

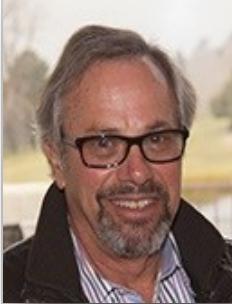
# SIR CALL

br146Sircall@gmail.com

June 2017

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

Published For Our Members And Friends



## Big Sir's Notes

Alan Elnick

Once again **Steve Dawkins**, **Steve Ybarra**, and their wives, did an outstanding job of organizing our May Ladies Day luncheon. Kudos to them, please! Thumbs up to Boundary Oak for an excellent job preparing and serving our luncheon fare: tasty delights from salad to dessert. We reprised Paul Zaentz of Saul Zaentz Films, and he gave us an enlightening and entertaining look at the business of movie making. He also gave us a heads up on new productions he is working on called "Ratchet" a TV series about Nurse Ratchet from "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" showing how she became Nurse Ratchet, and a documentary on the 1953 coup that installed the Shah of Iran after overthrowing Iran's elected leader, Mohammed Mossadegh.

In June we reach the half point of our year, and we celebrate by wearing **Colorful Shirts**. We'll have a lively contest with the winner receiving a "Free Lunch." "Colorful" does not have to mean color as long as it does not offend the bounds of good taste. Good luck to all of you. The luncheon meeting is June 8. Little Sir **Bruce Borgman** has arranged for an interesting and informative speaker, check out the red ball. If you cannot attend, please remember to inform the luncheon chairman, **Rob Melrose**, by noon the Friday before. We do not want to have to ding you for a missed lunch, and we need to give as accurate an account as we can of prospective attendance to Boundary Oak. It costs the branch if you do not attend and do not give notice. It's the polite thing to do, and shows respect to your fellow Sirs.

At our April BEC meeting, in closed session, our esteemed nominating committee, **Walt Busenius**, Chair, **Bill Holly** and **Doug Eisner**, presented an excellent slate of proposed officers for 2018. Our fine candidates will be announced at our July luncheon, and we will vote on them at our August luncheon. We will also accept nominations from the floor. Over the next months we will be contacting our activity chairs to determine what spots we need to fill for next year. We are a volunteer organization and our success is a result of the wonderful members we have that are generous to give us a bit of time in continuance of our objectives. Everybody contributing a little makes for that success. Also,

## WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon – Thursday , June 8<sup>th</sup>  
At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker:  
**Charles Vella Ph.D Neuropsychologist**  
Topic:  
**"Brain Fitness—How to Prevent Cognitive Decline in Your Future "**

Gathering time - 11:00 am  
Starting time - 11:45 am

*Bringing a guest or can't attend?*  
Email: [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com)  
Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146  
By Noon Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Paul Zaentz of Saul Zaentz Productions entertained the Ladies Day luncheon attendees with his insights and stories about being a producer on some major Hollywood movie productions

remember to bring a guest. Let us know if you plan to bring a prospective member and we will buy him lunch. Our BEC approved such an incentive at our April meeting. Twice a year we have a sponsor's drawing and the lucky one selected also gets a free lunch. See you all June 8<sup>th</sup>

## SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life.



### Little Sir's Corner

**Bruce Borgman**

It was great to celebrate our Gala May luncheon with our spouses and significant others earlier this month. It is always a special occasion and it is wonderful to share it with our partners. I hope you enjoyed the interesting talk by producer Paul Zaentz with his unique insight into the world of filmmaking.

In June we have another very stimulating speaker. It will be Charles Vella, Ph.D., who is a Neuropsychologist and will speak on "Brain Fitness – How to Prevent Cognitive Decline in Your Future". He will discuss how the normal brain ages, the variety of dementia, and the tactics for achieving brain fitness. The talk will review how brain functions decline normally, the risk factors for dementia, and suggestions for avoiding cognitive decline as we age. It is a topic of interest to all of us – and you will not want to miss this timely topic. Dr. Vella has worked in the department of Psychiatry of Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco for many years and also maintains a busy schedule of speaking engagements in the Bay Area. Besides his primary vocation, he is also a docent at the California Academy of Sciences, and is an expert on the evolution of early man in Africa – I had the privilege of hearing him expound on this topic – a fascinating discourse! Dr. Vella is a true renaissance man.

Remember that June 8th is also colorful shirt day – wear your brightest and/or most outrageous shirt – and see if you can take home the prize for having the best.

I want to also encourage you to bring a guest to the luncheons. While we are doing all right in achieving our membership goals, we rely on all of you to keep our branch healthy by introducing your friends, neighbors and newly retired colleagues to our organization. Also, don't forget to call or email if you will be out of town for the luncheon – we have to pay for your lunch if you do not. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our June luncheon so we can learn how to keep our brains fit!

If you would like to attend a meeting of the BEC, please feel free to drop by. We begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Lakeview Room across from the main dining room, prior to our luncheon meeting.



### Membership

**Dave Pierce**

After the Ladies Day Luncheon and no BEC meeting in May, our membership remained unchanged at 289, up four (4) from last year. Remember to bring a guest to the

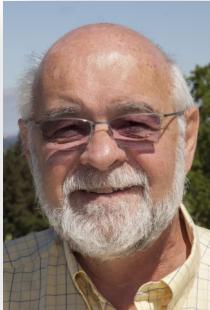
June meeting. Please seek out all of our new members and help them become involved. This is the best way to build lasting relationships and keep our branch vibrant and sustainable.

Photo by Jerry Kaplan



Little Sir **Bruce** and **Sue Borgman** came dressed as a royal Egyptian couple to Couples Dining Out on May 22nd (See Couples Dining Out Article on Page 9). This highlight is traditional clothing **Bruce** bought back from his recent tour of Egypt antiquities.





## Luncheon Chairman

### Rob Melrose

Next Luncheon: Our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8th, 2017 at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is still \$26 as it has been for a couple of years. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 a.m. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The money guys really prefer checks so you might want to take a minute right now and write out a \$26 check payable to "SIR 146". Stick it in your wallet and you are good to go on the day of the luncheon. That is assuming you don't leave home without your wallet.

Opt Out Deadline: Please remember we assume you are attending unless you opt-out! The deadline to opt out of the luncheon is Noon on Friday, June 2nd. We will email at least one reminder of this deadline during the preceding week. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to attend, please send an e-mail message to "[nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com)" before noon on the Opt-Out deadline day. Please provide your badge number in that message. If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call (925) 979-5146 before the no show deadline and leave a message with your name and badge number. A non-attending member who, without good cause, fails to meet this deadline is required by our rules to reimburse the branch for the liability we will incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the "Advance Payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. As noted above, this courtesy results in an economic benefit to our Branch. A REMINDER TO ADVANCE PAYERS: BE CERTAIN TO CHECK IN.

Confirmation of No Show Notices: You should receive an email from me after I have updated the attendance records.

Bringing a Guest or a Visitor: If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please so advise via an e-mail to "[nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com)" on or before the opt out deadline. If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call the phone number stated above and follow the prompts given there. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SPELL THE FULL NAME OF YOUR GUEST OR VISITOR DURING THAT CALL. If your guest decides to come after the deadline, don't let that stop you. Please advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.

Special Requests: If your guest desires a vegetarian meal or a special diet or if, for medical reasons, he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the opt out deadline in the manner as described above.

New Members, Guests and Sponsors: There will be a luncheon table or tables with places reserved for new members and their sponsors as well as for guests and their sponsors. New members along with their sponsors will be asked to join our membership chair immediately following the luncheon for a brief orientation session in a room to be announced at the luncheon.



## Cooking II

### Bob Yolland

Cooking II had an excellent lunch at **Bill Cammerer's** on May 8th. **Bill** started us off with cheese stuffed salami, other starters and various cheeses, with crackers to accompany some great wines. With super weather we were able to be outside the whole time. For lunch **Bill** served a fine tuna salad with a nice dressing and plenty of hard cooked eggs, olives, avocados and other goodies. For dessert we had a treat from South Africa. A choice of great Sherbet flavors in the form of a lemon, coconut, berries or great-fruit. Since two of our members had just returned from trips we heard all about Egypt and a cruise from Florida to San Francisco through the Panama Canal. Since many members will be traveling in June our next meeting will be July 10th at **Corrie Oranje's**.



## Walking Group

### Frank Ascatigno

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

Call **Frank** for current walk.

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 429-2232

*A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday but never remembers her age....*

*Regular naps prevent old age, especially if you take them while driving.....*



## Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

### An update on new activities:

\*Pickleball! Pinochle!

Maybe another Mexican Train  
Dominoes group\*

Sir **Jim Burk** (interim chair for the new pickleball activity) is getting very close to announcing the dates and times for the opening of the facility where SIR members and their significant others can come and play. From the responses **Jim** has received about what day might be best for the majority of those interested, Wednesday afternoon seems to be preferred, but as the group starts playing, adjustments can be made. Look for more information in future Sir Call's, the branch website, and possible e-blasts from **Ron Plachy**, the branch webmaster. For more direct information, call or write to **Jim** at 946-1192 or [jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net).

Pinochle, chaired by **Sir Pete McNeill**, is a brand new activity for Branch 146. The group had its first "play date" on Wednesday, May 3rd at Rocco's Italian Restaurant in Walnut Creek. They plan on continuing to play on the first Wednesday of each month getting together at 11:00 AM and playing for about three hours, with a break in the middle for a light lunch. More players are always welcome; **Pete** will need a count in advance to alert the restaurant. Newcomers to the game are definitely welcome; contact **Pete** to learn where to obtain some basic info about the game. He can be reached at 449-1942 or [petermcgolf@gmail.com](mailto:petermcgolf@gmail.com).

While the branch has five different Mexican Train Dominoes groups underway with 40 plus Sirs and another 35 or so significant others, playing monthly on different days of the week, I have been approached on several occasions about the need to help start another group. I will be more than happy to help get a group together to learn the game (it's very simple – some luck, some thought) and get it organized.

Refer to the branch website to learn about all the activities Branch 146 has to offer and decide if you are interested. As I noted in an earlier column, many of the spots in a certain activity are full (such as poker or bridge), but often these groups use lists of substitutes to draw from. Even better, if there are enough folks who want to get involved in a certain activity, I will help them start a new group. Call or write me and let me know.

Are you thinking about another activity that is not now available? There is likely another Sir among the 285 plus members of Branch 146 reading this newsletter who is thinking about an activity that they would like to participate in but haven't seen available. Please let me know of your interest (whether it is stamp collecting, writing your memoirs, or sitting across a chess or checker board and engaging in some friendly competition) and I will do my best to see if we can get it started.

*This is your branch. Have fun!*



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Barbara Fromm , Ann Pascoe, & Charlotte Darius**

Enjoying the Ladies Day luncheon



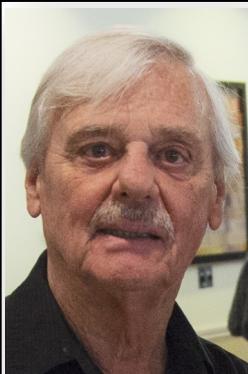
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Bernice Cammerer , Etta and Don Dotson** smiling during the social time at the Ladies Day luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Nancy and Don Adolphson**, a cute couple, have been to the book exchange and are ready for some table conversation.



## SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve

Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be hiking Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve: an easy 2.5 mile hike on a single track trail through the deep redwoods with about a 400 ft. ascent that will take about three hours. Huckleberry is a little oasis of manzanita, gorgeous woodland of madrone, California bay, ferns, coast live oak, hazelnut, and currant and like hiking in an arboretum. This is a good hike to practice using hiking poles (I have some extras) and is in the usually cool Oakland hills.

**Directions:** Take Exit 7A onto Fish Ranch Road, the first post-Tunnel Exit- stay in the right lane. Drive north on Fish Ranch Road about 1 mile, turn left onto Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Drive 2.4 miles, then turn left onto Skyline Boulevard, Drive 0.6 mile on Skyline, then turn left into the preserve parking lot.

Friday June 9, 2017

Hike starts at 10:00am

Rich Ahlf

Cell: (925)-550-4967 [rahlf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rahlf@sbcglobal.net)

Spouses always welcome



## Explore & Eat

Hosted by **Jim Pope** (925-69447)

&

**Henry Thatcher** (925-997-5032)

The 2nd Explore & Eat Outing was well attended with 23 SIR members, spouses and friends at Cavallo Point and Point Bonita Lighthouse. The weather was fantastic as you can see in the pictures. The food at Cavallo Point restaurant was wonderful.

We all met with the north tower of the Golden Gate Bridge in the back ground across the Fort Baker Green (See Picture), had lunch and then proceeded to Point Bonita Lighthouse via car pools. At the lighthouse we met with a US Park Ranger and docents which described the history of the bridge and lighthouse. The hike to the lighthouse was approximately one half mile on a wild flower lined path and thru a 200+ foot tunnel opening up to the lighthouse. A great time was had by all.



Photo by Jim Pope

### Explore and Eat Brunch at Fort Baker, Cavallo Point. Table 1.

L - R. Terry Conners, Paul Bertz, Jane Bertz, Roger Meyer, Peggy Meyer, Henry Thatcher, Rich Pace, Kim Pace, Ron Louis, Fran Matthew, Mike Conners.

Photo by Jim Pope



### Explore and Eat Brunch at Fort Baker, Cavallo Point. Table 2.

L - R. Walt Busenius, Guest Mary Ann, Sue Busenius, Joan Dubow, Paul Dubow, Nancy Pearl, John Pearl, Ann Gates, Pete Gates, Nancy Burchett, Max Burchett

**A Magical Setting:** Sirs, spouses and friends in front of Fort Baker, near Cavallo Point, on the green with the Golden Gate Bridge north tower in view.



## Fishing Report

### Paul Dubow

The spring weather has definitely improved the fishing, although there is still room for betterment.

The ocean has been dangerous and unproductive and we had mixed results in trout fishing at San Pablo and Shadow Cliffs Reservoirs. **Ross Abbott, Lee Clark, and Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, along with several other members of the group, enjoyed some nice weather but the catch ranged from limits to nothing.

Elsewhere, fishing has been quite good. **Ernie Wong** and **Ken Konzak** traveled to Pyramid Lake in Nevada where they fly fished sitting on their ladders and caught some very large cutthroat trout. **Hal Tatro** camped out at Pardee Lake in the Sierra foothills for several days and caught a limit of rainbows each day. Seven of us, including **Brad Hatcher, Pete Gates, Tom Boltz, and Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, journeyed to New Hogan Reservoir, which is 30 miles east of Stockton, and landed 21 striped bass. **Stan Wong** has probably been our busiest member. He assisted in trout planting at Lake Berryessa, taking time out to catch some black bass and bluegill, and caught halibut on a party boat and striped bass in the Delta. **Raleigh Davis** flew to Alaska and caught some gigantic rockfish, but no salmon. **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 caught a large halibut in the Bay and it proved to be quite delicious.

Since we like to eat, the highlight of the month was no doubt the semi-annual fish fry at **Carl Moyer's** home where approximately twenty members of the group enjoyed rockfish, ling cod, salads and some of **Tom Boltz'** smoked salmon hors d'oeuvres.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 22, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but come early for breakfast, beginning at 7:30. Sirs who have never fished, have not fished for years, or are fishing elsewhere, are always welcome. For further information, contact Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.

<u>SIR Call Newsletter Group</u>	
Editor	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Assistant Editors	<b>Rob Melrose, Walt Busenius</b>
Proofreaders	<b>Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker</b>
Internet Posting	<b>Jonathan Korfhage, &amp; Pat Lucia</b>
	<b>Ron Plachy</b>



## Photography Group

### Richard Hockenbrock

The meeting in June is being devoted to travel photos. We know many of you love to travel and if you took photos of your travels, please consider coming to this meeting and share your photos with the group. Even if you took your photos with a smartphone, we'll help you get them to a thumb drive and onto the projection screen at the meeting. Just let me know in advance so we can help you transfer the photos before the meeting.

Following these presentations, we will be showing an interesting photography topic from *The Great Courses* library series if time permits.

### Richard Hockenbrock

Email: [rrock@pacbell.net](mailto:rrock@pacbell.net)

Cell: (925) 324-1713

Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

### Next Meeting

Where: Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library

2661 Oak Grove Road

Walnut Creek, CA 945498

Subject: Member Vacation Pictures & Photo Course

When: Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:00 am - 11:00 am



Big Catch of Stripped Bass at Hogan Reservoir:  
L-R - **Paul Dubow, Tom Boltz, Pete Gates & Hal Tatro**



Photo by Carl Tilchen

## Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

Our next meeting is Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 2 pm, 1281 Homestead Ave, #1D near Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Park on Homestead Ave, walk into garage, call last name **Elnick** on communication device, enter door, take elevator to 1<sup>st</sup> floor, and walk to unit 1D.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome. Spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy.

I am a singer/songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups and I will be glad to lead this group. Alan and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun.



## SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs participated at **Pete Miller's** Memorial Service on May 13<sup>th</sup> by singing "Thanks for the Memories" – an appropriate tune as we remembered **Pete's** contribution to the SongSirs for these many years.

**Pete** was our director and sang in our quartet and he will be missed by our group. **Lynn Shafer** said a few well-chosen words about our SIR group and **Pete's** significant role as a charter member of the SongSirs. By all accounts our singing performance was good.

We continue to practice a group of "Romantic Songs" selected by **Ken Donnelly** and **Steve Dinning**, which includes You Light Up My Life, You'll Never Know, It Had To Be You, Love and Marriage, You Make Me Feel so Young, Embraceable You, and others. We may sing this group of songs at the Senior Center in Concord in June or

July, or at a Skilled Nursing Facility in the area.

We are always looking for others who enjoy singing to join our group as we practice every first and third Wednesday at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30pm. Come and see!



## Bowling

Larry Mitchell

Branch 146 held its annual bowling tournament in March 2017, the largest bowling event of the year. Yeah, I know this news is a bit outdated now, but it is informative.

There were 92 participants from branches with a bowling activity. Only SIR members and their spouses or partners could enter. The events were: singles, doubles, and all events (singles and doubles combined).

All the events were scored with 100% handicap. A total of \$2,500 was given out in prize money. **Jacky Luke** of Clayton Branch 19 took home the largest portion of that total: \$204.

The summer leagues are currently starting; and although we no longer have a league that is SIR only, there are two senior leagues that our Branch 146 bowlers are signing up for. Both leagues are at Diablo Valley Bowl, Monument Blvd., Concord and start at 10:00 AM. Anyone over 55 is welcome, including women (bring your spouse/partner). If you are interested or have a question, please call **Larry Mitchell**: 925-798-5440.



## Cribbage

John Pearl

This month our co-chair, **Ron Afdal**, ably lead a group of seven gathered at the home of **Barney Meade**.

The Brit, **Dennis Hallett**, went undefeated for first place money, **Ron Afdal** coming in a close second, with only one loss. Third place was taken by **Howard Nemir**, winning his ante back. The only thing missed of the chair, **John Pearl**, was his money!

A good time was had by all, since the M&Ms were gone before the final game.!!

Our next scheduled event is Wednesday, June 28th from 12:30 to 3:30 pm at **Barney's** home.



## Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out event on May 22<sup>nd</sup> was one to remember. We went off the grid by selecting a more unusual restaurant – Alborz Persian Restaurant. It was a new experience for many of us, and

the restaurant went out of the way to provide us with a unique dining experience – hoping that we would be intrigued enough to return on our own. To sample the variety of dishes, we were treated to a buffet style dinner, starting us with three different appetizers – a yogurt dish, some tasty hummus and a roasted eggplant dish. Then, the main dishes were set out and we had a variety of mid-eastern cuisine with a meatball dish, marinated chicken cooked on a skewer, filet mignon cubes, and some sliced marinated roast leg of lamb, along with two rice dishes. Dessert was homemade baklava with Persian ice cream.

All of the dishes were very delicious and enjoyed by our 51 diners. Prior to the dinner, the diners were greeted by hosts **Bruce** and **Sue Borgman**, garbed in galabayas – the characteristic Egyptian full length gowns which **Bruce** had just brought back from Egypt. **Bruce's** is decorated with gold piping and **Sue's** with fancy embroidery. This added to the flavor of their exotic cuisine and the gowns were close enough to Persian culture to be valid. Check out the pictures! A good time was had by all!

We have already had some restaurant suggestions for July's event; and now that we've acquired a taste for more unusual cuisine, there's really no going back. Adventuresome dining lies ahead! The date in July will be either the 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> of July. You may need to adjust your schedules so that you can sign up early to avoid the rush. See you then!



(L-R): **Bob Lucido, Jim & Renie Pope, Bill Holly**, paying homage to **Bruce** during Happy Hour at the Alborz Persian Restaurant



## Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

We play the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 8:30 am May through October at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain cancels play. Ladies always welcome.

Photo by Jerry Kaplan



Bocce Ball judges **Martin Lyle & Frank Ascatigno** attempt to determine which color ball is closest to the white ball marker. As **Frank** so aptly put it, "you can't use a tape measure to call a point when they're this close!!"



Enjoying the Buffet Style Dinner at Alborz Restaurant  
Table Left Side: **Sue Oranje, Dale Haukland, Diane DeGolia**  
Table Right Side: **Bob Lucido, Sue Borgman, Joanne Haukland**

# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

### Jerry Kaplan

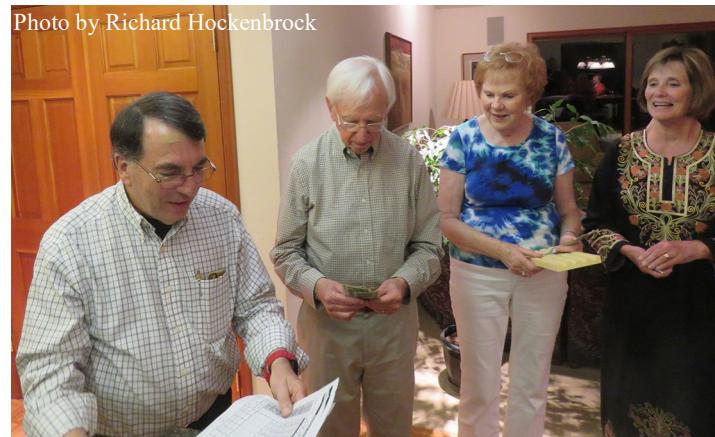
The May Mexican Train Game Night was held on the 12th at the attractive Walnut Creek home of Sir **Jim Stedman** and his wife, **Barbara**. All three tables were just about full.

Women dominated the winners circle again this month with **Marie Ascotigno**, wife of Sir **Frank**, winning first place, followed by **Sue Sheldon**, wife of Sir **Bruce Borgman**, coming in second place. Sir **Jim Stedman**, our host, won third place.

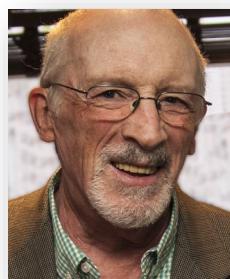
The May game night ended the five months of play when the three players with the best overall average divide up the pot that has built up from every player putting in \$1.00 for each night played. The total pot was \$80.00 and was divided (60%, 30%, and 10%) to **Martha Plante**, wife of Sir **Peter**, wining \$48.00, with **Marie Ascotigno** coming in second place (collecting \$24.00), and **Sherry Hockenbrock**, wife of Sir **Richard**, in third place, winning \$8.00. Not a great amount, but she had great satisfaction in scooping her husband, who finished only one tenth of a point behind her.

The second half of the 2017 season (running six months) begins in June. Group One is always looking for other Sirs interested in playing occasionally as a substitute. Mexican Train Dominoes is fun to play and easy to learn. Several individuals who had never played before have come to our game night and after just one open hand were right in the midst of the fun. Please contact Jerry if you may want to join a fun night out!

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



MTD Group 1 winners **Jim Stedman** (3rd place),  
**Marie Ascotigno** (1st place) and **Sue Sheldon** (2nd place)



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

### Jeff Baily

Mexican Train Dominoes group III spent a delightful games night at the home of **Dick and Judy Richmond**. Each of the 3 tables produced a money winner; host, **Dick Richmond** came through seven games heading the winners group with 2 outs and an average of 17.71 – close behind **Dick** was the ever-competitive **Jim Stedman** at table 2 with only 1 out but produced an average score of 17.78 (whew!) and in third place was **Linda Brown** at table 3, with a score of 19.63 after going out an impressive 4 times! **Judy** and **Dick** provided an impressive array of desserts to top the evening off. Our next scheduled game night, is Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the home of **Lynn and Sally Shafer**.

### Explore & Eat Day Trip



Photo by Jim Pope

Can you see the Golden Gate Bridge from Point Bonita Lighthouse? (L-R): **Terry and Mike Conners**, **John Pearl**, **Paul & Joan Dubow**, & **Nancy Pearl** resting and enjoying 360° view

Never criticize someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes. *That way, when you criticize them, you'll be a mile away, and you'll have their Shoes.*

Why aren't koalas actual bears? They don't meet the koalafications.



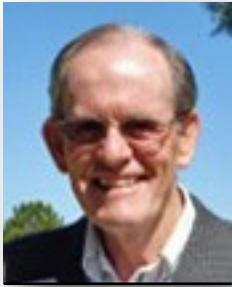
## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS) Dick Woodman

We had a good game night at **Dick and Janice Woodman's** April 28th and some new winners.

Congratulations to **Chuck Denney** for winning first place with a fantastic score of 9.7 points per game. **Don Dodson** took second place with a score of 18.9. **Mary Denney** took third place with a score of 19.3. **Bill Holly** was right behind **Mary** with 19.4. Once again we had one table that finished a complete slate of 13 games. The other two tables completed 9 and 11 games. Congratulations to all the winners!!

We are meeting May 26th at **Chuck and Mary Denney's**. The results of that evening and the winners of the January-May pot will be reported in the July Sir Call.

There is a change in meeting places for June and July. **Bill and Bernice Cammerer** are taking the June game night and **Jim and Phyllis Meehan** will host us in July.



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO) Jim Burk

**Doug and Patti Eisner** welcomed a slightly reduced group to their home for a very memorable and enjoyable evening on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Although the **Pierces** and **Burks** were unable to attend, the group still kept up their normal rate of wine and snacks consumption led by our wine connoisseur and pace-maker **Steve Sprague**.

Apart from an initial scramble to gain access to the bar, which was commandeered by the ladies (as usual!!) the evening was very orderly. Our hosts provided a generous array of liquid and tasty treats which were enjoyed by all. In particular, during the break, our hosts served a selection of ice cream chocolate bars.

**Chuck Campbell** was warned by the male team component to avoid dropping chocolate flakes on the white carpet in fear of sharing the blame.

This seemed to focus **Chuck's** attention and he ended up coming in second. **Ann Hallett** (yes again) won first place. A full investigation will be conducted before the next meeting to determine if Russia is aiding her !!

Needless to say, everyone had a great time and look forward to the next challenging encounter.

*Report submitted by Dennis Hallett.*



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro) Jim Pope

El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos met in May with hearty group of 11 faithful. Travel, theater and special activities took several couples away from the night's event. The food from the women's group was filled with many sweets and, they were

outstanding. The wine was perfect for the cuisine and preparing for the Dominos competition. See the pictures of the group enjoying food and wine at the mid-evening break...

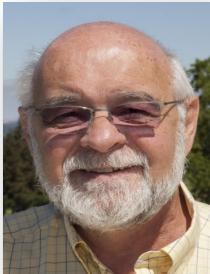


Photo by Jim Pope  
MTD El Quattro enjoying their break... (L-R) **Darlo Boone, Mariwyn Boone, Bill Weinberg, Jim Pope, Lo McCarley**

**A** penny saved is a penny that will sit around in a jar for five years.



Photo by Jim Pope  
MTD El Quattro: (L-R) **Sue McCarley, Yvonne Killips, Fran Matthews, Kim Pace** enjoying conversation, break treats, and the perfect wine. Cheers!!!



## Wine Tasting

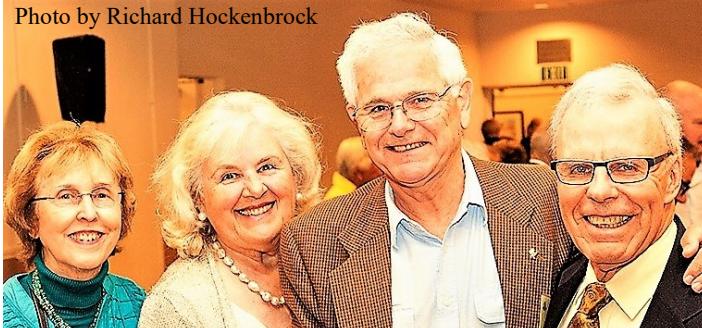
Rob Melrose

Our next event is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for a venue. If you are willing to open your home to the group, please contact **Rob**. We realize that many of the group do not have homes that will accommodate the entire group so we can limit the attendance if you wish. Call (925) 228-4768 or [rwmelrose@gmail.com](mailto:rwmelrose@gmail.com)



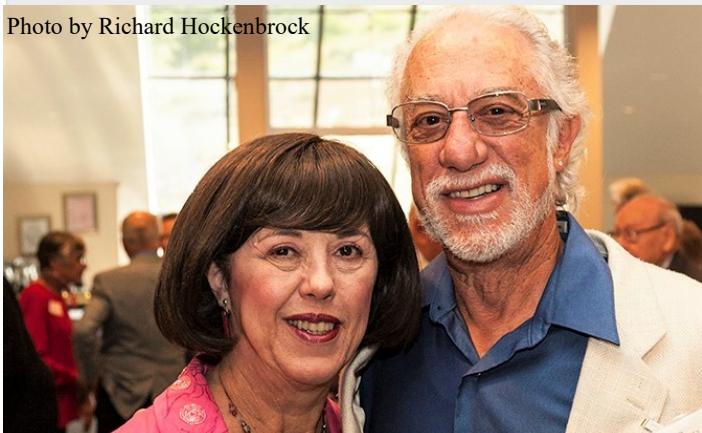
The Whalens Love the May Ladies Day luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



May Ladies Day Luncheon (L-R): **Nancy Pearl, Janet and Ross Abbott, and John Pearl**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Happy faces: **Wendy and Bob Lucido** smiling for the camera at Ladies Day luncheon



## Book Nook

Hank James

The Book Nook will not be open in June.

Please continue to accumulate your book donations and your reading list for the July Meeting when we will be open again.



## Cooking Lunch & Wine

Pete Gates

The LAW Cooking Group held its first dinner out for the year at the Dead Fish Restaurant in Crockett. A total of 16 diners enjoyed the atmosphere of this unique place and its diverse menu focusing on crab and other sea food. A truly good time was had by all.

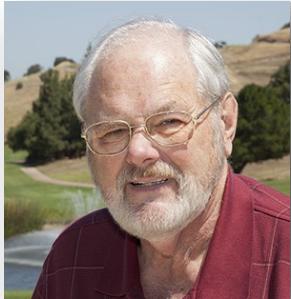
We normally meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at a different member's home. One member is responsible for preparing the menu. We enjoy appetizers, wine and lunch. And don't forget—good conversation!!!



## Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masses, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the day for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.



## Theatre Gary Schaub

**Prize-Winning Drama  
SIR 146 Theater Party  
July 11<sup>th</sup>**

**FINAL CALL FOR TICKETS**

# the Glass Menagerie



This is "Last Call" for reserving tickets for SIR146 summer theatre party. One of the American theater's most popular plays is Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* which opened on Broadway in 1944. This honored play will be SIR 146's theater party in July. *The Glass Menagerie* will be performed at the open-air California Shakespeare Theater in Orinda on Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. Reservation deadline is June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The grounds of Cal Shakes is also a great place for a pre-show picnic starting around 6:00 p.m. Bring a picnic along, or purchase food/drinks at the concession plaza.

*The Glass Menagerie* catapulted playwright Williams from obscurity to fame. The five-character "memory play" has strong autobiographical elements, featuring characters based on Williams' early life. The play won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award as *Best Play* in 1945 and has become a modern classic. After *Menagerie*, Williams wrote *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Streetcar Names Desire*, and went on to be the leading playwright of post-World War II America

A limited number of reduced-price tickets have been set aside the SIR members and guests. Deadline for ordering is June 21<sup>st</sup>. Tickets are \$51.00 each. Send a check payable to SIR146 before June 21. Mail to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Ct., #8, Walnut Creek 94595.

California Shakespeare Theater is located off Hwy 24, just west of Orinda at Wilder Road. Exit 7B. On-site parking is free.



## Travel Opportunities

**Milt Smith**

### **Two Day Trips:**

1. Sign up now for Sacramento Underground June 29<sup>th</sup>. We are behind on count. Please call me immediately. Travel by bus from Walnut Creek to Sacramento. Tour the area of Sacramento that was built over in 1862.

Trip includes bus, lunch, guided tour and tips. \$91 per person and it will be a great historical trip. Contact **Milt Smith** now for sign up.

2. Mark your calendar: Blue Angels aboard SF Belle, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins this summer.

### **Other International Trips:**

1. Tulip Time on the Rhine! April 11-21, 2018: 11 Days • 23 Meals. Experience the re-awakening of spring along the Rhine and Mosel rivers, from the enchanting Keukenhof Gardens in the Netherlands, at the peak of tulip season, to the majestic heights of Switzerland. See the countryside bloom as you sail along these two historic rivers of Europe. Pricing range from \$4200 to \$6000 depending on accommodations. Free airfare from SF if you signed up before May 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact **Milt Smith** ASAP for more information. Another great trip let's fill this one up quickly!

2. Ultimate Africa, late spring or early summer of 2018. Overseas Adventure Travel, 17 days, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe & add ons available. Approximate price \$8500 plus airfare. This is a great trip for just a small group of 16 people and already have six people interested: contact **Milt Smith** immediately to help put our group together, to finalize dates, and learn more about the trip.

Anyone interested in a Princess Cruise from SF though the Panama Canal to Ft. Lauderdale? Sailing date October 27 this year—15 days! Ports of Call: Sf, Cabo San Lucas, San Juan Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama full transit, Cartagena, Aruba. Prices Range: approximately \$2300 and up. Does not include airfare back from Florida.

*Take action*, contact **Milt Smith** ASAP to get more info and to sign up for these trips.

[miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com)

Home: 925-285-2897 Cell: 925-280-0328

*I told the kids I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. So they unplugged my computer and threw out my wine.*



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

### Bob Yolland

Our group is on sabbatical this month but we will return to action in June. Cheers !!



## Book Club

### Chuck Campbell

The Book Group met on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Black Bear Restaurant to discuss Chris Whipple's *The Gatekeepers*. Whipple weaves a history of chiefs of staff serving presidents from Nixon to Obama based mostly on interviews with these chiefs. We all found the reporting to be impartial, politically and profoundly honest, regarding the failures and victories of these chiefs.

The successful chiefs, in Whipple's opinion, each kept their president focused, as much as possible, on current events and how they related to the administration's agenda. Controlling who met with the president was their paramount responsibility.

The book presents a history of each president as seen from the perspective of the Chief of Staff revealing many interesting situations. For example:

\*Haldeman was not initially aware that a clandestine group of men were brought together to spy on the Democrat National Committee.

\*Cheney's change of character from thoughtful and soft spoken chief under Ford, to aggressive and short tempered vice-president under Bush.

\*Clinton's secret advisor during his early months of his presidency.

The book is an easy read and recommended for all political junkies.

Our next book will be *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. We next meet at 8:30 am, Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Black Bear Restaurant in Walnut Creek.



Listening to speaker Paul Zaentz at Ladies Day luncheon



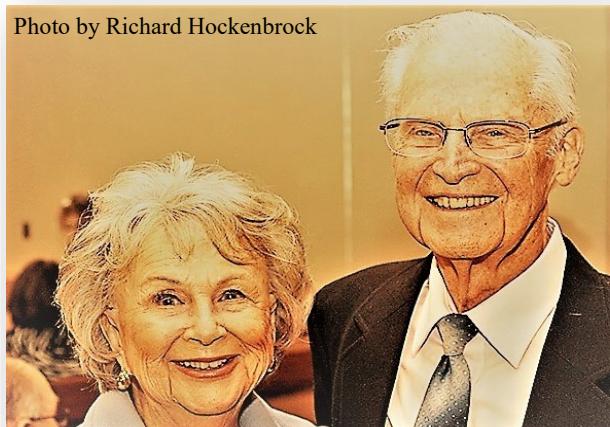
## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dave Pierce

The sweet smell of spring was in the air when **Ken and Elaine Richter** hosted us on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Many a hand was not so sweet and some results were more like winter storms -- lots of downed trees and downed contracts. Surviving to harvest spring flowers were **Cindy and Tony Greco** (21 match points, 53%), **Lynne and Brad Hatcher** (23.5, 59%), and **Joan and Dave Pierce** (26, 65%). We all were enriched by the sweet taste of **Elaine's** Boston cream pie.

**Dave Pierce, 932-3877**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Joanne Ayers and Bruce Jones**



**Leslie and Dick Firth**



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

### Sid Landman

Our latest game on Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> at Chez **Max Hinkle**. Max's home is hidden from the street in Walnut Creek, nestled behind other dwellings, providing us with a peaceful and quiet setting for our monthly bridge game.

First Place: Congratulations **Roger Peters** earning a score of 31 or 65% - a very large victory. **Roger** scored over 69% in the 1<sup>st</sup> half, then held on in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. The rest of us will work hard to beat this score in the future.

Second Place: A three way tie between **Jim Pope**, **Ed Marlovits** and **Sid Landman** with a score of 27 or 56%. **Jim** had a very modest first half of 9 but had a remarkable 2nd half, doubling his 1<sup>st</sup> half score with 18 to total 27. Congratulations to **Jim**, **Ed** and **Sid** for their fine games.

Host **Max Hinkle** provided us with a serene, yet fun-filled environment, a fine cherry cake dessert (with fresh cherries) and all the snacks we could eat. Too bad he refused the invitation to make his home our permanent spot for all monthly games. Oh well.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Duplicate Bridge 3 (L-R) **Max Hinkle**—host, **Tony Greco**, **Jim Pope**, **Mike Whitaker**, **Jim Brown**, **Charlie Abrams**, **Roger Peters**, **Harvey Oxman**, **Sid Landman**, **Ed Marlovits** and **Brad Hatcher**

*Bridge Players Doug and Patti Eisner taking time from there active life to enjoy the May Ladies Day Luncheon!!*



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

### Doug Eisner

Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 3 tables of bridge on May 15<sup>th</sup> at **Lo McCarley's** new home in Byron Park. **Dave Pierce** jumped off to a fast start, capturing 19.5 pt at the lunch break. **Dave** was followed by

**Tony Greco's** 17.5 pt for second place and **Bill Rees's** 16.5 pt for third place. The afternoon session was equally good to **Dave**, and his partners, as **Dave** ran away with first prize honors with 32.5 pt. **Tony Greco** kept his grasp on second position with 28.5 pt while **Jim Brown** moved up one place into third with 27.5 pt. Our next game will be June 19<sup>th</sup> at **Rich Ahlf's** house.



## Couples Party Bridge

### Dave Pierce

**Christy DeVoe** hosted us on May 2<sup>nd</sup>; **Dick** was in isolation recovering from the current bug that is making the rounds. In fact we had more subs than regulars, and they showed their stuff. Subs **Jerry** and **Chris Benoit** were third (2540), barely edging **Jim Brown** and **Christy** by 20 point. Subs **Syd** and **MJ Whalen** were 2nd (3020), and **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** were first (3520), so the regulars weren't totally skunked. Everyone enjoyed **Christy's** traditional hospitality and treats, and wished **Dick** as much good health as his succulents seem to be enjoying. Thank you, subs(!), for playing and keeping us from having to cancel.

**Dave Pierce**, 932-3877



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



## Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 met at the home of **Al Zamolo** on May 10th. As always there were some losers and winners. But a good time was had by all. Our next outing will be at the Home of **Bill Cammerer's** on June 7th.



## Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Al Zamolo** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



## 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 going forward are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Charlie Koeber, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter, Frank Rockwell, and Paul Dubow.***

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



## Old Money Poker

### Group 6

Al Twyford

The next poker session of "Old Money" is June 14th from 12:30-3:30 pm. Good luck players..



## Poker Club 3

Sig Kalteis

*Poker Club 3 meets on the fourth Monday of the month. We usually play at my house. Contact **Sig Kalteis** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



## Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

*Texas Hold'em is one of our popular poker games and we play variations of the game because of our raise limit. Our next game is June 26th starting at 1:00 pm.*

*Feeling pretty proud of myself...  
The Sesame Street puzzle I bought  
said 3-5 years, but I finished it in 18 months.*



Photo by Jim Pope

## EXPLORE AND EAT

(L-R) **Paul** and **Jane Beretz** and **Rich** and **Kim Pace** love the view of San Francisco and the chill on the trail to Point Bonita lighthouse in the background..



## GOLF

### Ed Marlovits

The May tournament Tuesday was a scramble won by the team of **George Mon, Ray Spears** and **Jim Passaglia** with a score of 6-under par. They blew away the field with three teams tied for second at a mere 2-under par.

We have been experimenting with arranging flights only by handicap in order to get a more fair distribution of winnings. However, most recently we have had so few players playing from the combo or white tees, arranging flights by handicap is the only option.

The SIR Area 2 annual team qualifier scramble is to be held May 25 at Hiddenbrooke Golf Club. The Division 4 Individual Qualifier will be on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, also at the challenging Hiddenbrooke course.

June's Away Golf expedition will be on June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Chardonnay Golf Club in Napa.

Golf is one of the most popular Branch 146 activities and a great way for you to get acquainted with many of your fellow Sirs and a great way to recruit new members. We play every Tuesday morning and would be pleased to add guests to our weekly random pairings. Consider this an invitation to check us out. You can get in touch with us through another SIR golfer or simply email us at [sir146golf@gmail.com](mailto:sir146golf@gmail.com).



## Nine Hole Golf Group

### Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon. If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Mondays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesdays I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who did or did not show up. Most of the time the lunch is better than our golf game. [vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)



The Nine Hole Golfers ready to tee off at the first hole.

(L-R): Darlo Boone, Lynn Shafer, Dick Richmond, Jim Stedman, and Vern Laursen.



Photo by Bill Schultz



Photo by Bill Schultz

At the 19th Watering Hole are (L-R): **Joe Barry, Bob Beitler, Walt Busenius, Ray Weisz, Sal Costanza and Dick Kincaide**

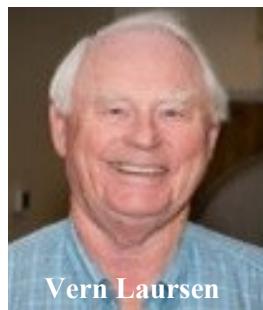
(L-R) : **Dick Kincaide, Ken Kratz, & Norm Baietti**

## Area Two Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)

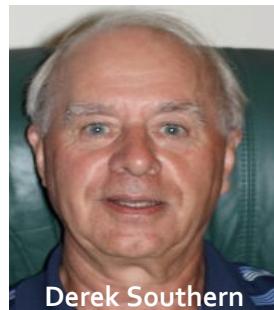


Max Burchett

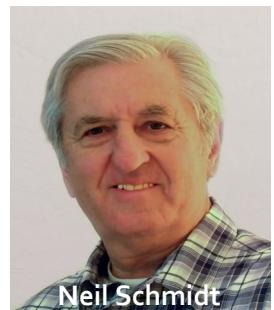


Vern Laursen

### Computers and Technology



Derek Southern



Neil Schmidt

PCs

*The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2:00 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.*

**Max Burchett** and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products.

If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

There is no June meeting of the Area 2 Computers & Technology group.

We look forward to seeing you @ 9:15 AM, Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive.

Discussion topics to be announced later.

We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if our May meeting is another one of those!

All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Derek Southern

### Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

\$ums, the Area 2 Investment Activity, will meet Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> in the Legends Restaurant at the Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord.

The program for June will feature Tom Kopas from Pring Turner who will feature an economic and market update, as well as field plenty of questions.

Legends opens at 7:00 am so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

\$ums Chairman: **Tom Henry** (Br-174) (925) 284-5724

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

Co-chair: **David Sutton** (Br-8) (925) 686-0158

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

Photo by Bill Schultz



Jim Burke, Bill Schultz and Gary Brown on Patio of Hiddenbrooke Golf Club before SIR Area 2 scramble early start May 25<sup>th</sup>

# **LADIES DAY LUNCHEON**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Paul Zaentz entertaining the Ladies Day Luncheon attendees**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



## Photos from Annual Area 2 Team Scramble at Hiddenbrooke Golf Club



**Rick Morgan, Bob Lucido, Ben Gleason & Doug Eisner**



**Bill Schultz, John Hammond, Gary Brown & Max Hinkle**



**Joe Fuchs, George Mon, Sal Costanza & Pat Lucia**



**Ray Spears, Alan Elnick, George Carpenter & Bob Mehus**



**Pierre Mebane, Jim Passaglia, John Harrington & Guy Rudberg**



**Norm Baietti, Bill "Hole-in-One" Cammerer, Jim Burk, & Bill Laws**