



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

October—November 2023



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Wilkenfeld

Inflation, how I hate that word! Prices seem to have gone up on everything – gasoline is ~\$6/gallon; a sit-down lunch is well over \$25; lumber prices continue to soar; and repair labor at auto dealerships is over \$200/hour. So, it is not surprising that our Branch's budget is experiencing considerable pressure. Despite cutbacks in our expenditure plan, we are still running a deficit of over \$1000 this year. And the State SIR organization just informed us that the member assessment for 2024 which mainly covers our liability insurance will be going up by 25%.

At the October Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meeting, your leaders looked at various ways to balance the 2024 budget. Even after making budget reductions of \$800, we still forecast a year-end deficit of over \$1000. The BEC will continue to look for opportunities to reduce expenses next year, but, unfortunately, we will have to raise the membership dues next year to \$35. I won't try to "sugar-coat" the increase in dues, but I still think the cost of membership in SIR is a bargain. If you agree with me, please consider adding an additional, voluntary, donation to our coffers when you pay your 2024 dues.

"What about the cost of the monthly meals next year," you ask? The good news is that, working with Boundary Oak, we will be holding the line on the price. Meals at next year's regular meetings will remain \$36; with no reduction in services, quality or quantity. Once again, we will also offer members the option of pre-paying for 8 meals and receiving 10 regular meals.

The New Chef at Boundary Oak

Late last month, **John Alexander** (Treasurer), Ste-

ve Oki (Luncheon Chair), several others, and I met with the General Manager, Head Chef, and the Beverage and Event Coordinators of Boundary Oak to discuss the quality of service and food we have been receiving. We were blunt about the poor quality of food we experienced during the first half of this year. The improvement in meal quality we have noticed recently is the result of a new Head Chef. Prior to joining Boundary Oak, the current chef held positions of increasing responsibility at Cisco and Facebook. She was clear that her goal was to serve meals that were "tasty and elegant." In addition, she was very receptive to our requests for more diversity in the entrees and seasonal menus. I look forward to enjoying the changes she will introduce at our luncheons.

Inflation is taxation without legislation.

– Milton Friedman

Inflation is when you pay fifteen dollars for the ten-dollar haircut you used to get for five dollars when you had hair

– Sam Ewing

Inflation is getting so bad that I can't even pay attention.

– Anonymous

Bob Wilkenfeld

Big Sir, Branch 146

SIR Monthly Luncheon
Thursday, November 9th, 2023
Boundary Oak 11:30

John Elstead Honoring our Veterans!

A reservation is required!

To make yours and choose your entree go to page 3.
(click this box)



Little Sir's Corner John Kluesener

Our speaker Mark Treska gave us the history of wine making in Livermore Valley dating back to 1840 when the first grapes were planted in the Valley. Growth was slow at first with only

13 wineries in 1993 but the popularity of wine and the fertility of the region saw that number nearly double to 25 wineries in 2003 and again to 50 wineries today. Tastings and wine paring meals are part of the culture of the area. The presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by our 106 guests!



In November we will honor our veterans with a presentation by one of our own, **John Elstead** who was a Navy pilot and flew nearly 200 missions over Vietnam. He was attached to the same carrier group as John Glenn and spent time with the Navy Blue Angels. He has a number of great photos and stories to relate about his experiences. You will want to hear this presentation! We will also have the missing man table honoring those lost in combat and will be singing the songs of all of the services. It will be a fun afternoon!!

John Kluesener
Little Sir, Branch 146



Current Officers and Directors

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

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Larry Kaye
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edwards Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.

2024 Officers-Elect

Big Sir.....	John Kluesener
Little Sir.....	Bob Ford
Secretary	Don Shaw
Assistant Secretary	John Rexroat
Treasurer	Mike Rothman
Assistant Treasurer	Tom Amann
Director 4th Term	Ed Brands
Director 3rd Term	Mark Curtis
Director 3rd Term	Randy Graham
Director 1st Term	John Alexander
Director 2nd Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Don Rhoads



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

October's luncheon was well attended with 106 attendees (103 members, 2 guests and 1 speaker). We had a good speaker representing the Livermore Valley Wine Growers (Mark Triska) who gave us a background on wine growing in the Livermore Valley. We also elected a new BEC board for the coming year. In November, we will be honoring our Veterans. Please plan on attending.

Please note that we depend on you giving us a reservation as Boundary Oak will only produce a few extra plates (5–6 on average) than what we give as our reservations number. If you walk in without a reservation, we cannot guarantee you will get a meal or a choice of a meal that you want. If you find you have a problem using the links on the menu, just send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com and send us your menu choice (meat, fish, or vegetarian)

It is always best to let us know you are coming or not even if you are late with your reservation or cancellation. All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

Date: November 9th, 2023

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$36 per person

Reservation: All Luncheons require a reservation; you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. The menu on the right makes this easy for you to do this; simply click the appropriate link.

If you do not reserve by Friday, November 3rd by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

Reservations are acknowledged by return email.

Check-In: 11:00 am The meeting starts at 11:30 am

Payment: The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check-in.

Other matters

If you don't have email, you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to include your meal choice from the menu!

Change of Plans? If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel until

Friday, November 3rd by Noon

and you will not be charged.

Send email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please call Steve at 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



SIR 146 November Luncheon

Thursday, November 9th, 2023

Salad

Mandarin Orange Salad
Spinach, Parmesan, Raisins, Poppysed Dressing

Entrées

Oven Roasted Turkey

Creamy Smashed Potatoes, Classic Herb Dressing,
Carrots, Turkey Gravy

—or—

Lemon Herb Baked Cod

Creamy Smashed Potatoes, Carrots, Zesty Lemon
Garlic Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Creamy Tuscan Ravioli

Butternut Squash Ravioli in a Creamy Sundried
Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Mocha Cream Cake

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée!

Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Big shout out and a hearty Thank You to everyone who got their articles in in a timely matter last month. Your editors managed the tight schedule due to vacations and meeting timing just fine and

SIRCall hit the stands right on time!

The deadline for submissions for the November-December issue is **November 19th** with the Thanksgiving weekend but again, please be on time as we are planning on being busy carving turkey on Thursday and, according to our wives, shopping on Friday!

We are still looking for a proof reader; someone who is willing to devote a couple of hours each month to reading over the coming issue of SIRCall looking for errors, spelling, grammatical, factual to alert us before we publish. It is a relatively small commitment but it is vital in helping us maintain the quality of this publication. Interested? Shoot me an email and we can talk about it.

If you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SIRCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next issue.

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

On behalf of your Newsletter Group
I want to wish you all a...



Membership George Mon

There were no new members for October.

Dues for 2024 have been raised to \$35 and the dues letters have been mailed out. Also, if you elect to pay an annual

amount for the luncheons, the cost will be \$288. You will get 10 lunches for the price of 8.

Additionally, you will be able to donate anonymously to the Branch at any amount. See the Big Sir's Corner article in this newsletter.

Please note that dues are waived for Senior Sirs who have reached 90 years of age prior to January 1, 2024. Also, Honorary Life Members (HLM) dues are waived.

It is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

The 2023 membership count is 249.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website www.sir146.com and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

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

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

George Mon
925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

SIRCall Newsletter Group

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



Ladies Day Luncheon
Steve Ybarra

The Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon will be held on Thursday December 14, 2023. The cost for this event is \$39 per person. Doors open at 10:30am and SIR and their guests can socialize until 11:30am which is when the luncheon will be called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations with the below form must be sent to **Steve Ybarra** and received by December 6, 2023. Please use the reservation form provided in this SIRCall and make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$39.00 per person.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



SIR 146
December Ladies Day Luncheon
 Thursday December 14th, 2023

Salad
 Seasonal Salad

Entrées
Seared Marinate Bistro Fillet
 Caramelized Shallot au jus
 Mashed potatoes
 Seasonal Vegetables

—or—
Pan Seared Farm Raised Salmon
 Confetti Rice Pilaf
 Seasonal Vegetables

—or—
Manicotti
 Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert
Red Velvet Cake

For the Ladies Luncheon events you need to use the reservation form.
 The click to reserve menu will resume with the January Luncheon.



SIR 146 Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, December 14th, 2023

Number of Tickets _____ at \$39 ea. Amount Enclosed \$_____ We are sitting with: _____

Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Total Paid" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check made payable to SIR Branch 146 to:

Steve Ybarra
 142 Leonard Dr.
 Concord, CA 94518-1213.

#	F Name, L Name	Beef Fillet	Salmon	Vegetarian Manicotti	Total Paid
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

*There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!
 Reservations must be received by December 6th.*



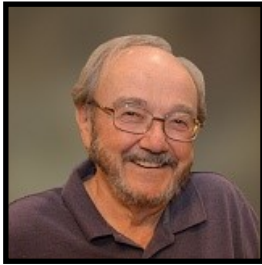
Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



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

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*



Jim Barry

Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Brian J. Downie	2017	6
Ron Afdal	2014	9
Frank Barton	2014	9
Richard Hockenbrock	2012	11
Al Munayer	2009	14
Ron Louis	2008	15 Years
Russ Anderson	2005	18
Joe Barry	2005	18
Ron Plachy	2005	18
Bill Snyder	1997	26
Bob Yolland	1997	26
Don Nunn	1994	29
Jack Calloway	1992	31 Years

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

John Aaro
John Boyan
Jim Brown
James Browning
Don Dotson
John Elstead
Hugh Ferguson

Bob Greulich
Richard Hockenbrock
Dan Holland
Siegfried Kalteis
John Kendrick
Ronald Louis
Frank Lucas

Pete Mcneill
Denny O'Loughlin
Rich Pace
Cliff Perkins
Don Rhoads
Daniel Schlatter
Ken Sout

Lewis Thompson
Bob Wilkenfeld
Aaron Needel
Rex Rexroat
Howard Herbert



SEPTEMBER 2023 LUNCH

Photos by Henry Thatcher



Little Sir John Kluesener and Luncheon Guest Speaker—
Nick Brokaw



Guest Speaker Nick Brokaw—Speaking on the California
legislative process









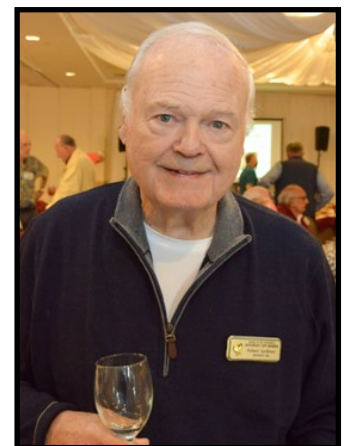
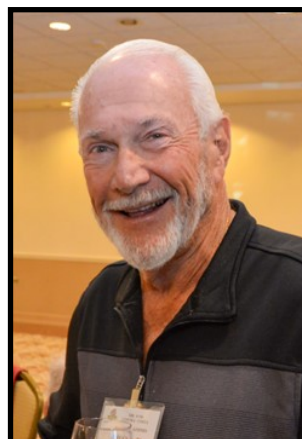






October SIR meeting

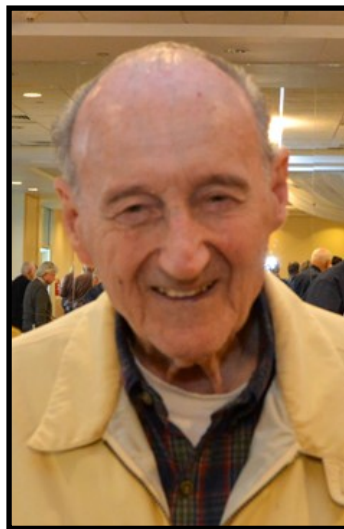
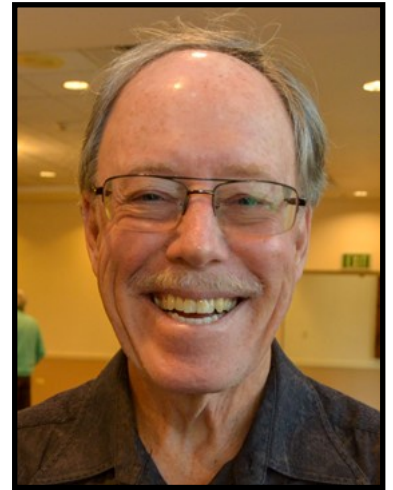
Pictures by Henry Thatcher











NOTES

from Our Members

From your Editor...

A series of event's this past month got me interested in how you, our SIR members, access this newsletter and the organization's website as well as the internet in general.

The internet has become a part of our presence, changing how we communicate as much, if not more that the telephone did a century ago. How we access it and how much we use it defines a lot of who we are.

So... I want to follow this up... with a quick survey. I'm interested in knowing how the members of SIR access the internet, what ISP (Internet Service Provider) you use, how effective it is and how much this access costs. The survey DOES NOT collect any personal information about you, only a few questions about your internet service. It does ask you to perform an internet speed (performance) test that will evaluate your service by asking you to go (in your browser) to this [speed test web page](#), which, if you haven't done one before, you may find interesting.

I hope you will help in this endeavor by taking this survey. I will publish the results in a future issue of SIRCall so you can see how you measure up against others with your chosen service.

To begin the survey, it is only a half dozen or so questions, simply click on this button. Thanks in advance for your participation!



HOW I WANT TO WAKE UP IN HEAVEN





Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator
Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

Hi all.....A big shout out goes to the all the individual activity chairs. Thank you for all your work. You make SIR 146 the success that it is for our members.

Here are some of the recent Activity updates for SIR 146

1. We currently have 43 Activities. 25 of which are co-ed. Interested in doing something new or something that will further enrich your life? Then please visit SIR146.com . There you will find details on all of our Activities and related contact information.
2. A dining out event is coming up on Wednesday, Nov. 15th. If interested, please contact **Bruce Borgman** (bgborgman@aol.com) before the event sells out. See the Couples Dining Out section that follows for details.
3. A SIR 146 Holiday Happy Hour Event is planned for Thursday, Nov. 7th at Yard House Restaurant in the Veranda shopping center. Thanks to all that have already sent in their money. Openings are still available for this event. See the following Travel Section for details and if interested, email me: glennbreslin@gmail.com.
4. Interested in attending the annual Ladies Holiday Lunch at Boundary Oak on Thursday, Nov. 14th? Then check out the upcoming announcement from **Steve Ybarra** (sjybar@gmail.com) and the announcement on [page 5](#) of this issue of SIRCall.
5. The following Activities are looking for new members. They are willing to train and orchestrate practice sessions for prospective new members Please contact glennbreslin@gmail.com if you are interested:
 - Hearts
 - Cribbage
 - Mexico Train Dominoes
 - Poker Groups
6. If you are interested in watching the 49ers at a sports bar with other SIRs, then let me know glennbreslin@gmail.com. Dates and Venues are currently being planned.
7. To SIR Ladies: If you are not on the SIR Activity email list, please contact me and I will add you.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

Did you ever take a nap so good you that you thought you missed the school bus... but it's Sunday... and your 72.

Driver: "What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?"
Officer, "Keep it. When you collect four of them, you get a bicycle."



Theater Glenn Breslin

The Theater group has identified the following upcoming Musical shows at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek, which is conveniently located and reasonably priced..



Mystic Pizza

- Date: Thu, Feb 22, 2024 - Time: 7:30 PM
- 16 seats in the Orchestra Rows L,M,N - \$48 per person. Guests are welcome.
- The story centers around the lives of three young working-class waitresses at the Mystic Pizza shop in Mystic, Connecticut. The script includes very familiar 1980s songs by such well-known artists as John Mellencamp, Van Morrison, Melissa Etheridge and others around an engaging true to life story. The story drives the show, and the music enhances the love for the characters and their journey.

Cabaret

- Date: Thu, June 20, 2024 - Time: 7:30 PM
- 20 seats in the Orchestra Rows E and F - \$36 per person. Guests are welcome.

- Set in 1929–1930 Berlin during the twilight of the Jazz Age as the Nazis ascend to power. The musical focuses on the hedonistic nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around American writer Clifford Bradshaw's relations with English cabaret performer Sally Bowles. The club itself serves as a metaphor for ominous political developments in Pre-WW2 Germany.

Both Shows

- Location: Leshner Theater, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek.
- Parking in Adjacent Parking Lot.
- If you would like to attend, please mail your check, made out to SIR 146 to: Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, 94549

Glenn Breslin

glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity as well as contact information

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 1](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar November 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30	31	Nov 1	2	3
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3	9:00am Golf	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am Nine Hole Golf-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
6	7	8	9	10
9:45am–3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	9:00am Birding Heather Farms birding pond 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's	9:00am–10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am–1:00pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
13	14	15	16	17
10:00am Hiking 11:30am–1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	9:00am–11:00am Photography Group Rocco's 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 5:30pm Couples Dining Out SanDai Restaurant 1522 N. Main St. W.C. 7:00pm–10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	7:30am–9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am Nine Hole Golf-2 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3
20	21	22	23	24
10:00am Hiking 10:00am–3:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 1 11:30am–1:30pm Tres Gourmet 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	12:30pm–3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's	9:30am Nine Hole Golf-3	12:00pm–3:30pm Hearts Rocco's 6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
27	28	29	30	Dec 1
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf			10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2



**Travel
Glenn Breslin**



**SIR Holiday Party at the Yard House,
Concord**

Please join your fellow SIR members at the SIR146 Holiday Party.

- Date: Thu, Dec 7, 2023
- SIRS and their guests are welcome.
- Restaurant: Yard House Restaurant at Veranda Shopping Center.
- Address: 2005 Diamond Boulevard, Concord, CA.
 - 3 to 4 PM Optional Cocktail Hour at the Bar.
 - 4 to 6 PM designated table with seats and a standing area for Happy Hour Appetizers Buffet.
 - Food included in the price, please buy drinks at the bar.
- Park in the Veranda Parking Lot next to the Yard House Restaurant
- Happy Hour Buffet Menu: Caesar Salad, Fried Calamari, Sliders & Fries, Pizza, Nachos and Dessert.
- Limit 40 people
- \$38 for the SIR and \$38 for their significant other. \$19 for guests. Limit 2 guests per each SIR.
- Reduced guest price is an incentive to bring your friends interested in joining SIRs.
- Make Out Check to SIR146. Send check to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, 94549

Two 2024 European Trips Scheduled

Trip	Dates	Cost	Includes
Best of Spain and Portugal	4/27/24 to 5/12/24	\$7395	Airfare and 15 day guided trip, highlighting the top sites in Spain and Portugal. 5 dinners, 15 breakfasts, 2 lunches. Includes Tips.
Memorials of WW 2	9/6/24 to 9/15/24	\$4972	Airfare and 10 day guided trip, highlighting WW2 events in England (Blitz), Normandy (D-day) and Paris (Nazi Occupation). 9 breakfasts and 4 dinners.

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



When my wife picks a restaurant that I don't like I just say "Oh, yeah, that's where that really cute girl works."

Problem solved!



Birding Frank Lucas

Our recent Birding outing took place at the Waterbird Regional Preserve/McNabney Marsh near Martinez, on Oct. 11, 2023, 8:00am Stationary, tripod-mounted, "scopes" assisted in our viewing and photography. A spectacular morning! Many inland birds and many, many shore birds,

- 40 Canada Geese
- 12 Mute Swans
- 2 Cinnamon Teal
- 40 Northern Shoveler
- 12 Mallards
- 4 Green-winged Teal,
- Mourning Dove
- 30 Black-necked Stilts
- 70 American Avocets
- 2 Killdeer
- 5 Long-billed Dowitcher
- 4 Willets
- 2 California Gulls
- 3 Double-crested Cormorants
- 24 American White Pelican
- 2 Great Egrets
- 22 Snowy Egret
- 2 Turkey Vultures
- 1 Red-tailed Hawk
- 2 Black Phoebes
- 1 Common Raven
- 1 Tree Swallow
- 1 Northern Mockingbird
- 2 White-crowned Sparrows
- 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows
- 1 White-throated Sparrow
- 6 Red-winged Blackbirds,
- 3 Great-tailed Grackle
- 10 Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitchers



Tools of the Trade



Ted Robertson, Pete Gates, Steve Loftin,
Dick DeVoe, & Frank Lucas



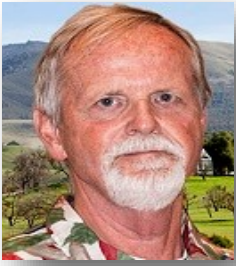
You see what?



Birding at Waterbird Regional Park

Our October captures

Frank Lucas



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15th at Rocco's at 9 AM with coffee and donuts gathering at 8:45 AM. We request a donation of \$2.00 to cover the coffee that Rocco's provides us as well as the free use of the room for our meeting.

The November 15th meeting will comprise of a presentation / discussion from Andrew, who is the Manager of Mike's Camera in Pleasant Hill. He will talk about the latest and greatest camera equipment in 2023 plus other services that they provide to the photographer community.

Ron Polivka will have some photos to share from his recent journey to Spain and Italy. Moose will be presenting photographs from the Reno Ballon Race which will dazzle your viewing senses. Plus there will be a lot of discussion on other topics that I will keep you in suspense.

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

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

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com

I named by dogs Timex and Rolex.
They're my watchdogs!



Bocce John Kendrick

The 2023 SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity is officially complete with many regulars plus a few new members who enjoyed this great outdoor activity.



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

Mark in your calendar May 13 as the official start of the 2024 SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

Table Pool Jim Barry

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested joining the fun contact Jim for complete information



Reported by Jim Barry
jbarry@sbcglobal.net



146 Hiking Mark Curtis

Now that the weather has gone to more moderate temperatures, we can expand our horizons and explore venues that are a bit too warm in late spring, summer, or early fall. Ray recently led a hike in Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park, and all feedback was positive with respect to temperature and beauty of the hike. Other hikes over the past month have been in Briones, Round Valley, and Crockett Hills to name a few. Overall, participation has been fabulous! The typical turnout has been between 6 and 10 with up to 13. With the forecasted El Nino winter about to approach, we might have a few cancellations due to rain. but I won't complain about that!

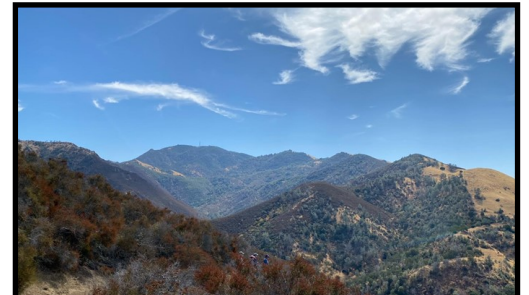
I'm including 3 photos, one of which was taken by my daughter in SW Utah of the recent annular eclipse. The other 2 are from the group hike in Mount Diablo State Park on the Black Point trail.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

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

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

What are you doing on Thursday Morning? Why don't you come out and join us for nine holes of golf and stay for lunch? Our group tees off at 9:30am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com





AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

The speaker at our September meeting was **Evan Sawyer**, a naturalist at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Sacramento.

He spoke at length about the status of the Delta and how the NOAA tracks electronically tagged fish that live in the Delta.

Paul Dubow made a nostalgic trip back to Wisconsin, where he lived prior to moving to the East Bay in 1970. Between 1967 and 2017, **Paul** and a group of his former Milwaukee neighbors made an annual trip to a lake in northern Wisconsin to fish for walleye, bass, and muskies and—of course---to drink beer. The annual trek ended after the last member retired, but the surviving members decided to have a last reunion this year. There were no muskies and very little beer drinking, but there were lots of walleyes and bass. **Paul** personally caught and released 23 fish and one of his companions landed a 22-inch largemouth bass.

As we have reported in previous columns, rockfishing is once again limited to areas more than 300 feet deep. And so, **Carl Moyer**, **Bob Lively**, **Bob Stein**, and **Alan Yan** sailed out on the *Sea Wolf* to the Farallones, where the ocean is more than 300 feet deep, and the rockfish are much larger. They were rewarded with a bevy of large rockfish and ling cod. The highlight of the trip occurred when a blue shark grabbed a rockfish doubleheader that **Carl** was reeling in. Adding the shark to the weight of the line caused the line to break. But **Carl** prevailed as the deckhand was able to gaff one of the rockfish before the shark swallowed it.



The rockfish limitation, combined with the ban on salmon fishing, led **Carl Moyer** to try a new venue. He fished for sand dabs. They are a lot smaller than salmon and the large rockfish, but they taste pretty good!

Tom Kostik departed from his twice weekly trips to the Delta and traveled to Pinecrest Lake in the Sierras, where he caught and released over fifteen rainbow trout and forty black bass.

Fishing in San Pablo Reservoir is coming to an end soon, as the lake closes for its annual winter hiatus. However, **Carl Moyer** and **Bob Lively** dropped by for what might be their last trip of the year to the lake and caught some nice catfish.

After the September meeting ended, the fishmasters stayed on to plan the 2024 calendar. We are going to have a full schedule. This includes regular trips to the Delta for bass and stripers; San Francisco Bay for halibut, leopard sharks, and stripers; San Pablo Reservoir for trout and catfish, the Farallones for rockfish; Lake Almanor for trout; New Melones Reservoir and Stampede Reservoir for kokanee; various lakes in the Sierras for trout and kokanee; and the annual five-day foray for big fish out of San Diego. And if the salmon season reopens, there will be lots of charter trips in the ocean.

Our next meeting will be on November 30 at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but come earlier for breakfast (beginning at 7 am) for camaraderie and fish stories. All SIR members are welcome, even if one has never fished before or has not fished for a long time and all SIR members are invited on our outings. If you have no equipment, we will lend you ours. For further information, call fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510.504.3566.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566

Have you heard about the guy who could throw a stick so far that it took his dog an hour to bring it back?

No, I haven't.

Sounds a little far-fetched to me!



SongSirs

Peter Plante

The SongSirs went to Ivy Park Retirement Home on October 19th and sang for an appreciative group of senior citizen residents. We led off with “Stout hearted Men” as we marched in to the main Living area. They have a great piano there and Steve Dinning serenaded everyone before and after our performance. Sounded great, Steve! The first song was George Burns’ “I Wish I Was 18 Again” which drew an appreciative sigh of recognition. A good time was had by all. Our closing numbers were the SIR version of “Thanks For The Memories” followed by “God Bless America.” The activities director asked when we could come back, so we are booked for December 7th to sing our Christmas program.

Our next rehearsal is on November 1st at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. We will be rehearsing the Armed Forces medley in preparation for the Veterans Day luncheon on November 9th. We are always looking for new members.

Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

.Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



Ron Lew, Brad Hatcher, Bruce Kimmis, Frank Lucas, Peter Plante



Peter Plante, Bruce Kimmis, Paul Beretz (Master of Ceremonies), Brad Hatcher, Steve Dinning, Frank Lucas, Ron Lew



Dixieland Band

Ross Abbott

Our meeting on October 25th was another fun event!

Our little band is still only four members strong and we would certainly like to expand the band so that more can enjoy our toe-tapping sessions.

Current instruments are piano, trombone, banjo and stump fiddle.

If you don't know what a stump fiddle is, it is worth coming just to hear and see that.

We are now taking a break until the New Year. Happy Holidays!.

Ross Abbott

925.939.1121 rossabbott@hotmail.com





Book Group

John Pearl

The SIR Branch 146 Book Group met in late September and reviewed our book of the month, *Midnight's Furies, The Deadly Legacy*

of *India's Partition* by Nisid Hajari:

Midnight's Furies is a masterful account of one of the most consequential and tragic events in modern history. The book chronicles the partition of India and the riots and other violence that followed, which resulted in the deaths of millions of people and the displacement of millions more.

The two main characters are Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, and Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. The two men had much in common, both being proud, rigid men who were thin skinned. Neither was religious. Jinnah, a Muslim, drank alcohol and ate pork. He went to mosques to give speeches, not pray,. Nehru, a Hindu, was openly secular and was given to blame religious zealotry for many of India's problems. But, notwithstanding their secularism, they were both skilled at exploiting the fears and prejudices of their more devout followers, and they disliked each other intensely. Neither was a true statesman.

The tense relationship between Nehru and Jinnah has spilled over to the tense relationship that exists today between their two countries. That relationship was not helped by the nature of the border between them, which was drawn by Cyril Radcliffe, a British lawyer with no prior experience in India or Pakistan. He was given just five weeks to draw a border that would divide a subcontinent of over 400 million people, and it was a disaster. It divided provinces, villages, and even families. It led to widespread violence and bloodshed, and the two countries still dispute the fate of Kashmir, now divided by the "Line of Control," with the armies of the two countries controlling this "temporary" border to avoid further bloodshed.

Nehru was a flawed leader, but he was also a visionary. He laid the foundation for India's democracy and its economic development.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah was a brilliant barrister and a shrewd politician. He was the driving force behind the creation of Pakistan. Jinnah was a complex and controversial figure. He was a staunch secularist who believed in religious freedom, but he also used religious

rhetoric to mobilize support for Pakistan.

Hajari's writing is vivid and engaging. He brings the events of partition to life with a cinematic flair. He also does an excellent job of explaining the complex political and social forces that led to the partition. Perhaps our only criticism is that he gives the British somewhat of a pass. Archibald Wavell and Louis Mountbatten, who served as the British governor generals during the negotiations leading up to partition, did give sensible advice to the two protagonists, but the author does not provide much information about Britain's treatment of the subcontinent's citizens prior to the partition.

Midnight's Furies is an essential read for anyone who wants to understand the partition of India and its legacy. It is a powerful and moving book that will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

Our next book is *Sleeper Agent, The Atomic Spy in America Who Got Away*, by Ann Hagedorn. It is the story of a Russian agent who successfully infiltrated the US Manhattan Project in the race to build the atomic bomb.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearljr@gmail.com



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in December for the Christmas Luncheon. Bring back the ones you borrowed and take home some new books.





寿司の友達
Sushi no tomodachi
Clint Collier
Coming up!

Blue Ginkgo

Our next adventure in sushi needed to be postponed a week from our regular scheduled third Thursday of the month to October 26th due to a conflict with the Explore and Eat group's tour of the USS Potomac/ Therefore our report on Lafayette's Blue Ginkgo Izakaya and Sushi will need to wait until next month.

Looking into the distant but coming future, our final adventure of the year will come on the Winter Solstice, December 21. What interesting sushi will Santa bring us? That will be decided at the coming October meeting but put the date on your calendar now or you may find a lump of coal in your stocking.

Clint Collier
 925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



It's been months since I bought the book
 "How to Scam People Online".
 It still hasn't arrive yet!.



Cooking II **Steve Ybarra**

Ken Richter hosted our September lunch in his home's beautiful backyard. The group enjoyed one of the last days of summer listening to sounds of the waterfall. After appetizers and wine, lunch was served. It

was a Lemon Artichoke Ozaa Salad with shrimp and Cheesy Bread. Ken's famous dessert was next, as usual, the Whalen Whip.



L-R Dennis Hallett, Richard Hockenbrock, Ken Richter and Corrie Oranje. Photo by Steve Ybarra

Steve Ybarra



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

First, let me report that our September Dining event at Massimo's was a wonderful occasion where we enjoyed a good meal and a great social experience. The restaurant accom-

modated our request to have eight of our diners seated downstairs so they did not have to climb the stairs, and also provided an appetizer of bruschetta at no additional cost. You will find a number of pictures of our group having a grand old time in this issue of SIRCall.

Now, for the really big news! I am pleased to be able to announce our selection for the November Couples Dining Out event—scheduled for Wed. November 15.

As a true Foodie I am never one to mince words when describing the menu for our restaurant selection, but this time I am really excited about this end-of-year restaurant choice.

We will be going to SanDai restaurant in Walnut Creek—one which provides Nusantara California fusion cuisine. Nusantara is the Indonesian name of Southeast Asia, and the cuisine includes aspects of Indonesian, Malaysian, Singapore, southern Thailand and the Philippines culinary traditions.

Sue and I ate at this new restaurant well over a month ago, but since at that time the dishes were sharable, we did not think it would do for our group. A week or so ago the restaurant contacted me again and in discussions with the event manager and chef, they offered to prepare a special menu for our group—one which you will see attached. The opening of this unique restaurant, located in the space formerly occupied by Prima restaurant in Walnut Creek, and had been anticipated by Bay Area restaurant reviews for over two years. Under the leadership of executive chef Nora Haron—with an impressive resume at several other Bay Area restaurants—we will have a meal which is truly unlike any other we have enjoyed since we started this Sir activity. We will take over the main part of the restaurant which will accommodate about 50 diners. The menu that chef Nora Haron and staff have prepared is truly characterized as varied, intense and rich, and with layers of complexity steeped in the traditions of the Nusantara dishes. Furthermore, you will have a choice of a curry soup or traditional Indonesian salad,

and a choice of three entrees. And, you will have a choice of desserts with a seasonal flair.

For our social hour I want to recommend to you who enjoy a unique cocktail the list of specialty cocktails which uses ingredients from this part of the world. House and premium wines are of course available—and the restaurant has reduced their normal \$25 corkage to \$15 for our group if you want to bring your own bottle.

I have included the list of specialty cocktails for your consideration.

The cost of this special dinner is \$65 per person—please be sure to indicate your choices of soup or salad, entree and dessert. Since we expect this event to sell out quickly, send me an email and confirm with your check.

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



*September's
Couples Dining Out Event
Massimo's
Walnut Creek*



Couples Dining Out

Wednesday, Nov 15, 2023

Social hour / no host cocktails @ 5:30pm

Dinner @ 6:15pm



1522 N Main St, Walnut Creek

Soup or Salad

Farmers Market Indonesian Salad
with frisee lettuce tossed in a peanut dressing

Lentil Curry Soup
served with Sourdough Toast

Choice of Entrees

Ayam Percek (SanDai's best selling dish)
Grilled chicken with turmeric & galang spice rub
served over Balinese rice

Nasi Goreng (Flavor bomb)
Large Tiger Prawn Satay served shell-on
over Indonesian style rice & cucumber salad

Sambal Goreng (Vegetarian's Delight)
Tempeh & Tofu served over turmeric rice
with roasted peanuts & a fresh cucumber salad

Choice of Dessert

Pumpkin Panna Cotta
with Housemade Pepitas Brittle

Chocolate Avocado Cake

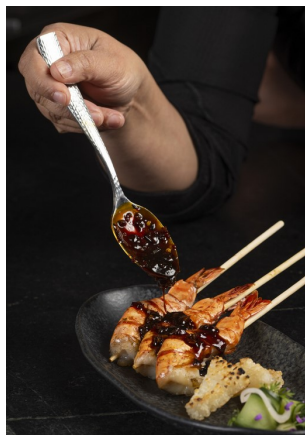
RSVP to Bruce Borgman, bgborgman@aol.com.

Confirm with check to Sir146

mail to 3611 Winchester Place, Walnut Creek, 94598.

Select soup or salad, 1 entrée of choice and a dessert!

\$65.00 per person, including tax and tip.



COCKTAILS

SUMMER SLING 18

Fords Gin, Benedictine, Dry Curacao,
Pineapple, Strawberry Rhubarb syrup, Angostura bitters

KELAPA PUNCH 18

Japanese Whiskey, Coconut Cream, Rooibos Infused Honey,
Ginger Syrup

PUTERI NAGA 18

Vodka, Dragon fruit, Passion Fruit Puree, Dry Curacao, Lemon Juice

BALI 75 18

Toasted Balinese Black Rice Infused Gin, Lemon Juice, Sparkling Wine

SPICY MANGGA MARGARITA 15

Ancho Reyes Liquor, Mango Puree, Tamarind Puree, Orange Juice,
Simple Syrup, Mezcal

PELAGA SAZERAC 16

Cardamom Orange Brandy, Bourbon, Simple, Peychaud's Bitters,
Absinthe Rinse

PANDAN SLUSHIE 18

Coconut Cream, Pineapple Juice, Rum, Curacao, Pandan Extract

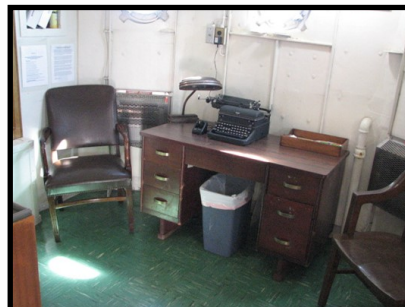
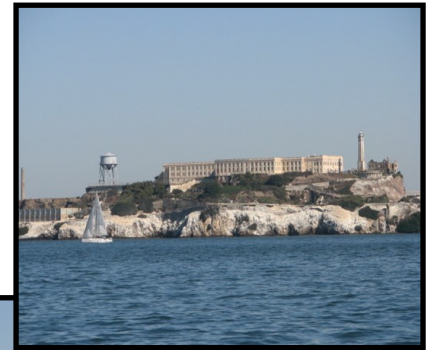


Explore & Eat
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



USS Potomac Tour October 19th

The cruise was attended by 49 Explore & Eat Adventurers on a glorious weather day on the Bay. The Floating White House was originally commissioned as the USCG Cutter *Electra* in 1934. In 1936, it was renamed the *USS Potomac* and served as Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Presidential Yacht until his death in 1945. More than half a million people have visited and sailed aboard the *USS Potomac*, since it opened to the public in the summer of 1995. Over a 12-year period, \$5 million was spent to restore the 165-foot-long vessel as a memorial to the President who authored the New Deal and led the United States during the Great Depression and the World War II years. After the cruise we all went to Scott's Seafood Restaurant for a delightful lunch. The pictures and the event describes the day beautifully.





Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

The LAW (Lunch and Wine) Group met at **Henry Thatcher's** home in Danville on September 20th. Along with **Henry** only five members were able to attend. They were **Joe Barry, Pete Gates, Bob Spellman, Syd Whalen, and Bill Hartman.** **Paul Dubow** was on a reunion fishing trip in Wisconsin with long time fishing buddies and **Clint Collier** was on a cruise in Alaska.



While the group drank wine and snacked on appetizer of cheese and crackers, grapes, nuts, olives, shrimp ceviche, and taco chips; the discussion centered around high school, collegiate and professional football. Both **Joe** and **Henry** had recently returned from visiting their family in Illinois and shared a few stories about their separate trips. The main course for lunch was "Korean BBQ Pork Belly Taco's". The taco's consisted of BBQ Pork Belly that was marinated with a Korean BBQ sauce and grilled, Cilantro, Pickled Onions, Shredded Carrots, Persian Cucumber and Sriracha Aioli and served on a warmed Middle Eastern Flat Bread along with macaroni salad. For dessert a pump-

kin cheesecake was served. The men of the LAW Group who attended are pictured above!

While the men had lunch at **Henry's** home the LAW Group wives and guests joined **Henry's** wife **Barbara** at The Peasant's Courtyard in Alamo for lunch. The second annual-evening dining out for LAW group members and guest was held on Wednesday, October 18th at Il Pavone Italian restaurant in Walnut Creek near Rossmoor.

On October 18, the members of the LAW Cooking Group met at the Il Pavone Ristorante for their semi-annual dinner out with their spouses and significant others. There are 17 individuals who comprise this group and all 17 attended. We enjoyed a delicious dinner with attendees choosing from entrees that included calamari steak, salmon, pasta, and lamb. But the highlight may have been the spumoni that most of us enjoyed for dessert.



This was the last meeting of the year for the group, as we normally take November and December off. This will also be my last report, as **Pete Gates** will take over as chair for 2024.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Despite having a number of our regular players exploring the world on vacation, a hearty group of six players persevered

for a rousing game of Mexican Train at the **Borgman/Sheldon** residence for our October game – not being deterred by the fact that this was Friday the Thirteenth. Our stalwart players included **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon**, **Martha** and **Peter Plante**, **Richard Hockenbrock** and **Virginia Tygart**. We started the evening with some serious snacks including various cheeses, crackers, smoked sausage, nachos and corn chips. Also, apricots with goat cheese. All of it of course accompanied with various wines. We tried to stay upbeat in our conversation despite the ongoing world affairs and expressed hope for a resolution to the conflicts in the world.

We started play around a single table which worked out well for the size of the group. The fortunes of the players waxed and waned until we broke for a dessert prepared by **Sue**—a delicious apple upside down cake with whipped cream. Calorie counting was banned for this event.

At the end of the evening, it was clear that for two of the players were particularly favored by the tile gods – namely **Bruce Borgman** and **Peter Plante**—who came away with average scores of 10.5 and 11.5, respectively. So, they walked away with first and second place. In third place was **Martha Plante** with an average score of 25.6. Regardless, a good time was had by all, and we will be reconvening for the November games on Nov. 10, at the home of the **Oranjes**.

A picture of this evening's players can be admired below – taken by **Richard** who, by some wizardry, then appeared in the picture.

Bruce Borgman – for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com



Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

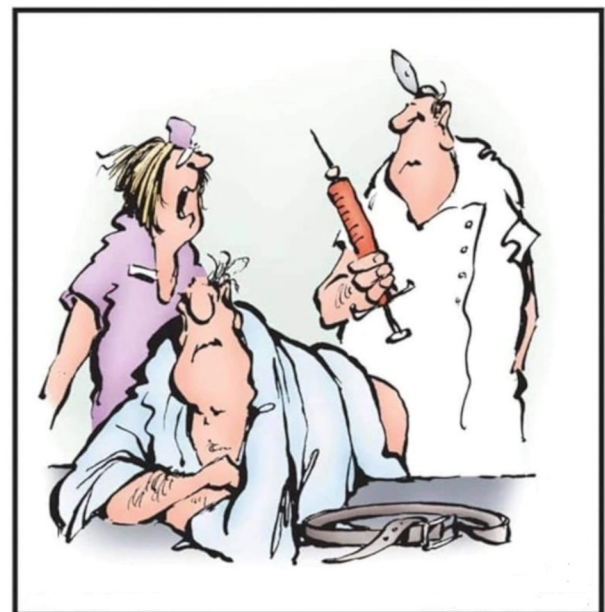
On October 27th after the SIRCall deadline, the good ole Mexican Train Group Tres chugs to the home of **Sue** and **Walt Busenius** in

Walnut Creek. Look for our smoke that afternoon as the choo choo meanders along the creek. Our group has changed from an evening to an afternoon meeting format. We'll let you know about our fun and games in the next issue.

All Aboard in Walnut Creek!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



"Oh please! I promise I won't mess it up like last time."



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

On September 22nd, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 8 people. In attendance this evening were: **Dick and Christy DeVoe, Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, Henry and Barbara Thatcher, and Jim and Renie Pope.** The group celebrated **Renie Pope's** birthday with cake. Sweets, savories, and wine were provided by several in the group. We played at two tables of four. We paid the player at each table with low table score 4 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The winners were **Christy DeVoe and Fran Matthews** (see in pictures). There were two high scoring players. Each was awarded one Lotto ticket. The next El Quattro MTD will meet next on October 20th

Jim Pope

jpope24@comcast.net



Table winners: **Christy DeVoe and Fran Matthews**



Table High Scoring Players: **Barbara and Henry**



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

¡Segundo Informe!

On October 20th, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 10 people. In attendance this evening were: **Dick and Christy DeVoe, Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, Ken and Carol Sault, Steve and Susan Oki, and Jim and Renie Pope.** Sweets, savories, and wine were provided by several in the group. We played at two tables of five. We paid the player at each table with low table score 5 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The winners were **Dick DeVoe and Jim Pope** (see in pictures). There were two high scoring players. **Christy DeVoe and Susan Oki** were awarded one Lotto ticket. The next El Quattro MTD will meet next on November 17th

Jim Pope

jpope24@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

A Our hosts, **Judy** and **Jim Baldrige**, went "All Out" on Thursday October 19th 2023 and entertained everyone in their garden with Halloween Scary Characters and a dazzling array of lighting and sound features.

Everyone had a fun time and joined in this festive occasion. Midway through the dominoes games, **Judy** and **Jim** served ice cream cones and large Pumpkin-Shaped biscuits. The men especially appreciated these treats and consumed them in record time!

Bob Yolland and **Anne Burk** were unstoppable and finished a close first and second with **Doug Eisner** third. We all missed **Marty Campbell** and look forward to her attendance at our next gathering on November 16th 2023 at the **Hallett's** home.

Dennis Hallett gave a summary of his head's recent encounter with a golf ball and blamed his high score on seeing double when counting tiles (a lame excuse !!!).

A great time was had by all and thanks again to **Judy** and **Jim** for a memorable evening

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD 6 met at **Martha and Peter Plante's** recently renovated beautiful home on September 27. Thank you, **Martha**,

and **Peter**, for hosting.

It was game on with the **McCarty's** (**Brian** and **Mary**) cleaning house at a table that included **Christie Nelson**, **Steve Lane**, **Virginia Tygart**, **Peter Plante**, and **Jim Nelson**. At the second table, we had **Kathe Mitchell** taking charge while **Ann** and **John Kendrick**, **Richard Hockenbrock**, **Carol Lane**, and **Martha Plante** joined in.

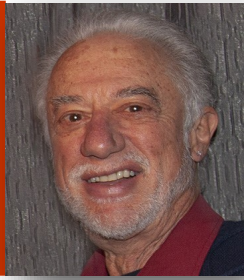
So on to the winner's circle: **Brian McCarthy** (15.7), **Mary McCarthy** (15.8), and **Kathe Mitchell** (17.7).

We look forward to our next get-together on October 25, 2023, at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**.

. Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.





Mexican Train Dominoes “Siete” Bob the Poet Lucido

Welcome, sports enthusiasts, to the grand spectacle of MTD 7 on Sept. 13 at the illustrious Stadium of **Brian**

& **Mary McCarthy!** The air is charged with excitement as spectators from far and wide have gathered to witness this epic event.

As the contestants make their entrance into the stadium, the roaring crowd erupts into a cacophony of cheers and applause. The atmosphere is electric, and the anticipation for the thrilling competition ahead is palpable.

The game unfolds with unparalleled intensity, each contestant pushing their limits in the quest for victory. The competition is fierce, and the crowd is on the edge of their seats, witnessing the incredible display of skill, strategy, and determination.

At half-time, the players, exhausted from their efforts, are treated to a replenishing interlude with snacks and wine. The respite is brief, but it rejuvenates the contenders for the intense battle that lies ahead in the second half of the game.

Finally, as the dust settles and the scores are tallied, the moment of truth arrives., **Bev Collier** emerged as the unrivaled champion. With an air of regality, she

ascended to the center platform, radiating confidence and pride. The golden medal around her neck gleamed as a testament to her exceptional display of elegance.

To **Bev's** left, on the slightly lower platform, stood **Jane West**. Her movements were a symphony of grace, and the silver medal hung gracefully around her neck, a tribute to her outstanding performance. The crowd erupted in applause, acknowledging her artistry and finesse.

Completing the trio of podium perfection, **Bob Wilkenfeld** claimed the third spot. Though in third place, his demeanor exuded a quiet confidence, and the bronze medal adorned him as a symbol of his own unique style and flair.

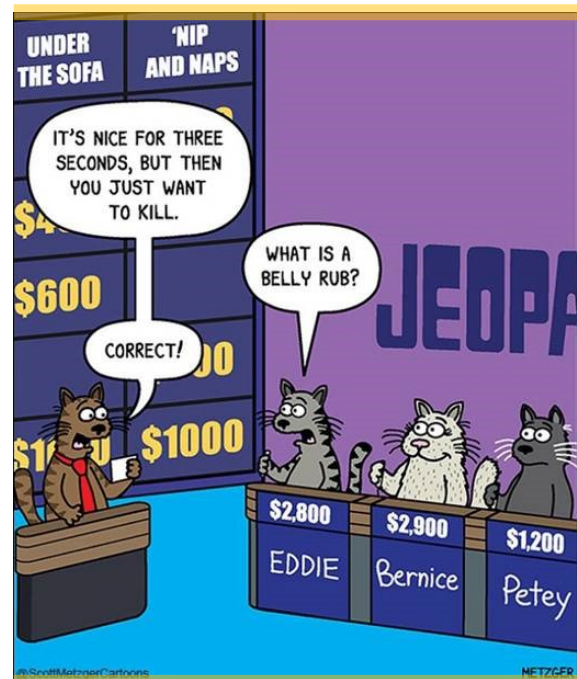
The stadium reverberates with cheers and applause as the three medalists bask in the glory of their achievements. A standing ovation from the electrified crowd echoes through the arena, recognizing the incredible skill and sportsmanship displayed by the winners.

As the spotlight fades on the medalists, the other contestants, determined and undeterred, express their commitment to improving and vowing to come back stronger in the next edition of MTD 7. The spirit of sportsmanship prevails, and the competitors leave the arena with heads held high, eager to embrace the challenges that lie ahead.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

When I was a kid, I used to watch the 'Wizard of Oz' and wonder how someone could talk if they didn't have a brain.
Then I got Facebook.





Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve” Bob Lucido

On the eve of September 20th, under a sky painted in hues of amethyst, the contestants of the Magical Tournament of Destiny (MTD 7) arrived at the majestic castle. Carriages of shimmering gold, adorned with enchanting symbols, brought forth the 12 contenders. The drawbridge, adorned with magical runes, slowly descended, revealing the grand entrance to the kingdom.

Awaiting their arrival were the esteemed King and Queen, **Bob** and **Judy Wilkenfeld**. With regal smiles, they welcomed each contestant, extending greetings that echoed with the magic of the realm. Once all had crossed the threshold, the drawbridge ascended, and a magnificent dragon materialized in the molten shadows beneath, guarding against any unwanted intrusion.

Inside, the contestants found themselves in a hall of wonder, illuminated by floating orbs of ethereal light. Two plush tables, surrounded by velvety cushions, awaited them. The atmosphere hummed with anticipation as they took their seats.

The game commenced, a magical contest of skill and strategy. As the contestants delved into the mystical challenge, servants worked diligently, conjuring a feast of choice appetizers and wine for the intermission. The air was filled with the aroma of fantastical dishes as they indulged in the culinary delights during the break.

Refreshed and invigorated, the contestants resumed their challenge. **Bob Lucido**, a formidable contender, encountered a streak of fortune, going out three times in a row. The onlookers marveled as he continued this extraordinary feat for a total of six rounds. However, the magical tide turned, and someone finally broke the streak, ensuring a suspenseful end to the night's competition.

As the moon ascended higher in the night sky, the final tally was counted by the realm's diligent accountant. The winners were announced amid an air of excitement and anticipation.

Bob Lucido, the masterful strategist, emerged as the victor and was bestowed with the illustrious title of

Duke. Vast lands and riches awaited him, a reward befitting his magical prowess. **Bob Wilkenfeld**, the King, displaying valor and skill, claimed second place.



In an unprecedented turn, the third place was a tie between **Wendy Lucido** and **Jane West**. The castle buzzed with whispers of surprise as both were declared Countesses, their names etched into the annals of the kingdom's history. A celebration ensued, with the castle resonating with the cheers and applause of the enchanted audience, heralding the culmination of the fantastical night.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Hip Hip Hooray! Halloween is near!!
It's not the ghoulies, ghosties or
monsters I fear, it's the
10 lbs of candy
that will go to my rear!!





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the prior SIRCall submission, we met on September 22nd and October 13th. The big winners were **Steve Ybarra** with 3 wins and **Glenn Breslin** and **Ron Polivka** with 2 wins. The lowest average

score was **Ron Polivka** with 59, followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 73. **Frank Lucas** had three 2nd place finishes, and **Jim Nelson** had two.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** still has the most wins at 18 followed by **Brian McCarthy** and **Bill Vizza** with 15.

Frank Lucas leads with a winning percentage of 39%, followed closely by **Steve Ybarra** and **Bob Finlayson** with 38%. Most Improved is **Steve** with 227% of his 2022 winning percentage, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 178%. **Rich Lyon** has the lowest avg score of 67.7 followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 73.5. **Steve Ybarra** leads in 2nds with 14.5 followed by **Frank Lucas** with 12.5. **Ron Polivka** leads in "Shoot the Moons" with 8 followed by **Bill Vizza** and **Dick Wade** with 7.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in November on the 10th and 24th.

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or are interested.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robwest@aol.com



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

We were able to meet and play despite the vacations of two players. That was thanks to our new member "**Melo**" **Piccolo** who joined us at the

home of **Frank Lucas**. **Frank** provided us with snacks and wine and his bird feeders also provided additional entertainment. **Melo** left the game with the most profit so all of us need to be on alert at our next game.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month and play from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. We are still in search of substitutes. If interested, please contact **Brad Hatcher** at 925-935-1571.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com





Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, October 6 with three tables was hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dinning** at Boundary Oak Golf Course. Many thanks to **Mike Whitaker** for coordinating the event that day.

Joe Fuchs won 1st Place overall with 29 points, on the heels of his win last month as well! Congratulations, **Joe!** **Tony Greco** took 2nd Place overall, with **Ed Marlovits** in 3rd Place.

Richard Devoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Fall was in the air when **Joan and Dave Pierce** hosted us on October 10th. All the regular members showed up and reconnected. Slams? The hosts went down one in six spades when **Ken Richter** found the killing opening lead; other pairs stopped at four. They did better later when **Dave** put **Joan** in 6 NT, making 6.

Doubled contracts: **Dick and Christy DeVoe** made four spades doubled on Board 8 for a nice top. Not to be outdone, **Cindy and Tony Greco** made four hearts doubled on Board 19, also a top. We don't see that many doubled contracts in our group, must less doubled contracts made.

At evening's end, **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** were third (55%), **Ken and Elaine Richter** were second (58%), and **Tony and Cindy Greco** were first (64%). Congratulations to all.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



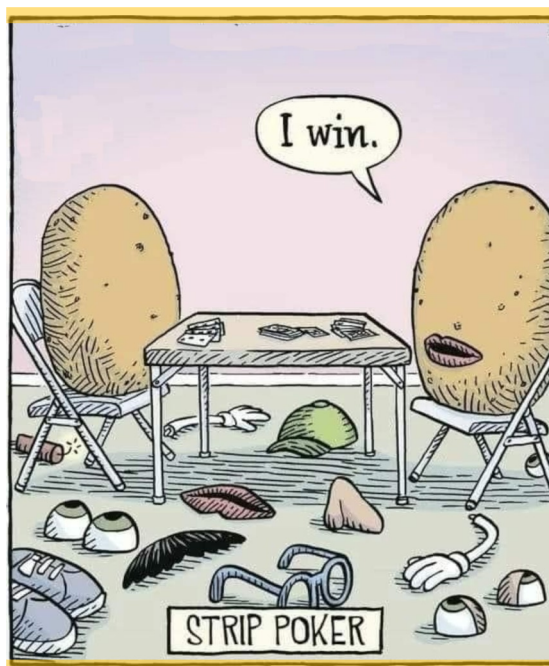
Duplicate Bridge 3 Michael Whitaker

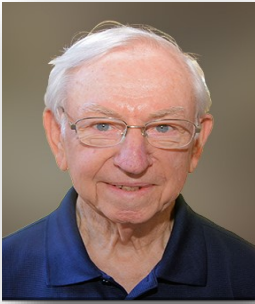
Duplicate Bridge III held its October game on Friday the 20th at the home of **Max and Ardith Henkel**. 12 bridge players played 24 duplicate boards. At the end of the day,

Ray Spears was on top with **Bob Yolland** and **Tony Greco** close behind. We all had a great time, but the highlight of the day was **Ardith's** apple pie. Our next game will be on Nov. 17 at **Dave Steinberg's**.

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213 mrwhitaker@yahoo.com





Party Bridge
Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

Couples Party Bridge
Tony Greco

Larry & Linda Brown hosted our October 3rd event. For this event we had 4 regular couples and 2 subbing couples. We thank Dick & Maggie Chaffee and Steve & Sue Loftin for subbing for John & Kathy

Kluesener and Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean. We welcome Steve & Sue Loftin who subbed for the first time and hope they will sub again even though they didn't place in the top 3. Lol. Time for revenge!

It was an average night of point distribution for hands. The cards were kind, with a fairly even distribution of points in each hand throughout the event. Of the 60 hands played (20 at each of 3 tables) about one-third were set. Of the about 22 hands played at game level 15 were made. No hands were played at slam level, however two hands made six no trump but not bid.

Tony & Cindy Greco took the lead after the 1st round with 1060 points and averaged about 580 points for the remaining 4 rounds to keep the lead throughout the event.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3390 points – Tony & Cindy Greco
- 2nd PLACE with 2750 points – Dick & Christy DeVoe
- 3rd PLACE with 2500 points – Dick & Maggie Chaffee

Our next event will be held on November 7th and hosted by Brad & Lynne Hatcher.

Happy Halloween! Trick or Treat!

Tony and Cindy Greco
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

Twelve played on Monday, October 2nd at the lovely home of Bill Schaaf. The weather was great, and we had a table outside on the deck, Lovely. The Players were:

Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dining, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearse, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Bill Synder, Ray Spears, and Bob Yolland.

The results for the day: Dick DeVoe was high with 5180 points followed by Max Hinkle with 5030 and Brad Hatcher with 4800. Of the 4 who have played for 4 months Max Hinkle is leading with 4955 points for the 4-month average in the six-month contest.

The next game will be on Monday November 6th at the home of Jim Pope.

Co-Directors
[Jim Stedman](#) and [Jim Pope](#).



My kids say they want a cat for Christmas. Normally I serve turkey, but, hey, if it will make them happy. .

Area 16 Activities



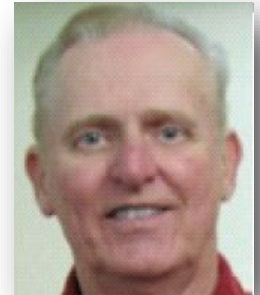
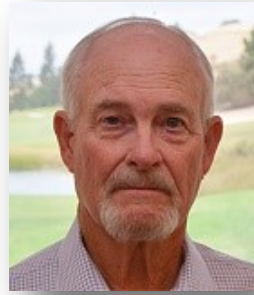
Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed October 25 at 1:30 PM. Topic to be announced.

Due to the holidays, we won't meet in November. We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Tuesday December 7 at 1:30 PM. Please adjust your calendars. The topic will be announced.

Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174
tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8



Pinochle Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

If anyone has been thinking they might like to take a look at this card group, now would be a good time, as summer travel plans have typically created several openings at recent gatherings on the second and fourth Weds. of each month.

We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Rocco's Pizza, located on the S/W corner of the intersection of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove Rd. on the east side of Walnut Creek. We have lunch from 12 (Noon) until 1:00pm, and play cards from 1:00pm until approximately 3:00pm. No money, other than lunch involved, fun group.

Pete McNeill
925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com
Stan Johnson
925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com



SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

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

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



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

We are grateful to **Nora and Mike Davidson** for hosting a very delicious spread of cheeses, cold cuts, crackers, pumpkin bread and assorted snacks along with wine and soft drinks. With all the goodies it was difficult staying focused on the cards! We played with only two tables as travels limited the available players. **Nora and Mike** finished third with a total of 8.5 points followed closely by **Janet and Bob Yolland** with 9.5 points. **Christy and Dick DeVoe** were the winners with a total of 12.5 points for the evening. Next month the **DeVoës** will be hosting.

John Kluesener
john@klueseners.com

Parting Shot

It occurred to Pooh and Piglet that they hadn't heard from Eeyore for several days, so they put on their hats and coats and trotted across the Hundred Acre Wood to Eeyore's stick house. Inside the house was Eeyore.

"Hello Eeyore," said Pooh.

"Hello Pooh. Hello Piglet," said Eeyore, in a Glum Sounding Voice.

"We just thought we'd check in on you," said Piglet, "because we hadn't heard from you, and so we wanted to know if you were okay."

Eeyore was silent for a moment. "Am I okay?" he asked, eventually. "Well, I don't know, to be honest. Are any of us really okay? That's what I ask myself. All I can tell you, Pooh and Piglet, is that right now I feel really rather Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. Which is why I haven't bothered you. Because you wouldn't want to waste your time hanging out with someone who is Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All, would you now."

Pooh looked at Piglet, and Piglet looked at Pooh, and they both sat down, one on either side of Eeyore in his stick house.

Eeyore looked at them in surprise. "What are you doing?"

"We're sitting here with you," said Pooh, "because we are your friends. And true friends don't care if someone is feeling Sad, or Alone, or Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. True friends are there for you anyway. And so here we are."

"Oh," said Eeyore. "Oh." And the three of them sat there in silence, and while Pooh and Piglet said nothing at all; somehow, almost imperceptibly, Eeyore started to feel a very tiny little bit better.

Because Pooh and Piglet were There.

No more; no less.



SIR Mission Statement

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