



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

August–September 2024



Big Sir's Corner

At our meeting this September we will be asking you to vote for the Officers and Directors who will lead our organization next year. We are blessed in that we have volunteers for the full slate of positions. Two of the volunteers are new members, joining us just this year!

With your approval we will have new energy and ideas coming to our leadership team to help us maintain the high level of interest and activity in our organization.

Your efforts to help us grow the organization through new membership are to be commended. We are one of the top five branches in overall membership and I expect that we will be near the top among all branches in recruiting new members. For the most part you have done this by just talking to friends about the activities and social benefits of an organization centered around fun activities for men and in many cases their significant others. Keep up the good work-it would be great to see 50 new faces this year!

The State SIR continues to struggle with the overall health of the organization. Their assessment is that about one third of the Branches are growing, one third stagnant and one third are shrinking. Part of the problem is that only a small percentage of the population is aware of SIR. We, the members, in many cases are reluctant to reach out to friends and neighbors to talk about SIR for whatever reason. Many of you though have done so and I suspect at least from my experience reaction has been polite interest. The State Sir would like to go a step or two further and look for additional ways to get the word out. I think there are studies out there that show that social interactions are very beneficial for the physical, mental and emotional health of all including aging men. A recent inter-

viewee on a radio talk show opined that even dementia was suppressed when people were socially active. I would like to see if we could gather some of this background information and work it into an article or articles that could be placed in local papers or magazines. If any of you have contacts with universities or hospitals that may have insights on this topic, I would be glad to hear from you. John@klueseners.com

Members who ordered the "Sunrise Chicken Salad" for the August 8th luncheon were served Chicken Piccata. I was one of the disappointed, and while I en-

Continued on next page

Activities for you...

- [Explore and Eat: Oxbow](#) Page 27
- [98 bottles of beer on the wall](#) Page 28
- [Bocce is a ball!](#) Page 21
- [Fleet Week](#) Page 40
- [Take a Hike!](#) Page 23
- [Need a good read?](#) Page 24
- [Oyster?](#) Page 13
- [Pet CPR](#) Page 14

Luncheon
Thursday, September 12th, 2024
Boundary Oak 11:30

Beverly Lane, a local historian.

A reservation is required!
 To make yours and choose your entree go to page 3. (click Here!)

[BEC Elections at the September Meeting!](#)
See Page 4

joyed the Chicken Piccata, we as SIR Branch 146 expect better service from Boundary Oak Golf Course. This was raised with the management of Boundary Oak and they agreed to lower their price for the 45 members who ordered the salad to \$10, a savings of \$26 per diner.

I plan to contribute my \$26 savings on the meal to the Branch's general fund to be used for new member recruitment and I encourage the other 44 members eligible for the "salad refund" to do the same. However, if you prefer to receive the refund, please contact our Treasurer, **Mike Rothman** (mrothman9@gmail.com) and he will send your refund. Mike prefers to make the refunds using Zelle, so if your bank supports Zelle, let Mike know your Zelle-linked address.

John Kluesener
Big Sir, Branch 146



Little Sir's Corner Bob Ford

Hello everyone, our speaker for September is Beverly Lane, a local historian. For October Emily Boyd from Brookfield Development will join us to 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. I am forming a small committee to help next year's Little SIR find speakers. I already have a couple of volunteers but if you are willing to help please let me know. I hope to see you all in September.

Bob Ford
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership George Mon

Three new members were approved for membership in August.

Lloyd Bracewell lives in Oakland with his wife **Patricia**. He was a Consulting Engineer for Bracewell Engineering Inc. He is

interested in 18-hole golf and loves to travel. **Lloyd** is sponsored by **Phil Lee**.

John McDonald lives in Concord. He was a painting contractor. His interests are Cribbage, Fishing and Poker. **Bruce Kimmis** is his sponsor.

Michael "Mike" Kimsal and his wife **Bea** live in Walnut Creek. He was an Accountant for Callander Assoc. Mike heard about SIR through the Farmer's Market table. His sponsor is **Rob Peters**.

We have a member rejoining after a short time away from SIR. Welcome back **Tony Pasol**.

We lost a member. **Robert Burley** passed away on July 16th. He was 97.

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 member.

The 2024 membership count is 265.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website www.sir146.com and go to the Members' Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly.

It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone, or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon
925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

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

At our August Luncheon we had 10 members who not show up for the luncheon. Of these only a couple of members let us know they could not make the luncheon. If you have to cancel your reservation, even after the due

date and time, please let us know as soon as possible. If you let us know before Boundary Oak has our final numbers, we do not waste food orders and there will not be a cost to you. This applies whether you are an annual payer or pay each month.

The links behind the entree items on the menu will generate an email for you to confirm with your menu choice. If it does not, please send an email message manually to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com. Be sure to include your menu choice!

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

Luncheon:

Date: Thursday, September 12th, 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, September 6th 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, September 6th by Noon

and you will not be charged.

Send email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or

Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members:

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

Questions:

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



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 September Luncheon

Thursday, September 12th, 2024

Salad

Fiesta Salad

Iceberg Lettuce, Corn, Tomatoes, Cheddar and Jack Cheese, Salsa Verde Ranch dressing

Entrées

Chicken Fajitas

Pollo Asado, Sauteed Peppers and Onions, Spanish Rice, Corn, Flour Tortillas

—or—

Shrimp Fajitas

Citrus Marinated Shrimp, Sauteed Peppers and Onions, Spanish Rice, Corn, Flour Tortillas

—or—

Vegetarian Fajitas

Sauteed Mushrooms, Peppers and Onions, Spanish Rice, Corn, Flour Tortillas

Dessert

Dulce De Leche 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 Nominees Are...

Our Branch is truly blessed! Unlike other SIR branches that are struggling to find members willing to serve on their Branch Executive Committee (BEC), we have many capable members willing to step up to leadership roles. As the Chair of our Nominating Committee this year, I am pleased to announce that we have solid candidates for all BEC positions.

Most of our existing Officers have agreed to serve another year. As has been our tradition, **Bob Ford** will be “promoted” to the position of Big Sir. (Too bad there is no increase in salary.) **Ed Brands** and **George Mon** will be stepping down from the BEC after several years of service. We thank them for their contributions to the success of our organization! **Jim Crites** and **Mike Davidson** will be joining the BEC as Directors. **Thom Degnan** has agreed to serve as Little Sir next year and Big Sir in 2026. Both **Jim** and **Thom** recently joined Branch 146 and are excited to help our branch thrive.

Our annual election of Officers will be held at the September luncheon. It is important that you attend so that your vote is heard, and we have a quorum present for the election. These are the candidates you will be voting on:

Bob Wilkenfeld



Bob Ford, Big Sir



Mike Davidson, Director—1st Term



Tom Degnan, Little Sir



Jim Crites, Director—1st Term



Don Shaw, Secretary



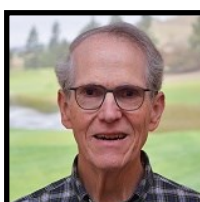
Mark Curtis, Director—2nd Term



John Rexroat, Asst. Secretary



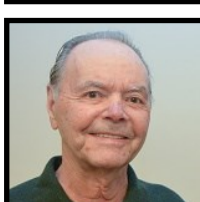
Randy Graham, Director—2nd Term



Mike Rothman, Treasurer



John Alexander, Director—2nd Term



Tom Amann, Asst. Treasurer



Don Rhoads, Director—2nd Term

**2023
Officers and Directors**

Big Sir.....John Kluesener
 Little Sir.....Bob Ford
 Secretary Don Shaw
 Assistant SecretaryJohn Rexroat
 TreasurerMike Rothman
 Assistant TreasurerTom Amann
 Director 3rd TermEdward Brands
 Director 1st Term Mark Curtis
 Director 2nd TermRandy Graham
 Director 1st TermJohn Alexander
 Director 4th Term George Mon
 Director 1st Term Don Rhoads

RAMP-Chair Members

RecruitmentRandy Graham
 ActivitiesGlenn Breslin
 Member RelationsEdward Brands
 PublicityJohn 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
OCTOBER
LUNCHEON
ON YOUR
CALENDAR**



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 October Luncheon
Thursday, October 10th, 2024

Salad

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

Entrées

Corn ed 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.



**Editor's Ramblings
Clint Collier**

A special treat for readers this month! Our “quirky sayings”, the little text jokes we sprinkle throughout the publication have a special theme this month. They are questions from a GED

exam. Nothing funny there, but the answers, actual answers, from various sixteen-year-olds... well that is, as the Wizard of Oz would say, “a horse of a different color”. Enjoy.

Last submission date for the next issue will be September 19th. And, don't forget, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SIRC-all@gmail.com, put “Member Note” in the subject line

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

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Larry McAllister	2019	5
Jitu Patel	2018	6
Mike Wallace	2018	6
Ross Hallberg	2018	6
Michael Weiner	2017	7
Jerry Benoit	2016	8
Paul Beretz	2016	8
Malcolm Harrison	2015	9
Steve Ondeck	2015	9
Dan Holland	2011	13
Walt Busenius	2008	16
Cliff Perkins	2005	19
Jim Baldrige	1994	30



Sunshine

Brian McCarthy

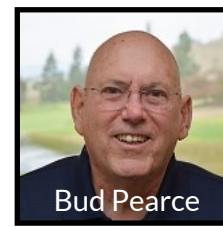


Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

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



Pat O'Keeffe



Bud Pearce



Norm Baietti



- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Russell Anderson | Sydney Whalen |
| Joseph Barry | Dave Tucker |
| Jerry Benoit | Bocce-ace Kersis |
| Tony Greco | Bill Schaaf |
| Max Hinkle | Bart Gledhill |
| Charlie Kahsen | Rob Peters |
| Moose Kelly | Jim Rowland |
| Jeff Morrow | John Dorr |
| John Pearl | Scott Macdougall |
| Rog Rivers | Bob Campbell |
| Michael Weiner | Phil Lee |



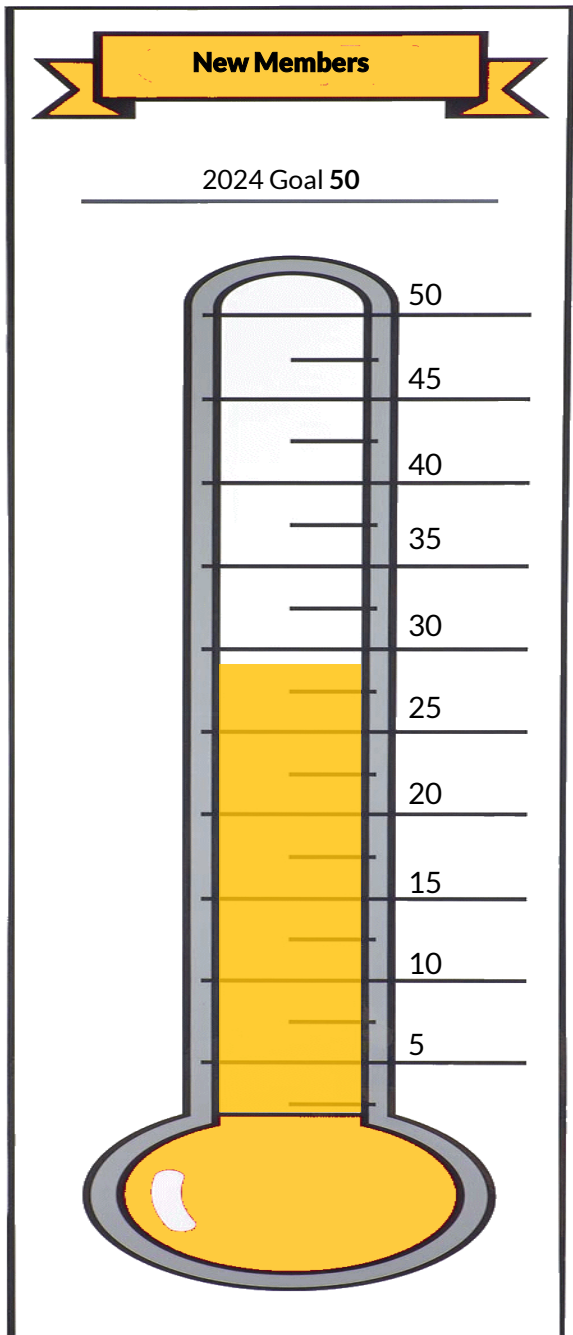
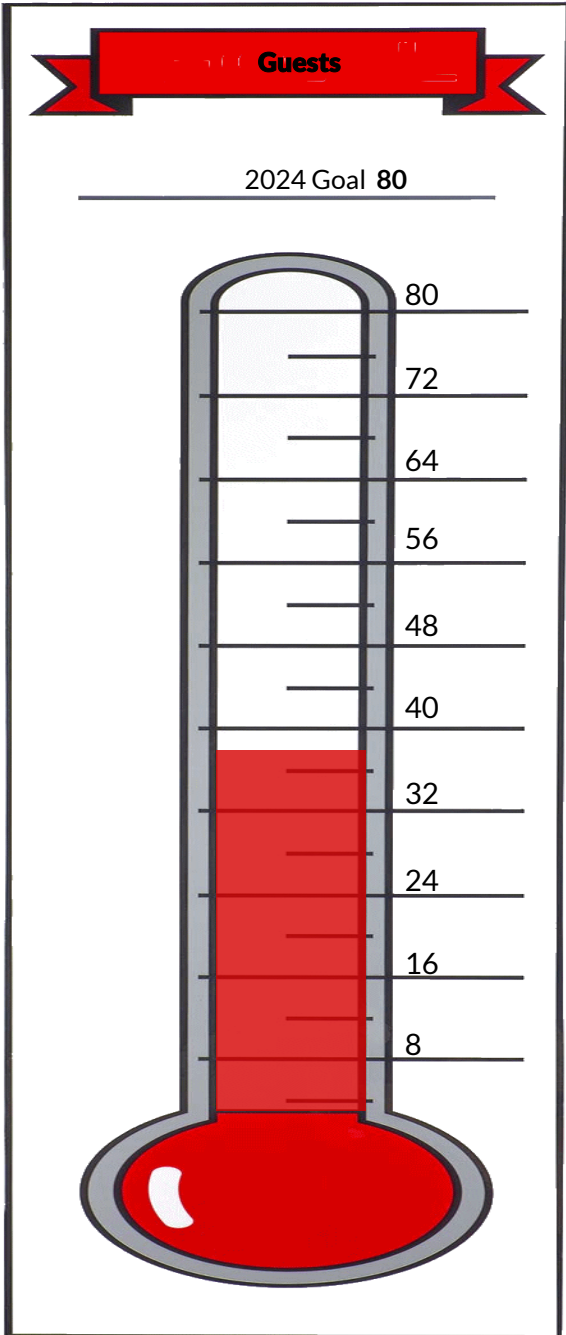
SIRCall Newsletter Group

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

Membership starts with



You are the key to new members to keep SIR vibrant



August

MEETING

Photos by Henry Thatcher





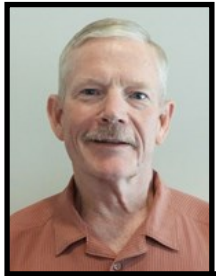
Senior Member Award
Presented to **Chuck Eichten**
By **Bruce Borgman**



Lloyd Bracewell



John McDonald



Eric Finson



Brian Lotter



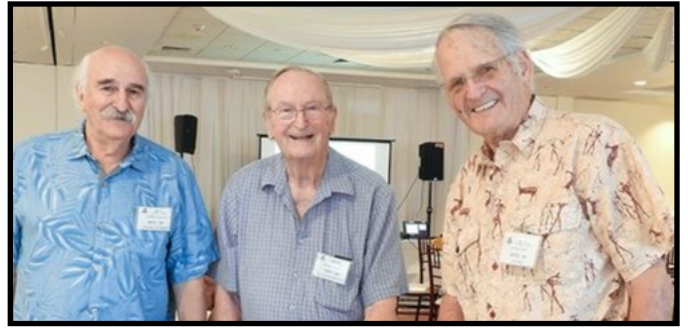
Roy Hodgkinson

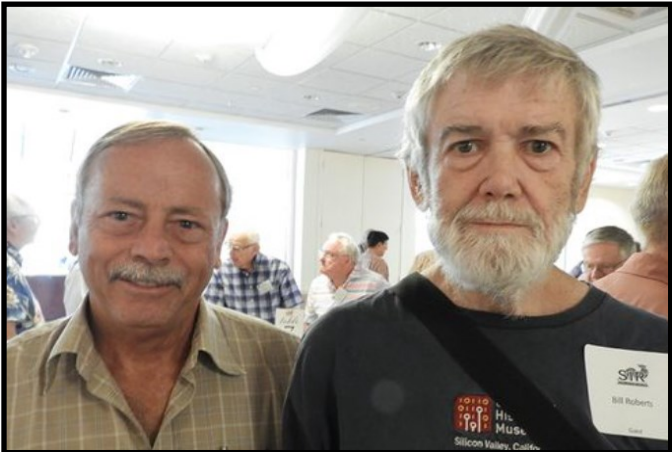




Make Friends for Life







NOTES

from Our Members

“As I ate the oysters with their strong taste of the sea and their faint metallic taste that the cold white wine washed away, leaving only the sea taste and the succulent texture, and as I drank their cold liquid from each shell and washed it down with the crisp taste of the wine, I lost the empty feeling and began to be happy and to make plans.”

~Ernest Hemingway



Do you share Ernest's urge to be happy and make plans? If you do, plan to join us (your fellow SIR members, Ernest, unfortunately, won't be able to join us) for a special SIR event!

- What is it: Every Friday Whole Foods (in Ygnacio Plaza) runs an oyster special... a dozen of the little delights, shelled and ready to slide for \$12. But that is not all. You get a “to go” container, ready, well as the name implies... to go. So...
- What do I do? Simple...
 - * Whole Foods also has a convenient wine bar with tables (and a huge salad bar if you are so inclined) so you grab your dozen at the seafood counter, head to the express check out (or any other checkout of your choosing) and pay for your little delicacies and head over to the wine bar to find some SIR faces you know.
 - * Once there order a glass of wine, or a drink of your choosing, and if desired visit the salad bar to put together a salad; pay for them at the wine bar and *you are ready to go!*
- What we do!
 - * Since the seafood counter provides only the oysters, we will provide some lemons, some dipping sauces and some cups for said sauces. Your wine/drink purchase comes with a fork and/or spoon to assist you in the remaining steps.
 - * You will also find here a supply of, what else, oyster crackers!
- When? Well Friday (starting August 30th) at 11:30 since that is oyster special day. Send an e-mail to sir-clint@the-colliers.org to indicate you are coming so I have an idea of the count. Depending on the response we will determine how often we want to repeat. Who knows, maybe we have the makings of a SIR activity here.
- Caveat: The oyster special price is for Amazon (owners of Whole Foods) Prime members. Not a Prime member? Add an extra step of stopping by the group in the wine bar first. Someone will assist you with your purchase to get the special price! If you are a Prime member I suggest you get the Whole Foods app on your phone... makes checkout a breeze.

...Clint Collier

CPR Classes

There has been a lot of interest amongst our members in the CPR classes; we are now on our second offering of how to do this important skill. But have you overlooked an important member of your household?

Flip to the next page to read about an equally important area of CPR and first aid training if you have a furry friend at home. This is a course being offered within Rotary, not SIR but any and all who are interested in this training are more than welcome to sign up and learn!

NOTES

from Our Members



Rotary
Club of San Ramon Valley



PET FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING



by Peter Pay, certified instructor with the Emergency Care & Safety Institute

**Saturday,
September 7, 2024**

\$65/PERSON

DANVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue
Danville, CA 94526

Class Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

TRAINING INCLUDES



- Prior planning & preparation to respond effectively to an animal medical emergency



- How to resolve a choking emergency and control bleeding
- When and how to administer CPR



- How to manage penetrating chest wounds, embedded objects and seizures
- **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**



www.sanramonvalleyrotary.com



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator

**Glenn Breslin
with Bob Lucido**

Do you have an pastime that you enjoy ? Let's turn this pastime into a SIR146 activity that you can share with other SIRs. I am all ears. Contact me glennbreslin@gmail.com !

All of our capable and very diligent Activity Chairs are exactly why SIR146 is successful. Please give each and every one of them a big shout out and convey how much you appreciate them.

I have listed them below:

Artificial Intelligence, Frank Terzuoli, Bird Watching, Ted Robertson, Bocce, John Kendrick, Book Corner, Peter Plante and John Kendrick, Book Group, John Pearl, Bridge, John Kluesener, Dave Pierce, Tony Greco, Dick DeVoe, Mike Whitaker, Jim Pope, Cooking 2, Steve Ybarra, Cooking Lunch & Wine, Pete Gates, Dining Out, Bruce Borgman, Cribbage, Ron Afdal and John Kendrick, Cycling, Larry Kaye, Dixieland Music, Ross Abbott, Explore and Eat, Jim Pope and Henry Thatcher, Fishing, Paul Dubow, Golf 18 Hole, Dave Steinberg, Golf 9 Hole, Bob Ford, Guitar Group, Curtis Young, Hearts, Bob West and Steve Ybarra, Hiking, Mark Curtis, Ladies Lunch, Steve Ybarra and Max Hinkle, Mexican Train Dominoes, Corrie Oranje, Ron Plachy, Walt Busenius, Jim Pope, Henry Thatcher, Dennis Hallett, Steve Lane, Bob Lucido, Richard Hockenbrock, Bob Lucido, Cleo Bolen and Mark Sorum, Photography, Moose Kelly and Henry Thatcher, Pinochle, Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson. Poker, Sig Kalteis, Pete Gates, Brad Hatcher and Carmelo Piccolo, Song Sirs, Peter Plante, Sushi No Tomodachi, Clint Collier, Table Pool, Jim Barry, Theater, Glenn Breslin, Travel, Glenn Breslin, Wine Tasting, Brian McCarthy and Bill Holly.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities!

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

[Artificial Intelligence](#)

[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 10](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar September 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
9:45am - 3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm - 10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am - 2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
9	10	11	12	13
8:30am - 10:00am Bocce Ball Newell Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 11:30am - 1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm - 7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	8:30am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00pm - 2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm - 3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 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
16	17	18	19	20
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 5:90pm Couples Dining Out Dead Fish, Crockett	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 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 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi 7:00pm - 10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco October SIRCall articles due!	9:00am - 11:00am Photography Group Rocco's Pizzeria 10:00am - 3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm - 10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
23	24	25	26	27
8:30am - 10:00am Bocce Ball Newell Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm - 4:00pm Poker Group #4	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> 9:00am Golf 5:90pm Couples Dining Out Dead Fish, Crockett	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 MTD 6 Seis	7:30am - 9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1	12:00pm - 3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
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



Travel Glenn Breslin

The SIR Travel objective is to enable SIR members who would like to travel with other SIR members. To meet this objective SIR146 Travel has will join with 3 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, which was recently sent out.

If many people share both the travel location and how they like to travel, then a SIRs trip will be planned. Multiple SIRs trips can also be scheduled.

Travel Quotes

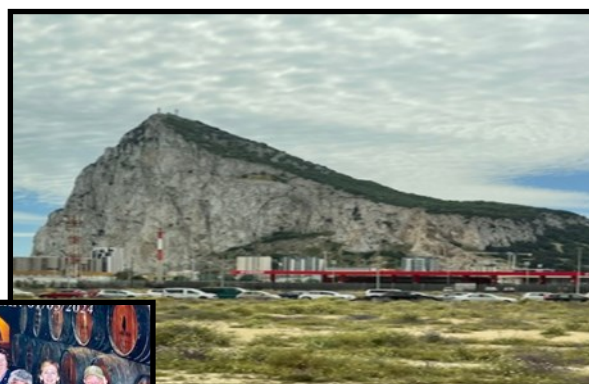
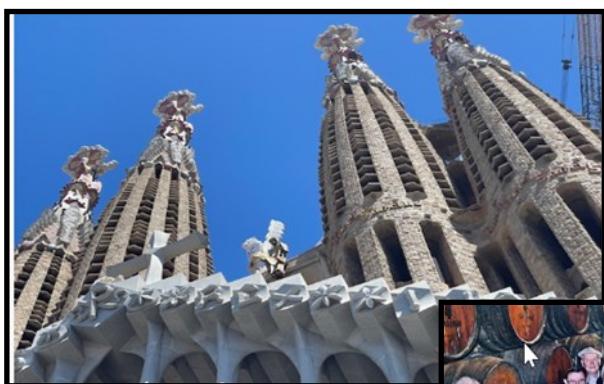
“Travel far, travel wide, but always travel with a friend by your side”

“You can pack for every occasion, but a good friend will always be the best thing you could bring.”



Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



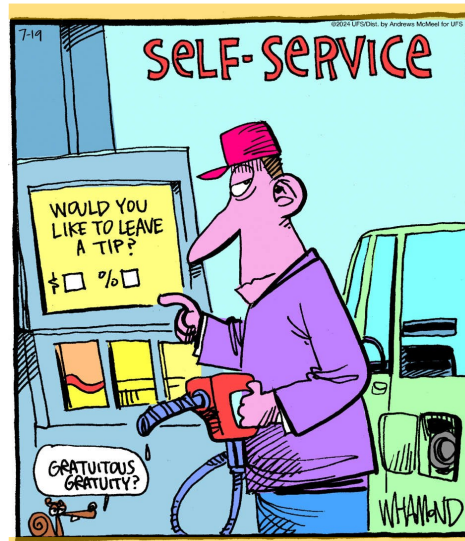
Q. What is a seizure ?

A. A Roman Emperor.

[Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit]

Q. What happens to your body as you age?

A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.





Theater
Glenn Breslin

Theater Events at the Leshner Theater

Arsenic and Old Lace

- **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 !!

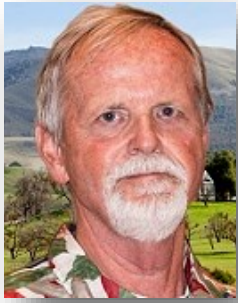
Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed..



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The SIR's photography group was very fortunate to have David Johnson, retired Landscape Architect, lead our photo shoot at the University of California Berkeley campus on Wednesday, August 7th. Mr. Johnson was literally a "walking encyclopedia" on the grounds and the buildings of the university. Our SIR group consisted of the following individuals: **Mike Rothman, Glenn Breslin, David Johnson, Richard Ahlf, Ismanl McLean, Ken Studer, Frank Terzuoli, and Moose Kelly.** A BIG shout out to **Mike Rothman** who coordinated with **David Johnson** to make this outing possible. Thank you, **MIKER!!**

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, September 27 at 9 AM. The theme of our September meeting will be further post-processing of our photographs with the use of Lightroom. Our very own **Richard Ahlf**



Photograph taken at the Freedom of Speech Café on the Berkeley Campus.

will lead the presentation and discussion of this useful tool.

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

Be safe, be well and be sure to "Say Cheese"!

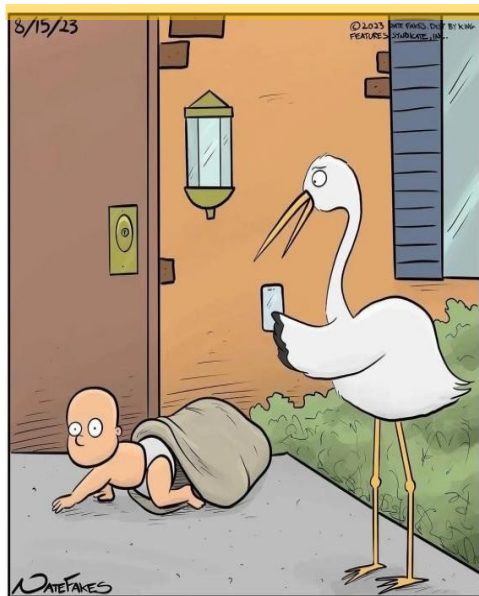
John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



"Hold still! I have to get a photo to show you were delivered."

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

Q. What is the most common form of birth control?

A.. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium.



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

July 23rd: 8am. The brave met this early to bypass the impending heat. Off we went. The Blackhawk loop with some extra hills for endurance. **Ken Studer, Bill Ross, Jim Crites, Jim Nelson and Larry Kaye** were today's riders.

Wow. The day started nicely and comfortable and then the warmth began. Just in time for the hills the heat grabbed us. Luckily, we had some excellent downhill and that kept us cool. Navigating the various back roads and hills we headed back to the start. The goal was to hit Peets for Cold Tea before this heat engulfed us. We made it with no time to spare.

From 70 degrees to 95 with 106 coming it was clear the timing was spot on. After discussing the worlds mess and enjoying the Sirs brotherhood we headed home.

I ask you: Where else can a group of older guys (not Jim 59 years young), meet and ride as one? This is the spot..

July 30th: Always looking for some rides that are not too well known, today we did an olde favorite of mine. Leaving Alamo in the early am with temps leaning to COLD we headed South. We went to Dublin and located my old trail head. Taking this scenic route through the country, following the Alamo Creek as it flowed alongside of us. It was an enjoyable paved trail and eventually took us to the "HILL" of fame. Up we went, 8-10 % grades met us all. Ouch. Being the never fearful Spandex guys from 146 it was attacked and conquered in fashion. The route then took us thru Southern San Ramon's new neighborhoods: Windermere and Gale ranch. Nice flat roadbeds greeted us. Peets in the Valley was next. We enjoyed the hot and cold beverages while solving various international problems. The bikes called us and so off we went again. Heading home was great. A 6-mile downhill and we arrived at our cars. Spent but happy to have enjoyed a great ride and of course, the friendships. Today saw **Bob Wilkenfeld, Moose Kelly, Bill Ross, Dave Paulson, Ron Lew Thom Degnan and Larry Kaye**. Age has no barriers. Just DO IT!!!

August 2nd: This was not a ride for the faint of heart. Leaving Orinda: **Bill Ross, Jim Crites, Ron Lew and Larry Kaye** were today's riders. The ride was touted as HARD. We climbed some 10% grades at the start. Sort of warmed one up for what's coming. Then we met Momma Bear. She is 7% and about a few miles straight

up. Yikes. Crested it and for a few minutes we were happy. Then we began the infamous climb on Camino Sobrante. I hadn't done this for 15 years. My legs screamed, my heart pounded and the 12% climb screamed at us. Finally, we hit the summit. Down we turned into Orinda and the Country Club area. As promised, two more hills greeted us. Short but also nasty. You could hear the beating hearts of the riders. This was tough. Down we went into the Lake Cascade area. A few more turns and into the java joint we went. Done. Our legs were shot, our lungs hurt, our poor hearts were brutalized. We made it. This was, as advertised, one hard tough nasty ride. Java made it more tolerable, and the sugar was loved. This is proof that being an older guy doesn't translate into sitting on a couch. You can do so much more when you get off your butt. Age means nothing. Do it.

August 6th: Trying to beat the heat we left Alamo at 8am. **Bill Ross, Bill Holly, Thom Degnan, Eric Finson, Jim Rowland, Bob Wilkenfeld and Larry Kaye**. Heading South today our mission was to go to a donut shop in San Ramon and enjoy some apple fritters. **Bob W** loves them, and it was a chance for **Bill Holly** to enjoy and experiment with his new Black Rocket bike. After the java and food we took off heading to Macedo Ranch. This is a good spot as it has restrooms and a great road to get to it. We enjoyed the Ranch and then with a 4-mile downhill headed home. A terrific ride and we did beat the heat. Keep moving those legs and stay above the dirt.



July 30th: **Ron Lew, Moose Kelly, Dave Paulson, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bill Ross, Larry Kaye**. Photo by **Ron Lew**.

August 13th: We organized a ride from Joann Court in Walnut Creek, on the Iron Horse / Contra Costa Trail in Walnut Creek, a 1.3 mile climb up to the Northgate Ranger Station, then down Bancroft and back to the

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Trails through Walnut Creek, heading on Danville Blvd to Alamo for a coffee stop at Peats, before returning to Walnut Creek for a total of about 24 miles with some 660 ft of climbing, mostly on Northgate. Joining the ride was **Thom Degnan** (led and paced the ride), **Bob Wilkenfeld, Roger Meyer, Moose Kelly, Ken Studer, Bill Ross, Dave Paulson & Jim Rowland**. It was a beautiful day for riding and thanks to all for joining. We look forward to upcoming rides! (**Thom Degnan**)

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow.

[Simple, but brilliant]



Table Pool **Jim Barry**

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

Jim Barry
jbarry@sbcglobal.net



Nine Hole Golf **Group** **Bob Ford**

Welcome to all of the guys that have recently signed up for 9-Hole golf. We had our largest turnout since I have been a member this past Thursday. Please let me know if you would like to be added to the distribution list. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford
scubabob.ford@gmail.com



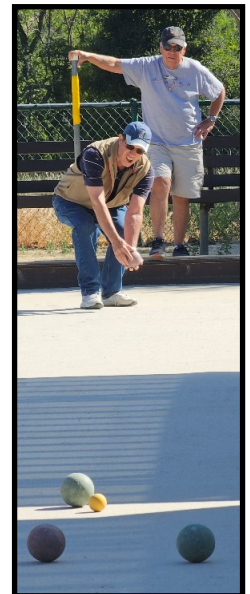
Bocce **John Kendrick**

Reminder - SIR 146 Bocce Ball is alive, active, and looking for existing and new players. As an added bonus, there is plenty of free parking adjacent to the courts.

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30am to 10:00am, May through September at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Our next court appearance will be August 12, 2024. Ladies are welcome.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com





AREA 16 Fishing Report

We have reported regularly that salmon fishing in California has been banned for the second consecutive year. Consequently, our salmon-starved fishermen traveled this month to other venues to try to catch these tasty fish.

Pete Gates and **Lee Clark** traveled to Vancouver Island in Canada and didn't want to come home. Aside from having delicious meals and great sleeping accommodations at the lodge where they stayed, they brought home 82 lbs. of king salmon plus a few silvers.

They also caught 313 lbs. of ling cod and rockfish, and on the last day of the trip, they caught a 37 lb. halibut. Needless to say, they have already booked the lodge for next year.

Bob Lively flew to Sitka, Alaska for three days of fishing and three days of touring. He limited out on silvers and kings and also fished for black cod. That is a unique experience because black cod are found in waters more than 1000 feet deep and electric reels are often used to catch them. He limited out on the black cod. He also caught some ling cod but released them because ling cod caught in the Sitka area cannot be kept.

Brion Beetz and **Tom Chapman** flew to Seward, Alaska and had a spectacular trip. They caught 130 lbs. of king salmon and rockfish, 230 lbs. of halibut, largely consumed by a 95 lb. behemoth hooked by Brion, and 170 lbs. of ling cod, including a 52 lb. ling cod that **Tom** hooked.

However, not all of us who ventured elsewhere for salmon were successful. **Brion Beetz**, **Dave Havlik**, **Gordon Linebaugh** and I took a nine-hour drive to Gold Beach, Oregon to fish at the mouth of the Rogue River. We got a few bites but could not land a single fish in two days of fishing. But the weather was great, and we did have a good time.

Rich Fiscina also did a bit of traveling. It was a vacation trip to Florida, but he had time to catch a bevy of snapper and grouper while the rest of his family enjoyed the beaches.

However, even with salmon fishing being unavailable, there are still lots of species to catch in California and we did our share.

Carl Moyer and **Ken Bellindir** launched Carl's boat from Pacifica where they limited on halibut and caught four ling cod. On other trips, Carl limited on rockfish fishing off Pescadero Beach; limited on rockfish and ling cod out of Pacifica; and limited on halibut fishing on the Pacific Pearl.

Steve Paulick and **Ben La Sala** limited on landlocked salmon in Lake Berryessa. Landlocked salmon are not part of the state ban. They are smaller than the salmon we catch in the ocean and, unlike ocean salmon that return to the rivers where they were born in order to spawn, landlocked salmon never leave the lake in which they were born or planted.

Mike Corker and **Tom Kostik**, our Delta experts, landed and released 68 black bass on several trips. **Phil Scimonelli** watched his wife outfish him on the Antioch Pier, fishing for stripers. **Joe Miscione** sailed his boat into Spoonbill Bay, an arm of the Delta, where he first picked up several catfish and then finished with stripers.

Our next two meetings will be on August 22 and September 26 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

Pictures on the Following Page

Fishing from previous page



Brion Beetz and Tom Chapman in Seward, Alaska



Pete Gates and Lee Clark at Vancouver Island



Hiking Mark Curtis

It's been an interesting summer! We've had scorching weather which has caused us to select hiking venues with moderate temperatures, namely the Bayside parks. We've also experienced Red Flag days that resulted in most of the parks being temporarily closed, including Mount Diablo, Walnut Creek Open Space, and non-bayside East Bay Park venues.

It's also been interesting due to new SIR146 members participating in hiking. The new members/hikers are **Jim Crites, Jim Rowland, Frank Terzuoli, Cleo Bolen, Eric Finson, Scott Golde, and Tom Stucker**. As a result of the new member's participation, the typical count is about 10 instead the former 4 or 5.

Plans for late summer, fall, and winter are to focus on venues that we did not use during the scorching days of July and Early August.

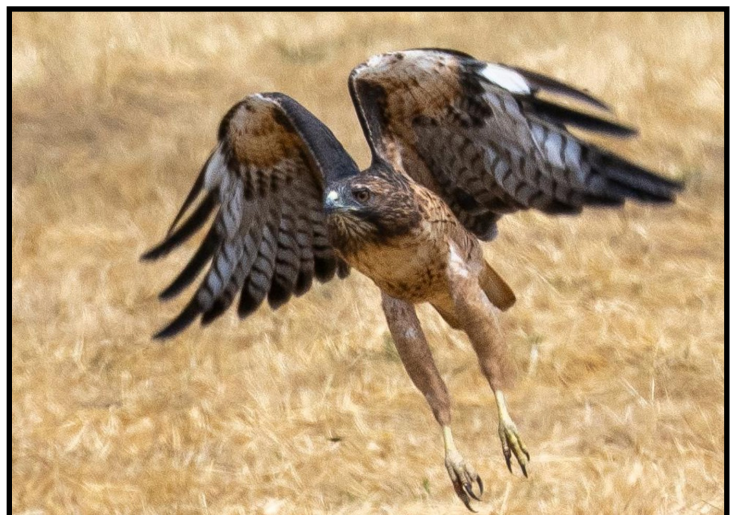
If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I am always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

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

Mark Curtis

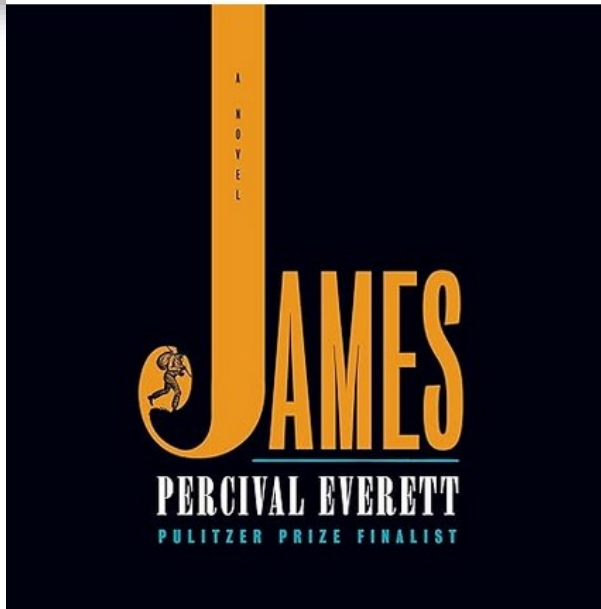
925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com





Book Group John Pearl

The SIR 146 Book Group met in July and reviewed our book of the month, *James*, by Percival Everett, an English professor at USC.



Most of us are familiar with *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain and the account of his trip on the Mississippi. *James* retells *Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of Jim, the Slave who joins Huck on the trip. The book identifies him as “James” and so we will refer to him by that name in this review.

James and Huck (and Tom Sawyer) live in the same town, St. Petersburg, Missouri, a Town similar to Hannibal, where Mark Twain spent his early years. Missouri was a slave state, and blacks who lived there were mostly slaves, and therefore property, or chattel.

James was a slave, had a family and they lived in what we would probably call a shack. Instead of being a passive, dialect-laden character, James is transformed into a complex, articulate individual whose voice resonates with a powerful blend of wit, irony, and searing indictment. Indeed, virtually all of the slaves who appear in the novel speak in the same manner and when they come into contact with whites, they “translate” into the language that the whites expect. It is the author’s way of showing that the slaves were human be-

ings, not chattel.

The novel follows James’s journey to freedom, but through a lens that is both familiar and radically different. James’s use of speech is a constant performance, speaking the dialect given him by Mark Twain when speaking to most whites, and with nearly perfect English with fellow slaves or individuals who did not consider him to be chattel.

James sets out on the raft after he learns that Miss Watson, his owner, intends to sell him and separate him from his family. Huck joins James on the raft and they attempt to sail off to freedom for Jim and a better life for Huck in the north, and along the way they meet a lot different people, all the while running scared from people who chase and catch slaves for the reward. Sometimes they are together and sometimes apart, but always manage to get back together at some point in their travels. Huck has no worries about being “caught,” as he is white and a free person.

Some readers might be upset because all the white characters met in the journey are racist to some degree and treat the black characters badly, because they are thought to be slaves or former slaves and therefore inferior. But that was the tenor of the times. The whites had the power and used it. Blacks seemed to exist only to do the work that white folks didn’t want to do.

James’s motive was to get back to St. Petersburg, reconnect with his family, and leave to find a safe haven for them, either in a free state or even in Canada. However getting back to St. Petersburg was not easy. It was difficult to stay ahead of the slave chasers and get out of situations that had caught them up, such as when the steamboat on which they happen to catch a ride blows up (a true event), and in another example when James runs from a minstrel band where he was a member of the chorus after he realizes that the owner/leader of the band, who purportedly abhorred slavery, nevertheless is treating him like a slave. He had been hoping to make enough money to buy freedom for his family. His whole trip is spent either in hiding or in running. James is something of an escape artist, as he shifts between personas from the subservient slave to the cunning escape artist, all told in the first person. Huck is a pretty good guy, playing a strong supporting role.

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James and Huck carefully make their way home and slip into the slave quarters in the early darkness, and then discover things are not as they had left them. As they near James' house, he tells Huck to head on home, but Huck insists on staying with James. James' family is not there, and the house is occupied by other slaves, whom he does not know. This is a major shock. James quickly learns that wife and daughter were taken by the local overseer. After sleeping at his former house, he hides out at Jackson Island in the river where he and Huck had spent time before heading out on their journey. He finds the overseer drunk on the island kills him and sends his body floating down the river in retribution for a rape James had witnessed earlier. Nevertheless, the book ends on an upward note. James learns that his family is being held on a breeding farm where they are being mistreated. He goes to the farm and, after setting a fire to part of the premises, he is able to free his family and four other slaves being held there, but not before he kills the owner of the farm when the owner tries to stop him. From there, they head for the hills, i.e., north to either a Free State or Canada.

The Book Group will meet in August and review Trust, by Hernan Diaz

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



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs are preparing a new program for a fall performance. We are working on such favorites as "Good Night Sweetheart," "When I Fall in Love," and "Happy Trails" from the Roy Rogers TV show.

Our next rehearsal is on September 4 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

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

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A. Nearby.

Q. What is a terminal illness ?

A. When you are sick at the airport.
[irrefutable]

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie.



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in September. Bring in those books you have lying around at home and take out some new favorites.





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

Richard Hockenbrock's home hosted the Cooking II group in August. He decided to ask for help from Chatbot AI. The following question was asked of Chatbot: I want to prepare lunch for

six men in their early 80's. Main course is ham steaks, but I would like your help in the other 6 courses. Chatbot AI responded: Sounds like a delicious main course choice! Here are some suggestions for the other courses to complement the ham steaks for a well-rounded meal for the elderly guests. 1) Creamy Carrot Soup. 2) Spinach and Strawberry Salad. 3) Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes. 4) Green Beans Almondine. 5) Soft Dinner Rolls. 6) Sparkling Apple Cider. 7) Apple Crisp with Vanilla Ice Cream. Richard modified the menu by eliminating the soup, rolls and substituting candied sweet potatoes for the mashed potatoes. The group enjoyed the high tech lunch! Corrie Oranje will restaurant host lunch in September, on a date and place yet to be determined.



Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



寿司の友達

Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Our next regular gathering will be Thursday, September 19th!

We will be going to Oishi Japanese restaurant in the Orchards shopping center in Walnut Creek.



The address is 2892 Ygnacio Valley Road. It is over by the Wells Fargo branch in this shopping center. We will gather at 11:30am but come early, parking at this shopping center is often hard to find.



Clint Collier
925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections?

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election..





Explore and Eat
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



OXBOW

PUBLIC MARKET

Tour on Wednesday August 21st

Event is FREE

610 & 644 FIRST STREET
NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94559

Sign up via email
[by clicking here!](#)

The August Explore & Eat event will be something new and a little different. We're planning to go to the Oxbow Market in Napa. The event will be on August 21st and will start at 11:00. We will meet at the Market on the deck overlooking the Napa River and the Oxbow bend in the Napa River. Then we will have a brief overview of the Oxbow Market by the General Manager, Gabe Carlin. He will cover the market's history and several points of interest about the Market. Then he will provide a short walking tour for those that would like to do so. Then you will be on your own to shop at one of the 12 shops and have lunch at one of the 8 restaurants.

This will be a true "Explore & Eat Event".

Please respond your RSVP to attend the event to jpoppe24@comcast.net by August 16th so we can plan the events logistics. There is no charge for the event but will pass a "Thank You" hat for Gabe.

Next page... another Explore & Eat Event!

SIR 146 Beer Tasting

At The Growler in Danville

(Changed Venue)

Led by “New Member-Scott MacDougall

October 16th, 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



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

Greetings Wine Enthusiasts!

Thanks to everyone who attended the July wine tasting at **Bob & Wendy Lucido's**. It was a little "warm" but we had a fun time. We tasted six pinot

noirs and seven pinot gris. Newcomers, **Thom and Diane Degman** brought the favorite red wine and **Bob and Judy Wilkenfeld** brought the favorite white wine based on the voting of the attendees. As always, the appetizers were delicious. The appetizers always blend so well with the wine (but what doesn't go well with wine).

This was the seventh year in a row that **Bob and Wendy** have hosted the July tasting. We are so appreciative. We are set for the October wine tasting but we need some volunteers for next year starting with January. Please consider hosting. Remember, you don't have to wash the glasses!!

Mark your calendar for the next wine tasting which will be Tuesday, October 15. Please note that we moved it to the third Tuesday due to a scheduling conflict. It will be at the home of **Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon**. The wines for the October tasting will be announced in the September/October newsletter.

Brian McCarthy

925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Since our July event was scheduled for July 22, which coincided with the deadline for the SIR Call, we were not able to report on the actual evening; and we will report on the event with

this article.

We had 60 diners signed up, a relatively large number for this popular activity. The restaurant, La Veranda Café in Clayton, has pretty good capacity and the tables were set up in groups of six to 10 diners per table which was conducive to enjoyable socializing. While we normally plan to start our cocktail hour at 5:30, but as your hosts arrived around 5:00pm we already had several couples enjoying their cocktails and socializing with one another. So, we started a bit earlier with the appetizers of a cheese and fruit plate as well as some tasty bacon wrapped shrimp which all helped get the party started. The rest of our guests wandered in over the next thirty or so minutes and everyone found a spot near old friends and new.

We started with our soup and salad menu items. The chef has changed the soup to an artichoke heart soup, a somewhat different selection but from all accounts very tasty. Then the entrees were brought out: first the salmon and thereafter the New York steak, smothered with a mushroom gravy and accompanied by a generous portion of vegetable. The salmon dish looked particularly appetizing and was accompanied by some polenta. A smaller number of guests had opted for the chicken entrée which was presented in a marinara sauce.

A good-sized portion of carrot cake finished the menu selections at this popular restaurant. Even though we had taken over the main part of the restaurant, I was amazed that the restaurant was still able to accommodate a fair number of regular diners as well as a baby shower event in an adjoining section of the restaurant.

We had one diner of our group who was unable to come, but the restaurant packed up the menu items for this dinner and it was taken by one of our diners.

All in all, it was a very successful event. Now, it's on to planning for the next event which will likely occur on September 23 or 24. We have not decided on a venue, but since we often go for Italian cuisine, we'd like to go to a seafood restaurant. We had debated about going

to the Dead Fish in Crockett but had shied-away in the past because of the distance along Highway 4. It has been suggested that we might choose to go there for a lunchtime meal and that's being considered.

We invite your comments and suggestions!

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bgborgman@aol.com



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Many thanks to the group for being flexible with multiple members traveling or having personal events that changed

our usual monthly date.

For August, we were back on track and had a full house. It really felt like a reunion and our meet and greet time prior to the start of the game was a bit longer than usual.

The first hand at the "blue" table started with (ironically) 2, yes, two, double twelves (!). Go figure. And the evening ended with the crescendo of 91 tiles hitting the floor as a player juggled and lost hold of the tile box!

Maybe the best part was half-time with strawberries and angle food cake! Needless to say, there were no left-overs.

The **Plante's** will be hosting the game in September.



Corrie—third place, Gabriella—Second place and Richard, first place.

Corrie Oranje

corrieoranje@gmail.com

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played our July game at the home of Kirk and Nancy McVean in Walnut Creek. All our regular players were present:

Clint & Bev Collier, Loren & Marlene DeLaurenti, Dan & Mary Holland, Kirk and Nancy McVean, John & Nancy Pearl, and Ron & Anne Plachy.

All enjoyed the snacks and goodies as well as the multi-layered cake at the break.

Coming in first and winning \$14 with a fantastic 9.5 avg. was **Dan Holland**. Second place at \$7 with a 15.4 avg. was claimed by **Bev Collier**. **Anne Plachy** took third, winning \$3 with a 17.9 avg. score.

High score for the night was claimed by our hostess, **Nancy McVean** with a 53.5 avg. This was closely followed by yours truly, **Ron Plachy** with a 43.8 avg.

Attached is a picture of the winners gleefully displaying their winnings.

Our next game is scheduled for Friday, August 23rd at the home of **Clint and Bev Collier**.

Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com



MTD 2 winners (L to R): 1st Dan Holland, 3rd Anne Plachy, 2nd Bev Collier.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met on the Friday afternoon of July 26th after The SIR Call went to press. Our never on Friday, Mexican Train excursion huffed and

puffed its way to Rossmoor's golden hills and the hillside home of **Sharon Varner**. Along for the ride were **Sue and Walt Busenius, Joyce and Jim Barry, Alicia Baily, and Judy Richmond**. **Sharon** treated us like we were starving with all the lovely table treats and wonderful half-time sweets. We were all thankful for the air conditioning.

Bringing a consistent game today was **Walt Busenius** coming in 1st Place. He only went out 1 time but had low counts at the end of each game. **Judy Richmond** came in 2nd place and played very well all afternoon, even going out 5 times. She was just edged out by **Walt** after the last game tally. **Joyce Wells** claimed the honor of 3rd place, just being edged out of 2nd place at the very end. Good competition all around.

We all had fun, loaded up on gossip and food, said our goodbyes, boarded Thomas, our ole Mexican Train, and followed the hot sun home.

We will meet next Friday afternoon, August 23rd, at **Judy Richmond's**. All Aboard for Walnut Creek!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On August 16th, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home

with 13 players. In attendance this evening were: **Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, Rich and Kim Pace, Scott MacDougall, Steve and Susan Oki and Jim and Renie Pope**. The group was particularly rowdy after consuming the chocolate cookies laced with coffee. We played at two tables: 1 of six and 1 of seven. We paid the player at each table with low table score 7 or 6 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The table winners were: **Christy DeVoe and Jim Pope** (see in pictures). There were two high scoring players: **Fran Matthews and Susan Oki** were awarded one Lotto ticket each. The next El Quattro MTD will meet next on September 20th.



Jim Pope

jpope24@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

Once more, our players gathered for a fun evening hosted by **Patti** and **Doug Eisner** on Thursday August 15th 2024.

Anne and **Jim Burk** were unable to join us due to an unexpected issue and were missed by all.

The men are running out of excuses for their state of play. Not only do they lag the ladies in number of games played but seem to be left with handfuls of tiles at the end of each game. That results in time spent adding the tile values then checking again because the count is so high!

Needless to say, the ladies again claimed first place. **Marty Campbell's** score of 95 after eight games was well ahead of the second-place score of 123. Second place was shared by **Joan Pierce** and **Bob Yolland**.

This is the second consecutive gathering that **Bob**

Yolland saved the men from having their slate cleaned. Time for a serious team talk to find a way to relieve **Bob** from this burden!

However, the men did excel in apple pie and ice cream consumption both in volume and pace of eating. Our host, **Patti Eisner**, anticipated this and had ample supply on hand.

Although a cloud remains over the men's table, a very enjoyable evening was had by all. Thanks to our hosts, everyone went home happy and content.

Our next gathering will be kindly hosted by **Janet** and **Bob Yolland** on Thursday September 19th 2024. .

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes “Seis” Steve Lane

The MTD 6 group met at **Richard Hockenbrock's** beautiful home on July 24, 2024, for our July get

together. Thank you, **Richard**, for hosting.

To change things up—we went to a three-table format. Players for each table were selected by drawing poker chips- the tables ended up with an all-men's table, an all-women's table, and a mixed table.

At the woman's table we had - **Virginia Tygart**, **Mary Schmidt**, **Carol Lane**, and **Mary McCarthy**. At the Men's table we had- **Peter Plante**, **John Kendrick**, **Brian McCarthy**, **Rich Ahlf**, and **Richard Hockenbrock**.

And our mixed table had **Steve Lane**, **John “Moose” Kelly**, **Ismini Maclean**, and **Martha Plante**.

And the winners were **Peter Plante** (13.6), **Ismini Maclean** (15.3), and **Rich Ahlf** (17.3).

We look forward to our next get together on August 28, 2024, at **Bruce Borgman's** casa.

. **Steve Lane**

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or Sheik wears on his head. Once an Arab boy reaches puberty, he removes his diaper and wraps it around his head.



Mexican Train Dominoes “Siete” Bob Lucido

On July 10th, Bob and Wendy Lucido hosted our MTD 7 event.

Mary McCarthy took first place, Judy Wilkenfeld second, and Bryan McCarthy third.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



July 7th MTD 7 winners: (L to R): Judy Wilkenfeld 2nd, Brian McCarthy 3rd and Mary McCarthy 1st.



Mexican Train Dominoes “Ocho” Richard Hockenbrock

With seventeen people participating, we enjoyed activity at four tables. We also started play at 6:45 instead of the normal

7:00pm. This allowed us to finish the evening 15 minutes earlier. The overall winner for the evening was **Steve Dinning** who along with his lovely wife **Karen** were our snack hosts for the evening. **Steve’s** average score was 12.3. Right next to him in Second place was **Susan Terzuoli** with an average score of 12.6. Third place went to **Bill Holly** with a average score of 13.5

This month’s report brings together a new wrinkle ... AI technology. **Frank Terzuoli**, who is in this photo below on the far right, has brought fifteen to twenty of us together to learn about artificial technology as an activity in Branch 146. I thought it would be interesting to try and integrate a steam engine described in just words only ... “show me a picture of an old steam engine with people standing around it” and me with our usual photoshop group picture ... and viola here is the picture AI produced.



Richard Hockenbrock

925.324.1713 rlhock@outlook.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

On July 17th, Bob and Judy Wilkenfeld hosted our MTD 9 event.

Bob Lucido took first place, Bob Wilkenfeld second, and Mary McCarthy third.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



MTD 9 winners (L to R)

Bob Lucido 1st, Mary McCarthy 3rd and Bob Wilkenfeld 2nd.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (10) Mark Sorum Cleo Bolum

You are invited to join Mexican Train Dominoes Diez (10).

We meet on the third Friday or each month at 1:00pm for socializing and to start playing at 1:30. We rotate hosting among different homes.

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

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com

Cleo Bolen

925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

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

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

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net

Q. Name the four seasons.

A Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.



CARD GAMES

...we play



Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

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

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com



Poker Group 8 Carmelo "Melo" Piccolo

Poker Group #8 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and plays from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

Players rotate hosting the game at their homes and provide beverages and snacks for the players. The Cost to enter the game is \$10; bets are nickel, dime, and quarter with a maximum bet of 50 cents and a maximum of three raises. Dealer antes a nickel per player. A wide variety of poker games are played with the game being the dealers' choice.

Melo Piccolo

925.963.5909 erpeggio@astound.net



Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorized (e.g. The abdomen)?

A. The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels:

A,E,I,O,U

[OMG]



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our usual first Thursday game was hosted by Paul Dubow. Thanks, Paul, for the bountiful snacks and nice wines. They were consumed by six of us.

There were three winners taking home a nice bounty above our deposit. Bruce Kimmis, Steve Ybarra and Brad Hatcher were beneficiaries and were within \$2 of each other. Looking a bit depressed as we left the game were Frank Lucas, Melo Piccolo and Paul. We will gather again on September 5th at the Lucas' abode.

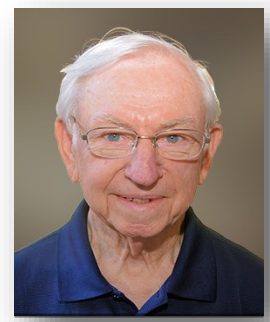
Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Men's Hearts

Bob West and Steve Ybarra



Party Bridge Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from July 12th and July 26th.

The big winners are **Steve Ybarra, Glenn Breslin, Frank Lucas** and **Jim Passaglia** all with 3 wins. **Brian McCarthy** and **Tom Stucker** each had four 2nds. The lowest average score was **Glenn Breslin** with 38 and **Jim Passaglia** with 42.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** and **Jim Passaglia** are tied with 20 wins followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 16. **Jim Passaglia** has the highest winning percentage of active players at 38% followed by **Frank Lucas, Glenn Breslin** and **Norman Cox** with 33%. **Jim Passaglia** has the lowest average score of 53.3 followed by **Norman Cox** with 54.1. **Frank** leads in STM's with 11 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 8. **Steve Ybarra** leads in 2nds with 20 followed by **Bob West** with 17.5.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our next matches will be August 23th, September 13th and 27th.

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

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

robertawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 event on Friday, July 12th with three tables was hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dinning**. **Ed Marlovits, Max**

Hinkle, and **John Kluesener** were 1-2-3 in the 1st half. At the end of the day, it was **Max** in first with 34.5 pts, **Ed** in second with 31.5, **John** in third with 28 and **Ray Spears** getting his money back in fourth with 25.5.

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, August 9th with four tables and 16 players was hosted by **Dick DeVoe**. **Max Hinkle** earned first place with 46.5 points. **Dick DeVoe** and **John Rexroat** tied for second with 45.5 points. **Mark Curtis** was fourth with 42.5 points and **Tony Greco** was fifth with 41.0 points.

Dick DeVoe
dicknchristy@comcast.net

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

Dick and Christy DeVoe hosted us on August 13th. As usual, the snacks table drew a crowd and it was hard to reach the melt-in-your-mouth brownies, the guac,

the cheese board and all the other goodies.

No slams were bid. Dick and Christy made 6 on Board 4, but only Brad and Lynne Hatcher bid game (making 4 for a top). Better luck next month.

Tony and Cindy Greco had a great night: 12 tops, only 3 bottoms, and a 73% game for 1st place. Scores over 60% are excellent, so this was truly a memorable night. Dick and Christy were 2nd (54%). We had a three-way tie for 3rd, between Jim Stedman and Jane Bradley, Ken and Elaine Richter, and Joan and Dave Pierce (48%). I hadn't seen that happen in the 15 years I've been playing in this group.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Duplicate Bridge 3 Michael Whitaker

Our Duplicate Bridge 3 Event on Friday, August 16 with three tables and 12 players was nicely hosted by Dave Steinberg.

Our top five players were only 3.5 points apart!

- **Bob Yolland** earned 1st place with 31.0 points, scoring 3rd and 1st in both halves as well. He also had the most top boards and 3 of the best partnerships.. Congratulations, **Bob!**
- **Max Hinkle** got 2nd with 29.5 points.
- **Ed Marlovits** was 3rd with 28.0 points.
- **Brad Hatcher** was 4th with 27.5 points.

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213 mrwhitaker@yahoo.com

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'.

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

John and Kathy Kluesener hosted our August 6th event. For this event, Steve and Sue Loftin subbed for the Hatchers. As usual our hosts provided us with excellent snacks, and beverages and homemade desserts.

Upon reviewing the score pads for all three tables, I became very concerned about the caliber of our bridge play. The couples total scores for the evening seemed normal enough, but the score pads showed many substandard results either in bidding or poor opponent defense. How else do we explain the following: 2S+6, 3NT+6, 2D+6, 3NT+6, 3S+6 and 1NT+6. How much of this is missed small slams or just very poor defense? Then we have one couple that bid 6NT-2. Did the couple courageously bid a small slam, the only one of the evening, but were subject to great defense or finesses that failed? The answer is a resounding no. One partner was trying to stop at 4NT but his partner rightly interpreted the bid as a Blackwood convention, so they eventually wound up at 6NT. Ugh. The only explanation for all of this is that the host spiked the beverages just for kicks. Maybe they were trying to put the PARTY in Party Bridge. Lol. All said in fun.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3750 points - Dick and Christy DeVoe
- 2nd PLACE with 2660 points - Dick and Maggie Chaffee
- 3rd PLACE with 2470 points - Tony and Cindy Greco

Our next event will be held on **October 1st** and hosted by **Dick and Christy DeVoe**. Please note that we are skipping the September event due to its proximity to **Labor Day**.

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



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 13th.

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*. Quicker, 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 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 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

FALL SALE... TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

TO BE HOPEFUL IN BAD TIMES is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those time and places, and there are so many, where people have behaved magnificently, this give us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.

And, if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us is, itself, a marvelous victory.

~Howard Zinn

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

~Albert Einstein