

SIR CALL

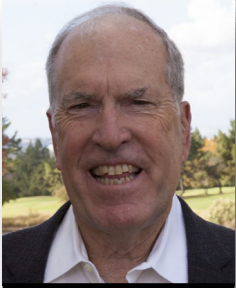
br146sircall@gmail.com

May 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

I hope this note finds you healthy!

I know my wife and I are suffering from "cabin fever" as just going to the market, for walks and gardening is not a substitute for being with family and friends. We like Netflix and completing puzzles but enough already. I might add that I really do need a haircut!

Please give a call to members of the activities groups you enjoy. Check in with them to keep our friendships active. See if they have ideas that are different than yours for dealing with "shelter in place".

You may remember my communication in mid-April which primarily discussed the Branch Executive Committee meeting results. That meeting was held successfully using the Zoom conferencing application. We will use the same method to hold the May BEC meeting. BEC officers are continuing to investigate how our branch can use this tool to bring us together. It can be used for gathering of small groups and some activities are experimenting with it. Use for gathering of large groups, such as our entire membership, may prove problematic.

I have started to consider what our luncheons might look like when restrictions are lifted. I suspect we will still need to continue distancing. It will be interesting to discover how we, working with Boundary Oak, will accommodate that requirement to continue to keep us safe. Speaking of Boundary Oak, I have not received an answer from management as to how they will distribute our monetary gift, approved by the BEC in April, to the luncheon staff.

Keep circulating the cartoons, sayings, and memes to your E-mail lists. One of my favorites is: If you have a full wine glass in both hands, you cannot touch your face.

Stay safe and wash your hands!

All Monthly Luncheons are Canceled until Further Notice

You will be updated by email as information becomes available.



Activities Coordinator

Bob Lucido

We all need to keep our social contacts activated during this time of isolation. I suggested that some of the chairmen of various activities like chess, bridge, etc. look to use online apps to continue their participation with their activity.

John Pearl, cribbage chair and **Bob West**, Hearts chair are using a multiplayer online version with their respective groups.

Obviously, only a few of the activities can be done like this, but there is still a need to keep in touch. May I suggest that you have a conference video with the members in your group just to socialize? I have used the Zoom app, which is very popular and easy to use and free. There are also other apps available for free.

Bob Lucido

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net

I ate 11 times and took 5 naps and it still today!

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

Dan Borenstein, editorial page editor for the *East Bay Times* who was our scheduled speaker for the cancelled April luncheon, wrote a chilling half page article in the April 19th Opinion section of the paper

titled "I'm staying home until there's a coronavirus vaccine". At sixty-four years old with a history of cancer, he is in our age group. In his editorial, he says that "Some 73 million people in the United States are age 60 or older, placing them at greater risk from COVID-19".

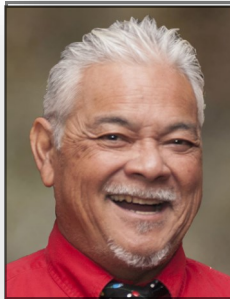
SIR is everything about being social, whether it is our monthly luncheons or participation in one or more of our 50 branch activities. We now have a challenge on our hands that was unthinkable just a month and a half ago. How should SIR proceed fulfilling its mission? We are not alone. Think cruise ships, vacation hotels, amusement parks, and many other nonprofits like us. In other words, there are going to be many people working on a solution to our common problem. The other dilemma is that we don't know how long this is going to last.

In the coming months we will attempt some short-term makeshift solutions. In April, we held our first BEC (Branch Executive Committee) meeting using the teleconferencing application ZOOM. We had fifteen people attend the meeting. Can we scale such meetings using ZOOM to one hundred or two hundred people? We do not know now, and even if we could, would using ZOOM be an acceptable alternative to holding monthly luncheons in person?

On the activity side of solutions, we already know some activities can be played online and not necessarily using ZOOM. Look for activity chairs elsewhere in this issue of the SIR CALL that address how they are doing this.

The main point we want you to remember is to not give up hope. The leaders in the branch and in State SIR are thinking about you. Click on the link below to learn what our state president Ed Benson has to say about SIR in this time of uncertainty. http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/Happenings_v16_Issue2_20200428.pdf

Stay safe but stay engaged with your activities.



Membership

Ron Lew

There were no new members to approve during our April Zoom Board meeting. Please continue to contact your friends and associates to introduce them to SIR who may be interested in enriching their lives through fun activities and events, while making friends for life. Many of us are still in contact with our friends and family members through our technology like ZOOM, Facebook or Skype. Through these times, it is most important to keep connected with each other. While the May luncheon is cancelled, hopefully you can bring others into our branch when we start meeting again. . Many of us outside of SIR 146 continue to meet respecting our social distancing and washing and wiping down everything.

I hope you had a nice Easter and be safe.

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. * *Denotes change*



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

Last month we were in the beginning stages of social distancing and limiting our trips to the store – and at this time we have experienced what it’s like to stay at home as well as limiting contact with our Sir friends. This was quite a change from our normal routine especially since one of the stated objectives in our organization is to keep our friendships and engage in fun activities. One of the saddest things about the coronavirus pandemic – beside the loss of life – is the feeling of isolation and uncertainty. Human beings are social creatures and gathering together is what we do.

As we contemplate how we establish a new normal, many of the activity chairs of our branch are trying to anticipate how we go forward from here.

Our Couples Dining Out activity was one of the more successful and fun ones in our branch and we are committed to restarting this activity when we can. Several of you have told me that you miss this activity and look forward to when we can resume where we left off. It is particularly difficult to anticipate how our Dining Out activity might change. At least in the foreseeable future, we may have to limit the number of diners that we can accommodate. We will have to select restaurants that can adhere to new guidelines of spacing of tables and the number of diners that can be seated together. This is not an easy solution for restaurants, no doubt, since their profitability is often determined by the number of tables they can squeeze into their dining room space. Part of the quality of life we enjoy in our area has always been the active and vibrant restaurant scene particularly in our downtown areas.

But I am confident that we will work with the restaurants and be able to come to an accommodation which will satisfy any new guidelines. I had originally thought that we could return to the Burma 2 restaurant once we start up again – but, initially at least, it may be best to skip this venue with the shared dishes. I am thinking that we may wish to return to a restaurant like Massimo’s, which has the room to separate tables and limit the number of diners seated together. Perhaps we can shift gears and take advantage of some smaller and unique restaurants. I am not sure we can start up again in May, but your Dining Out hosts are hoping for at least a June beginning.

We wish all of you good health and an optimistic spirit to once again enjoy the celebration of getting together to enjoy a good meal with our friends.



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**

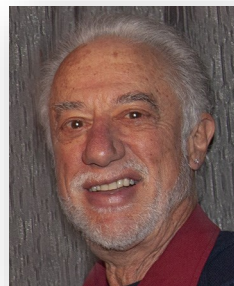
One of the main ways we learn of a SIR who is having health problems is when they “opt out” of the monthly luncheon. Since the luncheons have been cancelled (at least through May) and we all are “sheltering at home” this can be a great opportunity to connect with your luncheon buddies, your golf buddies, 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



AREA 16 Fishing Report

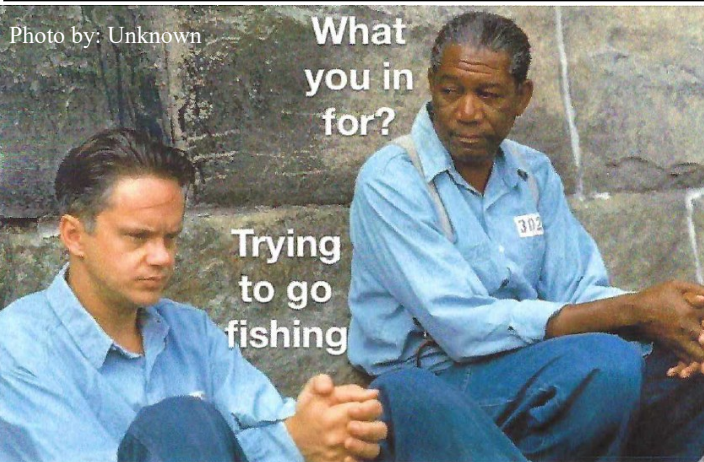
Paul Dubow

The Covid 19 pandemic has temporarily put a stop to our fishing activities. One can still fish from shore so long as one engages in social distancing. Unfortunately, the fish are social distancing from our hooks. Fishing from a boat is OK so long as the boat contains its owner and a member of the owner's household, but very few ramps are open. And if you violate these rules, you can wind up with a police record as did the poor fellow in the accompanying picture. You have my assurance that he was not a member of our fishing group.



Photo by: Tom Boltz

Paul Dubow and guide display a 42 lb roosterfish



Given that we fishermen like to tell stories, it is time to reminisce. And so, I am attaching pictures of some of our exploits, just to prove that we never lie.

One of the best fishing adventures for yours truly occurred in LaPaz, Mexico in 2008. **Tom Boltz**, **Pete Gates**, and I had spent four days fishing for tuna and dorado. On the day we left, I hooked a 42 lb. roosterfish. The beast fought for 45 minutes and as I struggled, **Tom** kept offering to take the rod. I would have given it to him if the fish were in the water for another five minutes. The fish was released as a reward for its efforts, but not before **Tom** took a picture of me barely holding it.

In May 2012, we learned of a new landlocked silver salmon fishery in Lake Oroville and ten of us signed up to fish the lake. We decided to go in two groups of five each on successive days. The first group was met by freezing rain and snow and was skunked. That was not good news for the second group, which crossed paths with them in the evening. But the weather gods shined on the second group. The next day blossomed sunny and warm and the group limited out by noontime.



Photo by: Kevin Brock

Lake Oroville silver salmon catch



Photo by: unknown

Pete Gates and Tom Boltz with Lake Davis rainbow trout

(Fishing continued on next page)

The biggest fish that any member of our club has caught on an authorized trip was a 400 lb. sturgeon that was bagged by **Rich Fiscina** in November 2018. **Rich** never left his seat as he calmly battled the fish for nearly an hour. His reward was a hernia, which kept him out of action for over a month. But catching the fish—but not the hernia—was fun!



Photo by Pedro Contreras

Rich Fiscina's 400 lb. sturgeon

San Pablo Reservoir is known for its rainbow trout fishery and its beautiful surroundings. But it also contains some pretty big catfish. **Ron Lew**, our current Big Fish, proved that with a 20 lb + fish that he landed last year.

Lake Davis, which is outside of Portola in the Sierras, was another well-known trout fishery. About five years ago, there was a claim that a renegade was planting northern pike in the lake. There is a belief that pike and trout cannot coexist in the same lake, although they seem to do so in Canadian waters. In any event, the Department of Fish and Wildlife decided to poison all the fish in the lake, empty it, and then refill it and plant trout again. That meant that there would be no limits on trout fishing in the year before the lake was emptied. Many of us journeyed to the lake and caught lots of trout (but just one tiny pike) and the lucky fishermen included **Tom Boltz** and **Pete Gates**, who are pictured on the previous page with their catch. As is often the case with Department of Fish and Wildlife experiments, Lake Davis has never reached the

production that it had prior to the poisoning and most of us now prefer to fish in Lake Almanor when we are in the Sierras.

The virus has not deterred us from getting together. We met on Zoom on April 23th and we will again meet on Zoom on May 28. If any branch member is interested in joining the fishing group, please contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow**.

For further information, feel free to call branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504 or Big Fish **Ron Lew** at (925) 550-4166.



Photo by Carl Moyer

Ron Lew and his big catfish



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

Having missed our March meeting due to the shelter in place directive we decided to try out Zoom and hold our first online photography meeting last Friday, April 25th. We had 13 of our members log in and begin showing their desktops with pictures.

For the most part, ZOOM did well in showing still pictures but when we switched to showing video, the system slowed down and the motion in the video became jerky. It is not clear if this was a limitation of ZOOM or a collective bandwidth issue of the members who were logged in. We will definitely try to meet this way again and hopefully we can solve the video issue.

Here are some links to the subjects we discussed at the meeting.

Adobe Rush Video Editing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tsc81qbpY6g>

Tony Northrup Comments—New Canon R5 Camera:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xz-7DYCyNhA&t=13s>

Ed Sheeran “Perfect” Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Vv-BfVoq4g>

How to put your favorite photo on a Bank Credit Card :

https://1drv.ms/v/s!Atrub_z26Ni3wBujGX-c4OKRazUI

Sony World Picture Awards for 2020:

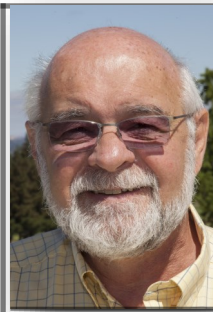
https://1drv.ms/v/s!Atrub_z26Ni3wByuGEFai_ir28aq?e=TbBEpT

Email: RLHOCK@outlook.com

Cell: (925) 324-1713



Photos by **Clint Collier**



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

If we are cleared to have events, our next Wine Tasting will be in July. I will keep the people on my distribution list updated.

If you are interested in joining us for an afternoon of wine and appetizers and are not on my list, please send me an email.

Rob Melrose

(925) 519-2185

RWMelrose@gmail.com



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



**SIR Happenings
Newsletter**

<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.



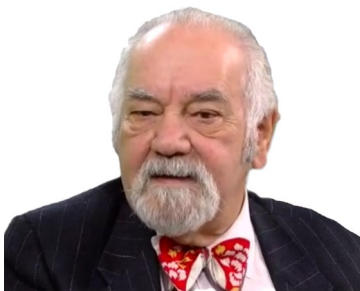


Travel Milt Smith

Please note the following:
- CHP Academy trip scheduled for May 13 has been canceled.
- Baltic capital cruise scheduled for June 6th has been postponed.

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.



Narsai David
KCBS Food and Wine Editor

- 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.
- 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

Photo by Milt Smith



Galapagos Island trip: Tortoise

Photo by Milt Smith



Africa travel trip: Kudu

Photo by Milt Smith



Alaska Trip: 1920's era tour bus in Ketchikan with guide



Handy Guide to Walnut Creek Take Out Restaurants

Bob West

We happen to have the opportunity to walk to downtown Walnut Creek often. I thought it would be worthwhile to mention some of the restaurants that are still open for takeout. Also, when you go to the grocery store you are exposed to 20-60 folks. When picking up from a restaurant you only meet one so you have much less exposure. Below are some of the downtown Walnut Creek restaurants serving takeout I have seen and their websites. We like to pick-up to get out of the house, but there are also many delivery services available.

Lokanta Mediterranean \$\$ 1520 Locust 322-8671
<http://eatlokanta.com/home/>

Cheesecake Factory \$\$ 1181 Locust 11AM-9PM Mon-Sun
<https://locations.thecheesecakefactory.com/ca/walnut-creek-146.html>

Modern China Café \$\$ 1525 N. Main Noon-8PM daily
<https://www.modernchinacafe.com/#modern-china-cafe>

Capullo Cocina 1518 Bonanza 476-5150 Tues-Sun 1-8PM
<https://www.capullococinamexicana.com/>

WC Yacht Club \$\$\$ 1555 Bonanza Mon-Sat 1-6PM 944-FISH
<https://wcytc.net/>

Opa Greek Cuisine \$\$ 1532 N. Main 891-4700
<https://www.opaauthenticgreek.com/walnutcreek.html>

Mel's Drive Inn: 1394 N. Main Street 8AM-8PM 935-6457
<http://places.singleplatform.com/mels-drive-in/menu>

Bounty Hunter \$\$\$\$ 1521 Mt Diablo Blvd. Noon-6pm daily
433-9314 <https://bountyhunterwalnutcreek.com/>

P.F. Chang's \$\$\$ 1205 Broadway Plaza 11AM-9PM
979-9070 <https://order.pfchangs.com/menu/4500>

Dragon's Pond Chinese \$\$ 1353 Locust Street 11AM-9PM
926-0278 <https://www.dragons-pond.com/>

Free Walnut Creek deliveries

The Habit Burger \$\$ 1255 S. CA Blvd 11AM-9PM
279-2286 <https://order.habitburger.com/store/b0e6f1ee-c4dc-e811-822e-02eaf1e04748/category/cfcbb04a-c88e-e911-8259-020f3289bcb6>

Sauced BBQ \$\$ 1410 Locust Street 11AM-8PM 433-5957
<https://www.toasttab.com/sauced-bbq-spirits-walnut-creek/v3>

Slice House \$\$ 1500 Mt Diablo Blvd 448-8077
<http://slicehousewalnutcreek.com/>

Boudin \$\$ 12 Broadway Lane 11AM-6PM 935-4375
<https://boudinbakery.com/location/boudin-sf-broadway-plaza/>

Bierhaus Biergarten \$\$ 1360 Locust 12-7 Tues-Sun
279-1364 <https://bierha.us/> (In former Lark Creek location)



Member Relations

Tony Greco

Welcome to my first member relations article since taking over this position effective April 2020 for the rest of the 2020 calendar year. The primary purpose of this position is to ensure that Branch 146 is "meeting the needs of its members". But what does that mean? Well, our goal is to provide opportunities for men with leisure time to enjoy social activities with fellow members. To do that, we provide an abundance of activities and monthly luncheons for you to enjoy. As you know, we also have activities that include spouses. As with any organization, your enjoyment as a member increases exponentially the more you participate. Maybe you'd like to volunteer for something. So what can I do for you specifically to help meet your needs as a member?

How about I become your personal "Suggestion Box"? Email me your suggestions on how we can improve our branch, how we can convince you to join more activities or how we can improve how a current activity operates. Tell me what you dislike about our branch that significantly diminishes your desire to remain an active member of Branch 146. Tell me what we're missing. Email me, but before you do, all I ask is 3 things:

- 1) Keep it professional
- 2) Try to limit your suggestion to 50 words or less,
- 3) After you write your email, hold it for a day before sending it, just in case you want to "wordsmith" it

I'm hopeful my email software doesn't crash!!

I'm especially interested in our new Yellow Badge members. Are you acclimating well? Are we meeting your goals? Use me if you need assistance. Let me be your advocate. If you know your sponsor well, he also can be your advocate. That's what sponsors do.

Also, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted how we operate. Do you have any suggestions we haven't heard yet? We are in a holding pattern right now, but Sir will get through this, make adjustments on how we operate and will remain a successful organization. Hang in there! I look forward to hearing from you!

Tony Greco

Email: almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

Burger Loft \$\$ 1389 N. Main 11AM-8PM 464-7977
<https://www.burgerloftwalnutcreek.com/>

Torsap Thai Kitchen \$\$\$ 1388 Locust 433-2166
<http://torsapthaikitchen.com/>



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs are anxiously awaiting the guidelines for starting our Branch’s activities. Hopefully, we will get the go-ahead to start activities with fewer participants.

Since our Song Sirs typically have 7-10 or so singers at our rehearsals, we should be one of the early activities to pick up where we left off. It may be early to anticipate that we would start our rehearsals in May, but hopefully we will be able to have our rehearsals in June, on June 3 and 17. Since we were not able to sing our Irish songs as planned at Byron Park, we will think about a new repertoire for the summer with an appropriate list of songs.

We will have a challenge in planning any kind of performances, particularly at the Senior Living facilities where we often sing. I anticipate that the restrictions that are currently in place with respect to visitors may continue longer, even after we return to a semblance of normalcy and other SIR activities are able to proceed once again.

In the meantime, we are confident that we are all adhering to the guidelines for handwashing and staying at home. We look forward to a new normal where we can still enjoy one another’s company and resume at least some of the many activities of our branch. Stay healthy!

(925) 932-3961

bgborgman@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.

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 they will be under when they do, but sometime after the shelter in place order is lifted.

In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.

Rich Lyon

Luncheon Coordinator



Pickleball

Jim Burk

The ARC located at the United Methodist Church in Alamo has been shut down since Friday, March 16, 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

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Richard Hockenbrock
Co - Editors	Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose & Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage
	Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy



SIR 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

Unfortunately, this monthly report is quite a bit different than what either Rich Ahlf or I have previously published. There currently are no intentions on my part to organize, sponsor, or lead any hikes for our SIR 146 group until the state, county, and other local agencies lift the “stay at home order”. And I suspect that it will be well after this order is lifted that our SIR leaders will allow us to meet in the great outdoors for organized group hikes.

But with all of that said, there are plenty of venues out there to explore as well as get some fresh air and very valuable exercise. I’ve been walking/hiking at a huge number of these venues. And my wife has even participated in those walks that are modest in length and elevation change.

I thought I might summarize a few of these recent walks:

Lime Ridge starting at Cowell/Ygnacio parking lot; clockwise loop uphill on the Paradise Valley trail and returning on the Lime Ridge trail. About 3.2 miles and 500 feet climb.

Diablo Foothills starting at the upper parking lot along Castle Rock road; clockwise loop starting on Stage Road to Little Yosemite trail to Briones/Mt. Diablo trail and return to Stage Road via Buckeye Ravine trail. About 5 miles and 800 feet climb.

Amphitheater trail starting at Red Corral on Morgan Territory Road via Morgan Creek Rd trail to Jeremiah Creek trail then Amphitheater and back via Morgan Creek Rd trail. About 4.5 miles and 900 feet climb.

Black Diamond Mines and associated Contra Loma have a huge number of trails with lots of variety in length and climbing challenges as well. I’ve done so many here that it’s difficult to determine what the best is.

The bottom line is there are lots of interesting places to hike and explore. I also do see quite a few folks out walking that have the same mind set as me. But all of these folks respect the social distancing order so very little risk is apparent to me.

Please stay safe!!

Mark Curtis

Cell (925) 360-3449

Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Photo by: Mark Curtis

White pelicans at Contra Loma reservoir



Photo by: Mark Curtis

Gene Schulting at the top of Black Point in Mt. Diablo State Park



Photo by: Mark Curtis

Prospect Tunnel at Black Diamond mines

All the toilets in New York's police stations have been stolen. As of now, it appears the police have nothing to go on.

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 (SEIS)

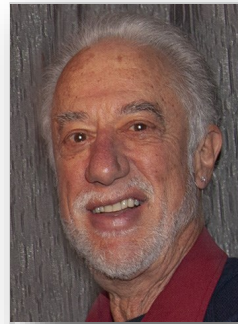
John "Moose" Kelly

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 to 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!!



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 7 (Siete)

Since we can't touch each other, or the dominoes, we had cocktail hour on Zoom instead. OK, it was an hour and a half. With twelve people trying to talk at the same time, it went surprisingly well.

As you can tell from the photo, we all dressed in our finest for this occasion.

We all agreed to continue our on line get together once a month on the same date as our MTD game.

Bob Lucido

(925) 899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



MTD 7 Zoom meeting (Top L to R): Wendy & Bob Lucido, Brian & Mary McCarthy, Clint & Bev Collier, Mary Ellen & Dale Dalgaard, Jane West, Bob Wilkenfeld. Bob West, & Bev Wilkenfeld had stepped away to refill their refreshments.

Our wireless doorbells sitting on their chargers....



The main function of the little toe on your foot is to make sure that all the furniture in your house is in place.



Bocce Facts

Stan U'Ren /
Jim Whitsett

An ancient game with roots in the Roman Empire, **bocce** is the third most played sport in the

world. Discover its history and learn how to play with our guide below!

THE HISTORY OF BOCCE BALL

The first known documentation of bocce was in 5200 B.C. with an Egyptian tomb painting that depicted two boys playing. The game spread throughout the Middle East and Asia, where it was eventually adopted by the Greeks and passed on to the Romans. The game was played by everyone – young or old, man or woman – thanks to its ease and versatility.

During his time unifying and nationalizing Italy, Giuseppe Garibaldi popularized bocce ball in Italy. Today, it is an Olympic sport. Because of its versatility – enjoyable at virtually any age, athletic ability, and location – bocce ball has become the third most played sport in the world.

HOW TO PLAY BOCCE BALL

So, how do you play bocce? The game is played with eight *bocce* (larger balls) and one *pallino* (smaller target ball). The object is simple: toss the balls closest to the *pallino*.

Traditionally played with two teams, the game begins with a coin toss that determines which side tosses the *pallino*, also known as the “jack.” The same player who delivers the *pallino* then rolls, throws, or bounces the first ball down the court, as close to the *pallino* as possible. Using balls of a different color, the player on the opposite team goes next with the strategical option of knocking the opponent’s balls out of bound (or at least further from the *pallino*).

When each team has played its four balls, a predetermined judge decides which team’s balls are closest and accordingly awards the points of that round. The winning team tosses the *pallino* in the following round. The length of the game varies but typically ranges from 7 to 13 points.

In Italy, bocce’s popularity spans all demographics; it is considered the perfect activity on a relaxing afternoon!

Reference from: <https://mybackyardsports.com/uncategorized/the-history-of-bocce-ball/>



Bocce

Stan U'Ren /
Jim Whitsett

Attention all Bocce players! The 2020 Bocce Season is currently ON HOLD due to suspension of group

activities as a preventive measure to combat the “virus”.

According to the Concord Bocce Federation website, their 2020 Season is now tentatively scheduled to start on June 7. If the season does start on that date, our games would first occur on Monday, June 8 and again on Monday, June 22.

We normally 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 this year with your fellow SIRs, 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.

I will send out an 'e-blast' message to all on the roster as soon as I have confirmation of the official start date of play. **STAY TUNED!!**

Hope to see you in June!

Rain Cancels Play.

Ladies are welcome.

Come and join us.

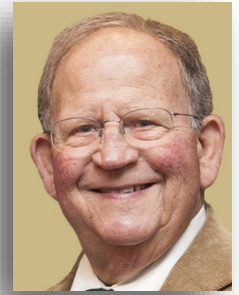
Jim Whitsett (925) 689-5493
AFRES056789@gmail.com

**MY WIFE SAID THAT IF I DON'T
GET OFF MY COMPUTER AND HELP
WITH THE DISHES, SHE'LL SLAM MY
HEAD ON THE KEYBOARD, BUT I
THINK SHE'S JOKINDSG67SGHI3DHGJ
RE7490DNDWHK3-2J4H37SHDUDKJI
SD877HR8SK020A3Y3H3J3UHU338JE**



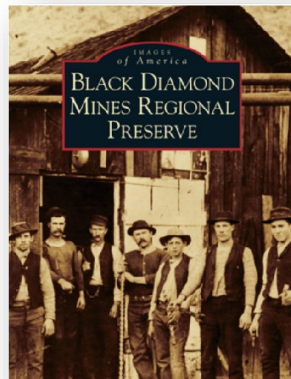
Explore & Eat

Black Diamond Mine Tour



Cancelled

(To be rescheduled)



These mining operations were a colorful history and an integral part of California's economic development after the Gold Rush and were instrumental in California's economic growth in the mid to late 1800's.

Coal Mining: From the 1860s through the turn of the last century, five coal mining towns thrived in the Black Diamond area: Nortonville, Somerville, Stewartville, West Hartley, and Judsonville. As the location of California's largest coal mining operation, nearly four million tons of coal ("black diamonds") were removed from the earth. The residents of the mining towns were from all over the world, and their lives were characterized by hard work and long hours. Occasional celebrations and a variety of organizations and social activities served to alleviate the drudgery of daily existence.

Sand Mining: In the 1920s underground mining for sand began near the deserted Nortonville and Somerville townsites. The Somerville mine supplied sand used in glass making by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company in Oakland, while the Nortonville mine supplied the Columbia Steel Works with foundry (casting) sand. Competition from Belgian glass and the closing of the steel foundry ended the sand mining by 1949. Altogether, more than 1.8 million tons of sand had been mined.

This an outstanding opportunity to comfortably enjoy a walking tour of a mine in safe, well-lighted environment. Tour participants take a 1309-foot walk into the mine to see mine workings, ore chutes, the shifter's office, and ancient geological features. For safety reasons, you may tour the mine only as part of a guided tour. The tour will last about 90 minutes thru the mine.

We are looking forward to your participation!

Co-chairs: **Henry Thatcher** 925-997-5032 and **Jim Pope** 925-699-6447



Cribbage

John Pearl

THE SIR BR146 CRIBBAGE GROUP HAS MOVED TO THE ONLINE WORLD!

All this thanks to our Chief Technical Officer (CTO) **Jim Nelson**. **Jim** discovered that an online application, *Cribbage Pro*, which I had been using for Cribbage practice sessions, also has a multi-player option. He researched this and proposed that we hold a tournament using this app. We created a "bracket" format which would lead to a tournament winner.

Tournament No. 1 had eight players, with **John Pearl** and **Ron Afdal** in the final match, the match winner had to win two out of three games. **John** was the eventual winner of Tournament No. 1 after a close game. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience so we decided to hold this every two weeks. **Jim Nelson** volunteered to continue as the tournament facilitator.

For Tournament No. 2, **Jim** created a double elimination set of brackets, with a third consolation bracket for those of us who lost twice. Eleven of our group signed on. The brackets that **Jim Nelson** created ensured that each entrant played a minimum of two games, and there were a total of 22 games among the three brackets. The final game held between **Jim Pope**



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**

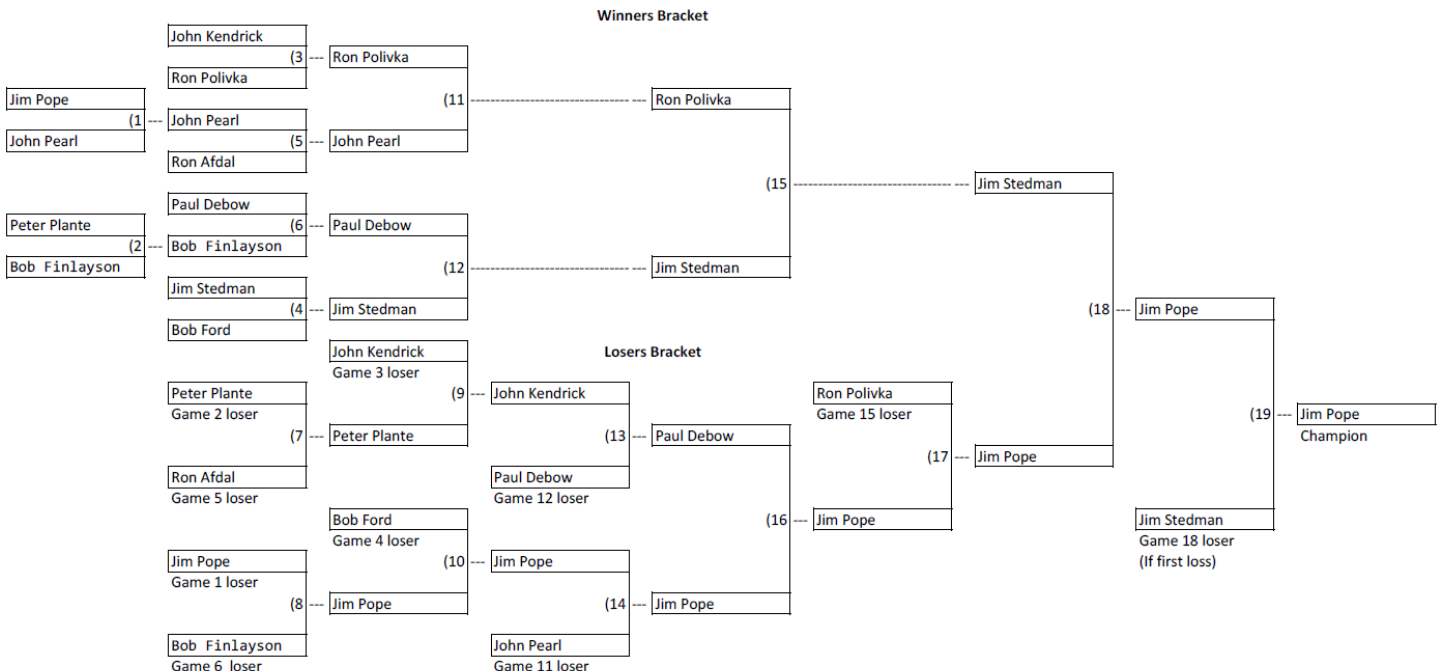
and **Jim Stedman** determined the Champion of Tournament No. 2. The winner crowned was **Jim Pope**.

We'll continue to hold the bi-weekly tournament until we return to Rocco's!

John Pearl, Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

SIR 146 Cribbage Tournament #2
Double Elimination





Playing Cards Online with Trickstercards.com

Bob West

For our SIR 146 Men's Hearts group I had been searching for an online option for weeks. Many were advertised to allow playing with friends, but they either did not have that option, or I could not find it.

However, then I came across Trickstercards.com. Trickstercards.com works. We have been playing hearts now for several weeks. Some of the highlights I see are:

It allows you to play many different types of game like Hearts, Spades, Bridge, Pinochle, Whist, Euchre, Pitch, 500 and Oh Hell.

It has many options to setup a game. For instance, for Hearts it allows:

- Classic, Queen worth 13 points, total points 26, 26 for run, Spade queen breaks hearts.
- Jack of Diamond option, which reduces score in hand by 10 points.
- Hearts with option where Queen of spades does not break hearts.
- 50 option means 50 points are subtracted if you end a hand with 50 or 100 points.

Number of Players: It allows options of 3, 4 or doubles.

You can allow suggestions. This allows the computer to suggest what to pass and play. It would be a good option for beginners to help them learn. I agree with what they suggest about ½ the time, as we all have our own preferences for how to pass and play.

Time limits: You can set time limits to pass and time to play of 7, 15, 30 and 60 seconds. We have this off for now but if you miss the limit, the computer chooses which card to play for you.

They have a partner option, so you can play doubles. There is an option where you can choose your seats so I imagine the person across from you would be your partner.

When you signup you enter an experience level of beginner, average or expert. We believe this is used by the system to match you with players on the web or a computer opponent of similar experience if you are playing by yourself.

I imagine their other card games have similar alternative ways to play.

How to setup a game: The game leader will enter the software and select join game. Then he creates a game and invites friends. If you have already played them you simply click on their name, otherwise you enter their email address. It sends an email to them, that they then click on to enter the game. Games can be scheduled up to 24 hours in advance.

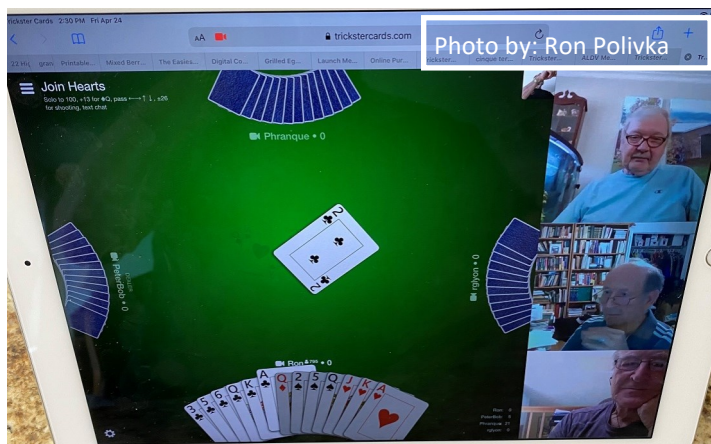
The software has full audio and video (see photo below). You of course need to have a camera/microphone on the pc, laptop or tablet used. If you do not you can manage the game by a conference phone call. We find the video to be interesting but not necessary. However, having audio vastly increases the enjoyment of the game.

Of course, other SIR card groups can use this game, but also consider just like with Zoom, that you can play cards with extended family or friends around the country with video and audio on this application.

There is also the opportunity for you to learn other card games while you now have the time.

I hope you give this software a shot.

Caveats: Simply playing is easy, but if you want audio/video it is best to work with the new person to have them create a login id and password, and ensure they know how and can turn on video. If the pc, laptop or tablet is over 6 years old it may be too slow. Also it works best with Safari, Chrome, Foxfire or the new Edge (came out in February). It does not work with Explorer or the older Edge.



4/24 Hearts game photo of Group 1, Ron Polivka's PC: (Top to Bottom , on right side. **Frank Lucas, Rich Lyon and Bob Finlayson.**



Sir 146 MEN'S Hearts

Bob West

We had our hearts game at our regularly scheduled time and day of 4/16/20, but instead of Rocco's it was in our homes online. We were not able to get video and audio working for two players, so we did have a teleconference call going so we could hear each other's comments as cards were played. Since then we have figured out how to get video and audio on line for everyone.

The first game was pretty close till hand 9 when Rich Lyon "shot the moon" by nearly having only clubs, however that followed with one tough hand and Bob West was able to catch him and win with 71 points, Rich was 2nd with 74 points. It should be noted that Frank started this game but his internet died after hand 3. The computer assigned Beverly to take his place, but she let him down finishing with 110 points.

In game 2, Steve and Frank were battling all the way, with Frank winning with 60 points, and Steve coming in 2nd with 62 points.

In game 3, Bob West was disgusting all the way. He only ended up taking 12 points thru 9 hands, which was the lowest score since last August . Rich Lyon came in 2nd with 53 points.

Monday 4/20: **Ron Polivka, Steve Ybarra** and I, were just going over login issues, and as usual we ended up playing 3 games of hearts. The first game I don't recollect, but **Steve** won the 2nd with 33 points and **Bob** the 3rd with 27 points.

Tuesday 4/21: While setting up **Bob Finlayson**, we played a couple of games, the 2nd having the option of the Jack of diamonds being worth 10 points off your score. Other than forgetting to not use up the high diamonds too early , I was able to follow it, but of course **Bob Finlayson** who had asked for this option, won.

Friday 4/24 meeting: Since we are required to stay at home we are meeting more than once per month, so far once per week. We had fixed our technical issues and brought on four new players so we had two groups of 4 players each, playing 3 games simultaneously .

Group 1: Players were leader **Bob West, Ray Bland, George Sabbagha** and **Steve Ybarra**.

Game 1: This game had the most hands in my

recollection at 13. It was amazing it took so long considering one person Ray only had 42 points, and had 7 hands in a row without a point, 8 in total. I guess he was not fearful of our running skills. George took 2nd with 94 points.

Game 2: This game was the quickest ever at 7 hands. Steve gave Ray some competition until Ray "shot the moon" in the 4th hand. Ray came in first at 25 points, with Steve 2nd with 36 points.

Game 3: **Bob** sorely tried to challenge Ray and was ahead in the 9th hand, but the next hand was a bummer. Ray won with 64 points, and Bob was 2nd with 73 points.



Men's Hearts 2/19/20 (L to R, back to front) : **Frank Lucas, Jim Nelson, Ed Smith, Ron Polivka, Steve Ybarra, Bob West, Rich Lyon**

Group 2: These guys had an interesting day. Players were leader **Rich Lyon, Frank Lucas, Ron Polivka** and **Bob Finlayson** and each player won a game.

Game 1: 3 hands into the game they realized they were playing the version with the jack of diamonds being worth 10 points off your score. Unfortunately, **Frank Lucas** did not have audio, so he did not know. He was doing great but **Ron Polivka** got the jack of diamonds 9 times which is a record, and **Frank** did not get it once. Frank "shot the moon" in the 5th hand. After 15 hands, **Ron** won with 57 points, and **Frank** was 2nd with 61 points..

Game 2: Now they started a new game without the jack of diamonds option, and got **Frank's** video/audio back. **Ron Polivka** "shot the moon" on the 2nd

(Hearts continued on next page)

(4/24 Hearts game continued from prior page)

hand. He is fairly new to hearts and this was his first time “shooting the moon”. **Bob Finlayson** was winning thru the 6th hand when **Frank Lucas** “shot the moon”. On the 8th hand, **Frank Lucas** won with 59 points and **Bob Finlayson** was 2nd with 70 points.

Game 3: **Rich Lyon** was ahead the whole game, especially after he “shot the moon” in the 2nd hand, and again in the 5th hand. **Rich** won on the 6th hand, with 25 points, and **Bob Finlayson** was 2nd with 54 points. This was the quickest game in memory.

Game 4: **Bob Finlayson** was ahead most of the way and sealed it when he “shot the moon” in the 9th hand. **Bob** won on the 10th hand, with 41 points, and **Frank Lucas** was 2nd with 71 points.

We are planning on playing weekly, until SIR activities resume. Email me if you would like to join one of our weekly games. Our next one will be on Friday 5/1.

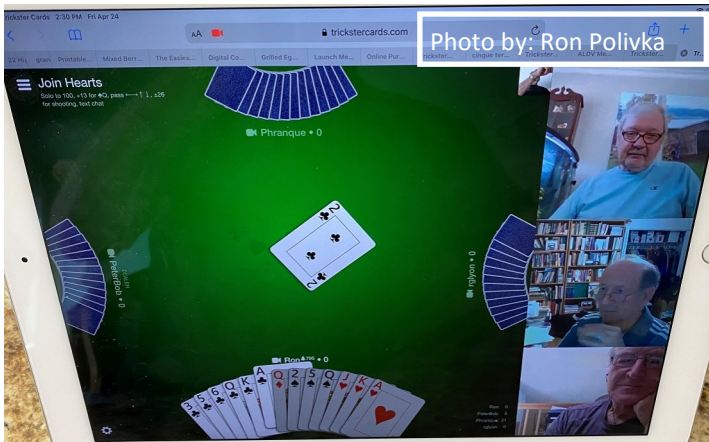
Please call me at 925-518-8472 or email robtawest@aol.com if you have any questions or would like to be added to our group’s email list.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1 Dave Pierce

Last month I mentioned Whist, from which today's Bridge is descended. Whist was popular in the 18th and 19th century, before Bridge, and it is still played today. It is very much like Bridge, but there is no auction and no dummy. Four hands are dealt, and the last card is turned up. That is trump. The player to the dealer's left leads and play proceeds just like bridge. At the end, the team with the most tricks got one point for every trick over six. With experienced players, it was rare to score more than about two; a game ended at five. Many of today's tactics, like finesses, second hand low, third hand high, signals, and counting were common in Whist. It was a gentleman's game and was sometimes played for money. Might be fun to try sometime.

Dave Pierce
932-3877



4/24 Hearts game photo of Group 1, **Ron Polivka's** PC: (Top to Bottom , on right side. **Frank Lucas, Rich Lyon** and **Bob Finlayson**. (Picture repeated from previous report for clarity)



Bridge Online Dave Pierce

A few of you are playing bridge online either in virtual club games (e.g., through the Contra Costa Bridge Center, CCBC) or in "relaxed games," using the free app, Bridge Base Online. CCBC games costs \$4-\$5; relaxed games are free; you can also play solitaire with robots. If you want to know more drop me an email, or check out: <https://www.acbl.org/bbotutorials/>

If you miss our SIR games, either men's or couples duplicate, CCBC can host one for us if there is enough interest. It would cost about \$35, so for 12 players it would be \$3 each. You would not have to be a member of ACBL (and for those of you who are, we likely would not award masterpoints). If there's enough interest I can look into this further please let me know. Branch 146 has an online cribbage game; why should we be left out?

Dave Pierce
932-3877

#Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We're told "no" if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Tony & Cindy Greco hosted our April 7th event in Walnut Creek, but no one came. There were no traffic issues so everyone would have arrived on time. All our dedicated regulars were available to play, so no subs were needed. **Tony** offered the best wines from his wine cellar to accompany **Cindy's** snacks which included Jalapeno Artichoke dip w/crackers, her homemade spinach squares, cheese & crackers, pineapple squares, mixed nuts, and dark chocolate almond bark, but nobody showed up to enjoy the offerings.

Nobody discussed or shared any insights on the COVID-19, nor any COVID-19 experiences they had. At the end of the evening, **Cindy** offered her famous chocolate lava cake with ice cream and coffee, but nobody was there to enjoy it. However, **Tony & Cindy** enjoyed the dessert every day for the rest of the week.

Many not so good things didn't happen on this bridge night, like:

- ◆ Nobody made any bidding error
- ◆ Nobody played with 12 or 14 cards
- ◆ Nobody under or over bid their hand
- ◆ Nobody made any scoring or addition errors
- ◆ Nobody had to play down to their partners level
- ◆ Nobody got unsolicited opinions on what they should have done
- ◆ Nobody had to tolerate their opponents "table talking" during bidding or playing of a hand
- ◆ Nobody missed a slam
- ◆ Nobody had to concentrate or focus
- ◆ Nobody had a heated discussion on who's right or wrong
- ◆ Nobody stopped speaking to their partner except for bidding
- ◆ Nobody rode home in silence
- ◆ Nobody had to listen to a bridge lesson on the way home, either

I offer my apologies to anyone who may resemble any of these occurrences. At the end of play everyone was tied at 0 points, but the hosts quickly invoked party bridge **Rule 1.3.a** whereby the hosts are awarded 250 points for hosting.



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

No Games Scheduled

Dave Pierce
932-3877

dwpi@astound.net



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 2

Bill Schultz

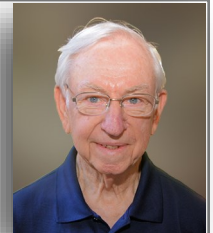
No Games Scheduled



Party Bridge

**Jim Pope &
Jim Stedman**

No Games Scheduled



The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 250 points
- 2nd thru 6th PLACE with 0 points - EVERYONE ELSE

Awarded prize money for 1st Place was the \$2 which the hosts themselves had put into the pot. Oh, I almost forgot, Jerry dumped his new partner Linda and went back to playing with Christine. (Note: This would only make sense to you if you've been paying attention to my past articles.)

Next month's event which is scheduled for May 5th at **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean** may be cancelled due to the ceasing of all SIR activities until further notice, in response to the COVID-19

Tony & Cindy Greco
(925) 934-0395

almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



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.

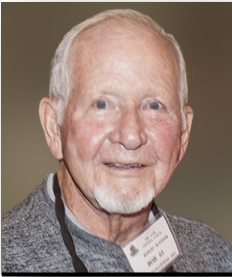
Due to State SIR, local Health Department and Governor directive, we are currently prohibited from play. Upon relaxation of the prohibitions, we will resume play.

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

Brad Hatcher

Tel: (925) 935-1571

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Poker Group 2
Bob Royster

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 3
Sig Kalteis

No Games Scheduled



Poker Group 4

Rich Hanford

No Games Scheduled



Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

No Games Scheduled

The first word you see is where you are going in May.

N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E
O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N
W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O
H	E	R	A	B	S	O	L	U	T	E	Y	O	W
E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H
R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E
E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R
N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E
O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N
W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O
H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W
E	R	E	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	N	O	W	H



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

No Play Scheduled until Further Notice

As many know, Boundary Oak is hoping to reopen for play on May 4th. The state SIR organization has enacted new rules for opening all activities because of our age group. These new rules are meant to keep our members safe from COVID 19. There is hope we can play as individuals at Boundary Oak in May and as SIR 146 golf in June. Perhaps this is just a glimmer of hope at this time, but golf would allow for physical distancing much more readily than other activities like dining, bridge or dominos.

I'd like to thank Mike Ash, the GM of Boundary Oak, for being responsive to my requests for information on their plans. I suspect that those of us who can get out to play are in for a treat despite the unusual circumstances.

But it has been two months off, and we can get a little rusty and maybe we are a bit stiffer than we were. Thinking about what I need to do to loosen my bones, I searched You Tube for senior flexibility exercises and found this video from Titleist Performance Institute on exercises for seniors. <https://youtu.be/XtJAZjOvuaM>. One interesting comment is a recommendation that flexibility exercises should represent 10% of your workout for each decade of life. If you are 70, you have entered your eighth decade.



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



"Forget the water, give me some golf clubs. I haven't swung a club in days."

Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?



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.



Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

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

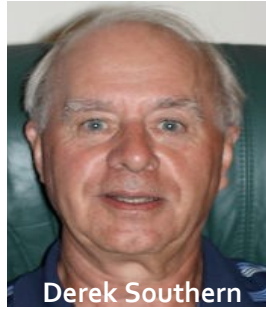
Area 16 \$ums Investment Group

No Meeting until further notice

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

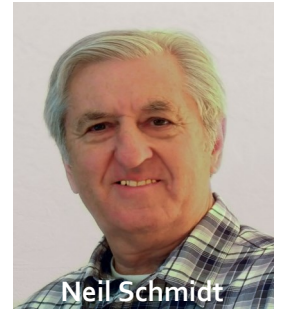
I miss the days when we were terrified of Romaine
Lettuce!

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

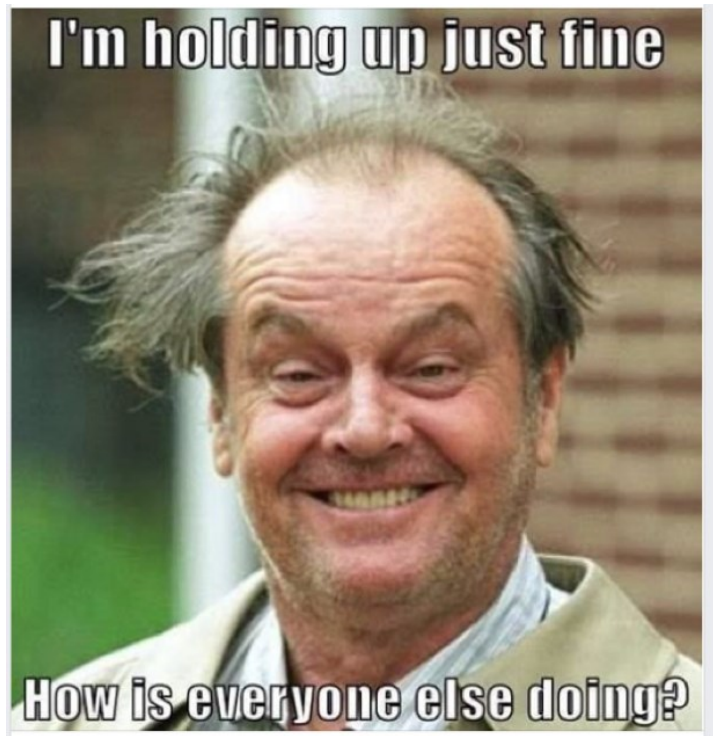
PCs



Neil Schmidt

The SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology group will be meeting "virtually" via Zoom on Thursday, May 21 at 9:30 AM. The presentation topic for the meeting will be "Algorithms & Machine Learning" by Dean Steichen. There has been lots of discussion in the news about automatic decisions made by companies based on their algorithms and machine learning methods. Dean will help explain what this means and how it is being used.

Members will need to be on the SIR Area 16 Computer & Tech email list in order to receive the necessary Zoom meeting web-link. If you are not already on our email list, send an email request to: sirarea2cat@gmail.com.



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

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

Lynn Schafer

Early on in the "plague", we ran out of Charmin gold (TP), and my wife, (ever resourceful) decided her failsafe was Amazon Prime. So she ordered TP. Logical, right? 3+ weeks later, it finally arrived, you guessed it, from CHINA !!!!. (compact little rolls with no interior tube). (will we ever break this supply chain????)

Max Hinkle

Decided to paint an ugly corner of the garage as one of our many SIP projects. See photo top right. Ended up painting all the walls with a lot of help from my bride. Moving on to the ceiling. How did I ever have time for golf and bridge!



Max Hinkle painting garage project during shutdown.

Carl Tilchen

We are all separated & we all care about each other. I suggest that we have a chain phone call with all members. Using our member roster, the 1st Sir calls the 2nd Sir & then the 2nd Sir calls the 3rd Sir & so on. Each call is brief to ask "How are you? & exchange greetings. I feel that this will continue to unite our wonderful SIR Branch 146. The roster is already on our website.

Ross Abbott

With all the bad news we are bombarded with I have some good news. I have installed a webcam and successfully joined the SIR fishing group meeting on Zoom yesterday. Time to celebrate. I also have seen the "fiduciary" video required of BEC members and I am "on board"



Try on your clothes at least once a week. PJs and sweats give you a feeling that everything is okay when it isn't.