

**WHAT IS SIR?**

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

**Branch 8 Website:**

<https://www.sirbr8.com>

**"MAKE NEW FRIENDS FOR LIFE"**

**Editor: David Glazer**

**BIG SIR COLUMN**

**Dan Smith**

It is now mid-year, and BEC will look at where we are with regards to membership. Have we grown or are we continuing to shrink? Those of us who submit their annual dues tell the story. Certainly we lose older members because of attrition. We expect that, and we are glad to have gotten to know those members. We also lose newer members. They may or may not chose to tell us why they are leaving. We can only surmise. Therefore, I will come to you and

suggest that we all remain aware of our new members and, better yet, ensure that they get to enjoy whatever activities they chose to participate in. The organization that is behind you will do its best to follow-up with these new members. Everyone can help by making the new guys feel welcome. When we see someone enjoying themselves, we can be confident.

The luncheon on July 13<sup>th</sup> is a buffet, offering hamburgers and bratwurst along with picnic like sides. We the have the Happy Fall Y'all picnic on September 16<sup>th</sup> keying on Santa Maria tri-tip. Why not? It's summer. Let's enjoy. We can look forward and note that we will have a booth at the Clayton Oktoberfest. And you will soon be asked to sign up for the Holiday Gala. More about these activities later. We have things happening. I find that I respond to shopping lists. Whether they are written down or mental. My wife gives me shopping lists, and I get some sort of psychological reward from crossing items off. Likewise with SIR. When I checked the State SIR website for who our HLM's are, I could see that one member was missing. So, I took action to correct. When I checked back, as I just did, I can see that that member's name is still missing. Back on my mental shopping list it goes. Within the Branch, members ask for help. At luncheons I will ask you if someone can help, usually explaining what qualifications are of aid. I am well aware that SIR is a volunteer organization and like to treat it that way. Tom Draeger stepped forward and volunteered to help Chris Wehling with the Hotline editing. Thank you, Tom. As I describe other opportunities, I hope that a member will respond and help me reward my fetish of crossing items off my shopping list.

I want to thank John Vallor and Manuel Dominguez for the continuous effort they have been making in managing attendance at our luncheons. Boundary Oak appreciates receiving accurate attendance estimates and meal choices. This helps ensure that we receive the meals we want with little food waste. I will also reach out to the membership to thank you for signing up and showing up for these luncheons. We realize that we will have no-shows and walk-ins, and we deal with this to meet everyone's needs. I will suggest that when you receive a reminder for a luncheon that you want to attend, but are not sure about having signed up, go ahead and sign up. Our system identifies duplicates, and you will not be charged twice. If you have signed up and learn that you cannot attend, please let us know promptly. Also, don't be late. Reception usually shuts down starting about at 11:20 a.m. for the luncheons.

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****A SIR Time Capsule**

In 2026, the United States marks its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday—a rare milestone in the life of a nation and a fitting moment to pause, look back, and enjoy the story we are still helping to write. For two and a half centuries, America has been shaped by big ideas, hard work, spirited debate, community service, sacrifice, invention, and more than a little humor along the way.

The SIR organization has been shaped by many of those things as well. So why not a SIR time capsule? Our time capsule gives our club a chance to add its own small chapter to that larger American story. The items we place inside are not meant to be museum pieces only; they are reminders of who we were, what we valued, what made us laugh, and what we hoped future members would remember when they open it years from now.

**Items in the Time Capsule**

- A letter from current SIR members
- A current newspaper or printed headlines
- A club roster or group photo
- Photos from SIR events
- A menu or recipe from a favorite Luncheon, BBQ, or Holiday Gala meal
- A small American flag or patriotic pin
- Maybe a list of popular sayings, songs, movies, and technology
- Predictions for the future of SIR
- A message to future SIR officers

Can you think of anything else to go in the SIR time capsule? Where do we bury it? When should it be opened? In 25, 50, 100 years? What do you think?

**Closing Note to Future Members**

To the members who open this time capsule: we hope these items give you a clear picture of who we were in 2026—what we valued, what made us laugh, and what we believed was worth preserving. Much will have changed by the time you read this, but we hope the spirit of fellowship, service, good humor, and pride in our country remain familiar. As you look back on our moment in history, I invite you to carry these traditions forward and add your own chapter for those who will come after you.

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
Activities Calendar		Golf-9 Hole	
Br 8 Officers, Directors and Committees		Golf-18 Hole	
Activity Coordination Committee		Heads Up Walkers	
Astronomy - Online		Hikers	
SIR Biography		Internet Games ONLINE	
Birthdays and Anniversaries		Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange	
Bocce Ball-League		Holiday Gala (was Ladies Day Luncheon)	
Bocce Ball-Open		Luncheon Sign-Up	
Books-Exchange		Mixer	
Books-Group		Model Railroad	
Books-Recently Read		Octoberfest (to become Happy Fall Y'All)	
Bowling		Local Classical Music (was Opera In the Theaters)	
Car Enthusiasts		Photo Gallery	
Card Games-Contract Bridge		Pickleball	
Card Games-Duplicate Bridge		Podcasts Zoom	
Card Games-Partners Bridge		Second Chance Magazine Exchange	
Card Games-Cribbage		Shared Activities	
Card Games-Pinochle		SIR Science-Online	
Card Games-Poker		SIR Store	
SIR Chess		SIRs at the Games	
Community Outreach-SIR Giving Back		\$ums in Retirement Zoom	
Digital Photography		Sunshine Report	
Dining-Bargain Bites		Traveling SIRs	
Dining-Dine In #1		Wines-Bargain	
Dining-Dine Out Single SIRs		Wines-Cellar Fillers	
Distinguished Service Award (Ed Benson)		Wines-Finders 1	
Doctor's Office		Wines-Finders 2	
Dominoes-Mexican Train		Wines-Finders 3	
End of Life Planning		Woodpeckers	
Film Buffs		Writing Your Life Story	
Fishing			
Folk Music Jam			

Activity Open to Spouse and Partners

### Next SIR Luncheon:

**Monday July 13, 2026**, Boundary Oak Golf Club, 3800 Valley Vista Rd., Walnut Creek

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

#### Luncheon Menu (Buffet)

Salad: TBD

Entrees: Bratwurst Dog, Hamburger, Tater Tots, Gouda Mac and Cheese

Dessert: TBD

**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 Giving Back program and activities. Participate when you can, while supporting our communities. SIR Giving Back gives you that opportunity! The Community Outreach/SIR Giving Back activities are co-ed. Spouses, partners, and significant others are encouraged to participate in and sign up for any of the activities. Let's get more 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 June. A "SUPER" turnout of 16 members and 6 spouses, attended and participate in sleeving of produce, consisting of 1900lbs of Oranges 🍊, 1300lbs Plumbs & 250lbs Apples, making "ready for distribution" to the community! 🙌

A enthusiastic" group of SIR Branch 8 members (12) and three spouses greeted and distributed food to over 139 families at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek in June. The distribution included cans of tomatoes, corn, bags of beans & rice, boxes of macaroni & cheese, fresh apples, carrots, and grapefruit, blocks of cheese, frozen fish nuggets and family size packs of chicken drumsticks. A Great Selection!

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

**Monthly Food Bank Activity**, Wednesday, July 8, scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m. Minimum of 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. The activity is organized and scheduled by the Food Bank for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, 📅 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. (rain or shine)

**NEXT DISTRIBUTION:** July 16

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! 🙌

ALL ACTIVITIES: PLEASE no open-toe shoes. Masks are optional. Wear your SIR red Volunteer T-shirt and arrive 15 minutes 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 the upcoming year. 🙌

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 and jelly, boxes of pasta, cereal, crackers, etc. Look for the SIR "Greeters" — the barrels will be nearby. Your contributions are appreciated. 🙌

SIR Branch 8 participation in the Community Outreach/SIR Giving Back program demonstrates the heart-felt effort of our 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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## HOLIDAY GALA



The wheels are now in motion. Dan Smith and the committee have taken the first steps in negotiating the menu and activities preparation for this year's December 14, 2026 Gala. Each month more information will follow. Watch this space 🙌  
Cheers,

Holiday Gala Contacts: Chairman: Buck Cheshire  
Committee Members: Ray De Wit, Tom DiGrande, Paula Murphy, Thom Watkins

## SUNSHINE REPORT



David Green learned from Dave Platter that fellow golfer Mike Furtado just underwent successful brain surgery (no cancer) but will be unable to play golf for 4 months during his recovery. We all wish him a speedy recovery.



**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

## 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.

Mike Anderson <b>Don Atwater</b> Buck Cheshire Pat Dodson	Tom Doll Bob McMains Lowell Robison Rich Rosin	<b>Ralph Sanford</b> <b>Bob Stein</b> Gerald Stephens John Vallor
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## ANNIVERSARIES

Rich Burke – 15 years in Branch 8

## ACTIVITY COORDINATION COMMITTEE



Mike Frey



Ken Main



Chick Lowry



Dennis Mierzwa

### Quick recap

The Activity Coordinating Committee (ACC) meeting focused on addressing the status of various activities and operational issues within the organization. The group discussed the Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange, which is being put on hold due to Gordon's unavailability and the need to find a new coordinator, with Chick volunteering to contact the Book Exchange group about potentially taking over the puzzles. The committee reviewed the setup requirements for activity tables at Boundary Oak, noting ongoing challenges with proper table placement and the need for updated diagrams, particularly for buffet-style luncheons. They also discussed Bill Alder's new activity proposal, waiting for confirmation of sufficient interest before presenting to the BEC, and explored the potential formation of an AI users group to help ACs manage their activities more efficiently. The conversation

ended with updates on the activity list coordination between different platforms and forms, with Rich Knowles responsible for ensuring consistency across new member materials.

### Next steps

#### Chick

Contact Alan Curtis (Book Exchange) to determine if the book team can take over the jigsaw puzzle exchange and find out how many puzzles are involved; also ask about logistics for storing and managing puzzles, and discuss possible table arrangements for buffet luncheons.

Request Tom DiGrande send the current activity table setup diagram file, and ask if he can create an updated diagram for the buffet luncheon setup; if possible, update the diagram to reflect new table arrangements for activities during buffets.

Send updated activity list to Rich Knowles (and others involved) whenever changes occur, to ensure all new and prospective member materials are current.

#### Dennis

Review the online new member application and activity list on the website and compare it to Chick's current activity list to ensure they are in sync; report findings to the group.

#### Ken

Try using AI to summarize meeting minutes and test the "action items" feature; consider suggesting to Carl or Leo (current or incoming minutes-taker) to try using AI for the minutes and summary.

#### Mike

Bring printed copies of the current (non-buffet) activity table setup diagram to the next meeting, with projector tables penciled in, and provide copies to Ken to give to Deb (Boundary Oak staff) to ensure correct table setup.

Reach out to Glenn Gilman at the next luncheon to ask if he is interested in making a presentation at the July Luncheon.

Reach out to Buck Cheshire about making a presentation at the August luncheon.

Follow up with Bill Alder to confirm if there is enough interest to move forward with his proposed Share Your Hobby Activity.

Investigate Gmail/Constant Contact spam issue and provide Ken (and others) with instructions on how to ensure Constant Contact emails are not sent to spam/junk.

Coordinate with Ken on the transition of Zoom meeting coordination responsibilities for 2027.

#### Chick

Send updated new member application forms (both online and paper) to the group for review to ensure all activities are current and accurately reflected.

## SIR BIOGRAPHY

**NO NEW BIOGRAPHIES FOR THIS MONTH.**



## BOCCE BALL LEAGUE



**Chick Lowry**

The League Bocce team is moving up in the stats. It seems that the two evenings that I wasn't available to lead the team, Bob Barnes took over as Capo and led the group to three games won both evenings. I certainly hope Elaine and I are not a pox for the team. We are currently sitting in the seventh place with a 33% win ratio. I'm certain that we can move up another level as the season progresses. The skill level of the group is growing. 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)

## BOOK GROUP



**Ron Rizzo**

At our June meeting we discussed Stephen Witt's book, *The Thinking Machine: Jensen Huang, Nvidia, and the World's Most Coveted Microchip*. It is about Jensen Huang, Nvidia's CEO, and Nvidia's phenomenal rise from a startup in gaming to become the leading provider of the best computer chips and software platforms in the world, powering artificial intelligence (AI), high-performance computing, and gaming. The book describes Huang's technical and managerial brilliance, but also highlights his shortsightedness in terms of human feelings and potential adverse consequences. There was a lively discussion in our group about the book, Jensen Huang himself, AI, and our future. Many people are wondering about the role of AI in our life. Are we going to survive, and if so, what will give life meaning? Huang is explicitly unconcerned about these issues because he believes AI is only a tool and will never achieve sentience. Most of the members agreed with the author that, whether AI will kill humanity or save it, it will happen on Nvidia's chips. Our group rated the book 4.1 on a 1-to-5 scale.

Our next book is a work of fiction, *The Secret Life of Sunflowers*, by Marta Molnar.

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.

## BOWLING



**Dan Weller**

The Summer league started 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 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 22-23	Dublin	Local City – come and look
July 9-10	Auburn	
July 21-22	Concord	Branches 8, 146, 128 are hosting at Clayton Valley Bowling. Come in and see many Sirs having great bowling and fun.

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**

Car Enthusiasts had good turnouts for both the May 30<sup>th</sup> and the June 7<sup>th</sup> events. We had to cancel the June 13<sup>th</sup> Demolition Derby at the Solano County Fair. Chris Wehling had offered to coordinate the event, but CE members just had too many other opportunities to take it in. Chris went and said it was a really good show.

Unfortunately, the next target for a July event was a visit to the **USS Hornet, Air, Sea, and Space Museum on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>**. However, this event is **cancelled**. It will be rescheduled to another date.

August will take us to Danville for the **Hot Sunday Nights Car Show on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**. We'll start with an early dinner, then tour the show. More info will be made available during the month of July.

There will be **no CE meeting in July** due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. 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 first Wednesday and third Tuesday of each month. We play at Rocco's Pizzeria at 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek. Social time and lunch commence at 11:30 a.m., followed by play from 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. 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 two and a half hours we play. Our members prefer to play four-person games, which consist of 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 welcome. In addition, if you are introducing potential new members to SIR, bring them as guests to a game you enjoy!

### June 2026 RESULTS

Sixteen players attended the first June session, the fourth time this year we've had enough for four tables of four. With four full tables, the games ran smoothly and finished 30 minutes early.

The individuals below are recognized as the top three winners for the first June session.

1 <sup>st</sup>	Ken Moelier	216 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stan Johnson	168 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chris Wehling	160 points

Both Ken and Chris are first time winners in 2026! Stan Johnson reported the high hand/crib of day with a 21, and Terry Mason had a 20.

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, we met for our last session of the month. Attendance was fourteen players, giving us three tables of four and a single table for a two-player game. Very little delay occurred as all games moved along, which resulted in finishing well before 3:00 p.m.

Listed below are the winners from the second session:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Don Atwater	200 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gary Jones	144 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jerry Ward	134 points

Gary is our newest player and first-time winner! High hand/crib for the day went to Stan Johnson, with a 20 hand.

2026 High score: Steve Monksfield 251 points

2025 High Score: Don Atwater 327 points

**Next Games: Wednesday July 1<sup>st</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)

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## PINOCHLE



**Stan Johnson**

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 11:30 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 with Branch 146 and Branch 8. Contact Chair Stan Johnson if you would like to play.

On May 27, we had 11 players and played two tables. At one table of six, Stan Johnson, Terry Mason, and Chris Wehling won the first game (including a double run for 209 points), while Butch Dellio, Steve Monksfield, and Dennis Mierzwa won the second. At the table of five, Jeff Morrow (Branch 148) won one game, and Jim Barry (146) won the other over Jerry Ward, Alex Bordens (146), and Cleo Bolen (146).

On June 10, we had 10 players. At one 5-man table, Terry Mason won one game, while Butch Dellio won the other over Steve Monksfield, Dennis Mierzwa, and Stan Johnson. At the other 5-man table, Jeff Morrow (146) won both games over Jerry Ward, Chris Wehling, Alex Bordens (146), and Will Stratton (146).

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

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## DINE IN 1

Our next dinner will be July 18, hosted by Ron Maciak. Always a good gathering.

Ron Cassano, Head Eater

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## DINE OUT - SINGLE SIRs



**Glenn Gilman**

[danieltcrowley@hotmail.com](mailto:danieltcrowley@hotmail.com)

Our SIR men who want to dine on the first Tuesday of the month are invited to join us Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at Wise Girl, 1932 Oak Park Boulevard, in Pleasant Hill. We gather monthly for good food and good conversation, and we have separate checks. Our recent dinners have ranged from 8 to 12 men, but we will also make room for first-timers. Our host will be Dan Crowley. Let Dan know you will be attending at 602-740-6644 or

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



**Ron Rizzo**

For June, we watched *Adaptation*, a film about screenwriter Charlie Kaufman's difficulties in adapting Susan Orlean's book, *The Orchid Thief*, for the big screen. Directed by Spike Jonze from a screenplay by Kaufman, the film stars Nicolas Cage (as Kaufman), Meryl Streep (as Orlean), and Chris Cooper. Our members all enjoyed the film, particularly the almost surreal portrayal of the difficulties of the creative process, as well as the acting and the humor.

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 our 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, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. Come early.

Many of us worked the Bay for some small stripers and a few halibut. Ken Bellendir, Ron Lew, and Mike Pruett plugged the Delta for black bass. Ron Lew and Mike Pruett went up the American River and got a lot of shad. Mike caught a giant 21-inch shad!!! Matt Richards filleted some nice rockfish fishing from Bodega Bay. Brion Beetz led 8 of us to Lake Almanor for 2 days of trout fishing. They did well with a few larger brown trout in the mix. Lee Clark and Doug Dukes travelled the farthest, all the way to Vancouver Island. They did very well, boating salmon, halibut, ling cod, and rock fish. A whole lot of good eating. Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> is the first day for salmon fishing out the gate. There will be hundreds of boats. Wish us luck.

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

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## FOLK MUSIC JAM

The Folk Jammers group had another successful "gig" at the Chicken Pie shop on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. After a break due to competing activities, the group will resume regular gatherings on

Friday July 17<sup>th</sup> in the Assembly Hall Room in Civic Park. All who like to sing folk songs and/or play an instrument are welcome to join us on the 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



It was a beautiful warm afternoon as 32 golfers began teeing off at 1:00 p.m. at Diablo Hill Golf Course for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Atwater Invitational Event held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Following a challenging Putting Event organized by Dave Perkins, the groups went out in a timely manner, as managed by Starter Mike Frey. After the rounds, most of the golfers and their guests met in the Eagle Room for beverages and a yummy buffet dinner. Following the meal, awards were presented for the winners of the various events and finally the ever-fun Door Prize drawing.

Following are the winners of the events:

**Team Low Gross (1<sup>st</sup> Place): Buddy May, Ian Dun, Arte Chan, and Leary Wong**

**Team Low Gross (2<sup>nd</sup> Place): Judy Eng, Carl Sand, Dan Crowley and Rob Norris**

**Longest Drive, Hole #2: Andrew Lamont, approximately 200 yds**

**Closest to Hole #4: George Vogt, 5 ft, 2 inches**

**Putting Contest: Pat Hoy**

**Congratulations to all the participants!!!**

Thanks to the Event Committee of Ken Main, Pat Hoy, Arte Chan, Dave Perkins, Ray deWit, and Mike Frey for doing such a super job putting this event together.

A special thanks to Buddy May for the "magic" he did in creating the teams that resulted in final, close team results.

We look forward to holding the 39<sup>th</sup> Don Atwater Annual Invitation again in 2027 and having even a bigger group.

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



Stockton's Elkhorn Golf Course was where the Discovery Bay Chapter came to grips with golfers from Branch 8. The contest was designed so a two-man team would play against another two man-team on an 18-hole course. This is what happened:

After four hours and thirty minutes of nail-biting competition, 46 golfers managed to strike a total of 4,130 different golf balls down a well groomed empty fairway, and when finished the tally confirmed that Branch 8 won a 6-3 victory.

Already there is clamor for a return "take on." Suggested courses would include Elkhorn or Swenson Park Golf, both in Stockton. Then there is Dublin Ranch or Diablo Creek in the Bay Area that might be considered.

Now back at Boundary Oak, where a pre-Elkhorn warmup has been completed: Don Dennler won the net score, while Peter Jordan shot the low gross. Then there is Tilden, located deep in the charming Berkeley hills, where Jim Regan tied with Howard Nep, posting a net 71. Also at Tilden new member Mike Volan tied Peter Jordan for the best low gross.

Send Hotline comments to Chris Wehling at [chriswehling@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chriswehling@sbcglobal.net)

During the longest day of the year (June 21) the Bosworth Shamble was played at Boundary Oak. It turned out to have many competitive matches. The games finished with a tie for first place that included the team of Winkler, Mason, and Johnson and also the team of Volan, Schweitzer, Evanoff, and Regan. Many good days and lots of fun.

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/>

**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

**7/16/2026: Moraga: Lafayette / Moraga Trail SMC staging area.**

Meet at the staging area on St. Mary's Road approx. 1/10th mile north of the entrance to St. Mary's College. Cafe: Peet's Coffee. Leader: Phil Trapp. Difficulty: M

**7/23/2026: Pleasant Hill: C.C. Canal.** Meet in the shopping center parking lot at the corner of Taylor & Morello, (North of the service station). Cafe: Panera Bread Cafe. Leader: Rich Burke. Difficulty: M

**7/30/2026: Concord: Newhall Community Park.** Meet at parking lot on Turtle Creek Rd. off Ayers Rd. Some elevation changes to the Viet Nam Memorial. Cafe: Whole Foods - Oak Grove / Ygnacio Valley Road. Leader: Rob Laaback. Difficulty: M

**8/6/2026: Alamo: Stone Valley Rd. Iron Horse.** Exit I-680 on Stone Valley Rd. across Danville Blvd. Meet at the south end of the Alamo Plaza Parking lot north of Stone Valley Road. NOTE, the first few rows of parking are now reserved. BUT, there is parking to the west of the reserved area and to the north of the area, across from the yogurt shop and Safeway. Cafe: Peet's Coffee. Leader: Ron Woods. 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

We have two hikes lined up for the month of July. The easy hike is in a favorite Briones location, while the hard hike is nearby at Diablo Foothills Regional Park. Note the earlier start times of 9:30 a.m. for both hikes; we wish to beat the heat! Detailed information for interested hikers will appear by the end of June on the Hikers' webpage of the Branch 8 website at <https://www.sirbr8.com/hikers/>.

**July 14, 2026 Easy Hike: Alhambra Creek, Briones Regional Park, Martinez. 9:30 a.m.**

**Hike Description:** The hike will start at **9:30 a.m.** This is a truly easy hike, going out and back along Alhambra Creek in the north part of Briones. We will hike a total of about three miles with

approximately 250 feet of elevation gain. The trail is broad and even with good footing. The ascent is a continuous, even climb along the creek, which is likely dry this time of year.

In the past, some hike participants have opted to stretch this hike to a moderate hike outing, looping up and around Alhambra Creek and meeting up with the Diablo View Trail, before returning to the parking lot and rejoining the easy hike trekkers. We can decide at the 1.5-mile mark.

**What to Bring:** Water, hat, sturdy shoes, sunblock, trekking poles if you use them.

**Directions to the Hike:** The hike begins at the Alhambra Creek Staging Area, Brookwood Dr., Martinez. From Walnut Creek, take CA-24 west to Exit 14 for Pleasant Hill Rd. Go north on Pleasant Hill Rd. Keep left to continue on Taylor Blvd. Turn left onto Grayson Rd. – 0.5 mi. Turn right onto Reliez Valley Rd. – 1.6 mi. Turn left onto Brookwood Dr. – 0.8 mi. to Alhambra Creek Staging Area. There potentially is a \$3 fee per vehicle (but I've never seen the kiosk manned nor the fee collected).

**Optional Lunch:** Mona's Burgers in the Palos Verde Mall, corner of Pleasant Hill Road and Geary Road in Pleasant Hill, right next to Lunardi's Market.

**Hike leader:** Manuel Dominguez, 925-938-5380, [dominguezx@comcast.net](mailto:dominguezx@comcast.net)

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

**July 28, 2026 Hard Hike – Diablo Foothills Regional Park, Alamo, 9:30 a.m.**

**Hike Description:** This is a 4.4-mile loop hike originating from the Diablo Foothills Regional Park trailhead at the end of Livorna Road in Alamo. We go up the Foothills Trail, skirting Twin Ponds to the right, looping right on the Briones-Mt. Diablo Trail, then jogging right briefly on the Stonegate Trail to catch the Hanging Valley Trail. The final leg of the hike takes the Alamo Trail back to the trailhead. Total elevation gain is 780 feet. The trails are largely open and unshaded, so we have an earlier start time of 9:30. Gorgeous views abound.

**Directions to Trailhead:** From Walnut Creek, take 680 South to the Livorna exit, then head east up Livorna about 1.4 miles to the trailhead and parking spaces on the left. No restrooms or water available at this site.

**What to Bring:** Water, sturdy boots, trekking poles, hat, and sunblock.

**Optional Lunch:** Round Table Pizza; Alamo Plaza, northwest corner (Danville Blvd. & Stone Valley Rd.)

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

AllTrails map:  
<https://www.alltrails.com/explore/recording/afternoon-hike-39cd7b4--394?p=-1&sh=ls05uy>

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## INTERNET GAMES

The June **Internet Cribbage** Tournament was an exciting event. Our newest member, Dino Papatthemetriou, won most of his battles and finished in a close second-place tie with Ray de Wit. A game behind this duo was Stan Johnson and Greg Ryan, and only



**Don Atwater**

one game ahead of Dennis Mierzwa and Danny Rinaldi. Our winner, Don Atwater, had to win the last two games he played.

**Internet Mexican Train** has most players asking for better tiles. All the matches in May and the first game in June were won by Stan Johnson. Don Atwater won the most recent game. Better competition is needed. Any volunteers?

We play in person on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at Round Table Pizza on Treat Blvd. We have been playing with SIR & friend competitors at two tables, and we have room for additional players at each. Come have lunch with us or just to play the game. Please let us know that you will join us for lunch or the games. Games start about 12:30. Let the Chairman know if you can be expected.

Chair: Don Atwater, 925-673-1669, [datwater@pacbell.net](mailto:datwater@pacbell.net)  
Asst. Chair: Danny Rinaldi, 925-825-0519, [dannrinaldi944@gmail.com](mailto:dannrinaldi944@gmail.com)

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## MIXER



**Ray de Wit**

The Mixers plan to meet on July 28th, 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.

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## LOCAL CLASSICAL MUSIC



**David Bushnell**

Fathom Entertainment is bringing us two popular recently-recorded operas by the New York Metropolitan Opera this summer. Both are at bargain prices, \$13.75 plus booking fees. On Wednesday, July 22, we get Lehar's *The Merry Widow* starring the great Renee Fleming. Wednesday, August 5, brings us Verdi's *Aida*, starring Angel Blue. Both can be seen at the Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill downtown Century theaters at 1:00pm and 6:30pm. You can look up reviews on Google. As these are popular events at a good price, I encourage advance reservations.

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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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## WINE FINDERS 1



Ken Stehr

The Wine Finders 1 group met on June 11. We had a very nice turnout of 17 participants for a blind tasting of the Chardonnay varietal. We were treated to the gracious hospitality of Doug and Shari Barber in their lovely Danville home. As usual, there were plenty of snacks contributed by the attendees and no one went away hungry.

There were eight renderings of the Chardonnay vintage to judge. The Chardonnay grape is widely cultivated and, as such, there are a vast number of wines produced with slight to huge character differences. The sheer number of variants and commonality of taste has earned the wine the "ABC" designator (Anything But Chardonnay). Some are surprisingly good, however.

One criterion we use when entering a bottle of wine for tasting is that it should cost no more than \$20.00. Listed below are our top three favorites with their price and store of origin, so you can pick up one of the winners to determine if you like it, as well.

1. 2025 Muirwood Un-Oaked Chardonnay, Monterey, \$13.99 at Total Wine & More.
2. 2025 Rodney Strong Chardonnay, Chalk Hill, \$15.99 at Knob Hill.
3. Freakshow Chardonnay, \$10.99 at Safeway.

Our next gathering is scheduled for August 13, 2026.

Chair: Ken Stehr, [kcstehr@comcast.net](mailto:kcstehr@comcast.net), 925-899-8531  
Asst Chair: Rob Laaback, [rlaabak@yahoo.com](mailto:rlaabak@yahoo.com)

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## WINE FINDERS 2



Ron Cassano

We held a Malbec tasting on June 18. All the wines were very good. Competition was close. We had a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> places. First place was Cassano's The Herdsman 2023 MAL and Karg's 2024 Alamos Argentina. Second, Dominguez's 2024 Catenas and Donna Benson's 2017 Blacksmith. The appetizers stole the show. Great eats and conversation.

Ron Cassano, Head Wino

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## WINE FINDERS 3



Larry McEwen

Thursday afternoon, June 18, Holley Yarberry hosted a meeting of Winefinders III featuring Malbec wines. Six SIRs and their guests sampled wines mostly from South America, with prices ranging from \$7 to \$20. The winner was a '23 Donna Paula provided by Thom and Paula Watkins and available for \$9 from Costco. Second place resulted in a tie between Jeff and Margo Peckham's '24 Alamos Mendoza, available for \$12 at Safeway, and Jim Sowell and his daughter

Lisa Gartland's La Finca Clos D'angel Valle de Colchagua, available for \$20 at Total Wines. Accompanying the wines was a wonderful selection of goodies, ranging from a jalapeno artichoke dip to meatballs, apricots creme fraiche, and a selection of cheeses and finger foods. The hostess treated her guests to a trio of home-made cheese cakes featuring lemon, cranberry, and blueberry.

Larry McEwen

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Thom Watkins

## WOODPECKERS

The Woodpeckers spent the June meeting making full-size wood patterns for an Adirondack chair. Our brunch-after-meeting of green chili stew was supplied by Jackie Kaneshiro. Yummy-good!

good!

The next meeting will take place at Bob Wheaton's house; as Thom will be recuperating from knee surgery.

Chair: Thom Watkins, 925-330-3780

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## WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY



Tom Hodgson

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.

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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## 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.**

## Photo Gallery

Brion Beetz is happy with this striper on the windy Bay!



Hikers Outing to Castle Rock



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



**Wine Finders 1 Event at the Barbers'  
Hosts, Shari and Doug Barber**



**Organizers, Ken and Linda Stehr**



## Food Bank Activity



## Ron Rizzo Moderating Book Group



## Singles Night Out



Buck Chesire's Band at Wise Girl entertains SIR 8 members Gerald Stephens and wife, along with Dave Platter, Dan Crowley, and Jack Schweitzer, at Wise Girl in Pleasant Hill.



## Thursday Walkers On Moraga Trail





**Wine Finders 3 Hostess Holley Yarberry**

... and her goodies

