

## Big Sir's Notes

Jim Burk

As I sit down to compose my last "Notes" to you, I must admit to feeling more than just a little melancholy as I leave the office to which you have entrusted me.



The position has been most enriching to my life personally, in that I have had the opportunity to work with so many terrific people. Further, I conclude the year feeling very good about what the Branch Executive Committee has accomplished on behalf of the branch in 2012. We have essentially met or exceeded all of our membership goals that we set for ourselves in connection with the state SIR organization, and we continue to be viewed as one of the premiere branches in SIR. In addition, we have been very good stewards of the money our members have contributed to our branch to meet our administrative expenses. Finally, I will remember fondly the long-term members who are so dedicated to the continued success of our branch, and the new members who bring enthusiasm, creativity, and vitality to our organization.

I want to personally and publically express my appreciation to our Little Sir, **Terry Marchione**, for his and the Program Committee's work on finding the speakers for the outstanding programs we have enjoyed this year. His overall support and willingness to work on many projects that have improved our branch, have made major contributions to the legacy we leave and speak to the kind of job performance and leadership he and his team will make in 2013. I wish him much success as he takes on his new

On Ladies Day  
we will be entertained  
by our Song Sirs and the  
Monte Vista Beauty  
Shop Double Quartet.

responsibilities in the year ahead.

My new challenge is to find members who are willing to accept leadership positions for 2014, as I take on the assignment of chair of the nominating committee. I hope many of you will be ready and willing to consider leading our branch in critical officer roles.

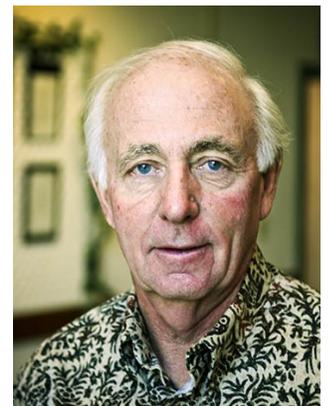
Finally, please think about friends and former business associates who would be interested in membership in our branch, and invite them to a luncheon meeting so that they might get a glimpse of how our organization and the activities we enjoy might enrich their lives just as it has for most of us.

Here's wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season!

## Little Sir's Corner

Terry Marchione

I hope to see you at the December Ladies Day lunch where we will be entertained by our very own Song Sirs and a return visit (by popular demand) by the Monte Vista Beauty Shop Double Quartet. It promises to be a festive occasion.





## Luncheon Attendance

Bob Mehus

SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at “The Clubhouse” Restaurant at Boundary Oak Golf Club. The price of our luncheons is \$24 with

a no-host bar.

If, for any reason, you are unable to attend, please email nolunchbranch146@gmail.com or, if you don't have a computer, call **Bob Mehus** at 510-549-2221 by Friday noon prior to the luncheon. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number, phone number and a short message. Please be sure you email or call prior to Friday noon. The noon deadline has to be rigidly enforced as that's the limit that the restaurant puts on us. Members failing to give this notice may be asked to reimburse the branch for the full payment.

Remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45am, so please allow enough time to arrive on schedule. A check for \$24.00 made payable to SIR146 is requested for payment of your lunch on luncheon day.

A member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings without notifying the attendance chairman, giving a valid reason, or attends less than five (5) meetings/luncheons within the last twelve (12) months, excluding May and December (ladies day luncheons), may be notified in writing of the pending termination of his membership.

Sir bringing a Guest:

Please call by Friday noon prior to the luncheon leaving your name, badge number and your guest's name. If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please call and make a request. Your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through the luncheon chairman. If for medical reasons you cannot eat lunch, please notify me and your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through your luncheon chairman.

New members and/or sponsors:

There will be a dedicated luncheon table set for any new members and their sponsors who would like to sit together to share their conversations as new members of SIR146. It is voluntary, so please do not feel obligated as a new member to sit at this table.



## Membership

Steve Sprague

Branch 146 Statistics:

As of our Executive Committee meeting on November 8th, we have 269 active members including seven Honorary Life Members (there was no change from the previous month). We currently have no applicants awaiting BEC approval.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **Richard Hockenbrock, Rob Melrose, Auggie Serena,**

Resigned: **Richard Allen**

Moved to Inactive: **Darrell Parcher**

November Luncheon Attendance:

Members: 199

Guests: 7, Speakers: 1.

Total attendance: 207

Changes to the Inactive Roster:

As noted above, **Darrell Parcher** has been added. Our inactive roster therefore increases by one to 15 members.

## Cribbage

John Pearl

In the absence of the Chair, **John Pearl**, another member of our esteemed group, **John Boyan**, took over the Chair's duties for the day. After the meeting on the 31st at host **Barney Meade's** home, he reported that **Art Ainscough**

was the big winner, with **John Boyan** and **Barney Meade** taking second and third places respectively.

We normally meet on the third or fourth Wednesday of the month, depending on the availability of the group's members. Please let me know if you'd like to be part of our fun-loving money exchanging group.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley

*Meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.*



Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on November 14th at **George Zurich's** home. The group thanked **Susi Cherry** for great snacks, also thanked **Rich Ahlf** for filling in for **Vince Rettew** and thanked **Lynn Freeman** for subbing for **Margaret Rees**. She stayed away from the party since she didn't want everyone to get her cold. As for the bridge results, **Bill Rees** and **Lynn Freeman** took first place with 36 points and **Carl and Ann Johnson** came in second with 35 points. **Bob and Janet Yolland** took third with 34.5 points and **Margot Somerville** and **Rich Ahlf** came in fourth place half a point behind the **Yollands**. **Jim Brown** and **Adrienne Morrison** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on December 19th.

*Snooze alarms:  
When you rearrange the letters:  
Alas! No more z 's.*

## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams

The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was graciously hosted by **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** Nov 13. In fact, they were so gracious that their guests awarded them 1st place. **Dave and Joan Pierce** earned 2nd, a point behind 1st and a half-point ahead of 3rd place winners **Jim and Ruth Adams**. The also-rans found enjoyment in the social aspects of the evening, convincing themselves that winning wasn't a priority anyway. Hold that thought. It should prove useful again next month...



*I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot.*

## 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 at the home of **Jim Stedman** on Nov.5. First place went to **Dick DeVoe** with 6280 points, second to **Fred Bolton** with 5690, third to **Jim Jackson** with 5020 and fourth to **Rich Ahlf** with 4790. Our next game will be at the home of **Fred Bolton** on Dec.3.

## Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner

We play monthly on the 3rd Monday at 10:00 am at players' homes. Bring a lunch.

We played 4 tables of duplicate bridge at **Fred Kovar's** home on Nov 19th. As usual, it was a hard fought game but **Bob Donahue** and **Max Hinkle** eked out a tie for first place with 44.0 pts, just barely edging out the third place winner, **Dave Pierce**, who scored 43.5 pts. The fourth place finisher was **Fred Kovar** with 42 pts. **Max** and **Dave**, substitutes for this game, were very gracious in accepting their prize money from the regulars so the group reluctantly agreed to invite them back in the future to defend their prizes. Our next game will be held at **Jim Brown's** house on Dec 17th.



## Area 2 Sums

### Investment Group

Co-Chairmen:

**Allen Espenmiller** (Br-174) 925-376-977

**George Schulze** (Br-8) 925-429-1756

**Leary Wong** (Br-8) 925-457-0807

Coordinator: **Ken Nakashima** (925-376-0421)

There will not be a December 2012 meeting of the Area 2 Sums Investment Group. Our next meeting will be on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013 at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Details of that meeting will be in the January newsletter.



## 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 posted on our web site, [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com). In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. There is a 9-holes 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 other 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'd 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](mailto:sir146golf@gmail.com).

*Eleven plus two:  
When you rearrange the letters:  
Twelve plus one.*

## SIR 146 Niners Golf

John Denham

With the advent of winter weather the Niners Golf Group has grown to a dirty dozen. Playing every Thursday except SIR meeting day the group tees off at about 9:30 and finishes by lunch time. Most stay and have a quick and enjoyable snack. Guests are welcome - a great way to introduce potential members to the SIR way. \$25 with cart-otherwise \$15 for great golf. Contact me with any questions. My name is **John Denham** and I approve this message.



Have clubs will travel. Master club maker Sir **Myles Ringle** looks all set to test drive his latest creation, a new graphite driver resting beside him.



Caddy **Dave Steinberg** and **John Demos** as some friends honored John on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday. **John's** caddy is a member of the Branch 146 golf committee.

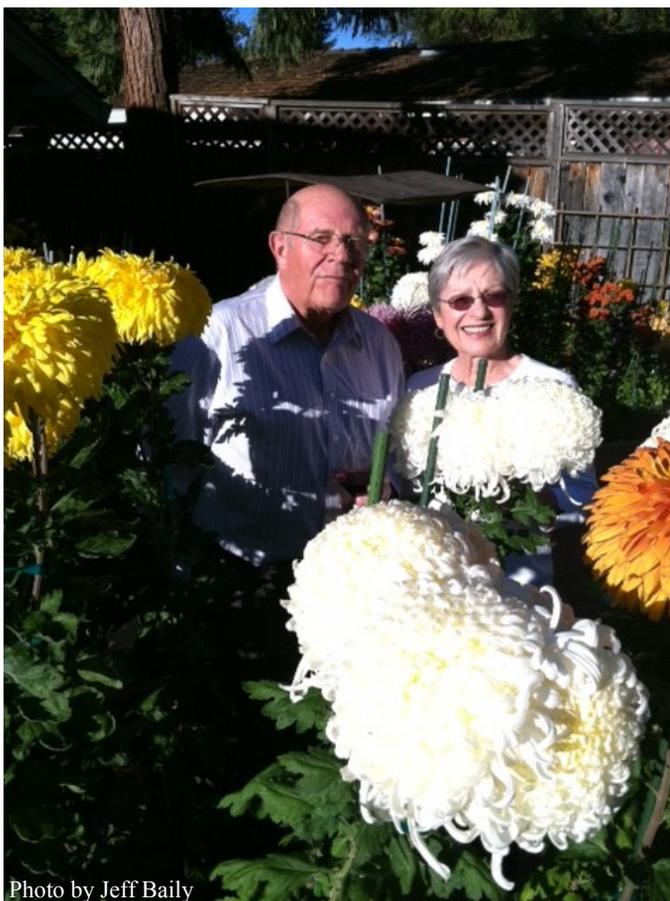


Photo by Jeff Baily

**Charles Koeber** and **Alicia Baily** viewing the mums on display at the home of **Steve and Marna Dawkins**.

*The Morse Code:  
When you rearrange the letters:  
Here come dots.*



Photo by Jeff Baily

It was great to see Honorary Life Member Sir **Jack Calloway** at the November luncheon. Recovering from a medical problem, **Jack**, among others, was awarded the 20 year member certificate.



## ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Malcolm Hendry

The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, as well as those favorably reviewed in the media. Come join us and experience dining in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with your fellow Sirs and other male guests. With all of the Holiday festivities, ROMEO will not meet in December. We will gather again on January 17th at the Walnut Creek Yacht Club for their annual Lobsterfest.

*Dormitory:  
When you rearrange the letters:  
Dirty room.*

## Cooking II

Bob Yolland

For Cooking 2's November function we bottled an excellent Sangiovese Wine from Amador County. This happened along with dinner at **Bob and Janet Yolland's** home. **Bill Cammerer** and **John Demos** picked up 25 plus gallons of bulk wine in 5 gallon water bottles at La Nebbia winery. Cooking 2, which includes **Bruce Borgman, Don Nunn, Corrie Oranje, Bill Roberts** and **Bob Yolland**, along with our wives, then bottled, dined and sampled the wine. **Ken Richter** was traveling so we bottled for him. Each member received 12 to 14 bottles of wine, plus a few extra to quality check during the year. Don made great rooster labels, customized with each members name. We also had two guests, **Gwenn Boero** and **Margot Somerville** whose husbands were both part of the Cooking Group. Thanks to everyone's meal contributions the Sangiovese wine went well with the barbequed pork loin dinner. The bottom line is that it was a very fun social time where we all received some great wine at a reasonable price.



## Poker Club 1

Frank McNamee

Poker Club 1 met on November 7th at the **Bill Cammerer** residence and it was an early Thanksgiving day for **John Lewis**, host, **Bill Cammerer** and **Frank McNamee**. Our next confrontation will be on December 12th at the home of **John Lewis**.



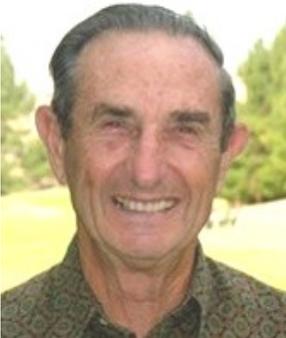
but will be at the home of Sir **Chuck Bobinecz**. Poker 4 wishes you a merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy new year.

*Did you hear about the knight whose horse (the last in the kingdom) lay down and died of exhaustion so he couldn't get an important message to the king? The only thing the serfs could offer him was an old swaybacked dog, to which the knight responded, "I wouldn't put a knight out on a dog like this!"*

## Poker Club 2

Al Zamolo

**Doug Cook** was a very happy individual at our October session since he became the biggest winner our group has ever had. Maybe he will return some of those winnings at our November session at **Jim**



**Stedman's** home. We are still experiencing some of those senior moments.

## Mac User Group (MUG)



Jeff Baily



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

At our meeting on Monday November 12, **Max Burchett** and **Jeff Baily** conducted a class on Mac MAIL, the application that most Mac users use for email.

Of particular interest to attendees was how to organize and use the address book - how to add and subtract names, email addresses, phone numbers and other data pertaining to persons that you put in your address book. We discussed how to create groups and add a name from the main list into one or more groups. Once creating a good address book was complete, we discussed how to send group mailings and how to ensure that the mail outs are secure from phishing attacks and other risks. We also discussed creating a new email address.

Then moving from the basic to the abstruse, **Max** talked about downloading and installing an update for Adobe Flash Player that closes several security holes that have been discovered recently. The whole two hours went by quickly and judging by the questions and comments was a huge success. Next month's meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>, we will discuss [teach] SAFARI, the web browser that is included with the Mac Operating System. We will begin with the basics, including the main menu items used during a typical browsing session, the preference options, and finish with a discussion of sensible precautions to use while touring the Internet.

## Poker Club 3

Siegfried Kalteis

We had our monthly game on Monday, a full table: **Bill Baltazore, Vince Rettew, Jim Meehan, Jim Passaglia, Ron Plachy, Bob Lyman** and myself in attendance. No big



winner this time, everybody held there own, but a good time was had by all anyway. We won't have a game in December. No decision made yet on an exchange of players between groups.

## Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

There will be not be a poker session in December. Santa was invited but it is his busy season. In January we will resume our regular playing schedule when the Christmas credit card charges start to roll in. January will be hosted by Sir **Bob Mehus**.





## Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

This month we have been concentrating on sturgeon and striped bass. The intrepid fisherman of the month award goes to **Mike Corker**. He took his boat into unfamiliar territory on Suisun Bay and ran aground.

He managed to get a tow back to the dock, got the boat repaired at a marine store, returned to the waters, and bagged four keeper stripers. In other outings, **Joe Miscione** and his son caught some nice stripers up to 16 lbs, fishing in Montezuma Slough. **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146, along with **Terry Miller**, **Dick Thomson**, and **Carl Moyer** landed a bunch of stripers and some small sturgeon fishing out of Pittsburg. Later, **Carl** took his daughter sturgeon fishing in the same locale and she caught a 53 inch keeper, her first sturgeon ever. **Carl** and **Paul Dubow** fished out of Pittsburg a few days later and landed seven sturgeon and three stripers, releasing all but one striper. **Joe Peterson** landed a 6 lb striper near his home on Sherman Island. **Paul Dubow** and **Bill Landers** tried a change of pace and went black bass fishing in the Delta. The fishing was slow and so they decided to fish for stripers before they came in, and **Paul** caught and released a 13 pounder.

The winter trout season has begun. **Pete Gates** and **Brad Hatcher** of Branch 146 joined **Carl Moyer** at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir and they limited out. **Harry Sherinian**, **Bill Landers**, and **Barry Rauchle** tried Shadow Cliffs on another occasion but had mixed results. **Jack Waddell** made three trips to Los Vaqueros Reservoir and caught and released about 30 trout up to 16 inches plus a few small stripers.

**Carl Moyer** and **Terry Miller** caught rockfish and ling cod in the ocean and that was followed by a fish fry at **Carl's** home where 20 members of our group enjoyed eating the catch as well as a large amount of yellowtail cooked in garlic butter that was contributed by **Terry** and some smoked salmon contributed by **Tom Boltz**.

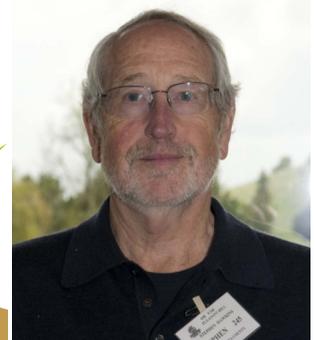
Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 20 at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at Diablo

Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but come earlier for breakfast. We are now planning our outings for 2013 and the schedule will be introduced at the meeting. For further information, feel free to contact Big Fish **Pete Gates** (925-937-2035), Secretary-treasurer **Tom Boltz** (925-825-5695) or Branch 146 Fishing Coordinator **Paul Dubow** (415-495-6504).



**Pete Gates** and **Brad Hatcher** with their catch of trout.

*The eyes: When you rearrange the letters: They see.*



December means winter is here and temperatures will get below freezing at times during the next few months. A couple of ways to protect your plants from those frosty nights is to keep the soil moist, move potted plants into protected places, cover your plants with a sheet or use an anti transpirant spray like Cloud Cover. If a plant does get frost damage, do not prune until new growth starts in the spring. Time to relax after 11 months of yard work, enjoy the holidays and plan for next year.



## Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman

**Apr 14-22, 2013: Tulip Time Cruise.** Discover the beauty & history of the Dutch and Belgium waterways in

springtime. Cruise ports include, Amsterdam, Arnhem, Antwerp, Bruges, Middelburg and Rotterdam. Prices range from \$3225 to \$5080 and include airfare, complimentary beverages, many guided tours, tips and gratuities.

Contact **Jim Lunn** Br 8 925-551-3329 for more information.

**Jun 1-9, 2013: Memphis Blues to the New Orleans Jazz on the American Queen.** A 7 night cruise on board the American Queen down the Mississippi with a pre-cruise stay in Memphis and a optional 2 day post trip in New Orleans.

Cruise features RT motor coach to airport, RT airfare, all meals, including wine and beer with dinner, daily lectures, nightly entertainment, shore tours, and port charges, transfers, and baggage



Photo by Rich Ahlf

Past Big Sir **Ray Kan** honoring **Chuck Bates** on reaching his 90th birthday while SIR President, **Jim Stedman** waits with certificate in hand.

handling. Prices start at \$3658 to \$6486 depending on accommodations. Space is now very limited ,so all future reservations will now be on a first come first serve basis. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428 if you still want to go and we will try to secure space for you.

**Aug 28-Sep 7, 2013: SIR 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alaska Golden Age Cruise.** Save the date for a celebration! We will leave out of San Francisco and visit the ports of Juneau, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, Ketchikan, Victoria and return to San Francisco on the Grand Princess. The cost of the cruise is from \$1579 to \$3300 depending on accommodations and includes: Gratuities on the ship, ship board credit, cocktail party, hospitality suite, transportation by motor coach to and from the pier, wine, gifts and an Alaska salmon bake excursion. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428.



Photo by Ken Kratz

A popular new luncheon feature...  
Sirs just gathering around the piano to sing during the social hour prior to the sit down luncheon.

## Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The newly revived branch activity "Couples Dining Out" enjoyed a fun inaugural event on Thursday, Nov. 29 at Vanessa's Bistro 2 in Walnut Creek. The restaurant boasts a Vietnamese tapas menu with a French Flair. We enjoyed five courses with a social hour, which began at 5:30pm. We had a very good attendance of 15 couples and were able to have a separate dining room which lent itself to good conviviality and socializing.

We conducted a survey wherein the frequency, type of restaurant and preferred pricing was requested. The results are still being tabulated. The next activity is expected to occur in mid January, probably on Thursday Jan. 17. Further details will be relayed to the membership.



## December, 2012 Birthdays

Dick	Richmond	2
Don	Tubb	2
Bill	Roberts	4
Bill	Hansen	8
Pete	Boss	12
Don	Nunn	14
Jim	Baldrige	15
Lo	McCarley	15
Jim	Passaglia	16
Bill	Baltezore	17
George	Trabert	17
George	Rammell	21
Jack	Baldassari	22
John	Denham	22
Doug	Eisner	22
Roy	Fredrickson	22
Ken	Kratz	25
Russ	Bliese	29
Howard	Nemir	29
Bill	Stevenson	30
Randy	Becker	31
Walt	Busenius	31

### SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	<b>Jeff Baily</b>
Proofreader	<b>Dick DeVoe</b>
Assistant Editor	<b>Rich Ahlf</b>
Labeling & Mailing	<b>Bill Cammerer</b>
Internet Posting	Webmaster <b>Jack Hockel</b>

### SIR Happenings Newsletter

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

Non-Responsibility Declaration Rule 345: All activities arranged for or by Sons in Retirement

Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. 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.

## Bowling Larry Mitchell



The regular SIR Wednesday Bowling League is currently reduced to a shadow of its former self. Before the mass exodus to Clayton Valley Bowl in 2011 we had four twelve man teams, about 48 bowlers plus substitutes. We now have in the league five three man teams, about 15 bowlers!

At the end of the current league in June of 2013 a decision will need to be made as to whether we want to remain a tiny league at Diablo Lanes in Concord or join with the other Area 2 bowlers in Clayton. The current league leaders are the "Dragons" and include two bowlers from Branch 146, **Ken Donnelly** and **Pierre Mebane**, both of whom joined Branch 146 this year. **Larry Mitchell** has the high game in the league (279) and **Pierre Mebane** has the third highest game (223).

## Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Three tables of the Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 group were ably hosted by **John Demos** on Friday, Nov. 9. Like our recent elections, the results were difficult to forecast from start to finish.

The first 12 of 24 hands produced a reasonable 8-point spread, with **Ted Gunn**, **Dave Steinberg**, and **Bill Schultz** leading the pack. By the end of the first round, however, **Ted** was the only consistent leader, remaining in 1st place with 31.5 points and widening the range gap to 19 points.

**Rich Ahlf** found his focus in the 2nd half, popping up from 8th to 2nd with 28 points. However, no one matched **Jim Brown's** slope of ascendance, jumping 8 places to 3rd with 26.5 points. **John Boyan** put on a burst toward the end, shoving aside all others with a come-from-behind 7th-to-4th place finish and 25.5 points. Next month should be a doozy!



## Sunshine

Walt Busenius  
945-0715

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

Please keep the following  
Sirs in your thoughts and  
prayers as we hope for  
continual healing and  
recovery to good health:

**John Lively**

**Reggie Fromm**

**Elmer Kaprielian**

**Rod Sharretts**

**Charlie Kiser**

**Jim Helmick**

**Bob Van Luchene**

**Jim Locker**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and  
encouragement during his illness. A friendly call  
is always welcomed.

If you are aware of a sick Sir, please let me know  
by phone or e-mail, as shown above, so that the Sir  
membership can be advised.



## Member Relations

Ben Gleason

We hope and expect that SIR  
Branch 146 is meeting or ex-  
ceeding your expectations for  
social activities, recreation and  
friendship and that the  
facilities and operation of the  
branch are efficient and user-  
friendly.

We encourage your suggestions, criticism and  
requests. Also, let us know if there is something  
that you especially like that we could do more of.  
Please contact me with any of the above.

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



Photo by Jeff Baily

Sirs **Al Munayer** and **John Pearl** doing ticket  
duty at the lunch ticket table.

*Good girls are bad girls that never get caught.*



## Book Corner

Ken Richter

A Christmas Special for the  
Ladies Day Luncheon ...

The Book Corner has  
received a donation of over  
100 books that will interest  
the ladies. There are books  
on gardening, decorating  
your home and cookbooks. Please join us in the  
back bar area and take a few books home for your  
enjoyment. Thanks to Sir **Charles Schreiber** for  
the donation.



Photo by Jeff Baily

Sirs **Jerry Kaplan** and **Sig Kalteis** at the lunch  
ticket table.

## Sir John Comes in at 3 Over net Par

Sir 146 Golf honors **John Demos'** 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a dedicated **John Demos Day** last Tuesday, November 20, 2012.

John, by his own admission has played serious golf since he was 26 years of age. His fellow golfers have been impressed by **John's** dedication to the game and his insistence in walking the course carrying his clubs. Today was another serious outing by him and the 60 or so fellow Sirs that celebrated this occasion.

It began on the first tee when **Demos** in long black stockings, knickers and a 1940's cap was joined by volunteer caddy, **Dave Steinberg**, also resplendent in black stockings, knickers, a US Open red & blue vest and chapeau. Three other senior golfers comprised the foursome, **Ray Kan**, **Bob Royster** and **Ray Weisz**, each of them about 10 years younger and riding in carts.

**John** was given honors on the tee box and the four men individually hit towering 160 yard drives consistently throughout the day. There was seldom more than 10 yards distance separation in the fairway. They played 18 holes in 4 hours and 5 minutes. **John** scored 3 over net par, and the three others tied at net par. **John** said he had 7 double bogeys that day, mostly attributed to bad advice from his caddy.

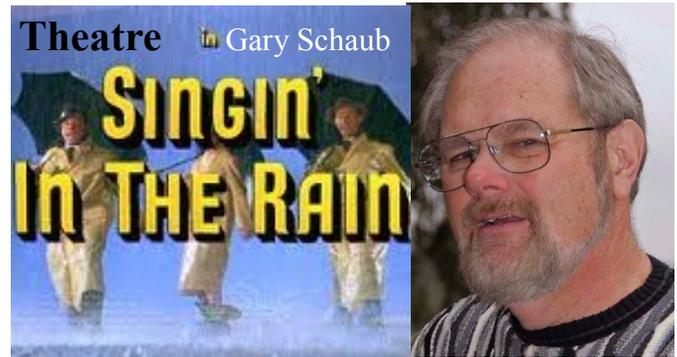
Completion of the round was celebrated with beer and French fries at the Boundary Oak grill as the rest of the field arrived to shake **John's** hand and wish him congratulations.

Background Photo by Ray Kan

## Cribbage

John Pearl

Six of us gathered at Sir **Barney Meade's** Home for our December Cribbage Group meeting. Competition was fierce this month, with **Barney Meade** edging out **John Pearl**, who took home second place money. **Tony Grecco** was a very close third. If you're interested in joining our monthly fun gathering, please let me know.



## Classic Hollywood Musical is SIR 146

### Theatre Party for February 15

One of the most beloved and celebrated movie musicals of all time is *Singin' in the Rain* – the story of the first Hollywood musical. Now, this unforgettable musical has been brought to the stage. It relives the golden age of movie musicals. SIR 146 members and guests can attend the Friday, February 15 performance produced by the Diablo Theatre Company at the Leshar Center for the Arts at an attractive group rate of \$35.00. Each memorable song, dance and rainstorm will be brought to life, including the show-stopping title song, which made Gene Kelly a star. In addition to the title song, audiences will enjoy “All I Do Is Dream of You, Make Em Laugh,” and “You Are My Lucky Star,” among others. It's the 1920's revisited.

This light-hearted romantic comedy debuted on Broadway in 1985. It was described as “an evening of pure joy” by one of the critics. We have a limited number of reduced price tickets for *Singin' In The Rain* for SIR members and guests. Reservations can be accepted until January 9, or until our allocation is exhausted. Tickets are \$35 each, and can be reserved through Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1758 Candelero Court, Walnut Creek 94598. Checks are payable to SIR 146. Questions? Contact **Gary** at (925) 938-5454. Tickets will be distributed in the lobby of Leshar Center (1601 Civic Drive) at 7:30 p.m. on February 15. Parking is available in the City parking garage next to the Center.

*Astronomer:  
When you rearrange the letters:  
Moon starer.*

## A Somber Moment

### November 2012 SIR Luncheon Invocation

Let us pray... Gracious and compassionate God it is with deep gratitude that we come before you during this month of November to honor the veterans who have so heroically served our country. In appreciation of the sacrifices so many have made

memory tradition Man I call your small table place of The table set for not be who have for our those who in action.. Some fell resting on Some we captured



Sir Jim Baldrige delivering the invocation at the November luncheon

we honor their with the of the Missing Ceremony. attention to the that occupies a honor before us. is empty and is those who can- with us... those given their lives country and for are still missing

released. Some are still missing and unaccounted for..but they are not forgotten. The table is set for one..symbolizing the frailty of one against many oppressors. The table cloth is white symbolizing the purity of intention of one who answers his country's call to arms.

The single red rose represents the families who keep the our comrades red ribbon the ribbons thousands witness of an determina- acquire a



red rose the families faith awaiting return. The reminds us of worn by bearing undying tion to proper

accounting of missing comrades. A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of the bitter fate of some. The salt beside it reminds us of the families' tears as they wait.

The glass is inverted..They cannot be here to toast with us.

The chair is empty..They are not here. The napkin is unfolded as if used..as the lives of our comrades were used in the service of their country.

The solitary red candle stands straight and tall as our comrades did. It is red for the blood they shed. When lit it stands for the light of hope of their return which lives in the hearts of their loved ones..to light their way home...to the arms of a loving family and a grateful nation.

Let us remember with deep gratitude those who made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the freedoms we enjoy. May those who are gone rest in eternal peace and never be forgotten and may those who are missing return to our ranks.

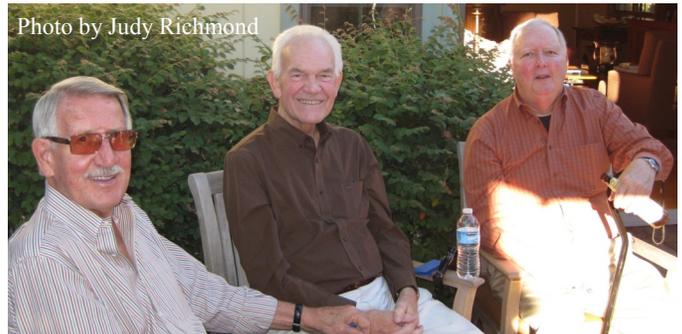
Amen

Photo by Ken Kratz



Tom Gorman and Honorees Chair Ray Kan after Tom received the 20 year member certificate. Long time member golfers remember Tom as the Golf Committee scheduler, calling all players every week for 17 years to tell them their tee times.

Photo by Judy Richmond



Sirs Syd Whalen, Branch Treasurer Dick Woodman and Jim Meehan at the Dawkins' mums showing.



Photo by Bob Spellman

SIR 146 Merlot-”Nothing but the finest for the men of Branch 146.”**Frank Rockwell** wielding the corking device with **Pete Gates** steadying the bottle:



### 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 on the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 11:30am 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.



### Walkers

John Lewis



*Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales. Call **John** or just show up. Rain cancels any walk.*

December 2012 Walks planned by **Pablo Chavez**

December 7: Lafayette Moraga Trail  
Meet: At end of Olympic Blvd., WC  
Walk: West on Lafayette Moraga Trail located at end of Olympic Blvd. Paved, Level, Shady  
Coffee: La Scala Civic and Locust WC

December 14: Oak Park South PH  
Meet: Oak Park Shopping Center PH between Putnam and Keats  
Walk: West on Oak Park Blvd. 3 blocks to Contra Costa Canal. Paved, Level, Some shade  
Coffee: Starbucks at Contra Costa Ctr. PH

December 21: El Torrito Restaurant South  
Meet: At El Torrito Restaurant parking lot  
Walk: South on Iron Horse Trail. Paved, Level, No shade  
Coffee: Panera Bread Willows Ctr.

December 28: Danville Iron Horse Trail South  
Meet: At RR Museum parking  
Walk: South on Iron Horse Trail  
Coffee: Pascal French Oven 155 B Railroad Ave.



Photo by Ken Kratz

Friends **Dick DeVoe, Don Del Bene and Jim Baldrige** at the November luncheon.

Election results: When you rearrange the letters:  
Lies - let's recount.



Photo by Rich Ahlf

Past Big Sirs honored at the November luncheon. L to R **Dennis Hallett, Garth Cummings, Don Nunn, Jack Calloway, Dick DeVoe, Fred Kovar, Bob Yolland, Doug Cook, Ray Kan, Jim Stedman, Jeff Baily** and **Pete Gates**. Absent were **Elmer Kaprielian** and **Bob Walton**.