

SIR CALL

br146sircall@gmail.com

August 2014

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

Published For Our Members And Friends

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Branch 146 July Luncheon one man welcoming committee and doorman, Uncle Sam's cousin, **Jonathan Korfhage** in the spirit of the month.

Members love it but the big question is - when does **Jonathan** run out of costumes?

August 14th Luncheon Featuring Mr. Nan Su

See Little Sir's Corner on page 7

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 August 8.

The July Luncheon All-Smiles Corner

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Randall Becker, George Carpenter and John Biassotti



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bob Skirvin, John Wall and Tom Boltz

Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

Poker group number 6 met Wed. July 9th at **Frank Lucas's** home in Pleasant Hill. Four members and two alternates played poker for three hours. **Frank** provided wine, beer and snacks for the players. **Al Twyford, Frank Lucas, Sid Landman, Brad Hatcher** and two alternates were there. **Sid's** guest was **Harvey**, and he was also Sid's guest at the SIR lunch last Thurs. **Frank's** neighbor **Pete** also played as an alternate for this game. The big winners were **Sid** and his guest **Harvey**, while the big loser again was our host **Frank**. I am sure **Frank's** luck and cards will get better soon. **Brad** and **Al** were slightly ahead at the end. Our next game is scheduled for Wed. August 13th at **Rich Ahlf's** home in Clayton. Our out of town travelers **John, Norm and Bob** should be back and available for our next game. Everyone seemed to have a good time trying to bluff each other out of money. Several new games were introduced by our guest Harvey, and everyone seemed to enjoy them.



Photo by Bill Schultz



Carl Johnson, Fred Bolton, Bob Burley, and Max Hinkle, of the Party Bridge group pause for a moment .

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.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Lo McCarley, Doug Eisner,

Bill Rees and Jim Brown await the tally to determine the big Party Bridge money winners

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.



L to R, **Dee DiMatteo, John Wilhelm** and **Frank O'Loughlin** at the July Luncheon

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.



We are well into the 2014 season, and are having good turnouts. We welcome the new players that have started and are now playing as well as any of us. Come and join us. Ladies are welcome.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Carl Tilchen and Carl Pugter
enjoying the July Luncheon



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.**



Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

The next meeting of The SIR Acoustic Musicians Group is Thursday, July 31, 1 pm, 2177 Ward Dr. Walnut Creek. carltilchenmusic391@gmail.com for more information

SAVE
THIS
DATE

SIRS 146 & Friends 25th Anniversary
Dinner Dance

Wednesday, October 8, 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 send your check, made out to Sirs 146 Dance to:

Richard Kincaide

10750 Inspiration Cr.

Dublin, CA 94568

Phone: (925) 479-9935

Tables of eight are encouraged

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

84 ~~88~~ DAYS
LEFT UNTIL

OUR
~~25~~th !
OPPS!
25th !



Photo by Pete Gates

The Lunch and Wine (LAW) group
Clockwise from 7 o'clock...

**Dick Woodman, Bob Spellman,
Jim Meehan, Paul Dubow, Joe Barry,
Syd Whalen and Frank Rockwell**

Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

We kicked off July on the 1st at **Terry and Sharon Marchione's**. Five of six couples were closely packed with scores ranging from 2120 to 2570. We probably could have called it a five-way tie for second place, but in fact the money went to **John and Linda Boyan** (2430) and **Dick and Christy DeVoe** (2570). **Joan Pierce** bid a makeable small slam in round one and the **Pierces** were able to maintain their lead (3360). **Terry and Sharon**, rarely out of the money, kept us all well fed, ending with a wonderfully cool summer dessert. However the cards went, the socializing went well.



Note from the Editor



We need a Branch 146 member who would volunteer for the job of SIR Call editor. We will work together with him for as long as it takes to get up to speed.

Membership

Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics:

At our BEC meeting on July 10, we approved one new member, accepted one resignation and changed one member's status to inactive, reducing our membership to 267 active members (including our six Honorary Life Members).



Status Changes:

New Member: **John Elstead**.

Resigned: **Thomas Kalkman**

Inactive: **Frank Mathos**

Changes to the Inactive Roster:

Added: **Frank Mathos**

Removed: **Frank Fries** and **George Felice**

We now have 24 inactive members.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

August 14 2014

Salad

Mediterranean Green Salad

Baby Greens Tomatoes, Red Onions, Feta Cheese, Black Olives
Red Wine Vinaigrette

Entrees

BBQ Beef Brisket

Slow Braised Beef Brisket, Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Sautéed Vegetables

Or

Mahi Mahi

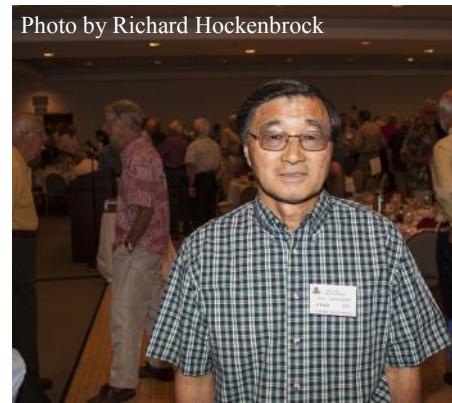
Herb Marinated Mahi Mahi
Confetti Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Vegetables
Fresh Tomato & Avocado Relish

Dessert

Chocolate Cheesecake

Vanilla Whipped Cream & Raspberry Sauce

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Sir Stan Matsumoto at the Branch 146 July Luncheon



Mexican Train Dominoes

Jerry Kaplan

The first two get-togethers of a new Branch 146 activity were held on June 27th and July 11th at **Jerry** and **Susan Kaplan's** and **Bruce Borgman's** and **Sue**

Sheldon's homes, respectively. Sixteen players came in June for what amounted to a refresher course in game rules and strategy. Fourteen players came in July. Two couples, **Sir Jim Stedman** and his wife **Barbara**, and **Sir Sig Kalteis** and his wife **Nancy**, had not played before but learned quickly and were doing quite well by the end of the evening. On July 11th, **Sharon** and **Terry Marchione**, playing at different tables, were the first and second prize winners. **Sir Frank Ascotigno's** wife, **Marie**, came in third place for the evening with the third lowest score. Our next game night is August 15th. Anyone who would like to join our group, learn about the game, and perhaps become a substitute \please call or write at 930-7076 or mtdana@aol.com.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Rob Melrose, and **Carmen Schiavone** with **Bruce Borgman** having fun playing our new pastime, Mexican Train Dominoes.

In a Restaurant Window...

"Don't Stand there and be hungry.
Come in and get fed up"



Hiking

Rich Ahlf

On Sunday July 6, in the Contra Costa Times, Hiker blogger Steve Richard of Lafayette (who hikes at least three times a week) sent in an article on his best "East Bay

Hike". I did this hike last Monday and have decided this will be our next hike. We will be hiking the French Trail loop at Redwood Regional Park. This is a 5.8-mile moderate loop hike that hits all the highlights of this well shaded park nestled in the Oakland hills. It is a peaceful, hidden bowl of coastal redwoods with a creek at the bottom. Notice this hike is rated as moderate and will be our toughest hike yet. I am allotting four hours with plenty of breaks and a lunch stop. Hiking poles are recommended as the last section is a steep short downhill.

Enter the park at the Redwood Gate and park in the first lot on the left after the Fishway interpretive site. Redwood Regional Park, 7867 Redwood Road

Hike starts at 9:30am August 15th.

Spouses Always Welcome

Rich Ahlf rahlf@sbcglobal.net

Cell 925-550-4967 call for carpooling

Photo by Bill Schultz



Jeff Baily, **Lew Thompson** and **Steve Dawkins** after the 4-man best ball tournament on July 8th.

Lew Thompson said he separated **Baily** and **Dawkins** because their clothing clashed

Sunshine

John Pearl

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

Howie King

Corrie Oranje

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 membership can be advised.

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair.

mcpearl@astound.net 925-934-6920



Bob Schroder, Steve Siljestrom and Walt Busenius enjoying the luncheon camaraderie at the July meeting



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

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.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 was hosted by **Ken and Elaine Richter** on July 8. A well-earned congratulations to **Jim & Ruth Adams** for 1st place with an easy win @ 24.5 pts. **Dave & Joan Pierce** took 2nd with 21.0 pts., and **Dick & Christy DeVoe** slipped into 3rd with 20.5 pts. The group (finally!) kept **Terry and Sharon Marchione** out of the top rankings, where they had resided over the past four events. Everyone bring their "A" game in August!

Sign over a Podiatrist's Office

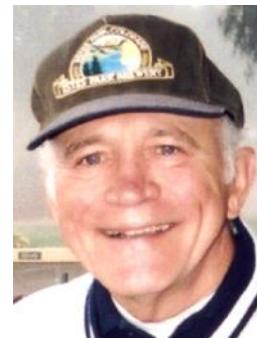
Time wounds all heels

Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Our next session is August 25th. The host will be Sir **Skip Thomas** and will meet at the home of Sir **Chuck Bobinecz**.

Chuck wore a pair of lucky poker socks he got for Fathers' Day at the June poker session but they didn't help.





Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

At our July meeting you were introduced to the slate of candidates for our 2015 officers and directors. If you missed that meeting, their names were published in the July 2014 SIR Call,

available on our website. At the August luncheon, we will call for nominations from the floor. If there are none, we will vote to elect the nominees as published in July.

August is also our traditional Team Colors Day. It's a day to wear the colors of your favorite elementary school, middle school, high school, college, or professional team. So, put on that hat, shirt, or sweater and proudly show your team colors!

As of this writing, there are indications that the Clubhouse renovations may impact us much sooner than we were originally led to believe, perhaps as soon as Jan 2015. We are in the process of scheduling a meeting with appropriate Courseco and City of Walnut Creek officials to clarify the current plans. We'll advise you of the renovation plans and their impact on us as soon as we know them.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Joe Stengel, Jim Sanders and Pat Lucia at the July Luncheon

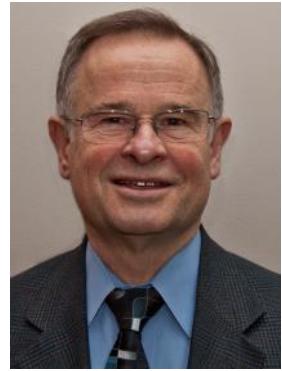
At an Optometrist's Office...

If you don't see what you're looking for you've come to the right place

Little Sir's Corner

Bill Holly

Our speaker for the month of August is Mr. Nan Su. Mr. Su was born and raised in China. He came to the U.S. in 1989. He has been interested in Chinese history and literature since he was very young.



Mr. Su has made many speeches at public events in the past decade on China-related topics. He has been serving as a news commentator for International Chinese Radio and TV Networks since 2003.

In addition to his media work, Mr. Su has also been an activist for China's human rights. He was one of the coordinators of Human Rights Torch Relay in 2008, which made stops in over 100 cities around the world in order to raise international awareness of China's human rights issues.

Mr. Su was instrumental in making San Jose the first stop of the torch relay in North America just before the start of the Beijing Olympics.

The title of Mr. Su's presentation is: "Shen Yun - Reviving 5,000 years of Chinese Civilization". This presentation has been given to over 200 clubs in Bay Area since May of 2011, including 24 SIR branches.

Mr. Su holds a Master degree in Engineering, and has been a professional engineer for over 20 years. He has been married for 22 years, and currently lives with his wife and two daughters in San Jose, California

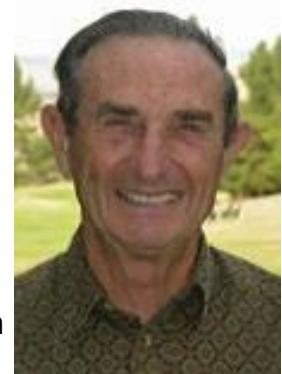
At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee...

"Invite us to your next blowout"

Poker 2

Al Zamolo

Doug Cook hosted our June session and served a variety of goodies. Of course **Ron Binder** was back to his big winning ways. Our next session will be hosted by **Ken Kratz** on Monday, July 28th



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Ocean fishing is normally our prime endeavor in the summer and that usually divides between fishing for salmon and fishing for ling cod and rockfish. So far this year, the salmon

fish has been awful while the ling cod and rockfish have been plentiful. A good example of the situation involved **John Wall**, and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, who were joined by **Carl Moyer, Raleigh Davis, Gordon Linebaugh** and **Barry Rauchle** on a purported salmon fishing trip out of Bodega Bay. They did not get a single bite and so they turned their attention to ling cod and rockfish and came home with 59 fish, running up to eight pounds. Indeed, the only member of our club who has come home this summer with a salmon caught off the California coast is **Raleigh Davis**, who landed a single salmon on a later trip out of Bodega Bay. In another ocean outing, **George Vogt, Harry Sherinian**, and **Carl Moyer** landed a bevy of ling cod and rockfish, fishing out of Pacifica.

On the Delta, **Tom Kostik** continued his successful fishing for black bass and stripers and **Joe Miscione** landed two stripers in Montezuma Slough.

Carl Moyer ended the local trout season with two successful shore fishing trips at San Pablo Reservoir. **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 left the Bay Area to catch some trout at Battle Lake.

In other areas, **Joe Miscione** came home with kokanee and king salmon caught in New Melones Reservoir and **Steve Paulick** picked up limits of kokanee on a separate trip to New Melones. **Don Mittelstadt** and **Ernie Wong** ended the shad season in great style, catching and releasing over two dozen of these tough fighters. And **Brad Hatcher** of Branch 146 caught a limit of two mackinaw trout in Lake Tahoe.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 28, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting



starts at 8:30 am but please join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30 am. For further information, call branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504.

On a Plumber's Truck...

"We repair what your husband fixed."

On another Plumber's Truck...

"Don't sleep with a drip.
Call your plumber."

SongSirs

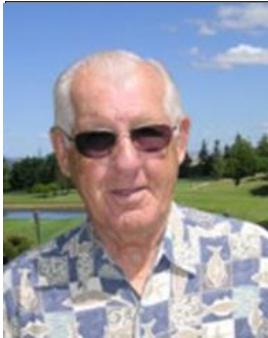
Bruce Borgman



The SongSirs have been busy practicing a summer repertoire. This set includes some Academy Award winning songs including "When You Wish Upon a Star" and "Three Coins in the Fountain" as well as "Edelweiss" from the Sound of Music. Then there are other upbeat and romantic songs such as "It Had to be You", "Heart", "Smiles" and "I'll be Seeing You". The Barbershop group will do "Let me Call You Sweetheart" and **Jim Bogue** will do a solo portion with that perennial favorite "I Left My Heart in San Francisco". And more!

We are scheduled to perform this enjoyable set of songs at the Byron Park Retirement Residence in Walnut Creek on August 6, where we always have an appreciative and enthusiastic audience. We've also been requested to sing at the VIP Group at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church after their lunch on September 3rd. If you're in the neighborhood and wish to hear us, you could slip into the back of the audience... check with any of our group for the details.

We continue to look for a pianist to assist our regular accompanist, **Dave Obera** and of course, always are looking for additional Sirs who enjoy singing to join us in this very fun activity.



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.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Golfers **Dave Steinberg** and **John Hammond** at the June Luncheon

Cooking II

Bob Yolland

We had an excellent July 14th lunch at **Dennis Hallett's** home. He started us out with prosciutto wrapped around Mozzarella cheese, prosciutto wrapped around melon, several fine cheeses with crackers and an assortment of olives. For the entree **Dennis** served a really good wide egg noodle dish with a blend of several vegetables and ham in a chicken and broccoli soup sauce. This was accompanied by a green salad base with mixed seasonal fruit and blended with an orange dressing. For dessert we had a generous raspberry angel food short cake with lemon yogurt, flaked coconut and whipped cream. **Dennis**, when you joined our group you said you couldn't cook. That notion was totally dispelled with this fine lunch. Thank you.

Of course we had ample wine and some great conversation. **Corrie Oranje** missed the event due to his knee replacement and **Steve Dawkins** was away enjoying golf and other things in the Bend Oregon area.



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 July 7 at the home of **Doug Eisner**. First place went to **Carl Johnson** with 5250 points, second to **Fred Bolton** with 5010 and third to **Max Hinkle** with 4820. Our next game will be at the home of **Fred Bolton** on August 4.

In a Non-smoking Area...

**"If we see smoke
we will assume you
are on fire and take
appropriate action."**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Bruce Jones, Pierre Mebane,
Jim Adams and Baha Zara**
take a break at the July Luncheon meeting

Luncheon Attendance

Baha Zarah

Over 206 members and 4 guests attended this mid-summer luncheon and enjoyed an interesting presentation by the speaker Michael Butler. He is a graduate of the famous Juilliard Art School in New York City and for the last ten years as the artistic director of the resident company at the Lesher Regional Center for the Performing Arts in Walnut Creek. He gave us all an insight of what it takes to bring a play from an idea to an actual performance. His tasks range from writing, hiring a cast, set designs, wardrobe suggestions and project economics as well as acting when appropriate. The next Branch 146 luncheon will be on Thursday 14 August 2014. The deadline for notifying of non-attendance is Friday noon 8 August. Notification can be made to nolunchbranch146@gmail.com or to 925 207 4344. Please remember to wear your school or team colors for this luncheon and please bring a check to pay \$25 for the luncheon. GO IRISH.



At a Propane Filling Station...

"Thank God for Little Grills"

Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 group was hosted by **Fred Bolton**, holding our first 4-table event since startup over two years ago.

Congratulations to **Carl Johnson**, who won 1st place with 47.5 pts.; **Doug Eisner**, 2nd place with 43.5 pts.; **Tony Greco**, 3rd place with 41 pts.; and **Dave Pierce**, 4th place with 39.5 pts. The group tracks the number of highest vs. lowest boards per player- **Tony** had 7 vs. 1, with **Doug** and **John Boyan** @ 7 vs. 3. Nice going, guys.



We also have a Comeback Kid recognition for the player with the greatest increased spread between his 1st and 2nd half scores.

This time the spread was a relatively large 11 pts, with this amazing effort moving him from 16th (last) in the 1st half to ...16th at the end. He thus will remain unnamed, but someone will check his pulse next time at the beginning of play. The August 1 event will be hosted by **Dave Steinberg**.

In a Veterinarian's Waiting Room...

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"



Long time friends, **Al Zamola, Joe Lamanna and Jack Calloway** at the July branch luncheon

Wine Tasting

Bill Holly

Thirty-nine people attended the July 23rd SIR Wine Tasting at the home of **Rob Melrose** and **Carmen Schiavone**. We tasted two white, five red and eleven rosé wines from the Provence region of Southern France. **Lo and Sue McCarley** won a bottle of rosé wine, and **Bruce and Susan Borgman** won a bottle of red wine.



July Wine Tasting attendees gather around a fabulous spread. Overheard at the event... "honestly, it doesn't get any better than this"

The appetizers, the wine, the mild weather, and the pleasant surroundings all contributed toward making this a successful wine tasting.

The last SIR wine tasting of 2014 will be on Wednesday, October 22nd at the home of **Susan and Jerry Kaplan**.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Al Munayer & Jim Saavedra at the June Luncheon

Walkers

John Lewis



*Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.
Call John or just show up.
Rain cancels any walk.*



July walks by **Frank Ascatigno**

Aug. 1 Walden Park South – Walnut Creek

Meet: Walden Park Parking on Oak Road

Walk: South on Iron Horse Trail, partial shade

Coffee: Panera Bread, Bancroft & Treat

Aug. 8 Osage Park – Iron Horse Trail North Danville

Meet: 680 South to Sycamore Exit, first right on Camino Ramon, left on El Capitan, at Orange Blossom Way to Osage Parking

Walk: South on Orange Blossom Way, west on El Capitan, north on Iron Horse Trail

Coffee: Pascal French Oven 155B Railroad Ave.

Aug. 15 Cardinet Trail – Clayton

Meet: Clayton Library

Walk: Along trail by Golf Course, partial shade

Coffee: Purchase coffee at Cup O'Jo 6054 Main St. Then proceed to "The Grove" city park for treats and seating.

Aug. 22 Castle Rock Trail – Castle Rock Rd. W. C.

Meet: Oak Grove Rd. then Castle Rock Rd. to end

Walk: To west trail from parking

Coffee: Denica's Café at Nob Hill Shopping Center (Citrus Marketing) 2280 Oak Grove Rd. near Ygnacio Valley Rd.

Aug. 29 Markham Tree Walk – Treat Blvd. near Clayton Rd., Concord

Meet: Coco's back parking at Treat Blvd. & Bel Air

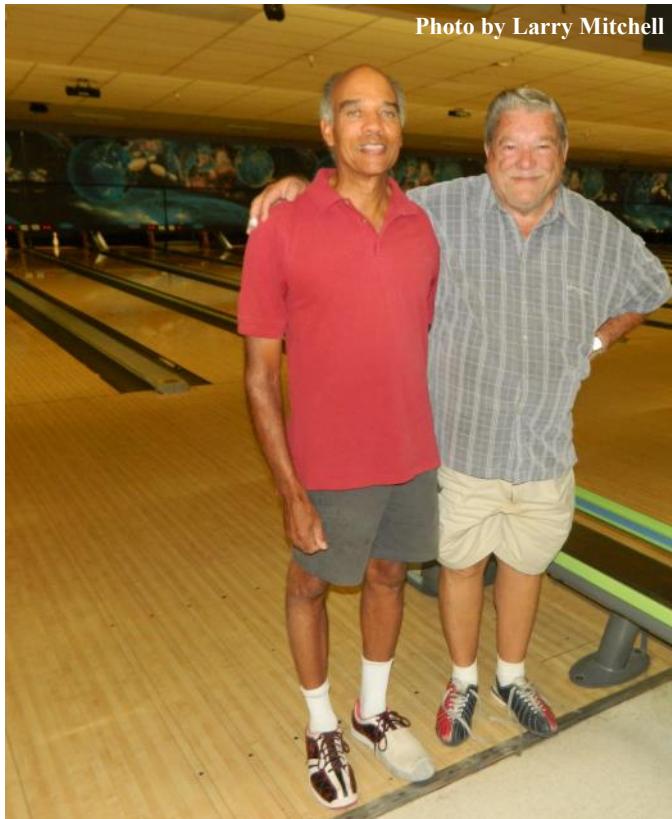
Walk: Starts at back west corner of parking lot

Coffee: Coco's at Treat Blvd. and Bel Air Rd.

Bowling

Larry Mitchell

As reported some time ago, **Pierre Mebane and Ken Donnelly** won the winter league but there was no usable picture of them available. This was due to an old guy photographer who was accustomed to using a Brownie box camera trying to use his new Canon which has too many gadgets and options for the aforementioned old guy to deal with. After some study the photo you see [below] of the handsome duo was taken. Currently Team No. 3 (non-Br. 146 bowlers) is in first place with a record of 22-10 and Team No. 5, (**Larry Mitchell** and **Jim Wray**), are in second with a 21-11 record. The next SIR Tournament will be in Napa on July 28th and 29th. More information? Call me. [925-798-5440](tel:925-798-5440)



Bowling winter league champions
Pierre Mebane and Ken Donnelly of our branch

At a Car Dealership...

The best way to get back on your feet -
Miss a car payment"

Photo by Vic Fortune



Gordon Linebaugh, Carl Moyer, Paul Dubow, Barry Rauchle, Raleigh Davis, and John Wall with their catch of ling cod at Bodega Bay".

Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker group #1 met July 9th at **Bill Cammerer's** home. **Ron Plachy** was our guest. He also introduced some new games which were interesting. Everyone enjoyed themselves as usual. There were no big winners or losers. Also, Poker Group 1 has been playing for more than 8 years. It started in 2006. Our next outing will be Aug. 13th at **Don DelBene's** home.



Photo by Bill Schultz



Enjoying the great outdoors on a local hike is L to R, **Gary Brown, Pete Gates, Al Twyford** and **Joe Nelms** all of branch 146. Our **Rich Ahlf** is heading up this popular and growing activity. See his column on page 5

Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Sept. 15, 2014: Levi Stadium Tour. The tour will include a visit to the Verizon Press Level, Suit 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. Additionally cost of \$4649 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 includes airfare, 22 nights accommodations, 59 meals, 17

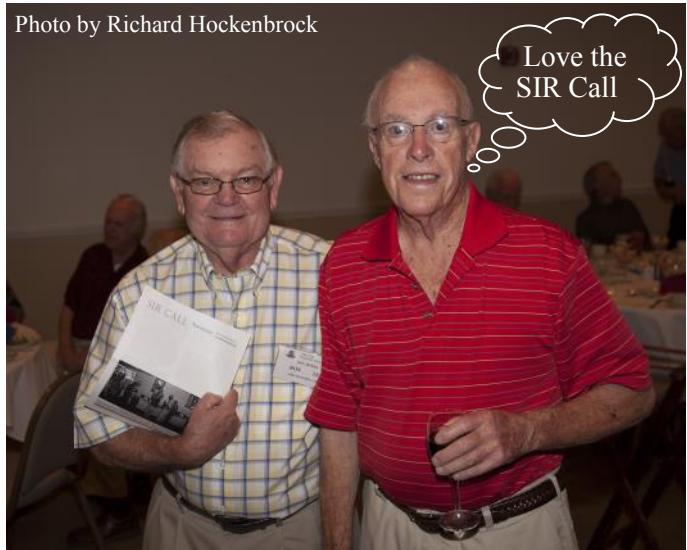
sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handling overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and post trips are available. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 698-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

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, Vernon, Honfleur, Rouen and the D-Day beaches of Normandy. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$6,199 which includes 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, and 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.

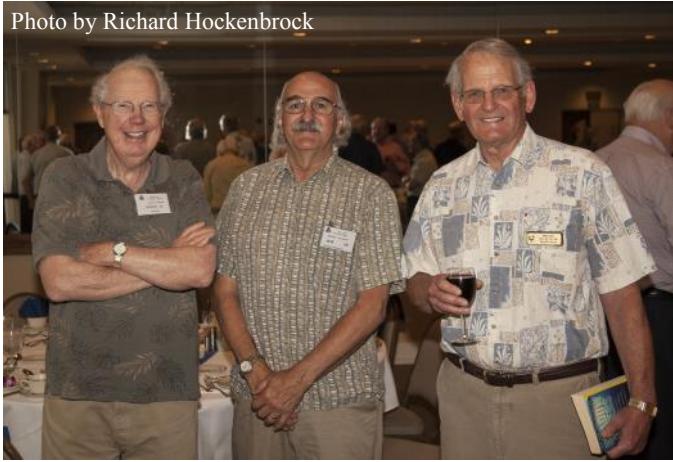
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Sirs **Ron Binder** and **Jim Brown** talking about how great it is to read the SIR Call

In the Front Yard of a Funeral Home...
"Drive carefully, we'll wait"

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Steve Loftin, Bob Soldano and Pete Gates enjoying a time out at the June meeting and Luncheon.

The monthly SIR branch 146 meeting to which all are invited starts at 9:30 the morning of the Luncheon

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday August 27, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord.

Our guest speaker this month will be Brent Cunningham, a Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch. Brent's topic will be "Sell Side Indicator and What to Do in 2014, Mid Year Update." Brent will discuss 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.

The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 a.m., so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Plan to attend this meeting and bring a prospective SIR.

Co-Chairmen: Gary Moore (Br-174) 925-254-8742

David Sutton (Br-8) 925- 686-0158
Leary Wong (Br-8) 925-457-0807

Couples Golf

Paul Masta

Special thanks to **Lew** and **Carla Thompson** for hosting the June outing at Vintners Golf Club in Napa. Nineteen players enjoyed the golf and awards luncheon.

First place was shared by **Vince** and **Bonnie Rettew** and **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**. Second place went to **Dick** and **Judy Richmond** and **Sandy Wagner** and **Rich Hanford**.

Closest to the Pin honors went to **Alicia Baily** and **Paul Masta**.

Thanks to **Ron** and **Anne Plachy** for hosting the July 23d tournament at Las Positas. Nine couples played the interesting, alternating shot format and were still cordial at the end of the round. First place low net went to **Don Rhoads** and **Barbara Elenteny** with the **Plachys** and **Bailys** following.

Alicia Baily again won closest to the pin at 12 inches.

The August 27th play will be hosted by **Dick** and **Judy Richmond** at Kennedy Park, Napa. September will be hosted by the **Mastas**. **Sandy Wagner** and **Rich Hanford** are hosting October.

We often have room for more players than have signed up, so if you are interested, please contact the hosts or **Paul Masta** and join the fun.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



New member, **Tony Shebanek** and Activities Chairman **Jerry Kaplan** at the June Luncheon.

Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

On Monday July 21 the Couples Dining Out group enjoyed a memorable dinner at Casa Orinda, the landmark restaurant in Orinda that has been there since 1932 and is the oldest continuously operating restaurant in the East Bay. We had 42 diners for this event – and were pleased to have some newbies as well as many who participate in this activity regularly. We had a private room and were able to chat and enjoy one another's company for the social hour as well as during the dinner.

One of our staff gave us a bit of history of the restaurant – it was actually the chief engineer of the original Caldecott tunnel who wanted a place to eat as the work was progressing so he started the restaurant! The original themes of good hearty food with a western flair continue to this day. Certainly our group appreciated the crisp Caesar salad and the generous portions of the entrée. Many of our group had their signature dish, the fried chicken, and others enjoyed the sautéed prawns, or veal scallopini marsala. Dessert was their well-known mud pie – and no one left hungry!

The general consensus was that we had another successful and enjoyable Couples Dining Out activity – and we are looking forward to the next one, which will be in September. It will most likely be on Monday Sept. 22. We will be following up on some of the suggestions made and encourage any of you who would like to have us try your favorite restaurant to let us know. We especially encourage new Sirs and others who have not participated in this fun event to join us. Watch for the announcement of the choice of restaurant to mail in your reservation!



Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group played four tables of bridge at **Carl Johnson's** home on July 21. Three players, **Tony Greco**, **Sid Landman**, and **Jim Stedman**, shot out of the gate into the first 3 places, respectively, at the lunch break. However, at the end of the day, only **Sid** held up to the pressure of wearing a target on his back all afternoon to end up in the money. **Jim Jackson** walked off with first place, having come from deep in the pack at half time to total 43.5 pts. Similarly, **Max Hinkle** rode a second half tidal wave into second place with 41.0 pts, narrowly edging out **Bill Rees**, who scored 40.5 pts. **Sid Landman** hung on for fourth place with 39.5 pts. There will be no game in August as we're all taking vacation. Back again in September at a location TBD.



At the Electric Company...

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment.

However, if you don't you will be delighted"

Photography

Richard Hockenbrock

The next scheduled meeting of the Photography group is set for Friday, Sep 19th at 9am in the Contra Costa Library on Oak Grove Road. I'm going to be sending out a survey in August to poll the photography membership before making a determination on subject matter. Some members have suggested a field trip to a local venue to take pictures to evaluate at a later meeting.



Another photo opportunity exists on Sep 15th for those of you taking the tour of the 49er Stadium. I plan to make a video of our trip for later inclusion in a future Sir Call and would like to include your pictures and movies. In the meantime, if anyone is interesting in joining the Photography group, send me an email and remember, spouses are welcome.

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Jeff Baily

Proofreaders **Dick DeVoe** and **Cal Tucker**

Labeling & Mailing

Bill Cammerer

Internet Posting

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.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley

For the first time in a long while, Couples Duplicate Bridge had three tables (six couples) instead of the usual four tables of bridge. **Carl and Anne**

Johnson hosted the gala evening and the group enjoyed the wines and snacks.

Finishing in first place were **Lo and Sue McCarley** with 25 points. They were followed in second place by **Carl and Anne Johnson** (22 points) and third place was a tie... **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** and **Jim Brown and Adrienne Morrison** with 20 points.

Lo and Sue McCarley will host next month's bridge on August 20th.

On a Maternity Room Door...
"Push, push, push"



The SIR Branch 146 Wine Tasting activity at the home of **Rob Melrose and Carmen Schiavone** July, 2014



Derek Southern

PC's



Neil Schmidt

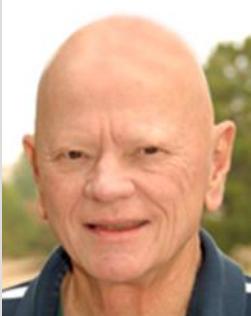
Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all Sirs and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, August 21st at 9:30 am.

Derek Southern will discuss "Setting up your (new) Email" and **Phil Goff** will present his "Removing your desktop hard-drive" show & tell. A copy of the presentation should be available the week prior to the meeting on the CAT Web page at: <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org>

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.



ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Malcolm Hendry

The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30PM. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, as well as, those favorably reviewed by the media. Come join us and experience dining while enjoying the

company of your fellow Sirs, and male guests, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

El Charro Mexican Dining

This restaurant has been a popular landmark in Lafayette since 1947. The lively ambiance along with a wide selection of Mexican dishes will greet you, along with baskets of chips, salsa and their secret recipe cheese dip, when you arrive. The cantina features a full bar and margaritas to your taste. Separate checks will be provided for your convenience. Location: 3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, Ca 94549 (surrounding parking lot) Web Site: www.elcharro1947.com Phone: 925-283-2345 Please let me know before Tuesday, August 19, that you will join us. Your suggestions are welcomed. Mal

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



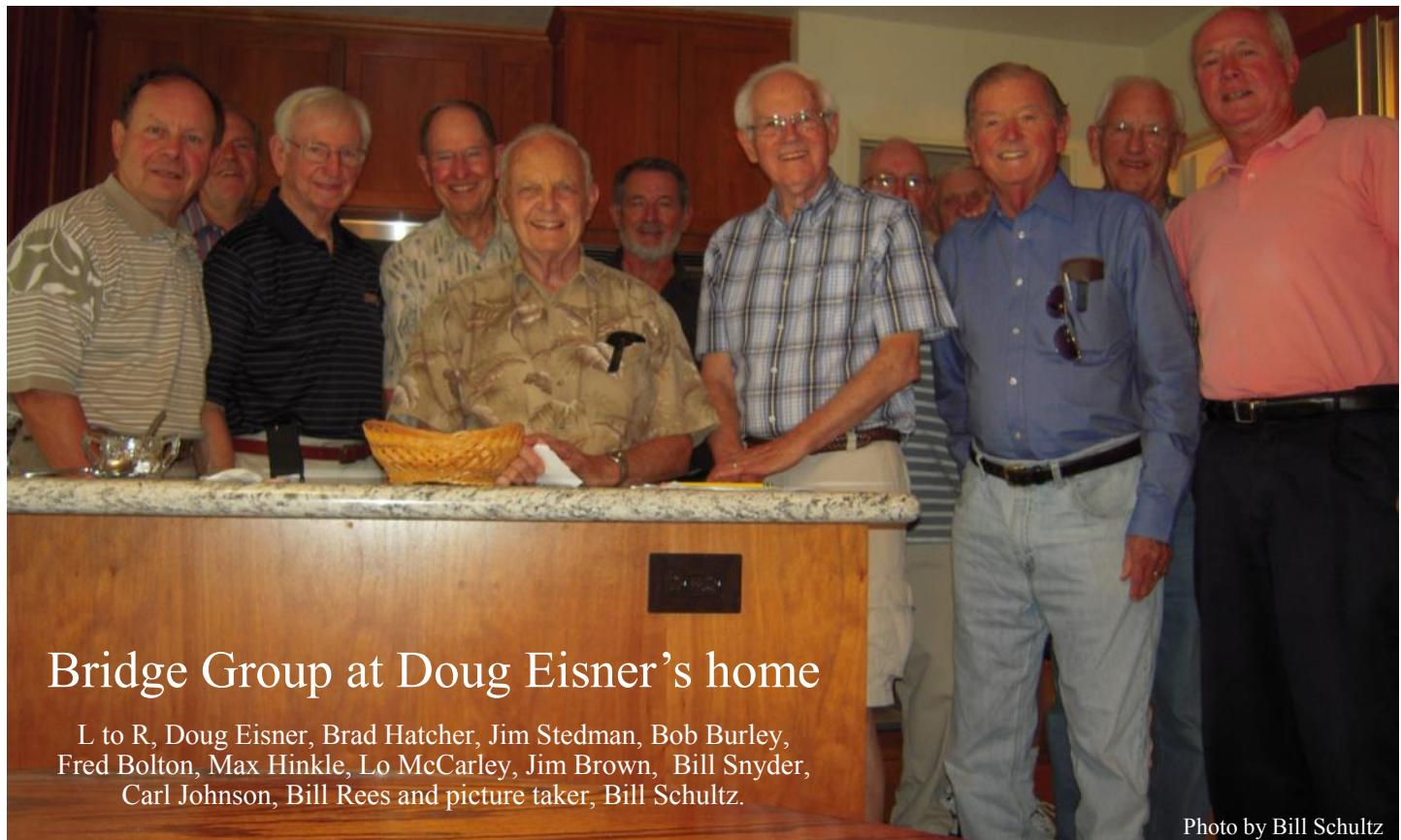
Verner Laursen

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.

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.

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.
br146sircall@gmail.com



Bridge Group at Doug Eisner's home

L to R, Doug Eisner, Brad Hatcher, Jim Stedman, Bob Burley, Fred Bolton, Max Hinkle, Lo McCarley, Jim Brown, Bill Snyder, Carl Johnson, Bill Rees and picture taker, Bill Schultz.

Photo by Bill Schultz