



Big Sir's Notes Stu Somerville

Our Audit Committee, Ron de Golia and Joe Fuchs, presented the Audit Report for calendar year 2008 to the BEC. They did an outstanding job with the audit and their recommendations for improving Branch operations and financial health.

They recommend, and the BEC agrees, that we move from a cash based operation to a check based operation. We will pay for the luncheon with a check instead of cash. This will save the Treasurer and the luncheon vendor the time that is spent counting and recounting cash. They only need to agree on the head count.

The BEC requests that our members pay by check to ease the time consuming tasks of making change and counting cash which has been an unnecessary burden on our treasurer and the check-in volunteers. Often they are late for lunch. You benefit by being able to prepare your check ahead of time and the lines will move much faster. Cash will still be accepted.

Another recommendation that is being studied by the BEC is a recommendation to increase our cash balance. We entered 2008 with a comfortable cash balance, however the Branch made some investments: a piano, projector and computer for Power Point presentations at our lunches and for our computer classes.

In March we will likely request a voluntary contribution to restore our cash balance to a comfortable level.

As Fox News would say... "we have some late breaking news!! Going forward, the luncheon price is reduced from \$29 to \$26". See you at lunch!

Stu

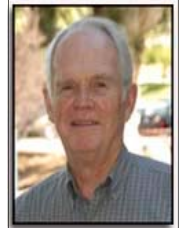


Little Sir's Corner Dennis Hallett

The March luncheon speaker will be **Lawrence (Larry) Lawson**. His subject will be Community Crime Factors.

Larry has spent 25 years as a teacher at the San Francisco Police Academy and over 40 years as a City College Instructor in the Criminology department.

SongSirs Don Tubb



We had a much appreciated show on February 4th at the Walnut Creek Pres. Church VIP's lunch - one of our best ever. Congrats and thanks to all who participated. Our next rehearsal will be on March 4th at WCPC, 2:30pm. We'll be trying out some new things which should extend our capabilities and make for even better entertainment as well as personal satisfaction for all of us.

Any Sir who would like to be a part of this is welcome - just show up or call/email me at 459-0852/fpilot@aol.com.

Couples Dining Out Don Tubb



Our Feb. 17th dinner at the San Franciscan was a fun evening for all six couples attending - getting better acquainted and enjoying good food with plenty of libations, and we had a whole section of the restaurant to ourselves. Our next dinner will be March 17th - **Jim and Barbara Stedman** will be selecting the restaurant and making arrangements. Anyone wishing to join us please notify them and you will be welcome.



Duplicate Bridge George Zunich

Our match is held each month on the Monday after the SIR Luncheon at various homes. Bring your lunch.

In February, Sir **Fred Kovar** hosted 3 tables of Duplicate Bridge at his home.

In a close match, the results were as follows: **Fred Kovar** was in 1st Place with 29.5 points. **Lynn Freeman** was in 2nd Place with 29.0 points. **Rich Ahlf** took 3rd place with 28.5 points.

The next match will be held on Monday March 16th at the home of **Bill Snyder**.

Contact **George Zunich** at 376-4439 for information. We welcome interested members.

Couples Duplicate Bridge Too Joe Barry

Couples Duplicate Bridge #2 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.

Joe and Josie Barry hosted the February Bridge. As always, everyone had a great time. Only one point separated the first to third couples. **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** won with 22.5 points followed by **Stu and Margot Somerville** at 22 points and **Bob and Janet Yolland** with 21.5 points. Went to three recounts before we settled on a tie between the **DeVoes** and the **Barrys** at 18.5 points. **Lynn and Dasha** will host the March event.

Area 2 \$ums In Retirement Dave Munson

The March 25 meeting will be held at the Diablo Creek Golf Course starting at 8:00am with breakfast available from 7:00am in the restaurant.

Our speaker will be Mr. **Axel G. Merk**, President & Chief Investment Officer, Merk Investments and manager of the Hard and Asian Currency Funds. **Axel** has a unique ability to distill complex economic issues into easy to understand concepts. He has been involved with managing currency funds for many years and has been a regular guest on CNBC, frequently quoted in Barron's, the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Bloomberg and other financial publications. Whenever currencies become a major topic of the day **Axel Merk** is likely to be interviewed by the financial press for his views and opinions. Accompanying **Axel** on the presentation will be Mr. **Kieran Osborne**, Merk Senior Financial Analyst.

This presentation should be very interesting and informative as **Axel** will provide us with his insight on current economic conditions and the effect on the global currency markets. This should be a very interesting and unique presentation.

For more information on the **Merk** currency funds visit their web site at www.merkfund.com.



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

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

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Dick Johnson** on Feb 2. First place went to **Dick Johnson** with 5590 Points, second to **Dick DeVoe** with 4960 points, third to **Fred Bolton** and fourth to **Bill Rees**.

Our next game will be at **Bill Snyder's** on March 2.



Couples Duplicate Bridge Lo McCarley

Meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.

Couples Duplicate Bridge had three tables (six couples) instead of the usual four tables of bridge. **Bill and Margaret Rees** hosted the gala evening. Finishing in first place were **Carl and Anne Johnson** with 26 points. They were followed in second place by **Tom and Marilyn Baker** (Branch 8) with 23 points and in third place by **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** (21 points). **Stu and Margo Somerville** will host next bridge on March 18.

Garden Club

Chuck Bobinecz

1st Thursday at 9:30 am at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave., in the Multipurpose Room, unless otherwise announced.



Sunshine

Otto Wilson

Phone: 825-1943

E-mail: ottowilson@astound.net



Our March meeting will be on March 5th, 9:30am at the Presbyterian Church. Our featured speaker is Sir **Fred Kovar** whose topic will be the iris. Fred is a member of the local iris club and is quite knowledgeable on this topic. As a follow up, in place of our April meeting, there will be a bus trip on May 1st to the Napa County Iris Farm (the irises should be at their peak). See the flyer below for details. Sign up soon because these trips have always been a sell out. All Sirs, wives and guests are welcome.

The garden club also has a bus trip planned for October 2009 to the Academy of Science in San Francisco (Sir Branch #8 has also has a trip to the Academy of Science planned for May). Wait for the Branch #146 trip to the Academy of Science in October and avoid the crowds.

Garden tip of the month: What is a fruit and what is a vegetable? Is the tomato a fruit or a vegetable? Botanically speaking, the tomato is a fruit, though in culinary terms it is a vegetable. Generally when the seeds are on the inside it is a fruit and when they are on the outside it is a vegetable.

Fabulous Napa Country Iris Garden Tour

Date May 1, 2009 9:00am
Iris Garden tour
Picnic lunch (byo lunch)
Winery tour T.B.A.

Cost will be \$ 25.00 per person
Bus will depart from Shadelands
Park and Ride on Mitchell Drive

Bus will be limited to 47 people. Wives are invited and encouraged to attend.

Please make checks out to
Branch 146, and mail to:
Rich Hanford 619 Sitka Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Sir **Bob Frankland** has been waiting to enter John Muir to have his gall bladder removed. He is building up strength to have this procedure done.

Sir **Kent Tyler** has been in John Muir Hospital for abdominal surgery.

Sir **George Knies** had open heart surgery on January 28th at John Muir Hospital.

Carole Miller, wife of Sir **Pete** had hip replacement on February 18th.

Sir **Dick Richmond** had back surgery on January 26th and is home recovering. Doing well.

Carla Hauschildt, wife of Sir **Wes** is recovering from neck problems and is home.

It is time to order your See's candy for the Easter holiday. The price is \$12.40 for a one pound box certificate. Retail is \$15.60 per pound, a savings of \$3.20 per pound. You can buy any type of candy you like, soft centers, nuts and chewies etc. There is no limit to the amount you can order.

Make your check payable to "Sir Branch 146" and send it to **Mitch Mitchell**, 5350 Lightwood Drive, Concord, CA 94521. Please include a stamped self addressed #10 envelope (this is the long envelope). The deadline for Mitch to receive this is April 4, 2009.

Your certificates will be mailed to you shortly thereafter.

Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ to cover the cost of _____ one pound certificates.



Bowling

Larry Mitchell

We have two tournaments coming up in March. The first is in Petaluma on March 9th and 11th. It will have singles, doubles and all events. The second is our own Branch 146 annual "Dave Valladao Memorial Tournament" at Diablo Lanes in Concord. Categories will be: Singles, Doubles, All Events and Singles Scratch. Sir, Wives of Sirs and guests are invited to compete. The dates are March 16th, 18th and 19th.

Three Hundred Dollars will be added to the prize fund in doubles, and singles! This provides an opportunity to win some big bucks, so sign up soon. As the Tournament Director of this event, I have sign-up forms which I will be happy to provide upon request. Questions? Call me at 925-798-5440.

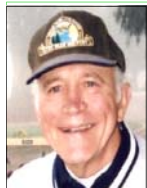
Tres' Gourmet

Ron de Golia

The Tres Gourmet Chefs and their lovely wives will be dining out at IL Pavone in Walnut Creek for a belated Italian Valentine dinner on Thursday, February 19, 2009.

On March 19th, the guys will be treated to a fine luncheon cuisine at the estate of Sir **Frank Rockwell**. The April 16th affair will be at the home of Sir **Mike Cavallo**.

Another Ladies night out gala is being planned for October 15, 2009.



Poker Club #4 Chuck Bobinecz

Our next session on Feb.23rd will be at the home of Sir **Rich Hanford**. There have some changes made to usual April and May dates. Due to SIR events and Memorial day, the April date is changed to Thursday April 30th and May has been changed to Thursday, May 28th.

The odds of a royal flush are around 650,000:1. in a 5-card poker hand. Never had one. Do you know of anyone who has?

Poker Club #1 Frank McNamee



Poker Club #1 met at the **Howard Harvey** residence on February 11th and it proved to be the right month for big winners **Bill Cammerer** and **Bob White** who were the only substantial winners for the day. By the end of the day it was evident that **Dan O'Sullivan** probably wished he was still on his Panama Canal Cruise. I suffered a senior moment last month and forgot to send a report to the Sir Call to announce myself as the largest winner since Poker Club #1 started. Our next meeting will be at the home of **John Lewis** on March 11th.

Explore and Dine

John Pearl



In January, the Explore and Dine group gathered at Annabelle's Bar and Bistro south of Market in San Francisco for lunch. It reminded us of old-fashioned San Francisco. We then had a short stroll to the newly opened Contemporary Jewish Museum for our docent-lead tour.

The museum is in an old brick PG&E substation that has been retrofitted for earthquake safety while retaining its "industrial ambience." It also has an add-on room with special acoustics and 36 randomly placed windows, 36 being twice 18, a special number in the Jewish culture.

We had a tour of the **Andy Warhol** exhibit, which featured ten paintings of famous Jewish people, including Albert Einstein and **Golda Meir**. We learned how these final ten were selected and the painting/printing process used.

If you read this before February 26, we have some room in our February outing to the Paramount Theatre in Oakland.

There will be no Explore and Dine outing in March, but we're working on an outdoor venue for Thursday, April 23, so watch this space!

John Pearl

mcpearl@astound.net

934-6920

Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

PHIL GOFF, Chairman, 831-3692,
philgoff@yahoo.com
DICK CURRY, Asst. Chairman, 376-5541,
racorinda@pacbell.net

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive (just off South Main.) Check out our website at <http://sir-web.org/computer>

Thursday, March 19, Area 2 Computers and Technology group will focus on VHS transfer to DVD.

Larry Muth (Branch 171) will present his experiences, supported with a short video clip, of transferring VHS tapes to DVDs. He will explain what options are out there, the problems with software, and why it is not a simple process. He will also talk about down loading from a video camera and getting ready to do some editing. **Larry** has offered to present "How to Edit in Premiere Elements 4", with a hands-on demonstration, in a later session.

Following the presentation, **Dick Curry** will lead an informative Computer Q&A session, so bring your tough questions!

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We serve coffee and pastries and all SIR members and their guests are welcome.

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MONTEREY MASHERS GOLF TOURNAMENT March 25-28, 2009

PLEASE NOTE PRICE REDUCTION (We successfully went to major purveyors to secure a better price due to the economy! Basic package is reduced \$50, and course fees for 2nd golfers are reduced \$5-\$11/round. After checks are cashed for those paying higher price, you will receive a refund)

You are invited to attend the 2009 Monterey Mashers Golf Tournament, an event that has been held for years comprised mostly of Branch 146 members and guests. However, this is our first year as a Branch 146 SIR activity, open to all members.

March 25, 26, 27- Best Western Monterey Inn.
Complimentary breakfast provided each morning.

March 26 (Thursday)- golf with cart at Rancho Canada Golf Course. Traditional Thursday heavy hors d'oeuvres/dessert party at the Inn. BYOB.

March 27 (Friday)- golf with cart at Laguna Seca Golf Course. Gala Awards Banquet with wine at Laguna Seca Golf Club. No-host bar beforehand.

March 28 (Saturday)- Breakfast at the Inn and departure for home, perhaps with some shopping and sightseeing in your plans.

Since we are limited by the number of rooms, tee times and/or Thurs. night party at the Inn, we may have to invoke a first replied-first served policy. Do not delay-reply by February 1, 2009. A complete packet of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you at a later date.

Make checks payable to Sir Branch 146-Monterey Mashers and send to:

Dick DeVoe, 109 Terrace Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94597.

Questions? Please contact **Dick DeVoe** at (925) 932-5546
or by e-mail: dicknchristy@comcast.net
2009 Committee- Chair **Dick/Christy DeVoe**,

Dennis/Ann Hallett, Stu/Margot Somerville, Lew/Carla Thompson

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Monterey Mashers March 25-28, 2009

Name _____ Companion _____
Complete package including hotel,
golf, and banquet for two \$510 _____
Companion will play on Thursday, add \$68 _____
Companion will play on Friday, add \$68 _____
Total \$ _____

Dinner choice:

Chicken Marsala with rice and vegetables _____

Halibut with rice and vegetables _____

Vegetarian _____

Luncheon Attendance Bob Lyman



SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Sunrise at Boundary Oak Restaurant

Call me by Friday noon prior to the luncheon at 825-6386 if, for any reason, you are unable to attend. If I am not home, leave your name, badge number and phone number. Be sure you call!

Please remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45am so please allow yourself enough time to arrive on schedule. Thanks.

Sir bringing a guest:

Call by Friday prior to the Thursday luncheon and leave your name and the name of your guest.

Regular members missing 3 consecutive meetings without notifying their attendance chairman, giving a valid reason, or attending less than 6 meetings in the last 12 months shall be notified by letter of their pending membership termination.

Certification of another branch meeting will be considered as credit to attendance record.

Luncheon Menu

Mixed field greens with Italian dressing
With tomatoes and carrots

Italian style meat loaf or red snapper
(with roasted crushed tomatoes)

Roasted red potatoes

Tuscan vegetables (broccoli, green beans &
Swiss chard)

Banana chocolate chip snack cake
(seasonal fruit on request)

Special Luncheon requirements:

If you need a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please call and make a request. Your request will stay in effect until you cancel it. If, for medical reasons, you cannot eat lunch, please notify me. Your request will stay in effect until you cancel it, however, you will be required to pay a \$1 fee branch donation when attending the luncheons..

Membership Dale Hertweck



Branch 146 Statistics:

Members 261, HLMs 4, Applicant List 3, Inactive 6.

November Attendance:

Members 190, HLMs 2, Applicant List 1, Guest 4, Excused 57, Unexcused 9.

Total February Attendance: 197

Status Changes:

Inducted: **David Steinberg** and **Richard Hildebrand**

Added to Applicant List:

Dan Cochran, **Calvin Tucker** and **Nosrat Abdolhosseini**

Added to Inactive List:

None

Resigned:

Don Fitzgerald

Transferred:

Bob Lipscomb



Cribbage **Al Tufo**

Hold the phone. I've got something to tell you. I don't know how many of you know how to play Cribbage. The highest hand that can be made in a game is 29. The next best hand is 28. In all the years we have been playing, no one has had either one of them. That is until this month. We were hosted by **John Pearl** on February 11th. In the first game The Italian Stallion made 28 points in one hand. This gave him a great start toward winning all of the rest of the games in that tournament. **Larry Reilly** came in second. In the second tournament **Larry Reilly** who was still warmed up from the first tournament blew away the field and won with little effort. **Dan Meckfessel** came in second. Next month the March Cribbage Club will be hosted by **Al Tufo** starting at 11:30am.

CIAO Tufo

Lunch and Wine Group

Dick Woodman

The Lunch and Wine Group had its first full luncheon at **Jim Meehan's** home and he cooked a great lunch. The wine was excellent and topped off with a Zinfandel from **Vino Spellman** Bottled in the Creek in 2007. Outstanding!

Our next luncheon is a dinner out with spouses on March 18th.



Fishing Paul Dubow

4th Thursday at 8:30 am. at Diablo Creek Golf Course (Legends Grill). North Port Chicago Hwy

Fishing in the past few weeks has been oddly quite dismal, notwithstanding some good weather followed by some not so good weather. An armada of four boats manned by ten eager Area 2 fishermen, including **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146, anchored in warm sunny weather on the Sacramento River in early February, but their great and formidable skills could only land five keeper stripers, all released. After the group departed, **Joe Peterson** stayed on and did land a nice seven pounder. Group excursions to Shadow Cliffs and Los Vaqueros Reservoirs were cancelled because of bad weather. **Harry Sherinian** and **Carl Moyer** did make it out on their own to Shadow Cliffs and **Dick Thomson** and **Carl Moyer** ventured to Contra Loma Reservoir, but neither outing produced even a bite. **Carl** and **Paul Dubow** fished for sturgeon and stripers off the Ozol Pier in Suisun Bay and also encountered no luck.

However, the steelhead fishermen did much better. **Don Mittelstadt** caught some fine steelies on the American River. **Kent Cremolini** picked up a limit of two steelhead on the Chetco River in Oregon. **John Wall** of Branch 146 and **Tom Hensley** had a banner outing on the Klamath River catching and releasing many steelheads from twelve inches to twelve pounds.

We will be very busy in the future with trout fishing in the eastern Sierra, tuna and billfish in Mexico, a long range ocean foray from San Diego, delta fishing for striped bass and sturgeon, trout fishing in our local lakes, and several party boat trips for halibut and rockfish. If you haven't been fishing for awhile or want to try fishing for the first time and you would like to test drive an adventure, call **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504 or email him at pdubow2398@aol.com or, better yet, just show up at the next meeting of the Area 2 fishermen.

At this month's meeting, Carl Moyer will conduct a show and tell on jigging metal for fresh and salt water fish.

Cooking

Dave Johnson

1st Monday at various members' homes.



February was the month for our annual San Leandro Safari to the home of **Gene Diana**. The food enthusiasts had devoured almost all of the artichoke and roast pepper dip and the jalapeño Swiss cheese twists, by the time our Big Stir arrived-he "knew a shortcut." **Gene** always does a great job but this time he rose to new heights. He started with a tossed Romaine-spinach salad, and button mushrooms and pimentos marinated in Italian seasonings. These were followed by braised asparagus and a luscious beef Stroganoff, and **Gene** finished the meal with chocolate cream cake. The cost was reasonable and, although **Gene** asked for payment in Euros for his offshore account, he accepted IOU's. Our next meeting is at **Barney's** place. Bring bibs.

Our newest Senior Sir, **Arno Marra** who turned 90 in February, was presented the President's Award at the February luncheon by Area 2 Governor **Dean Steichen**, with **Bob Yolland**, Branch 146's Honoree Chairman, doing the commentary. Arno joined our branch in July 1990.

In his earlier years he served in the Army Air Force during WWII as a low level strafing fighter bomber pilot in Europe. He retired from US Steel Corporation after a successful career. **Arno** lives in Walnut Creek where he and his wife of 62 years, **Marta** raised two very successful daughters. Unfortunately he lost **Marta** two years ago. **Arno** loved to play golf and currently enjoys his many SIR friends, the joy of gardening, a good martini, some fine wine and taking care of his granddog **Nicco**.



Travel Opportunities Bob Spellman



Mar 6, 2009 SIR Day at the Races. It's another chance to visit your money at Golden Gate Fields. The Turf Club SIR package includes: valet parking, admission and reserve seating, daily racing program, prime rib buffet, tax/tip for the food servers and a race named in honor of our group. This is a fun day well worth the \$25 cost.

Contact **Ken Richter** 925-689-6217

Mar 15, 2009 SIR Night with the Golden State Warriors. Enjoy a specially discounted Warriors game for the family and friends of SIR members. Every ticket purchase includes a food voucher good for a hot dog, chips and a drink. We will be playing the Phoenix Suns which should be a great game. Cost \$25 per person (reg \$65). Pick up your mail order flyer at the next SIR meeting.

Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428 if you have questions.

May 12, 2009 A Day At The California Academy of Sciences. Visit the Academy of Sciences- the only place on the planet with an aquarium, a planetarium, a natural history museum, and a 4-story rainforest all under on roof. Whatever your interests, the new Academy is designed to engage and inspire like no other museum on the planet. Cost \$56 per person.

Contact **Bob Hagler**, Branch 8, 925-934-7620

May 22-25, 2009 Sacramento Jazz Jubilee. This is the top Music Festival in the country with over 100 bands to entertain you. Beyond traditional jazz, there's blues, western, ragtime, salsa, zydeco and big band music. Something for everyone. Plan on going. It's a very enjoyable day. Cost \$35 to \$40 per person.

Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428.

Jun 30, 2009 Patti Page at the Grand Sierra Resort. Best selling female artist of the 1950s and one of the first female artists to cross over from country music to pop, brings her silky smooth voice to the Grand Sierra. The trip includes deluxe Motor coach, overnight accommodations at the Grand Sierra Resort, Casino stop with bonus \$6 food credit, \$5 cash Tickets to Patti Page in the Grand Sierra

Showroom, Baggage handling and driver tip. Cost \$142 per person.

Contact **Bob Spellman**, 934-8428

Jun 24-26, 2009 Boulder Creek Golf and Fun Outing. Join us for our annual golf outing at Boulder Creek. It includes 3 rounds of golf, 2 nights lodging and a banquet dinner. Golfers will have a fun time on this short but challenging course. For those not playing golf, it is a beautiful area to just relax and enjoy the surroundings. All this and it's only 1 ½ hours away.

Cost \$315 to \$415 per couple.

Contact **Ken Richter** 925-689-6217.

Jul 29, 2009 SIR Day with the San Francisco Giants.

The game has been set for the 29th with the Pittsburgh Pirates. More information to follow.

Aug 8-23, 2009 Romantic Rhine & Moselle Rivers.

Explore Holland's colorful capital as you cruise through Amsterdam's enchanting canals. Sail past the famous Lorelei rock and through the dramatic Rhine Gorge on this 14-night cruise from Amsterdam to Basel on board Avalon Waterway's brand new ship, the MS Affinity. Trip includes all meals on board, round trip airfare and airport transfers. Port charges, air taxes, driver tips are also included. Cost runs from \$6270 to \$8669 depending on stateroom.

Contact **Ken Richter** 925-689-6217

Sep 13-25, 2009 The Essence of Ireland. What separates Ireland from its neighbors is the arresting beauty of the land, the turbulent history and the broad smile that welcomes your arrival. This 13 day trip covers Belfast, Londonderry, Westport, Galway,

Killarney, and Dublin. The trip cost is \$3780 per person and includes: daily breakfast, nightly hosted dinner, coach driver, guides, baggage handling airfare and transfers, Plus gratuities.

Contact **Bob Hagler** Branch 8 925-934-8428.

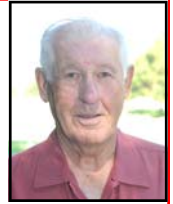
Sep 24, 2009 Highlights of South Africa. On this comprehensive 19 day trip you'll discover the cultural and natural wonders of South Africa. The trip will take you to Johannesburg, Kruger National Park, Swaziland, Zululand, Wilderness, and Cape Town with optional trips to Pilanesberg National Park for a big five bush safari and Victoria Falls. Cost of the trip is \$4795 per person which includes all airfares, 17 night hotel stay, 32 meals, and 13 sightseeing tours.

Space is limited so contact **Bob Spellman** to make reservations 925-934-9428

Away Golf Jim Baldrige



Tuesday Golf Ray Weisz



Our 144 player Silverado Country Club Invitational Tournament is full but we are still taking sign ups because we do get cancellations between now and the April 27 event date. Contact **Jim Baldrige** for information.

Remember that April 27 is also the first day of the State Golf Tournament in Las Vegas. It will be held at the Sun Coast Hotel and Casino 4/27 through 5/1. Go to sirinc.org or call direct to the hotel at 1-866-636-7111 and use the group code "9SIRGI" to get more details. Due to the extremely wet weather **Bob Lyman** had to cancel the Rio Vista Two Man Best Ball Tournament scheduled for Thursday February 19. He may be able to reschedule the event when things dry out a little. For information call **Bob** at 925-825-6386 or e-mail him at rjlyman@aol.com.

Mel Verzi of Br 45 has extended an invitation to play at their Southridge Golf Course event Tuesday May 5 through Thursday May 7 in Yuba City. The cost is \$170 Which includes 3 days of golf with cart, range balls, three \$5 chits to use for breakfast, drinks or pro-shop, daily prize fund, closest to pin prize each day and an awards dinner. Lodging is available in Yuba City, Marysville and Colusa and the Colusa Casino Resort is offering an \$89 per night reduced rate.

Contact **Mel** at 530-345-2933 or via e-mal at mrsmelchico@sbcglobal.net.

Jim Hanck schedules four to five tee times for nine hole golf at Diablo Hills (Heather Farms) every other week. The next event is March 5. Call **Jim** at 925-933-9505 or e-mail him at jhanck@astound.net to check on the next date and sign up.

Looking ahead, the three Reno Circus-Circus tournaments will be held June 1-5 (hosts **Richmond/Ferreira/Andrews**) June 8-12 (hosts **Drennan/Crawford/Seyler**) and June 15-19 (hosts **Ikerd/Hansen/Witort**).

Go to sirinc.org or contact **Dick Richmond** to check on details and when sign ups will be taken.

A reminder that four SIRS are helping with Away Golf in 2009.. **Bob Lyman** is doing events for 1st quarter, Jim Baldrige 2nd quarter, Bob Mehus 3rd quarter and **Ray Kan** 4th quarter and **Ron Plachy** has replaced **Dick Richmond** as Chair of the Br 146 Golf Committee. Give any one of them a call to recommend a course or event format.

Questions: **Jim Baldrige** 925-689-9232
jimjudy39@aol.com.

January 20: First Flight: **Bob Royster (70), Dale Hertweck, Bill Cammerer**. Second Flight: **Corrie Oranje (73), Ken Richter, Al Zamolo**. Closest to the pin: **Joe Suta # 2, John Harrington # 12**.

January 27: First Flight: **Bob White (68), Walt Busenius, Lew Thompson**. Second Flight: **Ken Richter (64), Joe Lamanna, Corrie Oranje**. Closest to the pin: **Russ Bliese # 2, John Demos # 12**.

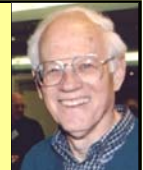
Effective February 3, 2009 we made a change to our weekly prize fund pay out. We added a third flight, with first and second place only in each flight. The total weekly pay out remained the same. However the amount paid to each winner change to \$12.00 for first place, \$8.00 for second place.

February 3: First Flight: **Ron Binder (68), Jack Calloway**. Second Flight: **Al Zamolo (67), Joe Lamanna**. Third Flight: **Ernie Dickson (67), Chuck Eichten**. Closest to the pin **Mitch Mitchell # 2, John Harrington # 12**

February 10: First Flight: **Lew Thompson (75), Ron Binder**. Second Flight: **Al Zamolo (70), Chuck Campbell**. Third Flight: **Ray Weisz (70), Doug Cook**. Closest to the pin: **Lew Thompson # 2, Gene Diana # 12**.

February 17: Golf was cancelled due to rain. We need the rain, but why rain on Tuesday? See you all on the next clear Tuesday.

SIR 146 Computer Classes Lo McCarley



Microsoft Windows Vista

Watch this space. Microsoft has changed the look and feel of their operating system. Remember it used to be Windows 98, then Windows XP. And now it's Vista. Vista Classes are coming to Branch 146 in April.

Jeff Baily and I are learning Vista so we can teach the classes. We'll keep you posted.

Computer classes are for SIR Branch 146 members, their wives and friends.

ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Malcolm Hendry



The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at select restaurants in the East Bay.

Come join your fellow SIR members for delicious dining in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

On March 19th, we will dine at "Xenia!" restaurant which features a diverse menu of delicious entrees, pizza, pasta, salads and sandwiches. Their Thursday night special is Angus prime rib which is traditionally slow roasted. This bistro promotes a European ambiance with earthy hues, dark wood, warm lighting and a wall of windows that creates a relaxed and inviting backdrop for your meal.

Xenia seats 70 and has a full bar.

Location: 115A Alamo Plaza, Alamo, CA 94507

Web Site: www.xeniabistro.com [includes menu (combines regular with their take-out), reviews and directions - easy parking]

Phone: 925-855-9000

Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 17th.

I welcome your suggestions for restaurants that you would like to visit.

Proposed new activity

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

I have been approach by a number of members to start a Photography Club. This club will involve general photography, assignments, critiques and the Photoshop Computer program.

Anyone interested contact **Rich Ahlf**
925-672-2514 rahlf@sbcglobal.net

Silverado Country Club

Invitational Golf Tournament

Pleasant Hill Sir Br # 146

This 144 player shotgun event is open to SIR golfers and guests. This is a chance to enjoy a spring day in the wine country and invite wives, friends or your regular foursome to play a very nice country club course at a preferred rate. Singles and twosomes are okay too; we will get you into foursomes.

The shotgun starts at 12 noon on Monday April 27, 2009 on the south course. The cost is \$45 for guests and \$47 for sirs competing in the prize fund. The cost includes green fees and cart. Carts are allowed on the course if there has been no rain. The club has a dress code-no jeans. Collared shirts and soft spikes are required. The new clubhouse/restaurant is posh. Sign up asap as this event fills every year. No risk for early sign ups as we can refund cancellations up to the day of play. Make checks out to SIR 146 Golf. Detach and mail slip below and checks to **Jim Baldridge**, 941 Brink Ct. Concord, CA 94518

Silverado Tournament April 27, 2009
Names _____ Fees _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

TOTAL _____

March Dinner Dance

Don't forget the dinner dance on Wednesday, March 4 at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill. \$ 90 includes, live band, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and wine on the table. 6pm to 10 PM

Contact **Vince Rettew**.

**TREASURER'S REPORT
JANUARY 2009**

BEGINNING BANK BALANCE	\$2,296.31
BRANCH CONTRIBUTIONS:	
Lunch	210.00
Unexcused Absences	261.00
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>6.00</u>
Total Contribution Receipts.	477.00
ACTIVITY RECEIPTS:	
Monthly Luncheon	5,870.00
<u>Special Activity: Theatre Group</u>	<u>736.00</u>
Total Activity Receipts	6,606.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	7,083.00
BRANCH EXPENSES:	
Printing, Supplies etc	198.78
Officers' Expense	40.70
<u>State Board Pro Rata Assessment</u>	<u>261.00</u>
Total Branch Expenses	500.48
ACTIVITY EXPENSES:	
Monthly Luncheon, \$28 X 210 =	5,880.00
Birthday Gift	29.00
Special Activity: Theatre Group	736.00
Event Deposits Paid	238.00
<u>Mashers set-aside returned</u>	<u>486.00</u>
Total Activity Expenses	7,369.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	7,869.48
NET GAIN / (LOSS)	(786.48)
ENDING BANK BALANCE	\$1,509.83

From now on please

pay for the monthly lunch by check.check
check check check check check check !



**Walkers
John Lewis**



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

Walking Schedule for March

Mar 6 Alamo-Hap McGee Park

Meet: Take 680 South Exit El Pintado immediate right on Lagonda Way. Takes you right to the park.. Walk: West across bridge to Camille Ave then North on Iron Horse Trail.

Mostly paved Some shade Level

Coffee: Yellow Wood Alamo Plaza

Mar 13 Cardinet Trail Clayton Road

Meet: At Clayton Library

Walk: Northwest from parking lot on first bridge along trail by golf course

Not Paved Fairly level Some shade

Coffee: Peet's Clayton Road and Ygnacio

Valley Road

Mar 20 Pleasant Hill South

Meet: Shopping Center at Morello & Taylor Blvd

Walk: South along Contra Costa Canal

Paved Level Some shade

Coffee: Panera Bakery in the Willows Shopping

Center

Take Taylor Blvd east toward I-680, continue

east to

Diamond Blvd, turn left going north to first stop turn left into Shopping Center. Panera is straight ahead

Mar 27 Alamo New Life Church parking lot on Danville Blvd

Meet: South on 680 Exit right on Livorna Road

Turn Right on Danville Blvd then left into

church across from Sunnybrook Road

Walk: South on Iron Horse Trail Paved Level Some shade Coffee: Yellow Wood Alamo Plaza

SIR HAPPENINGS

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR Newsletter.

Just go to www.sirinc.org and click on SIR

Happenings to read the current issue.

You may enjoy reading about the activities of other SIR branches.

Thanks to **Bill Cammerer**, **Don Del Bene**, and **Larry Sheerin** for folding and labeling, to **Rich Ahlf** for photography, to **Bill Cammerer** for mailing, and to **Jeff Baily** for proofreading.

SIR CALL

Newsletter

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