

WHAT IS SIR?

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

Branch 8 Website:

<https://www.sirbr8.com>

"MAKE NEW FRIENDS FOR LIFE"

Editor: Steve Moore

BIG SIR COLUMN



Dan Smith

We are well into summer, and we will soon be having our fall activities. Fall is our Major Activity Season. We the have the "Happy Fall Y'all picnic very soon on September 16th which is currently being promoted. We will next have a booth at the Clayton Oktoberfest, and we will start asking for your support when it comes to manning the booth. And you will soon be asked to sign up for the Holiday Gala in December.

The picnic and the gala require planning for which we have committees providing this. Here is where we can use your support. The earlier you can commit to participating in any of these activities, the easier it becomes for the committees to do their planning. And there is a numbers game in that it is the attendance that finances the picnic and the gala. The Oktoberfest booth is pro bono, and you are, of course, on your own with what the Oktoberfest has to offer. After all, that's the perk for coming out. Really good participation and the fun when they happen keeps these events coming back. We appreciate your support as you sign up. Please let the committees know that you will be attending as soon as you can make this call. The sooner the better and the more the merrier. It will be most appreciated in support of the planning.

I don't like seeing my name being used by spam email. Again, I asked Buddy May to send out a blast saying that an email was not me. What follows is an email I received, that if it had been responded to its link, would have allowed spammers access to my email. The email read:

Dear dns.lns02@astound.net,

a log in attempt (sic) was detected on your account from a new computer, mobile device or tablet. Please review these signs on details:

Device Description: Windows 10

Browser: DuckDuckGo 0.161.2.0

Date and Time: July 6 2026 11:15 a.m. ET

Location: Newtown Square, PA USA

Here's what you can do:

If this was you, no further action is required.

If you do not recognize this device sign in to verify your device.

If you need help, call us at 1.800.427.8686

The underlined phrases were links, underneath which there were URL links that I guarantee were not Astound. The phone

number is for Astound. I called them. I has told to delete this email and to change my email password, which I did. The point is, this email in spite of its typos, gave me pause. (We will lose the poor English red flags when they start using AI.) When I thought about this, I made my call to Astound and avoided a problem. I share this with you because spam is becoming more convincing. It even had Astound's banner heading the email. **Please be careful.**

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, 925-588-6792

LITTLE SIR SEZ



**Thom
Watkins**

First thing out the gate, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank all of you who offered me well wishes and love. Much, much appreciated.

Now, I want to piggyback on Big SIR Dan's comments concerning participation at Branch events. We are a volunteer organization and for any of our events to be successful, we depend on member participation. The greater the volunteer participation, the more successful the event.

Now, let me broaden the discussion to the functions of the Branch. The operation of the Branch depends solely on the voluntary leadership of those who stepped forward when called upon. Here's the deal: you don't have to wait to be personally asked. If you know (or suspect) that the Branch has an opening in one or more of its functional positions, don't wait to be asked, step forward and answer the call. Example in point: we need to fill the position of Marketing Director. Here's your chance. The phone's ringing. Will you pick up the phone and "answer the call"?

Thom Watkins, Little SIR, thomwat831@gmail.com, 925-330-3780

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Next SIR Luncheon:

Monday August 10, 2026, Boundary Oak Golf Club, 3800 Valley Vista Rd., Walnut Creek

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

Luncheon Menu (Served at table)

Salad: Spinach, Blue Cheese, Mandarins, Candied Walnuts with Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrees: Pesto Chicken, with Herbed Rice Pilaf and Asparagus, OR Pesto Sole, with Herbed Rice and Asparagus, OR

VEGETARIAN OPTION of Gnocchi with Asparagus and Creamy Tomato Sauce.

Dessert: 3" Strawberry Tart

Greeters: To be determined and present at luncheon

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

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 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.

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.

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! The list of spouses is GROWING! 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 July. A total of 16 members and spouses, attended and participate in sleeve of

produce, consisting of apples 🍏 and bell peppers 🌶️, adding up to 2200lbs, "ready for distribution " to the community! 🙌

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

An "upbeat & ready to assist", group of 12 SIR Branch 8 members and spouses, greeted and distributed food to over 135 families at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek in July. The distribution included bottles of juice, cans of fruit & soup, bags of beans, boxes of macaroni, fresh carrots, oranges & watermelon, pounds of butter & frozen fish nuggets. Another 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!

Upcoming August Activities:

Monthly Food Bank Activity, Wednesday, 8/12/26
Scheduled from 1 to 3 pm, Minimum 20 volunteers needed - NEED HELP HERE.

DON'T FORGET!

Volunteering for the monthly activity:
Mobile Pantry Distribution, St Paul's Episcopal Church
Walnut Creek, CA.

NEXT DISTRIBUTION - 8/20/26

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

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; 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 nearby. 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, 925-876-7851, or Phil Scimonelli, rosescim@aol.com, 661-917-8060.

CLAYTON OKTOBERFEST



SIR Branch 8 will have a booth at the Clayton Oktoberfest Festival 2026

- Saturday, October 3, 2026 11:00am – 8:00pm
- Sunday, October 4, 2026 11:00am – 6:00pm

Located on Main Street in downtown Clayton.

Our members will be asked to volunteer to man this booth, the purpose being to explain what we do to visitors to this festival. We want the community to learn about us. We are looking for a total of 24 volunteers to staff four shifts on each day, 3 volunteers per shift. These shifts will be for 2.25 to 2.5 hours each, but then you will have access to all this festival has to offer! This can be fun, a lot of fun, mixing and mingling, and then you have the following:

Entertainment

We're excited to introduce two stages with live German music all weekend long! Enjoy The Internationals on the main stage in the Biergarten, and catch the Grand Isle Fire Brigade Street Band at The Corral stage at the end of Main Street both days.

- **Opening Ceremony & Keg Tap** – Saturday 12:00pm
- **The Internationals** – Biergarten Stage – Saturday & Sunday
- **Bavarian Dancers** – Saturday – Biergarten
- **Grand Isle Fire Brigade Street Band** – The Corral Stage – Saturday & Sunday 11am – 2pm
- **Polkageist West** – the Corral Stage – Sunday 2pm – 6pm

Free Parking

- Clayton Community Library – 6125 Clayton Rd.
- Diablo View Middle School – 300 Diablo View Ln (Shuttle)
- **Disabled Parking Only:** Endeavor Hall – 6008 Center St.

Free Shuttle Service

- Saturday 11:00am – 8:30pm
- Sunday 11:30am – 6:30pm

Drink Tickets

You must purchase drink ticket(s) at one of our conveniently located ticket booths throughout the festival footprint in order to be served.

TICKETS ARE ONLY SOLD AT THE EVENT. DO NOT BUY TICKETS FROM ANYONE ONLINE. Admission to this event is free; drink tickets are sold on site at the event only. You must purchase this year's drink tickets to be served. If you are asked to purchase tickets or send money/Venmo to someone, please report it as fraud.

Pouring concludes at 7:30 PM on Saturday and 5:30 PM on Sunday.

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



Rich Knowles

Mike Furtado is recovering from surgery.

Please contact Membership:

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, 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.

Bill Adler Leo Dominguez Darryl Henry Bob Hislop Dick Hixson Paul Lederer	Rick Lasky Randy Nelson Dave Perkins Bob Samson Jack Schweitzer Jim Smrha	Derek Southern Allan Tobias Thom Watkins Dan Weller
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ANNIVERSARIES (Years in Branch 8)

Glenn Gilman 15 years and Rich Rosin 10 years

ACTIVITY COORDINATION COMMITTEE



Mike Frey



Ken Main



Chick Lowry



Dennis Mierzwa

No new report for August.

SIR BIOGRAPHY

NO NEW BIOGRAPHIES FOR THIS MONTH.

BOCCE BALL LEAGUE



Chick
Lowry

Well, it appears that a two-week hiatus due to a week off for the 4th of July holiday followed by a scheduled BYE week had softened our bocce skills some and we managed to lose all three games at last Tuesday's scheduled play. The first two games had us rolling too long or too short allowing the opposing team opportunities to score multiple points. When we don't have control of the palino it is very difficult to place the ball where you can apply your best learned ball placement skills. The third game we put up more points and lost the game by fewer points than the first two games. Our next few outings should produce more wins. Go sir Bocce!

Chair: Chick Lowry, Clowry2845@gmail.com
Asst. Chair: Bob Barnes, Bob_Barnes@msn.com

BOOK GROUP



Ron Rizzo

In July seventeen group members gathered to discuss "The Secret Life of Sunflowers" by Marta Molnar. The discussion ran the gamut of opinions, with a few members crushing the book with scores of "1", which dragged down the average rating to 2.8 out of a total of 5. While some liked the story of Theo Van Gough's wife's struggle to promote Vincent's work, others found her herculean efforts against all obstacles a bit of a slog. In his lifetime, Vincent only sold one painting and, until both he and his brother died, the world had little exposure to his body of work. The author had similar problems attempting to publish this book even though, under the name of Dana Marton, she is an accomplished writer with over fifty novels to her credit. She eventually published this book herself.

Our next book is a work of non-fiction—"Coming Up Short" by Bill Clinton's Secretary of Labor Robert Reich. The Book Group meets at 10:30 AM the first Tuesday of every month at the Concord Round Table Pizza on Treat Boulevard.

If you like to read and have good discussions on 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. 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

SIR Bowling Tournament

This tournament was held in Concord June 21 and 23. Sir Dan Weller was the Host of the event. Over 70 SIR bowlers were there including all active five Branch 8 bowlers. We had lots of fun and found some more friends.

Bowling League: The Summer league started May 13. This league has three-bowler teams and will be done August 26. There are some bowler 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. You can find tournament schedules, applications and results on the site.

Upcoming SIR Bowling Tournaments:

DATE	LOCATION	COMMENTS
August 10-12	Reno NV	We are expecting 150 Bowlers in the National Bowling Stadium. The biggest tournament of the year.

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

CAR ENTHUSIASTS



Chick
Lowry

Our July outings were impacted by scheduling problems for both Tom and myself in addition to difficulty in scheduling the planned USS Hornet, Air Sea and Space Museum tour on July 11th. We will put it back on the shelf for execution at a future date.

Our next outing will occur in Danville for the **Hot Sunday Nights Car Show, Sunday, August 16th**. We'll start with an early dinner at a local restaurant, then tour the show. More info will be made available at the monthly meeting in August. We need to get the schedule program back on track.

Saturday, September 26th – We plan to visit **Rosie the Riveter National Park** exhibit in **Richmond**. - Open 10 AM to 5 PM daily – We would make carpooling available. No cost - **entry is free**. A NO HOST social event will be scheduled into the visit. More details will be developed at the August monthly meeting.

The next CE meeting will be **Tuesday, August 4th, 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
Asst Chair: Tom Hodgson, TomEHodgson1945@gmail.com

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Dan Smith and Bud Grisante have switched roles and Dan will now chair this activity, Bud will assist. Bud chaired the activity since restarting after COVID. Now was the time to relieve Bud of the pressure of chairing an activity. Bud will continue to play as this is his choice. We thank Bud for all he did in keeping this activity vibrant. I will point out that Bud has been a member of SIR Branch 8 since 1/2/1992! That is probably our longest tenure and Bud remains very active.

It is very important that all sixteen players attend the game. In June we thank Ed Lichtig for substituting and thank all for attending. With there being eight pairs and 21 boards, the average score is 31.5 matchpoints. Rod Spicer and Raleigh Davis came in first with 38 matchpoints, Jim Regan and Steve Greene were second with 36.5 matchpoints, and Dennis Snaar and Eric McNamara were third with 34.5 matchpoints. A score of 38 matchpoints is about 60% of the available 63 matchpoints and is considered to be "Excellent. Usually contending for first place." Sir Duplicate Bridge members play on the fourth Friday of the month. We meet at Round Table Pizza, 1938 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Arrive early by 11:30 AM to get your lunch and sign

up. The game starts at 12:00 PM. I will send out a reminder about two weeks prior to the game. If you are unable to attend, please arrange for your substitute to support your partner and notify Dan Smith. The final reminder will note any substitutes. If you would like to join us, substitutes are often needed. Please contact Dan Smith to get on the substitute list. Replacement permanent partners usually come from this substitute list. We currently have two members looking to join us, but we need four more players to create another table.

Chair: Dan Smith, 925/588-6792, dnslns02@astound.net
Co-Chair: Bud Grisanti, 925/672-3023, budgrisanti@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!

July 2026 RESULTS

Fifteen players attended the first July session giving us three tables of four and a fourth table of three. Bob Beitler had recommended we change the scoring of a three-person game to allow the top two players to score which will more closely mirror a four-player game. That started July 1st with the second-place finisher receiving 10 points less than what first place scored. The below individuals are recognized as the top three winners for the first June session.

1 st	Bob Beitler	238 points
2 nd	Steve Monksfield	223 points
3 rd	Jerry Ward	180 points

Dennis Mierzwa reported the high hand/crib of day with a 22.

July's last session was on the 21st and attendance was thirteen players giving us two tables of four, a table of three, and a single table for a two-player game. If our three-player game starts at 30 we have very little delay occurring as all games move along which results in finishing on time.

Listed below are the winners from the second session.

1 st	Chris Wehling	196 points
2 nd	Steve Monksfield	194 points
3 rd	Dennis Mierzwa	187 points

High hand/crib for the day went to Steve Monksfield, with a 24 hand.

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

Next Games: Wednesday August 5th-same time, same place!

Chair: Dennis Mierzwa, dennis.mierzwa@att.net
Asst Chair: Dan Smith, dns.lns02@astound.net

PINOCHLE

Send Hotline comments to Chris Wehling at chriswehling@sbcglobal.net



Stan
Johnson

Branch 146 and Branch 8. Contact Stan Johnson to play.

On June 24, we had 10 players and played two tables. At one table of five, Stan Johnson won the first game while Butch Dellio won the second over Dennis Mierzwa, Terry Mason, and Jerry Ward. At the other table of five, Roy Hodgkenson (branch 148) won one game and Alex Borders (146) won the other over Steve Monksfield, Pete McNeill (146), and Cleo Bolen (146).

On July 8, we had 10 players. At one 5-man table, Will Stratton (146) won one game while Steve Monksfield won the other over Jerry Ward, Chris Wehling, and Stan Johnson. At the other 5-man table, Jeff Morrow (146) won the first game and Roy Hodgkinson (146) won the other over Bob Weiss, Jim Barry (146), and Alex Borders (146).

Chair: Stan Johnson, 925-938-7016, stan.johnson88@gmail.com

DINE IN 1

Our July gathering featured Chick Tetrazzi, accompanied by great side dishes and ending with a terrific dessert. Dinner preceded by the usual tasty appetizers. Thanks to Ron Maciak and Lida for hosting. The highlight of the evening is always the great conversation. Want to start a Dine In. The ladies love it. Email me at roncassano@gmail.com and I will help you get started.

Ron Cassano, Head Eater

DINE OUT - SINGLE SIRs



Glenn
Gilman

Our host, Dick Hixson, has selected Peony Gardens, 1425 S. Main St. Walnut Creek for our monthly dinner. We will gather at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4th. Members of our Single Sirs Dine Out group and current Branch 8 members who wish to join us, please let Dick know, and we'll reserve a seat for you. Contact Dick at 925-367-7033 or dick@hixsonphoto.com.

Last Month 13 of us dined at Wise Girl Restaurant in Pleasant Hill, where we enjoyed good food and conversation.

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

FILM BUFFS



No new report for August.

Ron Rizzo

Chair: Ron Rizzo, ronbrizzo@gmail.com

FISHING - AREA 16



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, 925-378-9389. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, August 27th at 8:30am. Come early.

Although our salmon season started, the ocean was so rough only a few of us sought the silvery delights. Geno Calhau and Steve Smith were the only ones with the two fish limit. Matt Richards got one. It was very disappointing. Matt, Carl Moyer and Dennis Lee got limits of tasty rockfish. That's all the California ocean gave us in a very unproductive early summer. BUT our local lakes left us grinning. Gordon Linebaugh, Phil Schimonelli, Ray Pixton and Pete Gates fished Lake McClure for kokanee salmon and rainbow trout. Tom Chapman hosted 5 of us at New Melones more of the same. Tom Kostik liked the smallmouth bass and rainbows caught at Pinecrest Lake. Mike Pruett went upriver to find some shad. Ken Bellendir, Shawn Kelly, Pedro Contreras, and Vince Francioni managed to coax some halibut and stripers from the bay. Brion Beetz, Tom Chapman, Lee Clark, Steve Paulick, and Dave Havlik went to La Paz, Mexico for a few days in May kinds of salt water finny fighters.

Chair: Carl Moyer, carlmarc@astound.net

FOLK MUSIC JAM

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.

GOLF - 9 HOLE



Mike Frey

The 9-hole Golf Group plays at Diablo Hills Golf Course on Weds. @ 9:00 AM. Following is a summary of recent play:

July 8th, 2026: 13 golfers teed off starting at 9:00 AM at Diablo Hills Golf Course on a bit windy morning.. Rich Knowles shot the low round of the day with very nice score of 40; just nudging out Ken Castleman, Ray de Wit and Ron Shahade who all shot 41. Gary Grice won the event of the day (closest to the hole on the 4th hole) with a 10' shot and then he went on to one-putt for a birdie. The group had 26 pars (high for the year) and 5 birdies (high for the year) by Gary Grice, Rich Knowles (two). Stan Johnson and Ken Castleman. Nice going guys!

July 1st, 2026: 15 golfers teed off starting at 9:00 AM at Diablo Hills Golf Course on a bit windy morning for golf. Doug Barber shot the low round of the day with very nice score of 40; just nudging out Ken Castleman who shot 41. Leary Wong won the event of the day (closest to the hole on the 3rd hole) with a 19', 8" shot and then he went on to two-putt for a par. The group had 21 pars and one birdie by Rick McGuire. Nice going Doug and Rick!

June 24th, 2026: 12 golfers teed off starting at 9:00 AM at Diablo Hills Golf Course on a nice morning for golf. Rich Knowles and Ray de Wit shot the low rounds of the day with scores 44. Bill Barber won the event of the day (closest to the hole on the 4th hole) with a 15' shot and then he went on to three-putt for a bogie....Bill ☹ !!! The group had 7 Pars and one birdie by Rich Knowles.

June 17th, 2026: 12 golfers teed off starting at 9:00 AM at Diablo Hills Golf Course on a bit chilly morning for golf. Pat Dodson shot the low round of the day with a nice score 42. Ray de Wit won the event of the day (closest to the hole on the 3rd hole) with a not so close 23' shot and he did go on to two-putt for a par. The group had 11 Pars and no birdies. Nice round Pat and way to go Ray Join us for a round of golf followed by a bite to eat while we rehash the round. Go to the Branch 8 website and under 9 Hole Golf link, click on the Signup link. Call or email Mike or Ray with any questions.

Chair: Mike Frey, mike_frey44@comcast.net, 925-699-1784
Asst. Chair: Ray de Wit, raydewit11@gmail.com, 925-948-5962

GOLF - 18 HOLE



Known for his smile and modesty, Garland Bell won the Bosworth Stableford tournament with an unchallenged 46 points. Not to be overlooked are golfers Trudell, Nep, Winkler, Jordan and de Wit who joined Garland in the money pit. This outing was not without additional highlights as Doug Barber shot a hole-in-one during the very long par 3 located on the 17th hole at Boundary Oak. During the last twenty years of our local golf history, Branch #8 has had only five such players achieve such a feat.. The odds of shooting a hole-in-one with our group is one chance in forty-three thousand. However, if a golfer shoots TWO holes-in-one during the same round, then the odds jump to one in sixty-seven million. To the golfers who will never give up, this goal can be the incentive needed to keep practicing. On our Newsletter golf page, Buddy May has posted names of players who have qualified for the soon to be Club Championship. It requires 3 rounds or more during the current year at a Sir Branch 8 outings. The deadline in order to become eligible is the 17th of this month.

On another subject, Golf Magazine state the best golf ball for those swings 70mph or less seems to be Callaway Super soft, Srixon soft, or the Wilson super soft. The expensive pro balls will not allow enough compression to maximize distance. [My experience is a plus or minus three yards...big deal]

Chair: David Platter

HEADS UP WALKERS



Dan Weller

7/7/30/2026: 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

8/13/2026: Clayton: Clayton Library. Meet at the library parking lot, 6125 Clayton Road. Cafe: Sweet Bakery. Leader: Steve Hilberg. Difficulty: M

8/20/2026: 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: Dan Crowley. Difficulty: E

8/27/2026: Concord: Hester Park. Meet at Hester Park corner of Hookston & Bancroft, street parking on Hampton or Hookston, adjacent to the park. Cafe: Noah's New York Bagels. Leader: Dan Smith. Difficulty: E

9/3/2026: 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: Dan Weller. Difficulty: E

Chair: Dan Weller, 925-939-5510, dweller@astound.net

Asst Chair: Phil Trapp, 925-963-1819, ptrapp@sbcglobal.net

Asst Chair: Jim Sowell, 925-457-7746, sowell4jim@aol.com

HIKERS

We have two hikes lined up for the month of August. The easy hike is a walking tour in San Francisco's Presidio – a reprise of our hike from two years ago. Note the special starting time and place instructions. The hard hike finds us in the hills of Las Trampas. Detailed information for interested hikers will appear by the end of July on the Hiker's webpage of the Branch 8 website at

<https://www.sirbr8.com/hikers/>

August 11, 2026 Easy Hike – The Presidio to Golden Gate Bridge via Tunnel Tops Park, San Francisco

Hike Description: We did this hike two years ago and it was very well received. It is a fantastic walk in San Francisco through the shoreline parks near the old Presidio. We take BART to The Embarcadero Station and catch a free bus shuttle to the Presidio. We then walk through the recently opened Tunnel Tops Park down to the Golden Gate Bridge Trailhead. We'll walk along the shoreline for about a mile and a half to Fort Point at the base of the Golden Gate Bridge. We return to have lunch at Il Parco next to the Presidio Visitors Center. The are wonderful views everywhere (e.g. Alcatraz Island, sailboats on the SF Bay)!

What to Bring: BART Card, Water, Hat, Sunblock, Trekking poles if you use them.

Special Instructions and Directions to the hike:

1) Meet at the **Walnut Creek BART south bound platform 2 at 8:14 AM.** (LAST CAR). We exit at Embarcadero Station at 8:50 AM.

2) We then depart on the **free** Presidio Go bus from the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero at either 9:15 AM (or 9:30) AM for the Presidio Information Station.

Timing is critical. Dan Crowley's (the hike leader) cell 602-740-6644 if you miss a connection.

Optional Lunch: Il Parco next to the Presidio Visitors Center.

Hike leader: Dan Crowley, 602-740-6644, danielcrowley@hotmail.com

Hikers Chairman: Carl Ludwig, 415-350-7372, cludwig171@gmail.com

August 25, 2026, Hard Hike – Las Trampas Regional Wilderness – 9:30 a.m.

Hike Description - On August 25, we will hike the Las Trampas Regional Wilderness. (This is YK's signature hike up the Ringtail Cat Trail.) It is an out-and-back hike of about 6 miles with some moderate to steep slopes. There is ample shade along the entire route. We will start at 9:30 AM from the trailhead at the end of Hemme Avenue in Alamo. There is a small parking lot at the trailhead but no toilet facilities (Many trees and bushes enroute). We will take the Ringtail Cat Trail uphill to Madrone Trail and go northwest for about 2 miles and come back on the same route. It is about 3 miles each way and will take about 3 hours to complete the 6 miles hike. There is a gain in elevation of approximately 1,100 ft.

Bring: Put on your hiking boots and bring your trekking poles if you usually use them. Hats and water a must!

Hemme Avenue Trail Head Driving Directions

Take I-680 South towards Alamo.

Exit Stone Valley Road (West) and turn right on to Stone Valley Road.

Turn left at the first traffic light onto Danville Boulevard.

Turn right at Hemme Avenue (First Traffic Light) and the trailhead parking lot is at the end of the road.

Optional Lunch: At Round Table Pizza Restaurant, 150 Alamo Plaza Shopping Center, Danville Blvd., Alamo

Hike Leader & Chairman: Carl Ludwig, 415.350.7372, cludwig171@gmail.com

INTERNET GAMES



Don Atwater

Mexican Train is played on the first and third Fridays, and we are connected on Zoom. New members are encouraged to join us by contacting chairs Don or Danny. Our July contests were exciting, with all players in the lead at some point. In our last match, Danny had the lead for the first 7 games, but Stan Johnson was the winner at the end.

Cribbage is played tournament style, with players, playing each other in two-man games. In July, Ray de Wit, Stan Johnson, Don Atwater, Dennis Mierzwa, Danny Rinaldi, and Dino D. all had 11 wins. That is the first time that six players have tied in this tournament. Dan Weller had 12 wins, and champion Greg Ryan had 15 wins. We are a competitive group and love

challenges. Who wants to join us? We play during the first two weeks of each month on the internet. Contact Don or Danny.

We play in person on the 2nd and 4th 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
Asst. Chair: Danny Rinaldi, 925-825-0519, danrinaldi944@gmail.com

MIXER



Ray de Wit

A great group of 18 showed up for our July event (see the photo below). Although our group continues to grow, I am forced to limit total attendance to 24. Jack's, our host venue, can only handle two tables of 12, thus the limitation. The discussions were, as usual, lively and lots of laughter.

Please remember that everyone, including wives or significant others, is welcome and we always welcome new-comers at the Mixers. Our August event is on Tuesday, the 18th, at 3:00 at Jack's in Pleasant Hill. Due to a scheduling conflict we moved our August event up one week. September's event will be on the 29th, same time and place.



Please contact Ray de Wit (raydewit11@gmail.com) or Alan Curtis (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

LOCAL CLASSICAL MUSIC



David Bushnel

On Wednesday, August 5, we can see the Fandango encore of last season's Metropolitan Opera transmission of Verdi's Aida, one of the classic favorites. Centennial Pleasant Hill advance billing shows it at 12:30 and 6:30, while Centennial Walnut Creek has it at 1:00 and 6:30. Check before you go, one might be incorrect. St. Paul's concert for August features **Mira Armij Gill**, Piano Solo on August 29 (Saturday) at 7pm. St. Paul's

Episcopal Church is on Trinity Street, off North California Street near downtown Walnut Creek.

Chair: David Bushnel

SIRS AT THE GAMES



Steve Schramm

No new article for August.

Please send an email to Steve Schramm, "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.

WINE FINDERS 1



Ken Stehr

Our next gathering is scheduled for August 13, 2026.

Chair: Ken Stehr, kcstehr@comcast.net, 925-899-8531

Asst Chair: Rob Laaback, rlaabak@yahoo.com

WINE FINDERS 2



Ron Cassano

Our summer fling will be hosted by the Kargs on August 20. This is where members bring their favorite "summer" wine and we just get together.

Ron Cassano, Head Wino

WINE FINDERS 3



Larry McEwen

No new report for August.

Chair: Larry McEwen



Thom Watkins

WOODPECKERS

TheNo new report for August.

Chair: Thom Watkins, 925-330-3780

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, 925-818-1533

2026 Hotline Editors

Chris Wehling	Hotline Coordinator/Editor
David Glazer	Editor
Steve Moore	Editor
Tom Draeger	Editor (New volunteer)

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.



Sirs8 Wednesday golfer Rich Lyons

Photo Gallery



Sirs8 Wednesday golfer Mike Frey



Sirs8 Wednesday golfer Ray DeWit



Gordon Linebaugh, Phil Scimonelli, Pete Gates, and Ray Pixton caught these kokanee from Lake McClure



Diablo Foothills Hard Hike (above 3 photos)

Sirs8 Bargain Bites get-together at Maguey Mexican Restaurant in Danville (above 2 photos)