



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

October—November 2024



Big Sir's Corner

Congratulations To **Bruce Borgman** on his being selected for the Honorary Life Member Award for his exceptional service to the Branch. On joining he immediately volunteered to lead

the Couples Dining Out group, then the SongSIRs group leading up to the roles of assistant secretary, secretary, Little and Big SIR. Many thanks to you **Bruce** for your dedication to Branch 146 and SIR in general!

In late September, the State SIR Officers held a gathering to confirm the slate of new State Officers and to discuss the Way Forward for the organization which has seen a significant reduction in membership over the last several years. The following summarizes some of the key slides that were part of the presentation:

- Membership peaked at 31,975 in 1992 and has since declined at 4%/yr to 8,640
- At that rate it will be Zero in 2036, but at the accelerated post Covid rate it will become zero in 2030
- In 1988 the typical branch had 270 members. In 2023 that had declined to 100 members/branch
- In 2000 we had 180 branches. That has now declined to 84 branches
- Forty-eight branches have less than 100 members, sixteen have fewer than 50 members
- Forty-one or nearly half of the branches have declining memberships, only seven are increasing by 10% +
- The average age of our branches is 80
- Branch 146's average age is 80+, we are in the top 5 in membership, and we are growing by more than 10%

So, while Branch 146 is relatively healthy and active in some 47 different activities, we share the challenges of an aging population. We, as well as all the branches, need to continue to bring in new members and especially younger members to renew our energy and to

identify new ideas for activities that appeal to them. The State SIR Board cannot make this happen alone, so they are appealing to the branch leaders to join them in developing a strategic way forward and to help implement plans that will sustain our SIR organization.

Issues might include:

- How do we get better recognition within our local communities where fewer than 2% know we exist
- Do we need to have a professional advertising group assist us
- What do we need to do to attract younger members
- How can we help branches that are declining reverse the process
- Do we need a state organization to provide legal, insurance, tax management and strategic

Activities for you...

- [Reserve for Ladies Day](#) Page 4
- [Calendar of Events](#) Page 13
- [Take a Hike!](#) Page 19
- [Need a good read?](#) Page 23
- [Have a bike?](#) Page 17
- [Take a trip?](#) Page 15
- [Something's Fishy](#) Page 24

Luncheon

Thursday, November 14th, 2024
Boundary Oak 11:30

Chuck Kohler, a Pearl Harbor survivor
Jim Etherington the Veteran's Affordable Home
Ownership Program

A reservation is required!

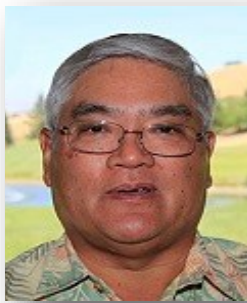
**To make yours and choose your entrée
go to page 3. (click Here!)**

oversight

- Do we need to change some of our “history” like logo, name, titles, focus on retirement etc.

Think about all the positives that you have gained through your experience with SIRs. Would you be willing to sit in on a few SIRs Zoom meetings to help guide the State SIR Board in their Strategic Planning efforts to sustain SIR? You can contact me john@klueseners.com or our State President Rich Carlston at Rich.Carlston@icloud.com if you are interested, but let me know if that is the case.

John Kluesener
Big Sir, Branch 146



Membership George Mon

Three new members were approved in October.

Albert “Al” Guzman lives in Danville with his wife **Darlene**. He was Chief of Police for Union City and then served as Director of Support Services for the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Dept. He is a transfer from Branch 116. **Al** is sponsored by **Ron Polivka**.

Ronald “Ron” Stoltz lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Susan**. He was in Engineering Science for Sandia National Laboratory. He enjoys wine tasting, books and movies. **Ron** is sponsored by **Bob Wilkenfeld**.

Mark Raaberg lives in Concord. He was in Banking and Finance for Polypath. He is interested in ping pong, archery and tai chi. He is sponsored by **Paul Dubow**.

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 have a goal to invite at least 50 guests to our luncheons for this year. We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see them at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a member of SIR.

The 2024 membership count is 271.

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 Members 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
925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

Little Sir’s Corner Bob Ford



I am very pleased to announce that the speaker for our November Veteran’s Day Luncheon will be Chuck Kohler, a Pearl Harbor survivor. He will be escorted by Jim Etherington who works with the

Vetern’s Affordable Home Ownership Program. And to wrap up the year, a Quartet from Diablo Vista Chorus will cheer us with some holiday music. Our new Little Sir for next year, **Thom Degnan**, will be taking over finding speakers for next year so please let him know if you have any contacts for speakers. I hope to see you all in November.

Bob Ford
Little Sir, Branch 146

SIRCall Newsletter Group

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

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.



Luncheon Chairman

Steve Oki

We are nearing the end of the year. You should be getting Membership dues requests in the mail soon. Please remember, you can opt to pay for lunches as an annual payer and pay for 8 of the regular lunches

and get 2 regular lunches free. The two Ladies Day luncheons in May and December are special and are handled separately.

The links behind the entree items on the menu will generate an email for you to send, if it does not, please send an email message with your choice manually to AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com. Be sure to include your menu choice!

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon:

Date: Thursday, November 14th, 2024

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$36 per person

Reservation:

All Luncheons require a reservation; you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. The menu makes this easy for you to do this; simply click the appropriate meal link.

If you do not reserve by Friday, November 8th by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

Check-In: 11:00am The meeting starts at 11:30am.

Payment: The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check in.

Other matters:

If you don't have e-mail, you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to include your meal choice from the menu!

Change of Plans?

If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to:

Friday, November 8th by Noon

and you will not be charged.

Send email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or

Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members:

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please call Steve Oki at 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



SIR 146 November Luncheon

Thursday, November 14th, 2024

Salad

Arugula Salad

Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese, Herb Vinaigrette

Entrées

Crispy Chicken Costaletta

Yukon Gold Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables,
Creamy Lemon Sauce

—or—

Herb Roasted Cod

Garlic Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables,
Creamy Lemon Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Spinach and Ricotta Stuffed Manicotti
Fresh Mozzarella and House Marinara

Dessert

Pumpkin Cheese Cake

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée! Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.





Ladies Day Luncheon
Steve Ybarra

The Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 12th, 2024. The cost for this event is \$39 per person. Doors open at 10:30am so SIR members and their guests can socialize until 11:30am which is when the luncheon will be called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations, using the form below, should be sent to **Steve Ybarra** and received by Friday, December 6, 2024. Please make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$39.00 per person.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



SIR 146
December Ladies Day Luncheon
 Thursday December 12th, 2024

Salad
 Seasonal Salad

Entrées
Seared Marinated Bistro Fillet
 Caramelized Shallot au jus
 Mashed potatoes
 Seasonal Vegetables

—or—

Pan Seared Farm Raised Salmon
 Confetti Rice Pilaf
 Seasonal Vegetables

—or—

Manicotti
 Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert
 Red Velvet Cake

For the Ladies Luncheon events you need to use this reservation form.

The 'click to reserve' menu will resume with the January Luncheon.



SIR 146 Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

Number of Tickets _____ at \$39 ea. Amount Enclosed \$_____ We are sitting with: _____

Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Total Paid" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check made payable to SIR Branch 146 to:

Steve Ybarra
 142 Leonard Dr.
 Concord, CA 94518-1213.

#	F Name, L Name	Beef Fillet	Salmon	Vegetarian Manicotti	Total Paid
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

*There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!
 Reservations must be received by December 6th.*

**2024
Officers and Directors**

Big Sir.....**John Kluesener**
 Little Sir.....**Bob Ford**
 Secretary **Don Shaw**
 Assistant Secretary**John Rexroat**
 Treasurer**Mike Rothman**
 Assistant Treasurer**Tom Amann**
 Director 3rd Term**Edward Brands**
 Director 1st Term **Mark Curtis**
 Director 2nd Term**Randy Graham**
 Director 1st Term**John Alexander**
 Director 4th Term **George Mon**
 Director 1st Term **Don Rhoads**

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment**Randy Graham**
 Activities**Glenn Breslin**
 Member Relations**Edward Brands**
 Publicity**John Alexander**

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

**2025
Officers and Directors**

Big Sir.....**Bob Ford**
 Little Sir.....**Thom Degnan**
 Secretary **Don Shaw**
 Assistant Secretary**John Rexroat**
 Treasurer**Mike Rothman**
 Assistant Treasurer**Tom Amann**
 Director 1st Term**Mike Davidson**
 Director 1st Term**Jim Crites**
 Director 2nd Term**Mark Curtis**
 Director 2nd Term**Randy Graham**
 Director 2nd Term**John Alexander**
 Director 2nd Term**Don Rhoads**

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment**Randy Graham**
 Activities **Glenn Breslin**
 Member Relations**Edward Brands**
 Publicity**John Alexander**

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



John Aaro	Rich Pace
John Boyan	Cliff Perkins
Jim Brown	Don Rhoads
James Browning	Daniel Schlatter
John Elstead	Ken Soult
Hugh Ferguson	Lewis Thompson
Bob Greulich	Bob Wilkenfeld
Richard Hockenbrock	Aaron Needel
Dan Holland	Rex Rexroat
Siegfried Kalteis	Howard Herbert
John Kendrick	John Reilly
Ronald Louis	Mike Kimsal
Frank Lucas	
Pete Mcneill	

Birthdays



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

The Holiday season is upon us. What I jokingly refer to as "HoloGivingMass" thanks to the retailers who put their Christmas ornaments up next to the Halloween ghosts, pumpkins and

goblins and wonder how to slip in a turkey.

It is even busier for your editors; working on the prep of this newsletter with all of the parties, gatherings and activities; SIR and others. It makes me appreciate all of the activity chairs who get their articles in throughout the month rather than waiting for our deadline. You

make the preparation of SIRCall a pleasure, not a task! I hope Santa or Charlie Brown's Great Pumpkin, whomever you believe in, is kind to each and every one of you.

Last submission date for the next issue will be November 18th. And, don't forget, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SIRC-all@gmail.com, put "Member Note" in the subject line.

I shall wait for the December issue to wish you all season's greetings but for now, if you will excuse me I think I will go have an egg nogg with my Snickers bar and turkey sandwich!

Clint Collier—Editor SIR Call
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

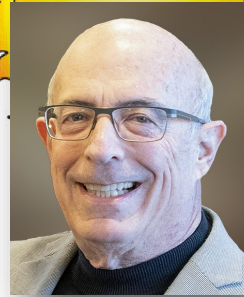
NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Craig Kauffman	2019	5
Robert H. Ford	2019	5
Robert J. Mcneill	2019	5
Brian J. Downie	2017	7
Ron Afdal	2014	10
Richard Hockenbrock	2012	12
Al Munayer	2009	15
Ron Louis	2008	16
Russ Anderson	2005	19
Joe Barry	2005	19
Ron Plachy	2005	19
Bill Snyder	1997	27
Bob Yolland	1997	27
Don Nunn	1994	30
Jack Calloway	1992	32



Sunshine Brian McCarthy



Let us keep the pictured SIR members 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 advised. *Stay Healthy.*



Pat O'Keefe



Bud Pearce



Norm Baietti

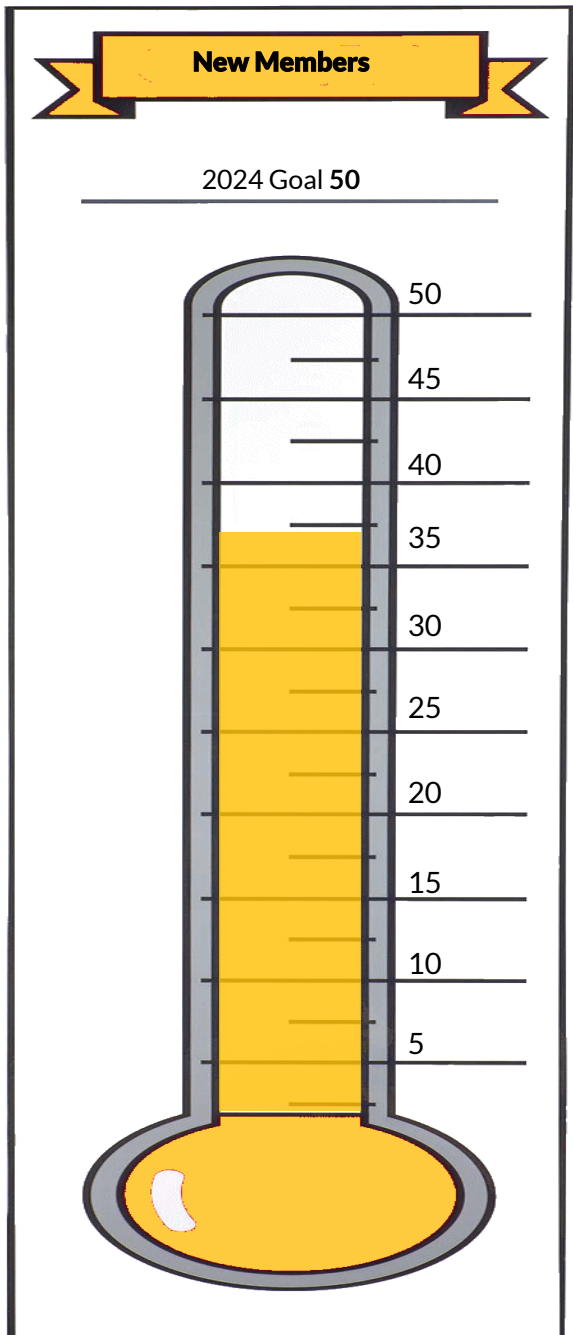
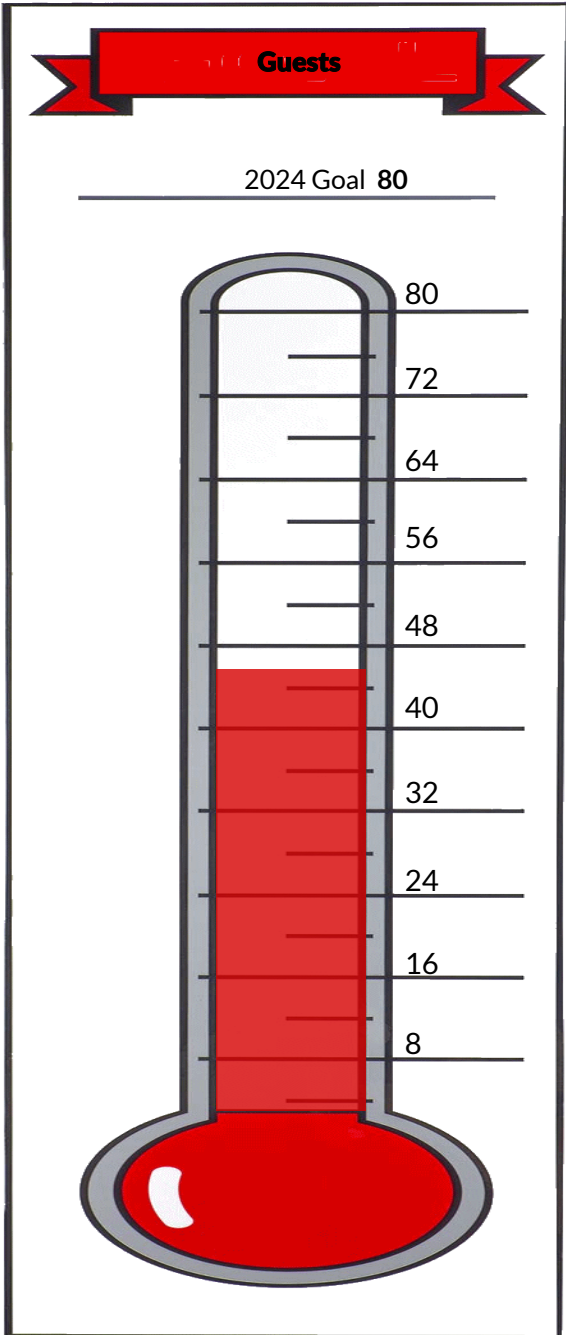


Richard Hockenbrock

Membership starts with



You are the key to new members to keep SIR vibrant

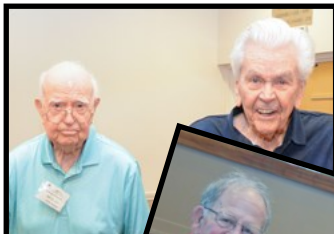


October Meeting

Photos by Henry Thatcher



Welcoming Crew





Mark Raaberg



Ron Stolz



Al Guzman



Bruce Borgman
presented Honorary Life Member Award
by State SIR Treasurer **Carl Mason**
along with
Bob Yolland and **Big Sir John Kluesener**
[His wife, Sue, approves!]



Celebrating 90 years!
Senior Sir Presidential Award
presented to
Richard Hanford
by **Big Sir John Kluesener**



Bob Yolland





Make Friends for Life

NOTES

from Our Members

Looking for a few good spouses...

We (Dana, Sue, Ann and Bobbie) are wives of SIR members and play pickleball regularly.

We play in the mornings, usually Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. We are looking for an advanced beginner that would be able to fill in on an occasional basis.

If there are any SIR wives out there that would be interested please contact Sue Oranje: suezots@gmail.com



Blue Angels Bay Sail

A hardy group of SIR members and spouses enjoyed a full day of seeing a spectacular air show on Sunday, October 13, cruising the bay on the SS *Jeremiah O'Brien*, a WWII Liberty Ship. The highlight was of course the aerial acrobatics of the Blue Angels. There were 10 of us who attended this event.



One of the remaining "Rosie the Riveter" ladies shared her experiences with us!





Looking for something to do...

**Activities Coordinator
Glenn Breslin**



Hi to all SIR Members !! Are you aware that SIR Branch 146 has 48 different group activities and 29 of the 48 activities are available to spouses or significant others. If you are looking for something to enrich your life, then go ahead and click on any activity located at www.sir146.com. Just select one of the icons and it will pull up a full description of that activity with the chairman's contact information. If you haven't found an activity that you like, the most popular activities are Golf and Mexican Train Dominoes. If you want to be trained to play Mexican Train Dominoes, just let me know.

Still not finding an interest? How about starting a new activity; I can assist you with that. We greatly appreciate the efforts of all of the Activity Chairs and what they do to keep the our 271 members involved in stimulating activities. The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life. You all have done a great job of implementing this mission! You continue to make SIR146 a successful social organization. SIR would not be the same without you. Please continue to let me know how I can help you continue this success or if you need support in any way.

Description	Totals
Total Activities	48
Total Co-Ed Activities	29
Percent Co-Ed Activities	60%
Total Unique Activities	28
BR146 activities shared with other branches	12
Other SIR Branch Groups Activities Shared with SIR146	15

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity as well as contact information

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

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar November 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28	29	30	31	Nov 1
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm–4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf			10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
4	5	6	7	8
9:45am–3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 12:30pm–2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr
11	12	13	14	15
10:00am Hiking 11:30am–1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm–7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	8:30am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's	9:00am–10:45am BEC Meeting 10:30am–1:30pm Book Corner 11:30am–1:30pm SIR Luncheon	9:00am–11:00am Photography Group Rocco's Pizzeria 10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
18	19	20	21	22
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 12:00 Noon SIR Call for December Articles due 4:00pm Couples Dining Out Wences, Pleasant Hill	9:00am Golf	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm–10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	7:30am–9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
25	26	27	28	29
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm–4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	12:30pm–3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1	



Travel Glenn Breslin

The SIR Travel objective is to enable SIR members who would like to travel with other SIR members. To meet this objective SIR146 Travel will join with multiple other SIR Branches to schedule travel trips. If you are interested in joining other SIRs to travel within California or nationally or internationally, then please request and fill out the [SIR Travel Questionnaire](#).

When SIR members share their travel destination and how they like to travel, then I can plan SIR trips that may be of interest to other members.

SIR Travel Plan:

- **Done** Sept and October – Obtained the majority of SIR Travel Questionnaires from SIR146 and other SIR Branches. Newly received questionnaires will still be accepted as input to future SIR Travel Trips.
- **Done** October - Narrowed down the In-Common Destinations to these 5 Destinations:
 - [Australia/New Zealand](#),
 - [Korea/Japan](#),
 - [New England/Fall Colors](#),
 - [England/Scotland/Ireland](#),
 - [Vietnam](#)
- **In Progress** October and November – Meet with everyone that chose these 5 In-Common destinations. These meetings serve to clarify how these members prefer to travel and to receive input on proposed trips.
- November – Choose 2 or 3 travel destinations from In-Common destinations
- December – Based upon both Travel Questionnaire results and SIR input, create Travel Flyers for 2 or 3 new SIR trips and distribute to SIR members. These trips will start in fall 2025 or in Early 2026.

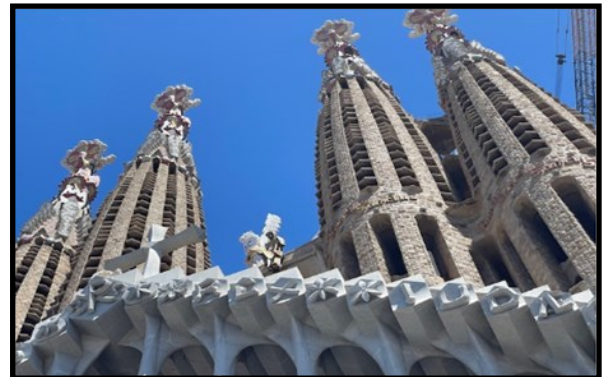
Travel Quotes:

“Sharing adventures means enjoying them 100% more.”

“Travel far, travel wide, but always travel with a friend by your side.”

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



I believe in a better World!

Where chickens can cross the road
without having their motives questioned.



Theater Glenn Breslin

Theater Events at the Leshar Theater

The ABBA Concert Experience (Tribute Performance)

- **Date:** Sat., January 18, 7:30 pm
- **Price:** \$58 per ticket – discounted group rate
- **When Are Tickets Available:** Look for the email announcement in late November.
- **Desc:** The ABBA Concert Experience reigns supreme as the eight-piece production performs all the greatest hits of one of the world's most beloved Super-Groups of the 70's. From the smash stage musical Mamma Mia to all the music chart favorites that made this group famous, you'll hear the music and see) all the costumes, and lights of the original ABBA shows, duplicated to near perfection.
- **Optional Dinner:** An optional dinner will be scheduled at 5 PM—before the performance
- **Ticket Distribution:** Leshar Lobby between 6:45 and 7:10 PM on Sat 1/18 – before the show

SAVE THE DATE – Look for a Mid-November email announcing the details for this show:

Eagles Tribute Band – Take It To The Limit

Date: Tue., February 04, 7:30 PM

Shows at Leshar Theater – Walnut Creek

- Location: Leshar Theater, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek.
- Parking in Adjacent Parking Garage.

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

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Whenever I try to eat healthy a chocolate bar looks at me and snickers



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

September 24th: Beat the heat. We rolled at 8:30 with **Jim Crites, Jim Nelson, Jim Rowland, Ken Studer** and **Larry Kaye**. A loop thru the Danville Diablo back roads. For fun I threw in some hills. Discovered at the start that

my left foot cleat was defective. My fault it turns out, so it was one leg **Larry** leading today. We climbed, we climbed and then We climbed again. The grades approached 10%. A strain but navigable. Using lots of side streets and more hills, we eventually got back to the start. Java and a real seat sure felt good today. Heard a good quote today from Brother **Nelson**: "We can still fog a mirror". Off your butts and move. Age is debilitating if you let it.

September 23rd: Today was to be a back country ride out Bollinger Canyon. **Bill Ross, Jim Crites, Bob Lucido, Thom Degnan** and **Larry Kaye** were in attendance. Off we went. Early to beat the heat. The road to the end of the Canyon is outstanding. Pure country. Farms, ranches, horses and the occasional car. We got there and used the facilities. Then we enjoyed a speedy 5 mile downhill. Heading East on Norris canyon to the San Ramon area was a bit anticlimactic. Noisy. Thru the town and back to Danville we rode. Back streets and trails opened for us. We sped along heading back to Alamo where we knew the heat was starting to rise. The site of our cars was exhilarating. Air on we said goodbye and sped home. Wrinkles do not make you old. Seasoned is more like it.

September 30th: The SIR 146 Cycling Group had one of our weekly rides on Tuesday, September 30th. The weather was forecasted to hit 105 degrees today, so we got an early start at 8AM to get the ride completed in reasonable temperatures. The 22-mile ride started at the Alamo Peets, South down Danville Blvd, east on Sycamore Valley Drive, which turns into Camino Tassajara, east several miles where we did a U-turn at Charbray St./Blackhawk Dr., back to Danville Blvd, north to Alamo for a much-deserved coffee stop at Peets. Organizing Tuesday's ride was **Moose Kelly** and **Thom Degnan**, and joined by **Elmer Bricca, Eric Finson, Jim Rowland, Eric Finson** and **Pat Hoy**. Starting early and finishing by 10am was a good plan to avoid the extreme heat. Thanks to all for joining. **Thom Degnan** and **Moose**.

October 8th: What a ride. 11 Spandex guys from 146 showed up today. Off we went to explore a trail left undiscovered in outer Dublin. Picture a group of guys stretched out along the various roadways. What a site. **Moose Kelley, Tom Alborg, Thom Degnan, Jim Rowland, Bill Holly, Jim Nelson, Ken Studer** with his rocket, **Jim Crites** with new shoes, **Bob Wilkenfeld** back from another World trip, **Bill Ross**, and **Larry Kaye**. We rode off and found the trail. After some many miles it appeared. Nice smooth wide and not much humanity present. Taking the trail we meandered thru then back to San Ramon and hot Peets for fuel. Then it was off to home. A few chose the flats and a few of us took some hills in our legs. The ride was done as we returned to Alamo with our steel horses. Another day of proof that exercise really pays dividends. Leave the couch.

October 11th: Today's Friday morning ride was attended by **Thom Degnan**, who organized our event, **Jim Nelson**, who led the ride, **Bill Holly, Jim Crites, Elmer Bricca**, and **Moose Kelly**. We met at Pleasant Hill Park to explore the hills on Reliez Valley Road into Martinez. The gang stopped at State Street Cafe to beat the rush to enjoy coffee, pastries et al. Continuing out of Martinez into Concord to the Iron Horse Train. We had to dismount our trusty machines to walk through some fences that were partially erect. The gang of six continued along the Iron Horse Trail to the back streets of Pleasant Hill to our meeting place of Pleasant Hill Park. The spandex brothers celebrated with a picture of our 20 mile accomplishment in gorgeous weather. There is nothing like Fall cycling!!!

October 18th: Wow. How else can one put it? Today we rode Lady Diablo. **Eric Finson, Bill Ross, Bob Lucido, Jim Crites** and **Larry Kaye**. It was a celebration of sorts for my 84th Birthday. The Spandex guys did it. Up we went. The weather was out of a magazine perfect. The road with its new bike turnouts was super. Few cars and a nice breeze added to the enjoyment. Then the fun began. Downhill at speed. A blast. Everyone had an awesome ride and memories of a fun trip. This thing about age being a debilitating thing is pure crap. Get up and get out. We live in a wonderful climate and all it takes is to open your door and take a step.

Larry Kaye
925.698.430

Pictures on the Following Page



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs sang on October 4 at the Carlton Retirement Home in Pleasant Hill.

Our performance was well received and many people were singing along with us as we sang such favorites as "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," "Come Go With Me" and "Happy Trails To You." It was a great trip down memory lane for all of us.

Our next rehearsal is on November 6 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. The November 6 rehearsal is dedicated to work on the Armed Forces music to salute our veterans at the November luncheon. We will also rehearse our Christmas carols in preparation for our December 6 date at Ivy Park Retirement Home in Walnut Creek.

We are always looking for new members and have asked Sir Branches 8 and 116 Singers to join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



Paul Beretz, Lynn Shafer, Mike Ball,
Bruce Borgman, Steve Dinning,
Ron Lew, Peter Plante

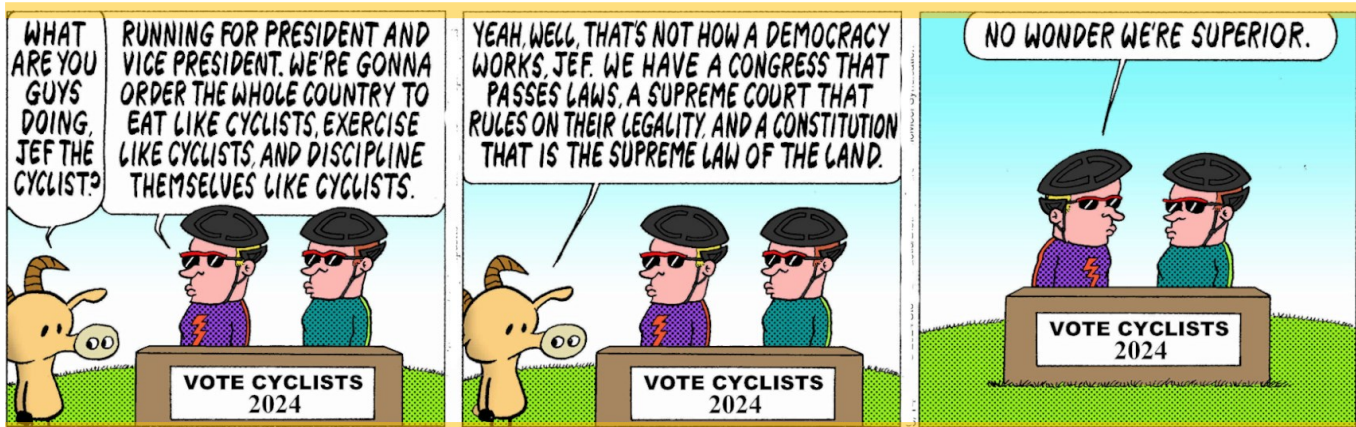




Table Pool Jim Barry

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested in joining the fun we meet at Masses at noon. Send me an email if any questions.

Jim Barry

jbarry@sbcglobal.net



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Come out and enjoy some of this beautiful fall weather and play a round of golf 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



Bocce John Kendrick

The 2024 SIR146 Bocce Ball activity is officially complete. There were existing and new members who enjoyed this great outdoor activity.

The Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, May through October at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord. Ladies are welcome.

Mark in your calendar May 12 as the official start of the 2025 SIR146 Bocce Ball activity.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Tuesday Golf Ed Marlovits

Tuesday Golf is the SIR Branch 146 Golf Club. As a member you'll enjoy organized weekly golf competitions, opportunities to participate in inter-branch, Area and State SIR golf tournaments and outings, and with your club membership obtain a recognized golf handicap. The cost of belonging to our Golf Club is \$80.00 per year which covers NCGA membership (see below for NCGA benefits), member's lunches at selected golf events, and club administrative expenses. Golfers who wish to join the "Prize Fund" pay an additional \$36.00 per year - a total of \$116.00. The prize fund is used to pay cash awards to the winners of weekly stroke play competitions. By joining SIR Branch 146 Golf Club, you'll get all these benefits plus the camaraderie of others who share your love of the game of golf.

Ed Marlovits



Hiking Mark Curtis

Here we are in mid Fall and the warm spell just ended! The next challenge will be to schedule hikes for days without rain. I'm not really sure about the number of active versus non active

hikers, but attendance has been great over the last several months. We still have the same active core, but I might be bowing out soon. If I'm in pain for most of a hike, it no longer makes sense for me to continue. **Ray Martz** has been a valued assistant in scheduling hikes, but he has zero interest in the administrative part, including writing this article. So maybe he or someone else can step up to schedule and I will do this function for a while, anyway.

The most recent hikes have been Wildcat Canyon (very difficult), Reinhardt Redwood (pleasant; not too long and not too much climbing), and MDSP. We split into 2 groups at MDSP; the tough guy group climbed Black Point & the sissies, including me, did an out and back on Mitchell Canyon trail. Both groups were interested in finding tarantula spiders. No luck for either group.

All the hikes we plan are in the order of 5 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. I do try to select at least 1 venue each month that has much less than 1000 feet of climbing. The notifications for each hike via email will generally describe the difficulty, easy, moderate, or strenuous.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you



Old age comes at a bad time.



Photo Taken at Reinhardt Redwood on Stream trail:
L/R, **Bob Wilkenfeld, John Alexander, Earl Bates, Gene Schulting, Jim Crites, Ray Martz, Cleo Bolen**

have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com





AREA 16 Fishing Report

In Lake Tahoe, the locals call the period between Labor Day and the start of skiing the “shoulder season” and we fishermen are in a sort of shoulder season right now as the halibut

catch is waning and we anticipate fishing for trout in the local reservoirs beginning in December. However, we have been catching plenty of rockfish and stripers.

One needs to be careful where to fish for rockfish. The rules of the Department of Fish and Wildlife state that in some months rockfish can only be caught in depths in excess of 300 feet and in other months they can only be caught in depths less than 300 feet. When the fishing is in deep water, the best and virtually only place to fish is the Farallon Islands. The fish are a lot bigger there, but it is a two-hour trip from the coast in each direction. September was a “shallow” month, which meant that we could fish from many locations within sight of the shore and some of us took advantage of that. **Carl Moyer** made six rockfishing trips and loaded up supplies for the semi-annual fish fry at his home with the next one scheduled for November 6th. **Dennis Lee** and **Nic Jabuka** tried their luck in the rockfish department and did well. **Nic** also caught about 20 perch fishing from the beach, but he was skunked on an outing on his boat out of Monterey.

The striper fishing remained active. **Carl Moyer**, **Dennis Lee**, and I sailed out at 7:30 am on the *Pacific Pearl* and caught stripers on nearly every cast. Most of them were shakers, but we had our limit of two keepers each by 9:30. We then tried to fish for halibut, and we were not as successful. Our bag was a single halibut caught by **Carl**.

Tom Kostik made three trips to the Delta and caught 24 stripers, 16 of which were keepers. On another trip, he and **Dennis Lee** picked up 35 stripers, including 7 keepers. **Phil Scimonelli** landed over 50 stripers fishing from the Antioch Pier. Keepers are rarely caught at the pier and that was true in Phil’s case. Note, however, that the minimum for stripers is 18 inches and so it is certainly fun catching (and releasing) fish that are 16 and 17 inches. The big event, however, that day for **Phil** was his assisting another fisherman land a large salmon from the pier. The fish was released because of the current ban on salmon fishing.

Ron Lew caught quite a few leopard sharks from his boat and also caught some stripers fishing from his kayak.

Outside of the Bay Area, **Gary Palhegyi** caught black bass in Pinecrest Lake and **Ken Bellindir** flew to San Jose del Cabo and brought home about 60 lbs. of dorado and yellowfin tuna.

We said goodbye to the *Sundance*. We fished for salmon, halibut, lingcod and rockfish on this sixpack for 20 years. RJ Waldron, its captain and owner, sold the boat to a charter operator in Washington and some of us watched a video of the good old boat sailing out of the Golden Gate to its new home in the Pacific Northwest. RJ has a new boat, and we are looking forward to continuing to fish with him.

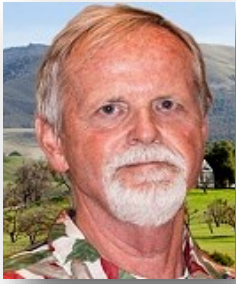
We conducted our 2025 calendar meeting at **Brion Beetz**’ home and enjoyed the hearty breakfast that he prepared for us. In addition to our regular outings in the Bay Area, we have trips planned for Mexico, Alaska, Lake Almanor, Pyramid Lake, New Melones Reservoir and some other excellent locations.

Our next meeting will be on November 21 at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, in Concord. Although we usually meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, this meeting and the meeting in December are on the third Thursday because of the holidays. You are welcome to join us, even if you have never fished or have not fished in a long time. The meetings begin at 8:30 am but come earlier for breakfast (beginning at 7 am) for camaraderie and fish stories.

For further information, please call me at 510.504.3566.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566

Of course size matters,
No one wants a small taco



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting for the SIR Branch 146 Photography Group will take place at the Walnut Creek Library located at 1644 North Broadway in Walnut Creek in the Las Trampas Room on the second floor on Friday, October 25th at 9 AM. By the time this article reaches you, we will be in late October. Please mark your calendar for an end of the year luncheon at Rocco's on Friday, November 15th at 10 AM.

The photography crew met Friday, September 27th at the Walnut Creek Library. We had a small showing which is unusual but it happens once in a while. Although we lack the numbers, we made up for it in spirit and donuts. The enthusiastic attendees were: **Jim Roland, Mike Rothman, Phil Lee** (Welcome Phil), **Richard Pace, Billy Holly** (computer operator extraordinaire - thanks Dr. Holly), and Mr. **Moose**.

Our meeting consisted of the following topics:

- Discussion of future meetings > October 25th (at Walnut Creek Library) and November 15th (at Rocco's)
- Future photo shoot at the Oakland Zoo in Mid-October. Info will be forth coming.
- CBS Sunday Morning clip on Russell Lee, photographer, who is a Social Documentarian of Coal Miners in the 1940's

- Presentation of photos of the University of CA at Berkeley photo shoot arranged by **Mike Rothman** (OUTSTANDING job, Miker!! THANK YOU!!)
- Presentation of GREAT photos by **Jim Roland** on red-tail hawk taking off.
- Short video on Truk Lagoon which led us to our guest speaker, Richard (Chard) Nelson

We were very fortunate to have our guest speaker, Richard (Chard) Nelson. Chard has been a scuba diver, underwater photographer / videographer for roughly 30 years. Chard presented the tips and tricks of the equipment that he uses for underwater photography. Mr. Nelson tied his presentation with a three-minute slide show with music of the various pictures that he shot at Truk Lagoon. AND THOSE PICTURES WERE SUPERB!!! The group wanted to go into the photos in a bit more depth but time ran out. Chard is happy to return to present and discuss those underwater photos of Truk Lagoon as well as other dive sites from around the world.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Henry Thatcher**. 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

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Birds at a Fountain
Mike Rothman



Einstein and Ahlf
"Glenn"



Red Tail Hawk in Flight
Jim Roland



Birding Ted Robertson

SIR Birding Trip

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Field Trip Report.

On the morning of October 9th, an enthusiastic group of five SIR birders explored Briones regional Park walking a two-mile loop starting at the Bear Creek Staging Area. We spotted and heard 19 species of birds. We got some great looks at a few raptors including Red-tailed Hawks and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Several Acorn woodpeckers were busy stashing acorns in a dead tree (called a snag), Bewick's Wrens were serenading us with their buzzy song, and a beautiful Townsend's Warbler has returned to spend a pleasant winter in the Bay Area.

Our next field trip is scheduled for the late morning (9:30am) of November 6th (1st Wednesday) to look at shorebirds on the incoming high tide. We will be meeting at Middle Harbor Shoreline Park. All levels of birders are welcome plus I have a few loaner binoculars if you don't own a decent pair. I'll be bringing 2 spotting scopes to share. If interested, please email Ted Robertson (tedr@berkeley.edu) so you can be added to the monthly mailing list and receive precise meet-up locations.

Ted Robertson

925.899.1872 tedr@berkeley.edu



Clockwise from upper left
SIR birders at Briones Regional Park
(Photo by **Ted Robertson**)
Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk
Common Raven
(Photos by **Earl Edward**)

The important thing to remember is
that I'm probably going to forget.



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in November for our Veterans Day Luncheon. Come and pick up some of your favorite authors.

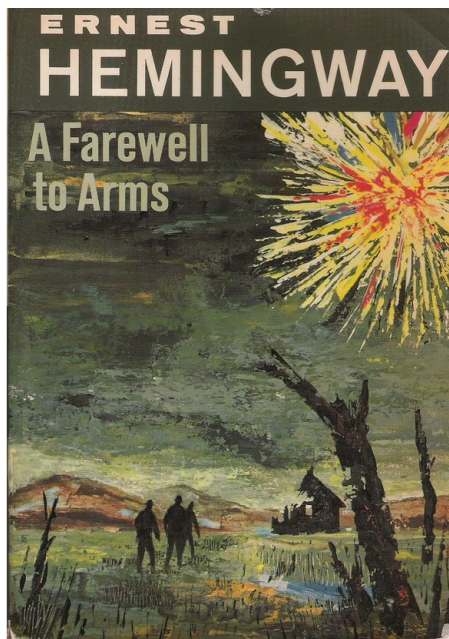




Book Group John Pearl

One of the things that the Book Group decided when we began was that we should occasionally read a classic. So, this month, we chose *A Farewell to Arms*, Ernest Hemingway's first best seller. He finished

the book in 1928, and it was released to the public on the day that the stock market crashed in 1929. However, some of the versions of the book that our members read contained an "introduction" written in 1948 which gives the reader a lot of insight about Hemingway's views of war and about Hemingway himself.



The book is a poignant tale of love, loss, and disillusionment set against the backdrop of World War I. The novel follows Lieutenant Frederic Henry, an American ambulance driver serving in the Italian army on the Italian front, who falls deeply in love with Catherine Barkley, an English nurse. Frederic starts out as a believer in the Italians' cause, but as time goes on and he observes the needless death and destruction that the war brings to innocent civilians and the young Italian men who are drafted into the army, he becomes disillusioned and, while ostensibly recovering from wounds, he deserts the army. In some sense, the book tracks Hemingway's life because he was also a young ambulance driver in World War I and the title of the book illustrates his opinion of war.

Hemingway's prose is spare and direct, mirroring the stark realities of war. He avoids sentimentality, instead

focusing on the raw emotions and experiences of his characters. The novel's setting, the Italian front, is vividly depicted, with detailed descriptions of the battles, the hospitals, and the surrounding landscapes.

At the heart of *A Farewell to Arms* is the love story of Frederic and Catherine. Some of us thought, however, that Catherine's character is never fully developed, and she is just another instrument that builds Frederic's (and Hemingway's) disillusionment about war. Nevertheless, they have a deep connection and find solace amidst the chaos of war.

As we noted above, the novel's most striking theme is the disillusionment experienced by Frederic. As he witnesses the senseless violence and suffering of war, he begins to question the meaning of life and the value of human existence. He becomes increasingly disillusioned with the ideals and values that he once held dear.

Frederic meets many characters along the way. One of them is Count Greffi, an elderly and exceptional backgammon player who has no trouble defeating Frederic. But they have an interesting conversation. Count Greffi tells Frederic that war is "stupid" and predicts that Italy will win it. Frederic asks why and the count states that it is because Italy is the younger nation. Frederic asks if younger nations always win wars and the count replies that "they are apt to for a time, but then they become older nations".

An unusual aspect of the book is that Hemingway wrote the ending 39 times. In the published version, Frederic and Catherine escape across Lake Maggiore to Switzerland, where they hope to find peace and happiness. But Catherine dies in childbirth, leaving Frederic alone and heartbroken. In other proposed endings, Frederic and Catherine survive and build a life together. Some readers have argued that the published ending is more consistent with the novel's themes of disillusionment and loss. Others contend that the unpublished endings offer a more hopeful and optimistic view of life.

The book is a quick read and a very good example of Hemingway's mastery of dialogue. It has many characters who have much to say but none of them, except for Frederic and perhaps Count Greffi, are developed and, in some cases, they appear out of nowhere. Nevertheless, we recommend the book, particularly if you are a Hemingway fan.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearljr@gmail.com



Cooking Lunch and Wine Pete Gates

The SIR Branch 146 Lunch and Wine (LAW) Group does not meet in November and December and so we have wrapped up the 2024 program, our sixteenth year. Recently a group of us met and created the calendar for 2025 and we are ready to go! However, we have one vacancy and so a high priority item on our agenda is to fill that slot bringing our group back to full membership.

For those of you who may be interested in joining us, here is how we operate.

We have eight members, and we rotate the chair of the group annually. Each member is responsible for hosting one lunch per year. He gets to choose whether we go to a restaurant or he prepares the lunch. The luncheons occur between 11 am and 2 pm on the third Wednesday of each month from January through October.

Each non-host brings a bottle of wine to the luncheon. Hence our name—“Lunch and Wine”. If the host chooses a restaurant, the other members do not have to bring wine. Instead of paying for a bottle of wine, they each pay for their own lunch.

While the members are enjoying their lunches and solving the problems of the world, our wives and significant others go out to lunch. Their restaurant venue is chosen by the wife or significant other of the member who is hosting that month. They do not go to the same restaurant that we do when we eat at a restaurant ourselves.

Twice per year, in April and September, we do not have a luncheon. Instead, we have dinner with our wives and significant others on the third Wednesday of those months. In the past, the restaurant was chosen by the chair, but this year we have decided to delegate that task to a committee of two members.

The widows of past members are invited to the evening dinners and the monthly lunches attended by our wives and significant others.

If you are interested in good wine, good food, and good cheer, let me know. You can reach me at either 510.504.3566 or pdubow2398@aol.com.

Paul Dubow



寿司の友達

Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Another Walnut Creek restaurant to try this month. I thought that our group had been here but, in looking over the record of our forays, it appears that I went here with a different group! It was good for them, hopefully it will be for us too! Let's head over on November 21st to the House of Sake at 313 N. Civic (next to and shares a parking lot with 7/11).



A bit confusing to many, the Japanese word sake is both a drink (rice wine) and a fish, salmon. The difference is in how one pronounces it. The Sake in this restaurant's name refers to the fish although they also have the drink.

So you can wash your sake down with a little sake... but I wander from my train of thought, which is to recommend a sushi made with sake (fish) that is moderately unique to this restaurant: seared sake. It is made with salmon belly that, as the name implies, has been seared with a blow torch or on a charcoal grill. Delicious and you want to make sure to try it when visiting here.

Watch for my confirming e-mail the first week of November. Look forward to seeing everyone at 11:30!

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met for lunch on September 23 at Fiore's restaurant in Concord. This restaurant is one of the group's favorites. Once again, the lunch dishes were tasty and reasonably priced. The menu items ordered were two sea food lasagna's, mushroom raviolis, chicken cannelloni and a meatball sandwich. The only menu item that did not measure up to Fiore's high standard was the sandwich. The meatballs were a bit dry. The group will next meet at a restaurant yet to be determined on November 18th.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group had a smaller crowd than usual on Monday, October 14. Our usual complement of 6 SIR's was down to four - our fearless leader, **Steve Ybarra** was traveling in France, and two of our members were down with some health issues. The event this month was hosted by **Ken Richter** and he kindly invited one of our emeritus members - **Bill Cammerer**. It was great to have **Bill** join **Corrie Oranje**, and **Bruce Borgman** as **Ken** prepared a wonderful lunch. He started with brie, crackers and nuts as we all sampled the wines we brought.

While we chatted about the state of the economy and other pressing issues, we enjoyed sitting in Ken's wonderful backyard with his pool and waterfall providing a calming environment.

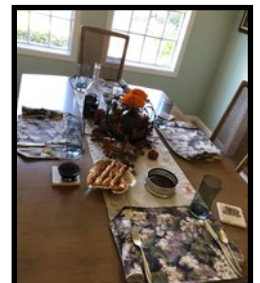
We sat down for lunch which consisted of a crisp spinach salad with mandarin orange sections and toasted almonds in a vinaigrette dressing. After that **Ken** brought out a hamburger wellington, a delicious variation of the French classic dish.

For dessert **Ken** served a liquid cocktail consisting of melted ice cream and 4 or 5 different liqueurs, with rum providing a nice punch.

Too soon we were ready for a nap, and we thanked **Ken** for another memorable get together.

Our next event will be on Monday November 11, when **Steve Ybarra** will select a restaurant for us to enjoy lunch.

Bruce Borgman for Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



Second Meeting this month!

Alcohol may not solve your problems.
But neither will water



Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy

Wow! We all enjoyed another great wine tasting event on October 15th at **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon**'s lovely home. Thanks so much to Bruce & Sue for opening

their home to us. Also, thanks to those who attended and to all who have attended the wine tastings this past year--what a wonderful group of people. The only thing better than drinking wine is drinking wine with friends. **Bill Holly** and I are grateful for being part of this terrific group.

We tasted 9 zinfandels and 6 chardonnays. The surprise was that we had a tie for the favorite red and a tie for the favorite white. **Jim Barry** and **Joyce Wells** and **Thom & Diane Degnan** tied for favorite red. **Tom and Pege Amann** and new member **Ron and Susan Stoltz** tied for favorite white. The weather was near perfect. The appetizers were delicious (as always). It was a fun day.

So, as we look to 2025, we look for volunteers to host the wine tasting. The next wine tasting is scheduled for January 28. Please give some thought to hosting. We cannot rely on having the same people host every year. If we are to continue, we need some of you to step forward. Just keep in mind that as the host, you don't have to wash the glasses :-)

Bill Holly and I are looking forward to another fun year of wine tasting.

Brian McCarthy

925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Well, our worries that our September Couples Dining Out event at the Dead Fish Restaurant in Crockett would turn out to be a “Restaurant Too Far” were not realized. It

turned out that this event was one of our more successful ones in recent memory – and, as you will see from the few pictures, a good time was had by all. The Board Room where we had our dinner was a very comfortable space and the seating arrangement allowed our diners to readily socialize with one another. The dark paneled room was a relaxed setting almost as if it was an old English pub.

Now, what shall we do for an encore? As I mentioned in our last article, we often try to make the end of year event a bit more special. And, I think we’ve come up with one that all of you will enjoy. And, it’s not an event that will break the bank. As it turned out, we celebrated Sue’s birthday this last week by having dinner at Wence’s. As you know, we’ve been to this popular restaurant a few times – and, for our birthday celebration, we again were impressed with the quality of the food. Our Dining Out group had not returned there recently because it appeared that they were now charging a room fee, as has sadly become more common in the restaurant scene. But, when I went to see Sandra Wence whom we’ve gotten to know pretty well, to see what we could negotiate, there was no talk of a facility fee. We were able to come up with a menu that you will be pleased with – and at a very reasonable price. To celebrate this end of the year event, we will have an extended social hour – we will start at 4:00pm and go to 5:30. We will be able to enjoy some of the oysters, one of which will be just \$1. We will be able to enjoy the Happy Hour pricing on cocktails as well. We will take over the large dining areas which will accommodate 60 diners.

For the menu, we will have a choice of a salad, or their excellent lobster bisque. We will have a choice of four entrees. The entrees include A Fish’n Chips, a Shrimp Scampi, Chicken piccata, and a Cajun Jambalaya. It had been suggested that if there are some entrees which are a bit more – we could add a surcharge for this menu item. So, if you wish to have the New York Steak, we’ll charge an extra \$3. The dessert will be a Chocolate Chip Banana Bread Pudding – again a concession on Sandra’s part!

The total price for the dinner will be just \$60 including tax and tip – plus the \$3 surcharge for the steak. Truly a dinner worthy of our year-end event, and a celebration of our good fortune and wonderful friends. We will limit our attendance to just 60 diners, and we will likely reach this capacity pretty quick. Send me an email to indicate your interest and send a check to confirm your attendance. We look forward to seeing you all in November!

LATE UPDATE: We reached our maximum or 60 diners in about two days after we announced this event at the SIR Luncheon and sent out the flyer to our mail list. We have placed additional interested SIR members on our waiting list. We will check to see if there is a possibility of accommodating those on the wait list, but as of this writing, we are booked!

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bgborgman@aol.com



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes



Group Uno 1

Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

And the Grand Winner for October, Mexican Train Uno, was **Peter C. Plante!** Followed by **Alicia Baily (#2)** and Peter's

wife, **Martha**, third.

What was anticipated as a full house of players, ended up dwindling down to nine. That said, we nine, got second helpings on the luscious apple strudel and gelato that was served by our gracious hosts, **Peter** and **Gabriela Bishop**. I guess I can say that we like to play and we like to eat!

On a side note: It is interesting to note that the Mexican Train activity was introduced to the SIR members ten years ago in 2014! We are appreciative to **Jerry Kaplan**, **Bruce Borgman**, and **Corrie Oranje** (and their wives: **Susan**, **Susan** and **Susan**) for organizing a trial run of the game, setting down the framework of rules and then offering the game as a new co-ed activity. A social game, with some strategy

and some luck being involved. And the rest is history! Mexican Train now has ten groups, with numerous players frequenting more than one group. The size of each group varies, but I think the average number of players in each group is about 12, which suggests that there are over 120 members playing Mexican Train! Certainly one of the favorite group activities.

Corrie Oranje

corrieoranje@gmail.com



Group Dos 2

Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

Dan and **Mary Holland** hosted our September game. All regulars were present so we played with six players at each of two



Ron Plachy
925.286.4552
rjplachy@icloud.com

tables. All enjoyed the many snacks and goodies **Mary** put out. One of the highlights were the chocolate domino topped cupcakes baked by **Dan**.

Our hostess, **Mary Holland**, took first place with a respectful 11.0 average. **Anne Plachy** continued her winning coming in second with a 12.5 average. Third place was claimed by **Clint Collier** with a 16.3 average.

Our next game is scheduled for Friday, October 25th at the home of **Ron** and **Anne Plachy**. **Clint** has already told us he would be absent as he is attending an Air Force reunion. We'll approach our subs for a couple that can play.





Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met on Friday afternoon, September 27th after The SIRCall went to the press. Our Friday express huffed and puffed its way to the home of **Linda & Larry Brown** in the hills of Clayton Valley. Along for the ride were **Joyce Wells** and **Jim Barry**, **Sally** and **Lynn Shafer**, **Linda** and **Larry Brown**, **Judy Richmond** and **Susie** (her niece), and **Sharon Varner**. **Linda** and **Larry** treated the group with habit-forming table treats and wonderful half-time sweets.

Bringing her A game was **Joyce Wells** to win 1st Place and the grand prize. **Judy Richmond** garnered 2nd place. **Susie** claimed the honor of 3rd place. The ladies prevailed at both tables. The men were humbled, bowed to their excellent play, and headed back to the caboose to regroup for next month's match.

Everyone had fun, filled their mouths with food and gossip, said their goodbyes, boarded the ole Mexican

Train with the men in the caboose, and followed the hot sun home.

Our next meeting will be Friday afternoon, October 25th, at the home **Sue & Walt Busenius**. All Aboard!!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On September 20th, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim Renie Pope's** home with 12

and players. In attendance this evening were: **Henry** and **Barbara Thatcher**, **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**, **Rich** and **Kim Pace**, **Scott** and **Marie Claire MacDougall**, **Ken** and **Carol Soult** and **Jim** and **Renie Pope**.

The group was somewhat boisterous after consuming the wonderful snacks provided by several of the member's spouses. We played at two tables of six. We paid the player at each table with low table score 6 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The table winners were two low score winners: **Jim Pope** and **Dick DeVoe**. There were two high scoring players: **Barbera Thatcher** and **Carol Soult** were awarded one Lotto ticket each. (see in pictures) The next El Quatro MTD will meet next on October 18th (Photos by **Henry Thatcher**)



Winners:
Jim Pope
& **Dick DeVoe**



High Scorers:
B. Thatcher
& **C. Soult**

jpope24@comcast.net

Second game... next page

Jim Pope



**Mexican Train
Dominoes
"Cuatro"
Jim Pope**

On October 18th, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with



Low score winners

10 players. In attendance this evening were: **Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Steve and Susan Oki, Scott and MarieClaire MacDougall, and Jim and Renie Pope.** The group was very joyous after consuming the wonderful snacks provided by several of the members' spouses. We played at two tables of five. We paid the player at each table with low table score 5 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The table two low score winners were: **Christy DeVoe and Steve Oki.** There were two table high scoring players: **Marie Claire Mac Dougall and Ron Louis** were awarded one Lotto ticket each. (see in pictures) The next El Quattro MTD will meet next on November 15th (Photos by Jim Pope)



High Scorers

Jim Pope

jpoppe24@comcast.net



**Mexican Train
Dominoes
"Cinco"
Dennis Hallett**

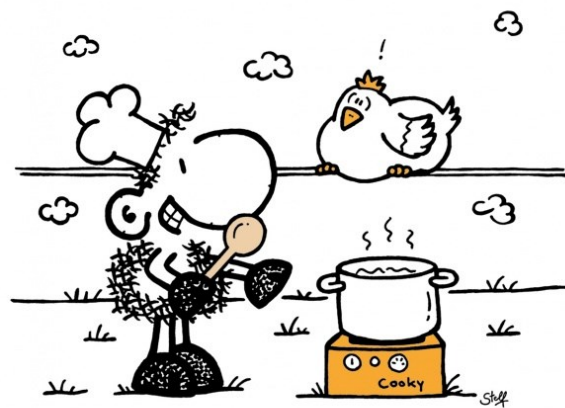
Due to many members of our group being absent or sick we will not be holding

an October gathering

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net

Get well soon!



I wanted to do something to get you back on your feet quickly and I decided to cook you an amazing chicken soup.

Q: My child will not eat fish. What can I replace it with?

A: A Cat. Cats love fish.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

MTD 6 met at Richard Hockenbrock's beautiful home on September 25, 2024, for our MTD6 get together with Steve and Carol Lane hosting.



We had a two-table set up this month. After drawing for tables, it was game on.

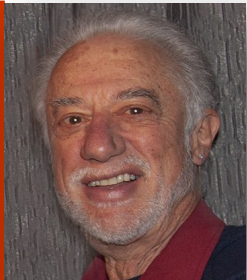
At table 1 we had- Steve Lane, John Moose Kelly, Virginia Tygart, Ismini Maclean, Martha Plante and Mary McCarthy. And our second table we had Brian McCarthy, Bruce Borgman, Rich Ahlf, Richard Hockenbrock, and Peter Plante.

And the winners were... Rich Ahlf (10.1)- Brian McCarthy (12.6)- and Ismini Maclean (16.6).

We look forward to our next get together on October 23, 2024, at Kathe Mitchell's home with John Kendrick hosting.

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

On Sept. 11 Brian & Mary McCarthy hosted our MTD 7 event.

I was on vacation so I don't have pictures. Bob West was 1st, Brian McCarthy 2nd, and Clint Collier 3rd.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



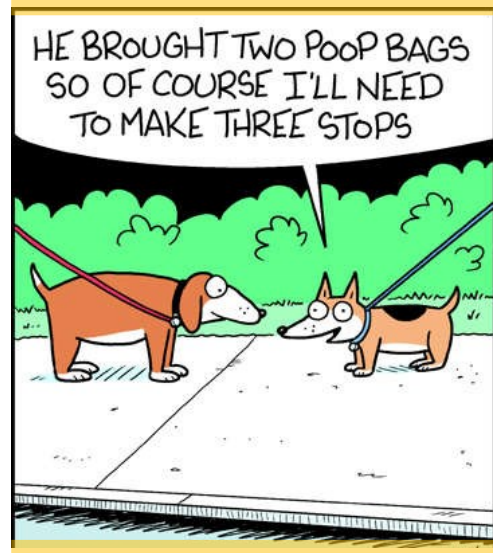


**Mexican Train
Dominoes
"Nueve"
Bob Lucido**

On Sept. 18, Brian & Mary McCarthy hosted our MTD 9 event.

Bob West took first place, Jane West kept it in the family by winning second place and Dale Dahlgard came in third place.

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net



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

Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (Group 10) is now up and running.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm for socializing and while having some fun. We rotate hosting among different homes.

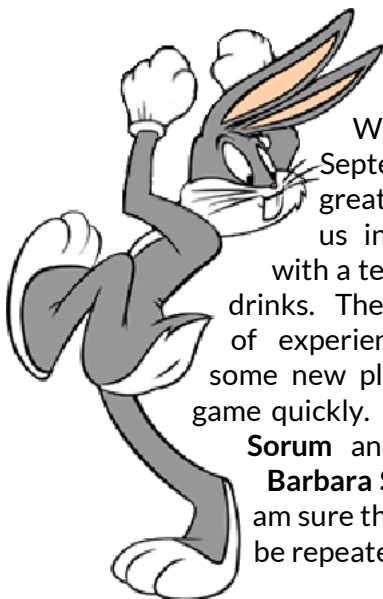
This is a coed activity, but single SIR members are welcome.

We had our first meeting September 18th and had a great time. Cleo Bolen hosted us in his beautiful back yard with a terrific spread of snacks and drinks. The group has a nice mixture of experienced players along with some new players who picked up the game quickly. First place went to Mark Sorum and second place went to Barbara Sorum for a clean sweep. I am sure that was a fluke that will not be repeated anytime soon.

We had our second meeting at the home of Steve and Barbara Peterson. They hosted us in their relaxing outdoor area and gave us a fun tour of their beautiful gardens. The low score for the day went to Barbara Sorum. Barbara is now 2 for 2 in the new Mexican Train Diez group. Second place went to Ismini Ahlf and third to Rich Ahlf. The next game will be on October 18 at the home of Mark and Barbara Sorum.

Mark Sorum
925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com
Cleo Bolen
925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net

How do you catch a squirrel?
Climb a tree and act like a nut!





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, October 4 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by **Bob Yolland**.

Max Hinkle earned 1st place by 4.5 points-with 46.0 total- after winning both the 1st and 2nd half. Congratulations, **Max!**

- **John Kluesener** was 2nd with 41.5 points.
- **Dave Steinberg** was 3rd with 40.5 points.
- **Tony Greco** was 4th with 39.5 points.
- Beat Partnerships- (maximum 6 points)
Boards 13 & 14: **Max Hinkle/Dave Steinberg**
Boards 19 & 20- **Max Hinkle/Tony Greco**
- Least Zeros
John Kluesener and **Dave Steinberg**—2 each.
- Most Threes
Max Hinkle—9.
- Most Improved (2nd half vs. 1st half)
Jim Stedman—10.0 point increase.
- Name Mentioned Most Times
Max Hinkle

	Lunchtime (8 Boards)	1st Half (Bds 1-12)	2nd Half (Bds 13-24)	Overall (Bds 1-24)
1st	John Kluesener	Max Hinkle	Max Hinkle	Max Hinkle-46.0
2nd	Bob Yolland	-	Jim Stedman	John Kluesener-41.5
3rd	John Rexroat	Bill Schaaf	-	Dave Steinberg-40.5
4th	-	Dave Steinberg	Mike Whitaker	Tony Greco-38.5

Dick DeVoe
dicknchristy@comcast.net



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Dick and Christy DeVoe hosted our October 1st. For this event, **Howard and Connie Herbert** subbed for the **Hatchers** and **Max and Ardith Hinkle**,

subbing for the first time, subbed for the **Klueseners**. A big thank you goes out to **Ardith Hinkle** for coming out of bridge retirement and to **Max Hinkle** for giving her a crash refresher course. We hope to see them again soon when we need subs. We also miss the **Hatchers** and hope they can play in November.

Overall it was an average night of party bridge. We finished playing a little later than usual but most of that can be attributed to more socializing, which is a good thing. Everyone still got home before bedtime. Lol. We did have a first time occurrence with a tie for 3rd PLACE with exactly 2220 points.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3530 points
Dick and Christy DeVoe
- 2nd PLACE with 2680 points
Tony and Cindy Greco
- 3rd PLACE tied with 2220 points
Larry and Linda Brown
- 3rd PLACE tied with 2220 points
Max and Ardith Hinkle

Our next event will be held on **November 5th** and hosted by **Larry and Linda Brown**.

Happy Halloween.

Tony and Cindy Greco
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Men's Hearts

Bob West and Steve Ybarra

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from September 13th and September 27th.

The big winners were **Dave Smith** with 3.5 wins and **Steve Ybarra** and **Ron Polivka** both with 3 wins. **Dick Wade** had 4 2nds, and **Bob West** and **Bill Vizza** had 3. The lowest average scorer was **Tom Stucker** with 37 and **Dave Smith** and **Steve Ybarra** with 43.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** leads with 24 wins followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 22 wins and **Bill Vizza** with 20. **Jim Passaglia** has the highest winning percentage of active players at 37% followed by **Frank Lucas** with 35%. **Jim Passaglia** has the lowest average score of 53.2 followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 53.4. **Frank** leads in STM's with 14 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 9 and **Brian McCarthy** with 6. **Steve Ybarra** as usual leads in 2nds with 23 followed by **Bill Vizza** with 21 and **Bob West** with 20.5 **Glenn Breslin** is most improved. His 2024 win rate of 32% is 286% higher than 2023.

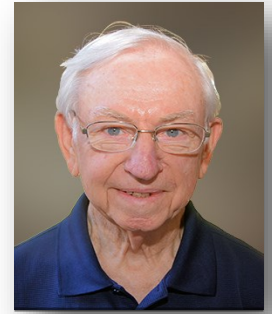
Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our next matches will be October 25th and November 8th.

Please call or email us if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Co-Directors
Bob West and **Steve Ybarra**

robrtawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com

People will cease to commit atrocities
only when they cease to believe
absurdities.



Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

Bill Schaaf was a terrific host for our game on October 7th. We enjoyed his hospitality and lunch out on his lovely back porch. The players were: **Jane Bradley, Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Jim Stedman, Mike Whitaker** and **Bob Yolland**.

The high scorers were **Max Hinkle** with 6,080 points, **Joe Fuchs** with 5,750 points and **Dick DeVoe** and **Mike Whitaker** tied with 4,490 points.

Our next game will be Monday November 4th at The Waterford in Rossmoor hosted by **Jim Stedman**. Please let me know if you will play. Thank you.

Co-Directors

[Jim Stedman](#) and [Jim Pope](#).



I don't need GOOGLE!
My wife knows everything.



Poker Group 4 Pete Gates

I have been a member of Poker Group #4 since 2007, perhaps even longer. When I joined, the group was going strong under the leadership of **Rich Hanford**. The years have taken their toll and the group lost its core members. We hung in there after Covid hit but the group just limped along for quite a while. I am happy to say that we are pretty strong again and enjoying getting to know our new and interesting table mates. There was only one active player remaining from those early days and sadly **Garth Cummings**, who lives in Danville, who has decided to discontinue playing. Sorry to see you go, Garth, we will miss you.

I hosted the game in September, and we welcomed a new player, Carmelo Piccolo. Contrary to the normal outcome, two guys, **Mark Sorum** and **Ray Bland** both "cleaned house" and ended up being big winners.

Ray has volunteered to host our October game on Monday the 21st.

Pete Gates

925.937.2035 petegates10@gmail.com



Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

Any one interested in joining the group should give **Stan Johnson** a call at 925-938-7016, or myself at 925-858-9666. Our next two events are planned for Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm on 6/26/24, and 7/10/24.

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

I'm stuck between "I need to save money" and "You only live once!"



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

As usual we will Zoom with SIR Branch 128 (San Ramon) on the 4th Wednesday at 1:30pm.

Email **Dave Sutton** to be included or to learn the topic.

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net

SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>



This is the state SIR web page. 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!

Parting Shot

Everyone is familiar with the English and Metric scales for measurement. Some of you may also be familiar with some of the measurements used by specific professions or in special environments such as knots and fathoms for boating.

However, most readers will not be familiar with these unique units of measurement.

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese Soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 banannosecond
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = knotfurlong
7. 365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer = 1 lite year
8. 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Serling
9. Half a large intestine = 1 semicolon
10. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz
11. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
12. Shortest distance between two jokes = a straight line
13. 2,000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds
14. 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 Fig Newton
15. 1,000 cc's of wet socks = 1 literhosen
16. 8 nickels = 2 paradigms

