

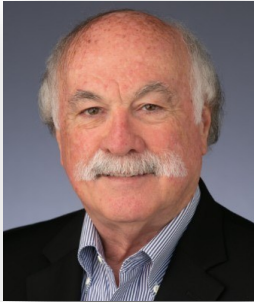


Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

May—June 2026

Call



Big Sir's Corner Thom Degnan

As we move into the summer months, recruitment is still a key priority for the organization. This month we added three new members, while losing two, one member who died, and a second who resigned. As of May, our member count stands at 247, which is down six from January 1st due mainly to several members either moving away or not renewing their membership this year. One member, **Dave Svoboda**, brought in two new members this month, and we thank him for the effort. The rest of us need continue talking to our friends and neighbors about the benefits of SIR, not just the fun and numerous activities that we have, but the better health of active men and happiness of the wives for getting their man out of the house! Anyone who would like to participate in the recruiting efforts for SIR, please contact either **Glenn Breslin** or myself, and we will get you engaged in the various activities.

We had a very enjoyable May Ladies Luncheon and for our December Ladies event, we are considering moving the luncheon to a dinner activity, from 5PM to 7PM. I have polled many members, and their wives about the idea and virtually all their comments were very positive. You will see more on this idea in the next month or so, and we are working on new ideas for SIR so that we can maximize the enjoyment of being a member. Any ideas you might have would also be wel-

come. Also, I will be putting comment cards on the tables at our luncheons for constructive comments on the meal/service/speaker, and ask that the comments be handed in by putting them in the name collection basket set out at each luncheon.

We have now organized our eighth SIR146 CPR Training Class for Friday, July 17th at the Contra Costa County Library on Oak Grove in Walnut Creek. The class is taught by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District EMS Battalion Chief Jesse Ingram. It is a hands-on educational exercise, is open to members, spouses, partners, friends, and is free of charge. The class is already more than half full, so if you would like to reserve a spot in this summer's class, please contact me at your earliest convenience at Thom.Degnan@gmail.com. If we are properly prepared, you might just be able to help a person when they need it the most.

We all want to make SIR146 be the very best it can be. We are in SIR to enrich our lives through fun, activities, events, and luncheons, while making friends for life; so help us keep our organization healthy, interesting, fun, and growing for all of us!!

Thom Degnan
Big Sir, Branch 146

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, June 11th, 2026
Boundary Oak 10:30

Debora Allen: BART
Colorful Shirt Day! Be sure to wear yours!

A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entrée
Click Here to go to page 4

Activities for you and your spouse...

- Luncheon Reservations [Page 4](#)
- Find an activity! [Page 13](#)
- May Meeting [Page 6](#)
- Book Report [Page 23](#)
- Couples Dining Out [Page 29](#)
- MTD reports [Page 31](#)
- Do you ride? [Page 24](#)



Little Sir's Corner Jim Pope

Speaker Overview: The speaker for June is Debora Allen, who was a BART Commissioner and will cover the upcoming BART referendum. She will outline the pros and cons of the issue and take questions on any BART issues.

Little SIR and the speakers' committee have been working on speakers for the year. We have a slate of outstanding speakers coming up. For July we have Nan Su speaking on China Relationships and for August Victor Som will be speaking on the subject of Cyber Security.

NOW: IMPORTANT, the future of SIR 146: We lost 30 members last year and we need to bring 25 to 30 new members on board this year. You are the key to this goal. Find a friend and bring them to an activity and then a lunch. Introduce them to SIR and the many benefits that it provides for its members.

Members: Also, I want to encourage all members to get involved in making SIR the very best it can be. We need more contribution and involvement from **you**. Step up and be a co-chair of an activity. The better SIR 146 will be and the better it will be for **you**.

Jim Pope
Little Sir, Branch 146

He was the Permit Center Manager for Contra Costa Co. He mainly enjoys 18-hole golf. He is sponsored by **Dave Svoboda**.

Richard "Rick" Mestrich and his wife **Donna** also live in Martinez. He was the business owner of Russo Windows & Doors. He will participate in 18-hole golf. He is also sponsored by **Dave Svoboda**.

One member, **Ron Lew** transferred to Branch 19.

Sadly, we lost **Brian Downie** who passed away peacefully at home. He was 79.

The 2026 membership count is **247**.

It is important that we have an accurate count of our branch membership since State SIR allocates costs for insurance and operating expenses based on our number.

Likewise, it is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too. We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see our guest at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a SIR.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website www.sir146.com and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsor's Role. The member application is in the Member's tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly. It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone, or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon
925.683.0980 gckk@comcast.net

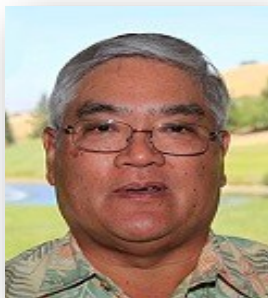
Membership George Mon

Three new members were approved for membership in May.

David "Dave" Smith lives in Lafayette with his wife **Jane**. He was an AVP in Operations for Zurich Insurance. He spent 40+

years in commercial insurance. **Dave** was also a high school basketball coach. He is sponsored by **Glenn Breslin**.

Keith Denison lives in Martinez with his wife **Paulette**.



SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events, and luncheons, while making friends for life.

Officers and Directors 2026

Big Sir.....Thom Degnan
 Little Sir.....Jim Pope
 Secretary John Rexroat
 Assistant SecretaryMike Davidson
 TreasurerMike Ball
 Assistant TreasurerPaul Jones
 Director 1st TermGlenn Breslin
 Director 1st TermBob Lucido
 Director 1st TermOpen
 Director 2nd TermJim Crites
 Director 3rd TermJohn Alexander
 Director 3rd TermMark Curtis

RAMP-Chair Members

RecruitmentGlenn Breslin
 Activities Glenn Breslin
 Member RelationsMike Davidson
 PublicityJohn Alexander

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Oopsie... Looks like I got a couple of my wires crossed last month and ended up with a bit of egg on my face. **Henry Thatcher** is not retiring... the switch with **Don Casey** was for the April meeting only, something we have seen many times in the past when **Henry** is off taking pictures somewhere other than at a SIR meeting! The good news is that I am delighted to have **Henry** still doing our pictures and now with **Don** as backup; two great photographers!

You'll notice a couple of changes in this month's issue. Most noticeably is that the Luncheon manager column is gone, replaced by a full page spread on the Luncheon; menu, how to reserve and how to pay... all together in a consistent, month to month format!

The cut-off date for SIRCall submissions for the July issue will be noon, June 19th but, as always, we encourage you to send them prior to this date!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com



SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Alex Borders

Take SIRCall with you!

Scan this QR code to open SIRCall in your default browser on your phone. Then create a shortcut to that pdf display and you are all set. Click on the link in the future and you will have the current SIRCall at your fingertips!



[Current Issue of
SIRCall](#)

SIR State Information



<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. It is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase.

[The current STATE newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

M O N T H L Y L U N C H O N S

SIR 146 June Luncheon

Thursday, June 11th, 2026

Salad

Mesclun Greens, Carrots, Tomatoes, Croutons,
Ranch Dressing

Entrees

Chicken Marsala

Herb Marinated Chicken Breast,
Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables,
Marsala Shallot -Mushroom Cream Sauce

Cod Marsala

Herb Marinated Cod,
Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables,
Marsala Shallot-Mushroom Cream Sauce

Vegetarian Manicotti

Four Cheese & Spinach Cannelloni,
Seasonal Vegetable, House Tomato Basil Sauce

Dessert

Apple Bar

SIR Branch 146 meets monthly

on the second Thursday of the month
at Boundary Oak golf course in Walnut Creek.

This is a luncheon meeting and

A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED FOR THE LUNCH.

Twice a year, in May and December, we have a Ladies' Day event with spouses invited.

The meetings start at 11:30 but the doors open around 10:00 so members can congregate, order drinks, talk with friends and socialize.

We realize that plans change, things happen. If you have made a reservation but find you can not keep it, let us know! We will try to use it but, be aware, if is less than a week in advance you may still be charged for the lunch!

Bringing a guest? You, as their sponsor, are responsible for making a reservation for them and we suggest you coordinate this with the luncheon secretary.

Any problems or questions?

925.979.5721 AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.

How to Reserve

- **Email:** AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.
 - To make this easy for you, click on the link in the menu (links are bold, underlined and blue) corresponding to your menu choice. If the lunch is a Buffet, click on "Buffet"; no menu choice is required. This will initiate the correct email form for you to fill in your name and send.
 - If your pdf reader does not support calls to your email client you should simply initiate your own email; be sure to include your menu choice in the body of the email.
- **Call:** 925.979.5721 and leave a message indicating your name and menu choice.

How to Pay

There are three ways you can pay!

- **Pay annually!** One payment, once per year with your dues and all is well. Plus you get 10 lunches for the price of 8! That's 2 FREE lunches!
- **Pay with Zelle.** Use your phone and your bank's mobile app. In the "send money" option of Zelle you should see "scan a QR code". Well, here it is. Scan away! Hint... save it for next time!
- **Pay by check.** Bring your check to the luncheon, made out to SIR Branch 146, and give it to the member handling check in.
- The current cost is **\$37.00**.



June

Tom Amann
Ray Bland
Cleo Bolen
George Carpenter
Mike Conners
Len Coster
George Denney
Steve Dinning
Joe Flannigan
Richard Hanford
Dean Mayer

Newby Newburn
Tony Pasol
Steve Petersen
Jim Pfohl
Ron Plachy
Jim Pope
Milt Smith
Dave Smith
Mike Wallace
Mike Whitaker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Put the July Luncheon on your calendar
NOW!

SIR 146 July Luncheon

Thursday, July 9th, 2026

Buffet Lunch

Salad

Sunburst Salad

Entrees

Bratwurst Dogs

Hamburgers

Tater Tots

Gouda Mac and Cheese

Dessert

Assorted Cookies



Sunshine Brian McCarthy

Let us keep the pictured SIR member in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be ad-

vised. *Stay Healthy.*



Pat O'Keeffe



Peter Plante

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Dean Mayer	2021	5
John M. Kendrick	2019	7
Herb Wilson	2018	8
John Kluesener	2017	9
Howard Zimmerman	2017	9
John Kelly	2016	10
Bob. Lucido	2014	12
George Mon	2014	12
Joe Stengel	2014	12
Colin Holland	2013	13
Don Rhoads	2012	14
Bruce Borgman	2011	15
Bob Soldano	2011	15
John Pearl	2007	19
Dennis Hallett	2004	22
Bill Rees	1989	37



Who is this SIR member?

Many of us might not recognize him, but this month he is certainly someone special. This is William, (Bill) Rees. Bill is the sole remaining founding member of Branch 146! A SIR member for 37 years!

Congratulations Bill!



Photos

by

Henry Thatcher













May
Steve Knight



Can you hear me now?

Monthly meetings are now being broadcast to the room via **AURACAST**. If you have hearing aids that support this new Bluetooth technology you can “tune us in”

NOTES

from Our Members

A couple of poems from our friend **Ross Abbott**

"Just a Little Thing" I got at a very early age and obviously kept it.

"Life is Sweet" is from the memorial service for Jack Pugh who was Rotary District [5160 Governor] in 1985-1986.

JUST A LITTLE THING

A little more kindness,
A little less creed,
A little more giving,
A little less greed,
A little more smile,
A little less frown,
A little less kicking,
A man when he's down.
A little more "we",
A little less "I",
A little more laugh,
A little less cry,
A little more flowers
On the pathway of life,
A fewer on graves
At the end of the strife.

from the "Sample Case".

LIFE IS SWEET

Life is sweet, just because of the
friends we have made

and the things which in common we
share.

We want to live on, not just for our-
selves, but because of the people
who care.

It's giving and doing for somebody
else, on that all life's splendor
depends.

And the joy of this world, when you
sum it all up,

Is found in the making of friends.



CPR Training

Thom Degnan

We have organized the next SIR146 CPR Training Class on Friday, July 17th, 2026. The details of the class are listed below and as is our practice, the class is coed, open to spouse, partner, friends and family, and there is no cost. Please let me know if you would like to join, it's a first come, first serve basis. If you have any questions, give me a call or [click here to end me an email](#).

NOTES

from Our Members



Moonlight on the Mountain 2026

Save Mount Diablo's 25th Annual Fundraising Gala

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

4:00 PM - 10:00 PM

ABOUT THE GALA

Join us for our 25th annual Moonlight on the Mountain, Save Mount Diablo's signature fundraising gala, a celebration of Diablo's precious beauty and support for Save Mount Diablo's essential work.

Guests are transported up the mountain's slopes where they are treated to an elegant three-course meal, live music, and both live and silent cocktail auctions—all while surrounded by the unparalleled, majestic views Mount Diablo has to offer.

This gala dinner draws a crowd of more than 500 individuals, elected officials, and conservation-minded corporate partners and local businesses.

Your support helps ensure Save Mount Diablo can continue protecting Mount Diablo and its range for future generations of people and wildlife.

Pending interest, we will reserve a table for 10 SIR members/spouses - Cost \$400/person (non-refundable)

Contact Cleo Bolen by May 15th for reservations cleo.bolen@comcast.net or 925-768-7902



Activities!

Stay Active... Stay young



Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

Imagine a classic Bay Area day at **Oracle Park** on **Tuesday, June 10, 2026—12:45 PM.** vs. the Washington Nationals! Picture the bay breeze, Giants baseball, and SIR camaraderie. Perfect retirement fun!

SF Giants vs. Washington Nationals

SIR 146 Outing!

Go Giants!

Event Details:

- DATE: Tuesday, June 10, 2026
- TIME: 12:45 PM game time
- LOCATION: Oracle Park, San Francisco. Meeting point will be subsequently communicated
- COST: \$80 secures your ticket. If the tickets are cheaper, then I will refund the difference
- CHECK: Make out your check to SIR146, and mail to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549
- [Please send your check by 5/27, the deadline.](#)

RSVP: Reply to glennbreslin@gmail.com.

Daytime game means shorter lines, comfortable temps, and home before rush hour. I have a limited number of tickets

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities! Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in.

- | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Artificial Intelligence | Men's Duplicate 3 | Dixieland Musician | Tres | Group 4 |
| Birding | Men's Party | Fishing | Cuatro | Group 6 |
| Bocce Ball | Chess | Gardening | | Group 8 |
| Book Corner | Cooking: | Golf—9 Hole | Seis | Song SIRs |
| Book Group | Cooking II | Golf—18 Hole | Siete | Table Pool |
| Bridge: | Lunch and Wine | Guitar | Ocho | Theater |
| Beginning/Refresher | Cribbage | Hearts | Nueve | Travel |
| Couples Duplicate 1 | Cycling | Hiking | Diez | Veterans |
| Couples Duplicate 2 | Dining Out | Mexican Train | Photography | Wine Tasting |
| Couples Party | Couples Dining Out | Dominoes | Pinochle | |
| Men's Duplicate 1 | Explore and Eat | Uno | Poker: | |
| Men's Duplicate 2 | Sushi no Tomodachi | Dos | Group 3 | |



Travel Glenn Breslin

I will be transitioning my travel duties to a new Travel Chair in June. I need to firm up with this new prospective travel chair before his name is conveyed to all.

A big Thank You to everyone that already sent in your questionnaires! If your preferred location has been selected for future SIR Multi-Branch travel, then I will contact you to find out how you like to travel (e.g. cost, travel companies, duration, etc.)

During June and based upon questionnaire results, I will select several SIR Travel Trips and begin publicizing them.

SIR MULTI-BRANCH TRAVEL QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Where do you want to travel to? Can be multiple travel locations.
2. What duration (# of days) works best for you ?
3. Do you prefer a land trip or a cruise trip ?
4. What are your preferred Land Tour companies or Cruise Companies ?
5. Can you please provide any other comments about SIR Travel ?



If your preferred trip(s) turn out to be candidates for future SIR Travel, then I would like to learn more about how you like to travel. Can you please provide your contact information below ?

Name, Email and Phone Number:

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

Special Trip from Milt Smith, State SIR travel.

SIR Members! I have booked a May 2027 trip called Crossroads of the Adriatic. It is with Overseas Adventure Travel; Departure date is May 4. '27 return May 21. There is a pre-trip available for Albania. Until they fill single traveler supplements are free.

This will be a great trip exploring Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Slovenia. Price, including airfare, starts at \$7,750. This is a small group of no more than 16. We need to get 12 from SIR to keep our group. **Deadline for us is end of July 2026. Signing up now can also result in some good discounts.** I will also be advertising this with other SIR Branches. So... please take a look at the brochure, if you sign up be sure to use **our group code: G7-23630 SIR 146 and let me know.** I can email you the brochure. If you have any questions of any kind please contact me ASAP by email, phone or text...I do all three.

Milt Smith, 925.285.2897c miltsmith549@gmail.com

[Click Here for Trip Brochure](#)

Here is an unsolicited testimonial from Ken Studer who went last year:

"Milt and Carolyn,

Jan and I took this OAT trip last year. Outstanding. A winner. You have picked a destination that most travelers have not seen.

Good choice.

Going to Africa next week with OAT. Did it in 2022 and always wanted to go back again.

Happy trails,

Ken Studer"



Tuesday Golf Dave Steinberg

Branch 146 Golf's Annual Meeting/Lunch has been set for Tuesday Oct 13 at Boundary Oak. All current and former branch 146 golfers will be invited. Golf before or after at your option.

SIR State Golf has a very active schedule. Visit the State SIR golf website (www.sirgolf.org) to find signup information for their upcoming events.

The final Spring tournament will take place at Blue Rock Springs in Vallejo on June 24-25, featuring both the East and West courses in a 4-man, 2 best ball format.

Not all of the State Golf tournaments have been posted there; the planned events are:

- Team Scramble at Hidden Brooke in August.
- Two-day Sacramento event in September at Lincoln Hills and Turkey Creek.
- State Individual Championships at Teal Bend on Thursday, October 1.
- The season finale: Monterey tournament at Blackhorse and Bayonet courses at Fort Ord on November 10-11

Dave Steinberg

925.933.1849 dsteinb@yahoo.com



9 Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

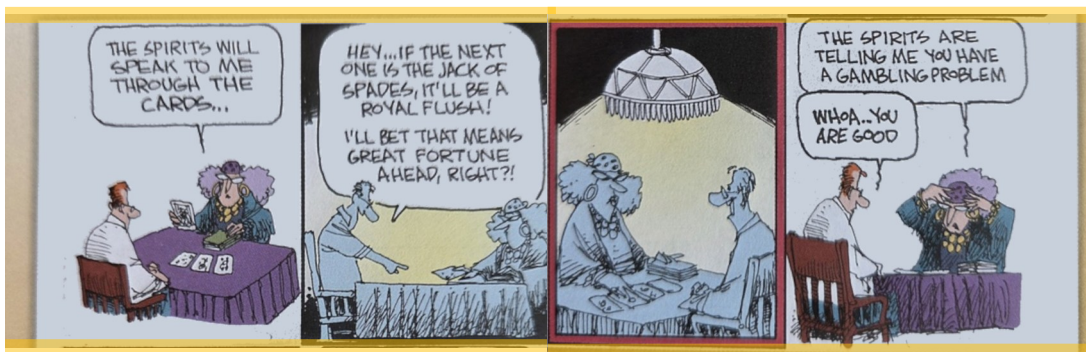
Please join me in congratulating **Richard Hockenbrock** for his hole-in-one on hole number 4 at Diablo Hills! I also want to welcome our new members and extend an invitation to others that would like to play golf with us. Please email me if you would like to play with us. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon.



It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com





Theater Glenn Breslin

Upcoming Theater Shows – Leshner Theater

- For the following shows, only a limited number of tickets are still available
- If you are interested, send a check made out to SIR146 to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549
- I will then give you a choice of the available seats
- The Leshner 2026-2027 season announces in late June. Look for new shows in the July SIRCall

Thanks to all that completed the short theater questionnaire, if you have not done so, please let me know, and I will send you one; glennbreslin@gmail.com

Alanis Morissette's - Jagged Little Pill – Sat 6/13/26 2:30 pm ~~\$43.00~~ - Leshner Theater

[Link to Show Page](#)

Inspired by one of the best-selling albums of all time, this electrifying new musical charts the lives of Mary Jane Healy and her picture-perfect American family. As hidden secrets and resentments begin to fracture the pristine façade of suburban life, the Healy's are forced to confront the truth of each other and their community, redefining the place they once called home. Raw, personal, and bursting with some of the most explosive songs in pop music history, this Tony Award-winning work from Oscar-winning writer Diablo Cody and Grammy Award-winning songwriters Alanis Morissette and Glen Ballard will have you rocking in the aisles while reclaiming the power and purpose of family.

**Fully Subscribed
Waiting List Only!**

Winner of 2 Tony Awards, 2 Drama Desk Awards, Eight Outer Circle Critics' Awards and a Grammy (Best Musical Theater Album)

Please reach out to me - should you have any questions or comments. See contact information below. I look forward to sharing these SIR-Theater experiences with you !!

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Veterans Larry Kaye

The date for our next gathering is June 3rd at 11:30. Same place. Back Forty. We have a speaker. James Lyons from Contra Costa Veterans office. He is a County employee and is well versed in the NEW benefits. Q and A during the meet. James has info on the NEW burn pit/ Toxic chemicals disabilities changes. They are really to our benefit. Please confirm prior to May 30 with a yes or no. Helps in the seating. He has recently helped in my pursuits and will do the same for you. Larry . GO NAVY. [GO AIR FORCE, proof reader 1, GO ARMY, Proof reader 2] Proud to be a part of this Veterans get-together.

Larry Kaye

925.698.4030 larrykaye2@comcast.net



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Check us next month
for the latest on SIR
fishing.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



Bocce John Kendrick

Great News - Bocce is back!

Start your Monday mornings with fresh air, friendly competition, and good company. Join fellow members and guests for relaxed bocce games at Newhall

Park—no experience (or special attire) required!

Games are played on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from May through September, starting at 8:30 a.m. and finishing approximately around 10:00 a.m.

All games take place at the Bocce Ball Courts at Newhall Park, located near the corner of Turtle Creek Road and Ayers Road in Concord.

Join us for a fun and relaxed Monday morning of bocce and camaraderie. Ladies are welcome, and formal bocce attire is not required—just bring yourself and enjoy the game.

Please note: Games will be cancelled in the event of rain.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

The first French fry was not cooked in
France.

It was cooked in Greece



Yesterday a woman called for an ambulance:

Operator: How may I help you?

Woman: I banged my toe against the coffee table and hurt it real bad.

Operator: And you want to call an ambulance for that?

Woman: No. The ambulance is for my husband. He shouldn't have laughed...



Book Corner Paul Kersis

The SIR lending library is available at our general meetings in February, May, August, October and December. Bring a book—borrow a book!





Birding Ted Robertson

At 8:00 AM, a group of 14 SIR birders hiked Mitchell Canyon to Red Rock Road on the north side of Mt. Diablo to catch spring migrants at a funnel point. We ended up spotting or

hearing 32 species of birds. The highlights of the trip included seeing and hearing Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, a Black-headed Grosbeak, and a California Thrasher. Other highlights included great looks at a tarantula and a Coast Horned Lizard. Plant highlights included seeing Clematis in seed (big fluffy balls of feathered seeds) and seeing the different sages in flower (Black and Pitcher).

Do to popular demand and requests, I will be including several botany observations that will be geared toward beginners and seasoned botanists.

Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30 AM on June 3rd (1st Wednesday) at the Orinda Connector Trail, just north of Orinda and south of San Pablo Reservoir. area located at the end of Castle Rock Road in Walnut Creek. I will be sending out detailed directions about 1 week before the trip. If you are not on my mailing list, please contact me at tedr@berkeley.edu so that I can add you. Beginning birders are welcome along with their spouses or close friends. I have a few loaner binoculars for those of you just starting out.

Ted Robertson
tedr@berkeley.edu



Group photo. (Photo by Ted Robertson)



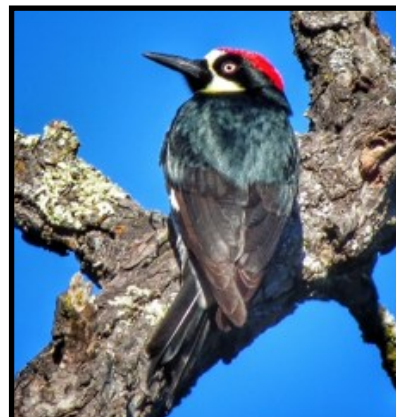
Lesser Goldfinch
(Photo by [Cleo Bolen](#))



Coast Horned Lizard
(Photo by [Earl Bates](#))



Tarantula
(Photo by [Earl Bates](#))



Acorn Woodpecker
(Photo by [Earl Bates](#))



Photography Group John "Moose" Kelly and Mike Rothman

SIR Branch 146 photography members met on Friday, May 1st at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room. Those SIR members that attended are the following: **Bill Holly, Earl Bates, Frank Terzuoli, Cleo Bolen, Phil Lee, Don Casey, Richard Hockenbrock, Jeffrey Dreyfus, Ron Polivka, and Mike Rothman.**



The first order of business was to review member photographs utilizing AI editing tools, building on the AI Editing tutorial given by **Frank Terzuoli** at our last meeting. Members viewed over sixty uploaded photos and discussed the specific AI tools they used, how they worked, and their reasons for altering the images. **Richard** and **Frank**, users of Adobe Lightroom, praised the product's finely tuned controls for photographic editing and advanced AI generation of backgrounds and fills. The four users of Google's photo editing tools praised Google's approach to voice or text prompting for desired results and the speed of generation of edited photos.

Don Casey gave an engaging presentation and led a lively discussion on drone photography, including our going hands-on with his drone equipment, and viewing arial footage he has taken on his travels. Don also acquainted us with features and controls of newer drone models and the rules and regulations which drone pilots need to follow.

Other topics that were discussed were the following:

Phil Lee shared pictures from his recently completed trip to Japan.

Phil also reported that he was not selected for a photographer press pass for Carnaval San Francisco, so he will not be attending the event this year.

Due to a lack of time, the group did not discuss the planned article regarding the greatest photographers of all time.

Our next meeting is Friday, July 17th from 2:30 PM to 4:30

PM in the Las Trampas Room at the Walnut Creek Library. There will be no formal meeting in June. Instead, for June homework, members should select and attend a local outdoor Bay Area event—such as the Contra Costa County Fair, a sporting event, or the Fiesta Cultural Street Fair (Walnut Creek) to focus on capturing action shots that convey summer fun.

Looking ahead, **Don Casey** will give a presentation on nighttime photography at the July meeting, which will prepare us for an evening photoshoot tour and dinner in North Beach and Chinatown in August.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group for one of our monthly photoshoots or our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Mike Rothman**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

Be safe, be well and be sure to "Say Cheese"!

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com.

Mike Rothman

415.937.1846 mrothman9@gmail.com



AI at Work!

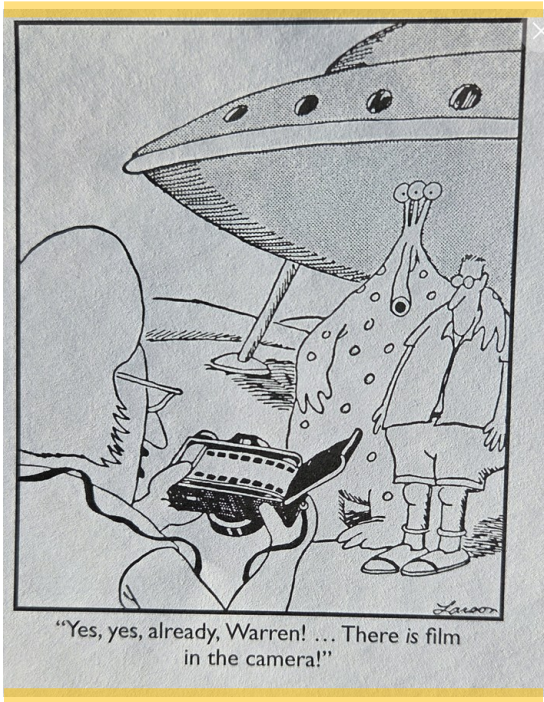
All of the people who were in this photos were "erased" using Gemini's AI tool, the stairs were recreated, and **Peggy Drefus** was moved to the left so that the statue was not coming out of her head!!

Pictures on next page

Photo Group



Photo Group





Book Group Nick Jabuka

Book Club Review: May

This month, nine members attended our meeting at our usual spot—the Panera on Bancroft Road. As always, we gathered at “our” large table in the back half of the restaurant. The sun was especially bright that morning and proved a bit of a nuisance for those seated on one side. While Panera has shades that can be lowered, the window next to our table doesn’t have one. Note to self: bring dark glasses to the next meeting.

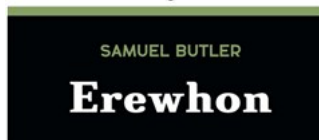
Our April Read: “Erewhon”

Erewhon (Nowhere spelled backwards) is a satirical novel, written in the 1870s, in which a traveler stumbles upon a remote society that looks utopian at first glance—until its logic reveals a set of startling reversals.

Illness is criminalized: being sick is treated as a moral failing and punished by the state.

Crime is medicalized: wrongdoing is viewed as a kind of sickness, often met with sympathy and “treatment.”

Technology is feared: machines are banned out of concern they could evolve and ultimately overtake humanity.



Through these inversions, Samuel Butler critiques Victorian-era assumptions about morality, religion, progress, and social convention.

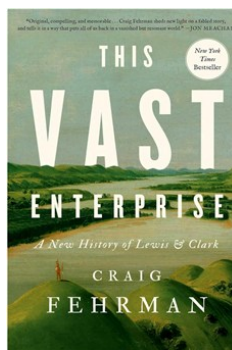
Our Verdict – Not a big hit

Erewhon didn’t land strongly with our group.

What didn’t work for us: the plot felt thin, and many situations struck us as implausible.

If you want a sharper critique: readers looking for a deeper examination of Industrial Revolution-era social problems and Victorian beliefs may find stronger choices elsewhere, such as in Dickens or Trollop.

Next Month’s Book



Our next selection is *This Vast Enterprise* by Craig Fehrman, which offers a fresh perspective on the Lewis and Clark expedition by highlighting the contributions of lesser-known members and the Native Americans they encountered along the journey.

If you enjoy reading and engaging in friendly, interesting discussions, we would love you to join us! We welcome new members.

Nick Jabuka, Chair – Mike Rothman, Editor
925.639.0384 njabuka@yahoo.com

I asked the librarian if they had any books on paranoia.

She whispered
“They’re over there, behind you!”

SongSirs

Peter Plante



SongSirs will have a new director. **Don Casey** has agreed to take over from **Peter Plante**, whose ongoing health issues have prompted this change. SongSirs will be on hiatus until July when **Don** takes over to lead a new program. SongSirs will continue to sing “God Bless America” at the end of the luncheons. [Wishing you the very best, Peter as you continue your recovery! ...Editor]

Don Casey
925.689.4209 donjcasey@comcast.net



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

April 28th: It was the perfect day for a ride with sunny skies, a cool light breeze, and a high of 70 toward the end. With our fearless leader, **Larry Kaye**, out and several other veteran riders unavail-

able, I volunteered to lead the group for my first time. Having been with the group for almost two years now, I knew several rides fairly well. I chose one which we had done not long before which I thought would be easy enough that we could enjoy and not get lost. We had a relatively small group of eight, including myself, **Bob Lucido, Ken Studer, Brian Lotter, Mike Schrupp, Jim Nelson, Bill Holly, and Tom Alborg**. We all met up at

the Iron Horse Trail at Walden Avenue in Walnut Creek. Our destination



and first stop on our journey was the North Gate entrance to Mt. Diablo State Park. After a quick break and photo op, we headed back with the second stop at Heather Farms for a quick restroom stop. At our age, these are important in trip planning. Most importantly, our rides always include a coffee stop somewhere along the line. This time at Peet's in Alamo. It's our chance to catch up on what's going on in each other's lives. The last leg of the trip was back to our starting point. We all enjoyed the ride. **Dave Paulson**

May 9th: What do you do ? It's been 5 weeks off the bike, it was 3 weeks for another and some health issues for others. Well, you get out and ride. With the helping



hands of fellow riders we did just that. A short easy



ride, one that allowed for slow and flat. We did it. Yes, it hurt, yes it was stressful but we did the ride. **Moose Kelly, Jim Rowland, Brian Totter, and Jim Crites** all pitched in the help. Great to know our group is available to pitch in. **Larry**

May 12: The cycling members of SIR Branch 146 met on Tuesday, May 12th. There were HOW MANY RIDERS??!! HOLY MOLLIE BATMAN!! There were FIFTEEN (You read that right), YEP, FIFTEEN hardy souls (**Tom Alborg, Bill Holly, Bill Ross, Ken Studer, Bob Lucido, David Paulson, Brian Lotter, Eric Finson, Elmer Bricca, Jim Roland, Cleo Bolen, Phil Lee, Jim Crites, Jim Nelson, and Moose Kelly** that rode through a flat lands of Walnut Creek, Concord, and Pleasant Hill. Our paceman, very extraordinaire, **Professor Jim Nelson** (Thanks **Jim**) leading the ride. There is a photo attached by **Jim Crites**, of the long line of the peloton of the Branch 146 riders at a stop light. IMPRESSIVE!! The

number of cyclists were the highest the club has ever had on a ride in the eight years of its existence. AND it all started when **Larry Kaye** put together a ride for five cyclists. CONGRATULATIONS, **Larry**, for pulling us together through the years from a small band of riders to the size of the group today. You DAMAN!!

The ride was a 21-mile round trip from Pleasant Hill Park on the Contra Costa Regional

Continued on the Following Page

Cycling Group continued from previous page

Trails and the Iron Horse Trail into Martinez, Concord, and back. **Jim Nelson** led us up the Iron Horse Trail towards Buchanan Airport. We continued along our way cycling past Pixieland. We then picked up the Contra Costa Regional Trail towards Walnut Creek where the "gang" stopped at a Starbucks right off of Bancroft Rd. After **Moose Kelly** spilled his coffee while the others drank theirs, he took a photo of this historical number of riders. **Larry** wouldn't believe me so I had to show him.

Our fearless leaders, **Larry Kaye** and **Thom Degnan** couldn't make the ride this time. Speedy recovery to you both. Looking forward to having you back on the trail with the rest of the guys.

May 19: The cycling members of SIR Branch 146 met on Tuesday, May 19th. There were eight cyclists (**Thom Degnan, Bill Ross, Ken Studer, Brian Lotter, Mike Schrupp, Bob Wilkenfeld, Jim Nelson, and Moose Kelly**) that rode on this sunny, warm, blustery day. Our paceman, not very extraordinaire, **Moose Kelly** led the ride. Professor **Jim Nelson** was our sweep. Our numbers had dwindled from the record-breaking number of cyclists from last week. BUT there was celebration among the ranks with **THOM DEGNAN**. Yes.....you read that correctly, **THOM DEGNAN**, our BIG SIR joining us for the first time in nine weeks. HE'S B-A-C-K!!! Great to have you back on the rides, **Thom**.

This particular ride is the Windermere jaunt. A very



different ride than last week dead flat ride to some really BIG hills. The ride is a 21-mile round trip from Osage Station Park through the hills of Danville and beyond. The course has some small hills until we met a three quarter mile hill called Windermere. We stopped at the base and drank some water. We then cranked down to our lower gears and off we went. This is a rest stop roughly three quarters of the way up the hill

where we regrouped. Then onward another three miles to recoup at Peet's Coffee. AAAHHHH! We got to Peet's and it HAS CLOSED. PANIC!! **Bob Wilkenfeld** was cool, calm and collective stating that our coffee fix would be taken care of at a Starbucks in the Safeway Store across from the shuttered Peet's parking lot. After having our coffee, we pressed forward on a windy downhill ride back to Osage Station Park. Everyone made it back from a good work out on the ride known as Windermere! **CONGRATS** to all the riders particularly **THOM DEGNAN**.

Our fearless leaders, **Larry Kaye** couldn't make the ride. However, Larry is back on his trusty machine doing smaller distant rides. **WAY TO GO LARRY!!** Welcome back!!!

Larry Kaye
925.698.4hh030



if you are interested in joining us for a ride, then please reach out to **Larry Kaye** at 925.698.4030. So, dig out your old bike and dust it off. Come out and join us. Our rides are a no drop policy where we don't leave anyone behind. During the ride, we occasionally stop to gather the masses, then proceed onward to our goal of riding for coffee, having fun, solving the world's problems and staying healthy through exercise.
The cycling group's motto:

HEALTH IS WEALTH





Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

We had a very small group on April 27th, when we hiked near Chabot Lake. Only **Cleo Bolen**, **Ray Martz** and **Gene Schulting** attended. But they had a great time, and **Cleo** got some wonderful photos, including a hare in mid-flight.



Lime Ridge Open Space was our venue on Monday, May 4. The hike was 5.2 miles with an elevation gain of 860 ft. We began on the Blue Oak trail, to the Ohlone trail to the Ridge trail, to the Lime Ridge trail, to the Manzanita trail, to the Paraiso trail, to the Ohlone trail and finally to the parking lot. Simple directions?!; but **Earl Bates**, **Cleo Bolen**, **Chris Duffek**, **Bob Lively**, **Roger Meyer**, **Ray Martz**, **Gary Parkhurst**, **Jim Rowland** and **Gene Schulting** did not get lost.



(Photos by Cleo Bolen)

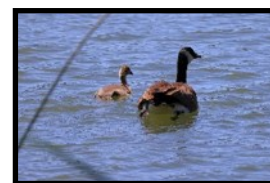
On May 11, we hiked in the Diablo Foothill Regional Park. The hike was again about 5.2 miles with an elevation gain of 840 ft. As usual, the views of Castle Rock did not disappoint.



In attendance were **Earl Bates**, **Cleo Bolen**, **Chris Duffek**, **Roger Meyer**, **Ray Martz** and **Gene Schulting**.

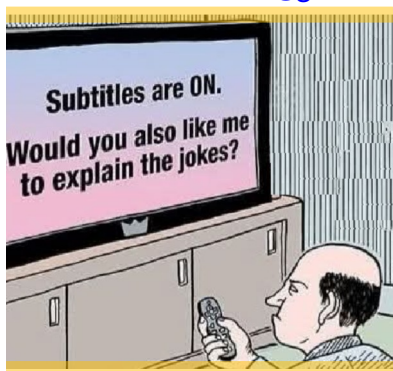


It was back to Anthony Chabot Regional Park on May 18th. Despite the high winds, it was a beautiful day and hike. **Earl Bates**, **Cleo Bolen**, **Roger Meyer**, **Ray Martz**, **Gene Schulting** and **Bob Wilkenfeld** finished the 5.7-mile hike with 1100 feet of elevation gain.



The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with around 1000 feet of climbing. Advanced email notifications for each hike and walk describe the outing details, including starting point, route and difficulty. Spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it. If you are interested in joining us, please let **Bob** know.

Ray Martz rayhvac@gmail.com
Bob Wilkenfeld Wilkx4@gmail.com





Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

The second wine tasting of 2026 was held at the home of **Clint and Beverly Collier**. There was fairytale weather: It was not too hot and not too cold, but just right.

This time we tasted Italian wines. There were seven white wines and ten red wines, which was almost a record, but one bottle shy of the 18 bottles tasted in April of last year.

We are grateful to **Clint and Beverley Collier** for opening up their spacious and artfully decorated backyard to the 38 people in attendance.

We are also always grateful to those who brought tasty appetizers to share. They are one of the highlights of the wine tasting.

The winners voted for bringing the favorite red wine were **Rich Hanford** and **Sandy Wagner**.

The winners voted for bringing the favorite white wine were **Bob and Wendy Lucido**.

New first-time attendees were: **Jeff and Peggy Dreyfus**, **Norm and Mary Azevedo**, and **Don and Linda Casey**.

Mark your calendars for the July wine tasting at **Bob and Wendy Lucido's** home on **Tuesday, July 28th**.

You can RSVP by calling Brian at 925.324.2463 or emailing us at br146winetasting@gmail.com.

Brian McCarthy
925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com



Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

We had a lite turnout this month with only 4 members able to join the lunch at **Bob Spellman's**, so a SIR neighbor joined us to "help out" with the lamb chops that were part



of the wonderful Greek lunch **Bob** and his daughter put together for us. Unexpected, and declared a winner, was a fantastic Greek style Ταύρος wine from Boutz cellars in Paso Robles!

We still have one opening, if any of you are interested. If so, give us a call at 510.504.3566.

Clint Collier for Paul Dubow
510.504.3566 pudubow2398@aol.com





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

On May 11, the Cooking II group, which included **Corrie Oranje, Bruce Borgman, Dennis Hallett, Ron Polivka** and **Jeff Dreyfus**, gathered at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**. We missed having **Steve Ybarra** join us this month, as he was cruising the Mosel River in Europe.

As is the norm, everyone arrived with a bottle of wine to share; and in addition, **Richard** kindly opened a bottle of 2011 Roy Estates Proprietary Red wine from his vast wine cellar for us to sample. He poured the wine earlier into a decanter to aerate, in order to bring out its full flavor and aroma. It was very special indeed!

Dennis Hallett enjoyed **Richard's** wine very much, saying "that wine wrapped around my palate with the taste of sweet dark raspberries, mocha, espresso, plums, spices and menthol." **Dennis** went on to say "it's a surprisingly round, inviting wine with no hard edges and, along with its sweet, silky tannins, the wine has an open, inviting personality that makes it hard to resist."

Richard offered a wide array of appetizers, which included various crackers, three different cheeses (gouda, blue and brie), prosciutto, two varieties of salami, peeled shrimp with cocktail sauce, and cashews. We all sat together in the family room and chatted while munching on the appetizers and enjoying our wine. As always, there was no shortage of stimulating discussion topics that were covered, as we continue to

attempt to resolve many of the challenging issues facing the world today.

For the main course, **Richard** barbecued wagyu burgers to perfection, which he served on toasted brioche buns with all the condiments. For many of us, this was our first opportunity to enjoy having wagyu beef.

For dessert, **Richard** provided a velvety-smooth cake with frosting, which was simply delicious, and we polished it all off with a sampling of two great Irish liquors, Baileys and Kavanagh Irish Cream, along with Remy Martin Cognac.

The Cooking II group will next meet at **Corrie Orange's** home on June 8.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



L-R: **Ron Polivka, Dennis Hallett, Corrie Oranje, Richard Hockenbrock, Bruce Borgman** and **Jeff Dreyfus**



寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

May is a "bye" month for Sushi no Tomodachi; we meet every other month throughout the year. Come June we will begin revisiting some of the Walnut Creek and surrounding communities' sushi establishments... to see if they have maintained their quality. We will start with Tatsu in the Ygnacio Plaza shopping center located at: 1837 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek.

It appears from their website they have undergone a

bit of a transformation emphasizing "Contemporary Japanese Cuisine".

For those whose tastes don't run to sake, you might want to try their Kawaba Snow Weizen or their wide selection of Japanese sodas.

See you there: June 18th at 11:30.

[Clint Collier](mailto:SirClint@the-colliers.org)
925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



June 18 is

International Sushi Day



Couples Dining Out



Al Guzman, Bob Lucido, Rich Lyon and Mike Riley.

~Join us~

It's time to get out of the house, enjoy a delicious meal, and catch up with friends — because cooking and doing dishes are highly overrated!

You're invited to join us for our upcoming **Dine Out** dinner, and friends are always welcome. Come hungry and ready for good conversation and great food.

For our June 16th gathering, we've planned a wonderful "Farm-to-Table" experience at **Danville Harvest**, a local favorite that celebrates the fresh bounty of Northern California.

- **When:** Tuesday, June 16th 2026
- **Happy Hour:** 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- **Dinner:** 6 p.m.
- **Location:** Danville Harvest, 500 Hartz Ave, Danville, CA 94526

Chef Noe Briseno has created a fabulous menu inspired by locally sourced ingredients at their seasonal best. Diners rave about the fresh flavors and standout dishes, and we're excited to enjoy them with SIR's members and friends.

Danville Harvest is a charming restaurant nestled under beautiful oak trees right on Danville's main street. Arrive a little early and relax with a happy hour drink on the veranda or courtyard while watching the sun go down.

And the best part? Parking is easy — there's a convenient municipal parking lot directly behind the restaurant.

We hope you'll join us for a fun evening of food, friends, and laughter!

Please let us know if you can join us by sending your **\$61 check with your menu selections** to Bob Lucido. Your check will confirm your reservation.

Make the check out to SIR Branch #146 and mail to: **541 Lily St. Walnut Creek, 94595**



Al Guzman

mralguzman@gmail.com

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Rich Lyon

7424lyon@gmail.com

Mike Riley

mike.riley@cbtnorcal.com

harvest Welcomes



starter (one each)

SHORT RIB BITE

AVOCADO TOAST

entree (choose one)

GRAIN BOWL

barley, quinoa, snow peas, avocado, mushrooms, cherry tomatoes, seeds, sweet potato, miso vinaigrette

SALMON

horseradish crusted salmon, basil potato puree, collard greens, red wine butter sauce

GNOCCHI RAGU

lamb bolognese, pecorino

BRAISED SHORT RIBS

tamarind-chipotle glaze, fettuccine, sauteed greens, gremolata

dessert (choose one)

BEIGNETS

filled with chocolate & hazelnut, dulce de leche sauce (2 pcs)

MINI BREAD PUDDING

pecan praline, vanilla gelato



HAPPY HOUR

WINE & BUBBLES

CHAMPAGNE	Chateau de Bligny Brut, France	18
VERMENTINO	Argiolas, 2023, Italy	9
CABERNET SAUVIGNON	EOS, 2023, CA	9
ALL OTHER WINE BY THE GLASS \$3 OFF		

COCKTAILS

SOLSTICE	vodka, earl grey, lemon, mint	10
OLD-FASHIONED	bourbon, simple, bitters	10
SOUTHPAW	bourbon, kumquat, lemon, bitters	10
HI-TIDE	infused blood orange tequila, Ramazzotti rosato, lime, hibiscus	10
A PIMM'S STYLE	sloe gin, aperitif, cucumber, strawberry, mint, ginger beer	11
ALL OTHER SIGNATURE COCKTAILS \$5 OFF		

BEER

PILSNER	East Brothers Bo Pils	5
HAZY IPA	Fieldwork	5
CREAM ALE	Mother Earth Brewing	5
BLONDE	Coronado Salty Crew	5

FLIGHT

THREE HORSEMAN		20
Elijah Craig Bourbon		
Elijah Craig Rye		
Elijah Craig Toasted Barrel		



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Richard provided the group with an array of nourishment prior to and during our games.

Out of the two tables playing, the highest score was 279, which is not really very high considering previous scores! We must be doing something right! Richard and Alicia's scores was an "0.2" difference, so close!

Dessert was a rich chocolate cake accompanied by lots of conversation. We have a delightful group of members in Mexican Train Uno!

Next stop will be at Jim Stedman's in June.

Corrie Oranje



MTD 1 Winners: Richard Hockenbrock, Alicia Baily, and Corrie Oranje.

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played at the Martinez home of Anne and Ron Plachy on Friday April 24th.

Anne prepared a number of tasty treats including a rolled tortilla filled with savory goodies. A strawberry cake topped off the mid-game snack.

We had two last minute cancellations leaving us with only 8 players. Even though we had only 4 players at a table we were not able to complete all 13 games

Bev Collier won 1st place with a 14.4 average. Ron Plachy grabbed 2nd with a 17.4 average. Third place was won by Nancy Pearl with a 18.3 average. Close on Nancy's heels was Dan Holland with a 18.5 average.

Next month we will play at the home of John and Nancy Pearl.

Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com





Group Tres 3

Mexican Train Dominoes “Tres” Walt Busenius

We last met on Friday afternoon, April 17th at the home of **Judy Richmond**. The ole Friday special huffed and puffed its way through the hills of Walnut Creek to **Judy’s** doorstep. Gathering around the tables were **Walt & Sue Busenius**, **Judy Richmond** and her sister **Jackie**, **Sally & Lynn Shafer**, & **Alicia Baily**. **Judy & Jackie** were wonderful hosts, spoiling us with table treats and delicious half-time fare.

As you can see from our photo, the winners were **Judy Richmond** (Right), **Alicia Baily** (Center), and **Sally Shafer** (Left). Bringing her “A” game to the big table, **Judy Richmond** dominated and garnered 1st Place as well as bragging rights this month. Both **Alicia Baily** and **Sally Shafer** played well, coming in 2nd and 3rd

place, and showing off their MTD skills to the rest of the group. It was competitive, but we all played hard and very much enjoyed the afternoon.

We said our goodbyes and headed off into the sunset to our various destinations.

May’s meeting will be held at **Sally and Lynn Shafer’s** home.

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



GROUP OCHO 8

Mexican Train Dominoes “Ocho” Richard Hockenbrock

On a beautiful evening of May 6th, sixteen players came to the home of **Richard Hockenbrock** to play Mexican Train Dominoes Ocho [8]. We welcomed recent SIR member **Jeff Dreyfus** to play. Unfortunately, his wife **Peggy** was unable to come. All total, we had sixteen players all looking to strike it rich in a friendly social setting.

Bill Holly was our guest host for the evening, serving a vast host of snacks at the planned break time of 8:30 PM. As usual, some tables started another round of approved play just before the cutoff time of 9:30 PM which pushed the crowning of winners to almost 10 PM. We’ll poll the players at our next gathering and adjust the time according.

After everyone was done playing, we moved to the kitchen to hear the results. First up was the dispensing of CA Scratcher tickets to the two players who had the highest score for the evening. When we raised the ante fee to \$5, we started issuing \$2 Scratchers rather than \$1. On this night, **Jan Ondeck** and **Jeff Dreyfus** had the highest scores.

Steve Dinning was the evening’s 1st place winner with an average score of **11.42**. In 2nd place was **Susan Terzuoli** with an average score of **11.50**, and in 3rd place was **Pam McAllister** with an average score of **16.00**.

Our next set of games will be played on the first Wednesday, June 3rd with **Steve & Sue Loftin** hosting.

Richard Hockenbrock

rlhock@outlook.com



Winners L/R

Pam McAllister (2nd place)
Steve Dinning (1st place)
Susan Terzuoli (3rd place)



Scratchers

Jan Ondeck & Jeff Dreyfus



Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (10) Mark Sorum and Cleo Bolen

In May, Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (Group 10) was hosted by Fred McNeil at his home in Diablo on the 15th. We had 9 players join us for fun, snacks and games.

The May winners were Ann Bolen, Rich Ahlf and Phil Lee, with consolation prizes going to Steve Petersen and Chris Lee.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. For June, (host TBD) will be on the 19th. We rotate hosting among different homes.

This is a coed activity, but single SIR members are welcome. Please contact us if you are interested in joining us.



Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com

Cleo Bolen

925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net



CARD GAMES ...we play



Cribbage John Kendrick

On Wednesday, April 23, the excitement was high as local SIR Cribbage enthusiasts gathered for a fun-filled tournament at Rocco's Pizza. The event brought together a great group of players, including Ron Afdal, John Dorr, Paul Dubow, Robert Finlayson, Michael Kimsal, Jim Nelson, Peter Plante, Mark Sorum, and the event organizer himself, John Kendrick. The competition was fierce, but the camaraderie was even stronger!

Tournament Highlights: After several rounds of strategic plays and nail-biting hands, the final results were in. **John Dorr** claimed the top spot with an impressive performance, securing 1st place. Hot on his heels, **Jack Starr** took home 2nd place, while **John Kendrick**, the tournament organizer, rounded out the top 3 with a solid 3rd place finish.

Why don't Cribbage players ever tell secrets at the table?

Because they know they'll always be "pegged"!

Looking Ahead:

The next Cribbage tournament will be held on May 27. Mark your calendars, sharpen your skills, and get ready for another exciting round of competition.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

As usual, our game was on the first Thursday of the month. Due to the date, only four players were able to play. Others had

(semi)-valid excuses for missing the game. Bruce Kimmis was the host joined by **Bob Campbell, Frank Lucas and Paul Dubow.**

Seven/twenty-seven hands during the game were popular. **Frank** was a significant beneficiary of some of those, and other, hands as he left the game with a bulge in his wallet.

We will meet again on Jun 4th

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com

Next time your wife gets angry, drape a towel over her shoulders (like a cape) and say "Now you're SUPER ANGRY!"

Maybe she'll laugh.

Maybe you'll die.



Poker Group 4 Mark Sorum

Our May game was at the home of **Frank Lucas.** Frank was a terrific host with good food and plenty to drink. Only 5 of our regular members were able to play but **Dan Holland** from Poker #8 filled in to give us 6 players.

Alas, we had only 1 winner. A player, who shall remain unnamed (me), walked away with \$23 in the others money He was very humble in his victory, and everyone had a great time.

Games are scheduled from 1-4 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages. Our next game is on June 15 at the home of **Bruce Kimmis.**

Buy-in is \$10 and stakes are nickel, dime, and quarter with a limit of three raises.

Dealer antes a nickel per player.

A wide variety of poker games are played. Dealers' choice.

We are currently full but we welcome alternates.

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com



Party Bridge Bill Schaaf & Mike Davidson

On May 4, we had a 12 player game at the home of **Jim Stedman** who was as usual a terrific host. The players were **Ray Bland, Mike Whitaker, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Ed Marlovits, Jim Pope, Jim Stedman, and Bob Yolland.** **Steve Dinning** finished first with 6690 points, **Mike Whitaker** was second with 6140 points and **Jim Stedman**, third, with 5590 points.

Our next game will be on June 1 at the home of **Jim Pope.** Let **Bill Schaaf** or **Mike Davidson** know if you would like to play in any future game.

Bill Schaaf

925.899.5913 billschaaf13@comcast.net

Mike Davidson

925.324.1867 mdavidson065@gmail.com





Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick Devoe

Max Hinkle easily earned 1st place with 51.5 points, blowing away all comers! It helped immensely that he had the least zeros and the most threes as well. Congratulations, **Max!**

Brad Hatcher came in 2nd with 44.0 points, after scoring the highest on Boards 13-24.

Ed Marlovits was 3rd with 42.0 points, and **Steve Dinning** was 4th with 40.5 points.



Dick Devoe

dickandchristy@gmail.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Tony and Cindy Greco graciously hosted us on a lovely spring afternoon, May 12th. They always provide bounteous snacks, including a moist and delicious Tres Leches cake that **Tony** tried to take credit for. Many thanks to **Steve and Sue Lofton**, and **Max and Ardith Hinkle**, for filling out the field.

Hearty congratulations to **Brad and Lynne Hatcher**, the only pair to bid a slam. They bid 6 NT on Board 14 and made it. Bravo. **Dave and Joan Pierce** made six but only bid three. The **Hatchers** made seven on the next board but had stopped in four. The **Loftins** made 6NT on Board 10 but had stopped too early. **Margot Somerville** and **Marilyn Miller** made 6NT on Board 11 but had stopped in three.

At evening's end, **Dave and Joan** were third (53%), **Margot and Marilyn** were second (54%), and our hosts **Tony and Cindy** were first, with a fine score of 60%. Well done.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net

You have to hand it to short people.
Mainly, because they can never reach it.

Caution: Blond Joke

Two blonds were out hiking and came across some tracks in the woods.

First blond: "I think those are deer tracks"

Second blond: "No they look like wolf tracks"

First blond: "Are you crazy, they're clearly deer tracks."

"No, they aren't, they're wolf."

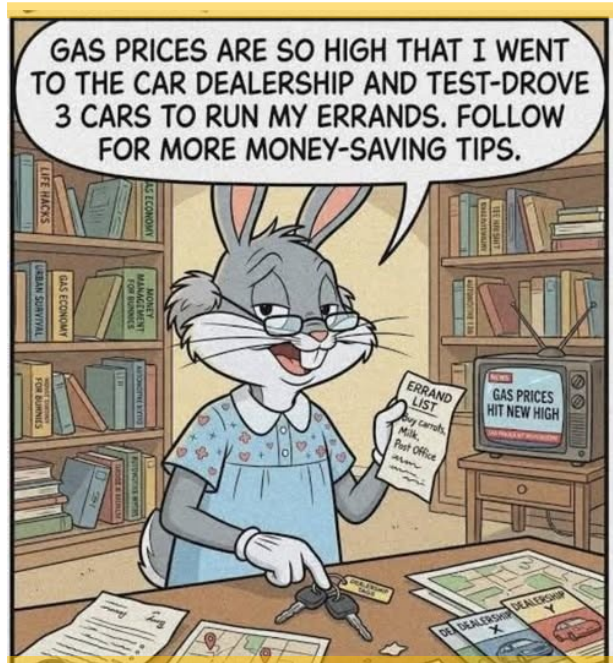
"Deer"

"Wolf"

"Deer"

"Wolf"

They were still arguing when the train hit them.



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Tony and Cindy Greco hosted our May 5th event. Finding enough players was more challenging than usual this month but all's well that ends well. A big thank you goes out to **Steve and Sue Loftin** for subbing at the last minute for the **Klueseners** and for **Max and Ardith Hinkle** and **Marilyn Miller** and **Mary** for subbing for the **Browns** and **DeVoes**.

Max and Ardith Hinkle had a good first round and claimed the 1st place position. They were overtaken by **Tony and Cindy Greco** after the second round. The Grecos had good cards throughout the event and used them well enough to remain in 1st place throughout the rest of play.

The official results are as follows:

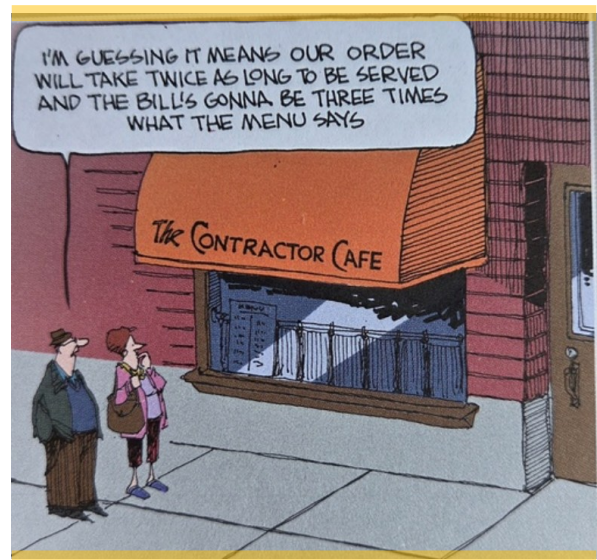
- 1st PLACE with 3590 points
Tony and Cindy Greco
- 2nd PLACE with 2580 points
Max and Ardith Hinkle
- 3rd PLACE with 2540 points
Marilyn Miller and Mary

Our next event will be held on June 2nd and hosted by **Larry and Linda Brown**.

You all have a great Memorial Day weekend!

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Parting Shot

No, we don't need more sleep.
It's our souls that are tired,
not our bodies.
We need nature.
We need magic.
We need adventure.
We need freedom.
We need truth.
We need stillness.
We don't need more sleep,
we need to wake up and live.

— BROOKE HAMPTON

