



Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

Congratulations to the nominees identified in the July SIR Call on their election to the 2015 BEC! As I mentioned previously, this is an outstanding group of men who've stepped up to lead the branch in 2015. I'm certain

you'll give them your full support and that they'll do an excellent job next year. The new officers will be installed at our November meeting and will take office effective January 1, 2015.

On July 31, **Bill Holly**, our Little Sir, **Walt Busenius**, our Secretary, and I met with Courseco representatives to discuss the Clubhouse renovation plans. Unfortunately, they had very little additional information to give us because contractors' bids have not been received; the bids are due in early Nov. However, Courseco is confident that work will start in early Jan 2015 as they told us previously. Courseco indicated a willingness to accommodate us as much as possible, including scheduling the start date after our Jan 8 meeting, providing portable toilets, if necessary, and completing the messy part of the second floor renovations around our meetings in early 2015.

The BEC is mindful of the impact this renovation will have on our members. However, we have no choice but to minimize the disruption to the extent possible. In an abundance of caution, we have reserved space at the Concord Hilton for our Jan – Jun 2015 meetings in the event we choose to relocate temporarily to that facility. However, it is possible we and Courseco could work around the renovations, so we may not choose to relocate. In future meetings, the BEC will discuss whether, and for how long, we should temporarily relocate to the Concord Hilton and would like your input. Please share your opinion with any BEC member.

*As a reminder, don't forget to highlight our Oct 9 meeting on your calendar as that's the date we'll celebrate our branch's 25th anniversary. Little Sir **Bill Holly** has put together a great celebration and you will not want to miss it!*

Luncheon—Sep 11th
Featured Speaker
Professor Ron Olowin of St. Mary's College
on "The State of the Cosmos"

Gathering time - 11:00 am

Seating time - 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com

or

bahadomer@gmail.com
By noon Friday September 5th



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Jonathan Korfhage greets SIR members in ancient Chinese costume relating to the featured speaker's topic on 5,000 years of Chinese history.



Little Sir's Corner

Bill Holly

Have you ever looked up in the night sky and wondered about the origins of the Universe? Then come to our September luncheon and listen to Professor Ron Olowin of St. Mary's College. His topic is "The State of the Cosmos," a

multimedia representation of our sense-of-place.

Professor Ron Olowin arrived at St. Mary's College after completing his doctorate at the University of Oklahoma. Before teaching he was a research astronomer at the Royal Observatory in South Africa and director of Oklahoma's Kirkpatrick Planetarium.

While his astronomy work relies on cutting-edge technology and computers, he is well-schooled in the role that the stars have played in ancient cultures.

The most enduring legacy of Professor Olowin's presence at St. Mary's is the College's observatory. In 1997 he applied for grants and persuaded Louis Geissberger, a former science alumnus, to provide financial support for its construction.

Since then he has inspired his students – not just in astronomy, but in other subjects as well. In 2007-08 he was named Professor of the Year. Professor Olowin and his wife, Mary, live in Lafayette and have three grown children.

"Doctor! Doctor! I feel like a pack of cards!"
"Sit down and I'll deal with you later."



Photo by Bill Schultz

George Mon, Jim Stedman, Jim Brown, Tanc Agius, and Ben Gleason enjoy a relaxing moment and some refreshments after a round of golf.

SIR Happenings

Newsletter

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



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

SIR 146 BEC meeting 9am to 11am, prior to luncheon event. All members are invited to sit in and hear issues first hand.

Membership

Ben Gleason

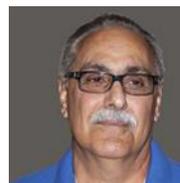
Branch 146 Statistics:

At our BEC meeting on August 14th, we approved four new members and accepted one resignation, increasing our membership to 270 active members (including our six Honorary Life Members).

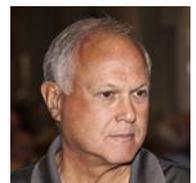


Status Changes

New Members:



Tom Falce



Harvey Oxman



Frank Sonoda



Pete Plante

Resigned: Jack Hockel

There were no changes to the Inactive Roster.



Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, etc. The objective will be to enjoy our music. All skill levels of musical skill are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged. Please

bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy. If you have music events to share; please bring the info to the meeting. Contact me at [carltilchenmusic391@gmail](mailto:carltilchenmusic391@gmail.com)

The next meeting of The SIR Acoustic Musicians Group is Wednesday, September 17th at 1 PM at 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Directions from 680 exit Rudgear Rd, continue on South Broadway, Right on Newell, Straight to San Miguel Dr. Right on Blackwood, Slight Left stay on Blackwood, Sharp Right on Ward. Call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909 if you get lost.



SIR 146 & Friends 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Wednesday, October 8th, 2014
6 pm to 10 pm at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant

Price is \$99 per couple and includes
hors d'oeuvres and dinner

Live Music for listening and dancing

Your choice of:

Beef

Fish

Pasta

Please write your check to SIR 146 Dance and mail to:

Richard Kincaide

10750 Inspiration Cr.

Dublin, CA. 94568

Phone: (925) 479-9935

Tables of eight are encouraged

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bill Laws & Ron Plachy enjoy a chat before the August luncheon.

Your Name and Your Partner	Meal Desired
Couple 1 -	Meal -
Couple 2 -	Meal -
Couple 3 -	Meal -
Couple 4 -	Meal -

25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE ONLY THIRTY DAYS AWAY!

That's right--only 30 days away--send in your reservation now for the Silver Anniversary SIR DINNER / DANCE on October 8th for a grand evening affair the night before our SIR 25th Anniversary Luncheon October 9th.

This is the start of a Great Celebration commemorating our 25th year of SIR 146. Let's start it off right with dancing the night away [until 10:00 P.M.! Let's face it--we're not teeny-boppers anymore!!!] Fellow Sirs, it is not required that you dance, just come and have fun with your friends!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bob Adams plays on the keys before the meeting.



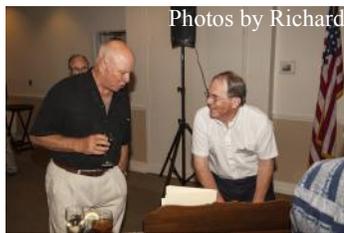
Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

George and Pam Rammell gallantly hosted us on August 5th, even though their remodeling is ongoing (since January; we all know that story). They were rewarded by placing 2nd with 3590, a little ahead of **Dick and Christy**

DeVoe with 3060 and a little behind **Dave and Joan Pierce**, 4170. Joan bid and made a slam for the difference.

Many thanks to our loyal subs, who very often place well up in the money; but **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** and **Tony and Cindy Greco** just didn't get the cards this night. We were all rewarded by admiring the classy remodeling work, **George's** paintings, and by **George's** work as barista and **Pam's** wonderful Bundt cakes.



Photos by Richard Hockenbrock

Lynn Shafer and Bob Adams enjoy one of **Bob's** melodies on the keyboard.



Bill Snyder showing his team colors from the Wisconsin Badgers

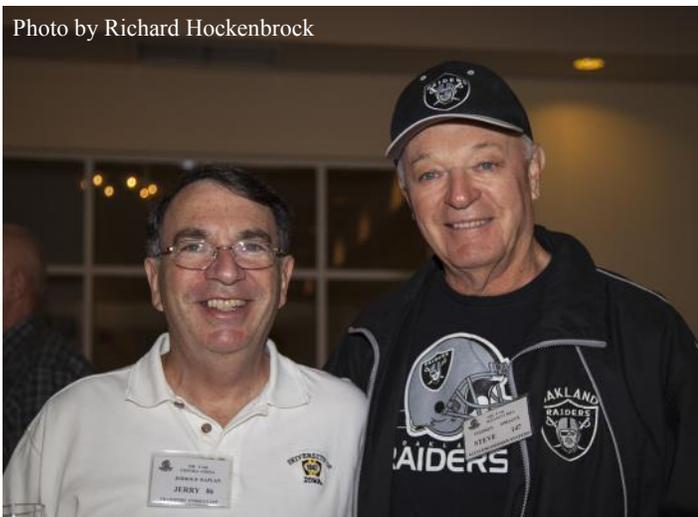


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Jerry Kaplan with his University of Iowa college shirt & **Steve Sprague** dressed in his All Pro Oakland Raiders attire are fully engaged in the spirit of the "Team Colors Day".



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon September 11, 2014

Salad

Three Bean Salad

Baby Field Greens, Garbanzo, Lima & Green Beans, Celery Root
Whole Grain Mustard Vinaigrette

Entrees

Oven Roasted Pork Shoulder

Herb Dijon Marinated Pork Shoulder
Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables
Brown Gravy

Or

Baked Salmon

Lemon Pepper Marinated Salmon, Rice Pilaf
Seasonal Vegetables
White Wine Butter Sauce

Dessert

Vanilla Panacotta

Italian Vanilla Custard, Seasonal Berries

Bob White is honored at the August luncheon for shooting his age on two consecutive weeks in July 2014. That was in spite of having a birthday which allowed him an additional stroke on his second round. Congratulations **Bob!**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

Poker Group 6 met at **Rich Ahlf's** home in Clayton on Wednesday August 13th. All eight regular players were present for the first time. Group members there for our afternoon game were leader

Al Twyford; host **Rich Ahlf**, **John Gray**, **Bob Larson**, **Norm Baietti**, **Frank Lucas**, **Sid**

Landman and **Brad Hatcher**. Big loser was our host **Rich**.

Big winners were **Al** and **Sid**. **Frank**, **Bob**, **Norm**, **John**, and **Brad** were breakeven or slightly over or under their \$10.00 start. It was another beautiful afternoon in Clayton and **Rich** provided some good red wine to help us get into our games. With 8 players we played more 5 and 6 card games. 5 card stud "roll your own wild card" seemed to be the most popular game of the day.

Next month's game on September 10th is scheduled to be hosted by **John Gray** in Clayton. **Sid** keeps us all in line by reminding us when we make a mistake in any game. We need his help when we get on our 2nd or 3rd glass of wine. Everyone seemed to have a good time as usual with lots of jokes and stories. We have a new member alternate **Harvey Oxman** who was sponsored by **Sid**. He will be playing in September since several players will be out of town.



Bridge - Couples Duplicate Group 2

Jim Adams

The August 12th event was kindly hosted by **Jim** and **Ruth Adams**. It was a most unusual evening. Lots of fun, but the bridge part of brains apparently were checked in at the door.

Board examples:

- Two bid and made 4 spades; the 3rd couple made 5 but bid 3.
- Four boards were thrown out.
- Only 1 couple bid game for a board- and they even made it.
- Two couples bid game and went down 3.
- One stopped at 4 NT(?) and made 7. Another bid and made the slam (they must have retrieved their check-in).
- Two bid and made slam; the 3rd never got to game.

Out of the organized chaos emerged three couples tying for 1st, amassing 22 points- the lowest 1st place winning score ever! Congratulations to hosts **Jim/Ruth Adams**, **Terry/Sharon Marchione**, and **Dave/Joan Pierce**.

The other three couples have appealed in a class action suit to trump the winners. They've ignored the fact that the Director has total authority and is one of the winners. So went the evening. A fitting close to – and you already know this – a most unusual evening.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Steve Loftin & Dennis Dale enjoy a moment during the August luncheon.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Doug Cook & Noel Roberson at the August Luncheon

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity but I can't put it down.

The Energizer Bunny was arrested last week and charged with battery.



Sunshine Report

John Pearl

Let us keep the following Sirs in our thoughts and prayers during September. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

- **Howie King**
- **Dave Obera**
- **Bob Darius**
- **Bob Donahue**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our SIR membership can be advised.



Book Corner

Ken Richter

The Book Corner has been a continued success over the past years because of the willingness of our members to share their books. We anticipate this participation will continue.

The Book Corner will be open the following months in the future; January, March, May, July, September and November.



Lunch and Wine

Bob Spellman

The LAW cooking group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest of the group.

We gather at 11:00 for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch. Regular members are: **Frank Rockwell, Joe Barry, Syd Whalen, Dick Woodman, Pete Gates, Paul Dubow, Jim Meehan and Bob Spellman.**



Get a new picture taken for the SIR Web Directory

Have you ever looked at your picture on the Members' Photos page on the Branch 146 website? Hopefully it looks better than this fellow to the left but if your picture is washed out or you were caught in an unflattering pose; you deserve better than that!

Come early to the September luncheon and see our branch photographer, **Richard Hockenbrock**, on the outside patio of the Mira Room (bar area). Get a new picture taken with the magnificent golf course in the background. We'll do our best to make you stand out from the crowd!



Bocceball

Martin Lyle

We play the 2nd and 4th Mondays May through October at 8:30 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain Cancels play.

Our turnouts have been very satisfactory from our regular players as well as new ones. The weather is great this time of year so come out and enjoy some mild exercise. Ladies are welcome.



Niners Golf Group

Verner Laursen

We tee off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on Thursdays except the 2nd Thursday branch luncheon day. If you are interested let me know. The lunch is almost always better than our golf game.

vlaursen@astound.net

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.



Cribbage

John Pearl

Five souls braved the late August heat to connect at **Barney Meade's** home on August 27th where, while solving the world's problems, we played some cribbage. We welcomed a guest this month, **Ron Afdal**. First place money went to the Chair, **John Pearl**, while our

host **Barney Meade** came in second. Our guest, **Ron Afdal** also played well, taking home third place money.

Pearlmcpearl@astound.net

(925) 934-6920



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Frank Rockwell presenting the SIR Feather in the Cap Award to **Jim Baldrige** for **Jim's** 145 yard Hole-in-One on the 14th at Wolf Run Golf Course in Reno on June 18, 2014



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

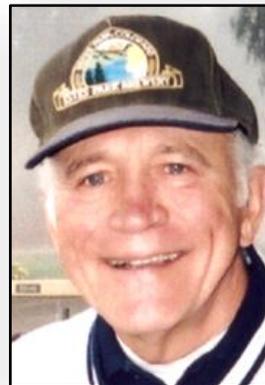
Our next hike will be to Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. This is an easy flat 5 mile loop along San Pablo Bay. This loop trip follows the Bay View Trail to the tip of the point, then returns via the Marsh and Cook's Point trails. Directions: From interstate 80 in Pinole, take the Richmond

Parkway/Fitzgerald Dr. exit and follow Richmond Pkwy West 1.9 miles to the Giant Highway exit. After exiting, go 0.3 mile to a stop sign, turn right, and go another 0.2 miles to Giant Highway. Turn right and follow Giant Highway as it jogs left, crosses railroad tracks, and jogs right for a total of 0.7 miles to the park entrance, left. Go 0.1 mile to the entrance kiosk, then turn left into the parking area. The trailhead is at the northwest corner of the parking area.

Spouses always welcome

Hike starts at 9:30am September 12th

Rich Ahlf Cell: (925) 550-4967



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Our August 25th game will be hosted by **Skip Thomas**. Please contact **Skip** if you cannot attend so that he can arrange for a sub. If you are interested in being a sub in the Poker #4 group, give me a call: **Chuck Bobinecz** (925) 939-8740

General Rules: Any time during a betting round, if one player bets and no opponent chooses to "call" (match) the bet and instead "folds", the hand ends immediately, the bettor is awarded the pot, and no cards are required to be shown.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Max Hinkle & Jim Brown at the August luncheon

Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "If an emergency, notify:" I put "Doctor". What's my wife going to do?



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

August was a great month to go fishing for members of our group. **Carl Moyer, Gordon Linebaugh,** and **Chuck Vanoncini** broke the ocean salmon drought when each caught a salmon mooching in front of the Golden Gate. For

those of you who are unfamiliar with the term "mooching", it means that the salmon were caught while holding the rod and dropping the line into the ocean instead of trolling for the fish. In addition, **Rich Bal, Ed Dijkman, Bob Olson** and three friends boated 10 salmon, two under the limit, fishing in the ocean. The fish weighed between 20 and 25 pounds. On another ocean trip, **Terry Miller, Dick Thomson, Harry Sherinian,** and **Carl Moyer** landed limits of ling cod and rockfish.

Paul Dubow and **Bill Baltezare** of Branch 146, along with **Barry Rauchle, Karl Droese, Chuck Vanoncini,** and **Al Brunner** chose to do their salmon fishing in the Sacramento River near Anderson and they came home with six fish. The largest was a 32 pounder that Al landed after a 20 minute fight.

Bay and Delta fishing was also productive. **Joe Karg** caught five leopard sharks from a pier as part of an overnight stay at East Brothers Island. **Mike Corker** and **Tom Kostik** caught and released over 50 black bass near Tom's favorite spot. Joe Peterson came home with a pair of stripers fishing in Rio Vista.

There was even some production from San Pablo Reservoir, normally quiet in late August. **Gene Schulting** of Branch 146 and his wife caught three large catfish at San Pablo and **Ron Maciak** picked up two trout from the shore.

Those who ventured out of town also were happy campers. **Pete Gates, Tom Boltz,** and **Steve Loftin** of Branch 146 made their annual trip to Prince of Wales Island in Alaska and brought back lots of salmon and halibut. New member **Joe D'Angelo** also did well in Alaska. **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 caught two wahoog in Hawaii. **Steve Paulick** had good luck with trout in Caples Lake in the Sierras and **Gordon Linebaugh** had a great time catching bluegill from a pond near his summer cabin.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 25, at the Legend Sport Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord.

The meeting starts at 8:30 am but most of us assemble an hour earlier for breakfast. All are welcome, even those who have never fished or who have not picked up a fishing rod in years.

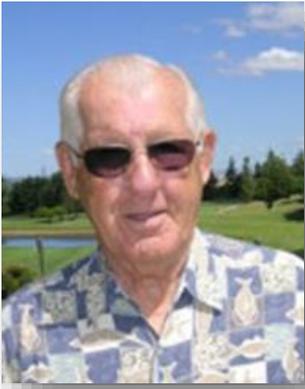
For further information, call branch fishing chairman **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Paul Dubow holding up a salmon caught in the Sacramento River



Sacramento River catch with **Barry Rauchle, Chuck Vanoncini, Karl Droese, Bill Baltezare, Al Brunner & Paul Dubow**



GOLF

Ray Weisz

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

player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date.

For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October. Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer "away golf". Do you enjoy competing against Sirs from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.

Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers receive GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome, too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.

The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bill Hoban & Gayl Thorne
are having fun at the August luncheon.



Cooking II

Bruce Borgman / Bob Yolland

The August gathering of the Cooking II group was held at **Corrie Oranje's** home. We were able to enjoy a perfect summer day for our appetizers on **Corrie's** deck – and had several cheeses with crackers, nuts, and **Corrie's** signature

roasted pepper relish on a baguette while sipping our wine and sodas. Present for this event were **Bill Roberts, Bruce Borgman, Dennis Hallett** and **Ken Richter** with **Corrie Oranje** hosting; our other members were out of town.

For the lunch **Corrie** prepared an excellent balsamic glazed salmon which was barbecued with side dishes of an asparagus risotto, and a mixed green salad with balsamic vinaigrette dressing. For dessert we enjoyed ice cream with Kahlua and some added chocolate espresso chips. A good time was had by all. Next month's event will be hosted by **Ken Richter**.

Men's Reunion Lunch

A group of men, all aged 40 discussed where they should meet for a reunion lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Weatherspoons in Uxbridge because the waitresses were smart and wore mini-skirts.

Ten years later, at age 50, the friends once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Weatherspoons in Uxbridge because the food and service was good and the beer selection was excellent.

Ten years later, at age 60, the friends again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Weatherspoons in Uxbridge because there was plenty of parking, they could dine in peace and quiet and it was good value for the money.

Ten years later, at age 70, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Weatherspoons in Uxbridge because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and had a toilet for the disabled.

Ten years later, at age 80, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Weatherspoons in Uxbridge because they had never been there before!



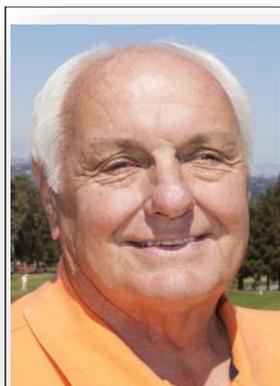
Luncheon Attendance

Baha Zarah

The monthly Branch Luncheon was held on August 14th with about 219 attendees present including six guests (potential new members) and a speaker with his assistant.

The speaker was Mr. Na, a civil engineer from San Jose. His presentation gave a brief history on the numerous Chinese dynasties and highlighted renewed Western interest in these ancient periods by modern day Chinese artists and dancers.

The next luncheon will be held on Thursday, September 11th, with notification deadline of non-attendance by noon Friday, September 5th.



Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the Sir luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event.*

*The regular players are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Skip Thomas, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken***

***Richter and Frank Rockwell.** Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 and ends around 8:00 with time out for dinner.*



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

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

We played three tables of bridge on August 4th at the home of **Fred Bolton**. First place went to **Fred Kovar** with 5910 points, second to **Jim Jackson** with 5830, and third to **Sid Landman** with

5630 points. Our next game will be on September 1st at the home of **Bob Burley**.

Walking Schedule

John Lewis

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

*Call **John** or just show up.*

Rain cancels any walk.



September walks by **Flo Lewis**



Sep 5 Arbolado Park

- Meet: At Park. Ygnacio Valley Rd. to Oak Grove. Right at Oak Grove.
- Left on Arbolado Dr.
- Walk: West on trail towards Boundary Oaks Golf Course
- Coffee: Deli Delight, Shadelands Office Park

Sep 12 Hap McGee Park, Alamo

- Meet: Take 680 South to El Pintado, immediate right on La Gonda to park
- Walk: West across bridge to Camille Ave. to north on Iron Horse Trail
- Coffee: Pascals, Danville on Railroad Ave.

Sep 19 Clayton Valley Black Diamond Way, Clayton

- Meet: Clayton Library
- Walk: West on trail passing Oakhurst Country Club
- Coffee: Deli Delight, Shadelands Office Park

Sep 26 Heather Farms Park

- Meet: Heather Farms Swim Parking
- Walk: Make a circuit of entire park
- Coffee: Sweet Affair at Ygnacio Plaza

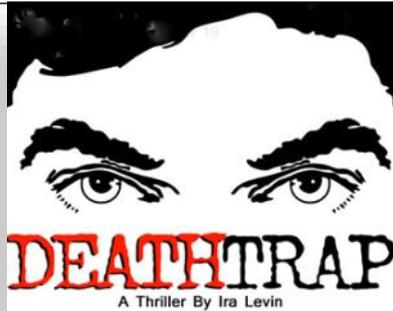


SIR146 Veterans

Charlie Koeber

I would like to thank all of the Sirs who completed the veterans data report in June. The branch has 84 veterans spread among the services as follows:

- Air Force: 10
- Army: 42
- Coast Guard 1
- Marines: 8
- Merchant Marine: 1
- Navy: 22



Theatre
Gary Schaub

SIR 146 Theatre Party
Wednesday, November 19th

One of Broadway's all-time favorite thrillers is on tap for the SIR 146 Theatre Party on Wednesday, November 19th. Ira Levin's famous who-dun-it, DEATHTRAP, will be staged at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek by Center REPeritory Company.

Since it premiered over thirty-five years ago, DEATHTRAP has been a favorite for theatre-goers. Even if you've seen it before, this play excites the audience with all the plot twists and turns that make for a very entertaining evening in the theatre.

A limited number of reserved tickets has been set aside for SIR members and guests for the 7:30 p.m. performance on November 19. Deadline for reservations is October 30, or until all our allocation has been reached.

DEATHTRAP received rave reviews from the New York Times critic when it opened in 1978. Critic Walter Kerr wrote that this play contained "effrontery everywhere and fun straight through." Another critic allowed that this play "proves that murder can be fun." It was nominated for Broadway's Tony Award as Best Play, and holds the record as the longest running comedy-thriller in Broadway history.

In the play, playwright Sidney Bruhl has had several successful plays, along with a few recent flops. To help get his creative juices going, he invites one of his students, who has just completed a mystery play, over to offer suggestions. This leads to questions of Bruhl's intent to steal the student's manuscript -- or was he just kidding?

Discount tickets at \$25 per person may be reserved with a check (payable to SIR 146), and mailed to SIR Gary Schaub, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595 (note new address). Convenient parking is available in the City Garage adjacent to Leshner Center. Tickets will be distributed in the lower lobby of Leshner Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:00 p.m. on performance night. Note that the show begins at 7:30.

This may come as a surprise to those of you not living in Las Vegas but there are more Catholic churches than casinos. Not surprisingly, some worshipers at Sunday services will give casino chips rather than cash when the basket is passed.

Since they get chips from many different casinos, the churches have devised a method to collect the offerings. The churches send all their collected chips to a nearby Franciscan monastery for sorting and then the chips are taken to the casinos of origin and cashed in.

This is done by the chip monks.



Photo by Gary Schaub

Picnicking at California Shakespeare Theatre before "Pygmalion" are (L-R) **Nikki** and **Tanc Agius**, along with **Sue** and **Walt Busenius**

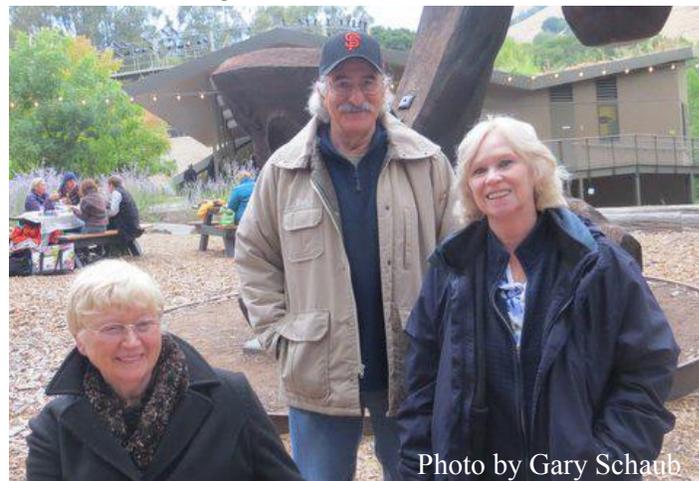


Photo by Gary Schaub

(L-R) **Joanne Haukland** and **Bob** and **Althea Soldano** dressed warmly for chilly evening at SIR 146 Theatre Party of "Pygmalion" at California Shakespeare Theatre in August

Dana Perino (FOX News) describing an interview she recently had with a Navy SEAL. After discussing all the countries that he had been sent to, she asked if they had to learn several languages?
"Oh, no ma'am. We don't go there to talk."



Travel Opportunities Ken Richter

Oct 27, 2014: The 2nd Levi Stadium Tour. The tour will include a visit to the Verizon Press Level, Suite Tower, Premium Club Spaces aka "Millionaire Row", 50 yard line Patio, Visiting Teams and Cheerleaders Locker Rooms, and the Solar Terrace and

Garden. There will be a visit to the Official 49ers Team Store and Museum. The day will include roundtrip motor coach transportation from Walnut Creek, tour of the Stadium, and a no-host lunch at Applebee's before our return home at approx. 4:30 pm. Cost is \$57.00 Contact **Ken Richter** Br. 146 KERichter@astound.net

Sept.12-30, 2014: The Essence of China. 19 day tour of China featuring Beijing, Zhengzhou, Xi'an, Chengdu, Guilin, and Shanghai. Trip features include R/T air, and motor coach, 4 star hotels, meals, national guide, and local English speaking guides, Chinese visas and all departure taxes. Tour price \$ 5,890. Contact **Dick Schally** Br. 8 (925) 260-5534.

Sep 19-Oct 3, 2014: Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage. 14 night trip starting in Bergen, Norway with a stay at a Superior First Class Hotel before boarding your working Norwegian coastal vessel designed for comfortable cruising. You will visit 34 ports of call, with 12 orientation walking tours with Program Manager. The price is \$4649 and includes accommodations, 36 meals, audio headsets, all transfers and baggage handlings. Post trip to Copenhagen, Denmark also available. Contact **Bob Spellman** Br 146, 934-8428 for more information.

Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France. A River Journey From Normandy to Provence. A 22 day river cruise aboard the Deluxe ms River Venture and the ms River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting the D-Day Beaches of Normandy, Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy Regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers. Prices range from \$ 6,499 to \$ 8,299, which include **airfare**, 22 nights' accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handing overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and Post trips are available. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 698-6217 or KERichter@astound.net

Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of Normandy. A Seine River Cruise. A 12 day cruise

aboard the Deluxe ms River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day Beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$ 6,199 which include 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus Pre & Post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net

Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French Waterways: Highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence. A 12 day river cruise on the ms River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, Beaujolais & Burgundy Regions. The prices range from \$ 3,999 to \$ 6,649. Trip includes 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus Pre & Post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br. 146 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ken Richter has his table set up in the bar area with literature of all the travel programs shown above.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Lew Thompson , Joe Lamanna and Vince Rettew gather around their table for the luncheon event in August .



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The September event of the Couples Dining Out will be a new experience as we have selected the Kobe Japan restaurant in Pleasant Hill and will enjoy a Teppanyaki meal prepared by entertaining chefs before our very eyes. This

restaurant has received rave reviews from other diners and suggested by one of our own group. The restaurant has offered us a very comprehensive menu including Japanese onion soup, appetizer, sautéed mushrooms or shrimp, a mixed green salad, and a vegetable mix. For the entrée we will be able to choose from among salmon, prawns, Angus steak, calamari, chicken, ahi tuna, or scallops. A second dish is added – either chicken breast or prawns. We'll have a choice of two kinds of rice, with a fruit cup for dessert. Total all inclusive price is \$40 per person.

The event will be on Monday, September 22nd. We will start our cocktail social hour at 5:15pm to take advantage of the happy hour pricing – and will have dinner at 6:00pm. This restaurant has limited seating and we will have to limit the number of diners to 40. To reserve your spot, make out your check to SIR 146 and mail to **Bruce Borgman**, 3611 Winchester Place, Walnut Creek, 94598. You may call **Bruce** at 932-3961 or email bgborgman@aol.com to answer any questions or to verify that space is still available. This will be a fun event which you will not want to miss!

LATE BREAKING NEWS (as of August 19th)

We reached the 40-diner maximum in only three days after my email to those on the Couples Dining Out mail list. We are now taking reservations for a wait list – and are considering a second evening on Monday September 29th – same menu, same price. You may mail a check to secure your reservation which will be returned in the event a critical number is not reached.

When everything is coming your way,
you're in the wrong lane.



Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 took a vacation during August and did not play. It's rumored some of the members took advantage of the time off to brush up on their play of the

hand. Hmm....will it do them any good? We'll see in September. Check this column next month for the September results. Our September game will be played on the 15th at the home of **George Zurich**.



Photography Group Richard Hockenbrock

The next scheduled meeting of the Photography Group is set for Friday, September 19th, at 9am in the Contra Costa Library on Oak Grove Road. I'll be showing some clips from a promo video from Popular Photography that explains some of the basic fundamentals of photography. If

you are interested in learning about basic concepts, this will be a good meeting to attend.

Our meeting schedule for October and November has changed to the first Friday of each of those months, October 3rd and November 7th, due to library staff conflicts with the room. If you are on the Photography Group mailing list you will get a separate announcement. We also anticipate doing a photography field trip soon. If you are interested in joining the group, email me at rhock@pacbell.net

He had a photographic memory which
was never developed.

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor
Proofreaders
Labeling & Mailing
Internet Posting

Richard Hockenbrock
Dick DeVoe and Cal Tucker
Bill Cammerer
Ron Plachy



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

*Every Monday at 11:30 am.
(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)*

We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5 for as

long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours, but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All Sirs in our Area 2 are welcome.



Couples Duplicate

Bridge

Lo McCarley

Lo and Sue McCarley hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on August 20th. The group thanked **Jim and Allison Todhunter** and **Fred Bolton** for substituting. As for the bridge results, **Carl and Anne**

Johnson took first place with 44 points. Margot Somerville and **Vince Rettew** were in second place with 35 points, **Bill and Margaret Rees** were in third place with 34.5 points, and fourth place went to **Jim and Allison Todhunter** with 30 points. **Dave and Joan Pierce** will host the next bridge on September 17th.

I didn't like my beard at first and then it grew on me.



Bob Mehus & Ron Binder share a story at the August luncheon.



Tanc Agius & Art Ainscough enjoyed some memories as they sit down to eat at the August luncheon.



Jim Koeppen and Howard Nemir sit down ready to eat at the August luncheon.



Pierre Mebane & George Mon



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs continue to fine tune their summer repertoire which includes some old favorites like “It Had to be You”, and “I’ll Be Seeing You” and some novelty tunes like “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” and “Play a Simple Melody”. One favorite is “I Left my Heart in San

Francisco” with a solo by **Jim Bogue**.

We’ve practiced a cappella a few times while our pianist, **Dave Obera**, is recovering from surgery. We continue to look for someone to assist **Dave** – let us know if you have a suggestion. We will be singing for the leadership VIP group at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church on Sept. 3, and have re-scheduled our gig at Byron Park Residence Home later in September. We are always looking for singers to join our ranks; call **Bruce** or our director, **Pete Miller** for information.



Mexican Train Dominoes

Jerry Kaplan

August Game Night

Another wonderful get together for the growing Mexican Train Dominoes activity occurred on Friday night, August 15th, at the lovely home of **Corrie and Sue Oranje**. A full house of 18 players at three different tables enjoyed

several exciting rounds of the game as well as delicious snacks and dessert provided by the Oranjes.

The big winner with the lowest number of domino points was **Richard Hockenbrock** followed by **Frank Ascatisno** and then **Terry Marchione** with the third lowest score among all 18 players.

Since starting the activity in June, **Jerry** has been asked by several SIRs for more information on how to play and possibly joining the group. If a few more people want to join in, we may have enough people to start a second group.

Our next game night is September 12th, the Friday following the SIR luncheon. Anyone who would like to join our group, learn about the game, and perhaps become a substitute, or be part of a new group of players, please call (925) 930-7076 or email mtdana@aol.com.

It’s really fun and easy to learn! Most of us playing now have either never played or not for many years. Come join us!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Carl Tilchen entertains the members and Little Sir **Bill Holly** at the August luncheon.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Walt Busenius & Dick Kincaide sport the colors of their favorite teams, the 49ers and Cal.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Nancy Kalteis, Marie Ascatisno, & Sue Sheldon contemplate their next move in Mexican Train.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Jerry Kaplan adds the scores at his table while the other tables play on.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sharon Marchione uses a big calculator to keep track of Mexican Train scores.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

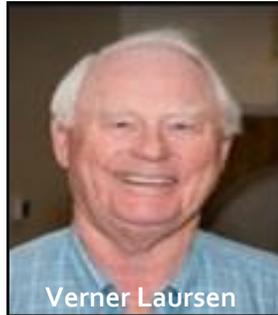
Sig Kalteis, Frank Ascatisno, Sharon Marchione, Barbara Stedman and Rob Melrose

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac. We will also cover the return on your investment in Apple Care. In May the return for Verner Laursen was over \$1000. If you have or may have an interest please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. When on the list, you will receive an email from me from time to time and I will let you know of items of interest to Mac users.

The Mac Users meet the first Monday of the month at the CCC Thurman Casey Library on Oak Grove Road at 10am. We finish by noon.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group met on Wednesday, August 27th, at 8:00 a.m. at Legends Sport Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our guest speaker was Brent Cunningham, a Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch. Brent's topic was "Sell Side Indicator and What to Do in 2014, Mid Year Update." Brent discussed current market conditions and how to know when it is time to sell.

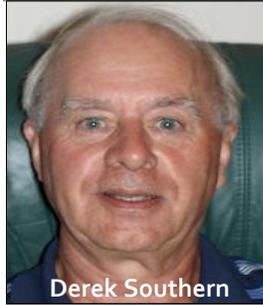
Brent has been in the financial services industry since 2008 and joined Merrill Lynch in 2011. His focus is on developing strategies and recommendations for high net-worth individuals, their families and their businesses to help them meet their financial goals. Brent graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder with a BA in

Economics and earned an MBA in finance from the University of Nevada, Reno. He holds a series 7 and 66 securities license.

Plan to attend future meetings and bring a prospective SIR. Legends Sport Bar and Grill opens at 7:00 a.m., so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

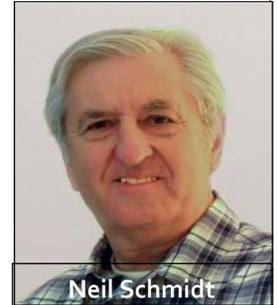
Chairman: Gary Moore (Br-174) (925) 254-8742

Computers and Technology Group



Derek Southern

PC's



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all SIR and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, September 18th at 9:30 am. **Dean Steichen** continues the theme of upgrading your computer from XP (or buying a new one) by considering the software you need to install. He will quickly review alternatives to MS Office and will discuss a number of other free programs that users need but don't come with Win 8.1.

Following the presentation there will be our Q&A with the gurus, and possibly an informal "Sharing Tips & Tricks" segment where individuals will be asked to share some of their computer, smartphone, tablet, etc. tips with the group.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. Some months we ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies, other months are free.