



Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

Boy, if you missed our March luncheon you sure missed a great time!

Jonathan Korfhage, our greeter, and "Paddy", the assistant greeter, got us in the St Patrick's Day mood at the door with their

costumes and some of the finest blarney this side of old Dublin. Then when we entered the luncheon room, we were entertained by our very own SongSirs with a medley of familiar Irish tunes. Great way to start the day! My personal shout-out to **Jonathan** and all the SongSirs!

We continue to make great strides toward achieving our new member goals for 2014. During the first 3 months of the year, we've hosted 15 guests and inducted 12 new members - 30% and 40% of our annual guest and new member goals, respectively! Good work, keep it going, guys!

The City of Walnut Creek recently updated its plans for renovation of The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak, our luncheon venue. The revised plans now call for renovations to begin in Jan 2015. The first phase will address the building exterior, the second floor restrooms and other projects with completion expected in mid-year. The renovation of the second floor kitchen is scheduled in the next phase, set to begin in 2016. So it appears our luncheon will be able to remain at The Clubhouse until at least early 2016.

We were honored to present two Senior Sir awards during March. One was presented to **Bruce Jones** at the March luncheon by our Area 2 Governor **Gary Plisco**. The second award was belatedly presented to **Olof Johansson**, at his home where he has been recuperating from a lingering illness, by our

April Luncheon

Featuring

Daniel Borenstein

Gathering time - 11:00 am

Seating time - 11:45 am

Can't attend?

email nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
By noon Friday, April 4th

Honorees Chairman **Dennis Hallett**.
Congratulations to both honorees!

Finally, a reminder that the May Ladies Day lunch is right around the corner. **Steve Dawkins** is working his magic with the Courseco staff to provide a super experience for us and our ladies and **Bill Holly** has arranged for some special entertainment on that day. Be sure to get your reservation in early as you'll not want to miss this event!



Photo by Ray Kan

Sir **Bruce Jones** receiving the Senior Sir President's Award from Area 2 Governor **Gary Plisco**

Little Sir's Corner

Bill Holly

Our guest speaker for the April 10th Luncheon is Daniel Borenstein, an award-winning columnist and editorial writer for the Bay Area News Group, which includes the Contra Costa Times, Oakland Tribune and San Jose Mercury News.

Dan is a Bay Area native and Contra Costa County resident. He holds undergraduate degrees in journalism and political science and master's degrees in public policy and journalism, all from University of California, Berkeley.

His weekly column often focuses on public finance issues, including columns during the past six years on government employee pensions. Those columns have helped shaped public policy at the local and state levels.

Borenstein is regarded by many as one of the most knowledgeable journalists in California when it comes to public pensions.



King Street #318, San Francisco 94107. If you no longer have the form, contact **Paul** and he would be glad to send you another form. Alternatively, you can just prepare a biography without the form and send it to **Paul**.

Poker Club

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker group #1 met March 12th at the home of **Don DelBene**. The winners were **Al Zamolo** (again!!!), **Frank McNamee** and our host **Don**. We had 4 guests that joined us:

Doug Cook, Rich Hanford, Sal Costanza and **Al Zamolo**. A good time was had by all - especially **Al**. Our next competition will be at **Frank McNamee's** On April 9th.

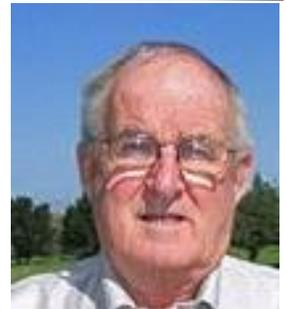


Photo by Ray Kan

Patrick Lucia, Paul Dubow, Dick Woodman, Pete Gates, Garth Cummings and Jim Meehan all smiles at the March luncheon

Message from Paul Dubow

*This is a reminder that we are posting all branch members' biographies on the website. So far, 71 biographies have been posted. If you have not sent us your biography, please fill out the form that we emailed to you last month and send it to **Paul Dubow** at pdubow2398@aol.com or to his home at 88*



Photo by Ray Kan

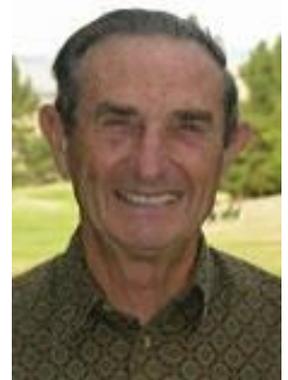
Bob Larson, Al Munayer, Bob Adams and Howie King ready to collect money at the March Luncheon. Talk about a great way to meet everybody.

Poker 2

Al Zamolo

Our February session hosted by **Jim Stedman** was sort of a ho hum day. No big winners or losers. But as usual **Ron Binder** was the big winner of \$3. Our next session was hosted by **Al Zamolo** on Wednesday, March 5th.

Ron Binder was again a big winner. Is he marking the cards? Must be because he wins so often. **Ron** will host our April session. Maybe his streak will be broken. We hope so.



Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

NEW

Please note that in April we will meet on the 2nd Monday of the month because the room is not available on the 1st Monday.

The Mac Users usually meet the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 AM. We finish by noon. **Max Burchett** and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac.

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 us from time to time and we will let you know of items that are of interest to Mac users.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Walt Busenius, Joan Pierce and John Pearl, looking over the wine selection at the Finestra Restaurant during the March Couples Dining Out dinner



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Diane DeGolia, Barbara Stedman, Ron DeGolia and Lo McCarley chatting at the Couples Dining Out dinner in March

Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The March event of this popular SIR activity was held at La Finestra in Lafayette on St. Patrick's Day. The restaurant is tucked away among the trees along Lafayette Circle and provided an intimate setting for our bi-monthly dinner. We had the largest number of participants we have had with 56 diners enjoying a three-course dinner. After a generous Caesar salad, we had a choice of sole, lasagna, or chicken, and finished with tiramisu for dessert, along with coffee or tea.

This is a small restaurant and we essentially took over the place where we were seated in smaller groups and some larger tables. The cocktail hour started at 5:30 followed by the dinner. From all indications everyone had a great time as we lingered with old friends and new. We had a number of new attendees to the event as well as newly inducted Sirs and we invite any of our SIR group and their spouse to our next dinner, which will be in May.

One option for our May restaurant is Prima in Walnut Creek, where we are able to use the wine tasting area but we must have the dinner on a Sunday. In polling this month's diners – that looks like it would be ok. But, there are other good restaurants we haven't tried, which have been suggested as well – and we will be checking these out as well. Stay tuned!



Hiking

Rich Ahlf

On Friday April 11, the hiking group will be walking the New Bay Bridge. I've found a lot of dedicated to people wanting to walk the bridge. This is the closest you can get to park. It still will be about four miles each way. However it is flat and you could turn around anytime you want. Also if you prefer you could take your bikes or bring your dogs. If anyone wishes we can eat at someplace like Spangler's Restaurant after. Directions; Take Hi-way 24 to 580 to 980, get off at 27th St.. Go straight, turn right on West Grand Ave, go about a mile (you'll see a sign Bay Bridge walk parking). Turn left on Maritime and turn right immediately on Burma St at parking lot. We'll meet about 10:00am. Spouses welcome, Rain cancels.



Photo by Rich Ahlf

Hikers taking a rest

Membership

Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics:
As of our Branch Executive Committee meeting on March 13, we have 268 active members including six Honorary Life Members. Currently there is one member applicant awaiting BEC approval.



Status Changes:

Inducted: **Martin Brady**
Robert Kouba
Noel Roberson
Frank Pandolfi

Passed away: **Don Tubb.**

Changes to the Inactive Roster: It now numbers 26 members.

Bocceball

Martin Lyle

We play the 2nd and 4th Mondays May through October at 8:30 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain Cancels play.



Well, we have gone through the wet, winter months, which aren't good for Bocce Ball. We wanted to get word out a month early to prepare for the Bocce Ball season which will commence for us on the 2nd Monday of May. This is also called May 12. Ladies are welcome.

Photo by Rich Ahlf



Doug Eisner, Dick Kincaid and Fred Kovar ready for the St. Paddy's Day Luncheon



Steve Siljestrom, Jim Stedman and Jeff Baily at the March Luncheon

Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Trout fishing picked up substantially this month.

Barry Rauchle was the star, picking up an eight pounder and a four pounder as he and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146

limited out fishing at San Pablo Reservoir.

Carl Moyer and **George Schulze** fished at San Pablo on the same day, but only landed two fish. Earlier in the week, **Pete Gates** and **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146 fished in one boat in San Pablo and **Carl Moyer** and **Paul**



Photo by Kevin Brock



Paul Dubow with an eleven pound steelhead caught in the Smith River

Dubow fished in another. Each boat came home with four fish. **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 limited out on another trip to San Pablo, while fishing with **Carl Moyer**. **Carl** did not limit out but returned a few days later and limited out while fishing from shore. **Gene Schulting** of Branch 146 caught three rainbows while fishing from shore with his son. **Paul Dubow**, **Carl Moyer**, and **Terry Miller** fished from a pier at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, caught two trout, and then repaired for a nice lunch at Jim's Restaurant in Pleasanton.

Rich Fiscina, **Pete Gates**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Carl Moyer**, **Terry Miller**, **Romano Gnusti**, **Mike Corker**, **Paul Dubow**, and **Joe Miscione** all fished for sturgeon in

the lower Delta, and all caught fish, but no keepers. **Paul's** fish was just an inch or two below the 40 inch minimum and several others were over 30 inches.

Paul Dubow and **Jack Waddell** journeyed up to the Smith River in northern California and caught and released six steelhead, with the largest, caught by **Paul**, weighing in at 11 pounds.

We are all looking forward to salmon season, which starts this month. We also have plans for Delta fishing for sturgeon and stripers and fishing in local and mountain lakes for rainbow trout and so please feel free to join us.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 24, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, but breakfast is available, beginning at 7:30 am. For further information, contact Big Fish **Dick Thomson** (925-944-1760), secretary treasurer **Romano Gnusti** (925-376-3313), or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** (415-495-6504).

Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on March 19th at Susi Cherry's home.

Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also enjoyed Susi's wine and snacks.

The group welcomed back **Jim** and **Allison Todhunter**—they were part of this group for ten years. Now, they are on our substitute list. The group also welcomed **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** as substitutes. As for the bridge results, **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** came in first with 39 points. **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** with 38 points came in second. In third place with 36 points were **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman**. **Jim** and **Allison Todhunter** came in fourth place with 33 points. Hey! Our substitutes won some money. That's OK. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on April 16th.





Note from the Editor

We're looking for a Branch 146 member who would like to try his hand at the job of SIR Call Co-editor (in-training). Requirements are a computer and a publishing program such as **Pages** or **Microsoft Publisher**. I will work with the candidate for as long as it takes to get up to speed to share the job of editor.

Jeff Baily SIR Call Editor

Photo by Bill Schultz



Duplicate bridge players **Jim Brown** and **Bill Schultz** discovered they are both graduates of the town High School in McCook Nebraska albeit not the same year.

Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams

The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 group met at **Dick & Christy DeVoe's** abode for 3 tables of Olympic-sized play on March 11. **Lynn & Dasha Freeman** made a perfect triple axel on their way to gold with 24 points. **Terry & Sharon Marchione** performed a super triple upright that nailed the silver with 22 points. **Jim & Ruth Adams** did a double-half-full-full and lived to tell about it, taking a bronze with 21 points. **Dick & Christy** fell on the last chute but did an ass-pass to the finish line and tied for the bronze. The others got snow slapped toward the end and never recovered.



Book Corner

Ken Richter

Ladies, the SIR Luncheon on May 8, 2014 is your lucky day. The Book Corner will be open at 10:30 am and will remain open after the luncheon.

You are encouraged to bring books to share with others. This will also be a good time to pick up a few books for your summer reading.



*Breaking News Headlines!!
Illiteracy an Obstacle, Study Finds*

Area 2 Sums Investment Group

The Area 2 Sums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday April 23, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Legends restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord.

Our guest speaker will be Greg Vogel of GKV Capital Management Inc. Greg's topic will be "Utilizing ETFs for Portfolio Management."

Greg will discuss the pros and cons of using ETFs in a portfolio to increase portfolio diversification and liquidity, evaluate the emerging actively managed ETF funds, and look closely at the perceived benefits of using ETFs for more illiquid assets including fixed income and certain commodities.

Greg has been working on Wall Street for more than 20 years, with experience at both large investment banks and boutique investment firms. He has been a regular guest on financial television including CNBC and CNN and has been mentioned frequently in the business press, including The Wall Street Journal, Business Week and Forbes. In 2000, Greg was ranked in The Wall Street Journal's "Best on the Street" analyst survey for his coverage of the software industry.

The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 a.m. so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Plan to attend this meeting and bring a prospective Sir.

Co-Chairmen: Gary Moore (Br-174) 925-254-8742

David Sutton (Br-8) 925- 686-0185



Derek Southern



Neil Schmidt

Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all Sirs and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, April 17th at 9:30 am. Our April presentation will be about "Serious Security & Identity Threats". The presenter will be Evan Corstorphine who owns and operates Portable CIO, an IT consultancy and managed service provider (MSP) based out of Alamo, CA. He is an expert in several IT disciplines including Wireless Networking, Security, and the implementation of HIPAA, the medical privacy law. He will primarily be talking about the current and serious threats out there that folks need to know about, preparing individuals to make good decisions, and protecting against predators that are after your money and identity. He will discuss items such as:

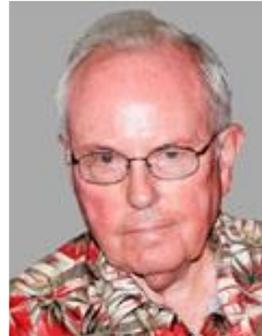
- "Hi, I'm from "Windows" and our systems noticed that your computer has viruses. Let me help you..."
- "Crypto-locker". What is it, what does it mean, and why you should care.
- Prevention. How do you build the wall?
- "Why does my computer always get infected?"
- Security myths, busted.

Time permitting, he will also address some computer related issues such as typical computer problems encountered and how to get them fixed.

Following the presentation, also time permitting, there will be an informal "Sharing Tips & Tricks" segment where individuals will be asked to share some of their computer, smartphone, tablet, etc. tips with the group. Bring your own Tips & Tricks to share with the

group.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. Some months we ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies, other months are free.



Old Money Poker Group 6

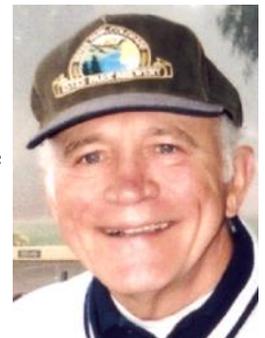
Al Twyford

Our Old Money Poker Group 6 met at my home on Wed. March 12 for three hours of fun playing poker. Six members were in attendance including our group leader. Those playing were **Brad Hatcher, Norm Biaetti, Bob Larson, Frank Lucas, Rich Ahlf** and **Al Twyford**. **Sid Landman** and our alternate **John Gray** were out of town. We are sorry to report that **Don Tubb** has resigned due to medical problems. The big winner was **Brad Hatcher**, followed by **Rich Ahlf** and **Al Twyford**. The losers were **Norm Baietti, Bob Larson** and **Frank Lucas**. Hopefully good wine, snacks, and good company helped the losers enjoy the day. **Frank** (bring money)**Lucas** hopefully will have more money next month. Our next game is scheduled for Wed. April 9th at **John Gray's** home in Clayton. We miss you **Sid** and look forward to your return to poker in May.

Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

The April 28th game will be hosted by **Bob Mehus** at the home of **Chuck Bobinecz**. The May 26th game will be hosted by **Garth Cummings**. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month from 1pm to 4pm. Our regular members are **Rich Hanford, Garth Cummings, Pete Gates, Frank Rockwell, Skip Thomas, Chuck Bobinecz** and **Bob Mehus**. We don't have a regular winner.



Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter



May 13-25, 2014: Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece.

A 16 day cruise aboard a privately owned Grand Circle small ship with a maximum of 50 passengers. Ports of call will include Zagreb, Split, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Butrint, Albania, Corfu, Delphi and Athens. Prices range from approximately \$4595 to \$6170 depending on accommodations and airfare. Trip also includes 37 meals, 12 exclusive tours with personal headsets, home hosted dinner, and resident Grand Circle program director. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146, 689-6217.

Sep 19-Oct 3, 2014: Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage.

14 night trip starting in Bergen, Norway with a stay at a superior first class hotel before boarding your working Norwegian coastal vessel designed for comfortable cruising. You will visit 34 ports of call, with 12 orientation walking tours with a program manager. Additionally cost of \$4649 includes accommodations, 36 meals, audio headsets, all transfers and baggage handlings. Post trip to Copenhagen, Denmark also available. Contact **Bob Spellman** Br 146, 934-8428 for more information.

Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France. A River Journey From Normandy to

Provence A 22 day river cruise aboard the Deluxe MS River Venture and the MS River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting the D-Day beaches of Normandy, Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers. Prices range from \$ 6499 to \$ 8299, which includes **airfare**, 22 nights accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handling overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and post trips are available. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 698-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of Normandy. A Seine River Cruise. A 12 day cruise aboard the Deluxe MS River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The

prices range from \$3699 to \$ 6199 which includes 10 nights accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus Pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French waterways: highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence. A 12 day river cruise on the MS River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, and Beaujolais & Burgundy regions. The prices range from \$ 3999 to \$ 6649. Trip includes 10 nights accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br. 146 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.



Genealogy

Verner Laursen

The Genealogy group meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd in Concord . We start at 1:30 and go for about 2 hours.

We have assistance from the staff at the Family History Center. At this Center we have access to many sites that might have the information you are seeking.

We are here to help those are beginners and those who have some or a lot of information about their family. You do need access to a computer to enter your information. If you are a beginner we will help you avoid our mistakes. This is one of the functions where spouses are welcome. You do not need to come as a family.

If you have or may have an interest please contact me and I will put you on my mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from me, from time to time and I will let you know of items that are of interest to genealogists.

Verner Laursen

vlaursen@astound.net

There is no king that has not had a slave among his ancestors and no slave who has not had a king among his. Helen Keller



GOLF

Ray Weisz

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats:

We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting

tee times are emailed to each player.

In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players.

There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date. For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October.

Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer Away Golf. Do you enjoy competing against SIR players from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.

Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events.

All of our golfers should be receiving GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Ray Kan rips it down the 15th fairway



Photo by Bill Schultz

Ray Spears and **Bill Cammerer** show how your pencil eraser can be the most effective "club" in your bag



Photo by Ray Kan

Jim Burk, Big Sir Doug Eisner, Steve Sprague and Terry Marchione



Photo by Bill Schultz

Ray Weisz (L) and **Ray Kan (R)** tell new member **Gary Brown** how it is done...just after he birdied # 3 and # 4 and hit his tee shot to 105 yards out from the green on # 15!!! We have a new ringer



Sunshine

John Pearl

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

Elmer Kaprielian, John Demos, Doug Cook, Elliot Kapchan.

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call might make his day. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the cards across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings. If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our membership can be advised. **John Pearl**, Sunshine chair
mcpearl@astound.net 925-934-6920

Luncheon Attendance

Baha Zarah

The SIR Branch 146 held its monthly luncheon on Thursday March 13th at the usual venue of Boundary Oak Golf club in Walnut Creek. The



attendees enjoyed a delicious meal of corned beef and cabbage (in honor of St Patrick's Day on March 17th) or a fish dish that also received compliments.

There were 205 Branch members plus 2 guests and 2 visitors and one speaker. One of the visitors was **Gary Plisco**, Area 2 SIR Governor. The speaker was Dr Lawren Hicks, Chief of Social Services at John Muir Health.

His presentation was on dementia and its various types (Alzheimer is one type), manifestation and some limited treatments. The presentation is well worth reading (Power Point slides) and if someone needs it, it is available from our Little SIR or myself.

Our next luncheon is on April 10th at the same venue with a deadline for notification of non attendance of noon Friday April 4th. Please see next page for the April luncheon menu.

Niners Golf Group

Verner Laursen



The SIR 146 Golf Group tees off at 9:30 AM at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we go to the SIR lunch.

If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesday 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. The lunch most of the time is better than our golf game.

Wine Tasting

Bill Holly



Our next wine tasting will be on Wednesday, April 23rd from 2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the home of **Bruce and Susan Borgman** at: 3611 Winchester Pl., Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

Directions: From downtown Walnut Creek take Ygnacio Valley Rd. Northeast to Oak Grove Rd. Turn right on Oak Grove Rd. At the traffic circle continue straight on Oak Grove Rd. Turn left onto North Gate Rd. Turn left onto Sutton Dr. Take the first right onto Winchester Place. Continue on to 3611 Winchester Place on the right.



Italian red wine



Italian white wine

Please bring a single bottle of either the red or the white wine (under \$20) in a brown paper bag plus an appetizer to share. SIR members and spouses/guest are invited to attend. Please RSVP no later than April 16th to Bill Holly at bill.holly@comcast.net (so there is a glass available for you)



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

*1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am.
(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)*

We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours, but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All Sirs in our Area 2 are welcome.

Cribbage

John Pearl

Our group of eight got in six games each in the allotted three hours on a very spring-like day. We met at the home of our usual host, Sir **Barney Meade**, on Wednesday, March 19th. The chair, that would be me, **John Pearl**, got lucky with a couple of big hands, and took home first place money! **John Boyan**, who is learning the lingo, came in second. We also paid third place, **Art Ainscough**, and fourth place, our host **Barney Meade**. We'll meet again in April to continue the fun.

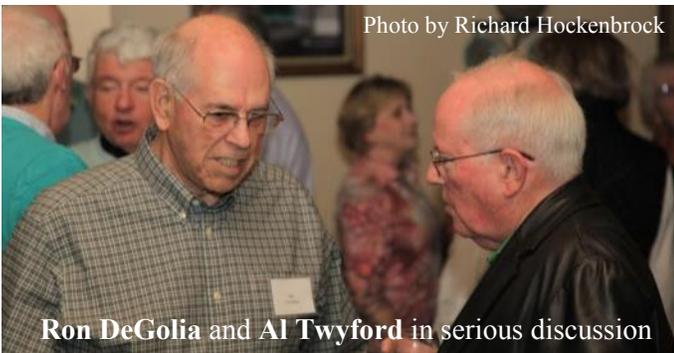


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ron DeGolia and Al Twyford in serious discussion



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

April 10 2014

Salad

Spinach Salad
Crispy Bacon, Hard Boiled Egg, Tomatoes,
Feta Cheese, Ranch Dressing

Entrees

Cider Brined Boneless Pork Chop
Potato Gratin, Seasonal Vegetables, Sour
Apple Compote
Or
Tilapia Vera Cruz
Pan Seared Tilapia, Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal
Vegetables, Tomato Caper Sauce

Dessert

Flan with Caramel Sauce



Photo by John Pearl

One of the tables at **Barney Meade's** place playing serious cribbage. Clockwise from 7 o'clock, **Ron Plachy**, **Art Ainscough** behind the flowers, **Tony Greco** and cribbage champion **Barney Meade**

Print this sheet, fill in and send
or see alternate method below.

Gala Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Number of Tickets _____ \$28.00 each

Enclosed \$ _____

Names & Entrée choices:

Salad

Caprese

Heirloom Tomato, Home Made Mozzarella
Cheese

Basil Infused Oil, Balsamic Reduction

Entrees

Grilled Marinated New York Steak
Seasonal Vegetables, Scalloped Potatoes, Green
Pepper Corn Sauce

Or

Grilled Mahi Mahi
Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables and
Grilled Pineapple Salsa

Dessert

Red Velvet Layer Cake
Berries and Crème Anglaise

Make checks payable to Branch 146. Send to:
Steve Dawkins, 117 Alegra Lane,
Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

All reservations and payments in full must be
received by May 1st.

There will be no tickets sold at the door.

If ordering for any size group up to a full table of
10, you can also send in full payment and list your
companions and their entrée choices on an
attached sheet.



Walkers

John Lewis



*Every Friday at 9:30 am at
various locales.*

*Call **John** or just show up.*

Rain cancels any walk.

April walks by **Ralph Fowler**

April Walks

April 4 Mitch's Trail Clayton Road, Clayton
Meet: Clayton Library, Clayton, Calif.

Walk: West from parking lot, cross Clayton
Rd. to Marsh Creek, left to Center St
Coffee: Deli Delight, Shadelands, Walnut
Creek

April 11 Alamo New Life Church, Danville
Blvd.

Meet: Alamo New Life Church, turn right into
church parking lot

Walk: South on Iron Horse Trail

Coffee: Petes, Alamo Plaza, Alamo

April 18 Moraga Trail South

Meet: Moraga Safeway parking lot

Walk: South on School ST; West on Country
Club Rd; South on trail; South on trail toward
San Leandro Reservoir

Coffee: Terzetto Cuisine; Moraga

April 25 Osage Park Walk, Danville

Meet: Osage Park, Danville, CA—Take 680
South to Sycamore exit; first right turn on
Camino Ramon; left on El Capitan; right on
Orange Blossom Way, Park entrance right
there.

Walk: Rose Garden

Coffee: Pascals French Oven, on Railroad
Ave., Danville



Lunch and Wine

Bob Spellman

Syd Whalen hosted our
group this month including
**Pete Gates, Steve
Dawkins, Jim Meehan,
Paul Dubow, Dick Wood-
man, Joe Berry and Bob
Spellman.** The lunch con-
sisted of fresh rolls, large

Caesar salad topped off with a delicious des-
sert. As usual there were a few bottles of wine
consumed along with lively conversation.

Bowling

Larry Mitchell

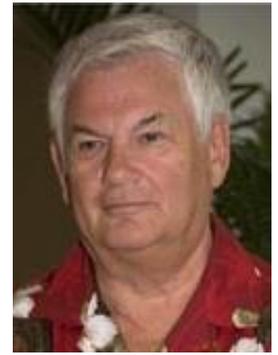
Our big bowling event of the year will be starting soon, that would be the Annual Branch 146 Tournament. The specific dates are March 17th and 19th and therefore the results cannot be reported at this writing (3/16). Look for them in the May issue. Branch 146 participants in the event are the usual suspects: **Jim Adams, Baha Zarah,** and **Larry Mitchell.**



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs have had a busy month, practicing and performing. We prepared a program of a number of Irish tunes, including My Wild Irish Rose, Danny Boy, When Irish Eyes are Smiling, and McNamara's Band. A fun number also is Who Threw the Overalls in Mistress Murphy's Chowder. We all wear green ties, and a green hat with our blue vests which adds to this special program. We did an extra "gig" at the Manor Healthcare near Rossmoor on March 2 where our leader, **Don Tubb** is recuperating from his illness, designed particularly to serenade **Don**. He very much appreciated it – singing along as well as enjoying our program. His fellow residents also liked it greatly. We have already been asked if we can come back next month by the activities director! We sang this Irish program at the Martinez Senior Center on St. Patrick's Day – March 17 where we performed to an enthusiastic crowd in a nicely decorated hall. The SongSirs also sang much of the Irish program at our SIR regular luncheon in March as we gathered around the piano to introduce the St. Patrick's Day meal of corned beef and cabbage.



We will be preparing now with a selection of spring tunes, and will decide where we will sing these fun songs. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome to attend our rehearsals. Check with any of our members for details.

We are also searching for some assistance for our capable accompanist, **Dave Obera**, who attends every rehearsal and performance. If there is a Sir in our group, or anyone in your acquaintance who plays the piano and is willing to help Dave in accompanying the SongSirs, please let **Dave**, or **Bruce** know.

"Do you take off your glasses because you think it makes you look better?"

"No, because it makes you look better."

Bob Mehus

ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)
Malcolm Hendry



The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday, usually at 6:30 pm. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, as well as those favorably

reviewed in the media. Come join us in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with your fellow Sirs and other male guests.

CHINA GOURMET

This small restaurant features a separate room with a large round table for our dinner. The menu is large and diverse with either family dinners or individual selections. They take great pride in using only the freshest quality ingredients to create flavorful dishes that reflect the varied cuisines of China. Wine and beer is available and separate checks for your convenience.

Location: 426 Diablo Road, Danville, CA 94526 (easy parking)

Web Site: www.chinagourmet426.com

Phone: 925-820-2193

Please let me know before Tuesday, April 15th, that you will join us. Your suggestions are welcomed.

Sadly, **Don Tubb** passed away Saturday, March 22 after a battle with cancer

Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 group's 3 tables were well-hosted by **Bob Yolland** on March 7. Seven of the 16 players were in 1st to 4th place for either the 1st half or 2nd half, but only **Dave Pierce** showed up in those rankings both times. It was a close race to the finish, but bragging rights were earned by **Dave** (1st- 29.5 pts.), **Tony Greco** (2nd- 27.5) and **Fred Kovar/Rich Ahlf** (tie 3rd-27). We look forward to being hosted by **Brad Hatcher** on April 4.



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

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

We played four tables of bridge on March 3 at the home of **Carl Johnson**. Top prize went to **Bill Schultz** with 4730 points, second to **Bob Burley** with 4540, third to **Lo McCarley** with 4390 and fourth to **Rich Ahlf** with 4170. Our next game will be at the home of **Fred Bolton** on April 6.

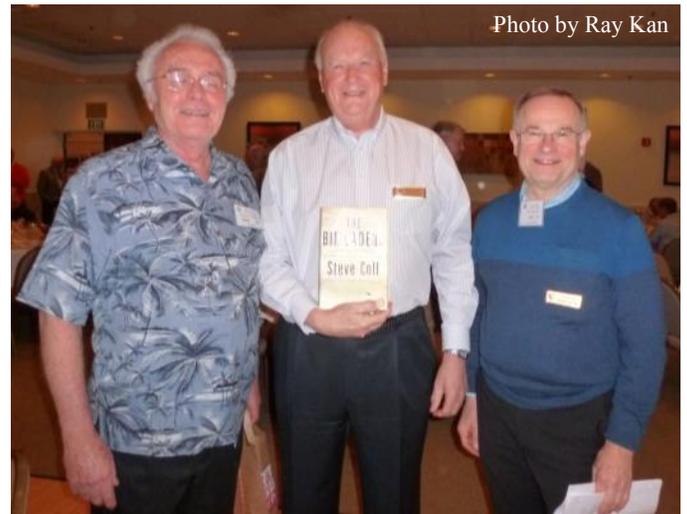
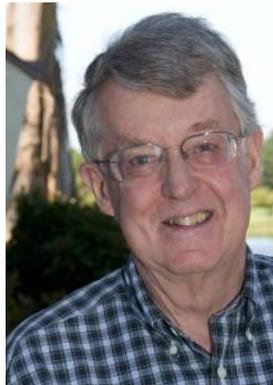


Jonathan Korfhage and Patrick or "Paddy" greeting all to the St. Patrick's week luncheon

Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

March madness? **Doug** and **Patti Eisner** were our gracious hosts in March. There wasn't much madness, although **Tony Greco**, opposite a passed partner and hearing opponents already at the two level before his first chance, leaped straight to five clubs and actually made six. Madness or skill? **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione** were third (2700), super last-minute subs **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were second (2880), and our hosts **Doug** and **Patti** were rewarded for their warm hospitality by coming in first (3630) in their bracket. Nobody left mad; far from it.



Mike Stephenson, Dennis Hallett and Bill Holly with Dennis holding a book picked up at the Book Corner about Bin Laden

Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner

The men's Duplicate Bridge 1 group played 4 tables of bridge on Mar 17 at **Jim Brown's** house. **Carl Johnson** got a strong start in the morning as he tied for first place at the lunch break and then continued his winning pace in the afternoon by edging out **Fred Bolton** and **Jim Jackson** for first place. **Carl's** score was 43.0 pts while **Fred** and **Jim** tied for second place as each tallied 42.5 pts. **Doug Eisner** claimed fourth place with 41.0 pts. Our next game is scheduled for April 21 at **Jim Todhunter's** house.



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II's March 10th lunch was at the home of **Bob Yolland**. With great weather we were able to enjoy hor d'oeuvres and wine outside. Starters consisted of vegetables and dip, cheese toast points, salami and cheese with crackers and chips. In honor of St Patrick's Day our lunch featured a grilled Reuben Sandwich accompanied by a baby spinach salad with orange chunks and a sweet and sour dressing. To finish we enjoyed a dessert of ice cream between two crunchy crusts then topped with fresh raspberries. As usual we had a great deal of conversation and plenty of white and red wines. This month Cooking II was pleased to have **Colin Holland** as our guest.

Our next lunch, Monday April 14th will be at **Bruce Borgman's** with the wives. The plan is to bottle a yet to be announced white wine from La Nibbia Winery. They only announce the variety two weeks prior to it's availability.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Julia and Colin Holland with host **Bruce Borgman**, center, at the March Couples Dining Out event



Our February Garden Club meeting was held at the Library on Oak Grove Road. Most of the meeting we talked about the lack of water and possible rationing.

The last part of the meeting was devoted to discussing our Garden Club possibly combining with Branch 8's new Garden Club. The leader of Branch 8's Club had the vision of the Garden Club meeting at a member's home and doing volunteer yard work such as pruning, dethatching lawns and pulling out ivy. More discussions will be held in May regarding the feasibility of the groups combining.

Next month we are meeting at Heather Farms and the subject is propagation. For those of you interested in participating in this grand rite of Spring we are meeting at Heather Farms on March 27th at 9:30 am.

Photo by Ray Kan



Volunteers **Bob Darius** and **Martin Lyle** ready to try their skills at the greeting table

Photography

Richard Hockenbrock

Our discussion topic for the March meeting was Macro photography and researching equipment and techniques for transferring old photographs and transparency slides into digital files. Utilizing our SIR projector that we use at every meeting, **Roy Hodgkinson, Al Munayer, and Bill Holly** brought macro photos of flowers, unique floor mat designs, and other interesting subjects that reveal themselves under 10 to 20 times magnification.

We also had a photo of a honey bee from National Geographic that was outstanding. The biggest problem we all faced in taking macro shots was keeping the whole subject in focus where, for example, you might have a bee's eye in focus while the wing is out of focus, a distance of maybe $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Lighting was the biggest variable; the more light you have on the subject, the smaller the aperture opening you can work with. In these circumstances, $f/22$ is best for long depth of focus and $f/2.2$ or lower would be the worst. In the second half of the meeting we turned our attention to a member's experience copying old pictures and slides. There are a number of flatbed scanners in the \$50 to \$200 price range that can do a credible job on slides and photos provided you stay with the original photo size. Again we saw some good examples that our members had done with family pictures with only minor post processing tweaking. **Sue Oranje** said she had success with simply holding a DSLR up to a picture and shooting hand held. Another alternative is to send your slides and photos to an outside source like Costco or an online company where prices range from 30 to 50 cents each. Next month's meeting will be back at the library at our normal starting time (9am) April 16th. The subjects will be flash photography and techniques for making flash photography more pleasing without hot spots or glaring shadows. The second subject will be the beginning of a multi month training



session where we will cover the basics of digital photography a step at a time and learn what all those markings on the top and back of your camera mean and do to enhance your picture taking capability.

Photo by Ray Kan



Old pals **Doug Cook** and **Jack Calloway**

SIR Happenings Newsletter

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR Newsletter. Just go to www.sirinc.org and click on SIR Happenings to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.

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Sons In Retirement Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

Non-Responsibility Declaration
Rule 345: All activities arranged

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Jim Stedman chatting with **Jack** and **Myra Gordon** at the Finestra Restaurant prior to dinner.

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

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