



Big Sir's Notes

Terry Marchione

It's been just about a year now since we started having various activity chairmen set up information tables at our luncheons. This has proven to be a very successful innovation

(particularly **Ken Richter's** expanded Book Corner). Hats off to **Ken** for carting those books back and forth. We will be encouraging greater participation by other activity chairmen in the future.

On another front, we continue to try and find ways to improve our communications with members. Although we encountered some technical glitches in January, we are very pleased with what the communications committee has developed. The slide show that is projected to the front of the dining room will be a monthly event. Make sure you take a look as you are visiting with friends and/or partaking of an adult beverage—I think you will be impressed.

As I mentioned in my last article, we have instituted a program whereby you can get a free lunch if your badge number is the one hidden in the SIR Call. No one claimed the free lunch in February.

At the February luncheon we honored **Don Nunn** and **Lynn Freeman**. Without the contributions of these two, the branch would not be where we are today. When you see them around, give them a hearty thank you.

Finally, we still have not heard from a number of members regarding the request for the annual donation. If you are not planning to make a donation I would appreciate you letting me know (in confidence) what we could do better so you would feel better about making the donation. You can email me at terrymarchione@yahoo.com

The March luncheon will feature Tom Ehman, Director of External Affairs for the 34th America's Cup yacht race.

Gathering time 10:45 - 11:00am

Seating time - 11:45am

Little Sir's Corner

Doug Eisner

I'm very pleased to announce that our March speaker will be Tom Ehman, Director of External Affairs for the 34th America's Cup yacht race. We're very fortunate to be able to get Tom as he and his team are busy preparing for the Cup races later this summer on the San Francisco Bay. Tom is a local yachtsman, currently serving as Vice Commodore for the Golden Gate Yacht Club in San Francisco. He is a former collegiate and North American sailing champion and at age 25 became the youngest ever executive director of the USA's national sailing association.

Tom's association with America's Cup began in 1980 and he has served in various roles, including his current role as Managing Director of the GGYC's America's Cup Committee.

The Speakers Committee has been actively arranging for future speakers. We have an exciting variety of speakers lined up through Sept and we'll preview those speakers for you as the year goes on.





Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

New member **Joe Nelms** being introduced by his sponsor **Bob Spellman** at the February luncheon.



Photo by Jeff Bailly

Always there - our meal ticket guys. Check please \$25



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Song Sirs at the conclusion of the February luncheon with a rendering of "God Bless America" under the direction of **Harry Tutton**.

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God Bless America
Words and Music by Irving Berlin.

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,
Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free,
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

God Bless America,
Land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home.



Membership

Steve Sprague

Branch 146 Statistics:
As of our Executive Committee meeting on February 14th, we have 269 active members including seven Honorary Life Members (this is a gain of three from the previous month). We currently have one applicant awaiting BEC approval.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **Bob Larson**
Art Mancini
Joe Nelms

Resigned: None

Moved to Inactive: None

Deceased: **Jack White** passed away on February 13

February Luncheon Attendance:

Members: 200 (74% of membership)

Guests: 5

Visitors: 2, Speaker: 1.

Total Attendance: 208

Changes to the Inactive Roster:

Dale Hertweck has relocated to North Carolina. Our inactive roster therefore decreases by one to fifteen members.



Photo by Jeff Bailly

Bob Yolland, Bill Laws and Alan Elnick about to challenge the Boundary Oak Golf Course Feb 12th.



GOLF

Ray Weisz

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats: We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are posted on our web site,

www.sir146.com. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. There is a 9-holes group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date. For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October.

Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer Away



Golf. Do you enjoy competing against other SIR players from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year. Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly Golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers should be receiving GEMs. If you'd like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.

Cooking II

Bob Yolland

We had a wonderful lunch at **Corrie Oranje's** lovely home Monday Feb 11th. He started off with special deviled eggs and some of his famous Edam cheese. Our entree was an excellent chicken marbella which is breast of chicken topped with pitted prunes, green olives and garlic. Accompanying the entree were whole baby carrots and rice. Completing the meal was a beautiful dessert of vanilla and chocolate gelato with kahlua and topped with chocolate coated coffee beans. Since two of our regulars **John Demos** and **Ken Richter** were away **Bill Klein** a new member was our guest. As always we enjoyed a variety of very special wines. Our next luncheon will be Monday March 11th at the home of **John Demos**.

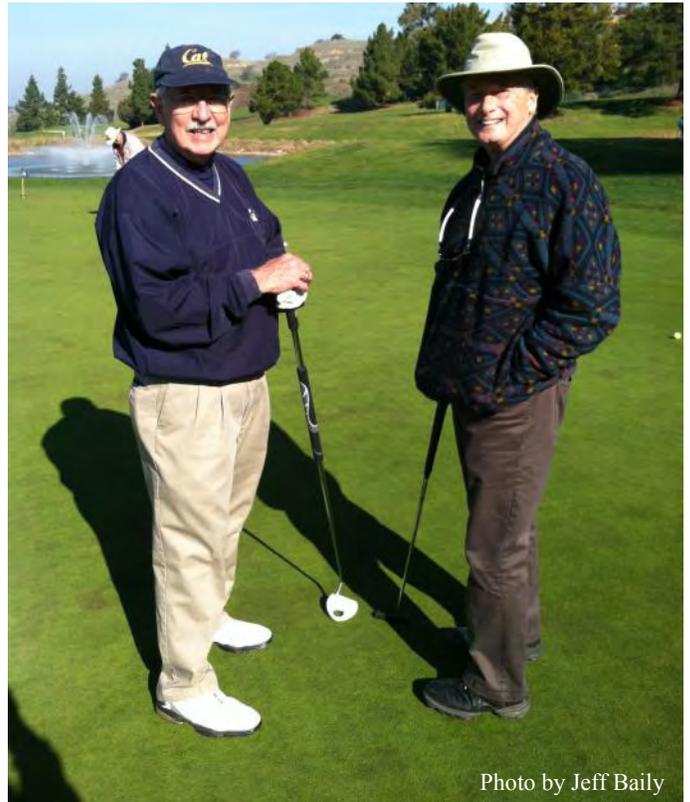


Photo by Jeff Bailly

George Rammell and Corrie Oranje ready to tee off over the lake on the first tee at Boundary Oak.

Faith & Begorra! It's a St. Patrick's day sing [along] at the piano during happy hour at the March 14th luncheon. Beginners needed.



Photo by Bill Klein

Cooking II group during their monthly luncheon hosted by **Corrie Oranje**. L to R, **Bill Roberts, Bob Yolland, Bill Cammerer, Corrie Oranje** and **Bruce Borgman**. Check out the SIR inspired table décor!

Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on February 20th at **Carl and Anne Johnson's** home. As for the bridge results, **Carl and Anne Johnson** took a dominant first place with 41 points. **Bill and Margaret Rees** came in second with 35 points and **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** took third with 33 points. With 32 points **George Zurich** and **Susi Cherry** came in fourth place to take one of their dollars back. **Lo and Sue McCarley** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on March 20th.



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

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

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Bill Snyder** on Feb. 4. **Bob Yolland** took first place with a fantastic 8660 points.

Jim Jackson was second with 7070 and **John Demos** took third with 6870. Our next game will be at a location to be announced.

Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was hosted by absentee host **Ted Gunn** at **Dick DeVoe's** home on February 11. That statement could be confusing, unless one knows **Ted** earlier had flu symptoms. For the second month **Carl Johnson** tied for 1st, this time with **Jim Brown**, each with 28 points. Both wins were noteworthy in that they were in 8th and 7th place respectively at the end of a half time of play - perseverance is alive and well. **Joe Barry's** consistent play paid off with 26.5 points and 3rd place. **John Boyan** (the group's perennial 2nd half comeback kid) and **Tony Greco** tied for 4th with 25.5 points.



Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner

We played 4 tables of duplicate bridge at **Carl Johnson's** home on Feb 18. As usual, it was a hard fought game but **George Zurich** really brought his "A" game and his 46.5 pt clearly outpaced the field for first place. The second place score of 44.0 pt was well behind the winning score and was claimed by **Lynn Freeman**. Third place was awarded to **Bob Donahue's** 42.0 pt and **Jim Brown** took fourth place with 40.0 pt. Our next game will be held at **Rich Ahlf's** home on Mar 18.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams

The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was ably hosted by **Terry and Sharon Marchione**, who were so focused that they also took 1st place. **Tony and Cindy Greco** made their substitute presence known, taking 2nd place. The 3rd place win by **Lynn and Dasha Freeman**, however, sent this writer to the archives: in the past 7 months of play, **Lynn and Dasha** have placed 7 times! Two 1st's, three 2nd's, and two 3rd's. But that's not all... The archives also revealed another couple who have been quietly racking up prizes - **Dave and Joan Pierce**, who in the same time frame have won 1st twice, 2nd twice, and 3rd once. Which couples are going to take up the challenge against these two emerging dynasties?



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

Terry and Sharon Marchione hosted three tables on February 5th. We welcomed **Dick DeVoe** back from surgery and new subs **Brad and Lynn Hatcher**, but then dealt them no good cards. They did find the killing lead on an otherwise cold slam. **George and Pam Rammel** placed third for the second month in a row, at 2260. Our gracious hosts were second with 3610, just barely behind **Dave and Joan Pierce** who were dealt lots of game hands this time.



Want your text or a photo or a joke to be published in the SIR Call? No problem.

Email it to br146sircall@gmail.com



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIRS 146 Luncheon
March 2013

Salad

Baby Lettuce

Shaved Parmesan, Crispy Croutons,
Candied Pecans and Dried Cranberry Vinaigrette

Entrees

Classic Corned Beef and Cabbage
Boiled Carrots and Potatoes
Horseradish Sauce

Or

Oven Baked Pacific Dory with Chardonnay
Seasonal Vegetables, Scalloped Potatoes
Oven Roasted Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Bread Pudding with Chantilly Cream and Chocolate
Sauce



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sir **Lynn Freeman** being awarded the Senior Certificate for reaching the 90 year milestone by the Area 2 Governor **Gary Plisco**.



Luncheon Attendance

Jim Burk

Recap of February luncheon: Our February 14 luncheon continued the pattern of being well attended (208 attendees to include 4 guests and the Area Governor, **Gary Plisco**). The two entrees both received high marks for presentation and tastiness. The restaurant

staff and chef are working hard to replicate that experience every month.

Next up is our March 14 luncheon date and it will be here before we know it. Our SIR luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at “The Clubhouse” restaurant at Boundary Oak Golf Course. The price of our regular luncheon, as opposed to the ladies day luncheon, is \$25 with a no-host bar. Some of you have been presenting checks for \$24 which is last year’s rate. Please take note of this change. Remember we assume you are coming, but if for any reason you are unable to attend, please e-mail nolunchbranch146@gmail.com by noon Friday the week prior to the luncheon. The noon deadline has to be strictly enforced as that’s the time the restaurant requires us to give them a guaranteed number of meals to prepare. Members failing to meet this deadline, or “no show” for the luncheon, will be required to reimburse the Branch for the liability we will incur with the restaurant for your meal. [Note: Only if you do not have a computer, call **Jim Burk** at (925) 946-1192 by the same deadline referenced above to let him know you will not be attending. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number, phone number and a short message.]

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

Sir bringing a Guest: Please e-mail also by noon on the Friday prior to the luncheon leaving your name, badge number, and your guest’s name.

Special requests: If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please make that request. Your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through the luncheon chairman. If for medical reasons you cannot eat lunch, please notify the luncheon chairman and your request will remain in effect until you cancel it.

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

Poker Club 1

Frank McNamee

Poker Club #1 met on February 13th at the **Don Martin** residence in Moraga and the host again was not the congenial host we have been looking for. **Don**, along with **Bob White** and **Dan O'Sullivan** were the only winners for the day. **John Lewis** lost his title as the low ball champion when **Dan O' Sullivan** laid claim to the most low ball hands for the day. We will meet next month March 13th at the home of **Frank McNamee**.



temperamental process, and if it is not getting hot in the center after a couple of days it is either too wet, too dry, not enough "browns" or not enough "greens." In other words it is hard to make a "Goldilocks" pile. Personally, I confess I do not compost, and my greens and browns go in either my blue or green can, put out every Wednesday for Waste Management to compost.

Our next meeting will be March 28th at Navlet's in Pleasant Hill at 9:30 AM where their staff will tell us about spring planting what insecticides and fertilizers to use.

Poker Club 2

Al Zamolo

Al Zamolo hosted our January session. Green visors were worn by all to upgrade our poker group to real poker players.

Our guest **Don Martin** took a lot of our money. Not sure if we will invite him again. **Ron Binder** was also a big



winner. Our February session will be hosted by **Ron Binder**.

Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Our March poker session will be hosted by Sir **Pete Gates**. 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 Club 5

Bill Roberts

A new tradition...

the winner writes the recap of the game! Big winner (\$6)

was Sir **Skip Thomas**, followed by Big Sir **Terry Marchione**, guest Little Sir **Doug Eisner**, and guest Sir **Steve Sprague**. Sirs **Bob Spellman** and **Frank Rockwell** were heard mumbling "I won't sit in these chairs next month!" Mr. **Roberts** was down to his last nickel.... after serving a wonderful steak dinner he threatened to raise the cost for dinner to cover his losses. A miracle occurred from the poker gods as he finished even. A great time was had by all.

Poker rule #146 = "Dealer must know the rules of the game"; (2 and only 2; clubs don't count.)



Ready to ante up. Poker 1, L to R, **Don Martin, Bob White, Dan O'Sullivan, John Lewis, Bill Cammerer, Frank McNamee** and **Don Del Bene**.



Garden Club

Steve Dawkins

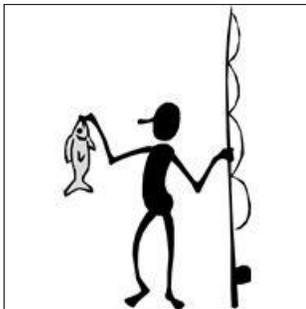


This month I would like to talk about backyard composting. To be successful you need to make the compost pile at least three to four feet square or larger. The materials used are of equal parts "greens"- alfalfa, food waste (no grease or meat), grass clippings, fruit wastes and "browns"- leaves, straw, sawdust, dried stalks and shredded prunings. Stack the materials in equal amounts, soak with water and cover. Ideally, the temperature should reach 150 degrees in the center. Turn the compost every three to ten days and in about five weeks you should have a finished product. Once started, do not add new material. This is a very

Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Trout fishing was the activity in which most of our members engaged this month but we did so with mixed results. Our best efforts were at San Pablo Reservoir, which opened for the season in mid February. **Carl Moyer** and **Harry Sherinian** had an epic day, boating a limit of ten trout that included one four pounder, three three pounders, and five two pounders. On the next day, **Bill Landers, Carl Moyer, Gordon Linebaugh, and Terry Miller** caught twenty fish, but not quite as big as the prior day's production. On the other hand, Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, which was very productive in December and January, slowed down substantially. **Paul Dubow** and **Carl Moyer**, who had limited out on every one of their prior trips this season, managed to land just one fish (caught by **Paul**) in their most recent outing. **Sal Costanza** of Branch 146, **Barry Rauchle, Al Brunner, and George Vogt** did



better on their trips, but nobody limited out. On a group outing to Lake Camanche, only two fish were caught, both by **Al Brunner**. However, one was a five pounder.

It was a nice welcome back for **Al**, who tried to quit fishing two years ago but could not stay away.

On the sturgeon front, **Pete Gates** of Branch 146 caught and released a five foot monster on a Delta trip with **Dick Thomson, Carl Moyer, Barry Rauchle, and Joe Miscione**. **Sal Costanza** also netted a five footer, fishing with his cousin on a separate excursion, and **Carl Moyer** caught and released a 42 inch keeper on

a solo outing.

Paul Dubow traveled to Florida to visit relatives and took time out for a fishing outing with his brother in law. The pair caught 40 sheepshead, the largest at six pounds. Two of these delicious fish were reserved for the dinner table and the rest were released.

This spring we are planning outings for bass, trout, stripers, and kokanee plus a two day trip to Lake Oroville for silver salmon. We hope that some of you who have not fished lately or who want to start fishing can join us. Our next meeting will be at 8:30 am at the Legend Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Come earlier for breakfast. For further information, feel free to call Big Fish **Pete Gates** at 925-937-2035, secretary **Tom Boltz** at 925-825-5695, or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504.



Photo by Jeff Baily

Travel Chair **Bob Spellman** & Little Sir **Doug Eisner** ready to tee up on # 1 at Boundary on Tuesday Feb 12

The latest edition of SIR Happenings has just been posted on the SIR website:
<http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>



Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman

Apr 12, 2013: SIR Day at the Races. It's that time again to enjoy horse racing at Golden Gates Fields. Cost is \$29 pp which includes admission, reserve parking, daily race program, great buffet lunch and

tax & tips. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428

Jun 1-9, 2013: Memphis Blues to the New Orleans Jazz on the American Queen. A 7 night cruise on board the American Queen down the Mississippi with a pre-cruise stay in Memphis and a optional 2 day post trip in New Orleans. Cruise features RT motor coach to airport, RT airfare, all meals, including wine and beer with dinner, daily lectures, nightly entertainment, shore tours, and port charges, transfers, and baggage handling. Prices start at \$3658 to \$6486 depending on accommodations. Space is now very limited, so all future reservations will now be on a first come first serve basis. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428 if you still want to go and we will try to secure space for you.

Aug 28-Sep 7, 2013: SIR 55th Anniversary Alaska Golden Age Cruise. Save the date for a celebration! We will leave out of San Francisco and visit the ports of Juneau, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, Ketchikan, Victoria and return to San Francisco on the Grand Princess. The cost of the Cruise is from \$1579 to \$3300 depending on accommodations and includes: Gratuities on the ship, Ship board credit, cocktail party, hospitality suite, transportation by motor coach to and from the pier, wine, gifts and a Alaska salmon bake excursion. We currently have over 360 SIR members signed up for this trip.

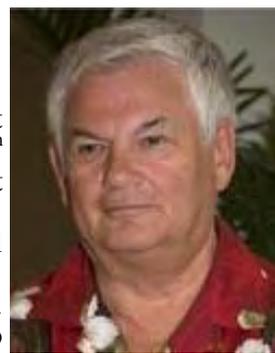
Special sale:

Feb 18-25, 2013 or Mar 11-18 2013. Book cabin during sale period and get coupon booklet valued at approximately \$380. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428 if you want more information.

May, 2014: Hidden Gems of the Dalmation Coast & Greece. A 16 day cruise aboard a privately owned Grand Circle small ship with a maximum of 50 passengers. Ports-of-call include Zagreb, Split, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Butrint, Albania, Corfu, Delphi and Athens. Prices range from approximately \$4595 to \$6170 depending on accommodations and airfare. Trip also includes 37 meals, 12 exclusive tours with personal headsets, home hosted dinners, and resident Grand Circle program director. Contact **Ken Richter**, 689-6217.

Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman



Our next Couples Dining Out will be on Monday, March 18th at Bridges Restaurant located at 44 Church Street, Danville.

The cost of the prix fixe meal will be \$36/person which includes tax, tip and coffee. Drinks are extra. For those who wish to bring their own wine,

there is a \$20 corkage fee. Cocktails start at 5:30 p.m., and dinner starts between 6:15 & 6:30 p.m.

Directions: Take Highway 680 South toward San Jose. Take exit 39 toward Danville and merge onto Diablo Road. Turn left onto Hartz Ave. Take the second left onto Church Street and go to 44 Church Street. Please RSVP to **Bill Holly** before March 11th by email to bill.holly@comcast.net

Please make out your check payable to **Bill Holly** and mail it to his home address at: 4409 Winterberry Ct., Concord, CA 94521-4332. Checks must be received by March 14th to secure your reservation.



Lew Thompson receiving the "Shooting your Age" honor from Golf Committee member **Frank Rockwell** at the February luncheon.

Lunch and Wine

Vince Rettew



The LAW Group met on 2/20/13 at **Frank Rockwell's** home. We had a full complement of Sirs.

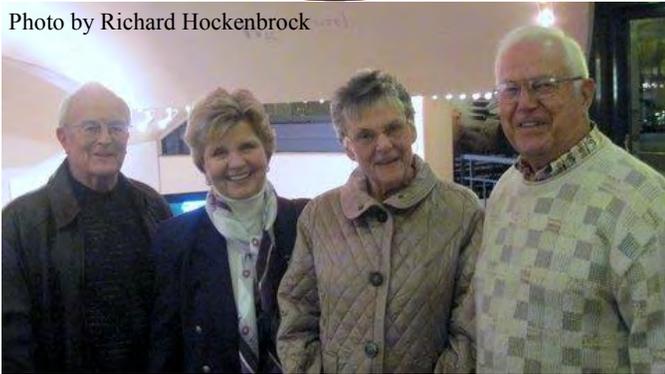
Dick Woodman, Bob Spellman, Peter Gates, Syd Whalen, Jim Meehan, Paul DuBow, Vince Rettew & Frank.

Frank had prepared a great lunch. We had fresh fruit with (2) tuna grilled sandwiches each and lots of fine wine. We discussed many subjects, mostly current events, then left for home. All had a great time.

Apple Computer Users

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The March meeting of the SIR Branch 146 Mac User Group (MUG) will be held at the Casey Memorial Library on Oak Grove Road, south of Ygnacio in Walnut Creek on Tuesday, March 5 from 2 to 4 pm.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bob and Charlotte Darius visit with **Jim and Lillian Passaglia** at "Singing in the Rain". 30 Branch 146 members and spouses attended the February 15th performance.

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Jeff Baily
Going forward we publish letters to the editor	
Proofreader	Dick DeVoe
Assistant Editor	Rich Ahlf
Labeling & Mailing	Bill Cammerer
Internet Posting	Webmaster Jack Hockel

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 branches.

Non-Responsibility Declaration
Rule 345: All activities arranged

for or by Sons in Retirement Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

Member Relations

Ben Gleason

We hope and expect that SIR Branch 146 is meeting or exceeding your expectations for social activities, recreation and friendship and that the facilities and operation of the branch are efficient and user-friendly.



For useful and interesting Branch 146 and State SIR information check out the "Branch Information" link on our homepage. That link will connect you with links to Branch Regulations, State SIR Site, Branch Financial Statements, BEC Minutes, SIR Happenings, Branch Calendar, Memorials and the Emergency Evacuation Plan from the Clubhouse at Boundary Oak.

We encourage your suggestions, criticism and requests. Also, let us know if there is something that you especially like that we could do more of. Please contact me with any of the above.

bgleason@sbcglobal.net

A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art."

"Really," replied the neighbor. "What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty." *Steve Siljestrom*



Photo by Bob Spellman

Garth Cummings, Dick Woodman and **Pete Gates** on a picture safari in a national game reserve in Africa circa 2009.



ROMEIO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Malcom Hendry

The ROMEIO group meets on the third Thursday at 6:30 PM. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, as well as those favorably reviewed in the media.

Come join us to experience dining in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with your fellow SIR and other male guests.

Our next meeting is March 21st at **Wences Restaurant** Sir **Dennis Kaump** has recommended this chef-owned and family run restaurant that has gotten raves for its delicious food from a diverse menu which features seafood, grill and pasta selections. A nice selection of wines and beer will complement your dinner, at reasonable prices. Separate checks will be provided for your convenience.

Sunshine

Walt Busenius
945-0715

Busenius@astound.net

We are deeply saddened with the passing of three of our long time Sirs last month. We offer our condolences and prayers:

To wife **Pat** and family on the passing of Sir **Jack White** on February 13th.

To wife **Judy** and family on the passing of Sir **James Locker** on February 14th.

To wife **Ollie** and family on the passing of Sir **Roderic Sharretts** on February 18th.

We also keep the following Sirs in our thoughts and prayers, asking for continued healing and good health.

John Denham
John Lively
Reggie Fromm
Elmer Kaprielian
Dominic DiMatteo
Bob Walton
Charlie Kiser
Jim Helmick
Bob Van Luchene
Tom Morgan

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is always welcomed.

If you are aware of a sick Sir, please let me know by phone or e-mail, as shown above, so that the Sir membership can be advised.



Book Corner

Ken Richter

The next time the Book Corner will be open will be the SIR Luncheon in March. Due to the great support of our members there will be extra tables added to display the books.

A question came up... Can I pick up books for my wife?

The answer is yes. One of our members at the last meeting did have a list of books that his wife wanted. Keep the books coming.



Photo by Jeff Bailly

Jim Passaglia at Gold # 1 on Feb 12

Check out our new website features... On the home page at www.sir146.com - a new Slide Show link and a user name and password needed for Branch Services and Branch Activities links for security reasons.

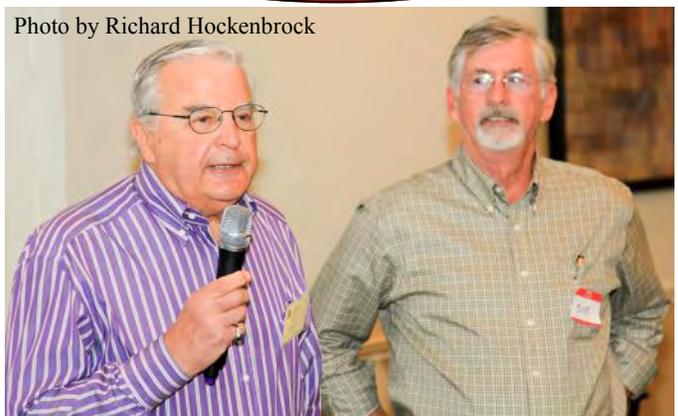


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Norm Baietti, a relatively new member, introducing his guest **Bob Larson** at the February luncheon

Bowling Larry Mitchell



On March 18th and 20th Branch 146 will be hosting the annual **Dave Valladao** memorial tournament.

This is our big event of the year and will be attracting bowlers from all branches in area 2. Last year we had 120 plus bowlers and this year expect about the same, maybe more, hopefully. Sign up sheets are now available and can be picked up any Wednesday while we are bowling league at Diablo Lanes or you can call **Larry Mitchell** at 925-798-5440. The events in the tournament will be singles, doubles, all events, scratch singles, and women's singles. Women must be the wife or significant other of a Sir to qualify. Needless to say all must be 55 or older.

Another tournament being held in March is in Petaluma on the 4th and 6th. The events in this tournament are the same as described above. If sign up sheets are needed please call **Larry** at the number above.



Phil Goff



Derek Southern

Area 2

Computers and Technology Group

Phil Goff and **Derek Southern** Co-chairs

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. See you there.

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group invites all Sirs and their guests to our next meeting at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, March 21st at 9am.

Neil Schmidt will delve into the current state of Speech Recognition technology. He will present an overview of how computers recognize spoken words, how applications use this technology, he will demonstrate a number of these applications, and will attempt to predict where this technology is heading.

Today's computers and smartphones all have speech recognition applications either built-in or available that can be extremely useful to most users. The word recognition accuracy of these applications has dramatically increased in recent years and some of the newer applications are not only recognizing words but interpreting the meaning of these words. Speech recognition applications have rapidly expanded from the automated telephone systems implemented a few years ago to new and impressive language translators and intelligent personal assistants that actually work. These advancements are leading to many new and interesting uses to help us in our everyday lives.

Time permitting, **Dick Curry** will then lead a Q&A discussion to address current computer issues that you identify. So please bring your questions and join us for a fun and informative session. As always there will be coffee and cookies available before and during the meeting.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Honorary Life Member **Don Nunn**, stage center, being awarded the 20 year certificate at the February 14th branch luncheon



Photo by Gary Schaub

Ron and Diane DeGolia, along with **Peter and Carole Miller**, visit in the lobby before "Singing in the Rain" by Diablo Theatre Company at the Leshar Center on Feb. 15.

A man got on the bus with one of his front trouser pockets full of golf balls and sat down next to a beautiful (you guessed it) blonde.

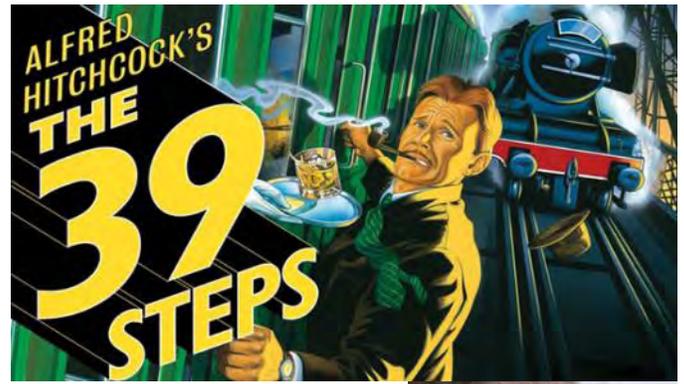
The puzzled blonde kept looking at him and his bulging pocket.

Finally, after many glances from her, he said, "Its golf balls."

The blonde continued to look at him for a very long time, thinking deeply about what he had said.

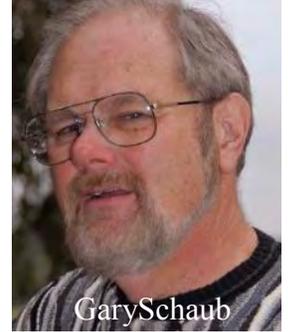
After several minutes, not being able to contain her curiosity any longer, she asked, "Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow ?

Trampas Topics



Last Call for SIR 146 Theatre Party on April 17

Theatre



Gary Schaub

It's wild ride in the theatre when Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps takes to the stage on Wednesday, April 17 at Leshar Center for a SIR 146 Theatre Party.

The Center Repertory Company production is the thriller adapted from the 1935 Hitchcock movie. It mixes a juicy spy novel with zany non-stop laughs that makes for a fast-paced evening. To make it more fun, the nearly 150 characters in the production are portrayed by a talented cast of just 4 actors!

This may be a long way from the 1935 Hitchcock movie, but it promises to provide a great evening of good old fashioned fun. The play will keep you guessing and laughing. It plays at breakneck speed, and is played for laughs all the way.

The 39 Steps was chosen as "Best New Comedy" for its London production, and was described by the New York Times reviewer as "throwaway theatre at its finest."

A limited number of discounted tickets at a group rate of \$25.00 have been set aside for SIR members and guests for the Wednesday, April 17 performance. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets, send a check payable to SIR 146 for \$25.00 each to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1758 Candelero Court, Walnut Creek 94598. Deadline for reservations is March 14 or when our allotment has been reached.

Tickets will be distributed in the ground floor lobby of Leshar Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:00 p.m. on performance night. Paid parking is available in the City's garage adjacent to the Leshar Center.



Photo by Gary Schaub

Little Sir **Doug Eisner** and his wife **Patricia** enjoy a moment before the SIR146 theatre party for "Singing in the Rain" on Feb. 15 at Leshar Center for the Arts



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

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

We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet on the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 11:30am at Masse's 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours, but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All Sirs in our Area 2 are welcome.

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 Mac interest group will meet Tuesday March 5th at the Thurman Casey Library from 2-4 PM. After your golf, successful or not, you can drop by our meeting learn more about you Mac computer, iPod, iPad or iPhone. Maybe some of the PC users have an iPhone.

We apologize for the time and the possibility that some attendees will have to shorten or miss the 19th hole. We have been finding it hard to find available times at the Casey Library. We are looking at a solution for that problem.

As usual, **Max** and **Verner** will start out trying to answering questions about your Mac product. After that Max will talk about the iCloud and other items that he has found interesting. Verner is prepared to talk about Preview and Quicktime. Both products that Mac users find free on their machines. Come to think of it Quicktime is also available for free for use on the PC.

Our goal is to provide some information that is of use and interest to the attendee.



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 **John Lewis**

We now have more women than men on most walks. We would like to recognize the ladies' contribution to our group.

March 1 **Roberta Wilson** Walk--Canal Walk east of Deli Delight

Meet: Deli-Delight parking on S. Wiget near Kaiser Shadelands

Walk: East on Contra Costa Canal

Coffee: Deli-Delight

March 8 **Ann Mitchell** Walk --Black Diamond Way

Meet: Clayton Library

Walk: Black Diamond Way in Clayton

Coffee: Deli-Delight near Kaiser

Shadelands on Wiget

March 15 **Dorothy Matthews** Walk--St. Mary's Walk
Meet: St Mary's parking lot on St Mary's side of the road

Walk: Behind and around St Mary's

Campus

Coffee: St. Mary's Coffee Shop

March 22 **Charlotte Fowler** Walk--Osage Park

Meet: Take 680S to Sycamore Valley East exit to first right on Camino Ramon to left on El Capitan to first left after crossing the Iron Horse Trail. Parking lot on right.

Walk: Around Osage Park and check the roses

Coffee: Pascal's in Danville

March 29-- **Donna Madge** Walk--Buckeye Ranch

Meet: From 24 Freeway, take Pleasant Hill Rd. to left on Springhill Rd. to the end

Walk: Walk north on Buckeye Ranch

Trail

Coffee: La Scala, Walnut Creek, near Main and Civic

Apologies to **Marie Ascatigno, Adelaide Chavez, Ruth Lyle, Sue McCarley, Marcy Morgan, Dorothy Powell, Mari Schild, Ollie Sharretts, Donna Snyder, Rose Guinn, Marty Nesty, Margaret McCallum**. We ran out of space.

*Editor's note: My thanks to **Flo Lewis** for submitting this column totally formatted.*

That's not an easy thing to accomplish.

BN 31 please call Jim Burk or Chuck Campbell regarding your free lunch.

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

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