



Big Sir's Notes

Bill Holly

First off, I'd like to thank outgoing Big Sir **Doug Eisner** for his leadership during 2014 and, in particular, for leaving the branch in fantastic shape. Under Doug's leadership the number of branch activities has increased; the membership has grown; all the administrative chairs have been filled; and our financial condition is sound. These are all signs of a healthy branch.

I also wish to thank **Steve Dawkins** for the outstanding job he did in planning and organizing the December Ladies Day Christmas Luncheon. The food was delicious and the arrangements were flawless. Even the heavy rain could not deter anyone from having a terrific time.

As many of you know, Boundary Oak will undergo a three-year, three-phase, five million dollar renovation starting in mid-January. The first phase of construction will be the renovation of both the men's and the women's restrooms on the main floor starting after our January luncheon and continuing through the months of February, March, and April 2015.

During that period we will have our luncheons at the **Concord Hilton**. This will necessitate changes in both the day of the week and the week of the month for our luncheon meetings. We seniors do not like change, but in this case change is unavoidable, so we will try to keep the disruption to our activities as short and as painless as possible.

To help alleviate some of the anxiety change brings, we will present a slideshow during our January luncheon at the Boundary Oak to show what you can expect to experience during February, March, and April. For that reason, you will not want to miss the January luncheon.

In addition, **Walt Busenius**, our new Little Sir, has arranged for "Embroidery and Moore" to set up a booth before the January luncheon. This company provides monogrammed apparel with the SIR logo such as polo

Luncheon — January 8th Featured Speaker

**Deputy DA Dotie Katague
On "High Tech Crimes"**

Gathering time - 11:00 A.M.
Seating time - 11:45 A.M.

*Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
By noon Friday, January 2nd*



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Santa Claus (**Jonathan Korfhage**) handing out candy to luncheon guests.

shirts, hats, jackets, mugs, etc., in multiple sizes and colors. If you place an order before the luncheon, you will receive a discount below the on-line price. "Embroidery and Moore" appeared at the August Branch 8 luncheon and many of their members took advantage of the price discount.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, don't let the impending move to the Hilton deter you. Bring your guest to the January luncheon.



Little Sir's Corner

Walt Busenius

The hectic holiday season and the New Year lead to a changing of the guard. I hope that your New Year's resolutions will be fulfilled. For me, filling the shoes of **Bill Holly** will be a tough act, but I look forward to working with **Bill** as Big Sir during

2015. The speaker's mantle has been passed on to me.

The Speaker for our January 8th luncheon is Deputy District Attorney Dodie Katague and his topic will be "High Tech Crimes". This subject is very relevant in our world, which is laden with identity theft, hacking and internet scams. These high tech crimes concern all of us and affect our well-being. For this reason, his talk will be very interesting and thought provoking.

Mr. Katague is head of The High Tech Crimes unit of the Contra Costa district attorney's office. His unit prosecutes crimes where there is a need for high technology expertise in the areas of computer hacking, counterfeit rings, internet scams and fraud, as well as identity theft. Mr. Katague is an expert in the field of high tech and white collar crime and has vigorously prosecuted these crimes for Contra Costa County since 2000.

He also has a nationwide reputation with the law enforcement community for his expertise, as well as his lecturing and training acumen. He graduated from UC Berkeley and earned his law degree from the King Hall School of Law at UC Davis.

Branch 146 invitation cards were passed out at November's meeting. You are encouraged to fill out and then give to men you would like to bring as guests to future luncheons. This is another tool available to help us recruit seniors and remain a vibrant branch.

A few members of Branch 146 have suggested potential speakers who, they feel, would interest our membership. There are still openings for speakers and I would appreciate information from you that would help me connect with speakers that would be interesting to our group.



Membership

Ben Gleason

Since we had no Branch Executive Committee meeting in December, we have no change in our membership statistics this month. I am happy to say that we ended the year with 271 active members, an increase of five from last December, and 22 inactive members. I have three applications in hand so it appears that we will be off to a good start in January.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bill & Patti Klein on their arrival at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sue and Bruce Borgman in front of the Boundary Oak Christmas Tree

SIR Happenings Newsletter

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on the link in the SIR 146 webpage to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Richard Hockenbrock
Assistant Editor	Jeff Baily
Proofreaders	Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker
	Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia
Labeling & Mailing	Bill Cammerer
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy



Luncheon Attendance

Jim Burk

Our January SIR luncheon will be held on Thursday the 8th at The Clubhouse restaurant at Boundary Oak Golf Course. The price of our regular luncheon is \$25 with a no-host bar. Remember, we assume you are coming, but if for any reason you are unable to attend, please e-mail nolunchbranch146@gmail.com by noon Friday the week prior to the luncheon. The noon deadline has to be strictly enforced as that is the time the restaurant requires us to give them a guaranteed number of meals to prepare. Members failing to meet this deadline, or “no show” for the luncheon, will be required to reimburse the Branch for the liability we will incur with the restaurant for your meal. Note: Only if you do not have a computer, call **Jim Burk** at (925) 946-1192 by the same deadline referenced above to let him know you will not be attending. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number, phone number, and a short message.

Payment: Remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45 A.M., so please allow enough time to check-in and make payment. A check for \$25 made payable to SIR 146 is requested for your lunch on luncheon day.

Bringing a guest: Please email to the same address above by noon the Friday prior to the luncheon leaving your name, badge number, and your guest’s name.

Special requests: If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please make that 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 the luncheon chairman and your request will remain in effect until you cancel it.

New members, guests, and sponsors: There will be a dedicated luncheon table set for any new members and their sponsors as well as guests and sponsors with place cards prepared so that you will be assured of a seat. New members along with their sponsors will be asked to join our Membership Chair in the Lakeview Room after the luncheon for a brief orientation session that is both informative and helpful to their acclimation to the Branch.

Luncheons in Feb, Mar, and Apr 2015: ...



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

January 2015

Salad

Butter Lettuce Salad
Tender Butter Lettuce, Seasonal Berries, Citrus Segments
Poppy Seed Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrees

Bistro Filet
Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Red Wine Reduction

Or

Rock Cod
Herb Crusted, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables
Chili Butter Sauce

Dessert

German Chocolate Cake
Raspberry Sauce, Chantilly Cream



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

The Clayton Valley Charter High School Women’s Ensemble under the direction of Elizabeth Emigh entertains the Ladies Day Luncheon Sirs and their guests.

Due to the planned remodeling of the clubhouse at Boundary Oak, the luncheons will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 1970 Diamond Blvd, Concord, CA. The specific dates, times, and price will be announced in the future. We expect to return to Boundary Oak for our Ladies Day Luncheon in May and all subsequent regular luncheons in 2015.



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

*Our Acoustic Musicians group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass musicians where the objective is to enjoy our music. All skill levels are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged to attend. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy. If you have music events to share, please bring the info to the meeting. We meet every month at **Alan Elnick's** home on 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Contact me at [carltilchenmusic391@gmail](mailto:carltilchenmusic391@gmail.com)*

The next meeting is Monday, January 19th at 1 P.M. Directions: from 680, work your way to the intersection of South Broadway and Newell Ave, drive east on Newell Ave to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood Dr., slight left staying on Blackwood Dr., sharp right on Ward Drive. Call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909 if you get lost.

I am a singer/songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups and I will be glad to lead this group. Alan and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

John & Laney Nelson enjoying the Christmas luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Mike Varner who is a member of the Song Sirs and his wife **Sharon** enjoying the singing festivities of the Ladies Day Luncheon



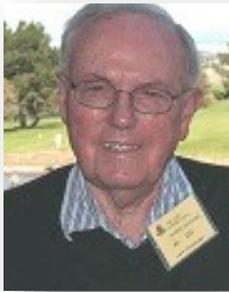
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Big Sir **Bill Holly** and his wife **Lynette** posing in front of the Boundary Oak Christmas tree.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Steve Dawkins who planned the Ladies Day Luncheon enjoys a moment with his wife **Marna**



Old Money Poker

Group 6

Al Twyford

Our Poker Group met on Dec. 10th at **Rich Ahlf's** home in Clayton. There were six players; **Rich, Norm Baietti, Bob Larson, Frank Lucas, Harvey Oxman** and **Al**

Twyford. Three members in our group were unable to attend; **Brad Hatcher, Sid Landman** and **John Gray**. **Brad** was still in Australia where his wife was recovering from an emergency appendix operation. What a way to end a vacation! We hope they are home now, and **Brad's** wife is fully recovered in time for Christmas. **Sid** was involved in a home construction project. and **John** was under the weather. We had another enjoyable afternoon of poker except for those of us who were losers. **Frank** again cleaned us out, and when I saw him at the Ladies luncheon the next day, he thanked me for buying him a glass of wine. It took me a minute to realize he was referring to the poker game. **Bob, Norm** and **Al** were the big losers. **Harvey** walked away with 5 bucks and **Rich** lost a buck. **Frank**(bring money) **Lucas** walked away with \$20. Overall it was an enjoyable afternoon with snacks and red wine provided by our host **Rich**. Our next game is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14th at **Sid Landman's** home in Clayton. Merry Christmas to all our poker group and families along with all our SIR 146 members and their families.



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

We are not meeting in December due to the Christmas holiday but will resume in January hosted by Sir **Garth Cummings**. See you next year.

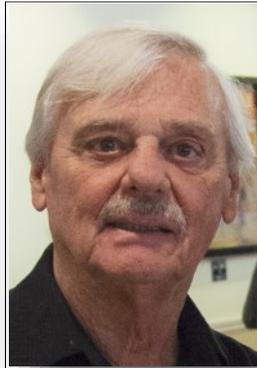


Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met December 10th at the home of **Al Zamolo**. The big winner was **Doug Cook**. There were other winners but not like **Doug**. As always, it was a fun outing.

Our next meeting will be hosted by **Bill Cammerer** on January 7th.



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

The December walk was cancelled so on January 9th we will try again. We will be hiking on Mount Diablo and the hike will be similar to our first hike in 2014.

Many of the people who started with us in January 2014 would not have been able to do our November hike. To those of you

that wish to join us, get into shape and have fun doing it, we will be starting 2015 with 3 months of easy hikes. Come join us at the Regency Gate in Clayton at 10 A.M. for about a four mile hike.

Directions: Drive out Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right on Clayton Road, go about four miles, turn right on Regency Drive and drive to staging area at the end, walk down the hill to the gate.

Rain Cancels

Spouses always welcome



Lunch and Wine

Bob Spellman

The LAW cooking group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest of the group.

We gather at 11:00 A.M. for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Joe and Kathy Nelms at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Sunshine Report

John Pearl

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

- **Baha Zarah**
- **Dave Obera**
- **Bill Baltezare**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are 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



Book Nook

Hank James

January meeting will have the Book Nook open. Bring your read books and pick up your unread books to share with your fellow Sirs.

The next Book Nook after January will be in May when we return to Boundary Oak, so stock up for the spring.

Dick DeVoe resigns as proof-reader

I'd like to take this space to publicly thank **Dick DeVoe**, a long time friend and colleague for his contribution as SIR Call proof-reader for over 10 years.

Dick has used his unique blend of knowledge and grammatical skills with a keen sense of humor to get his ideas across. Together, as part of the Sir Call Group, we have argued and scrapped and laughed hysterically over the slightest of issues such as is it its or is it it's - not for minutes or hours but months!

His awesome sense of humor is also noticeable in his many ongoing newsletter contributions as a bridge group "correspondent". Great job **Dick!** *Jeff Baily*



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 A.M. at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exception is the 2nd Thursday of each month when we attend the SIR luncheon.

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



Sirs **Gary Brown, Jerry Crumpler, Mike Whitaker** and **Bill Schultz** ready to tee off in the WCMGC's last tournament of the year, the Holiday Classic



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 A.M. at Masse's - 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play during the day, at other times, for the same \$5. Just tell them you're a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.





Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

The steady rains of December substantially reduced our fishing activities, but that left plenty of time for Christmas shopping. Plus, most of us and our wives and significant others got together for a joyful Christmas

season dinner at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill.

Don Mittelstadt escaped the rains and traveled to Louisiana where he caught some giant redbfish. He also spent some time fly fishing on the Feather River, where he caught and released a bevy of steelhead. **Joe Karg** caught an 11 lb. striper, fishing from a party boat in San Pablo Bay, while **Harry Sherinian** and **Tom Kostik** fished Honker Bay in the Delta with lures and caught and released quite a few stripers, including a 38 inch fish that **Harry** landed.

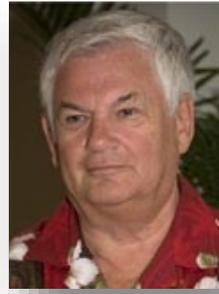
Carl Moyer and **Paul Dubow** set out for trout fishing in San Pablo Reservoir but took the wrong tackle box. Fortunately they had taken catfish bait. Unfortunately, they could not lure any catfish to the bait and they returned empty handed. A few days later, **Carl** and **Gordon Linebaugh** decided to try San Pablo before it closed for the season but the fish were not cooperative again and they, too, returned empty handed.

Things are looking up, however, and we have a heavy schedule planned for January and February. We will be fishing for sturgeon and striped bass in the Delta and for trout in Lake Del Valle and, hopefully if the rains continue, in Shadow Cliffs Reservoir. Our next meeting will be at 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, January 22, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Come an hour earlier and join us for breakfast! For further information, call **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Joe & Betty Hunt at the luncheon



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

All right, all you diners – here is a change of pace for you in January. We have put together an upscale Mexican dinner at the Guadalajara Grille in Concord.

No, this is not just your basic taco or enchilada dinner, but we have included that too, if you prefer.

The dinner will start with chips and salsa, and the best guacamole this side of the Rio Grande. Then, a Caesar salad, followed by a choice of four entrees. You may choose from a Chili Verde, Camarones Al Mojo de Ajo (that's shrimp sautéed in garlic for you gringos), Chicken and Steak Fajitas, or a Beef Enchilada with a Chicken Taco – all dishes accompanied by rice and refried beans. For dessert we've included a traditional Mexican flan. Total all-inclusive price is \$36.00 per person.

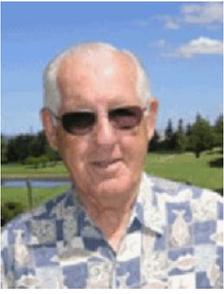
Additionally, for our social hour we have negotiated a special price for beer, wine, or a margarita - \$6 each for any of these, with tax included!

You may reserve your place by writing a check to SIR 146 and mailing it to **Bruce Borgman**, 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek, 94598. The restaurant can accommodate 50-70 diners in their separate Hacienda Room. It will be on Monday, January 19th with cocktails at 5:15, and dinner at 6 P.M.. There is ample parking in the Clayton Valley Shopping Center – the restaurant is at 5446 Ygnacio Valley Blvd, Concord. See you there!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Jim & Ruth Adams seated and about to begin their Christmas lunch



GOLF

Ray Weisz/Ed Marlovits

After seven years of welcoming each new golfer to SIR 146 Golf, collecting dues, writing prize fund payout checks, and balancing the books, **Ray Weisz** has decided to retire from the golf committee. **Ray** has contributed

greatly to making SIR 146 Golf the most popular activity in our branch. Thanks Ray, for a job well done!

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 golfing 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 Sirs 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 receive GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome, too), please email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



Cribbage

John Pearl

Six of us braved more of the hoped-for rains of the season to gather at Sir **John Pearl's** home for our monthly cribbage game on Wednesday, December 17th. Santa was not in evidence.

First place went to former SIR State President **Jim Stedman**. New member **Ron Afdal** finished second, moving up a place from last month, while **Tony Greco** did the same, moving from fourth place last month to third, and made enough money so he could play again in January.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

This past Friday evening, December 19th, **Roy Hodgkinson, Jim Barry, Bobble Schmidt, Harvey Oxman, and Richard Hockenbrock** had planned a trip to downtown Walnut Creek to take dusk and night photography of the downtown stores with festive Christmas lighting. It was

to be our most challenging photo shot planned to date but it was all in vain as we had to cancel due to rain.

We don't have a date set for the January meeting as our normal 3rd Friday of the month was taken by the library staff for their quarterly book sale. I'll poll the photography members in early January on a possible substitute site, date and time.

If you are interested in joining the group, email me at rhock@pacbell.net



You might be a photographer if:

- 1) You pity, and judge, members of the public when you see them using their big, fancy dSLR in... automatic
- 2) Everyone hands you their cameras at family events and says "take some photos for me"

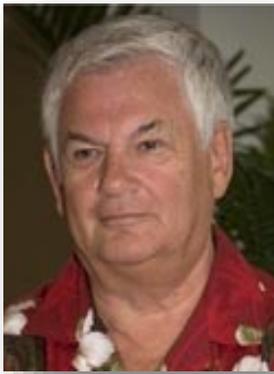


Cooking II

Bob Yolland

In lieu of a December Cooking II lunch at **Bruce Borgman's** home, **Sue** and **Bruce** invited our Cooking group members, wives and some other couples for a very special function on Sunday afternoon December 14th. Their beautifully Christmas

decorated home was a perfect setting for a great party. They had a tremendous variety of food served with lots of good wines and a dessert table that was fantastic. Thank you **Bruce and Sue** for all of your work. What a great way to end 2014. Our next lunch will be January 12th at **Bill Cammerer's**.



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

On Monday December 15th the SongSirs had the chance to perform for an appreciative audience at the Chateau III, an assisted living facility in Pleasant Hill. We wore our white shirts, blue vests, red bow ties and added Santa hats

for a festive presentation.

The performance was narrated humorously by **Lynn Shafer**, who introduced each song with some history of the Christmas carols. We sang "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", "White Christmas", and other well-known carols such as "O Holy Night", and "O Come All Ye Faithful". "Silent Night" was sung by our quartet as well as a duet by **Bruce Borgman** and **Corrie Oranje** – in Dutch! Included in the carols were solos by **Pete Miller**, **Russ Bliese**, and **Lynn Shafer**. Many of our audience sang along and we were pleased to contribute to the Christmas celebration at this facility.

We are taking a break for the rest of the year and will start our practices again in January. We are pleased to have **Rod Hughes** from Branch 8 join us and welcome others from our brother branch.

We will be working on a new repertoire in the coming year which will likely include award winning tunes from Broadway and film. Join us if you like to sing – first and third Wednesdays at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30 P.M.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Dave & Joan Pierce enjoy a funny story at the Christmas lunch



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Shirley & Garth Cummings, Joanne Haukland and Marilyn Kratz at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Avid bridge player **Fred Bolton** & wife **Phyllis** at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Photo by Sue Borgman

Sue Borgman snaps a picture of **Richard Hockenbrock** and his wife **Sherry** at the tree



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

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

We played three tables of bridge on December 1st at the home of **Max Hinkle**. First place went to **Tony Greco** with 6320 points, second to **Fred Bolton** with 5940, and third to **Lo McCarley** with 5600. Our next game will be at the home of **Bob Yolland** on January 5th.



Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. Bill Roberts is the permanent host for our event. The regular players are Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Skip Thomas, Charlie Koeber, Terry

Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter and Frank Rockwell. Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 P.M. and ends around 8:00 P.M. with time out for dinner.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



New SIR member **Frank & Marilynn Barton** join the Ladies Day Christmas celebration for the first time.

Walking Schedule

John Lewis

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



January walks planned by **Lo McCarley**

January 2nd	DANVILLE RAILROAD MUSEUM, SOUTH
MEET	Railroad Museum parking
WALK	South on Iron Horse Trail
COFFEE	Pascal French Oven
January 9th	CONCORD COMMUNITY PARK, WEST
MEET	Concord Community Park, Cowell Road, Concord
WALK	Park to the left exit. Walk to end of Reed, right on Grove, left on Orchard, left on Canal Trail
COFFEE	Panera Bread, Bancroft & Treat
January 16th	ST. MARY'S COLLEGE WALK
MEET	St. Mary's parking lot
WALK	To the redwood trees
COFFEE	Cafeteria in Oliver Hall
January 23rd	WALDEN PARK EAST
MEET	Walden parking
WALK	East along Contra Costa Canal
COFFEE	Panera Bread, Bancroft & Treat
January 30th	BRUCE LEE TRAIL CLAYTON
MEET	Clayton Library
WALK	Cross Clayton Rd. to Marsh Creek Rd. Left on Center St, right on trail
COFFEE	Deli Delight, Shadelands

One Christmas, Joe and Peter built a skating rink in the middle of a field.

A shepherd leading his flock decided to take a shortcut across the rink.

The sheep, however, were afraid of the ice and wouldn't cross it.

Desperate, the shepherd began tugging them to the other side.

"Look at that," remarked Peter to Joe, "That guy is trying to pull the wool over our ice!"



Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Day Trips

Feb 13, 2015: Sabastiani

Wine Tour. The day will begin with a tour of the historic winery and learning about the transition of

Sabastiani's wines. The tour would not be complete without tasting a "flight" of wines before your hosted picnic style lunch. Next is a stop at B. R. Cohn to enjoy a tasting of olive oils and vinegars. You will leave with a complimentary bottle of olive oil. Round trip by motor coach from Walnut Creek. Price \$93 per person. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

March 27, 2015: Day at the Races. The horses are running at Golden Gate Field and the race track has dedicated March 27th to the Sons in Retirement. The cost of \$33 includes admission, reserve parking, daily program, great buffet lunch, tax and tips. Put your group together and join your fellow Sirs for a fun day at the races. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

June 7, 2015: The Book of Mormon. This musical by Trey Parker and Matt Stone is the winner of nine Tony Awards including Best Musical. The New York Times calls it the best musical of this century. The price includes round trip motor coach from Walnut Creek to San Francisco and ticket in rows 13 or 14 center orchestra. Price \$144. Contact **Ken Richter** 689-6217 KERichter@astound.net.

Longer Trips

March 10-14, 2015: Spring Training Phoenix.

This 5 days/4nights trip has something for everyone. Your tour begins with your arrival at the Phoenix airport. The cost includes: Round-trip airport transfer in Phoenix, all transportation and events scheduled while in Phoenix, three Spring Training Games in the best seats available, 4 nights at the Embassy Suites, 3 hosted meals per day during your stay, morning activities, escort and guide services. Cost \$1,795 double occupancy, no air. Contact **Ken Richter** 689-6217 KERichter@astound.net.

July 22-28, 2015: Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. This trip will include baseball games in New

York and Boston. The highlight will be the Baseball Hall of Fame and induction ceremonies at Cooperstown. Travelers will enjoy home pick-up, airport transfers, professional tour host, round trip airfare, 6 nights accommodations, all taxes and gratuities. Cost \$2,975. Contact **Ken Richter** 689-6217 KERichter@astound.net.

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 Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers as well as the D-Day beaches of Normandy. Prices range from \$ 6,499 to \$ 8,299, 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 \$3,699 to \$ 6,199 and 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 \$ 3,999 to \$ 6,649. 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.

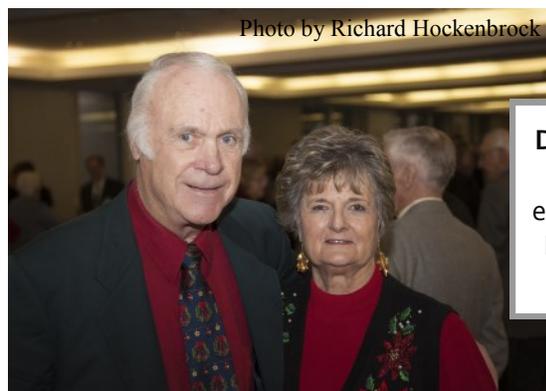


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Don & Holly Oddson enjoying the Ladies Day luncheon



Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was hosted by **Dick DeVoe** on December 5th with 16 players and four tables. Branch 8 Sub **Walt Schick** showed us how to play the game with 1st place and 44.5 pts.

Rich Ahlf coasted into 2nd place, with **Tony Greco** grabbing 3rd. **Jim Adams** and **Steve Dawkins** accumulated enough to make a 4th place tie. **Sid Landman** won the Come-Back Kid award with a 7 pts. gain from the 1st half to 2nd half. **Harry Reiter** and **Max Hinkle** split the Most High Boards Award with 6. **Tony Greco** won the Least Low Boards Award with 1. **Dave Pierce** hosts in January.

Photo by Dick DeVoe



Host **Dick DeVoe** salutes the troops before the Duplicate Bridge 2 match

L to R: **David Steinberg, John Boyan, Tony Greco, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dawkins, Jim Adams, & Fred Bolton**



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge at **Bob and Janet Yolland's** home on December 17th. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also enjoyed **Janet's** snacks and **Bob's** wines. The

group thanks **Fred Bolton** for substituting for **Adrienne Morrison**. **Carl and Anne Johnson** took first place with 43 points, **Dave and Joan Pierce** took second (38 points), **Bob and Janet Yolland** (36 points) placed third, and **Jim Brown and Fred Bolton** (30 points) came in fourth. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 21st, **Susi Cherry's** home.



Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 3 tables of bridge at **George Zurich's** home on Dec 15th. Scores at the lunch break were close with **Rich Ahlf** alone in 1st place with 16.5 pts followed closely by **Jim Jackson's** 16.0 pts and **Jim Brown's** 14.5 pts.

However, the afternoon was a different matter. **Rich Ahlf** really picked up steam after lunch and won going away with 32.5 pts. **Doug Eisner's** 28.0 pts came out of nowhere to take second place while **Jim Jackson** slipped slightly into 3rd place.

Next play is January 19th, 2015 at **Jim Stedman's** house.

Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams

A big thank you to **Dick DeVoe** who has been writing this group's bridge results every month. He is now turning this job back to the group leader. **Dick's** thorough analysis with some humor has given us some insight into our strengths and weaknesses. Good job **Dick!**

Our December meeting, hosted by **Dave and Joan Pierce**, was a very close match. At the half-way point **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** were tied with **Ken and Elaine Richter** in first place at 12 pts each with **Terry and Sharon Marchione** close behind with 10.5 pts. The **DeVoes** won the match with 23.5 pts, edging out the **Richters** who finished second with 23 pts. **Jim and Ruth Adams** moved up into third place with 22 pts.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Jim & Anne Saavedra at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bruce Jones & Joanne Ayres at the Christmas Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Reggie Fromm and his wife **Barbara** at the Luncheon

Special Feature Alert

If you like these pictures, there are more to see! If you are reading the electronic version of the Sir Call, click on the link below to see these pictures and more in high resolution.

[Click Here](#)

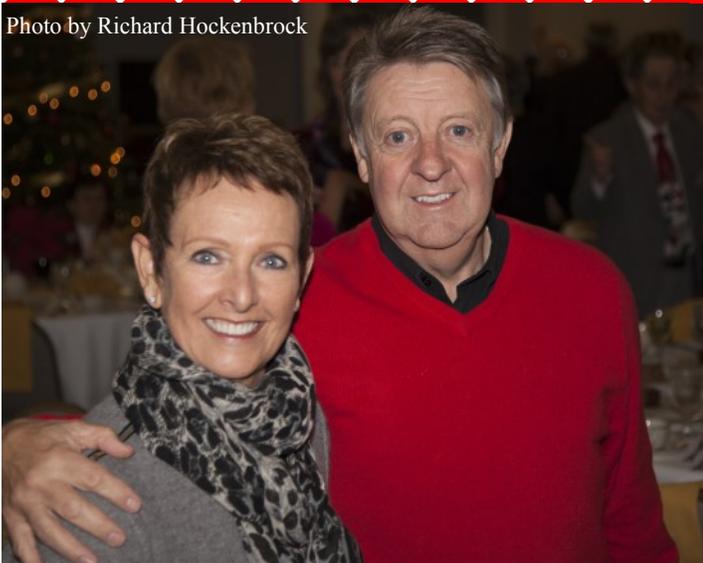


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Colin & Julia Holland at the Christmas luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ron Louis & Fran Mathews at the Lady's Day Luncheon

----- Monterey Mashers-Save the dates. -----

Save Sunday March 22nd thru Tuesday March 24th for the 2015 edition of the
MONTEREY MASHERS GOLF TOURNAMENT
in Monterey, California.

Included are three nights lodging, breakfasts, two in-house cocktail parties and a round of golf at Pacific Grove Muni & Laguna Seca GC plus an awards banquet on Tuesday evening.

There is also a non-golfer's program.

Questions? – Contact any committee member **Lew Thompson, Chuck Eichten, Dick Richmond, Corrie Oranje and Dennis Hallett**

See page 15 to register

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

*The Mac Users meet the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 A.M.. 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. This month we will learn how to update to IOS 8 and the future system software to Yosemite. We would like the PC users to realize that the cost of these updates is free.*

*If you have or may have an interest please contact me and we will put you our 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 Mac users. **Vern Laursen***

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday January 28, 2015 at 8:00 A.M. at Legends Restaurant, Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord.

Our guest speaker again this January is Tom Kopas from Pring Turner Capital Group. Tom's topic will be Financial Outlook—2015, and will address many of today's topical questions, including: what's ahead for the economy in 2015? Tom will discuss what asset allocation decisions will bring investors profitably through this cycle, and where the risks and opportunities are for investors now and in the coming months and years. Timely investment themes for both income and growth will be reviewed.

Tom is one of our most popular guest speakers having been invited to present to the \$ums Investment Group each year since 2002. He is a principal and portfolio manager at Pring Turner Capital Group in Walnut Creek. Tom co-authored a book published by McGraw Hill

entitled "Investing in the Second Lost Decade".

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) 925-686-0158

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

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PC's



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all Sirs and their guests that our first meeting of 2015 will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, January 15th at 9:30 A.M..

For most of us the primary use of the home computer involves access to the internet. Whether shopping, reading the latest news, genealogy research or downloading financial information, the internet has become the "go to" source of information and commerce. There are many browsers available to access the internet with Internet Explorer and Google Chrome being the most popular. Both products have many hidden features which can make your access to the internet much faster and more fun.

In January **Phil Goff** will be our presenter and he will show many tips and tricks you can use with your browser software. He will focus on Internet Explorer and Google Chrome to demonstrate features such as bookmark bars, tabbed browsing, application extensions, browsing incognito and more. Even if you are a Firefox or Safari user, there should be a tip or trick for everyone. Also, since passwords have become such an issue, **Phil** will show some of the more popular password manager programs. Many companies have developed password manager software to cash in on the common problem of remembering and using good passwords. He will show the most common design approaches and demonstrate two of the most popular products; LastPass and Dashlane. Both are robust products and if used properly, can greatly improve your security and reduce the pain of remembering and using strong passwords.

See Computers and Technology next page

Computers and Technology

(continued from previous page)

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.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Russ & Opal Bliese celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary on the same date as the Ladies Day Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Kirby & Ramona Narcisse at the Ladies Day Luncheon

Register

Reply by January 10th 2015

A complete package of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you shortly after the closing date.

Make checks payable to:

“SIR Branch 146—Monterey Mashers”

Mail to: **Dennis Hallett**
38 De Laurenti Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Cut Here and Mail with your Check

Enrollment

Name _____

Companion _____

(Check boxes that apply)

A) Couples package—Two Golfers: \$720.00
Room 3 nights, Banquet, 2 Rounds of golf each - two golfers.

B) Couples package—One Golfer: \$600.00
Room 3 nights, Banquet, 2 Rounds of golf—one golfer

C) Companion to play golf Monday only, add \$72.00

D) Companion to play golf Tuesday only, add \$47.00

Total Enclosed:\$ _____ .00

Banquet Choices: (enter number of entrees)

Filet Mignon:.....

Baked Salmon:.....

Vegetarian:.....

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.
br146sircall@gmail.com



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Approximately 250 Sirs and guests attended the Annual SIR Branch 146
Ladies Day Christmas Luncheon at Boundary Oak Golf Course