It was great to see everyone at our January luncheon. We had two hundred -ninety (290) attendees that included fifteen first time guests and visitors. Incidentally, our all time record was three hundred- twenty (320) at the 50th anniversary celebration luncheon in March 2015. We all work hard to make our organization a fun group of guys with interesting speakers, fifty-three activities, and renewing friendships. Let’s keep it up!

As we start a new year, we have lofty goals for growth. With your help, we aim for 77 hundred- ninety (925) new members this year. Our attrition rate is about 11% every year. One of the reasons our membership continues to grow are programs like “I’ve Done My Part” which identifies members that are bringing guests to our luncheons. We have identified these super salesmen with a special orange name tags. Also at our last BEC meeting, our twelve director and officers went on record to each bring one (or more) new members this year.

Mike Long, BIG SIR

When is the last time you had to think about the living alternatives associated with aging? You might have faced the issue when your parents needed to make a decision and/or it might be front and center in your mind right now for yourself and your spouse. I know that my wife Melody and I see it as a fact of life that is rapidly approaching.

It’s very complex. Stay in your home? Remodel to make it senior safe? Bring in outside assistance? Downsize into a smaller, single level home? Move to a senior living facility? What kind of help can I get thinking through this complex subject? You’ll have the opportunity to hear from a widely known local expert at our February lunch.

Our February speaker is Debbie Toth, President & CEO of Choice in Aging, a non-profit organization located in Pleasant Hill. Choice in Aging (previously known as Rehabilitation Services of Northern California) provides a program of wide-ranging services to Contra Costa’s senior population. One of their programs is the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), which provides nursing and complex case management to people desiring to remain living on their own homes. Debbie’s talk will address living in place issues/solutions and the alternatives. (Continued on Page 2)

HOTLINE Index © = Spouses/Friends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Page #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Branch Business</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographies</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Positions</td>
<td>20-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Report</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Crafts &amp; Hobbies</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bargain Bites ©</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birders ©</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthdays</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocce ball (All) ©</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Exchange</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Group</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling ©</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge (All)</td>
<td>7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Enthusiasts</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers and Tech ©</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cribbage</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Photography</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dine In (All) ©</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dine Out (All) ©</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dine Out Single SIRs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominoes (All)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore &amp; Eat ©</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf (All)</td>
<td>11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heads Up Walkers ©</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hikers ©</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheon Menu</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Report</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican Train Dominoes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model Railroading</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIXER ©</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Gallery</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICKLEBALL</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poker</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Center Activities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIRS at the Games</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIRS in the Kitchen</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIRS at the Opera</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sums In Retirement</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Report</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling SIRS ©</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine Articles (All)</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing your Life Story</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

February HOTLINE Editor: Jim Ripley
Next SIR Luncheon: February 13
Concord Hilton
1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord

Greeters: Ron Brown & Randy Nelson
Executive Meeting: 9:00am
Social Hour begins: 10:15am
Luncheon starts: 11:30am

Absences & Bringing Guests
925-901-4826 or SIRBR8ATTENDANCE@OUTLOOK.COM
New email address.
By Noon, Thursday before the Luncheon.
THE LITTLE SIR SEZ - CONTINUED

She is a featured speaker at State conferences and Senior Rally’s. Debbi is known for de-mystifying the navigation of the many issues and options facing our senior population. She plays an integral role within the Contra Costa seniors community. These include an active role on the Paratransit Coordinating Council for 12 years and being an appointed member of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee. She also serves on the East Bay Leadership Council’s Board and is Co-Chair of their Health Task Force. She has served in leadership roles in many state associations over the years.

Get ready for a timely, interesting speaker….and bring a guest!

Phil Trapp, Little Sir

RAMP

Recruitment, Activities, Member relations, Publicity.
RAMP is a collection of programs and services that together support the building of a successful branch.

RECRUITMENT

Good Start Guys!
OK, at our January luncheon we had 12 first time guests that hit my cellar for an equal number of bottles of wine. But hey, I don’t mind; it’s all for a great cause. And, that cause is keeping our Branch healthy with a continuing influx of new members.

We also had four members join the 2017 I've Done My Part Club. They are Tony de Losada with a genuine two bagger; Ed Cohn, Bob Stein and Chris Tang had one each. Good work Sirs. Remember we are off and running with a new sweepstakes prize – a $75 gift order to the restaurant of your partner's choice or a case of wine. Who's going to take it?

Ed Benson, Recruiting Chairman

ACTIVITY REPORT

One of our shared objectives is to create and maintain branch activities that are fresh and interesting to our members. With that in mind, we will continue to develop and try new activities. Most activities will gain a loyal group of participants, and some will not.

In January, we closed down Darts & Pool as a branch activity. My thanks to Bill Cooke and Al Welch for creating and promoting this activity. Though Darts & Pool could not be sustained, that is OK. We should and will continue to introduce and build new activities. Unfortunately, not all of them will be hugely successful for the long run.

As Activity Chairmen and Members, I ask you to think about our activities. Do you have an idea for a new activity? Do you have ideas for improving any of our current activities? What feedback do you have for our Activity Chairman to keep activities fun and rewarding?

As we move forward in 2017, please give thought to those questions. Your ideas and contributions are needed to make our activities the best that they can be.

I encourage you to engage both mentally and physically with our activities. I look forward to hearing about your good ideas to make them even better. In 2017, let's enjoy our current branch activities, and make some new ones along the way.

Activity Coordinator Committee Chair: Steve Schramm,

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

GET HELP WITH TAX PREPARATION

Do you need help preparing your taxes? This sponsored program offers free tax preparation by IRS-certified tax counselors. While Tax-Aide doesn't specify an income limit, the service targets low- and moderate-income taxpayers, with special attention for those 60 and older. Starting January 9, call one of these numbers to make an appointment. Appointments begin the first week of February.*

- Walnut Creek Senior Club: 925-943-5851
- Grace Presbyterian Church: 925-405-6278
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church: 925-979-5013
- General info and other locations: 925-726-3199

Bring all your forms!

* provided by the Walnut Creek Seniors Club Newsletter,
Concord Senior Center:

Playland Not-At-The-Beach / Alvarado Museum / Blume House Spend the day in San Pablo. Visit Playland-Not-at-the-Beach a temperature-controlled 9000-square foot building chock-full of amazing things to see and do. There are 30+ pinball machines set on Free Play, arcade games, videogames, carnival games of skills where you can win prizes. Visit Alvarado Adobe Museum the former home of Juan Alvarado, the governor of Mexican Alta California. Next door is the Blume House, built in 1905. It is a great example of agricultural era living in the Bay Area. Great for all ages.
Lunch included. No refunds of cancellations after February 24.
Age: 12+ Concord Senior Center-Bus Mar 26 Su 9 a.m.–4 p.m. $50 #102437

Pleasant Hill Senior Center:

VALENTINES DANCE

Thursday, Feb. 9, Noon, Chateau Room Sing, tap your toes and dance the afternoon away with friends or your special valentine. Lunch and live music from the Paul Fontes Band.
Dance partner not required! -Tickets: $15 presale or $20 day of

VAGABOND PLAYERS PRESENT “BORN YESTERDAY”

Friday, Feb. 24, 1:30 pm, Chateau Room LIVE, Rich, powerful, crooked, hot-tempered junk tycoon Harry Brock comes to Washington to throw his financial weight around. He brings with him his under-educated, daffy ex-showgirl. Brash and over the top, she gets an extreme make-over when political reporter, Paul Verrall, is hired by her boyfriend to teach her proper etiquette, and gets more than a history lesson she learns what Harry is and what he wants.

-Tickets: $10 presale, $15 day of!
MEMBERS RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Our first of the year 2017, quarterly meeting has not yet occurred as of this writing. MRC actions of recommendation will be discussed in the March issue of Branch 8 Online and Hotline.

One of the agenda subjects is item # three, in the MRC Chairman’s Job Description: “Ensure new members are effectively integrated into the Branch by ensuring new member orientation and MRC goals and actions are integrated, and contacting new and newer members periodically, to solicit program improvement suggestions, provide guidance in joining activities, and assess and develop new Branch leaders.”

Meaning, amongst additional points: Listen to, and act upon what the membership is saying as best you can. This, the MRC does, keeping in mind, MRC only advises the Big Sir and BEC.

As I mentioned in my January Website/Hotline article: Please feel free to contact any member of MRC, about your suggestions or ideas & critiques; at any time! MRC will listen consider, and respond, it is what we are tasked to do and why we are here!

Please see any member of MRC, with your suggestions or critiques, at any time. MRC will respond, that is why we are here!

PUBLICITY

The Sir Committee Outreach Committee, a sub-committee of Publicity and Image, has been asked by two of the Oakmont Senior Living Facilities to make presentations to their membership.

Their combined membership total is 281 residents between the two. The first presentation about SIR Branch 8, will be, held at Oakmont Concord, 1401 Civic Court, just behind the Hilton, off Water World Drive. late February. Date (tbd)

Second presentation, will be: Oakmont Montecito 4756 Clayton Rd, Concord, CA 94521 late March date (tbd) Once the speaking dates are known and announced, you might want to let your friends and neighbors know about it, they may drop by and listen to the benefit of SIR Branch 8 membership, let us speak for you!

Our talented SCOC Speaker members for 2017 are: Richard Brooks, Richard Cheney, Al Fahrenkrog, Tom Mohrman, Darryl Sweetland.

SIR personal branded Chrome Faced License Plate Frames, 4-hole, on sturdy plastic frames to cover your CA. issued car license plates, would be available upon BEC approval, at the lobby Logo Apparel table, manned by Ron Maciak. most likely at March’s luncheon meeting.

Pricing to be determined, however, should be less than $6.00 each. If you have interest, let me know. Think about it now, I feel this will be a hot item! I want two, for front and back! Best regards,

Tony de Losada, Publicity and Image Chair

ACTIVITIES AT OTHER BRANCHES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Philip Magen</th>
<th>256-6548</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Lunch</td>
<td>2nd/4th Tu</td>
<td>Mitt Greenstein</td>
<td>376-5589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical ©</td>
<td>Call</td>
<td>Rich Sjoberg</td>
<td>254-1661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamps</td>
<td>Call</td>
<td>Rich Sjoberg</td>
<td>254-1661</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for the January Luncheon

Active Members:
- Membership Prior to Luncheon: 340
- Members Inducted: 5
- Excused Absences: - 61
- Unexcused Absences: - 9
- Members Attending: 275

Others:
- Inactive: 1
- Visitors - Guests - Speakers: 14
- Others Attending: 15

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 290

Guest
- John Ahlquist: Bill Barnard
- Eric Benson: Jack Bybee
- David Bilyeu: Ed Benson
- Martin Birnie: Bill Cooke
- Mike Cox: Darryl Sweetland
- Dale Crabtree: Larry McEwen
- Tom DiGrande: Bud Grisanti
- Larry Magas: Arnie Knipp
- Tom Pinckard: Burt Baker
- Bob Satcher: Stan Orlik
- Jim Walters: Bob Sherman
- Klaus Willeke: Alan Curtis
- Carroll Wine: John Brooks

Speaker
- David Gilbert

Bill Peterson, Attendance Secretary

COMMENT CARD CORNER

There were 11 cards turned in by two guests, eight members and one un-identified attendee. Four members were “Impressed”, one guest, one member, and the un-identified attendee were “Pleasingly Surprised”, one guest was “Satisfied”, two members were “A bit annoyed”, and one member gave no attitude.
Food was the main topic with 13 comments about the meal. Food was good to astounding. Sonoma salad was tasty and appetizing. Salisbury steak was like Mom cooked, with another one loving it. Dessert was “low calorie” delicious, but one thought it had too much frosting. One wanted a half pound hamburger instead of Salisbury Steak, and one wanted less chicken in future meals. A member suggested the waiters pass around the meals paid for but not eaten. Two said the speaker was excellent and interesting.

Branch 8 is a great place to meet new folks. We did a fine job on the January luncheon. Be sure to remember the Pledge (of Allegiance).

The introduction of a new speaker was a great way to start off the New Year. It is impressive that we are constantly innovating new activities. One of the guests had a wonderful time and would like to return.

The most interesting comment was from someone who sat at a table with an “old guy” wearing a hat. It was very rude and his etiquette has not caught up with his age.

.SinSIRly, Jim Sowell

E-MAIL FOR ABSENCES & TO CONFIRM GUESTS

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
There is a new email address for luncheon absences and bringing guests. sirbr8attendance@outlook.com
It can be used immediately so update your email address book now. The same policy applies that you will get an email ‘reply’ confirming your message was received.

The old email address will continue to work until June 2017 in case you forget to change right away, but messages sent to it after that will no longer be accepted.

The absence/guest telephone number, 925-901-4826 has not changed and remains an alternative to sending an email.

Emails sent to the above address for excused absences will be confirmed with a ‘Reply’ it was received. Messages sent to personal email accounts will not be answered.

If a ‘Reply’ confirming receipt of the email is not received, it is the member’s responsibility to follow up and ensure it was sent to the correct address. Either resend the email or call the attendance number at 925-901-4826 by Thursday noon prior to the meeting.

Please note: calls to the telephone number will not be automatically returned since the greeting message confirms the correct number was reached.

Please bring a guest, but if you want to be sure your guest has a place to sit and gets a meal, you need to do the following:

Call the Attendance Secretary, Bill Peterson, on the attendance hotline: 925-901-4826 or by e-mail sirbr8attendance@outlook.com on Thursday before the meeting, then Bill can adjust his count for the caterer.

Bill Peterson, Attendance Secretary

FREE LUNCH DRAWING FOR BRINGING GUESTS
As an incentive to bring in new candidates for membership, a drawing for a free lunch will be held in January and in July for members who bring guests to meetings during the previous six months.

For each new guest sponsored during the six month period, a member will have an entry in the drawing. Bring one new guest, have one chance. Bring 3 new guests, have 3 chances! And for your efforts, you do not have to be present to win.

Al Reichard was the January winner of a free.

LEGAL NOTICE
This notice is available in the Roster and on the web site.

NEW ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL
If you change any of the above, please notify Bob Barnes. If you need a new member’s email address (or phone number), you can also contact Bob Barnes at (925) 348-6443 or send him an email.

LUNCHEON MENU
House Salad
Chicken Parmesan
Wild Rice
Seasonable Vegetables
Carrot Cake
Coffee/Ice Tea

NEED A RIDE?
Those Sirs who do not have transportation and would like a ride to the monthly luncheon are invited to call: Scott Graff 925-552-6097, scottkgraff@gmail.com

RED DOT BADGES
They belong to our new members; don’t forget to say “Hi” and introduce yourself. So let’s make them feel at home and let them feel they can talk about your SIR activities and ask them to join you.

STATE SIR HAPPENINGS
A complete archive is now on the State website at http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/pastissues.html.

Don McGregor, Editor, Sir Happening

SUNSHINE REPORT
Since the January Hotline Report the Committee has extended wishes for a rapid recovery to Zip Zaro, Harry Hubinger, Al Makely, Tom Click, and Ron Dahlquist. The Committee extended condolences to the Robert Cramer and Bon Wadors family.

Sunshine Committee: br8sunshine@yahoo.com
Terry Norton 925-798-6023
Larry Mersmann 925-935-9124

HOTLINE INPUT AND WEB EDITORS
IMPORTANT – SINGLE HOTLINE EMAIL ADDRESS: Hotline@sirinc3.org.

Send your articles and photos BEFORE the 20th of the month. Include meeting information and dates for the following month to keep your group properly informed about meetings, deadlines and upcoming events. Late reports may not be included in the Hotline.

Hotline Editors (Hotline Coordinator *)
* Dan Weller  dweller@astound.net
Barry Brown  barry@bkbrown.net
Chuck Joyce  joycc003@gmail.com
Jim Ripley  jimrip99@aol.com

Website Editor, Webmaster, and Activities Page
Derek Southern  derek.southern@gmail.com
Asst. Website Editor  wkhbill@pacbell.net

Please be brief, we will attempt to keep the articles worded as you wish them to be presented. Please place the Chairman and other contact information at the bottom. While formatting and type style is left to the discretion of the Hotline Editors, we will try to preserve your format “bolds” and underline. Please avoid complex boxes and having the whole article in “bold” or ALL UPPER-CASE LETTERS. For sending text, a word document or just typing into the Email message works just fine. Please avoid copying and pasting text from websites as this can require retyping before it can be used.

To be sure your article is not missed, please put “hotline” “activity” and “month” into the Subject of your submittal Email Example: Hotline Activity - Poker for October.

We, your Editors and Webmasters, are here to serve you, and we need your very important input. For the Website, send input anytime, but expect some possible delay before input is added.

TREASURERS REPORT
Treasurer Report December 2016

Receipts
Monthly luncheon  $11362.50
Missed luncheon  175.00
Interest  .17

Total receipts  11,357.67

Disbursements
Printing & supplies  377.79
State Assessment  430.00
Other  14.00
Monthly luncheon  10,210.56

Total disbursements  11,032.35

Net gain  502.32
Cash, beginning  9668.93
Cash, ending  10,174.25

Ron, Cassano, Treasurer

ARTS, CRAFTS & HOBBIES
The January luncheon was an opportunity of a lifetime.

Did you see them? Were you there? I hope you didn't miss my collection of mostly small carved, chiseled or otherwise made animals from countries around the world, including Vietnam, China, Tibet, Tanzania, Indonesia, Thailand, Norway, Spain, Morocco, Italy, Mexico, Costa Rica, US, Nepal, Peru, New Zealand, Australia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Belize and many more. They were made from marble, jade, silver, onyx, mahogany, cedar, pine, paper mache, alpaca, clay, myrtle wood, iron wood, florentine, mosaic and more.

We hope to be back in March but we need help!!

I know there are at least 100 of you out there who have a special talent or an interesting hobby or you collect things. Don't be bashful! Share it with us. We all would really like to see your special art work, carving, sculpture, wood turning, fishing lures, match book covers, travel memorabilia, photographs, silver spoons (even the one you were born with in your mouth), baseballs, golf balls, or moth balls. Or maybe you do taxidermy, collect coins, make beer, build toothpick castles, make train cars, fly drones, have a model plane collection or something really unusual that we don't know about.

All of us old guys like to see stuff and we appreciate people who collect or have a hidden talent or special skill. SHARE it with us. I'll even buy you a glass of wine and it makes the meeting more interesting.

If you have a hobby, special interest collection, art of any form or a special skill, please consider sharing it with your fellow SIR. All it takes is an hour before our monthly meeting and we'll help you get things set up and taken down. In the process you may find a new friend who has your same interest and of course your fellow SIR will appreciate your time and effort. Give me a call or send an e-mail.. Thanks in advance.

Ron Smith, Chairman  resmith62@aol.com  925-314-3066
Al Steunenberg, Co-Chairman  als2nnbrg@comcast.net  820-2758

ASTRONOMY
In January we reviewed the various telescopes currently in use and also in the planning stages. Now it is time to travel in space. Join us at our next meeting when we will see a DVD entitled “Space Travel”. The meeting will be held on Monday, February 13 immediately after our lunch at the Hilton..

Larry Lange, Chairman  254-6281 rtllange@pacbell.net
Leary Wong, Asst. Chair 930-7024 kinglear3@aol.com

INDEX
BARGAIN BITES

When you read this our first event for 2017 will be history. Fifty-one SIR and spouses/partners met at El Tapatio Restaurant and Cantina in Pleasant Hill on Tuesday, January 24 for a great Mexican feast. We had a wonderful selection of tacos, enchiladas, chile rellenos, chimichangas and tamales plus chips and salsa, and salad. To top it all off we had flan for dessert.

Our next outing will be on Tuesday, February 28 at Savanh Thai Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. We are returning for a two year anniversary celebration of our first visit in early 2015. And it will be the same great family style menu that includes appetizer, soup, three of their most popular Thai dishes, brown and white rice plus ice cream for dessert. All for $17.50PP tax/tip incl. Watch for the flyers and signup early as the place is small and the food is excellent.

If you would like to be placed on the Bargain Bites e-mail list, just send a note to resmith62@aol.com and say “Place me on the Bargain Bites List”. Oh yes, include your name. You will receive personal e-mails in advance of the Hotline. Again, thanks for your interest and wonderful support. It makes the effort worthwhile.

Chairman Ron Smith 314-3066 resmith62@aol.com
Asst. Chairman Ron Maciak 357-8005 rammedical@sbcglobal.net

BIRDERs

On Monday Feb 20, the birders will be going to the Grizzly Island Refuge (Fairfield area) in search of the short - eared owl. The 84,000 acre Suisun Marsh has been known to host 200 bird species & Tule Elk. Car poolers will meet at 8:30 in the Sun Valley parking lot. Bring lunch and a drink.

Chairman: Leary Wong, 925-457-0807 kinglear3@aol.com

BOCCE BALL OPEN PLAY

Chairman Bob Barnes and Assistant Danny Rinaldi organized the competition at Newhall Park BB Courts in Concord. There were 24 different participants during the season (May to mid-October). This is a weekly activity on Fridays 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. It usually attracts 10-15 players.

Open play ended around October 11th this year. The Concord Bocce Federation locked the courts even though in the past years the courts have been open until the end of October. I surmise the gates were locked early, as it appears each court had maintenance performed on each end of the court (color of the play surface of the court). The City of Concord had made rules for when the courts would be available for play and those rules indicated the end of September.

Chairman: Bob Barnes 686-0106 sb8msec@hotmail.com
Assistant Chairman: Danny Rinaldi: 825-0519

BOCCE BALL - LEAGUE PLAY

Chairman Bob Barnes and Assistant Danny Rinaldi organized the team to compete in the Concord Bocce Federation league. Our team (SIR Bocce) played on the Baldwin Park BB Courts in Concord. There were 10 players (6 SIR members and 4 partners) who played on our team. Our team played on Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. during the May – September months.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Open and League play. I wish everyone a very good holiday season. I would like to see everyone return next year when play resumes.

Chairman: Bob Barnes 686-0106 sb8msec@hotmail.com
Assistant Chairman: Danny Rinaldi: 825-0519 dmrinaldi@astound.net

BOCCE INDOOR WINTER LEAGUE

It’s Winter now and the weather is wet and cold! SIR Branch 8 members are now enjoying participating in the Winter League Seniors INDOOR Bocce!

The Branch 8 Team, the “SIR 8 Rollers” began play on Wednesday morning, October 26th at NorCal Courts Bocce, 360 Ferry St., Martinez. The League games will continue through March.

The Team Capo is SIR Stan U’Ren.

Please NOTE: The SIR Winter League Bocce team for Branch 8 has the maximum number of players for 2016-17.

Activity Chair: Jim Whitsett 925-689-5493
AFRES056789@gmail.com

BOOK EXCHANGE

If you read it and liked it, bring it!

We encourage and want you to bring books to share. Our mantra is...“IF YOU READ A BOOK THAT YOU REALLY LIKED AND WANT TO SHARE IT, BRING IT TO THE NEXT SIR LUNCHEON AND DONATE TO OUR COLLECTION’.

We have marked some of the boxes with red tape indicating “NEW BOOKS” which we place at the end of the table of our Book Exchange boxes. Just drop any new books or books from the collection you are returning in these marked boxes. That way everyone knows what is NEW.
Lastly, I wanted to thank my Assistant Chairmen for their hard work bringing in the boxes of books to the monthly meeting....and their spouses for allowing us to store 10 boxes or so in their garage!!

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions contact any member of the book exchange team:

Chairman: Tom Kerns. jtomk01@aol.com (925-376-8840).
Assistant Chair: Alan Curtis, alancurtis@sbcglobal.net
Assistant Chair: Rob Laabak, rlaabak@yahoo.com
Assistant Chairman: Ray Dewit, ray.dewit@yahoo.com

BOOK GROUP

The February meeting of the SIRS Book Club will meet at 10 AM on Tuesday, February 7 at the Round Table Restaurant on Oak Park Boulevard in Pleasant Hill.

This month’s book is “Night Soldiers” by Alan Furst. Background material on the book will be furnished by Dick Brewer.

For those of you who have made it through the 456 pages of “Night Soldiers” and want to get a head start on our March selection, it is “Black Flag: The Rise of ISIS” by Joby Warrick.

We look forward to seeing members of the Club as well as those who might be interested in our group on the 7th.

Chairman: Nick Maufe

BOWLING 

BOWLING Report for February 2017

Winter Leagues
Branch 19 SIR League - Branch 19 (Concord) sponsors a SIR league at Clayton Valley Bowl. There are ten four-person teams. Ladies are welcome. We bowl every Wednesday morning starting at 10 AM.

SIR State-Wide Tournament Schedules, Applications, and Results

To access the SIR State bowling information, open the state bowling web site at http://sirinc.org/bowling. You can find tournament schedules, applications, and results on the site.

Upcoming Tournaments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 14, 15</td>
<td>Livermore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>No Tap Tournament</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BASIC BRIDGE

The Basic Bridge format is open to players of many levels. Each table will have a coach. For beginning players there will be a review discussion after the hand has been played. The more advanced players have non-competitive, free play. All players are invited to ask questions and offer friendly advice on mistakes at any time.

The sessions are co-ed. Basic Bridge is held on the first Thursday of the month from 1:30 – 3:30 PM at Round Table Pizza located on 1938 Oak Park Blvd. near Putnam and Oak Park Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. (NOTICE THE CHANGE OF VENUE!!) Come early for lunch as that is our payment for use of the room. Call Rod Spicer, 935-5306, to be added to our reminder list.

Chairman: Rod Spicer, 935-5306. marod61@att.net
Co-Chairman: Al Hudgens, 246-7846

BRIDGE ♠♣♥♦ DUPLICATE – ONE

January 2017

The Duplicate Bridge I Group began the New Year in their new venue at Round Table Pizza in Pleasant Hill.

The first order of business was the recognition of the top pairs for 2016. The top pair award went to Bud Grisanti and Jim Regan with Harry Hubinger and Brian Woolf as runners up.

The first session for 2017 was again a tight competition with only 2.5 points separating the top 3 pairs. The Gene Bingham-Dean Steichen pair, who closed out 2016 with a win, continued their winning ways this year. Results for the top 3 finishers are as follows:

1st Bingham-Steichen 40 pts
2nd T Grisanti-Regan 37.5
2nd T Hubinger Woolf 37.5

The only slam bid and made was accomplished by the Grisanti -Regan pair when they bid 6 clubs vulnerable, making 7, for a score of 1390. On the same hand, two other pairs tried slam; one in hearts and the other in no trumps, but they missed by one. Top defensive honors went to Milano & Welch when they doubled and set a vulnerable 3 no trumps contract by 3 for a score of 800 points.

Thanks to Brian Woolf for set-up this month. Gene Bingham will have those duties in February. Finally, thanks to Al Welch and, Dennis Snarr for subbing.

Our next session will be February, 10 at 9:00AM at Round table pizza in Pleasant Hill. Mark the second Friday on your 2017 calendars, NOW

Substitutes are often needed and any SIR wishing to play should contact:

Bob Kahl, Chairman 284-8572
Dick Long, Asst Chairman 274-1786
Ron Hensley, Asst Chairman 937-0605

BRIDGE ♠♣♥♦ DUPLICATE – TWO

No report submitted for February

Chairman: Max Creamer 262-740
Assistant: Jerry Milano
to Reno by train and we will be traveling there on the
Last year the group expressed interest in an overnighter event
event plans.
member. An event for January is being planned now. Watch
when. Each event will be coordinated by a different activity
plans are currently underway to identify what we will do and
Twenty Seventeen will
attendance.
Museum. We strive for a high participation of our activity
members, but personal schedules sometimes impact

All members are invited to our game on the first Thursday of
the month. We meet at Round Table Pizza, 1938 Oak Park
Blvd., Pleasant Hill and the game starts at 9:00AM. Please
show up by 8:50 AM so the game can start on time. If you
want coffee, you will have to bring your own, full travel cup. Be
sure to answer Al Welch's email early so we can get full
tables. Rod Spicer, Chairman, 925-935-5306,
marod61@att.net

Al Welch, Co-Chair, 925-938-4131, blackpool68@gmail.com
David Bushnell, Co-Chair, 925-838-3914, dbushn@swbell.net

BRIDGE - COUPLES ©

On January 16, 2017, the Couples Bridge session had 4 tables or 8 couples. Ray and
Sue de Wit took first place with 3,410 points; George and Charlene Schulze were second
with 3,080 points; and Ernie Sherne and Margaret Kozak were third with 2,830 points.
Our next session will be on 1:00 pm on
Monday, February 20, 2017 (our normal 3rd Monday of each
month) at the Round Table Pizza on Oak Park, Pleasant Hill. We
always welcome new players, so if you are interested in
joining us, please contact Ray de Wit (ray.dewit@yahoo.com)
or Ken Main (mainkenneth46@gmail.com).

CAR ENTHUSIASTS

Car Enthusiasts had an excellent 2016 with
more than 10 outings and both Ladies Day Luncheon attended by more than half of
our group members. We experienced Stock Car races, Local Car Shows Classic Car
Collections, a display of our own cars at a SIR's Monthly Luncheon and a Tractor
Museum. We strive for a high participation of our activity
members, but personal schedules sometimes impact
attendance.

Twenty Seventeen will see at least an event each month and plans are currently underway to identify what we will do and
when. Each event will be coordinated by a different activity
member. An event for January is being planned now. Watch the Car Enthusiasts web page for information about 2017’s event plans.

Last year the group expressed interest in an overnighter event to Reno by train and we will be traveling there on the
California Zephyr in early February. The group of 22 will visit
the National Auto Museum (previously the Harrah's car collection) the following day, celebrate a group dinner that
evening and return home on the train the following day. It
should be a fun trip.

If interested in joining the Car Enthusiasts Activity, please
contact any of the folks listed below. We meet on the 1st
Tuesday of each month (no meeting in February as we are
traveling) at 1 PM in the Round Table Pizza meeting room,
Oak Park Blvd. Pleasant Hill. come a few minutes early to get
your food and drink ordered prior to meeting. meetings usually
last about 1 hour.

Activity Chair - Chick Lowry - clowry2845@aol.com
Assistant Chairs
Tom Mohrman mustangtpm@gmail.com
Bill Koski billkos36@comcast.net
Bob McMains stude35@mac.com

COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY ©

At our January meeting, Neil Schmidt’s presentation covered Smartphones & Artificial Intelligence. Neil went over some popular
Artificial Intelligence (AI) apps and even demonstrated some interesting new ones. Neil
also spoke about possible future developments
where your smartphone or smartwatch becomes an
information source, providing you with data evaluated via AI automatically on your behalf. A copy of Neil’s presentation
notes can be found on the CAT Web page:
http://a2cat.sirinc2.org

Upcoming in February, Dean Steichen will be discussing Computing Fundamentals (i.e., how does a computer work?).
This should be a good introduction for those not really
conversant with computers, and it should be a good review for
those who have a deeper understand of these machines. A
copy of Dean’s presentation will be available about a week
before the meeting at the CAT Web page:
http://a2cat.sirinc2.org

We look forward to seeing you 9:15 AM, Thursday February
16, 2017, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside
Drive. We ask for a donation of $5 to cover the cost of the hall
rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so
come and see if our February meeting is another one of those!
All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are
welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bill Phelon, rphelon@juno.com: 254-8338

CRIBBAGE

The Cribbage Group meets on the First
Wednesday and the Third Tuesday of each
month. There’s been a location change from
Treat Blvd in Concord due to remodeling. For
the rest of year we’ll be playing at the
Round Table Pizza located at 1938 Oak Park
Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. Hours of play are 1pm to

Page 8
INDEX
3pm. Please join us if you have played Cribbage or would like to learn the game.

Status update regarding the treat blvd remodeling project: they say another 2-months to finish the project. I have reserved the pleasant hill location to the end of March. At that time we well vote to stay in pleasant hill or go back to Concord.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 January Results</th>
<th>January 217th – 10 players</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 4th – 15 players</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Jack LaSalle 268 pts.</td>
<td>1st Joe Anthony 189 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Ron Draper 254 pts.</td>
<td>2nd Jim Rosenquist 187 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Joe Maurino 224 pts.</td>
<td>3rd Ray Nummi 178 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Dan Smith 186 pts.</td>
<td>4th Larry Mersmann 172 pts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chairman, Ron Draper Email: r-draper@pacbell.net
Asst. Chairman, Dan Smith Email: dns.lns02@astound.net

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The assignment for the January meeting was “Holiday Photographs,” and members met the assignment with a plethora of “holiday” scenes from single subjects to whole groves of Xmas lights. Some members even used recent photo tech assignments in composing their photos. All in all, a good beginning to the New Year.

For the February meeting, we will be visiting to Mike's Camera in Pleasant Hill. Plan to arrive at the store at 10:00 AM. There will be an optional lunch gathering following the meeting at Mike's. (Location TBD.) More information will be emailed as we near the meeting date.

Our host for the February 17, meeting, Bill Phelon, will be sending out reminders, directions and looking for attendance confirmations a couple of weeks before the visit.

Digital Photography Group meets on the third Friday of the month. Meetings begin at 10:00 AM. Coffee, tea and snacks are provided, for which we ask a $2 donation. All levels of photographer, from point and shoot to sophisticated DSLR or “mirror-less” camera users are welcome.

Bill Phelon, Chair: rpheon@juno.com 254-8338
Dave Davis: Vice Chair: dav.davis@comcast.net 838-1753

DINE IN # 1 ©

Next Dine In “January 20” was after the Hotline deadline. Will be reported on next month. 
Chairman: Ron Cassano at roncassano@gmail.com

DINE IN # 2 ©

No February article was received.

Co-Chair: Ed Cohn; gitano2@att.net 954-7600
Co-Chair: Bob Price 937-6814 sprice8126@yahoo.com

DINE IN # 3 ©

Our group of diners met on 18 January for our first dinner of 2017. Our hosts were Nat and Bernadette Bitton serving a flavorful (or, since Nat is British, "flavourful") beef stew - perfect food for our cold and wet evening! Accompanying dishes filled us with delicious food, with great wine to make it a festive evening. It's always great to come together and renew

We have a great group of diners but never want to close it to guests and those who might want to start their own group. I, like Ron Cassano (Dine In #1), invite others to join us for this very enjoyable SIR activity. Contact either one of us and we'll work you in on a future dinner!

Chairman, Rich Cheney Email: richard.s.cheney@gmail.com
Asst. Jeff Foster, 219-9141. jeff-foster@twin-bridge.com

DINE OUT 1

DINE OUT 1 for February will be at THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017.

DINE OUT 1 FOR MARCH (Black Angus Steak House)

LOCATION AND DATE: Dine Out 1 is schedule for March 16th, 2017 at the Black Angus Steak House located at 3139 North Main Street in Pleasant Hill.

HOSTS: Marv Kreitz and Trudy

PRICES: The payment procedure is different as there is no need to send checks ahead. We will all order separately that evening. Cash (avoids delay exiting) or Credit card.

Marv has it set up so they will honor any of the coupons you have or can show them. They do not have coupons available at the table but they will accept what you can show them as specials, no limit. That's where the confusion came in last time.

MENU: They have a Campfire Feast (dinner for two) for $43.00 that includes any appetizer on the menu except the Wagon Wheel Sampler, which is $3.00 extra. You can choose two of any of the nine entrée choices: Steaks, Chicken, Shrimp etc. and each includes two of their sides like a wedge salad and garlic mashed potatoes as well as an appetizer and finally, one of their decadent desserts (like Mud Pie) to share. They, of course, have single entrees with different combinations such as Steak and Shrimp Duo for $18.99 that also includes two sides. No appetizer or dessert is included in that price.

TIME: Dinner is planned for 5:30 PM. Meet there at 5:00 and enjoy a drink at the Bulls-eye Bar that is open from 3 PM to 7 PM. Bud Light Draft is $3.00 and other drinks range from $3.50 to $5.50. You can carry your drink to the back area where we plan to eat.

INDEX
RSVP: Marv does need for you to RSVP by Monday the 13th for the purpose of making nametags and to confirm the seating. Call Marv at 925 935-7739 (leave a message) or you can e-mail him at Marru46@sbcglobal.net or sign up at our regular meeting.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. SEE YOUR THERE!945-1065. Mainken46@gmail.com. Please make check out to Don Allen and mail to: Don Allen, 1009 Dyer Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549.

NOTE: WE HAVE A LIMIT OF 46 PEOPLE ONLY…NO LAST MINUTE PEOPLE…SO PLEASE, CALL US EARLY TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE!

Activity Chair, Ken Main:
Assist Chairs - Don Allen and Jim Ripley

DINE OUT #2 ©

WANTED Sir and Lady to host a Dine Out 2 activity,
Dine Out 2 is small, intimate dining group (4 couples & separate checks) to allow restaurant to present itself & cuisine in its best light and for guests to enjoy interesting and friendly conversation with one another. If you are interested, contact:

Chairman Don Atwater 673-1669 datwater@pacbell.net
Ass. Chair Jerry Milano 934-3496 jerrymilano@astound.net

DINE OUT - SINGLE SIRS ©

Tuesday, February 7th , Dinner: 5:30 pm,
Social: 5:00 pm at Lazy Dog restaurant. Willows Shopping Center, across from the Hilton Hotel, Concord

Contact host Stan Hennessey, 686-6828 eshenn@astound.net

Last month a dozen of us dined at Claim Jumper. We were happy to have Jack Holzinger and Frank Kilarr join us for the first time and add to our interesting conversations. Take home boxes appeared for many as restaurant is known for large portions. We are looking forward to dining at Lazy Dog in February.

If you are a bachelor for the night, please plan to join us. We dine the first Tuesday of the month at a local restaurant. We patronize a wide variety of restaurants from Italian, American, Mexican, Chinese or whatever.

Single Sirs starts its 11th year as a Branch 8 activity with a new chairman, Glenn Gilman. During the last two years, we have been under the excellent leadership of Jack Stack who has helped make this monthly activity one we enjoy.

Glenn Gilman Chairman (798-5155) glennfam@sbcglobal.net
Don Atwater, Asst. Chairman 673-1660 datwater@pacbell.net

DOMINOS

Wanted: New Players for Dominos
Have you wanted to learn how to play dominos? Here's your opportunity. We are looking for members who would like to play the game. You will play along side one of the experienced members during regular play until you feel comfortable to venture out on your own.

We meet at ROUND TABLE PIZZA located at 1938 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill, Ca. Hours of play are 11:00am to 2:00pm. We usually purchase lunch around 12:30pm, socialize and continue play after lunch. We donate $5.00 each and keep score by points. High score wins. We invite you to join, have fun, and meet new friends. Please join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Chairman: Dan Rinaldi 925-381-5486
danrinaldi944@gmail.com
Co-Chairman: Alan Schulze 925-876-7537
a_schulze@sbcglobal.net

EXPLORE AND EAT

Monday, February 6: Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek
“Cut Up, Cut Out”
These are NOT the paper cuts your mother taught you! Rather, this is a stunning exhibition of artists from around the world who cut into everything from paper to ammo boxes to create their masterpieces, some of which sell for tens of thousands of dollars.

This is a docent-led tour of over a hundred examples of these original works of art at the museum located on the first floor of the Regional Center in Walnut Creek.

The tour will commence at 10:30, after which we will cross Locust Street for a no-host lunch at Massimo’s.

The cost of the tour, with a max of 15 attendees, will be $10. Contact Larry McEwen at elmwoodeux@comcast.net to reserve your space.

Thursday, March 16: Palace of the Legion of Honor MONET: The Early Years
Join a docent-led tour of the first exhibition devoted to the art Monet created just before the dawn of Impressionism. These years demonstrate an artist deeply invested in conveying textures and the effects of light to create some of the century’s most immediate and exquisite works of art.

The tour will start at 10:30 followed by a no-host lunch at the museum and free time to further review the exhibit or explore the Museum’s other fine exhibits including: “the RODIN Centenary”. Honoring Rodin on the centenary of his death, the Legion of Honor presents a new installation drawn from the museum’s holdings, which has been called “the greatest collection of perfect Rodins in the world.”

The cost of the private guided tour of the Monet exhibition, with a limit of 20 attendees, will be approximately $35 per person. Contact Larry McEwen at elmwoodeux@comcast.net to reserve your space.

INDEX
FISHING - AREA 2

All SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 23rd, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Meeting starts at 8:30am, come early.

Water, water everywhere, and not a fish will bite. The earlier great trout bite came to a sudden cease. Despite the best efforts of Thom Watkins, Terry Miller, and Carl Moyer, only one trout was caught in 4 outings. Carl and Paul Dubow did better on the last day of ocean rockfish by catching some nice black rockfish and crab, Stan Wong also caught rockfish and crab on a few party boat trips. Pedro Contreras, Rich Fiscina, and Sal Costanza fished in vain for sturgeon. But, Tom Kostik did catch a few small stripers on each of 4 attempts. Oh woe is us!

Contacts are Paul Dubow (415-495-6504) and Carl Moyer (925-685-5243.)

GOLF 18 HOLES

Here January brought us good news and bad news. The good news is that we got a lot of rain which means lush fairways and greens. The bad news is that we got rained out twice and a "cart path only" once. Lush fairways also mean ankle high rough. Keep it on the short grass!! Saddle Creek, October 11 and 12. The contract has been signed and all 17 cottages have been reserved, so save the dates. We will be playing Saddle Creek both days so no need to commute to another course. Complete information will be available shortly and weather will be great being that is later in the year. Our last outing for 2016 was December 27 at Franklin Canyon On that date, David Platter shot his age (again) a fine 85. Good shooting David.

The highest golf course in the world is Tactu Golf Club in Morococha, Peru, which sits 14,335 feet above sea level at its lowest point.

Bill Koski, Communications: 672 7650 
billkos36@comcast.net

Golfing 9 Holes

So far 2017 has not been kind to our group, the rain washing out our Wednesday meetings! We would like to think this is just a fluke of nature but it is getting monotonous. Let's all hope that the rain will start to be a little more selective and miss Wednesdays!

On a brighter note, we are working on the 30th annual DAI, scheduled for Thursday, June 1st. Phil Philpot, the chair for the event has circulated e-mails and a signup sheet is available at the monthly luncheon. Please mark your calendars and let's have a great turn out for the event.

Barry Brown, Chair: barry@bkbrown.net (925) 930 8026
Phil Philpot Asst. Chair: jr5753@outlook.com (925) 937 2260
Dick Brooks, Stats, Board Member sb8golf9holes@gmail.com

Golf - Couples

The rain my come and go, but never dismay, for SCG as a group will always find a way to gather together and greet the new year.

At Rocco's we had the chance to eat and cheer. Marshals Paul and Millie Hersch said to us, "We'll meet at Rocco's - your presence is a must. With wine in hand came Leo and Judy Barella, too, With Bill and Konnie Collins who are no longer 'new.' Ron Maciak and Linda Gawura came, 'rain or shine, Along with Marilyn and Dean Steichen who came to dine Paul and Sue Derby are the chairman and treasurer, too, For Sue did collect dues from 9 couples --yippee-hoo. Gordon and Margaret Batesole showed up for tis true. As 'recorder', Margaret had to get this report to all of you! As Marshals for February, G and M have this to say---- On Feb. 9, wear pink or red for VALENTINE'S DAY! We will meet at 9 am, Diablo Hills, the usual place; Sign up online so that for sure you will have a space! For those who missed the photo below, we are sad. To see you in February, we shall be so very glad!!

Once again Happy 2017 to each and everyone of you, SCG is a gift that we get to share all year through!

Chairman: Paul Derby derby.paul@comcast.net
Asst. Chair: Paul Hersch poppy3642@gmail.com

Golf - Traveling Nine Hole

This event is on hold. Keep your eye on the web page as well as your emails for event notice.

Chair: Phil Philpot: jr5753@outlook.com (925) 937 2260
Co Chair: Dick Brooks balte1@comcast.net (925) 228-6959
One-hour walks start at 9:30 AM and usually are on flat surfaces. Most walks are "out and back" which means you walk for 30 minutes at your own pace, then turn around and walk 30 minutes back to the starting point. At 10:30 AM, we leave the trail for coffee, refreshments and spirited conversation.

Spouses and dogs welcome.

February 2017 Walks

1/26/2017: Walnut Creek: C.C. Canal Heather Farm. Meet at the Heather Farm parking lot at the far North end of San Carlos Dr. Cafe: Sweet Affair Bakery. Leader: Dave Allen

2/2/2017: Concord: Newhall Community Park. Meet at parking lot on Turtle Creek Rd. off Ayers Rd. Some elevation changes to the Viet Nam Memorial. Cafe: Bagel Street Cafe. Leader: Dave Morse


2/16/2017: Walnut Creek: Countrywood C.C. Canal. Meet at the flagpole near Safeway in the Countrywood Shopping Center, corner of Treat & Bancroft. Cafe: Noah's New York Bagels. Leader: Jim Erickson

2/23/2017: Concord: Iron Horse , Willows Shopping Center. Willows Shopping Center, meet at the south corner near the new Lazy Dog Restaurant. Cafe: Panera Bread Cafe. Leader: Jim Kawal


February 2017 HIKERS

February 3rd, 2017 Easy Hike:
Glenn Cove Park to Dillon Point

This is an easy hike of 5 miles out and back using the San Francisco Bay Trail / Bay Area Ridge Trail to Dillon Point Dr. (within the Benicia State Recreation Park) then return on the same trail. AEG is only 300 ft. It is a mix of paved and dirt - some single track trails. Restrooms are at the start and turn-around points. For more details, including directions, car-pooling, and optional lunch, see the SIR hiker web page at http://www.sirbr8.com/hikers/

Hike Leader: Martin Hawco 925-689-4251, Martin Hawco <not4u2bee@gmail.com>

February 2017 SIR HIKERS Hard Hike: Skyline Park, Napa

Skyline Park is a 'Moderate-Strenuous' 6.0 mile hike with approximately 1500 feet of elevation gain. We start at the main park entrance at 10:15am. Note there is a $5 charge per vehicle so carpooling is encouraged! We will take the Manzanita trail through grassland, forest and manzanita over a ridge with the Napa valley opening up behind us. Then we will drop into the canyon and follow the Marie Creek trail upstream over another ridge to Marie Lake. We will take Chaparral trail around the lake before heading back west on Skyline trail. Hiking back on this ridge provides lots of options but I think we will take Skyline then Lower Skyline trail with views of Napa Valley as we descend to the parking lot.

For directions to the trail head, what to bring, carpooling and lunch info see http://www.sirbr8.com/hikers/

Hike Leader: Nick Maufe (925)719-2504, nickmaufe@gmail.com

February Coordinator: Martin Simmons 925-586-2704 martin@infinitylane.com

Hiking Activity Chair: Dave Davis 925-838-1753 dav.davis@comcast.net

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Mexican Train meets the 2nd Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday at 11:00 A.M. at Round Table Pizza 1938 Oak Park Blvd. Pleasant Hill 94523

Mexican Train, a popular Domino game, welcomes newbies and experienced players. Like in golf, the low score wins. Enthusiasm when playing is obvious and we are now achieving 12 or 13 rounds per meeting. We play the second Tuesday and third Wednesday of the month, so whether you are able to play one or the other or both days you are urged to attend.

Results of the January 18th game:
12 Rounds – Dan Rinaldi 259; Stu Harris 306; Larry Mersmann 309; Terry Norton 316; Clark Morehouse 318; Bill Peterson 324; Don Atwater 350; Jerry Ward 404

Results of the January 10th game:
13 Rounds – Bill Peterson 169; Terry Norton 189; Clark Morehouse 271; Danny Rinaldi 382; Don Atwater 386; Larry Mersmann 412; Jerry Ward 482

SIR Branch 8 scores during 2016 (Thru December 13) have been collected and tabulated. Below are results of the tabulation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dan Rinaldi</td>
<td>27.37</td>
<td>4462</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Norton</td>
<td>27.85</td>
<td>5265</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jerry Ward  28.83  4015  139
Bill Peterson  28.85  5915  205
Clark Morehouse  30.24  5080  168
John Sewell  31.28  3472  111
Larry Mersmann  31.65  3924  124
Don Atwater  33.18  3186  96
Jerry White  33.64  3835  114

LOWS & HIGHS for 13 games in 2016
Lowest Score – Larry Mersmann 134 on February 9th
Highest Score – Don Atwater 644 on October 11th

Chairman – John Sewell 446-4394 djonsew@gmail.com
Assistant. Chairman – Dan Rinaldi danrinaldi944@gmail.com

MODEL RAILROADING

Winter’s here! We’ll continue to take a break from our model train layout design and construction for the time being. Please stay tuned for future announcements on the direction of the group. There will be an exciting project for us to assist with in 2017! Watch the Hotline for details.

Instead, members of the Model Railroading Activity are encouraged to visit one or several of the many existing Train Club layouts in the Bay Area. Over the next few months, please consider visiting: The Golden State Model Railroad Museum in Point Richmond (www.gsmrm.org); the Carquinez Model Railroad Society in Crockett (www.cmrrs.org); and the San Leandro Historical Railway Society in San Leandro (www.slrhs.org). Please check websites for open house events.

If you would like to be added to the Model Railroading e-mail list, please advise the Activity Chair.

Chairman: Jim Whitsett  689-5493 afres056789@gmail.com
Asst. Chair. Dick Grube  687-0779 dickgrube@comcast.net

MIXER

No article was received for the February Hotline. Check our website for current information.

PICKLE BALL

The Pickleball group played in a cold morning on the 3rd Tuesday at the newly built courts. The City of Concord did a wonderful job building 14 new pickleball courts on the old tennis court area. Five SIR members braved the cold. A survey has been started asking for other days and places to play. So far Thursday maybe a better day to play. More information will follow. Next month we will again meet at the Willow Pass park on the 3rd Tuesday. Look for an email a few days before. If you have any questions, etc you can call the chairman:
Chairman: TomTrice  510-853-9744 tstrice@yahoo.com

POKER

Players wanted. Come join us for poker! We now have 10 groups: playing days are shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Monday</th>
<th>First Tuesday</th>
<th>First Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Tuesday</td>
<td>First Wednesday</td>
<td>Third Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Thursday</td>
<td>Fourth Monday</td>
<td>Fourth Tuesday</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Our groups meet either from noon to 3:00 PM or 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Group members rotate as hosting. We play 5¢ – 10¢ – 25¢ with no wild cards and a three raise max. It’s an inexpensive way to spend an afternoon with a great group of guys!

Chair: Dan Franklin  310-4900 montgall26@gmail.com
Asst: Ekk Keller  685-1505 ekkeller@astound.net
Asst’s: Ron Draper  939-5740 r-draper@pacbel.net

SIRS AT THE GAMES

CAN THE CAL GOLDEN BEARS BEAT OREGON?

SIRs at the Games has arranged for our group to see the California Golden Bears Men’s Basketball Team play the ranked Oregon Ducks on Wednesday, February 22 at 6:00 pm in the Haas Pavilion on the UC-Berkeley campus. This will be an important game on the Golden Bears conference schedule.

Our seats are in Section 21, Row 22. The ticket price is only $25. Your family and friends are welcome.

Please contact Dennis Reschke for ticket availability and more information. Dennis may be reached at dwreschke@yahoo.com or by phone 925-683-0806.

Tickets for the St. Mary’s basketball game this month went quickly, so don’t delay. We look forward to having you and your friends join us for some great college basketball.

See you at the games in 2017!

Chairman: Steve Schramm  222-0801 sschramm01@gmail.com

SIRS AT THE OPERA

Opera lovers:

January at the Met HD opera was a full month, with Verde’s “breakout” opera Nabucco and Romeo et Juliette by Gounod. A late lunch at Urban Plates Café in Pleasant Hill after Nabucco was enjoyed by all – possibly more so because nobody had turned on their cell phones after the opera.

This month we get Antonin Dvorak’s Rusalka – an opera considered a national treasure in the Czech Republic. The title role will be sung by Renee Fleming, the reigning “diva de
nous jours”, who according to an early review by MusicalCriticism.com sings the part with “commitment and consummate musicianship - - Her acting during the last moments of Act I and most of Act II, in which she is mute, was truly affecting, traversing girlish joy and rapture and intense human suffering, sorrow and remorse – all without singing a note.” Of course the HD close-up views will allow us to experience all that. She has sung Rusalka three times previously, and considers it her signature role. The reviews are worth reading – find a selection of them on Bing or Google at Rusalka review Met Opera.

Our local viewing of the live matinee HD transmission starts at 9:55am. I suggest you arrive before that, as the good seats can fill up early. I also invite you all to join us for a late lunch right after the performance at Urban Plates Café (just up the street from the Pleasant Hill Century Theater) on February 25, for a discussion of the opera. Migrate to the far room beyond the glass doors. Of course spouses and friends are invited as well. The encore performance will be February 29 at 6:30pm, also at all the Century theaters.

Activity chairman: David Bushnell, dbushn@swbell.net; 925 838-3914

SIRS IN THE KITCHEN ©

Crab Cakes and Cioppino

On January 26 Sirs in the Kitchen participated in a terrific meal. We started with Sous Chef Jack's Crab Rangoon. Remember that old favorite from Trader Vic’s? We followed it up with Executive Chef Ed's Famous Crab Cakes and then the entree, Cioppino with crab, mussels, clams, snapper, scallops. Of course there was plenty of garlic bread, wine, beer and even water go go around. What a feast.

None of this would have been possible without the crab picking and cooking skills of Sous Chefs Jack, Ron M., Raleigh, Gordon and Thom. The set up, clean up and take down guys did their usual exemplary job so Ms Donna will let us use the house again in February.

Speaking of February we'll meet on the 21st. The meal will be some sort of salad, veal stew, noodles, probably carrots in some preparation and maybe a homemade dessert. Whatever, it will be a lot easier than January's meal. It was a real workout.

Sirs in the Kitchen is now at 56 members. If you want to join, drop Executive Chef Ed an email (edbensonbw@aol.com), call him (925-943-7011) or catch him at the monthly meeting. So far, we’ve always had room for anyone who was able to attend, and our typical luncheon turns out 25, or so. You don’t have to be an experienced cook (our members have all levels of cooking ability), and all meetings are held at Casa Benson. The usual shared cost for the luncheon and wine is $20. But, that’s still the best deal in town.

Should any Sirs want our recipes, email Executive Chef Ed, and they’ll be sent to you.

SUMS IN RETIREMENT

Our next meeting is Wed Feb 22 at 8 AM at the Legends Restaurant in the Diablo Creek Country Club - Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord.

Our speaker will be John Hutchinson of Stifel and Co. He will be speaking about tax-free issues from states and localities.

The Legends opens at 7 AM. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

Chairman Tom Henry  to mhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chair Dave Sutton - davesutn@comcast.net

TRAVELING SIRS ©

We are going to have a travel meeting on February 16 at 10:00 am at Denny’s on Willow Pass Road in Concord. We will have a travel agent and a representative from the cruise line attending. We will explore the Panama Canal Cruise that leaves San Francisco on October 20, 2017.

Please RSVP to Larry Yarberry 925 890-9245. We will also go over a Mississippi River Cruise.
Larry Yarberry, Chairman l.yarberry42@comcast.net
Robert Wells, Asst Chairman eye1doctor@aol.com

WINE – BARGAIN WINES

Bargain Wines first event of the New Year will be held on March 1st at Total Wine & More, Pleasant Hill. We will have a complimentary wine tasting at 5:30 pm in the private room at the rear. Assorted cheeses and crackers will be available to accompany the tasting and as usual we will have rating sheets in order to publish our findings.

Following our wine tasting, our group of 35 will walk to The Back Forty restaurant across the street and dine in their private upstairs room. Our menu is fixed with various meat and side selections voted by all attendees.

For additional information on our group please contact either person shown below:
Chairman: Jim Warner, 925-935-8032
Assistant: Ed Benson, 925-943-7011

WINE - CELLAR FILLERS ©

The CFWA members met on January 20, 2017 at the home of Sir Jim Sowell to have a simple lunch and taste five white and five red wines with a price point of $7.00 or less. A report on the wines evaluated will be sent to the CFWA members shortly after the meeting, and
will be available on the Branch 8 website home page. It will list the wines, their rankings, price and source. The cost of the activity varies with the wine prices and the number of attendees, but usually runs around $10.00.

February is a down month for the Cellar Fillers Wine Activity. The next meeting of CFWA will likely be in March or April of 2017. We will be looking for volunteers to host the meeting, so if you can handle 10 to 14 hungry and thirsty Sirs at home, let me know.

CFWA is an excellent opportunity to introduce a guest to SIR. It is open to SIR members, applicants and prospective member guests. Spouses and SO’s are welcome at the other four Branch 8 wine activities, Bargain Wines and Wine Finders I, II, and III. On the occasional field trip we also may have room for spouses and SO’s.

We meet at 11:30 AM for a simple lunch of sandwiches and fixin’s, then taste the wines. Occasionally we throw in a few blush wines.

If you have questions or if you would like your name to be added to the mailing list, please contact:

Chairman: Jim Sowell, owell4jim@aol.com, (925) 939-4670 or (925) 457-7746 cell
Ass. Chair Jim Warner, jdubew@hotmail.com, (925) 935-8032

WINE FINDERS 1, 2 & 3

Next gathering will be Feb. 9, for WF-1 and WF-2, and Feb. 16 for WF-3. Please confirm with your individual chairman—Ron and Larry, please forward this to your respective group.

Chair WF-1: Bob Price sprice8126@yahoo.com
(925) 937-6814
Co-Chair: Tony de Losada delosada@tx.netcom.com
(925) 945-1730

Chair WF-2:
Next tasting is Feb 9, Cassanos hosting.
Ron Cassano roncassano@gmail.com (925) 944-1238

Chair WF-3: Larry McEwen elmsowdeaux@comcast.net
(925) 939-3216

WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY

Writing Your Life Stories will meet on February 28 and we welcome new members. We write short stories about events in our lives that are of interest to us and perhaps will be to our progeny. Meeting as a group and sharing stories (always voluntary) triggers our memories and keeps us inspired.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at Vintage Kensington Place (in the second floor Game Room), located on Geary Road near North Main in Walnut Creek, just off I-680.
You will receive a syllabus to guide you in writing your own life stories.

Chairman: Dick Brewer 925-933-0876 revrpc@aol.com
Biography of William Montgomery Cooke

Former Chairman Pub Games

I joined SIR in 2008, sponsored by a William Montgomery Cooke. Formerly Activity Chairman – Pub Games

I was born in Belfast N. Ireland in 1935 one of four boys, three of which now live in California. I was five I rode the trolley bus to Elementary School. When Belfast was being bombed our family often listened to my father playing the banjo under the stairs. I earned a degree in electrical engineering in 1957 St College of Technology.

Was a draftsman at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons test facility in England. There engineers designed laser guns and magnetic levitation bearings for high speed cameras to film the tests. While living in Berkshire I met Brenda, and we have been married for 54 years. I played soccer for Brenda’s father’s home team Newbury Town.

I was recruited for a position with CF Braun in Los Angeles. The company moved our family which now included a daughter to Pasadena where I completed a specification for a Fast Breeder Reactor sodium heating system. Also was employed by Reactor Controls where I wrote a contract for the Reactor temperature monitoring electrical wiring system design and construction for a power plant.

I started an engineering position in Control Systems with Bechtel in 1972. We moved our family, which now, included a son to Orinda then to Walnut Creek and then to Concord. I was able to continue playing soccer and played until I was 55. During this time I formed an over 30 team and coached boys, taking our under 14 boys team to the State championship.

In 1973 I became a United States citizen and a Professional Engineer in California. My last overseas assignment as a group supervisor was in the Czech Republic near Prague engineering a petroleum pipeline to India from Saudi Arabia. I retired from that assignment in 1995, deciding not to go to India.

I was fortunate to be sponsored by Ken Hodges to Sirs about 10 years ago. At this time, I do the newspaper crosswords and enjoy the golf, lunches, bridge and pub games and give thanks to those who give their time and energy to run the branch.

Biography: Darryl Sweetland, 2016 Big Sir & 2017 BEC Director

Born in Alameda in 1940 and moved to Walnut Creek in 1945 with my parents and have resided in the area since then. Graduated from Las Lomas High School, Walnut Creek, in 1958 and attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and Armstrong School of Business in Berkeley. I went to work for the W.P. Fuller Paint Company which was bought by Norton Simon (Hunt Foods) in 1961, and then purchased by the O’Brien Paint Company in 1964. It then became the Fuller–O’Brien Paint Company. It was subsequently purchased in 2000 by ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries), a British Company. I worked for these companies for 47 years in various sales and management positions and retired in 2005.

Married my wife of 53 years in 1963 and we have a son that lives in Orange County and daughter that lives in San Diego. We have four grandkids, three grandsons and one granddaughter. I also have a son from a previous marriage that lives in Sacramento and a daughter that lives in Carson City.

I joined SIR Branch 8 in 2007 after finding out Branch 146 had a waiting list. Since joining SIR I was Chairman of the 18 Hole Golf for 3 years, on the BEC for 2 years and then Little SIR and Big SIR. I’m currently on the Members Outreach Committee, the 18 Hole Golf Committee and head up the 2017 Nominating Committee. We enjoy participating in Bargain Bites, Dine Out 1 and Dine Out 2, Explore and Eat, Wine Bargains and Wine Cellar Fillers. I enjoy both the Nine Hole and 18Hole Golf.

My main interests are golf, fly fishing and travel (the wife and I have taken 25 cruises having enjoyed many parts of the world).
## Membership Data for January 2017

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Badge</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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<td>Bill Drysdale</td>
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<td>Ed Cohn (MD-86)</td>
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<td>Carl Mianecke</td>
<td>MD-348</td>
<td>Tony de Losada (MD-292)</td>
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<td>Ron Russo</td>
<td>MD-143</td>
<td>Chris Tang (MD-136)</td>
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<td>Jim Fleming</td>
<td>MD-46</td>
<td>Bob Stein MD-147</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard Walter</td>
<td>MD-123</td>
<td>Tony de Losada (MD-292)</td>
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Members Requested Active Status: 0

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<td>Member health</td>
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<td>Joe Casalaina</td>
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<td>Other commitments</td>
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Members Requested Inactive Status: 2

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<td>Frank Dayringer</td>
<td>MD-518</td>
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<td>Joe Dell’Orfano</td>
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<td>Ed Musselwhite</td>
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<td>Steve Nelson</td>
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<td>Ralph Reamy</td>
<td>MD-514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bon Wadors</td>
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Applicants Induction Date: 0

SIR Anniversary  February 2017

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<td>Lloyd Gunderson</td>
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<td>Ray Tenzer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Woof</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Daykin</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Schneider</td>
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</table>

Obituary Report

Name: Bon Wadors
Inducted: 3/14/2005
Deceased: 12/20/2016
Activities: Golf – 18 Hole, Computers, Play Instruments, Walkers, SIRs in the Kitchen, Book Group

## SIR Birthdays - February 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Max Creamer</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gordon Linebaugh</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Al Reichard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ron Shahade</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Mel Petersen</td>
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<td>Robert Wells</td>
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<td>Tom Hodgson</td>
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<td>Uwe Gunnersen</td>
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<td>Kevin Roberts</td>
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<td>Al Welch</td>
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<td>Roger Lockwara</td>
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<td>Ron Maciak</td>
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<td>Martin Hawco</td>
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<td>Harold Johnson</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Ron Draper</td>
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<td>Bill Babel</td>
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## Membership Totals

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<tr>
<td>Applicants – To Be Inducted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members - Inactive</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>
New Members

Name: Carl Mianecke  
Email: carl@callcarl.com  
Residence: Concord  
Occupation: Financial Consultant  
Company: Carl Mianecke & Associates  
Interests: Golf – 18 Hole, Poker, Darts

Name: Ron Russo  
Partner: Eugenia Russo  
Email: ronhere@astound.net  
Residence: Concord  
Occupation: Technical Support  
Company: IBM  
Interests: Investments, Poker, BBQ, Walkers, Computers, Explore & Eat,

Name: Howard Walter  
Partner: Linda Henry  
Email: hwalterz@gmail.com  
Residence: Concord  
Occupation: Manager  
Company: Lawrence Berkeley Lab  
Interests: Computers, Hikers, Astronomy, Geocaching

Name: Bill Drysdale  
Email: wdrysdale@aol.com  
Residence: Pittsburg  
Occupation: Attorney  
Company: IRS  
Interests: Book Review, Golf – 9 Hole, Digital Photography, SIRs in the Kitchen

Name: Jim Fleming  
Partner: Joan Fleming  
Email: gmaflem@aol.com  
Residence: Walnut Creek  
Occupation: Insurance Sales  
Company: Fleming Associates  
Interests: Investments, Book Review, Bocce Ball, Traveling SIRs

New Members and Sponsors

![Image of new members and sponsors]
PHOTO GALLERY

2 SIR Bridge pairs who were recognized as top pair for 2016

Grisanti - Regan

Woolf - Hubinger

January Luncheon Speaker

Wine Winners at January Meeting

Ron Smith’s Arts & Crafts
<table>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Branch Officers</strong></td>
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<td>Mt. Diablo Branch No. 8</td>
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<td><strong>Membership Positions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Infosys Team</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Asst.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Laptop Manager</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Photographer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Photo Gallery Editor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Projector and Screen</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Web Master</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Asst.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hotline Position</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coordinator</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Editors rotate as defined by Coordinator</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Publisher</strong></td>
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