

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

My wife and I did the Alaska Cruise offered by Princess out of SF. It was a compromise with respect to other embarkations that require flying. We could drive and park. However, our planning was complicated when the ship made its return to Pier 35 rather than Pier 27. I had much further to walk to recover our car. Nevertheless, participating in a cruise such as this, one sees that SIR represents the demographics marketed by

Princess. There were not many families.

My wife is not as comfortable on the water as I am. I like the ship motions. I don't get seasick. Going up the West Coast into the Pacific swell, there is a third motion in addition to pitch and roll. When the bow slams into a swell, that force will ring the hull girder like a bell and create a low frequency response with about a one second period. That response massages your bed laterally like if you are sleeping in a cradle. But others don't like ship motions and people do get seasick even in not heavy weather.

The one service that my wife and I agreed was exceptional was the dining room service. If our luncheons could offer food service such as this, we would have much greater attendance. Our guys would look forward to this. But then there is obviously a difference in the budget for cruise ship food service. We essentially ate our way up to Alaska and back. We figured that we would have to deal with reality, once we got back.

There was an observation that meant a lot to me. When the ship docked at Juneau, it hooked up to shore power using a system called Cold Ironing. I got to do a number of tasks for Princess during my career. I was part of the team that created this system. My observation was that the part of the system that is external to the ship was exactly the same as we created 25 years ago. There is more to this story, but not now. The transfer from ship to shore power and back again has to be seamless. The ship cannot be shut down or systems tripped. That night, when the ship was preparing to undock, the light on my desk momentarily dimmed. That would be the shift back to ship power.

My "back to reality" started to occur about 4 hours after we got home. I started to hack and I realized that this would be a chest cold. I had obviously been exposed while on this cruise. Lynda would follow in a few days, catching her cold from me. I had to cancel on the luncheon and likewise for both of us with the BBQ. Lynda's illness would be complicated by an intestinal issue. This is when I am glad that we have Kaiser. We know that we can go to their ER and that Kaiser will perform whatever testing that they deem is necessary to properly diagnose. So here we go, a couple of sickies supporting each other and trying to get back to normal.

Thom Watkins covered for me at the luncheon, which I really appreciated. Tom DiGrande and Buddy May organized manning our booth at the Clayton Oktoberfest on October 3rd and 4th, again, greatly appreciated. The message here I that we have enough depth in SIR to cover for each other as the

situation requires. Any of you who may decide to take on a role, you can be assured, if need be, we will have your back. SIR did this for me and I appreciate it.

Our next meeting on October 12th, 2026, is our traditional biennial meeting wherein Janet Hoy and an associate from the League of Women Voters of Lafayette discuss the current ballot initiatives, looking to help us make informed decisions. We feel that this information will also be of value to our wives and significant others. We have reached out to members, suggesting that they feel free to include their wife or significant other when they make their reservation. Our members, of course, will be responsible for paying for their meal.

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

Well, it happened: the first annual "Happy Fall Y'All" event!

From the view of the HFY Committee, and judging from comments by some members, the event appeared to be a successful one.

The weather cooperated to a degree – there was a bit of a tailwind at times. the tri-tip and grilled chicken wings appeared to be the food hit; followed closely by the sausages. Also on the menu were plant-based burgers and non-alcoholic beers.

The only real negative was that there were not more folks to enjoy it. However, let's not forget one of the great positives: The Volunteers! Without them, there would not have been the event. From the pickup, delivery and return of the tables, chairs, and the other supplies, the welcome table, the setup crew, the appetizers, dinner, and dessert teams, to the take down and clean up folks, On behalf of the Committee, I wish to offer a hearty **"THANK YOU!"**

Now, let us cast our thoughts toward next year. The Happy Fall Y'All committee will get together to discuss plans to make next years' experience even better. Won't you join us? Even better, won't you also volunteer?

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

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Next SIR Luncheon:

Monday October 12, 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: Arugula Salad with Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese, Herb Vinaigrette

Entrees: Crispy Chicken Costoletta with Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables and Creamy Lemon Sauce;

OR Herb Roasted Cod with Garlic Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables and Creamy Lemon Sauce; OR

VEGETARIAN OPTION of Spinach and Ricotta Stuffed Manicotti Fresh Mozzarella and House Marinara

Dessert: Red Velvet Cake

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

Our spouses participating are "killing it". They are a welcome addition! 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 September. A small group of members and spouses attended and participated in sleeving of produce and fruit, making it "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 interjected group of 11 SIR Branch 8 members and 4 spouses (THANK YOU Jeanne, Paula, Mary & Mona) greeted and distributed food to families at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek in September. The distribution included bags of beans, rice & nuts, canned corn, fresh peaches 🍑 & watermelon 🍉, pounds of butter and packages of chicken "drumsticks".

The 2 ladies that check in the families participating in the distribution, are AWESOME! Their experience (15 years) of monitoring this event, is a "treat" to observe. Making the participants feel welcome, gathering information required, handing out toiletries to needy participants, these ladies make it "look easy". This activity will certainly make you aware of the need in our communities - PLEASE VOLUNTEER,

Thank You. SIR BRANCH 8 MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

NOTE: CHANGE IN SCHEDULE!! ☺ IN OCTOBER, OUR REGULAR SCHEDULED WEDNESDAY FOOD BANK ACTIVITY WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10/21/26 - 1 to 3pm; minimum 20 volunteers needed. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR ☺

DON'T FORGET! Volunteering for the monthly activity of the Mobile Pantry Distribution, St Paul's Episcopal Church 1924 Trinity Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

This activity is organized and scheduled by the Food Bank, for the 3rd Thursday of each month ☺.

NEXT DISTRIBUTION - 10/15/26, 9am - 11:45am (rain or shine). We need a MAXIMUM of 10 volunteers for this activity monthly - SIGN UP EARLY! ☺

ALL ACTIVITIES - PLEASE: No open toed shoes, Masks are optional, Wear your 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. ☺

"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

HOLIDAY GALA

DINNER, DANCING, AND DOOR PRIZES: REGISTER TODAY FOR THE HOLIDAY GALA! The Holiday Gala is just around the corner, and you won't want to miss the most anticipated celebration of the season! Mark your calendars for **Monday, December 14th**, and get ready for an unforgettable evening filled with delicious food, wonderful company, and plenty of festive cheer!

Our annual Gala is the perfect opportunity to dress up, enjoy a fantastic dinner, and dance the night away. Speaking of dancing, it is time to start pulling your favorite playlists together! Our live DJ will be spinning tracks all night and taking your personal requests, so make sure your anthem is on the list. On top of great music, we will also have an exciting lineup of door prizes up for grabs throughout the evening.

How to Register

To help us finalize the seating chart and catering details, you can sign up in whatever way works best for you:

- **Register a full table:** If you have a large group ready, you can reserve a complete table of 10 people to ensure you all sit together.
- **Register multiple couples:** You don't need a full table of 10 to sit with your friends! You can register multiple couples together so we can group your seats.
- **Register individually:** Coming solo or with a partner? Register on your own! It is a fantastic way to mingle and make wonderful new friends at the event.

Download Your Registration Forms

Forms are available for download directly on the [SIR Branch 8 Holiday Gala Page](#). You can choose the format that works best for you:

- Download the Fillable PDF Registration Form to type your information directly on your computer before printing.
- Download the Longhand Registration Form if you prefer to print it out blank and fill it in by hand.

Payment & Mailing Instructions

To secure your spot, please mail your completed registration paperwork along with a check made out to **SIR Branch 8** to **Paula Murphy** at the address listed directly on the registration form.

Registration Deadline

All paperwork and checks must be received by **Friday, December 4th**.

Don't wait until the holiday rush takes over. Head over to the [SIR Branch 8 Website](#), download your forms, and send in your payment to Paula before the deadline to secure your spot on the dance floor!

The Holiday Gala Team,
Buck Cheshire, Ray De Wit, Paula Murphy and Tom DiGrande

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: We need sign-ups, now. Please contact Tom DiGrande, 925-876-7851 or tomdigrande@comcast.net, the sooner the better to get the shift that you prefer. It is very important that we as a branch support this event; and the Oktoberfest should be fun for those that participate.

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.

Located on Main Street in downtown Clayton.

SUNSHINE REPORT



Rich Knowles

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.



Chick Lowry

Sir Bocce has ended this year's season with a soft finish. We started the season with an 8th seeding position. We played hard and found ourselves moving up into a 7th place standing only to fall to 9th place in the final standings. This doesn't sound like a particularly difficult issue, except for the fact that there are only 9 teams in the Tuesday night league play group. Bummer, we finished last.

A brunch will be held for the group at the end of September to enjoy each other's company and analyze next year's strategies.

The team will regroup in April 2027 for another attempt at improving our play. I'm not certain all members will return at this time. If there are open positions in the team, I will be looking for some new Sir participants. Watch for the return of this article space for information if positions become available. Go sir Bocce!

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

ANNIVERSARIES (Years in Branch 8)

Bob Samson at 15 years, John Brooks at 10 years and Dan Casella at 10 years.

ACTIVITY COORDINATION COMMITTEE



Mike Frey



Ken Main



Chick Lowry



Dennis Mierzwa

The Activity Coordinating Committee (ACC) met via Zoom on 9/28/26.

- We welcomed Ray deWit to the group. Ray will take over coordinating Ken's activities.
- Discussed managing luncheon announcements so that speakers can start their presentations around 12:15.
- Ken - Reach out for a San Ramon branch contact. Assist Dan Smith, as needed, to support duplicate bridge.
- Mike - Send out Annual Wellness Check emails to all AC's. Coordinate AC breakfast in early 2027 (set date, request budget, plan agenda).
- Coordinate activity announcements with Dan Smith so speakers can start @ 12:15.
- Talk to Derek about using NextDoor as a SIR br8 marketing tool; Branches 116 and 146 are on NextDoor.
- Chick - will Send out/publish our latest activity list.
- Ray - Talk to Dan Dennler to ID a golfer contact from Br 146.
- Dennis - Noticed discrepancies in State SIR & local Branch listing (Br 116, spelling of Lafayette, Clayton) of the cities they represent/recruit members for marketing purposes.

SIR BIOGRAPHY

NO NEW BIOGRAPHIES FOR THIS MONTH.

BOCCE BALL LEAGUE 🍷

BOCCE BALL OPEN 🍷

The last Open Bocce will be thrown on Friday October 2 followed by a luncheon at a later date to be determined.

Chair: Martin Hawco, not4u2bee@gmail.com

BOOK GROUP



Ron Rizzo

In September our group discussed "Crooks" by Lou Berney. It is classified as a novel but is really a set of short stories about a couple of grifters, their five children and their ups and downs over a few decades. After the first chapter, each of the children is given his or her own chapter, with a final chapter tying them all together. It has elements of a thriller but also a good deal of humor. Most of our members enjoyed the book, particularly the characters, humor, and pacing. However, several would have preferred the book to be a novel with a clear story arc. The overall rating for the book was 3.9 out of possible 5.

Our book next month is a work of non-fiction—"The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness" by Jonathan Haidt. The Book Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM at the Concord Round Table Pizza on Treat Boulevard.

If you like to read and have good 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 ronrizzo@gmail.com. The list of books to be read during the year is on the SIR Branch 8 website, along with the list of books read the prior year.

BOWLING



Dan Weller

There were 160 bowlers in the National Bowling Stadium at Reno, Nevada August 10-12. Four Branch 8 bowlers and three guests enjoyed this tournament.

The "Winter" league starts September 9. This league has four-bowler teams and will be done early May. 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. You can find tournament schedules, applications and results on the site.

Upcoming SIR bowling tournaments:

DATE	LOCATION	COMMENTS
Oct 23 - 24	Brentwood	
Nov 5 - 6	Modesto	

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

CAR ENTHUSIASTS



Chick Lowry

On September 19th the Car Enthusiasts visited **Big Al's Hobby Shop, Museum and Club House in Richmond, CA**. It was the best of the best as a private car collection and other memorabilia that we could have visited. The 28 CE members who attended had nothing to say but how much they enjoyed the event. We viewed an enormous display of all things automotive, boating, aviation, mechanical, and of memories we had from our younger years growing up. There was even a collection of Duncan Yoyo's covering a number of years in one of the many display cases.

The venue was housed in several buildings and we were transported via mini bus to and from the locations. Big Al is quite a guy and he and an associate provided background information on the many displayed items. The 2-plus hour tour overwhelmed everyone as you just can't see it all in one visit. The event was followed by a luncheon at the Up & Under Pub in Point Richmond. This was truly a memorable CE event.

Our next outing will be held on **Saturday, October 24th**. We will stage a **Rally Drive** on the Peninsula driving scenic roads like CA Hwy's 84 and 35, dining at Alice's Restaurant in Woodside, CA before heading home. If you are interested in joining the driving experience, contact myself or Tom Hodgson to be included. CE member Dick Wade (Sir Branch 146) is coordinating this October event for us.

A **Saturday, November 14th CE** event is in planning stages for a trip to Sacramento to visit the **California Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento**. We plan to take the train to Sacramento and back making this an extra enjoyable event. Give me a call if you're interested in joining us.

The next CE meeting will be **Tuesday, October 6th, 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

No new report for October.

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 regular partners usually come from this substitute list.

Chair: Dan Smith, 925-588-6792, dnsins02@astound.net
Co-Chair: Bud Grisanti, 925-457-3184, budgrisanti@gmail.com

CRIBBAGE



Dennis Mierzwa
Chairman

The Cribbage Activity meets on the 1st Wednesday and 3rd 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. It is also open to all SIR Branches. In addition, if you are introducing potential new members to Sir, bring them as a guest to a game you enjoy!

September 2026 RESULTS

As neither Dennis nor Dan were available, Stan Johnson successfully ran the games on September 2nd! A smaller than normal turn out with thirteen players, but Stan ran smooth games, allowing an on-time finish! The individuals below had the top three scores from the September 2nd games:

1 st	Dave Dawson	163 points
2 nd	Ken Moeller	143 points
3 rd	Jerry Ward & Bud Grisanti tied	141 points

Bob Beitler reported a high hand of 22.

The September 15th games again had only thirteen players, but we still finished on time. Brad Komsthoeft, returned as a guest and promptly took first place! Listed below are the winners from the 15 September games.

1 st	Brad Komsthoeft	233 points
2 nd	Jerry Ward	189 points
3 rd	Stan Johnson	151 points

High hand/crib for the day went to Greg Ryan, with a 20 hand.
2026 High score, Steve Monksfield 251 points
2025 High Score, Don Atwater 327 points

Next Games: Wednesday October 7th-same time, same place!

Chair: Dennis Mierzwa, dennis.mierzwa@att.net
Asst Chair: Dan Smith, dns.ins02@astound.net

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 between Branch 146 and Branch 8. Contact Stan Johnson, chairman, at 925-938-7016 or stan.johnson88@gmail.com.

No new report for October.

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

DINE IN 1

The Kargs hosted the Sept Dinner. Another great time. The conversation was the highlight of the evening. Much laughter and tall tales. The menu: baked ham, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, bacon wrapped asparagus, ending with polenta cake topped with berries and whipped cream. Nice wines and 40 year old port wine flowed.

Ron Cassano, Head Eater

DINE OUT - SINGLE SIRs

Host Ron Cassano has selected the Lazy Dog Restaurant for our Tuesday October 6th dinner. Lazy Dog is located in the Willows Shopping Center at 1961 Diamond Blvd, Concord and we gather at 5 p.m. Please let Ron know whether you will be attending or not at 925-944-1238 or roncassano@gmail.com.

Last month, twelve of us dined at Andaman Thai Restaurant in Walnut Creek.

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

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Mexican Train Dominoes meets in-person on the second and fourth Friday of each month at Round Table Pizza on Treat and Oak Grove in Concord. Lunch starts at 11:30 with play beginning at 12:30. We can handle any number of players. New players and ladies are welcome. Training is available when requested. Contact chairman Danny Rinaldi or assistant chairman Stan Johnson if you would like to join us. We also have an activity known as online (or virtual) Mexican Train.

No new report for October.

Chair: Dan Rinaldi, 925-825-0519, danrinaldi944@gmail.com
Asst. Chair: Stan Johnson, 925-938-7016, stan.johnson88@gmail.com

FILM BUFFS



Ron Rizzo

No new report for October.

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 in October. Contact Carl for date and time.

No new report for October.

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. Contact Ken Main for more information.

No new report for October.

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:

September 16th, 2026

Only 7 golfers teed off starting at 9:00 AM at Diablo Hills Golf Course on a warm morning for golf. Workers supporting another SIR activity kept a number of regular golfers away from the course. Rich Knowles and Doug Barber shot the low rounds of the day with very nice scores of "41". Will St. Clair won the event of day (closest to the hole on the 3rd hole) with a shot of 18 feet....Will went on to four putt for a double bogey, Will ☹ !!! The group had 8 pars and no birdies. Nice going Rich and Doug!!

September 9th, 2026

Only 7 golfers teed off starting at 9:00 AM at Diablo Hills Golf Course on a warm morning for golf. Forecasted 100-degree heat kept a number of regular golfers away from the course. Ron Shahade shot the low round of the day with a very nice round of "40". Doug Barber won the event of day (closest to the hole on the 3rd hole) with a shot of 15 feet, 6 inches. Doug went on to two putt for a par. The group had 14 pars and no birdies. Nice going Ron and Doug!!

September 2nd, 2026

12 golfers teed off starting at 9:00 AM at Diablo Hills Golf Course on a great morning for golf. Doug Barber shot the low round of the day with an impressive round of "39". Ray de Wit won the event of

day (closest to the hole on the 4th hole) with a shot of 4 feet, 8 inches. Doug went on to one putt for a birdie!! The group had 20 pars and the one birdie by Ray. Nice going Doug and 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. Richard Trudell, Howard Nep, Kevin Winkler, Peter Jordan and Ray de Wit joined Garland in the money pit winning circle.

Our Match-play tournament where a two man team competes against another two man team. It was set up by Frank Bosworth. However, **resident genius** Buddy May did the work placing similar ability players into the same foursome. This insures the contests would be balanced. The results!!! Out of the six separate tournaments, five finished just one stroke ahead of their opponents.

Of course, there were several parts to these matches. For example new member, Mike Volan enjoyed his Sir golf smashing while playing with partner, Jack Schweitzer. Also in the winning circle we must congratulate winners Carl Sand and Ed Lichtig. Ed brought his caddie, "Belle"-the cutest little well mannered dog that everyone learned to love. However, because of Buddy May strict rules, Belle was not permitted to play in the tournament. However, this gracious animal was not offended and was content just to ride along and wag his tail.

Gary Nicholson joined the competition for his first meet of the year. He does remember his golf career's high-point where calmly he hit a 465 drive at Laguna Golf Club. It was on the first hole during a Sir event. Yes, this achievement did occur a few eons ago, but is remembered by many. What happened was his Titleist found its way past the green then kept rolling. For details contact Gary.

Chair: David Platter



HEADS UP WALKERS



Dan Weller

We walk every Thursday morning at 9:30 AM. 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/>

10/1/2026: Concord: C.C.C. Regional Trail, Via Montanas. Take Treat Blvd east. Go 3/4 mile past Oak Grove and turn left on San Miguel. Turn right on Via Montanas. Turn left into the Parking Lot just past the bridge over the canal. Cafe: Peet's Coffee. Leader: Phil Trapp. Difficulty: E

10/8/2026: 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: Rich Burke. Difficulty: E

10/15/2026: 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

10/22/2026: 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: Ron Woods. Difficulty: E

10/29/2026: 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: Steve Hilberg. Difficulty: M

11/5/2026: 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 Crowley. Difficulty: E

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

HIKERS



Carl Ludwig

We have two hikes lined up for the month of October. The easy hike is in our own backyard – Sugarloaf Open Space. The hard hike is a new venue for us – Sausal Creek and Dimond Canyon in Montclair. Detailed information for interested hikers will appear by the end of September on the Hiker's webpage of the Branch 8 website at

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

October 13, 2026, Easy Hike – Sugarloaf Open Space Loop from Rudgear Park WC – 10:00 a.m.

Hike Description: Sugarloaf is a small gem of open space snuggled into the southern part of Walnut Creek. It is easily accessible from Rudgear Park, about 1/4 mile from the Open Space entrance. The hike is just under a 3-mile loop. But the net elevation gain is at the outer limits for an easy hike, about 300 feet. We hike up Center Trail to the Ridgetop Trail, stopping frequently during this rigorous uphill climb. We have great vistas of Walnut Creek and Mount Diablo while overlooking surrounding hills. (See picture below, springtime.) We hike north on Ridgetop,

then turn right onto the less steep Orchard Trail, descending in a loop to the Open Space entrance. We return to our parked cars by touring some of the sport fields of Rudgear Park.

There are bathroom facilities at the Open Space area and at Rudgear Park as well as ample parking.

Directions: From Walnut Creek, drive south on 680 to the Livorna Exit. Turn left up the hill to Trotter Way turning left. Then turn right on Dapplegray Lane, then left on Stewart Ave. The Rudgear Park parking lot is on your right. Physical address is 2261 Dapplegray Lane. Meet in the main parking lot at **10:00 a.m.**

Bring: Water, hats, trekking poles, good boots

Carpooling: Please self-arrange if you wish to carpool.

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

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

AllTrails: [Explore Sugarloaf via Rudgear Park | AllTrails](#)

October 27, 2026 Hard Hike –Sausal Creek / Dimond Park, Montclair – 10:00 a.m.

Hike Description – 4.4 miles and 500 feet elevation gain, The venue is an out-and-back hike beginning at 10:00 a.m.. The trail starts in a grove of redwoods with a short down and up section of steep, uneven stairs just off of Monterey boulevard. The trail follows a shaded dirt path that runs along Sausal Creek into Dimond Canyon, lined with bay laurels, oaks, dogwoods, and willows. Much of this trail is closed to bicycles. We cross the creek a couple of times and there may be some scrambling along the way! We turn around after about 2 miles in Dimond Park where we will find restrooms.

Directions to Trailhead – From Walnut Creek, take Highway 24 west to 13 South. Leave 13 South at exit 3 at Park boulevard from 13 south. Merge onto Trafalgar Place, quickly crossing Park Boulevard onto Monterey Boulevard. Trail head is on the right about 0.2 miles down Monterey Boulevard, just past the entrance to the tiny Montclair Golf Course. Park on Montgomery Boulevard at the trail head. We leave at 10:00 a.m.

There are no restrooms at the trail head nor on route but lots of bushes / trees.. We turn around after about 2 miles in Dimond Park where we will find restrooms.

What to Bring – Water, appropriate footwear, trekking poles, jacket/rainwear – the hike route is mainly shaded. We cross the Sausal creek during both out and back and the trail can be damp so poles are recommended.

Optional Lunch – in downtown Orinda at the Europa Hofbrau, 64 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA.

Hike Leader – Mike Spink, mikespink@sbcglobal.net, 317 459 9878.

Hike Coordinator – Carl Ludwig, cludwig171@gmail.com, 415.350.7372

Alltrails: <https://www.alltrails.com/explore/custom-routes/sirs-dimond-park-montclair-27c8bcf?u=i&sh=ya1sgh>

Our Internet game of Cribbage found Stan Johnson winning 17 games in just a few days. None of the rest of us were able to catch him. Don Atwater had 14 wins, Dennis Mierzwa had 13 wins, Greg Ryan and Ray de Wit each had 12 wins. We play our games during the first two weeks of the month, tournament style, as we connect with each other for 2-man games. Fun times are enjoyed as we try to play our cards to their maximum efficiency. Join the fun for future games by contacting Chairman Don.

Chair: Don Atwater, 925-673-1669, datwater@pacbell.net

Asst. Chair: Danny Rinaldi, 925-825-0519, danrinaldi944@gmail.com

MIXER



Ray de Wit

No new report for October.

Please remember that everyone, including wives or significant others, is welcome and we always welcome new-comers at the Mixers. Our October event will be on the 27th at 3 pm, the last Tuesday for the month, at Jack's in Pleasant Hill.

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.

HAPPY FALL Y"ALL

Well, it happened: the first annual "Happy Fall Y'All" event! From the view of the HFY Committee, and judging from comments by some members, the event appeared to be a successful one. The weather cooperated to a degree – there was a bit of a tailwind at times. the tri-tip and grilled chicken wings appeared to be the food hit; followed closely by the sausages. Also on the menu were plant-based burgers and non-alcoholic beers. The only real negative was that there were not more folks to enjoy it. However, let's not forget one of the great positives: The Volunteers! Without them, there would not have been the event. From the pickup, delivery and return of the tables, chairs, and the other supplies, the welcome table, the setup crew, the appetizers, dinner, and dessert teams, to the take down and clean up folks, On behalf of the Committee, I wish to offer a hearty **"THANK YOU!"**

Now, let us cast our thoughts toward next year. The Happy Fall Y'All committee will get together to discuss plans to make next years' experience even better. Won't you join us? Even better, won't you also volunteer?

See pictures of this event in the PHOTO section.

Thom Watkins

INTERNET GAMES



Don Atwater

Danny. ☺

The internet game of Mexican Train is played on the first and third Fridays. The last four games have been won by Danny Rinaldi. This is a good accomplishment, as Danny played for the first seven months without a win. Yes, Danny is "on a roll". New players are wanted to help us stop

LOCAL CLASSICAL MUSIC



David Bushnel

October brings us two operas from the New York Metropolitan Opera to our local Century theaters. On Saturday, October 3, at 9:00am they are sending us the live matinee of Mozart's comic opera *Così fan tutte*, with "encore" taped performances the following Wednesday. On Saturday, October 17, at 9:00am, they are more serious, sending out the live matinee of Verdi's opera *Macbeth* with one of opera's greatest and most harrowing mad scenes. It is also followed by "encore" performances on the following Wednesday.

St. Paul's Concert Series is delighted to present violin duo **Heeguen Song** and **Minsun Choi** in a spectacular live, acoustic performance, on **Sunday, October 18 at 3pm**. Both esteemed musicians currently perform regularly with the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, and they've joined forces to create a phenomenal program for St. Paul's. Join us as they present works by classical composers Prokofiev, Saint-Saëns, Bartók, Leclair, and Wieniawski, plus a modern-day piece by Bay Area composer Jean Ahn.

Chair: David Bushnel

SIRS AT THE GAMES



Steve Schramm

We are planning an outing for local football fans to see the Diablo Valley College Vikings on Friday, November 6, at 6:00 pm. The Vikings finished with a 10-2 record in 2025 and made the community college playoffs. In this upcoming game, they will host American River College in the final game of the 2026 season.

If you are interested in joining us for this game, please contact Steve Schramm, *Sirs at the Games*, by email at sschramm01@gmail.com.

As always, both members and their guests are welcome to join us at the game.

WINE FINDERS 1



Ken Stehr

Our next gathering will be October 8, 2026.

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

WINE FINDERS 2



**Ron Cassano
Chairman**

No new report for October.

Ron Cassano, Head Wino

WINE FINDERS 3



Larry McEwen

The next meeting of Winefinders III will occur during the 3rd week of October at the home of Roger and Mardi Lockwara featuring a yet-to-be-determined wine. Contact Larry for date and time.

Chair: Larry McEwen

WOODPECKERS

No new report for October.



Thom Watkins

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

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

Several car enthusiasts at a fantastic car collection in Richmond (next 4 photos).



Members enjoying Fall Y'All barbeque (next 5 photos).





Golfers, hikers and food Bank workers







SIR Branch 8 "HOLIDAY GALA" Monday, December 14, 2026

Happy Hour begins at 4 P.M.



This completed form along with the amount due should be submitted at the time of reservations. Bring your form and funds to our monthly luncheon or mail to: Paula Murphy, 213 Heartwood Drive, Oakley, CA 94561. The **deadline** for reservations is Friday, **Dec. 4th**. The **cancellation** deadline is **Wednesday, Dec. 9th**. To cancel you must call or text Paula Murphy at 925 330-3781.

SINGLE/ COUPLE

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

Seared
Filet

Baked
Salmon

Vegetarian
Lasagna

1 MEMBER

GUEST

FOR GROUP WISHING TO SIT TOGETHER, OR OTHER GUESTS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

2 MEMBER

GUEST

3 MEMBER

GUEST

4 MEMBER

GUEST

5 MEMBER

GUEST

Please mail this form and a check payable to **Sir Branch 8** to: Paula Murphy 213 Heartwood Dr, Oakley, CA 94561

Number of tickets _____ at \$75 per person.