BRANCH 8 HOTLINE

November 2026

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

All our visitors at the luncheon in October made a favorable impact on our use of Boundary Oak. We should do this again, going forward. Thank you, ladies. It also got our members thinking, why can't we have better participation with our membership? My response will be to write about how important the luncheon is to the SIR organization.

The SIR Damian Reynolds Branch No. 1 is named after Damian Reynolds, who was a retired engineer from Columbia Steel Company and who conceived of the idea in the spring of 1958. He shared his ideas with his three retired friends, which resulted in the founding of Sons in Retirement as a **monthly luncheon club**. The club had its first luncheon meeting at the former Clarimar Restaurant in downtown San Mateo on June 23, 1958, and consisted of the four retired men. The first meeting of Branch One at the San Mateo Elks Club was held on April 14, 1959. From this beginning, the idea grew, growing to more than 26,000 members with 168 branches in 2004. SIR, Inc. and its branches operate throughout Northern and Central California. Today, SIR is not as large, we have over 7,000 members in over 70 Branches in California. Last year SIR opened a new branch in San Diego, its first branch outside the traditional Northern and Central California area.

From the State SIR website: "Our mission is to enhance the lives of our members through fun **activities, luncheons and events** while making **Friends for Life**. SIR is a non-profit public benefit corporation." And, "Our expectations of our members are few: be a friendly and sociable guy, participate, volunteer as your time and interest allows, spread the word about SIR by inviting guests and help encourage them to join, grow our organization and share in the fun."

Luncheons are key to the existence of SIR. They are the reason we got together in the first place. And they certainly help maintain our friendships. We endeavor to support the luncheon by choosing where we meet and the selections of the meal service, as well as our selection of a speaker. We listen to you about how we are doing via the comment cards. Before COVID, it was mandatory that the membership attend at least half of the luncheons. Branch 8's attendance averaged about **70%** of its membership. Since COVID, attendance is no longer mandatory, and our attendance has averaged about **45%**. Other branches have gone back to some form mandatory attendance to increase participation. The BEC has certainly talked about this and each time has said that they did not want luncheons to become mandatory again.

Last year we tried having several buffets. That brought overall positive responses and interest. Our goal is to increase participation. So, what can we do to get more of you out of the house and joining us? We realize that if you are new, or have not in general been attending, entering a large room full of strangers can be intimidating. The smaller activities can feel safer, which is a good thing. However, with all due respect to the origination of Sons in Retirement, or SIR as it is called now, will more of you join? I will suggest you try it; my reward as Big Sir is to hear a member say "good meeting." Your reward can be the "good meeting" and the opportunity to make new friends.

Our next meeting on November 9th, 2026, is our traditional remembrance of Veterans Day. We will hear from SIR Branch 8 Members and military veterans Bruce Lechner, Bill Adler, and Rich Peterson. It is story-telling time and very entertaining. You have listened to me and know that I like stories. **Come join us**. Sign up for the luncheon now. And if you can think of someone you would like to share SIR with, **bring a guest**. 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

VETERANS DAY: THE 11TH HOUR OF THE 11TH DAY OF THE 11TH MONTH – A REFLECTION



Thom Watkins

When November 11 comes around, you may find yourself thinking of someone rather than a date—a relative, a neighbor, an old friend, or someone you served alongside. Those personal connections give Veterans Day its meaning. The date itself takes us back to eleven o'clock on the morning of November 11, 1918, when an armistice between the Allied nations and Germany took effect and the fighting on the Western Front stopped. After more than four years of World War I, that hour marked a long-awaited halt to the fighting. The peace treaty with Germany would not be signed until June 1919, but the November cease-fire gave this American holiday its date.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month: it is a phrase that stays with us. Behind those numbers were people whose lives had changed, families waiting for news, and communities preparing to welcome loved ones home. You may have a photograph or a letter that brings a similar story close to home. What began as the anniversary of an armistice would eventually become a day honoring generations of veterans.

In 1938, November 11 became a legal federal holiday, dedicated to world peace and honoring veterans of World War I. For families and communities, it offered a shared day to pause and remember. As the years passed, the day's meaning grew to embrace more generations of veterans. In 1954, federal legislation changed the holiday's name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. November 11 now honors American veterans of all wars, rather than those of World War I alone. That broader recognition brings the holiday closer to the people we may know in our own families and communities. You may remember a time when the holiday appeared on the calendar in October. A 1968 law moved the federal observance to the fourth Monday in October, with the change first

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Folk Music Jam	♀♂		

♀♂ **Activity Open to Spouse and Partners**

taking effect in 1971. The aim was to create a three-day weekend, but November 11 carried a connection to history that another date could not replace. A law signed in 1975 restored the traditional date beginning in 1978. Since then, November 11 has remained the date of Veterans Day.

As we mark Veterans Day, the history matters—but so do the people who bring it close to us. Perhaps you will call an old friend, look through a family album, or simply take a quiet moment to think of someone who served. If you are a veteran, your own memories are part of this larger story, whether you choose to share them or keep them private. November 11 began by marking the end of fighting in one war. Today, it invites each of us to recognize those who served, listen when they wish to speak, and carry our gratitude into the ordinary days that follow.

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

Next SIR Luncheon:
Monday November 9, 2026, Boundary Oak Golf Club, 3800 Valley Vista Rd., Walnut Creek
Social Hour at 10:30 a.m., Lunch at 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon Menu (served at table):
Salad: Mandarin Orange Salad, Spinach Salad, Parmesan, Raisins, Poppyseed Dressing
Entrees: Oven Roasted Turkey, Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Turkey Gravy with Cranberry Sauce
OR Lemon Herb Baked Cod, Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Zesty Lemon Garlic Sauce
OR VEGETERIAN OPTION, Creamy Tuscan Ravioli, Butternut Squash Ravioli in a Creamy Sundried Tomato Sauce
Dessert: Pumpkin Pie

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 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 October. A LARGE group of 19 members and spouses volunteered and participated in forming an assembly line to sleeve a "mixed bag" combination of onions, potatoes, and apples – there's a combination for you –making it "ready for distribution" to the community!
A group of 12 SIR Branch 8 members and spouses greeted and distributed food to families at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek in October. The distribution included bottles of grape juice, bags of beans and rice, canned tomatoes and fruit cocktail, sleeves of HUGH onions and apples, 2 lb. bags of shredded cheese, and packages of chicken drumsticks. At the end of the activity, SIR Branch 8 made 143 families' day a little happier!!
This activity will certainly make you aware of the need in our communities. PLEASE VOLUNTEER, thank You. SIR BRANCH 8 MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

NOVEMBER FOOD BANK ACTIVITY
WEDNESDAY, 11/11/26, 1 to 3 p.m., MINIMUM 15 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER FOOD DISTRIBUTION!
THURSDAY,11/19/26, 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. (rain or shine).
Volunteer for the monthly activity of the Mobile Pantry Distribution, St Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave, Walnut Creek.
This activity is organized and scheduled by the Food Bank, for the 3rd Thursday of each month.
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, 925-876-7851, or Phil Scimonelli, rosescim@aol.com, 661-917-8060.

HOLIDAY GALA

Give Thanks for Friends… and Celebrate the Holidays Together!
As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded of the many blessings in our lives, especially the wonderful friendships we share. And what better way to celebrate those friendships than by gathering for an evening of holiday cheer!

Our Holiday Gala is just around the corner!
Date, Time and Location: Monday, December 14, 4:00 p.m. at: Boundary Oaks

Join us for a festive afternoon filled with delightful dining, dancing, laughter, and wonderful company! Reconnect with old friends, make some new ones, and enjoy a celebration sprinkled with holiday magic. And don't forget the fabulous door prizes that everyone will be excited to win!
Gather your favorite friends and organize a table of 10 or fewer! After all, the holidays are even more special when celebrated with good friends.

Don't let this wonderful celebration pass you by!
We'll have a registration table at the November luncheon, so be sure to bring your checkbook and reserve your place. Can't make it to the luncheon? Simply mail in your registration right away!
As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving, let's also look forward to making more cherished memories together.
We're thankful for our friendships, grateful for our time together, and are looking forward to celebrating with YOU on December 14!

Happy Thanksgiving, and don't forget to register!

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

CLAYTON OKTOBERFEST



I took on getting a booth at the Clayton Oktoberfest because I felt that it was good way to make people more aware of SIR. Plus, we might even pick up some new members. Once our participation was arranged, others kicked it in to help make this happen:

•Tom DiGrande and Buddy May reached out to the membership to fill the shifts for manning the booth
•Rich Knowles, Arte Chan, and Mike Frey created flyers and business cards that we could give out at the booth.

The following members filled the shifts that we set up. The first four took two shifts each:

• Tony de Losada	Peter Shapiro
• John Vallor	Dan Smith

We had sixteen additional members each take a shift, which is what we asked for:

• Ira Dorf	Tom Draeger
• Mike Frey	Peter Jordan
• Greg Konsavage	Barry Latner
• Chick Lowry	Ray Pixton
• Ron Rizzo	Jim Sowell
• Will St. Clair	Al Tobias
• George Vogt	Thom Watkins
• Chris Wehling	Leary Wong

Peter Jordan, Barry Latner, and I did the last shift on Sunday. It was quiet as people were leaving. We were committed to taking down the booth. Clayton's instruction was that the festival is over at 6:00 p.m., which is when vendors are to take down their booths. Then about 6:30 p.m., the Clayton police were to allow vehicles in to pack your stuff out of there. That was going to be gridlock. You know, it pays to travel light. We hand-carried our stuff to where I had my truck parked by the library, and we were out of there by 6:05 p.m. The lesson learned: bring a hand truck. Thank you, Peter and Barry.

I can mentally add up at least 200 man-hours. Did we achieve our goals? I believe that we did. Based on the feedback from our members, we did talk to a lot of people. We wanted to let them know that we exist and what we do. The goal is, when they are ready, we want them to think about us. It is not an immediate response; it's long term. Thank you, guys!

Dan Smith

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



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.

Terry Baldwin	John Gagne	Peter Shapiro
Bob Bethke	Bud Grisanti	Jerry Smith
Frank Bosworth	Peter Heyman	Ron Smith
Joe Caselle	Pete Larson	Jim Sowell
Dan Crowley	Dennis Lee	Steve Tiller
Tony de Losada	Larry McEwen	Jack Wadell
Bill Espey	Ray Pixton	
Mike Furtado	Bob Poirier	

ANNIVERSARIES (Years in Branch 8)

Derek Southern, Ken Main and Carl Moyer-20 years
Roger Lockwara-15 years

ACTIVITY COORDINATION COMMITTEE


Mike Frey


Ken Main


Chick Lowry


Dennis Mierzwa

No new report for November

SIR BIOGRAPHY

NO NEW BIOGRAPHIES FOR THIS MONTH.

BOCCE BALL LEAGUE


Chick Lowry

The team will regroup in April 2027 for another league season. 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

BOCCE BALL OPEN

Open Bocce players met Friday October 9 at ButtercuP in Concord for breakfast. Open Bocce will return to play in May 2027.

Chair: Martin Hawco, not4u2bee@gmail.com

BOOK GROUP


Ron Rizzo

In October our group discussed *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*, by Jonathan Haidt. The author compellingly shows two different causes for child mental health issues that grew exponentially in the 2010s: the overwhelming takeover of children's time by social media and correlations with increases in suicides and levels of anxiety, and the increasing lack of in-person socialization and activities. The overall rating for the book was 4.0 out of a possible 5.

Our book next month is a work of fiction, *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, by Christy Lefteri. The Book Group meets at 10:30 a.m, the first Tuesday of the month, 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 ronbrizzo@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

The Winter league started September 3. This league has 12 four-bowler teams and will be done early May 2027. There is some bowler availability.

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. You can find tournament schedules, applications and results on the site.

Upcoming SIR Bowling Tournaments:

DATE	LOCATION	COMMENTS
November 5, 6	Modesto	Last tournament this year.

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

CAR ENTHUSIASTS


Chick Lowry

Car Enthusiasts participated in our 2nd Rally Drive for 2026 on Saturday, October 24th. Eighteen members and guests drove some interesting back roads and an urban path through peninsula cities and coastal roads, with a stop for lunch at the Alpine Inn in Portola Valley. We traversed Highways I-680, CA 84, CA 35, and CA 92 to get it done.

A big thanks to Dick Wade (our Branch 146 member) and Chris Wehling for coordinating the event. They had to do a little work-around in the route when an unplanned detour placed itself in our preplanned path. Thank goodness for Google when you need it.

Lunch was quite interesting, when we arrived for lunch at a restaurant that did not take reservations. The hostess's eyes got very large when said we had a party of 18! To our surprise and amazement, they got us seated at two adjacent tables in about 15 minutes. The system they use to provide service had our food at the tables unbelievably fast.

All in all, and outstanding event.

November's event will be our train ride to Sacramento to visit the California Railroad Museum. And December will deliver the CE holiday party and the Branch 8 Winter Gala. The reservation list is being prepared now. Get your checks to me along with your food choice immediately.

Our next meeting will be a planning session for next year's activities. Ideas will be developed, and we will set dates at the January 2027 meeting**.**

THERE WILL BE NO MONTHLY MEETING IN DECEMBER.

The next CE meeting will be **Tuesday, November 2nd, at 1 p.m**. We will meet at Round Table Clubhouse Pizza, 2960 Treat Blvd. Concord (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.

Activity Chair: Chick Lowry, Clowry2845@gmail.com
Assistant Chair: Tom Hodgson, tomehodgson1945@gmail.com

DUPLICATE BRIDGE



Dan Smith

On September 25th, we planned to play three tables with 12 of our players. One player did not make it, which we worked around using a ghost. With the resulting late start and another player having to leave early, we played a shortened game without scoring matchpoints. At least we got to play.
On October 23rd, we get together for our last game of the year. The 4th Fridays in November and December conflict with the Holidays. We will welcome new SIR member Don Fitch as a substitute. Both Don and his wife, Sue, have interest in playing Duplicate. I'm confident that this will happen.

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 a.m., to get your lunch and sign up. The game starts at 12:00 p.m. 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, dnslns02@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 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 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 welcome. It is also open to all SIR Branches. In addition, if you are introducing potential new members to SIR, bring them as guests to a game you enjoy!

Travel and illness left us with a smaller than normal turnout of eleven players in October.

The individuals below had the top three scores from the October 7th games:

1st	Dennis Mierzwa	200 points
2nd	Dino Papathemetrios	193 points
3rd	Steve Monksfield	160 points

Steve Monksfield reported a high hand of 21, and Greg Ryan followed with a 20.

The October 20th games had a yearly high of eighteen players, giving us four tables of four, plus one table of two players. The partner play went smoothly, but we had a bit of delay with the two-player game — cause unclear!
Listed below are the winners from the October 20th games.

1st	Steve Monksfield	188 points
2n	Brad Komsthoeft	177 points
3rd	Jerry Ward	168 points

Stan Johnson recorded the day's highest hand/crib with 24 points. Other high hands included Dennis Mierzwa with 23 points and Rob Laaback and Brad Komsthoeft with 20 points each.

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

Next Games: Wednesday November 4th — same time, same place!

Chair: Dennis Mierzwa, dennis.mierzwa@att.net
Ass't Chair: Dan Smith, dns.lns02@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 with Branch 146. Contact Stan Johnson, Chairman, at 925-938-7016, or email at stan.johnson88@gmail.com.

On September 9, we had 12 players. At one 6-man table, Jerry Ward, Steve Monksfield, and Alex Borders (Branch 146) won a close game over Chris Wehling, Terry Mason, and Dennis Mierzwa. At the other 6-handed table, Butch Dellio, Jim Barry (146), and Roy Hodgkinson (146) won both games over Stan Johnson, Will Stratton (146), and Bob Weiss. There were two double runs and one triple Pinochle in the play.

On September 23, we had 11 players. At the 5-man table, Dennis Mierzwa won the first game, and Terry Mason won the second over Chris Wehling, Terry Mason, and Steve Monksfield. At the 6-man table, the team of Stan Johnson, Roy Hodgkinson (146), and Jim Bearry (146) won the first and third games. The team of Butch Dellio, Bob Weiss, and Will Stratton (146) came back to win the second game. There were three double runs played.

On October 14, we had 10 players. At one 5-man table, Dennis Mierzwa won the first game, with Alex Borders (146) winning the second over Terry Mason, Jerry Ward, and Steve Monksfield. At the other 5-man game, Jim Barry (146) won both games over Bob Weiss, Chris Wehling, Will Stratton (146), and Stan Johnson. There were two double runs played at this table.

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

DINE IN 1



Ron Cassano

No new report for November.

Ron Cassano, Head Eater

DINE OUT - SINGLE SIRS



Glenn Gilman

Our host, Peter Shapiro, has selected the Buttercup Restaurant for our dining pleasure on Tuesday, November 3rd. This restaurant is located at 660 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek. We gather at 5 p.m. Notify Peter whether you plan to attend or not.

Peter Shapiro, 639-1845, pwshapiro494@gmail.com

Last month, 12 of us dined at the Lazy Dog in Concord.

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

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES



Dan Rinaldi

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 November.

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 November.

Chair: Ron Rizzo, ronbrizzo@gmail.com

FISHING - AREA 16





Carl Moyer Chairman

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, 925-378-9389. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4, on Thursday, the 19th at 8:30 a.m. Come early. PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS THE THIRD THURSDAY, NOT THE FOURTH. THE 4TH IS THANKSGIVING!

Twenty of us caught limits of rockfish, some ling cod, and some Bonita tuna on a party boat. Six of us caught 25 nice rainbow trout on an overnight visit to Lake Almanor. Matt Richards got more rockfish, launching at Bodega Bay. Matt, Dennis Lee, Phil Scimonelli, and Carl Moyer got rockfish and lings further south. Matt and Dennis joined Phil Scimonelli and Mike Pruett at the Antioch Pier, playing catch and release with many stripers. Mike travelled all the way to Ohio to help his granddaughters enjoy bluegill fishing. Dennis Lee went down by Half Moon Bay to catch quite a few Bonita tuna. We rarely get these super-fast fighting fish this far north, and we have really enjoyed catching them. Tom Kostik worked the Delta for lots of black bass and some keeper stripers. Everyone is looking forward to Carl Moyer's fish fry on the 10th.

Chair: Carl Moyer, carlmarc@astound.net

FOLK MUSIC JAM

David Platter

The Folk Music Jammers will be performing Holiday Songs on Dec. 9th at the Center for Community Arts, for the Walnut Creek Seniors Club organization. A mix of acoustical instruments as well as singers will be performing a set of holiday songs (such as "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and more).

Ken Main, Chairman

GOLF - 9 HOLE



Mike Frey

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

October 21st, 2026
Twelve golfers teed off starting at 9:00 a.m. at Diablo Hills Golf Course on a nice morning for golf. This was the first of two rounds of the Club Championship, and Gary Grice shot the low round of the day with a very nice score of "42," just nudging out Mike Frey and Pat Dodson, who both shot "43." Ray de Wit won the event of day (closest to the hole on the 4th hole) with a not-so-close shot of 20 feet, 8 inches. Ray went on to three-putt for a bogey – Ray??!! The group had 14 pars and one birdie by Jack Schweitzer. Nice going Gary and Jack!

October 14th, 2026
Twelve golfers teed off starting at 9:00 a.m. at Diablo Hills Golf Course on a nice morning for golf. Jack Schweitzer shot the low rounds of the day with a score of "44." Doug Barber won the event of day (closest to the hole on the 3rd hole) with a shot of 12 feet, 5 inches. Doug went on to two-putt for a par. The group had 13 pars

and two birdies: one each by Jack Schweitzer and Mike Frey. Nice going Jack, Doug and Mike!

October 7th, 2026
Only four golfers teed off starting at 9:00 a.m. at Diablo Hills Golf Course on a warn morning for golf; the hot weather projection kept a number of regulars from playing. Ray de Wit shot the low rounds of the day with a very nice score of "39." Gary Grice won the event of day (closest to the hole on the 3rd hole) with a shot of 20+ feet. Gary went on to three-putt for a bogey – Gary ☹ !!!. The group had 10 pars and one birdie by Rich Knowles. Nice going Ray and Gary!

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 the 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
Ass't. Chair: Ray de Wit, raydewit11@gmail.com, 925-948-5962

GOLF - 18 HOLE





Discovery Bay (Branch161) will not return next year for a match-play tournament. Their leader, Chairman Johnny Welton, has resigned. With Johnny gone, no one wants to take his place, which makes their golf program a little shaky. We suggested they join our Branch. They will take a vote and let us know in three weeks.

SIR tournaments: Steve Burrows, Arte Chan, Rick Knowles, and Buck Cheshire each broke par during the last few weeks. Because of their fame and fortune, a world-wide professional PGA golf tour is being considered.

Buddy May is our branch ambassador to the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA). This organization covers Northern California with a 185,000-person membership, which golfs on the 1,300 approved courses. To belong, a player must be a part of some active golf club. The SIR organization is our authority. This means that Poppy Hills and Poppy Ridge have become the SIR home courses and, with it, some discounts on green fees are offered.

The Bosworth Bingo-Bango-Bongo puts Jim Smrha, Don Dennler, and David Green, along with Terry Mason, in the winner circle. However, some did not do well, and it would be rude to say anything about a player who might have had an off day. For example, Mister Blind sadly finished dead last in every event he entered.

Chair: David Platter

1)

HEADS UP WALKERS



Dan Weller

We walk every Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. 2) walk for one hour and then go for coffee and snacks. Go to our online page for further information: https://www.sirbr8.com/heads-up-walkers/

11/5/2026: Danville: Railroad Museum, Iron Horse Trail. Exit I-680 at Diablo Rd., go west to Hartz Ave., left to Prospect Ave., right to Railroad Ave. Meet in the Railroad Museum parking lot, corner of Prospect & Railroad Ave. Cafe: Lunardi's Market. Leader: Dan Crowley. Difficulty: E

11/12/2026: Walnut Creek: YV Canal, Walnut Ave. Take Ygnacio Valley Rd. Turn South on Walnut Ave. (do not turn on Walnut Boulevard). Go 0.4 miles past the second traffic light (Wiget) and turn left on Naranja Drive. Park there and walk back to Walnut Ave. The trail starts a few feet from Naranja. Cafe: Whole Foods, Oak Grove/Ygnacio Valley Road. Leader: Dan Smith. Difficulty: E

11/19/2026: Clayton: Clayton Library. Meet at the library parking lot, 6125 Clayton Road. Cafe: Sweet Bakery. Leader: Dan Weller. Difficulty: M

11/26/2026 — Holiday — No Walk

12/3/2026: Concord: Iron Horse Trail, Willows Shopping Center. Meet at the south corner near the new Lazy Dog Restaurant. Cafe: Panera Bread Cafe. Leader: Dave Allen. 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 November. The easy hike returns us to the San Francisco waterfront. The hard hike is one we haven't attempted in some time – Kings Canyon Loop. Detailed information for interested hikers will appear by the end of October on the Hikers' webpage of the Branch 8 website at https://www.sirbr8.com/hikers/.

November 10, 2026 Easy Hike – San Francisco Waterfront
Hike Description: This hike follows the intricate nook-and-cranny waterfront from the Ferry Building in San Francisco, north to Pier 27. Then, a loop south on Battery Street takes us back to downtown through historic early San Francisco locations.
We ride BART to the Embarcadero Station following the special start time and instructions below. A stroll up the Embarcadero, ducking into dedicated waterfront walkways and gathering the local flavor, gives one a deep sense of life on the Bay both now and in prior years. Pier 27, the mooring place for all large cruise ships leaving SF Harbor, is our turnaround spot. A final meander back down into the Financial District will bring us to an eating place where we can refuel before heading back to the East Bay on BART.
We will walk about three miles, total, with minimal elevation gain. The route follows pavement in its entirety, so any rain events should not pose a problem. Restrooms are available at the start and end of the hike.
Special Directions and Start Time for the Hike:
Meet at the **Walnut Creek BART, south-bound platform 2, at 9:15 a.m.** Enter the last car of the train. We exit at Embarcadero Station at 9:52 a.m. to begin our hike.
See here: August 10, 2026 WDAY Service for Antioch SFO (Yellow) Line.pdf for a link to a full BART yellow-line schedule. Note that it is possible to board the proper train at stations other than WC. Carl Ludwig, our hike leader, will board at the Orinda Station at 9:25 a.m., entering the last train car.

Bring: BART card/payment app, hats, water, good hiking boots, trekking poles if you use them.
Optional Lunch: The Old Ship Saloon, 298 Pacific Ave. (or similar).

Hiker Leader & Chairman: Carl Ludwig, 415-350-7372, cludwig171@gmail.com
November 24, 2026 Hard Hike – King's Canyon Loop, Moraga – 10:00 a.m.

Hike Description: This hike is a six-mile loop with approximately 800-900 feet of accumulated elevation gain. Ninety percent of the trail is fire road. The trail is relatively well shaded, but the last half mile is open. The Hike is mostly on EBMUD watershed, and a EBMUD trail permit is required. However, the hike leader has an EBMUD group pass that is good for all attendees. Along the trail there are nice views of San Leandro Reservoir. Also, several species of waterfowl may be seen.

Trail Head Directions: The hike begins at Rancho Laguna Park at the south end of Camino Pablo in Moraga. From Walnut Creek, take the Central Lafayette exit off Hwy 24, then turn left on Mt. Diablo Blvd. and take the next right on to Moraga Road. Take Moraga Road past the Moraga Commons, where it becomes Canyon Road. Stay on Canyon Road. for about ¾ mile, then turn left at Camino Pablo. Rancho Laguna Park is at the end of Camino Pablo. The trailhead can also be accessed via Saint Mary's Road or Moraga Way. There are water and restrooms at the park.

Route Description: We start by leaving the park's south gate and turning right on the connecting fire road for 0.4 miles, then reaching the King's Canyon Loop Trail. We take the Rimmer Creek Trail, a single-track trail, and then we turn left and start a 600' climb. When we reach the ridge line, we will have expansive views of Moraga. Following is a steep descent. At the bottom, we turn towards the reservoir on the King's Canyon Trail. We then return to Rancho Laguna Park.

Bring: Bring Water. Hiking poles and sturdy shoes/hiking boots are recommended.

Optional Lunch: Europa Hofbrau, 64 Moraga Way, Orinda

Hike Leader: Carl Ludwig 415-350-7372, cludwig171@gmail.com

INTERNET GAMES



Don Atwater

Our October Internet games of cribbage found Don Atwater winning 18 games. Greg Ryan won 15, and Dan Weller and Dennis Mierzwa both won 14 games. Many challenging and competitive games were reported, including many ending with the score of 121-120. New players are welcome to sign up for these monthly competitions. Just contact Chairmen Don or Danny.

Cribbage is played tournament style, with players playing each other in two-man games. 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 Don or Danny.

Chair: Don Atwater, 925-673-1669, datwater@pacbell.net
Ass't. Chair: Danny Rinaldi, 925-825-0519, danrinaldi944@gmail.com

MIXER



Ray de Wit

An "almost record" group of 25 SIRs and significant others showed up and enjoyed near-perfect conditions for our October event. Donna Benson (Ed Benson's widow) joined us once again and will hopefully become a full-time member.
Due to the proximity of the last Tuesday in November to Thanksgiving, Mixers will not meet; however after a "democratic vote" is was decided to have a December get-together.

Our December get-together is on the 29th, the last Tuesday for the month, same time (3:00 pm) and place (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

No new report for November

Thom Watkins

LOCAL CLASSICAL MUSIC



David Bushn

On November 14 we get an encore of the great 2010 performance of the popular Bizet opera, *Carmen*. Showtime at the local Century theaters is 1:00 p.m., later than live transmissions, and there are no Wednesday repeats. Tickets are only $15.00.

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





Our October meeting was cancelled due to the majority of members having a variety of more pressing obligations.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2026. This is our holiday event featuring bubbly cuvee sampling.

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

WINE FINDERS 2



Ron Cassano

Our October tasting was hosted by Stephen and Carmen Deness. As usual, great conversation and food. The selection was Cabernet. The competition was very close. First place was Dominguez's 2021 Milestone Calif Cab, 2nd place, Cassano's 2021 VanRuitan Cab, and 3rd, the Deness's 2023 Franciscan Cab.
The next event is our holiday sparkling wine social in December.

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



Thom Watkins

No new report for November.

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

SIRs Fisherman (next 2 photos).



Mike Pruett holds a nice striper caught in the delta.



Dennis Lee is happy with this bigger bonita tuna.

Hikers at Sugarloaf Open Space Easy Hike



Car enthusiasts enjoying lunch at Alpine Inn Portola Vally (next 2 photos).







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.