

# SIR CALL

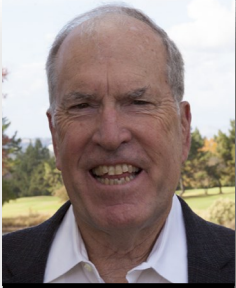
br146sircall@gmail.com

September 2020

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE



## Big Sir's Notes

Brad Hatcher

Congratulations to the Officers and Directors who were elected at our August luncheon! They are listed in the box on the top right of the next page. Many thanks to them for volunteering to keep our

Branch as one of the best in SIR.

The Branch Executive Committee (BEC) met on August 11. Two topics are worth highlighting. **Mike Browne** was approved as a new member. Welcome **Mike!** Yes, even in this weird time, you can bring new members and guests to our Branch.

The BEC is looking into creating a group made up of our single members. It is not yet decided if it will be an "official" activity or an informal one. However, it is clear that having a way to maintain contact with others in similar marital status should be beneficial. More information on this effort to come.

Other topics discussed, our financials and Committee reports are in the BEC meeting minutes which are posted on the website for your review.

**Richard Hockenbrock** and I attended the State SIR Annual Meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The primary purpose of the meeting was to elect the 2021 State SIR officers. Changes in State Bylaws were also approved. There were several other topics. One topic of interest was the announcement of the hiring of a consultant to help with the "Brand" of SIR. The consultant was with us and her report was titled "Building SIR's Public Image to Attract Targeted Prospects".

It is an effort to do a better job of communicating what SIR stands for and why we are a great resource for active men. Changes in our materials and messaging will be forthcoming. One clear emphasis will be on "fun". This effort is in the beginning stages. You may expect to see results in 2021.

Changing topics to our Branch Luncheon meeting in August. Sheriff Livingston gave us excellent information about the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office. He spoke about the organization, mission, geography

ZOOM Luncheon Meeting  
Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

Guest Speaker

David Bush, Retired SF Chronicle Bay Area  
Sportswriter

Breakout Rooms Gathering: 11:30 am

Speaker Presentation: 12 Noon

Invite a guest to attend the meeting—use the email  
address below

Email: [attend146meeting@gmail.com](mailto:attend146meeting@gmail.com)

Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146

covered and many other facts. He was also generous to take time to answer many questions.

Our next virtual luncheon will be on September 10th and as you can see in the Red column next to this note, we have another interesting speaker at the coming meeting. Please remember to wear your "Team Colors" to the meeting.

The meeting format: We will sign on to Zoom, divide into small "breakout rooms" and chat with those in that room, come back to the main meeting and listen to our speaker, and then conduct Branch business. Our meeting will run about one hour and thirty minutes.

You will see an "E-blast" note a couple of days before the meeting. It will contain the necessary information to gain access to the meeting.

The Branch Executive Committee will meet on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is open to all members. If you wish to attend, please e-mail Jerry Kaplan. He will make sure you receive the invitation to the Zoom BEC meeting.

See you at the luncheon.

Stay safe – Be well – Wear your mask

# SIR Mission Statement

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



## Little Sir's Corner

Richard Hockenbrock

If you a consistent reader of the SIR CALL, you see these words written across page 2 in every issue – **The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun activities, luncheons and events**

**while making friends for life.** Let us analyze how SIR is doing in its main mission in this time of COVID-19.

We have fun activities, but all but a few are on hold because of the virus. Luncheons, well unless you are grabbing and eating a sandwich while watching our monthly meetings on Zoom, certainly we cannot hold a large social gathering like we have all been used too. Events, the Ladies Day Luncheon seems like a distant memory from the last one we held in December 2019. So, what are we to do?

Until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, we will be confined to holding all our meetings by teleconference using Zoom. If you do not have Zoom, you are going to be missing out even on the remnants of activities that have moved to the internet plus listening to our monthly speakers. You also will miss out on interaction with your fellow SIR members in “break out room” sessions we hold before each monthly meeting.

Now let us discuss the final part of the SIR mission, “**making friends for life**”. How do you maintain your friendships if you are not getting together with someone? I have an answer... **we need to start calling friends on the phone and talk to them.** An email or text message might work but a phone call is best because it is interactive in real time.

My challenge to our 295 active members this month is for each of you to call five of your friends and find out how they are doing. If you don't have five friends, pick up the SIR directory and pick out five names at random and call them. Explain to them that you are trying to expand your friendship network in SIR and ask them how they are coping in this COVID-19 environment. You both will feel good about it!

Several months out of year, we hold our luncheon meetings based on a theme, and September's theme is Team Sports. Our speaker at the September meeting will be David Bush, retired SF Chronicle Bay Area Sportswriter.

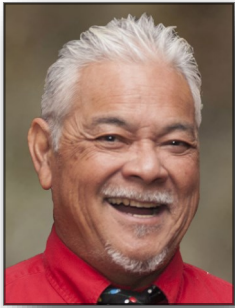
## 2021 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Richard Hockenbrock
Little Sir.....	Jerry Kaplan
Secretary .....	Larry Kaye
Assistant Secretary .....	Rich Lyon
Treasurer .....	Ross Abbott
Assistant Treasurer .....	John Alexander
Director 2nd Term .....	Paul Beretz
Director 2nd Term .....	Brian McCarthy
Director 2nd Term .....	Peter Plante
Director 1st Term .....	George Mon
Director 1st Term .....	Bob Wilkenfeld
Director 1st Term .....	Bob Lucido

His talk should be interesting given the “up in the air” status that many major sport leagues are facing.

Do not forget to wear a shirt or some other piece of clothing with the name and colors of your favorite sports team. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.





## Membership

Ron Lew

The BEC approved a new member in August during our August Zoom virtual Board meeting. **Michael “Mike” Browne** lives in Concord with his wife Gayle. Mike is sponsored by **Mark Curtis**.

As you can see, new SIR members are being introduced to our branch through activities or many of us are still in contact with our friends and family members through our technology like ZOOM, Facebook, or Skype. We will be planning to have a another Zoom meeting in September.

Hopefully, you can bring others into this organization of SIR 146 via Zoom while making friends for life. Many of us Sir 146 members meet through activities respecting our social distancing and washing and wiping down everything. I hope you will have a safe and fun Labor Day.



## Activities Coordinator

Bob Lucido

**Brad**, our Big SIR and **Richard**, Little SIR have recently attended the State Sir Annual Meeting. At the meeting, it was emphasized that there is a need

to telephone our members who are not actively participating in their activity because of the shutdown. Our goal is to make sure they are OK, and to try to keep them mindful of Sir 146. It is important that the members do not feel forgotten, and that they are encouraged to join their activity when things get back to normal.

A request has been sent to the chairmen to make phone calls to their activity members to encourage them to hang in there, and we will be back to normal when this is all over.

### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REPORT AS OF JULY 27, 2020

SWORN		NON-SWORN		TOTAL EMPLOYEES
Female	108	Female	224	
Male	601	Male	165	
<b>Sworn Total</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>Non-Sworn Total</b>	<b>389</b>	
African-American	60	African-American	41	
Asian	22	American Indian/Alaskan Natural	1	
Asian Indian	2	Asian	21	
Caucasian	463	Asian Indian	1	
Chinese	2	Caucasian	221	
Filipino	20	Chinese	2	
Guamanian	1	Filipino	21	
Hawaiian	1	Guamanian	1	
Hispanic	107	Hispanic	59	
Japanese	1	Korean	1	
Korean	1	Other	2	
Laotian	1	Pacific Islander	4	
Other	4	Unknown	14	
Pacific Islander	4	<b>Non-Sworn Total</b>	<b>389</b>	
Samoan	1			
Unknown	18			
Vietnamese	1			
<b>Sworn Total</b>	<b>709</b>			

Above is the Demographic report from last month's Contra Costa County Sheriff's presentation.



## Couples Dining Out

**Bruce Borgman**

Again, there is not much change to report as we are hoping for a revival of our Dining Out activity. As you know, many restaurants have been able to set up tables in a patio, on the sidewalk, or

on the street, but again limited in total capacity, and in the number of diners at a table. It certainly is not conducive to a group dining experience at this time. So, we will wait yet another month to see if the statistics of the Covid cases improve some, and hope that the health department guidelines will allow inside dining at some time in the future.

As I noted last month, we encourage you to take advantage of the takeout feature that many restaurants have set up. As they are getting better over time with this, we've found that it is often convenient to order online, and have your meal packed up and ready to go when you go to pick it up. It is a nice change from doing all the cooking at home!

We miss seeing all of you and are anxiously awaiting the time that we will once again be able to socialize, share a glass of wine, and certainly enjoy a great dinner. We remain optimistic that many of the local restaurants will survive this major challenge to their economic viability and will bounce back better than ever. Plan on patronizing the restaurants vigorously so that they can try to re-coup some of the lost revenue that has inevitably been their lot and plan on joining us when we re-start the Couples Dining Out activity.



## Sunshine

**Brian McCarthy**

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

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

- **Tom Boltz**
- **Hugh Ferguson**
- **Joe Hunt**
- **Sig Kalteis**
- **Jim Meehan**
- **Rick Morgan**
- **Vince Rettew**
- **Stan Stricherz**
- **Joe Suta**

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

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

**Brian McCarthy**

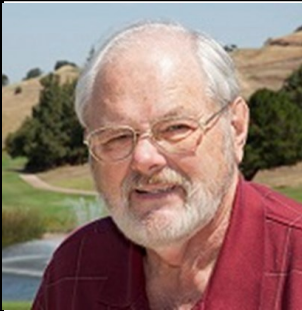
[brimacc@comcast.net](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net)

Tyler: How much does it cost for a pirate to get his ears pierced?

Ryan: A buccaneer.

International Talk Like a Pirate Day is a parodic holiday created in 1995 by John Baur (Ol' Chumbucket) and Mark Summers (Cap'n Slappy), of Albany, Oregon, U.S., who proclaimed September 19 each year as the day when everyone in the world should talk like a pirate.

# SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony



At the August 13<sup>th</sup> zoom luncheon, **Doug Eisner** presented **Gary Schaub** with the Certificate of Appreciation, recognizing his significant contributions over 16 years toward the success of branch 146.

**Gary** was born and raised in Detroit, MI and obtained a degree in Theater Arts from the University of Detroit. Later, he obtained a MA in Theater Arts from University of Michigan.

**Gary** began his career in theater at the Michigan Council for the Arts and later at the Quincy, IL Society for Fine Arts. In 1974 **Gary** moved west when he joined the City of Walnut Creek as its Fine Arts Director. He remained in that capacity for the balance of his career, retiring in 2001.

**Gary** joined our branch in 2004, sponsored by Fred Kovar. In 2008 he started the branch's Theater Activity and held that chairmanship until 2019, one of the longest tenured Activity chairmen in branch history.

**Gary** and **Maria** live in Rossmoor. **Gary** has remained active in the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, and he enjoys art films, and travelling, as evidenced by having visited 55 countries around the world. Wow!!

Congratulations to **Gary Schaub** and thank you for your commitment and dedication to Branch 146.



Photo to Right: August Speaker was Contra Costa County Sheriff **David Livingston**. He was our second outside speaker this year using Zoom at our August 13<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting. His talk was very timely given the recent social unrest.



What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a unicycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle?

Attire



## AREA 16 Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

Last month, we reported that salmon fishing, by and large, had been poor. This month, it rose to the level of inconsistent. All of our outings have been aboard the Sundance, which groups of us charter regularly. The method used by **R.J. Waldron**, the Sundance captain, to reel and land the fish, is unique and so he is often more successful than other captains. Although that is also the case this year, the catch is definitely less than 2019. They seem to be social distancing from our hooks.

The month actually started well. After some bad reports about the fishing on previous days, a group that included **Paul Dubow**, **Rich Fiscina** and **Lee Clark** of Branch 146 and three others set out with low expectations, but managed to bring home nine keepers, three less than the limit. Two days later, a group led by **Bob Stein** limited out. But then the bite dropped off again. A group that included **Bob Stein** and **Brion Beetz** caught only two fish. The most fish that the Sundance brought home that week was five. However, **Paul Dubow** continued to ride with Lady Luck and a group that also included **Karl Droese**, **Joe Miscione**, **Carl Moyer**, **Dave Rege**, and **Jack Waddell**, came home with a limit that saw **Joe** catch a lunker on the very first cast. That inspired **Paul** to try his luck a few days later fishing for halibut on the Kingfish, along with **Carl Moyer** and **Phil Scimonelli**. On the day before, the Kingfish, with 14 aboard, caught a limit of 42 halibut. But not on this day. **Carl** and **Phil** each managed to catch one fish, while **Paul** zeroed out. However, that was not the worst fishing outing of the day. The Sundance, with **Brion Beetz**, **Bob Stein**, and **Gordon Linebaugh** aboard, was skunked fishing for salmon. The salmon fishing for the month then ended on a high note as a group consisting of **Lee Clark**, **Karl Droese**, **Paul Dubow**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Dick Thomson**, and **Jack Waddell** limited out by 11:30 am.

One of the phenomena of this strange year is the arrival of bluefin tuna not far outside of the Gate. These behemoths are rarely seen around here, but they have been appearing regularly this year and **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 was in a group that hooked one of the big fish, but was unable to land it after a lengthy fight. **Ron** also fished the Delta where he caught both stripers and blackberries. (The latter was on land.)

**Tom Kostik**, **Harry Sherinian**, and **Mike Corker**, who are our Delta experts, again fished that body of

water and caught and released many black bass. However, the black bass trophy of the month went to **Mario Moratorio**. **Mario** has moved to San Juan Capistrano to be closer to his children, but on his final foray on the Delta, he landed a 10 lb. black bass.

Because of the COVID 19 restrictions, we have temporarily suspended our breakfast meetings at the Legends Bar and Grill. Instead, we meet via Zoom on the fourth Thursday of the month, where we share coffee, regale each other with our fish stories good and bad, and plan our future outings, of which there are many. The next meeting is at 8:30 am on September 24. If you would like to join us so that you can take part in one of those future outings, please call branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504 or Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4166.



Photo by R.J. Waldron

**Jack Waddell**, **Paul Dubow**, **Karl Droese**, **Dick Thomson**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, and **Lee Clark** display their salmon limit". The photo was taken by R.J. Waldron.



## Photography Group

**Richard Hockenbrock**

SIR 146 Photography Group was joined by SIR Branch 8 Photography Group with an uplifting presentation by **Marc Muench** who leads Muench Workshops. **Marc** spoke about the various photography concepts that he and his team teach on his domestic and international workshops. His workshops comprise small groups with intensive instructions at an all-inclusive price. **Mr. Muench** then answered questions from the 25 participants on landscape and wildlife photography. A great presentation was enjoyed by our photographic enthusiasts, indeed!

There were three additional agenda items. The first item was a video on Sony Alpha 7SIII vs. Canon R5 & R6 film by **Tony** and **Chelsea Northrup** with commentary from Little Sir **Richard Hockenbrock**. The second item from the SIR 146 Photography Group was the theme for the month focusing on photographing Mt Diablo. There were 16 different photographs taken at all different sides of the mountain at various times of the year. Great photographs were submitted by 8 photographers. Congratulations! The third and final item of our meeting was a COVID - 19 walk about by **SIR Moose Kelly**. This segment was a series of photographs taken in Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek during morning walks to document this historic time period from mid-March until mid-August.

If you happen to miss this meeting, there is a recorded version at the following link. [BR146 August 21 Photography Meeting.mp4](#)

Our next Zoom Meeting will be held on Friday, October 16th from 9 AM to 11 AM. Details about our next meeting will be forthcoming.

Email: [RLHOCK@outlook.com](mailto:RLHOCK@outlook.com)

Cell/Text: (925) 324-1713



**SIR Happenings Newsletter**  
<http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings> is the statewide SIR newsletter.



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



## Pinochle

**Charlie Kahsen / Jeff Morrow**

*We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the*



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

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

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

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

**Charlie Kahsen**

(925) 943-1750

[cwkahsen@gmail.com](mailto:cwkahsen@gmail.com)

**Jeff Morrow**

(925) 944-7009

[jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com)

## 2020 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	<b>Brad Hatcher</b>
Little Sir.....	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Secretary .....	<b>Jerry Kaplan</b>
Assistant Secretary .....	<b>Larry Kaye*</b>
Treasurer .....	<b>George Mon</b>
Assistant Treasurer .....	<b>Ross Abbott</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Milton Smith</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Brian McCarthy</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Ron Lew</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Paul Beretz</b>
Director Interim Term .....	<b>Bob Lucido*</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Peter Plante</b>

### RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment .....	<b>Paul Beretz</b>
Activities .....	<b>Bob Lucido</b>
Member Relations .....	<b>Tony Greco</b>
Publicity .....	<b>Peter Plante</b>

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



## Travel Milt Smith

The interest in cruises is picking up, some are already filling up. Cruise lines are doing a number of things to prepare their ships, things like fewer passengers, and more cleaning. As you can imagine they are anxious to get their customers back as soon as they can. I have taken a look at two possible cruises for 2021, 2022.

*Prices are per person double occupancy.*

A shorter cruise aboard the refurbished RUBY PRINCESS (Princes Cruises) just to get your sea legs again; sailing from San Francisco round trip on October 17-24 through the Pacific Northwest Coast. Ports of call are Astoria Oregon, Seattle, Vancouver, B.C. and Victoria B.C. Canada. No flying required!

Pricing begins at \$1,734.00 for a Balcony State Room to \$1,494.00 for an Ocean View Stateroom.

The same cruise for nearly the same price is also available April 23-30, 2022. Our friends at Travel Center Tours and Travel are holding space for us on each of these cruises...

How about the Panama Canal, for a bit longer cruise, Leaving Ft. Lauderdale Fl. for San Francisco on March 12-27 aboard the Ruby Princess, ports of call are: Cartagena Columbia; Panama Canal (new locks), Fuerte Amador (Panama City); Puntarenas, Costa Rica; San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; and San Francisco. Our friends at the Travel Center are also holding space for us on this cruise as well.

I will be presenting these trips to the board in September for approval, however, if you have any interest at all in any of these please contact Milt Smith right away at [miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com) or 925-285-2897.

**Africa!** Turns out the land trips to Africa are filling up fast. I am looking an OAT Trip, Kenya & Tanzania Safari: Masai Mara to the Serengeti, from \$7,095 for 19 days. This is a new trip, I will be setting a date for either July or August of 2022, as these are the best months to see the "Migration. "This is not a particularly physically difficult trip; to me the toughest part is getting there. OAT does an outstanding job in Africa.

As mentioned in recent SIR Calls, there is still

extremely limited space for the Grand Baltic Sea Voyage June 5, 2021, as well as the Narsai David Cruise North American Treasures Cruise aboard Crystal Serenity in September 2021.

I also have some information about the 2021 – 22 Broadway SF season...9 shows...more information to come.

### Milt Smith

(925) 285-2897

[miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com)



Tony Greco ready to explore Machu Picchu...June 2019.

A pirate and a sailor were exchanging stories. The sailor pointed to the pirate's peg leg and asked, "How did you get that?"

The pirate said, "Aye, I wrestled a shark and lost me leg."

The sailor pointed to the pirate's hook and asked, "How did you get that?"

The pirate said: "Aye, I fought Red Beard's crew and lost me hand."

The sailor pointed to the pirate's eye patch and asked, "How did you get that?"

The pirate said, "Aye, a bird came by and left droppings in me eye."

The sailor said, "That's not as impressive as the other two. ..."

"Aye," the pirate answered. "It was me first day with the hook."

[More Travel Photos on next page](#)



More Travel Photos Continued from Prior Page



Photo by Bus Driver

**Milt and Carolyn Smith** with beautiful view of Denali in the background. Aug 2019 SIR trip to Alaska



Photo by Milt Smith

**Blond Grizzly** from Denali Natl Park Aug 2019



Photo by Carolyn Smith

**Milt Smith** and a nice catch of Piranha on the Amazon.



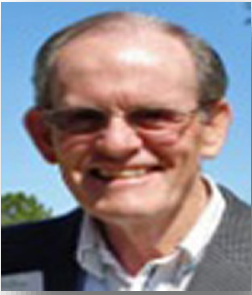
Photo by Milt Smith

**Russ Anderson, Carolyn Anderson, Walt Schmidt, Bill Holly and Dana Ybarra** wine tasting near Cape Town SA June 2018



Photo by Milt Smith

**Steve and Dana Ybarra** during game drive tea break in Africa June 2018



## Pickleball and Ping Pong

### Jim Burk

The location where the two activities are to be held, namely the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, at 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, CA 94507, remains closed considering the current Coronavirus situation. The Church is targeting to open the gymnasium for Basketball and Volleyball activity conservatively no earlier than January 1, 2021, with the Ping Pong activity being targeted for later in the 1st Quarter of 2021.

We will keep you up to date on opening dates as soon as the County Health Department gives us clearance.

### Jim Burk– PickleBall

(925) 946-1192

[jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net)

### Ron Afdal - Ping Pong

(925) 825-4809

[ronafdal@comcast.net](mailto:ronafdal@comcast.net)



## Luncheon Chairman

### Rich Lyon

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

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

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

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

*In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.*

### Rich Lyon

Luncheon Coordinator



## Editor’s Note

### Richard Hockenbrock

*If anyone still needs training on how to log in on Zoom, please send me an email at [rhock2005@yahoo.com](mailto:rhock2005@yahoo.com) that I specifically set up to address training and attendance issues. I will try to help you out.*

*Since using Zoom is the only way we can meet as a group now, it is important that we try to have all our members actively participating in our monthly electronic meetings.*

**Richard Hockenbrock**—Editor SIR CALL

Cell / Text: (925) 324-1713

What is worse than raining cats and dogs?

Hailing taxis!

### SIR Call Newsletter Group

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

I couldn’t figure out why the baseball kept getting bigger

Then it hit me.



## SongSirs Bruce Borgman

This month the SongSirs continued to work on improving our rendition of God Bless America as we planned to lead our Branch Zoom meeting in August with this traditional ending of the meeting.

This time, our pianist, **Steve Dinning**, was able to record his playing of the song by plugging a thumb drive directly into his keyboard. He delivered the thumb drive to me and I was able to extract the clip and send it to our SongSirs participants. The clip was of particularly good quality, and of course, Steve is a great pianist, so this part worked very well.

The instructions to the SongSirs were a bit more complicated. Each member had to play the clip and listen to it on ear buds, or earphones. Then, they had to sing along with the piano as they heard it, and record their singing using a Voice Memo application on their iPhone. Then, they had to send their rendition to **Richard Hockenbrock**. Amazingly, four of us were able to pull this off, and **Richard** then was able to synchronize our four voices with the piano as accompaniment. The four were **Peter Plante, Paul Beretz, Bill Hoban** and yours truly. **Richard** was able to play this at the end of the Zoom meeting while a recent picture of the SongSirs was displayed.

I think the whole effort was quite amazing considering we are not all “techies” and I think kudos are in order to all who worked to put it together. I am sure that for the next SIR Zoom meeting, we will be able to add several of the other SongSirs, and maybe add in some harmony! You will want to be sure to attend the September Zoom meeting to see how far we have come!

Unfortunately, we have not been able to practice in person yet, but we all miss singing and are looking forward to the day when we can practice again. Any of you who do enjoy singing are invited to come and join us as we will be back!! Stay well!

(925) 932-3961  
[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)

Why did the pirate go to the Apple store?

To buy an iPatch.



## Explore & Eat **Black Diamond Mine Tour**

**Cancelled Now**

(To be rescheduled when the County opens their tours

**We are looking forward to your participation!**  
Co-chairs: **Henry Thatcher** 925-997-5032 and **Jim Pope** 925-699-6447



## Bocce John Kendrick

**ATTENTION ALL BOCCÉ PLAYERS!**

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

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

*See you then!*

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

*If you are interested in playing Bocce when we resume play again with your fellow SIR members and guests, please e-mail me [jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com) and I will add you to the roster. This is especially important if you did not participate with us last year.*

*Rain Cancels Play.*

*Ladies are welcome.*

*Come and join us.*

**John Kendrick** (925) 827-0585  
[jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)



## SIR 146 Hiking

**Mark Curtis**

We will be hiking the Redwood Regional Park in Oakland on Friday, September 11 starting at 10 AM sharp **if no smoke and the park is open**. I will be in the parking lot by 9:45. This is a roundtrip walk starting from the Orchard parking lot heading north on the Stream Trail for a couple of miles. Then we will climb up the hill (on one of several possible trails) about 500 feet to access the French trail. Then south on the French trail also for a couple of miles and down the hill to the parking lot. This plan should realize about 6 miles total and cumulative 500 feet elevation change. For those who don't want the hill climb part, you can simply make an about face when hill climbing starts. I had planned this same hike for Friday, August 21, but had to cancel due to smoke from the many fires

The Orchard Staging area is at the east end of Redwood Rd. Address is 7867 Redwood Rd, Oakland.

The hike on August 14 was attended by Steve Lane and his faithful puppy. It might have been 95 to 100F in Walnut Creek, but it was a very pleasant 80F along this East Bay shoreline. I took a couple of photos of the bird life which I'm including.

Spouses always welcome  
Rain (not likely!) cancels  
Dogs allowed on leash

**Mark Curtis**

Cell (925) 360-3449

[Mocurtis1657@gmail.com](mailto:Mocurtis1657@gmail.com)

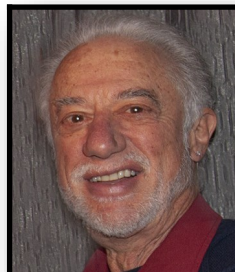


Photo by Mark Curtis

Above and below are bird photos from August 14th hike along East Bay shoreline.



Photo by Mark Curtis



## RV Wanderers

**Bob Lucido**

We spent a week at the 49er Village RV Park in Plymouth with **Don & Etta Dotson**. If you are ever in Plymouth, check out the Taste restaurant, a high-end dining experience. The chef was tired of the rushed life in San Francisco and decided to get away from it all and move to the tiny town of Plymouth. It's on Main Street and you can't miss it because there are only ten stores on that street. The Taste restaurant in Plymouth was open with outside dining so **Don, Etta, Wendy, and Bob** enjoyed themselves

If you don't know where Plymouth is, its near Volcano, and Fiddletown.

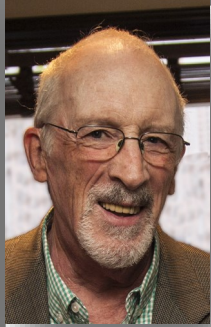
(925) 899-0974

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



Photo by fellow RVer

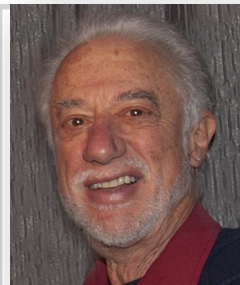
RV Wanderers in Plymouth (L to R) : **Bob and Wendy Lucido, Etta and Don Dotson** and their dogs. **Bob** is making sure he keeps the proper social distance from **Etta**, she wiped the bottle with alcohol and drank the rest.



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES) Jeff Baily

No Events Planned.

Dear Sirs; As soon as we open up playing MTD#3 will be running to meet and play.



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 7 (Siete) Bob Lucido

We all continue to get together with Zoom once a month on the same date as our MTD game. We still have fun keeping in touch while keeping virtual distance.

**Bob Lucido**  
(925) 899-0974

[Bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:Bobwendy3@comcast.net)



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO) Jerry Kaplan

Like most other activities, the Group One players have not been able to meet at our monthly Game Nights. I'm sure we all miss the fun and some polite yelling at each other that occurs, but we also likely miss the different treats and munches that are provided by the hosts each month. Sadly, when we resume our Game Nights, we will all miss Sherry Hockenbrock, who died suddenly in early July. She was a World-class MTD player and frequently won the evening's lowest score monies as well as the semi-annual pot that all the players contribute to.

Hope everyone is well and are looking forward to resuming "normal life," whatever that looks like in 2021 and beyond.

Several months ago, Corrie and I wrote to our group players and discussed a Zoom get-together sometime in the future. Well, after almost six months of hiding behind funny masks and letting our hair grow like it's the 60's, we think it's time to try a Zoom meeting. Hope to reach out to our Group One players soon!

Thinking positively, and assuming we will see each other in person around a dominoes game, all Branch members who have not played before, but would like to join us for a fun evening, please contact Jerry to learn how. The game is entertaining to play and easy to learn! Single SIRs as well as a SIR and his Significant Other are always welcome.

What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo?

One is really heavy, and the other is a little lighter.

What's a writing utensil's favorite place to go on vacation?

Pencil-vania!



## Cycling Group

### Larry Kaye

July 30<sup>th</sup>: Today's ride was an inspiration. We conquered Wildcat Canyon hill and made it to Inspiration Point. **Michael Wolfson, Moose Kelly, Bill Ross, and Larry Kaye.** The goal was to ride the

Nimitz Trail to Berkeley. Well, let us say it was a foggy mess. Upon toping the Wildcat Canyon road, we ran into real heavy fog. Being a tough group, we all decided to chance the Nimitz trail at least for a distance. After riding thru wind, rain, fog, and chill we elected to return to Orinda and have a hot cup of java. The downhill was a treat. Fast and full of turns. Back to the flats we rode. Coffee and chat finished the day. The sun finally shone as we mounted our steel four-wheel vehicles.

August 6<sup>th</sup>: After the wind event of Wednesday we set out on Thursday. Great day. **Bob Wilkenfeld, Bill Ross, Michael Wolfson, Ron Lew, Bob Lucido, Moose Kelly and Larry Kaye.**

Today's route was thru Blackhawk, into San Ramon and then Danville. We had a first this year. Doctor **Bob Wilkenfeld** had a flat. The scene was hilarious. 7 guys all standing over **Bob**, some with advanced degrees, some with MD degrees, all offering up advice. He fought thru the noise and with the help of a secret tool finished the tube exchange. What fun.

Onwards towards Danville we rode. Making the usual stop in-route to visit a restroom; we rode on. Back to Peet's we plodded. Sitting with space between us, we enjoyed that cup of java mixed with the friendships we have formed. Refreshing ride.

August 10<sup>th</sup>: Clyde What's a Clyde? Where is a Clyde? Anyone know? Well some of the Boys in Spandex now do. Today we went to Clyde. Yes, we did. From Martinez off we went past the VA, Kaiser Hospital, the Contra Costa County Sanitation District, (pew) thru the outskirts of Concord onward we rolled. The air was resplendent with fragrances not normally enjoyed. Sanitation, oil refineries, car dismantlers, low tide and of course tar. A truly lovely day. But we were going to Clyde so who cares? The Clyde town marker finally appeared. A small old railroad stop and a sign. Settled in 1917 for the workers on the Railroad and the Army base, Clyde still exists. We did it. **Ron Lew, Moose Kelly, Michael Wolfson and Larry Kaye.** Clyde has been visited by the Boys.

We enjoyed the Clyde trail and then headed back towards Martinez. We were blessed in that we took the

infamous Pacheco Boulevard into town. If you ever wondered what streets were never paved, we suggest you try this route. After jolting ourselves for ever we arrived at State Street Coffee. All of us anxious to use the facilities. But the Restrooms were closed. A port-a-potty was in the parking lot, what a sigh of relief. Java and belly bombs and off we went. The knowledge of what awaited us on the return fully in our minds. One nasty hill. Oh well, we can do it. After all we have climbed the Lady Diablo.

Turning that last corner, we saw it. Hot, steep and yet we had to do it because our cars were on top. Got to say it: After a year of training, doing Mountains, Windmill farms et/al, this group of retired seniors flew up what a year ago was a killer, with no effort. Who says you cannot? Age is a myth. We did it. Great ride and one we will not do again.



Photo by Moose Kelly

August 6th, Cycling ride (L to R): Larry Kaye and Michael Wolfson.

What did Mr. and Mrs. Hamburger name their daughter?

Patty!



## Cooking II Bob Yolland

Cooking II had an excellent get together for a glass or two of wine, great appetizers, and super conversation on Monday 8/10 in **Bob Yolland's** backyard. Seventy five percent of our members were able to make with a late start at 4 PM. We maintained social distancing and followed all the guidelines, stayed mostly in the shade, and really enjoyed each other's company. The wine and goodies were supplied by all in attendance and were really good. Since it was not practical to have lunch and our first function in months, we enjoyed a lot of pent-up stories and excellent conversation. It was really good to get together with good SIR 146 friends in person again.

Our Cooking II chairman, **Bob Yolland** who has served for many years, has decided to retire and hand the group leadership over to a new man. **Steve Ybarra** was happy to step up. We all look forward to a strong future for Cooking II under **Steve's** guidance. Our next event will be scheduled for the normal second Monday, September 14th hosted by **Bruce Borgman**.



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



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

Reported by **Jim Barry**



## Cooking Lunch & Wine Paul Dubow

The Lunch and Wine Cooking Group has decided that we will not cook while COVID 19 restrictions are in place but will instead meet in the backyard of the monthly host, bring our own lunches, and enjoy our conversations.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature has interfered with our plans. We were scheduled for a get together at **Pete Gates'** home on August 19, but we decided to postpone it one week because of the hot weather. And then the fires hit reducing air quality and so we now have postponed the meeting to September 16. However, we may have a Zoom meeting between now and September 16.



Did you hear about the monkeys who shared an Amazon account?

They were Prime mates.



## Book Group

John Pearl

Four members of the SIR 146 On-Line book group met Monday morning, August 10. Our "Zoom Master" was **Walt Busenius**.

Books we have been reading include *Salt, A World History* by Mark Kurlansky, some of the series by John Sanford, and *Has Anyone Seen Luis Velez* by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

We moved to our selection for August, *Thunder Below*, the story of the WWII submarine Barb narrated and written by its commander, Eugene Fluckey, during the last years of the war in the Pacific. He stayed in the Navy and retired as a Rear Admiral. He was young, innovative, and aggressive. He had the complete confidence of his commanding Admiral. The Barb held the record for the number of enemy ships sank at 17.

He had a very complete life after leaving the Navy, living in Portugal as an American official, and eventually running an orphanage with his second wife. Portugal gave him their highest decoration to honor him. He also was awarded the US Congressional Medal of Honor for his outstanding accomplishments with the Barb. As President Roosevelt was too ill to do the presentation, it was done by the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral King. He asked that to not receive the medal, but to give more recognition to the crew of the Barb. His offer was not accepted.

While he worked the crew hard, he also did his best to take care of them. He managed to acquire a lot of beer whenever the ship was supplied, and always told someone to put several cases in "the cooler" whenever they were about to sink a ship! The cooks also made some great cakes to help celebrate a sinking in an "after action" gathering.

Admiral Fluckey had access to a diary that one of the crew had (illegally) kept, and some of the Japanese military records of events as seen from their point of view. He also made good use of the USN records in Washington D.C.

He reinvented submarine tactics in the pre-nuclear era, from wait for enemy shipping to come you, to go looking for them, even in and around the Japanese home islands. He and the Barb lived through the changes in torpedo technology, which sometimes worked and sometimes did not, failing to hit the targeted vessels and possibly putting his sub at risk. He acquired the nickname "Luckey Fluckey."



## Cribbage

John Pearl

The SIR 146 Cribbage Group continues to play on-line, via the "Cribbage Pro" app. As this is written, Tournament No. 6 continues, with 14 players! We are again facilitated by our Chief Technical Office, **Jim Nelson**, who continues creating the tournament brackets and updating them as the scores of the matches are reported to him. We play a double elimination tournament, giving the participants the maximum number of chances to play.

The overall winner of Tournament No. 5 was **Jim Stedman**, with **Malcolm Harrison** taking second place. In the Consolation Bracket, **Paul Dubow** was the winner, with **Jeff Baily** taking second place. The fun continues!

John Pearl

[mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net)

The book was so vivid in its descriptions that one of our group who listened to it in verbal form thought it was like being in a WWII action movie, and he was living it vicariously!

All in all, we felt this book has much to recommend it. As the author, the admiral said, it is a story that needed to be told.

We discussed our choices for our next book, and settled on a classic, this time being a classic, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, by Alexandre Dumas. Others of interest included: *Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb and the 116 Days That Changed the World* by Chris Wallace, mysteries by Brad Thor, including *Near Death* and *Back Lash*. The staying power of some books was thought to be amazing, such titles as *Where the Crawdads Sing* and *The Gentlemen From Moscow* is amazing. So many books, so little time. We convene again on Monday, September 14th.

John Pearl, Interim Chair

[mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net)

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?





## MEN'S Hearts

### Bob West

We have played at least 4 weeks a month since 4/16 on Friday at 1-4 pm, however we are now switching to twice per month. Our next online games if you are interested will be Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Those with most wins in August were **Bob Finlayson** with 7, **Frank Lucas** with 4, and **Ron Polivka** with 3.

#### YTD Statistics Summary:

- **Bob Finlayson** is now leading in YTD Wins with 28, and 2<sup>nd</sup> is **Ray Bland** with 27, and 3<sup>rd</sup> is **Frank Lucas** with 20.

**Bob Finlayson** has won an amazing 46% of the games he has played, followed by **Ray Bland** at 40% and **Rich Lyon** at 30.5%. **Bob** won 4 of 5 games on 8/15.

Our statistic for Most Improved Player shows the 2020 winning percentage divided by the 2019 winning percentage or WIN % 2020/2019 Avg. **Frank Lucas** is 1st with 263% as he won 26% of his games in 2020 and 10% in 2019. 2nd is **Steve Ybarra** with 177%, as he won 25% in 2020 and 14% in 2019. 3rd is **Ray Bland** at 139%, as he won 40% in 2020 and 29% in 2019.

**Steve Ybarra** leads for most seconds at 26. **Bob West** is 2nd with 22.5, and **Frank Lucas** is 3rd with 20.5.

Our YTD average low score leaders are **Bob Finlayson** with 68.2 points followed by **Ray Bland** with 69.6 points and **Bob West** with 70.1.

I have added a new comparison, dividing the 2020 Avg score by 2019. YTD best improved in scoring average is **Brian McCarthy** who is 80% of his 2019 average. In 2nd is **Frank Lucas** with 84% and 3<sup>rd</sup> is a tie between **Ray Bland** and **Jim Nelson** both with 92%.

**Frank Lucas** is the leader in shooting the moon having done it 29 times. **Ray Bland** is 2nd with 26 and **Rich Lyon** 3rd with 14.

YTD STM % of games is total STM divided by games played. In 1st is **Frank Lucas** who "Shoots the Moon" in 38.2% of games played. 2nd is **Ray Bland** with 38% and 3rd is **Jim Nelson** with 35.7%.

**Steve Ybarra** leads the most games played this year at 77, followed by **Frank Lucas** at 76 and **Ron Polivka** at 73.

A new statistic is fewest uncovered passes since July 10th. An uncovered pass is when you pass to someone who shoots the moon. Leading is **Bob West** with 0, 2nd is **Bob Finlayson** with 1 and **Steve Ybarra** is 3rd with 2.

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

SIR 146 Men's Hearts Statistics															
Date	Group	Game	Bob Finlayson	Bob West	Brian McCarthy	Frank Lucas	Jim Nelson	Rich Lyon	Ron Polivka	Steve Ybarra	George Sabbagh	Ed Smith	Ray Bland	# hands	STM Pass From
YTD AVG			68.2	70.1	72.2	77.7	76.2	75.7	87.4	77.0	82.8	73.1	69.6	9.7	
2020/2019 Avg			133%	104%	80%	84%	92%	126%	94%	111%	n/a	n/a	92%		
YTD STM			8	4		29	5.0	14	6	8	3		26		
YTD STM % games			13%	6%	0%	38.2%	35.7%	34%	8%	10%	5%	0%	38%		
YTD WINS			28	19.5		20	3.5	13	10	19.5	10.5	1	27		
WIN %			46%	29.5%	0%	26%	25%	30.5%	14%	25%	18%	25%	40%		
WIN %: 2020/2019 Avg			80%	106%	n/a	263%	113%	37%	14%	177%	n/a	n/a	139%		2020 Most Improved
YTD 2nds			13.0	22.5	1	20.5	6.5	6	21	26.0	12.5	1	19.5		
UC pass aft 7/10; Best Sheriff			1	0	n/a	6	n/a	n/a	6	2	3	n/a	3		
Games played			61	66	2	76	14	41	73	77	57	4	68		
			Game Key Chart			Avg hands in game			BF won 4 of 5 on 8/15			New 4 of 5 winner			
			1st			Classic hearts			10			RL, won 4 of 5 on 7/10			
			2nd			Jack Diam -10 opt			16			Steve Y. won 4 of 5 games on 6/5, 1st 4 time winner			
			3rd									Ray B. won 3 of 3 on 4/24			
						Records of year						Bob F. won 3 of 3 on 5/15			
						2nd best records of year									

Above is a snapshot of the 2nd page of our hearts statistics summary thru 8/14 which is further discussed above.



**Men's Duplicate  
Bridge 1**

**Dave Pierce**

No Games Scheduled

How many of you read Bobby Wolfe's column in the East Bay Times? I do, every day, but lately he is writing about declarer play or defender play at a level way above where I am. I want to turn you on to an alternate column I really like, which is written at a level where most of the SIR players I know are playing.

It is by Frank Stewart, and you can find it with this link or by Googling "Frank Stewart's Bridge Column."  
<https://www.baronbarclay.com/frank-stewarts-daily-bridge-column/>

I especially like the Simple Saturday columns.

**Dave Pierce**  
932-3877



**Couples Duplicate  
Bridge 2**

**Dave Pierce**

No Games Scheduled

**Dave Pierce**  
932-3877

[dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



**Men's Duplicate  
Bridge 2**

**Bill Schultz**

No Games Scheduled



**Couples Party Bridge**

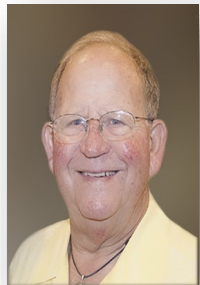
**Tony Greco**

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

**Tony & Cindy Greco**

(925) 934-0395

[almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)



**Party Bridge**

**Jim Pope &  
Jim Stedman**

No Games Scheduled



What building in New York has the most stories?

The public library!

May you always have:

Love to share,

Cash to spare,

Tires with air,

And friends who care.



**Poker Group 1**  
Dan O'Sullivan

**No Games Scheduled**



**Old Money Poker  
Group 6**

Brad Hatcher

**No Games Scheduled**

Brad Hatcher

Tel: (925) 935-1571

[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)

Poker Groups



**Poker Group 2**  
Bob Royster

**No Games Scheduled**



**Poker Group 7**

Bob Lucido

**No Games Scheduled**

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

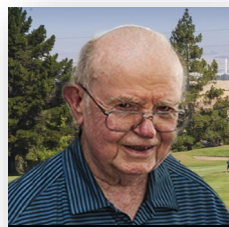
(925) 899-0974

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



**Poker Group 3**  
Sig Kalteis

**No Games Scheduled**



**Poker Group 4**

Rich Hanford

**No Games Scheduled**



**Poker Group 5**  
Bill Roberts

**No Games Scheduled**





## GOLF

### Ed Marlovits

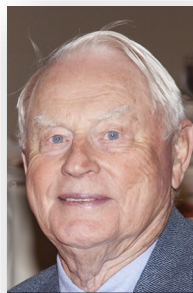
It has been an “interesting” month for golf with 100-degree heat followed by a canceled Tournament Tuesday due to unhealthy air. Another reflection of the slow return

to normal golf activity was an Away Golf event at Blue Rock Springs where we had a grand total of one foursome.

As this is being written the air is clearing and it looks like September will get off to a more robust start. We have an Away Golf event scheduled for September 3 at Dublin Ranch. The current sign-ups for this event are 6 foursomes, and we have four guests scheduled to participate.

The final away golf event is scheduled for Chardonnay on October 6. That is a Tuesday during the week when Boundary Oak scheduled its greens for aerification.

Because of social distancing issues we no longer have a starter, or a payout envelop. Payouts will be distributed at the end of the year.



## Nine Hole Golf Group

### Verner Laursen

**Come Out! We are playing!**

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

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

[vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)

Golf



## Book Corner

### Peter Plante

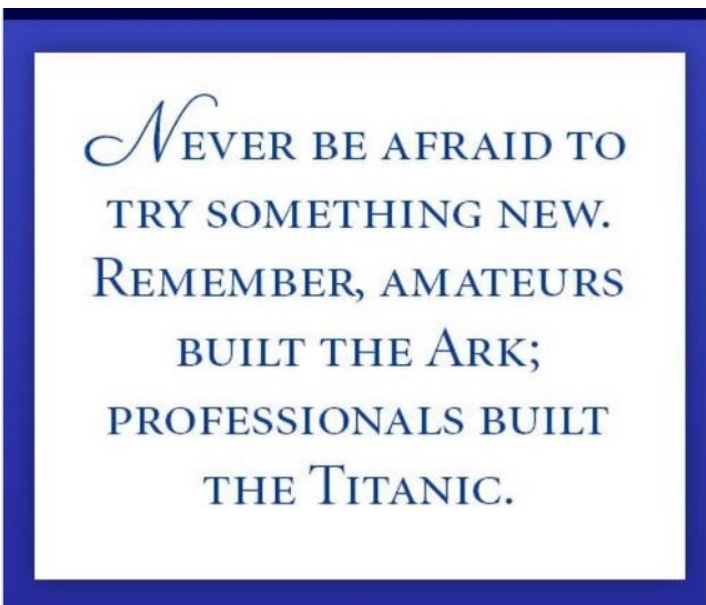
*I hope everyone has found some good books during this time. I decided to start Tolstoy's War and Peace that was recommended to us in college 55 years ago. Maybe we could share some of our other favorites classics. Happy reading!!*

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



A bear walks into a bar and says, “Give me a whiskey and ... ..cola.”

“Why the big pause?” asks the bartender. The bear shrugged. “I’m not sure; I was born with them.”



## Area 16 Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

*Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are long time Mac users (1978) and members of the Diablo Mac User Group. We are available to help you with your Mac questions and problems. If we cannot help you, we will direct you to someone who can help with your Mac questions. If you are planning to buy Apple products, we can provide information on what and where to buy.*

*In the past we have had meetings at the Thurman Casey library, but the attendance was sparse, so we discontinued those meetings. Then came Zoom and we are now planning to have meetings using Zoom. We do have a list of Mac users within SIRS and we will use that list to inform members of the date and time of Zoom meetings. If you wish to be added to our list, please let Verner know of your desire. We do have attendees from other SIRS groups. We do plan to announce our meetings to all member of SIR 146.*

*Verner in the past, led a genealogy meeting at DVMUG that was disbanded for a lack of attendees but is going to start that up again with the use of Zoom. (His family in My Heritage has over 30,000 names.) If you are interested in genealogy and want to be added to that group, please let Verner know*

**Verner Laursen**    [Vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:Vlaursen@astound.net)  
**Max Burchett**    [Meburchett@astound.net](mailto:Meburchett@astound.net)

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### Area 16 \$ums Investment Group

No Meeting until further notice

Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 [tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)  
Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Br 8 - [davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

### Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The next SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group meeting, via Zoom, will be Thursday, September 17th starting at 9:30 AM. The Zoom "Doors" will be open at 9:15 AM so come a little early to chat with friends.

In September, the Computer & Technology group is going to start a multi part series on "Television Entertainment" led by Phil Goff and Neil Schmidt. The first part of the series, starting in September, will review "Internet Streaming, Smart TV's and Streaming Devices". In later months: streaming sites available, how to find good programming and favorite sites/programs, as contributed by members, will be discussed.

There is a tremendous amount of television programming available beyond your standard cable or satellite service. Numerous interesting documentaries, Academy Award movies, classic movies, TV series, etc. are available via Internet streaming. In addition, some of these services are free.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.

Always checkout our CAT website at "[a2cat.sirinc2.org](http://a2cat.sirinc2.org)" for information about our meetings and for info on past presentations. **Note that you need to be on the Computer & Technology mailing list to receive the necessary Zoom weblink to attend the meeting.** Send your request to join our mailing list to: [sirarea16cat@gmail.com](mailto:sirarea16cat@gmail.com)

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A perfectionist walked into a bar...apparently, the bar wasn't set high enough.

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