

Visiting in the Leshar Center lobby before "A Grand Night for Singing" were (L-R) **Steve and Sally Sprague, Shirley and Garth Cummings** and **Dale and Joanne Haukland**.

More Henny Youngman One Liners...

My son complains about headaches. I tell him all the time, when you get out of bed its feet first.

Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week.

A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing.

She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays.

When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Janet Yolland admiring the Ladies Day table decoration. She and **Bob** won the centerpiece as the couple among those at their table that had been married the least years...50. Wow!



Photo by Bruce Borgman

Cooking Too Group at their December gathering... L to R, **Bob Yolland, John Demos, Bill Cammerer,** host **Corrie Oranje, Dennis Hallett and Ken Richter.** These guys are all good cooks.