



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA



October 2022

Call



Big Sir's Corner Richard Lyon

At the September luncheon, we were expecting some high temperatures, so we are thankful that Boundary Oak made some extra golf carts available to ferry people to and from their

cars. Thank you Boundary Oak. There were about 113 in attendance, which is much lower attendance than the Branch had pre-COVID.

In line with the State of California, Contra Costa County health officials, and the SIR State guidance, the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) voted to drop all vaccination, masking, and waiver requirements at our SIR Branch indoor (luncheon) activities. Masks haven't been required for some time. The BEC requested **George Mon**, Director of Membership, to please retain the vaccination and waiver information previously collected just in case things go the other way.

The BEC has increased the dues for 2023 to \$25 a year! The extra five dollars will be used to provide entertainment throughout the year. As part of the planned changes Little Sir **Bob Wilkenfeld** is implementing changes to make the luncheons more engaging and finish earlier. Starting in October, the meals will be served at 11:45am rather than Noon. Please email your luncheon RSVP to attendlunch-br146@gmail.com so that **Ben Gleason** and **Steve Oki** can order the correct number of meals. Please remember to leave either your fish, meat, or vegetarian menu selection chit on the table at your place setting. Bon Appetit!

Richard Hockenbrock, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the 2023 slate of officers who are due to be elected in November. **Jim Nelson** was elected Assistant. Treasurer to serve the remaining of 2022 and was also nominated for 2023. Thank you, **Jim**! Please make an effort to thank your branch's officers, activity chairs and co-chair, committee members and many volunteers that make Branch 146 a magnet of friendship and fun.

Our Treasurer, **John Alexander**, set up a meeting with Boundary Oak catering management to get pricing for

the luncheons and lady's day luncheons for 2023 which is needed for the popular Annual Luncheon Payer program and for the 2023 dues letter to go out from **George Mon**, Director of Membership.

Bob Lucido, Director of Activities, reported that the attendance at both outdoor and indoor activities is equal to or exceeds the pre-COVID attendance levels. Some activities are experiencing sellouts or wait lists. New leagues are forming in Bowling and Cribbage is starting a new on-line tournament. Nine and eighteen-hole golf is spectacular, photography has had some nice weather, the fishing group is catching the limit, hiking and cycling in the mornings is a breeze, and that is just a few. Get out there and go for it!

Rich Lyon
Big Sir, Branch 146



Little Sir's Corner Bob Wilkenfeld

Lunch Anyone?

There is no question that our monthly ritual of breaking bread together has taken a beating during the recent pandemic. Though our past BECs valiantly attempted to replace the face-to-face luncheons with Zoom meetings, it was clearly not the same and attendance plummeted to, at best, a third of our membership. Restarting the face-to-face luncheons has helped attendance, but we are still having less than half of our members attend. The COVID the virus is clearly now with us

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, October 13th, 2022
Boundary Oak
11:30

RSVP by September 7th to attend!
Ernesto Avila, President of the Contra Costa County
Water District (CCWD)

everywhere we go and we are as protected from COVID as we are from the Flu – so what’s the problem? Why aren’t members returning to the monthly luncheons?

One obstacle to attendance that the State and County health departments created, was the requirement to be vaccinated to attend indoor activities. Wisely, our Branch and members followed this requirement. Only a handful of our members decided not to get vaccinated and thus, not attend the luncheons. Recognizing that COVID is now endemic, both Contra Costa County and the State of California lifted the vaccination requirement earlier this year, for almost all indoor activities. In alignment with this new health guidance, the State SIR organization and our BEC elected last month to drop the vaccination requirement.

In view of the continued low attendance at our face-to-face luncheons, BEC members have sought and received input on why attendance has remained low. Apparently, most non-attendees still fear contracting COVID at one of our luncheons, even though most of our luncheon attendees are now, and will continue to be, fully vaccinated and boosted against the virus. Clearly, the perceived risk of catching COVID at our luncheons is a personal matter; but personally, I feel safer at one of our luncheons than I do in a grocery store, restaurant, or theater. Besides, no one will criticize you if you choose to wear a mask at one of our luncheons; we understand your concern. So why not come back and see your friends at a Branch luncheon?

Other constructive feedback on our luncheons include comments on the length of the formal agenda, quality of our speakers and the need to improve our audio system. To explore ways we can streamline our luncheon agendas and address the other suggestions, our BEC has formed a temporary committee. (If you have, or know someone who has expertise in audio engineering, please let me know.) With many popular speakers now charging fees, the BEC also voted last month to increase the annual budget so we can attract presenters and topics of broader interest to our members.

Got Water?

Anna Wendorf, our luncheon presenter in September, did a great job explaining how we can have an attrac-

tive and varied landscape using native plants. About 110 members and guests in attendance got to handle and smell cuttings of many popular native plants that thrive in our increasingly dry climate.

Our October presenter, Ernesto Avila, has a unique perspective on future water supplies for our area. He serves as the President of the Contra Costa County Water District (CCWD) and represents the cities of Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek on its Board of Directors. Mr. Avila is a Professional Civil Engineer and previously served as the Director of Engineering for CCWD. He has experience on water projects of all shapes and sizes, including dam retrofits, watershed management, and water treatment plant improvements. Please join us to hear how CCWD will continue to supply our water needs during increasingly long periods of drought.

Bob Wilkenfeld
Little Sir, Branch 146

2022 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP - Chair Members

Recruitment	Vacant
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Edwards Brands
Publicity	Larry Kaye

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

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.



Luncheon Chairman

Steve Oki

As a reminder, we continue to utilize an “opt-in” reservation system in order for us to give Boundary Oak a more accurate estimate and guarantee of attendance. As usual, we sit down for lunch at 11:45 but come

early to socialize. The check-in tables open at 10:30am.

Our speaker for our October meeting is Ernesto A. Avila. He is the President of the Contra Costa Water District's Board of Directors and previously served as the Director of Engineering for CCWD. Ernesto has a BS degree in Civil Engineering from Santa Clara University and an MS degree in Business Administration from St. Mary's College. He owns his own consulting engineering firm, lives in Clayton, and volunteers in a number of local citizen-based organizations.

Please see the reservation information below:

October 13th Luncheon

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

Payment

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

RSVP

- To attend, you must RSVP by Friday, October 7th before Noon
- Ways to RSVP
 - Email: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com
 - If you don't have e-mail access, call: 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your information
 - All RSVPs will be acknowledged
- If you find that you will be unable to attend after opting in, cancel by Friday, October 7th at Noon

Special Requests

If you have dietary restrictions, want a vegan meal or can't consume a meal, please send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com before the Deadline.

Sponsors

If you are bringing a guest: please notify the Luncheon Chair with the guest's name at the same email address: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.

Questions

If you have any questions please call Steve Oki at 925.831.9380 and leave a message or request. I will return your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 October Luncheon

Thursday October 13th, 2022

Gorgonzola Salad

Baby Field Greens, Julienned Pears, Blue Cheese, Candied Nuts, Champagne Vinaigrette

Entrees

BBQ Beef Brisket

Slow Braised Beef, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, Barbecue Sauce

or

Sesame Crusted Pacific Dory

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Tomato

Butter Sauce

or

Vegetarian Option

Dessert

Baileys Irish Cream Cake

Whipped Cream





Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

I often hear comments on our newsletter.... Nearly always good, I'm happy to report, about both the content and the size of it. Well there is a reason for this, you! This Branch of SIR is probably (I would say certainly but I haven't looked at all of them) the most active and dynamic of the organization. We are doing "stuff" and we are doing a lot of "stuff". As you browse through this edition consider just how many activities are available to you; and the variety of these activities. If you aren't active in at least one of these you might want to check your pulse but you certainly ought to find one and join it. The motto is "making friends for life," To me that has double meaning... I'm making friends who will be with me through the remainder of my life and I am making my life more enjoyable because friends are what make life worth living!

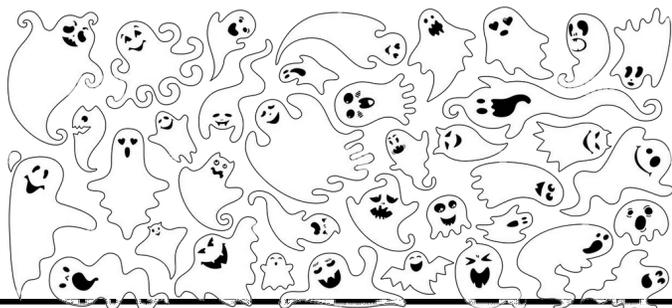
Deadline for submissions for the November issue is October 24th.

Don't forget, we encourage member contributions to SIR-Call so, 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 available issue.

Clint Collier –Editor SIR-Call

Cell /Text: 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

Oh, and BOO.... Happy Halloween!



SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka, Bruce Borgman, and Hank James
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy



Membership George Mon

Two new members were approved at the September BEC Meeting. SIR member **Scott Golde** lives in Moraga with his wife **Chau Tai** and was the Recreation Director for the City and County of San Francisco before retirement. He is sponsored by **Bob Ford**. SIR member **Paul Jones** lives in Concord. He was a maintenance planner for Georgia Pacific. He is sponsored by **Dave Steinberg**.

The 2022 membership count is at 276. We ended 2021 with 280 members.

Heads up: 2023 Dues letter will be sent out during the month of October. The BEC is currently discussing the luncheon amount and annual luncheon payer amount for next year.

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

gckk@comcast.net

SIR 146 November Luncheon

Thursday November 10th, 2022

Winter Greens Salad

Baby Winter Greens, Golden Apples, Dried Cranberries, Citrus Segments, Grape Seed Oil, Champagne Vinaigrette

Entrees

Holiday Turkey Dinner
 Yukon Gold mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable,
 Turkey Gravy
 or
 Baked Cod
 Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Chunky
 Roasted Tomato Caper Sauce
 or
 Vegetarian Option

Dessert

Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Paul Beretz
 Larry Brown
 Robert Calloway
 Teddy Coggiola
 Dennis Dale
 Brian Downie

John Foster
 Joe Hunt
 Larry Kaye
 John Kluesener
 Phil Lendaris
 Bob Lucido

John Nelson
 Byron Nelson
 Stephen Ondeck
 Jitu Patel
 George Sabbagha
 Joe Starkey

Charlie Walker
 Bill Weinberg
 Herb Wilson
 Bob Yolland
 William Ross
 Bert Payne



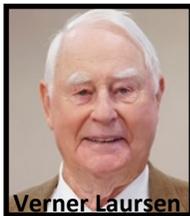
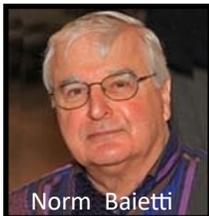
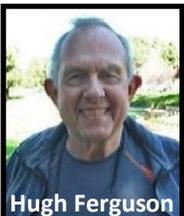
Sunshine Brian McCarthy



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.*

Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net



Congratulations on your Birthday Hat, Dave Tucker!



September Lunch

Photos by Jim Pope!









Jonathan Korfhage Honored With Our Branch's Highest Award!!

Once upon a time there was a man named **Jonathan**, a different kind of man, a community volunteer man, a family man and a SIR man. Just an all-around good man. Jonathan has done a lot of very good things in the community and for our Branch 146.

We are talking about **Jonathan**, who came bubbling up in 2012 as new SIR member. This unique man, a court jester, immediately embraced volunteer work on behalf of the branch as the primary luncheon greeter at the entrance door for three (3) years. During that time, he donned a variety of humorous and catchy costumes. The "court jester," our greeter, often wore apparel consistent with the subject being presented by the speaker. Interesting fact, prior to SIR **Jonathan's** volunteering led him to be a puppeteer, a clown, and even an A's Mascot.

Following his glory days as greeter, **Jonathan** willingly jumped into the infamous "progression" of leadership positions: Assistant Secretary (2016), Secretary (2017), Little Sir (2018), all leading to being the mighty Big Sir in 2019. We enjoyed his jokes and leadership style. During the same period, he chaired the Valentine's dance for the four years of 2017 through 2020. A very fun time.

My fellow SIR members, please join me in recognizing **Jonathan**, one of our Branch's "energizer bunnies," as we add to his accolades and make him the 41st Branch Honoree with this branch honoree plaque. Congratulations!!



Jonathan posing with accepted award with **Rich Lyon**. Photo taken by **Jim Pope**. The award presenter at our September luncheon was **Walt Busenius**.

NOTES

from Our Members

From Paul Bertetz...

A father passing by his son's bedroom was astonished to see that his bed was nicely made and everything was picked up. Then he saw an envelope, propped up prominently on the pillow that was addressed to 'Dad.' With the worst premonition, he opened the envelope with trembling hands and read the letter.

Dear Dad: It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mom and you. I have been finding real passion with Stacy and she is so nice. But I knew you would not approve of her because of all her piercing, tattoos, tight motorcycle clothes and the fact that she is much older than I am. But it's not only the passion...Dad she's pregnant. Stacy said that we will be very happy.

She owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. We share a dream of having many more children. Stacy has opened my eyes to the fact that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone. We'll be growing it for ourselves and trading it with the other people that live nearby for cocaine and ecstasy.

In the meantime we will pray that science will find a cure for AIDS so Stacy can get better. She deserves it.

Don't worry Dad. I'm 15 and I know how to take care of myself. Someday I'm sure that we will be back to visit so that you can get to know your grandchildren.

Love,

Your Son John

PS. Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Tommy's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than a Report card That's in my center desk drawer.

I love you. Call me when it's safe to come home



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

The newly created Veterans activity will have its first meeting on Sept 26, but by the time you read this, you will have missed it, but there is still time to join. Just contact me and I will put you on the mailing list.

A shout out to **Jim Nelson** who set up a Cribbage tournaments on-line during the COVID shut-down. **Jim** puts a lot of time into this and he constructed the games in a way that is fun and easy to follow. Jim just informed us that he will be starting up another comparable tournament soon. If you are interested, contact Jeff Baily at jeffbaily747@gmail.com

As State Branch Activity Chairman, I am encouraging branches that are geographically close to share activities that are unique.

I have started to contact branches B171 Lafayette, B19 Clayton, B8 Concord, and B116 Walnut Creek, which are near us, and they are receptive to pairing with us. I will be posting them on the SIR-Call.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in Branch 146 and, in some cases, SIR. Click on the link (the activities that are underlined) to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity and information on who to contact if your are interested in participating.

Bird Watching

[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](#)

Cooking

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no tomodachi](#)

[Golf - 18 Hole](#)

[Golf - 9 Hole](#)

[Hiking](#)

[Hearts](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker

[Group 1](#)

[Group 2](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[RV-ing](#)

[Song Sirs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theatre](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

Other Branch Activity

[Chess](#)

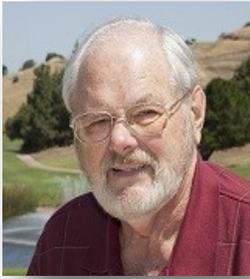
[Fishing](#)

[Investing](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar

October 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
<p>9:45am – 3:00pm Men's Party Bridge</p> <p>10:00am Hiking</p> <p>12:00pm Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00am Golf</p> <p>4:00pm – 7:00pm Couples Party Bridge</p>	<p>6:30pm – 10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho</p>	<p>9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1</p> <p>12:30pm Poker Group #6</p>	<p>10:00am – 2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2</p>
10	11	12	13	14
<p>10:00am Hiking</p> <p>12:00pm Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00am Golf</p> <p>2:30pm – 5:00pm Wine Tasting</p>	<p>1:00pm – 3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00pm Poker Group #1</p> <p>6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 7 Siete</p>	<p>9:00am – 10:45am BEC Meeting</p> <p>11:30am – 1:30pm SIR Luncheon</p>	<p>12:45pm – 3:30pm Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 1 Uno</p>
17	18	19	20	21
<p>10:00am Hiking</p> <p>12:00pm Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00am Golf</p>	<p>7:00pm – 10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1</p>	<p>9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-2</p> <p>7:00pm – 10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco</p>	<p>10:00am – 3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3</p> <p>7:00pm – 10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro</p>
24	25	26	27	28
<p>10:00am Hiking</p> <p>12:00pm Table Pool at Masses</p> <p>1:00pm Poker Group #4</p>	<p>9:00am Golf</p>	<p>12:30pm – 3:30pm Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00pm – 3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:30pm \$ums In Retirement Via Zoom</p> <p>6:45pm – 10:00pm Mexican Train Group 6 Seis</p>	<p>7:30am – 9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC</p> <p>9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-3</p>	<p>12:45pm – 3:30pm Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>6:30pm – 10:00pm MTD 2 Dos</p> <p>6:30pm – 10:00pm MTD 3 Tres</p>
31	Nov 1	2	3	4



Theater Gary Schaub

An enthusiastic audience, including thirty members of SIR Branch 146 enjoyed the musical tribute to songstress Patsy Cline at the Leshar Center on September 22. "Always... Patsy Cline" featured over two dozen of her memorable songs.

Cline became a musical icon for her mix of Pop and Country music, and was the first solo woman performer to be elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame. Her life ended in 1963 when she died in a plane crash at the top of her career.

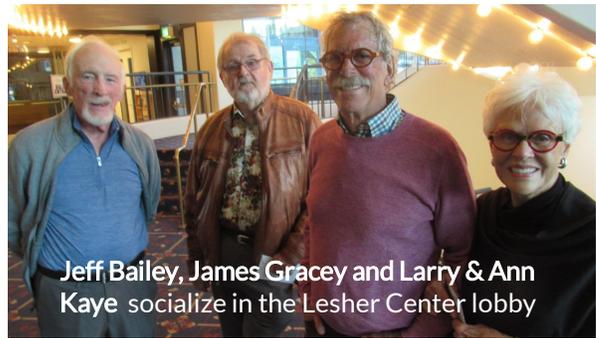
*Always...
Patsy Cline*



Cayman Ilika starred as the songstress in "Patsy Cline"



John and Nancy Pearl chat with Tony & Cynthia Greco before Curtain Time



Jeff Bailey, James Gracey and Larry & Ann Kaye socialize in the Leshar Center lobby



Waiting in the lobby prior to the show are Don Rhoads & Barbara Elenteny together with Lew & Claudia Thompson



Bocce John Kendrick

Reminder — SIR 146 Bocce Ball is alive, active, and looking for new or past players.

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

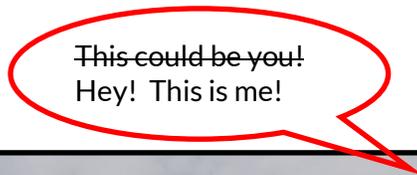
Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome.

Rain Cancels Play.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com





Cycling Group Larry Kaye

August 30th: Hills? Sure, we need to do hills. Makes you stronger. So, with that we took off today. The day was cool, and we headed out to work our legs. Riding thru Danville we solved the days problems. The turn at Blackhawk reared up. With that came the

hills. Initially not too steep. Warm up those quads. Eventually the road tilted up. The grades were not too bad. We crested the "last" hill. finally. I had a surprise in store for the spandex guys. We reached El Pintado and we turned. Yikes. More hills. Long but attainable. After what seemed like eons the top appeared. Huff and puff we stopped. Catch your breath guys. Then the payback. A long downhill was in front of us. Yip-pee. The bottom popped up and we turned towards Alamo. Flat roads felt great on our swollen quads. Alamo finally reached, and Peets signaled the end. A seat bigger than our saddles and hot java. Ahhhh. Another SIR ride to prove the adage: Age is just a number.

September 6th: 111° today. Early ride will take care of that number. 07:30 we rolled. Heading South thru various streets and trails enjoying the cool fresh air. Early does it. As we approached the turnaround the temperature began its ugly climb. Back we headed enjoying a part of Alamo most do not know of. It's called Jones Ranch. A really exclusive part of our berg that's nestled into the base of the Las Trampas ridge. Enjoying the eye candy, we had to head home. Back to Peets for some java and chat.

A short but rewarding jaunt before the heat hit. As we left Peets the thermometer broached 90+. Good time to go home. To ride and beat the heat was the goal and we attained it. **Moose** and myself.

September 9th: Grabbing the cool early morning weather three of us rode. **Bill Ross, Moose Kelley** and myself. We did a short leg turner to beat the heat of the day. We rode thru the back of Danville and did some hills to make the effort worthwhile. It was. Back to Peets before the heat settled in. A fun easy ride with some surprises.

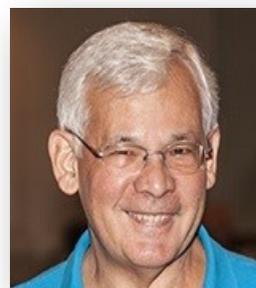
September 15th: Traffic. Ouch. Today's ride was to start early. The freeway disagreed. After the guys assembled we finally rolled out. Heading South we began our sojourn. The ride today was flat. It was to be a

leg turner and a rest ride. **Bill Ross** fell asleep. Without those nasty hills to keep his BP up the road lolled him to sleep. Then rest of us just plodded along. We reached our turn in San Ramon and began the ride back. Luck was on our side as the nasty winds that were in our faces vanished. The tailwinds appeared and, WOW, off we went. The trip North was nice. Fast and smooth. The miles vanished under our wheels. After a rest stop to respect natures callings, we continued north. Finally Peets appeared.

Today we had **Moose Kelley, Scott Simmons** (returning from remodeling), **Bill Ross, Roger Meyers** and myself. A good SIR day was had.

September 22nd: Today's ride was different. It was short but it was hard. We tried an olde favorite Cafe in the Creek. Not good. Sold to new owners and selling day old pastries. Ugg. Morucchis on Boulevard Way in Walnut Creek. Once voted as the best, now not so. Java and off we went. Lots of back streets never before seen culminating with a nasty hill. My legs are still screaming. Back to town and homeward bound. A simple ride but one that had some benefits. **Roger Meyer, Moose Kelley, Bill Ross** and myself attended.

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



SongSirs Peter Plante

SongSirs met on September 21 for another strong rehearsal in preparation for our October 26 performance at Byron Park in Walnut Creek. We are working on such old favorites as "All The Way", "Moon River" and "Sweet Caroline". Our hope is to evoke some fond memories for our audience.

SongSirs has two more rehearsals on October 5 and 19 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. New members are always welcome. No auditions necessary, just a love of singing.

Peter Plante
pcplante109@gmail.com



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul DuBow

The salmon fishing season will end on October 31 and the catch is declining somewhat. But we still are coming home with some nice fish. One group, that included **Mike Browne** of Branch

146, chartered the *Sundance* and brought home eight kings and five halibut. The topper was a 29 pounder that **Bob Stein** landed after a strong fight. A friend of **Bob** who was on the trip caught a king that weighed in at 18 lbs. **Carl Moyer** and **Brion Beetz** also picked up some salmon on several trips on **Carl's** boat out of Pacifica.

The group chartered the *Sea Wolf* for a rockfish foray in the Farallones. Sixteen fishermen limited out on large rockfish and ling cod. A few days later, **Carl Moyer, Brion Beetz, Dave Havlik, and George Vogt** set out again on the *Sea Wolf* and were greeted with unusually calm water at the Farallones. They enjoyed themselves immensely, once again coming home with limits of rockfish and ling cod. The largest fish was a 14 lb. ling cod bagged by **Carl**.

Rich Fiscina of Branch 146 celebrated the return of his boat to the waters with a very successful trip that included **Rich's** favorite spots in the bay and the ocean. **Rich** and friends limited out on rockfish, weighing between two and four pounds, and also caught and released quite a few undersized ling cod and halibut. Elsewhere in the bay, **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 caught some small halibut and Big Fish **Bob Lively** rowed his kayak into the bay at Benicia and caught some small stripers.

There was also action on the bay piers. On separate trips to the Point Pinole Pier, **Mike Browne** and **Phil Scimonelli** hooked and released bat rays and smelt. **Mike** also tried his luck for catfish in San Pablo Reservoir but was not successful.

Mike Corker and **Tom Kostik**, our Delta black bass experts, made several trips and caught fish on each occasion. On one trip, **Tom** counted 76 black bass attracted to the end of his line. All were released. **Tom** was not as successful on his annual trip to the Klamath River. He caught one king on his first day but had to release it because the river's annual quota had been reached. The rest of the trip produced a single jack salmon. **Tom** also traveled to Pinecrest Lake, where he

limited out on rainbows and caught a few smallmouth bass.

Brion Beetz, Pedro Contreras, and Stan Wong drove to San Diego for a six day long range fishing trip on the *Red Rooster*. They caught large bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, and yellowtail, fishing first off the Mexican coast and then off San Clemente. Unfortunately, the trip was shortened by one day in order to avoid a hurricane.

After our fishing meeting on September 22, ten of us traveled to the hamlet of Winton for a tour of the Tsar Nicoulai sturgeon farm. We were accompanied by SIR-Call editor **Clint Collier**, who was kind enough to volunteer to be one of the drivers. We toured the facility and observed the emptying of one large fish tanks where the staff was separating the male and



female sturgeon. Our mouths watered as there were at least 100 fish in the tank, some of which were large enough to be keepers. Although roe is removed from the sturgeon at the farm, the caviar which is produced from the roe is prepared at the firm's facility in Concord. After the tour, we were treated to a lunch which included trout, whitefish, and sturgeon caviar plus smoked salmon and smoked sturgeon. Everything was delicious! If any of our readers are interested in purchasing these products, they are available on the company's website and at its stand in the Ferry Building in San Francisco.

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings and attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, October 27, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30am, but many of us gather at 7am or thereafter for breakfast and/or fishing stories and so please join us at that time. You are also welcome, even if you have never fished before, to join us for our regular fishing trips. For further information, feel free to call branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510.504.3566.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566.



146 Hiking Mark Curtis

So, what is the purpose of SIR activities? In my opinion, the purpose is to offer activities to senior men and women that will potentially enrich their “golden years”, post retirement. Our branch has a ton of stuff to get involved in. My preference is the physical stuff, but then maybe, with the exception of golf, I can still do it. And hiking has the potential to improve the health of our members.

Anyway, I want to emphasize that the hiking activity attempts to sponsor a hike each and every Monday. It doesn't always work, but we do our best. My intention is to plan for walks/hikes that are challenging, but not extreme. So, most hikes are in the order of a maximum 5 miles with a maximum of 1000 feet of cumulative climbing. We are in a La Nina year (again), so we may not get much rain over the next 5 months, but we will so some walks in late winter and early spring to observe wildflowers.

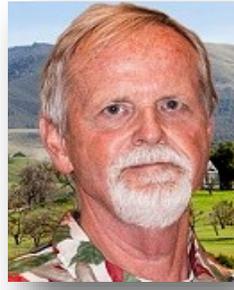
I also want to emphasize that spouses are always welcome. And members of other SIR branches and guests of 146 members are also welcome to participate. I/we had a recent encounter with BR8 members in Tilden. Perhaps in the near future BR8 and BR146 can do some joint hikes.

I am really curious as to how many of our 250 members read the monthly SIR146 publication. If you read this article, send me an email. Just curious how many people read what is published. I'm guessing that my in-box will see little activity!

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com

So Daffy Duck and Elmer Fudd break into a distillery. Daffy turns to Elmer and says: "Is this Whiskey?"
Elmer replies: "Yeth but not as whiskey as wobbing a bank!!"



Photography Group John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Our next photography meeting will be on Friday, October 21st at Rocco's with our gathering time at 8:45am. The meeting will kick off at 9am sharp. Coffee and DONUTS will be served. We have three of our group photographers that just returned from Africa and one from Europe. The group will be anxious to view their prize photographs. Please come and join us even if you are not part of the photograph group. As we get closer to the meeting date, I will forward an agenda for the meeting to those that are on our mailing list.

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

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

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com





Travel Milt Smith

This particular SIR travel report is a little bit different than those of the past. That is because, Carolyn and I have been traveling relatively steadily since about June 9th. I already reported the trip we made to Jamaica and a road trip/loop through northern Nevada southern Idaho and Washington state. On August 19 we left for Africa, it was a non-SIR trip but you'd recognize those who were on it. They included Margot Summerville, Gwen Boero, Bill Holly, Walter and Bobbi Schmidt plus Leo and Theresa Stauche from Puyallup, WA. Leo and I graduated high school together.

After 21 days at multiple locations from Kenya to Tanzania to Uganda, the Serengeti, Murchison Falls on the Nile, Lake Victoria, we saw all sorts of animals of course including the Big Five. We interacted with numerous local East African tribes and village residents.

On September 11 five of us left Entebbe for the USA, The Smiths and the Stauches, however, traveled on to

Belgium and Germany respectively and after a few days met up again in Paris. From there we traveling to Normandy where we spent four days exploring the D-Day historical Memorials and sites, then here to Barcelona for the past four days.

Why am I telling you this? Because I want you all to know that people are out here traveling. We've conveyed ourselves via planes trains and automobiles, in fact the Stauches, at this moment, are over Hudson Bay headed toward Seattle.

Carolyn and I, on the other hand, are still here in Barcelona planning three more months in Europe. Yes the traveling has been delightful the people have been delightful, the dollar is competitive with the Euro right now so, if you want to go somewhere, think it over talk it up and let me know. I might be able to arrange some group travel always a great way to save money, and find excellent coverage for travel insurance including health coverage. Carolyn and I were able to extend our travel insurance all the way through December 28, the day we fly home from Amsterdam to San Francisco.

It's fun out here! Milt Smith
925.285.2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com





Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

The Branch 146 Book group met Monday, September 26, where we discussed *Oil!* by Upton Sinclair.

The story is set in Southern California, probably in Long Beach or nearby, and starts shortly after the end of World War I. It is told through the eyes of Bunny Ross a young man who is the son of a prominent independent oil man. Independent in those days meant an organization not one of the "Big Five." He lives and learns the business through his father and the labor side through people he meets along the way as he matures.

His father hopes that Bunny, eventually would learn the oil business and become part of the family company. However, Bunny is sympathetic to the needs of the oil workers and ultimately becomes enamored with the radical groups in the labor force. There are at least two of these. The Socialists are the more restrained. They want to change the working world peaceably through elections and legislation. The second, and more radical group, are the Communists, here called the Bolsheviks. They believe that it is useless to negotiate with the capitalist class and they espouse violence. Bunny favors the Socialists, but knows lots of the Bolsheviks, including the man whom he admires the most.

While the father is hoping for a change in heart by Bunny, he gives him plenty of money and an automobile. Bunny loves his father but also feels the working man is not being properly treated by the employers. His father sends him off to college that is identified as Southern Pacific University, but probably is a stand-in for the University of Southern California.

The oil business makes Bunny's father very well off, and he partners with another oil man. This partnership engages in some shady deals to acquire at a bargain price some of the government's oil-bearing properties that the Navy had reserved for use in war time. They form a Canadian "oil company" whose sole function is to launder the money. The partnership and the big oil companies also spend big and get Warren Harding elected. Harding wins and brings some less than high-minded people into his Cabinet. Many of the government officials from the county level to the federal level are easily "persuaded" that the oil people's views on matters that affect them are what matter.

The parallel story is Bunny and his life. He has a long affair with an actress who is smart and beautiful. They nearly marry, but their differing views on how the world should operate and where money should be spent finally drives them apart and she marries a Rumanian prince.

Bunny uses his money to support many of his "causes" including the support of strikers in his father's company! He also sponsors and supports a small newspaper dedicated to the exposure of what is wrong with the capitalist world.

After some of the activities of the high spending oilmen are exposed, Bunny's father and his partner fear being subpoenaed to Congressional hearings and investigated by the Justice Department, and they decide to leave the country until things blow over. Bunny, his society-type sister Bertie, and some support staff accompany them to Paris. His father becomes enamored with a widow who is also a "spiritualist" and they marry, after the father has assured Bunny that his new wife had agreed to a prenuptial agreement. Shortly afterward, the father, who was already in ill health, dies, along with any evidence of the prenuptial agreement and a will. Lawyers appear, and Bunny and Bertie lose half their inheritance. In addition, the father's partner denies the existence of stock certificates in Bunny's name that were purportedly entrusted with him. Bunny and his sister are thus forced to sell their part of the business at a low price to the partner.

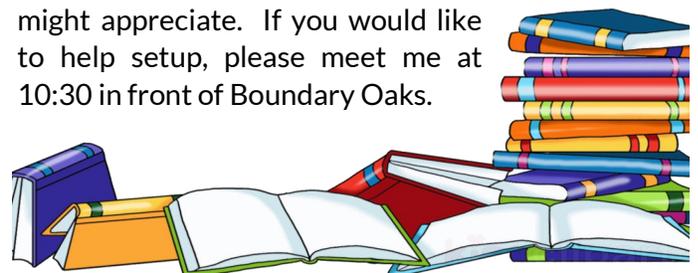
Bunny and the editor of his newspaper, a young woman whom he met in college, decide to start a school that will teach the ways that people should live and interact.

Continued on next page



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns for our October 13 luncheon. There are new titles to peruse and take home. Feel free to donate any books you have lying around at home that others might appreciate. If you would like to help setup, please meet me at 10:30 in front of Boundary Oaks.



While looking for property that will house the school, they find they are in love and get married.

Most of us liked the book, but there were some dis-sents. Reviewers have termed the book to be Sinclair's most readable novel and his cynicism, which pervades throughout the book, is sometimes quite humorous.

Upton Sinclair, is an interesting story by himself. He was a muckraker, political activist, and the 1934 Democratic Party nominee for the Governor of California. He was a popular author, writing nearly 100 books, winning a Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1943. His most famous book was probably *The Jungle*, an expose on the working conditions in the meat packing industry. He wrote exposes of other industries as well.

He was an outspoken socialist, but his ties to the Democratic Party lead to his expulsion from the Socialist Party, which would not tolerate their members being active in any other party.

Two phrases from him are interesting: "The American People will take Socialism, but they won't take the label," talking about his gubernatorial bid, and "It is difficult t get a man to understand something, when his salary depends upon his not understanding it," from his book describing his campaign for Governor.

There is a local angle here, in that the whole story is about the oil industry in California, and the first half includes actual information on the finding and production of oil. Many of the place names used in the book are facades for real places and can be identified by the reader and the scandal that enveloped the book's characters is based on the famous Teapot Dome scandal that seriously affected the Harding administration..

The Book Group meets in October on the 17th, and will discuss *The Great Railway Bazaar*, by Paul Theroux

John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor

ADULT

A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.



Nine Hole Golf Group

Bob Ford

We have really enjoyed having several guys from the 18 hole group play with us in the last few weeks. It is a great place to work on your short game. Come out and join us. 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. If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Sundays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

Reported by Jim Barry



No events to report

Bill Weinberg
925.682.0962

BEAUTY PARLOUR
A place where women curl up and dye.



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

The wine tasting being held on October 11 is full. There is a waiting list. So, if you have not RSVP'ed yet, you can try the waiting list. For the attendees, if for some reason you cannot come,

please let us know so we can have someone from the waiting list attend.

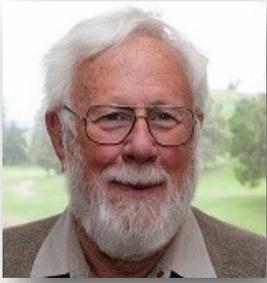
One way to make sure you are on the attendee list is to offer to host one of the wine tastings for next year. The wine tastings are held the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July and October. The number of guests is determined by the host and the number of people he can accommodate.

Brian McCarthy
925.324.2463



After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife came for counseling. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they had ever had in all the years they had been married. On and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she endured. Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking the wife to stand, he embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched — with a raised eyebrow. The woman shut up and quietly sat down in a daze. The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least 3 times a week. Can you do this?"

Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesday... but I fish on Fridays.



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi
Clint Collier

No meeting in September but we're ready to go for October! We will be visiting **Hasumi**

Sushi on Thursday October 20th at 11:30am



Cooking II

Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met at **Bruce Borgman's** home for lunch on September 12th. Summer was still in full force with record setting temperatures so the cooking group enjoyed **Bruce's** lovely backyard from inside his temperature controlled house. Appetizers were served in the family room. They included a nice spread of cheeses, crackers, mixed nuts and salami. After a round of engaging and insightful conversation we were called to lunch in **Bruce's** formal dining room. **Bruce** served us a delightful summer meal which included a chicken sandwich on a croissant roll and a tasty green salad. The wine that was brought by **Bruce's** guests complimented the lunch perfectly. **Bruce** finished off the lunch with a strawberry shortcake dessert. The group will next meet for lunch at the home of **Bill Cammerer** on October 10.



This is a small but well appointed sushi restaurant in the Subway Mall at 3116 Oak Road (A), just down from Back40 BBQ restaurant. Located in the middle of the mall many people probably never notice it. Pre-pandemic they had great sushi... hopefully that is back now because, unlike many sushi restaurants, their sushi bar is open although we are probably too many to use it. They don't have an online presence other than a "to go menu," which they were doing to survive the pandemic. Parking, unfortunately, can be problematic in this small, usually crowded, mall. Look for places on the street, or if desperate drive up to Back40 and go around the corner onto Coggins Drive.

Confirmation of the meeting will go out by E-Mail early in October for members to respond to as to whether or not they are joining us. If you are not registered with us, we still have two openings; contact:

Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org

CHICKENS

The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.



left to right. Ken Richter, Richard Hockenbrock, Bruce Borgman, Dennis Hallett and Bill Cammerer.

Photo by Steve Ybarra





Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

We are pleased to report that the September Dining Out activity was a rousing success. As we indicated last month, we had selected T'zunun Restaurant in Pleasant Hill, a culinary destination that promised a modern Mexican cuisine created by the young chef Jesus Wence, from his culinary training which included a stint in Spain, and several top-notch restaurants in the Bay Area. The entrée selections truly were unique with a crab stuffed poblano dish, and a Spanish rice paella type dish filled with mussels, clams, prawns and calamari. The Langosta tacos were generously filled with lobster, cotija cheese and chipotle crema. The other notable entrées were similarly unique — and the service for our relatively large group was friendly and courteous.

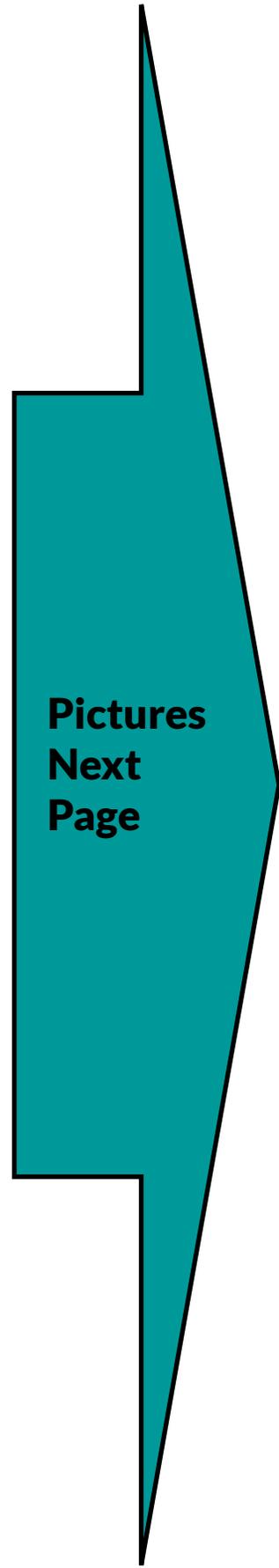
We originally had 62 diners signed up, but had some last-minute changes, and wound up with 58 expected diners. One other couple was a no-show, but we were able to get the restaurant to only charge us for the 56 diners who attended. We had negotiated good pricing for some house wine and beer and mixed drinks during the Happy Hour, but discovered that after this time, the price of the wine went up considerably. We will have to time our wine purchases more carefully, in order to maximize our dining experience budget!

All in all, it was one of our more interesting dining experiences and I received many laudatory comments of this unique cuisine as our diners left the restaurant.

Now, it's onto another quest of discovery for our Dining Out activity in November. I received several suggestions and will consider those. In years past we've tried to make this event in November a special occasion during the holiday season, hard to believe that time has progressed so fast! If you have had occasion to try one of the newer restaurants which have emerged after the changes of the restaurant scene which the pandemic has wrought, let us know!

Please take note of the accompanying pictures which we took which testify of the wonderful event we enjoyed with our fellow SIR members, spouses, and significant others!

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





Photos of dinners at T'zunun Restaurant,
photos by **Bruce Borgman & Bev Collier**



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

The Mexican Train Uno group met this last September 9 with a somewhat diminished number. Some of our regulars were out of town

and a few had unanticipated conflicts, but the remaining group of seven die-hard players had a great time at the **Borgman/Sheldon** residence. After some social time, we got down to business and decided to just have one table of seven.

A competitive series of games ensued until the break at about 8:00pm. Sue tempted us with some yummy pecan bars and ice cream bars and then it was back to the table.

At the appointed hour of 10:00pm, the gong sounded the end of the tournament. You will be able note that **Alicia Baily** once again was the winner, with **Richard Hockenbrock** coming in second, and **Jim Stedman** recouping his initial investment with a third-place finish. The scores of the winners were, respectively, 18.1, 19.2 and 22.1 – quite respectable numbers.

Our next meeting will be on October 14 at the **Baily's**

and we will anticipate a larger group as many of our regulars will be anxious to prove that missing one evening did not lessen their playing skills.

A picture of the winning trio, as well as a group photo taken by Richard, who not only took the picture, but expertly photoshopped himself into the picture.

Bruce Borgman for Corrie Oranje

corrieoranj@gmail.com



Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played our August game at the home of **Dan & Mary Holland**. The snacks and goodies were plentiful and delicious. **Mary** laid out tasty

cupcakes for our break time. We had only 15 regulars but picked up 2 substitutes to bring us almost to a full house.

Mary took full advantage of her status as hostess and came in 1st with a very impressive 11.0 average score. **Ismini MacLean** took 2nd with a 14.4 average score and **Rich Ahlf** rounded out the winners at 3rd with a 15.4 average score.

Our September game was played at the home of **Etta Dotson**. We feasted on meat balls, rolled ham and cheese and much more. Break time **Etta** brought out a yummy cheese cake.

One of our substitutes, **Tony Greco**, came in 1st with an average score of 20.0. Rounding out 2nd and 3rd was the duo of **Ismini MacLean** with a 21.0 average and **Rich Ahlf** with a 21.5 average.

October will be our last month of play this year at the home of **Dave & Clair Kingsbury**.

Ron Plachy

925.2861.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

The ole choo choo train left the roundhouse and slowly chugged its way South to Waterford in Rossmoor to the home of **Jim Stedman** on the evening of September 23rd for a fun evening of MTD's. In addition to **Jim Stedman** were **Judy and Dick Richmond**, **Judy and Jim Baldrige**, **Sharon Varner**, and **Walt Busenius**. Even though we were a smaller group this time, we were an enjoyable gathering of MTD Tres, loving **Jim's** hospitality, table treats, cookies and brownies. After waving adios, we boarded the smiling but tired choo choo train for our trips home.

When the smoke settled, we had our September Champions. **Jim Stedman** took home first place with an average score of 15.50. **Jim** also went out 5 times. **Judy Baldrige** (average 17.90) finished in second place. The next lowest score was 18.42 from **Judy Richmond**. On this night, **Walt Busenius** drew the double blank 6 times and was able to discard it every time.

In October the ole choo choo will take us to the **Busenius'** residence for another evening of MTD Tres. All aboard!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



September Players L to R: **Dick Richmond**, **Judy Richmond**, **Jim Stedman**, **Judy Baldrige**, **Jim Baldrige** and **Sharon Varner**.

Winners **Jim Stedman**, 1st Place; **Judy Baldrige**, 2nd Place

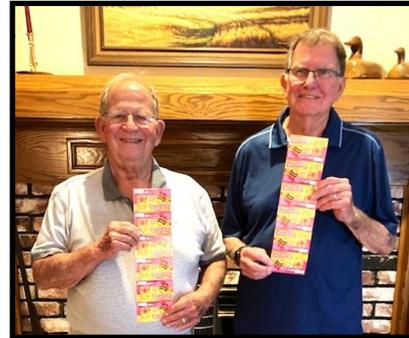
Photos by **Walt Busenius**



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

In September, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 12 people. We played at two tables with six each. The group was small but lively. In attendance were; **Henry and Barbara Thatcher**, **Ron Louis** and **Fran Matthews**, **Dick and Christy DeVoe**, **Steve and Susan Oki**, **Ron and Anne Plachy** and **Jim and Renie Pope**. We paid the player with low table score at each table. The winners were **Henry Thatcher** and **Jim Pope**. They each received six (6) \$1000 Scratcher Lotto Tickets. We also gave one (1) Lotto ticket to the individual with the highest score at one of the two tables. The winner of the highest score was **Ron Louis** (See picture). The members brought sweets, savories and wine for all to enjoy. The evening was filled with wonderful conversation. Food and wine made for an outstanding evening of dominos enjoyment.

Jim Pope



MTD 4 winners above and scratcher below, | **J. Pope** photo.





Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco"

Dave Pierce

Bob and Janet Yolland, back from Janet's high school reunion, hosted us on September 15th. Jim Baldrige scored a hat trick, going out on the first three rounds. It's no surprise that Jim came in first (averaging a remarkable 8.4). Joan Pierce held up the distaff end (16.6), just edging out our host, Bob (17.6). Jim and Bob's strong games carried the men (averaging 20.6) over the women (22.3). However, that's not counting Janet's marvelous lemon chiffon pie, which rated a 10.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

Steve Lane

Richard Hockenbrock hosted (with Steve Lane assistance) MTD6 players on August 24th. We had two tables of players and lots of delicious food and wine to fuel the competition. Attendees included Peter and Martha Plante, Brian and Mary McCarthy, Bruce Borgman, Steve Lane, Richard Hockenbrock and Virginia Tygart. After a fierce battle, Richard Hockenbrock came in first, Martha Plante was a close second, followed by Brian McCarthy taking third place.

Our next meeting is on the September 28th at the home of Kathe Mitchell.

Any questions, please contact:

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Virginia Tygart, Richard Hockenbrock,
Martha Plante



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

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

This was a small group this month of 6 players, and they still managed to have a lot of fun without the other players.

Congrats to **Brian McCarthy** for winning the low score for the second time in a row. The **McCarthy**s have won a total of three months in a row, thereby creating a dynasty. **Clair Kingsbury** had the highest score.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Brian McCarthy and Claire Kingsbury



Mexican Train Dominoes Group "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO met on Wednesday, September 7th with 15

members and guests in attendance. The three lowest scores were (L) **Steve Loftin** 2nd place, (R) **Steve Ondeck** 1st place, and **Virginia Tygart** in 3rd place.

Players (L to R from the top) **Steve Loftin, Jan Ondeck, Richard Hockenbrock, Sue Loftin, Ron Polivka, Jim Barry, Joyce Wells, Virginia Tygart, Victoria Polivka, Laurie Hoban, Bill Hoban, and Steve Ondeck**. Missing from the picture are **Brian & Mary McCarthy**, and **Steve Dining** who took the picture.

Our next outing will be played on Wednesday, October 5th, starting at 6:30pm. All games are played at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**, 3616 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek. If you would like to play, send Richard an email at RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM to get on the list.

Richard Hockenbrock

925.324.1713 RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

The big winner from our September 9th and August 26th meetings was **Brian McCarthy** with 4 wins, followed by **Bill Vizza** with 3 wins. **Bob West** led with 4 seconds, and **Ron Polivka** had 3. **Frank Lucas** and **Ron Polivka** tied for the

lowest average score of 60. This is the 2nd month in a row that **Brian** led in wins. **Bill** and **Frank** each had 2 STM's.

YTD: **Bill Vizza** is still the leader with 16 games followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 14.5 and **Frank Lucas** with 9. **Ron Polivka** leads YTD seconds with 13 followed by **Steve Ybarra** and **Bob West** with 10. **Brian McCarthy** is the most improved over 2021 with a winning percent of 39% which is 277% higher than his 2021 performance. **Bill Vizza** is 2nd with his 43% win rate which is 147% over 2021. **Bob Finlayson** has the highest winning percentage of 45%.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd & 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. October matches will be on the 14th and 28th.

Please call or email me if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robrtawest@aol.com



Brian McCarthy, Frank Lucas, Jim Nelson, Bob West, Steve Ybarra, Ron Polivka and Bill Vizza

Sept 9th Hearts group at Rocco's



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our September 9 Duplicate Bridge 2 event with three tables was hosted at the **DeVoes**. **Steve Dinning** obviously came to play, and did he play well!

- tied for 1st in both halves.
- won outright at the end by 2.5 points.
- participated in both of the best partnerships.
- had the most Twos.
- had the least Zeros.

YOWZA!!

1st Half

1st (Tie): **Steve Dinning** and **Max Hinkle** – 16.5 points.
3rd: (Tie): **Mark Curtis** and **Bob Yolland** – 16.0.

2nd Half

1st (Tie): **Steve Dinning** and **Tony Greco** – 15 points.
3rd: **Ed Marlovits** – 14.0.

Total

1st: **Steve Dinning** – 31.5 points.
2nd: **Max Hinkle** – 29.0.
3rd: **Mark Curtis** – 28.5
4th: **Ed Marlovits** – 27.0.

Best Partnerships (Max. 6 pts. for 3 boards)

Boards 1-3: **Steve Dinning/Mark Curtis** – 6 pts. max.
Boards 4-6: **Steve Dinning/Dave Steinberg** – 5.5 pts.

Most Twos

Steve Dinning – 10.
Mark Curtis & Max Hinkle – 9.

Least Zeros

Steve Dinning & Max Hinkle – 3.

Greatest Need for Improvement

The Coordinator...



Dick DeVoe



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

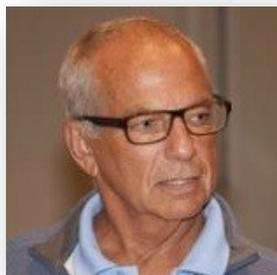
John Kluesener

Our group met on the 21st at the home of **Christy and Dick DeVoe** for an evening of fine wine, scrumptious treats and yes, some challenging bridge cards. Play was very competitive with only three points separating the first and last place players. Our guests for the evening of cards, **Sue and Steve Loftin** came away with first place with 22.5 points overall. Second place for the evening went to our hosts, **Christy and Dick DeVoe** with 21.5 points. Third place went to **Ismini and Rich** who had a total of 20 points for the evening. **Margo Somerville** gave us a good summary of her recent trip to Africa as sponsored by SIR. It was great to gather with friends and enjoy an evening of cards, good conversation and great treats.

Our next gathering will be at the home of **Margo Somerville** on the 12th, the second week of October.

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Cribbage

Ron Afdal

No cribbage activity held for the 4th Wednesday of September due to so many away on last travels for this summer. **Jim Nelson** is working on an online tournament for activation starting the month of September and continuing regularly thereafter. A discussion is taking place amongst the cribbage activity players for an additional playing day to be held at a members home. For example, 2nd monthly Wednesday at a member's home and 4th monthly Wednesday at Rocco's Pizza restaurant. We welcome any members wanting to learn the game of cribbage as well as any wanting to rekindle past skills or play other skilled enthusiasts.

Ron Afdal

ronafdal@comcast.net



Rich and Ismini, Steve and Susan, Christy and Dick

Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce



The heat wave had finally broken, but we were hot to play duplicate again when **Larry and Linda Brown** hosted us on Sept 13th. Some couples were hotter than others. **Dick** and

Christy DeVoe were first (59%) for the second time in a row (Las Vegas bookies were shattered). **Tony and Cindy Greco** were second (56%). **Ken and Elaine Richter** finished strongly to take third (55%), also for the second time in a row. Nobody bid the cold slam on Board 9; better luck next month on that. But it was certainly a lot of fun to see old friends and play face to face.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net

Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan



Poker Group #1 met at the home of **Don Del Bene** on Wednesday September 14th. As always a good time was had by all. The winners and losers were about even. One next outing will be at the home of **Rich Hanford** on Oct

ober 12th.

COMMITTEE

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.



Party Bridge Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

The winners for September's Party Bridge are **Joe Fuchs** with 4010 points, **Bill Snyder** with 3590 points and **Jerry Christopherson**, Branch 116, with 3740 points. Thanks to **Jim Pope** for hosting at the last minute. He was a gracious host as usual with wonderful goodies and scrumptious dessert made by his wife, **Renie**.

In the contest for the Annual Prize Contest, there are now 5 players who have played at least 5 games and qualify for the 2022 contest. The Top 3 leaders are **Joe Fuchs** with an average monthly score of 3856 points, **Rich Ahlf** with 3576 points and **Bill Snyder** with 3504 points. There three more games left for the year, so we all have a chance to contend for big prize money at the end of the year

The next game will be hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dinning** at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Clubhouse on Monday, October 3rd.

If you would like to join the party bridge group contact **Jim Stedman** at jim.r.stedman@gmail.com or **Jim Pope** at jpope24@comcast.net.

Co-Directors
[Jim Stedman](mailto:jim.stedman@gmail.com) or [Jim Pope](mailto:jpope24@comcast.net).

Old Money Poker Group 6

Brad Hatcher



Our highly skilled(?) players met at **Rich Ahlf's** home on the first Thursday of September. As expected, **Rich** was a generous host. Games were varied and resulted in both heart-break and triumph. Norm Baietti was the leading participant in taking home more than he put into the pot followed by **Paul Dubow**. Nicely done! We look forward to our October game!

Brad Hatcher
bhatcher1942@gmail.com

Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco



Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean hosted our September 7th event. Several regular couples as well as most of the subs were not available to play due to Labor Day activities. Consequently, we proceeded with a four couple event instead of the usual six couples, which worked well.

The weather was very hot but the cards were very cold. Few bids reached game level. It was a night of many partial scores. The highlight of the event was just getting together and socializing while we enjoyed the beverages and snacks. I especially enjoyed the figs and wine. Lol.

- The official results are as follows:
- 1st PLACE with only 1570 points – **John & Kathy Kluesener**
 - 2nd PLACE with only 1390 points – **Tony & Cindy Greco**

The **Klueseners** bid and made game during the last round of play to secure first place. They came in 1st last month, as well. If this trend continues they may be put on probation.

Next month's event will be held on October 4th and hosted by **Dick & Christy DeVoe**.

Tony & Cindy Greco
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

INFLATION
Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

Area 16 Activities



MUG Mac User Group

Max Burchett and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products. If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Please note that **Max** and **Verner** are here to help Mac users with problems, that don't exist, and solutions and there are not formal meetings. They will inform members of new items of interest.

If you are a Mac user and want to be included, please let **Verner** know.

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com

Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed October 26 at 1:30pm.

Topic to be announced. Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair — Tom Henry — Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton — Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net



SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

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

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

Parting Shot

