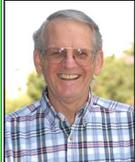




Published For Our Members And Friends

Volume 23 Issue 1



Big Sir's Notes Pete Gates

I am pleased and honored to be chosen to follow in the footsteps of our 2010 Big Sir, **Dennis Hallett**. **Dennis's** leadership was inspirational and was the key to a year of both fun and achievement for Branch 146. This solid foundation positioned us well for continued success in 2011.

Branch 146 is one to the best in all of SIR. This sentiment is echoed by those in State Leadership that know us well. We should all be proud to be a part of such a great organization.

How did we get here?

With years of strong leadership; with members who have been willing to take leadership roles, with members who support each of the numerous activities we offer and with members who proudly invite friends and acquaintances to join our Branch.

I have pledged to work to **"maintain the health and vitality of Branch 146 to preserve our status as an elite organization"**. Since we are only as strong as the sum of our members, the thing we need to continue to focus on, as a Branch, is to maintain a steady flow of new members to offset losses due to natural attrition. Obviously, you have done a great job up to now. Let's build on that success in 2011.

Our December Ladies Day luncheon was a great success...a sell out! Many thanks to **Steve Dawkins** for organizing this popular event. Also, thanks to our ladies for adding fun and color to our luncheon.

Thanks to outgoing BEC members: **Ron de Golia**-Treasurer, **Joe Fuchs**-Asst Treasurer and Directors- **Bob Darius**, **Bob Johnston**, **Bob Lyman**, **Vince Retew** and **Bob Schroeder** for their distinguished service to the Branch.

I welcome our new BEC members: Asst. Secretary- **Terry Marchione**, Treasurer- **Dick Woodman**, Asst. Treasurer- **Ron Pascoe** and Directors- **John Harrington**, **Dale Hertweck**, **Bill Hoban**, **Jim Kohl** and **Bill**

Roberts.

I wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Little Sir's Corner Jim Burk



I have just completed reading for the second time the material **Jack Calloway** gleaned from the most recent "Member Survey," particularly as it relates to the program topics in which you would be most interested. Sports and current events head the list of those subjects you identified as being high on your personal lists. I commit to doing my best to provide speakers covering both of those subjects, and others that will be informative, stimulating, and give you cause to attend the luncheons on a regular basis. You have also indicated that the two biggest reasons you attend our monthly luncheon meetings are for the fellowship and good programs. So the monkey, or perhaps better said, the "Rooster" is now with me.

Let me thank our former Little Sir, **Pete Gates**, for our first program in January as he originally secured this speaker for an engagement in 2010, but it subsequently was determined there was a conflict. Thus, on **January 13**, **PAT VITUCCI** will be with us to present what he calls a "seminar" on investing. Pat hosts a radio program called "Your Financial Life," on KNEW AM Talk Radio 910 every Sunday from 11 AM – 12 Noon. He is a Registered Investment Adviser, with offices in Walnut Creek, and around the state. Pat will be educating us on insight he has learned over many years in the business.

As for coming attractions, in **February** I am pleased to welcome **DANIEL BORENSTEIN**, Columnist and editorial writer for the Contra Costa Times, who will address the future of the State of California from his perspective. He has previously addressed the Concord Rotary Club and received high marks for his stimulating presentation.

As I continue to work on other programs for 2011, I want to indicate that I have already received ideas from a number of you and appreciate any and all suggestions. Please don't hesitate to call me (925) 946-1192; or approach me at a meeting; or send me an e-mail jimanne-burk@sbcglobal.net with your thoughts. They are most welcome.



Duplicate Bridge Terry Marchione



Our match is held each month on the Monday after the SIR luncheon at various homes. Bring your lunch

Sir **Terry Marchione** hosted our December game with four tables of duplicate bridge. Unlike recent months, nearly all regulars were able to attend.

For the second month in a row, Sir **Jim Jackson** ran away from the competition with a score of 48 points. There was a close battle for 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. Sir Bob Yolland finished in 2nd place with 41.5 points, edging out Sir Fred Kovar (40.5) who, in turn, squeezed by Sir Fred Bolton (39.5).

It is possible a second, smaller duplicate group will be formed since we have several more players currently on our sub list who would like to play more often.

We will ring in the New Year with a game on Monday January 17th. The location of the game is undetermined as the newsletter goes to press. Contact **Terry Marchione** (terrymarchione@yahoo.com) for information.



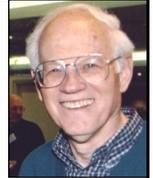
Party Bridge Fred Bolton



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

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Carl Johnson** on Dec. 6. First place went to **Lo McCarley** with 6930 points, second to **Carl Johnson** with 6050 and third to **Lynn Freeman** with 5510. Our next game will be at the home of **Lo McCarley** on Jan. 3.

Couples Duplicate Bridge Lo McCarley



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

Jim Brown hosted four tables of Couples Duplicate Bridge on December 15th. **Jim** and **Allison Todhunter** tied with **Jim Brown** and his partner **Jill Reiner** for first place. Not surprisingly, both couples had 39 points. **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** took third place with 33 points and **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** came in fourth with 31 points. After the cards were played, **Jim Brown** put candles on the dessert to celebrate **Lo McCarley's** birthday. **Lo** blew all the candles in one mighty breath. (The group was amazed that he could do it at his advanced age).

The highlight of the evening was the group singing "Happy Birthday" to **Lo**.

Couples Duplicate Bridge Too Dick De Voe

We celebrated the Holidays with a wonderful dinner followed by our bridge game. **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** were our gracious hosts.

As far as the bridge game goes, for the second month in a row **Sharon** and **Terry Marchione** (23.5 pts) walked off as the winners. Second place went to the **Richter's** (22.5 pts) with the **DeVoes** and **Adams** tying for third with 20.5 points.

Our January game will be hosted by the **Richter's**.



Anne and Little Sir Jim Burk

Cribbage John Pearl



Branch 146's Cribbage Group resumed play on Wednesday, December 8. All 11 of our members showed – a first. We welcomed new member **Ron de Golia** to the group, and while teaching him the finer points of the game (mentoring him was **Howie King**), relieved him of his money. We met at branch member **Barney Meade's** home and with so many people, played well into the night, even though we started in the day. For once, former SIR and Branch Cribbage Chair, **Al Tufo**, failed to finish “in the money.” Talk about one upset Italian Stallion!

With so many members playing, we paid the first four places, with **Jim Passaglia** taking home first place money, former Branch 146 member **Dan Meckfessel**, now of Brentwood taking home second place, **John Pearl**, third place, and **Jim Gracey** fourth place. A good time was had by all.

Our January meeting is now planned for Wednesday, the 12th, at 12:30 pm and will again be at **Barney Meade's** home in Concord.

Please contact me if you'd like to join our growing group.

John Pearl, Interim Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

934-6920



Sirs Fishing Group at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir



Poker Club #1 Frank McNamee



Poker Club #1 met on Dec. 8th at the home of **Frank McNamee**. **Dan O'Sullivan**, **John Lewis** and **Bob White** thought it would be nice to give **Frank** an early Christmas gift for his shopping days ahead. **Bill Cammerer** and **Don Martin** also appreciated their kindly contributions as they added a little to their shopping purses. The next meeting will take place on Jan 12th at the **Dan O'Sullivan** residence and he is hoping for better luck at his home court.

Poker Club #2 Al Zamolo



Ron Binder hosted our Poker#2 session in November. He also was the big winner of the day. **Ken Kratz** went back to his winning ways again. We all enjoyed a great look at **Ron's** beautiful remodeled kitchen. Our December meeting will be hosted by **Ken Kratz**.

Poker Club #3 Siegfried Kalteis



Our group met November 27 and we had a full table. The big winner was **Joe Fuchs**, it seemed like he simply could not lose. It was decided that in the future he would be only dealt six cards for 7 card stud to even the odds somewhat.



Poker Club #4 Chuck Bobinecz

Sir **Rich Hanford** will host our next game on January 24th. We will not have a December game especially when we get received our January credit card statements. I don't know where the terms were developed but the term "flop" is the first three community cards in Hold'em and Omaha and to "limp" is to call the pre "flop".

POKER GROUP #5 Bill Roberts



Our poker group changed venues once again while we await a full recovery of our permanent hosp **Bill Roberts**. **Skip Thomas** hosted the group and carried on the tradition of providing a fine meal and a variety of adult beverages. We were happy to see **Bill Roberts**. back at the table although, at times, he was in obvious discomfort (knee rehab is no fun).

Ken Richter (yes he actually was there), **Terry Marchione** and **Skip Thomas** managed to walk off with most of the winnings. **Charlie Koeber**, an early winner, claimed he needed to leave to attend a meeting. This, of course, is a poker no-no. However, we cut **Charlie** some slack since he told us it was a church related meeting.

In January we will return to **Bill Robert's** place for our game. Our regular date is the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon.

Our regular players are **Spellman**, **Thomas**, **Merritt**, **Richter**, **Koeber**, **Marchione**, **Rockwell** and **Roberts**.



Big Sir
Pete Gates
(nice outfit)



Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman



Hagler 925-934-7620 Branch 8 for more information.

Oct 1-11, 2011 Canada & New England Cruise.

Experience the colors of Fall as you sail for 10 days aboard Silversea's Silver Whisper from Montreal to New York. You will also visit Quebec City, Charlottetown, Sydney, Halifax, Bar Harbor, Boston and Newport. While aboard the Silver Whisper you will find a most accommodating atmosphere providing impeccable service and world class cuisine. Everything is included in the price, tips, fine wines, all spirits, complimentary In Suite dining, meals, airfare, bus to and from airport, port charge, government fees and taxes. You will be treated like royalty. Cost from \$4720 to \$6057 depending on Stateroom. Contact **Bob Spellman @** 934-8428. This trip has been very popular with over 50 people signed up.

The quarterly State *SIR HAPPENINGS* web site at <http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappings/> offers additional SIR travel options.

Feb 17, 2011, Boeing, Boeing Award Winning Comedy. Start off your new year with this high flying romp that will leave you asking for more. SIR 146 has acquired a limited number of group discount tickets for this fun-filled evening. Cost \$30.00 pp. Contact **Gary Schaub** 938-5454. Order tickets before February 11th.

Mar 5, 2011, The Crafty Matchmaker. Presented in a rhythmic mixture of Cantonese and English, this production is filled with drama, action and humor. The story is set in the time of ancient China and is performed on the stage at the Buddha's Universal Church. Cost \$55.00 Contact **Bob Hagler** 925-934-7520 Branch 8.

Apr 16-30, 2011 Ancient Egypt & the Nile River. Enjoy a 7 day cruise on the Nile River and 6 days at the deluxe Cairo Marriott Hotel. In addition to touring around Cairo you will visit Aswan, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Esna and Luxor while on your cruise aboard the M/S River Anuket. The Tour includes 29 meals, 11 exclusive guided sightseeing tours, and RT airfare from San Francisco. Extensions are available to Jerusalem Israel, Alexandria Egypt, Petra & Amman, Jordan. Cost: 3095 to 3395 pp depending on stateroom. Contact **Bob Spellman @** 934-8428. Space limited

Jun 9-19, 2011 Alaska's Inside Passage. Embark on a 10 night Inside Passage cruise on board the Sea Princess sailing round trip out of San Francisco. Ports of call include: Juneau, Glacier Bay, Haines, Ketchikan and Victoria. Cost: \$2578 to \$2655 pp depending on Stateroom. Contact **Jim Lunn @** 925-551-3329 Branch #8 for more information.

Jun 22-24, 2011 Boulder Creek Golf and Fun Outing This is a fun couple of days with golf, food, relaxation, and good company all close to home. We wanted you to know the date early so you could mark your calendars. Contact **Ken Richter @** 689-6217

Sep 11-21, 2011 The Enchantment of Lake Michigan. An eleven day trip including a Hydrofoil to Mackinac Island, Green Bay and Madison Wisconsin featuring The House On The Rock and Frank Lloyd Wright's Hillside Home School at Taliesin, a ride on the Chicago River and into Lake Michigan. Cost \$ 2885 Contact **Bob**



Sunshine

Walt Busenius

945-0715

Busenius@astound.net



We extend our very best wishes for continued healing to the following Sirs. They are in our thoughts and prayers at this holiday season:

*Sir Bill Comley.
Sir Bob Frankland
Sir Rob Van Luchene
Sir Mitch Mitchell
Sir Ed Mendelsohn*

*Sir Roderic Sharrets
Sir Barney Meade
Sir Ron Pascoe
Sir Bill Roberts
Sir Jim Helmicks*

Sir **Joe Fuchs** is recovering from knee replacement surgery on December 9th.

We send our best wishes and prayers to **Madelyn**, wife of Sir **Don Nunn**, for a speedy recover after major surgeries.

If you know a Sir who is sick, please let me know by phone or e-mail as shown above.

Wishing everyone a healthy and safe New Year.



Luncheon Attendance

Bob Mehus



SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at "The Clubhouse" at Boundary Oak Restaurant. The price of our luncheons is \$24 with a no-host bar.

Please email nolunchbranch146@gmail.com, or call **Bob Mehus** at 510-549-2221 by Friday NOON (January 7, 2011) prior to the luncheon if, for any reason, you are unable to attend. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number, phone number and a short message. Please be sure you call!!!

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. Thanks.

A member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings without notifying the Attendance Chairman, giving a valid reason or who attends less than five (5) meetings/luncheons within the last twelve (12) months, excluding May and December (Ladies Day Luncheons), shall be notified by the prescribed form, of termination of his membership.

SIR bringing a Guest

Please call by Friday, noon prior to the luncheon and leave your name and badge number and the name of your guest. Please spell the last name of your guest.

Luncheon Menu for January 13, 2011

SALAD: Hearts of Romaine with shaved egg, cherry tomatoes, Blue Cheese dressing. **ENTRÉE:** Pan Seared Tilapia w/Olive Tapenade **OR** Grilled Bistro Filet with SauceAuPoivr Both Entrees served with Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT: Chocolate Fudge Cake

Special Luncheon Requirements

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 and please do not feel obligated, as a new member, to sit at this table.



Membership Steve Sprague

Branch 146 Statistics as of December 16, 2010.

Active Members: 255 including six Honorary Life Members.

Applicant List: Four.

Inactive Members: Four.

December Luncheon Attendance:

A total of 276 members and guests enjoyed our Ladies Day Luncheon.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **None.** There was no BEC meeting in December.

Transferred: **Nick Abdo** has transferred to Branch 128 (Danville).

Moved to Inactive List: **None.**

Resigned or Deceased: **None**

There were no changes to the Inactive Roster.

Explore and Dine John Pearl



Explore and Dine is gearing up for the 2011 season, hoping to get it eight or nine events, starting in January. Let me know if you'd like to be on the group's e-mail listing of future events.

John Pearl

mcpearl@astound.net

925-934-6920

Area 2 Computers and Technology Group



PHIL GOFF, Chairman, 831-3692,
philgoff@yahoo.com

DICK CURRY, Asst. Chairman,
376-5541,
racorinda@pacbell.net

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive (just off South Main.)

Area 2 Computer and Technology Group invite you to their next meeting on Thursday, January 20th at 9am

Sir **Phil Goff** will give a presentation about taking your old (historic?) 8mm movies and converting them into a digital format. He will explain how to achieve this magic based on his own experiences. Bring your questions and get ideas from someone who learned it the 'old fashioned' way!

Time permitting, there may be also be a Show & Tell featuring any gadgets attendees bring, and possibly a Q&A session with The Gurus of A2CAT where the advice is always 'priceless'.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 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. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend.

Thank you for supporting your Area 2 Computer and Technology Group.

Phil Goff and Derek Southern
Co-chairs



Donna and Bill Snyder

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.



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 \$5.00 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 are welcome.



Fishing Paul Dubow



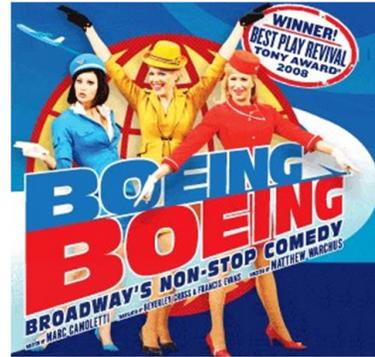
4th Thursday at 8:30 am. at Diablo Creek Golf Course (Legends Grill). North Port Chicago Hwy

Last month we described **Kent Cremolini's** 188 pound yellowfin tuna as the catch of the year. This month we are reporting the fishing trip of the year. **Joe Miscione** and **Mario Mauritorio** journeyed to **Mario's** home country of Uruguay. They sampled quite a bit of home cooking from **Mario's** family but they got a lot of exotic fishing in as well. First, they sailed out into the ocean and brought back lots of whiting. Actually, the name of the fish is not whiting, but **Joe** could not spell the Spanish name. He thought that the word "blanco" was in there somewhere. Then they fished the Salto area for pereida weighing up to 15 pounds. Finally, they fished the Rio Negro for fierce and toothy tigerfish. **Joe** did not relax when he returned to the Bay Area. He drove out to the Pacifica pier and caught a large number of crabs. As for the rest of us, we stayed pretty close to home. **Pete Gates, Tom Boltz** and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 joined **Mike Corker, Carl Moyer, Terry Miller** and his son **Steve, Dick Thomson, Harry Sherinian, and John O'Brien** on a club outing to Shadow Cliffs Reservoir. We didn't get our limit of trout but the size of the fish made up for the lack of quantity and we consoled ourselves with a lunch of chili and assorted salads prepared (or perhaps purchased) by chef **Moyer**. One week later **Paul, Carl, and John** returned to Shadow Cliffs. The trio hooked seven or eight trout but managed to land just two of them. **Terry Miller, Joe Karg, Bob Olson, and Carl Moyer** also spent some time on Suisun Bay but the catch consisted of undersized stripers and sturgeon, except for a very nice 15 pound striper that found its way to **Terry's** lure.

We will be very busy this winter, if the wind and rain ever subside, with delta fishing for stripers, catfish, and sturgeon; trout fishing in our local lakes; and party boat trips for sturgeon. We do encourage those who have not fished for awhile or who have never fished to join us. We will even loan you equipment.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 27, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but breakfast is available at 8. For further information, call **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6308.

Theater Gary Schaub



High-Spirited Comedy Planned for February SIR Theatre Party

After the holidays you'll be ready for a relaxed, but fun-filled, evening in the theatre. SIR has lined up just what you need.

Center Repertory Company's production of the Broadway play "Boeing-Boeing" is planned for Thursday, February 17 at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek.

A limited number of specially-priced tickets have been set aside for our group, so make your commitment now (and give the little lady the promise of an evening out as a Christmas stocking stuffer!).

"Boeing-Boeing" was a hit in London, and then received the Tony Award as "best revival" for its Broadway reprise in 2008. It is adapted from a film version starring **Tony Curtis** and **Jerry Lewis** in the mid-1960s.

This laugh-filled evening tells a story of an architect living in Paris who is dating three very attractive flight attendants – one is German, one is French, and one is American. All goes well until he gets his calendar dates confused, and can't keep the ladies' flight schedules straight! Oops! "Houston, we have a problem!"

For reservations send a check payable to SIR 146 for \$30.00 each to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1758 Candelero Court, Walnut Creek 94598. Deadline for reservations is February 10.

Tickets will be distributed at the door at Leshner Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:30 p.m. on Performance night. The show starts at 8:00 p.m.

Convenient paid parking is available in the City garage adjacent to the Leshner Center.

Away Golf

Rich Hanford and Joe Fuchs

Rich Hanford and **Joe Fuchs** are now the co-activity chairmen for away golf. Below are the plans for 2011.

Away golf will be on the 1st Thursday of the month, beginning in May and ending in October (i.e. 6 dates).

1. Golfers will be able to optionally schedule their playing partners for carpooling purposes. Singles will be assigned to a foursome as they are on Tuesday's.

2. Players will pay at the course at check-in, like they do on Tuesdays.

So far, the following courses and dates have been secured:

5/05/11 Deer Ridge \$30

6/02/11 Lonetree \$36/\$21

7/07/11 Franklin Canyon \$33

8/04/11 Blue Rock East \$39

9/01/11 Delta View \$29 with bucket of balls

10/6/11 In Process

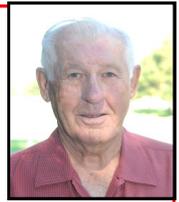
You may contact **Joe Fuchs** or **Rich Hanford** if you have any questions.

If you want to sign up for a particular date, you can do it now by sending an Email to Sir146away-golf@yahoo.com



Tuesday Golf

Ray Weisz



The Weekly Winners are:

November 23, 2010

The Tuesday Golf was rained out.

November 30, 2010

First Flight: 1st **John Harrington 73**, 2nd **Ray Spears 74**, 3rd **Jack Calloway 74**. Second Flight: 1st **Walt Busenius 75**, 2nd **Joe Suta 77**, 3rd **Dennis Hallett 79**. Third Flight: 1st **Ralph Fowler 69**, 2nd **Dan O'Sullivan 70**, 3rd **Bob Spellman 75**. Closest to the pin Hole #2 **Steve Conte**, Hole #12 **Jim Stedman**.

December 7, 2010

First Flight: 1st **Ron Binder 71**, 2nd **Terry Marchione 74**, 3rd **Jack Calloway 74**. Second Flight: **Joe Barry 69**, 2nd **Walt Busenius 71** 3rd **Dick Kincaide 73**. Third Flight: 1st **Bill Boyd 69**, 2nd **Bob Spellman 73**, 3rd **Dan O'Sullivan 76**. Closest to the pin Hole #2 **John Demos**, Hole #12 **Jim Burk**.

December 14, 2010

No Golf, more rain.

Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

2nd and 4th Mondays at 9 am., May through October, at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads



No Bocce Ball till May see you then

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 SIR branches.

Couples Golf

John Harrington

Our last tournament of the year was held at Deer Ridge Golf Course on December 1st. Twenty golfers competed in a 4-Person Best Ball format. Afterwards, a party broke out at **Ray** and **Tippy Weisz** beautiful home where the prizes were awarded to our winning teams: 3rdPlace (tie) Teams>**Baldriged/Thompsons** and **Harringtons/Weisz 66**; 2nd Place to the team of **Halletts/Dawkins 64.5**; Top Honors to Team of **DeVoes/Somerville Binder 61.5** Next year our season begins in April and we play on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Thanks, **John Harrington**



MONTEREY MASHERS GOLF TOURNAMENT



March, 27 – 30, 2011

You are invited to attend the Monterey Mashers, Golf Tournament, a SIR Branch 146 event open to all members.

March, 27, 28, 29 – Best Western Monterey Inn. Complimentary breakfast provided each morning.

March 28 (Monday) – golf with cart at Rancho Canada Golf Course (East Course). Traditional heavy hors d'oeuvres/dessert party in the evening at the inn. BOYB.

March 29 (Tuesday) – golf with cart at Laguna Seca Golf Course. Gala Awards Banquet with wine at Rancho Canada Golf Club. No host bar before dinner.

March 30 (Wednesday) – Breakfast at the inn and departure for home, outlets, etc., etc. Since we are limited by the number of rooms, number of tee times, and space for the Monday night party, we may have to invoke a first replied – first served policy. Do not delay!! Reply by January 14, 2011. A complete package of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you at a later date.

-----Cut Here-----

Name _____ Companion _____

Approximate cost per couple, subject to final pricing confirmations:

Couples package- Two Golfers:
Room, Banquet, and Golf for two both days. \$ 585

Couples package- One Golfer:
Room, Banquet for two and Golf for one both days \$492
Companion will play golf Monday only: add \$44 _____
Companion will play golf Tuesday only: add \$49 _____

Total enclosed _____

Banquet Choices.

New York Steak with garlic whipped potatoes and grilled veg _____

Petrale Sole Dore with baby shrimp, wild rice and grilled veg. _____

Vegetarian _____

Make checks payable to: SIR Branch 146 – Monterey Mashers.
Mail to: **Dennis Hallett**, 38 DeLaurenti Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
No later than January 14, 2011



L to R; Ann Mitchell, Donna Madge, Charlotte Fowler, Adelaide Chavez and Fay Hungerford



DON'T FORGET OUR DINNER PARTY FOR SIRS 146 AND FRIENDS



Wednesday, April 13 2011
 6pm to 10pm at Zio Fredo's Restaurant
 The price is \$99.00 per couple and includes hors d'oeuvres and Dinner
 Live music for listening and dancing
 Your choice of beef, fish or pasta
 Send your check, made out to Sir Dinner 146 to:



Vince Rettew
 290 Dover Drive
 Walnut Creek, CA. 94508
 Phone: 925-943-7962



Tables of eight are encouraged
 Your name and partner

Couple 1	_____	Meal	_____
Couple 2	_____	Meal	_____
Couple 3	_____	Meal	_____
Couple 4	_____	Meal	_____

Wine Tasting ... Bill Holly



The first wine tasting of this year will be on Wednesday, January 26th from 2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the home of **Bill** and **Lynette Holly** at: 4409 Winterberry Ct., Concord, CA 94521-4332.

Directions: Take Ygnacio Valley Road North to Cowell Rd. Turn left at the light and go to the next stop light. Turn right at North Larwin and go ¾ mile. Turn right on Winterberry Ct. and park near the 5th house on the left side of the street.



French Red Bordeaux



French White Burgundy

Please bring a single bottle of either the red or the white (under \$20) in a brown paper bag plus an appetizer to share. Spouses are invited to attend.

Please RSVP by January 19th to **Bill Holly** by either telephone (925) 691-5337 or email at bill.holly@comcast.net

Chess Group Joe Fuchs



A chess group is now being formed. Players at all levels are welcome.

Please contact **Joe Fuchs** at JBF@astound.net if you are interested.

Thanks to **Bill Cammerer** for folding labeling and mailing and Editor **Rich Ahlf** for photography.



Walkers John Lewis



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

Walks in January Planned by **Mitch Mitchell**

- Jan 7 Arbolardo Park South Walnut Creek
Meet: Arbolardo Park-Parking Lot
Walk: West on Arbolado Dr to South on Ygnacio canal
Paved: Level Some Shade
Coffee: Deli Delight Shadelands Office Park
- Jan 14 Walden Park North Oak Rd
Walnut Creek
Meet: Walden Park-Parking Lot
Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail across Treat Blvd bridge
Paved: Level Some Shade
Coffee: La Scala Civic & Locust Walnut Creek
- Jan 21 Hap McGee Park Iron Horse Trail North La Gonda Way
Alamo Take 680 South Exit on El Pintado
Immediate right on La Gonda Way
Takes you to the park
Walk: West across the bridge to Camille Ave then North on Iron Horse Trail
Paved: Level Some Shade
Coffee: Pascal French Oven 155-B Railroad Ave
- Jan 28 Lafayette Trail West St. Mary's Road Lafayette
Meet: Lafayette Community Center
Walk: Follows St. Mary's Rd toward Moraga
Paved: Mostly level Some Shade
Coffee: Terzetto Cuisine Moraga Shopping Center



BRANCH WEBSITE TERRY MARCHIONE—WEBMASTER

The Branch webmaster has been successful in putting together a committee to help in the website upgrade. Our first meeting was held in December and I was encouraged by the enthusiasm of the committee members. I would like to thank Sir **Joe Fuchs**, Sir **Ron Louis**, Sir **Dick Richmond** and Sir **Dave Pierce** for stepping up for this important job. We have been able to delegate many of the information gathering and maintenance duties. Soon we will be working on getting some committee members up to speed on posting items to the website.

By now most of you have been to the website to read the December Sir Call. Early reports indicate the transition to electronic delivery has been very successful. Hopefully you have also had an opportunity to look around the website to see some of the other features. **ATTENTION GOLFERS:** you can now view the 2011 away golf schedule on the website as well as view and print the Monterey Mashers application.

Other enhancements will appear periodically so be sure to visit the website on a regular basis.

A quick word on the “member” and “new member” web pages: As you can see, the member web page has a photo of nearly every branch member. We have had one or two cases of misidentification so check out your photo to make sure we have it correct. Also, if you are not happy with your photo please let me know and one of our photographers can retake it. We owe a special thanks to the chase you all around to get these photos—Sir **Rich Ahlf**, Sir **Ken Kratz** and Sir **Ray Kan**.

I welcome your suggestions, questions and other input. You can reach me via email or phone:

[terrymarchione<branch146webmaster@yahoo.com>](mailto:terrymarchione@branch146webmaster@yahoo.com)

925-708-1046

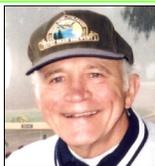


Sir 146 Day at the Races

L to R; Dan & Donna O'Sullivan, Jockey Russell Baze, Lana & Al Altmann,
Don Strong & Don De Bene



Garden Club Chuck Bobinecz



Note that we do not meet in January. Our next meeting will be in February at Heather Farms to prune roses. The time and date will be in next SIR CALL. Sir **Bob Yolland** leads this project.

The format for the agenda for the year for 2011 was changed from prior years. In 2011 members, in turn, on the roster can contribute to the agenda.

Garden tip of the month: Want to increase your vegetable production by up to 45% and have healthier flowers, etc.? When preparing your flower and vegetable beds in the spring, add mycorrhizal fungi to the soil. What does it do? The fungi acts as extensions of plants root system helping them take up phosphorus and other nutrients. I got mine at the Home Depot garden department.

Area 2 \$ums In Retirement Allen Espenmiller

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on January 26th, 2011 at 8:00 AM at the Diablo Creek Golf course 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our speaker will be **Tom Kopas** of Pring Turner Capital Group. Tom's talk will be "**Financial Market Update: Economic and Market Outlook for 2011**" Many long term challenges lie ahead including: a continuing trading range stock market over the next ten years, bond prices very vulnerable to rising interest rates and inflation begins to rear its ugly head. Where are the risks and opportunities for investors going forward? **Tom** will also spend a few moments discussing Options and Covered Call Writing. **Tom** is one of our best educational speakers, so be sure to put this date on your calendar.

The restaurant at the course opens at 7:00 AM for those who would like to enjoy breakfast with your colleagues.

Co-Chairmen: **Allen Espenmiller** (Br-174) 925-376-3977 **George Schulze** (Br-8) 925-429-1756 **Leary Wong** (Br-8) 925-457-0807 **Ken Nakashima** (BR-171) 925-376-0421



Jim and Sandy Aberer and Shirley and Tom Thomson

MEMBER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION JACK CALLOWAY

During 2010 we had 24 new members join our Branch. A big thank you to all those members who were sponsors. Remember that you have an obligation to be sure your new member becomes an active part of the Branch by joining activities and attending the luncheons.

One of the highlights of the year was the unveiling of the “Sponsors Honor Roll” in August. This permanent display shows the 13 members who have sponsored 5 or more new members.

Thanks to the more than 150 members who completed the Member Survey in November. Results will be presented to the BEC in January. Also in January we will be inducting four new members which is a great way to start the New Year.

Big Sir **Pete Gates** recently sent an e-mail to Branch members reminding them that “the key to our health and vitality is to maintain our focus on bringing new members into the Branch to offset natural attrition”. This is an important goal for 2011.



**Ygnacio Valley High School Madrigal Singers
at December Ladies Day Luncheon**



ROME0

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Malcolm Hendry



The ROME0 group meets on the third Thursday of the month at selected East Bay Restaurants.

We experience delightful dining while getting to better know our fellow SIR and guests, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

It is a time to take a break and blow off some steam.

"IZZY'S STEAKS AND CHOPS"

The newest and largest of IZZY'S three restaurants, opened in 2007, but the origin of this restaurant dates back to the Prohibition era when it operated as an underground speakeasy.

The menu focuses on high quality steaks, pork and lamb chops with delicious accompaniments such as in-house potatoes au gratin, fresh vegetables and creamed spinach. Seafood specialties are also available.

Location: 200 Montgomery St., San Ramon (Bollinger @ Alcosta- In the Marketplace)

Phone: 925-830-8620

Web Site: www.izzyssteaks.com (menu, location and color)

Please let me know by Tuesday, January 18th, if you will join us.

Your suggestions for other restaurants are welcomed.



Shirley Jockim, Denny O'Loughlin and Florence and Dominic De Matteo