



# Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

# Call

September–October 2024



## Big Sir's Corner

Our Branch 146 is one of the five largest in the State and growing! We now have 268 members, having added 35 new members so far this year and one transferee from another branch. Three of

our new members are actually former members who apparently missed the comradery of the branch and came back to us. So, if you had sponsored someone in the past who is still in the area, you might think of giving them a call to see if they have any interest in coming back to us. Also, those of us who sponsored someone who is still a member, it would be a good idea to give them a call to see how they are doing and if they have been away from meetings and or activities, invite them to join you for one of the activities or a luncheon. Let's make sure we do our best to keep our members by showing our interest in them.

In September we presented our slate of new officers to the members at the luncheon and received their vote of approval for our officers for next calendar year. We are fortunate in that we had volunteers for all the positions in the BEC. Two of the new officer candidates were new members this year: **Thom Degnan** stepped up to fill the role of Little Sir and **Jim Crites** will join us as one of our Directors. Not all of the Branches have been able to get volunteers to fill the Branch offices, so we are indeed fortunate.

The State is providing two training sessions,

- 1) Growing Branch Membership and encouraging attendance by the Big and Little Sirs, Publicity Director and Webmaster on Oct 18 from 10am to 12 noon.
- 2) Running Your Branch-Leadership Training again for the Big and Little Sirs as well as the Secretaries and Treasurers on Nov 8 from 10am to Noon.

I will put an e-blast out in early October to remind all of the sessions and how to connect. **Participation in these sessions is open to all interested parties.**

We added four new members in September and had three guests. Let's continue to talk to friends and acquaintances to help others to realize the benefits to Branch Membership! Our goal of 50 new members is still a possibility!

**John Kluesener**  
Big Sir, Branch 146

## Activities for you...

- [Calendar of Events](#) Page 14
- [98 bottles of beer on the wall](#) Page 28
- [Fleet Week](#) Page 37
- [Take a Hike!](#) Page 20
- [Need a good read?](#) Page 22
- [Have a bike?](#) Page 17
- [Take a trip?](#) Page 15

## Luncheon

**Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Boundary Oak 11:30**

Emily Boyd from Brookfield Development  
Concord Naval Weapon Station Plans  
A reservation is required!

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



## Little Sir's Corner Bob Ford

Hello everyone, our speaker for October is Emily Boyd from Brookfield Development who will talk about the Concord Naval Weapon Station Plans. I am very pleased to say we now have a speaker for

our Veteran's Day luncheon in November. Chuck Kohler, a Pearl Harbor survivor will join us. He will be escorted by Jim Etherington who works with the Veteran's Affordable Home Ownership Program. And to wrap up the year, a Quartet from Diablo Vista Chorus will cheer us with some holiday music. As always please let me know if you have any contacts for speakers. I hope to see you all October.

**Bob Ford**  
Little Sir, Branch 146



## Membership George Mon

Two new members and one transfer were approved for membership in September.

**Fred McNeil** lives in Diablo with his wife **Nancy**. He was a Global Product Manager for Matheson Gas. He was previously in the

semiconductor business for 40 years. Fred is sponsored by **Eric Finson**.

**Elmer Bricca** lives in Pleasant Hill with his wife **Barbara**. He was a Computer Specialist for Apple. He likes cycling and photography. Elmer is also sponsored by **Eric Finson**.

**Ed Lichtig** is a transfer from Branch 116. He and his wife **Liane Abrams** also live in Pleasant Hill. He is interested in golf, bridge, cooking group and sushi to mention a few. He is sponsored by **Glenn Breslin**.

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 SIR.

The 2024 membership count is 268.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com) and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is under 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](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

**George Mon**  
925.830.1604 [gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)



## Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

What to say, what to say? Turns out I really don't have anything to say this month for my column so I'll just shut up and remind you that...

Last submission date for the next issue will be October 18<sup>th</sup>. And, don't forget, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to [br146SIRCall@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com), put "Member Note" in the subject line

**Clint Collier**—Editor SIR Call  
925.457.1489 [br146SIRCall@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com)

### **SIRCall Newsletter Group**

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

## 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

In September, I was unable to make the luncheon, but my understanding was that the chicken and shrimp fajitas were very good. I am looking forward to the October menu of Corned Beef & Cabbage and the fish entree of Oven roasted Cod. We hope to see you all at the luncheon.

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](mailto: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, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 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, October 4<sup>th</sup> 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, October 4<sup>th</sup> by Noon**  
and you will not be charged.

Send email to [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

## SIR 146 October Luncheon

Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Salad

Arugula Salad with Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese, and Herb Vinaigrette

### Entrées

#### Corned Beef

Cabbage with Yukon Potatoes

—or—

#### Oven Roasted Cod

Yukon Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

—or—

#### Vegetarian

#### Ricotta Stuffed Manicotti

Spinach and Ricotta Stuffed Manicotti with Fresh Mozzarella, House Marinara and Seasonal Vegetables

### Dessert

Red Velvet 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.

## The 2025 Officers Are...

At the September luncheon, the proposed slate of officers for the coming year was approved by unanimous vote of the membership. Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve!



**Bob Ford, Big Sir**



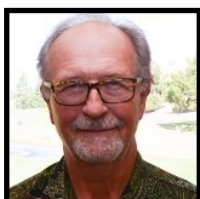
**Mike Davidson, Director—1<sup>st</sup> Term**



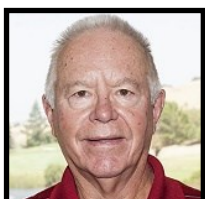
**Thom Degnan, Little Sir**



**Jim Crites, Director—1st Term**



**Don Shaw, Secretary**



**Mark Curtis, Director—2<sup>nd</sup> Term**



**John Rexroat, Asst. Secretary**



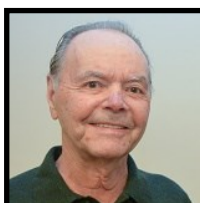
**Randy Graham, Director—2<sup>nd</sup> Term**



**Mike Rothman, Treasurer**



**John Alexander, Director—2<sup>nd</sup> Term**



**Tom Amann, Asst. Treasurer**



**Don Rhoads, Director—2<sup>nd</sup> Term**



**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.

**MAKE SURE...  
YOU HAVE THE  
NOVEMBER  
LUNCHEON  
ON YOUR  
CALENDAR**



THE CLUBHOUSE  
AT BOUNDARY OAK

**SIR 146 November Luncheon**  
Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**October**  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Paul Beretz	Stephen Ondeck
Larry Brown	Jitu Patel
Robert Calloway	George Sabbagha
Teddy Coggiola	Joe Starkey
Dennis Dale	Charlie Walker
Brian Downie	Herb Wilson
John Foster	Bob Yolland
Larry Kaye	William Ross
John Kluesener	Bert Payne
Phil Lendaris	Pat Lyon
Bob Lucido	Brian Lotter
John Nelson	Lloyd Bracewell
Byron Nelson	John Mcdonald

## OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

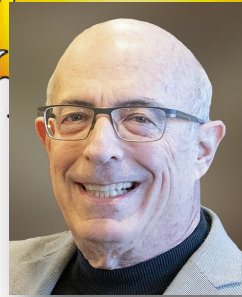
WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
<b>Craig Kauffman</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>5</b>
Jim Nelson	2018	6
Charlie Walker	2018	6
Bob West	2017	7
Mike Riley	2017	7
Henry Thatcher	2015	9
<b>Mike Whitaker</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>10</b>
John Gray	2013	11
Pierre Mebane	2011	13
Ed Marlovits	2010	14
Walt Schmidt	2009	15
Dave Pierce	2008	16
John Harrington	2007	17
Corrie Oranje	2007	17
Steve Loftin	2006	18
John Biasotti	2002	22
Garth Cummings	1998	26
<b>Bill Cammerer</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>30</b>
Dick Devoe	1993	31



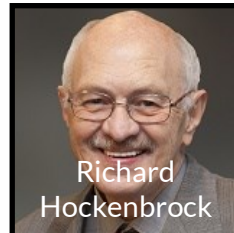
## Sunshine

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.

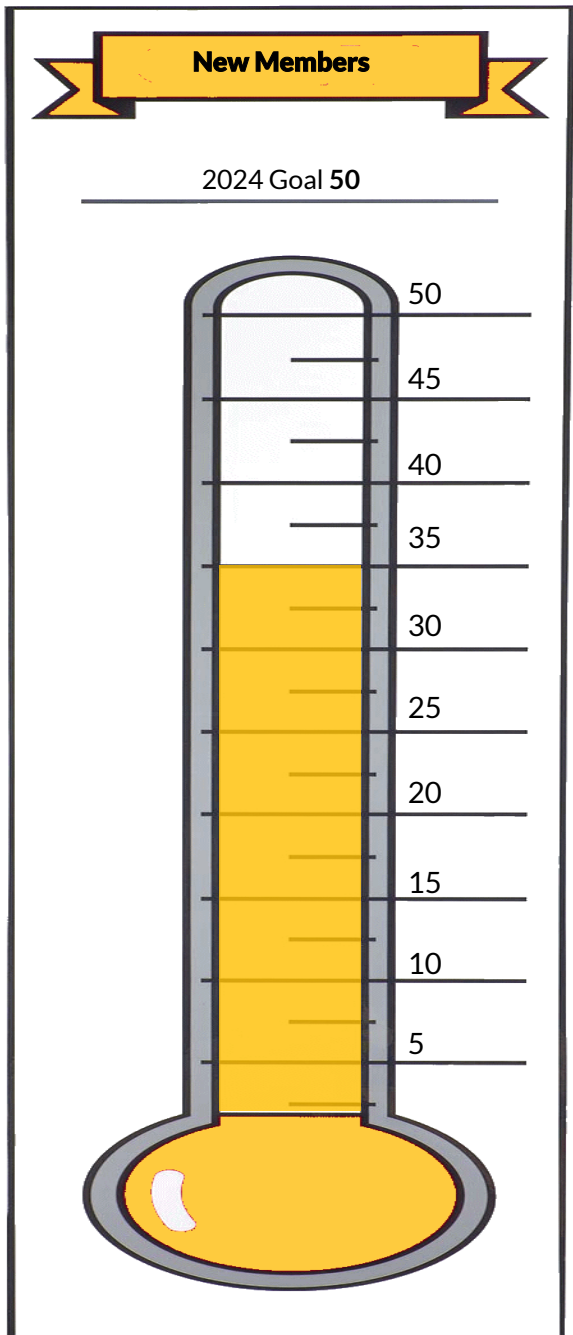
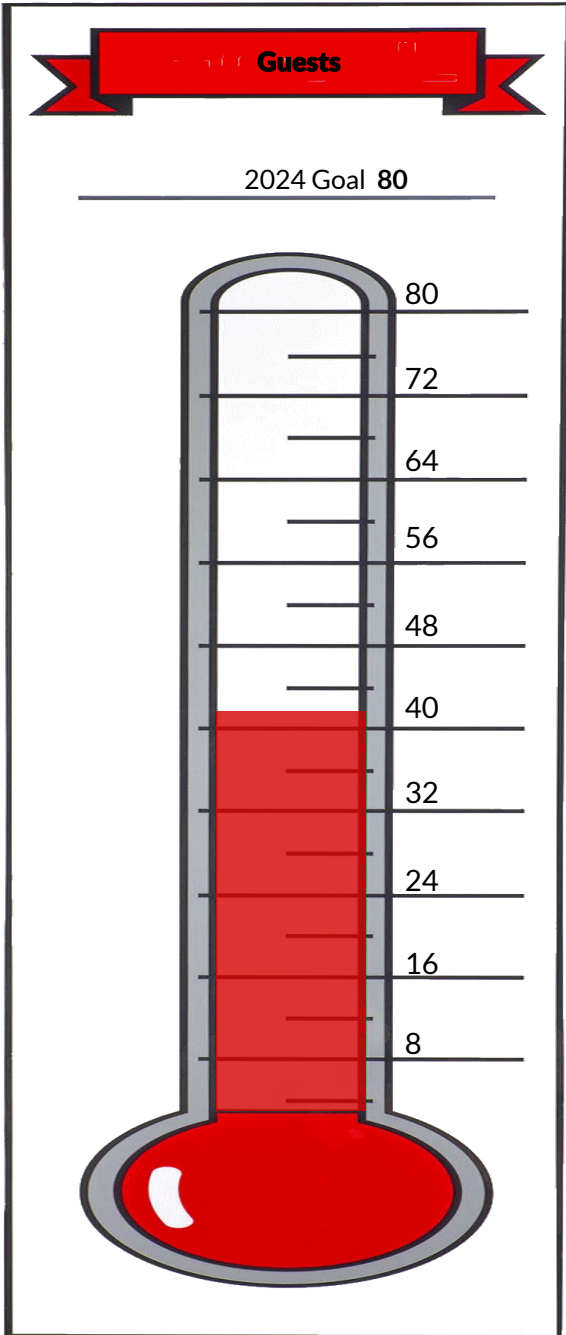
Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at [brimacc@comcast.net](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net) or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



# Membership starts with



You are the key to new members to keep SIR vibrant



# SEPTEMBER

## MEETING

Photos by Henry Thatcher



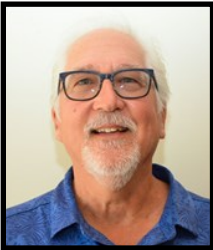
Checking In!



The newly elected 2025 Officers line up for their mug shot.







Mike Kimsal



Fred McNeil



Elmer Bricca



Ed Lichtigi

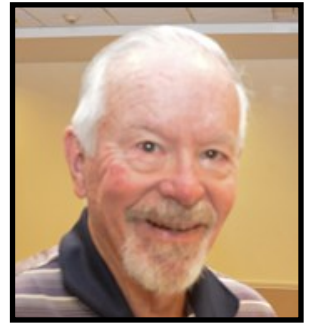


Celebrating 90 years!  
**Bruce Borgman** presented awards to  
Senior SIR **Sydney Whalen**  
and  
Senior SIR **Joseph Lamanna**



John Pearl



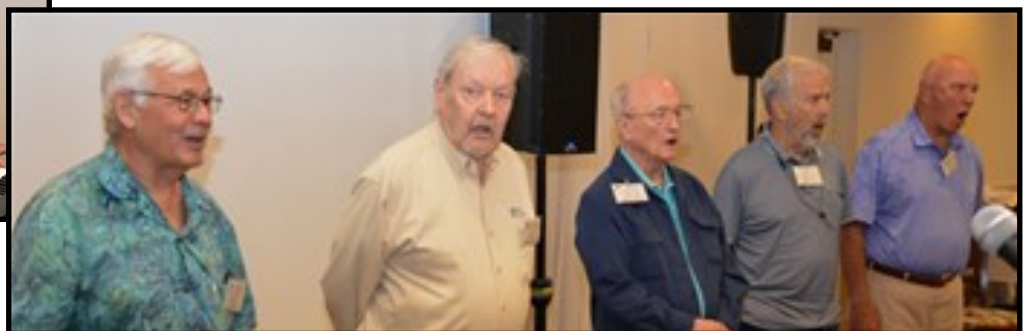


# Make Friends for Life





Guest Speaker  
Beverly Lane  
Director, San Ramon Vally Historical Society



As always... closing with God Bless America



# Looking for something to do...

## Activities Coordinator

**Glenn Breslin  
with Bob Lucido**



Summarized below elow are the SIR146 Activity stats  
You will find all the SIR146 Activity Icons on [SIR146.com](http://SIR146.com) on the right side of the webpage.

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

From multiple conversations with SIR members, here is a summary of why SIR146 members enjoy their activities:

- 1. Satisfaction and Accomplishment:** Feel a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment after engaging in activities, especially if they are challenging or meaningful to them.
- 2. Mental Stimulation:** Engaging in mentally stimulating activities, such as puzzles, learning new skills, or social interactions, can leave seniors feeling mentally refreshed and invigorated. It can also help in maintaining cognitive function and preventing mental decline.
- 3. Social Connection:** For those who participate in group activities, there is often a sense of joy and fulfillment from social interactions. Building or maintaining friendships through activities can contribute to overall happiness and reduce feelings of loneliness.
- 4. Increased Confidence:** Successfully participating in activities can lead to increased confidence and a more positive outlook on life. It can be empowering to continue pursuing interests and hobbies, even as one ages.
- 5. Emotional Well-being:** Activities that are enjoyable and fulfilling can contribute to better emotional well-being. Positive experiences can help combat feelings of depression or anxiety and contribute to a more optimistic outlook.

**Relaxation and Enjoyment:** For recreational activities, there might be a sense of relaxation and enjoyment. These activities provide a break from routine and offer opportunities for fun and leisure.

Various activities have numerous benefits for seniors, enhancing their quality of life and overall well-being. Overall, the benefits are often a mix of maintaining physical health, mental acuity, social connections, and overall quality of life !

**Glenn Breslin**  
925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto: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](#)

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

**Bridge:**

[Beginning/Refresher](#)

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

**Cooking:**

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch and Wine](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

**Dining Out**

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

**Mexican Train Dominoes**

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Cuatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Diez](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

**Poker:**

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Group 8](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)



### SongSirs

Peter Plante

The SongSirs are ready for our October 4<sup>th</sup> performance at the Carlton Retirement Home in Pleasant Hill.

We will sing such favorites as George Burns' "I Wish I Was 18 Again," "Come Go With Me," and "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do." Our group sang for the residents last year and they are looking forward to our return.

Our next rehearsal is on October 2 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

The October 17 and November 6 rehearsals are dedicated to work on the Armed Forces music to salute our veterans at the November luncheon.

We are always looking for new members. Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Peter Plante

[pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)



### Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting for the SIR Branch 146 Photography Group will meet 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 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. The theme of our October meeting will be determine after our meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:rollingstone91149@gmail.com)

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 [1henrythatcher@gmail.com](mailto:1henrythatcher@gmail.com)

# SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar October 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30	Oct 1	2	3	4
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	10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
7	8	9	10	11
9:45am–3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 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 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am–10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am–1:30pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 12:30pm–2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
14	15	16	17	18
10:00am Hiking 11:30am–1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses  <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; color: blue; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Sunday 13</b> 9:00am–5:00pm San Francisco Fleet Week Sail SS Jeremiah O'Brien Pier 35, Embarcadero</p> </div>	9:00am Golf 2:30pm–5:00pm Wine Tasting	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 11:30am Beer Tasting The Growler 515 San Ramon Valley Blvd 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm–10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30am Nine Hole Golf-1 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro 12:00 Noon SIRCall for November Articles due
21	22	23	24	25
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	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 1:30pm–3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm–10:00pm	7:30am–9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am Nine Hole Golf-1	11:30am–1:00pm CPR Training Class Ygnacio Valley Library 12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
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



## Travel Glenn Breslin

The SIR Travel objective is to enable SIRs members who would like to travel with other SIR members. To meet this objective, SIR146 Travel will join with multiple other SIR Groups to schedule travel trips. If you are interested in joining other SIRs to travel within California or Nationally or Internationally, then please fill out the SIR Travel Questionnaire. Please reach out to me if you have not filled out a [Travel Questionnaire](#).

If people can share both their desired travel destinations and how they like to travel, then SIR trips can be planned.

Here is my plan for securing a better understanding of SIR travel preferences:

Sept and October – Obtain all the Questionnaires from SIR146 and other SIR Groups

October and November – Choose 2 or 3 in-common travel destinations.

November – Reach out to those SIRs that chose in-common destinations to assess how they want to travel.

November and December – Based upon both Travel Questionnaire results and SIR input, create Travel Flyers for 2 or 3 new trips and distribute to SIRs. These trips will start in the Fall of 2025 or the Spring of 2026.

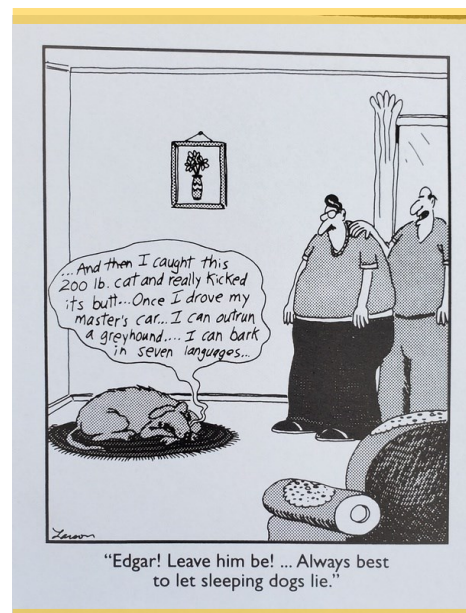
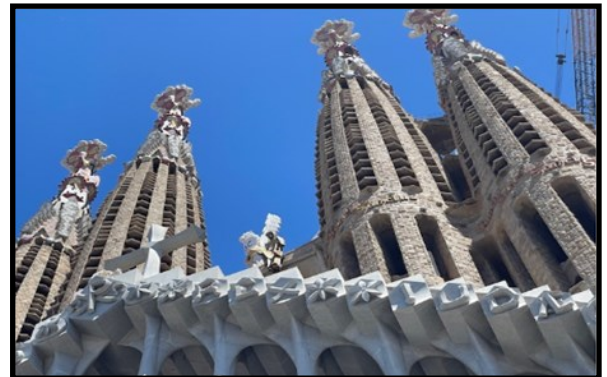
### Travel Quotes:

“A friend listens to your adventures. A best friend makes them with you”

“Life was meant for great adventures with good friends”

**Glenn Breslin**

925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)





**Theater**  
**Glenn Breslin**

**Theater Events at the Leshner Theater**

**Arsenic and Old Lace **SOLD OUT****

- **Date:** Sat September 28 2:30pm
- **Price:** \$43 Per ticket – discounted group rate.
- **Desc:** The grandmother of dark comedies gets a mischievous and campy makeover. The lead actor, discovers his two elderly Aunts are harboring some killer secrets, just as his estranged brother descends upon the family home, upending everything he thought to be true in his life. To save his family, his fiancé, and his own sanity, he must learn to navigate a new world gone mad. Deliciously macabre, classically winsome, and utterly delightful, get ready for a new vision for one of theater’s most enduring comedies.
- **Deadline:** On or before Sat 8/17, please make out your check to SIR146 and send your check to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St, Lafayette, CA 94549.

**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 September.
- **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

Shows at Leshner Theater – Walnut Creek

- Location: Leshner Theater, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek.
- Parking in Adjacent Parking Lot.

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](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)







## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

August 20<sup>th</sup>: What can I say? Today we had 11 riders. **Moose Kelly, Bill Ross, Bill Holly, Bob Lucido, Eric Finson, Tom Alborg, Jim Nelson, Dave Paulson and Larry Kaye.** Two nonmembers joined. Both from my past.

Great ride. We did the Bollinger Canyon ride backwards. The weather was super. Today saw **Bob Lucido** ride his new shiny E Bike and **Bill Holly** his Black Rocket. What a thrill. Those hills vanished. Guess as we age and want to keep riding the choices are simple. E Bikes. Fun ride and all enjoyed. Age creeps up on us all, but never give in to its sway.

August 27<sup>th</sup> Great ride. Full house. **Bill Holly, Bob Lucido, Ken Studer, Bob Wilkenfeld, Eric Finson, Roger Meyer, Jim Crites and Pat Hoy** and myself. Target today was get to Si Si cafe in Moraga , enjoy and get out of town before the heat arrives. We did. Always a fun ride and the group was terrific too.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>: Well. It was to be hot today. So the bus gathered at 8:30. **Tom Albert, Bob Wilkenfeld, Dave Paulson, Bill Ross, Elmer Bricca, Bill Holly** and me, **Larry Kaye.**

Today was a treat. We would do the Blackhawk Loop but backwards with some fun turns added. Initially **Elmer** got lost and went home. The rest of us persevered. We tackled the hills some of which were 8% . Up we went and then down. They always appeared around the bend. As promised we found the restrooms at Sycamore park and used them. Phew. A relief.

Heading home we turned and turned and finally spotted the last turn at Alamo. A joyful ride with lots of heart grabbing climbs. It becomes obvious that if you exercise and break a sweat you can continue way past your peer group. We did. Age is a bunch of crap.

September 10<sup>th</sup>: Windy, cool, and cloudy was the forecast. What better day to do a long ride? Yikes. **Bill Holly, Eric Finson, Jim Rowland and Thom Degnan** heeded the call and joined me, **Larry Kaye,** for the long haul.

Off we went . Heading South to duplicate a ride to Pleasanton from Alamo retracing an old route I had previously done.

Well it seems Dublin has grown. Trails have become

homes, and apartment by the hundreds. The old paths are gone. New paved thru streets greeted us but no trail. We wondered around and after getting somewhat lost (my error), **Eric** discovered a trail opening. Having already accumulated mega miles we took it. Into the Cafe in Dublin we headed, hungry and with a voracious desire for hot java. After soothing our sugar needs we headed North. The wind had other ideas. Grouping together as a peloton helped. Of course guess who was in front? After crawling back to San Ramon we finally got some relief. Sun and less wind. Seeing Blackhawk was a thrill. Turning West we headed home. The wind was in our faces but the desire to finish won. The miles melted and finally Alamo appeared. A great ride of distance was enjoyed by all. Age has no barriers. Just get off the couch and do something. A G E is not a disease. It's a state of mind.

September 17: Cold. September cold. Dreary, damp dark just plain ugly. That's what we faced this morning for our ride. **Elmer Bricca, Bill Holly, Roger Meyer, Larry Kaye, Jim Rowland and Eric Finson.** We rode. We are spandex guys. Brr. Took a ride thru Danville and San Ramon covering the El Capitan loop. Hilly but different. The route became colder in San Ramon. We headed home and as we approached Danville.... The Sun popped up. Felt great. Java at Lever coffee and home. Who says aging is hard? Get off your duff

Larry Kaye  
925.698.4030





## 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](mailto:jbarry@sbcglobal.net)



## Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Welcome to all of the guys that have recently signed up for 9-Hole golf. We continue to have really good turn-outs. 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!!

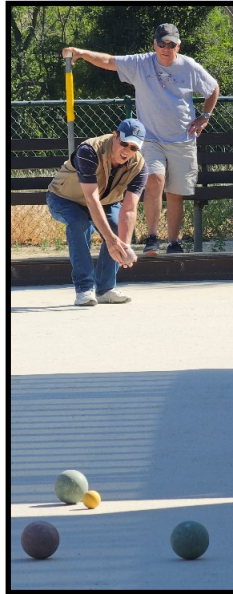
**Bob Ford**

[scubabob.ford@gmail.com](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)



## Bocce John Kendrick

The 2024 SIR 146 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 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 SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity.

During the upcoming holidays remember to practice safe Bocce Ball exercises and warm up drills.

**John Kendrick**

925.827.0585 [jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)

How did the hipster burn his tongue?  
He sipped his coffee before it was cool.





## AREA 16 Fishing Report

To paraphrase the George Gershwin song, it was summertime and the fishing was easy.

**Brion Beetz, Steve Paulick, Stan Wong, and Pedro Contreras** drove down to San Diego and boarded the *Red Rooster* for their semi-annual five-day fishing extravaganza off the Mexican coast. They estimate that their total catch weighed about two tons. They bagged yellowfin tuna, yellowtail (a jack, not a tuna), and some rockfish. **Pedro** caught the boat's largest fish, an 83.1 lb. yellowfin monster.

Other members of the group traveled out of town to fish. **Bob Lively** journeyed to the Great Lakes for chinook and coho (silver) salmon and was quite successful. His largest fish was an 18 lb. chinook. **Bob** fished locally as well, hauling rockfish and lingcod from the ocean. This included a nine-pound lingcod. **Karl Droese** fished in Craig, Alaska, and brought home limits of salmon and halibut. **Gary Palhegyi**, one of our new members, tried his luck at Lake Mary, near Mammoth Lakes, and was rewarded with quite a few rainbows. **Stan Wong** fished for trout over three days at Lake Almanor. He caught rainbows averaging five pounds and a nine-pound German brown. **Sal Lombardo** also traveled to Lake Almanor, where he caught both rainbows and landlocked salmon. **Tom Kostik** made his annual trek to Pinecrest Lake and picked up limits of rainbows and black bass.

Speaking of new members, **Eric Finson** went on his first halibut trip with our group and caught a limit of two of the flatfish. **Eric** also joined 19 other members on our annual *Sea Wolf* charter and landed a vermilion rockfish, a fish that is relatively rare in our waters. Normally, we fish off the Farallon Islands on the *Sea Wolf* charters, but this year's fishing regulations limit fishing for rockfish in August and September to water less than 300 feet deep, making the Farallon Islands inaccessible for rockfish. And so we fished off Point Reyes instead. All told, the group nearly limited on lingcod and rockfish.

We also did well locally, **Stan Wong** caught halibut and stripers on several trips on the Bay. His largest stripers were 15 and 18 lbs. **Tom Kostik** made four forays in the Delta, landing 57 stripers, of which 12 were keepers. All the fish were released. **Ron Lew** fished in the Bay several times, catching four leopard sharks and quite a few stripers. **Jeff Wirch** hooked four rainbows in Lake Berryessa. **Carl Moyer** had a successful rockfish trip in the ocean but came home empty handed fishing for catfish in San Pablo Reservoir.

Our group meeting will be on October 24 at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, in Concord. 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



At age 20, we worry about what others think of us... at age 40, we don't care what they think of us... at age 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all

I called the help line for Alcoholics the other day.  
Can you believe it? They didn't know how to make a Mojito either.



## Hiking Mark Curtis

It's been an interesting year. We are almost done with a seemingly warmer summer. The end result of this warmer climatic situation resulted in the selection of venues that

would not be hazardous to all of us senior hikers. So, selections were made for bayside hikes primarily. It's interesting to note that, as of this writing, Monday, September 23, east CC county temperatures are projected to be at almost 100F!

Unfortunately, at this time of year, there are very few wildflowers available for observation. And most venues are very dry, so it's very likely than your boots, socks, and lower pants legs will be covered in fine dust. As we move into fall, we are more likely to observe mammals due to breeding season.

I should state that all the hikes I 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 have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I am 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](mailto:Mocurtis1657@gmail.com)



Lake Chabot, L/R: Ray Martz, Bob Wilkenfeld, Eric Finson, Earl Bates, Tom & Cynthia Stucker



Point Pinole; L/R: Tom Stucker, Earl Bates, Bob Wilkenfeld, Glenn Breslin

Sure... skydiving is scary.  
But, have you ever been to someone's house and the toilet won't flush?

Who was the first to arrive at the site of the plane crash?  
The Pilot!



## Birding Ted Robertson

Friday, September 13, 2024  
Field Trip Report.

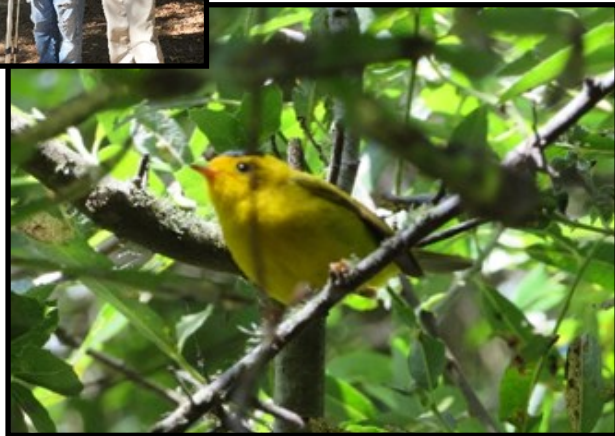
After postponing the trip for two days because of an accident that closed the Caldecott Tunnel, a group of three SIR birders explored Tilden Park between the Nature Center and Jewel Lake via the Lower Packrat Trail. This is a beautifully shaded trail surrounded by riparian plants such as willows, alders and cottonwoods, a pleasant respite from the hotter interior portions of the county. We spotted and heard 31 species of birds. We missed one of the target rarities, the Hooded Warbler that should be only found east of the Rockies, but we did get good looks at Wilson’s Warblers, Townsend’s Warblers and a Hermit Warbler. The last bird of the day was a Pacific Wren, a bird I haven’t seen in the county for a few years.

Our next field trip is scheduled for the morning of October 9th (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday). All levels of birders are welcome plus I have a few loaner binoculars if you don’t own a decent pair. If interested, please email **Ted Robertson** ([tedr@berkeley.edu](mailto:tedr@berkeley.edu)) so you can be added to the monthly mailing list and receive precise meet-up locations.

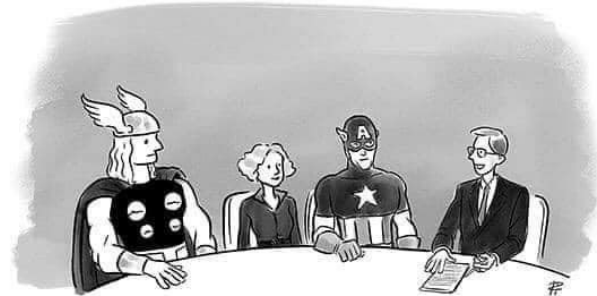
**Ted Robertson**  
925.899.1872 [tedr@berkeley.edu](mailto:tedr@berkeley.edu)



Photo by **Ted Robertson**



Wilson’s Warbler (Photo by **Ron Polivka**)

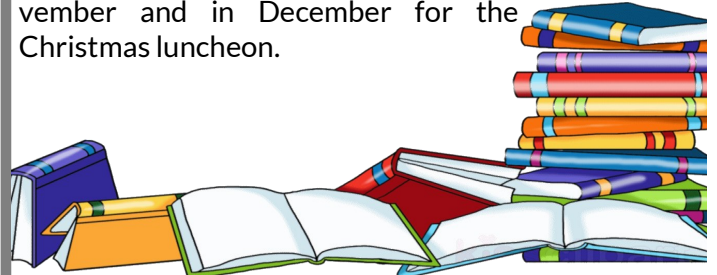


*“Well, I was bitten by a radioactive lawyer and ended up with the power of attorney.”*



## Book Corner Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone who took home their favorite books. The Book Corner returns in November and in December for the Christmas luncheon.





## Book Group John Pearl

The SIR 146 Book Group met in August to review and discuss our book of the month, *Trust*, by Herman Diaz, who won the Pulitzer Prize for this book which was a New York Times best seller and current best seller. The hard-cover edition is 415 pages.

We found it difficult to read, particularly the first half, and not an easy book to review. There were about 331,000 reviews by readers tabulated on the book's Amazon website, with an average rating of 4.1 of 5.

We found it a bit confusing to read and then keep up with what was going on, as it tells at least three stories (some reviewers say four). The book gets a bit easier to follow and understandable in the second half.

Here is the summary of the submitted reviews and comments by Amazon's AI program that seems to do a pretty good job for the reader:

"Customers find the story exceptional, interesting, and brilliantly plotted. They describe the book as a compelling, incredible, and well-written novel. Readers describe the story as revelatory, intellectual, and philosophical. However, some find the pacing repetitive and uninspired. They also say the characters lack personality and depth. Opinions are mixed on the writing quality, with some finding it brilliant and elegant, while others say it differs greatly from each narrative."

The book begins with a focus on a brilliant financier who foresees the crash of '29 and actually makes money from it by selling short to protect his fortunes. His personal life is not great, and his father-in-law dies in a mental hospital in Switzerland while his wife is eventually stricken by this same disease, goes to the same facility for treatment, and dies there as her father did. The husband is a pretty cold fish who is not a socialite at all in the money/social world of New York, but he appears kind enough to travel to Switzerland and sets up shop there so that he can be near his wife and support her and see that she gets the best care possible. He spends a substantial amount of money to get this for her, but she does not get well and dies a horrible death.

About here is where the second story of the book begins. It tells a similar tale, but with a different wealthy financier with a different and very smart wife. She us-

es their money for good causes to support the arts, with small concerts in their home. She also dies early in life, but not in the same horrible way as the wife in the first story. It seems to dismantle the carefully constructed image drawn in the first story. The main man in the story, who is a different version of the man in the first story, may have had a passionate and forbidden love affair with a younger woman. Was his marriage really solid? One of lots of questions that seemingly cannot be answered.

Then one enters the world of the third (?) novel – it is not always easy to see the various endings and beginnings. The financier in the first book hires a young woman writer who needs the money for family support to "construct" his biography. However part way through the project, the financier dies. The young woman goes on to be a secretary and novelist. The home of the financier becomes a museum, and one day while the young woman visits it, she discovers a hidden diary in the home by his late wife and steals it.

It is a tell-all story that reveals the wife's last days as she dies of cancer in a Swiss sanitarium. She claims to be the brains behind the financier's success making money, and asserts they worked together to make it happen. There is speculation that the actions of the couple were the cause of the '29 crash – believe it or not.

While a best seller, we would not recommend this book unless the reader is willing to devote time and energy to delve deeply into the stories and perhaps ponder what was read.

The Book Group meets again and will review a classic, Hemingway's *Farewell to Arms*, a classic from a category we have chosen to dip into occasionally.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor  
[jpearlir@gmail.com](mailto:jpearlir@gmail.com)





## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group will meet this month on September 23, at Fiori's restaurant in Concord. Corrie Oranje will be the restaurant host. The photo is from a previous visit to this restaurant. Fiori's is a Cooking II favorite and continues to be highly recommended. The group will next meet at the home of Ken Richter on October 14.

Steve Ybarra  
[sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)



## 寿司の友達

### Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Our September outing found us at Oishi Japanese restaurant in the Orchards shopping center in Walnut Creek. Interesting place. It brands itself as a Thai/Japanese restaurant. We stuck to the sushi of course. Unfortunately service here was abysmal! Half of our group had been served and finished what they ordered before the other half even got their



order which was a "boat load of sushi to share". Trying to get the waiter's eye was, well "frustrating". And of course they added a 18.5% service gratuity to our final bill, adding insult to injury. Left me wondering what they would have added had we gotten real service. But on the bright side, it gave us something to talk about other than the abysmal situations in the world.

All places can't be winners I guess.

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

This table probably took a  
good year or two to build...





## Cooking Lunch and Wine Pete Gates

As the name implies, the Lunch and Wine Group is primarily focused on monthly luncheons hosted by one of its members. However, twice each year they enjoy a dinner out with the ladies. This month, a group of 12 convened for dinner at the relatively new Cantina Jacks Restaurant in Pleasant Hill.

What they found was a place with a festive atmosphere, good service and good food at reasonable prices. Fortunately, the weather was nice, so the restaurant was able to “open-up” giving the feeling of outdoor seating, which also lowered the noise level.



Judging by the smiles and laughter among the group, a good time was had by all.

**Pete Gates**  
[petegates10@gmail.com](mailto:petegates10@gmail.com)



Checking the stock market... can we afford a second margarita?



## Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

Greetings Wine Enthusiasts, the next wine tasting is just around the corner. The October wine tasting is the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. (It is the third Tuesday of the month due to a scheduling conflict.) It will be at the home of **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon**. The tasting begins at 2:30 and ends at 5 pm. The wines for October are California zinfandel for red and California chardonnay for white. When you RSVP please let us know if you will be bringing a red or a white. Don't forget to bring an appetizer to share.

We are about half full (info was in last month's newsletter) so if you want to join us, don't delay. Either email us at [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com) or give me a call at 925-324-2463. This is the last wine tasting of 2024. Hope to see you there.

**Brian McCarthy**  
925.324.2463 [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com)



Why did the cowboy get a dachshund?  
Someone told him to get a long little doggie.





## Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

A regular dilemma for your host of the Dining Out activity is that after we make the selection of the restaurant and send out the notice to our email group, the event is often sold out by the

time the SIRCall is published. We've pondered on how to give all our membership equal opportunity, but have not come up with a fool proof method.

This, unfortunately, is the case in September as well. You will find the menu for our September couples Dining Out event in this issue for the SIR Call. We made the arrangements in early September after the last issue of the SIRCall was available and the event was sold out about a week ago. As we mentioned in the last issue, we were able to get a very inviting menu at the Dead Fish—the well-known Crab House and Prime Rib restaurant located in Crockett, overlooking the Carquinez Straits. They have a wood paneled Board Room which can seat a maximum of 50 diners.

The restaurant's normal cuisine includes some wonderful crab, fish and prime rib dishes, but in order to keep our total cost more reasonable we selected a few of their somewhat less expensive items. We will start with a Caesar salad, then have a choice of four entrees:

- Fish 'n Chips, a Roast Chicken
- Crab Angel Hair Lasagna
- one of their signature fish dishes – a Sea Bass prepared with a garlic lemon caper sauce.
- We added a vegetarian Fettuccini pasta choice as well.

Dessert will be a decadent Chocolate Tuxedo Mousse cake.

Many of our regular restaurant patrons had suggested this restaurant before, but the 25-30 minute drive had discouraged us from pursuing this venue. After driving there a few times, we decided that the longer drive was something our patrons could manage especially if we encouraged carpooling.

The setting for the restaurant is particularly scenic on the edge of San Francisco Bay. A real plus for going to this place is that they do not charge a corkage fee! Even buying a bottle there is much more reasonable than at most restaurants. Their specialty cocktails are also a good deal at only \$8.99 each – about half the cost anywhere else.

You will be able to see the attractive setting in the attached pictures. I again apologize if you did not get a chance to join us, as I've noted, if you wish to be added to the mail list for the earliest notification of these popular dinners, send me an email ([bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)).

We will publicize the event with pictures in the next SIRCall.

Our next event will be in November. In several of these previous year-end events, we have chosen a more up-scale restaurant to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season. Clearly, this will entail a somewhat more expensive dinner event, especially in these days of a significant gratuity and tax surcharges. So, save your pennies, and plan on a particularly special dining event to enjoy with your fellow SIR members and spouses – in November 2024!

**Bruce Borgman**

Dining Out Host

[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)



# *COUPLES DINING OUT*

*Tuesday Sept 24, 2024*

*Social hour / no host cocktails 5:30pm*

*Dinner: 6:15pm*



## Caesar Salad

Romaine hearts in a Caesar dressing with garlic croutons, shaved Reggiano

## *Entrée choices*

### Fish 'n Chips

### Crab Angel Hair Lasagna

A new twist on this traditional Italian dish with a Bechamel sauce

### Roast Chicken

Roasted Chicken with Italian Herbs and spices

### Sea Bass

Recently Demised Fish with Garlic Lemon Caper sauce, served with crispy roasted potatoes and mixed vegetables

### Alfredo Fettuccini Pasta

Italian style with a parmigiano reggiano cream sauce

## *Dessert*

### **Chocolate Tuxedo Mousse Cake**

non alcoholic sodas included, coffee and tea are extra



20050 San Pablo Avenue, Crockett

RSVP to Bruce Borgman, [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com), Confirm with check to Sir 146, mail to 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek 94598 \$67.00 per person, inclusive of tax and tip. Please indicate your choice of entrée. Limit of 50 diners!!



## Explore and Eat Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



On August 21<sup>st</sup>, we had a small but very interested and friendly Explore & Eat group (**Ross and Janet Abbott, Bill and Kim Carpenter, Charlie and Diane Walker and Jim and Renie Pope**) (See Picture) We met on the north porch in Napa at the Oxbow Public Market. Sunny, warm weather was perfect for a presentation by Gabe, General Manager, and a tour of the market’s 12 shops and 8 restaurants.

Gabe shared the history of the market and how his father built it at the turn of the century. Gabe’s father had worked at the Ferry Building’s market in San Francisco and realized that concept might work in Napa. He built the Market above the flood plain, on the Oxbow bend in the Napa River. He told us that many of the restaurants were started by San Francisco chefs to showcase their cuisine in a small market setting.

The shops are all local vendors selling local products. There are no “chain” establishments in the Oxbow Public Market. All unique in their own unique way. After the talk and tour each of the participants found a restaurant for lunch. Fun was had by all.



Explore and Eat “Oxbow Public Market” August 21st participant photo. Photo by Renie Pope.

Next page... another Explore & Eat Event!

# SIR 146 Beer Tasting

## At The Growler in Danville

(Changed Venue)

Led by “New Member-Scott MacDougall

October 16<sup>th</sup>, early lunch at 11:30



## Our First Ever Beer Tasting

Come join the group at **The Growler** at 515 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville to taste and learn about different beer styles with the Brew Master and “amateur beer expert” Scott MacDougall. Learn how they brew the different styles of beer. Then sit down to lunch with a **Flight of 4 beer styles: Stout, IPA, Lager and TBD**. Order and pay for lunch off **The Growler** menu.

Limited to 30, To RSVP, send a check made out to **SIR146**, Memo: **Beer Tasting**, for **\$14/person** for your **Flight of 4 different beers**. Couples can order one Flight per couple but please add a note to let us know you will be two for lunch.

**Scott MacDougall**, 254 Cameo Drive Danville, CA 94526

# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes



Group Uno 1

## Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Sir Peter Plante took over the helm of MT Uno on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> as the Oranjes were out of town. Otherwise, 11 players were ready and willing to take to the tables in hopes of being the big winner to take home the cash. Alas the hosts, Peter and Martha Plante were not in that group, as they came in last and next to last. The big winner of the night was Richard Hockenbrock. Following closely by only 0.6 point was Virginia Tygart, and Jane Bryant came in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mid game players were treated to Limoncello cake topped with whipped cream plus the Plante's homemade Limoncello made with 120 proof Everclear (recipe upon



request). Next month we will be hosted by Peter and Gabriella Bishop.

Corrie Oranje  
[corrieoranje@gmail.com](mailto:corrieoranje@gmail.com)



Group Dos 2

## Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played at the home of Clint and Bev Collier for our August game. Two regulars were absent, John and Nancy Pearl and Loren and Marlene DeLaurenti. We were only able to get one couple to substitute, Tony and Cindy Greco. So once again we played with two tables of five.

All enjoyed the many snacks and goodies Bev put out. Seemed the wine Clint put out didn't last as long as the snacks!

The Greco's started hot for the first 5 or so games but then faded a bit in the end. Coming in first and winning \$12 was none other than ME! Second place at \$6 was taken by Dan Holland. My bride, Anne came in third winning \$2. Pictured are the winners with their cash.

Our next game is scheduled for Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the home of Dan and Mary Holland. Hopefully we'll have a full complement of regulars.

Ron Plachy  
925.286.4552 [rjplachy@icloud.com](mailto:rjplachy@icloud.com)





## Mexican Train Dominoes “Tres” Walt Busenius

We met on the Friday afternoon of August 23<sup>rd</sup> after SIRCall went to press. Our Friday express excursion

huffed and puffed its way to Southern Walnut Creek and the home of Judy Richmond. Along for the ride were Sue and Walt Busenius, Joyce and Jim Barry, Sally and Lynn Shafer, Linda and Larry Brown, Alicia Baily, and Sharon Varner. Our whole group was together for the first time in the past 2 years. Judy treated us like royalty with all the habit-forming table treats and a wonderful array of half-time sweets.

Bringing her A game and home field advantage was Judy Richmond in taking 1<sup>st</sup> Place. She only went out 2 times, but always had low counts, and finished averaging 11.12 per game. Joyce Wells took 2<sup>nd</sup> place, averaging 14.83 per game and played very well, going out 3 times. Sue Busenius claimed the honor of 3<sup>rd</sup>

place. Both tables were chatty and competitive.

We all had fun, filled our mouths, loaded up with gossip, said our goodbyes, boarded our ole Mexican Train, and followed the hot sun home to rest our tired brains.

Our next meeting will be Friday afternoon, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at Linda and Larry Brown's. All Aboard for Clayton!!

**Walt Busenius**

925.457.7428 [walterbusenius@gmail.com](mailto:walterbusenius@gmail.com)



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

Our hosts on Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> were Janet and Bob Yolland. As

always, they greeted their guests with good wine and snacks. Everyone was relaxed and ready for their game.

Oh Boy!! The Men could not believe what happened next. It was so humiliating. Let there be no doubt, “Ladies Rule” in the Cinco Group.

No matter how hard the men tread, they keep coming up short. At first glance, they thought, after seven games, they had a winner with a low score of 93. Not even close!! The Ladies came in with Ann Hallett in first place with 71 then Janet Yolland and Anne Burk each with 88 to claim joint second.

The silence on the Men's table was noticeable. Long faces, stares of disbelief at the tiles and a few tears. Will this humiliation never end?

Their only happy memory was the outstanding Lemon Chiffon Pie, served by host Janet Yolland, which was consumed in record time and brought smiles of satisfaction.

It is time for the men to rally and show they can compete. Discrete training sessions, hidden cameras to observe the Ladies tactics and strategic seat placement techniques are all being considered. Only time will tell!!

We all look forward to the next gathering on Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup> at the home of Judy and Jim Baldrige.

**Dennis Hallett**

[dennishallett@astound.net](mailto:dennishallett@astound.net)





### Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD6 met at Bruce Borgman's beautiful home on August 28<sup>th</sup>, for our MTD6 get together. Thank you, Bruce

and Susan, for hosting.

Back to the two-table set up this month. Players for each table were selected by drawing fuzzy balls. At table 1 we had Peter Plante, John Kendrick, Mary McCarthy, Steve Lane, Mary Schmidt, and Richard Hockenbrock.

And our second table we had Brian McCarthy, Bruce Borgman, Carol Lane, John "Moose" Kelly, Virginia Tygart, and Martha Plante.

And the winners were Mary Schmidt (15.9), Steve Lane (18.2), and Richard Hockenbrock (19.7).

We look forward to our next get together on September 25, 2024, at Richard Hockenbrock's home, with the Lane's hosting.



Steve Lane

925.984.0341 [thelane3@aol.com](mailto:thelane3@aol.com).

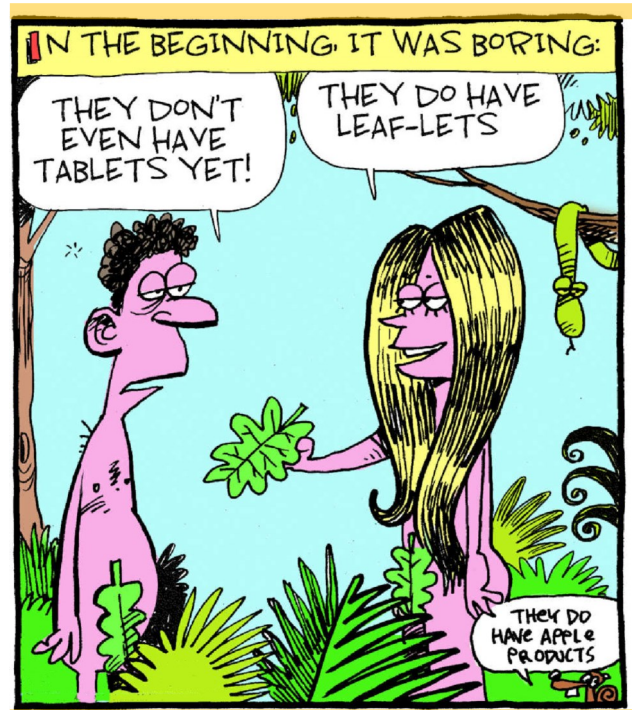
The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened.

Only a mediocre person is always at his best.



After incurring a second flagrant foul, King Midas is ejected from the game.

Anything unrelated to Elephants is irrelevant





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

On Aug 14, **Bob** and **Wendy Lucido** hosted our MTD 7 event.

**Mary McCarthy** with a score of 17.7 took first place, **Wendy Lucido** second place at 19.2, and **Clint Collier** third with 22.0

**Bob Lucido**

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

We had our largest crowd (20 players) attend the September 4<sup>th</sup> game night. The group consisted of regular members and

substitutes playing at four tables. With each player paying \$3.00, our total pot was \$60 for the evening where the person with the lowest score took home \$36 which was **Bill Holly** shown with a handful of \$5 bills. Next lowest in second place was **Pam McAllister** followed by **Virginia Tygart** in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Hosting the event with food and snacks were **Pam and Larry McAllister**.

Our next game will be played on the first Wednesday in October, the 2nd. If you would like to sign up to be on our substitution list, please send me an email at the following address:

**Richard Hockenbrock**

925.324.1713 [rlhock@outlook.com](mailto:rlhock@outlook.com)



**Pete McNeil and Sue Loftin** each received a scratcher ticket.





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

On Aug 21, Bob and Wendy Lucido hosted our MTD 9 event.

Mary McCarthy took first place, Brian McCarthy second place and Judy Wilkenfeld third place

Bob Lucido

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



### Words Of Wisdom From Children. These Are Brilliant.

1. Never trust a dog to watch your food. - Patrick, age 10
2. When your dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" don't answer him. - Michael, 14
3. Never tell your mom her diet's not working. Michael, 14
4. Stay away from prunes. - Randy, 9
5. Never pee on an electric fence. - Robert, 13
6. Don't squat with your spurs on. - Noronha, 13
7. Don't pull dad's finger when he tells you to. Emily, 10
8. When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair. - Taylia, 11
9. Never allow your three-year old brother in the same room as your school assignment. - Traci, 14
10. Don't sneeze in front of mom when you're eating crackers. - Mitchell, 12
11. Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic tac. - Andrew, 9
12. Never hold a dust buster and a cat at the same time. - Kyoyo, 9
13. You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass milk. - Armir, 9
14. Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts. - Kellie, 11
15. If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse. -Naomi, 15
16. Felt markers are not good to use as lipstick. Lauren, 9
17. Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat. - Joel, 10
18. When you get a bad grade in school, show it to your mom when she's on the phone. - Alyesha, 13
19. Never try to baptize a cat. - Eileen, 8



# CARD GAMES

...we play



## Poker Group 4 Pete Gates

Seven players gathered at the home of **Mark Sorum** for our August game. The games were varied, and the cards were definitely interesting, keeping everyone on their toes for the full three hours of play. Memorable hands included a royal flush which was assisted by a wild-card, another wild-card game that was won with six of a kind, and a seven-card stud game in which **Pete Gates** dealt himself four fours as the “up” cards. On his next deal he dealt **Frank Lucas** three consecutive fours “up” before breaking the string with a face card.

The influx of new players has been good for our group. Not only do we enjoy a greater variety of games and personalities, but the recent hosts have raised the bar for beverages and snacks, much to my delight.

I am up next and am looking forward to hosting the game on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Pete Gates**

925.937.2035 [petegates10@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:petamole@gmail.com)

**Stan Johnson**

925.938.7016 [stan.johnson88@gmail.com](mailto:stan.johnson88@gmail.com)



## 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](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8

[davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)





## Men's Hearts

### Bob West and Steve Ybarra

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from August 9<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup>.

The big winners are **Frank Lucas** and **Dick Wade** both with 4 wins and **Steve Ybarra** and **Glenn Breslin** with 3. **Dave Smith**, **Brian McCarthy**, **Tom Stucker**, **Steve Ybarra** and **Jim Passaglia** each had three 2nds. The lowest average score was **Dick Wade** with 46 and **Frank Lucas** with 47.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** leads with 22 wins followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 20 wins and **Bill Vizza** with 19. **Jim** and **Dick Wade** were tied for the highest winning percentage of active players at 36% followed by **Frank** with 34% and **Norman Cox** with 33%. **Jim** has the lowest average score of 53.5 followed by **Steve** with 54.2. **Frank** leads in STM's with 13 followed by **Jim** with 7 and **Brian McCarthy** with 6. **Steve Ybarra** as usual leads in 2nds with 22 followed by **Bill** with 18 and **Jim Passaglia** and **Bob West** with 17.5

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our next matches will be September 27<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

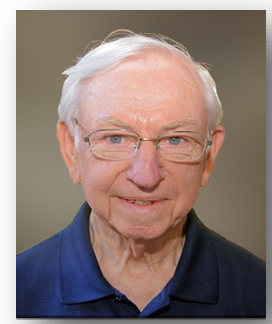
[robtawest@aol.com](mailto:robtawest@aol.com) and [sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)

Welcome to the Karma Café.

Please be seated

There are no menus

You will be served what you deserve.



## Party Bridge

### Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a good time playing at the home of **Jim Pope**, who was a terrific host as always. The players were: **Mike Davidson**, **Dick DeVoe**, **Steve Dinning**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Max Hinkle**, **Ed Marlovits**, **Bud Pearce**, **Jim Pope**, **Ray Spears**, **Jim Stedman**, **Jane Bradley**, and **Bob Yolland**. The high scorers were **Max Hinkle** with 5,790 points, **Ray Spears** with 5,050 points and **Jim Stedman** with 4,620 points.

The next game will be Monday October 7 at the home of **Bill Schaaf**, 1650 Fieldgate Lane, Walnut Creek. Please let us know if you would like to play.

Co-Directors

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



## Men's Duplicate

### Bridge 2

#### Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, September 6 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by **Sid Landman**.

**Bob Yolland** earned 1<sup>st</sup> place with 45.5 points. His 2<sup>nd</sup> half score was 6.0 points higher than the next highest, catapulting him into highest overall. Congratulations, Bob!

Each of the next three highest overall scored well throughout each period:

**Ray Spears** was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 44.0 points.

**Sid Landman** was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 41.5 points.

**Joe Fuchs** was 4<sup>th</sup> with 41.5 points.

Dick DeVoe

[dicknchristy@comcast.net](mailto:dicknchristy@comcast.net)



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

On a mild almost fall-like evening, Joan and Dave Pierce hosted us on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. The hands were pretty mild as well; no slams were bid and there

seemed to be fewer games than usual as well. Bob and Janet Yolland did make six on Board 17, but didn't get much credit for it. Jim Stedman and Jane Bradley bid game on Board 19 for a top when other pairs stopped in a part score.

Are suit contracts better than no trump when you have a fit? So they say (that's why we use Stayman). Bob and Janet played Board 9 in four hearts making five for a top while the other pairs bid 3NT making four.

At the end of the evening, only two match-points separated the top four pairs. Dick and Christy DeVoe were first (58%), Tony and Cindy Greco were second (56%), and Jim and Jane tied Rich Ahlf and Ismini McLean for third (53%).

We are grateful to our subs, Bob and Janet, and Rich and Ismini, without whom this evening would not have been possible, and with whom we don't get to visit often enough.

**Dave Pierce**

925.932.3877 [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



## Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Due to the proximity of our usual first Tuesday of the month event to Labor Day, we didn't play in September. Our next event will be held on

October 1st and hosted by Dick and Christy DeVoe.

**Tony and Cindy Greco**

925.934.0395 [almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)

What do you call a priest that graduated from law school?

Father-in-law



**Event Description:** San Francisco Fleet Week is an annual event that honors the contributions of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. The SS *Jeremiah O'Brien* (a WW II Liberty ship) participates with a cruise around San Francisco Bay, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, and the Bay Bridge for amazing views of the San Francisco waterfront, the visiting Navy ships, and the air show featuring the US Navy Blue Angels.

**Date:** Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Time:** Board the SS *Jeremiah O'Brien* at 9:00am, Ship leaves at 10:00am, returns at 5:00pm.

**Location:** Pier 35, Embarcadero, San Francisco.

**Park:** 80 Francisco St parking garage at Kearny St and Francisco St OR Anchorage Square Parking Garage at Beach St and Jones St OR the Pier 39 Parking Garage. [Editor's note: Having done this several times, you are better off taking BART to SF, get off at Embarcadero and take a pedi-cab or Uber to the *Jeremiah O'Brien*. Quick-er, easier, cheaper.]

**Cost:** \$185 Per Person. SIR146 Wives, Widows and Guests are welcome.


**Food and Beverage:** Donuts and Coffee Breakfast and Hot Dog and Chips Lunch with Water, Soda and Beer. All are provided at no extra cost. You can also bring your own food. No access to any refrigerators or microwaves on board. No ice chests or personal alcohol allowed.

**If interested:** Then buy your ticket at: [CLICK HERE](#) and inform Glenn Breslin [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com) that you bought your ticket. Unfortunately, no group discounts are available.

**Carpools:** Closer to the date, we will assess carpool logistics.

**Caution:** Please provide yourself enough extra time for traffic, parking and walking to Pier 35 over this busy Fleet Week.

**Questions:** Contact me [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com) 925-788-6520 or call SS *Jeremiah O'Brien* direct at 415.544.0100.



### 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

