



# Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA



JULY, 2022



## Big Sir's Corner Richard Lyon

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Your branch's officers wish you a happy and fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration!

Please congratulate **Larry Kaye** who was elected as a first-year BEC Director in charge of Publicity. **Larry** has enlisted the help of

**Peter Plante**, past Publicity Director, and **Richard Hockenbrock**, Past Big Sir, and needs SIR members living in different cities to post ads (copy and paste) to Nextdoor and Patch. It is a quick and easy way to help the Branch. **Bob Ford**, who is serving a dual-role of Recruiting and Assistant Secretary, has been answering responses to the ads; so, all you have to do is to post them.

The Publicity team is also posting SIR-Call articles to our branch's Facebook page. If you have a few minutes a month and are interested in helping publicize our branch or have ideas to share, please call or email **Larry Kaye** ([larrykaye2@comcast.net](mailto:larrykaye2@comcast.net), cell 925-698-4030) It will be fun!

If you have a buddy who might like to join in one or more of our activities, they can attend an activity 2 -3 times and check it out without joining SIR. When your buddies are ready to join SIR, you can sponsor them for a "free" lunch by emailing the Luncheon Chairman. Our newsletter, SIR-Call, says a lot about how much fun it is to be a SIR member. Please send them [this-link](#) to our recent newsletters so they can see for themselves.

In May, it was reported to the BEC that the State SIR is slowly exploring the possibility of admitting women as SIR members. Though half of our branch's 50 activities are co-ed, our By-Laws do not provide a mechanism for the BEC to approve spouse-only or companion-only activities. No changes to our branch's membership are being planned. The State SIR is also changing to "SIR" from "Sons in Retirement" and is distributing new logos and other marketing materials. There was some talk that the State SIR might drop the COVID Waiver requirement. At least for now, both COVID vaccination and a signed waiver are required to attend SIR activities.

The BEC is looking for a SIR member to be elected as a new First-year Director for Recruiting, which entails answering replies to our ads and posts from men who are expressing an interest in joining a SIR activity and determining if our activities are right for them, and also if they are a good fit for SIR. Basic computer skills like using email with attachments, using spreadsheets and word documents, and using a web browser are needed. Recruiting is the important first step on becoming a SIR. A good candidate may have joined SIR a few years ago and wants to help bring in new members and can attend the monthly BEC meetings.

Because of COVID, and the use of Zoom, the Branch has not been requiring attendance at our monthly (luncheon) meetings since March 2020. Currently an RSVP (opt-in) reservation is required to attend lunch. The question has arisen as to when the Branch should go back to the pre-COVID opt-out approach and reinstate the annual payer program. Since the December Holiday Luncheon is also a Ladies Day, November might be the last RSVP (Opt-in) luncheon, and the BEC will likely be asked to reinstate the opt-out approach and the annual payer program in January 2023.

We are very lucky to be able to have so many talented and friendly people in Branch 146. Thank you for supporting the branch and for creating the positive experiences that keep us coming back. Have a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

**Rich Lyon**  
Big Sir Branch 146

*SIR Luncheon*  
Thursday, July 14th, 2022  
Boundary Oak  
12:00 Noon

Victoria Briskin, Development Director for Early Alert Canines  
RSVP by July 8th to attend!

# 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.



## Little Sir's Corner Bob Wilkenfeld

**How lucky are we?** After being a member of Branch 146 for a little over four years, I now recognize how relatively healthy our organization is. Despite the COVID pandemic, and the challenges every volunteer-led organization normally faces, Branch 146 has maintained a stable membership level, lots of interesting activities and solid leadership. That's not to say that our group is perfect — attendance at monthly luncheons is still low; we are struggling to get volunteers for BEC and RAMP positions; and our rate of recruiting new members has fallen off. Still, I'm hopeful we can address these remaining challenges if ALL members continue to contribute — be that by participating in our monthly luncheons; inviting friends and acquaintance to activities and luncheons; and volunteering for leadership positions. After all, Branch 146 is only as good as WE make it!!

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**Branch 146 is going to the dogs!!** Our luncheon speaker in July is from Early Alert Canines; a Concord-based organization that trains dogs to assist Type 1 diabetics. Come learn how they train these service animals, and see how these dogs help their owners manage their blood sugar levels.

**Bob Wilkenfeld**  
Little Sir Branch 146

## 2022 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	<b>Richard Lyon</b>
Little SIR.....	<b>Robert Wilkenfeld</b>
Secretary .....	<b>John Kluesener</b>
Assistant Secretary .....	<b>Bob Ford</b>
Treasurer .....	<b>John Alexander</b>
Assistant Treasurer .....	<b>Vacant</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>George Mon</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Henry Thatcher</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Robert Lucido</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Larry Kaye</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Edward Brands</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Frank Lucas</b>

### RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment .....	<b>Vacant</b>
Activities .....	<b>Bob Lucido</b>
Member Relations .....	<b>Edwards Brands</b>
Publicity .....	<b>Larry Kaye</b>

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



## Membership George Mon

Three new members were approved at the June BEC Meeting. **Larry Ribarich** is from Lafayette and retired as the owner of Ribarich Appraisals for 30 years. He is sponsored by **John Aaro**. **Jerry Isbill** lives in Walnut Creek and was a construction manager for AT&T. He is sponsored by **Bob Ford**. **Doug Harris** lives in Walnut Creek and is rejoining SIR He was with SIR for 20 years. **Doug** was a marketing rep. for Transamerica. **Bruce Borgman** sponsored his return. SIR member **Tancred Agius** transferred to Branch 81. The 2022 membership count is at 275. We ended 2021 with 280 members. 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](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon  
[gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)



## Luncheon Chairman Ben Gleason

We had a successful July meeting featuring many colorful shirts and our speaker Loella Haskew, a former mayor of Walnut Creek who joined our fun and wore a colorful shirt. Of 92 members who signed

up for the luncheon only 85 showed up. Fortunately, six members showed up who had not sent in an RSVP. In addition, we had our speaker and a guest for a total of 93 attendees. Boundary Oak prepares meals based upon our estimate. We have to guarantee to Boundary Oak that we will pay for our estimated attendance, so it is very important that each of us RSVP when we intend to come and to keep our commitments to attend.

Our next luncheon meeting will be held on July 14. Our speaker is scheduled to be Victoria Briskin, Development Director for Early Alert Canines. She will be discussing the training they provide to service dogs to detect medical conditions like diabetes and COVID. Ms. Briskin should give us timely insight into advances in the early detection of those medical conditions.

As we have done for the luncheons this year, the July 14th meeting will utilize an “opt-in” reservation system in order for us to give Boundary Oak a more accurate estimate and guarantee of attendance.

### July 14<sup>th</sup> Luncheon

- **Where:** Boundary Oak
- **Cost:** \$32

### Payment

- The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146

### RSVP

- To attend, you must RSVP by Friday, July 8th before Noon
- Show or have proof of vaccination on-file with Waiver of Liability
- Ways to RSVP
  - Email: [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com)
  - If you need to call: 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your information
  - All RSVPs will be acknowledged

### Special Requests

- If you have dietary restrictions, want a vegan meal or can't consume a meal, please send an email to

[attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com) before the Deadline.

### Sponsors

- If you are bringing a guest: please notify the Luncheon Chair with the guest's name at the same email address: [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com). Guests must have proof of vaccination and sign a Waiver of Liability which will be available at the sign-in table.

### Questions

- If you have any questions please call **Ben Gleason** at 925.330.0680.



**THE CLUBHOUSE**  
AT BOUNDARY OAK

**SIR 146 July Luncheon**  
**Thursday July 14th, 2022**

Salad  
Mixed Green Salad  
Cherry Tomatoes, Cucumber, Watermelon Radis  
Crumbled Goat Cheese with Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrees  
Roast Pork Loin  
Peach Compote  
Country Style Roasted Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables  
or  
Baked Cod  
Tomato Ginger Chutney  
Country Style Roasted Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables  
or  
Vegetarian Option

Dessert  
Amaretto Cheesecake  
Mixed Berry Sauce

# JULY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ray Bland  
Thomas Boltz  
George Carpenter  
Mike Connors  
Steve Dinning

Joe Flannigan  
Richard Hanford  
Richard Kincaide  
Ron Lew  
Dick McElroy

Jim Pfohl  
Ronald J. "Ron" Plachy  
Jim Pope  
Milt Smith  
John Wall

Mike Wallace  
Mike Whitaker  
Gary Eames  
Dean Mayer  
Tom Amann

## Sunshine Brian McCarthy



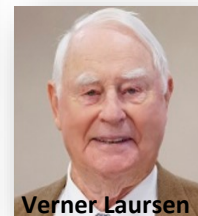
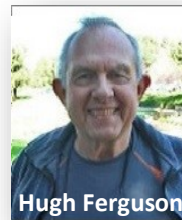
Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome.

Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at [brimacc@comcast.net](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net) or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised.

*Stay Healthy.*

**Brian McCarthy**  
[brimacc@comcast.net](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net)



# The Branch Honors Vern Laursen With The Certificate of Appreciation And Senior Sir Awards!



Our first Honoree at the June 9th Luncheon was actually the recipient of two awards: the coveted “Branch Certificate of Appreciation” and the “Senior SIR” award for having reached 90 years of age on May 1, 2022. At this meeting, we discuss reaching “Senior SIR” status first. Being the bright guys that we all are, we have figured out that we are awarding the “Senior SIR” award today because we traditionally have not complicated the spirit of the Ladies Day luncheon in May with business matters such as Honoree Awards.

So history will report, **Verner Laursen’s** parents (we call him “**Vern**”) immigrated to the United States in 1929 and settled in Wisconsin. In 1932, they came to California to search for work and settled in Humboldt County where his mother happened to have an aunt. **Vern** was born in May 1932 in Eureka. He went to school in Scotia, but in the sixth grade, he was transferred to a one room school with about 14 children. **Vern** graduated from Fortuna High School and attended Humboldt State for two years. Subsequently, **Vern** transferred to U.C. Berkeley (I might add several decades before Aaron Rodgers) and graduated with a degree in Forestry.

After graduation, **Vern** was drafted into the Army where he was a topographic surveyor stationed at the Presidio. He spent very little time in San Francisco because he was assigned to temporary duty in Iran. After his discharge, **Vern** worked for Simpson Timber Company in Arcata and Klamath. In 1961, there was a reduction in staff and **Vern** found work with PG&E in San Francisco in their land department as a right-of-way agent. He retired in 1987 as a supervising right-of-way agent. Since that time **Vern** has been a real estate consultant.

**Vern** joined our Branch on February 10, 2011. Over approximately 11 years, he has jumped in running and has worked hard in the two areas in which he has primarily participated . . . nine hole golf and Mac Computers. **Vern** has always presented himself in front of the Branch at our luncheons to share tidbits of information on either subject with his fellow Sirs to help them improve their performance. If everyone would become active like **Vern**, the job of leadership would be much easier.

The surprise activity for **Vern** and his friends has been genealogy. He is always looking for relatives, and often finding them in strange places. However, **Vern** found that his relatives in Denmark did not move very far from each other as most stayed in Denmark with three generations located in one parish.

On a personal note, in 1966, **Vern** married **Nadine Thompson**, who was also from Humboldt County. They lived in Redwood City and moved to Concord in 1968. They have two sons, **Eric** and **Dana**, and two grandchildren.

We congratulate **Vern** for the excellent work he has done for our Branch, and for reaching the age of 90!



# The Branch Honors Bob Lucido With The Certificate of Appreciation Award!

At the June 9<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, we were pleased to present the “Certificate of Appreciation” to **Robert “Bob” Lucido**. This award recognizes a Sir’s outstanding service to Branch 146 over many years. There’s no doubt **Bob** deserves this award as you, without doubt, will soon see.

**Bob** is another member of our Native Sons club as he was born and raised right here in Contra Costa County, Pittsburg to be exact.

After High School, **Bob** earned an AA degree in electronics from Pittsburg City College. Upon graduation, he joined the Lawrence Livermore National Lab as an electronics technician and remained at the Lab in that capacity for 35 years. Wow, a lifer who spent a long time in one location. That’s rare these or any days. During those 35 years, **Bob** evidently had some extra energy and spare time on his hands. **Bob** concocted a great pipe dream idea on how to live the good life by buying houses low, fixing them up himself, and then selling

them high -- well duh, heard that one on TV. Fortunately, before this plan could be fully implemented, **Bob** met **Wendy**, his future wife, and the plan was promptly abandoned with true love. **Bob** and **Wendy** currently live in Walnut Creek.

**Bob** joined our branch in 2014 sponsored by Past Big Sir **Fred Kovar**. He immediately began his cheerful service to our branch by becoming a Greeter and later became the Greeter Chair. **Bob** first co-chaired and then chaired Activities on the RAMP Team, while also serving as a Director for 2 years. **Bob** started a new activity, RV Travel, and now chairs the RV Wanderers. As if this resume isn't enough, **Bob** has found the time to lead a poker group and a MTD group. Whew. What energy! Getting winded just listing all the activities **Bob** has chaired or supported as Activity Chairman and organizer for our Branch.

**Bob**, thank you for your energetic and

dedicated service to Branch 146 and congratulations on your very deserved recognition with this “Certificate of Appreciation”. Bravo!!

Presenter was **Doug Eisner** at the June 9<sup>th</sup> Luncheon

[Editor: see the picture of Bob giving his thank you comments on the award on page 9.]



## Editor's Ramblings

Clint Collier

I want to welcome two new members of the SIR-Call team; **Bruce Borgman** and **Hank James** have stepped forward following last month's announcement of **Jim Berry's** retirement and that we were looking for a replacement.

it in to [br146SirCall@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com)

Does your activity meet after the due date for SIR-Call input? If it does, you should consider postponing your reporting on the result of that get together until the following month. Instead concentrate on promoting the upcoming meeting. Much less pressure on everyone.

**Deadline for submissions for the August issue is July 25th.**

Don't forget, we encourage member contributions to SIR-Call so, if you have something you would like to say, send

## SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Assistant Editor

Photographer

Proofreaders

Internet Posting

**Clint Collier**

**Bob West**

**Henry Thatcher**

**Jonathan Korfhage, Ron Polivka,**

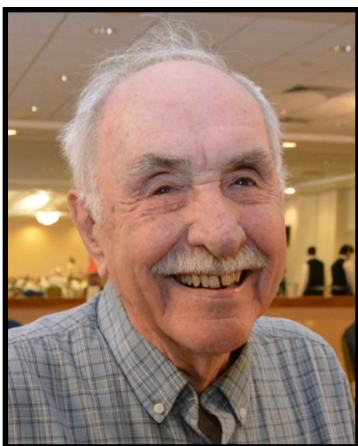
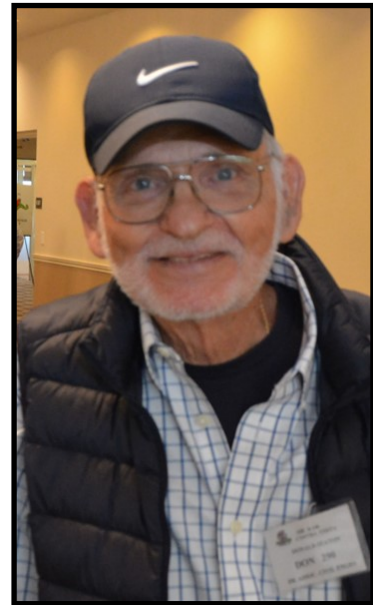
**Bruce Borgman, and Hank James**

**Ron Plachy**

# May Luncheon!



Guest Speaker  
Loella Haske  
Walnut Creek City Council Member







ARE YOU ATTENDING OUR LIVE, MONTHLY MEETINGS? IF NOT, YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON MUCH OF THE FUN OF SIR!



Photo essay by Staff Photographer Henry Thatcher

# NOTES

## from Our Members

**Frank Lucas** is interested in starting a Bird Watching Activity. Being a sort of a "Birder" himself, and having met a few others that share the same interests, he was wondering if there was enough interest to start a Birding Activity. We could meet monthly, swap stories, rotate locations, plan trips etc. If you are interested, please give him a call at 925-316-6122 or email him at [frank.lucas1105@gmail.com](mailto:frank.lucas1105@gmail.com).

### Attention all potential poker players:

The various poker groups need new members, or substitutes. These poker games are low stakes (nickel, dime, quarter). If you know that a pair beat three of a kind...no wait I got that backwards, that's all the skill you need at poker games.

So come on and join a poker group.

Contact me and I will find a group for you to play with.

**Bob Lucido**

**B146 Activity Chairman**

For Sale:  
Camouflage jacket and pants  
combo, like new, \$24





Looking for something to do...

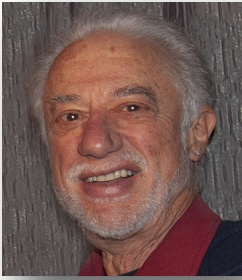
SIRS ACTIVITY REPORT 4.13.22						
Activity	Chair	# of Participants	Meeting Frequency	New members	Co-Ed	
Bocce	John Kendrick	12 to 24 couples	8:30 2nd & 4th Mondays May through October	yes	yes	
Book Corner Chair	Peter Plante	open	Jan > every other month	N/A	N/A	
Book Corner Asst. Chair	Dick McElroy					
Book Group	John Pearl	5 to 10	variable - every 1 to 2 mo.	yes	no	
Bridge - Couples Party	Tony Greco	6 Couples	Monthly	Yes	yes	
Bridge Couples Duplicate 1	John Kluesener	6 Couples	7:00-10:30 PM Third Wednesday	yes	yes	
Bridge Couples Duplicate 2	Dave Pierce	6 couples	Monthly - 2nd Tues. 7 PM-10 PM	yes	yes	
Bridge Men's Duplicate 1	Max Hinkle	16 plus subs	Monthly - 3rd Monday	yes	no	
Bridge Men's Duplicate 2	Dick DeVoe	18 plus subs.	Monthly - 1st Friday 10-2:30	yes	no	
Bridge Men's Duplicate 3	Mike Whitaker	18	Monthly - 3rd Friday	yes	no	
Bridge Men's Party Co-Chair	J.Pope/J. Steadman	16 plus 4 alt.	9:45-3:00 Monthly - 1st Monday	yes	no	
Cooking II	Steve Ybarra	8	Monthly - 2nd Monday	no	conditional	
Cooking Lunch & Wine	Syd Whalen	8 plus 3 subs.	Monthly - 3rd Wednesday	no	conditional	
Cooking Tres Gourmets	Ron Binder	8	Monthly - Jan. to Oct.	no	conditional	
Cribbage Chair	Ron Aldal	8 to 10	12:00 - 4:00 pm 4th Wednesday	yes	no	
Cycling	Larry Kaye	10 to 15	every week	yes	yes	
Dining Out	Bruce Borgman	~20 to 30 couples	Every other Month	yes	yes	
Dinner/Dance Social	Jonathan Korfhage	25 to 40 couples		yes	yes	
Explore and Eat Co-Chair	H.Thatcher&J.Pope					
Fishing	Paul Dubow	~10 to 15 Br 146	7:30-9:30 Breakfast mtg. 4th Thurs.	yes	conditional	
Golf - 18 hole Chair	David Steinberg	~100 to 115 active	9:00 Every Tuesday	yes	no	
Golf - 18 hole-away games	Ed Marlovics					
Golf - 9 hole	Bob Ford	~25 members	9:30 every Thursdays	yes	no	
Hiking	Mark Curtis	6 to 12	10:00 am - varies Monday or Friday	yes	yes	
Ladies Day Luncheon chair	Steve Ybarra	~250 people	*Semi-annually	N/A	N/A	
Men's Hearts	Bob West	6 to 12	Meet 2X a month - 2nd & 4th Friday 12:45-3:30	yes	No	
Mexican Train Dominoes (1) Uno	Jerry Kaplan	16 to 18	Monthly -plays Friday eve. after luncheon	yes	yes	
Mexican Train Dominoes (2) Dos	Ron Plachy	14 to 18	6:30-10:00PM 4th Friday	yes	yes	
Mex. Train Dominoes (3) Tres	Walt Busenius	18 to 20	Monthly - 4th Friday eve.	yes	yes	
Mex. Train Dominoes (4) Quattro)	Jim Pope					
Mex. Train Dominoes (5) Cinco	Dave Pierce	12	monthly -3rd Thursday eve.	yes	yes	
Mex. Train Dominoes (6) Seis	Moose Kelly	10 to 20	6:30-10:00PM 4th Tuesday	yes	yes	
Mex. Train Dominoes (7) Siete	Bob Lucido	14	monthly -2nd Wednesday eve.	no	yes	
Mex. Train(8) Ocho Dominoes (8)	Richard Hockenbrock	18	Monthly - 1st Wednesday of every month	yes	yes	
Photography Co-Chair	John "Moose" Kelly	10 to 20	meets 4th Fri. of every other month	yes	yes	
Pinochle Co-chair (Br 146 & Br 8)	P.McNeill/S.Johnson	8 to 12	2nd and 4th Wed after lunch	yes	yes	
Poker Group #1	Dan O'Sullivan	7	Monthly - 2nd Wed. 1:00-4:00	no	no	
Poker Group #3	Sig Kalteis	7	Monthly 4th noon	yes	no	
Poker Group #4	Rich Hanford	7	Monthly 4th Monday 1-4 pm	no	no	
Poker Group #6	Brad Hatcher	6	Mo.-1st Thurs 12:30-3:30	No	no	
Song SIRS	Peter Plante	about 20 active	Monthly - 1st & 3rd Wed.	yes	no	
Sushi no tomodachi	Clint Collier	undecided	One a month	yes	yes	
Table Pool	Bill Weinberg	10 to 16	Every Monday 11:30 AM	yes	no	
Theater	Gary Schaub	~30 - 40 people	2 to 3 theatre parties/yr.	yes	yes	
Travel	Milt Smith	~15 - 50 people	*As scheduled	yes	yes	
Wine Tasting	Brian McCarthy	~30-50 people	4th Wed. 2:30 - 5:00p.m.	yes	yes	

# SIR 146 Activities Calendar

To add new or one time special events for the calendar, contact Bill Holly

July 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27	28	29	30	Jul 1
8:30 AM Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-4	
4	5	6	7	8
9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos Ocho (8)	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30 PM Poker Group #6	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 12:45 PM - 3:30 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos Group 1 (Uno)
11	12	13	14	15
8:30 AM Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM Poker Group #1 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos Siete	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos - El Quattro
18	19	20	21	22
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos Group 5 (Cinco)	12:45 PM - 3:30 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos Dos 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos Group 3 (Tres)
25	26	27	28	29
8:30 AM Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM Wine Tasting	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30 PM Sums in Retirement Via Zoom 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3	



## Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

It looks like we have enough interest to start a Birding Activity. **Frank Lucas** is setting it up. More to follow.

I will be sending out a survey to all members with a list of possible new activities. The form will ask you to select an activity which you may be interested in. This will not be a request to join, only to see if there is enough interest to start one.

**Dave Kingsbury** has volunteered to become my Assistant Activity Coordinator. You may see some of the activity correspondence from him.

**Bob Lucido**

925.899.0974 [Bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:Bobwendy3@comcast.net)

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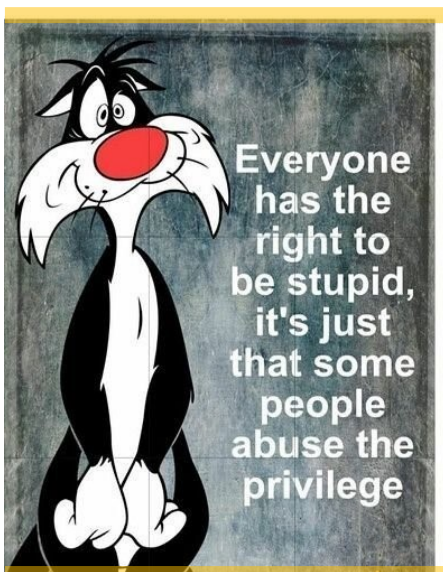
## GOLF Ed Marlovits

The tea leaves seem to indicate that only the Branch 19 foursome will represent our Area in the State team championship, leaving our second place team out. I hope

I'm misreading that.

The individual qualifier has been rescheduled for July 28 at Blue Rock Springs. It turns out that we don't have any other Area in our region doing an Area qualifier so the result is that our Area Individual Qualifier will turn into a Regional Qualifier. Teams from the other branches in our region will be notified by the chairman of SIR State Golf.

**Ed Marlovits**



## Bocce John Kendrick

**Reminder - SIR 146 Bocce Ball is alive, active, and looking for existing and new players.**

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am,

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.

**The next Bocce Ball gathering is Monday, June 27 at 8:30 am.**

Rain Cancels Play.

**John Kendrick**

925.827.0585 [jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)





## THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF VOCALIST PATSY CLINE IS NEXT SIR BRANCH 146 THEATER PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 22

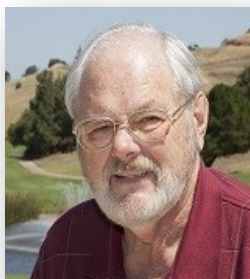
When we grew up in the 1950's and early 1960's, the songstress on top of the music charts was probably Patsy Cline – one of the most influential talents of the mid-century. She was one of the first vocalists to successfully cross over from Country Music into Pop.

The life and music of Patsy Cline takes center stage in *"Always ... Patsy Cline"*, the next SIR Branch 146 Theater Party. The Center REP production at Walnut Creek's Leshar Center is scheduled for Thursday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Pop music lovers will readily recall "Always," "Bill Bailey Won't You Please Come Home", and Cline's take on the Judy Garland hit "You Made Me Love You." Other Patsy Cline hits included "Walkin' After Midnight" and "She's Got You."

Patsy Cline was born in the early 1940's. She died in a plane crash in Tennessee at the top of her career in 1963 and became a music icon in the decades following her death. She was the first solo woman performer to be elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

A limited number of reserved and discounted seats are being held for SIR Branch 146 members and guests. Tickets are \$36 per person and may be reserved with a personal check payable to SIR Branch 146 and sent to Theater Activities Chair Gary Schaub at 1400 Canyonwood Court, Apt. #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Deadline for reservation is Thursday, September 8. Tickets will be distributed in the Leshar Center lower lobby on the performance night, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Parking is available at the City Parking Garage adjacent to Leshar Center.



**Theater**  
**Gary Schaub**



### SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs met on June 15 to rehearse our latest song list. Everyone one was in full voice, so we are confident that our performance at Concord Royale Assisted Living Facility on July 20 will be well received. SongSirs meet again on July 6 for our final rehearsal before the long-awaited show.

New members are always welcome. No auditions required, just a love of singing.

Contact Peter Plante at [pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)



### 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

At 9am, on the last day of Spring, three intrepid SIR hikers started out to mount Eagle Peak on Mt Diablo. Despite the 7+ miles, 2100 foot climb and 90-degree temperature, our hikers persevered (and perspired!) to achieve their goal. And victory was theirs!! Too bad our fearless leader, Mark Curtis, couldn't join us..

...Bob Wilkenfeld reporting.

**Mark Curtis**

Cell 925.360.3449 [Mocurtis1657@gmail.com](mailto:Mocurtis1657@gmail.com)



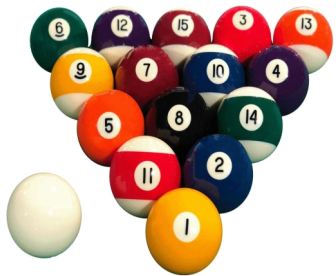
### Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry *Reported by Jim Barry*

Table Pool: last Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>, Jim Barry made the 8 ball on the break for an immediate win. The odds of making the 8 ball on the break are approximately 0.8 %. Others in our group that have done it are Bill Weinberg and Larry Brown.

Weinberg and Larry Brown.

Table Pool is meeting every Monday at Masses at 12 noon for around 2 hours and getting in some very good games!

We're open for new members just call me or Jim Barry for any additional information.



**Bill Weinberg**  
925.682.0962



Gene Schulting, Ray Martz  
Photo by Bob Wilkenfld



I used to think I was indecisive; now I'm not so sure





## Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

The 9-Hole golf group is growing fast. We have a great group of guys that love to play golf. Come join us for a round. Our group tees off at 9:30 am 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.

If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Sundays, 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](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)



Recent 9 hole golf lineup.



## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

June 7th: It's been a long time. I have not ridden since March 1 due to some health issues. Today was special. Joined by **Bill Ross, Jim Nelson, Pat Hoy**, my old riding buddy, we rode. The weather was super. The route was to San Ra-

mon and some Java. Short but memorable. Everyone was aware that this was a re-entry ride and as such... slow and flat. The java was great as was the belly bombs. We rode slow and talked along the way. I was happy to have my fellow Sirs guys along. A nice ride and some much needed exercise. I thanked all for "holding my hand." Good friends are hard to find.

June 14th: Today was my first real venture out, That is with hills. The boys, **Paul Brown, Bill Holly, Roger Meyer** and I took off early today. The ride included some nasty steep short hills. I had told the guys that I had planned on some short stops. We had fun. The early start allowed cooler temps, and the route thru Blackhawk, back roads of Danville and some side streets proved enjoyable. The hills were steep, short and double. This ride allowed me to re-enter the world of cycling. Being brothers in arms I had no problem asking for some stops. The hills melted beneath our legs, and we returned to Peets in Alamo for java and belly bombs. Where else can you find such comrades? Truly felt safe and not embarrassed.

June 21st: Today was a beat the heat ride day. **Bob Wilkenfeld, Bill Holly, Bob Lucido**, and myself ventured out. We left early and the temp was 73'. Nice. Approaching San Ramon, the temp took off. We made our turn just in time. Meandering thru Danville with a cool breeze blowing, we headed back to Alamo.

Back in town, still cool, we made our way to Peets. Sitting in the shade, we enjoyed our libations. Great kool ride. Leaving early has its benefits.

**Larry Kaye**

925.698.4030

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads.



## AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul DuBow

As we have reported in earlier issues of the SIR-Call, this has been an unusual salmon season because sport fishing for salmon in the Bay Area was closed from June 1 to June 22. As a consequence, the party, charter, and private boats

that regularly fish for salmon in the ocean turned to fishing for halibut in the bay. At times, the fishing grounds resembled a boat marina with boats parked side to side fishing for the tasty flatfish. One would think that this over-fishing would limit the catch, but that was not the case. It turned out that this was the best halibut season in the bay in years as nearly every outing ended with limits or near limits. Not only that, but the average size of the fish that were caught got bigger as the month progressed. Perhaps the happiest halibut fisherman of all was **Paul Dubow**. He was the fishmaster (the club member in charge of the trip) on two outings, one on the *Scallywag* and the other on the *Sundance*. On the *Scallywag*, seven of the 15 keepers were over ten pounds, with two of them over twenty pounds and **Paul** landed the largest one, which weighed in at 25 lbs. One week later, on the *Sundance*, **Paul** once again landed the largest fish, this one a mere 13.5 lbs. On the same trip, **Brion Beetz** caught two stripers and **Paul** caught a sand shark.

We did get one salmon trip in. It occurred on May 31, the last day of the first part of the season. Six of us ventured out on the *Sundance* and returned with limits. Once again, a member of Branch 146 hooked the largest one, as **Lee Clark** boated a 25 pounder.

We also did a bit of rockfishing. **Ken Bellindir** limited on one trip and also picked up a very nice ling cod. **Brion Beetz** picked up seven, fishing on a friend's boat. **Carl Moyer** not only limited out, but five of his rockfish were cabezon, perhaps the best eating fish in the rockfish family, and the average size was five pounds.

Not all of us devoted our energies to salt water fishing, as quite a few fishermen had successful trout fishing adventures. **Carl Moyer** and **Gordon Linebaugh** fished in San Pablo Reservoir and hooked six golden trout among

their ten fish limit. **Ray Pixton** journeyed to Sunflower Lake, near Emigrant Gap in the Sierras, and caught a limit of rainbows. **Jack Waddell** caught four rainbows, fishing from shore at Los Vaqueros Reservoir. **Steve Dyer** also fished from shore, but at Lake Del Valle, where he landed two large rainbows. **Don Arington** of Branch 146 fly fished on the lower Sacramento where he caught and released many rainbows. **Pete Gates** of Branch 146 had an unusual experience on his annual trip to the middle fork of the Feather River. First, he was surprised that the river was very high. Second, after failing to catch anything by either fly or spin fishing, he and his companions turned to using worms and caught a bunch of trout. **Pete** probably has not worm fished for trout since his boyhood. **Stan Wong** was mildly disappointed on a two day trip to Lake Almanor. He only caught four rainbows in the two days. However, the

last one gave him a furious fight, and even jumped over the outboard motors in the rear of the boat before he was able to net it.

On the Delta, **Mike Corker** and **Tom Kostik**, our resident Delta experts, caught black bass and some small stripers. **Phil Scimonelli** fished the Antioch Pier and caught and released a large amount of undersized stripers. **Phil** reports that he always catches stripers on the pier but he has yet to catch a keeper there. However, the pier would be an excellent venue for a new fisherman or one of us who would like to take a grandchild fishing because action is virtually guaranteed.

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings and attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, July 28, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course

on Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but many of us gather at 7 am 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 trips to San Pablo Reservoir and the Delta and in the Bay for halibut and the ocean for salmon and rockfish. In addition, we have three special events lined up. We have chartered the *Sea Wolf* for a rockfishing adventure to the Farallons on August 18. We are going to visit the Tsar Nicolau caviar farm, where sturgeon is farmed, after the September meeting. And we will be fishing in Lake Almanor for big rainbows on October 10-14. For further information, feel free to call branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510.504.3566.



Paul Dubow and fish!



## Travel Milt Smith

*Time to see some more stuff...*

**Discover the Magical Rhine and Moselle Rivers Sept. 12-25, 2022 with Bill Britton from SIR 101. 14**

**Days 25 meals.** Amsterdam, night River Cruise, Cologne, Moselle River, Cochem, Wine Tasting, Koblenz, Rudesheim, Siegfried's Music Museum, Mannheim, Speyer, Strasbourg, Lucerne, Zurich. Prices range from \$5,999 - \$9,199pp depending on cabin. Includes round trip air from San Francisco. Contact Bill Britton 925-443-9913 bill.britton@comcast.net.

I have not received much interest in travel from our branch but here are two trips for 2023 organized by Bill Stires from branch 143

**Scenic Ireland Trip through Ireland and Northern Ireland April 14-27, 2023**

**Price: \$5,395 Double Occupancy Single \$6,195**

**\$500.00 Deposit to hold your place.**

**Final payment due on December 15, 2022**

**This is a small group Departure limited to 24 passengers.**

**Sign up early to reserve your spot on this exciting trip.**

Highlights: 12 nights in First Class Hotels

Accommodations

1 night in Limerick, 1 night in Clifden, 1 in Sligo, 2 nights in Belfast in Northern Ireland, 2 nights in Dublin, 1 night in Waterford, 1 night in Kinsale, 2 nights in Killarney, 1 night in Limerick

**18 meals. Includes gratuities on tour**

Visit Cliffs of Moher, local farms, an Abbey, Giant's Causeway, Titanic Experience, Hillsborough Castle, Belfast's O'Connell Street, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College, House of Waterford Crystal, Blarney Castle and the Kissing Stone, Garnish Island, Ring of Kerry, Dingle Peninsula, and **much, much more.**

Leisure time to explore most of the towns and villages.

**Autumn Colors trip to East Coast**

October 13 - 22, 2023 Price: \$4,330 double occupancy

Air Fare to be added in December 2022

Deposit of \$500 per person to hold reservation

Highlights: 2 nights stay in Boston. Tour of city.

Visit Manchester, Vermont; Burlington, Vermont;

North Conway, New Hampshire; Bar Harbor,

Maine; Acadia National Park; Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Scenic drives along the Mohawk Trail and Kancamagus Highway.

Professional local tour guide for entire trip.

9 nights of First-Class Hotel accommodations.

14 meals including a regional lobster feast.

This trip will fill up fast, so sign up early.

Call Bill Stires at 209.988.5445 or email at [bstires46@gmail.com](mailto:bstires46@gmail.com) to receive brochure.

**Milt Smith**

925.285.2897 [miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com)





## Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair  
[mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net)

The SIR 146 Book Group met Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Our book this month was *The Tango War: The Struggle for the Hearts, Minds and Riches of Latin America During*

*World War II*, by Mary Jo McConahay. It is the story of Latin America in World II, with some pre-war and post-war history included as well. The Allies and the Axis powers did go at it in Latin America. The region was filled with spies and counterspies, with Buenos Aires a particular hotbed.

The book was a slow starter but got better as one progressed through it. It seemed to combine both sociology and history into sort of a social studies textbook, and had many chapters about ordinary people as well as descriptions of historic events. We learned that Central and South America were sources of raw material necessary for the war effort such as rubber and oil, and that the US and Axis powers struggled to be the dominant country to control this production. This included an effort by the Ford Motor Company to develop a huge plantation in the Amazon to produce rubber, which was dubbed Fordlandia.

The book describes many facts about what happened in the various countries and to the people of the region that none of us (and probably most Americans) had not heard or known about. This included the 25,000 Brazilians who took part in the invasion of Italy and the 4,000 Japanese Peruvians who were interned in Crystal City, Texas and used as “trade bait” by the US to secure the release of American POW’s. These people languished in Crystal City until 1947. Many ethnic Germans who had no connection with Nazi Germany were also rounded up at the strong urging of the US government.

Some chapters were devoted to stories about individuals and families in these regions and how they were not treated well by their governments and the US. The author discusses how Fascist governments arose in some of the countries. and how the Vatican, at least at the outset of the war, was complicit in some of the Nazi atrocities. One chapter is devoted to the fate of the ship *St. Louis* which carried Jewish refugees from Europe to presumed safety in the New World but was unable to debark its passengers in any Latin American country, a decision supported by the US government. The ship was forced to return to Europe, where many of its passengers wound up in Nazi death camps.

The Vatican was strongly opposed to any hint of Communism in their churches and the countries in which they were dominant and it quietly supported the Nazis because they were anti-Communist. Although Pope Pius gradually changed his view of the Nazis as he became aware of their atrocities, the Vatican nevertheless assisted in the creation of the infamous “ratlines” that enabled some Nazi leaders to escape to South America at war’s end, where many of them flourished.

In summary, this book was full of interesting stories about the people and the happenings of the time in an area that does not receive much attention in our history books. If this is a subject that interests you, we would suggest reading some of well-written reviews on the page for this book on the Amazon web site. Our group, while acknowledging some good sections of the book, gave it a B-, interesting, but not quite what we expected.

Our next meeting will be Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, and the book for July is *Unmasked: My Life Solving America’s Cold Cases*, by Paul Holes. Holes is a local detective who was instrumental in finding the infamous Golden Gate Killer. Our second choice was *Who Killed Jane Stanford*, by Richard White.

**John Pearl, Chair**  
**Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor**



## Book Corner

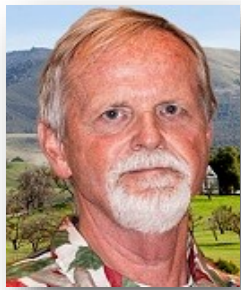
Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone who picked up and dropped off books at the June luncheon. The Book Corner returns for the August luncheon.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up before lunch and pack up the books.

Please contact Peter Plante at  
[pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)





## Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

SIR Branch 146 Photography Group met on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, at Rocco's. Twelve members of the Photography Group attended; **Bill Holly**, **Peter Plante**, **Bobbie Schmidt**, **Rich Lyon** (THANKS for providing the donuts), **Richard Hockenbrock**, **Ron Polivka**, **Susan Oki**, **Steve Oki**, Mr. Oki Senior, **Mike Rothman**, **Moose Kelly** and **Henry Thatcher**. We had a guest, **Ed Hewitson**, sitting in to see what the photography group was all about. Welcome **Ed**!

The theme for this month's meeting was "Photography Near and Far". On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8 members of the photography group did a shooting event at Migration Winery in Napa. Participants showed their top photos. Enclosed is a photo from **Bobbie Schmidt** entitled "It's Got Legs". Also attached, **Susan Oki** produced a photograph of "Sunburst" from a trip from Hawaii. **Peter Plante** and his wife, **Martha** recently were in Italy for six weeks. **Peter** came back with some great pictures including the one that I have enclosed showing **Peter** and **Martha** holding up the Leaning Tower of Pisa. **Ron Polivka** and his wife **Victoria** took a trip across Nevada on Highway 50 entering the National Parks in particular Arches National Park. **Ron** displayed such a vast array of photos that it was difficult to choose just two to enclose. The two photos that were outstanding were "The Delicate Arch" from Arches National Park and "Horseshoe Bend". We also viewed a few videos from **Moose's** trip to Palau in his underwater exploration sojourn. My thanks for everyone coming to the meeting and sharing their expertise.

Our next meeting is on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, at Rocco's. The theme for this meeting will be architectural photography. We will certainly bring more news on this event as the time approaches.

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](mailto:rollingstone911@yahoo.com)

or

**Henry Thatcher**

925.997.5032 [1henrythatcher@gmail.com](mailto:1henrythatcher@gmail.com)



Sunburst: Photo taken by **Susan Oki**.



Extra Support: **Peter Plante** holding up the leaning tower of Pisa with help from his wife **Martha**. Photo by **Peter**.

More Photography photos on next page.

More Photography Photos



It's Got Legs - Migration Winery, Napa, CA - photo by **Bobbie Schmidt**



Glenn Canyon Natl. Recreation Area  
"Horseshoe Bend", Colorado River  
Photographer: Ron Polivka



Arches National Park - Delicate Arch  
Photographer: Ron Polivka





## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The cooking II group met at the home of **Ken Richter** on June 13. **Ken** surprised us with his daughter's menu items and jar-cuterie. The jar-cuterie was a mixture of appetizers placed in a small mason jar that was a big hit with the group. With



Standing: Ken Richter. Seated left to right, Bill Cammerer, Dennis Hallett, Bob Yolland, Bruce Borgman and Richard Hockenbrock. Photo by Steve Ybarra

the help of plentiful wine brought by the group, **Bruce** then filled us in on his recent trip to Alaska aboard a small ship with only 300 passengers. A fabulous trip that the small ship was able to dock in smaller ports where larger ships are precluded from docking. Finally, **Bob Yolland** asked what the major political issue is going forward. **Steve** responded U.S. energy self-sufficiency. **Bob** responded, inflation. The group agreed with **Bob**. As President Clinton once said, "it's the economy stupid".



Dennis Hallett and Bob Yolland  
Photo by Steve Ybarra

**Ken** then served the main course of two salads, perfect for the beginning of summer. Plated together were a mixed green strawberry salad and a chicken macaroni salad with a complex mixture of ingredients. Finally for dessert, **Ken** treated the

group to his award-winning rum concoction.

**Steve Ybarra**



## Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy



Wine enthusiasts, please note that our next wine tasting will be Tuesday, July 26 from 2:30 to 5:00 pm at the home of **Bob and Wendy Lucido**. Their address is: 541 Lily Street in Walnut Creek.

The red wine will be a red blend. The definition of a red blend for this tasting is at least 2 different varietals—for example Cabernet and Syrah, or Cabernet, Merlot and Petite Verdot. The white will be a sparkling wine. Be sure that the sparkling wine is well chilled. Your bottle should be under \$30. Don't forget to bring an appetizer to share.

Please note that while the event is often called "couples" wine tasting, singles are more than welcome. So if your spouse is not a wine enthusiast, don't hesitate to join us.

When you RSVP let us know if you will be bringing a red or white wine.

To RSVP, email: [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com) or phone Brian: 925.324.2463. .

Brian McCarthy  
925.324.2463 [Br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:Br146winetasting@gmail.com)

The old Kelly Blue Book would give you three prices for a car depending on its condition.

The new edition only gives you two, depending on whether the gas tank is full or empty.



## 寿司の友達

### Sushi no tomodachi

Six SIR members and one guest, Tony Pasol who is looking us over got together this month for sushi at Tachi Sushi in Concord at the corner of Ygnacio Valley Blvd. and Clayton Road. This turned out to be a hidden gem; great sushi, fresh large portions and reasonably priced!

This month is a no meeting month; in August we will visit another small Ygnacio Valley Blvd. restaurant, [Toyo](#) in Encina Grande shopping center.

Details in the August newsletter.

**Clint Collier**

[SirClint@the-colliers.org](mailto:SirClint@the-colliers.org)



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### How Adam Got Eve

Adam was hanging around the garden of Eden feeling very lonely.

So, God asked him: "What's wrong Adam?"

Adam said: "I don't have anyone to talk to."

God said that He could fix that and that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman. God said: "This pretty lady will gather food for you, she will cook for you, and when you discover clothing, she will wash them for you. She will always agree with every decision you make, she will not nag you, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will always praise you! She will bear your children, and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will NEVER have a headache & will freely give you love & passion whenever you need it."

Adam asked God: 'What will a woman like this cost?'

God replied: "An arm and a leg."

Then Adam commented "That's pretty pricy, what can I get for a rib?"

And of course, the rest is HISTORY. . .

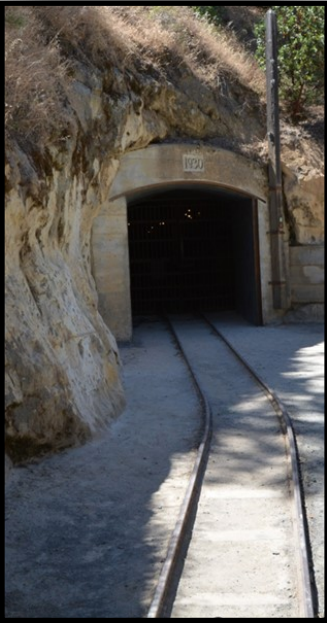
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**Explore & Eat**  
Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

# Black Diamond Mine Tour



The weather was outstanding for the 37 SIR members and their spouses/guests as we embarked on a 2-mile hike around the Black Diamond Mine Park area. On the tour were: **Ross and Janet Abbott, John Alexander, Peter and Gabriel Bishop, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Don and Ete Dotson, Bill and Diane Holly, Bob and Wendy Lucido, Ed and Audrey Mavlovits, Jim and Christie Nelson, Laney Nelson, Steve and Susan Oki, Jim and Renie Pope, Walker and Bobbie Schmidt, Eugene Schulting, Jim Stedman, Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Calvin and Kathryn Tucker, Bob and Jane West, and Steve and Dana Ybarra.** We visited 6 coal mine sites and the locations of several towns that were booming during the mining years, like the towns of Somersville and Pittsburg. We learned about the stores, schools and churches and what it was like in those times from our outstanding Naturalist and tour guide, Keven. We also went into 2 mine tunnels for the coal mine of the late 1800s and the sand mine of the early 1900s. In the coal mine tunnel, we wandered thru the Coal Mine Museum. We saw old photos and tools of what it was like working and living in the mine towns. It was an amazing 22 decades ago look back at California history. Then we all moved on to some cool libations and lunch at the lovely Smith's Landing restaurant on the river in Antioch.





## Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Well, never let it be said that we don't keep our Dining Out experience exciting and unusual. As faithful readers of the Sir Call and those who attended our last Dining Out event in May know, we had a

spectacular event with 72 attendees at Uncle Yu's – the premier Chinese restaurant in the East Bay. It was a fun dining experience for our group over two evenings.

Now, for our Dining event in July, we have decided to continue our Far East theme by taking our group to an excellent Japanese restaurant in Pleasant Hill – Kobe Japan located in the same strip mall as Wence's and Wise Girl – both of which we have been to. The date of the event is **July 25**. Long term patrons of this Sir activity will remember that we actually dined at this restaurant in 2014 as one of our early forays into the local culinary scene. For this event we will dine in the Teppanyaki section of the restaurant, where your dinner is prepared while seating around the Teppanyaki table where your chef will prepare



your dinner while you watch his grilling technique. Teppanyaki is derived from trepan which means iron plate and yaki, which means grilled, broiled or pan fried, which allow guests to watch the grilling process so that they can witness the great knife and grilling skills of the chef. We have selected a menu which will start with soup, salad and appetizer and then give you a variety of entrees to choose from and also added chicken breast or prawns. Rice is a side dish including their special bacon fried rice. You do not need to select your entrée ahead of time – you will do that at the Teppanyaki table. The menu for this

event is listed in this Sir Call issue.



In order to partake of this type of cuisine in a timely manner, we have limited the number of diners to two groups of 22 and one of 16, for a total of 60 diners. Group one will start cocktails at 5:00pm, and start their dinner at 5:30pm; the second group will start cocktails at 5:30 and will start dinner at 6:00pm; the third group will start cocktails at 6pm and din-

### 6/26 UPDATE

We are now able to accommodate 60 diners which will be dining in three groups - group one - 22, group two - 22, and group three - 16. As of today we have room for 1 more couple.

ner at 6:30pm. This will allow the chef to prepare the dinner to group one then move to the second and third groups to demonstrate his fancy grilling techniques. We will place you in the groups based in the order of signing up or you can indicate your preference.

The total all inclusive price for the dinner is \$59 per person. Please email Bruce to reserve your place, and confirm with a check to Branch 146 mailed to Bruce.

The restaurant has a large bar area for your wine, beer or specialty drinks – you may bring your own bottle for a \$18 corkage fee. Parking is somewhat limited in the strip mall area or on the street.

As a final note, your hosts will be out of the country from June 27 through July 16 so my response to your email may be sporadic – never fear, we will catch up with your reservation on our return.

We are looking forward to this unique dining experience!

**Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon**

Dining Out hosts

[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)

# *COUPLES DINING OUT*



**Monday July 25, 2022**

Group 1: Social hour / no host cocktails 5:00pm Dinner: 5:30pm(22 diners)

Group 2: Social hour / no host cocktails 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm (22 diners)

Group 3: Social hour / no host cocktails 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm (16 diners)

## **HIBACHI DINNER**

**Soup:Japanese Onion Soup**

**Appetizer:Sauteed Mushrooms**

**Salad:House Salad**

**Vegetable:Zucchini, Fresh Mushrooms, Carrots, Broccoli and Onion**

**Entrée choice (select at the table):**

**Crispy Tofu**

**Spicy Marinated Julienne Steak**

**Chicken Breast**

**Salmon Filet**

**Prawns**

**Jumbo Sea Scallops**

**Angus NY Steak**

**Add to your choice:**

**Chicken Breast or Prawns**

**Rice: Steamed Rice, Veggie Rice or Bacon Fried Rice**

**\$59 per person; tax, gratuity inclusive - LIMITED TO 40 diners!**

Kobe Japan

1918 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill

RSVP by July 18 to Bruce Borgman: email [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)

Confirm with check to 3611 Winchester Place, Walnut Creek, 94598 phone 925.932.3961.

Check made out to SIR 146. Questions? Email Bruce

# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

The original Founding MTD group met once again at our regular time, the Friday after the Sir luncheon.

This time we met at the Plante's comfortable home. We again had just seven members attend but had just as much fun with these veteran players – the **Baily's**, **Plante's**, **Borgman/Sheldon**, and **Jim Stedman**.

As always, it was a competitive game with the scores rising and falling with each round.

We did take a break to enjoy **Martha's** delicious flan, then back to the table. We enjoyed sharing experiences of recent trips by our group with the **Plante's** just returning from Italy, and the **Borgman/Sheldon/Oranje** having traveled to Alaska.

Not surprisingly, **Alicia** came in first with an average of 18 points per game (how does she do that?) with **Bruce** coming in second with 26.8, and **Martha** coming in just slightly behind **Bruce** with 27.2.

We will meet next month at the Kalteis home on July 15, although a few of us will again be traveling.



Alicia Baily 1st, Bruce Borgman 2nd, and Martha Plante. 3rd  
Photo by Peter Plante.

Group Dos 2



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played our May game on the 27th... too late for the newsletter...so here's the rundown. I think we all need to take up Mahjong!

**Etta Dotson** played two games yesterday before playing Mexican Train and she came in with a fantastic average score of 6.1 to take 1st place handily!

**Rich Ahlf** came in 2nd and **Dan Holland** continued his lock on 3rd. All in all we had a wonderful 3+ hours of fun and comradeship at the home of **Bill Cammerer**...Thank you **Bill**.

Next month will be hosted by **Nancy** and **John Pearl** on Friday the 24th. Hopefully **Bev Collier** will be over her Shingles then and we can all be together again.

total of 17 players: 2 tables of 6 and one of 5.

Our June game was yesterday, 6/24. We had a new winner once again as Ron Plachy came in first with a 11.5 average. Second was **Rich Ahlf** with a 12.9 average. We had a tie for 3rd place: **Anne Plachy** and **Ismini MacLean** had an average of 17.9.

We had a great time at the home of **John** and **Nancy Pearl**. We even got to sample some "poor man's caviar" which simply looked like a mix of veggies to me but was very tasty.

We handed out some additional money for the 1st half winners: **Rich Ahlf**, **Ismini MacLean**, and **Mary Holland**.

Next month will be hosted by **Clint** and **Bev Collier** on Friday, July 22nd.

Ron Plachy

[rjplachy@icloud.com](mailto:rjplachy@icloud.com)

We had a bit of bad news prior to our June game...one of our founding members, Chuck Denney, has decided to drop-out. Some good news, however, is that Mary Denney will continue to play. That brings our group to a

When everything is coming your way,  
you're in the wrong lane



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

Friday evening, June 24th, we once again boarded our Mexican train and headed into the woods of Walnut Creek to "Casa Baily", the hospitable and welcoming home of **Alicia and Jeff Baily**. We had an enjoyable time together. In attendance were the **Baily's, Richmond's, Brown's, Busenius', Jim Stedman, Sharon Varner, and Lynn Shafer**.

The group settled into 2 tables. The strange thing is our 3 winners came from the same table. The 2nd table played fast and furious, beating up on each other. **Sue Busenius and Alicia Baily** won the gold, first place, with identical average scores 14.12. **Sue** went out 3 times and **Alicia** twice. Coming in 2nd with the silver was **Larry Brown** with a respectable score of 18.37.

Our next trip in July will be to the home of **Sharon Varner** when our Cho Choo's conductor yells all aboard!

**Walt Busenius**

925.457.7428 [walterbusenius@gmail.com](mailto:walterbusenius@gmail.com)



Sue Busenius and Alicia Baily (tied for 1<sup>st</sup> Place);  
Larry Brown (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

In June, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met with 12 people. We played at two tables with six each. The group was small but lively. In attendance were; **Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Don and June Seaton, Jonathan and Barbara Korfhage, Rich and Kim Pace, Steve and Susan Oki and Jim and Renie Pope**. We paid the low table score at each table. The winners were **Barbara Thatcher and Kim Pace** shown here with the 6 \$1000 Lotto Tickets each received. The members brought sweets and savories for all to enjoy. The evening was filled with wonderful conversation. Food and wine made for an outstanding evening of fun and frolic.

**Jim Pope**



Barbara Thatcher and Kim Pace



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco"

Dave Pierce

We missed **Joan and David Pierce** as they were traveling abroad. In addition, **Jim and Judy Baldrige** appropriately placed their attendance priorities on being home for their granddaughter's visit. In light of these happenings, I went to the substitute list and called **Tony Greco** to see if he and **Cindy** were available. As it turned out they were and we had filled our slots.

The event that evening was held at the **Burk's** new apartment at Viamonte in the Orchards Shopping Center. The guests were invited to come earlier than normal so that

they could see the Burk's new digs and Viamonte in general. The Guests seemed pleased to see the new facility and we went on to the Club Room on the 4th floor for our evening games.

The results showed that **Cindy Greco** won the low score, followed by **Janet Yolland** and **Dennis Hallett** in second and third place respectively.

**Anne Burk's** dessert of Oreo ice cream pie was a big hit and was thoroughly enjoyed by the group. The next gathering will also be held at Viamonte on July 21, by a quirk of the scheduling calendar.

Hosts: **Jim & Anne Burk**

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

Steve Lane

**Bob and Jane West** graciously welcomed MTD6 players into their newly renovated (looks great!) home on June

22<sup>nd</sup>. Lots of delicious food and refreshments fueled the fierce competition taking place at each table. The women swept the games with **Martha Plante** finishing first with a score of 11.5. Our host, **Jane West**, took second place with a score of 15.4 and **Kathe Mitchell** came in third with 16.1. The men are regrouping and plotting their next campaign!

Our next meeting is on the July 27<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon**.

I'd like to thank Moose Kelly for organizing and leading MTD6 and for all his support during my transition to new team leader.

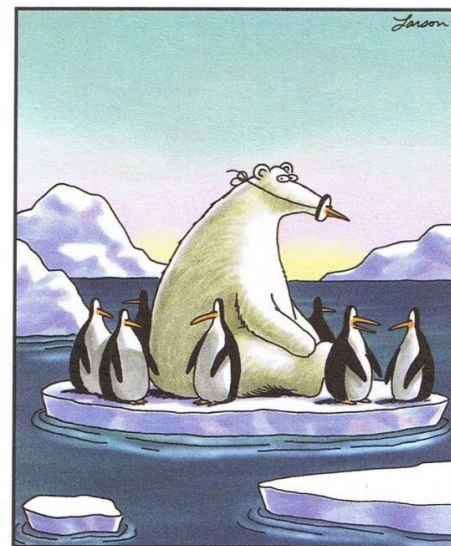
Any questions, please contact

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 [thelane3@aol.com](mailto:thelane3@aol.com).



Jane West, Kathe Mitchell and Martha Plante



"And now Edgar's gone. ...  
Something's going on around here."



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

**Bob Lucido**

Many thanks to **Brian & Mary McCarthy** for hosting this month's MTD 7.

Congrats to **Sue Loftin** for winning the MTD tournament, with an impressive average score per game of 16. **Bob Wilkenfeld** took the consolation prize for highest score of 42.75.

This is a crazy game, **Bob Wilkenfeld** was last this month, and in first place last month.

**Bob Lucido**

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



Sue Loftin And Bob Wilkenfeld



## Mexican Train Dominoes

### Group "Ocho"

**Richard Hockenbrock**

Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO met on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> with 15 members

and guests in attendance. There were no pictures taken of the event or the winners. The photographer simply forgot to take them.

The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner was **Joyce Wells**, followed by **Kathe Mitchell** in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and **Steve Dinning** in third place.

The jackpot winners for the first half of 2022 were **Victoria Polivka** in 1<sup>st</sup> place with an average score of 17.4, **Richard Hockenbrock** in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with an average score of 20.7, and **Mary Jo Potter** with an average score of 21.9. Player had to complete a total of 24 rounds in order to qualify for the prize.

Our next outing will be played on Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm. All games are played at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**, 3616 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek. If you would like to play, send Richard an email at [RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM) to get on the list.

Richard Hockenbrock

[RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM)





# CARD GAMES

...we play



## MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Since the last SIR-Call reporting, we have had in person matches on May 27th and June 10th at Rocco's. Our June 24th meeting will be reported next month.

The big winners were **Bob Finlayson** who won 2.5 games, and **Bill Vizza** with 2 wins. Bob Finlayson won 2.5 of 3 games he played this month. **Ron Polivka** and **Bob West** each had 3 seconds and **Frank Lucas** had 1.5. The only persons to "Shoot the Moon" were **Ron Polvoka**, **Brian McCarthy** and **Bob West**.

**Bob Finlayson** had the lowest average score of 59, followed by **Rich Lyon** with 70.

YTD: **Bill Vizza** is still the leader with 12 games followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 8.5 and **Brian McCarthy** with 6.5. **Ron Polivka** leads YTD seconds with 10 followed by **Frank Lucas** and **Bob West** with 6. **Brian McCarthy** is the most improved over 2021 with a winning percent of 30% which is 209% higher than his 2021 performance. **Bill Vizza** is 2nd with his 44% win rate which is 150% over 2021. **Rich Lyon** has a 100% win rate, but he only played 1 game this year. We told him not to come back and then he could win this stat for the year.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Our July games, will be Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15.

Please call me at 925.518.8472 or email [robtawest@aol.com](mailto:robtawest@aol.com) if you have any questions or are interested in playing.



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

**Dick DeVoe**

Our June 3 Duplicate Bridge 2 event was nicely hosted by **John** and **Linda Boyan** in Woodland. Kudos to **Linda** and to **Christy DeVoe** for subbing which enabled us to have 3 tables!

### The Winners:

1st Place: **Tony Greco** (29.5 points).

2nd Place: **Christy DeVoe** (28.0).

3rd Place: **John Kluesener** (27.0).

### Best Partnership:

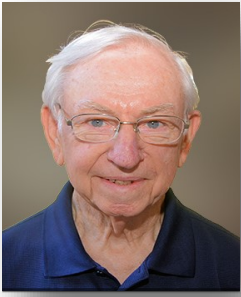
**John Kluesener** and **Tony Greco** teamed up on boards 1-3 to achieve the maximum 6 points.

Congratulations to the above fine performers!



**Steve Ybarra, Brian McCarthy, Frank Lucas and Ron Polivka** stand alongside **Bob West** as he presents **Bill Vizza** with some cupcakes in celebration of his 80th birthday at our May 27th Hearts match.





**Party Bridge**  
**Jim Pope & Jim Stedman**

The SIR 146 Party Bridge group got together in June at the Waterford at Rossmoor hosted by **Ray Spears** who was unable to attend due to a medical issue but we pushed on. We had 8 players: **Rich Ahlf (Ray Spears sub.)**, **Steve Dinning**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Bud Pearce**, **Jim Pope**, **Bill Schaaf** and **Jim Stedman**. It was an enjoyable day with lots of conversation and some fun bantering amongst the group.

The winners were: 1st **Steve Dinning**, 2nd **Bill Schaaf** and 3rd **Rich Ahlf**. We next meet on Monday, July 11 th as the first Monday is July 4th. If you are interested in Party Bridge, contact **Jim Stedman** or **Jim Pope**.

Co-Directors



**Couples Duplicate**  
**Bridge 1**

**John Kluesener**

Couples Duplicate Bridge Group 1 met on Wednesday 15 June at the **Rich Ahlf** home. We were graced with the presence of a SIR “odd”

couple of **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dinning** taking over for **Margo Somerville** and **Daphne Merritt** who were travelling. **Steve** had graciously agreed to fill in even though it was his birthday so we all celebrated with a fine rendition of Happy Birthday played on piano of course by **Steve**, followed by a delicious cheese/birthday cake. Seconds on the cake was a must but we agreed the neighbors could probably do without a second song! As has become the custom of late, the **DeVoes** came away



Dick DeVoe, Joe Fuchs, Christy DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Rich Ahlf and Ismini

with a first place total of 29.5 points (**Dick** always seems to do better when his partner is **Christy**) followed by a tie for second between the Hosting **Ahlf**s and the odd couple of **Joe** and **Steve** with a distant 22.5 points. **Rich** and **Ismini** put on a fine spread of munchies along with the cheese cake wine, soft drinks and coffee. A fine evening of cards and birthday cheer!

**John Kluesener**

[john@klueseners.com](mailto:john@klueseners.com)



## Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

**Tony & Cindy Greco** hosted our June 7th event. All six regular couples participated in this event which hasn't happened since February 2020. We thank all our subs for being available whenever the need arises. Everyone seemed

to be having a good time throughout the evening playing bridge, socializing, consuming wine and snacks and topping off the evening with Cindy's Almond Butter Cake. Having played SIR bridge in different settings (men's duplicate, men's party, couples duplicate, and couples party), I always enjoy the different dynamics between partners in each setting especially when discussing the bidding and playing of the hand just played. Sometimes things are better left unsaid, especially in a couple's environment. Lol.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3630 points - **Tony & Cindy Greco**
- 2nd PLACE with 3210 points - **Brad & Lynne Hatcher**
- 3rd PLACE with 2830 points - **Dick & Christy DeVoe**

Due to the Independence Day Holiday, our **July 5<sup>th</sup>** event has been cancelled. Our next event will be held on **August 2nd** and hosted by **Brad & Lynne Hatcher** at the start time of 4:00 pm. Have a great Independence Day weekend.

**Tony & Cindy Greco**

925.934.0395 [almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)



## Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our June game was well hosted by Frank Lucas in Martinez. Paul Dubow had better results this month. Some of us had more fun watching Frank's bird feeders than seeing our cards.

Our July game is cancelled as the Independence Day holiday has intervened. We look forward to playing in August.

**Brad Hatcher**

[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)



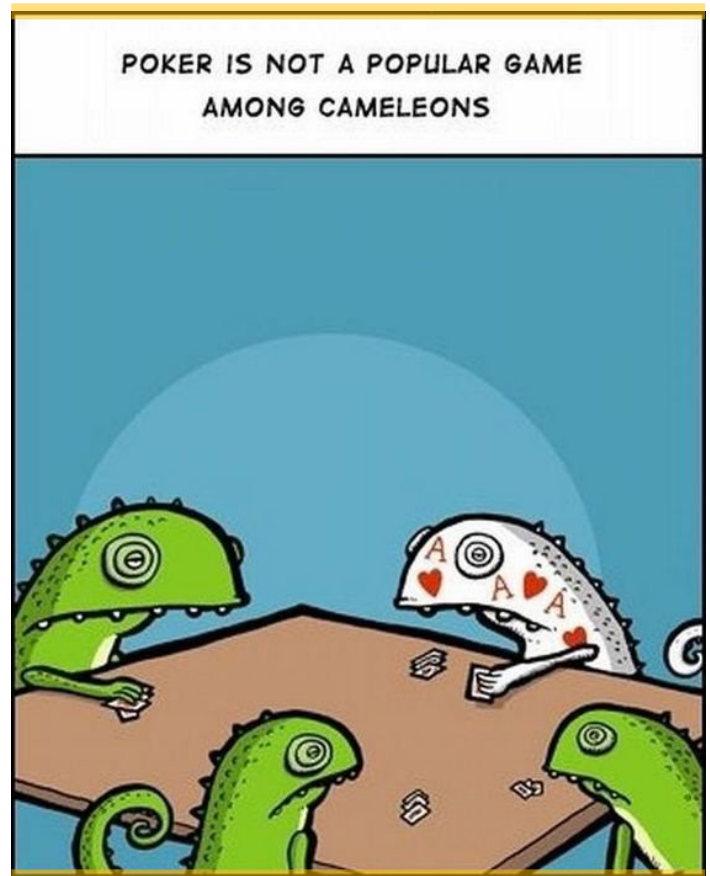
## Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

**Mike Whitaker**

Duplicate Bridge III held it's June meeting on the 17th at the home of **Rich Ahlf**. We welcomed new player **Bud Pearce** to the group. The scoring was low on this day as defense (and possibly overbidding ) was prevalent. At the end of the day, the top 3 **scores were separated by a single point**. Max Hinkle was 1st with 29 points, **Tony Greco** 2nd with 28.5 and **Bob Yolland** 3rd with 28. Our next game will be on July 15th at **Tony's** home.

Mike Whitaker

925.708.8213.





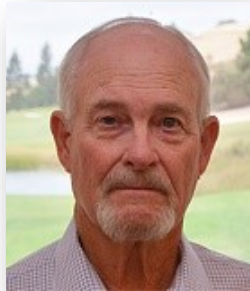
## Cribbage

**Ron Afdal**

The SIR 146 cribbage players met at Rocco's Pizzeria at 12:30 on Wednesday, June 22 for the monthly SIR Cribbage Tournament. The competition was fierce with an abundance of laughter and witty comments. After the last card was played ending the tournament, **John Kendrick** was in first place, **Roger Rivers** second place and **Paul Dubow** a respectable third place. Everyone is welcome to join in the cribbage tournament where the conversation is enjoyable, beverages cold and the pizza hot. Subbing for **Ron Afdal** who is perfecting his cribbage game while cruising in Alaska, **John Kendrick**

**Ron Afdal**

[ronafdal@comcast.net](mailto:ronafdal@comcast.net)



**Pinochle**  
**Pete McNeill & Stan Johnson**



We play on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Rocco's Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek (in the Encino Grande shopping center near Whole Foods). Optional lunch is from Noon to 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

This is a multi-branch activity open to women. Beginners are welcome as are partners of members. We provide instruction as requested, and most beginners learn a great deal within the first session. Before the pandemic we were getting 10 to 16 participants, and we have plenty of room for more players.

If you're interested in joining our group, or if you'd like to just attend a session to observe, either call or email either of us (contact information below) and we'll get back to you.

Please note that anyone attending must be fully vaccinated and have signed the SIR waiver form.

**Pete McNeill**

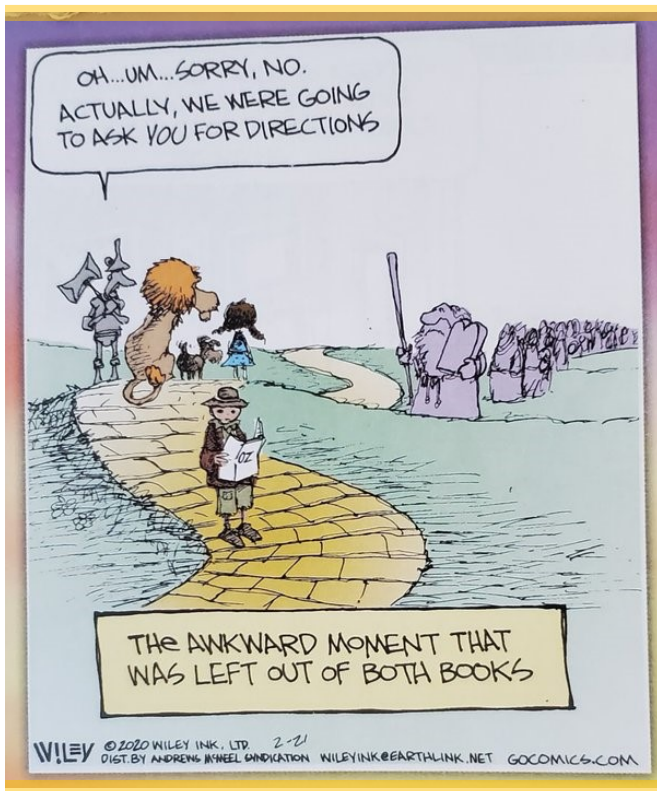
925.858.9666

[petemcgolf@gmail.com](mailto:petemcgolf@gmail.com)

**Stan Johnson**

925.938.7016

[stanjohnson88@gmail.com](mailto:stanjohnson88@gmail.com)



# 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 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](mailto:Vern.laursen@gmail.com)

**Max Burchett** [Meburchett@astound.net](mailto:Meburchett@astound.net)

## Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed July 27 at 1:30 PM.

Topic: "Value" Stocks. What are they? How do you find them?

Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair - Tom Henry Branch 174 [tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

Co-chair Dave Sutton - Branch 8 - [davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)



**"There! Aren't you glad I made you wear your seat belt?"**



## 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!

# Parting Shot

