

# SIR CALL

br146sircall@gmail.com

November 2014

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa



## Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

November Luncheon: It's been our custom for many years to honor our members who've served our country in one of the armed service branches; we'll continue this tradition at our

November 13<sup>th</sup> luncheon. Veterans Committee chair, **Charlie Koeber**, has arranged a special program for that day so you'll want to mark your calendar and not miss it. Also featured at the November luncheon will be the installation of our 2015 BEC.

Dues: At the October luncheon and in a subsequent email to members, we announced that the dues schedule for 2015 will remain the same as it is in 2014: \$240 (for the advanced payers which includes dues and payment for the required 10 luncheons,) or \$15 (for the individual luncheon payers which includes dues only).

Clubhouse Renovation: The Walnut Creek City Council has approved a contractor's bid for The Clubhouse renovation. At this writing, the City staff and the contractor are developing the work schedule. We expect to meet with CourseCo later in October to review that schedule and discuss the 2015 contract. We'll provide more details of the specific renovation plans as we get them.

December Luncheon: December 11<sup>th</sup> is our annual Ladies Day Christmas Luncheon. **Steve Dawkins** has arranged for a great meal and **Bill Holly** has lined up appropriate entertainment. Mark your calendar so you won't miss our annual Christmas celebration.

Member Survey: **Brad Hatcher** and his team have sent member satisfaction surveys to about 1/3 of our membership and have begun to review the feedback they've received to date. If you haven't returned your survey, please do so promptly so we can achieve a statistically significant sampling of members. Contact **Brad** for a survey form if you'd like to participate.

Luncheon—November 13<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Veterans Recognition  
Speaker:  
City of Concord Councilman Dan Helix

Gathering time -11:00 am  
Seating time – 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?  
Email: [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com)  
Before noon Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

## SIR Happenings

Newsletter

*SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on link in the SIR 146 webpage to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.*



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Roy Luoma**, having reached his 90th birthday, is honored as a branch 146 Senior Sir and also recognized as a 20 Year Member at the October Luncheon



## Little Sir's Corner

### Bill Holly

In November we traditionally honor our members who have served in the military.

Our Song Sirs will sing their tribute to veterans who have served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and the Merchant

Marine.

This year we will also do a special recognition to those members who served during World War II.

Our guest speaker this month is City of Concord Councilman Dan Helix, Korean War Veteran, Retired Major General US Army, two-time Mayor of the City of Concord and co-chair of the Community Advisory Committee for the Concord Naval Weapons Station Reuse Project.

Dan enlisted in the Army as a private in 1948. In 1951 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and was assigned as a platoon leader in Korea, where he distinguished himself as commander of a rifle company. It was during this time that he earned the majority of his more than 25 medals. Among these are the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with V device for valor, the Army Distinguished Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. Dan retired from the Army as a Major General in 1989 following an impressive career spanning 41 years.

Dan recently completed his second term as mayor of the City of Concord.

He also was mayor and served on the Concord City Council in the late 60's through the mid-70's.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Lynn and Sally Shafer on the left seated next to Jim and Barbara Stedman at the 25 Anniversary Dinner Dance



## Membership

### Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics

At our BEC meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>, we approved four new members and moved two members to inactive status increasing our active membership to 275 (including our six Honorary Life Members).

### New Members added in October



Mike Farrar

Mike Whitaker

Rich Deyoe

Stan Stricherz - No Picture

Member Losses in October - **Bob Donahue** passed away

### Members moved to Inactive

**Bill Becker** and **Kap Kaprielian**



Randall Becker converses with Joe Suta and Steve Dawkins at the October Luncheon.

### SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

**Richard Hockenbrock**

Assistant Editor

**Jeff Baily**

Proofreaders

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

Labeling & Mailing

**Bill Cammerer**

Internet Posting

**Ron Plachy**





## Acoustic Musicians

### Carl Tilchen

*Our Acoustic Musicians group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass musicians where the objective is to enjoy our music. All skill levels are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged to attend. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy. If you have music events to share, please bring the info to the meeting. We meet every month at **Alan Elnick's** home on 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Contact me at [carltilchenmusic391@gmail](mailto:carltilchenmusic391@gmail.com)*

The next meeting of The branch Acoustic Musicians group is Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm . Directions: from 680, work your way to the intersection of South Broadway and Newell Ave, east on Newell Ave to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood Dr., slight left staying on Blackwood Dr., sharp right on Ward Drive. Call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909 if you get lost.

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



Photo by Carl Tilchen

**Carl Tilchen** and **Harvey Oxman** on guitars strumming with **Ed Walker** on fiddle. **Al Elnick** is another 146er in the group who plays the guitar.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

October  
Birthday Boy  
**Roger  
Thornton**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

During the 25th Anniversary, **Dick DeVoe** introduces Sir Charter Members who joined in 1988 and 1989.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Lynn Freeman**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Bill Rees**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Carl Johnson**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Dave Obera**

Police were called to a day care center where a baby was resisting a rest



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Doug Eisner presenting 20 Year Member Award to Bill Cammerer



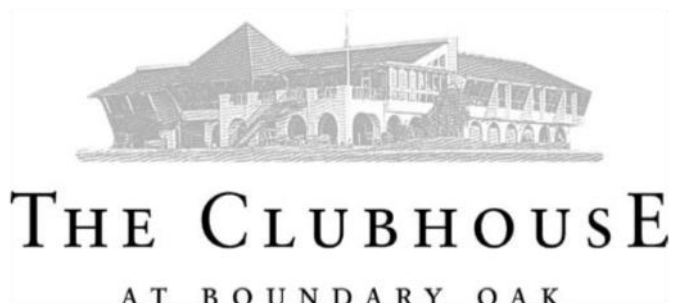
Photo by Bill Schultz

Chairman and organizer of the SIR 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance, Richard Kincaide and his wife Rita



Photo by Bill Schultz

Out on the dance floor, Dick & Christy DeVoe



## SIR 146 Luncheon

November 2014

### Salad

#### Baby Greens & Root Vegetable Salad

Baby Field Greens, Roasted Golden Beets  
Turnips, Citrus Segments  
Champagne Shallot Vinaigrette

### Entrees

#### Holiday Turkey Dinner

Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes  
Sautéed Vegetables  
Turkey Gravy

Or

#### Pan Seared Pacific Dory

Confetti Rice Pilaf  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Roasted Tomato Caper Sauce

### Dessert

Chef's Choice Holiday Dessert



### **Poker Group 1**

#### **Dan O'Sullivan**

We met at the home of **Frank McNamee** on October 8th to the pleasure of **Al Zamolo, Bill Cammerer, John Lewis** and to the displeasure of the host, **Don Del Bene, Doug Cook and Sal Costanza**.

Our next meeting will be at **Dan O'Sullivan's** home on November 12th.

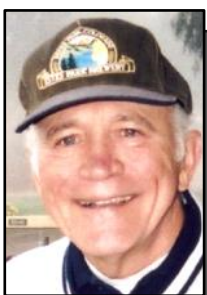




## Old Money Poker Group 6

**Al Twyford**

Our Poker group # 6 met Wednesday October 8<sup>th</sup> at **Bob Larson's** home in Pleasant Hill. There were 5 members present for a relaxing afternoon of poker (that is, if you won some money). **Bob Larson, Al Twyford, John Gray, Harvey Oxman, and Brad Hatcher** were in attendance. Actually I lost \$6.00. The big winner was **Brad**. Everyone else made a couple of bucks or lost some money like me. **Bob** was a great host, with plenty of good red wine and snacks to keep us going. Our next game is scheduled for Wed. Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at **Norm Baietti's** home in Walnut Creek. We heard there is interest in forming a seventh poker group, which will be great. At present we have eight members and one alternate, which seems to work well for our group. 'Till next game in November, everyone have a good October.



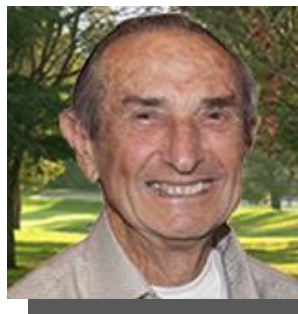
## Poker Club 4

**Chuck Bobinecz**

Our next session, on November 24<sup>th</sup>, will be hosted by Sir **Bob Mehus**. Our host at our last session was Sir **Rich Hanford** who contributed the beer and snacks along with some of his winning from previous sessions.

We are not meeting in December, due to the Christmas holiday but will resume in January with host Sir **Garth Cummings**.

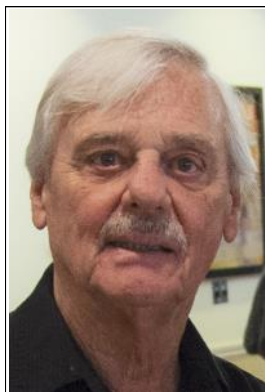
*General Rules: Any time during a betting round, if one player bets and no opponent chooses to "call" (match) the bet and instead "folds", the hand ends immediately, the bettor is awarded the pot, and no cards are required to be shown.*



## Poker Group 2

**Al Zamolo**

**Ken Kratz** hosted our September Poker session. **Jim Stedman** was our big winner. He hardly had room on his chip rack to hold all of his winnings. It was **Jim's** very lucky day. Our next poker session on October 27<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by **Jim Brown**.



## SIR 146 Hiking

**Rich Ahlf**

Our next hike will be to the Black Diamond Mines on Friday, November 14. This will be a 6 mile loop which will include the Rose Hill Cemetery, the old Nortonville Town site and the Black Diamond Trail. It will be a moderate loop hike about 5.5 miles long.

Directions: From Highway 4 in Antioch, take the Summersville Road exit and go South. Stay in the left lane as you approach and pass Buchanan Road. At 1.5 miles, follow Summersville Road as it continues straight, while the main road, now called James Donlon Blvd., bends sharply left. At 2.6 miles from Highway 4, you reach the entrance kiosk, park office, and emergency telephone; continue another 0.9 mile to a large parking area, right, with an overflow area, left. The trailhead is at the south end of the parking area. Those wishing to carpool can meet in the Clayton Library parking lot at about 9:15 am. Spouses always welcome.

Friday November 14, 2014

Hike Starts at 10:00am

Rich Ahlf

Cell 925-550-4967

*A Jewish grandmother is giving directions to her grown grandson who is coming to visit with his wife.*

*"You come to the front door of the apartments. I am in apartment 301. There is a big panel at the front door.*

*With your elbow, push button 301. I will buzz you in.*

*Come inside and the elevator is on the right. Get in, and*

*with your elbow, push 3rd Floor. When you get out, I'm on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell.*

*OK?" "Grandma, that sounds easy, but, why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow? .....*

*"What! You're coming empty handed?"*



## Sunshine Report

**John Pearl**

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

**Howie King**

**Sig Kalteis**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our Sir membership can be advised.

**John Pearl**, Sunshine Chair

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

925-934-6920



## Book Corner

**Ken Richter**

*The Book Corner has been a continued success over the past years because of the willingness of our members to share their books. We anticipate this participation will continue. The Book Corner will be open the following months in*

*the future: January, March, May, July, September and November.*

In January the Book Corner will start its 5th year. After 4 years as Chairman, I will be stepping down and turning the Corner over to **Hank James**. **Hank** has been doing most of the work this last year. If any SIR would like to set up and help, please contact **Hank** at [hankjames@hankjames.com](mailto:hankjames@hankjames.com). I would like to thank **Hank** for his help and all the Sirs for their support of the Book Corner over the *last 4 years*. The Book Corner will be open at the SIR Luncheon in November.



## 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 go to the SIR luncheon.*

*If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesday 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. The lunch most of the time is better than our golf game. [vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)*



## Bocceball

**Martin Lyle**

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

Well, November has arrived and it's time to start our hibernation from Bocceball until next May. We had a good year & look forward to new players joining us. We will notify you of the new schedule in this space in time to mark your calendar.



## Table Pool

**Bill Weinberg**

*We meet every Monday at 11:30 a.m. at Masse's - 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 during the day, at other times, for the same \$5. Just tell them you're 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 our Area 2 are welcome.*







**Doreen Ainscough** and **Dick DeVoe** laughing it up and having fun for the camera at the fall dinner/dance



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Branch 146 Charter Member **Lynn Freeman** was honored at the October Luncheon



## Lunch and Wine

**Bob Spellman**

*The LAW cooking group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest of the group. We gather at 11:00 for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.*

This month's gathering was held at **Jim Meehan's** home and was attended by **Dick Woodman, Vince Rettew, Syd Whalen, Bob Spellman, Frank Rockwell** and **Paul Dubow**. It was a very enjoyable luncheon and the food was outstanding.



Photo by Bill Schultz

**Don Nunn** and new member **Mike Whitaker** at the October Luncheon



Photo by Bill Schultz

The dancing **Mastas, Maggie** and **Paul** at the branch dinner and dance event at Zio Fraedos in Pleasant Hill.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Branch 146 Charter Member **Kap Kaprielian** being honored at the October Luncheon



## Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

The salmon season has wound down but we finished strongly. **Stewart Davis** and **Joe D'Angelo** caught limits on party boats. **Romano Gnusti** traveled to British Columbia and landed a batch of silver salmon while **Steve Paulick** had similar success in Alaska. **Tom Kostik** and **Kent Cremolini** landed both salmon and steelhead on a trip to the Klamath River in northern California. **Pete Gates**, **Tom Boltz** and **Brad Hatcher**, all Branch 146 members, fished the delta with a guide for salmon and came home with an 11 pounder.

Some of us traveled far and wide to seek out fish other than salmon. **Ron Maciak** caught black bass on a trip to Lake Okeechobee in Florida and a three pound trout in Yosemite. In Lake Tahoe, **Chuck Vanoncini** caught limits of kokanee in several outings. **Kent Cremolini** made his annual trek to San Diego for a five day outing in the ocean off the Baja coast and came home with a cooler full of yellowtail and dorado.

We also did well locally, both catching and eating. In the eating department, nearly 50 of us joined the Branch 8 SIRs in the Kitchen group for the annual food orgy at the home of **Ed Benson**. Our catching activities were a bit more diverse, but just as enjoyable. **Harry Sherinian**, **Terry Miller**, and **Carl Moyer** landed some large catfish in San Pablo Reservoir. **Terry** and **Carl** also limited out on rockfish, angling in the ocean, and **Terry** topped off the trip with a 12 pound ling cod. **Mike Corker** caught small stripers in the delta and **Tom Kostik** continued to catch and release black bass there. The only downer concerned sturgeon. **Terry Miller** tried sturgeon fishing twice, once with **Carl Moyer** and once with **Harry Sherinian**, but a never ending wind sent them home early and empty handed.

We have a number of outings scheduled during the winter including delta fishing for black bass, stripers, and sturgeon and lake fishing for trout and catfish. All Branch 146 members are welcome to join us and if you have never fished before or haven't fished in a long time because you were working too hard, we can get you started or re-started. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 20, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway,

Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but most of us get there at 7:30 for breakfast. For further information, call **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Photo by Bill Schultz

**John Lewis**, new member **Mike Whitaker** and **George Zunich** two old work mates from Miramonte High School at the Luncheon



Photo by Bill Schultz

**Steve & Sally Sprague** getting a drink at the 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Everyone enjoying their lunch with Champagne at the 25th Anniversary Luncheon





## GOLF

### Ray Weisz

*Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each*

*player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date.*

*For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, April through October. Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer "away golf". Do you enjoy competing against Sirs from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.*

*Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers receive GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome, too), please let us know by emailing your request to [sir146golf@gmail.com](mailto:sir146golf@gmail.com).*



Photo by Bill Schultz

**Bill Schultz and Steve Sprague** after hitting a shot that would make your hair stand on end - just kidding



## Cooking II

### Bob Yolland

Cooking II had an excellent lunch at **Bill Roberts'** home Monday October 13<sup>th</sup>. With great weather we were able to enjoy our starters and wine outside. **Bill** started us off with taquitos with guacamole dip, plus a tray of salami and cheese. Continuing the theme, our lunch was an excellent taco salad with chile relleno on the side. We finished with a slice of vanilla pudding cake with fresh strawberries. All of our regular members, **Bruce Borgman, Bill Cammerer, Steve Dawkins, Dennis Hallett, Corrie Oranje, Bill Roberts and Bob Yolland**, were there and enjoyed plenty of wine and lively conversation.

Our next lunch will be at **Bob Yolland's** home on November 20<sup>th</sup>.



## Photography Group

### Richard Hockenbrock

We had our first photography field trip to Old Borges Ranch on October 3rd. **Dennis Hallett, Bobbie Schmidt, Ann Hallett, Richard Hockenbrock, Bill Holly and Jeff Baily** all brought their cameras and phones and clicked photos around the ranch. The group photo below shows the difficulty of shooting in a partial shady environment.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am where we will review and evaluate the photos we took at the ranch. (Once again the library had a conflict at our regularly scheduled date). If you are interested in joining the group, email me at [rhock@pacbell.net](mailto:rhock@pacbell.net)







## Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

At our last SIR luncheon we announced the restaurant selected for the November Couples Dining Out event. We will be gathering at La Veranda Café restaurant in Clayton on Monday November 17.

This restaurant prides itself on

combining “a celebration of great food, exquisite wine and a warm ambience” – with food prepared in the Italian tradition. The restaurant has offered a special menu which includes three appetizers (antipasto, fried calamari, and wrapped scampi) and, a choice of two salads and three entrees: NY steak, grilled salmon filet, and chicken saltimbocca, along with coffee and dessert – all for an all inclusive price of only \$38 per person. We originally limited the number of diners to 44, but we reached that number in only two days. So, the restaurant has opened another section for us, and we can now accommodate about 75 diners. As of this writing we are up to 60 – but we encourage you to send in your check if you’ve put off joining this fun SIR event and especially if you have not come before. We will have our cocktails and social time at 5:15pm, with dinner at 6:00pm. The restaurant is located at 6201 Center Street in downtown Clayton. Parking is in the small lot, or on the street. Send in your check made out SIR 146 to Bruce Borgman, 3611 Winchester Pl, WC 94598. You may email Bruce at [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com) for details on the menu, or call 932-3961. Join your fellow SIRs and their dates as we enjoy an evening of conviviality and good food.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Ralph Belluomini & Ray Garavaglia**  
are all smiles as they sit down to lunch

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



The SIR'S original rooster made of wood paid a visit to the Branch 146 25th Anniversary luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Jeff Bailly** seems to be growing cactus ears in this photo taken at Old Borges Ranch on the photography field trip







## Party Bridge

**Fred Bolton**

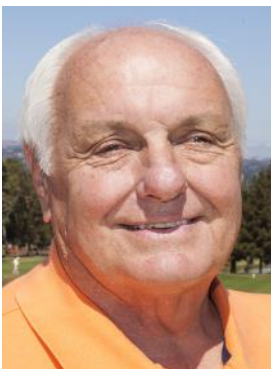
*1st Monday at 10 am at various members' homes. Contact Fred Bolton for details. Bring a lunch.*

After some confusion known only to players, we played three tables of bridge on October 6 at the home of **Lo McCarley**. First place went to **Jim Brown** with

5810 points. second to **Bob Yolland** with 5150 and third to **Jim Jackson** with 4880. Our next game will be on November 3 at the home of **Rich Ahlf**.



**Dick Kincaide** (right) announcing **Jerry Kaplan's** ticket number for the first prize of the drawing at the branch dinner/dance



## Poker Group 5

**Bill Roberts**

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the Sir luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Skip Thomas, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken***

***Richter and Frank Rockwell**. Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 and ends around 8:00 with time out for dinner.*

## Walking Schedule

**John Lewis**

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



November walks by **Martin Lyle**

November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lafayette Trail South/West
	Meet: Lafayette Community Center
	Walk: Follow St. Mary's Rd., South/West to Moraga
	Coffee: Terzetto's - Moraga
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Park South—Oak Park Blvd.
	Meet: Oak Park Shopping Center—Between Putnam & Keats
	Walk: West 3 blocks on Oak Park Blvd. South on CC Canal
	Coffee: Starbucks - Contra Costa Shopping
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Bancroft Parking near Panera Bread
	Meet: Bancroft Parking near Panera Bread
	Walk: West on Contra Costa Canal
	Coffee: Panera Bread - Bancroft Shopping
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	No Walk—Enjoy Thanksgiving



Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love. They depart to teach us about loss. A new dog never replaces an old dog. It merely expands the heart. If you have loved many dogs your heart is very big.



## Travel Opportunities

**Ken Richter**

Dec. 8, 2014:

McHenry Mansion and Duarte Farms Tours. The McHenry Mansion is Modesto's only original Victorian home. The mansion will be decorated in all of its Christmas finery, inside and outside. After the tour of the

Mansion the group will enjoy a hosted family style lunch at Concetta's Restaurant. The group will then visit Duarte Farms to view its amazing holiday poinsettias. Return to Walnut Creek about 4:30 pm. The cost is \$64. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France.

River Journey From Normandy to Provence. A 22 day river cruise aboard the Deluxe ms River Venture and the ms River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting the D-Day beaches of Normandy, Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers. Prices range from \$6,499 to \$8,299, which include airfare, 22 nights' accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handling overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and post trips are available. **Contact Ken Richter** Br 146 (925) 698-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net)

Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of

Normandy. A Seine River Cruise. A 12 day cruise aboard the Deluxe ms River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$6,199 which include 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net)

Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French Waterways:

Highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence. A 12 day river cruise on the ms River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions. The prices range from \$3,999 to \$6,649. Trip includes 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net)



## Activities Coordinator

**Jerry Kaplan**

**Mal Hendry** has now become the emeritus of the ROMEO group (Retired Old Men Dining Out) that he so ably led for the last several years. The group has enjoyed the monthly social

outlet and camaraderie of fellow Sirs at many of the area's fine restaurants. Branch 146 is hoping that someone will volunteer to lead the group for the next year or so; they can either follow the same format or adjust it to meet the members' expectations-perhaps meet every other month instead of monthly, select a different day of the week and/or time to get together, etc. - We don't want to see this popular activity go into hibernation. Please contact me if you would like to become the food crew scout for the ROMEO activity or just want to know more about what the scout would do. I will be happy to help organize and launch the new group.

I have the names of four or five members who are interested in forming a new poker group. While we already have six different poker groups going, obviously more Sirs have money to burn! More power to them! Please call or write to me if you also are interested in playing poker with some fellow Sirs.

There is also interest from several Sirs in establishing a Branch 146 Book Club activity. Those joining would select a book to read, establish a time frame for a future get together - either at someone's home, or possibly reserve a room at a library or some convenient location and discuss the book and share each other's possible questions and thoughts about the book. If interested, I will assist in getting the activity underway. Best to contact me via e-mail at [mtdana@aol.com](mailto:mtdana@aol.com) or you can call at (925) 930-7076.







## Couples Party Bridge

**Dave Pierce**

Our Couples Party Bridge was hosted by **John** and **Linda Boyan** on October 7<sup>th</sup>, in the midst of the 4th Giants game against the Washington Nationals. If **Linda** hadn't cheered them on throughout our event ("Where's **Linda**?"), the Giants would have returned to the National's ballpark!

**Terry** and **Sharon Marchione** hit enough home runs to lead the tourney essentially from start to finish, making it look easy with a modest 3720 points and little competition at the end. **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** found a way to stop their errors in the final innings and took 2<sup>nd</sup> with a bases-loaded effort and 3100 pts. **Doug** and **Patti Eisner** were vying for 1<sup>st</sup> into the last two innings but had to settle for 3rd with 2770 pts. The evening turned up winners for everyone when the Giants squeezed out their own exciting win.

## Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will not have a meeting in November. Our next meeting will be our annual planning meeting, which will be on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord.

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

**David Sutton** (Br-8) 925- 686-0158

**Leary Wong** (Br-8) 925-457-0807



## Couples Duplicate Bridge

**Lo McCarley**

**Margot Somerville**

hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed **Margot's** snacks and wines. The group thanked **George Zurich** and **Susi Cherry** for scoring. As for the

bridge results, **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** took first place with 41 points. **Carl** and **Anne Johnson** with 37 points came in second. In third place, a tie, with 35 points were **Lo** and **Sue McCarley** and **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman**. **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** will host the next bridge on November 19<sup>th</sup>.



## Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

**Doug Eisner**

We played 3 tables of duplicate bridge at **Terry Marchione's** home on Oct 20. **Terry** and **Max Hinkle** jumped out to an equally fast start with 16 pts in the AM session, easily outdistancing **Dave Pierce's** 13 pts. However,

in the PM session **Terry** was able to hold **Max** off by 1 pt, scoring 27 pts to **Max's** 26 pts. **Fred Bolton** separated himself from the also-rans in the PM and pulled into 3rd place with 26.5 pts. Our next game will be on Nov 17 at **Lo McCarley's** house.

A Wise Italian Grandfather

*An old Italian man in Brooklyn is dying. He calls his grandson to his bedside, "Guido, I wan' you lissina me. I wan' you to take-a my chrome plated .38 revolver so you will always remember me." "But grandpa, I really don't like guns. How about you leave me your Rolex watch instead?" "You lissina me, boy! Somma day you gonna be runna da business, you gonna have a beautiful wife, lotsa money, a big-a home and maybe a couple of bambinos. " "Somma day you gonna come-a home and maybe finda you wife inna bed with another man. "Whatta you gonna do then? Pointa to you watch and say, 'Times up!' "?*

## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

**Jim Adams / Dick DeVoe**

The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 group was hosted by **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** on October 14<sup>th</sup>. **Terry & Sharon Marchione** took 1<sup>st</sup> place with 24 pts., but wait- there's more. They also took

2nd the month before and placed 1st in Couples Party Bridge 2 last week! What's going on here? **Dave & Joan Pierce** were 2nd with 22.5 pts., and **Ken & Elaine Richter** were close behind with 21.5 pts.

Because **Dick & Christy DeVoe** were above the average of 20 pts. (20.5), they are also noted for 4th place.

The top 3 places were consistently at the top range in their scoring for both 1st and 2nd half boards, as opposed to the 4th placers who scored highest in the 1st half and then clearly lost their mojo.

The non-placers couldn't care less - the irresistible chocolate wafers made their evening!





## Luncheon Attendance

**Baha Zarah**

The Branch 146 monthly luncheon was held as usual on the 2nd Thursday of October at the usual venue of the Boundary Oak Golf Club. About 205 attendees were present for this occasion that was special-celebrating the branch's 25th anniversary. Special visitors included **Bobbie Hairston**, State SIR President-Elect and **Robbie Robinson**, SIR Area 2 Governor. Attendees enjoyed special meals of Surf and Turf or Mahi Mahi at the same price of \$25 with some subsidy by the branch, There was a special presentation showing in 5 year intervals, the members who joined in each interval and narrated by past Big Sirs of the Branch. The next luncheon will be held on Nov 13th at the same venue. Please page 4 for the menu and the Little Sir's Corner on page 2 for the luncheon speaker. If you are not attending, please notify the luncheon chairman by the deadline of noon Friday Nov. 7th. Notification should be made to [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com) or at [925 207 4344](tel:9252074344). The deadline will be strictly enforced and late notifiers will still be liable for the cost of the lunch.



Photo by Bill Schultz

SongSirs tuning up prior to the 25th Anniversary luncheon



## Mexican Train Dominoes

**Jerry Kaplan**

The Mexican Train (dominoes) rolls on! The October game night was hosted by **Richard** and **Sherry Hockenbrock** at their beautiful home in Walnut Creek and was held on Friday night, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The evening's big winner was Sir **Frank Ascagnio's** wife, **Marie**, who was able to finish first - with no dominoes left in her hand - on three of the six games played at her table. In second place was Sir **Rob Melrose's** wife, **Carmen**, and Sir **Martin Lyle's** wife, **Ruth**, finished in third place. The women swept the winnings this month! A total of 18 people played that night at three tables.

The game is proving quite popular and a new group with another 16 to 18 players is getting established. Any other Sirs (couples or singles) interested in learning more about the game should contact **Jerry**. If enough folks are interested in starting a third group, **Jerry** will help get it started. [mtdana@aol.com](mailto:mtdana@aol.com)



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Several Sirs and their wives or significant others enjoying conversation and a light snack while taking a break midway through game night.

----- Monterey Mashers SAVE THE DATES -----

Save Sunday March 22nd thru Tuesday March 24th for the 2015 edition of the  
MONTEREY MASHERS GOLF TOURNAMENT  
in Monterey, California.

Included are three nights lodging, breakfasts, two in-house cocktail parties and a round of golf at  
PACIFIC GROVE MUNI & LAGUNA SECA GC plus an awards banquet on Tuesday evening.

There is also a non-golfer's program.

Questions? – Contact any committee member .... **Lew Thompson, Chuck Eichten, Dick Richmond, Corrie Oranje and Dennis Hallett**

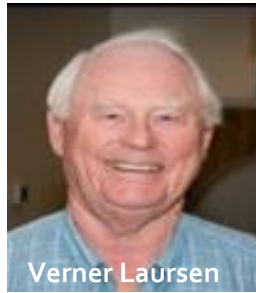


# Area Two Events

## Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

The Mac Users meet the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 AM. We finish by noon. Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac. This month we will learn how to update to IOS 8 and the future system software to Yosemite. We would like the PC users to realize that the cost of these updates is free.

If you have or may have an interest please contact me and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from me, from time to time and I will let you know of items that are of interest Mac users.

In our November meeting we will be looking at the changes in the updates of the Yosemite and IOS 8 operating systems.

## Computers and Technology Group



Derek Southern

PC's



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computers and Technology Group advises all members and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

**Chuck Joyce**, a Branch 8 member has volunteered to give us a presentation about editing video. He provides the following information:

I spent my 45 year career editing video for local and network television. I worked for KRON-TV for 3/4 of my career and the last 7 years at KGO-TV. I started out editing film for newscasts; progressed with the technology to video tape and then to non-linear (computer editing). Because of these advances in technology, anyone can edit network quality television programming on their home computer. I did.

I will play a brief montage of easy projects I have edited over the years on my home computer. These are basic projects for the beginner. All they need is an editing application (many are free) for PC or MAC; a digital camera or cell phone with camera; and an application to burn DVDs. Voila!

If there is time following the presentation, there will be a Q&A with the gurus, and possibly an informal "Sharing Tips & Tricks" segment where individuals will be asked to share some of their computer, smartphone, tablet, etc. tips with the group.

*Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. Some months we ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies, other months are free.*

Photo by Jeff Bailly



Couples Golf players, **Lew and Carla Thompson** and **Maggie and Paul Masta** at Deer Ridge Golf Course on October 22nd

# SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.  
br146sircall@gmail.com

Photo by Bill Schultz



Bill & Alice Schultz , Christy & Dick DeVoe and Sally & Steve Sprague at the 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance.