



# Trampas Topics

March, 2012

SIR Branch 116

Next Meeting: 11:30 am,  
Monday, March 19, 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



**Welcome to March!** – I love the month of March because it means Spring is here with flowers blooming, warmer weather (great for golf) and NCAA’s March Madness.

There are also some very interesting special days and holidays in March. Can you name a few besides **Saint Patrick’s Day** (March 17) and **Ides of March** (March 15)? Here is a sampling of some bizarre and unique holidays for the month:

- National Pig Day (March 1)
- Peanut Butter Lover’s Day (March 1)
- Old Stuff Day (March 2)
- I Want You to be Happy Day (March 3)
- National Anthem Day (March 3)
- Multiple Personality Day (March 5)
- Be Nasty Day (March 8)
- Panic Day (March 9)
- Johnny Appleseed Day (March 11)
- Everything You Think is Wrong Day (March 15)
- Extraterrestrial Abductions Day (March 20)
- National Goof Off Day (March 22)
- Smoke and Mirrors Day (March 29)
- I am in Control Day (March 30)

Personally I am going have to be careful on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. What about you? Since we are all retired, March 22<sup>nd</sup> shouldn’t be a problem.

Several individuals paid their annual Voluntary Contribution in February and I want to thank those that promptly paid because we need the funds to keep our Branch financially solvent. If you haven’t yet paid your VC, either forward a \$40 check to Treasurer John Peterson or pay at our March Luncheon. Also, don’t forget to bring a guest to one of our Luncheons. We are always looking for new members to help keep our Branch energized and vibrant.

We have a new activity in our Branch called “**Driving in the Bay Area**” that is being organized by Roger Colton. This should be a fun addition to our list of numerous member activities. Check it out on Page 9 and, if you are interested, give Roger a call or send him an e-mail.

Have a great month...

*Neil Schmidt* Big SIR



## Topics Index

Activities Calendar .....	3
Activity Chairman Report --	9
Area 2 Chairmen .....	2
Birthdays .....	4
Bocce Ball .....	11
Book Club .....	9
Bowling .....	12
Branch Officers .....	2
Bridge .....	12
Committee Chairman .....	2
Computer & Tech. ....	11
Dine-O-Sir Dinner .....	12
Driving in the Bay Area ---	11
Fishing .....	7
Golf .....	13-15
Golf Winners in 2011 .....	8
Hiking and Walking .....	8
Lunch Attendance (Feb.) ---	4
Lunch Menu (Mar.) .....	6
Luncheon Speaker (Mar.) ---	6
Membership .....	4
New Members .....	4
Nominating Committee ---	5
Poker Group #2 .....	7
President’s Award .....	6
SIR Happenings .....	11
SIR Web Addresses .....	9
Sums Investment .....	6
Sunshine Report .....	5
Treasurer’s Report .....	4
Travel .....	10
Wine Appreciation .....	9

***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	Interviewer	Max Foust	827-9323
Attendance	Jim Nachtweih	838-7417	Membership Roster	Dick Thomson	785-7600
Audit	Ron Armijo	945-0637	Music Man	Robbie Robinson	798-4276
Book Club	Rich Black	283-8376	Newsletter Editor	Neil Schmidt	939-5342
Bowling	Ron Gagliardi	682-4012	Newsletter Edtr. Asst.	Phil Goff	831-3692
Bridge	Milt Greenstein	376-5589	Nominating	Ron Armijo	945-0637
Candy Sales	Dirk Meyer	820-6878	Parties	Jerry Hicks	945-7465
Chaplain	Rotating	#1 See Below	Photographers	John Peterson	946-0335
Computer & Tech..	Phil Goff	831-3692		Ken Miller	256-9343
Computer Support	Dick Thomson	785-7600	Poker Group #1	Bill Harrington	935-1625
Dine-O-Sir	Ben Smith	820-5403	Poker Group #2	Al Reynolds	254-1576
Driving in the BA	Roger Colton	937-2652	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	#1. Doug Aalders, Matt Arena, Art Donaldson, Lou Sandor		
Historian	Matt Arena	946-0404	#2. Pat Bermingham, Milt Greenstein, Marty Ratterree		
Host	Frank Crua	932-0975			

## 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)	937-2035	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

## March 2012

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5  <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:30@ Boundary Oak GC)	6  <b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (9:00@ Diablo Valley Bridge Ctr)	7  <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Buchanan Fields GC) <b>Bowling</b> (10:00@Mounument Bowl)	8	9  <b>Hiking &amp; Walking</b> (8:15@ Lesher Auditorium)	10
11	12  <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:30@ Boundary Oak GC)	13  <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (11:30@ Round Hill CC) <b>Dine-O-SIR</b> (5:45@ Benihana, Concord)	14  <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Pine Meadow GC) <b>Bowling</b> (10:00@Mounument Bowl)	15  <b>Computer &amp; Tech</b> (9:00@ Elks Club)	16	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>
18	19  <b>SIR Br 116 Mtg.</b> (11:30@ Elks Club)	20  <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:00@ Callippe Preserve GC) <b>Poker Group 2</b> (1:00@ Diablo CC)	21  <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Buchanan Fields GC) <b>Bowling</b> (10:00@Mounument Bowl)	22  <b>Fishing Group</b> (8:30@ Legends-Diablo Crk)	23  <b>Hiking &amp; Walking</b> (8:15@ El Nido Ranch Rd)	24
25	26  <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:06@ San Ramon GC) <b>Book Group Mtg.</b> (10:15@ Orinda Books)	27  <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (11:30@ Diablo CC)	28  <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills GC) <b>Bowling</b> (10:00@Mounument Bowl) <b>\$ums Investment</b> (8:00@ Diablo Creek GC)	29	30	31



## Membership

Andy Benz  
(anbenz@aol.com)

### SIR 116 Membership Status

Total Current Members:	249
Last Month's Inductees:	2
Those in Interview Stage:	3
Total in Process:	5
On Inactive Status:	47
Left the Branch:	2
Waiting to be Installed:	0



## Br. 116 Treasurer's Report

John Peterson, Treasurer  
(delanaimp@aol.com)

	Feb. 2012	2012 YTD
Contributions	\$ 7,080.00	\$ 7260.00
Disbursements	\$ (153.16)	\$ (378.99)
Net gain/(loss)	\$ 6,926.84	\$ 6,881.01

February Cash Balance \$ 11,569.94

## March Birthdays

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

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Douglas G. Allen     | 14. John Peterson       |
| 2. William J. Babcock   | 15. Allen C. Pirkle     |
| 3. Gary A. Bonfiglio    | 16. Lloyd G. Plank      |
| 4. Robert Costa         | 17. Ronald Radakovich   |
| 5. William Harrington   | 18. Paul A. Ramacciotti |
| 6. Robert R. Johnston   | 19. Norman Schoenfeld   |
| 7. Richard Kauffman     | 20. David T. Sherman    |
| 8. Joe A. Lennon        | 21. Dean Steuer         |
| 9. Ronald Leschot       | 22. John L. Story       |
| 10. Robert Loder        | 23. J. Patrick Tinguely |
| 11. Frank N. Lockwood   | 24. Don Welsh           |
| 12. William McCord      | 25. Bob A. Zurich       |
| 13. Charles S. O'Conner |                         |

**Want a Free Lunch ?  
Sponsor a New Member !**



## Lunch Attendance

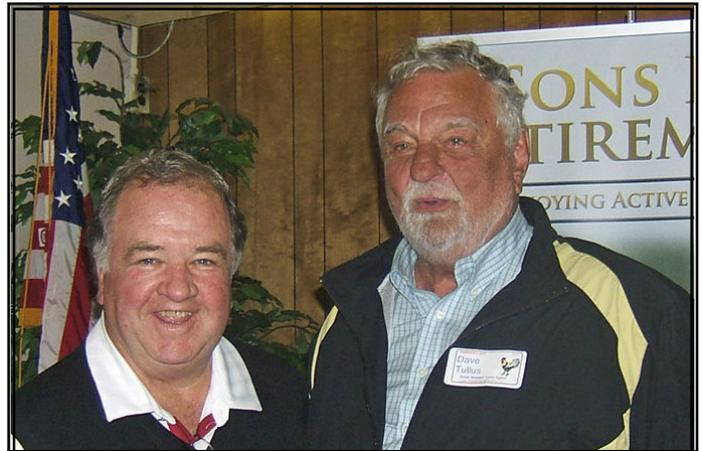
Jim Nachtweih  
(majnacht@sbcglobal.net)

Attendance at the February 20, 2012 meeting:

Total:	197
Members:	189
Visitors:	1
Speakers:	1
Guests:	6
Excused:	52
Un-Excused:	10

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

## New Br. 116 Members



**New member Peter Shea with  
Sponsor Davo Tullus**



**New member Jim Barstow with  
Sponsor Al Zavattero**



## Sunshine Report

**Matt Arena**

(marena@astound.net)

Sir **Joe Verdoia** was taken to John Muir Medical Center this past week but has been discharged and is doing his rehabilitation at Tampico Terrace. Joe's wife Norma tells me he begins physical therapy on Monday.

Sir **Paul Kim** is at John Muir recovering from a stroke. He was very upbeat when I visited and he looks forward to being discharged.

Sir **Marty McNally** was awaiting his occupational therapist when I visited. His energy is not what he would like but he has had to delay further treatment until his platelet count improves.

Sir **Joe Lennon** is still dealing with blurred vision and dizzy spells consequently his activity is somewhat curtailed. Joe would love to get these symptoms behind him so he can get out and about.

Past Big Sir **Courtney Borrecco** will be trying water therapy to help with his leg that is affected by Parkinson. The hip operation is completely healed but the other leg is slowing down his recovery. A little more strength in the affected leg will go a long way in getting Courtney on his feet.

Sir **Bob Johnston** wants very much to return home. His wife Doris tells me that Bob's stroke keeps him in a wheelchair but his speech is much improved. Bob wants to try walking after these 2 years of therapy.

Sir **Ralph McDowell** is still in pain after his bad fall. This is a long siege for Mac but he continues to persevere.

Sir **George Hess** is feeling better after his accident which left him with cracked ribs. He doesn't wish this on anyone.

Sir **Dusty Rhodes** has been dealing with some memory issues following his fall. He had some pressure on his skull due to fluid build up but that has been relieved and his wife Elaine says he is doing better.

Sir **Harry Honstein** is slowly recovering from the 3 heart attacks he experienced around Christmas time. He has a stent in a blocked artery which is expected to help his circulation and improve his energy. He starts physical therapy next week.

**GENTLEMEN:** This is a long list of our members dealing with illnesses. A call or card is appreciated to let them know we are thinking of them.

### Nominating Committee Start-up

The Nominating Committee began its work at their first meeting held after the February Luncheon. Committee members are Ron Armijo (Chairman), Dirk Meyer, Dick Socolich, John Story, and Carlos Xavier all long time members of Branch 116. Our task is to develop a slate of officers and directors who will function as our Branch Executive Committee (BEC) in 2013. First on our agenda is to solicit candidates from the membership at large through a nomination form that you will have at your table at the March Luncheon. Please begin thinking about whether you would like to be considered for one of the positions or you know of someone who you believe would be a good candidate. Also, if you have any questions concerning the duties and responsibilities of any of the officer or director positions or you just want to pass on a member name to the committee please feel free to talk with any one of the committee members. We look forward to hearing from you for this very important branch activity.

Ron Armijo

### SIR Br. 19 Trips Available to Br. 116 Members

**The Toe Tappin' Fun of...Springtime**  
April 16 - 21, 2012, Six Days in In Branson

**Les Misérables**

Wednesday, August 8, 2012  
SF Orpheum Theater (matinee)

Call Harry Reiter for more info: (925) 709-2820



## Luncheon Speaker

By Little Sir Art Vogl  
(carolvogl@sbcglobal.net)

**Topic:** U.S War Dogs Association, Inc., Chapter 1

**Speakers:** Gail J. Snyder, Exec. Director, and her Associate

**Bio:** Gail is a Licensed Private Investigator and owner/manager of a private investigation firm. Before that, Gail was a peace officer in the Bay Area for sixteen years. Gail is Executive Director of Chapter 1, Western Region. Since 2000 USWDA has been providing support for Military Working Dogs and Canine Handlers. Chapter 1 is the first independent branch of the National organization. The Association is a 501 (c) (3) charity.

**Presentation:** Gail will focus on Military Working Dogs(MWD) and the services provided by the U.S. War Dogs Assoc., Chapter 1.



## \$ums Investment Group

Allen Espenmiller  
(aespenmiller@pacbell.net)

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on March 28, 2012 at 8:00 AM at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our speaker A. Brent Cunningham, a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. His topic "Global Economic Outlook for 2012". Key topics that will be covered; The economic and geopolitical events of 2011, downside risks and opportunities in 2012, 10 key macroeconomic themes for 2012, 3 scenarios for how 2012 might play out, investments ideas that you may want to consider and how will you be affected.

Brent's presentation early on this 2012 year will be one that has the year plays out, may be an indicator of how the investment community reacts to implementing portfolio structure.

The restaurant at the course opens at 7:00 AM for those would like to enjoy breakfast with your colleagues.

## March Luncheon Menu

Corned Beef & Cabbage  
Red Potatoes & Carrots  
Spicy Mustard & Horseradish Sauce  
Green Salad, Roll/Butter  
Dessert/Coffee/Ice Tea



### SIR Ball Game August 2 at AT&T Park

Join your fellow SIR's at AT&T Park for a Giants game.

Thurs., August 2, 2012 @12:45 PM vs. the NY Mets

Price is \$32 per person

Tickets are limited

Full payment is required to hold your space

Call Harry Reiter at 925-709-2820 or e-mail at hr5000@comcast.net

## President's Award



Super Senior Stan Hill receiving the Presidents Award from SIR Region 6 Director Dean Steichen



## 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, March 22nd 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.

Joe Karg gets this month's star for his 60 pound sturgeon. Joe was fishing in front of the mothball fleet when he won the struggle with the behemoth. The rest of us did not fare as well. Our usually reliable winter hotspot at Shadow Cliffs reservoir did not produce as it has in the past, and we struggled there for a few fish. Several outings were so sparse that we had to say we did it for the fellowship and the lunch after. I usually list the names of the fishermen on these trips, but have decided not to do that to avoid embarrassment. However, a friend of Carl Moyers caught a 7 and 1/2 pound monster trout there a week later fishing with Carl. Ventures to the Delta have also been disheartening, with only a few undersize sturgeon to show for the efforts of Pete Gates, Romano Gnusti, Terry Miller, Carl Moyer, Mario Moratorio, and Joe Miscione. Paul Corbitt returned from a grueling 17 day long range trip from San Diego with sore muscles and a big smile after catching a 222 pound yellow fin tuna.

A large group of us took a trip to the Sportsmen's Expo in Sacramento. This is the premier Fishing and Hunting Consumer Trade Show on the West Coast. All of us had a great time walking the isles talking to factory reps and fishing pros. Some of us made arrangements with various guides for fishing trips later this year. We got to handle a lot of the newest and slickest fishing gear on the market. I don't know if you know it or not but there is an old saying in the fishing trade, it goes like this. "The first fish that a lure catches is the guy who buys it". We all left tired and happy at the end of the day and stopped for dinner in Fairfield as a group. A great outing.

We will be very busy this winter with: delta fishing for bass, catfish, and sturgeon, trout in local lakes, and party boat trips for kokanee, sturgeon, and

crab and rock fish.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 22nd, 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.)



Branch 116 Members at Fish Expo

## 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](mailto:trampastopics@gmail.com)

## Poker Group #2

Al Reynolds

(reynolds4596@sbcglobal.net)

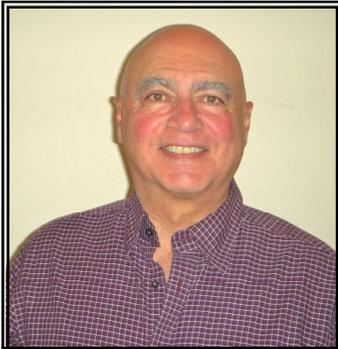


Poker Group #2 plays on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Diablo Country Club in Diablo, from 1-4 p.m. It's a small stakes game, and socializing with fellow SIR members is the primary purpose.

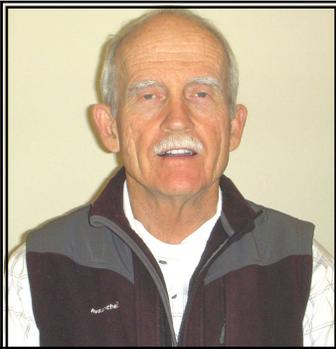
If you would like to join, call Al Reynolds at 254-1576 or send an email to:

[reynolds4596@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reynolds4596@sbcglobal.net)

## 2011 Golf Winners Circle



**18-Hole Most Improved**  
**Bob Testa**



**18-Hole Most Rounds Played**  
**David Carlson**



**9-Hole Flight Champion**  
**John Canane with Golf Chairman Al Zavattero**



**9-Hole Tournament Co-Champion\* Mike Casey with Golf Chairman Al Zavattero**

\* Note: Max Foust and Mike Casey were co-champions of the December 2011 Tournament



**2011 18-Hole Golf Champions**  
**Flight 1: Mel Williams, Flight 2: David Carlson, Flight 3: John Story, Flight 4: Conrad Robertson**

## Hiking & Walking

Joel White

(zpz2mrz@yahoo.com)



The unseasonably beautiful weather led to highly successful February, enjoyable walks led by **Dave Carlson** and **Art Donaldson**.

The walk on **Friday, March 9**, will be led by **Rich Black** (925-283-8376; [blackrw41@comcast.net](mailto:blackrw41@comcast.net)). Meeting place is in front of the **Lesh Auditorium, corner of Civic and Locust in Walnut Creek**. Please RSVP to Rich.

The **Friday, March 23** walk will be led by **Lytton DeSilva**, (925) 254-5289; [LyttonAudrey@comcast.net](mailto:LyttonAudrey@comcast.net). Please RSVP to Lytton for this walk.

**Directions:** From Highway 24 take the Acalanes exit to the north side of the freeway ending on El Nido Ranch Rd. **Parking:** Turn right (east) and park on either side of the block leading to Upper Happy Valley Rd. **Walk:** We'll meet on the corner of El Nido Ranch Road and Upper Happy Valley Rd. and walk north and back on Upper Happy Valley Rd.

Anyone wishing to be added to the e-mail reminder list should contact Joel White 964-0994 or [zpz2mrz@yahoo.com](mailto:zpz2mrz@yahoo.com).





## Activity Chairman

Jerry Hicks  
(jkhicks@astound.net)

### Whine or Wine?

There's no whining if you attend Al Reynolds' Wine Appreciation group. I saw only very happy people. The medical profession encourages drinking a glass of wine to stay healthy. If this is true, all in attendance will have more lives than a cat! Al has room for a few more in this group and then we may want to form another wine group.

We do have the start of two additional activities. Roger Colton will be leading the "Drive the Bay" group and Jerry Kaplan is beginning Bocce for a few in a semi-competitive league. He will be looking into a couples Bocce party when the weather warms.

There seems to be some interest in a Biking group. Get those old bikes out, tune them up, check the brakes, put on your helmet and start riding. We'll let you know when the first ride will be!

I'm having a great time in my visits to our activities. We have some good ones and I've noticed that closer friendships are formed the more you participate. So, let's choose another activity and get involved.

Now I have to go read "The Destiny of the Republic" for Rich Black's Book Club.



## 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.



## Br. 116 Book Club

Rich Black  
(blackrw41@comcast.net)

### Who was James Garfield, anyway?

On Monday, February 27, the SIR Book Group discussed "Destiny of the Republic" by Candice Millard. Turns out, President James a Garfield was a rags-to-riches American-dream kind of guy. America lost his contribution to a civil society when a mad-man shot him in the waiting room of the Baltimore and Potomac Railway Station. [Badge No. 247] Book group members professed appreciation for all they learned about Garfield, Alexander Graham Bell and others of his time in this well researched book and awarded it 4.15 stars. Activities Chair Jerry Hicks, who visited the session, abstained from the voting, but awarded the book group five stars for its efforts. All Reynolds recommended the book and Richard Black led the discussion with Lytton DeSilva, Art Donaldson, Bob Mathews, Bob Daily, Jim Scott, Jack Butler, John Frazier, Larry Heaton, Nick Bowles and Jerry Christopherson participating.

The group will next meet on March 26 at Orinda Books at 10:15 AM to discuss "At Home: A Short History of Private Life" by Bill Bryson. The April book will be "Civilization: The West and the Rest" by Niall Ferguson.

## 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](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings)

### State SIR Web Site

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

## 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

**Mar 6, 2012 Reno Snow Train.** Have a fun ride on the Reno Snow Train. Price is \$265.00 pp and includes a round trip train ride from Martinez to Reno with two nights double occupancy hotel accommodation at Harrah's. Contact Harry Reiter Branch 19, 925-709-2820 for more information.

**Apr 16-21, 2012 Springtime in Branson.** Tour includes r/t transfers to SF airport, and r/t airfare to Branson. Five nights accommodations in Branson, deluxe motorcoach throughout stay. Five hosted breakfasts and dinners. In addition touring performances by Jim Stafford, the Presley's Country Jubilee, Yakov Smirnoff, Baldknobbers Jamboree, Brett Family Morning Show and Shoji Tabuchi. Tour price is \$1695pp. Contact Harry Reiter Br 19, 709-2820 for more information.

**Apr 20, 2012 SIR Day at the Races.** It's that time again for the horses to start running at Golden Gate Field. If you are looking for an enjoyable day doing something different give this a try. The cost is \$27.00 pp which includes Admission, Reserve Parking, Daily Race Program, Buffet lunch, Tax & Tips. Contact Bob Spellman, 934-8428.

**May 19-Jun 3, 2012 Romance of the Rhine & Mosel.** Cruise aboard a private Grand Circle river ship starting in Basel, Switzerland ending in Antwerp, Belgium. The ship will make stops at Strasbourg, France, Speyer, Baden-Baden, Boppard,

Koblenz, Cochem, Bernkastel, Trier, Bonn, Germany, Nijmegen, Kinderdijk and Antwerp. The price starts at \$3895 to \$5295 plus air. The trip includes, 12 exclusive guided sightseeing tours plus personal headsets, Captains welcome dinner, 42 meals with complimentary wine with dinner. Contact Ken Richter, 689-6217. Pre and post trips are also available to Lucerne, Switzerland and Bruges, Belgium. Rooms will be available on a first come first serve basis.

**Oct 5-7, 2012 The Great Italian Festival.** Reno's Great Italian Festival is among the nation's largest and most famous events. Celebrate the food, culture, music and tradition of Italy. Free activities and entertainment highlight the festival's main focus. The cost is \$308.00 pp and includes motor coach transportation, 2 night stay at the Eldorado with hosted seafood dinner and a show by the Jersey Boys. Contact Bob Hager, Br 8, 934-7620 for more information.

**Oct 26- Nov 11, 2012 Canada & New England Aboard NCL Norwegian Dawn.** Beautiful scenery is always on display when cruising down the east coast during the peak weeks of autumn. Along the way visit an exciting array of east coast ports including Quebec City, Portland, Boston, New York, Key West and Tampa. Package price includes RT airfare, transfers, driver and stevedore tips, gov't fees, and taxes, all meals. Prices start at \$2335 to \$3475. Contact Jim Lunn Branch 8 @ 925-551-3329 for more information.

### 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.



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, March 15th at 9am.

Dean Steichen will explain how to set up a home wireless network (no more stringing long wires all over the house!) If you already have a wireless system he will show how to increase the signal strength in areas where you need a stronger signal, eg for streaming online movies like Netflix. If you have visitors with laptops, iPads etc they will appreciate the ability to log-on from anywhere in your house. Dean's presentation will be posted on the Area 2 computer group website before the meeting for you to download from [sir-web.org/computer](http://sir-web.org/computer)

Time permitting, Dick Curry will lead a Q&A discussion to address current computer issues that you identify. So please bring your questions and join us for a fun and informative session. As always there will be coffee and cookies available before and during the meeting.

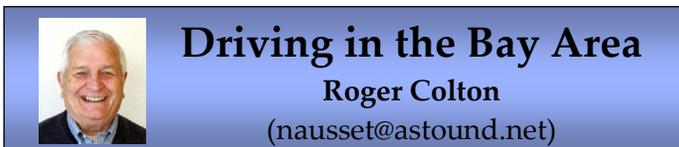
Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We ask for a donation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

The planned meetings for the next 2 months will be on: Apr 19, and May 17. Topics should 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.



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 [mgkplan@astound.net](mailto:mgkplan@astound.net).



A new Activity being offered is "Bay Area Drives." Once a month we will take a morning drive and end with Lunch in a local restaurant. Our first Drive will be held on Wednesday, March 28th. We will drive through the hills and to the top of Mt. Diablo, stop to admire the great view and then proceed out to Antioch for Lunch. Gathering Place will be announced and Reservations will be taken at the March meeting so we can give the restaurant a head count in advance.

Each month following, we will drive to new places and familiar places via unusual routes. We will usually motor at or near the speed limit, not above. Men Only to start, till we see how this works out. Are you ready to rumble? Tune up those engines and mark your calendars now.

For further information, contact Roger Colton. Phone: (925) 037-2652. E-mail: [nausset@astound.net](mailto:nausset@astound.net)



*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](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings)



**Bridge**  
**Milt Greenstein**  
 (margmilt@comcast.net)

Duplicate Bridge

On February 7th, The duplicate bridge group met at the Diablo Valley Bridge Center with 20 men attending. The top score was achieved by the team of Jack Butler and Jim Regan with 67.13 % ( 72.50 out of a possible 108 points - a great score ). In second place was Bill Sullivan / Mike Corker with 66.20 %, followed by Art Donaldson / Jim Nachtweih ( 53.70% ), Conrad Robertson / Rudy Gebert ( 52.31% ), Dimitris Argyriou / Milt Greenstein ( 51.85% ) and Dan Greenberg / Norm Schoenfeld ( 48.61% ). All six teams earned ACBL black master points.

Luncheon Bridge

On February 14th, The Lunch / Bridge group met at Round Hill C.C. with 23 men gathering for lunch and bridge. Our big winner today was Charley Schmidt with 6,920 points. In second place was Bill Sullivan with 6,210, followed by Art Donaldson with 6,090 points, Jerry Christopherson ( 5,110 ), Jai Yee ( 4,710 ) and Lee Travis ( 4,490 ). We had 4 small slams today, made by Art Donaldson / Jai Yee, Lee Travis / Jai Yee, Norm Schoenfeld / Walt Kawecki and Milt Greenstein / Lytton DeSilva. But the big surprise of the day: since we had only 23 men, we had a roving dummy, and the dummy scored 7,350 points, the high score for the day ! Just goes to show !

**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.

**"Dine-O-Sir" Dinner Group**

**Ben Smith**  
 (bjsssmith@aol.com)



The Dine-O-Sir Herd is headed for what should prove to be a fun and enjoyable evening on Tuesday, March 13, at the **"Benihana Restaurant"** located in Concord at the Willows Shopping Center.

We have another sell-out crowd for this event with some 96 Dine-O's setting at 12 Hibachi Tables (8

People per table) with individual chef's preparing custom plates for each person at the table. We have an excellent selection of Starters, Entrees and a nice "No Host" selection of alcoholic beverages at special prices. The Chef's put on quite a show and provide some smiles and fun while we eat. Warm "Sake" will be available for the folks that have developed this acquired taste.



The social re-adjustment hour starts at 5:45 PM and dinner at the Hibachi tables will start at 6:30 PM.

The restaurant is located at the rear of the **Willows Shopping center** at the northwest end of the complex. Parking is available all around the restaurant. As always we will have open seating, but if you wish to set with a specific group of friends be sure to come a little early to reserve your spot at one of the tables.

We will not be having a Dine-O-Sir event in April or May due to the Scheduling of the annual Ladies **"Spring Fling" which will be held on May 11, 2012 at the Contra Costa Country Club.** Be sure and mark your calendars for this outstanding event. As always, this will be a first class get-together to honor our spouses and our special guests.



**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.

# 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.

## March 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 05	9:30	Boundary Oak	Alex Lutkus
Mon. 12	9:30	Boundary Oak	Alex Lutkus
Tues. 20	9:00	Callippe Pres.	Alex Lutkus
Mon. 26	9:06	San Ramon	Alex Lutkus

## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## March 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 07	10:00	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 14	10:00	Pine Meadow	D. McLaughry
Wed. 21	10:00	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 28	10:00	Diablo Hills	Mike Murphy



# 18 Hole Results

By David Harris

(davyharris@aol.com)

## Brentwood - Creekside / Hillside -- Tuesday February 21, 2012

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
David Harris	68	3	David Carlson	74	3	Conrad Robertson	66	3	Bill Hemmelsbach	77	3
Jimmy Johnson	72	2	Phil Goff	74	3	Don Roberts	78	2	Peter Coggiola	77	3
Wayne Smith	72	2	Pat Tinguely	75	1	Phil Jenkins	80	1	Robbie Robinson	80	1
Al Zavattero	72	2				Bernie Wroblewski	80	1			
<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>		
David Harris	85		David Carlson	93		Conrad Robertson	95		Peter Coggiola	107	

Closest to: Hole Creekside #6 - David Carlson-- Hole Hillside #8 - David Harris

## Silverado North -- February 13, 2012

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
Jerry Hicks	74	3	Neil Schmidt	72	3	Bob Conlon	71	3	Chuck Gilliam	73	3
Al Zavattero	74	3	David Carlson	81	2	Bob Donohue	74	2	Robbie Robinson	78	2
Dirk Meyer	79	1	Frank Crua	81	2	Conrad Robertson	77	1	Carl Langhorst	80	1
			Phil Perrelli	81	2						
<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>		
Jerry Hicks	88		Neil Schmidt	91		Bob Conlon	97		Chuck Gilliam	109	
									Robbie Robinson	109	

Closest to: Hole #11 - Wayne Smith, Don Roberts -- Hole #15 - Pat Tinguely, Bob Conlon

## Boundary Oak -- February 6, 2012

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
Jim Johnson	69	3	David Carlson	71	3	Jed Daniel	66	3	Terry Grummitt	69	3
David Harris	70	2	Paul Kim	71	3	Al Serafino	68	2	Art Vogl	71	2
Al Zavattero	72	1	Carlos Xavier	74	1	Alex Lutkus	71	1	Wayne Cook	73	1
						Phil Jenkins	72	-	Joe Ostler	73	1
<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>		
Jim Johnson	84		David Carlson			Jed Daniel	92		Wayne Cook	103	

Closest to: Hole #2 - Darrell McClaughry, Jai Yee -- Hole #12 - Jim Clizbe, Bernie Wroblewski

## Crow Canyon Country Club -- Monday January 30, 2012

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3			Flight 4		
Al Zavattero	64	3	David Carlson	67	3	Bob Testa	60	3	Carl Langhorst	64	3
Wayne Smith	68	2	Dick Socolich	68	2	Bob Donohue	68	2	Ron Armijo	67	2
David Harris	69	1	Pat Tinguely	70	1	Bernie Wroblewski	70	1	Matt Arena	68	1
<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>			<b>Low Gross</b>		
Al Zavattero	81		David Carlson	86		Bob Testa	85		Carl Langhorst	98	

Closest to: Hole #8 - David Harris, Bernie Wroblewski -- Hole #12 - Jimmy Johnson, Don Roberts



Golf Pro conducting chipping clinic for SIR Golfers prior to round at Crow Canyon CC

# 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	15	Carlson, David	16	Donohue, Bob	8	Gilliam, Chuck	6
Harris, David	9	Kim, Paul	7	Robertson, Conrad	8	Robinson, Robbie	6
Hicks, Jerry	5	Goff, Phil	6	Daniel, Jed	6	Coggiola, Peter	5
Johnson, Jim	5	Foust, Max	5	Testa, Bob	6	Grummitt, Terry	5
Williams, Mel	5	Campbell, Rob	3	Serafino, Al	5	Hemmelsbach, Bill	5
Smith, Wayne	4	Schmidt, Neil	3	Wroblewski, Bernie	5	Vogl, Art	5
Meyer, Dirk	3	Crua, Frank	2	Conlon, Bob	3	Langhorst, Carl	4
Randall, Lonny	3	Eller, Tom	2	Jenkins, Phil	2	Arena, Matt	2
McCord, Bill	1	Perrilli, Phil	2	Roberts, Don	2	Armijo, Ron	2
		Socolich, Dick	2	Lutkus, Alex	1	Sherman, Terry	2
		Tinguely, Pat	2			Cook, Wayne	1
		Xavier, Carlos	1			Ostler, Joe	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.

### SIR GOLF TOURNAMENT

Las Vegas, Nevada, Palace Station Hotel & Casino  
April 22-26, **Four Nights**

ELIFIBILITY: Must be a SIR with a valid SIR NCGA Ghin#. Lady guests must have valid Handicap.

Entry Fees: Luxury Tower Package: 2-golfer in 1 rm.=\$609/golfer, 1 golfer + 1 non= \$824, Single=\$709  
For more info and to sign-up: call (888) 319-4661 or e-mail Nakaba.Ando@stationcasinos.com  
Refer to SIR Golf Tournament - PCISIR2

## 18-Hole Pay In Advance Deadlines

Event Date	Location	Deadline	Amount
Tuesday March 20	Callippe Preserve	Mar-10	\$47
Monday March 26	San Ramon	Mar-17	\$30
Monday April 2	Silverado South	Mar-5	\$49
Monday April 9	Lake Chabot	Mar-30	\$27
Tuesday April 17	Mare Island	Apr-7	\$35
Monday April 23	Rancho Solano	Apr-14	\$43
Monday April 30	Franklin Canyon	Apr-21	\$35

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.