

Big Sir's Notes

Dennis Hallett

Last year, the total membership of our Branch decreased. This year has not started well either and our total membership continues to decrease.

Although we have recruited many new members, we have been unable to replace those who have passed away, become inactive or resigned.

Maintaining the inflow of new members is our life line. We all hope our Branch total membership will stabilize shortly and begin to climb back to the levels we once achieved.

Last year we formed a Members Recruiting and Retention Committee under the Chairmanship of **Jack Calloway**. **Jack** and his team have worked hard to develop ways to seek new members as well as introduce successful recruiting methods used by other Area 2 Branches.

We are beginning to see some positive results but it will require a special effort from all members to replace those members we have lost.

To help us focus on the replenishment of our past membership levels, the BEC have approved the following three 2010 goals:

- 1) Recruit new members equal to 10 % of the membership or replace the number of members lost, whichever is the higher.
- 2) Have each BEC member recruit 1 or more new members.
- 3) Have an average of 6 guests attend each of the 10 regular luncheons.

In addition, there will be more recognition of members who contribute to the success of our Branch.

Further, **Jack** and the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) welcome member's suggestions on how we can replace our membership losses.

We have one of the best Branches in the Sir organization. We must all work to maintain this status by recruiting sufficient numbers of new members who will, in future years, build upon our accomplishments and further enhance the enjoyment we all derive from being a member of Branch 146.

Little Sir's Corner

Pete Gates



Our speaker for the March luncheon will be **John Fitzpatrick**. **John** is a Licensed Battlefield Guide-Gettysburg, PA. He is also a retired Chevron Attorney, and a retired Air Force Colonel

MEMBER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION JACK CALLOWAY

In his "Notes" column, Big Sir **Dennis Hallett** stated the need to bring in new members to replace those we have lost. He also outlined the goals for 2010 which have been approved by the BEC. We will need your cooperation if we are to meet these goals. You can be a part of the solution by bringing prospective members to our luncheons. They can be friends or perhaps acquaintances you met at some function. We all enjoy the benefits of being a Sir in Branch 146. Now is the time to accept the responsibility of sponsoring a new member so our Branch will remain strong and vital. If you have any questions or need some assistance, please give me a call.

This year we will have two free lunch drawings for those who sponsor a new member. The drawing in June will cover the first half of 2010 and the November drawing will cover the second half.

Congratulations to our newest member, **Jim Keegan**, who was sponsored by **Bill Hoban**.



Duplicate Bridge Terry Marchione



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

Sir **Bill Rees** hosted our February game with four tables of duplicate bridge. We were treated to a beautiful day which allowed us to visit **Bill's** patio for lunch and dessert.

The bridge match was a close one with **Carl Johnson** in 1st place with a score of 43.5 points. It was tight from there with **John Demos** at 42.0 points, **Terry Marchione** at 41.5 points and **Jim Brown** at 40.5 points.

The next game will be held on Monday March 15 at **Lo McCauley's** home. Contact **Terry Marchione** for information.

SIR Couple Duplicate Bridge Too Group

December Play- Sometimes **Lynn/Dasha Freeman** give us the feeling that we're all getting better. In December, for example, **Bob/Janet Yolland** actually tied them for first place (but as substitutes!). And **Jim/Ruth Adams** weren't far behind in 3rd place.

January Play- But then it was January. **Lynn/Dasha** started the New Year squashing ANY perceptions that the group had improved. They won so handily with over 10 points difference that even **Terry/Sharon Marchione** in 2nd place and **Dick/Christy DeVoe** in 3rd place felt like beginners once again. But then there's always next month...

February Play- And "there's always next month" FINALLY came! To everyone's complete surprise, the "almost always winning" **Freeman** couple gave everyone a full reprieve. **Joe/Josie Barry** saw the opening and grabbed 1st place. **Dick/Christy DeVoe** and hosts **Ken/Elaine Richter** tied for 2nd place, **Terry/Sharon Marchione** slipped into 4th, and **Jim/Ruth Adams** grabbed 5th. Next month, though, is only another month away. Yikes!



Party Bridge

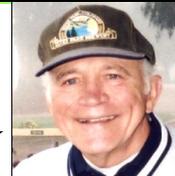
Fred Bolton

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

We played four tables of bridge at the home of **Harry Dillon** on Feb. 1. First place went to **Jim Brown** with 5220 points, second to **Bill Snyder** with 4640, third to **Bob Yolland** with 4440 and fourth to **Carl Johnson**. Our next game will be at the home of **Jim Brown** on March 1.



Garden Club Chuck Bobinecz



1st Thursday at 9:30 am at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave., in the Room 203, unless otherwise announced.

Couples Duplicate Bridge Lo McCarley

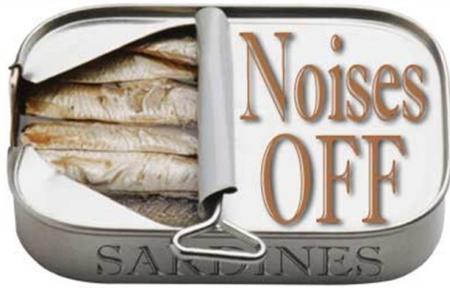
*Meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at participants' homes.
Couples play as partners.*



Lynn and Dasha Freeman hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on February 17th every one had a great time playing bridge and celebrating **Lynn Freeman's** and **Bill Rees'** birthdays. As for the bridge results, **Bob and Janet Yolland** with 33 points tied for first place with **Lo McCarley** and **Bob Donahue** (who was subbing for **Sue McCarley**). **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** took third with 32 points and **Carl and Anne Johnson** came in fourth with 31.5 points. **George Zurich** and **Tamara Judson** will host the next bridge party on March 17th.

Our March meeting is about the good bugs and the bad bugs. The most abundant animals on the planet. All insects are not destructive. Where would we be without bees and other pollinators? Of the known species of insects only one percent are pests. Road trip for April 22nd. A bus trip to the Filoli gardens and mansion and a stop or two at a winery on the way back. Sir **Bob Burley** with the assistance of Sir **Fred Kovar** and Sir **Mal Hendry** are in process of organizing the trip. At our March luncheon there will be a flyer at the sign up table. As usual these trips are a sell out. Also wives and guests are always welcome. Garden tip of the month: Plan prior to planting your veggie garden. Think about your plan for rotating. Not planting any vegetable in the same place more than every fourth year. Pest and soil fungus can give a disappointing return for a lot of work.

Theater Gary Schaub



SIR Theatre Party, April 15

Other people's misfortunes have proven to be comic gold for the entertainment industry for a long time. We relish seeing someone onstage or on television going through terrible mishaps that make us want to come back for more. Whatever it is, that quality is present in abundance in *Noises Off*.

This wacky comedy about a hapless English acting troupe is a recent Broadway hit starring Carole Burnett. A hilarious local production will be SIR 146's theatre event on Thursday, April 15 at 8:00 p.m., presented by Center Repertory Company at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek.

Often described as one of the funniest farces ever written, *Noises Off* will provide a wild evening of theatrical fun. The three-act play begins with the audience facing the stage. By the second act, the audience sees what's really happening backstage during the performance. Doors slam, human dalliances prevail, confusion galore, and (would you believe?) a plate of sardines does flying! It promises to be a laugh-filled evening.

Tickets for SIR member are \$31. Space is limited. A few seats are still available. Deadline to order is March 19. Send your check, payable to "SIR 146" to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1758 Candelero Court, Walnut Creek 94598. Tickets will be distributed at the door of Leshner Center in Walnut Creek at 7:30 pm on April 15.

Gary F. Schaub

1758 Candelero Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
e-mail: artzar@aol.com

Phone: (925) 938-5454 Fax: (925) 934-5456

SIR 146 Computer Classes

Lo McCarley

Microsoft Excel 2007
With the Ribbon



Hey computer users! It's time to ramp up your spreadsheet skills! Great class for those with Excel 2007 with the convenient new **Ribbon** that shows most of the commands you want to use.

The basics

- What are spreadsheets good for?
- Understand the ribbon and see how it changes to show the tools you are more likely to need.
- Customize the Quick Toolbar.
- Navigate workbooks, spreadsheets, and the program window.
- Enter text and numbers. Fill cells automatically.
- Add and resize Columns and Rows. Select cells and ranges.
- Cut, Copy and Paste, and Find and Replace (if you lose it you can still find it).
- Use **Help** (but who will ever need it?)

Formatting Text, Numbers and Worksheets

- Rearrange worksheet data and use Undo and Redo commands.
- Format worksheets, align cell data, and add borders. Highlight, Bold, Underline, and Italicize.
- Change Fonts and Font Size.
- Freeze columns or rows so you can always see their headings.
- Print and Print Preview.

Perform Calculations

- Calculate Data with formulas and Functions.
- Name cells and ranges.
- Alphabetize records or sort into numerical order.
- Total data with AutoSum.

Four Classes (Five if needed)

All on Fridays: April 9, 16, 23, 30. May 7 (if needed.)

Unbelievable Deal

Come to any or all of the classes for \$10...total! Wives and friends are welcome.

Time

1:00 to 3:00 each class day.

Where

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 181 Lacassie Avenue, Walnut Creek. Room 303.

To Enroll

E-mail Lo at lomccarley@astound.net

Or phone Lo at 935-3939

Computer classes for SIR Branch 146 members, their wives and friends.

Bowling

Larry Mitchell



The big event for March in bowling will be the Annual **Dave Valladao** Bowling Tournament, sponsored by Branch 146. It will be at Diablo Lanes in Concord on March 15th, 17th, and 18th. Singles will be at 10:00 AM and Doubles at 1:00 PM. The two aforementioned events will be added together as usual to comprise the "all events" category. Singles, Doubles, and All Events scores will be handicapped using 210 as a calculation basis. There will also be a special Scratch event (using the singles scores) for the high average bowlers. This is not recommended for anyone under a 180 average. The winner last year bowled over a 225 average! Costs are: \$15 each for singles and doubles, and \$6 each for all events and scratch.

You do not have to be a league bowler to participate in this tournament. A valid USBC card is however, required. Entry forms will be available at our league bowling on Wednesday or call me for forms or more information. I am the director of this event each year. There is also a tournament in Petaluma at the Boulevard Bowl on March 8th and 10th. It will be a doubles/singles/all events tournament. Call me if more information is needed?

(Larry Mitchell 925-798-5440)



Poker Club #1 Frank McNamee



Poker Club #1 met at the **John Lewis** residence on Feb. 10th and it turned out to be an early St. Patrick's Day for **Dan O'Sullivan** as he walked away as the big winner, doubling his investment. Our guest, **Rich Hanford**, came in a tidy second becoming a solid winner ahead of our host, **John Lewis**. We will meet again on March 10th at the home of **Bob Frankland**.



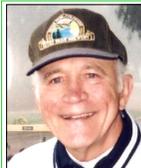
Poker Club #2 Al Zamolo

Our January session, hosted by **Ron Binder**, Was filled with Senior moments. **Al Zamolo** took advantage of these moments and became the biggest winner yet. **Charlie K** says it won't happen again at his home on the 22nd.



Poker Club #3 Siegfried Kaletis

We started out the New Year with a game hosted by **Ron Plachy**. All our regulars attended which include **Bill Baltazore, Vince Rettew, Dick DeVoe, Joe Fuchs, Jim Meehan, Ron Plachy** and me, **Sig Kaletis**. I am happy to report I won a few bucks, but I know that lucky streak is short-lived, too many sharp players on the team!



Poker Club #4 Chuck Bobinecz

Our March poker session will be hosted by Sir **Bob Mehus** and we will be treated as usual, with a fantastic view of the San Francisco Bay. Sir **Rich Hanford** was our mentor at the last session. He knew when to hold them and when to fold them.

Texas Hold'em is one of the most popular poker games. One reason is that in draw poker there are two bets, in Texas Hold'em there are four bets

POKER GROUP 5

Bill Roberts

Our February game saw two of our regular players missing. **Skip Thomas** and **Ken Richter** had better offers—hard to believe given **Bill Roberts** great dinners and their habit of winning most of the money. **Frank Rockwell** filled in and managed to introduce yet another variation to the 7-21 game (or is it 7 ½-21 ½ or maybe 7-27) We still haven't figured that one out. By making sure he folded early when that game came around, **Terry Marchione** walked away the only big winner.

Our regular players are **Spellman, Thomas, Merritt, Richter, Koeber, Marchione** and **Roberts**. The date for our next game has not been set as of this time..

SIR Happenings Newsletter

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



Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman



Mar 10-17, 2010 Cruise the Caribbean. Experience a 7 night cruise aboard the luxurious MS Silver Cloud, of Silversea Cruises. Along the way visit an exciting array of ports. Bridgetown, Barbados, Castries, St. Lucia, St George's, Grenada, Kingstown, St Vincent & the Grenadines, St. John's Antigua, Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda and San Juan Puerto, Rico. Cost is \$2970 for Vista Suite normally \$6595 and \$3570 for Veranda Suite normally \$8195. This price is all inclusive; meals, drinks, gratuities, complimentary in-suite dining, port taxes and fees, baggage handling, and round trip to and from airport. Contact **Bob Spellman @ 934-8428**. Note: Call me if your interested, there still may be space available.

Mar 26, 2010 A Day At The Races. It's a fun day at Golden Gate Fields Race Track and a chance to get your money back. Doors open at 11:00am. The cost is 25.00 per person and includes admission, reserved parking, daily racing program, great buffet luncheon, tax and tips. Contact **Ken Richter @ 689-6217**.

Jun 10-20, 2010 Oberammergau & the Rhine River Valley. The Passion play at Oberammergau in Munich PLUS an 8 day cruise of 4 countries from Basal to Amsterdam aboard the mv Viking Sun. Included features are: round trip air, tickets to the Passion Play and overnight accommodations in Munich. The Rhine Cruise includes: all meals, cocktail reception, six guided tours, all transfers and driver tips. Cost \$4,925 to \$5855 Contact **Bob Hagler- 934-7620 Branch #8** for more information

Sept 17-30, 2010 Mediterranean Enchantment. A 10-day cruise on board Holland America's ms Noordam sailing round trip from Civitavecchia (Rome) plus a 2-night post stay in Rome. The Itinerary includes visits to Livorno, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, Carthage, Trapani and Naples. The cost is \$4965 to \$5935 depending on Stateroom and includes transfers to/from SF. Round trip airfare from SF to Rome and back. All meals while on board. Sky cap and Stevedore tips and Government fees. Contact **Jim Lunn @925-551-3329 Branch #8** for more information.

Oct 19-Nov 6, 2010 Pure New Zealand. New Zealand is a thrilling microcosm of the natural world – a land where wild rivers and glaciers flow through rain forests to the sea, pristine lakes and pastoral forest hug volcanic slopes, and snow-capped peaks pierce the sky. Along the way, you will experience firsthand the Kiwi spirit of adventure that springs from this mighty landscape. Cost of the trip is \$5440.00 per person and includes, round trip airfare and transfers. Accommodations, 27 meals and 13 group discoveries, service of resident trip leader and all land transportation.

Contact **Bob Spellman@934-8428**. Space is limited to 16 people.

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



New Chess Group

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

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



Table Pool Bill Weinberg



1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am.
(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)

Haven't played in years? Come join us. We usually have three or four pool games going. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us. Masse's offers special pricing for Sirs. Just mention you're a Sir anytime you wish to play.

COUPLES PARTY BRIDGE

Terry and Sharon Marchione hosted the first couple's party bridge on Feb. 17th. Cards were slow to cooperate at first but toward the end of the evening, the **Marchiones** bid and made a small slam to carry the day. This event will tentatively meet the first Wednesday of the month; the next one will be in April at a date not yet firmly established.

Dave Pierce, Coordinator, 932-3877



Luncheon Attendance
Bob Lyman



SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak.

Please call me (825-6386) or email me, rjlyman@aol.com, by Friday NOON prior to the luncheon (March 5, 2010) if, for any reason, you are unable to attend. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number and phone number. Please be sure you call!!!

Remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45am, so please allow enough time to arrive on schedule. A check for \$25.00 made payable to SIR146 is requested for payment of your lunch on Luncheon Day. Thanks.

Regular members missing 3 consecutive meetings without notifying their attendance chairman, giving a valid reason, or attending less than 6 meetings in the last 12 months will result in a letter notifying them of pending membership termination. Certification of another branch meeting will be considered as credit to the attendance record. Notification to the Branch 146 Attendance Chairman (Bob Lyman) is necessary to receive credit.

SIR bringing a Guest

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

Luncheon Menu for March 11, 2010

STARTER SALAD: Spinach Salad with Almonds, Red Onions, Oranges and Rosemary Red Wine Vinaigrette.
Irish Soda Bread.

ENTRÉE: Slow Braised Corned Beef with Guinness Mustard Sauce
Seared Salmon with Raisin Caper Butter

VEGETABLE: Cabbage with Carrots and Potatoes

DESSERT: Chiffon Cake with Strawberry Sauce

Special Luncheon Requirements

If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please call and make a request. Your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through the Luncheon Chairman. If for medical reasons, you cannot eat lunch, please notify me and your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through your Luncheon Chairman.

New Members and/or Sponsors

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

Membership
Steve Sprague



Branch 146 Statistics:

Active Members: 251 including six Honorary Life Members.

Applicant List: None. All have been inducted.

Inactive Members: 10.

February Luncheon Attendance:

Members: 193.

Guests: 1, Visitors: 2, Speaker: 1.

Excused: 48, Unexcused: 10.

Total Attendance: 197.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **James (Jim) Keegan**, badge 131

Moved to Inactive List:

Joe Deas, badge #47.

Resigned or Transferred: None

Deceased: **Chris Satterthwaite**, badge #142.

Sunshine



Walt Busenius
945-0715

Busenius@astound.net

Our condolences go the family of Sir **Chris Satterthwaite** who passed away on January 31st

Sirs **Chuck Hammond, Gene Bjornsen, Robert Skirivan,** and **Barney Meade** are still recuperating at home from surgery.

As of the February 11th luncheon, the following **Sirs** were ill or continued having health issues. They are in our thoughts and we extend our best wishes for healing:

Ken Beattie, John Humphrey, Jesse Crews, Herb Freeman, Ed Malboeuf and Olaf Johansson

Georgia Cook, wife of Sir **Doug** is recovering from ankle surgery.

Sheila Comley, wife of Sir **Bill** and **Cathy Binder**, wife of Sir **Ron** are recovering from recent illnesses.

Fran Schroder, wife of Sir **Bob** is healing from a foot injury.

Sue Busenius, wife of Sir **Walt** rehabbing from knee replacement surgery.

Shirley Ahlf, wife of Sir **Rich** had her third back surgery.

New Cooking Group

Gourmets, Hamburger helper makers and all those in between:

The Cooking group, having survived ten years of lunches, dinners and picnics has decided to move on and disband so that you new, younger and brave SIRS can perform and join in the fun.

We hope that you can get a group of fellas to experiment with new and exciting recipes and gourmet get-togethers. Come on and sign up.

Some of the things that we have done over the years:

Cook and prepare a lunch or outing or whatever once a month.

Share the work and responsibilities with at least 6 or 8 members.

Dinners out with our spouses at pre-decided intervals but at least twice yearly

We bottle and label wines yearly.

Invite guest chefs to educate our palates with new and interesting dishes.

Planned a Picnic during the summer.

Come on and sign up. You will need a group of 6 or 8. Call a buddy and start cooking.

Call or contact **Don Nunn** at 25-935-5214 or

Email at donnunn@astound.net.

Explore and Dine

John Pearl



Explore and Dine made their longest journey yet, to the studios of KQED in San Francisco, where a very dedicated docent gave us the grand tour. You've probably seen her if you've watched the pledge nights. While much of their programming is produced elsewhere, they do have two studios where the local programs are made. We also visited the working studio of KQED-FM while it was on the air. The announcer was able to tell us about the station operation and the various tasks he does, even as he did the station breaks, etc.

For lunch we walked down the street to the nearby "Slow Club," which was recommended to us by one of the Branch member's wives

As KQED is located on Mariposa Street just west of US 101, some of the group took BART and MUNI, while others chose to drive. Parking was tough, as can be attested to by **Bill Hartman**.

In February we will be visiting the Traffic Operations Center of the City of Walnut Creek, which is now located upstairs in City Hall, and then going across the street to 'Eleve'. We are working on arrangements to possibly visit the Contra Costa-Solano Food Bank in Concord in March.

John Pearl
mcppearl@astound.net
934-6920

DON'T FORGET OUR DINNER PARTY ON WEDNESDAY April 14th

6pm to 10PM at ZIO FRAEDO'S RESTAURANT

The cost is \$95.00 per couple and includes hors d'oeuvres. Dinner,

Live music for listening or dancing

Indicate your choice of Beef, Fish or Pasta

Send your check, made out to SIR Branch 146, to:

Vince Rettew

290 Dover Drive

Walnut Creek, CA 94598



Your Name: _____ Partner: _____

Meal choices _____

Tables of 8 are the choice. If you plan on a group, List them below



Lunch and Wine Group

Paul Dubow



All eight members of the Lunch and Wine Group gathered at **Jim Meehan's** home on February 17 to enjoy a lunch prepared by **Jim** along with a full complement of wine.

Jim started us out with onion turnovers. This treat consists of browned ground chuck, an envelope of onion soup, and a cup of cheddar cheese rolled into Pillsbury crescent roles and then baked. The main course was holiday spaghetti from a secret family recipe. We finished off with coconut custard impossible pie. It is called impossible pie because all the ingredients are first mixed in a blender and then poured into a pie pan. **Jim** says that it is supposedly impossible to make a pie this way, but he did it.

It is the custom that our wives join to eat lunch out while we are attempting to prepare a meal for ourselves. On this occasion, the wives journeyed to the Pleasanton Hotel and had an enjoyable meal, but it could not possibly have been as good as what **Jim** prepared.



ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) **Malcolm Hendry**



The Romeo Group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30PM at select restaurants in the East Bay. We experience delightful dining while getting to better know our fellow SIR and their guests, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

TOYO SUSHI is a small Japanese restaurant that comes highly recommended by SIR **Lo Mc Carley**. The menu has a large selection of moderately priced dinner combinations, including steak, chicken and fresh fish dishes. Since opening in 2007, they have made a reputation for their fresh and delicious food.

Location: 2865 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek (In the Encina Shopping Center near Safeway)
Web Site: www.yelp.com/biz/toyo-sushi-walnut-creek

(Location and Reviews)

Phone: 925-947-4886 925-947-4886

THIS MONTH, PLEASE RESPOND TO BOTH **LO MC CARLEY** AND ME by Tuesday, March 16th, if you will join us.

Your suggestions are welcome for future restaurants to visit.

ARE YOU PREPARED

Imagine an earthquake in the Bay Area at least the strength of the San Francisco quake. Communications are down as are public transportation, bridges and public streets. Homes are shattered and many thousands are homeless, without medical care. The Bay area is earthquake country and the 1989 Loma Prieta quake was not the big one. The US Geologic Survey says the big one is still coming.

Take a good look at these questions for your family and your children's' families:

Where will your family be? Will you be able to get in touch and get back together? Will you have medical services? Will you be able to get home? Kids from school? Dad from San Francisco? Will you be able to stay in your home? Can you live without the services you rely on? Will you have money food and medicine?

An excellent resource for answers to these and many other important questions can be found on your computer by Googling up the USGS publication, "Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country". This excellent publication includes valuable information about the nature of bay area quakes and the incredible damage they can do. In addition, the pamphlet spells out in detail the Seven Steps To Earthquake Safety:

Identify hazards in your home and begin to fix them

Create a disaster preparedness plan, including family planning.

Prepare disaster kits.

Identify your building's potential weaknesses and begin to fix them.

Protect yourselves during an earthquake's shaking – DROP, COVER AND HOLD.

After the quake check for injuries and damages.

When safe, continue to follow your disaster preparedness plan.

This publication has the answers to these and many other major disaster questions. Check it out for your own family and your children's' families as well. You can download it from your computer or send for free copies.

Away Golf Jim Baldrige



Lew Thompson is organizing this years Monterey Mashers golf outing. It is scheduled for March 21 to March 23. Contact Lew at r5t6d@astound.net or at 925-686-6337 for details.

Bob Schwab is putting the Couples Golf event together for the month of March. Contact him at schwab-bob@hotmail.com or at 925-254-6869 for details.

Bob Wheaton sets up times for the nine hole group at Diablo Hills/Heather Farms on the first and third Thursday of the month. For March those dates are 3/4 and 3/18.

Contact **Bob** at bobanwh@astound.net or at 939-4512.

Entry forms are on the SIR State Golf website sirstate-golf.com for the events at Coeur D'Alene Idaho May 16-21, Solvang Sept 12-16 and Mesquite NV Nov 7-11. If you don't have access to the internet and are interested in state events contact me, **Ron Plachy** or **Dick Richmond** and we will get an entry form to you.

Other state events for 2010 will be the Reno Circus-Circus event at Red Hawk, Wolf Run and Lakeridge June 13-18; SIR State Team Championship at Poppy Ridge-Pleasanton August 9 and the State Individual Championship at Poppy Hills-Monterey Oct 27-28.

Br 116 is in the process of naming a person to organize their Silverado event in April. As soon as I can contact him, I will see if they need additional players and if so, I will get entry forms to those in our branch who want to play Silverado this year.

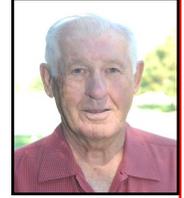
Mel Verzi of Yuba City Branch has again extended an invitation to our golfers to play in their annual **Jimmy Beeler** Classic May 4, 5, and 6. This year it will be at the Plumas Lake Golf and Country Club. Applications and more details will be available shortly.

Terry Marchione, Joe Fuchs, Jim Burk and **Dave Steinberg** have asked that we look into having periodic Away golf events for our Tuesday Boundary Oak players. We have done Tuesday away events in the past when the course was doing heavy green maintenance or when pro-tournaments occurred on Tuesdays. You might give them or members of the Golf Committee your input on the idea.

Questions: **Jim Baldrige**
925-689-9232
e-mail jimjudy39@aol.com



Tuesday Golf Ray Weis



January 19

No Golf due to rain.

January 26

No Golf due to rain.

February 2

First Flight: 1st place **Jim Burk** 73, 2nd place **Joe Fuchs** 73, 3rd place **John Harrington** 73. Second Flight: 1st place **Bob Royster** 69, 2nd place **Joe Lamanna** 75, 3rd place **Joe Fitzsimmons** 75. Third Flight: 1st place **Sal Castanza** 69, 2nd place **Steve Sprague** 73, 3rd place **Chuck Eichten** 74. Closest to the pin **Jack Calloway** # 2, **Jim Passaglia** # 12.

February 9

No Golf due to rain.

The Rain God's have not been good to us Golfers this year, though February 9th we only were able to play twice. I am sure all the Golfers are willing to give up some golf for the needed rain.

Area 2 Computers and Technology Group



PHIL GOFF, Chairman, 831-3692, philgoff@yahoo.com
DICK CURRY, Asst. Chairman, 376-5541,
racorinda@pacbell.net

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive (just off South Main.) Check out our website at <http://sir-web.org/computer>
Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces the following main topic for their next meeting on Thursday, March 18:

Neil and **Phil** will make presentations on Social Networking. **Neil** will talk about Facebook and Twitter. **Phil** will cover MySpace, LinkedIn, Flickr and other popular networking programs.

We would like to have someone bring a Kindle to the March program for the "gadget" phase. A general Q&A session will follow.

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies, and all SIR members and their guests are welcome.

The Cribbage Club

The re-constituted Cribbage Group met Thursday, February 4, at **John Pearl's** home. Four of us played two tournaments. **Barney Meade** and **John Pearl** split the first place prizes and **Howie King** got a second place. **Dan Meckfessel** of Branch 108 was our fourth player.

We are now meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 12:30 PM, and our next meeting will be at **Barney Meade's** home on March 4.

If you like a fast two-handed card game, please consider joining us for a fun afternoon, complete with snacks and dessert.

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net
934-6920

Wine Tasting ... Bill Holly

The Branch 146 SIR wine group had a tasting on Wednesday, January 27th at the home of **Hank** and **Hazel James**. There were 31 people in attendance. Eight bottles of Malbec and seven bottles of Chenin Blanc were tasted. The appetizers, as usual, were excellent. Everyone rated them 5 out of 5 for the top rating.

Watch the April SIR Call for details about our next wine tasting on Wednesday, April 28th.

Nominating Committee

The Branch Nominating Committee is in the process of developing a list of nominees for officers and directors to serve on the Branch Executive Committee during 2011. All members are invited to submit recommendations for Committee consideration. Please provide your recommendations to **Garth Cummings** at gnscomings@sbcglobal.net or 1551 Harlan Drive, Danville, CA, 94526. Branch officers are Big Sir, Little Sir, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and six Directors. We encourage members who wish to participate to let us know or provide us with their thoughts on who they think should be nominated.



Fishing Paul Dubow

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



Our winter storms have continued to limit our outings. But the trout fishing at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir has been good to some of us. **Dick Thomson** caught a big beautiful eight and three quarter pound rainbow, dwarfing **Carl Moyer's** four and three quarter pounder. **Dick** also caught another rainbow that weighed in excess of three pounds. And **Harry Sherinian** caught a three pounder and several two pound fish on the next day. But then **Carl Moyer**, **Terry Miller** and **Gordon Linebaugh** netted only a single small trout between them a few days later. We note that those who regularly fish on Thursday and Friday consistently do better than those who fish at Shadow Cliffs earlier in the week. Could it be their skill or that fish are normally planted by park system personnel in the middle of the week?

Carl Moyer had excellent results fishing for sturgeon in the Delta. On one outing, he caught seven fish up to 44 inches in front of the PG&E plant in Pittsburg. Then, on February 15, he journeyed to the same spot and, on his second cast, landed a 55 inch sturgeon which he decided to keep. Because fishermen are limited to one keeper per day (and three for the year), he was home in time for breakfast.

Two of our members traveled far from the Bay Area with contrary results. **Joe Miscione** caught and released quite a few rockfish while angling from the shore of the big island in Hawaii. **Paul Dubow** carried rod and reel to Florida in hopes of doing some fishing while visiting family but rain and wind dashed any opportunity to use the equipment.

We will be very busy this spring with delta fishing for striped bass and sturgeon, trout fishing in our local lakes, and party boat trips for sturgeon, halibut, and stripers. Those who rarely or have never fished are welcome to join us. They are also welcome at our next meeting which will be at 8:30 am (or 8am if you want breakfast) on Thursday, March 25, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. Our guest speaker will be **Jay Lopes**, a premier charter boat captain for sturgeon and halibut.

SPRING CANDY SALES

It is time to order your See's candy for the holiday season. The price is \$13.10 for a one pound box certificate. The retail price is \$16.10. You can pick any type of candy you wish. Soft centers, nuts and chewies etc. There is no limit to the amount you can order.

Make your check payable to "Sir Branch 146" and send it to

Mitch Mitchell
5350 Lightwood Drive,
Concord, CA 94521.

Please include a stamped self addressed #10 envelope (this is the long envelope).

The deadline for me to receive your order is **Mar.27, 2010**. Your certificates will be mailed to you shortly thereafter.

Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to cover the cost of _____ one pound certificates.

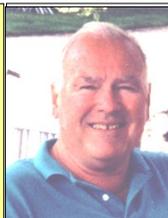
ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR TERRY MARCHIONE

ATTENTION TENNIS AND CHESS PLAYERS---Nick **Abdo** and **Joe Fuchs** are looking for a few Sirs to get their activities going. Please contact them or myself if you are interested. Also **Don Nunn** is trying to restart a cooking group. Here's your chance to start working your way up to Iron Chef Status.

On another note, Branch 8 has offered to open up some of their activities to other Branches. There are a few we don't yet offer that might be of interest to you—Astronomy, Book Exchange, and Hiking. Please get in touch with me if you would like to participate in any of these.

Finally, if you have ideas for a new activity, please let me know. I can be contacted by phone 472-8850 or by email terrymarchione@yahoo.com

March will see a new Activities Coordinator as **Steve Dawkins** has volunteered to take on this job. I will be moving on to chair the men's duplicate bridge group and assist Sir **Jeff Baily** with the website upgrade. I know you will give **Steve** your fullest cooperation.



Walkers John Lewis



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

March Walks Planned by **Lo McCarley**

Mar 7 **Sam's Club North: Concord**

Meet: At Sam's Club Parking
Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail
Paved Level No Shade
Coffee: Panera Coffee, Willows Center

Mar 14 **Newhall Park Concord**

Meet: East on Ygnacio Valley Rd., Left on Ayers Rd. Left on Turtle Creek Rd., Right into parking lot
Walk: South on park trail, left at the street, left back into the park. Return past Bocce Courts.
Mostly Paved level some shade
Coffee: At Deli-Delite – Shadelands Office Park

Mar 21 **Benicia Marina. At end of First St. Benicia**

Meet: At Sun Valley Bank of America for car pooling
Walk: East on B St. around Benicia Harbor
Paved, level, no shade
Coffee: Mike and Gail's – The Tannery

Mar 28 **St. Mary's College: Moraga**

Meet: At St. Mary's parking in the lot on the left just after turning into campus.
Walk: Through St. Mary's campus to the red wood grove and back to the cafe.
Paved Level Some shade
Coffee: At St. Mary's Cafe Louis in Student Union (about 10:15)

Thanks to **Bill Cammerer, Don Del Bene, and Larry Sheerin** for folding and labeling, to Editor **Rich Ahlf** for proof-reading and photography and to **Bill Cammerer** for mailing.

SIR CALL

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Newsletter



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Please deliver as
soon as possible.



Sirs **George Zunich, John Lewis, Al Altmann (standing) and Rod Sharretts**