

**WHAT IS SIR?**

<https://youtu.be/5j5WsiyKp5s>

**Branch 8 Website:**

<https://www.sirbr8.com>

**"MAKE NEW FRIENDS FOR LIFE"****Editor: Chris Wehling****BIG SIR COLUMN****Dan Smith**

The State SIR mandate that we obtain California Photo Release Forms for all pictures used in our website and in the Hotline continues to drag out. An update received from the State Board meeting in April stated, "No Need to Rush the Photo Release Forms We know the new photo release policy has caused some headaches. Please take a breath—you do not have to implement this overnight! The Board's guidance is to take the next four to six months to figure out a smooth way to roll this out locally. Remember, this is just a one-time signature for life, not an annual chore." This is consistent with what I stated last month, we can wait. Whatever I see for carrying this out will have to be worked out in committee. In spite of a suggestion in BEC that we do nothing, no, the subject has been brought up and it would be negligent to do nothing. In the meantime, I have asked Chris to put the pictures back into the Hotline.

There are happenings in our SIR organization that are worth describing to you. First SIR has "branched out" of its traditional geographic boundaries for where we have branches to allow the formation of provisional Branch 174 in San Diego. This branch is in start-up mode and is obviously testing the bounds for our communications. We want this branch to succeed. Second our neighboring San Ramon Valley Branch 128 membership has grown to over 400 members. This is a noteworthy accomplishment in the face of so many branches having difficulty bringing in enough new members to yield growth, including us. For those who knew him, especially those in bowling, this is the branch where Jim Erickson transferred to. I think that we can learn from Branch 128. I am a believer in KISS. I don't want to have to explain where the acronym comes from. We have members that use various administrative tools to help run this branch. State SIR does the same. There is a growing revolt against using systems that require a high level of experience and expertise. We have a committee comprised by Rich Knowles, Dan Weller, and Garland Bell looking into what to do about our MS Access database. State SIR states that they are building a simpler, homegrown web-based tool. We will wait for our committee to present their recommendations. As I stated, I am a believer in KISS.

We were asked by Branch 116 if we would support installation of a T-coil loop system at BO. We researched this matter before creating our response. We sent a Constant Contact to our members asking if you felt that you would benefit from installation of a T-coil loop system. The response to the email we sent out was informative. This sample showed me a lukewarm response, some yes, more no, and one comment where T-coils are no longer installed in his hearing aid. This comment implies a lack of traction for this service, thusly we need to be careful about promoting it. There are ADA requirements that could support such a system. However, if this system is not gaining traction, I would not spend the money. Our past Big SIR, Tom DiGrande, contacted Mike Ash of BO, asking if they would install the loop system. He took our request back to the City of WC, noting that it would be

expensive. The answer back was that a loop system would **not** be installed at this time.

We have been endeavoring to improve our sound system and also to be careful about how we use it (speak into the microphone). These points explained why we did not think taking on this expenditure was a good idea and Branch 116 agreed. This matter is closed.

Enough business, we are well into spring, almost summer. Activities are calling, especially outdoor (take a Benadryl). It's time to enjoy ourselves and our friends.

We are always looking for new ideas. We also want to know if we have an issue. If you have something you want to say, please email me. No promises, but I am usually pretty good at steering this to the right person. As with any suggestion, we will endeavor to do what is best for the branch.

Dan Smith, Big SIR, [dns.lns02@astound.net](mailto:dns.lns02@astound.net), 925-588-6792

**LITTLE SIR SEZ**

With the realization that Memorial Day weekend has just passed, I thought that I might offer a reflection on the meaning of Memorial Day. Some get confused as to the difference between Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. The primary difference is that Memorial Day honors those who died in military service, whereas Veterans

Day honors all who served, particularly living veterans. Let's make sure we never forget the true meaning behind these holidays

Memorial Day weekend has become the traditional start of summer, I think it is important to pause and reflect on the true meaning of this holiday: The first national observance of those who gave their lives in the defense of freedom was in 1868, specifically honoring the Soldiers and Sailors who had perished in the Civil War. As time went on, and conflicts ensued, we added to that growing list of men and women who had given their last full measure of devotion. The two world wars in the first half of the 20th Century cemented this day of remembrance, and it officially became a national holiday. It is not a day to thank a Veteran for their service, for we are the lucky ones who came home. It is not a day to wish someone "Happy Memorial Day", for there are no happy memories associated with losing friends and comrades in combat. It IS a day to find a Memorial Day ceremony in your town or county and spend some time quietly reflecting on the men and women who had their lives cut short, that we may live in this Nation unharmed. It IS a day to visit a national cemetery and reflect on the names written on those white headstones, and honor those who rest there eternally.

Win the future when you gather with family and friends on the Memorial Day weekend, and welcome the summer, take a moment to pause, and remember why we have this holiday. Say a prayer or have a thought for those who donned the uniform of our country to defend our freedoms and never returned. Then enjoy the day; those we honor on Monday would want you to.

Thom Watkins, Little SIR, [thomwat831@gmail.com](mailto:thomwat831@gmail.com), 925-330-3780

## HOTLINE INDEX

(Click on an activity and you will be taken to that article or website)

ACTIVITY	COED	ACTIVITY	COED
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Br 8 Officers, Directors and Committees		Golf-18 Hole	
Activity Coordination Committee		Heads Up Walkers	
Astronomy - Online		Hikers	
SIR Biography		Internet Games ONLINE	
Birthdays		Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange	
<a href="#">Bocce Ball-League</a>		<a href="#">Holiday Gala (was Ladies Day Luncheon)</a>	
Bocce Ball-Open		Luncheon Sign-Up	
Books-Exchange		<a href="#">Mixer</a>	
<a href="#">Books-Group</a>		Model Railroad	
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<a href="#">Car Enthusiasts</a>		Photo Gallery	
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<a href="#">Film Buffs</a>		<a href="#">Writing Your Life Story</a>	
<a href="#">Fishing</a>			
<a href="#">Folk Music Jam</a>			

Activity Open to Spouse and Partners

### Next SIR Luncheon:

**Monday June 8, 2026**, Boundary Oak Golf Club, 3800 Valley Vista Rd., Walnut Creek

Social Hour at 10:30 am, Lunch at 11:30 am.

#### **March Menu (Served at table)**

Salad: Mesclun Greens Carrots, Tomatoes, Croutons, Ranch Dressing

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

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

OR Vegetarian: Spinach Ricotta Manicotti Four Cheese & Spinach Cannelloni, Seasonal Vegetable, House Tomato Basil Sauce -

Dessert: Apple Bar

**Greeters:** To be determined and present at luncheon

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## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

The monthly activities calendar is accessed from the SIR Branch 8 website at [Calendar | SIR Branch 8](#). If this link does not work for you, please enter <https://www.sirbr8.com/calendar/> into your web browser. When you click the link to the calendar on the website, you will see the entire month. To get more details of an activity on any given day, click on activity and a pop-up will show more details.



**NEW ADDRESS,  
PHONE NUMBER,  
or E-mail**



If you change your address, phone number or E-Mail address, please notify Rich Knowles at (925) 370-6239 or send him an E-mail at: [sb8msec@hotmail.com](mailto:sb8msec@hotmail.com)

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## NEED A RIDE

In the interest of getting more guys to our monthly luncheons, the BEC would like to know who needs a ride to and from Boundary Oak and has not yet arranged for one each month. If you need a ride to/from the luncheon, please send an email to Tom Di Grande at [tomdigrande@comcast.net](mailto:tomdigrande@comcast.net) or call at 925-876-7851 by the first of the month.

In addition, we have arranged to have a golf cart available for transporting limited-mobility members to and from the upper parking lot to the luncheon entrance. Please email Tom Di Grande at least 3 days before the monthly luncheon if you need that service.

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## NEW MEMBER BADGES



These badges belong to our newest members. Don't forget to say "Hi" and introduce yourself. Let's make them feel at home. Talk about your SIR activities and ask them to join you.

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH- SIR GIVING BACK

Join your fellow SIR Branch 8 members in the Community Outreach-SIR Branch 8 Giving Back program / activities. Participate when you can, in assisting, while supporting our communities, SIR Branch 8 Giving Back gives you that opportunity! The Community Outreach-SIR Branch 8 Giving Back activities are co-ed. Spouses, partners, significant others & guests are encouraged to participate and sign up for any of the activities. 😊

We Are Making Progress Here! Let's get more of the spouses involved in 2026!! Have you asked your spouse or partner to join us??

If you have volunteered in an activity previously, please contact us again for the upcoming activity that you would like to participate in. 😊

The Community Outreach volunteers participated in a regularly scheduled Food Bank activity in the month of May. ONLY 7

members and 5 spouses, attended and participate in sleeving of produce, making "ready for distribution" to the community! 🙌

OUR VOLUNTEERING / PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY SEEMS TO BE DWINDLING. PLEASE CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE. THEY NEED OUR ASSISTANCE, MORE THAN EVER! TIME TO VOLUNTEER 😊

A "short staffed" group of SIR Branch 8 members (6) and 1 spouse (Mary Oommen), greeted and distributed food to over 145 families at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek in May.

The distribution included cans of tomatoes, beans, bags of corn flower, sleeves of oranges & apples, carrots, blocks of cheese, frozen fish nuggets and bread!

This activity will certainly make you aware of the need in our communities - PLEASE VOLUNTEER, Thank You. SIR BRANCH 8 MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Upcoming activities:

Monthly Food Bank Activity, Wednesday, 6/10/26, Scheduled from 1 to 3 pm, Minimum 20 volunteers needed - NEED HELP HERE.

DON'T FORGET!

We have started volunteering monthly at the:

Mobile Pantry Distribution

St Paul's Episcopal Church, Walnut Creek, CA

The activity is organized and scheduled by the

Food Bank, for the 3rd Thursday of each month. 😊

9am - 11:45am (rain or shine)

NEXT DISTRIBUTION - 6/18/26

This activity was arranged by the popular response from the SIR Branch 8 membership, after volunteering in the past and reaching out to the community.

We need a MAXIMUM of 10 volunteers for this activity monthly - SIGN UP EARLY! 😊

This is really a "FUN" activity - give it a try, you'll like it!

"FAST PACED" BOXING ACTIVITY ADDED -

Friday, 6/26/26, 9am – noon, Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano  
12 volunteers needed

ALL ACTIVITIES: PLEASE No open toe shoes, Masks are optional, Wear your SIR Red Volunteer T Shirt and Arrive 15 min prior to scheduled shift starting time 🙌

We will continue to provide Food Barrels 🗑️ for needed donations at the monthly membership luncheons.

Here's your opportunity to really help the Food Bank for 2026. 😊

Does your spouse, partner or significant other know about the food barrels at the luncheons? I would bet if you looked in your pantries at home, you could come up with a bag of food for the barrel. Extra cans of beans / tuna / chicken / soup / tomato sauce, jars of peanut butter / jelly, boxes of pasta / cereal / crackers, ETC. Look for the SIR "Greeters", the barrels will be near by. Your contributions are appreciated. 😊 SIR Branch 8 participation in the Community Outreach-SIR ranch 8 Giving Back program demonstrates the heart felt effort of the volunteers support for the community.

"Giving Back" doesn't require inordinate commitments of time or talent, you can do what you want, when you can and still reap the rewards of Volunteering.

To sign up contact: Tom DiGrande, [tomdigrande@comcast.net](mailto:tomdigrande@comcast.net), 925-876-7851 or Phil Scimonelli, [rosescim@aol.com](mailto:rosescim@aol.com), 661-917-8060

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## NO NEW BIOGRAPHIES FOR THIS MONTH.

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## HOLIDAY GALA



The committee continues their ongoing planning and preparations for making this year's December 14, 2026 Gala a spectacular fun event.

Holiday Gala Contacts: Chair: Buck Cheshire  
Committee Members: Ray de Wit, Tom DiGrande, Paula Murphy and Thom Watkins

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## SUNSHINE REPORT



**Rich Knowles**

Please contact Membership: [sb8msec@hotmail.com](mailto:sb8msec@hotmail.com), to report illnesses, surgery, or passing of members. Membership will send electronic "Get well" cards via email and will continue to mail condolence cards to the families via mail. Membership will report member deaths to the Branch via email and, as it becomes known, information about obituaries and services. In addition, Membership continues to maintain a current obituary file on the website.

Membership Secretary: Rich Knowles, [grichthek@gmail.com](mailto:grichthek@gmail.com), 925-681-9191

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## BIRTHDAYS



**Rich Knowles**

Membership began sending birthday emails to members during the Covid-19 shutdown and has continued daily since. The Sirs below have a birthday this month. Those highlighted in yellow are 90+.

Be sure to open your birthday greeting.

Bob Beitler	Edd Gaede	Gary Palhegyi
John Brooks	Dan Kohlman	Dino Papatheymetrios
Dan Casella	Henry Kung	<b>Zoltan Saary</b>
Ron Cassano	Roger Lamm	Ray Sander
YK Chan	<b>Robin Lamont</b>	<b>George Schulze</b>
Tom Cook	Carl Meier	Dan Smith
Bob Coston	Carl Moyer	<b>Ron Woods</b>
<b>Ed Dijkman</b>		

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## ACTIVITY COORDINATION COMMITTEE



Mike Frey



Ken Main



Chick Lowry



Dennis Mierzwa

No new report for June.

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## SIR BIOGRAPHY

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## BOCCE BALL LEAGUE



**Chick Lowry**  
Chairman

League Bocce season has begun again in 2026. All 10 team members from last year have returned to hone their playing skills towards that perfect game.

Bob and Laurie Barnes, Bob and Susan Weiss, Dennis Mierzwa, Peter Shapiro, Ray Pixton, Jim Sowell, Elaine Lowry and myself comprise the team.

We were seeded 8<sup>th</sup> again this year with a promise to ourselves that our competitiveness will improve and move up the standings. Our current standing with the first 12 games played is 3 wins, 9 losses for a 25% winning ratio. The teams we are scheduled against were seeded higher and we will need to concentrate. We score points in most every game, just not the team first to 12 points. Bummer.  
Go Sir Bocce!!!

Chair: Chick Lowry, [Clowry2845@gmail.com](mailto:Clowry2845@gmail.com)  
Asst. Chair: Bob Barnes, [Bob\\_Barnes@msn.com](mailto:Bob_Barnes@msn.com)

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## BOOK GROUP



Ron Rizzo

In May the Book Group discussed "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman. The book involves four senior citizens in an upscale English retirement community who meet to discuss cold cases but decide to investigate an actual murder in their community when it occurs. Our group generally liked the book for the well-developed characters, the writing style, the humor, and the mystery itself. However, some felt there were too many characters to keep track of and that it had several cliches about seniors. The overall group rating for the book was 4.2 out of a possible score of 5, which was a little less than the score on Amazon.

Our next book is a work of non-fiction—"The Thinking Machine: Jensen Huang, Nvidia, and the World's Most Coveted Microchip" by Stephen Witt.

The Book Group meets at 10:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the Concord Round Table Pizza on Treat Boulevard. If you like to read and have lively discussions about the books you have read, you should think about joining our group. If you are interested, please contact our Chairman, Ron Rizzo, at [ronbrizzo@gmail.com](mailto:ronbrizzo@gmail.com). The list of books to be read during the year is on the SIR Branch 8 website, along with a list of books read the prior year.

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## BOWLING



**Dan Weller**

The Summer league starts May 13. This league has three-bowler teams and will be done August 26. There are some bowlers available. Please contact Dan Weller if you are interested in league and / or tournament bowling.

### **SIR State-Wide Tournament Schedules, Applications, and Results Are On-Line:**

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

### **Upcoming SIR Bowling Tournaments:**

DATE	LOCATION	COMMENTS
June 4-5	Placerville	
June 22-23	Dublin	Local City-come and look

Chair: Dan Weller, 925-935-5510, [dweller@astound.net](mailto:dweller@astound.net)  
Asst Chair: Rob Norris, 925-788-6958, [robert.norris@natca.net](mailto:robert.norris@natca.net)

## CAR ENTHUSIASTS



**Chick Lowry**  
Chairman

Car Enthusiasts will be headed to a local park in Walnut Creek for our next adventure on **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**. The venue at Shadelands will be a good one for sure as we have visited the event before. The timing for notification to Branch members is always difficult when we stage the event early in the month. If the newsletter is published prior, come with us and have some fun.

We will host a **Rally Drive** on **Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>** as noted in last month's letter. I haven't seen any branch members other than our regular CE guys asking to join the event. Don't be bashful, you don't require a special car or be a dedicated Car Enthusiasts member to come enjoy our events, just come and have a fun afternoon or evening with us. We've got some great opportunities coming up in 2026.

I'll provide some highlights of the Rally Drive event in our next article.

The next CE meeting will be **Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, at 1 PM**. We will meet at Round Table Clubhouse Pizza, 2960 Treat Blvd. Concord, CA (corner of Treat and Oak Grove). Arrive a little early to get your food and drink ordered prior to the meeting. Meetings last about an hour. Come join us and see what Car Enthusiasts is all about. If interested in joining the **Car Enthusiasts Activity**, please contact Chick or Tom as noted below.

Chair: Chick Lowry, [Clowry2845@gmail.com](mailto:Clowry2845@gmail.com)  
Assistant Chair: Tom Hodgson, [TomEHodgson1945@gmail.com](mailto:TomEHodgson1945@gmail.com)

## CRIBBAGE



**Dennis Mierzwa**  
Chairman

The Cribbage Activity meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. We play at Rocco's Pizzeria at 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd in Walnut Creek. The social time and lunch will commence at 11:30 a.m., followed by play from 12:30 PM until 3:00 PM. Please join us if you have played or wish to learn. Depending on attendance we play two, three or four-person

games. We normally get in five games in the three and half hours we play. Our members prefer to play four-person games, which is two partners with the two winners advancing to the next table. Cribbage is a fun, friendly, fast-paced game. Cribbage is a coed activity with spouses and partners welcomed. In addition, if you are introducing a potential new member to Sir, bring them as a guest to a game you enjoy!

### **May 2026 RESULTS**

Attendance for the first games of May was sixteen players, third time for 2026, which gave us four tables of four. The four tables made for a very manageable game session!

The below individuals are recognized as winners for the first May session.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Terry Mason	206 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dennis Mierzwa	201 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alex Borders	165 points

Dino Papathehetrios reported high hand/crib of 20.

Our second session of the month was held on Tuesday, May 19. Attendance remained strong, with fifteen players giving us four tables once again. The games moved along smoothly with minimal delays as winners rotated to the next table.

Listed below are the winners from the second session.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Eric Moss	209 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stan Johnson	157 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dino Papathehetrios	152 points

High hand/crib for the day went to Greg Ryan.

2026 High score, Steve Monksfield 251 points  
2025 High Score, Don Atwater 327 points

### **Next Games: Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>-same time, same place!**

Chair: Dennis Mierzwa, [dennis.mierzwa@att.net](mailto:dennis.mierzwa@att.net)  
Assistant Chair: Dan Smith, [dns.lns02@astound.net](mailto:dns.lns02@astound.net)

## PINOCHLE

We are meeting in person twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesdays at Rocco's Restaurant, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek (in the Encina Grande shopping center near Whole Foods). We have lunch starting at noon with card play from 12:30 to 3:00. We play 3, 4, 5, or 6 handed games so we can accommodate any number of players. Ladies and new players are welcome with training as requested. We share this activity between Branch 146 and Branch 8. Contact Stan Johnson, chairman.

On April 22, we had 9 players and played two tables. At one table of four, Dennis Mierzwa and Will Stratton (branch 146) won both games over Jerry Ward and Terry Mason. At the table of five, Stan Johnson won one game and Alex Borders (146) won the other over Bob Weiss, Cleo Bolen (146), and Jim Barry (146).

On May 13, we had 14 players. At the 4-man table, Stan Johnson and Steve Monksfield won all three games over George Kibler (branch 128) and Jerry Ward. The winners had 5 double runs (double families) with 3 in a row. This is highly unusual. At one 5-man table, Dennis Mierzwa won one game and Terry Mason won the other over Chris Wehling, Cleo Bolen (146), and Will Stratton (146). At the other 5-man table, Jeff Morrow (146), Jim Barry (146), Alex Borders (146). each won a game over Bob Weiss and Roy Hodgkinson (146).

Chair: Stan Johnson, 925-938-7016, [stan.johnson88@gmail.com](mailto:stan.johnson88@gmail.com)

from Moss Landing in the early season. Six hours and not a bite. The early salmon bite was not!!

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## DINE OUT - SINGLE SIRs



**Glenn Gilman**  
Chairman

Chairman Glenn Gilman will be our host for our June dinner. Glenn has chosen La Tapatia on Willow Pass Road (across from Park-N-Shop) in Concord. The date is Tuesday, June 2nd, at 5 pm. Let Glenn know if you will be attending or are unable to attend.

**Glenn Gilman, 925-798-5155** [glennfam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glennfam@sbcglobal.net)

Last month, the guys enjoyed a new dining experience at Del Cielo Brewing Company in Martinez.

Chair: Glenn Gilman, 925-798-5155, [glennfam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glennfam@sbcglobal.net)  
Asst Chair: Don Atwater, 925-673-1669, [datwater@pacbell.net](mailto:datwater@pacbell.net)

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## FILM BUFFS

For May we watched "Across the Universe", a film about young love during the time of Viet Nam War protests. Directed by Julie Taymor, famous for her Broadway production of "The Lion King", this unique film offers some beautiful set pieces marked by the actors singing Beatles songs while the actions are taking place. Our members all enjoyed the film, particularly the songs, the acting, and the settings.

Chair: Ron Rizzo, [ronbrizzo@gmail.com](mailto:ronbrizzo@gmail.com)

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## FISHING - AREA 16



**Carl Moyer**

SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are Pedro Contreras, 925-837-4847; and Carl Moyer, 925-685-5243. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, June 25th at 8:30am. Come early.



Ken Bellendir caught a big 36 inch halibut in the bay, and lots of bass and crappie at Clear Lake for 3 days. Ron Lew FLY FISHED for stripers in the bay and caught 2 stripers and one bat ray. He also got black bass and stripers in the delta with Tom Kostik. Eugene Cal went to Santa Barbara for rock fish and ling cod. Matt Richards got his rock fish and lings from Bodega Bay. Brion Beetz and Carl Moyer got their rockfish and ling cod out the gate. Carl Moyer hosted a Chinese fish lunch for 16 of us. Nobody left hungry. Finally, no salmon fishing for anybody til June 27<sup>th</sup>. Very sad.

Matt Richards, Dennis Lee, Carl Moyer, Gordon Linebaugh, and Bob Lively caught some quality trout at San Pablo Reservoir. The rainbow and lightning trout were between 2 and 6 pounds, and delicious. Geno Calhau, Bob Lively, Brion Beetz, Carl Moyer, Dennis Lee, and Nick Jabuka got out upon the ocean blue for rockfish and ling cod. Tom Klostik and Dave Paulson landed some stripers in the delta. And many of us fished in the bay for stripers and halibut. Many stripers and a few halibut. Doug Dukes and Brion Beetz harvested butts in the 20 pound class. And last and least Carl Moyer and Matt Richards tried for salmon

Chair: Carl Moyer, [carlmarc@astound.net](mailto:carlmarc@astound.net)

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## FOLK MUSIC JAM

Folk jam continues to be a popular activity with about 10 to 15 attendees per session.

Group meets in the Multi-Purpose Room in Civic Park first and third Fridays of each month, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM.

As we are using the City of Walnut Creek space, attendees are required to be members of the Walnut Creek Seniors Club. Dues are \$20/year.

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## GOLF - 9 HOLE



The 9-hole Golf Group plays at Diablo Hills Golf Course on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

No new report for June.

Chair: Mike Frey, [mike\\_frey44@comcast.net](mailto:mike_frey44@comcast.net), 925-699-1784

Asst Chair: Ray de Wit, [raydewit11@gmail.com](mailto:raydewit11@gmail.com), 925-948-5962

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## GOLF - 18 HOLE



**David Platter**  
Chairman

Stan Johnson won the four club tournament with a 63 net. At another outing, Rick Trudell shot a net 68 with a gross of 81 during the Diablo Creek contest. In addition, he was the par achiever with eight. Also, Rick survived all eighteen by scoring no hole higher than a bogey. Conclusion: When you are hot you are hot.



Iran's golf program is an embarrassment. The country has only five golf courses while The United States enjoys 16,000 plus. With only five, Iran is not poor. With tons of that oil stuff, cost is not a sandy excuses. When a Sir Branch 8 members find himself in a bunker surround by sand, he manages to get out to play another day. Other countries have coped with adversity.. Take tiny Switzerland with a counts around 100 courses. Their golfers are not allow to complain even while facing hazardous mountains filled with snow.. Cold Iceland has the most courses per capita with 61. Also, they allowed play during dark days and through tough icy winter storms. We believe if Iran obtains a few additional golf courses, there will be peace and happiness throughout the universe.

Chair: David Platter

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## HEADS-UP WALKERS



**Dan Weller**

We walk every Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. We walk for one hour and then go for coffee and snacks. Go to our online page for further info., <https://www.sirbr8.com/heads-up-walkers/>

**5/28/2026: Martinez: Martinez Regional Shoreline.** On I-680 N, take Exit 56, the last offramp to Martinez. Turn left on Marina Vista.

Turn right on Ferry St. And cross the RR tracks. Meet at the first parking lot on the left. Cafe: Starbucks Martinez . Leader: Steve Hilberg. Difficulty: E

**6/4/2026: Lafayette: Lafayette / Moraga Trail.** Laf. Community Center. Meet at the Lafayette Community Center at 500 St. Mary's Road. Parking is near the sport arena. Cafe: Peet's Coffee. Leader: Dan Crowley. Difficulty: M

**6/11/2026: Danville: Railroad Museum Iron Horse.** Exit I-680 at Diablo Rd., west to Hartz Ave., left to Prospect Ave., right to Railroad Ave Meet in Railroad Museum parking lot, corner of Prospect & Railroad Ave. Cafe: Lunardi's Market. Leader: Dan Smith. Difficulty: E

**6/18/2026: Walnut Creek: YV canal Walnut Ave..** Take Ygnacio Valley Rd. Turn South on Walnut Ave (do not turn on Walnut Boulevard). Go 0.4 miles past the second traffic light (Wiget) and turn left on Naranja Drive. Park there and walk back to Walnut Ave. The trail starts a few feet from Naranja. Cafe: Whole Foods - Oak Grove / Ygnacio Valley Road. Leader: Dan Weller. Difficulty: E  
**6/25/2026: Clayton: Clayton Library.** Meet at the library parking lot, 6125 Clayton Road. Cafe: Sweet Bakery. Leader: Dave Allen. Difficulty: M

**7/2/2026: 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: Dave Davis. Difficulty: E

Chair: Dan Weller, 925-939-5510, [dweller@astound.net](mailto:dweller@astound.net)  
Asst Chair: Phil Trapp, 925-963-1819, [prtrapp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:prtrapp@sbcglobal.net)  
Asst Chair: Jim Sowell, 925-457-7746, [sowell4jim@aol.com](mailto:sowell4jim@aol.com)

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## HIKERS



Carl Ludwig  
Chairman

We have two hikes lined up for the month of June. The easy hike is in a favorite local location while the hard hike is at the ever-popular Lafayette Reservoir. Detailed information for interested hikers will appear by the end of May on the Hiker's webpage of the Branch 8 website at <https://www.sirbr8.com/hikers/>.

**June 9th, 2026 Easy Hike: Pine Canyon to Castle Rock 10:00 a.m.**

**Hike Description:** An easy, mostly flat, out and back hike along the route of the old stage road up Mount Diablo. The hike is on pavement through the Castle Rock Recreation Area, gravel to the dam, then sandstone most of the rest of the way. The hike is woodsy, offering quite a bit of shade, with views of the hills surrounding the valley. These build to the sandstone crags of Castle Rock. We will likely see Peregrine Falcons which famously nest here. We hike 1.4 miles to the State Park boundary with a couple of dry stream crossings toward the end (so 2.8 miles round trip). Elevation gain is 200 feet, mostly in the climb around the dam. There are restrooms ¼ mile into the hike.

**Bring:** Good boots, water, hat, and trekking poles if you use them.

**Directions:** Take Ygnacio Valley Road east to Oak Grove Road. Turn right (south) and go 1 mile to the roundabout. Continue straight which becomes Castle Rock Road and follow it 1.7 miles to the end.

**Optional Lunch** - Burger Lounge, Orchards Shopping Center, 2920 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

**Hike Leader:** Martin Simmons 925-586-2704

[martin@infinitylane.com](mailto:martin@infinitylane.com)

**Hike Coordinator and Chair:** Carl Ludwig 415-350-7372

[cludwig171@gmail.com](mailto:cludwig171@gmail.com)

**June 30 2026 Hard Hike – A Modified Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail, 9:30 a.m.**

**Hike Description** – This is a 5.3 mile loop hike with 712 feet of elevation gain. It incorporates ½ of the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail with ½ of the paved Lakeside Trail. (This “modification” eliminates the infamous “cardiac hill” climb which dogs all Rim Trail hikers.) We first hike from the intersection of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Village Center up to the main Reservoir parking lot. Then we head up to the Rim Trail in a counterclockwise direction until we find ourselves at its western-most edge before descending on the Canyon Trail to the paved Lakeside Trail. We continue counterclockwise on the paved foot trail to the parking lot and then down to our parked cars. There is streetside parking on the south side of Mt. Diablo Blvd and along the side streets near the starting intersection. There are restrooms at the Reservoir parking lot.

**Directions to Hike** - Highway 24 west to Acalanes Rd exit, turning south to Mt Diablo Blvd. Take a left and travel about one mile. We will meet at 10:00 am on the corner of Mt. Diablo main Boulevard and Village Center, Lafayette, across from the Veteran's Memorial Center. There is FREE PARKING on the South side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard. We meet at an earlier start time of **9:30 am** to beat the heat!!

**Bring:** Hat, water, sturdy hiking boots, trekking poles.

**Optional Lunch:** Batch & Brine, 3602 Mt Diablo Blvd.

**Hike Leader and Coordinator:** Carl Ludwig 415-350-7372,

[cludwig171@gmail.com](mailto:cludwig171@gmail.com)

AllTrails Map: <https://www.alltrails.com/explore/recording/morning-run-4a5876b-8?p=-1&sh=ls05uy>

**Hike Chair:** Carl Ludwig, 415-350-7372, [cludwig171@gmail.com](mailto:cludwig171@gmail.com)

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## INTERNET GAMES



Don  
Atwater  
Chairman

### Cribbage

A challenging event was in May, with a crowded leaderboard. Dennis Mierzswa is the winner with 12 wins. Ray de Wit and Greg Ryan had 11 wins.

Danny Rinaldi, Dan Weller and Don Atwater had 10 wins. Don Atwater had a 28 score in one game, only the second person to reach this near maximum in the 6 years of the tournament.

### Mexican Train

No Internet Mexican Train was held in May.

These games are played on the internet with Zoom or phone connections for chatting. Let Don or Dan know when you want to join our fun.

Chair: Don Atwater, 925-673-1669, [datwater@pacbell.net](mailto:datwater@pacbell.net)

Asst. Chair: Danny Rinaldi, 925-825-0519,

[danrinaldi944@gmail.com](mailto:danrinaldi944@gmail.com)

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## MIXER

The Mixers met on Tuesday May 26 as usual, even though Ray was not here, he was off gallivanting around in LA. We had a nice

turnout, including David Scholz, a new member. Lots of laughs, and spirited conversation. A good time! Please remember that everyone, including wives or significant others, is welcome and we always welcome new-comers at the Mixers.

June's event will be on the 30<sup>th</sup>, same time and place, at 3:00 at Jack's in Pleasant Hill.

Please contact Ray de Wit ([raydewit11@gmail.com](mailto:raydewit11@gmail.com)) or Alan Curtis ([alancurtis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alancurtis@sbcglobal.net)) for information and to reserve a spot. All are welcome (spouses, significant others, or guests), so watch for information on upcoming events.

When hearing about our group my own daughter asked to read my stories and have copies to later share with her daughter. This is the real reason we write, to share fun and interesting aspects of our life to those who really care.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday from 1:00 to 2:30 PM at: Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria 2909A Ygnacio Valley Rd. Walnut Creek, Ca (It's located at Oak Grove Rd & Ygnacio Valley Rd – near the center of the "L" shaped strip mall.)

Tom Hodgson, [TomEhodgson1945@gmail.com](mailto:TomEhodgson1945@gmail.com), 925-818-1533

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## SIRS AT THE GAMES



Steve Schramm

It is almost time for baseball and our outing to see the San Francisco Giants! Pitchers and catchers have reported to Arizona for Spring Training. In addition, the Giants have a new second baseman via free agency. Good things are happening!

So, we have our tickets for the **SF Giants versus the Milwaukee Brewers on Wednesday afternoon, July 29, at 12:45 pm.** In July, we have great seats along the third base side in Section 222, very close to home plate. The ticket price is \$75 per person. Last year, we had a mighty group of 20, so let's top that number in 2026.

Please send an email to Steve Schramm, "[sschramm01@gmail.com](mailto:sschramm01@gmail.com)" to get on the list for the SF Giants game this Summer. As always, both members and their guests are welcome to join us at the game.

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## 2026 Hotline Editors

Chris Wehling	Hotline Coordinator/Editor
David Glazer	Editor
Steve Moore	Editor

**Note: If you like to know the news earlier than everyone else, volunteer to be a Hotline editor. Position now open. Need to have good working experience with MSWord. Contact Chris Wehling for more information. Thanks.**

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## WINE FINDERS 1



Ken Stehr

Our next gathering is scheduled to be held on June 11, 2026.

Chair: Ken Stehr, [kcstehr@comcast.net](mailto:kcstehr@comcast.net), 925-899-8631  
Asst Chair: Rob Laaback, [rlaabak@yahoo.com](mailto:rlaabak@yahoo.com)

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## WOODPECKERS



Woodpeckers did not meet in May.

Chair: Thom Watkins

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## WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY



Tom  
Hodgson  
Chairman

Writing Your Life Story is a small group that meets once a month for lunch and or a beer. We all bring a short one page story that we have written about an interesting event in our lives. It is fun to share these memories with a group of friends that is interested. The stories from others often remind us of experiences of our own, that we can later write about.

## Photo Gallery

Ken Bellendir caught this fine crappie at Clear Lake



Next sixteen pictures are of this year's Don Atwater Golf Tournament (pictures courtesy of Dan Crowley).









