



Trampas Topics

February, 2011

SIR Branch 116

Next Meeting: 11:30 am,
Monday, February 21, 2011
Elks Lodge—1475 Creekside Dr,
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement.

Sayings of 2011 Big Sir Ron Armijo

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Area 2 Governor, Ron Smith for attending our January luncheon and offering his insights on the state of SIR and the need to approach our recruiting program aggressively. He shared dramatic statistics that show a decline in membership over the recent years and State wants to turn this trend around. My goal is for Branch 116 to contribute to this effort by doing better than our share of 10% growth in 2011. In my comments I mentioned two recruiting tools that we have available this year to help you promote what Branch 116 has to offer to its members. These tools are:



1. Trampas Topics Newsletter – This is a great way to show prospective members who we are and what we have to offer from month to month. Sending a copy to the prospective member works best after your initial introduction to SIR and the person shows some interest.
2. Branch 116 Web Site – This is an excellent tool that provides a broad range of SIR information that includes a historical view of SIR. In addition, you will find a description of all available Branch 116 activities. One of the first questions you may get from a recent retiree who is interested in pursuing membership is, "How can I find your Web Site?" Well, the answer is, " Go to <http://www.sir-web.org/116-web/>".

A follow up call is important after a short time to answer any questions and to invite them as your guest to our next luncheon or if they play golf, invite them to play a round as your guest.

One other item that I mentioned is improved communication between the membership and your BEC. Our email address is sir116@sbcglobal.net. We want to hear from you with questions, issues or anything else you want to communicate to your BEC. This email address will be monitored closely to ensure we respond to you in a timely manner.

Remember to introduce yourself to our first new member of 2011, Gary Boswell. See you all on February 21.

Ron Armijo- Big SIR



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PLEASE CALL 806-8874 by the Thursday prior to the meeting to cancel your standing reservation or to bring a guest.

2011 SIR 116 Officers & Directors



Big SIR
Ron Armijo
945-0637



Little SIR
Neil Schmidt
939-5342



Secretary
Dick Chaffee
932-5087



Assist. Secretary
Joel White
964-0994



Treasurer
John Peterson
946-0335



Asst. Treasurer
Bob Shader
939-8421

DIRECTORS



Jed Daniel
551-7734



Bob Donohue
837-6913



Phil Goff
831-3692



Alex Lutkus
827-2828



Bernie Wroblewski
820-3274



Bob Wolf
935-5439

2011 SIR 116 Committee Chairmen

Activities Coordinator	Jerry Kaplan	938-1037	Interviewer	Max Foust	827-9323
Attendance	Jim Nachtweih	838-7417	Membership	Andy Benz	937-5706
Audit	Dick Thomson	785-7600	Membership Roster	Dick Thomson	785-7600
Book Club	Rich Black	283-8376	Music Man	Robbie Robinson	798-4276
Bowling	Ron Gagliardi	682-4012	Newsletter Editor	Neil Schmidt	939-5342
Bridge	Milt Greenstein	376-5589	Newsletter Edtr. Asst.	Phil Goff	831-3692
Candy Sales	Dirk Meyer	820-6878	Nominating	Jed Daniel	551-7734
Chaplain	Rotating	#1 See Below	Photographers	John Peterson	946-0335
Christmas Party	Jerry Hicks	945-7465		Ken Miller	256-9343
Computer & Tech..	Phil Goff	831-3692	Poker Group #1	Bill Harrington	935-1625
Computer Support	Dick Thomson	785-7600	Poker Group #2	Al Reynolds	254-1576
Dine-O-Sirs	Ben Smith	820-5403	Spring Party	Jerry Hicks	945-7465
Duplicate Bridge	Mike Corker	872-7525	Storytellers	Rotating	#2 See Below
E-mail Contact	Neil Schmidt	939-5342	Sums In Retirement	Ben Smith	820-5403
Fishing	Harry Sherinain	846-7067	Sunshine	Matt Arena	946-0404
Guitar	Paul King	938-3035	Travel	Tom Eller	939-5897
Golf	Al Zavattero	933-0465	Volunteers	Bob Kinser	837-8886
	Carlos Xavier	947-6756	Webmaster	Phil Goff	831-3692
Greeters	Pat Bermingham	930-9477	Welcoming	Jerry Kaplan	938-1037
Hiking and Walking	Joel White	964-0994	Wine Appreciation	Al Reynolds	254-1576
	Dan Green	376-7087			
Historian	Matt Arena	946-0404			
Host	Frank Crua	932-0975			


#1. Doug Aalders, Matt Arena, Marty Ratterree, Lou Sandor
#2. Pat Bermingham, Art Donaldson, Milt Greenstein, Marty Ratterree

2011 SIR Area 2 (Inter-branch) Committee Chairmen

Bowling	Lloyd West (Br.19)	228-9037	Rubber Bridge	Fred Bolton (Br.146)	932-1580
Computer & Tech	Co-Derek Southern (Br.8)	253-1646	Table Pool	Bill Weinberg (Br.146)	682-0962
Fishing	Karl Droese (Br.171)	376-0468	Travel	Bob Spellman (A.2)	934-8428
Golf	Jim Willey (Br.19)	689-3199	Speakers Bureau	John Roebuck (Br.19)	685-8764
Publicity	Walt Schick (Br.8)	934-0656	Sums Retirement	Allen Espenmiller (A.2)	376-3977

SIR Branch 116 Activity Calendar

February 2011

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.	
		1 Duplicate Bridge (9:00@ P.Hill Bridge Ctr)	2 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Buchanan Fields) Bowling (10:00@Mounument Bowl)	3	4	5	
6	7	8 Luncheon Bridge (11:30@ Round Hill CC)	9 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pine Meadow) 18-Hole Golf (9:00@Silverado South) Bowling (10:00@Mounument Bowl)	10	11 Hiking & Walking (8:15@ TBD)	12	
13	14 <u>VALENTINE'S DAY</u> 18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Boundary Oak)	15 Poker Group 2 (1:00@ Diablo CC)	16 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Buchanan Fields) Bowling (10:00@Mounument Bowl)	17 Computer & Tech (9:00@ Elks Club)	18	19	
20	21 SIR Br 116 Mtg. (11:30@ Elks Club)	22 Luncheon Bridge (11:30@ Diablo CC) 18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Brentwood)	23 \$ums in Retirement (8:00@ Diablo Creek GC) 9-Hole Golf (10:15@ Diablo Hills) Bowling (10:00@Mounument Bowl)	24 Fishing Group (8:30@ Legends-Diablo Crk)	25 Hiking & Walking (8:15@ TBD)	26	
27	28 18-Hole Golf (9:30@Dublin Ranch) Pre-Book Grp. Walk (8:15@ Laf. Reservoir) Book Group Mtg. (10:15@ Orinda Books)						

Membership

Andy Benz

SIR 116 Membership Status

Total Current Members:	252
Last Month's Inductees:	1
Those in Interview Stage:	3
Total in Process:	4
On Inactive Status:	41
Left the Branch:	0
Waiting to be Installed:	0

February Birthdays

When you see these members, wish them a Happy Birthday!

Armijo, Ronald	King, Thomas C.
Egan, Clifford A.	Lind, Wilton H.
Farmer, Robert	Marks, Phillip
Foust, James M.	McCullough, Gene
Gagliardi, Ronald J.	Mills, Roger
Green, Daniel	Regalia, Edmund
Harris, Paul R.	Roberts, Donald
Hill, Stanley R.	Schommer, Edward J.
Hull, Cordell C.	Schwarz, Ralph H.
Kallas, Pete	Suwa, Toshiro
Kim, Paul H.	

February Luncheon Menu

Yankee Pot Roast
 Roasted Potatoes & Carrots,
 Green Salad, Rolls & Butter,
 Assorted Deserts, Coffee & Tea

Want a Free Lunch? Sponsor a New Member!

That's right! Sponsor a new Branch 116 member in 2010 and get a free lunch. Sponsor another and, get another free lunch. No limit on this deal!



Lunch Attendance

Jim Nachtweih

Attendance at the January 17, 2011, meeting:

Total:	198
Members:	190
Visitors:	1
Speakers:	1
Guests:	6
Excused:	49
Un-Excused:	12

The un-excused members will be asked to pay for their missed lunch.



Br. 116 Treasurer's Report

John Peterson, Treasurer

	<u>January 2011</u>	<u>2011 YTD</u>
Contributions	\$ 2,925.00	\$ 2,925.00
Disbursements	\$ (4,120.79)	\$ (4,120.79)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ (1,195.79)	\$ (1,195.79)
January Cash Balance		\$ 6,386.70

New Branch 116 Member



New member Gary Boswell with sponsor Ron Armijo



Sunshine Report

Matt Arena

Don Seaton was hospitalized with complications from kidney stones .I spoke with his wife June and she advises that Don is home and recovering nicely. He will be seeing his urologist to get a report on how he is doing his week.

Dennis Perry after failing a stress test became a candidate for heart surgery .It was scheduled but postponed until February 8th at John Muir Medical Center- Concord Campus. I'll keep you posted on his condition post-operatively. As of this date he is doing fine.

Dan Pope will hopefully be attending our luncheons shortly. He will schedule a ride with the van service from his new home at Atria. We look forward to seeing him after this long absence.

Past Big SIR Art Miller still gets his dialysis every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Now if we could change our Luncheons to either Tuesday or Thursday he assured me he could make it.

Past Big SIR Carlos Xavier has now had his second Chemo treatment since his diagnoses. Carlos got in a round of golf on Wednesday and he feels good playing the sport he loves. There are several more treatments lined up during the coming months and from what he tells me he is doing just fine.

Chuck Cuny is dealing with Colon cancer and is scheduled for an operation in March following a series of Chemo and radiation treatments. Chuck tells me it was discovered following a colonoscopy . Remember: If you have put off getting this valuable test don't put it off another day. A word to wise.

Ed Regalia continues to make progress following his stroke. Gwen wants us to know that Ed could be joining us for lunch in the not too distant future.

Harry Honstein added another surgery to the many he has had already. His cataract surgery went well except that the new implanted lens

needed some adjustments to improve his vision. Harry is fighting the good fight and here is hoping he continues to heal.

Dudley Hattaway had broken his shoulder and had to wait 11 days to scheduled surgery. What made this extra painful was that he had to try sleeping at night in a chair. He is home and waiting to see his surgeon for a report.

So many of our members are my eyes and ears which allows me to keep us in touch with our friends who are ill. My thanks to all of you.



Br. 116 Book Club

Rich Black

It Rained Mud, It blew Dust

On Monday January 24 The SIR Book Group discussed "*The Worst Hard Time- The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*" by Timothy Egan. Government land Policies, unwise agricultural practices and low commodity prices led to a ruinous 1930's for soil and citizens alike in the high plains of Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas. Egan profiled person after person who suffered during this calamitous time. Present were SIRs Lytton DeSilva, Al Reynolds, Jack Butler, Jim Scott, Art Donaldson, Bob Daily, Rich Black and John Antzak. John's parents had emigrated from Oklahoma to California during the 1930's. Group members agreed that it gave insights into life in those times, and awarded it three plus stars. (Five stars is perfect.)

The group will next meet on February 28 at Orinda Books at a new time, 11:00 AM to discuss the first half of "Peter the Great" by Peter Massey. We split the book in half because of its rather considerable length. Glad to see one new member this time and hope to see many more at this new time. Lytton DeSilva will lead the discussion.

"Dine-O-Sirs" Dinner Group

Ben Smith



The Dine-O-Sir herd will be at rest during the month of February. Our next event will take place in March so watch for upcoming information. Your Dine-O committee is working on several excellent restaurants and details regarding the March outing will soon be forthcoming.

We have another sell-out crowd for our January 26th event at the "Brass Door" restaurant in San Ramon. This event has some 100 Plus people signed up and we are anticipating an excellent evening with good food and great people. As the old saying goes--"People make the Party". These events are a wonderful way to meet new people, make new SIR friends, find some new Eateries and enjoy a nice social evening.

If you have any suggestions regarding restaurants you would like to have considered for future events, contact any of the Dine-O Committee members.

Tom Eller

Jerry Hicks

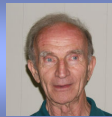
Phil Goff

Ben Smith

Dick Socolich

Poker Group #2

Al Reynolds



Poker Group #2 plays on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Diablo Country Club in Diablo, from 1-4 p.m. It's a small stakes game, and socializing with fellow SIR members is the primary purpose.



If you would like to join, call Al Reynolds at 254-1576 or send an email to reynolds4596@sbcglobal.net.



Luncheon Speaker

By Little Sir Neil Schmidt



Ratings and Responsibility: the Challenges of Television News

Dan Ashley is anchor of ABC7 News at 6 & 11 p.m. and ABC7 News at 9 p.m. on Your TV20, week-days. He is joined by Sandhya Patel and Larry Beil who report weather and sports news, respectively.

Most recently, Ashley reported from Poland on the "March of the Living" with Bay Area holocaust survivors, and before that, reported from Marine Corp basic training at Camp Pendleton in San Diego.

Other notable assignments include reporting live from New Hampshire and South Carolina for the state primaries and from Iowa for the state's caucus.

Ashley came to ABC7 in 1995 as the weekday 5:00 p.m. news anchor and investigative reporter. He has received a number of awards, including two awards from the Radio Television News Directors Association of Northern California (RTNDA) for Best Newscast, 60 Minutes and Best Newscast, 30 Minutes. In 1996, ABC7 News at 6:00 p.m. won an Emmy for the most outstanding single news broadcast in a large market.

Ashley began his television career at WTVD, the ABC owned television station in Durham, North Carolina. He then worked for WCBD-TV, the ABC affiliate in Charleston, where he was weekend anchor and later the 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. anchor.

During his news tenure in Charleston, Ashley also won the prestigious DuPont Columbia Award and the Edward R. Murrow Award.

Ashley's distinguished work is recognized by many industry organizations, including Associated Press, United Press International, and the Press Club of Atlantic City. He has also received awards from the New Jersey and Atlanta chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.



SIR Fishing Group

Harry Sherinian

All SIR members and guests are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 24th, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Meeting starts at 8:30am.

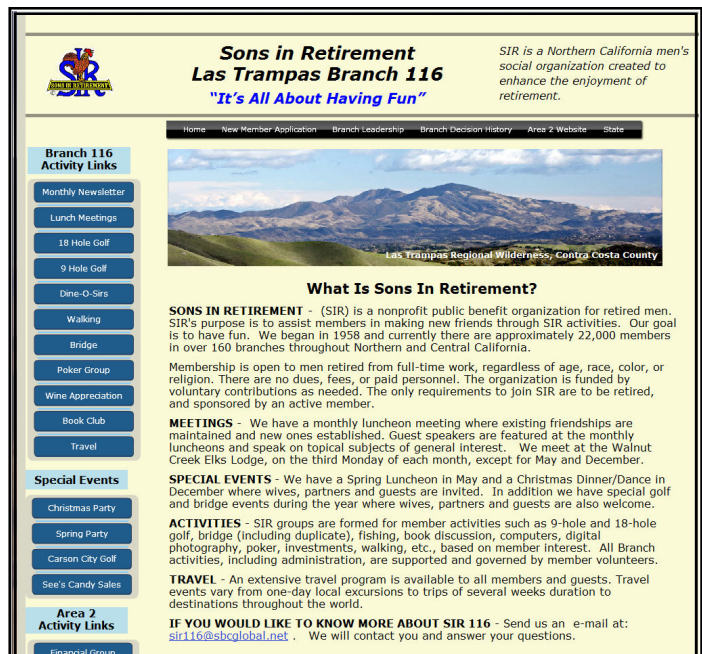
In the damp dark of a cold and windy January dawn 6 fearless fishermen ventured into the fog on a dimly lit reservoir in Pleasanton in search of hard fighting jumbo rainbow trout. Harry Sherinian emerged as the leader of the pack with 4 savory trout to 2 and one half pounds. Joe Miscione avenged a blank earlier in the week with 3 silver sided rainbows to 3 pounds, while Rei Nummi, Dick Thomson, Carl Moyer, and John O'Brien caught one each. This was a SIR's outing that was followed by a warm lunch at Jim's restaurant in Pleasanton. In a trip the week before, Harry Sherinian landed a hefty 5 pounder, and Carl Moyer caught a 4. Paul Dubow, Gordon Linebaugh, and Terry Miller all started the year off by braving the cold and catching the colorful rainbows. Joe Karg fished solo on a sturgeon party boat less favored by the new year, but he enjoyed the outing.

We will be very busy this winter with: delta fishing for bass, catfish, and sturgeon, trout fishing in local lakes, and party boat trips for sturgeon. These outings will include those who rarely fish but would like to try. If you haven't been fishing in a while, but might like to test drive an adventure, come join us.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 24th, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Meeting starts at 8:30 am. For further information, please contact: Karl Droese, Big Fish, (925-376-0468;) Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Coordinator, (925-846-7067) or Dick Thomson, Treasurer/Secretary, (925-944-1760.)



Harry Sherinian at Shadow Cliffs

Sons in Retirement
Las Trampas Branch 116
"It's All About Having Fun"

SIR is a Northern California men's social organization created to enhance the enjoyment of retirement.

Home New Member Application Branch Leadership Branch Decision History Area 2 Website Site

Branch 116 Activity Links

- Monthly Newsletter
- Lunch Meetings
- 18 Hole Golf
- 9 Hole Golf
- Dine-O-Sirs
- Walking
- Bridge
- Poker Group
- Wine Appreciation
- Book Club
- Travel

Special Events

- Christmas Party
- Spring Party
- Carson City Golf
- See's Candy Sales

Area 2 Activity Links

- Financial Forum

What Is Sons In Retirement?

SONS IN RETIREMENT - (SIR) is a nonprofit public benefit organization for retired men. SIR's purpose is to assist members in making new friends through SIR activities. Our goal is to have fun. We began in 1958 and currently there are approximately 22,000 members in over 160 branches throughout Northern and Central California.

Membership is open to men retired from full-time work, regardless of age, race, color, or religion. There are no dues, fees, or paid personnel. The organization is funded by voluntary contributions as needed. The only requirements to join SIR are to be retired, and sponsored by an active member.

MEETINGS - We have a monthly luncheon meeting where existing friendships are maintained and new ones established. Guest speakers are featured at the monthly luncheons and speak on topical subjects of general interest. We meet at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, on the third Monday of each month, except for May and December.

SPECIAL EVENTS - We have a Spring Luncheon in May and a Christmas Dinner/Dance in December where wives, partners and guests are invited. In addition we have special golf and bridge events during the year where wives, partners and guests are also welcome.

ACTIVITIES - SIR groups are formed for member activities such as 9-hole and 18-hole golf, bridge (including duplicate), fishing, book discussion, computers, digital photography, poker, investments, walking, etc., based on member interest. All Branch activities, including administration, are supported and governed by member volunteers.

TRAVEL - An extensive travel program is available to all members and guests. Travel events vary from one-day local excursions to trips of several weeks duration to destinations throughout the world.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SIR 116 - Send us an e-mail at: sir116@sbcglobal.net. We will contact you and answer your questions.

New Branch 116 Web Site

Checkout the new Branch 116 Web site designed by Phil Goff. The new web site has been significantly changed with not only a new layout but with more information about our branch activities. See it at: www.sir-web.org/116-web/

Is he a good dentist?

A couple of old guys were golfing when one said he was going to Dr. Taylor for a new set of dentures in the morning.

His friend remarked that he had gone to the same dentist a few years before. "Is that so?" the first said. "Did he do a good job?"

"Well, I was on the course yesterday when the fellow on the ninth hole hooked a shot," he said. "The ball most have been going 200 mph when it hit me in the stomach. That," he added, "was the first time in two years my teeth didn't hurt."

Hiking & Walking Joel White



The February hikes will be as follows:

- Friday, February 11
- Friday, February 25
- Monday, February 28 (Pre-Book Club Hike)

Anyone is welcome and if they wish to join this friendly group or to be added to the e-mail reminder list should contact Joel White 964-0994 or zpz2mrz@yahoo.com.



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will begin its work this month. The members of the Committee are Ben Smith, Bill McCord, John Maclay, and myself. Their contact information is listed below. A suggestion form for candidates for Officer and Director positions will be placed at each seat for the February luncheon. I would appreciate it if each and every member would take the time to go through the Roster Book prior to the February meeting and let us know what your recommendations are for the various positions. The Committee places a high value on the input from the membership in this process. If you are personally interested in becoming an Officer or a Director, please let any one of the Committee members know either by telephone or e-mail. Thank you in advance for helping us to pick the best available candidates for our Branch Executive Committee.

Jed Daniel (Chairman)

(925)551-7734 jed.daniel@comcast.net

Ben Smith (925)820-5403 bjsssmith@aol.com

Bill McCord (925)376-5280 jnmwam@comcast.net

John Maclay (925)937-2399 piloto@aol.com

State 'SIR Happenings'

SIR Happenings (our State Web Newsletter) is now in it's fifth year of publishing!

Enjoy reading *SIR Happenings* and find out about all the fun things that are going on throughout our organization. You can easily find Happenings on the SIR State Website located at:

www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings

Mark Your Calendars

Spring Ladies Day Luncheon

May 11, 2011

Carson City Golf Getaway

September 7-8, 2011



\$ums Investment Group
Allen Espenmiller

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on February 23rd , 2011 at 8:00 AM at the Diablo Creek Golf course 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our speaker will be Rick Ashburn; Principal of Creekside Partners Investment Counsel in Lafayette, CA. Rick’s presentation will be an overview of current economic and market conditions and what they mean for investment returns in the coming years. Discussion of the crisis in municipal budgets- are muni bonds still a safe investment? A look at stocks through the eyes of a value investor- has the stock market fully recovered while the economy is still mired in recession? Plan to attend and discuss with Rick these items which affect our investment portfolios.

The restaurant at the course opens at 7:00AM for those who would like to enjoy breakfast with your colleagues. Co- Chairmen: Allen Espenmiller (Br-174) 925-376-3977 George Schulze (Br-8) 925-429-1756 Leary Wong (Br-8) 925-457-0807



SIRS Get Set For a Great Round at Deer Ridge But Broad Smiles Reveal They Haven't Teed Off Yet (l. to r.: Al Zattero, Lonny Randall, John Story, Jim Clizbe)

Bulletin



State Board Reports New Member Recruitment Success

At it’s January 2011 Meeting, the State Board of Directors learned that new member recruiting efforts have reduced membership losses from nearly 5% in previous years to about 2.5% in 2010.

Branch leaders in 2010 were challenged to recruit new members at the rate of 10% of branch membership. The leaders in 88 branches responded. They exceeded the challenge and recruited at the rate of 13.2%. These branch leaders inducted 1,587 new members.

These branch leaders report that they have attractive branches with activities and events of interest to their members. They report that modern retirees are joiners once they see opportunities for participating in these activities and events and for socializing with other retired men.

In 2011 we expect all branch leaders to respond to the challenge. Let’s keep this positive trend going.

Bring a Friend to Lunch, Sponsor a New Member



Luncheon Speaker Tracy Peters Talks about Repairing Hubble and Building It’s Replacement, The James Webb Space Telescope

SIR Travel

By Tom Eller, Travel Chairman



Pick up brochures, forms, etc., at the travel desk at the luncheons. If we run out of these and you are still interested in the trip, please ask your travel chairman and he will have one sent to you. Payment should be made to the travel agency arranging the event unless otherwise stated:



SIR State Travel Opportunities 2011

Feb 14-28 2011: Magnificent Mediterranean Odyssey (Italy, Egypt, Israel, Greece, Croatia –plus 2 night stay in Venice) Cruise for \$3510 to \$4075. Bill Kurtz Br21 408-268-8830

Mar5-15, 2011: The Galapagos Islands. (Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.) 11 day trip for \$6469 Ralph Hunt, Mountain View, Br 153 650-967-8467

Apr 16-30, 2011: Ancient Egypt & Nile River (Cairo, Aswan, Luxor plus 7 day River Cruise) 15 days for \$3100 to \$3400 with extensions to Israel and Jordan available. Bob Spellman, Walnut Creek, Br 146 925-934-8428.

Apr 23-May 4, 2011 The Legendary Danube (3 nights in Prague, plus 7 night cruise from Nuremberg to Budapest down the Danube River) for \$4395 to \$4995, Brian Serpa, San Jose Br 141, 408-227-7658 or Rollo Parsons 408-268-5245

May 7-14, 2011 Hawaiian Cruise (Fly to Honolulu, cruise to four different Islands) 7 day cruise for \$1770 to \$2185, Lou Pagni San Lorenzo Br 6 510-276-5025.

May 10-18 2011: Tuscan Vacation (Florence, Pisa, Siena, Montecatini, Lucca and San Gimignano) 9 days for \$3695 to \$4080, Wil Reich, Sonora, Brs 77, 136, 172, 209-533-2626.

May 10-17, 2011: Rocky Mountaineer Western Explorer (Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper, Kamloops and Vancouver) 8 days for \$2999, Mike Console, San Jose, Br 32, 408-246-1080.

May 16-31,2011: Eastern Mediterranean Cruise (Rome, Athens, Patmos, Santorini, Kusadasi, Haifa,

Nazareth, Ashod, Cairo and Capri) 12 day Cruise for \$4990 to \$5930, Rick Wayne, Livermore, Br 101, 925-371-3846.

May 27, 2011: Heritage of America. (New York, Philadelphia, Amish Country, Gettysburg, Shenandoah Valley, Monticello, Colonial Williamsburg, Mt Vernon and Washington) 10 day motor coach tour, \$ 2799, Rich Small, Br 34, 925-462-1204.

Jun 9-19, 2011: Alaska's Inside Passage (Juneau, Glacier Bay, Haines, Ketchikan, Victoria) 10 day cruise for \$2578 to \$2655, Jim Lunn, San Ramon, Br 8, 925-551-3329.

Jun 13-20 2011: Trains across Colorado (Denver, Durango, Silverton, Cumbres, Toltec, Rio Grande and Pikes Peak) 8 day motor coach trip for \$2390, Werner Schlapfer, Livermore, Br 121, 925-443-8291.

Jun 11-23, 2011: Russian Waterways: (St Petersburg to Moscow on the newest, best equipped riverboat in Russia) 11 night cruise for \$5895 to \$7695, Jim Stoner, San Jose, Br 114, 408-528-0746 or Larry Martinson 408-238-8458.

Jul 11-23 2011: Denali Explorer Cruise Tour (Anchorage, Mt. McKinley, Denali, Glacier Bay, Skagway Juneau, Ketchikan, and Vancouver) 13 days for \$3792 to \$4695. Jim Hohenshelt Santa Clara, Br 62, 408-241-4421.

Aug 1-12, 2011: Grand Scotland and Ireland Tour (Dublin, Edinburgh, Belfast, Derry with many tours throughout the trip) 12 days for \$3995, Neil Jameson, Ben Lomond, Br 39, 408-972-1054 or Wayne Dawson 408-972-1054.

Sep 1-12, 2011: Danube River Cruise (From Vilshofen, Germany to Budapest, Hungary) 10 day trip, starting at \$ 3875, Rick Wayne, Livermore, Br 101, 925-337-3846.

Additional SIR Travel Opportunities on State Web

The quarterly State SIR Happenings Web Site at: <http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> offers additional SIR travel options.



Computer & Technology

Derek Southern & Phil Goff



Tax Time With Frank Crua

It's income tax time and Frank Crua will present an overview of the various tax preparation programs available for sale. He will review TurboTax, Tax-Cut, TaxACT and others. If you do your own income tax or just use these programs to organize your data for a professional tax preparer, you will find this to be an interesting topic.

Phil Goff will then demonstrate the power of the new CAT website and seek comments about how we can make it even better. Finally, he will show you how to make a beautiful picture collage that is very inexpensive and suitable for hanging on the wall. So dig out those pictures you took on your last trip or during the Holiday season and quickly make a picture grouping that will always be cherished.

If there is any extra time we will have a Q&A session with The Gurus of A2CAT where the advice is always 'priceless'.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Thank you for supporting your Area 2 Computer and Technology Group.



Bridge

Milt Greenstein

Duplicate Bridge

The duplicate bridge group met at the Pleasant Hill Bridge Center on January 4, 2011 with 16 men playing bridge. The team of Bill Sullivan / Jack Butler was the high scoring team with 48 points (57.14 %), and earning 0.80 master points. In second place was Art Donaldson / Bob Wolf with 47.50 points (0.56 mp's), followed by Bob Daily / Lou Sandor (46.00 points - 0.40 mp's). Honorable mention went to Dick Chaffee / Dan Green and Marv DeHeus / Milt Greenstein, who earned some negligible master points.

Luncheon Bridge

On January 11, 28 men had lunch and played bridge at the Round Hill C.C. Jack Butler came in first with a very nice 6,630 points followed by Bill Sullivan with 5,680 points. (Do you notice a trend here ?). Third place was captured by Ali Aghaiepour with 5,300 points, followed by Norm Schoenfeld (5,210), Milt Greenstein (4,610) and Charley Schmidt (4,540). Three small slams were made today by the teams of Jack Butler / Gene Gould, Art Donaldson / Lou Sandor and Bill Sullivan / Ali Aghaiepour.

Don't forget some of the many special dates this February

- Feb. 2 **Ground Hog Day**
- Feb. 3 **The Day the Music Died Day**
(commemorates the untimely death of singers Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper)
- Feb.14 **Valentines Day** — You can't forget this one
- Feb.20 **Cherry Pie Day** — Cherry pie is America's second most popular pie, behind only apple pie in popularity. However, in the month of February, it's Number 1. Do you know why?
- Feb.21 **Presidents Day**
- Feb.27 **No Brainer Day** — now this day is for me!

[Provided by Ron Armijo]



Wine Appreciation Group

Al Reynolds

The January 27 Wine event was hosted by Phil Marks. The wines selected by Phil, and his discussion of the wines, will be reviewed in next month's newsletter. The March wine event will be held on the 24th.

Bowling

Ron Gagliardi

Well since football is coming to a close, maybe some of you would like to do something besides reside on your backsides. I know bowling is half over, but we are looking to fill some spots on teams that are missing members. It's a lot of fun, so if you're interested in getting a little exercise, please join us at Monument Bowling Lanes on each Wed at 10:00 am. Please drop by and we can sign you up. You can also call me at 925/682-4012 or e-mail me at rongag@att.net.



Trampas Topics Submissions



We need your contributions and suggestions for Trampas Topics. Please send photos, news items, SIR activities, and Letters to the Editor to:

Neil Schmidt, Trampas Topics Editor
trampastopics@gmail.com

SIR Website Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site

<http://www.sir-web.org/116-web/>

Branch 116 Golf

<http://www.sir-web.org/116-golf/>

Trampas Topics

<http://www.sir-web.org/trampas/>

Computer and Technology

<http://www.sir-web.org/computer/>

SIR Happenings State Newsletter

www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings

State SIR Web Site

<http://www.sirinc.org/>

It's Called Golf...

The man who takes up golf to get his mind off his work soon takes up work to get his mind off golf.

Golf was once a rich man's sport, but now it has millions of poor players!

Golf is an expensive way of playing marbles. The secret of good golf is to hit the ball hard, straight and not too often.

There are three ways to improve your golf game: take lessons, practice constantly ... or start cheating.

An amateur golfer is one who addresses the ball twice ... once before swinging, and once again, after swinging.

Many a golfer prefers a golf cart to a caddy because it cannot count, criticize or laugh.

Golf is a game in which the slowest people in the world are those in front of you, and the fastest are those behind.

There's no game like golf: you go out with three friends, play eighteen holes, and return with three enemies.

Golf got its name because all of the other four letter words were taken.

SIR Branch 116 Golf

By Al Zavattero, Golf Chairman



We have an active golf organization consisting of 18-hole and 9-hole groups. A small annual donation is required to play in either group.

The 18-hole group plays once a week in a Tournament format with play alternating between local courses and courses that may be 10 to 50 miles away. Those playing in the 18-hole group must be members of the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA) and establish a handicap index. You may join the NCGA through our SIR club or through another club.

The 9-hole group also plays once a week and alternates play between local courses. Foursomes in both groups are arranged so that players can meet and enjoy playing with most, if not all, the other players in the branch.

All our events are listed in our annual golf book, the Trampas Topics and on our web site at <http://www.sir-web.org/116-golf>. Join up with us and enjoy outings with a great bunch of guys at some great courses with reasonable prices.

Nine Hole Info

Dick Chaffee, 9-Hole Chairman



SIR 116 9-Hole Golf Club membership is open to all Branch members and guests regardless of your golfing ability. We play every Wednesday starting at 10:00am. We rotate playing Buchanan Fields, Concord, Pine Meadows, Martinez and Diablo Hills, Walnut Creek.

The 9 Hole Golf Club is organized into a single flight. The weekly Champion is the player with the lowest net score. The weekly Champion is awarded 3 points, 2nd place 2 and 3rd place 1. The 2009 Champion will be the golfer with the highest point total.

In December, we will again hold our 9 Hole Golf Championship Tournament. The Tournament will be 3 rounds of golf. One round at each of the courses we play. The Tournament Champion will be the golfer with lowest net total for 2 rounds. If a participant plays all 3 rounds, he can choose which 2 rounds will count.

Using the Golf Hotline

For Non-Pay-In Advance SIR 116 Golf Events (9-Hole and Boundary Oak 18-Hole) You may sign-up via the Branch 116 Hotline — 906-5355

Deadline for 18-Hole, the Thursday before and 9-Hole, the Sunday before.
Please indicate if you want a cart.

⇒⇒⇒ New Golf P.O. Box ⇐⇐⇐

Note that the Golf P.O. Box has changed from a Walnut Creek P.O. Box to a new Lafayette one. The new Golf P.O. Box address is: **SIR Branch 116 Golf, P.O. Box 683 Lafayette, CA 94549-0683**

February 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 09	9:00	Silverado South	Dirk Meyer
Mon. 14	9:30	Boundary Oak	Dirk Meyer
Tues. 22	9:30	Brentwood	Dirk Meyer
Mon. 28	9:30	Dublin Ranch	Dirk Meyer

February 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed 02	10:00	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed 09	10:00	Pine Meadow	D. McLaughry
Wed 16	10:00	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed 23	10:15	Diablo Hills	Mike Murphy



18 Hole Results

By David Harris

Deer Ridge -- Monday January 24, 2011

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
David Harris	66	3	Tom Eller	70	3	Max Foust	67	3	Ron Armijo	69	3
Mel Williams	69	2	Lonny Randall	72	2	John Peterson	68	2	Conrad Robertson	71	2
Jim Johnson	70	1	Phil Goff	74	1	Dick Chaffee	69	1	Wayne Cook	77	1
						Al Serafino	69	1			
						Bernie Wroblewski	69	1			
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
Jim Johnson	81		Lonny Randall	90		Max Foust	93		Conrad Robertson	100	

Closest to: Hole #7 - Lonny Randall, Dick Chaffee -- Hole #13 - David Carlson, Max Foust

Lone Tree -- Tuesday January 18, 2011

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
Al Zattero	71	3	Frank Crua	68	3	Al Serafino	75	3	Conrad Robertson	70	3
Bill McCord	72	2	Phil Goff	72	2	Max Foust	77	2	Robbie Robinson	75	2
Dirk Meyer	77	1	David Carlson	74	1	Bob Donohue	77	2	Ron Armijo	78	1
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
Bill McCord	87		Frank Crua	88		Bob Donohue	102		Conrad Robertson	99	
						Al Serafino	102				

Closest to: Hole #5 - Bill McCord, Al Serafino -- Hole #11 - Al Zattero, John Story

Boundary Oak -- Monday January 10, 2011

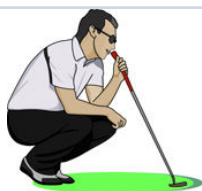
Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
Jerry Hicks	72	3	Frank Crua	74	3	Bob Testa	74	3	Chuck Gilliam	77	3
David Harris	75	2	David Carlson	76	2	Bob Donohue	75	2	Ron Armijo	86	2
Al Zattero	75	2	Lonny Randall	77	1	John Story	75	2	Wayne Cook	88	1
									Art Vogl	88	1
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
Jerry Hicks	84		Frank Crua	94		John Story	98		Chuck Gilliam	114	

Closest to: Hole #2 - Al Zattero, Bill Hemmelsbach -- Hole #12 - Bill McCord, Bob Testa

Boundary Oak -- Monday January 3, 2011

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
David Harris	75	3	Frank Crua	75	3	Bob Conlon	71	3	Chuck Gilliam	81	3
Jim Clizbe	77	2	Phil Goff	77	2	Bernie Wroblewski	76	2	Art Vogl	87	2
Dirk Meyer	77	2	David Carlson	78	1	Al Hutchko	79	1	Bill Hemmelsbach	91	1
			Paul Kim	78	1	Al Serafino	79	1	Robbie Robinson	91	1
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
David Harris	92		Frank Crua	95		Bob Conlon	96		Chuck Gilliam	118	
Dirk Meyer	92										

Closest to: Hole #2 - Dirk Meyer, Bernie Wroblewski -- Hole #12 - David Carlson, Bob Conlon



2011 18 Hole Leaders

By David Harris

FLIGHT 1		FLIGHT 2		FLIGHT 3		FLIGHT 4	
Index 0.0 - 16.7		Index 16.8 - 21.3		Index 21.4 - 26.5		Index 26.6 - 36.4	
NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS
Harris, David	8	Crua, Frank	9	Foust, Max	5	Armijo, Ron	6
Zavattero, Al	5	Goff, Phil	5	Serafino, Al	5	Gilliam, Chuck	6
Hicks, Jerry	3	Carlson, David	4	Donohue, Bob	4	Robertson, Conrad	5
Meyer, Dirk	3	Eller, Tom	3	Conlon, Bob	3	Robinson, Robbie	3
Clizbe, Jim	2	Randall, Lonny	3	Testa, Bob	3	Vogl, Art	3
McCord, Bill	2	Kim, Paul	1	Wroblewski, Bernie	3	Cook, Wayne	2
Williams, Mel	2			Peterson, John	2	Hemmelsbach, Bill	1
Johnson, Jim	1			Story, John	2		
				Chaffee, Dick	1		
				Hutchko, Al	1		

Latest SIR 116 Golf Info Available on Our Golf Web Site

The Golf Website address is:

<http://www.sir-web.org/116-golf>

Please bookmark it in your "Favorites" list of web-sites to access information on the following:

2008 Golf Schedule: Dates, times, and courses as well as detailed information on costs, payment information, deadlines, and special event facts.

- 18-Hole Pairings: Weekly, usually on the Friday or Saturday prior to the event, showing captains, teams, starting times, and handicaps.

- 18-Hole Leaders and Results: Weekly, usually within a day or two of the event.
- Paid-In-Advance Sign-Ups: Weekly, showing checks that have been received for the next 3 or 4 pre-paid outings.
- Boundary Oak Sign-Ups: Weekly, shortly following 18-hole events, and the monthly luncheon when most signups occur. This listing will show who has signed-up for the next two Boundary Oak sessions, and whether they have indicated using a cart.

18-Hole Pay In Advance Deadlines

Event Date	Location	Deadline	Amount
Wednesday, February 9	Silverado South	Jan-8	\$45
Tuesday, February 22	Brentwood	Feb-11	\$35
Monday, February 28	Dublin Ranch	Feb-4	\$38
Tuesday, March 22	Delta View	Mar-11	\$30
Monday, March 28	Lone Tree	Mar-18	\$35
Monday April 11	Silverado South *	Mar-5	\$50 / \$45

* Special Event -- guests pay \$45 and can not win prizes

Send checks made out to **SIR Branch 116 Golf, P.O. Box 683, Lafayette, CA 94549-0683**



RETURN TO: Lytton DeSilva
60 Muth Drive
Orinda, CA
94563-2819

**Sons In Retirement: A non profit Organization for Retired Men devoted to
the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement**

Rules of Attendance and Membership for SIR Branch 116

RULE 100. A member may be notified in writing by his Branch of the pending termination of his membership (Rule 107) should he be responsible for any of the following:

Miss three (3) consecutive regular luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting the designated Branch Attendance person prior to the meeting date.

Did not attend one-half (5) of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period. NOTE: Excused meetings cannot be included to achieve the minimum attendance.

RULE 101. Certification of attendance by a member at another Branch meeting will be considered as a credit to his attendance record. (Maximum of 2 visits per calendar year).

Non Responsibility Declaration

RULE 345: All activities arranged for or by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

Checks for Trips

Trips of 2 days and 1 night or less may be made payable to the Branch conducting the trip. Trips in excess of 1 night must be made payable to the travel agency involved.