



Trampas Topics

January, 2014

SIR Branch 116

Next Meeting: 11:30 am,
Monday, January 20, 2014
Elks Lodge—1475 Creekside
Dr, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Retired Men Enjoying Active Retirement

Sayings of 2014 Big Sir Phil Goff



Happy new year and welcome to 2014. It is my honor to be your Big SIR this coming year. Thanks to Art Vogl's guidance and the hard work of many of our members, our Branch grew in membership in 2013. Way to go Art and thanks for all your work.

Our annual Christmas party was a great success. Take a look at some of the photos on page 7 and see how much fun people were having. Please thank Jerry Christopherson for organizing probably the best Christmas party we've ever had.

In 2014 I would like to introduce some changes and activities to keep our branch healthy and fun. We will be adding a couple of new events that will include spouse (or significant other) participation.

First our Golfing group is organizing an outing to Carmel on May 12 and 13. Golf, dining and shopping are all on the agenda. We will encourage spouses to attend and hopefully it will become an annual event. Sir Jim Barstow is leading the effort and will provide more details in the coming months. So mark your calendars and save the dates!

Next our Travel Chairman, Tom Eller, will be organizing a one day outing that will include spouses. Around the Bay Area there are numerous interesting things to see and do and experiencing them with your friends is a lot of fun. Tom has not yet selected an itinerary but I'm sure it will be a good one.

As for our luncheon agendas, I've asked several members to be the storyteller for one meeting. Our existing storytellers, Milt Greenstein, Marty Ratteree and Pat Bermingham have been most entertaining but I would like to have some new faces in front of the group. I'm sure their humor will be enjoyable.

Our Branch finances are in good shape and luncheon prices will remain unchanged this year at \$15. As we did last year, we will be collecting a voluntary donation of \$45 so be sure and bring a check to the February lunch meeting.

I want to thank all the members who have volunteered to lead our activity groups and serve as Board members. It takes a lot of "behind the scenes" work to keep the fun times rolling. I'm especially looking forward to working with your new Little Sir, Bob Donohue. So please make an effort to thank these members for their dedicated efforts.

Phil Goff - 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.***

2014 SIR 116 Officers & Directors



Big SIR
Phil Goff
831-3692



Little SIR
Bob Donohue
513-5141



Secretary
Dick Chaffee
932-5087



Asst. Secretary
Joel White
964-0994



Treasurer
Carl Langhorst
672-2541



Asst. Treasurer
Bob Shader
939-8421



Membership Sec.
Andy Benz
937-5706

DIRECTORS



Wayne Cook
933-8337



Jim Johnson
825-7437



Jerry Kaplan
938-1037



Bob Testa
254-8457



Paul Romacciotti
229-2564



Art Vogl
288-0488

2014 SIR 116 Committee Chairmen

Activities Coord.	J. Christopherson	939-3973	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	Asst. Editor	Phil Goff	831-3692
Bridge	Milt Greenstein	376-5589	Nominating	Art Vogl	288-0488
Candy Sales	Don Seaton	932-4115	Parties	J. Christopherson	393-9373
"	Dirk Meyer	820-6878	Photographers	John Peterson	946-0335
Chaplain	Rotating	*1 Below	"	Neil Schmidt	939-5342
Computer & Tech.	Neil Schmidt	939-5342	"	Phil Goff	831-3692
Dine-O-Sir	Ben Smith	820-5403	Poker Group—1	Bill Harrington	935-1625
Duplicate Bridge	Mike Corker	872-7525	Poker Group—2	Al Reynolds	254-1576
E-mail Contact	Phil Goff	831-3692	Storytellers	Various	
Fishing	Harry Sherinian	846-7067	Sums In Retirement	Ben Smith	820-5403
Guitar	Paul King	938-3035	Sunshine	Matt Arena	946-0404
Golf	Al Zavattero	933-0465	Travel	Tom Eller	939-5897
"	Carlos Xavier	947-6756	Volunteers	Bob Kinser	837-8886
Greeters	Pat Bermingham	930-9477	Webmaster	Phil Goff	831-3692
Hiking and Walking	Joel White	964-0994	Welcoming	Jerry Kaplan	938-1037
Historian	Matt Arena	946-0404	Wine Appreciation	Jack Bevis	254-7256
Host	Frank Crua	932-0975			
Interviewer	Max Foust	827-9323			

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

2014 SIR Area 2 (Inter-branch) Committee Chairmen

Bowling	Lloyd West (Br.19)	228-9037	Rubber Bridge	Fred Bolton (Br.146)	932-1580
Computer & Tech	Neil Schmidt (Br.8)	939-5342	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
		934-0656	\$ums Retirement		376-3977

SIR Branch 116 Activity Calendar

January 2014

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
			1 New Years Day	2	3	4
5	6 18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Boundary Oak GC)	7 Duplicate Bridge (10:00 @ Diablo Valley Bridge Center)	8 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pine Meadow GC)	9	10 Hiking & Walking (8:15@ Lafayette Community Center)	11
12	13 18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Boundary Oak GC)	14 Luncheon Bridge (11:30@ Roundhill CC) Poker Group 2 (1:00@ Diablo CC)	15 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Buchanan Fields GC)	16 Computer & Tech (9:00@ Elks Club)	17	18
19	20 SIR Br 116 Mtg. (11:30@ Elks Club) Martin Luther King Day	21 18-Hole Golf (9:06@ Deer Ridge GC)	22 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills GC) Sums Investment 8:00@ Diablo Creek GC)	23 Fishing Group (8:30@ Legends-Diablo Crk) Wine Appreciation (4:00@ TBD)	24 Hiking & Walking (8:15@ La Boulange, Walnut Creek)	25
26	27 18-Hole Golf (9:00@ Sunole/Cypress GC) Book Group Mtg. (10:15@ Orinda Books)	28 Luncheon Bridge (11:30@ Diablo CC)	29 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pine Meadow GC)	30	31	



Membership

Andy Benz
(anbenz@aol.com)

SIR 116 Membership Status

Total Current Members:	251
Last Month's Inductees:	0
Those in Interview Stage:	0
Total in Process:	0
On Inactive Status:	61
Left the Branch:	2
Waiting to be Installed:	0



Br. 116 Treasurer's Report

John Peterson, Treasurer
(delanaimp@aol.com)

	<u>Dec. 2013</u>	<u>2013 YTD</u>
Contributions	\$ 9,435.00	\$ 71,247.17
Disbursements	\$ (9019.67)	\$ (70,672.79)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ 415.33	\$ 574.38
December Cash Balance		\$ 5299.63

Do You Want to Receive Hardcopies of the Trampas Topics?

For Branch 116 members who don't like reading electronic issues on the Trampas Topics, you can select to get hardcopy distribution of the newsletter. The subscription price for receiving printed copies of the "Topics", sent to you each month in the mail, is **\$20/year**. If you want to receive, or to continue receiving printed copies in Year 2014, send a \$20 check now, payable to "SIR Branch 116", to our new 2014 Treasurer:

Carl Langhorst
120 Mount Whitney Way
Clayton, CA 94517

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

SIR Birthdays

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

December 2013 Birthdays

John Antczak	Dave Harris
Skip Berkson	Larry Heaton
Pat Bermingham	Tim Hubbard
Bill Best	Norm Jokerst
Nick Bowles	Phil Jenkins
Jack Butler	Walt Karvecki
Allan chasnoff	Len Komor
Ed Cole	Bob Milano
Joe Collins	Conrad Robertson
Marv DeHeus	Wayne Smith
Jim Gleason	

January 2014 Birthdays

Ken Binning	Ed Klein
Don Booth	Terry Leger
Dick Conger	John Maerzke
Hugh Duggan	Donald Peckman
Tom Eller	Marty Ratterer
Jack Fucik	Lou Sandor
Bill Ginter	Dick Socolich
Jack Hagler	Bill Sullivan
Dudley Hattaway	

REMINDER

To cancel your standing Luncheon reservation, please call Luncheon Hotline (925-806-8874) no later than Thursday AM in the previous week.

January Luncheon Menu

Chicken Cordon Bleu
Potatoes Au Gratin
Veggies
Salad
Rolls & Butter
Dessert- Coffee-Ice Tea



Luncheon Speaker
 By Little Sir Bob Donohue
 (bobdonohue@sbcglobal.net)

Since there will be a number of announcements and golf awards given out at the January luncheon, we will not have a guest speaker.

Hiking & Walking
 Joel White
 (zpz2mrz@yahoo.com)



In a new tradition established last year, a fourth Friday in December walk was held on **December 27th**. The walk location was suggested by Colleen Geary and was led by myself. Participants were Richard Black and Donna Argenbright, Art and Mary Alice Donaldson, David and Colleen Geary, Joel and Susan White. A pleasant stroll on the Iron Horse trail in Dublin was followed by coffee and conversation at Denica's Café.

The **Friday, January 10th**, walk will be led by Lytton DeSilva. We'll meet on the corner of El Nido Ranch Road and Upper Happy Valley Rd. at the usual time of 8:15 am. We will walk north and back on Upper Happy Valley Rd. Please RSVP to Lytton; (925) 254-5289, LyttonAudrey@comcast.net.

Directions: From Highway 24 take the Acalanes exit to the north side of the freeway ending on El Nido Ranch Rd. Turn right (east) and park on either side of the block leading to Upper Happy Valley Rd.

The **Friday, January 24th** walk will be led by Joel White. We will meet at 8:15am at the Stone Valley Road Trailhead of the Iron Horse trail. RSVP to Joel, (925)-964-0994, zpz2mrz@yahoo.com.

Directions: Exit hwy 680 going west on Stone Valley Road and proceed straight through the traffic light (stopping of course if it is red) and park in the lot on the right hand side near the trailhead.

Anyone wishing to be added to the e-mail reminder list should contact Joel White 964-0994 or zpz2mrz@yahoo.com.



Wine Appreciation Group
 Jack Bevis
 (jackb435@comcast.net)

We don't have a wine event in December. Wine Tasting events are held every other month on the last Thursday of the month from 4 to 6:30 pm. The next one will be on January 30th.

These informal gatherings are held at member's homes on a rotating basis, with the host selecting the wines and finger foods. Usually, four or five different wines are tasted and discussed.

The cost is nominal, normally around \$10 per person. Both SIR members and their wives are invited to attend. Contact Jack Bevis at 925-254-7256, for more information.

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.

SIR Website Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site

www.branch116.org

Branch 116 Golf

www.branch116.org/116-golf/

Trampas Topics

www.branch116.org/trampas/

Computer and Technology

www.a2cat.sirinc2.org/

SIR Happenings State Newsletter

www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings

State SIR Web Site

www.sirinc.org/



Activity Chairman

Jerry Christopherson
(jchris161k@aol.com)

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

On Tuesday December 17th, 208 members and guests attended our holiday party. Pretty impressive, and I think everyone had a great time. The highlights were a wonderful high school singing group and, of course, a surprise visit from Santa (thank you Santa). Some photos are shown on the next page. Start thinking about our Spring Fling sometime during May.

BOOK EXCHANGE

Remember. We're starting this new activity at our January meeting. Bring and leave a book you think others may enjoy. Look over the books that are there and take one if you like.

CHESS CLUB

No action. No interest. No more mentioning it.

CHOIR

Not much interest here, either. I'll try to keep it going for a little while longer.



Sunshine Report

Matt Arena
(marena@astound.net)

Sir Wayne Smith's grandchild has been hospitalized in Southern California after falling into a pool since this summer. Wayne wanted to share this thought for all who have asked about him. "God has been very good. His grandson is doing better than we hoped. Not doing as well as we would like". We extend our heartfelt wishes for a recovery.

Sir Carl Cline and his lovely wife Karen joined us for the Annual Ladies Christmas Dinner Dance at the Crow Canyon Country Club. It was a joy to see both of them after almost a year of treatment following Carl's stroke.

TIME HEALS ALMOST EVERYTHING. GIVE TIME TIME



Br. 116 Book Club

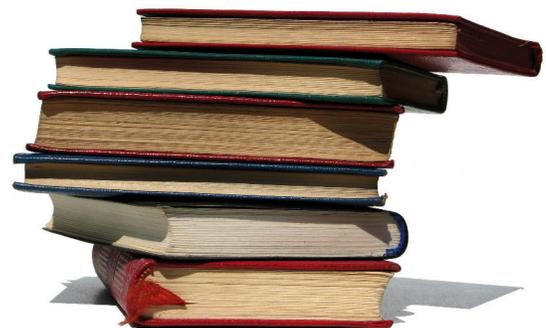
Rich Black
(blackrw41@comcast.net)

Judgment of Paris by George M Taber

So in American bicentennial year, 1976, somewhat in recognition of the role of France in the American Revolution, a British wine merchant in Paris scheduled a blind wine tasting in Paris of American and French wines. Lo and behold, the French judges rated some California wines higher than French wines. *Time Magazine* ran the story and the world of wine has never been the same. Al Reynolds decided we couldn't properly understand the story unless we sampled the winning California Chardonnay and compared it with another current Chardonnay at half the cost. Ah, sample and compare we did. Not surprisingly, the ratings for the book were quite generous. The assembled SIRs smacked their lips and awarded the book 4.05 stars. John Riordan recommended this book while engaging in the discussion were Richard Black, Cord Hull, Jack Butler, Jerry Christopherson, Garrett Girvan, John Fraser, Paul Freitas, Bob Mathews, and Lytton DeSilva.

Consistent with our long standing practice there will be no meeting in late December. The next meeting will be on Monday January 27 at 10:15 am at Orinda books to discuss *An Army at Dawn* by Rick Atkinson

Richard Black, Convener



SIR Christmas Party Crow Canyon Country Club





SIR Fishing Group

Harry Sherinian

(h.sherinian@comcast.net)

AREA 2 FISHING NEWS FOR JANUARY 2014

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, January 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. Come early and have breakfast with a bunch of guys that love to tell about their latest fishing outings.

Well, the year went out with a cold thud. Only the brave went out in the chill. Although the year was a bust for us for salmon because they all went north, it was, nonetheless, a banner year for rock fish, large and delicious. Carl Moyer, Gordon Linebaugh and George Vogt harvested rock fish, ling cod, and crab from the ocean. Gordon went again with Gene Schulting on Rich Fiscina's boat out the gate and got more rock and ling cod. Carl Moyer and Rich Fiscina fished for sturgeon. Rich and Joe Miscione caught a lot of stripers in Montezuma Slough. Before the cold arrived, Harry Sherinian caught a 7 lb. trout from Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, and then a few days later Dick Thomson caught big trout fishing with Harry and Terry Miller, then Gene Schulting and son caught a very respectable stringer of the feisty rainbows. Don Mittelstaedt travelled to Louisiana to fly fish for redfish, boating a delicious 14 lb. battler.

This year's Holiday Christmas Party was a big success. With over 50 attending at Zio Friedo's in Pleasant Hill the group got a little noisy and a good time was had by all. The food, company and significant others had a great time swapping stories and just celebrating the holiday season. A special thanks to Dick Thomson, Pete Gates and Harry Sherinian for putting together such a nice function.

We will be very busy this winter with: delta fishing for bass, catfish, and sturgeon; trout in mountain and local lakes. 2014's Calendar of events has been

decided upon and it is an interesting and busy year ahead for the Area 2 Fishing Club. Every month of the year has several fishing trips planned and the Fish Masters chosen. We are looking forward to a great year.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 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 Dick Thomson, Big Fish (925-944-1760) Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Coordinator, (925-846-7067) or Romano Gnusti, Treasurer/Secretary, (925-376-3313.)



"Dine-O-Sir" Dinner Group

Ben Smith
(bjsssmith@aol.com)



Wishing a happy and wonderful New Year to all you Dine-O-Sirs.

As we prepare to kick off the New Year your Dine-O-Sir committee is looking for a first class restaurant to start the New Year off with a great evening, excellent food and as always wonderful company.

We are presently working on concluding an event at "Scott's Restaurant" in Walnut Creek.

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, January 28, 2014**. All the details regarding this event will be sent to you within the next few days. Our usual Flyer and e-mails will be forthcoming. Please call me, Ben Smith at 820-5403, if you have any questions.

As many of you are aware, "Scott's" has the reputation as one of the finest eating/drinking establishments in the East Bay. We still have a couple of details to work out, but we anticipate that we will be able to finalize a great January Dine-Out event.

We would encourage all Branch members not to miss this upscale event.

The Dine-O-Sir Herd held their last 2013 event at "El Charro" Restaurant in Lafayette. This was a great two night Fiesta and a good time was had by all. We had some 98 Dine-Os in attendance. There was lots of food and the Margaritas and Brews were cold. The "El Charro" Kitchen and wait staff did a great job for our group.

Your Dine-O-Sir committee is presently working on a schedule of events for the coming year. If you have any suggestions pass them on to any committee member.

(Tom Eller, Jerry Hicks, Ben Smith or Dick Socolich)



Computer & Technology Derek Southern & Neil Schmidt



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all Sirs and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on **Thursday, JANUARY 16th** at **9:30** am.

Barry Brown and Derek Southern will demonstrate "**Free Video Phone Calls**" using laptops, tablets smart phones etc and will discuss the necessary and inexpensive equipment you will need.

They will discuss video messaging 1:1 (rather than video conferencing with tens or hundreds of participants). They will demonstrate three free programs which support 1:1 easily (more people if you pay for a subscription), and may show one which permits multiple attendees (up to 25 for free). To make the presentation more interactive they are planning to include some audience members, with laptops, tablets, or smart phones to demonstrate how different platforms can communicate. The programs to be featured are Skype, Google Hangout, Faceview and Teamviewer.

Time permitting there will be an opportunity to ask questions of the Group gurus.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 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, but some months are free, so come and see if January is one of those!



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 mgkplan@astound.net.



Bridge
Milt Greenstein
 (margmilt@comcast.net)



\$ums Investment Group
Allen Espenmiller
 (aespenmiller@pacbell.net)

January Schedule:

Jan 7 10:00 a.m. Duplicate Bridge—Diablo Valley Bridge Center *(Note change in time!)*

Jan 14 11:30a.m. Lunch & Bridge—Round Hill CC

Jan 28 11:30a.m. Lunch & Bridge—Diablo CC

On December 3rd, the duplicate group met at the Diablo Valley Bridge Center with 20 men attending. The team of Dan Green / Bob Kahl were the top team with 61.00 points out of a possible 108, for 56.48 %, earning 1.50 master points. In 2nd place was Bob Wolf / Ron Wohlberg with 56.02 %, followed by Bill Sullivan / Dimitris Argyriou at 51.85 % and Jim Nachtweih / Dan Greenberg at 51.39 %.

The lunch/bridge group met on December 10th with 25 men attending. Our high scorer was Jack Butler with 5,750 points, followed by Jai Yee with 4,980, Walt Kawecki at 4,960, Bob Wolf at 4,930 and Ali Aghaiepour with 4,810. We had only one small slam made today by the team of Ron Wohlberg / Bruce Ressen. Overall, today was a low scoring day, with the average score for the day of 3,601 points.

We did not meet for our second normal session due to it falling on Christmas Eve, but we are looking forward to the new year and a full schedule.

First Notice : SIR Branch 116 "**Ladies Day Lunch and Bridge**" session will take place on *March 18, 2014*, at 11:00 am at Diablo Country Club. Cost will be \$50 per team, including lunch and prize money. A wonderful way to spend a day with your *significant other* in the company of your friends. Polish up your bridge kills and **SAVE THE DATE** - March 18, (the day after St. Patrick's Day)



The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday January 22, 2014 8:00 AM at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our guest speaker will be Tom Kopas from Pring Turner Capital Group. He will update the firm's secular and cyclical outlook for stocks, bonds and commodities. Packed with fresh new material based on their unique, internationally recognized research, this program will answer many of today's topical questions, including: *What's ahead for the Economy in 2104? Where are we in the Current Business Cycle and how can this information Help Investors? Which is the bigger risk, Inflation or Deflation? Are Bonds still safe?*

Mr. Kopas will discuss what asset allocation decisions will bring investors profitably through this cycle, and where the risks and opportunities are for investors now and in the coming months and years.

Tom is one of most popular guest speakers having been invited to the \$ums Investment Group each year since 2002. He is the principal and portfolio manager at Pring Turner Capital Group in Walnut Creek, CA. Tom co-manages the Pring Turner Business Cycle ETF (NYSE symbol DBIZ), an actively managed ETF based on Pring Turner's "Six-Stage" business cycle investment strategy. In addition Mr. Kopas co-authored a book published by McGraw Hill entitled *Investing in the Second Lost Decade*.

The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 AM so plan to have a leisurely breakfast prior to the meeting along with your fellow members. Plan to attend this informative meeting and bring a prospective SIR.

Co-Chairmen: Allen Espenmiller (Br-174) [925-376-3977](tel:925-376-3977) George Schulze (Br-8) [925-429-1756](tel:925-429-1756) Leary Wong (Br-8) [925-457-0807](tel:925-457-0807)

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 Area 2 Travel Opportunities

Feb 17-21, 2014: Palm Springs / Indio Date Festival. 5 day motor coach tour including Palm Springs Follies, Indio Date Festival, Palm Springs tramway to San Jacinto State Park wilderness, covered Wagon Desert Tour with cookout buffet and entertainment. Cost \$1140, pp, Werner Schlapfer, Br 101/121, Livermore, 925-443-8291.

Apr 6-13, 2014: California Coastal Cruise. 8 day cruise on the Grand Princess starts in San Francisco with stops in Santa Barbara, San Diego, Los Angeles and Ensenada, Mexico. Coast of the Cruise is \$1095 to \$1545 and includes all meals and entertainment on board, luggage handling, bottle of wine, taxes and fees. Brian Serpa, Br141, San Jose, 408-227-7658 or Rollo Parsons 408-268-5245. Also being offered by Dennis Nowicki Br 100, Petaluma, 707-364-6307(cell)

May 13, 2014: Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece. 16 day cruise aboard a small ship with maximum of 50 passengers. Ports of Call include Zagreb, Split, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Albania, Corfu, Delphi, and Athens. Cost is \$4595 to \$6170 including accommodations, 37 meals, airfare and 12 exclusive tours. Ken Richter, Walnut Creek, Br.146, 925-689-6217.

May 23, 2014: Eastern Europe to the Black Sea. (13 day River Cruise/Tour starting in Budapest with stops in Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania.) Includes 32 meals, 6 exclusive tours, personal headsets, Program Director and Airfare. Cost is \$4345 pp. Bruce Saltzman, San Ramon, Br.128, 925-735-2366.

Jun 6-13, 2014: American Queen Cruise. (Travel on the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Memphis with shore tours at Natchez, Vicksburg and Helena. The cost of \$2980 to \$4640 includes airfare, transfers, meals and complimentary wine or beer with dinner. Philip Manriquez, Br 1, San Mateo, 650-871-5009.

Jun 3-14, 2014: Alaska Cruise from San Francisco. (This 11 day cruise on the Star Princess starts and ends in San Francisco with stops in Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria.) Cost \$2185 to \$3785 include 1 bottle of wine, one cocktail party, porter tips for luggage, port taxes, Travel protection. Bill Rodman, Br.38, San Jose, 408-274-4521 or Hank Clark, 408-223-6466.

Aug 24-Sep 8, 2014: 12 Day British Isles. The British Isles beckon adventurous travelers with fascinating cultures, awe-inspiring and stunning landscapes. This 12 day cruise on the Ruby Princess includes London, Guernsey, Cork, Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, Orkney, Edinburgh and Paris. Cost \$4693 to \$6295 includes airfare, transfers, gratuities, Larry Garvin, Yuba City, Br. 45&109, 530-673-3693.

Aug 18-25, 2014: Canadian Rockies. 8 day trip traveling on the Rocky Mountaineer sightseeing train which only travels during the day so you can see the renowned beauty of Vancouver, Jasper, Lake Louise and Banff stay in deluxe hotels, Cost \$5265 to \$5735 Includes 16 meals, Gratuities, trip insurance, transfers, baggage handling, tax, park passes and airfare. Jim Stoner, Br,114, San Jose, 408-238-8458 or Larry Martinson. 408-528-0746.

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.

SIR Branch 116 Golf
 By Al Zattero, 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.

Foursomes in both the 18-hole and 9-hole 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 www.branch116.org/116-golf. Join up with us and enjoy outings with a great bunch of guys at some great courses with reasonable prices.

2014 Golf Membership Dues

If you haven't yet paid your 2014 golf membership dues, you need to do so immediately. Send your check to:

SIR Branch 116 Golf,
 P.O. Box 683
 Lafayette, CA 94549-0683

The annual fee is:

- \$56: 18-Holer's with NCGA through Br. 116
- \$20: 18-Holer's with NCGA elsewhere
- \$20: 9-Holer's with NCGA through Br. 116

January 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 06	9:30	Boundary Oak	???
Mon. 13	9:30	Boundary Oak	???
Tue. 21	10:32	Dear Ridge	???
Mon. 27	9:30	Sunol/Cypress	???

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 2012 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.

January 9-Hole Schedule

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

Nine Hole Winners

Dick Chaffee, 9-Hole Chairman
(rwchaffee@sbcglobal.net)



Ralph Schwarz is our **2013 9-Hole Flight Champion**. Ralph earned 24 points in 2013 to finish first. **Jai Yee** was second with 22 points and **Max Foust** was third with 21 points. Congratulations to all of you.

33 SIR golfers earned 9 hole flight points in 2013. That's a record for 9 hole golf participation! The final 2013 Flight standings are:

- 24 Ralph Schwarz
- 22 Jai Yee
- 21 Max Foust
- 18 Joe Collins
- 17 John Canane
- 16 Doug Aalders, Rudy Gebert
- 15 Mark Jordan, Ron Armijo
- 14 Terry Grummitt
- 13 Gary Howard
- 12 Terry Sherman, Darrell McClaughry
- 11 Dick Chaffee
- 10 Troy Powell, Ed Klein, Cord Hull
- 8 Mike Murphy
- 7 Bill Harrington, Mike Casey
- 6 Jim Nachtweih
- 5 Ed Cole, Bill Best, George Kohut, Ron Leschot
- 4 Bruce Adair, Jerry Christopherson, Chuck Gilliam, Joe Ostler
- 2 Bob Testa, Bob Daily, Bruce Herold
- 1 Pat Bermingham

Also each year we hold a special tournament in the month of December. This year **Troy Powell** is the winner of the **December Tournament** with a net 48 for 2 rounds. **Cord Hull** was second with a net 55. **Bill (the) Best** and **Jai Yee** tied for third with net 56s.

Troy's net 48 is a new Tournament record. Congratulations, Troy.

23 golfers completed the required 2 rounds to qualify for the Tournament.

December tournament results for the entire field are:

- 48 Troy Powell
- 55 Cord Hull
- 56 Jai Yee, Bill Best
- 57 Ralph Schwarz, Terry Sherman
- 58 John Canane, Darrell McClaughry
- 59 Bill Harrington
- 60 Joe Collins, Rudy Gebert, Dick Chaffee
- 62 Max Foust, Doug Aalders
- 64 Terry Grummitt
- 66 Jim Nachtweih, Harry Kinney
- 67 Joe Ostler, Terry Horton, Ron Armijo
- 70 Ed Klein, Mike Murphy
- 72 Jon Rasmussen

Congratulations to all of you players and thanks for participating.

Trampas Topics Submissions



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

Neil Schmidt, Trampas Topics Editor
trampastopics@gmail.com

State 'SIR Happenings'

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

Final Year-End 2013 18-Hole Leader Board Results

FLIGHT 1		FLIGHT 2		FLIGHT 3		FLIGHT 4	
Index 0.0 - 15.9		Index 16.0 - 23.1		Index 23.2 - 29.0		Index 29.1 - 36.4	
NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS
Al Zavattono	49	Neil Schmidt	50	Jerry Hunter	42	Robbie Robinson	49
David Harris	45	John Story	42	Troy Powell	40	Terry Grummitt	48
Jim Barstow	37	Frank Crua	37	Hugh Duggan	38	Chuck Gilliam	38
Jim Johnson	31	Bob Testa	34	Al Serafino	38	Mark Jordan	34
Harry Oberle	31	Jim Clizbe	32	Conrad Robertson	32	Ron Armijo	31
Bill McCord	30	Wayne Smith	25	Phil Jenkins	28	Carl Langhorst	28
Phil Goff	27	Lonny Randall	20	Alex Lutkus	26	Fred Schafer	26
Mel Williams	26	Norm Alberts	12	Bernie Wroblewski	18	Matt Arena	21
David Carlson	25	Dick Socolich	11	Jon Rasmussen	17	Bill Hemmelsbach	17
Dirk Meyer	16	Jim Videle	11	Peter Coggiola	13	Art Vogl	11
Jerry Hicks	13	David Ferm	10	Gary Boswell	9	Frank Lockwood	10
Bill Clark	9	Tom Eller	8	Bob Donohue	9	Terry Sherman	9
Steve Cherepy	3	Richard Madden	7	Jed Daniel	6	Allan Chasnoff	3
Alan Fitzgerald	2	Pat Tinguely	7	Terry Legler	5	Jai Yee	1
		Carlos Xavier	7	Wayne Cook	4		
		Walt Kawecki	6	John Peterson	4		
		Paul Kim	6	Al Satake	4		
		Rob Campbell	3	Dick Chaffee	3		
		Phil Perrelli	3	Ken Binning	2		
		Paul King	2	Jerry Christopherson	2		
		Bob Nichols	2	Bob Conlon	2		
		Frank Portillo	2	Kirk McVean	2		
		Joe Collins	1	Don Roberts	2		
				Max Foust	1		

Latest SIR 116 Golf Info Available on Our Golf Web Site

The Golf Website address is:

www.branch116.org/116-golf

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

2013 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 Tournament Results

Delta View -- Monday December 23, 2013

Official Scorer:
Al Hutchko / DcHa

Flight 1				Flight 2				Flight 3				Flight 4			
1st	Phil Goff	68	3	1st	Frank Crua	73	3	1st	Hugh Duggan	65	3	1st	Robbie Robinson	72	3
2nd	Jim Johnson	70	2	2nd	Jim Clizbe	75	2	Tie 2nd	Phil Jenkins	68	2	2nd	Bill Hemmelsbach	73	2
Tie 3rd	David Harris	75	1	3rd	Norm Alberts	76	1	Tie 2nd	Al Serafino	68	2	3rd	Art Vogl	75	1
Tie 3rd	Mel Williams	75	1												
Tie 3rd	Al Zattero	75	1												
Low Gross				Low Gross				Low Gross				Low Gross			
	Jim Johnson	82			Jim Clizbe	95			Hugh Duggan	90					
					Frank Crua	95							Robbie Robinson	104	

Closest to: Hole #3 - Phil Goff, Hugh Duggan -- Hole #13 - Mel Williams, Phil Jenkins

Diablo Creek -- Monday December 16, 2013

Official Scorer:
Norm Alberts / DcHa

Flight 1				Flight 2				Flight 3				Flight 4			
1st	Al Zattero	74	3	1st	Dick Socolich	76	3	1st	Troy Powell	65	3		Robbie Robinson	68	3
2nd	Phil Goff	75	2	2nd	Frank Crua	81	2	Tie 2nd	Jerry Hunter	70	2		Mark Jordan	74	2
3rd	Bill McCord	76	1	3rd	Joe Collins	87	1	Tie 2nd	Conrad Robertson	70	2		Terry Grummitt	76	1
													Carl Langhorst	76	1
Low Gross				Low Gross				Low Gross				Low Gross			
	Phil Goff	89			Dick Socolich	94			Jerry Hunter	95			Robbie Robinson	98	

Closest to: Hole #7 - Bill McCord, Carl Langhorst -- Hole #17 - David Harris, Robbie Robinson

Boundary Oak -- Monday December 9, 2013

Official Scorer:
Jerry Hunter

Flight 1				Flight 2				Flight 3				Flight 4			
1st	Al Zattero	69	3	1st	John Story	69	3	Tie 1st	Hugh Duggan	68	3	1st	Carl Langhorst	69	3
2nd	Dirk Meyer	70	2	Tie 2nd	Walt Kawecki	71	2	Tie 1st	Jerry Hunter	68	3	2nd	Robbie Robinson	70	2
3rd	Jim Barstow	73	1	Tie 2nd	Neil Schmidt	71	2	3rd	Troy Powell	70	1	3rd	Bill Hemmelsbach	71	1
Low Gross				Low Gross				Low Gross				Low Gross			
	Al Zattero	87			Neil Schmidt	88			Hugh Duggan	92			Carl Langhorst	98	

Closest to: Hole #2 - Al Zattero, Hugh Duggan -- Hole #12 - Jim Clizbe, Fred Schafer

Contra Costa Country Club -- Monday December 2, 2013

Official Scorer:
Troy Powell

Flight 1				Flight 2				Flight 3				Flight 4			
1st	Al Zattero	69	3	1st	Bob Testa	69	3	1st	Troy Powell	62	3	1st	Fred Schafer	67	3
Tie 2nd	Dave Carlson	75	2	2nd	Neil Schmidt	71	2	2nd	Conrad Robertson	70	2	2nd	Robbie Robinson	71	2
Tie 2nd	David Harris	75	2	3rd	Dick Socolich	74	1	Tie 3rd	Hugh Duggan	72	1	Tie 3rd	Matt Arena	73	1
Tie 2nd	Jim Johnson	75	2					Tie 3rd	Gary Boswell	72	1	Tie 3rd	Terry Sherman	73	1
Low Gross				Low Gross				Low Gross				Low Gross			
	Jim Johnson	87			Neil Schmidt	90			Gary Boswell	98			Fred Schafer	104	
									Troy Powell	98					

Closest to: Hole #5 - Frank Crua, Skip Berkson -- Hole #14 - Andy Benz, Tom King

18-Hole Pay In Advance Deadlines

Event Date	Location	Deadline	Amount
Tuesday January 21, 2014	Deer Ridge	Jan-11	40
Monday January 27, 2014	Sunol / Cypress	Jan-20	44
Monday February 3, 2014	Crow Canyon	Jan-20	45
Tuesday February 18, 2014	Brentwood	Feb-8	32
Monday February 24, 2014	Callippe Preserve	Feb-17	47

Send checks made out to SIR Branch 116, Golf
to PO 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.