



Trampas Topics

February, 2012

SIR Branch 116

Next Meeting: 11:30 am,
Monday, February 20, 2012
Elks Lodge—1475 Creekside Dr,
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Retired Men Enjoying Active Retirement

Sayings of 2012 Big Sir Neil Schmidt

At our January Luncheon, I mentioned that the 2012 Voluntary Contribution amount was set by the Branch Executive Committee at \$40 and will be due at our February Luncheon so please remember to bring a check or cash.



On Page 6 of this newsletter is a detailed discussion about the need for this important contribution.

We now have dates set for both our **Spring Luncheon** and the **Christmas Dinner Dance Party** which are going to be held again at the Crow Canyon Country Club. Please put these dates on your calendar so that you don't miss the events. These are two fantastic Branch 116 events that everyone should, if possible, attend – If you haven't been to either one of these events before, I think you will be surprised how much fun they are.

Jerry Hicks is our new Activities Chairman and is enthusiastically exploring several ideas for new Branch 116 activities - Checkout his column on Page 9 of the newsletter. Also, if you have any ideas for new activities, give him a call...

Don't forget that **Valentine's Day** is on Tuesday, February 14th. The "little lady" might just be expecting a gift, dinner or something on this special day so...

Have fun and enjoy life.

Neil Schmidt Big SIR

**The Annual Voluntary Contribution (\$40)
will be Due at our February Luncheon**

**Mark Your Calendars with These Key
Branch 116 Events for 2012!**

Silverado South Golf	April 2
Bridge Ladies Day	April 17
Ladies Day Luncheon	May 11
Boulder Creek Golf	May 16-18
Carson City Golf	Sept. 5-7
Christmas Dinner Dance	December 12



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

2012 SIR 116 Officers & Directors



Big SIR
Neil Schmidt
939-5342



Little SIR
Art Vogl
288-0488



Secretary
Dick Chaffee
932-5087



Asst. Secretary
Joel White
964-0994



Treasurer
John Peterson
946-0335



Asst. Treasurer
Bob Shader
939-8421



Membership Sec.
Andy Benz
937-5706

DIRECTORS



Ron Armijo
945-0637



Bob Donohue
837-6913



Jim Johnson
825-7437



Jerry Kaplan
938-1037



Alex Lutkus
827-2828



Bernie Wroblewski
820-3274

2012 SIR 116 Committee Chairmen

Activities Coordinator	Jerry Hicks	945-7465	Membership Roster	Dick Thomson	785-7600
Attendance	Jim Nachtweih	838-7417	Music Man	Robbie Robinson	798-4276
Audit	Ron Armijo	945-0637	Newsletter Editor	Neil Schmidt	939-5342
Book Club	Rich Black	283-8376	Newsletter Edtr. Asst.	Phil Goff	831-3692
Bowling	Ron Gagliardi	682-4012	Nominating	Ron Armijo	945-0637
Bridge	Milt Greenstein	376-5589	Parties		
Candy Sales	Dirk Meyer	820-6878	Photographers	John Peterson	946-0335
Chaplain	Rotating	#1 See Below		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-Sir	Ben Smith	820-5403	Storytellers	Rotating	#2 See Below
Duplicate Bridge	Mike Corker	872-7525	Sums In Retirement	Ben Smith	820-5403
E-mail Contact	Art Vogl	288-0488	Sunshine	Matt Arena	946-0404
Fishing	Harry Sherinian	846-7067	Travel	Tom Eller	939-5897
Guitar	Paul King	938-3035	Volunteers	Bob Kinser	837-8886
Golf	Al Zavattero	933-0465	Webmaster	Phil Goff	831-3692
	Carlos Xavier	947-6756	Welcoming	Jerry Kaplan	938-1037
Greeters	Pat Bermingham	930-9477	Wine Appreciation	Al Reynolds	254-1576
Hiking and Walking	Joel White	964-0994			
	Dan Green	376-7087			
Historian	Matt Arena	946-0404			
Host	Frank Crua	932-0975			
Interviewer	Max Foust	827-9323			

#1. Doug Aalders, Matt Arena, Art Donaldson, Lou Sandor

#2. Pat Bermingham, Milt Greenstein, Marty Ratterree

2012 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	Pete Gates (Br. 146)		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 2012

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.	
	 <p>Copyright © Ron Leishman · http://www.Clips.com/1554</p>		<p>1</p> <p>9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Buchanan Fields GC)</p> <p>Bowling (10:00@Mounument Bowl)</p>				
5	<p>6</p> <p>18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Boundary Oak GC)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (9:00@ Diablo Valley Bridge Ctr)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pine Meadow GC)</p> <p>Bowling (10:00@Mounument Bowl)</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Hiking & Walking (8:15@ Lafayette/Moraga Staging Area)</p>	11	
12	<p>13</p> <p>18-Hole Golf (9:00@ Silverado N. GC)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Luncheon Bridge (11:30@ Round Hill CC)</p> <p>Valentines Day</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Buchanan Fields GC)</p> <p>Bowling (10:00@Mounument Bowl)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Computer & Tech (9:00@ Elks Club)</p>	<p>17</p>	18	
19	<p>20</p> <p>SIR Br 116 Mtg. (11:30@ Elks Club)</p> <p>Presidents' Day Holiday</p>	<p>21</p> <p>18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Brentwood GC)</p> <p>Poker Group 2 (1:00@ Diablo CC)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills GC)</p> <p>Bowling (10:00@Mounument Bowl)</p> <p>\$ums Investment (8:00@ Diablo Creek GC)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Fishing (8:30@ Lengend Sports Bar, Diablo Creek GC)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Hiking & Walking (8:15@ Rudgear Road Park)</p>	25	
26	<p>27</p> <p>18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Dublin Ranch GC)</p> <p>Book Group Mtg. (10:15@ Orinda Books)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Luncheon Bridge (11:30@ Diablo CC)</p> <p>18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Delta View)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pine Meadow GC)</p> <p>Bowling (10:00@Mounument Bowl)</p>				



Membership

Andy Benz
(anbenz@aol.com)

SIR 116 Membership Status

Total Current Members:	251
Last Month's Inductees:	2
Those in Interview Stage:	3
Total in Process:	5
On Inactive Status:	46
Left the Branch:	2
Waiting to be Installed:	0

February Luncheon Menu

Braised Short Ribs
Over Buttered Egg Noodles
Veggie
Salad
Roll/Butter
Dessert/Coffee/Ice Tea



Br. 116 Treasurer's Report

John Peterson, Treasurer
(delanaimp@aol.com)

	Jan. 2012	2012 YTD
Contributions	\$ 53.00	\$ 53.00
Disbursements	\$ (497.66)	\$ (497.66)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ (444.66)	\$ (444.66)

January Cash Balance \$ 4,244.27

January Birthdays

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

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ron Armijo | 9. Pete Kallas |
| 2. Clifford Egan | 10. Paul Kim |
| 3. Robert Farmer | 11. Gene McCullough |
| 4. James Foust | 12. Edmund Regalia |
| 5. Ronald Gagliardi | 13. Donald Roberts |
| 6. Daniel Green | 14. Edward Schommer |
| 7. Paul Harris | 15. Toshiro Suwa |
| 8. Cordell Hull | 16. Ralph Swartz |



Lunch Attendance

Jim Nachtweih
(majnacht@sbcglobal.net)

Attendance at the January 16, 2012 meeting:

Total:	196
Members:	190
Visitors:	0
Speakers:	0
Guests:	6
Excused:	47
Un-Excused:	15

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

New Members



Sponsor Jon Rasmussen with
New Member Mark Jordan



Sponsor Carlos Xavier with
New Member Allan Chasnoff



Sunshine Report

Matt Arena

(marena@astound.net)

With great sadness we report the passing of Past Big **Sir Frank Dillon** on January 6, 2012. Frank will be remembered by his many friends for his generosity and his wonderful disposition. The Funeral was attended by a large representation of members of our Branch and their spouses.

Sir **Russ Green** was transported from our January luncheon following a fall to John Muir Walnut Creek. His condition is not known however ,he remains in the cardiopulmonary intensive care unit. Russ is being treated for pneumonia and hopefully is improving . I will keep you posted on his condition.

Sir **Marty Mc Nally** has been discharged from John Muir and is home recuperating. Marty is receiving chemo and radiation which leaves him fatigued but his spirits are good. He is receiving visitors however it would be best to call since he is out of the house with doctor appointments.

Past Big Sir **Courtney Borrecco** made a surprise appearance at the January luncheon. He had told me he was going to make a luncheon sooner or later and it was great to see him sooner rather than later.

Sir **Harry Honstein** had a heart attack around the Holidays and fortunately he was rushed to the hospital in the nick of time. They placed a stent in his artery which was 99% blocked. Hopefully, with this procedure he will receive improved blood flow. Harry is a fighter and I know he will get his strength back.

Sir **Ed Regalia** spoke with me and he sounds great. His speech is clear and he continues to work on the deficits from his stroke. I let him know that we miss seeing him and hope he will return sometime

this year.

Sir **Joe Lennon** is doing better. He was able to get out and go to church. Joe will do what it takes to get his strength back and do the many things he enjoys . Here's hoping to see you soon at the luncheons.

Sir **Dick Chaffee** is recovering from surgery. His only complaint is that it hurts to sneeze, cough or laugh. The surgery went just fine but he will have to take some time off before returning to the golf course.

Sir **Dusty Rhodes** had a bad fall and was hospitalized. Dusty has been discharged and is residing at home with full- time care givers .I have spoken with his wife Elaine and she says that Dusty is dealing with some mental confusion and he is a bit unsteady on his feet.

Sir **Hal Redson** was hospitalized with a blockage in his intestine. When I visited him he was waiting for the results of tests. Hal was out of pain and was looking forward to being discharged from the hospital. He appreciated the visit from Art Donaldson.

Sir Ralph Mc Dowell had a bad fall but was home recuperating. He is improving and is on the mend.

Sir **Tony Rohrs** while he was climbing Mt Diablo on his bike and had a bad fall. The outcome of this mishap was a pacemaker is now in his chest. Biking is a wonderful sport and especially for our age group since it treats the knees with grace. Tony will be back in action shortly.

Want a Free Lunch ? Sponsor a New Member !

That's right! Sponsor a new Branch 116 member in 2009 and get a free lunch. Sponsor another and, get another free lunch. No limit on this deal!

Your \$40 Voluntary Contribution is Due in February

As mentioned at our January Luncheon, the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) decided that we needed to raise the Voluntary Contribution in 2012 from last year's \$30 to \$40. **This \$40 contribution will be due at our February Luncheon so please bring a check or cash.**

Comments/Analysis

We cannot continue with the 2011 fees in 2012 and maintain a minimum SIR recommended balance (Our end-of-year balance dropped from \$7,583 in 2010 to \$4,689 in 2011). The recommended SIR minimum balance is \$15/member or \$3,780 for our branch of 252 members. If we continue with our 2011 fees, our projected end-of-year balance would fall dangerously low to about \$1,400 – Well below the SIR recommended minimum. Since our only sources of revenue are the Luncheon fee and the Voluntary Contribution, we need to raise one of these two fees. The BEC felt that we should maintain a low Luncheon fee to encourage attendance and to instead raise the Voluntary Contribution. Raising the Voluntary Contribution to \$40 will give us a forecasted end-of-year balance of \$3,800, an amount almost exactly that which is recommended by the State SIR Organization.

Branch Expenses

The luncheon fee only pays for the food caterer cost with about a \$1000 annual surplus. The Voluntary Contribution has to pay for all our other expenses (see main expense categories below).

Elk's Club Rental	\$7,300
State SIR Assessment	\$1,000
Printing & Supplies	\$2,500
<u>Gratuities & Misc.</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
Total:	\$11,800

Recovery of the above costs must come primarily from the Voluntary Contribution. No one ever likes higher fees, especially us retired folks, but we need to maintain a financially sound branch.

Neil Schmidt, Big SIR



\$ums Investment Group

Allen Espenmiller

(aespenmiller@pacbell.net)

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday February 22, 2012 at 8:00 AM at the Diablo Creek Golf course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our meeting will cover a range of financial planning questions (12) submitted by the membership of the group. Our host will be Rick Ashburn of Creekside Partners from Lafayette, CA, who will provide answers and insight to this process. Rick has been one of our most outstanding speakers in the past and brings a wealth of experience to this topic.

The timeliness of this meeting is important as we need to stay on top of financial planning to make sure families lives are secure. The restaurant at the course opens at 7:00 AM for those who like to enjoy breakfast with your colleagues.



Luncheon Speaker

By Little Sir Art Vogl

(carolvogl@sbcglobal.net)

Speaker: **Anthony D. Schilling, MD**

Subject: **USS Hornet Museum in Alameda, CA**

Dr. Schilling Bio begins in 1960 with his entry into the University of Notre Dame to Georgetown University School of Medicine in Orthopaedic Surgery, the Surgery of the Hand, culminating in 1973.

After his Internship, in 1965, he went into the US Navy as Flight Surgeon until 1968.

He was then deployed to the USS Bennington and awarded many distinguished medals concluding with Viet Nam Campaign & Service Medals. Then, in 1973 he went into Private Practice as an Orthopaedic Hand Surgeon in Walnut Creek until 2005.

Dr. Schilling will speak on the achievements of the two carriers called Hornet in WW II, from the Doolittle raid, through Midway, and on to VJ Day.



SIR Fishing Group

Harry Sherinian

(h.sherinian@comcast.net)

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 23rd 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.

Winter brings fishermen challenges of a chilly, chili, and rewarding nature. Harry Sherinian hosted a foray to Shadow Cliffs Reservoir on a day that turned warm and sunny. Carl Moyer, Joe Peterson, Pauls: Dubow and King, Robby Robertson, Dick Thomson, Craig Walden, Gordon Linebaugh, and George Vogt enjoyed the weather, the hot chili lunch prepared by Harry, and even caught a few fish. Earlier, a group of eight including many of the above, with Terry Miller and Romano Gnusti caught a few fish but then went to a restaurant for coffee and brunch. George Schulze, Gordon Linebaugh and Carl Moyer limited out there on fish to pounds, and Harry Sherinian caught a big, beautiful, bubba rainbow of nearly 4 pounds on separate trips. Carl and Terry Miller caught only small fish while sturgeon fishing. John O'Brien caught a small rock fish from the jetty at Princeton Harbor fishing with Carl, and then enjoyed the wonderful seafood at Barbara's restaurant there. Bill Landers and friend Sean caught 6 stripers to 8 lbs on a productive December outing in the delta.

We will be very busy this winter with: delta fishing for bass, catfish, and sturgeon, trout in local lakes, party boat trips for kokanee, sturgeon, crab and rock fish. We will also go as a group to the Sportsmen's Expo and other fishing shows.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, February 23rd**, 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 Pete Gates, Big Fish (925-937-2035;) Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 coordinator, (925-846-7067;) or Tom Boltz, Treasurer/Secretary, (925-825-5695.)



The Whole Fishing Crew at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir

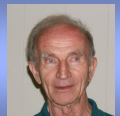


Harry S. holding up his 4 lb. Trout caught at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir

Poker Group #2

Al Reynolds

(reynolds4596@sbcglobal.net)



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.

Hiking & Walking

Joel White

(zp2mrz@yahoo.com)



The first walk of the New Year was on the Iron Horse Trail in Alamo on a lucky Friday the 13th. A clear, brisk morning began to warm as the walk concluded at Cherubini café. Rich Black and Donna Argenbright, Lytton and Audrey DeSilva, Art and Mary Alice Donaldson, David and Colleen Geary, and Joel and Susan White were joined by new member Allan Chasnoff for the walk, conversation, and coffee.

The second walk of the year, Friday January 27, occurred on a gloriously beautiful morning. Led by Dan Green, and joined by activities chair Jerry Hicks and new member Mark Jordan, we walked the Lafayette Moraga trail from the Moraga commons, down past St Mary's college to a "waterfall" (with no water). Participants are as noted in the attached photo, from right to left, Lytton DeSilva, Norm Schoenfeld, Dan Green (behind), Andrea Green, Mark Jordan, Coleen Geary, Art Donaldson, Rich Black, Jerry Hicks (behind), Donna Argenbright, Dave Geary, Allan Chasnoff, and Joel White (behind the camera). Good fellowship followed at Terzetto coffee bar.

The Friday **February 10th** walk will start at **8:15am**

and be led by **Dave Carlson**. The walk will start at the Lafayette/Moraga Staging area or parking area. Please RSVP to Dave (ldavecarls@comcast.net, 284-7547).

Directions: From Hwy 24: To Pleasant Hill Road south 1 mile and turn Right on Olympic. The staging area parking lot is on the right. We will take the trail and go west towards Stanley School. **From 680:** Take Olympic Rd exit west about 1.8mi to the above parking lot.

Dave has suggested eating or drinking at La Boulange, 3597 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Parking is in the back to avoid pay parking.

The Friday **February 24** walk will start at **8:15am** and be led by **Art Donaldson**. Meet at the Rudgear Road park and ride lot. Please RSVP to Art (dnldsn@sbcglobal.net, 934-8391)

DIRECTIONS: Exit HWY 680 at Rudgear Rd. The park and ride lot is on the east side of 680.

Anyone wishing to be added to the e-mail reminder list should contact Joel White 964-0994 or zp2mrz@yahoo.com.



Amiable Amblers on Lafayette Moraga Trail, January 27



Activity Chairman

Jerry Hicks

(jkhicks@astound.net)

Take a Hike!

Dan Green told me to do that, so I did. This past Friday, with the SIR Hiking and Walking group, we enjoyed the fresh air, the sunshine, and this wonderful California “winter” weather. Dan’s group gets together twice a month at different and interesting sites for a moderate and friendly exercise walk. They have room for several more amblers so get on the contact list and get some exercise.

Big SIR, Neil Schmidt, wants more interesting and appealing activities added to the 16 that we now have. As your new Activities Coordinator, I’ll be visiting with most of the activity groups and talking to their chairmen. [Badge No. 149] We plan to develop some new activities as well as expand upon several that we now have.

Soon, hopefully beginning in March, we will hold some events that can possibly develop into regular activity groups. Roger Colton is putting together an “Eye on the Bay” type of Explore and Eat. This will be discovery or exploration trips by car to places in our wonderful Bay area that you may have never visited. His plans would include a group lunch and some trips may be open to spouses. Jerry Kaplan is working on a Bocce event. John Peterson is working on a group for Toastmasters. Al Reynolds thinks that both his Poker group 2 and the Wine appreciation group can be expanded. Joel White is interested in nature photography and suggested that this could be worked into some of the hikes. Music, art, and theater would be wonderful interests to develop into our SIR activities.

The goal, of course, is to pursue and expand our interests, keep our minds and bodies active, enjoy to the fullest the health that we have, to cultivate our friendships and to have fun together. In this next year we’ll be providing ideas and happenings to get things started. When you see activities that interest you, hop into it. Also, let me know if

you have any ideas and interests that you would like to develop. So, for our health and happiness – **Take a Hike!**



Br. 116 Book Club

Rich Black

(blackrw41@comcast.net)

Gallipoli

On Monday, January 23, the SIR Book Group discussed “**Gallipoli**” by Alan Moorehead. Wow, what a screw-up. This WWI campaign in Turkey was poorly planned, poorly commanded and heroically fought by the troops on the ground and sailors in the ships. There were 500,000 casualties equally divided between the Allies and the Turks, yet all of the SIR members professed ignorance of this undertaking and appreciation for the education they received in reading the book. The men awarded it 3.6 stars. Jack Butler recommended the book and Richard Black led the discussion with Lytton DeSilva, Al Reynolds, Art Donaldson, Bob Mathews, Bob Daily, Jim Scott, Dick Kauffman, John Frazier, Ken Sandy, Nick Bowles and Jerry Christopherson participating.

The group will next meet on February 27 at Orinda Books at 10:15 AM to discuss “**Destiny of the Republic**” by Candice Millard, a tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President. (Hint, it’s James A Garfield.) We haven’t picked a book for March. Anyone got a good book for us?

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

SIR Travel

By Tom Eller, Travel Chairman
(tomeller2000@yahoo.com)



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 2012

Feb 22-Mar 1, 2012: The Wonders of Costa Rica (Costa Rica is Central America's greatest hidden gem, Includes Air, Motor Coach, Hotels, Professional Naturalist and Guides) 9 days for \$2579, Mike Console, San Jose, Br. 32, 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch, 408-274-2992.

Mar 19-Apr 3, 2012: Hawaiian Islands Cruise (Round trip from San Francisco aboard Star Princess, Will visit 5 ports of call, Hilo, Honolulu, Nawiliwili, Lahaina and Ensenada) 16 day cruise from \$2140 to \$3090, Brian Serpa, San Jose, Br 141 408-227-7658 or Rollo Parsons, 408-268-5245.

Mar 22-26, 2012: Giants Spring Training (Three Spring Training games in Scottsdale, AZ) The trip includes pick up/return, air, transfers, accommodations, all breakfasts, and 1 free dinner.) \$1295 dbl, \$1745 sgl, Jim Hohenshelt, Br62, Sunnyvale, 408-241-4421 or Roy Jordan, 408-735-8765.

Apr 9-26, 2012: Hong Kong to Tibet Via the World's Highest Railway.(visit Hong Kong, Shanghai, and take the Yangtze River cruise. From Chongqing fly to Lhasa, Tibet for 3 full days, return to Xi'ning via the luxury Tibet Express Train. Then return to Beijing. 16 nights for \$5191 pp/ \$ 6291 sp, Neil Jameson, Garden City, Br 39, 831-336-2476.

Apr 11- 16, 2012: National Cherry Blossom Festival (Tour includes reservations at Cherry Blossom parade, tram tour of Arlington, Kennedy Center, Smithsonian, Space Shuttle Enterprise, Mt Vernon and Potomac River cruise) 6 day trip for \$2170, John Pletsch, San Jose, Br 32, 408-274-2992.

Apr 12-19, 2012: Southern Culture (Board the elegant Paddlewheeler American Queen and Cruise roundtrip from New Orleans including a Free pre-night in New Orleans. Wine with dinner and free shore tours included. Ports of call: Oak Alley, St. Francisville, Natchez, Vicksburg and Houmas House) \$2825 to \$4060, Neil Jameson, Garden City, Br 39, 831-336-2476 or Wayne Dawson, 708-972-1054

Apr 12-20, 2012; Ama Waterways Tulip Time Cruise, (Discover the beauty and history of the Dutch and Belgian waterways in the springtime aboard the new 160 passenger ship Amaverde, ports include Antwert, Ghent , Amsterdam, and Bruges). 9 days cruise for \$2546 to \$4445 plus air. Richard Small, Pleasanton, Br 34, 925-4621204.

Apr 13-28, 2012: Cruise Hawaii. (15 night Cruise aboard the "Star Princess" sailing RT from SF to Hawaii. Excursions in Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui, and Ensenada. Cost \$2090 to \$2990, David Abrahams, Livermore, Br 101, 925-447-9386. or Bruce Bentley, Santa Cruz, Br 20, 831-465-6590 or Henry Puccinelli Br. 22, 415-457-3990.

May 18-24, 2012: Southern Sights & Southern Lights. (This 7 day trip features the lovely Southern cities of Savannah, Jekyll Island, Beaufort and Charleston. The tour includes a riverboat ride in Savannah and a narrated carriage tour of downtown Beaufort) Cost \$2695, Bill Kurtz, San Jose, Br. 21, 268-8830, or Dick Kohl, 268-0428.

May 19-24,2012: Seattle/ San Juan Islands (Tour the Boeing Aircraft factory, and Downtown Seattle (Space Needle) Center. Crab Pot Restaurant dinner, 3 days cruising and whale watching, \$2195 dbl , Jim Hohenshelt Br. 62, Sunnyvale, 408-241-4421.

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



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group invites all SIR and their guests to our next meeting at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, February 16th at 9am.

Internet Phone and Video Services

Neil Schmidt will make a presentation about online telephone services and video. If you've wondered about phone alternatives to your expensive telephone "landline", how to make free telephone calls, or how to have a free video conversation with family members (or friends), this is the session to attend. You will be amazed how inexpensive and simple some of the options are to implement.

Computer Issues Q&A

Dick Curry will then lead a Q&A to address current computer issues. So please join us for a fun and informative session. As always there will be coffee and cookies available before and during the meeting.

—

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. See you there.

The planned meetings for the next 3 months will be on: Mar 15, Apr 19, and May 17. Topics should include home wireless networks, file organization and back-up, home automation and security, and new consumer technology devices. Later in the year we hope to discuss principles of basic scanning and sending images, photo restoration and, possibly, developments in genealogy research. If you can suggest other titles of interest please contact one of the co-chairs.



Wine Appreciation Group

Al Reynolds
(reynolds4596@sbcglobal.net)

Wine Tasting events are held every other month on the last Thursday of the month from 4 to 6:30 pm. We meet at members' homes on a rotating basis, with the host selecting the wines and finger foods. Usually, four to five different wines are tasted and discussed. The cost is normally between \$5 and \$10 per person. Both SIR members and their wives are invited to attend these informal and convivial gatherings. Contact Al Reynolds, 925/254-1576, for more information.

Let's Party!!

Please set aside the dates for our annual Branch 116 parties:

The **Ladies Day Luncheon** or "Spring Fling" will be held at Contra Costa Country Club on **Friday, May 11th**.

The **Christmas Dinner Dance** will again be held, by popular request, at Crow Canyon Country Club on Wednesday, **December 12th**.

Put these important Branch 116 dates on your calendar now so you won't miss these fantastic events that are held later in the year.

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/>



Bridge
Milt Greenstein
 (margmilt@comcast.net)

January 3rd: The duplicate bridge group met at the Diablo Valley Bridge Center with 16 men attending. The top score was achieved by the team of Jack Butler and Bob Kahl with 59.52 % (50 out of a possible 84 points).

In second place was Milt Greenstein / Dan Greenberg with 54.76 %, followed by Dick Chaffee / Rudy Gebert. All three teams earned ACBL black master points.

January 10th: The Lunch / Bridge group met at Round Hill C.C. with 27 men gathering for lunch and bridge. Our big winner today was Ali Aghaiepour with 5,070 points. In second place was Dimitris Argyriou with 4,870, followed by Jim Nachtweih with 4,820 points, Gene Gould (4,520), Marv DeHeus (4,300) and Jerry Christopherson (4,190). We had 2 small slams today, made by Jerry Christopherson / Art Donaldson and Jack Butler / Dimitris Argyriou.

January 24th: The lunch bridge group met at Diablo C.C. with 28 men attending. Charlie Schmidt came in first today with 5,730 points, followed by Dick Chaffee with 5,590 points. In third place was Art Donaldson (5,380), then Oscar Krikorian (5,340), Jai Yee (4,780) and Dimitris Argyriou (4,430). We had 3 small slams today, Jai Yee / Alvin Buchignani, Jai Yee / Jack Butler and Charlie Schmidt / Bill Sullivan.

A preliminary notice !

Our semi-annual **LADIES DAY** event is fast approaching. April 17 is the date, 11:00 am is the hour and Diablo C.C. is the place. Start making your plans for a great day of lunch and bridge.



Bocce Ball
Jerry Kaplan
 (mgkaplan@astound.net)

Several SIR members have expressed interest in starting a bocce ball group. If you are interested, please contact Jerry Kaplan at 925-938-1037 or mgkaplan@astound.net.



Bowling
Ron Gagliardi
 (rongag@att.net)

Hi, well the season's started and we are all having fun. There are two sessions' you can join, either at the Clayton Valley Bowl or Diablo Lanes, they are both in Concord. They meet at 10 am on Wednesday's, please come and join us.

There is a bowling tournament coming up on the 15th & 16th of November at the Clayton Valley Bowl in Concord. You can sign up for either day or both days. It's a lot of fun, but you must have a book average with the USBC. Contact me at rongag@att.net for the application.

"Dine-O-Sir" Dinner Group

Ben Smith
 (bjsssmith@aol.com)



The Dine-O-Sir group kicked off the New Year in grand fashion with a social/dinner outing at "**Amoroma Restaurant**" Located in Moraga. We had another sell-out crowd of 80 people and this Cozy restaurant was completely taken over by our SIR Dine out Herd. They also supplied us with a free wine tasting before dinner. Good food is always important at these dine out affairs, but the social aspects are not to be underestimated. It's a great way to meet new people and get to know your fellow Sir's. We encourage all SIR members to get involved in this activityAs they say "People make the Party"

We regret that we were over sold and had some 14 people on the wait list. We do our best to accommodate all we can, but not too many restaurants can seat our numbers. We take firm reservations on a **FIRST TO PAY BASIS**. You can make your reservation by e-mail, but payment should follow ASAP.

We have **no outing planned for February** but will be arranging the **next outing in March**. Your Dine-O-Sir committee is working on several possible locations. We are open to any suggestions that you may have.

SIR Branch 116 Golf

By Al Zavatiero, Golf Chairman

(jandazav@juno.com)



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.

Silverado South - April 2, 2012

Here is your second chance to play Silverado Golf Course for \$49.00. We will have a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start. The due date for getting a confirmed place is March 5. Your guests and friends are welcome. You must "show us the money" in order to be guaranteed. The February 13th date was over subscribed and I have even larger requests from other branches to play in April. We get first priority, but you must send in your checks by March 5th.

February 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 06	9:30	Boundary Oak	Dirk Meyer
Mon. 13	9:00	Silverado North	Dirk Meyer
Tues. 21	9:30	Brentwood	Dirk Meyer
Mon. 27	9:30	Dublin Ranch	Dirk Meyer

Nine Hole Info

Dick Chaffee, 9-Hole Chairman

(rwchaffee@sbcglobal.net)



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.

February 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 01	10:00	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 08	10:00	Pine Meadow	D. McLaughry
Wed. 15	10:00	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 22	10:00	Diablo Hills	Mike Murphy
Wed. 29	10:00	Pine Meadow	D. McLaughry



18 Hole Results

By David Harris
(davyharris@aol.com)

Deer Ridge -- Monday January 23, 2012

Deer Ridge canceled due to bad weather

Las Positas -- Tuesday January 17, 2012

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
Mel Williams	67	3	Max Foust	70	3	Conrad Robertson	68	3	Robbie Robinson	67	
Dirk Meyer	71	2	David Carlson	72	2	Bernie Wroblewski	69	2	Bill Hemmelsbach	68	
Al Zattero	71	2	Tom Eller	72	2	Bob Donohue	75	1	Terry Grummitt	71	
			Paul Kim	72	2	Phil Jenkins	75	1			
						Bob Testa	75	1			
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
Mel Williams	83		Tom Eller	91		Bernie Wroblewski	96		Bill Hemmelsbach	99	
			Paul Kim	91					Robbie Robinson	99	

Closest to: Hole #3 - Jimmy Johnson, Bob Donohue -- Hole #11 - Frank Crua

Boundary Oak -- Monday January 9, 2012

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
David Harris	75	3	Rob Campbell	74	3	Bob Donohue	69	3	Art Vogl	69	3
Jerry Hicks	76	2	Paul Kim	75	2	Bob Testa	71	2	Terry Sherman	70	2
Mel Williams	76	2	David Carlson	76	1	Jed Daniel	75	1	Terry Grummitt	73	1
Al Zattero	76	2									
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
Jerry Hicks	89		Paul Kim	94		Bob Donohue	95		Wayne Cook	105	
									Art Vogl	105	

Closest to: Hole #2 - Frank Crua, Bob Testa -- Hole #12 - Phil Goff, Bernie Wroblewski

Boundary Oak -- Wednesday January 4, 2012

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
Lonny Randall	67	3	Phil Goff	73	3	Al Serafino	68	3	Chuck Gilliam	64	3
Al Zattero	68	2	David Carlson	74	2	Jed Daniel	72	2	Peter Coggiola	68	2
Bill McCord	69	1	Max Foust	74	2	Conrad Robertson	73	1	Matt Arena	69	1
						Bernie Wroblewski	73	1			
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
Bill McCord	85		Phil Goff	91		Al Serafino	93		Peter Coggiola	96	
Lonny Randall	85										

Closest to: Hole #2 - Bill McCord, Peter Coggiola -- Hole #12 - Mel Williams, Bob Testa

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."

2012 18 Hole Leader Board

By David Harris

FLIGHT 1		FLIGHT 2		FLIGHT 3		FLIGHT 4	
Index 0.0 - 16.4		Index 16.5 - 22.9		Index 23.0 - 26.9		Index 27.0 - 36.4	
NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS
Zavattero, Al	6	Carlson, David	5	Donohue, Bob	4	Gilliam, Chuck	3
Williams, Mel	5	Foust, Max	5	Robertson, Conrad	4	Robinson, Robbie	3
Harris, David	3	Kim, Paul	4	Daniel, Jed	3	Vogl, Art	3
Randall, Lonny	3	Campbell, Rob	3	Serafino, Al	3	Coggiola, Peter	2
Hicks, Jerry	2	Goff, Phil	3	Testa, Bob	3	Grummitt, Terry	2
Meyer, Dirk	2	Eller, Tom	2	Wroblewski, Bernie	3	Hemmelsbach, Bill	2
McCord, Bill	1			Jenkins, Phil	1	Sherman, Terry	2
						Arena, Matt	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 websites to access information on the following:

2012 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.

The problem with golf

The only problem with golf is that the slow people are always in front of you and the fast people always end up behind you.



18-Hole Pay In Advance Deadlines

Event Date	Location	Deadline	Amount
Tuesday February 21	Brentwood	Feb-11	\$32
Monday February 27	Dublin Ranch	Feb-18	\$38
Tuesday March 20	Callippe Preserve	Mar-10	\$47
Monday March 26	San Ramon	Mar-17	\$30
Monday April 2	Silverado South	Mar-5	\$49

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



RETURN TO: Neil Schmidt
2231 San Miguel Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA
94596-5805

**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.