



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

January 2023



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Wilkenfeld

Welcome to 2023!

Whether you celebrated Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, I hope that you and your family had a safe and wonderful holiday. May

2023 be a joyous, healthy, and prosperous year for each of us and our loved ones!

The New Year brings new leaders and probably new challenges to our Branch. As the incoming Big Sir, I am humbled by your trust and challenged by your expectations. As an easy-going guy, please let me know if something I say or do offends you; I cannot address what I don't know or understand. This year, I hope to build on the solid foundation laid by **Rich Lyon, Jerry Kaplan, Richard Hockenbrock, Brad Hatcher, Jonathan Korfhage** and other recent Big Sirs. Your new Branch Executive Committee (BEC) will remain focused on making our decisions transparent, keeping our Branch strong (both financially and membership-wise), reducing unproductive bureaucracy, and remaining nimble and flexible to meet whatever new challenges 2023 brings. **The purpose of our Branch remains to provide opportunities for men to socialize, renew old friendships, and develop new friends by participating in activities of interest to them.**

They're doing their part...

At the start of the new year, it is important to thank the many volunteers who toiled last year to keep the Branch healthy, our activities interesting and plentiful, and our lunch meetings fun. Unfortunately, there were way too many contributors to list here by name. But hopefully, our volunteers know that they are the lifeblood of our organization. It doesn't matter whether they helped one time last year, or many days each week—THANK YOU!

A good time was had by all!

Steve Ybarra knows how to throw a party! Our December Ladies' Day lunch had nearly 200 attendees and Steve admirably handled the ever-increasing headcount right up to the day of the event. Boundary Oak

did a great job on the entrees and the service was swift. Our entertainment was supplied by the California Symphony. A wonderful brass quintet played many holiday favorites and included a few twists. Scott Foglesong, from the SF Conservatory of Music, shared trivia regarding several holiday favorite compositions. Did you know that Handel's Messiah was initially a flop?!!

Along with candid photos taken by **Richard Hockenbrock, Rich Lyon** and "**Moose**" **Kelly** took formal photos of couples in front of the decked-out Christmas tree. **Cal Tucker** provided a wonderful invocation, despite the truly last-minute request. Many thanks to the volunteers who made this year-end bash memorable!

A point of clarification

Last month, I explained the reinstatement of our Branch's regulations governing attendance at lunches. In 2020, at the inception of the COVID pandemic, "mandatory" attendance at Branch luncheons was suspended. With the lifting of government COVID restrictions in 2022, and the high vaccination rate of our members, our BEC decided it was time to again ask our members to attend at least 5 regular luncheons out of the 10 held each year. Members are also expected not to miss more than three regular lunch meetings in a row. These lunch meetings are important for members to stay connected, receive important updates, and participate in Branch Officer nominations and elections. Thus, starting in January you are being asked to opt-out of any regular lunch meeting you do not plan to attend.

Several members have asked what they should do if they cannot attend at least five of the regular lunch-

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, January 12th, 2022
Boundary Oak
11:30

Zach Harris from John Muir Health
Opt Out by January 5th if not attending

eons this year. Fortunately, our Branch regulations anticipate such situations. Any member can seek a six-month exemption from the attendance requirement. To start the process, simply contact our Membership Chair, **George Mon**, (preferably by email) and explain why you cannot attend the lunches (e.g., I have a chronic illness and cannot travel; I care for a family member during the day; I will be out of the country for several months). Our BEC will rule on each application and then let you know if the exemption is granted. Remember that any exemption issued is only valid for six months and must be renewed by the same process.

In the course of my life, I have often eaten my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet.
 – Winston Churchill

Bob Wilkenfeld
 Big Sir, Branch 146



Little Sir's Corner
John Kluesener

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

I am looking forward to lots of assistance from you all in fulfilling the duties of Little Sir as it will be a challenge to fill the shoes of **Bob**

Wilkenfeld. The membership has clearly indicated that we need to have stimulating speakers to complement our monthly meetings. For starters we will be hearing from Dr. Zach Harris from John Muir Health to speak on the Future of Healthcare. Our speaker in February is scheduled to be Dr. Murali Dharan who will speak on the Advances of Cardiac Surgery and for March we are trying to finalize arrangements for a speaker from the California team responsible for balancing the power that is distributed from the various sources around the state.

We still have some of our membership who have not committed to paying dues for the new year. If you have not paid but plan to be at the January luncheon bring your dues check of \$25 to the luncheon along with the check of \$36 for the lunch.

Looking forward to seeing you all in January and Hope that you and your family have an exceptional New Year.

John Kluesener
 Little Sir, Branch 146

**2023 Branch 146
 Officers and Directors**

- Big Sir..... **Robert Wilkenfeld**
- Little Sir..... **John Kluesener**
- Secretary **Bob Ford**
- Assistant Secretary Vacant
- Treasurer **John Alexander**
- Assistant Treasurer **Jim Nelson**
- Director 4th Term **George Mon**
- Director 3rd Term **Henry Thatcher**
- Director 3rd Term **Robert Lucido**
- Director 1st Term **Larry Kaye**
- Director 2nd Term **Edward Brands**
- Director 1st Term **Randy Graham**

RAMP—Chair Members

- Recruitment **Larry Kaye**
- Activities **Bob Lucido**
- Member Relations **Edwards Brands**
- Publicity **Randy Graham**

Refer to branch directory, accessible under Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.

SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events, and luncheons while making friends for life.



Membership George Mon

Four new members were approved in December by the BEC. **Glenn Breslin** lives in Lafayette with his wife **Ellen** and was an IT Project Manager for Delta Dental of CA. He heard about our branch through the internet. **Steven Knight** lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Heidi** and was a HVAC Estimator for Johnson Controls Inc. He is sponsored by **Curtis Young**. **Roger Stephens** and his wife **Eileen** also live in Walnut Creek. He was a Bank Credit Officer for FHC SF. His sponsor is **Gary Brown**. **Cliff Tong** lives in Alameda with his wife **Nancy Lee**. He is CEO for Diverse Strategies and is sponsored by **Don Shaw**.

Sadly, we lost two members in December. **Charlie Koeber** passed away after a long illness. **Tom Noble** suffered a stroke.

Seven members decided to resign for various reasons. They are **Don Del Bene**, **Robert Mijango**, **Robert Johnston**, **David Kittel**, **Dan O'Sullivan**, **John Wall** and **Jerry Kaplan**.

The 2022 membership count is at 272. We ended 2021 with 280 members.

2023 dues letter were sent out during the month of October. Members had an opportunity to update their contact information, including spouse contact information. Also, members could pay for luncheons in advance along with their dues. Dues are \$25 for 2023. This is an increase of \$5 from 2022.

As of 12/15/22, there are still 51 members that we have yet to hear from on renewing their membership.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly.

It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone, or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Another year now in the rear view mirror! I wonder how many of you wondered, as little kids, if you would ever see the year 2020, let alone 2023. I remember thinking what a far and distant time that was but here it is and now you have the opportunity to celebrate it again. That presumes that you have already celebrated it once with our Gregorian calendar. All you have to do is switch over to the Oriental Lunar Calendar and you have an excuse to celebrate all over again... or at least go out to the local Chinese or Japanese restaurant. So, here's wishing you a second Hopy New Year! It is, after all, the year of the Rabbit!

Check out our Special Christmas/Ladies' Day luncheon pictures. Want a copy of your picture? It is only a click away!

The deadline for submissions for the February issue is three days after the start of the Lunar New Year, **January 25th**.

Don't forget, we encourage member contributions to SIR-Call so, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SirCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next available issue.

Clint Collier—Editor SIR-Call
Cell /Text: 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com





Luncheon Chairman

Steve Oki

In December, we had our successful Annual Holiday Luncheon which was arranged by Steve Ybarra. We had a great Ladies' Day attendance of 197.

Our January 12 meeting will feature Zach Harris from John Muir Health who will discuss the Future of Healthcare.

It is very important to note that starting with the January meeting, we will revert to our pre-pandemic practice of expecting that you will attend each luncheon unless you have been given Exempt status by the BEC or have opted-out by the deadline for that meeting. It is also expected that you will attend at least five regular luncheons of the ten regular luncheons each year and miss no more than three in a row. (Regular luncheons do not include May and December, which are our Ladies' Day events.) Also, note that, due to inflation, Boundary Oak has increased the cost of our luncheons and they will now cost **\$36**. If you have not already paid your dues for 2023 you can pay them at the luncheon. Dues are \$25 this year

The BEC has made the decision to make this change for several reasons. First, with the threat of COVID waning, most of us have been able to return to a somewhat normal lifestyle. Second, it is important for the survival of our Branch that the membership has a sense of belonging to the group and a forum for communication with the BEC. And third, it relieves, what we hope to be the majority of members, from having to opt-in for the luncheon each month. It will take everyone's cooperation for this to work!

- **Where:** Boundary Oak.
- **Cost:** \$36 per person.
- **Payment**
The preferred payment method is by check at the luncheon payable to SIR Branch 146.
- **Opt-Out**
 - * If you cannot attend, you must Opt-Out by Friday, January 6th at Noon.
 - * Ways to Opt-Out
 - ✓ Email: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com
 - ✓ If you don't have email access, call: 925.979.5721 and leave a message.
 - ✓ All Opt-Outs will be acknowledged

* If you find that you will be able to attend after opting out or you find that you are unable to attend after the deadline, please let us know ASAP.

• Special Requests

You can choose your entrée from the menu at check-in, but if you have dietary restrictions or want a vegetarian meal, please send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com before the deadline.

• Sponsors

If you are bringing a guest who may wish to join our Branch, please notify the Luncheon Chair with the guest's name at the same email address: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.

• Questions

If you have any questions, please call please call **Steve Oki** at 925.831.9380 and leave a message with your question or request. **Steve** will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 January Luncheon

Thursday January 12th, 2023

Salad

Kale Caesar Salad

Garlic Croutons, Shaved Parmesan Reggiano

Entrees

Alaskan True Cod

Honey Roasted Carrot Puree, Broccolini, Chilis,
Garlic, Romanesco Sauce

Organic Mary's Chicken Breast

Stuffed with Fresh Ricotta, Bloomsdale Spinach,
Wild Mushrooms, Rosemary Potatoes

Vegetarian Option

Wild Mushrooms Risotto

Dessert

Chocolate Mousse Cake

MAKE SURE... YOU HAVE THE FEBRUARY MEETING ON YOUR CALENDAR



Jim Barry	Rob Mcspadden
Frank Barton	Pierre Mebane
Darlo Boone	Pat Okeeffe
Garth Cummings	Peter Plante
Jack Dadam	Roger Pytlewski
Dick Devoe	Ken Richter
Charles Eichten	Mike Riley
Carl Feil	Mike Rothman
Steve George	Lynn Shafer
Ben Gleason	Robert Storkan
Dennis Hallett	Michael Sulyma
Bill Hoban	Steve Taylor
Colin Holland	Steve Ybarra
Hank James	
Bob Lyman	



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 January Luncheon

Thursday February 9th, 2023

Salad

Little Gem Salad
Watermelon Radish, Pickled Onions,
Candied Walnuts, Manchego cheese,
Goddess Dressing

Entrees

Grilled New York Steak
Potato Pave, Asparagus, Red Wine Sauce

Grilled Prawns
Winter Ratatouille, Polenta, Salsa Verde

Vegetarian
Polenta and Winter ratatouille

Dessert

Mocha Cream Cake

A rather elderly gentleman, mid eighties or so, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. He is very well dressed, smelling slightly of an expensive after-shave, hair well-groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel.

He presents a suave, well looked after image.

Seated at the bar is an elderly fine-looking lady. The gentleman walks over, sits along side of her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says, "So tell me, good looking, do I come here often?"

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka, Bruce Borgman Hank James
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

December Lunch

Photos by Richard Lyon, Richard Hockenbrock and "Moose"











MERRY CHRISTMAS











Want a copy of your picture?

The pictures with a red border have been hyperlinked. Just use your mouse to click on it and it will download the full size image that was taken at the party!

NOTES

from Our Members

JOIN THE BAND

Ross Abbott and **Chuck Cornell** (members of SIR 146) are looking for musicians who enjoy Dixieland music and want to have some fun.

Ross plays piano, **Chuck** plays the trombone and **Bud Pearce** plays banjo, so if you have an instrument and want to join us we would love to hear from you. Talent is way less important than desire to have a good time.

We play stuff like “Darktown Strutters Ball”, “Beer Barrel Polka” and “Five Foot Two”. Then when it’s time for a break we will probably enjoy a beer or wine.

Let’s get together and see what happens.

Ross Abbott

rossabbott@hotmail.com 925.939.1121

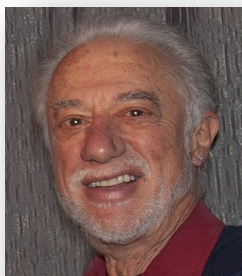
Chuck Cornell

cecornell93@gmail.com 925.933.7599





Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

On the home page for SIR 146 <https://www.sir146.com/> you will find all our activities. Just select one of the icons and it will pull up a full description of that activity with the chairmen's contact information.

I have recently updated most of the information in the icons. In the future, this list will include all the shared activities with branches in our area. If you are interested in starting a new activity contact me and I will help you. I can also contact someone in another branch, who has that activity, to give you guidance.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net



SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in Branch 146 and, in some cases, SIR. Click on the link (the activities that are underlined) to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity and information on who to contact if your are interested in participating.

Birding

Bocce Ball

Book Corner

Book Group

Bridge

Couples Duplicate 1

Couples Duplicate 2

Couples Party

Men's Duplicate 1

Men's Duplicate 2

Men's Duplicate 3

Men's Party

Cooking

Cooking II

Lunch & Wine

Tres Gourmet

Cribbage

Cycling

Dining Out

Couples Dining Out

Explore and Eat

Sushi no tomodachi

Golf—18 Hole

Golf—9 Hole

Hiking

Hearts

Mexican Train Dominoes

Uno

Dos

Tres

Quatro

Cinco

Seis

Siete

Ocho

Photography

Pinochle

Poker

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

Group 4

Group 6

RV-ing

Song Sirs

Table Pool

Theatre

Travel

Wine Tasting

Other Branch Activity

Chess

Fishing

Investing

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar

January 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
9:45am–3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	6:30pm 10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 8 Ocho	9:30am Nine Hole Golf-1 12:30 PMPoker Group #6	10:00am 2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
10:00am Hiking 11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 11:30am–1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PMPoker Group #1 6:45pm–10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 7 Siete	9:00am–10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am–1:00pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm–10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 1 Uno
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
10:00am Hiking 10:00am–3:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge (1) 11:30am–1:30 PM Tres Gourmet 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	6:30pm–10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 9 (Nueve) 7:00pm–10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30am Nine Hole Golf-2 7:00pm–10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 5 Cinco	10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm–10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 4 Quattro
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #4 5:30pm Couples Dining Out Brass Door, San Ramon 2154 San Ramon Blvd	9:00am Golf	10:00am–11:00am Birding Rocco's Italian Restaurant 12:30pm–3:30pm Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30pm–3:30pm Area 16 \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom Mtg 6:45pm–10:00pm Mexican Train Group 6 Seis	7:30am–9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am Nine Hole Golf-3	12:00pm–3:30pm Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 6:30pm–10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 2 Dos 6:30pm–10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 3 Tres
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>Feb 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	6:30pm–10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2



146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

Looking back on 2022: We had great participation throughout the year, especially over the past few months. I think only 1 hike was cancelled, believe it or not, due to some very welcome rain. We still have the stalwart base hiking group of **Ray Martz** (my chief hiking planner assistant!), **Gene Schulting**, **Mike Browne**, **Bob Wilkenfeld**, and **Earl Bates**. We also have a few regulars who show up once in a while; **Jim Nelson**, **Dave Steinberg**, and **Pete Gates**. And then there are the fairly new participants; **Don Shaw**, **Roger Meyer**, and **Bob and Karen Lively**. **Roger** recently passed on to me a folder of his hikes over the past several years which I plan to use as a resource in 2023.

Looking forward to 2023: Yes, I am looking forward to the hopefully wet months of January, March, and February. This rain might interfere with a few hikes, but if do get another 10 inches of rain over the next 90 days or, wildflower displays should be fabulous. Featured hikes are likely to include the MDSP Falls trail loop, a rigorous hike in Sunol Regional Wilderness, Briones, Las Trampas, etc. Oh, and let's not forget about Shell and Lime Ridge trails which are right in our back yard. I would also like to consider a "road trip" to Marin County and (at least one time) explore hiking venues near Mount Tam.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Gene Schulting, Bob Lively, Mike Wolfson, Earl Bates, Ray Martz, Don Shaw



Mike Browne, Earl Bates, Bob Wilkenfeld, Gene Schulting, Ray Martz



What did the duck say when he purchased a chapstick?

Put it on my bill!



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

December 5th: The SIR Cycling group. (The Spandex Boys) met for their Holiday luncheon. We had 13 members show up. **Tom Alborg** was in the Netherlands, **Roger Meyer** was home and the

rest were at the Greenery in Walnut Creek for the festivities. With the help of The **Mooseman** planning the room, we had a fun time. Lunch was served, and much discussion ensued. Plans for 2023 were discussed. We are coming up on 5 years of riding as a group. Hard to fathom. 2022 was not a great year for the boys. Some got sick, some bailed out and some persevered. All in all, though, we did our rides, drank our Java and solved the world's problems. All this while sitting on a seat not much bigger than your palm. 2023 has some new areas to explore. Rides that will require a drive of some 2 hours. The payback will be the scenic views only seen on a bike. We all are thankful for the abilities we have been gifted with. Lunch with your buds is always a thrill no matter how old one may be. We adjourned to return to our loved ones knowing that age means nothing. Spandex Rules.

December 20th. Ouch. It's cold out. Last ride of 2022 today. Big turnout. Bill Holly and me. Navy guys rule! Simple ride thru and around and up and down Danville and Alamo. The wind was cold, the air was cold and we were... let's say cool.

We stopped at Lever, a newer cafe in Alamo for warm up. Met some fellow SIR guys from Moraga, and Orinda on their last ride. Great chat and telling of stories. Age helped as did the white hair in establishing an immediate friendship. We covered the future and maybe doing joint rides etc. They had some really fun rides to discuss as did we. Emails were swapped and home we all went. Brrrr.

Year-End Review: It's that time again. The end of a year. 2022 was a very strange year for the Spandex guys. We had illness, surgery, Covid, travel and assorted other age-related events take hold of us. The rides planned were executed, mostly. The area away rides did not happen. The ride to our Lady Diablos heights did not occur. I think as we age, as we all continue to push the envelope with exercise, our bodies somewhat rebel. Age tells us that to continue with our vibrant lives we must exercise. The cold, wind, heat and whatever must be disregarded so we can maintain our fit-

ness.

We had some memorable rides this past year. We explored some new roads, some old scenery and frequented the same java joints. The miles grew and the relationships did as well. Some of the guys went back to work, one moved for a year to the Netherlands, and, and some simply slowed down. A few had medical reasons to take off for a period. One left to ride with another group and a few just stopped responding. 2022 also saw a great occurrence. Four brothers in Spandex were elected to our Board. **Jim, Larry, Bob Lucido** and our 2023 exalted leader **Bob Wilkenfeld**. As we close on 2023, let's just be happy that we could perform and that we all survived the pitfalls of age. It isn't fun getting older, but it sure beats the alternative. Keep the heart happy and the wife happy and guess what, you will be too. Happy Holidays to all.

Spandex Forever!

Larry Kaye

Into 2023 we go. White hair does not an old guy make.

925.698.4030





AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul DuBow

Ocean fishing was the highlight this month with Dungeness crab and rockfish as the prey. Six members of our group boarded the *Sea Wolf* for a trip to the Farallon Islands and limited out on the crab. They also limited on rockfish, but **Carl Moyer** complained because all his fish were small. Everyone else caught lunkers.

On other crabbing trips, **Carl Moyer, Brion Beetz, Dave Havlik, Doug Dukes,** and **Gordon Linebaugh** limited on the *Sundance* and **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146, **Pedro Contreras,** and **Ken Bellindir** did the same on **Pedro's** boat. **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 traveled to Bodega Bay to catch a limit of crab there.

Carl Moyer, Doug Dukes, and **Brion Beetz** had an interesting experience fishing for rockfish off Pacifica in **Carl's** skiff. Not long after they launched, the boat motor conked out and would not restart. But the day was young, and the sea was calm and so they decided to stick around and take turns rowing the boat. It turned out to be a good decision as they caught a bunch of rockfish and ling cod. **Brion** made three other rockfish trips during the month and limited each time.

The 2022 rockfish season ends on December 31, and it appears that we may have fewer opportunities to fish for rockfish during 2023. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has tentatively decided to push the rockfish opener back from April 1 to May 15 and allow fishing for rockfish only in water deeper than 300 feet from May 15 to July 1. That means that rockfishing would largely be limited to the Farallones during this six week period.

Inland, **Ron Lew** caught several stripers fishing in the Carquinez Strait, and **Stan Wong** caught trout from three to five pounds in Contra Loma Reservoir and both stripers and trout in Los Vaqueros Reservoir. **Carl Moyer, Wally Blackwood,** and **Doug Dukes** tried their luck at Lafayette Reservoir, but no fish interrupted their conversations. However, **Bob Lively** of Branch 146 did better at the reservoir a few days later, hooking several rainbows.

Our Delta experts, **Tom Kostik** and **Mike Corker,** caught and released fifteen stripers on one outing. But the big thrill of the day occurred when something very

large, grabbed **Tom's** striper rig and went one way and then the other before breaking the line. A big sturgeon got away. On three other trips, **Tom** caught 57 stripers, 27 of which were keepers but, as his custom, **Tom** released them all.

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings and attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 26, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30am, but many of us gather at 7am or thereafter for breakfast and/or fishing stories and so please join us at that time. You are also welcome, even if you have never fished before, to join us for our regular fishing trips. In January, we have three sturgeon and two striper trips planned, all in the Delta. For further information, feel free to call branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510.504.3566.

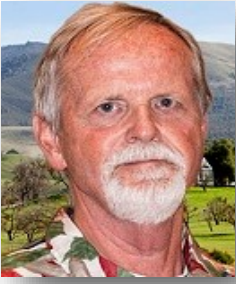
Paul Dubow
510-504-3566



Rich Fiscina, Pedro Contreras, and Ken Bellindir may be smiling, but they really are crabbing.

My wife accused me of stealing her thesaurus.

Not only was I shocked, I was appalled, aghast, and dismayed.



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

Attached are the photos of those who attended our Christmas party at Rocco's on Friday, December 9th. We had 15 SIR members and spouses enjoy our Christmas Luncheon event. Thank you for coming and making our luncheon a success.

Henry and I want to thank every one of you for making the year such a success. We couldn't have done it without you. To highlight some of the events that contributed to a great year:

- 1) Photography outings at the Presidio by **Mike Rothman**, Migration Winery by the **Moose**, and the Architectural Event in San Francisco by **Ron Polivka**.
- 2) **Pete Plante** securing Bill Helsel who is a teacher at the Acalanes Adult Education to expand our knowledge on Infra-red and black and white photography.

3) Members showing their local and international trips by **Peter Plante**—Italy, **Ron Polivka**- National Parks in Utah, **Ken Studer**—East Africa.

4) **Dean Mayer** on assisting me on a "shootout" on I-Phone vs. Pixel 6 Pro phones.

Henry and I have received some emails with suggestions on what we should be doing as a club for next year. If you have any further thoughts or ideas, then just jot down a couple of sentences and forward to me or **Henry**

Again, thanks for a great year! Best wishes for an outstanding 2023.

If you are not on our email mailing list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Henry Thatcher**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

Be safe, be well and be sure to "Say Cheese"!

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Clint Collier, Walt and Bobbie Schmidt, Steve, Sue and Steve's dad at Rocco's. Photo taken by Moose Kelly

[Photography Photos continued on next page](#)

Photography Photos continued from prior page



Billy Holly, Ken Studer, Richard Lyons, Rich Alf, Ismini Maclean, and Richard Hockenbrock. Photo taken by Moose Kelly



Peter Plante and Richard Pace at Rocco's. Photo taken by Moose Kelly





Travel Milt Smith

HAPPY NEW YEAR

There are A FEW SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS needed for a successful year of travel activities whether short trips, day trips, or longer group trips such as cruises, river, small ship, large ship and of course

land based. As many of you know Carolyn and I traveled extensively in Africa and Europe the last four months of 2022, mostly on our own but in small groups part of the time.

A FEW OBSERVATIONS: Travel is quite safe from both health and personal security perspectives. Excellent travel insurance policies are readily available at reasonable prices. The cost of air travel is on the rise but deals can be had via group and small group, plans. Good food and lodging prices are available. English continues to grow as a secondary language everywhere we've been. And most importantly... everywhere we traveled those last four months of '22, (13 countries,) people were exceedingly welcoming and kind. We even had a couple of medical events that were handled with ease.

SIR146 TRAVEL—What is needed?

1. I need someone who is interested in travel, domestic and/or International, to help me poll the membership, market a trip or two and do a bit of paperwork.
2. We, our new travel person and me, will need travel ideas from the members.

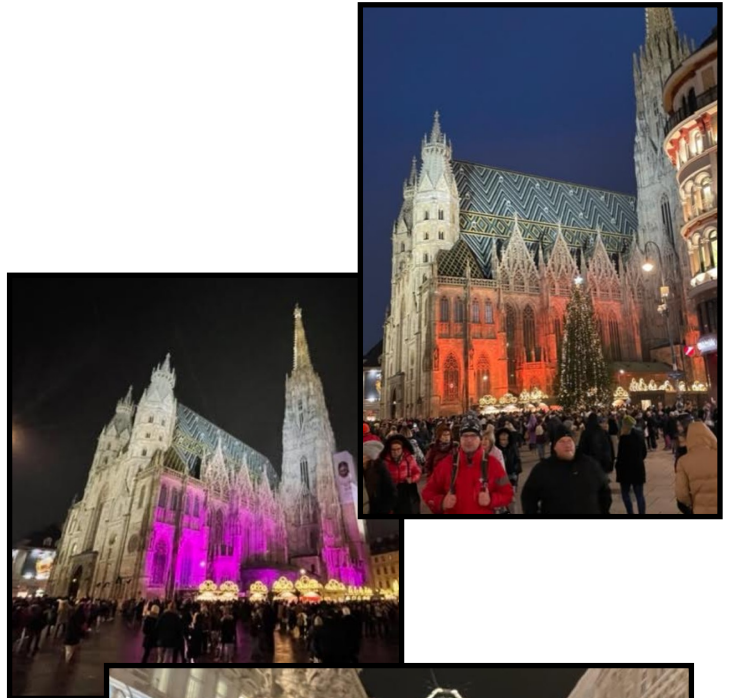
THAT'S ABOUT IT and I wish to emphasize, without

number 1, in particular, our branch Travel Activity is in jeopardy.

WHAT TO DO?

If you have an interest in travel at all and wish to get something going call now at 925.285.2897(cell) so we can talk it over and get things moving by February. .

It's fun out here! Milt Smith
925.285.2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com





Guitar Group

Curtis Young

I started a Guitar Get together last May to see if anyone would be interested in playing some music with other people. This is for all levels of players from beginners to advanced. This is a circle type group. You can bring a song to share, play us a song or teach us a song. I bring a few songs bi-weekly that are easy to play to get the group started.

I have been happy to help beginners to get more comfortable with playing chord progressions, (most songs are made up with chord progressions). We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

At this time, we have a list of nine players. Most often we get five players together. It is acoustic style music, mainly chord progression songs.

If you have any questions email me at , and I will try to answer them. Thank you for participating,



Curtis Young
cy3772@gmail.com



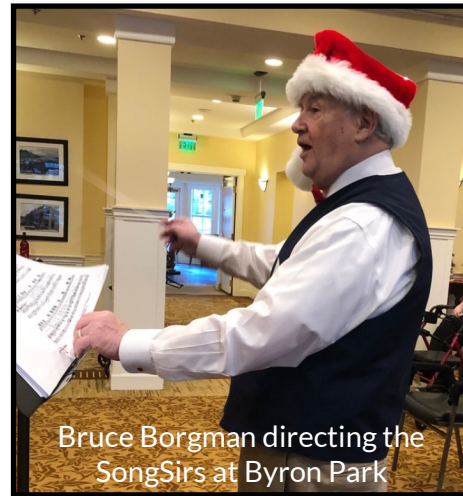
SongSirs

Peter Plante

The SongSirs performed a selection of Christmas music for the residents of Byron Park in Walnut Creek on December 13. Thank you to **Bruce Borgman** for stepping in to direct. Our next rehearsal is January 4, 2023. New members are always welcome. Come and help us make a joyful noise for the holidays.

Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



Bruce Borgman directing the SongSirs at Byron Park



Bud Pearce, Richard Hockenbrock, Lynn Shafer, Frank Lucas, Ron Lew, Paul Beretz Directed by Bruce Borgman

Did you see the documentary on beavers on TV last night?

Best Dam show I've ever seen.

The new sweater I bought was awful, kept picking up static electricity, so I returned it.

They gave me a new one free of charge.



Book Group John Pearl, Interim Chair

The SIR 146 Book Group met Monday December 19th at Jacks Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. Our book for December was *The Last Green Valley* by Mark T. Sullivan,

first published May 2021 and consisting of 423 pages. Sullivan, the author of many books, is best known for *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* (2017).

The book, inspired by a true story, opens in March 1944 in the Nazi-occupied wheat growing heartlands of Ukraine. Emil and Adeline Martel are farmers of German descent whose family long ago migrated to Ukraine. In the mist of World War II they must make a terrible decision. Do they wait for the Soviet army's push to recapture their region and risk being sent to Siberia? Or do they flee their farm, taking their two sons west with retreating Nazi SS officers traveling towards the German homeland.

The story follows the Martels' struggle to survive as they reluctantly abandon their home and farm and head West. Trailing behind the Nazis' retreat and just ahead of the advancing Soviets, they must survive and overcome many trials to follow their hope to immigrate to the West and safety.

The Martels' dream of starting a new life in a beautiful green river valley surrounded by mountains and forests. They don't know where this heavenly valley will be found, but it is the vision which keeps them on the move.

Caught up in post-World War II refugee resettlements, the family is separated a while in West Germany but they eventually find their way back together. The story is brutal but also ultimately triumphant as they eventually settle in the United States, sponsored by a relative in Montana.

Their love of each other will to survive and faith shines through the story. Seemingly, guardian angels appear at important junctures when help is most needed. The power of the book is in the very real, human telling of a story set in one of the most fraught and intense periods of the last century.

SIR members found this book compelling and moving and were struck by the determination and religious perspective of the Martel family and the allegorical nature of the story. The book is a long read, and at

times slow, but a satisfying story. The book is also very dark, highlighting some of the worst but also some of the best of humankind. The Book Group recommends this book to any member, particularly for those with an interest in WWII or mid-20th century history.

The Book Group will meet next on January 16th at 8:30am, when we will discuss our next selection, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver.

Reported by **Mike Rothman**, edited by Senior Editor **Paul Dubow**

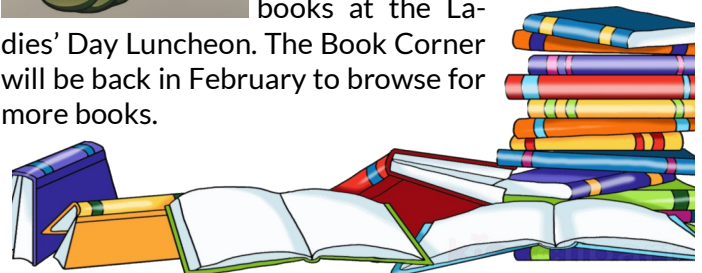
John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor

mcpearl@astound.net



Book Corner Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to take home some books at the Ladies' Day Luncheon. The Book Corner will be back in February to browse for more books.





Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

I want to wrap up the year by saying thanks to all the guys in the 9-hole golf group. I really enjoy their company. They make our weekly golf outing

something I look forward to every week not to mention the great conversations we have over lunch. If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on our mailing list. Our group tees off at 9:30am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



Birding Frank Lucas

This month's outing went to Heather Farm Park with 5 warmly-dressed bird aficionados. The most exotic sighting was an LBB (little brown bird):



Other birds of interest seen were a couple of black-crowned night herons, a green heron, a gallinule, lots of cormorants, some Buffleheads, some Ring-necked ducks, a bevy of white nuthatches, and a seagull.

Bird walks will be held the second Wednesday of every month. Let **Frank Lucas** know if you're interested in the group. Our next outing COULD be the Martinez Waterfront. More details to come as the time/weather approaches.

Frank Lucas

925.316.6122 frank.lucas1105@gmail.com



Bocce John Kendrick

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30am to 10:00am, May through September at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and

Ayers Roads in Concord.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome.



John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

Do women ever sit back and think "my man sure does know alot, maybe I should just be quiet and listen to him"



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

The SIR sushi lovers got together with their “significant others” to celebrate the end of the year and another year of wonderful sushi at Mikuni, a Japanese restaurant in the Veranda shopping center. This allowed the guests to order independently while the dedicated sushi aficionados got to share in two of their spectacular party plates; on nigiri and one maki. Presentation was terrific and the seafood delightful.



Sushi no tomodachi is especially delighted going in to 2023 to have one of its founding members as our new Branch Leader or, to use the Japanese term, Grand Poobah; Big-Sir to the rest of you.



He does seem to have a penchant for the Maki or roll form of sushi.

Clint Collier
SirClint@the-colliers.org

Friend told me when he was swimming he was attacked by a shark. Took off his whole left side.

Can't believe he said he's all right.



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy



SAD NEWS! The January Wine Tasting has been cancelled. Nobody stepped forward to host the event. It is disappointing but at least the Wine Tasting will be back in April. Larry and Ann Kaye will host the April tasting. See you then. But keep in mind that the issue of hosting is a recurring one. We need a volunteer for October. Please think about hosting.

Brian McCarthy
925-324.2463



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met on December 12 at the Brass Door in San Ramon for lunch. This historic steakhouse was selected by our “away host” Richard Hockenbrock for our December “cookout”. Excellent reviews were given to all our lunches. Corrie Oranje will be home hosting our next luncheon on January 9, 2023.

My Wife asked if I've seen the dog bowl.
I said, I never knew he did.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

I am happy to report that we have decided to return to the Brass Door in San Ramon for what we believe will be a fun and enjoyable Dining Out event on Monday, January 23. The Brass

Door is another venerable and historic restaurant which dates back to even 1946, when San Ramon boasted a population of 100. In 1955 it was acquired by the present owners and renamed The Brass Door. It has since maintained a reputation and cuisine of an American Steakhouse restaurant.

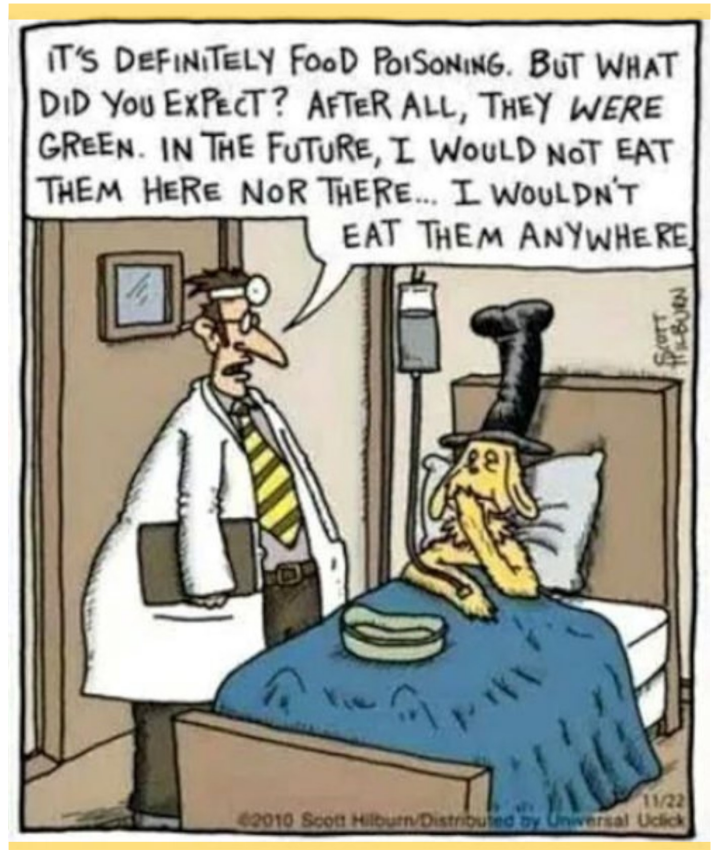
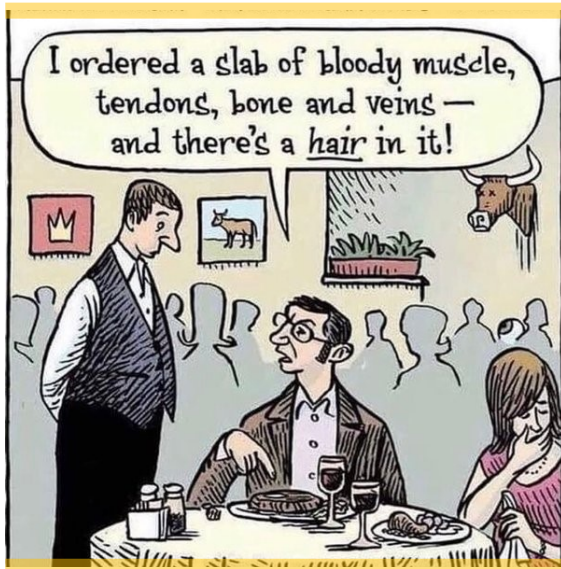
We have dined there with our group in 2015, and again in 2019 and in considering this place for another Dining Out event, we were pleased to arrange a menu with a Caesar salad and several excellent entrees—most notably including a 12 oz Prime Rib entree, all for just \$47 per person, a price that we thought we would not see again with the inflationary food prices. The price for a good glass of wine will be just \$6–8, and corkage

also a very reasonable \$16.

After our last outing in November I sent out a note to let you know that I was informed that four of our diners reported a positive Covid test after the event. I should tell you that three of these were subsequently suspected to have been exposed following a luncheon the previous day. This is not to minimize the risk we all continue to face as we are out and about shopping, and socializing, and if you are concerned about gathering in groups, you should take appropriate precautions.

I want to invite you to participate in this popular SIR activity. We will be able to accommodate 50 or more diners, so if you are interested in participating, send me a note to indicated your interest, and follow with a check for \$47 per person made out to SIR 146. We want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you at this next Dining Out event on January 23!

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon
Dining Out Hosts
bgborgman@aol.com



COUPLES DINING OUT

Monday Jan. 23, 2023

Social hour / no host

Dinner: 6:15pm

Salad

Classic Caesar Salad

Entrée choices

12 oz Roast Prime Rib of Beef

Brass Door House Specialty, Served au Jus with Fresh Horseradish,
Creamed Spinach, Baked Potato

Pacific Salmon

Char-Broiled Filet, Chef's Choice of Sauce of the Day

Chicken Piccata

Boneless Chicken Breast, Lemon Butter Sauce with Capers

Deep Fried Jumbo Gulf Prawns

Tartar and Cocktail Sauces, French Fries

Includes appropriate starch and vegetable, soft drinks

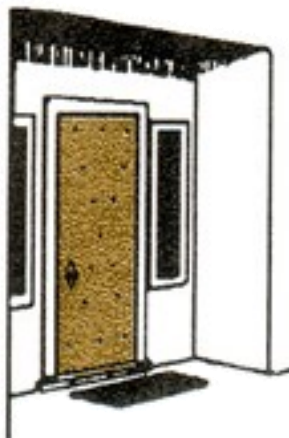
Ice Cream Dessert

The Brass Door

Classic American Steakhouse Cuisine

2154 San Ramon Blvd, San Ramon

RSVP to Bruce Borgman, bgborgman@aol.com, Confirm with check to SiLR 146, mail to 3611 Winchester Pl,
Walnut Creek 94598 \$47.00 per person, inclusive of tax and tip.
Please Indicate your choice of entrée with your reservation!



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

MTD Uno did not meet in December! We start up again in January.

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

MTD Dos did not meet in December! We start up again in January

Ron Plachy
925.2861.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com



I told my wife she needs to embrace her mistakes.

She gave me a big hug!

Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

In December, the ole choo choo train left the roundhouse after the SIR-Call was published. After the holiday season, the MTD 3

ensemble full of glad tidings and joy were meeting on December 30th at the home of **Joyce Wells** and **Jim Barry** up in the hills of Clayton. We'll give you an update next month.

Happy New Year to all SIR members and their families and friends!!!

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428
walterbusenius@gmail.com





Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

In December, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominoes group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 10 people to celebrate the Holiday Season and play dominoes. The home was filled with many Christmas decorations, which you can see in the MTD winners photos. We played at two tables with five each. The group was small but jolly and festive. The savories and sugar sweets provided and made by **Renie Pope**. They were a major contributor to the Holiday spirit and the wine might of helped a little. In attendance were; **Dick and Leslie Firth, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Rich and Kim Pace, Steve and Susan Oki, and Jim and Renie Pope**. We paid the player with low table score at each table. The winners were **Dick DeVoe and Susan Oki**. (See picture of winners). They each received five (5) \$1000 Scratcher Lotto Tickets. We also paid one (1) Lotto ticket to the individual with the highest score at one of the two tables. The winner of the highest score was **Leslie Firth** (See picture).

Jim Pope



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Many thanks to **Bob and Jane West** for hosting this month's MTD 7.

Congratulations to **Bob West**, who won the low average score of 13.1, and **Mary Ellen Dalgaard (Santa Claus)** had the highest score.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes Group "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO met on Wednesday, December 7th with a record number of players present;

nineteen players sitting at 4 tables. There were some strange happenings after that. For instance, we crowned the night's top three players. **Steve Dinning** was 1st place with an average score of 11.9, **Sue Loftin** was 2nd with an average score of 14.7 and **Laurie Hoban** was 3rd with an average score of 16.8.

Since it was December and the end of year game, we also crowned the top three players on their average scores for five total nights played from July thru December. Here **Laurie** showed up again with a 5-month average score of 17.11 putting her in 1st place over this span. Still more remarkable was the fact that **Laurie** was a substitute player all year. **Steve Loftin** came in second with an average of 18.37 and **Steve Ondeck** was 3rd with an average of 21.33.

I mentioned earlier that there were some strange things that happened. What's missing from this re-

port? **Where are the pictures of the winners and where is the listing of the money that was handed out? I might add that it was substantial.** It seems most of the winners had to leave early so there were no pictures to take! Some of the losers could be heard mumbling something about Crypto but it was not obvious that any mischief was going on! Perhaps FTX was on people's minds.

If you would like to get in on the action of this group, we start all over again on January 4th so if you would like to get on the substitute list, send me an email. All games are played at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**, 3616 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek.

Richard Hockenbrock
925.324.1713 RLHock@outlook.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

Many thanks to **Bob and Judy Wilkenfeld** for hosting this month's MTD 9.

Congrats to **Mary McCarthy** for winning with a low average score of 11.8. The man behind the fish (**Bob Lucido**) had the highest score.

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the December SIR-Call submission, we met on December 9th and December 23rd. The big winners for those matches were **Steve Ybarra**, **Glenn Breslin** and **Bob West**

each with 2 wins, Note that **Glenn** is our newest member and has won once each time he played.

Brian McCarthy led with led with 3 seconds. The lowest average score was **Frank Lucas** with 65 and **Steve Ybarra** with 67. The only person to "Shoot the Moon" in December was **Ron Polivka**.

YTD: Next month's report will have full 2022 winners, but in the tight race for seconds **Steve Ybarra** with 18 barely edged out **Ron Polivka** with 17, both having 2 seconds in December.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting In January on the 13th and 27th.

Please call or email me if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robrtawest@aol.com



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our latest Duplicate Bridge 2 event was hosted by **Dick DeVoe** on Friday, Dec. 2. The player results were distributed with the smallest

difference between the highest and lowest score that could be recalled of 6.5 points! The 1st half only had a 4.5 point difference, which meant anyone could have won it all.

FIRST HALF

1st Place— **Bob Yolland**—14.0.

2nd Place (3-way tie)—**Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, John Kluesener**—13.5.

2ND HALF

1st Place— **Dick DeVoe**—16.0.

2nd Place—**Steve Dinning**—15.5.

3rd Place (tie)—**Jim Pope, Mike Whitaker**—13.0.

FINAL

1st Place—**Steve Dinning**—26.5.

2nd Place (3-way tie)—**Brad Hatcher, John Kluesener, Bob Yolland**—26.0.

BEST PARTNERSHIPS (5—6 pts.)

Boards 10—12: **Brad Hatcher/Ray Spears**—5.0.

Boards 13—15: **John Kluesener/Dick DeVoe**—5.0.

MOST TWO'S

Steve Dinning and **Bob Yolland**—9 each.

LEAST ZEROS

Jim Pope—3.

MOST IMPROVED (1st vs. 2nd Half)

Dick DeVoe—from 9 to 16.

I told my wife "I saw a deer on the way to work this morning."

She said "How do you know he was headed to work?"



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 will not meet this December 21st as it is too close to the holidays.

Wishing all of our Bridge Members as well as our fellow SIR members and their Families a **Very Merry Christmas** and a **Healthy and Happy New Year!!**

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

I'm sure most of you were concerned when there was no article on Couples Party Bridge in last month's SIR-Call. But you need not worry anymore, we are back. Unfortunately, our hosts for November got significant

colds just before the event thus prompting a cancellation.

John and Kathy Kluesener hosted our **December 6th event**. Four regular couples participated in this event with **Bud and Gloria Pearce** and **Dick and Maggie Chaffee** subbing for the **Browns** and **Ahlf/Ismini**. Scoring was below average. With a combined total of 60 hands played, only 12 game hands were bid, 10 of which were made. Two couples bid a 4 hearts game and made 6 and 7 hearts, suggesting that slam games was missed.

The **Klueseners** and **DeVoes** competed for first place throughout the evening and were only 40 points apart after 4 rounds of play. The DeVoes crossed the finish line first at the end of the 5th and final round.

The official results are as follows:

1st PLACE with 2860 points -**Dick and Christy DeVoe**

2nd PLACE with 2720 points -**John and Kathy Kluesener**

3rd PLACE with 2310 points -**Brad and Lynne Hatcher**

Next month's event will be held on January 3rd and hosted by **Larry and Linda Brown**. Hope you all have a Happy and Health New Year.

Tony and Cindy Greco



Duplicate Bridge 3 Michael Whitaker

On Friday, Dec. 16, Duplicate Bridge 3 met for their December game at the home of **Dick and Christy DeVoe**. **Mike Whitaker** led the scoring in

the morning session with 14.5 points. After lunch that included some delicious pumpkin pie, the afternoon session saw **Jim Pope** and **Joe Fuchs** forge ahead to finish 1st and 2nd respectively with **Dick DeVoe** coming in 3rd.

Our next game will be on January 20 hosted by **Ray Spears** in Rossmoor.

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213 mrwhitaker@yahoo.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

How nice to have all our regulars on hand to wind down the year, when **Ken and Elaine Richter** graciously hosted us on Dec. 13th. Santa favored

Tony and Cindy Greco with third place (53%); they had the most tops (7). **Joan and Dave Pierce** were second (65%). Santa filled **Dick and Christy DeVoes'** stockings to overflowing (69%); they had only one bottom. Congratulations to all.

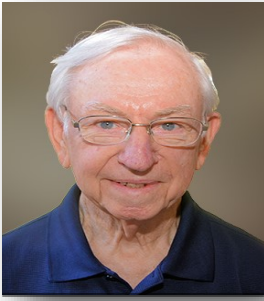
For the record, we played seven times in 2022 and the **DeVoes** were first in three of them. The **DeVoes** were in the money four times, as were the **Greco's**.

We wish everyone a very happy new year, and better cards in 2023. Or, at least, fewer hands that are so challenging to bid and play.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net

If a child refuses to take his nap...
...are they resisting a rest?



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

The "Old Money" poker group met on December 1 at the home of Paul Dubow. Paul provided us with tasty snacks and even tastier wine.

Thanks Paul.

We had seven players with the edition of Tom Amann, for the first time, to our regulars. I know Tom was a bit bewildered by the variety of games we were dealt (it is dealers' choice) but he survived. Norm Baietti arrived a bit late, and it was great to see him after dealing with some medical issues.

It is often said that you don't want to win early because as the game progresses, the success dissipates. Rich Ahlf did not get that message, as he won early and late in the game. Hence, he is now known as RICH!! Ahlf. Most other players contributed to his success. RICH!! will host our game in January.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com

Party Bridge Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

The group had a good year even though because of COVID limitations we were limited to games in only 8 of the 12 months.



In October the winners were: First-Bob Yolland, Second Steve Dinning and third Ray Spears. We did not meet in November due to some players with Covid exposures.

At the December get together; Bob Yolland earned first place with 5430 points, the highest monthly score for the year. Joe Fuchs was second and Steve Dinning third.

For the 2022 contest 12 players played at least 5 games. Their 5 highest scores were used to determine the 2022 winners. Joe Fuchs was first with an average monthly score of 4304 points. Steve Dinning was second with 4276 points and Bob Yolland third with 4154 points. There is \$62.00 in the 2022 fund. Joe received \$30.00, Steve \$20.00 and Bob \$12.00. Congratulations gentlemen.

Co-Directors

[Jim Stedman](#) or [Jim Pope](#).



Area 16 Activities



MUG Mac User Group

Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are the leaders and are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products. 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 time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Please note that Max and Verner are here to help Mac users with problems, that don't exist, and solutions and there are not formal meetings. They will inform members of new items of interest.

If you are a Mac user and want to be included, please let Verner know.

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com
Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed Jan. 25 at 1:30pm. The presenter will be Prof. Fred Fuld of SIR Branch 19. He will discuss leading future industries including lists of companies (and their charts) that are representative of these. Fred retired from the financial services industry where he worked for over 30 years, working as an investment advisor, market maker at the Pacific Stock Exchange, and vice president of an investment management company. He is the author of several books and has given presentations for the Museum of American Finance, Cal State University East Bay, the San Francisco Money Show, the Las Vegas Money Show, the University of Houston, American Mensa Society, and many other venues.

. Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair—Tom Henry— Branch 174
tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton—Branch 8
davesutn@comcast.net



SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

My wife told me to put ketchup on the shopping list.
So I did, now I can't read the damn thing.

Parting Shot

An Editor's Play Ground...

As we depart our new year issue I would like to share with you: The English language includes an interesting category of words and phrases called contronyms (also spelled *contranym*s, or referred to as *autoantonyms*)—terms that, depending on context, can have opposite or contradictory meanings. When you use these words, be sure the context clearly identifies which meaning is intended:

1. **Apology:** A statement of contrition for an action, or a defense of one
2. **Aught:** All, or nothing
3. **Bill:** A payment, or an invoice for payment
4. **Bolt:** To secure, or to flee
5. **Bound:** Heading to a destination, or restrained from movement
6. **Buckle:** To connect, or to break or collapse
7. **Cleave:** To adhere, or to separate
8. **Clip:** To fasten, or detach
9. **Consult:** To offer advice, or to obtain it
10. **Continue:** To keep doing an action, or to suspend an action
11. **Custom:** A common practice, or a special treatment
12. **Dike:** A wall to prevent flooding, or a ditch
13. **Discursive:** Moving in an orderly fashion among topics, or proceeding aimlessly in a discussion
14. **Dollop:** A large amount (British English), or a small amount
15. **Dust:** To add fine particles, or to remove them
16. **Enjoin:** To impose, or to prohibit
17. **Fast:** Quick, or stuck or made stable
18. **Fine:** Excellent, or acceptable or good enough
19. **Finished:** Completed, or ended or destroyed
20. **First degree:** Most severe in the case of a murder charge, or least severe in reference to a burn
21. **Fix:** To repair, or to castrate
22. **Flog:** To promote persistently, or to criticize or beat
23. **Garnish:** To furnish, as with food preparation, or to take away, as with wages
24. **Give out:** To provide, or to stop because of a lack of supply
25. **Go:** To proceed or succeed, or to weaken or fail
26. **Grade:** A degree of slope, or a horizontal line or position
27. **Handicap:** An advantage provided to ensure equality, or a disadvantage that prevents equal achievement
28. **Help:** To assist, or to prevent or (in negative constructions) restrain
29. **Hold up:** To support, or to impede
30. **Lease:** To offer property for rent, or to hold such property
31. **Left:** Remained, or departed
32. **Let:** Allowed, or hindered
33. **Liege:** A feudal lord, or a vassal
34. **Literally:** Actually, or virtually
35. **Mean:** Average or stingy, or excellent
36. **Model:** An exemplar, or a copy
37. **Off:** Deactivated, or activated, as an alarm
38. **Out:** Visible, as with stars showing in the sky, or invisible, in reference to lights
39. **Out of:** Outside, or inside, as in working out of a specific office
40. **Overlook:** To supervise, or to neglect
41. **Oversight:** Monitoring, or failing to oversee
42. **Peer:** A person of the nobility, or an equal
43. **Presently:** Now, or soon
44. **Put out:** Extinguish, or generate
45. **Puzzle:** A problem, or to solve one
46. **Quantum:** Significantly large, or a minuscule part
47. **Quiddity:** Essence, or a trifling point of contention
48. **Quite:** Rather (as a qualifying modifier), or completely
49. **Ravel:** To entangle, or to disentangle
50. **Refrain:** To desist from doing something, or to repeat
51. **Rent:** To purchase use of something, or to sell use
52. **Rock:** An immobile mass of stone or figuratively similar phenomenon, or a shaking or unsettling movement or action
53. **Sanction:** To approve, or to boycott
54. **Sanguine:** Confidently cheerful, or bloodthirsty
55. **Scan:** To peruse, or to glance
56. **Screen:** To present, or to conceal
57. **Seed:** To sow seeds, or to shed or remove them
58. **Shop:** To patronize a business in order to purchase something, or to sell something
59. **Skin:** To cover, or to remove
60. **Skinned:** Covered with skin, or with the skin removed
61. **Splice:** To join, or to separate
62. **Stakeholder:** One who has a stake in an enterprise, or a bystander who holds the stake for those placing a bet