



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

July—August 2025



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Ford

I hope everyone's summer is going well. It is hard to believe that we are already coming up on our August meeting. We will be meeting on August 14th. For those of you that have sponsored a new member, we will be holding a drawing for a gift card. If you haven't sponsored anyone yet this year, it's not too late to bring someone in and get your name in the hat for the October drawing. We are still trying to fill a few open slots on the BEC, so if you are willing to fill a role please let me know. I hope to see you all there. The Mission of SIR is "Make Friends For Life". Remember, your friends and acquaintances need not be retired to join.

Warm Regards.

SIR Luncheon Thursday, August 14th, 2025

Boundary Oak 11:30

EMS Battalion Chief, Jesse Ingram
Emergency Health Issues
A reservation is required!

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

Activities for you and spouse...

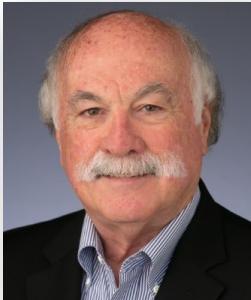
- Calendar of Events [Page 12](#)
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2025 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP-Chair Members

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Recruitment | Randy Graham |
| Activities | Glenn Breslin |
| Member Relations | Edward Brands |
| Publicity | John Alexander |
| Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses. | |



Little Sir's Corner

Thom Degnan

At our BEC Meeting in July we discussed the need for our members to be more welcoming to new members with regard to seating at our monthly luncheons. As such, we want to request that organized tables be limited to just four individuals, allowing for four seats to be available to either members that don't have a seat or those that are new to the organization. This will promote a welcoming environment and enable members to meet more people. Our intention as a SIR group is to make new friends, and this is just one more positive step. It's also a good way to educate new members of the activities that you participate in to see if they might want to join. If you haven't sat at a different table recently I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to meet some new/different SIR members.

For our August Monthly Luncheon, we are pleased to have EMS Battalion Chief, Jesse Ingram, of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District as our Speaker. Chief Ingram will discuss CPR Guidelines and the objectives and priorities of a person faced with assisting someone having an emergency health issue. Chief Ingram was born in Walnut Creek, and raised in Pleasant Hill where he excelled in baseball, good enough to be recruited by Cal Berkeley to play. He holds a B.A. in Political Science and Government from Cal Berkeley, and was selected by the Texas Rangers in the 2004 Amateur Draft. He played four years in the minors before retiring in 2007. He then went worked for AMR Ambulance, went to paramedic school, coached youth travel baseball, became a Reserve Firefighter in Contra Costa County, was hired by the San Jose Fire Department in 2009, and then in 2011 joined the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District where he is currently the Battalion Chief.

As you may be aware, we have organized four CPR classes to date for SIR146 and have updated more than 110 individuals on the latest CPR techniques. We will have our next coed training class in October.

In subsequent months we will have a Captain from the San Francisco Harbor Pilots, an executive from John Muir, the Executive Director of Save Mt. Diablo, a former Top Gun Pilot. The Devil Mountain Chorus will return in December. The Speaker's Committee **Jim Pope, Glenn Breslin, Jim Crites** and myself will keep you updated. We appreciate any suggestions for interesting speakers.

Thom Degnan
Little Sir, Branch 146

Make Friends for Life

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

Speaker Information

In August, we will have the EMS Chief from the Contra Costa Fire Captain speaking on life saving techniques,

Luncheon Information

Please remember that you need to make a reservation to attend the luncheon, even if you are an annual payer you must make a reservation. We appreciate your cooperation.

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

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 - 48 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

Date: Thursday, August 14th, 2025

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 it easy to do this; simply click the appropriate meal link.

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

Check-In: 11:00 am 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 email, 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, August 8th by Noon

and you will not be charged.

Send email to AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com or

Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.

Questions:

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



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 August Luncheon

Thursday, August 14th, 2025

Salad

Spinach, Blue Cheese, Mandarins, Candied Walnuts with Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrees

[Pesto Chicken](#)

Herbed Rice Pilaf and Asparagus

[Pesto Sole Roulade](#)

Herbed Rice and Asparagus

Vegetarian

Asiago Stuffed Gnocchi with Asparagus and Creamy Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Strawberry Tart

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.



A new way to pay!

Our branch is testing a new option to pay for lunch in advance using Zelle. Most US banks offer this service free to their account holders; all you have to do to start using it is to sign up with Zelle using your cell phone number or email address.

Of course, you can still pay with cash or check at registration, or by enrolling in our Annual Payer program.

To sign up for Zelle, scan the QR code below with your mobile phone. You will be guided through the process of opening your Zelle account and linking it to your bank account. You most likely can also activate and create a Zelle account from the Zelle application within your bank's website or phone app.

Once you've enrolled, please send your Zelle payments to sir146.treasurer@gmail.com. Please complete your reservation and Zelle payment by noon on Friday, the week before the luncheon. Please note that we cannot accept Zelle payments at the luncheon itself; only cash or checks will be accepted at that time. Also, Zelle payments are for the upcoming luncheon only and should not be used to pay for future events. Finally, if you are using your bank's scheduling feature, be sure your Zelle payment is scheduled for delivery before noon on Friday.



Zelle®

PUT THE SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146

September Luncheon

Thursday, September 11th, 2025

Salad

Blue Cheese Wedge Salad
with Bacon Bites and Tomatoes

Entrees

Herb Marinated, Roasted Chicken Breast,
Smashed Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans and
Creamy Dill Sauce.

Citrus Marinated Snapper,
Smashed Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans and
Creamy Dill Sauce.

Vegetarian

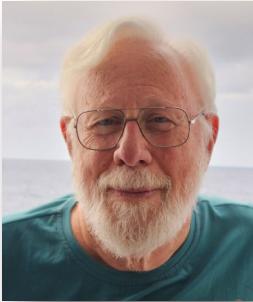
Tomato Pesto Farro with Garlic Green Beans

Dessert

Baked Peach Tart

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

Last month I mentioned that one of our SIRCall staff was down... but not out. Our photographer, **Henry Thatcher**, was recovering from surgery that limited his mobility. It was great to see him back in action at the July meeting! Check out his photos of the meeting starting on page 7.

There seems to be one unanswered question from the July meeting. **Where did Bruce get the teeny weenie polka dot bikini?** Doesn't look like his size. Unfortunately, we don't have the answer.

For those sleuths out there, the editor was feeling fisty this month... couple of "easter eggs" floating around in this issue.

The cut off date for SIRCall submissions for September is noon on the 20th of August, however don't let that hinder you from turning in your submission earlier in the month! I will close by reminding everyone that when you submit an article we will always respond by sending you a proof copy. **If you do not receive one, check with us...** maybe we didn't get it... maybe we lost it... maybe we just overlooked it... maybe we were just lazy at the time it arrived.

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com



Membership

George Mon

Two new members were approved for membership in July.

Sergio Quintor lives in Walnut Creek with his partner **Stan Osofsky**. Sergio was a Teacher and a Consultant for the CA. Teachers Assoc. He enjoys Art, Ceramics and Gardening. He is sponsored by **Paul Dubow**.

Craig Griffiths lives in Concord with his wife **Anna**. He was an Anesthetist for Kaiser Medical Group. He was also a CEO for Lifehouse Recovery Homes, a non-profit. His sponsor is **Mike Kimsal**.

Sadly, we lost one of our members. **Norm Baietti** passed away in late June. He was battling with esophageal cancer.

It is important that we have an accurate count of our branch membership since State Sir allocates costs for insurance and operating expenses based on our number.

It is also 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 would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see a guest at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a Sir.

The 2025 membership count is **263**.

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

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

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

George Mon
925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor
Assistant Editor
Photographer
Proofreaders

Internet Posting

Clint Collier
Bob West
Henry Thatcher
Ron Polivka
Bruce Borgman
Frank Lucas
Ron Plachy

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

WALT BUSENIUS

| SIR Member | Year Inducted | Years |
|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| Ben Smith | 2018 | 7 |
| Mark Curtis | 2017 | 8 |
| Dave Kingsbury | 2017 | 8 |
| Bob Lyman | 2016 | 9 |
| Rich Pace | 2016 | 9 |
| Lee Clark | 2015 | 10 |
| Peter Plante | 2014 | 11 |
| Tony Greco | 2012 | 13 |
| Max Hinkle | 2012 | 13 |
| Charlie Kahsen | 2011 | 14 |
| Siegfried Kalteis | 2008 | 17 |
| Rich Ahlf | 2004 | 21 |



Ross Abbott
 Mark Curtis
 Loren Delaurenti
 Paul Dubow
 John Fitzgerald
 Roy Hodgkinson
 Brian McCarthy
 Aubrey Moore
 Glen Renk
 William Snyder
 Bob Spellman
 Howard Zimmerman
 Randy Graham
 Curtis Young
 Steve Schlossberg
 Nick Jabuka
 Charles Ward
 Stephen Dick
 Mike Ball
 Tom Stucker
 Mac Avery
 Ted Upland

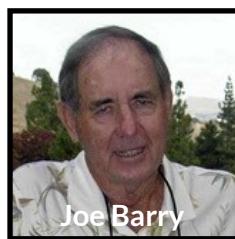


Sunshine Brian McCarthy

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.



July

Photos by...

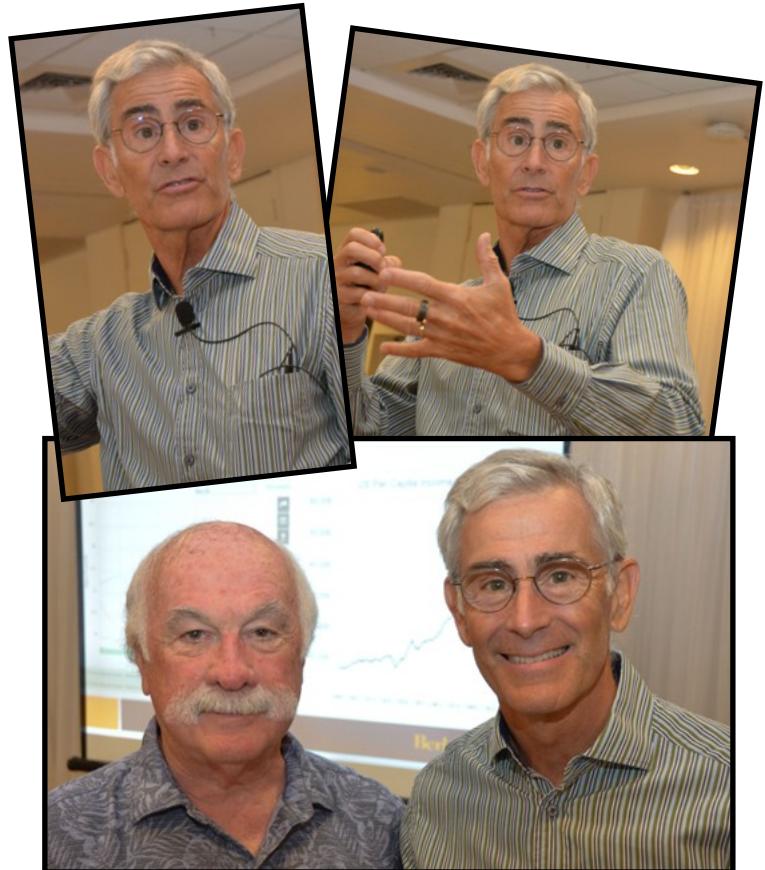
Henry Thatcher



Welcoming Crew



Sergio Quintor



Guest Speaker

Dr. Donald Hanna

Haas School of Business, University of California Berkeley,
Managing Director of its Center for Growth Markets



Craig Griffiths



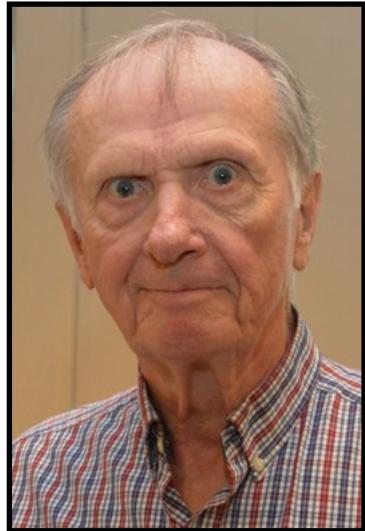
Paul Tanzillo



**July
Glenn Breslin**







SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar August 2025

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jul 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Aug 1 |
| 10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00 pm Poker Group #3 1:00 pm–4:00 pm Poker Group #4 | 9:00 am Golf | | | 10:00 am–2:30 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9:45 am–3:00 pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00 pm–4:00 pm AI group Las Trampas Room Downtown WC Library | 9:00 am Golf 4:00 pm Couples Party Bridge | 1:30 pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30 pm–10:00 pm MTD 8 Ocho | 9:30 am Nine Hole Golf-1 12:30 pm Poker Group #6 | 12:00 pm–3:00 pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00 pm–3:00 pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 10:00 am Hiking 11:30 am–1:30 pm Cooking II 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses | 9:00 am Golf 1:00 pm–4:00 pm Poker Group #8 4:00 pm–7:30 pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 | 8:30 am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00 pm–2:30 pm Guitar Group 1:00 pm–3:00 pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 7 Siete | 9:00 am–10:45 am BEC Meeting 10:30 am–1:30 pm Book Corner 11:30 am–1:30 pm SIR Luncheon | 9:00 am–11:00 am Photography Group Downtown WC Library 10:00 am–3:00 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 1:00 pm–3:30 pm MTD 10 Diez 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 1 Uno 7:00 pm–10:00 pm MTD 4 Quattro |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00 pm–4:00 pm AI Investment Subgroup Las Trampas Room Downtown WC Library | 9:00 am Golf | 11:00 am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30 pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45 pm–10:00 pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 9 Nueve | 9:30 am Nine Hole Golf-1 11:00 Sushi No Tomadachi Fuji Brffet in Concord 12:00 Noon SIRCall articles for Sept due. 7:00 pm–10:00 pm MTD 5 Cinco | 12:00 pm–3:00 pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00 pm–3:00 pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 3 Tres |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00 pm Poker Group #3 1:00 pm–4:00 pm Poker Group #4 | 9:00 am Golf | 12:30 pm–3:30 pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00 pm–2:30 pm Guitar Group 1:00 pm–3:00 pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30 pm–3:30 pm \$UMS in Retirement Zoom 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 6 Seis | 7:30 am–9:30 am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30 am Nine Hole Golf-1 | |



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator

Glenn Breslin

Did you know that you can start an activity of your choosing? Yes indeed! It can be very rewarding to introduce your interests to the entire SIR146 community. I am all ears. Please convey your new activity ideas to me and we will work together to get it started. When you start a new activity, you not only help your fellow SIR members stay active but also personally benefit with a good feeling that you are contributing to the health of the organization. Leading an activity, you get to know members at a closer level. Sometimes it seems a little overwhelming to start an activity, but part of my job as Activity Chair is to provide direction and support to ensure your success. There is also an option to become an Activity Co-Chairman or Assistant!

| Description | Totals |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Total Activities | 51 |
| Total Co-Ed Activities | 33 |
| Percent Co-Ed Activities | 65% |
| Total Unique Activities | 28 |
| BR146 activities shared with other branches | 14 |
| Other SIR Branch Groups Activities Shared with SIR146 | 15 |

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities! Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in.

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

Help Keep the SIR146 Dining Out Tradition Alive!

After 12 incredible years of service, **Bruce Borgman** has retired from his role as Chair of the Dining Out activity—a beloved tradition that brings our members together to share great food, laughter, and camaraderie.

Dining Out is one of the most well-attended and cherished activities within SIR146. With **Bruce's** departure, we now face the risk of losing this opportunity to connect, enjoy, and enrich our lives. But it doesn't have to be that way! We're looking for a **new Chair or Assistant Chair(s)** to carry the torch and keep this vibrant social experience going. It requires just a small amount of effort but offers tremendous rewards: Reach out to me to me. Let's keep the tradition alive and well—your fellow SIRs are counting on it! Glenn: glennbreslin@gmail.com.



Travel Glenn Breslin

GOOD NEWS !!! Vietnam/Cambodia Trip Update: 13 SIRs are going. Only **1 slot** remains. No additional single supplement change.

Please inform me if you are interested, before this trip sells out. See below for details.

New Trip Announced: Many SIR members have mentioned interested in going to **CUBA** on 3/12/26 for a 6-day tour. If you are interested, then please let me know glenbreslin@gmail.com. Informational meeting with the travel agent scheduled for 8/6 2 PM. Limited Zoom Call slots are still available

| Vietnam/ Cambodia | Australia/New Zealand | Japan/Korea | Cuba |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10/19/25 to 11/7/25 (\$3495-No Airfare/\$4695 -With Economy Airfare) • Angkor Wat Post-Trip Included available • Click here for details • Group code is G5- 30339 | 1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295- No Airfare/\$7645-With Economy Airfare) • Both Melbourne Pre- Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available • Click here for details • Group code is G6- 30339 | 4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495- No Airfare/\$9095-With Economy Airfare) • Hiroshima post-trip available • Click here for details • Group code is G6- 30339 | 3/12/26 to 3/18/26 (\$4611 with airfare al- ready included) • Immersion into culture and history • Five-star lodging • All meals but one in- cluded • All tours included • Click here for details |

SIR Travel - Current Discount – Expires 8/8

For the 2026 trips, travelers can mention Code DOBE 440 in addition to your group code G6-30339.

- For Australia/New Zealand, that code will take off \$500 per person.
- And for South Korea/Japan, that code will take off \$200 per person.

Travel Quotes:

“A journey is best measured in friends rather than miles.”

“Sharing adventures means enjoying them 100% more.”

“Friends that travel together, stay together.”

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.



Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glenbreslin@gmail.com





Birding Ted Robertson

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Field Trip Report.

At 8:30AM, a group of eleven SIR birders explored Newhall Community Park in eastern Concord and spotted and heard 26 species of birds.



Photo by
Jim Rowland



Photo by Earl Bates
Green Heron

Photo by Jim Rowland
Male Western Bluebird



The highlights of the trip included a female Wood Duck, good looks at three Green Herons, twenty Anna's Hummingbirds, and great views of Western Bluebirds.

There will be no birding trip in August due to travel plans and the mid-summer lull in birds. Our next trip is scheduled for Wednesday September 10th in the morning, the start of the fall bird migration. If you would like to be part of the birding group and receive monthly announcements with specific directions and times, please email **Ted Robertson** so you can be added to the mailing list. Beginners are welcome and I have a few very good loaner binoculars.

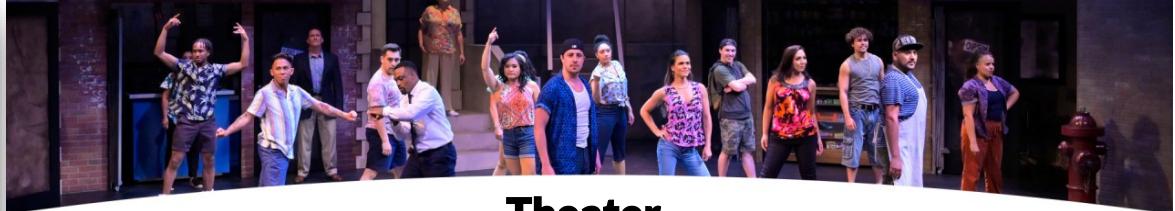
Ted Robertson
925.899.1872 tedr@berkeley.edu



Photo by Jim Rowland
Female Wood Duck

Photo by Earl Bates
Wiley Coyote





Theater Glenn Breslin

Upcoming Theater Shows – Lesher Theater

Each theater show is limited to 20 seats. Look for future notices regarding upcoming Lesher Tribute Band dates

If you are interested, send a **check made out to SIR146 to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549**, I will then give you a choice of the available seats

[Women in Black Sat 11/15/25 2:30 pm. \\$43. Lesher Theater](#)

The second longest play in the history of London's West End, The Woman in Black is the chilling theatrical event that has kept over seven million theatergoers on the edge of their seats for more than 30 years. When a young lawyer encounters a mysterious figure on the lonely, desolate estate he is charged to settle after the death of its owner, he believes his life has become cursed. To help him exorcise the dark specter from his life, he engages a skeptical actor to help him tell his terrifying story and together they unspool the mysteries hidden among the moors of the haunted estate. *Hailed by critics as "a white-knuckle thrill" (San Francisco Chronicle) and "Ingenious!" (New York Times) Center REP audiences will be lured into the pulse-pounding and spine-tingling ghostly world of their own imaginations... what happens next is something you must see to believe!*



"Highest Rating!
A white-knuckle thrill!"
San Francisco Chronicle

[Lost In Yonkers Sun 4/5/26 2:30 pm. \\$43. Lesher Theater](#)

To celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the opening of Lesher Center for the Arts, Center REP is proud to present the 35th anniversary revival production of Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning heartfelt comedy. This multi-award-winning memory play transports us to a small apartment above a candy store in Yonkers, NY in 1942. Financially strapped and needing to dig his family out of medical debt, Eddie must leave his two teen boys to live with his sister and mother while he takes to the road as a salesman. A strange new world opens up to the boys as they must navigate their estranged mafia-linked Uncle Louie and authoritarian Grandma Kurnitz (and her odorous mustard soup) while befriending their neurodiverse Aunt Bella, whose love and determination buoys the family against the headwinds of transformation.

Lost In Yonkers won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play, among other accolades

[Alanis Morissette's - Jagged Little Pill – Sat 6/13 2:30 PM, \\$43.00 - Lesher Theater](#)

Inspired by one of the best-selling albums of all time, this electrifying new musical charts the lives of Mary Jane Healy and her picture-perfect American family. As hidden secrets and resentments begin to fracture the pristine façade of suburban life, the Healy's are forced to confront the truth of each other and their community, redefining the place they once called home. Raw, personal, and bursting with some of the most explosive songs in pop music history, this Tony Award-winning work from Oscar-winning writer Diablo Cody and Grammy Award-winning songwriters Alanis Morissette and Glen Ballard will have you rocking in the aisles while reclaiming the power and purpose of family.

Winner of 2 Tony Awards, 2 Drama Desk Awards, Eight Outer Circle Critics' Awards and a Grammy (Best Musical Theater Album)

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

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

June 24th The cycling members of SIR Branch 146 met on Tuesday, June 24th at the Nancy Boyle Park in Martinez. The weather was outstanding with not a cloud in the sky but windy with temperatures in the 70's. The ride was a

20-mile round trip over the Benicia Bridge to downtown Benicia. As we were climbing the bridge, we were greeted with a 10 mile an hour headwind. UGH!! However, that ugly headwind turned into a beautiful tail wind on the way home. YAY!! Our paceman NOT SO extraordinaire, **Mr. Moose**, led the ride to Benicia where we stopped at "Larry's House" for a quick refresher. Then we mounted our trusty machines to head to State's Coffee House in Martinez. Besides **Mr. Moose**, we had nine other cyclists on our windy ride: Ken Studer, Eric Finson, Thom Degnan, Bill Holly, Brian Lotter, Mike Schrupp, Jim Crites, and Tom Alborg.



The gang invaded State's Coffee House with orders of java and pastries. **Thom Degnan** (little Sir extraordinaire) guarded our machines as we purchased our consumables and devoured them outside in the fresh sunny outdoors. Refreshed, we mounted up to ride a short distance to our starting point which was Nancy Boyle Park in Martinez. Picture by **Jim Crites** (Thanks Jim!!) demonstrates our smiling faces at "Larry's House". There is a picture of Jim Crites testing out a new L-O-N-G bike plus a decorated latte from State's.



Three avid riders, **Eric Finson, Thom Degnan, and Mr. Moose** rode additional miles to and from Nancy Boyd Park. Ride on, ride on, and by the way, ride on is the mantra!!!

If you are interest in joining us for a ride, then please reach out to **Larry Kaye** at (925)698-4030. Come and join us. Our rides are a no drop policy where we don't leave anyone behind. During the ride, we occasionally stop to gather the masses, then proceed onward to our goal of riding for coffee, having fun and staying healthy through exercise. The cycling group's motto: **HEALTH IS WEALTH!!!**

July 1st: Today we were to visit the Tassajara Valley . Enjoy the old West as it was. Well... It's been developed. Homes and condos, and apartments and cars. The open grazing area I recall is gone. We took the old roadway which is now a trail and rode into the area. Growth. All over. I explained to the guys what was and what now is. Sad story. Today we had **Thom Degnan, Moose Kelley, Brian Totter, Bill Holly, Jim Crites, Dave Paulson, Bob Wilkenfeld, Eric Finson, Bob Lucido** and myself. I had promised the troops a surprise on return to Alamo. Greeting us was **Roger Meyer**. With his cane and smile. Fun visit. He is on the heal. A great ride with some memories thrown in. Get out the door.

July 8th: Huge pastries, great coffee, weather that was to be perfect. How can you say "no"? Well 10 did not. We rode as a freight train South to Dublin. The route was in and out of new streets. Plenty of fun and wind at our backs. I took the guys thru some streets and trails that not a lot of people know of. A thrill. The pastries at Deneca's cafe were huge. The cinnamon buns were soccer ball size. The cookies were massive. Yummy. The ride was smooth. Two guys had some cramps and we waited for them to subside. All in all a wonderful 31 miles of riding fun. An hour outside is better than sitting on your duff. Get out.



July 15: It was an early start today. The goal was to get to Orinda in a fashion not done too frequently before. Today we had a full house. **Thom Degnan, Tom Alborg,**

Continued on the Following Page

Cycling Group continued from previous page

Jim Nelson, Moose Kelly, Bob Wilkenfeld, Elmer Bricca Mike Schoup, Bill Holly, Dave Paulson, Brian Lotter, Jim Crites and Larry Kaye.

The hill that was promised was a bit..h We did it. The second and third hills were not accessible as the road was closed. The goal was to reach Geppetto's and have coffee. What a relief as we rolled in to the cafe. The trip home was uneventful yet fulfilling. Was great to be out on our bikes and the weather was astounding. This is a whole lot better for you then sitting on your butt watching garbage. Just turn the knob and get outside.

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030

Did you know that if you garden in your back yard naked, your neighbors will build you a privacy fence for absolutely no cost to you.



Gardening

Ken Studer

Our new gardening activity is starting to take shape. We have had several meetings outdoors at members homes to learn about:

- pruning to insure a healthy plant
- irrigation problems
- soil science
- propagation techniques
- and all about fertilizer

At our July meeting (3rd Monday of the month) we visited Jan Egan's garden again and learned about the different techniques to propagate the plants in your own garden. Everyone propagated a slip and got to take it home with them. We learned how to divide perennials, layering techniques and how to stem cut properly. We also learned about rooting hormone and to label all your plants. In attendance were: Mike Kimsal, Eric Finson, Ellen Breslin, Jane West, Tom Stucker, Jan Egan and myself.

Our next meeting will be in September to tour a botanical garden or working farm in the area.



We welcome newcomers and their wives or significant other as well. Send me an email and I will add you to the member list. If you have plants in your garden that are struggling join our activity and learn how to make them flourish. Gardening is great therapy for the soul.

Ken Studer
925.963.2536, klstuder1161@gmail.com

**Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves.
They shall never cease to be amused.**



Nine Hole Golf Group

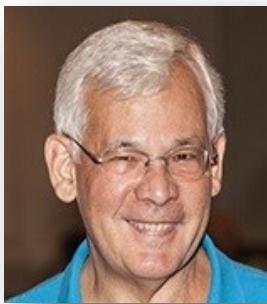
Bob Ford

Hi everyone. Are you looking for something to do on Thursday when we are not having our luncheon? If so, you should come out and join us. It only takes a couple of hours to play and the weather has been perfect for golf. 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. Then 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



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs are working on an autumn program for an October gig. We are reviewing songs like "Mister Sandman," "Fly Me To The Moon" and "Shine On Harvest Moon."

Our next rehearsal is on August 6, 2025 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

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

Contact Peter Plante at pcplante109@gmail.com

Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



Tuesday Golf Ed Marlovits

Tuesday Golf is the SIR Branch 146 Golf Club. We play weekly at Boundary Oak. Joining has a cost of \$80 per year which covers your NCGA membership and provides a recognized golf

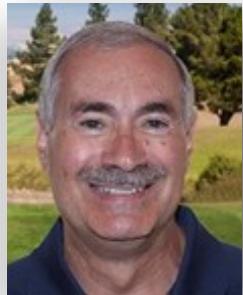
handicap. Prize fund participation is an option. Most weeks are stroke play but there are typically monthly team events as well.

In addition to branch golf, members are eligible to participate in numerous SIR State Golf events. This year has nine scheduled State events which are shown in the SIR State Golf website: <https://sirgolf.org>.

Ed Marlovits



"It's nice to know that chivalry isn't dead."



Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

Shell Ridge, in Walnut Creek, was our destination on June 23rd. The weather was warm, so our hikers got a little hot under the collar. With a few deviations from the originally planned route, **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Jim Crites, Eric Finson, Ray Martz, and Gene Schulting** clocked 6.1 miles and almost 900 feet of climbing.



On June 30th, Redwood Regional Park provided a cool and beautiful 4.7 mile hike, with a little over 1000 feet of climbing. **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Jim Crites, Eric Finson, Ray Martz, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** picnicked in a dense grove of redwood trees and found that the ladybugs were still congregating (and conjugating) by the creek.



Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Jim Crites, Eric Finson, Ray Martz, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld picnicked in a dense grove of redwood trees and found that the ladybugs were still congregating (and conjugating) by the creek.



Mason, Ray Martz, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld completed the 7-mile hike that included 2200 feet of climbing! Everyone was exhausted after the hike but still enjoyed the company and the outing.



On a warm summer day you look for shade, and the Martin Canyon Creek Trail, in Dublin, provided plenty of that. The trouble was, that the Donlan Loop Trail, in the adjacent Dublin Hills Regional Preserve, was in the bright sun! Still, **Jim Crites, Ray Martz, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** enjoyed the 5-mile hike, with a climb of only 1100 feet.

The Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline was our venue on July 21st. Unfortunately, the hike was cut short as a construction crew had the Bull Valley staging area and trailhead all dug up without any way to access the trail. After



some discussion we moved down to Port Costa. We wandered up and down the main street until we found the gate that went up into the park. The hike was only 3.2 miles and 653 ft. elevation gain. The team was **Jim Crites, Eric Finson, Mike Gipps, Ray Martz and Gene Schulting**.

The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. We also host a 3-4 mile flat walk each month on the 2nd Friday of each month (i.e., the morning following our Branch Luncheon). Advance email notifications for each hike and walk describe the outing details, including starting point, route and difficulty. Spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it. If you are interested in joining us, please let **Bob** know.

Ray Martz rayhvac@gmail.com
Bob Wilkenfeld Wilkx4@gmail.com



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

It is summertime when people like to travel and it was no different for the members of the Area 16 Fishing Group. We didn't travel the world, but we covered a good part of North America.



The prize for the biggest fish caught in international waters went to **Matt Richards**, who nailed a 130 lb. bluefin in Mexican waters. He also landed a bunch of yellowtail. Another group consisting of **Tom Chapman, Brion Beetz, Steve Paulick, Doug Dukes, Lee Clark, Ron Lew, and Chuck Cornell** travelled to La Paz in Baja California Sur and caught all kinds of fish over a four day period. The catch included cabrilla, triggerfish, pargo (including a 30-pounder caught by **Brion**), toro (known as

jack cravelle up north), roosterfish, pompano, and wahoo. They even caught a few dorado, notwithstanding that it was a bit early in the season for these green monsters. **Lee Clark, Brion Beetz, Pete Gates, and Tom Chapman** (pictured on the right) flew to Vancouver Island in British Columbia for several days where they caught lots of salmon. Four other members of our group will be going to the same lodge in August. **Dave Havlik** picked up salmon limits on a separate trip to British Columbia. **Dave Paulson** landed salmon in the Talkeetna River in Alaska. **Matt Richards** also had a fun trip to Alaska, where he caught flounder, halibut, and rock cod. **Bob Weede** trapped crabs during a vacation on Whidby Island in Washington. **Ken Bellendir** got away with two out of state fishing trips. He found black bass in the Lake of the Four Seasons near Crown

Point, Indiana, and he also tried his luck in Mexico. That trip was cut short by a hurricane, but **Ken** managed to pull in a 40 lb. dorado and some small roosterfish before the hurricane struck. Closer to home, **Pedro Contreras, Dennis Lee, Steve Paulick, and Ben LaSala** worked Pyramid Lake in Nevada for Lahontan (cutthroat) trout ad will be going back in October.

Oh, yes, there is fishing in California. But first a bit of bad news. In last month's report, we noted that a lot of salmon were caught in early June and that the rest of the summer season might be endangered because the fish limit could be exceeded. Well, that is exactly what happened. The limit for June through August was 7000 fish. By the second day of the season, 9165 salmon were caught and so the balance of the summer season was cancelled. We had several trips booked for August that will not occur. The fall season—September and October---remains open, but the charter and party boat fleet had was booked full as soon as the season was announced in June and so it is doubtful if any of us will get to fish for salmon off the California coast during the balance of this year.

Elsewhere in California, **Pete Gates** fished for trout in



the Feather River and Los Vaqueros Reservoir. The fishing was slow because of the wind. **Ross Abbott, Ken Bellinder, Brion Beetz, and Gordon Linebaugh** fought the wind at Lake Almanor but had better luck, catching some nice rainbows and

browns. **Tom Kostik** limited out on trout at Pinecrest Lake. **Dave Paulson** netted trout from the Yuba river. **Matt Richards, Dennis Lee, and Carl Moyer** caught rockfish from the ocean. **Ron Lew** pulled in halibut and leopard sharks in San Francisco Bay. **Dave Brooks**, a new member, caught limits of ling cod and rockfish fishing with his daughter on the *Diamond*. And a lot of us hooked stripers from the bay and Delta.

Continued on next page

Fishing continued from prior page

We had a great meeting on July 24. Pedro Contreras hosted films of the LaPaz, Lake Almanor, and Pyramid Lake trips and all of us are now ready to attack those venues again. We also welcomed three new members to bring our membership to an even 100 anglers.

Our next breakfast meeting is scheduled for August 28 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30 am for camaraderie and fish stories, even if you have never fished or have not fished in a long time but are thinking about starting or renewing this activity. The meeting will be followed by our annual calendar meeting where we will be scheduling some of our outings for 2026. But we also have planned some terrific outings for August, including our summer picnic at **Brion Beetz'** home on August 17 and our rockfish charter on the **Sea Wolf** on August 27.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



Veterans Larry Kaye

Next Vet meeting!

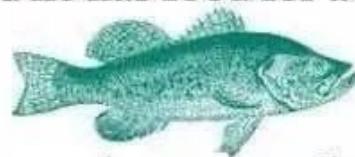
- Date: Wed 1/7/26
- Time: 11:30 AM
- Event: Lunch.
- Price: What you eat and drink. You will receive an individual check for your meal

Location: Back Forty Restaurant, 100 Coggins Dr., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Menu Link: <https://backforty.us/wp-content/uploads/dine-in-menu-Spring-2025-Web.pdf>

Bring a story to share. A portable microphone and speaker will be available, so everyone can hear. RSVP to attend.

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030
larrykaye2@comcast.net

**Give a man a fish
and he has food for a day.**



**Teach a man to fish
and he has to buy bamboo rods,
graphite reels, monofilament lines,
neoprene waders,
creels, tackleboxes, lures, flies,
spinners, worm rigs, slip sinkers,
offset hooks, gore-tex hats,
20 pocket vests, fish finders, depth
sounders, radar, boats, trailers,
global positioning systems, coolers
and six-packs.**



Bocce John Kendrick

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

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, 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 **July 28, 2025**. Ladies are welcome

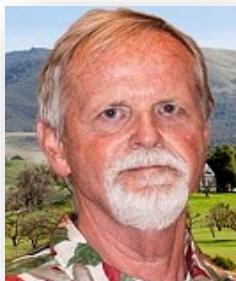
John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Book Corner Paul Kersis

The Book Corner will be open in September with a terrific selection for you. See you then!





Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The photography members of SIR Branch 146 met on Wednesday, July 16th at the Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery in Martinez. This cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in the state, with its origins dating back to the mid-1800s. Initially known as the Martinez Cemetery, it was incorporated in 1869 by the Alhambra Cemetery Association. The cemetery grew to five acres and included a three-acre field for indigent burials. The City of Martinez took over operations in the 1970s and 1990s, merging the Potter's field with the main cemetery.

There were eight members that attended the photoshoot: **Henry Thatcher**, **Dean Mayer**, **Peter Plante**, **Bob Wilkenfeld**, **Roy Hodgkinson**, **Frank Terzuoli**, and **Moose Kelly**. A new member of SIR joined us, **Don Casey**, with **Henry Thatcher** being his sponsor. Welcome **Don!** Well done, **Henry!**

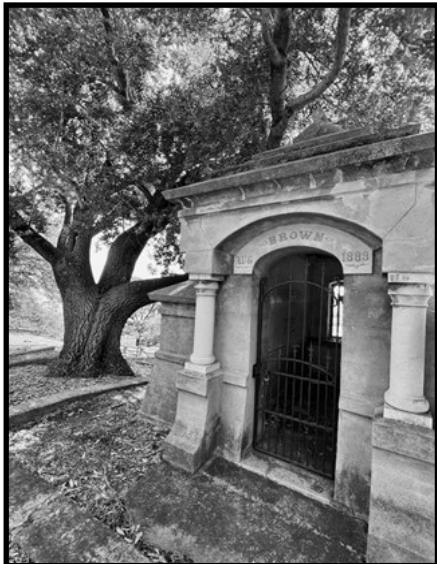
The theme for this month's photoshoot was black and white photography. The group fanned out across the cemetery for roughly 75 minutes taking a vast array of pictures. Most were taken in color, then adjusted to black and white medium using a program called Lightroom. Some of the camera phones use filters to adjust the color to black and white to the liking of the individual. When we were finished, the group needed nourishment and food. The photographers adjourned to 611 Restaurant located at 611 Escobar Street in Martinez. After solving the world's photography issues, we disbanded for the day. I have attached some of the photos of our shoot to this article. We hope you enjoy them!!

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group for one of our monthly themes 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.



Photo Group continued on next page

Photo Group continued from previous page



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



Book Group Nick Jabuka

American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America
by Colin Woodard's

Colin Woodard's *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America* offers a fresh perspective on the history of North America. In less than 400 pages, Woodard presents a framework that challenges traditional views by focusing on cultural regions rather than national borders or political affiliations. He identifies eleven distinct "nations" with unique historical roots and identities that have influenced the development of the United States, Canada, and northern Mexico.

Woodard's main idea is that North America is a patchwork of different cultures. These cultural regions include Yankeedom, the Deep South, Greater Appalachia, the Midlands, and others, each with its own values and traditions. For instance, Yankeedom values education and community, while the Deep South is shaped by aristocratic privilege and hierarchical social structures. According to Woodard, these cultural differences are key to understanding political and social behavior, often more so than state boundaries or political parties.

The book is rich in historical detail. Those unfamiliar with early colonial history or regional geography may need to take some time to fully follow the arguments, some of which dispute commonly held beliefs. For example, Woodard argues that our founding fathers were not much different from our current politicians. They fought with each other as they protected their constituencies, and some of their ideas might even be repug-

nant to individuals who extol the founding fathers today by citing legend, not facts. However, this depth is what makes the book rewarding. It challenges readers to rethink their assumptions about American identity and recognize that many current-day societal divisions have deep historical roots.

Woodard demonstrates how the beliefs of early settlers continue to shape modern politics, education, and social norms. This approach encourages readers to view American history as a complex interplay of overlapping and sometimes conflicting cultural stories, rather than a straightforward timeline. Woodard also forecasts these trends for the future of North America, with an outlook that may not be universally agreed upon but still provides food for thought.

American Nations is not an easy read. The main criticism of the book by our members was that Woodard tended to fit his characters into cubbyholes based on their residence or birth in one of the "nations" that he created. Nevertheless, the book is well worth the effort, even if you ultimately disagree with Woodard's conclusions. There is much food for thought for anyone interested in understanding regional differences, political divides, or cultural identity in North America.

Our next meeting, on July 30th, will include discussions of three books: *All the Glittering Stars* by Mark Sullivan, *Circe* by Madeline Miller, and *Charlottesville* by Deborah Baker.

By **Mike Rothman** with editing by **Paul Dubow**

Nick Jabuka, Chair — Mike Rothman, Editor
925.639.0384 njabuka@yahoo.com



Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

The Lunch and Wine cooking group (LAW Group) veered slightly from tradition and held its July get together on July 4, rather than on the third Wednesday of the month. The event was held at **Clint Collier's** home and we were joined by our wives and significant others. Normally, the latter dine separately while the men cook and discuss world and sporting events, although we do have a joint dining out experience twice per year.

In honor of the occasion, **Clint** literally wrapped the flag around himself. But it proved to be just a tee shirt with the Old Glory printed on it. **Clint** did a fantastic job as our resident cook. Our starters were guacamole, Mexican street corn dip, and carve-yourself kielbasa with assorted mustards.

Our main course was a grilled giant hamburger (cheese optional) accompanied by farmers' market slaw and baked beans. We finished with apple pie with dulce de leche ice cream.

We also welcomed **Dan Holland** as a new member of our group, **Dan** and his wife **Mary** attended the event and we look forward to **Mary** joining our wives on their monthly outings.

Our next luncheon will be on August 20 at the home of **Pete Gates**.

Paul Dubow

510.504.3566 or at pdubow2398@aol.com

When I married Miss Right,
I had no idea her first name was Always.



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met this month at **Steve Ybarra's** home. The group enjoyed appetizers in **Steve's** backyard oasis in Concord. In addition to the usual spread of cheeses, salami and crackers, **Steve** served a tray of pinwheel pastries which were filled with chopped mushrooms and nuts. After a glass or two of notable wines and rousing conversation the group next was served lunch in **Steve's** dining room. **Steve** served the group smoked turkey sandwiches he prepared, which included cream cheese, cranberries, sprouts and lettuce on whole grain sliced bread accompanied by a peach, nectarine and corn salad. For dessert a chocolate brownie was served with ice cream and fudge sauce. Before adjourning, **Dennis Hallett** gave us a lesson on sipping scotch whisky. The group will next meet at the home of **Ken Richter** on August 11th.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



EXPLORE & EAT

Tour [Lodi Energy Center](#) and
the Town of Locke, Boarding House Museum
Wednesday, October 22nd at 10:30



The Lodi Energy Center (LEC) is located at 12751 North Thornton Road, Lodi.

In 2012, NCPA opened the Lodi Energy Center (LEC), home to one of the cleanest and most efficient gas-fired power systems in the U.S. It was the first in the nation to take advantage of “fast-start” gas-turbine technology to reduce emissions and provide a rapid response to market and grid conditions.

NCPA is in the process of converting to Hydrogen as the fuel to eliminate carbon emissions. Fast-start technology can quickly ramp up and down, counterbalancing the variable nature of wind and solar energy. The tour of LEC will take about an hour.

Then we will drive to the Town of Locke (20 minutes) and have lunch at [Al the Wops](#) (13943 Main St. Walnut Grove) from 12:00 to 1:30.

After, there is an optional tour of the Locke Boarding House Museum across the street from **Al the Wops** after lunch. There is a charge of \$5 per person for this museum tour. Maximum of 25 for the museum tour.

Please send a check to **SIR 146** for \$5 per person to go to the optional tour of the museum to: Jim Pope, 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507. Deadline October 14th.



Locke Boarding House



寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi

Clint Collier

Last month the group visited Sasa, in Walnut Creek. Great Sushi and Japanese dishes but with prices to match. Since we

have visited so many locations over the past three years I'm starting to think of some "revisits" so this might be a good time to get some good sushi while going a bit lighter on the wallet... so! Let's revisit Fuji in Concord at 2090 Diamond Blvd. This is the sushi, "all you can eat" (in 90 minutes) buffet. Hope you have saved the date, Augus 21st. Meeting time 11:00.. A reminder/RSVP e-mail will go out in early August. Look forward to seeing everyone then. Don't forget this establishment is first come first served and often fills up fast so we need to be there, in line at the 11:00 opening time.



Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



"Who ordered the sushi?"

A little old lady gets on the bus and takes a seat just behind the driver. As the bus starts up she asks the driver "Do you like peanuts?"

He replies, "Oh, yes I do." at which point she offers him a handful which he happily munches.

After about the third handful the driver asks "Why are you giving these to me? Why don't you eat them yourself?"

"Oh, I can't. I don't have any teeth to chew them." she replies showing a toothless grin.

"If you can't eat them, then why do you buy them?" asks the driver.

"Oh, I just love the chocolate around them!"



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy



Unfortunately, we had to cancel the July wine tasting. Our host, **Bob Lucido** encountered a health problem. Subsequently it proved to be a reaction between medications which was quickly resolved.

And speaking of the next wine tasting, mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 28. The fall wine tasting will be at the home of **Bob and Judy Wilkenfeld**. More details to come in the next newsletter.

Brian McCarthy
925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group enjoyed a great evening this last Monday, July 21. Thanks to a recommendation from **Johnathan and Barbara Korfhage**, we arranged to have our July event at Rossmoor's Creekside Grill. We negotiated a menu which started with a generous Caesar salad, followed by a choice of four entrees, the most popular being a prime rib, along with a choices of a Grilled Salmon, and a Chicken Marsala, plus a vegetarian option.

We had decided to extend the social hour to start at 5:00 pm. The original idea was that we would have the use of the patio which overlooks the fairway. However, it was quite windy and somewhat cool, so we did our socializing in the Fairway room. From all accounts, we enjoyed chatting with our fellow SIR members and their spouses. You will be able to see in the accompanying pictures that we had plenty of room – and the seating was a comfortable setting of eight tables of eight.

We originally were able to get the restaurant to accommodate 68 diners who has signed up. However, an unusual number of our group had health issues in the few days before the date – and we had to adjust the seating and entrée selection four times as we had four couples indicate that they were unable to attend. So, we wound up with just 60, but thankfully, the restaurant was willing to only charge us for those who attended.

Now, for a repeat of the announcement I made at the dinner. **Sue** and I have been coordinating and leading the Couples Dining Out event since November of 2012, thus nearly 13 years every other month without a break! I think the time has come for someone else to have the opportunity to lead this activity. I am planning to write up the instructions for managing the process, and will organize the name tags, etc. If you are interested in taking over this popular activity, let me know.

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bgborgman@aol.com



CREEKSIDE GRILL

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

The Mexican Train Uno group met at **Sue** and **Corrie Oranje's** home on July 11th.

We hosted a full house of our regular players and were joined by Corrie's cousins, **Bep & Simona** from the Netherlands. We made every attempt to bring **Bep & Simona** up to speed with the game by having practice sessions with **Sue** and **Bruce Borgman** prior to game night. They did well and enjoyed our social group.

Some players seemed a bit frustrated with their scores but at break time all was forgotten with a delightful treat of fresh strawberries and angel food cake topped with whipped cream!

Mexican Train Uno Winners!

Big Bucks go to **Peter Plante**, **Alicia Baily** placed second and host **Corrie Oranje** placed third.

Corrie Oranje
corrieorange@gmail.com



Winners L to R: Peter Plante 1st, Alicia Baily 2nd and Corrie Oranje 3rd.

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played at the home of **Loren** and **Marlene DeLaurenti** in June. **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** subbed for **Kirk** and **Nancy McVean** to round us out to a full 12 players.

Dan Holland came in with a very respectful 11.4 average to take 1st place. Challenging with a 13.1 was **Clint Collier** to claim 2nd. **Nancy Pearl** demolished her table with a 15.0 average to come in 3rd.

Our next game is scheduled for Friday, July 25th at the home of **Dan** and **Mary Holland**.



MTD Winners (L to R): Nancy Pearl 3rd, Dan Holland 1st, Clint Collier 2nd.

Ron Plachy
925.286.4552 riplachy@icloud.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We did not meet in June, the ole engine stayed in the round house for maintenance. There were too many players traveling or busy with other stuff.

Our next meeting is Friday afternoon, July 25th at the **Busenius** casa. All Aboard!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



"Sure a Mecha T-Rex, wrecking ball, monster truck, bulldozer seems cool now, but one day you'll understand that its gas mileage makes it a financially irresponsible purchase."



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On July 18th, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 12 players.

In attendance this evening were **Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Dick and Leslie Firth, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Steve and Susan Oki, Scott and Marie-Claire Macdougall** and **Jim and Renie Pope**. The group enjoyed MTD while consuming the wonderful snacks provided by several of the members and some wine. We played at two tables of 6. We paid the player at each table of 6 with low table score; 6 California Lotto Scratchers.

The two with the lowest table scores were **Christy DeVoe** and **Susan Oki**. There were two high score players at each table: **Dick and Leslie Firth** who received one Lotto ticket each. The El Quattro MTD group will meet next on **August 15th**. (Photos by **Jim Pope**)

Jim Pope
jpop24@comcast.net



Low Scorers: Christy DeVoe and Susan Oki.



Dick and Leslie Firth

My wife and I decided we don't want any kids.

We plan to tell them tonight!



Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

Ann and Dennis Hallett hosted our July 17th 2025 gathering.

Unfortunately, Janet and Bob Yolland and Pattie and Doug Eisner were unable to attend. Both couples were missed, and it is hoped they will attend the next gathering.

The players enjoyed a social period exchanging news while enjoying refreshments then divided into ladies and men's groups and prepared for a competitive evening.

Needless to say, after six games, , the ladies provided an outright winner—Anne Burke, with a remarkable score of 47. After hearing this score, the men were in shock, however it then came to light that they held onto second and third places with scores of 78 and 80, produced by Jim Burke and Dennis Hallett respectively,

Midway through the games, the hosts provided a slice of lemon bunt cake with ice cream to all , plus tea or coffee. Here the men excelled, consuming the dessert in record time while resolving the world's problems.



Mexican Train Dominoes “Seis” Steve Lane

In June MDT-6 gathered at Richard Hockenbrock's home. Thank you, Richard, for hosting. We went for an all-male and an all-female two table set up.

At the ladies table were Mary McCarthy, Martha Plante, Kathe Mitchell, Sue Borgman, and Carol Lane.

At the young gentlemen's table were Peter Plante, Richard Hockenbrock, Bruce Borgman, John Kendrick, and Steve Lane.

Once again, the ladies dominated with the winner Kathe Mitchell (13.3), Carol Lane second (13.6) and third, the token male, Mr. Bruce Borgman (14.4).

MTD-6's August get together will be at McCarthy's home on Wednesday, August 27, 2025.

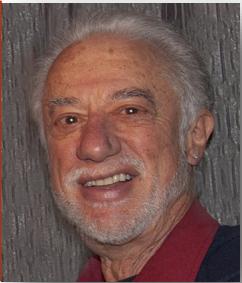
Such hidden talent must be admired!!

The next gathering will be hosted by **Pattie and Doug Eisner** on August 21st 2025. In the meantime, the ladies can enjoy their winner status, while the men must step up their concentration skills, and prowess.

Dennis Hallett
dennishallett@astound.net



Steve Lane
925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

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

Bob West took first place, Mary McCarthy placed second and Clint came in third.

Bob Lucido

bowwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

At our July 2nd game of MTD 8, Bill Holly came in 1st with an overall average score of 7.6. In 2nd place was Pam McAllister with an average score of 8.7 and in 3rd place was Glenn Breslin with an average score of 18.3. In the hosting arena, Sue and Steve Loftin were scheduled to cover the snacks, but Sue had to do it by herself due to Steve's illness. She did an excellent job.

Our next game will be played on the first Wednesday in August, which is the 6th. Snacks will be hosted by Frank and Susan Terzuoli. If you would like to sign up to be on our substitution list, please send me an email at the following address: RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM. I'm not showing my cell/text number anymore because Google has notified me that it showing up on the dark web and is coming from the publication of SIR newsletters.

Richard Hockenbrock

925.324.1713 rlhock@outlook.com



Winners
Bill Holly in 1st place, Pam McAllister in 2nd place, & Glenn Breslin in 3rd



Scratchers
Left Jan Ondeck & Right Steve Dinning



Mexican Train Dominos “Nueve” Bob Lucido

On June 18th, ten of us met at the lovely house of **Dale and Mary Ellen Dalgaard**. We had five competing SIR members and five spouses the **Dalgaard's**, **Wilkenfeld's**, **Kingsbury's**, **McCarthy's** and the **Lucido's**.

Brian McCarthy with a low average score of 16.5. **Mary McCarthy** came in second with 17.3 average score, and **Bob Lucido** was 3rd with an average score of 18.6.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominos “Diez” (10) Mark Sorum and Cleo Bolen

In June, Mexican Train Dominoes “Diez” (Group 10) was hosted by **Mark and Barbara Sorum** in their beautiful Walnut Creek home. The June winners were **Eric Finson**, **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini Ahlf**, with consolation prizes going to **Barbara Petersen** and **Frank Lucas**.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. Our next meeting will be July 18th at the home of **Steve and Barbara Petersen**. We rotate hosting among different homes.

This is a coed activity, but single SIR members are welcome. Please contact us if you are interested in joining us.

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com

Cleo Bolen

925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts

Bob West and Steve Ybarra

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

The big winners were **Ron Polivka** and **Steve Ybarra** both with 4 wins, followed by **Brian McCarthy** and **Bob West** with 3 wins. **Bob West** and **Ron Polivka** each had 3 2nds. The lowest average scorers were **Steve Ybarra** with 44 and **Jim Passaglia** with 49. **Ron Polivka** and **Steve Ybarra** each had 2 STM's.

YTD: **Steve Ybarra** has the most wins with 16 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 14 and **Brian McCarthy** and **Ron Polivka** with 11.

- Highest winning percentage are **Steve Ybarra** with 44% and **Jim Passaglia** with 39%.
- **Ron Polivka** leads in YTD 2nds with 13 and **Bill Vizza** has 12.
- Lowest Average Scorer is **Steve Ybarra** with 45.5 followed by **Ron Polivka** with 51.9.
- **Steve Ybarra** and **Ron Polivka** both have 7 STM's, followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 4.
- Most Improved is **Bob West** with 126% better than last year, and **Ron** and **Steve** with 123%.

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 upcoming matches will be July 11th and July 25th and August 8th.

Please 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

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 met at the home of the **Kluesener's** for an evening of competition and comradery. We were joined by guests **Mary Pat** and **John Moxon** and **Bud Pearce** substituting for **Margot Somerville**. **Marilyn Miller** was **Bud's** partner. The usual assortment of snacks and drinks were sampled by the guests as the games progressed. When the scoring was finalized **Ismini Maclean** and **Rich Ahlf** took third place with a total of 19.5 points, **Kathy** and **John Kluesener** managed a second-place finish with 24 points and first place went to **Nora** and **Mike Davidson** with a total of 25 points. Unfortunately, the **Klueseners** were not good hosts as **John Moxon**, who they are hoping to recruit into SIR, was not a winner but the **Moxon's** were very competitive and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



From the left: **Mike and Nora Davidson**, **Ismini Maclean**, **Kathy** and **John Kluesener** and **Rich Ahlf**

Why did the man name is dogs Rolex and Timex?
Because they're watch dogs!



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Dick and Maggie Chaffee hosted our July 1st event. In spite of having 3 of our 6 regular couples unavailable to play we were able to find 3 subs and play our usual 3-Table event. We thank **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean**, **Max and Ardith Hinkle** and first timers **Mike and Nora Davidson** for subbing for the **Browns, Hatchers and Klueseners**. With 3 subbing couples, the synergy of the event was interestingly different. Nobody was taking the event too seriously. The below standard bidding and playing of quite a few hands was openly discussed and laughed about. The hosts must have added something to the beverages or perhaps as we age we care less about missed hands or misplays.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3370 points - **Mike and Nora Davidson**
- 2nd PLACE with 3290 points - **Dick and Maggie Chaffee**
- 3rd PLACE with 2360 points - **Tony and Cindy Greco**

Our next event will be held on August 5th and hosted by **Dick and Christy DeVoe**.

Tony and Cindy Greco
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



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. We meet at Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm

Pete McNeill
925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson
925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

I'm confused!

How can a cemetery raise its funeral prices and blame it on the cost of living?



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

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

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174
tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8
davesutn@comcast.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Dick and Christy DeVoe welcomed us on July 8th with a wide spread of good food and drink. Once again, two regular couples were off having fun elsewhere, so this was our third attempt at a two-table duplicate (four couples). That made parking in the DeVoe driveway a piece of cake. But we missed the Hatchers and Richters.

Were there slam opportunities? Both pairs bid a diamond part-score on Board 4, but subs **Max** and **Ardith Hinkle** made six. Well played. On Board 13, **Joan and Dave Pierce** bid six spades and made seven, on a highly distributional hand. So at least one slam came home.

At the end of the day, **Dick and Christy** tied **Max and Ardith** for first (58%), and **Tony and Cindy Greco** tied **Joan and Dave** for third (42%). Many thanks to **Max** and **Ardith** for subbing. The Pierces will host on August 12th.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 event was on Friday, July 11- with three tables and 12 players- was hosted by **Dick DeVoe**.

Sid Landman won 1st Place with 30.0 points. His ability to capture most two's coupled with a tie for lowest number of zeros was key. Congratulations, **Sid!** **Joe Fuchs** was 1.0 points behind in 2nd Place with 29.0 points. **Dick DeVoe** was 3rd with 26.0 points.

Dick DeVoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net



Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a spirited game with 8 players at The Waterford in Rossmoor hosted by our chairman, **Jim Stedman**. The 8 players were: **Mike Davidson**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Jim Pope**, **Steve Dinning**, **Jim Stedman**, **Max Hinkle**, **Bud Pearce** and **Ray Spears**.

Max Hinkle set a high score of **7610 points** for all of us to shoot for as we compete for the 6-month contest. Congratulations to **Max**. **Jim Stedman** was second with **4770 points** and **Bud Pearce** was third with **4460 points**.

Please reply to **Jim Stedman** about the date or dates in the next 5 months that you will be able to host.

Co-Directors
[Jim Stedman](mailto:Jim.Stedman@comcast.net) and [Jim Pope](mailto:Jim.Pope@comcast.net).

If people don't like you, it's okay.
 You only need to be concerned if dogs don't like
 you.
 Then it's time for some self-reflection.



Poker Group 4 Mark Sorum

Our July game was at the home of **Pat Tidmarsh**, Pat was a great host and we even enjoyed homemade pumpkin pie!. We had 7 players and enjoyed a wide variety of games including 7/27, 7 card stud games, and Omaha. Most players finished about where they started except for Bruce Kimmis who was the big winner. **Bruce** was unbeatable for most of the day.

Games are usually scheduled for 1-4 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages.

Buy-in is \$10 and stakes are nickel, dime, and quarter with a limit of three raises.

Dealer antes a nickel per player.

A wide variety of poker games are played. Dealers' choice.

We are currently full.

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com

Where is the one place you should never take your dog?

To the flea market!



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Well, July 4th has messed with our game. We tried to move it to late June and had a date but that date proved not to work either.

So, with money burning a hole in pockets, we look forward to our next game on August 7 at 12:30. Place to be determined

Brad Hatcher
bhatcher1942@gmail.com



If this is a pair of pliers



Then what the hell is this



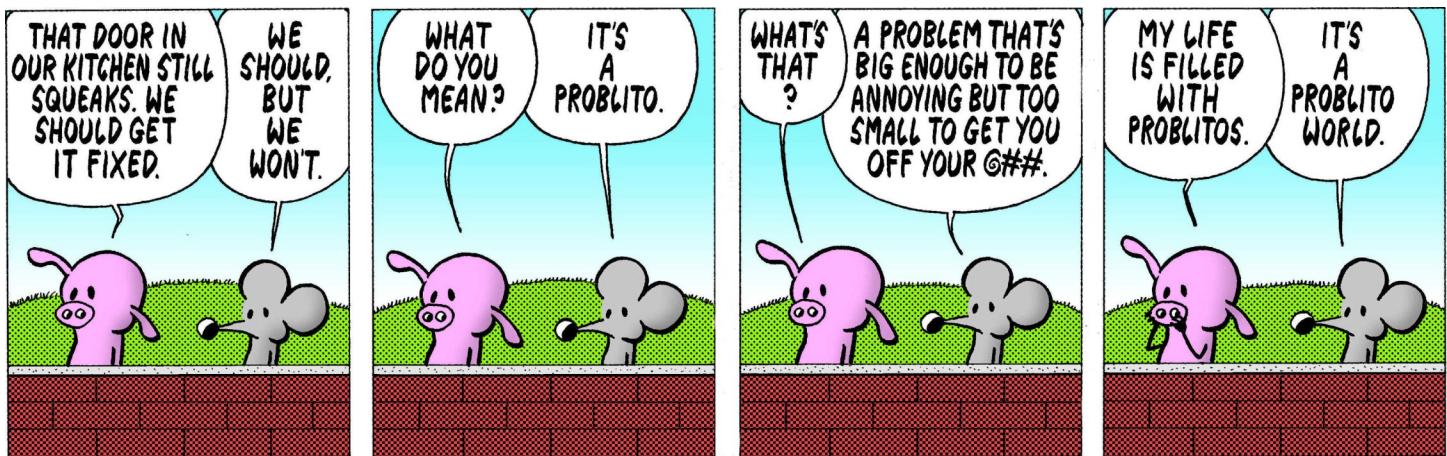
SIR State Information

<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



...with thanks to Stephen Pastis.