

SIR CALL

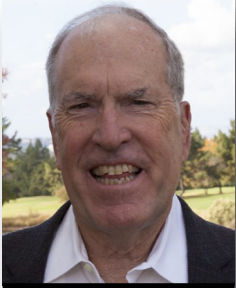
br146sircall@gmail.com

June 2020

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE



Big Sir's Notes

Brad Hatcher

Another month – more cabin fever!

In my note after the May Branch Executive Committee meeting, I urged all our members to get on the telephone and call your

Sir friends. If you have not done that yet, you will find it rewarding. I know I did, and I found new tales and facts from those with whom I made contact.

Speaking of contact, many of you may now have some experience with the tech application Zoom. It is a way to get together electronically with others and both see and hear them. I mention this technology because we are very likely going to have entire membership log in for a “virtual” meeting on our regular second Thursday date in July.

Little Sir and I recently participated in this kind of meeting with Sir Branch 35 which is the largest branch in Sir. They held a scheduled meeting of just over an hour with a speaker as well as time for members to chat. It does require quite a bit of unseen organization. Thus, we do not have the time to put a meeting together for June. Look for more information coming in the form of my notes, e-blasts and more in Sir Call as we get closer to July.

At the May BEC meeting, we approved the requests to start several activities. The BEC is meeting, on an interim basis as needed, to approve additional requests in a timely manner. We will follow the guidance of State Sir and be conservative in approving the restart of activities given our age group and Contra Costa County Health Service guidelines. Many of our activities take place in our homes. It will be difficult to restart those activities while guidance says groups of more than 10 are not allowed.

While you are phoning your friends, please keep in mind that if they are not Sirs, you should invite them to become members. We are looking into amending our rules about guests having to physically come to a

While in-person luncheon meetings remain cancelled, please mark your calendars for July 9th as our first luncheon meeting to be held electronically using ZOOM.

We are planning to meet at 11:30 am and it will end by approximately 1:00 pm. It is likely we will have a speaker and time set aside to converse with each other..

luncheon. It is possible they could attend a Zoom luncheon and qualify for membership. More on this to come; however, know that Branch 146 is always looking for additional members.

Stay safe – be well!

**I MIGHT WAKE UP EARLY
AND GO RUNNING. I ALSO MIGHT
WAKE UP AND WIN THE LOTTERY.
THE ODDS ARE ABOUT THE SAME.**

SIR Mission Statement

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



Little Sir's Corner

Richard Hockenbrock

If you have read the Big Sir report from **Brad** in this issue, you are aware that we are aiming to have an all hands meeting at our regular scheduled meeting time on July 9th. I'll be searching for a speaker who is comfortable talking and presenting using Zoom.

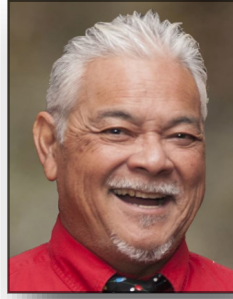
I want to address our move to Zoom as it seems to be the application of choice in holding meetings with other SIR branches and their members. Some of you have expressed your reservations about using Zoom and loading it on your computer or smartphone because of reported privacy concerns.

From December 2019 to March of this year, the number of people using Zoom jumped from 10 million to 200 million. Leading up to the pandemic, Zoom was a niche application that concentrated on supporting business to business meetings. The controls were made easy to use with little training, but the user base was thought to be professional centric. The fact that the program was offered free to anyone wanting to communicate in a meeting for 40 minutes or less made the program so attractive.

Zoom acted quickly with two upgrades in March and April to strengthen its security. These included 1) requiring a password to enter a meeting, 2) optionally force a participant to stop in a so-called "waiting room" before entering a meeting, 3) give the host who set up the meeting full control over participants' video and audio and the ability to shut them down immediately if needed, and, 4) higher level enhanced encryption.

Of course, no program is free from being hacked but your BEC and the SIR state organization now feels Zoom is safe to use for our meetings in the coming months. Unfortunately, if you decide to opt out or are unable to use Zoom, you will likely miss out on being able to participate in our meetings for the foreseeable future.

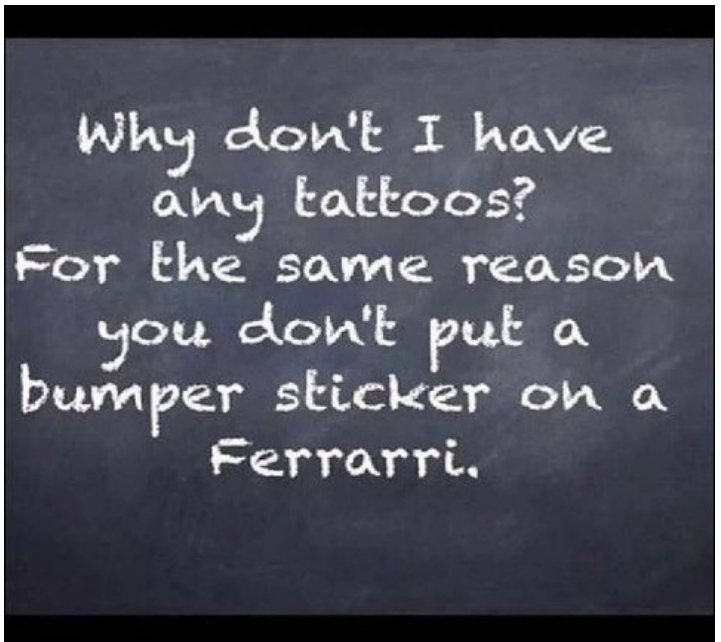
We are also working to build a socializing aspect into our future meetings similar to the 30 minutes we had before our in person luncheons. Look for an email giving you more details as we get closer to the date..



Membership

Ron Lew

We had no new members to approve during our May Zoom Board meeting. The good news is that our branch did not lose any members during the time prior to the board meeting. Reminder: Put your name on the branch SIR cards when you pass them out to people you contact during this time. People are getting anxious to get out and the prospect of becoming a SIR member may help them have some hope when this is over. Many of us are still in contact with our friends and family members through technology like ZOOM, Facebook or Skype. Through these times, it is most important to keep connected with each other. We will not be meeting in June and when we do start again, hopefully you can bring new members to SIR 146, while making friends for life. Many of us outside of Sir 146 who meet are respecting social distancing, washing our hands, and wiping down everything. I hope you had a nice Easter and continue to maintain safe practices.





Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

It is fashionable these days to suggest that older individuals sequester for a longer period than the general population. While the intent may be admirable in protecting both the senior citizens and avoid a resurgence of the Covid-19 virus, we all know that age is only one factor in assessing the health of an individual. We, in our SIR group, believe that our social interactions are a positive force in remaining healthy and that remaining active in our sunset years contributes to a positive and satisfying life style, and our Couples Dining Out activity is one that is an important part of our activities.

As we continue our social distancing and staying home most of the time, we are pleased that we are seeing some progress in the return to some semblance of normalcy. Changes in opening up our society are occurring at a rapid pace. Solano, Sonoma and Napa counties as of this writing have given the ok for restaurants to provide in restaurant dining and we may see such a change in Contra Costa County soon as well.

I had submitted a proposal to the BEC to re-start our Couples Dining Out activity starting July 1 but the most recent guidance from Contra Costa County with their open ended decision dates makes any certainty impossible. We will now have to wait until the Contra Costa Department of Health issues specific restaurant guidelines for dining but I am optimistic that we will be able to return to going out for a fine dinner and that we can support this vital part of our local economy before the end of the year. In the meantime, I will be checking with restaurants to see what proposals they are putting forward to accommodate larger groups along with format and table arrangements. I will then send out a note to our email group and you can decide whether you feel comfortable in joining us. We all want to be safe, but we are all also anxious to resume getting together with our friends.

We look forward to your participation in our Dining Out activity and to seeing you for a fun dinner soon.



Sunshine

Brian McCarthy

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

Consider contacting a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated.

- **Hugh Ferguson**
- **Joe Hunt**
- **Tom Boltz**
- **Vince Rettew**
- **Stan Stricherz**
- **Rick Morgan**

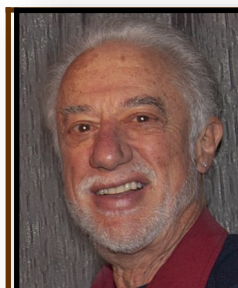
One of the main ways we learn of a SIR who is having health problems is when they “opt out” of the monthly luncheon. Since the luncheons have been cancelled (at least through July) and we all are “sheltering at home” this can be a great opportunity to connect with your luncheon buddies, your golf buddies, your poker or bridge buddies, etc. to see how they are doing. If you learn that a fellow SIR is going through an illness, send me an email so that we can let the membership know. This way the membership of Branch 146 can keep the SIR who is ill in their thoughts and prayers.

This is a difficult time but with the support of family and friends this journey will be easier.

Stay Healthy.

Brian McCarthy

brimacc@comcast.net



RV Wanderers

Bob Lucido

Our next trip was scheduled for June. The site is near the town of Manchester in Mendocino. At this time, they are not taking reservations. As soon as our government officials and SIR frees us up, a trip will be scheduled.

Bob Lucido

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Which bird has the worst manners?
Mocking birds.



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Fishing venues are starting to reopen, but one may need a Ph.D. to navigate through the different regulations as counties and public health departments come up with individual rules. For example, Berkeley, which has its own public health department, will allow four packs to launch from its public ramp. However, nearby Emeryville, which is under the jurisdiction of the Alameda County Health Department, only permits boats to launch with a maximum of two, which can include only the boat owner and a member of the owner’s family. Therefore, no charter boats are launching from Emeryville.

A similar problem exists for those of us who like to fish the Delta for sturgeon or stripers. Pittsburg and Martinez are our favored launch spots, but they are in Contra Costa County, which has the same restrictions as Alameda County. But we can cross the Nejedly Bridge and launch from Montezuma Slough in Solano County with non-family members aboard. There are no markers in the Delta depicting the county line. What happens when a boat with three non-related fishermen aboard hooks a sturgeon in Solano County and the fight takes the boaters into Contra Costa County? I guess the answer is that “it’s complicated”.

In the meantime, we have managed to do a bit of fishing. **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 and his son **Andrew** fished the Bay from Oyster Point to Alameda to Oakland to Angel Island to Richmond and they managed to land three keeper halibut, one close to 10 lbs. **Phil Scimonelli**, **Brian Beetz**, **Mario Moratorio**, and **Joe Miscione** social distanced from the shore for stripers and **Phil** caught a keeper. **Tom Kostik** and **Mike Corker** both fished the Delta for black bass without any luck. **Carl Moyer** sailed his boat out of Pacifica and caught some rockfish and a lingcod. However, there was no trout fishing because all the local reservoirs are closed.

We had our first Zoom meeting on April 23 and another is scheduled for May 28. Our June meeting is scheduled for June 27. We do not know at this point whether it will be on Zoom or at our usual hangout at Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. No matter what the locale, the meetings will begin at 8:30 am, but if we meet in person at Legends, breakfast will be available at 7:30 am.

If you want to join our group, please call Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4166 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504 and we will give you the Zoom password or directions to Legends.



Rich Fiscina with a large halibut caught in the Bay

2020 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Brad Hatcher
Little Sir.....	Richard Hockenbrock
Secretary	Jerry Kaplan
Assistant Secretary	Jim Whitsett
Treasurer	George Mon
Assistant Treasurer	Ross Abbott
Director 2nd Term	Milton Smith
Director 2nd Term	Brian McCarthy
Director 2nd Term	Ron Lew
Director 1st Term	Paul Beretz
Director 1st Term	Tony Greco
Director 1st Term	Peter Plante

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Tony Greco
Publicity	Peter Plante

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



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

Our next meeting will be Friday, June 19th, at 9:00 am via Zoom. We will continue to meet every other month until the library opens then we will poll the group to determine if we want to continue meeting via Zoom or switch back to the library.

Watching live TV shows these days you see a lot of video interviews and skits. Camera manufacturers and smartphones promote how easy it is to take video pictures. The problem with video is that it is a dynamic environment unlike a single shot photograph where you can take time and wait for the lighting and background to be perfect.

A lot of video amateurs make the mistake of trying to follow the action with their cameras resulting in jerky, smeary and out of focus videos. You also need to know how to edit your videos and for that we introduced Adobe Rush to the members and guests who attended our April meeting. There are other programs as well and we'll see if we can find some way to compare and, more specifically, find some that are designed to be used on smartphones.

If you are new to SIR and have a subject or question you would like to discuss, bring your question or photos to our next meeting and we will be happy to try and answer it.

I'll forward a full agenda of the subjects we plan to cover to the Photography Group email list a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to our list, please send me an email.

Email: RLHOCK@outlook.com
Cell/Text: (925) 324-1713



Pinochle

**Charlie Kahsen /
Jeff Morrow**

We meet on
the 2nd and 4th
Wednesday of the



month at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek. Optional lunch is from Noon – 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

All Sirs in Area 16 and their guests (including spouses) are welcome to attend. Introduction and training will be provided to those who have never played before, as well as those who last played many years ago.

If you are interested in joining our group, call one of us or send an email to both our email addresses and one of us will get back to you.

If you plan to come, please let us know ahead of time so we can let Rocco's know you plan to have lunch with the group. **No Scheduled Games until Further Notice**

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com

I was at the grocery store and a lady was looking at frozen turkeys but couldn't find one big enough.

She asked the stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"


He replied with a straight face, "No ma'am, they're dead."

Made my week.


My boss just texted me: "Send me one of your funny jokes!"

I texted him back: "I'm busy working. I'll send one later."

"That's hilarious," he said. "Send another one!"



**SIR Happenings
Newsletter**
[http://www.sirinc.org/
sirhappenings](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings) is the
statewide SIR newsletter.



Click on the link to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.



Travel Milt Smith

- We have one trip that has not been cancelled or postponed.

- **Narsai David Cruise.** Several SIR branches are putting this cruise together.

- Eight nights North American Treasures Cruise aboard the Crystal Serenity. September 28th—October 6th, 2020
- Quebec City to New York City
- On this hosted cruise Narsai will share his numerous years of expertise in California Cuisine.
- Port Stops: Quebec City, cruising the St. Lawrence, cruising the Bay of Fundy, St. John, Bar Harbor, Boston / Newport, NYC.
- Crystal Cruises is now all inclusive. All beverages, gratuities, enrichment classes.



Narsai David
KCBS Food and Wine Editor

- Double occupancy from \$3,683 pp to \$7,283 pp depending on cabin. Airfare not included.

This trip is filling fast so if you intend to go better sign up now by calling Alamo Travel at (925) 837-8742. Be sure to mention SIR Br. 146. Let me know, too.

In looking at 2021 we have interest in the Dalmatian Coast, African Migrations and others. Please let me know of your interests...

Milt Smith

(925) 285-2897

miltsmith549@gmail.com



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

Dining out started in a distant galaxy far far away. Like a dying star it lost its shine. It started with a different format, members hosted the dinners at a restaurant, on a rotating basis.

Before long, it was realized that one person should be in charge of the event. Some of the problems involved the process of picking restaurants, contacting the manager, and collecting money in a timely manner, which was a little overwhelming.

In 2013 it was recreated to what it is today. **Bruce Borgman** took over the event as activity chairman and schedules a dinner every other month.

When picking a restaurant, Bruce has to negotiate with the manager for a menu with a variety of entrees, and also an eye on the cost. Keeping the cost at \$50 is difficult and at times it has gone up to \$60. He also negotiates happy hour, wine, and corkage fees.

Corporations are harder to deal with than Darth Vader, but when dealing with owners it is easier because they are more flexible. Most times the chef will prepare a vegetarian meal if requested in advance. This activity is so popular that Bruce has 95 couples on the mailing list.

The restaurants that he selects must have a minimum at least 40 chairs with an area to socialize, and bar service. One night there were 82 diners at the function which made it too crowded. Twice he has had more requests than the restaurant can support, so he has split the dinner into two separate evenings. Then, he surveys the members to see what evening they would like to attend and make sure friends can be seated on the same evening. Fortunately, a fellow SIR member has volunteered to host the second night.

The function usually starts at 5:30 pm so we can enjoy happy hour. Diners pay in advance, and Bruce pays at the end with a credit card, then exchanges the diners' checks with the treasurer, with one made out to him which is then used to pay the credit card bill.

Bruce and **Sue** have been known to put a dinner in a takeout box and deliver it to the sick SIR member who paid for the dinner but could not attend. Finally, **Bruce** and **Sue** print name tags, hand them out when members enter the restaurant as they welcome each diner when they come in. I am getting tired just describing all the work he does for us, and he doesn't even get a free meal!

A big thank you to **Bruce** and **Sue**.



Ping Pong

Ron Afdal

We are anxious for everything to get back to reasonable normalcy and find a permanent time for "drop-in" ping pong to be played at the ARC at our Church in Alamo.

The good news is that we are approved to offer this activity and we look forward to our negotiations as to when that might be. Our Activities Chair for the Branch, **Bob Lucido**; and the Chair for Ping Pong, **Ron Afdal**, will be notified as soon as possible so that we can discuss day and hours for this activity. We have secured 3 tables for our use and are really looking forward to starting this activity. Play will either be on a singles or doubles basis, and could be both if that is what is desired by the players at any given time. Stay tuned!

Ron Afdal

(925) 825-4809

ronafdeal@comcast.net



Pickleball

Jim Burk

The ARC located at the United Methodist Church in Alamo has been shut down since Friday, March 16th, due to the Covid-19 virus. We are going to err on the side of caution as to when we will

open our doors again. We will look to the science personnel as to when we should consider opening. No date has been set at this point.

When we do open, look for "drop-in" Badminton and Ping Pong to be added to our offerings of sports activities, in addition to our highly successful Pickle Ball. All of these will be excellent sports activities for our branch as well as other branches in the Area.

We will keep you and our Activities Chair, Bob Lucido, advised as to what date looks to be safe for everyone. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Jim Burk

(925) 946-1192

jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net



Member Relations

Tony Greco

I have good news and bad news, or maybe not. Last month I offered to be your personal "Suggestion Box". I waited in anticipation of my Inbox crashing, but thank goodness, it didn't. In fact, I received no suggestions at all! That could mean SIR 146 is doing a great job and no suggestions are necessary or you have plenty of suggestions but don't give a hoot. Well, it's not that simple. In retrospect, I'm guilty of poor timing. Suggestions are irrelevant when our SIR organization has been turned upside down by COVID-19. How we operate in the future is up in the air, so why comment on past performance? Anyway, as we deal with how we will operate in the future, perhaps you may have some really good suggestions. One can only hope.

Since I have so much idle time on my hands, I've come up with additional possible theories for my empty Inbox.

1. Unable to comply with my three submittal criteria.
 - a. You couldn't keep it professional.
 - b. You couldn't limit your suggestion to a mere 50 words.
 - c. After holding your suggestion for a day, you forgot to send it or you lost interest in sending it.
2. Statistical Probability of Non-response.
 - a. 299 members
 - b. 150 looked at SIR CALL (50%)
 - c. 75 read my article (50%)
 - d. 19 had suggestions (25%)
 - e. 10 had new suggestions (50%)
 - f. 5 drafted an email response (50%)
 - g. 0 could meet criteria 1.a. or 1.b. above (100%)

In closing, anyone who takes me too seriously needs to drink more wine!! I'm hoping to see you soon on the "other side" of COVID-19.

Tony Greco

almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

SIR Call Newsletter Group

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Proofreaders	Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage
	Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

Like all the rest of SIR, the members of the SongSirs continue to adhere to the guidelines of staying at home, except for the occasional trip to the store – and are increasingly anxious to return to a semblance of

normal living. As you all have seen, many Bay Area counties have started to open some retail business, and even some have allowed restaurants to serve diners to some extent. Now that we have a process in place for starting some Sir activities, we have submitted to the BEC the form to request that the SongSirs be able to practice again, effective June 15. The number of singers which typically participate in the practice at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church number about 8-10 singers. If the BEC approves the restart of this activity and assuming that the Multi-use Room at the church will be available, we would have our first practice on Wednesday, June 17th, at 1:30 pm.

A late update: after a vigorous discussion by the BEC using Zoom, we have decided to table the request to restart on June 17th. The SongSirs will explore using Zoom ourselves and keep active until we are able to resume our regular practices.

We have a few new songs to try: “Magic Moments”, and “It Was a Very Good Year”, both well-known tunes. And, we will review again a number of other well-loved songs, to include “I Left my Heart In San Francisco”, “Smiles”. “Those Were the Days”, “I’m in the Mood for Love”, Nat King Cole’s well known “Love”, “It’s a Lovely Day Today”, and others.

We normally sing in a performance at a Senior Center in the area, or at some of the Skilled Nursing Facilities. Since there may be continuing restrictions at some of these places, we may have to delay putting on a performance, or we may be singing outside – we will try to be innovative in entertaining the residents of these facilities.

Even if you have not sung with us before, you are welcome to participate and enjoy singing these familiar songs. Hope to see you singers on June 17!

(925) 932-3961

bjborgman@aol.com



Luncheon Chairman

Rich Lyon

I hope everyone is playing it safe and staying healthy! The Branch will publicize the details when it is permitted to resume the monthly luncheons. Please stay tuned for details.

Once the monthly Luncheon is restarted, friends who are interested in joining should be invited for a one-time “free lunch” per friend.

In addition to the many Branch activities, the Luncheon provides a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and meet new people with whom you may already have something in common.

We don’t know when the Luncheons will resume or under what rules and restrictions but, sometime after the shelter in place order is lifted.

In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.

Rich Lyon

Luncheon Coordinator



Mexican Train Dominoes

Group 6 (SEIS)

John “Moose” Kelly

I hope this email finds the MTD 6 Posse safe and staying healthy at home. I am sure you are getting to be experts on Zoom video conferencing or whatever other platform you are using. It certainly is no substitute for being together face to face around our tables competing for "big money" as well as the "BIG scratcher."

April’s and May’s Mexican Train Dominoes events hosted by **Brian** and **Mary McCarthy** and **Moose** and **Mrs Moose** are cancelled, respectively. Let us see what June brings. Hopefully, California will lighten the restrictions at that point in time. Perhaps we will be fortunate, but it also depends what the overall SIRS organization decides. Until then, keep practicing your skills so we can quickly be up and running when the time permits.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility during this unique time.

Stay well and be safe!!



SIR 146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

The SIR 146 BEC (Board Executive Committee) will be meeting on Tuesday, 05/26, to review and vote on my application to restore their sanction to allow our hiking group the right to hike/walk as a group. I will not be able to attend this tele-meeting (via Zoom), but I have submitted my list of restrictions or rules related to re-starting this activity. Basically, the rules are 1) no carpools to/from venue unless cohabitants, 2) 6-foot spacing minimum, and 3) face coverings optional.

I have not seen many of you in the last 6 months or more and wonder if you might have any input into my list of "rules". Please let me know if you do.

I am not letting this crisis slow me down. I have been walking a minimum of 30 miles on trails each week and intend to continue.

The hikes I have done recently are:

1. Morgan Territory loop of about 7.5 miles with Bob Wilkenfeld
2. Castle Rock/Diablo Foothills Loop of about 6 miles
3. Black Diamond loop about 9 miles to see the only mine shaft I had not yet seen and many, many more.

I am really looking forward to enjoying the company of any or all of you on subsequent walks in this area. If I announce a walk and someone shows up that maybe cannot handle what I have in mind, I will tailor that walk to accommodate.

Bottom line is that getting out is maybe better medicine than going to see the doctor!!!

Mark Curtis

Cell (925) 360-3449

Mocurtis1657@gmail.com

Recent Hiking Photos:

(Top Right): Lilly Pond at Morgan Territory Road

(Bottom Right): Los Vaqueros reservoir from Bob Walker ridge at Morgan Territory



Photo by Mark Curtis



Photo by Mark Curtis



Bocce
**Jim Whitsett/
John Kendrick**



ATTENTION ALL BOCCÉ PLAYERS!

I am very sorry to report that the 2020 Bocce season has been cancelled. Our hands were forced on this issue because the Bocce Federation has suspended all play this year at both the Newhall, and Baldwin Courts. As such, your Branch 146 BEC, in a special meeting on May 26, voted to suspend all play for us at the Newhall Courts where we hold our Bocce activity.

In addition, our primary concern is for the health of our players and at this time it is not certain that we can provide a playing environment which will sufficiently protect everyone from the COVID-19 virus. **We will make every effort to ensure play will resume in 2021.**

See you then!

Under normal circumstances, we play the 2nd and 4th Mondays, through September/October at 8:30 AM at the Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads.

If you are interested in playing Bocce when we resume play again with your fellow SIR members and guests, please e-mail me at AFRES056789@gmail.com and I will add you to the roster. This is especially important if you did not participate with us last year.

Rain Cancels Play.

Ladies are welcome.

Come and join us.

Jim Whitsett (925) 689-5493
AFRES056789@gmail.com



Editor's Note
Richard Hockenbrock

I want to bring to your attention some changes we have made in the SIR CALL since we have been sheltering in place. The most obvious is the reduced reporting on activities as most have been shut down since mid March. We have expanded coverage of groups that have been able to switch their activity to play online.

We are including more browser links which are only available if you are reading the SIR CALL on a computer or smartphone. They look similar to this.

https://1drv.ms/v/s!Atrub_z26Ni3wEXm80afijeyrY_2?e=iCpfaE

Click on the above link to see a short 3 1/2 minute edited video of our Branch 146 BEC meeting recorded on May 26, 2020 using Zoom.

It is very important that you give us feedback on whether or not you can view this video. Our next branch luncheon meeting will likely be held using links similar to this and be conducted using ZOOM. If you can't view the video send an email to me at the special email address below explaining your situation including your equipment.

Until we can meet again in person, we are forced to adopt these other methods to communicate with you and we need to make sure you have the capability to at least hear it if not see it using ZOOM and thereby allowing you to participate in the meeting.

We will set up a series of test meetings for you to try out your system and get comfortable with running ZOOM which you will have to install on your computer or smartphone. Watch for an email invitation to log into one of these test meetings prior to our live meeting on July 9th.

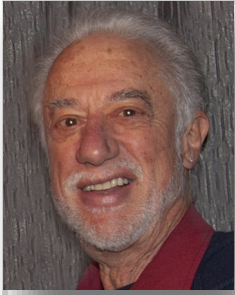
Richard Hockenbrock—Editor SIR CALL
Cell / Text: (925) 324-1713
rhock2005@yahoo.com

(This is a temporary email address that will only be used for this test)

Why doesn't Dracula have any friends?

Well, honestly, he's a real pain in the neck.

I hate it when I see some old person and then realize that we went to school together.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 7 (Siete)

Since we can't touch each other, or the dominoes, we all agreed to continue to have our cocktail hour on Zoom once a month on the same date and time as our MTD game.

At the last Zoom meeting **Bob Lucido's** microphone was not working so he had to use sign language, which he does not know.

Bob Lucido
(925) 899-0974
Bobwendy3@comcast.net

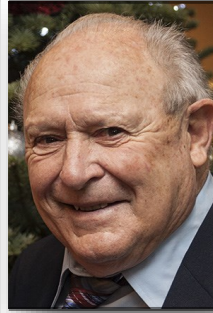


Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry Pool Play on Hold!



We meet every Monday at 11:00 am at Masses, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the week for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain.

*Reported by **Jim Barry***



Normal around here is just a setting on the dryer.



Cooking Lunch & Wine Paul Dubow

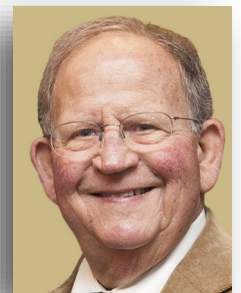
The Lunch and Wine (LAW) Group held its first meeting after the shelter in place regulations took effect. The meeting was on Zoom and so there was no cooking. But each of us produced a glass of wine and we toasted ourselves. We also worked on a tentative schedule for the rest of the year.

We will have another Zoom meeting in June and hopefully will come up with something in addition to the wine.



Photo by Jim Nelson

Photo of Software used by Cribbage Club to play online



Explore & Eat **Black Diamond Mine Tour**

Cancelled Now

(To be rescheduled when the County opens their tours)

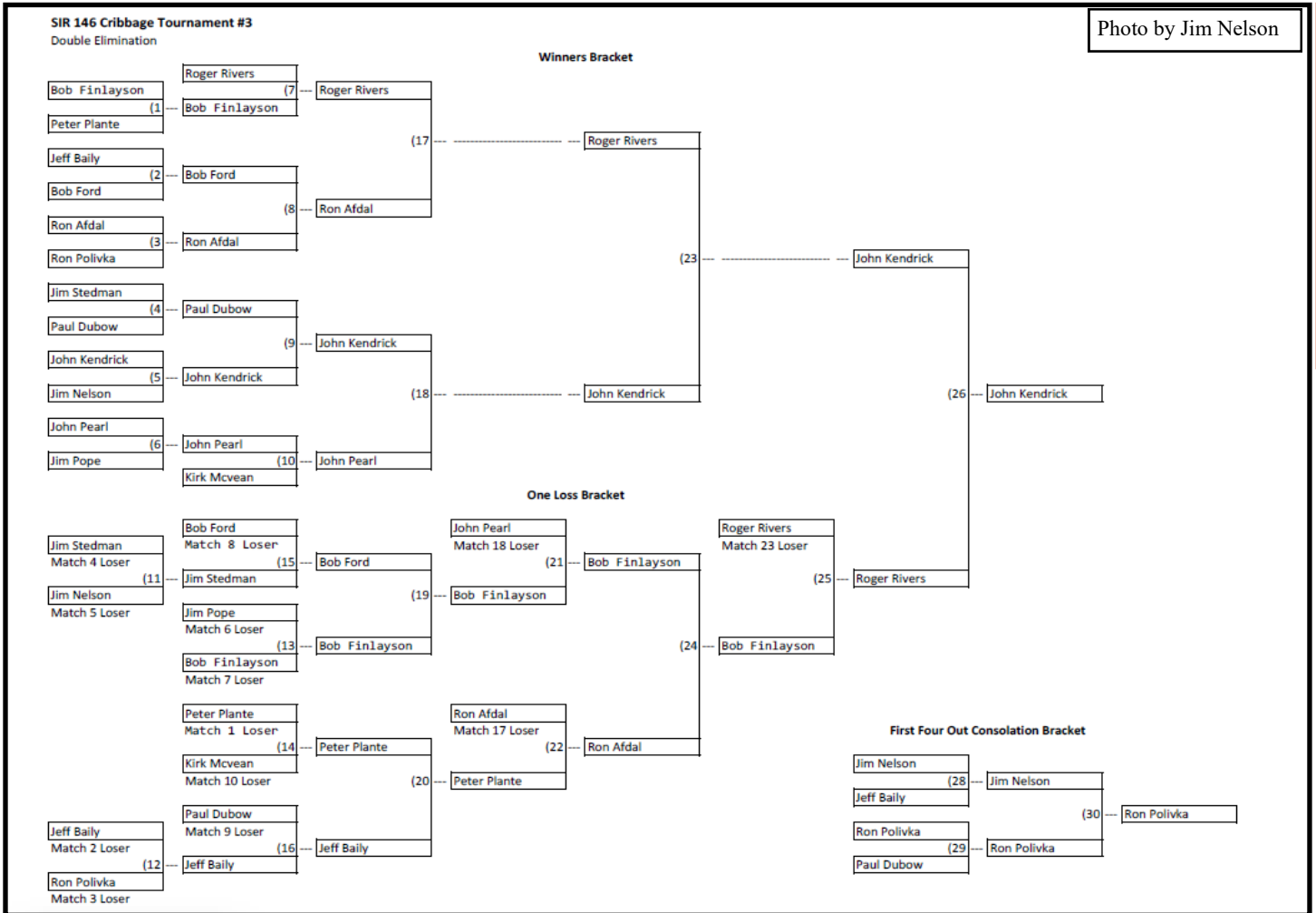
We are looking forward to your participation!

Co-chairs: **Henry Thatcher** 925-997-5032 and **Jim**

Pope 925-699-6447

Please see Cribbage submission on next page

Photo by Jim Nelson



Cribbage John Pearl

SIR 146 Cribbage group continues to function via its “on-line” activity. Through the magic of the internet, one member even played from many miles away! We have three tournaments in the books, with three different winners. Most of the matches were extremely close, showing the depth of skill in our group. Tournament No. 3 had 13 players, and the overall winner was **John Kendrick**. Some of the biggest cribbage hands were documented for the group with photos!

This online form of playing would not be possible without the able facilitation by our Chief Technical Officer, **Jim Nelson**. He has designed a double elimination tournament, including a Consolation Bracket, which was won by **Ron Polivka**. Most got lots of playing time. Thanks, **Jim!**

John Pearl, Chair
mcpearl@astound.net



Photo of **Bob Finlayson's** aka “Peter Bob” screen view

I’m not sure if I washed the spider down the drain in my shower or if he took one look at me naked and then leapt willingly to his death.



Book Group

John Pearl

The SIR146 Book Group held its first on-line meeting via Zoom on Monday, the 18th, and we determined it was successful! We'll continue in June.

Our "Zoom Master" was **Mike Farrar** who has access to a Zoom license and set up the meeting where six members of the group "attended."

We discussed the book chosen at our last "live" meeting, *Citizens of London*, which focuses on three Americans who played the most active roles in bringing the United States into World War II. These were John Winant, the incoming ambassador who replaced Joe Kennedy; Edward R. Murrow, the famous reporter who headed CBS News in Europe, and; Averell Harriman, whose job on paper was Administrator of the Lend-Lease Program for Britain, but did much more. The supporting cast included Winston Churchill and the Churchill family, as well as people like Eisenhower and Montgomery. All three were advocates of the US entering the war to save Britain and worked hard to convince a reluctant President to do so. The book was viewed as an inside look into London and its people during the war years, including the German bombing, or Blitz, the people who populated it, and revealed much about the important figures of this time in England. The book was written by Lynne Olsen, who has written several books about that period of time.

Our book selection for the next meeting is *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck. We spent quite a bit of time discussing him and the National Steinbeck Center and the former Steinbeck home, both in Salinas and near each other. Some of the group had been to these and had lunch in the home. Additional resources on John Steinbeck include *A Journey into Steinbeck's California* by Susan Shillinghaw, a former director of the Steinbeck Center. It covers his life, the places he lived, much of his social life, and his literary works, and as a bonus has great pictures. Another resource comes from the "Bookish" extra section the *East Bay Times* of Saturday, May 16th, which devotes several pages to Steinbeck's life and literary works.

Our next meeting, as of now to be held via Zoom, will be on Monday, June 15th, at 8:30 am.

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net



Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

It's been a long time since we last wrote about our exploits. To be brief, yet brag some, let's say that without official status, the boys in Spandex were amazing.

Enclosed find a picture that says it all. The stone landmark we all love, no longer is insurmountable. The boys did it. Whenever you can say that some guys who are over 70 years of age, take note of that, can climb a mountain and still walk afterwards, that deserves a salute.

On another note, some of us last week, in the rain climbed and accomplished the Bay Area infamous BEARS ride. Amazing job. On the Bears ride were **Bill Ross**, **Moose Kelley**, and **Larry Kaye**.

With Sirs once again blessing us, we are back for sanctioned rides.

5/21/20: Today's ride with **Bill Ross**, **Moose**, **Michael Wolfson**, **Ron Lew** and **Larry Kaye** was a nice cruise thru San Ramon. We did visit the site of the Old Boom Ranch. An original San Ramon historical farm site. The old home is now on the boulevard in San Ramon having been moved there some years ago. **Ron** mentioned it might be the home of Boone Farm wine. That is a Gallo brand from Modesto. He was fooling of course. An enjoyable easy spin of 20 flat miles. Time to talk and share although many feet apart. It was good to get out.



To the left **Moose Kelly**, **Larry Kaye**, **Bill Ross**, **Ron** (Big Fish) **Lew**. Photo at 2500 foot Junction of Mt. Diablo



History of the Hearts Game

Bob West

Hearts is one of the top five most popular card games in Canada, and among the most widely played throughout the world. It is a trick-catching game, but not like most in its genre. There is no trump to play to, and the idea is *not to catch tricks*, but to *avoid them* – especially any in the suit of Hearts and the dreaded Queen of Spades; aka ‘*Calamity Jane*’, or as the Brits call her, the ‘*Slippery Bitch*’.

The game of Hearts has deep roots and a rich ancestral lineage that dates back (at least) to 17th century Europe. As we know the game now, it originated around 1850. Hearts rules were simple back then but evolved in the last hundred years or so.

Early History of Hearts

Hearts, along with a series of other anti-trick-catching card games, is believed to have been born from a much older game first known as Reversin and later called *Reversis*. The oldest known mention of Reversin, a standard 52-card game, was in 1601 France. French philologist Jean-Baptiste Bullet dates it back a bit further, theorizing that the game was invented during the reign of the Court of Francis I, who ruled France from 1515 to 1547.

Others believe the game originated in Spain, suggesting that it was first played with a traditional Spanish deck of 48 cards and counterclockwise rotation of play. More likely, the game originated in Italy, where a series of older, negative trick-catching games derive, including Tressete games like Rovescino, which is still popular in Italian culture today.

What we do know of the history of Reversis tells us it was a subtle, uncomplicated game. There were few rules, and few additions to the rules, up through the 18th century. Around 1750, 1 penalty point was gained by catching any trick, while capturing the J♥ or Q♥ earned an additional penalty point.

Evolution of Hearts Card Game

In the 19th century, as its popularity spread, more intricate rules came into play, intensifying competition between players. Additional penalty points were enforced, evolving into the first true version of Hearts. Catching any heart was worth 1 penalty point.



From this, another game called *Black Maria* evolved. The rules were the same as the original Hearts, except that capturing the Queen of Spades would penalize a player by as much as 13 points. Black Maria was so popular, that rule was universally adopted, and became the game of Hearts as we know it today.

Shortly after the Queen of Spades became the most dastardly of all cards to capture, a new rule known as ‘*Shooting the Moon*’ was introduced. This variation allowed players to gain a supreme advantage over their opponents by playing opposite the rules – capturing every penalty card. With each heart being worth 1 point, and the Queen of Spades worth 13, a player could impose a 26 point penalty on all of their opponents (or collect 26 positive points for themselves) by successfully shooting the moon.

In the last century, many more variations to the rules came about. Around 1920, the Jack of Diamonds became a positive 10-point card, although Canadian Hearts rules do not generally enforce it. Passing cards before the start of a hand, Breaking Hearts, leading 2♣ and ‘Shooting the Foot’ were more recent additions that caught on in most regions of the world.

In Canada, most learned to play at a young age, shuffling up around the table at home with family or even in grade school among students and friends. The popularity of Hearts surged once more in the 1990s when Microsoft included the game in its *Windows OS 3.11+* software package (along with other games like Solitaire, Free Cell and Minesweeper).

Over the next few decades, the internet gave birth to online Hearts games, where players can compete against others from all over the world. Internet Hearts games continue to ‘*capture the hearts*’ of Canadian players, with free time to play games, and even real money Hearts games and tournaments are readily available.

The article can be found at the following link: <https://debitcardcasino.ca/games/2018/04/30/hearts-history/>



Sir 146 MEN'S Hearts

Bob West

We have played online twice in April and have been playing weekly in May. The first 4 May meetings are summarized below.

May 1st: We had two teams of 4 play on Friday May 1st.

Group 1: Participants were **Frank Lucas**, **Bob Finlayson**, **George Sabbagha** and **Bob West**.

Game 1:

The game was remarkably close thru 9 hands between **Frank Lucas** and **Bob Finlayson**, when **Frank** "shot the moon" on the last hand, winning with 43 points. **Bob Finlayson** was 2nd with 73 points.

Game 2: **Bob Finlayson** was ahead the whole game and ended the 11th hand by winning with only 34 points. **Bob West** came in 2nd with 65 points.

Game 3: **George Sabbagha** and **Frank Lucas** were nip and tuck thru the 5th hand when **Bob West** "shot the moon". However, it was still awfully close between **George** and **Frank** until **Frank** "shot the moon" in the 8th and final hand. **Frank** won with 58 points, and **George** was 2nd with 76 points.

Game 4: The game took 13 hands to finish which was tied for the longest game of the year. **Frank Lucas** and **Bob West** were close all the way when **Frank** "shot the moon" on the 13th and last hand. He had dealt to him the A, K, Q, J, 10 of hearts. **Bob West** was 2nd with 74 points.

Group 2: Participants were **Rich Lyon**, **Steve Ybarra**, **Ron Polivka** and **Ray Bland**.

Game 1: **Ray Bland** was in last place thru halfway point at the 6th hand but only took 13 points the rest of the way and ran the 9th hand winning with 69 points at the end of the 12th hand. **Steve Ybarra** was 2nd with 88 points.

Game 2: **Rich Lyon** was ahead the whole game and won in the 8th hand with 28 points. **Ray Bland** was 2nd with 44 points.

Game 3: **Ray Bland** "shot the moon" in hand 1. **Ray** ending up winning in the 10th hand with 44 points, and **Rich** was 2nd with 73 points.

Game 4: **Ray Bland** "shot the moon" in both hands 1 and 2. We do not recollect anyone every running two hands in a row. This made it a short game which ended after the 6th hand which was tied for shortest game of year. **Ray** only had 11 points which is extremely low. **Ron Polivka** was 2nd with 66 points.

Game 5: **Ray Bland** had to leave so this was a 3-handed game. **Rich Lyon** and **Steve Ybarra** were tied with 12 points at the halfway point thru the 5th hand. **Steve** and **Ron Polivka** were tied thru the 9th hand at 34 points when **Steve** shot the moon on the 12th and last hand. **Steve** won with 34 points, and **Ron** was 2nd with 60 points.

May 8th: We had two teams of 4 each play.

Group 1:

Game 1: The game was a variation where the Jack of Diamonds is worth -10 points and we stop after reaching 75 points. **Bob West** was ahead thru the 11th hand, but **Ray Bland** pulled ahead in the next two hands and won with 26 points in the 13th hand. **Bob West** was 2nd with 46 points.

Game 2: This was also the Jack of Diamonds variation stopping at 75 points. It was a close game between **Bob Finlayson** and **Ray Bland** thru the 5th hand. However, **Ray Bland** "Shot the Moon" in the 6th and final hand winning with -6 points, and **Bob Finlayson** was 2nd with 27 points. It's hard to tell how many times someone got the Jack of Diamonds, but to get -6 points **Ray** must have gotten the lion's share.

Game 3: The next 3 games were traditional hearts. **Bob West** had 0 points thru the first 5 hands, but **Bob Finlayson** pulled ahead when he ran the 6th hand, and no one could remember who passed to him. He won with 20 points in the 7th hand. **Bob West** was 2nd with 26 points.

Game 4: This game was the longest we have ever had at 15 hands for traditional hearts. The game was close thru the 9th hand, but **Bob West** only added 10 points in the next 6 hands and won with 64 points in the 15th hand. **Ray Bland** was 2nd with 93 points. **Ray** "Shot the Moon" on the 12th hand.

Game 5: **Ray Bland** was ahead thru all 11 hands and won with 47 points. **Bob West** was 2nd with 56 points.

Group 2:

Game 1: **Ron Polivka** was ahead the entire game and won in the 11th hand with 37 points. **Frank Lucas** was 2nd with 47 points.

Game 2: **Frank Lucas** "shot the moon" in the 2nd hand, but **Rich Lyon** pulled ahead in the 7th hand and won in the 10th hand with 55 points. **Steve Ybarra** was 2nd with 61 points.

Game 3: **Frank Lucas** ran the 5th hand and pulled ahead by the 6th hand, winning in the 7th hand with 38 points. **Steve Ybarra** was 2nd with 41 points.

[May Hearts Results continued on next page](#)

Game 4: The battle was between **Steve Ybarra** and **Frank Lucas** thru the 6th hand, when **Rick Lyon** slowed their march by “Shooting the moon”. However, it was not enough as **Steve** only gained another 8 points in the next 4 hands and **Rich’s** running stymied **Frank’s** momentum. **Steve** won on the 11th hand with 49 points. **Ron Polivka** was 2nd with 92 points.

Game 5: **Rich Lyon** shot the moon in the first two hands, only the 2nd time someone has run 2 hands in a row. **Rich** won in the 7th hand with 49 points, and **Frank Lucas** was 2nd with 63 points.

May 15th: We had two teams of 4 play.

Group 1: Players were **Rich Lyon, Frank Lucas, Ray Bland** and **Bob Finlayson**.

Game 1: **Frank Lucas** and **Ray Bland** were nip and tuck thru the 8th hand, but **Bob Finlayson** “shot the moon” in the 9th and last hand winning with 52 points. **Ray Bland** was 2nd with 65

Game 2: **Bob Finlayson** was ahead the whole game with only 16 points thru the 8th hand. In the 9th hand **Frank Lucas** “shot the moon” but to no avail, as **Bob** was so far ahead that he won with 46 points. **Rick Lyon** was 2nd with 72 points.

Game 3: **Bob Finlayson** was ahead the whole game thru 12 hands, when **Frank Lucas** shot the moon in the 13th and last hand, but as in the prior game **Bob** was too far ahead and won with 72 points. **Frank** was 2nd with 92 points.

Group 2: Players were **Steve Ybarra, Ron Polivka, George Sabbagha** and **Bob West**

Game 1: **Bob West** was in the lead all the way and won in the 11th hand with 49 points. **Steve Ybarra** was 2nd with 64 points.

Game 2: **Ron Polivka** was ahead throughout and won in the 11th hand with 45 points. **Bob West** was 2nd with 56 points.

Game 3: **Steve Ybarra** and **Bob West** were often tied thru the 8th hand, but **Bob West** edged out **Steve** by 3 points and won with 29 points. **Steve** was 2nd with 32 points.

Game 4: **Steve Ybarra** was ahead all the way and won with 11 points in the 7th hand, which ties for the lowest score this year. **Bob West** was 2nd with 26 points.

Game 5: **Steve Ybarra** was ahead all the way. **Bob West** tried to stop him by “Shooting the moon” in the 9th hand, but it was not enough. **Steve** won in the 11th hand with 52 points. **George Sabbagha** was 2nd with 92 points.

Game 6: **Ron Polivka** was ahead thru the 11th hand and was tied with **Bob West** in the 12th hand. **Bob West** won with 71 points in the 13th hand. **Ron Polivka** was 2nd with 82 points.

May 22nd

Group 1: Players were **Frank Lucas, Steve Ybarra, Ray Bland** and **Bob West**.

Game 1: Not much of a contest here, **Ray Bland** was ahead the whole way and won with only 15 points in the 9th hand. **Bob West** was 2nd with 44 points.

Game 2: **Ray Bland** was ahead through the 5th hand but ran into some turbulence. **Bob West** ended up winning with 40 points, and **Ray** was 2nd with 60.

Game 3: **Bob West** was ahead thru the 10th hand but after the 11th he and **Frank Lucas** were basically tied. **Bob** was only able to head off **Frank** by running the 13th and last hand when he laid down his remaining 9 cards for the win at 72 points. He had a lot of hearts. **Frank** was 2nd with 97 points.

Photos by Bob West



May 15th Group 2 photo (top to Bottom: George Sabbagha, Ron Polivka, Steve Ybarra

Photo by Bob West



5/22 Group 1, Game 3: Bob West’s hand after 2 tricks.

Game 4: **Frank Lucas** played another good game. He was easily ahead thru the 8th hand, but **Ray Bland** ran the last hand and won in the 9th hand with 48 points. **Frank** was 2nd with 58 points.

Game 5: **Frank Lucas** again started out strong “shooting the moon” in the 1st hand. However, **Steve Ybarra** and **Ray Bland** held steady thru the 7th hand and were nearly tied. But **Steve** was able to win in the 9th hand with 50 points. **Ray** was 2nd with 62 points.

Hearts Continued on Next Page

Group 2: Players were **George Sabbagha**, **Bob Finlayson**, **Rich Lyon** and **Ron Polivka**.

Game 1: **George Sabbagha** was ahead the whole game and only had 3 points thru the 5th hand. **Rich Lyon** then ran the 6th hand, but it did not change the result. **George** won in the 11th hand with 56 points. **Ron Polivka** was 2nd with 70 points.

Game 2: The game lasted 15 hands which is tied for the longest ever, but even more interesting is it created our first ever tie for 1st, and a very evenly matched game. Thru 14 hands the game was virtually tied with only 3 points separating all players. After the 15th hand **Bob Finlayson** ended up tied with **George Sabbagha** both with 92 points.

Game 3: **Ron Polivka** was ahead thru the 11th hand, but **George Sabbagha** edged him out in the 12th hand winning with 59 points. **Ron** was 2nd with 63 points.

Game 4: **Rich Lyon** ran the 1st hand which kept him ahead until **Ron Polivka** edged ahead in the 5th hand. **Ron** only hand 40 points in the 8th hand when **Rich** “shot the moon”, but it was not enough by one point. **Ron** won with 66 points, and **Rich** was 2nd with 67 points.

YTD Statistics: Leading in YTD wins is **Ray Bland** with 11 and 2nd is **Bob West** with 10, and 3rd is **Frank Lucas** and **Steve Ybarra** with 7. Amazingly **Ray Bland** has won 55% of the games he has played, followed by **Bob West** at 33% and **Bob Finlayson** at 30%.

Steve Ybarra and **Bob West** are tied for most seconds at 9. Our YTD average low score leaders are **Ray Bland** with 52 points followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 66 points, and **Bob West** with 67 points. **Frank Lucas** has “shot the moon” 10 times, **Rich Lyon** is 2nd with 9 and **Ray Bland** is 3rd with 8.

Please call me at [925-518-8472](tel:925-518-8472) or email robrtawest@aol.com if you have any questions or would like to be added to our group’s email list, or want to play on some Friday from 1-4 pm.

Heart group “Tribute to online playing”

Bob West



I thought it would be only fitting to mention how much we appreciate being able to play hearts online. Eight of us have played twice in April and 5 times in

May in two groups of four. **Rich Lyon** has kindly volunteered to lead one group and I lead the other.

We have been able to play twice as many games as normal. We used to play once per month, now it’s 4-5 times. We had played 2 games in 2 hours, now we play 5 games in 3 hours.

We can play more games as shuffling, and dealing are faster, and the computer tells you when you can take the rest of the tricks which also speeds up play.

We find the video and audio functions to allow us to find a similar value as to being in person. Of course, we don’t get to catch up over lunch or drinks, but the time we save in driving and the faster online play, allows us much more time to practice the heart game we love.

We have also in this downtime researched the game of hearts in more detail and found many variations some of which I hope we can try when we are allowed to again meet in person.

So thanks to the online game and our group of 8 we have been very busy during this downtime.

Bob West

robrtawest@aol.com

And just like that the “Summer of Love” is 53 years ago.





Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Dave Pierce

Thinking about Bridge—You are West holding:

Spades: A K Q J
 Hearts: A K Q J
 Diamonds: A K
 Clubs: K J 9

North opens 7 clubs, passed around to you. Do you double? The Duke of Cumberland did. North redoubled, and the Duke lost 20,000 pounds, a lot of money in the 18th century. For the whole deal, which is a set-up, see this link: https://www.bridgehands.com/D/Duke_of_Cumberland_Hand.htm

Dave Pierce
 932-3877



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

No Games Scheduled

Dave Pierce
 932-3877
dwpi@astound.net



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Bill Schultz

No Games Scheduled



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Couples Party Bridge continues to be placed on-hold and will not restart until national, state, county and city governmental COVID-19 safety guidelines have been established for home based social activities such as bridge. Once guidelines are established and are considered maintainable and enforceable by Couples Party Bridge, a request to re-start will be submitted to Branch 146 BEC for approval.

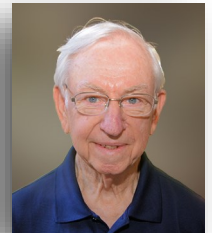
Tony & Cindy Greco
 (925) 934-0395
almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Party Bridge

**Jim Pope &
 Jim Stedman**

No Games Scheduled



Pee on the electric fence
 they said...
 It will be fun they said...



Arguing with a woman is like reading the Software License Agreement.

In the end, you ignore everything and click "I agree"



Poker Group 1
Dan O'Sullivan

No Games Scheduled



**Old Money Poker
Group 6**
Brad Hatcher

No Games Scheduled

The Old Money Poker Group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm and the game usually ends about 3:30 pm.

Due to State SIR, local Health Department and Governor directive, we are currently prohibited from play. Upon relaxation of the prohibitions, we will resume play.

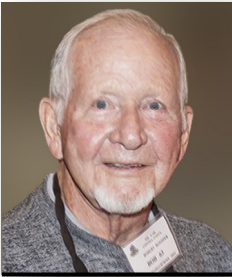
We are looking for both substitutes and permanent players to join in the fun.

Brad Hatcher

Tel: (925) 935-1571

bhatcher1942@gmail.com

Poker Groups



Poker Group 2
Bob Royster

No Games Scheduled



Poker Group 3
Sig Kalteis

No Games Scheduled



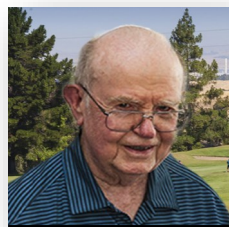
Poker Group 7
Bob Lucido

No Games Scheduled

Poker Group 7 meets on the third Monday of the month at Bob Lucido's house at 6:30 pm

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Poker Group 4
Rich Hanford

No Games Scheduled



Poker Group 5
Bill Roberts

No Games Scheduled





GOLF

Ed Marlovits

No Play Scheduled until Further Notice

In early May when the BEC approved resumption of the golf activity, we excitedly announced that we could resume golf in Mid-June. Dave Steinberg quickly wrote back: not so fast guys! It seems Boundary Oak is pretty busy, and they are not currently booking league play. Dave later suggested that policy might change by Mid-September. The following link is to Boundary Oak's current policy.

<https://www.courseco.com/covid19/we-are-committed>

The golf committee has not had an opportunity to meet and discuss ways to deal with the new circumstances.

Golf is an activity widely perceived as relatively safe in this high-risk environment, so these turn out to be relatively good times for what has been a beleaguered industry. You may find the Washington Post article link below of interest.

I think we can all relate to this headline—. "Coronavirus shutdowns are making golf courses an oasis for stir-crazy Americans eager to get out and tee it up."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/05/20/coronavirus-lockdowns-are-making-golf-courses-an-oasis-stir-crazy-americans-eager-get-out-tee-up/>



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

No Play Scheduled until Further Notice

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. Exception is the second Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Mondays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesdays I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who did or did not show up. Most of the time the lunch is better than our golf game.

vlaursen@astound.net

Golf



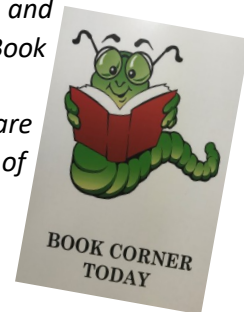
Book Corner

Peter Plante

We hope everyone is getting a chance to read all the books you took out the last time we met.

On behalf of Book Corner stalwarts **Dick McElroy, Gary Brown, Frank Barton, Hank James** and myself, we wish you good health and happy reading until the next Book Corner.

All contributions are welcomed and we have plenty of books for your next installments.



A SIGN IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE IN VANCOUVER READ:

We will heel you.
We will save your sole.
We will even dye for you.

Feedback from our Members during COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place

Below are random comments submitted by branch members of what they have observed or been doing during this unprecedented time of sheltering in place.



Peter Bishop

I know we have a number of veterans in our branch and I thought this might be of interest to them as well as the rest of our membership. The Congressional Gold Medal was awarded collectively to the Merchant Mariners of World War II and was enacted and signed into law on March 13th, 2020. This medal is one of the highest honors in the United States.

Until 1986, the Merchant Mariners serving during World War II were not recognized for their participation and sacrifice during World War II despite suffering the highest attrition rate of any of the Armed Services.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ceremony normally scheduled in June has been postponed with a date to be rescheduled. Dave Yoho, a former Merchant Mariner, will be accepting the award on behalf of the Merchant Mariners after which it will be given to The American Merchant Marine Museum. After listening to Dave's speech, and hearing the passion of someone who lived through that period, I felt others who shared that experience, will appreciate hearing what he has to say on behalf of his comrades.

Click on the link below to see the video of Dave Yoho giving the acceptance speech on behalf of all Merchant Mariners. This gentleman also gave the keynote speech at the National World War II Memorial on Memorial Day in 2017. Dave Yoho is a friend of mine and also my wife's former employer when we lived in the Washington D.C. area.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xOR-eu6Mik&feature=youtu.be>

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A gummy bear.



Bill Holly

Medicine & Health COVID-19 study looks at genetics of healthy people who develop severe illness

Researchers seek answers to virus's mysteries, clues to possible treatments By Julia Evangelou Strait May 20, 2020.

To help unravel the mysteries of COVID-19, scientists are sequencing the DNA of young, healthy adults and children who develop severe illness despite having no underlying medical problems. The researchers are looking for genetic defects that could put certain individuals at high risk of becoming severely ill from the novel coronavirus.

The McDonnell Genome Institute at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis is one of more than 30 genome sequencing hubs worldwide participating in the study. Rheumatologist **Megan A. Cooper, MD, PhD**, an associate professor of pediatrics, is leading the research at Washington University. Called the COVID Human Genetic Effort, the international project is co-led by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Rockefeller University.

The researchers also plan to study people who never become infected with SARS-CoV 2, the virus that causes COVID-19 despite repeated exposures. Such individuals may have genetic variations that protect against infection. For example, certain rare genetic variants are known to thwart some types of viral infections, including HIV and norovirus. Knowledge gained from understanding COVID-19's extremes - unusual susceptibility and resistance - could lead to new therapeutic strategies for the illness.

"The first focus of our study will be patients with severe responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection - severe enough to require intensive care - who appear otherwise healthy and are younger than 50," said Cooper, who also leads the **clinical immunology program and the Jeffrey Modell Diagnostic and Research Center for Primary Immunodeficiencies at St. Louis Children's Hospital**.

"These patients don't have uncontrolled diabetes, heart disease, chronic lung disease or any other condition that we know increases the risk of severe complications from COVID-19," she said. "For example, we sometimes see stories about, say, a marathon runner or a generally

(Continued on next page)

fit, healthy person who nevertheless got very sick from this virus, or the few healthy children who are getting very sick with COVID-19. These are the kinds of patients we're interested in for this study. A small proportion of hospitalized patients will fit this category, likely less than 10%.

Cooper studies primary immunodeficiencies in children. Primary immunodeficiencies are a group of more than 450 genetic disorders of the immune system. They often are caused by mutations in single genes that affect different aspects of immunity.

"With this pandemic, we can use our skills in gene hunting to search for genes that might be associated with severe COVID-19 in children and younger adults," she said. "We can foresee a future ability to do a genetic sequencing test for individual patients hospitalized with SARS-CoV-2 and get an idea of whether they are likely to need more intensive care. In the meantime, we will be able to learn a great deal about how the immune system responds to this virus and what it needs to be able to respond effectively and in an appropriate manner."

These patients' genetics could reveal the important immune pathways that the body needs to fight the virus. That knowledge could lead to therapies that also could help other patients who don't have a genetic susceptibility to the virus but perhaps have high-risk conditions, such as diabetes or heart disease.

"Our immune systems have never seen this virus before," Cooper said. "We're seeing severe COVID-19 complications play out across the world right now. It is going to take a global effort to investigate the genetic factors and the immune system factors that really control this infection."

Research related to COVID-19, including collecting and distributing of patient samples, is managed through Washington University's [Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences \(ICTS\)](#), led by [William G. Powder! MD](#), who is also the Larry J. Shapiro Director of the Institute for Public Health, the J. William Campbell Professor of Medicine and co-director of the Division of Infectious Diseases.

This research is supported by funding from the St. Louis Children's Hospital Foundation and the Jeffrey Modell Foundation.

From Contra Costa Health Dept:

Members of the public must mask:

- ◆ Before entering and while you are inside any facility besides your home (examples: grocery store, post office, restaurant carry out, healthcare facility, etc.)
- ◆ While outdoors when you are unable to maintain a six-foot distance from another person at all times (examples: park, farmers markets, gas station, in line for a food truck or to enter a store, drive-thru, curbside pickup, etc.)
- ◆ Waiting in line for and riding public transportation
- ◆ When personal vehicle windows are lowered to interact with first responders, food service workers, or others who are not members of your household
- ◆ The order also requires public transit and government workers to wear masks when they come close to others, or where the public is likely to be present.

Can I wear a mask with a one-way valve?

No. Any mask with a one-way valve which is designed to facilitate easy exhaling is **not** permitted as a "Face Covering" under this Order and does **not** comply with the Order's requirements. One-way valves permit droplet release from the mask, putting others nearby at risk.

<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/frequently-asked-questions>

Arguing with a woman is like reading
the Software License Agreement.

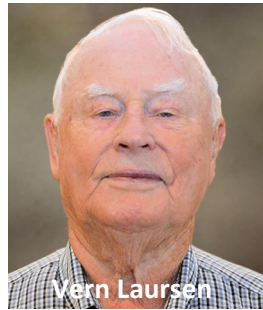
In the end, you ignore
everything and click
"I agree".

Why did the man name his dogs Rolex and Timex?

Because they are watch dogs.

Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



*The MUG will no longer meet on any regular schedule. Meetings will be announced to those members who are Mac users who are on our list. If you want to be added to the list, please send you name to **Verner Laursen**.*

*We will contact you from time to time by email when we notice items of interest to Mac users such as system updates. If you have questions or need help with your iMac, iPhone, iPad or Watch please contact **Verner Laursen** or **Max Burchett**.*

Please note that we are members of DVMUG and longtime Mac users. We will try to help you and if we cannot get answers, we know where help can be obtained. We can also help you if you are planning to buy Apple products with answers on what to buy and where to buy. Do you have an iPhone and you are over 65? Should you get and wear a Watch? Contact us.

Verner Laursen Vlaursen@astound.net
Max Burchett Meurchett@astound.net

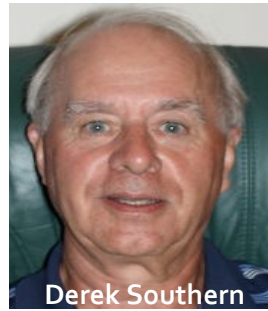
Area 16 \$ums Investment Group

No Meeting until further notice

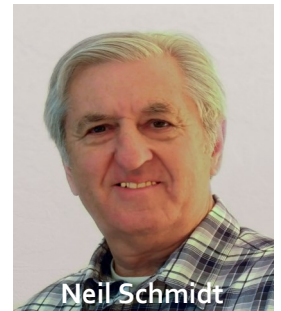
Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Br 8 - davesutn@comcast.net

Sign on the back of another Septic Tank Truck:
"Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises"

Computers and Technology



PCs



The SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group normally does not meet in June. But this year, during these trying times, there will be an informal Zoom get-together on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 9:30 AM. There will not be a presentation topic for the June meeting but instead it will be open discussion between members about various computers and technology subjects. Members will be encouraged to introduce their technology problems (and solutions), favorite applications, new interesting products, etc. As usual, there will be several technical experts in "attendance" to answer most questions.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT mailing list. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom weblink that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list. If you are not already on our email list, send an email request to:

sirarea2cat@gmail.com.

If you're not familiar with the work of Steven Wright, he's the famous erudite scientist who once said: "I woke up one morning, and all of my stuff had been stolen and replaced by exact duplicates."

His mind sees things differently than most of us . . . Here are some of his gems:

- 1 - I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2 - Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- 3 - Half the people you know are below average.
- 4 - 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5 - 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.