



Big Sir's Notes

Walt Busenius

We have just waved good bye to 2015 and have welcomed the New Year. Apart of this waving and cheering is a heartfelt thank you to outgoing Big Sir **Bill Holly** for his dedication and leadership throughout 2015. All the signs of a healthy branch have been maintained and enhanced under **Bill's** leadership. Our branch has continued to grow in membership, in the number of branch activities, and our financial condition is sound. I feel honored to serve as your Big Sir during 2016 and to continue the leadership model as well as to maintain excellent standards set by **Bill** and past Sirs.

I also wish to thank the two **Steves**, **Steve Dawkins** and **Steve Ybarra** for their outstanding job in planning and organizing the December Ladies Day holiday luncheon. The food was delicious and the singing by *La Di Da* set the tone for the holiday season.

As you know, the final phase of the Boundary Oak Clubhouse renovation is taking place from January through April 2016. During that period, we will return to the **Concord Hilton**, located at 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA 94520 for luncheon meetings. Again this year, this necessary and temporary move to the **Concord Hilton** has mandated changes to both the day of the week and the week of the month that our luncheon meetings will be held during this four month period. But, we are adaptable. The dates are:

Monday, January 25th
Monday, February 15th
Monday, March 21st
Monday, April 18th

One of the keys to our branch's success has been that members step up and volunteer. You are well aware that we rely solely on our members to fill BEC positions as well as to serve on committees and fill the positions of Activity and Assistant Activity Chairmen. I encourage you to get involved and to say yes when asked to serve our branch in some capacity.

(Continued on page 2)

Luncheon – Monday, January 25th
At the Concord Hilton Hotel

Guest Speaker:
Commissioner Gregory Lim
Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service

Gathering time – 11:00 am
Starting time – 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Telephone message: (925) 979-5146
By noon Monday, January 18th



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

La Di Da Vocal Quartet entertaining the SIR members and their guests at the gala Ladies Day Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Kay Calloway, Laura (Care Giver) along with Jack Calloway and Big Sir **Bill Holly** enjoying lively conversation at the gala Ladies Day Luncheon

The Nominating Committee, consisting of the three most recent past Big Sirs, **Bill Holly**, **Doug Eisner** and **Terry Marchione**, will be starting soon to recruit officer and director candidates for 2017. Expressing your interest to these past Big Sirs is a positive way to start the process of becoming more active in our branch, whether it is on the BEC or as an activity chairman or assistant.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, don't let January's move to the Hilton deter you. Please feel free to bring your guest to any of the four luncheons at the Hilton this year. If you do so, please be sure to notify our luncheon chairman by noon on the Monday preceding the meeting dates listed for the January through April luncheons. This is also the day and time to notify the Luncheon Chairman when any member cannot attend one of these monthly luncheons.



Little Sir's Corner

Alan Elnick

I hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy the holiday season and together let's look forward to a joyful and successful new year. This is the time when our gavel gets passed and I look forward to serving our new Big Sir **Walt**

Busenius as he assumes this new role. **Walt** was an exceptional Little Sir and I hope to be able to serve you as well as he did. On behalf of all of us-I would like to offer **Bill Holly** a hearty hurrah as he fulfilled the Big Sir role so admirably last year. Now, **Bill** you get to savor the wine.

We also need to remember that we begin this year with our luncheon meetings at the Concord Hilton. It can be a bit confusing because our meeting dates will be on Mondays, January through April. Our first lunch is January 25, the fourth Monday in January. Luncheon number two is Monday, February 15. Our third lunch is Monday March 21, and our fourth lunch is Monday, April 18. To help you remember, February through April we meet on the third Monday. Boundary Oak should be available to us again for our Ladies Day luncheon in May, when we will move back to our traditional schedule of the second Thursday of the month.

Now, we all remember the BART strike of two years ago (time sure flies). Commissioner Gregory Lim, of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, brought the parties together to resolve that mess and salvaged the Bay Area from severe economic turmoil and traffic disruption. He and I go back about thirty-five years to our



Membership

Ben Gleason

Our Active membership declined by three this month. Since we had no BEC meeting or regular luncheon in December we inducted no new members. Two members have moved or are moving from this area and another resigned to focus on other pursuits. The net result is that our Active roster is reduced to 283 members (including our seven Honorary Life Members). Although we have lost members in the past two months, we finish the year with twelve more active members than we had at the beginning of the year.

Thanks to all who have sponsored new members in 2015. We have at least two new applications in hand for January induction. Keep up the good work!

Status Changes

Active Members Resigned: **Larry Fitzgerald, John**

Narcisse, Ivan Kerr



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Betty Wyrick along side **Dave & Joan Pierce** at the gala Ladies Day Luncheon on December 10th

days together as business agents for the Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union. He has been with the FMCS about twenty years now, and has played an often unseen role bringing labor and management together to conclude a deal before there is turmoil. He is particularly involved in California Health Care and the Hospitality and Grocery industries. He will give us insights to the role of the mediator and that of the modern Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Many of you have suggestions for speakers and topics, and I would love to hear from you about them. I still have openings this year for speakers and I would like to accommodate your interests, and continue our tradition of enjoyable, entertaining and informative



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

After some effort to find a new restaurant for January that we had not been to before, we found a family owned neighborhood gem in Pleasant Hill. It is Wence's restaurant, located at 1922 Oak Park Blvd and recommended by the **Frank and Marie Ascatigno**. The restaurant prides itself on all fresh ingredients. We received a wonderful menu from the owner, which includes both a soup and salad, a choice of four different entrees, and a dessert and coffee. The soup is a delicious chicken enchilada soup, which we tried and it's great! Then, a mixed green salad with Ranch or Italian dressing. The entrée choices are a grilled King Salmon, pan seared chicken artichoke dish, and a 12 oz. rib eye steak with au jus roasted garlic and aged bleu cheese. Also available is a vegetarian pasta dish. Please indicate your choice of entrée when you reserve your spot.

We will have a private area in the restaurant, which is conducive to socializing with your fellow Sirs. Because parking is a bit harder, we will start the cocktail hour a little earlier at 5 pm followed by dinner at 5:45 pm. You can park in the strip mall, on the street, or behind the restaurant. Carpooling is encouraged.

The all-inclusive price for the dinner is \$42. The date of this event is Monday, January 18th. Please mail your check payable to SIR 146 to **Bruce Borgman**, 3611 Winchester Place, WC 94598 by January 14th. The restaurant can accommodate 50 to 60 guests so there's plenty of room for all of us. Join us to celebrate the new year and another year of fine dining.



Hilton Hotel—Lunch Menu 25 January 2016

Entrees

Pacific Snapper with Bay Shrimp
and Capers in Lemon Butter, Rice Pilaf,
Seasonal Vegetable

Or

Grilled Chicken Breast with Mushroom
Marsala Sauce, Mashed Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetables

AARP- American Association of Retired People
Questions and Answers from AARP Forum

Q: Where can single men
over the age of 70 find
younger women who are
interested in them?

A: Try a bookstore,
Under Fiction.

SIR Call Newsletter Group

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Bob Yolland (center) flanked by four lovely ladies
(L to R): **Janey King, Janet Yolland,**
Judy Baldrige, and Judy Richmond



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of The Acoustic Musicians Group (*please note the new address & directions*) on Wednesday, January 27th at 2 pm . The new address is 654 Francisco Ct, Walnut Creek, CA. Heading North follow I-680 N to Treat Blvd in Walnut Creek. Take the Treat Blvd. exit #48 from I-680 N and turn right heading East to Bancroft Rd, turn right onto Bancroft Rd, go 0.4 miles and turn right on to Lacarso Circle, go 180 feet then turn right again onto La Corso Drive, go 0.2 miles and make a left onto Via Appia, go 430 feet and turn left onto Francisco Ct. Park at end of Francisco Ct. by the pool or on Via Appia. Don't park on Francisco. 2 cars can park in driveway. 654 Francisco is the 2nd house from corner on left. If you are lost call (925) 864-2641.

At the meeting we will provide details of each song to make it easy to enjoy our music so bring paper and a pen. Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy.

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

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.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

July SIR inductee member **Don Adolphson** and his wife **Nancy** enjoy their first Ladies Day Luncheon



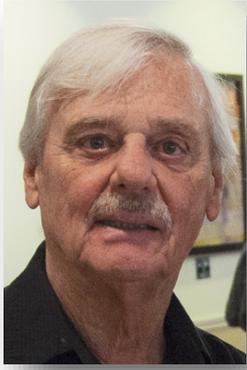
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sally and Lynn Shafer at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Syd & MJ Whalen seated and ready for the Ladies Day Lunch



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

Starting in 2016 we will have two hikes a month. Our first hike will be an easy hike that most any Sir will be able to do. Our second hike on the last Friday of each month will be a moderate to hard hike as some of our members are at this level.

Our first hike on January 8th will be to Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. This is an easy flat 5 mile loop along San Pablo Bay. This loop follows the Bay View Trail to the tip of the point, and then returns via the Marsh and Cook's Point trails

Directions: From Interstate 80 in Pinole, take the Richmond Parkway/Fitzgerald Dr. exit and follow Richmond Pkwy. West 2 miles to the Giant Highway exit. After exiting, go 0.5 mile to a stop sign, turn right, and go another 0.2 miles to Giant Highway. Turn right and follow Giant Highway as it jogs left, crosses railroad tracks, and jogs right for a total of 0.7 miles to the park entrance, left. Go 0.1 mile to the entrance kiosk, then turn left into the parking area. The trailhead is at the northwest corner of the parking area.

Friday January 8th, 2016

Hike Starts at 10 am

Rich Ahlf

Cell 925-550-4967

Our next hike on January 29th we will be hiking up Mount Diablo to Eagle Peak starting from Regency Gate in Clayton. We will be hiking the Bruce Lee trail up to Meridian Gap and over to the Eagle peak and back down to Regency Gate. The distance will be about 7 miles with about a 2,000 foot elevation gain. Sticks are a must as the trail gets narrow near the Peak and the downhill is steep. Notice we will be starting at 9:00 am so that we can take our time with ample breaks. We will have lunch at the peak overlooking the best views of the East Bay and Delta below us. I rate this hike as strenuous.

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

Friday, January 29th, 2016

Hike starts at 9 am

E-mail rahlf@sbcglobal.net

Cell 925-550-4967

Rain Cancels

Spouses Always Welcome



Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

Branch 146 has 43 different activity groups ranging from bowling to gourmet dining to poker to hiking and of course, golf. All one has to do is to look at the Branch's web page to see the full range of

the activities that any member can join.

Even with all the current activities, I hear from some new members as well as some of the ones who have been members for a while, that there may be a need for adding a few more to the list of 43. Some members have asked if we could start a pickleball activity, others have suggested a pinochle group should be started. A recent inducted member who has joined our branch has mentioned to me that they would like to play tennis with some other members.

If you and/or another member are interested in joining a group in any of the above three new areas - or would like to suggest a different new activity - please consider assisting in the start-up process. The Branch Executive Committee (BEC) will need to be informed as to how the activity might function, who will chair the group, etc.. Please contact me and I will help get the activity underway. Depending on the activity, at least two or more Sirs should be interested. I can be reached at mtdana@aol.com or feel free to call; my number is listed in the member directory.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



August SIR inductee member **Lee Clark** and his wife **Peggy** at their first Ladies Day Luncheon



Cribbage

John Pearl

Seven of us gathered on a cold and windy day on the 16th of December, braving the winter weather to play cribbage at **Barney Meade's** home. Along with the usual merriment, money was exchanged. The big winner was our esteemed co-chair, **Ron Afdal**, taking first place money. A close second was our host for the day, **Barney Meade**. **Mike Whitaker** managed a close third. As usual, no one was happy with their cards.

We meet again on the fourth Wednesday of January, the 27th, for more fun and games!

Walking Group

John Lewis



*Every Friday at 9:30 am
at various locales.
Call **John** for current walk
Rain cancels any walk.
Ladies Welcome*



For many years the SIR146 Walking Group has enjoyed 9:30 Friday morning walks in the area followed by coffee getting together at various locations.

We plan to continue this activity into the future but now we will not put our planned Friday schedule in the SIR Call

Instead, the walk lists for the coming year are given to each regular attendee. Then, any other Sir interested in joining us should call **John Lewis** at 925-825-3561 to get further information and a copy of the upcoming walks.

We are always looking for new walkers for this mild exercise, so come join us. Ladies are welcome.



Linda & John Boyan are all smiles as they pose for a picture at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Chuck & Marty Campbell at the Ladies Day Luncheon

Q: How can you avoid that terrible curse of the wrinkles?

R: A: Take off your glasses.

Q: Why should 70+ people use valet parking?

A: Valets don't forget where they park your car.

Sir Call Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

This month's issue of the SIR CALL is filled with many pictures of the gala Ladies Day Luncheon. There are more pictures to see on SIR Branch 146's website at www.sir146.com. *Move your mouse over this link while holding down the Control Key. Then left click to open, when you are on the site, select the Special Events tab and click Ladies Day Luncheon December 2015.* Feel free to copy your favorite photo by hitting print screen on your keyboard then paste the photo into your favorite editing software.





Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Notwithstanding the storms in November and December, the reservoir at Shadow Cliffs continued to produce trout. **Pete Gates, Gene Schulting,** and **Larry Gray** of Branch 146, along with **Carl Moyer, Terry Miller, Dick**

Thomson, and **Gordon Linebaugh** all caught good-sized rainbows. **Larry** caught his fish from his kayak.

In the ocean, **Joe Miscione** and his son brought home ling cod and rockfish from Monterey. **Carl Moyer** made several forays out of the harbor in Pacifica and was rewarded with lots of rockfish. However, **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 had a scary experience. After a beautiful and calm day fishing for salmon with **Paul Dubow** and **Chuck Cornell**, fellow Branch 146 members, the fog rolled in and it became quite difficult locating the Golden Gate. Fortunately, the good ship Wacky Jacky came by and guided **Rich** in. Captain Jacky of the Wacky Jacky is a wonderful lady who is over 80 years old and has been a legend in the fishing business for over fifty years. And, by chance, one of Captain Jacky's customers that day was our own **Raleigh Davis**, who had caught an 18 lb. salmon before the fog put an end to fishing.

Out on the Delta, **Tom Kostik** invited **Terry Miller** and **Bruce Persons** aboard his boat and they caught and released quite a few small stripers. **Rich Fiscina, Joe Miscione,** and **Mario Moratorio** caught and released four sturgeon in **Rich's** boat. **Mario's** fish was the only keeper and he caught the 50 lb. fish on 12 lb. test line.

We will continue fishing for trout at Shadow Cliffs this month, as well as Delta fishing for stripers and sturgeon, and ocean outings for rockfish and ling cod. In addition, we will be on our annual land outings to the Sportsman's Expo in Sacramento and to Bass Pro and Fisherman's Warehouse in Manteca.

Our next meeting will be on January 28th at Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast at 7:30. SIR members who have never fished or who have not fished in a long time are especially welcome. For further information, contact branch fishing coordinator and newly elected Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504.



Book Group

Chuck Campbell

The SIR Book Group met December 21st at the Greenery Restaurant to discuss Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee. Seven of us attended the meeting: **Jim Kohl, John Pearl, Peter Gates, Paul Dubow, Walt Busenius, Frank Barton,** and **Chuck**

Campbell.

The book is a prequel to To Kill a Mockingbird which we read and discussed last meeting. To a man, we all felt that Watchman was not up to the quality of Mockingbird and the ending was not clearly presented. We discussed what we knew of the life of Harper Lee, her friendship with Truman Capote, and the culture of the south in the 1950's and 60's.

For our next book we chose Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates by Brian Kilmeade. Our meeting will be held Monday, February 29th at the Greenery Restaurant. If the book interests you, read it and join us next February.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

The next meeting of the Photography Group is scheduled below. Many of you missed **Terry Marchione's** DVD presentation at the last meeting of his trip to Africa. You'll get another chance to see African wildlife in a slide show presentation from **Bruce**

Borgman who made a similar trip this past October. In addition to his pictures, we will discuss his choice of camera which he purchased specifically for this trip, the Canon SX60 DLSR. Come see why this camera was a good choice.

In January we might plan a field trip to San Francisco. Date, time, and subject matter of the photo shoot are yet to be determined. Look for a special announcement via a BR 146 Communications email.

Next Meeting

Where : Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library
2661 Oak Grove Road
WalnutCreek,CA94598

When: February 26th, 9 am

Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly?

A: Yes, but usually in the afternoon.

Q: Do 70+ people have problems with short term memory storage?

A: Storing is not a problem. Retrieving is.



**Mexican Train Dominoes
Group 2 (DOS)
Dick Woodman**

We were treated to many goodies and lovely decorations by **Don and Etta Dotson** as they hosted our final gathering of 2015. There were many good games of Mexican Train Dominoes with some very low score winners: **Etta Dotson**, our host, won first place; **Ron Plachy** won second place and **Janice Woodman** won third place.

This game night completed our 2015 June-November Pot. **Ron Plachy** won first place for the pot, **Nancy Pearl** won second place and **Rich Ahlf** won third place.

Congratulations to all our winners. We have had a great 2015 and look forward to a fun 2016 with a great game to play. Our first game night in January will be hosted by **Jim and Phyllis Meehan**. The results of the January game night will appear in the February Sir Call.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Past Big Sir, Fred Kovar & Lillian Handwerk



Donna & Bill Snyder

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Mexican Train Dominoes
Group 4
(El Quattro)
Jim Pope**

El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos group did not meet in December due to members Christmas holiday activities.

We plan to meet on January 15th at the home of **Renie and Jim Pope**.

Photo by Jim Pope



At the November meeting, EL Quattro gathered over 35 cans and boxes of food and delivered them to Shelter Inc.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Jeanne & Ed Walker pose for a photo prior to the start of the luncheon

Q: Where should 70+ year olds look for eye glasses?

A: On their foreheads.



Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Longer Trips

March 25 – April 10, 2016: Big Band Voyage Across The Atlantic Ocean. A 16 day all inclusive cruise

across the Atlantic Ocean on the Crystal Symphony. Relish the blissful luxury of days at sea and highlighted by visits to Bermuda, the Azores, Barcelona (Spain), Bandol (France) and Monte Carlo. Cruise cost from \$3,665 pp.

Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or

KERichter@astound.net.

March 13-17, 2016: Spring Training, Phoenix, Arizona. This 5 day/4 night trip has something for everyone. Included in the trip is all transportation starting after arriving at the Phoenix Airport. Your stay will be at the Embassy Suites and all meals will be hosted. There will be three Spring Training Games with the best seats available which should feature Giants and A's games. During your stay, morning activities will be planned and escorted by our guide. Cost is \$1,795 pp, double occupancy. Air transportation to and from Phoenix is not included. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

May 3–5, 2016: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. A once in a lifetime opportunity to view the Vatican Splendors Exhibit and tour the Reagan Library with lunch under the wing of Air Force One. Also on this trip will be a guided tour of the Mission at Santa Barbara. Included in the trip is roundtrip motor coach transportation, 2-night stay at the Pepper Tree (Santa Barbara), 6 hosted meals along the way and Driver Gratuity. Cost \$591 pp, double occupancy. 30 travelers are required for this trip. Contact **Ken Richter**, (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

September 13–27, 2016: Essence of the Elbe - Prague to Berlin. This trip begins with 2 nights in Prague , then 7 nights aboard the M/S Allegro in an outside cabin and finally 3 nights in Berlin. Included are 29 meals with wine and beer served aboard the Allegro at lunch and dinner. There will be 10 exclusive tours with personal headsets and Discovery Series events. Cost

starts at \$3,595 pp plus air. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.



Sunshine Report

John Pearl

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

Ken Richter
Steve Dawkins
Bob Jaspar

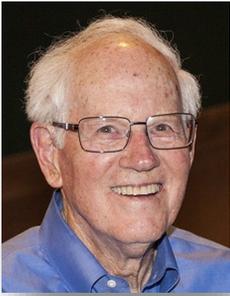
Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our SIR membership can be advised.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Rosemary & Pete Boss enjoying the festivities and entertainment at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Lynn and Dasha Freeman hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on December 16th. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge in addition to **Dasha's** snacks, dessert, and wines. As for the bridge results, **Carl and Anne Johnson** came in first with 39 points. **Margot Somerville** and **Vince Rettew** took second with 36 points. In third place were **Bob and Janet Yolland** with 32 points and fourth place were **George Zurich and Susi Cherry** with 31 points. **Lo and Sue McCarley** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on January 20th.



Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 4 tables of bridge on December 21st at **Lo McCarley's** house. Although all of us enjoyed the delicious snacks **Lo** provided, only a few of us enjoyed the bridge hands we were dealt. The first half of the match was dominated by **Max Hinkle's** 21.0 pt as he was well ahead of the 19.0 pt, 18.0 pt, and 17.5 pt posted by **Lo McCarley, Dave Pierce,** and **Jim Jackson,** respectively. However, the afternoon was another matter as **Dave Pierce** left us all wondering what hit us as he posted a remarkable 50.0 pt, equivalent to a 69% game! Good job, **Dave.** For the record, the also-rans included **Jim Jackson** at 46.0 pt, **Carl Johnson** at 39.5 pt, and **Bill Rees** at 39.0 pt.

For the next 4 months our games will be held on the second Thursday, rather than the third Monday, in order to not conflict with the branch luncheons. We'll return to our regular schedule in May. As a result, we will play on January 14th at **Carl Johnson's** house.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Terry Marchione

Our December game was hosted by **Tony and Cindy Greco.** We welcomed **Brad and Lynn Hatcher** who were sitting in for the Richters. **Dave and Joan Pierce** once again finished first although it was closer than last month. **Dave and Joan** scored 23.5 points which edged out the **Marchiones** who had 22.5 points. Third place went to the **Greco's** who were a half point better than the **Devoes.** Our next game will be on January 12th at the **Devoes.**



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played our last round of Party Bridge for 2015 on December 7th. First place went to **Jim Jackson** with a huge 7030 points, second went to **Rich Ahlf** with 5730 points and third to **Doug Eisner** with 5390 points.

Inasmuch as these are regular winners in 2015, I think they are setting the table for 2016. We will see about that! It is time we thought about setting up a new Party Bridge group, but we are lacking enough new players. Please contact me if interested and we will see if we can. Our next game is scheduled for January 4th at the home of **Bob Yolland.**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Nadine & Vern Laursen take a minute to have their picture taken

Q: What is the most common remark made by 70+ year olds when they enter antique stores?

A: "Gosh, I remember these!"



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

December Results

We do love it when **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** host in December because (even on Dec. 1st) they have all the lovely holiday decorations in place, including 100 or so nutcrackers of all sizes imaginable. Holiday spirits were in the air and maybe in the cards. **Doug** and **Patti Eisner** after a slow start closed fast to finish third (3120). The hosts were rewarded (just as hosts **Pam** and **George Rammell** were rewarded in November) with second place (3550). **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** had great cards all night, greater luck, bid and made a couple of slams, and finished at the top (6290) before running out to buy every lottery ticket in Walnut Creek. Nobody left hungry as snacks (oh, that guacamole) and desserts were consumed in mass quantities.

November Results

On November 3rd, **George** and **Pam Rammell** hosted all the regulars in their beautiful new home. It was nice to see everyone back, and healthy. **John** and **Linda Boyan** bid and made enough games to place 3rd (2310). The **hosts** were rewarded for their wonderful hospitality with 2nd (2340), and **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** road a strong finish to take 1st (3190). Then we were all rewarded with **Pam's** "secret" cake recipe.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

November 6th Results

The Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 group was hosted by **Bill Schultz**. First & second places scored higher than recent times, with a 3rd place tie to boot!

1st Place: **Dave Pierce** with 32.5 pts., to go along with his 2nd place last month. Congrats, **Dave!** 2nd: **Jim Brown** with 30.0 pts., enough to have won 1st place last month. Jim adds this to his 4th place in October 3rd (tie): **Dave Steinberg** and **Mike Whitaker** with 25 points.

December 4th Results

The Duplicate Bridge 2 group was hosted by **Dick DeVoe**. **Bob Yolland** took his first half's 3-way tie for 8th place, blew everyone away with a **huge** 2nd half, and emerged triumphantly in 1st place overall with 28.5 points. Congratulations, **Bob!**

There was a mad scramble for 2nd place overall, resulting in a 3-way tie by the following players with 27 points each - **Jim Brown**, helped by his first half's 1st place; **Dave Pierce**, in spite of his first half's 5th place; and **Dick**, making a big-time score in the second half.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge 3 Group was hosted on December 18th by **Glen Renk**. **Glen** provided

unprecedented hospitality with snacks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, desserts, and holiday goodies to boot! Thanks, **Glen**, for your wonderful hosting effort.

Bill Schultz was unstoppable! He may well hold Br. 146 franchise records for 3-table play in several areas:

- total score (35), easily taking 1st place.
- highest score for any half (18),
- greatest spread between 1st and 2nd place (6 pts.),
- greatest number of high board scores, with 13.

Kudos, **Bill!** An amazing performance.

Mike Whitaker's 2nd place finish with 29 points would have won a number of events in the past, but not this day with everything going right for **Bill**.

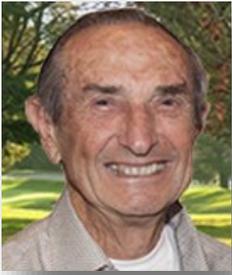
A 3rd place tie went to **Jim Stedman** and **Max Hinkle**, whose 28 points each also were relatively high for their bracket.

written by Dick DeVoe



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Jim Brown & Adrienne Morrison



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various member's homes. Contact **Al Zamolo** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



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 going forward are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, 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 pm and ends around 8 pm with time out for dinner.*

Look for more Ladies Day Luncheon attendees over the next four pages with their borders in red

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Mary & Glen Renk



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

*Poker group 6 met on December 9th at **Bob Larson's** house in Pleasant Hill. Our host **Bob** is on a roll making him not the best host for the other players as he raked in \$14.00. Everyone else lost a few bucks.*

***Bob** was a perfect host in providing good red wine and delicious snacks during our 3 hour game. In attendance, besides our host, were **Brad Hatcher, Al Twyford, Norm Baietti, Frank Lucas and Harvey Oxman**. Missing were **Sid Landman and Rich Ahlf**. We played a variety of games including **Frank's** favorite, roll your own. A good time was had by all.*

*Our next game is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13th at **Brad Hatcher's** home in Walnut Creek.*

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Brad & Lynne Hatcher

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Jim & Freda Kohl

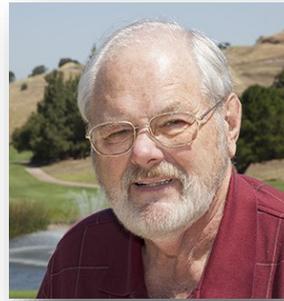


Book Nook

Hank James

January is an odd numbered month, so again it is time for the Book Nook to be open. So, survey your bookcases and book shelves for all those books you have read. Bring them to the Book Nook and share them with other SIR Members. That way you make space for all the exciting books you can pick up at the January Book Nook.

Contact **Hank James**:
hankjames@hankjames.com or
925-351-7440 to volunteer



Theatre

Gary Schaub

**Jan 14th is the LAST CALL
FOR RESERVATIONS
for FEBRUARY 18th**



Not only are the holidays quickly approaching, but so is the deadline for tickets for the SIR 146 Theatre Party of *Born Yesterday*. This favorite American classic comedy is scheduled for Thursday, February 18th at 8 pm at Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek.

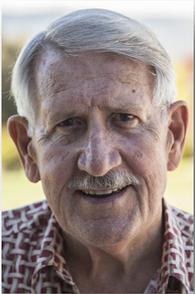
Performed by Center REP, *Born Yesterday* is a hilarious play that was not only a Broadway success when it opened, but also a very popular film in the 1950s.

Perfect for the upcoming political season, *Born Yesterday* looks behind the scenes in Washington when junk dealer Harry Brock brings his showgirl mistress to help him lobby for special legislation.

A limited number of discount tickets for this award-winning play will be available to SIR 146 members and guests until January 14th at \$35 per person.

Reservations are made with a check payable to SIR 146, and mailed to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Questions? Call Gary at (925) 938-5454.

Tickets are to be distributed in the Leshar Center lobby (1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek) at 7:30 pm on February 18th. Parking is available on the street or in the City garage adjacent to the Leshar Center for the Arts.



Cooking Lunch and Wine

Syd Whalen

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 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.



**John &
Nedra
Biasotti**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

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

Sign up form on page 17

Save Sunday, March 6th thru Tuesday, March 8th for the 2016 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** 686-6880, **Corrie Oranje** 825-5772
Chuck Eichten 673-7215, **Dennis Hallett** 934-1447, or **Dick Richmond** 947-1167



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II did not meet in December. Our normal date is the second Monday of each month at various members' homes. The next event will be January 11th at **Steve Dawkins'** home. We hope that all our SIR family had a wonderful Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.



Dave Pierce, Jim Brown, Jim Jackson, and Fred Kovar concentrating on game play during Duplicate Bridge # 1 at **Lo McCarley** house on December 18th



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg



We meet every Monday at 11:30 am 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 at other times during the day for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Brynn & Gary Brown



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Cliff Perkins with Laney & John Nelson

Q: What can a man do while his wife is going through menopause?

A: Keep busy. If you're handy with tools, you can finish the basement. When you're done, you will have a place to live.



GOLF Ed Marlovits

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. In the summer we also have "away golf" at nearby courses and State SIR Golf offers numerous other fun events at interesting courses.

Since we have so much going on, we 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 included in the distribution, please email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



Sirs **Russ Bliese, Steve Ybarra, Colin Holland** and **Bill Klein** brave the cold and windy conditions at Boundary Oak GC December 15th, 2015

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Kathy & Joe Nelms



Nine Hole Golf Group Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

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

vlaursen@astound.net



Ron & Anne Plachy



Margaret & Bill Rees

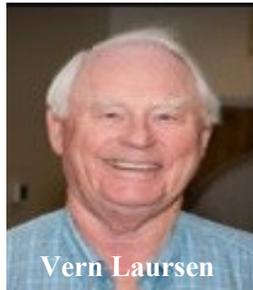
Photos by **Richard Hockenbrock**



June & Don Seaton

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)

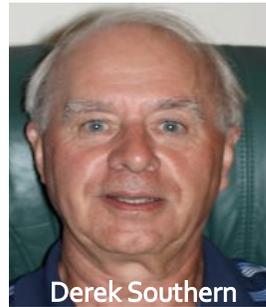


The Mac Users Group (MUG) has changed its meeting time from 10 am until noon to noon until 2 pm. You will need to change your lunch schedule. This change is required because our earlier time at the Thurman Casey Library has been taken.

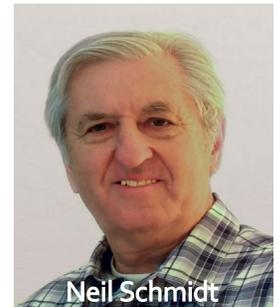
Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are the leaders and we are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products.

If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Computers and Technology



PCs



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday January 21st, 2016 at 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

On January 21st, 2016 the CAT presentation will be "All Things Google". **Neil Schmidt** will introduce you to many of the numerous Google applications beyond the "standards" like Google Chrome, Gmail and Google Search. Almost all Google applications are available for the PC as well as Android and iOS mobile devices. **Neil** will demonstrate a number of these (mostly FREE) creative tools and show you why you may want to start using them.

Some members arrive at 9 am to enjoy coffee and chat before the presentation at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. The presentation starts at 9:30 am. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if our January meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday, January 27th, 2016, at 8 am in Legends restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. Our guest speaker again this January will be Tom Kopas of the Pring Turner Capital Group. Tom's topic will be Financial Outlook—2016 and will address many of today's topical questions.

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.

Legends restaurant opens at 7am, 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: **Tom Henry** (Br-174) 925-284-5724

David Sutton (Br-8) 925-686-0158

Monterey Mashers 7th Annual SIR Golf Tournament

You are invited to attend the annual Monterey Mashers Golf Tournament, a SIR Branch 146 event in the Monterey area open to all members. Those who don't play golf can go on outings with others or do their own thing during the day. Those who do play may win prizes and/or bragging rights and/or a special strange and unusual award. Having fun and enjoyment is paramount!

March 6, 7, & 8 – Best Western Monterey Inn. Complimentary breakfast provided each morning.

March 6 (Sunday)-- Social time at the Inn. Check your welcome packet for **BYOB** cocktail party rooms. After the parties, it's a no-host dinner at a restaurant of your choice, or enjoy a 5 block walk to a downtown restaurant (Rosines). Traditionally, many of us opt for Rosines. They are very accommodating and the food is good. The big plus for Rosines is we don't have to drive after the cocktail parties and they give individual checks.

March 7 (Monday) – Golf with cart at Pacific Grove GC. Traditional heavy hors d'oeuvres / dessert party in the evening at the Inn. **BYOB**. Dinner is a rare occurrence after a couple hours of this feasting.

March 8 (Tuesday) – Golf with cart at Laguna Seca GC. Gala Awards Banquet with wine at Rancho Canada Golf Club. No host bar at 6:30 and light hors d' oeuvres before dinner.

March 9 (Wednesday) – Breakfast at the Inn and departure for home, outlets, aquarium, etc.

Payment must be received by January 10th, 2016. A complete package of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you at a later date.

Make checks payable to: **"SIR Br 146 – Monterey Mashers"**.

Mail to: Lew Thompson, 1830 Cleveland Ct., Concord, CA 94521

Register

Reply by January 10th 2016

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: Lew Thompson,
1830 Cleveland Ct.
Concord, CA 94521

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: \$ _____

Payment must be received by January 10th, 2016

Banquet Choices: (enter number of entrees)

Filet Mignon:

Baked Salmon:

Vegetarian:

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.
br146sircall@gmail.com