



# Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

# Call

April–May 2025



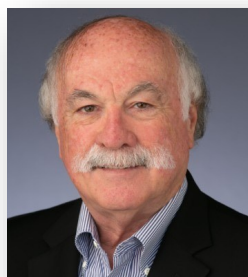
## Big Sir's Corner

Bob Ford

I want to welcome our new members and thank their sponsors for helping us bring in new members. People bringing in their friends is still our most successful recruiting method by far. Remember the next prize drawing

for sponsors of new members will be in August so if you know anyone that might be interested please bring them as a guest. I also want to thank **Thom Degnan** and the speaker committee for providing some excellent speakers for us this year. Between this and the much improved food, the lunches are really enjoyable.. I hope that everyone is looking forward to the Ladies' Day luncheon on Thursday May 8, 2025. Our guest speaker is Ms. Jackie Byrd, of the Walnut Creek Historical Society and I am really looking forward to her presentation. Also a reminder there will be no BEC meeting in May due to the Ladies' Day Luncheon. The Mission of SIR is Make Friends For Life. Remember, your friends and acquaintances need not be retired to join. Warm regards,

**Bob Ford**  
Big Sir, Branch 146



## Little Sir's Corner

Thom Degnan

For our May Ladies' Luncheon, we are pleased to have Ms. Lee Culver, Historical Archivist and Ms. Jackie Byrd, Museum Manager from the

Walnut Creek Historical Society who will talk about the history of Walnut Creek, as well as an update on this year's activities, tours of the Shadelands Ranch Museum, historical walking tours, a gala event of History and Wine at Shadelands, and how you might volunteer. If you haven't been to the Museum, it is an amazing building, a glance back in history. Additionally, we will have a barrel out for food collection for the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. This food bank serves approximately 65,000 area households and provides more than 2.7 million meals monthly. Items they request include peanut butter, canned tuna, boxed macaroni, beans, and applesauce, among others. I will send out additional info on this topic in a few weeks. Your support is appreciated

In subsequent months we will have the Chief Administrative Officer from John Muir Medical Group to discuss Ambulatory Services and Population Health, a former deputy chief economist at Citibank & UC Berkely professor to discuss his views on the global economy, Contra Costa Fire Captain on life saving techniques, a former Top Gun Pilot, founder of a local winery, and other interesting top-

**SIR Ladies' Day Luncheon**  
**Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Boundary Oak 11:30**

Lee Culver and Jackie Byrd  
Walnut Creek Historical Society  
A reservation is required!  
To make yours and choose your entrée  
go to page 3. (click Here!)

Continued on the Following Page

*Activities for you and spouse...*

- Calendar of Events [Page 13](#)
- Books: *The Mighty Red* [Page 23](#)
- Cuba? Japan? Where to go? [Page 14](#)
- What bird is that? [Page 17](#)

## Little Sir from proceeding page

ics. There is much more to come for the rest of the year and the Speaker's Committee **Jim Pope, Glenn Breslin, Jim Crites** and I will keep you updated. We appreciate any suggestions for interesting speakers.

The CPR Training Class for May 23<sup>rd</sup> is already more than half full, so contact me if you would like to enroll. These are excellent coed training exercises, and we encourage you to join in! It is also a nice way to introduce friends to SIR!

**Thom Degnan**  
Little Sir, Branch 146

## 2025 Officers and Directors

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

### **RAMP-Chair Members**

Recruitment .....	<b>Randy Graham</b>
Activities .....	<b>Glenn Breslin</b>
Member Relations .....	<b>Edward Brands</b>
Publicity .....	<b>John Alexander</b>

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.



## Membership George Mon

One new member was approved for membership in April.

**Gary Parkhurst** lives in Walnut Creek with his wife Carol. He was a Sales Manager for AC Nielsen. He enjoys Cribbage, Hiking, Sushi and Travel

to mention a few. He is sponsored by **Bill Hoban**.

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 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 our guest at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a SIR member.

The 2025 membership count is **257**.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com) and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

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

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

**George Mon**  
925.830.1604 [gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)



## Ladies' Day Luncheon

### Steve Ybarra

The Ladies' Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The cost for this event is \$41 per person. Doors open at 10:30am and SIR members and guests can socialize until 11:30am when the Luncheon will be called to order for the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations must be made to **Steve Ybarra** and received by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Please use the reservation form (below) provided in this SIRCall, and make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$41 per person.

**Steve Ybarra**  
[sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)

For the Ladies' Day Luncheon event you need to use the reservation form.

The click to reserve menu will resume with the June Luncheon.



## SIR 146

### May Ladies' Day Luncheon

Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Salad

Organic Mixed Greens  
 Local Baby Asparagus, Kalamata Olives,  
 Shaved Parmesan, Aged Sherry Vinaigrette

#### Entrées

##### Grilled Filet Mignon

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potato,  
 Sautéed Vegetable Medley  
 Red Wine Jus

—or—

##### Baked Salmon

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Vegetable Medley  
 Chunky Roasted Tomato Sauce

—or—

##### Stuffed Peppers

Mushrooms, Zucchini, Eggplant Tomato Basil Sauce

#### Dessert

German Chocolate Cake



## SIR 146 Ladies' Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$41 ea. amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ We are sitting with: \_\_\_\_\_

Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Total Paid" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check made payable to SIR Branch 146 to:

**Steve Ybarra**  
 142 Leonard Dr.  
 Concord, CA 94518-1213.

#	F Name, L Name	Filet Mignon	Salmon	Vegetarian	Total Paid
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!  
 Reservations must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

# PUT THE JUNE LUNCHEON ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW



## THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

### **SIR 146 June Luncheon**

Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Salad

Mesclun Greens, Carrots, Tomatoes, Croutons,  
Ranch Dressing

#### Entrees

##### Chicken Marsala

Herb Marinated Chicken Breast,  
Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables,  
Marsala Shallot Mushroom Cream Sauce

##### Cod Marsala

Herb Marinated Cod, Rice Pilaf,  
Seasonal Vegetables,  
Marsala Shallot Mushroom Cream Sauce

##### Vegetarian

Spinach Ricotta Manicotti  
Four Cheese & Spinach Cannelloni,  
Seasonal Vegetable, House Tomato Basil Sauce

#### Dessert

Apple Bar

#### **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.



## 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](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net) or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*



Pat O'Keeffe



Norm Baietti

## **SIRCall Newsletter Group**

Editor

Clint Collier

Assistant Editor

Bob West

Photographer

Henry Thatcher

Proofreaders

Ron Polivka

Bruce Borgman

Frank Lucas

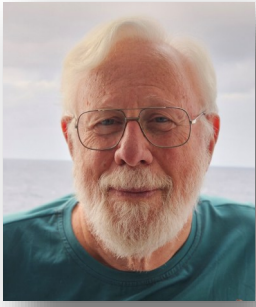
Internet Posting

Ron Plachy

## 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.





## Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

April is gone! April Fool's Day is a memory, the tax man is behind us, all that remains is a memory of the showers we didn't really get and the hope that it won't hinder the May flowers that make the coming month a celebration of what is good in life. Don't miss Mother's day in the middle of the month or you will certainly hear from someone. And certainly don't forget Memorial Day at the end. Enjoy your picnic, your time with friends and relatives, your celebration; but take a minute to recall what that day "memorializes".



We began recognizing Memorial Day in 1868. After the Civil War, Americans across the nation began holding tributes in the spring, decorating graves with flowers, reciting prayers, and honoring the estimated 620,000 fallen soldiers of that war (2% of the population at the time). Originally known as "Decoration Day," the holiday started with communities coming together to decorate the graves of those who died during service. The federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day when the city closed all businesses so residents could decorate the gravesites of soldiers with flowers and American flags every year and established it as a federal holiday in 1971.

The cut off date for SIRCall submissions for June is the 22<sup>nd</sup>, of May, however don't let that hinder you from turning in your submission earlier in the month!

One of our SIRCall staff is down... but not out. Wishing you a speedy recovery, Henry, with your new knee!

**Clint Collier**—Editor SIRCall  
925.457.1489 [br146SIRCall@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com)



Bruce Kimmis  
Joseph A. Lamanna  
Verner R. Laursen  
Roger F. Meyer  
Corrie Oranje  
Ron M. Polivka  
Donald R. Seaton  
Scott C Golde  
Robert Lively

Steven Knight  
Vernon H Roohk  
Sidney Landman  
Thom F Degnan  
Philip J Sandness  
Ed Lichtig  
Albert Guzman  
Micheal S Gipps





# April Meeting

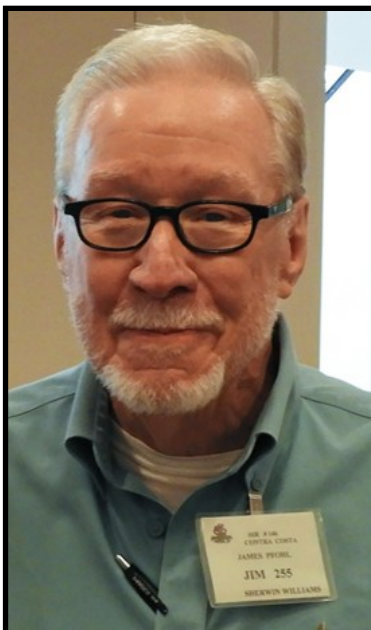
Photos by Jim Pope



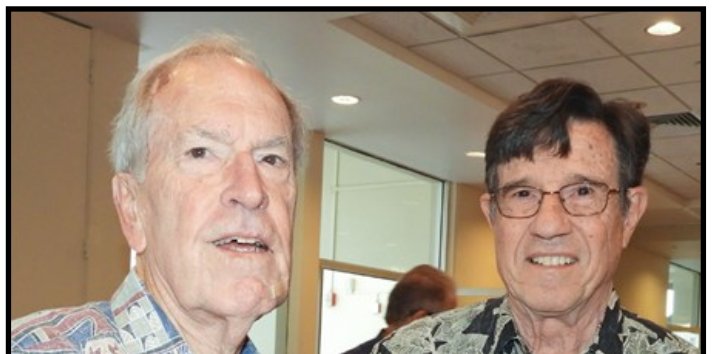
Welcoming Crew









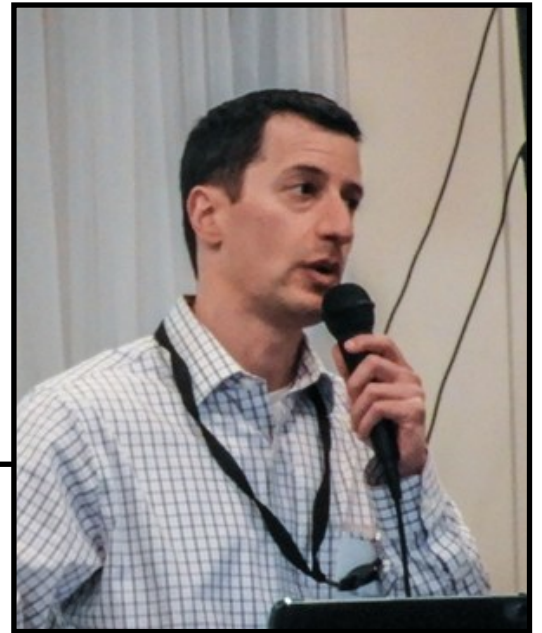








Speaker  
Jake Zigelman  
from  
PG&E



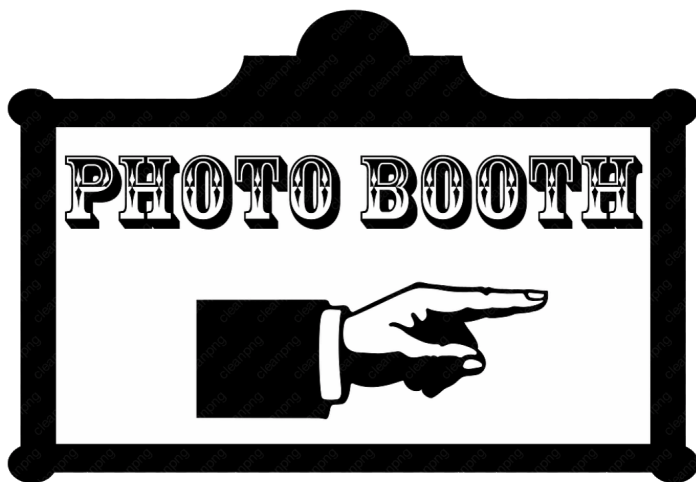
April  
Fred McNeil





# NOTES

from Our Members



**AT THE  
LADIES' DAY  
LUNCHEON RICH LYON  
WILL BE  
CAPTURING THE  
MOMENT WITH  
PICTURES OF SIR146  
MEMBERS AND THEIR  
GUESTS.  
LOOK FOR THE  
PICTURE TAKING  
STATION AND HAVE  
YOUR PICTURE TAKEN.**



# Looking for something to do...



## Activities Coordinator

### Glenn Breslin

I am writing to suggest that we share our enjoyment of SIR activities with our non-SIR friends. One of our many challenges for this new year is to grow our membership. Members are aging out, moving out or dropping out faster than we are recruiting. SIRs risks having less members and activities and being a less vital organization.

If you are involved in any SIR activity, can you please consider telling your friends how much you enjoy this activity? Also, ask them if they would also like to join this activity as a guest. Share the treasure of your enjoyment with them. You and other SIR members will enjoy their social interactions and they will enjoy the activity and others' social interactions. Surely a win-win at a minimum!

To assure that our branch exists into the next decade, SIR146 requires a large number of guests. A percentage of these guests will turn into new members. Sharing your activity enjoyment with guests will also benefit SIR146! You might also consider inviting your friends to our monthly luncheon.

In addition to the Activities that you attend, these upcoming branch wide activities are listed below. Please let me know if you are interested or need more information.

- Tue 4/22 **Bocce Day** - 12:30 to 4:00 PM (John F. Baldwin Courts— 2727 Parkside Circle, Concord) - \$18— [Glenn Breslin](#) Chair
- Thu 5/8 **Ladies' Day Lunch** - 10:30 to 2:00 PM (Boundary Oak) \$41— [Steve Ybarra](#) Chair
- Mon 5/19 or Tue 5/20 - **Dining Out** - [Bruce Borgman](#) Chair
- Fri 5/23 **CPR** 9-11 AM (Ygnacio Valley Library, 2611 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek) Free - [Thom Degnan](#) Chair
- Wed 5/24 **SF Giants vs Arizona Diamondbacks** - 12:45 PM (Oracle Park) - \$68 - [Glenn Breslin](#) Chair
- Thu 6/5 Veterans' **Lunch with Speaker** - 11:30 AM (Back Forty Restaurant - 100 Coggins Drive, Pleasant Hill) [Larry Kaye](#) Chair
- Sat 7/19 **Bee Gees Tribute Band** - 8:00 PM (Leshner Theater) \$59 - [Glenn Breslin](#) Chair

If any of these upcoming activities interest you, can you please reach out to me.

**Glenn Breslin**

925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

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

[Artificial Intelligence](#)

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

**Bridge:**

[Beginning/Refresher](#)

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

**Cooking:**

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch and Wine](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

**Dining Out**

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Gardening](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

**Mexican Train**

**Dominoes**

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Cuatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Diez](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

**Poker:**

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Group 8](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Veterans](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)



# SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar May 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>2</b>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm—4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf 2:30pm—5:00pm Wine Tasting		9:30am Nine Hole Golf-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am—2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
9:45am—3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00pm—4:00pm AI group Las Trampas Room Downtown Walnut Creek Library	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm—10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	<b>11:30am—1:30pm</b> <b>Ladies Day Luncheon</b>	12:00pm—3:00pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
10:00am Hiking 11:30am—1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 1:00pm—4:00pm Poker Group #8 4:00pm—7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	8:30am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:30am Nine Hole Golf-1 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	9:00am—11:00am Photography Group Downtown WC Library 10:00am—3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 1:00pm—3:30pm MTD 10 Diez 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00pm—4:00pm AI Investment Subgroup Las Trampas Room Downtown Walnut Creek Library	9:00am Golf	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm—10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	7:30am—9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 <b>Noon</b> <b>SIRCall articles for June due</b>	12:00pm—3:00pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm—4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	12:30pm—3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm—3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 6 Seis		



## Travel Glenn Breslin

**GOOD NEWS !!!** Many SIR members have mentioned interest in going to **CUBA** on 3/12/26 for a 7-day tour. If you are one of them, then please let me know at [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

Based upon both the SIR Multi-Branch travel questionnaire results and the related member interview input, these travel destinations have been chosen for future SIR Travel. Please let Glenn Breslin know if you are interested.

Vietnam/Cambodia (price/price with air)	Australia/New Zealand (price/price with air)	Japan/Korea (price/price with air)
10/19/25 to 11/7/25 (\$3495/ \$4695 with air)  Angor Wat Post-Trip Included, available  <a href="#">LINK HERE</a> Group code: G5-30339	1/7/26 to 1/25/26 ((\$5295/\$7645 with air)  Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available  <a href="#">LINK HERE</a> Group code: G6-30339	4/1/26 to 4/16/26 ((\$7495/\$9095 with air)  Hiroshima Post-Trip available  <a href="#">LINK HERE</a> Group code: G6-30339

### TRAVEL NOTES

1. If you are able to book Vietnam/Cambodia by May 4th, please use Group Code G5-30339 and pay your \$500 deposit. This will qualify you for a \$500 Discount (expires May 4th: Please use Discount Code ADVENTURE25 to claim this \$500 per person discount).
2. 8 SIR members are currently signed up for this Vietnam Trip
3. All 2026 reservations by 5/1/25 will be *price-protected* against any OAT future price increases over the year.

### Travel Quotes:

*"There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with"*

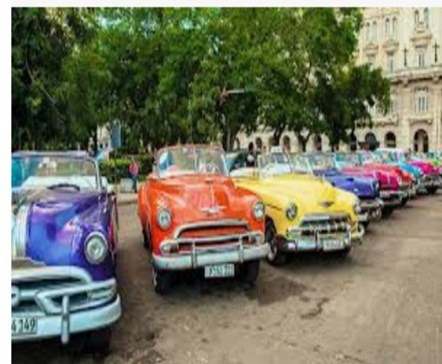
*"You can pack for every occasion, but a good friend will always be the best thing you could bring"*

*"A good friend listens to your adventures. A best friend makes them with you"*

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

**Glenn Breslin**

925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)





## Theater Glenn Breslin

### SIR Theater/Music Announcement

#### Bee Gees Tribute Band – You Should be Dancing

- **Date:** Sat 7/19 8:00 PM
- **Show:** Bee Gees Tribute Band
- You Should Be Dancing dedicated to faithfully recreating the Bee Gees' iconic sound, while elevating the onstage visual experience.
- **Location:** Lesh Theater
- **Price:** \$59.00 per ticket. Once I receive your money, I will ask you to pick from the best tickets that I have available.
- **Limited:** 20 tickets
- **Payment:** Make out your check to SIR146 and send to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549
- **Optional Dinner:** 5:30 PM optional dinner to be announced before the show

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



Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)







## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

March 25<sup>th</sup>: Thom Degnan and I organized a ride that started at Pleasant Hill Park just off Gregory Lane in Pleasant Hill on Tuesday, March 25th at 8:30am. The weather started a bit cool but quickly warmed up to 80 degrees

during the course of our ride. The route of the ride was that we pick up the Iron Horse Trail to the Regional Contra Costa Trail over to the back part of Pacheco Blvd into Martinez. Stop at State Street Cafe to refuel with java and belly bombs. Then head out of Martinez along Alhambra Road to Alhambra Valley Road to Reliez Valley Road to Gregory Lane and back on a long downhill to Pleasant Hill Part. The mileage was roughly 21 miles. The first part of the ride was mainly flat, but



### April 8<sup>th</sup> Ride

Left to right: **Jim Crites, Scott Simmons, Moose Kelly, Larry Kaye, Bill Holly, Eric Finson, Bob Lucido, Elmer Bricca.** We are at the 2500 foot Junction on Mt. Diablo.



### March 25<sup>th</sup> Ride

the second half of the ride was hilly. Looking at the photo. from left to right in the front is **Eric Finson, Thom Degnan, Jim Nelson** (our paceman extraordinaire), **Dave Paulson, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bill Holly, Phil Lee, and Jim Crites.** Hiding In the second row is **Brian Lotter** on the left and **Elmer Bricca** on the right. Photo taken by **Moose Kelly.**

April 8<sup>th</sup>: So early this week a strange sound was heard in my ears. It was Lady Diablo calling. Gathering the SIR cycling group together, we agreed that SHE needed to be ridden. So, **Elmer Bricca, Eric Finson, Jim Crites, Scott Simmons, Moose Kelly, Bill Holly, Bob Lucido and Larry Kaye** took the challenge. Up we went. 2500 feet of pure strain. A few of us had never made the trip. What a day. Sunny, warm and scenic as could be. A fantastic ride. Hard but rewarding. The trip down was as always, very exciting. High speeds and lots of switch backs makes for a fun ride. We made it. The new guy

was tired but happy. How many guys our age would even think of climbing a mountain? Gray hair does not mean old. Get out of the door.

April 15<sup>th</sup>: Big group. Cool at the start. We were going to Moraga today. From Alamo. Riders included: **Elmer Bricca, Bill Holly, Ken Studer, Moose Kelly,** Brian Totter, Dave Paulson, Bob Lucido, Jim Crites and **Larry Kaye.** The ride was nice, scenic. It's uphill to Moraga for 6 miles. We made it to Moraga and used the public restrooms. Then we headed over to Si Si Cafe. We met **Bill Ross** there. Lots of catch up. Java and Belly Bombs helped the cold go away. Finally it was time to head home. A 6 mile downhill greeted us. Yummy. Then we were off thru the neighborhoods and back to Alamo. All agreed that this was a great ride. All it takes is to get your heart to beat a little faster. Off the couch. Health is really wealth.

**Larry Kaye**  
925.698.430



L to R. **Ken Studer, Moose Kelly, Elmer Bricca, Dave Paulson, Larry Kaye, Brian Totter, Bill Holly, Bob Lucido**





## Birding Ted Robertson

On the morning of March 11, a group of five SIR birders met at Valle Vista, an EBMUD park just west of Moraga (permit required) to look for birds in several diverse habitats. To avoid rain, the trip was rescheduled a day early to a Tuesday. Habitats we walked through included chaparral, pine forest, oak woodlands, a freshwater lake (an arm of San Leandro reservoir), and riparian woodlands. Because of the diversity of habitats in a small area, we ended up spotting 48 species of birds. Some



Female Common Merganser  
(photo by **Earl Bates**)

of the many highlights of the sunny day included Common Mergansers, Wood Ducks, 40 Ruddy Ducks, two Brown Creepers, close looks at Tree Swallows reflecting light off their iridescent blue feathers, and Western Bluebirds.



Great Blue Heron  
(Photo by **Earl Bates**)



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
(photo by **Jim Rowland**)

At 8:00am, a group of five SIR birders hiked Mitchell Canyon and halfway up Red Rock Road on the north side of Mt. Diablo to catch spring migrants at a funnel point. We ended up spotting or hearing 40 species of birds. The highlights of the trip included seeing three species of vireos (Hutton's, Cassin's, and Warbling) and great close-up views of two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30am on May 5<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at Castle Rock Regional Recreation Area located at the end of Castle Rock Road in Walnut Creek. The Peregrine Falcons have returned to nest this year, and I will bring a spotting scope for great close-up views. If interested, please email Ted Robertson so you can be added to the monthly mailing list.

Beginners through experts are welcome, plus I have a few loaner binoculars if requested.

**Ted Robertson**

925.899.1872 [tedr@berkeley.edu](mailto:tedr@berkeley.edu)



Acorn Woodpecker  
(photo by **Jim Rowland**)



## Nine Hole Golf Group

### Bob Ford

We finally have near perfect weather for Golf and you should see how nice the course looks! Why not join us for 9-Hole golf. Our group tees off at 9:30am at the Dia-

blo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

[scubabob.ford@gmail.com](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)

**"They call it golf because all the other four letter words were taken."**

Raymond Floyd



## 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







## SongSirs

**Peter Plante**

The SongSirs are preparing a program that will be a mix of summertime and patriotic songs for a June performance at the Kensington Retirement

Home in Walnut Creek. We will be singing such favorites as "Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer", "Mack The Knife" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Our next rehearsal is on May 7, 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](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)

**Peter Plante**

[pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)



## Veterans

**Larry Kaye**

June 5<sup>th</sup> will see the second Veterans group lunch. Two speakers are slated to attend: former Contra Costa County District Attorney and Navy air vet Gary Yancey will talk on his flying experiences from a carrier. Brigadier General Bart Gilbert will once again be present to tell some tales. This will be at the Back Forty Texas BBQ restaurant in the Train room at 11:30 hours. Located in Pleasant Hill. If you have confirmed no need to do again. Larry. GO NAVY!

**Larry Kaye**

925.698.4030

[larrykaye2@comcast.net](mailto:larrykaye2@comcast.net)



## Bocce

**John Kendrick**

In a few short weeks, our SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will become active for the 2025 season and we are always looking for new players. Mark your calendars because the SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be

a reality. The fun starts at 8:30am and finishes around 10:00am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the months of May through September.

**The first Bocce Ball activity will be on May 12, 2025.**

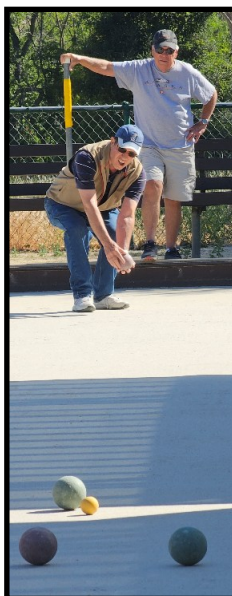
All games are played at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Formal Bocce Ball attire is not required.

**John Kendrick**

925.827.0585

[jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)





## Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

Tilden Park was our group's destination on March 10<sup>th</sup>. While it was a great hike (a little longer than planned), no photos were taken to document the hearty souls who ventured forth.

Rain scuttled our hike on March 17<sup>th</sup>, so we all got to sleep in and enjoy a day off.

The hike on March 24<sup>th</sup> was in Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve, in the Oakland Hills.

The trails, steep at points, led through a lush forest of Bay Laurel, past a variety of ferns and near dense patches of Poison Oak. In total, **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Jim Crites, Chris Duffek, Eric Finson, Ray Martz, Roger Meyer and Bob Wilkenfeld** hiked 6-miles and climbed



1250 feet of elevation gain.

Our second easy, monthly walk was a success. On April 11, **Cleo Bolen, Dave Steinberg and Mark Curtis**, took a 3.1 mile round-trip journey from the Clayton Library to the Starbucks on Ygnacio Valley Road. Of course, a Java stop was included!

Things didn't work out the way we planned for April 14. We couldn't find any parking for the main Summit Trailhead, on Mt Diablo for miles, and the one used before had been fenced off. So, we decided on an alternate trail close by : Edmond Canyon Trail to Wallpoint to Secret to Barbecue Terrace to Dusty to Wallpoint and back to Edmonds Canyon to the cars. Stats: 5.7 miles, 1100 feet of elevation gain. Attending were **Earl Bates, Eric Finson, Jim Crites** and his wife, and **Ray Martz**. If you are interested in joining us, please let **Bob** know.

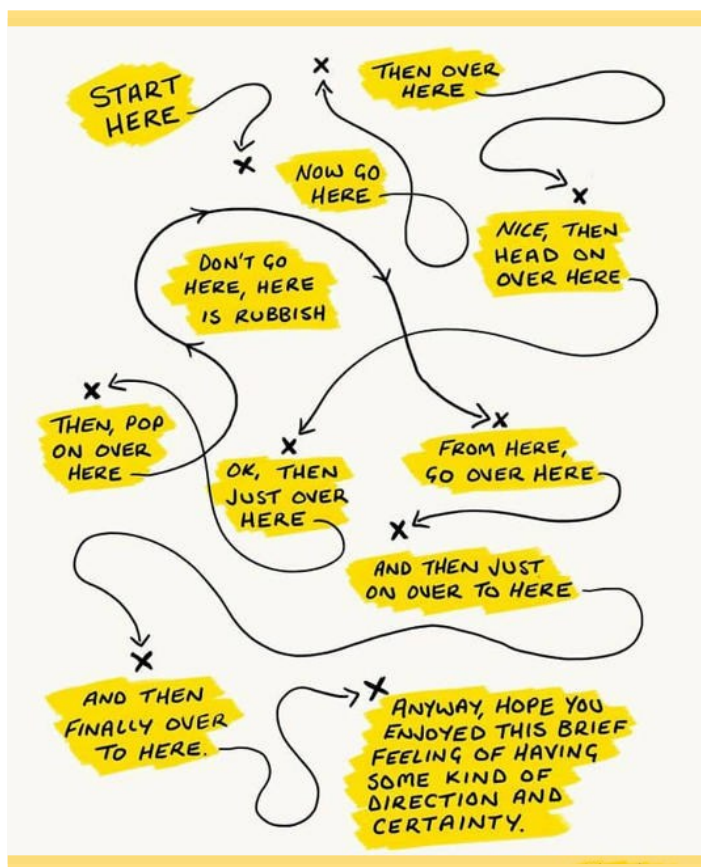
The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. We also host a 3-4 mile flat walk each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month (i.e., the morning following our Branch Luncheon). Advanced email notifications for each hike and walk describe the outing details, including 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.

**Ray Martz**

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

**Bob Wilkenfeld**

[Wilx4@gmail.com](mailto:Wilx4@gmail.com)







## AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

For months, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has kept sports fishermen guessing whether there will be a salmon season in 2025 after two

years of closure.

This week, the Department finally ended the guessing game. We will have a salmon season in 2025. However, a better description is that we will be having salmon interludes. There will be four separate periods during which we can fish, the longest of which will be one week. The dates are June 7-8, July 5-6, July 31-August 3, and August 25-31. There is a seasonal limit of 7500 fish. Once the number is reached, the season will close, even if there are more dates left on the fishing calendar. No doubt that by the time that you read this, every spot on every party or charter fishing boat in northern California will have been filled by anxious salmon fishermen. We won't be left behind. We have booked four trips, with yours truly serving as fishmaster on two of them.

There are of course other fish in the sea (as well as the lakes and rivers). **Tom Kostik, Mike Corker, Brion Beetz, Phil Scimonelli, and Ken Bellinder** caught stripers in the delta, but not many keepers. However **Eric Finson, Cleo Bolen, and Jim Rowland** came up empty handed on their outing on the delta.

**Bob Lively** has continued to catch large trout fishing

from his kayak in Contra Loma Reservoir. **Carl Moyer, Zbig Mrozek, Dennis Lee, and Gordon Linebaugh** also caught some trout in Contra Loma Reservoir, but not many.

**Pedro Contreras** landed a large cutthroat trout fishing in Pyramid Lake, which is just north of Reno. Pedro also saw lots of fish swimming in the lake and so five of us will be traveling to Pyramid on June 6 to see if we can catch a few.

In March, we held our annual auction and many of us were able to purchase fishing equipment at bargain prices while helping the group replenish its treasury.

We have many trips planned in the coming months and so we hope that you can join us. Halibut fishing is just starting to heat up and we will be making frequent trips to the Bay to look for them. We also have trips planned for Lake Almanor, New Hogan Reservoir, New Melones Reservoir, Lake Berryessa, and our regular local outings in the ocean, delta, and nearby reservoirs. Our next two breakfast meetings are scheduled for April 24 and May 22 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30am, but please join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30am 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.

**Paul Dubow**  
510.504.3566



## Table Pool

Jim Barry

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

**Jim Barry**  
[jbarry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbarry@sbcglobal.net)

I didn't think orthopedic shoes would help.  
But I stand corrected.

I once dated a girl with a lazy eye.

We broke up when I realized she was  
seeing someone on the side.

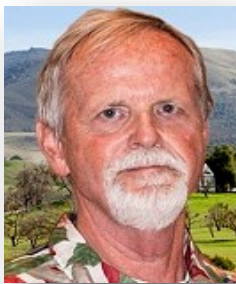


## Book Corner

Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in May for the Ladies' Day Luncheon. We have a terrific selection for you.





## Photography Group

### John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The photography members will meet on Friday, May 16th at the Walnut Creek Library on the second floor in the Las Trampas Room. The meeting will start at 9am. All are welcome to attend.

By the time this article reaches you, the March meeting will be over and done with. This meeting was organized by **Bob Wilkenfeld** and **Frank Terzuoli**. Both these SIR members were responsible for organizing the landscape photoshoot outing at the Mt Diablo Rocks Area. Those pictures are displayed in this month's SIRCall. Topics that were discussed at this meeting were:

Discussion of our outing at the DeYoung Museum for Paul McCartney photos – **Moose Kelly**

The Atlantic World Nature Photography Awards – **Moose Kelly**

A video of top 10 tips on taking engaging landscape photography – **Bob Wilkenfeld**

Dos and don'ts of landscape photography – **Frank Terzuoli**

Presentation of landscape photography – All Attendees

SIR 146 Google Site for storage and displaying Photo Discussion – **Miker Rothman**

Update on photoshoot at the Carnaval in San Francisco on May 24 & 25 – **Phil Lee**

Other random photos that the members want to share – All Attendees

April's topic is Bird Photography organized by **Jim Rowland**

The following members of the photography group that attended were **Miker Rothman**, **Larry McAllister**, **Frank Terzuoli**, **Bill Holly**, **Phil Lee**, **Henry Thatcher**, and **Moose Kelly**.

At the April meeting, the photographers will show their top 5- 7 photos of the various bird pictures that they photographed. The group will upload their photos through the Google sight that **Miker Rothman** will create.

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

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

**John (Moose) Kelly**

610.517.0152 [rollingstone91149@gmail.com](mailto:rollingstone91149@gmail.com)

or

**Henry Thatcher**

925.997.5032 [1henrythatcher@gmail.com](mailto:1henrythatcher@gmail.com)



Photo by **Mike Rothman**



Photo by **Mike Rothman**

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Photo by Bob Wilkenfeld



Photo by Moose Kelly



Phot by Frank Terzuoli



Photo by Clint Collier





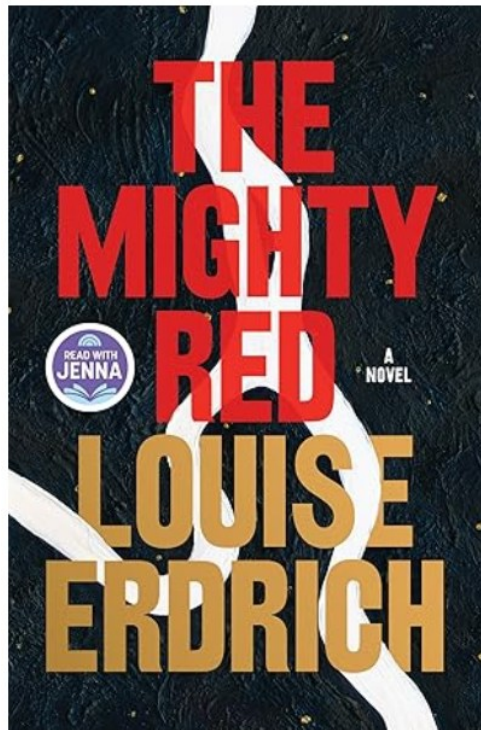
## Book Group Nick Jabuka

*The Mighty Red* by Louise Erdrich vividly describes life and growing up

in a small town in the rural, farming Red River valley of North Dakota. Environmental degradation caused by single-crop farming and the heavy use of pesticides serves as a backdrop for the novel's exploration of human and natural struggles. Teenage love, family relationships, race, and environmental issues are all explored as we get to know the novel's primary characters.

A hard-working mother, Crystal Frechette, worries about her daughter Kismet, who is romantically involved with Gary Geist, the heir to the town's most successful farm. Kismet is a bright student from a financially strained family. Popular but at the same time an outsider. Gary proposes to Kismet, who reluctantly agrees to marry him despite her secret relationship with Hugo, a classmate. Gary is also the town football hero, but he also carries a burden of guilt due to his actions that led to a tragic acci-

dent. Martin Frechette, Crystal's estranged husband and Kismet's father, makes life difficult for his wife and Kismet as he absconds with money from a local church and goes on the run as a bank robber in various disguises.



The primary characters of the book experience unhappiness, infidelities, a hidden accident, and living on the run, hardly the makings of a positive ending. Somehow, the author guides the characters through these difficulties and delivers a happy ending. You will have to read the book to find out how.

### Recommendation

Our group agreed that the author was very adept at creating characters while telling a story about ordinary people doing, for the most part, ordinary things. While not for everyone, the book is a fun read with an interesting ending.

Next month's book is 'Say Nothing' by Patrick Radden Keefe. A story about a murder and abduction taking place in Northern Ireland during the 'Troubles' of the early 1970s.

Nick Jabuka, Chair — Mike Rothman, Editor  
925.639.0384 [njabuka@yahoo.com](mailto:njabuka@yahoo.com)



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## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group will meet in late April at **Richard Hockenbrock's** home for lunch. **Richard's** lunch article will appear in next month's SIR Call. **Corrie Oranje** will host our next month's luncheon on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The photo is from an April River Boat trip on the Mississippi River. Seated from left to right are SIR members **Hallett, Ybarra, West** and **Schmidt** with their spouses.

Steve Ybarra  
[sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)



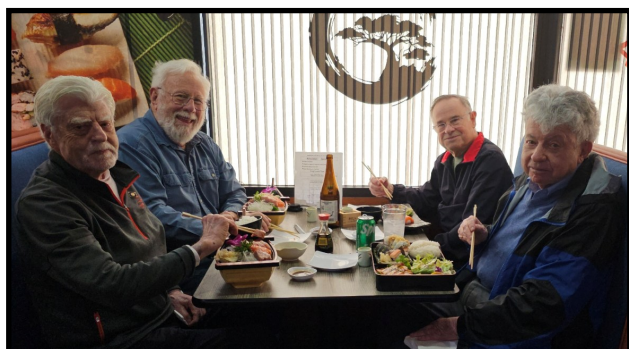
NATURE'S APEX PREDATOR HUNTS  
FOR HIS NEXT MEAL



## 寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi

**Clint Collier**

Our April outing was to Sushi Momoyama in Concord (1800 Monument) on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Set halfway back in a strip mall it proved a challenge to locate but we had one of our smallest gatherings, in number of participants, that we've had. All four of us finally successfully found it eventually and enjoyed various Japanese/shushi dishes. All very tasty and the serving sizes were some of the biggest we've seen. If you are really hungry for Japanese cuisine this is the place for you!



Sushi no Tomodachi meets every other month so there will be no meeting in May but June will be special; we agreed to have at least one additional "partners included" meetings. June will be our first such meeting so get those thinking caps on as to where you and SO would like to go and submit your recommendations.

**Clint Collier**

925.457.1489 [SirClint@the-colliers.org](mailto:SirClint@the-colliers.org)

I'm starting to think I will never be old  
enough to know better..





## Cooking Lunch and Wine Pete Gates

In late March, the members of the Lunch and Wine (LAW) Group met at **Clint Collier's** home for our monthly lunch gathering. Clint prepared his usual delicious meal; this one started with foie gras pâté and Italian baked shrimp appetizers then moved on to Duck Bolognaise over rigatoni served with a tomato, haricots verts and potato salad. A rich chocolate whipped cream accented with Espinheira, a Portuguese Licor de Ginga, for dessert left everyone licking their bowls.

In the meantime, our female companions met at Massimo's in Walnut Creek where they enjoyed the food, wine, and camaraderie. They also learned that if you

order a hamburger at Massimo's, you can't get a dill pickle because Massimo's does not carry them in stock. You will have to try a sweet pickle instead.

In April, we had our semi-annual dinner with spouses and significant others. We chose the Yacht Club in Walnut Creek as our venue and we were able to dine on the outdoor terrace. We placed our reservation in the nick of time. Two days after we made the reservation, the owners announced that they were retiring after 30 years in operation and were closing the restaurant in mid-May. All available slots for dining for the rest of the establishment's operation were immediately grabbed by the restaurant's regulars.

Our next outing will be on May 21. Our monthly host will be **Syd Whalen**. Since Syd is now a retired cook, we will be meeting at a restaurant of **Syd's** choice

**Pete Gates**

925.586.2321 [petegates10@gmail.com](mailto:petegates10@gmail.com)



## Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

The April wine tasting is still a few days away. We have a full house for the tasting with a few members on the wait list. If you are on the list and for some reason cannot make it, please let

me or **Bill Holly** know so that we can include someone from the wait list. We are looking forward to a fun afternoon.

We have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that the July wine tasting is scheduled for July 22nd at **Bob and Wendy Lucido's** home. The bad news is that we do not have a host for the October wine tasting or the January wine tasting. **Bill** and I are asking all those who have been attending the wine

tasting to give some thought to hosting the event in October or January. We adjust the number of attendees based on the comfortability factor of the host.

If you have any questions or want to find out more about hosting, just give me a call. We have to have members be willing to host to continue wine tasting.

RSVP by emailing us at [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com) or calling me at 925.324.2463.

**Brian McCarthy**

925.324.2463 [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com)





## Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Your Dining Out host is pleased to report that the March Dining Out event was every bit as memorable as we had anticipated. We previously visited Luna Restaurant in Concord in January 2024 and arranged to return there again. Chef Habib is always most accommodating and again proposed a menu that was even better than the last time.

Our ongoing challenge for this popular activity is that once we announce the venue, and menu, those who are our regular diners will sign up quickly and the event will be sold out within a day or two. To accommodate new members, we sent the announcement to those who joined SIR in the past year two days before the general announcement. And we did get two of our newbies signed up!

As we noted before, we were able to accommodate those on the waiting list as well as the early responses. After a few late changes due to illness, we wound up with a total of 46 diners. While a good time was had by all, as you can see on the accompanying pictures, the main complaint was that it was just too crowded. We have decided that we must limit the attendance to a figure that will allow us to have some elbow room!

The good news is, of course, that the menu items were without exception wonderful. For the Soup du Jour, Chef Habib had prepared a red pepper dish which was excellent! The Caesar salad was also well received. The entrée items likewise were characteristically a tribute to Habib's culinary expertise.

One of our diners had to bow out because of illness, and the kitchen prepared a to go order which was picked up by the wife and from all reports, enjoyed by the ailing member.

Our next Couples Dining Out event will be in May – likely on Monday or Tuesday, May 19 or 20. We are always anxious to hear of your own culinary experiences, especially those restaurants which can accommodate a group of our size! At our recent event several of you suggested that we consider Casa Orinda again – a venerable historic restaurant which we visited several years ago. Your hosts will be checking this suggestion and any others which come our way. Happy eating!

**Bruce Borgman**  
Dining Out Host  
[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)



**Bruce Kimmis and  
Chef Habib**





# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

Mexican Train Uno was hosted by **Peter and Martha Plante** on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Everyone was in good spirits and ready and able to enjoy in the food festivities, as well as

the actual game itself.

We say the game is both luck and skill and **Richard Hockenbrock** was both lucky and skillful! Out of the ten games that we played, **Richard** went out on seven of them, resulting in a low score average of 10.8, and winning the BIG BUCKS!

Corrie Oranje

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



MTD 1 winners (L to R): **Peter Plante 3rd**, **Virginia Tygart 2nd**, and **Richard Hockenbrock 1st**.

Group Dos 2



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos"

**Ron Plachy**

We played at the home of **Kirk and Nancy McVean** in March. For a welcome change we had a full complement of our regular

players.

Our erstwhile SIRCAll editor, **Clint Collier**, played a masterful game and came in first with a 15.6 average. **Marlene DeLaurenti** followed **Clint** closely and came in second with a 17.4 average. **Loren DeLaurenti** continued his winning ways and came in third with a 22.6 average. Claiming last place (after never even being able to start a train in the first round) was **Ron Plachy** with a 41.5 average!

Our next game is scheduled for Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the home of **John and Nancy Pearl**.

.Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 [rjplachy@icloud.com](mailto:rjplachy@icloud.com)



The older I get, the earlier it gets late!



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We last met on Friday afternoon, March 28<sup>th</sup>. The ole Friday special huffed and puffed its way up into the hills of Rossmoor overlooking the golf course to the cozy home of **Sharon Varner**. Gathered around the table were **Walt and Sue Busenius, Judy Richmond, Sharon Varner, Alicia Baily and Carla and Lew Thompson**. Sharon is always a gracious host. She spoiled us with some irresistible table treats and very delicious half-time faire.

Bringing her A game was **Alicia Baily**, taking home 1st Place and the bragging rights until next time. Both **Lew and Carla Thompson** played well, coming in 2nd and 3rd place respectively, showing off their excellent MTD skills. It was competitive, we chatted a lot and enjoyed the afternoon.

We said our goodbyes, boarded the ole Mexican Train

and followed the horizon home.

Our next meeting will be on Friday afternoon, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at the home of **Judy Richmond**. All Aboard!!

**Walt Busenius**

925.457.7428 [walterbusenius@gmail.com](mailto:walterbusenius@gmail.com)



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On March 21st, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominoes group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 12 players. In attendance this evening were: **Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Kan and Carol Soult, 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. We played at two tables of 6. We paid the player at each table with low table scores, 6 California Scratchers scores.

The tables with the two low score winners were: **Steven Oki and Scott MacDougall**. There were two table high scoring players: **Carol Soult and Henry Thatcher** were awarded one Lotto ticket each. (see in pictures). The El Quattro MTD group will meet in May because of Good Friday and the next meeting will be on May 16th<sup>th</sup>. (Photos by **Jim Pope**)

**Jim Pope**

[jpoppe24@comcast.net](mailto:jpoppe24@comcast.net)







## Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

Janet and Bob Yolland hosted our March 20<sup>th</sup> 2025 gathering. As

always, they were most gracious hosts, welcoming everyone with wine, soft drinks, cheeseboard and various snacks. Sadly, **Anne** and **Jim Burk** plus **Marty Campbell** were unable to join us. We wish **Anne** a speedy recovery after her unfortunate accident.

After enjoying the warm welcome, everyone moved to their respective Ladies or Men's table. After seven games, once again the Ladies provided the winner namely **Joan Pierce** with a score of 54. How do the ladies do this so consistently?

However, the men were not far behind, claiming second and third places – **Bob Yolland** with 65 and **Dave Pierce** 90.

Midway through our games, **Janet Yolland** provided a wonderful Slab cake, strawberries and cream dessert

followed by coffee. The plates were all returned completely clean!! A wonderful, relaxed and enjoyable evening was had by all.

Our next gathering will be hosted by **Judy** and **Jim Baldrige** on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Dennis Hallett

[dennishallett@astound.net](mailto:dennishallett@astound.net)



Two reports for "Cinco" this month. March arrived too late for last months edition.



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

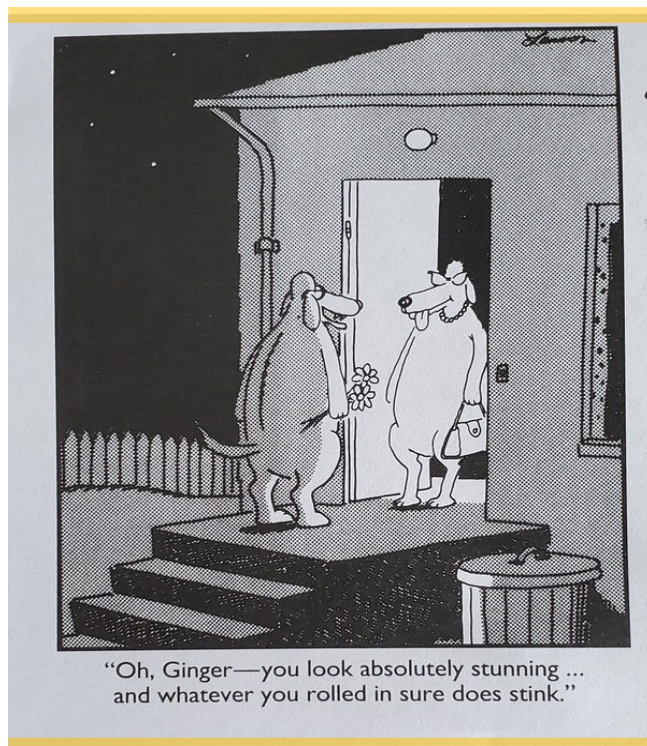
Spring was in the air and hopes were blooming when **Jim** and **Judy**

**Baldrige** so warmly hosted us on April 17<sup>th</sup>. But the men were missing two of their best hopes; the **Halletts** and the **Yollands** were absent due to health issues. Bummer! We certainly missed them. Sure enough, the women took home most of the money. Our hostess **Judy** was first (67) and **Marty Campbell** was third (83). **Dave Pierce** prevented a total shutout (73). The double blank haunted some of the men; for example, **Jim Burk** drew it from the boneyard with only two rounds left in the game. Better luck next time.

Dave Pierce on behalf of Dennis Hallett

Dennis Hallett

[dennishallett@astound.net](mailto:dennishallett@astound.net)





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

**Steve Lane**

In March - MDT-6 gathered at Richard Hockenbrock's home. We missed Peter Plante who was unavailable for action.

Two tables were ready for action - with Richard Hockenbrock, Kathe Mitchell, John Kendrick, Mary Schmidt, Carol Lane, and Brian McCarthy holding down one table, and Steve Lane, Moose Kelly, Martha Plante, Bruce Borgman, Mary McCarthy, and Virginia Tygart holding down the second table.

Kathe Mitchell won it all (15.5) with John Kendrick a close second (15.8) and third Moose Kelly (17.8).

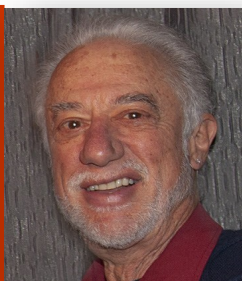
MTD-6's April get together will be at Kathe Mitchell's home on Wednesday the 23<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Steve Lane**

925.984.0341 [thelane3@aol.com](mailto:thelane3@aol.com).



In Canada "Friends with Benefits" means a neighbor with a snow blower.



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

**Bob Lucido**

In March Bob & Jane West hosted our MTD 7 event.

For the second time in history Bob Lucido took first place, Mary McCarthy placed second, and Bob Wilkenfeld came in third.

**Bob Lucido**

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)







## Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

The report for MTD 8 (OCHO) is now back after a three-month hiatus following Richard Hockenbrock's hospital

stay and a lengthy recovery from lung surgery. Kicking things off, were fifteen regular MTD players who came hoping to strike it rich from a \$48 pot. In addition, some of our best players sometimes have a dismal night and we reward the two players with the highest scores with California Lottery Scratcher tickets. The Lottery helps us out in promoting these tickets by showing off \$1,000 winners in their commercials. Keep this to yourself, but the most any MTD 8 player has

made on a scratcher has been a \$1.00. We don't want our new players to know this or else the Scratcher will become the badge of a loser! We are showing pictures of the two losers, (sorry winners), but will not publish their names to give them some modicum of privacy.

Now we turn our attention to the three winners, those with the lowest scores. 1<sup>st</sup> place is **Victoria Polivka**, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, **Bill Holly**, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place **Virginia Tygart**. The March 5<sup>th</sup> event was hosted with food and snacks by **Steve and Jan Ondeck**.

Our next game will be played on the first Wednesday in April, the 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to sign up to be on our substitution list, please send me an email at the following address:

**Richard Hockenbrock**  
925.324.1713 [rlhock@outlook.com](mailto:rlhock@outlook.com)



In 1st place, in the middle, is Victoria Polivka, to her left in 2nd place is Bill Holly, and in 3rd place is Virginia Tygart



Mystery Photo  
The loser's?



Revealed: where the tooth fairy lives!





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

On April 2nd, 14 players gathered at the **Hockenbrock** residence to play Mexican Train Dominoes 8 (OCHO). The

food and half-time snacks were provided by **Bill Holly**. The attendance was lower than normal as we had several of our regular players either traveling, recovering from sickness, or having medical symptoms that they feared passing on to others. The result caused the evening's pot of money to be down, not unlike the stock market of late.

The top three winners for the evening were **Virginia Tygart** in 1<sup>st</sup> place with a score of 11.43, **Susan Terzuoli** in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a score of 12.57, and **Richard Hockenbrock** in third place with a score of 14.57. The pot paid out \$24 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$12 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and \$4 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The two players with the highest scores were **Joyce Wells** (37.0) and **Sue Loftin** (33.6).

Our next game will be played on the first Wednesday in May, the 7<sup>th</sup>. The food and snack host will be **Pete McNeill**. If you would like to sign up to be on our substitution list, please send me an email at the following address:

**Richard Hockenbrock**  
925.324.1713 [rhock@outlook.com](mailto:rhock@outlook.com)



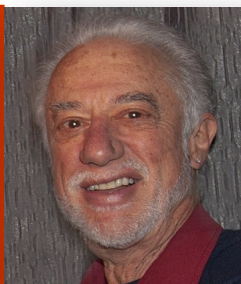
Left to Right 1<sup>st</sup> place, **Virginia Tygart**, in the middle and 2<sup>nd</sup> place is **Susan Terzuoli** and in 3<sup>rd</sup> place is **Richard Hockenbrock**

**Also call me if you have never played  
Mexican Train Dominoes and you  
would like to arrange training!**

My friend said she didn't understand cloning.  
I told her that makes two of us!







## Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

In March there were only six of us but we had a great time as it was easier to talk to each person in a small group. We enjoyed sitting around one round table, listening to music of our younger years, and seeing friends we hadn't seen in a while.

**Bob West** came in first with an average score of 8.4, **Claire Kingsbury** was second with the score of 16.1 and **Jane**

**West** was third with a score of 26.4.

**Bob West** was aided in his score by going out five times.

**Bob Lucido**

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (10) Mark Sorum and Cleo Bolen

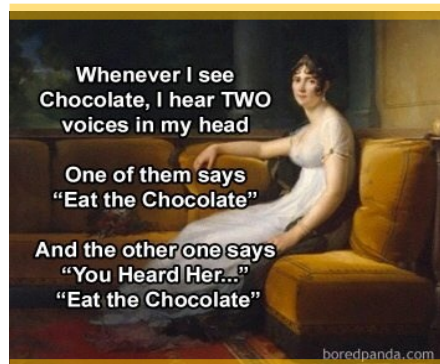
In March, Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (Group 10) was hosted by **Steve and Barbara Petersen** in their beautiful home in Walnut Creek. The March winners were **Ann Bolen, Barbara Petersen** and **Cleo Bolen** with consolation prizes going to **Frank**

**Lucas and Chris Lee.**

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00pm to socialize and have some fun. Our next meeting will be April 18<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Fred McNeil**. 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 and**  
925.577.5153 [markandbarbsorum@gmail.com](mailto:markandbarbsorum@gmail.com)

**Cleo Bolen**  
925.768.7902 [cleo.bolen@comcast.net](mailto:cleo.bolen@comcast.net)



The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets.



# CARD GAMES

## ...we play



### Men's Hearts

#### Bob West and Steve Ybarra

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from March 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

The big winners were **Jim Passaglia** with 4 wins and **Ron Polivka** with 3. **Steve Ybarra** and **Ron Polivka** each had three 2nds. The lowest average scorers were **Jim Passaglia** with 42 and **Ron Polivka** with 49. **Ron Polivka** led all players with 4 STM's.

**YTD:** **Jim Passaglia** has the most wins with 9 followed by **Brian McCarthy**, **Steve Ybarra** and **Frank Lucas** with 6.

**Steve Ybarra**, **Brian McCarthy** and **Jim Passaglia** are tied with the highest winning percentage of active players at 38%.

**Jim Passaglia** leads YTD 2nds with 7.

**Brian McCarthy** is most improved, his 2025 win rate of 38% is 144% higher than in 2024.

Lowest Average Scorer at 49.4 is **Steve Ybarra**.

**Ron Polivka** leads STM's with 4 all in March.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

[robtawest@aol.com](mailto:robtawest@aol.com) and [sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)



### Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

**John** and **Kathy Kluesener** hosted our April 1st event. Nobody fooled anybody! **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean** subbed for **Larry** and **Linda**

**Brown**. It was good to have them play in our group after a long absence. They quickly got back in stride and took the lead after 2 rounds and maintained the lead throughout the remaining rounds.

It was an average night of average hands yielding average scoring. The highlight of the evening was the social interaction and the abundance of delicious snacks, desserts and beverages. We also enjoyed the scenic view complimented with a rainbow for an added touch.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3610 points  
**Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean**
- 2nd PLACE with 2700 point  
**Dick** and **Maggie Chaffee**
- 3rd PLACE with 2170 points  
**Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**

Our next event will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Hope you all have been enjoying our spring weather and Easter celebration.

**Tony and Cindy Greco**

925.934.0395 [almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)

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My wife called to tell me she saw a fox on  
the way to work.

I asked her how she knew it was on its  
way to work.

She hung up on me.

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## Poker Group 4 Mark Sorum

Poker Group #4 gathered at the home of **Bruce Kimmis** for their game which happened to fall on St Patrick's Day. We had a couple of late **scratches** but still fielded 5 wild and crazy players. Those that missed it, missed out on a scrumptious assortment of goodies and snacks including a Cherry/something pie. Wine and other potables were offered.

We played a lot of different games, many of which were "Split-the-pot". As a reminder, you don't ever want to come in second. It gets expensive when you loose with hands of "Four of a kind" and a "Full house". One pot was split four ways due to ties for high and low hands.

Bottom line, we all had our moments and it turned out that the kitty was pretty evenly distributed at the end of the day.

**Pete Gates** will host the April game on the 21<sup>st</sup>

**Mark Sorum**

925.577.5153 [markandbarbsorum@gmail.com](mailto:markandbarbsorum@gmail.com)



## Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

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

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174

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

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8

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

What's the difference between ignorance  
and indifference?

I don't know and I don't care.



## Party Bridge Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

**Dick DeVoe** graciously hosted an unusual game on Monday April 7<sup>th</sup>. Bob Yolland and I were unable to play but no SIR alternate players were available. We all appreciate and thank **Ardith Hinkle** for joining us and playing. It turned out to be a successful day with eleven players and one mobile dummy. The 11 players were: **Ray Bland, Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Ardith Hinkle, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, and Ray Spears.**

The high scorers were **Ray Bland** with 5220 points and **Joe Fuchs** and **Brad Hatcher** tied with 3540 points.

The next game will be at Max Hinkle's home on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please. let us know if you will play.

Co-Directors

[Jim Stedman](#) and [Jim Pope.](#)



## 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](mailto:petamole@gmail.com)

**Stan Johnson**

925.938.7016 [stan.johnson88@gmail.com](mailto:stan.johnson88@gmail.com)



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 event on Friday, April 4 with three tables and 12 players was nicely hosted by **Brad Hatcher**.

**Ed Marlovits** earned 1st Place with 28.0 points, based on his top-3 rankings for both 1st and 2nd half. Congratulations, **Ed**!

**Tony Greco** was 2nd with 27.5 points.

**Bob Yolland** and **Mike Davidson** tied for 3rd with 25.5 points each.

**Bob Yolland/Brad Hatcher** bid, and **Bob** made, 6 No Trump.

Dick DeVoe

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



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

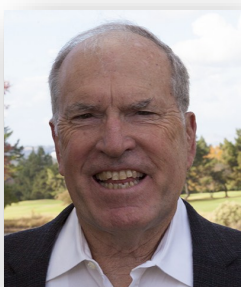
Good friends gathered and were warmly hosted by **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Treats were in abundance. Slams were not.

Ironically, two pairs made six hearts on Board 17 but they only bid two. **Tony and Cindy Greco** bid four on that one, making four for a top. **Joan and Dave Pierce** made six on Board 5 but only bid two. Even game bids were not flourishing. Several went down.

At evening's end, it was almost neck and neck. Only two match-points separated first place and last. In other words, everyone did about average. But the money went to **Brad and Lynne** and **Joan and Dave**, who tied for second (51%), and to **Tony and Cindy**, in first (53%). Maybe the bridge wasn't that exciting, but the comradeship was great.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



## Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Kudos to **Frank Lucas** who quickly volunteered to host after **Steve Ybarra**, who was scheduled to host, became ill.

Thank you, **Frank**!

With **Steve** unable to play, six gathered at **Frank's** home on a delightful spring day. Some did not enjoy the day as **Rich Ahlf** left a bit early when his chip count diminished. **Paul Dubow** had to leave early for an appointment and his stack of chips was also down from the start of the game. **Bruce Kimmis** and **Frank** were about even and **Melo Piccolo** and **Brad Hatcher** were the beneficiaries of the misfortune of others.

We will meet again on the first Thursday of May. Venue is yet to be set.

Brad Hatcher

[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)

Deep Thought of the day.

When you clean out a vacuum cleaner,  
you become a vacuum cleaner.



## 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

