



# SIR Branch 116 Newsletter August 2023

Enhancing the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making Friends for Life

## Message from Roger

Fact! We will never fully replace Matt Arena. For a long time Matt kept us apprised of members who were experiencing various medical issues.



He was the first to tell you he relied heavily on information provided by members. That hasn't changed. We still need to hear from you if you know of a member experiencing some difficulty. All you need to do is advise a BEC member and we will take it from there. For now we will forward information to Neil Schmidt who will prepare a rotating slide for our luncheons. Discretion will be exercised of course before information is released.

Another request. While enjoying activities of our choice there is a lot more to SIR. Activities need chairs. Special events need chairs and committees. There are many opportunities to participate. A good way to get started is to join a committee or assist an Activity chair. Talk to any BEC member and he will help you find a position of interest. WE NEED YOU!

Hope you are enjoying the hot weather. It's not for everyone but for those of us dealing with Old Man Arthritis it's a blessing. Don't get me wrong. Air conditioning and a cold beverage is darn nice also.

*Roger Craig, Big SIR*

**Next Meeting**  
August 21@ Boundary  
Oak, 11:30 AM

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**Trampas Topics**



## Some Important Upcoming Branch 116 Activities

- Dine-O-SIR - The Brass Door Aug. 16 & 23
- Walking Tour - Niles Silent Film Museum Aug. 19
- Theater - Anna Christie Sept. 15
- Travel - 7 SIR Travel Opportunities Various

Call 925-322-1318  
or email to  
[luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com)  
by the Monday  
prior to the meeting  
to cancel your  
standing  
reservation.

## 2023 SIR Branch Officers



<b>Big SIR</b> Roger Craig	<b>Little SIR</b> Alan Pope	<b>Treasurer</b> Jeff Johnson	<b>Asst. Treas.</b> Al Satake	<b>Asst. Treas.</b> Charlie Guthrie	<b>Secretary</b> Paul Ramacciotti	<b>Asst. Sec.</b> Greg Hughes	<b>Member.Sec.</b> Phil Goff
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## 2023 SIR Branch Directors



Don Benioff	Gary Bonfiglio	Kevin Donahue	Darrell McCloughry	Fred Wachowicz	Dave P. Williams
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### 2023 Support Chairmen

#### **RAMP Department Heads**

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Recruitment      | Don Schroeder      |
| • Activities       | Mike Ward          |
| • Member Relations | Michael Barrington |
| • Publicity        | Paul Russell       |

#### **Branch Support Chairmen**

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Audit Committee        | Ron Armijo             |
| • Nominating Committee   | Fred Wachowicz         |
| • Sunshine Committee     | Matt Arena             |
| • Computer Support       | Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff |
| • Webmaster              | Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff |
| • Newsletter Editor      | Neil Schmidt           |
| • New Member Orientation | Dave Williams          |
| • Membership Roster Prep | Phil Goff              |

#### **Diversity Support Team**

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| • Team Leader  | Fred Wachowicz     |
| • Team Member  | Sam Beret          |
| • Team Member  | Terry Sherman      |
| • Team Member  | Al Satake          |
| • Team Member  | Jerry Hicks        |
| • Team Member  | Michael Barrington |
| • Team Advisor | Lee Moy            |

#### **Luncheon Support Team**

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Attendance             | Mike Scheneider           |
| • Audio Visual           | Neil Schmidt              |
| • Chaplain Committee     | Terry Sherman             |
| • Greeters Committee     | Ramacciotti, Datzman      |
| • Raffle Committee       | Ben Bryce                 |
| • Storytellers Committee | Mac McLoughlin/F. Schafer |

#### **Speakers Committee**

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| • Team Member | James Dawe    |
| • Team Member | Allan Farbman |
| • Team Member | Paul Freitas  |
| • Team Member | Alan Pope     |

### 2023 Activity Chairmen

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Asst. Chairman</u>
Amiable Amblers	John Riordan	Joel White
Bocce	Paul Russell	
Book Group 1	Rich Black	Steve Bort
Book Group 2	Scott Clark	Alan Pope
Book Exchange	Dick Kauffman	
Bridge	Jon Dickson	Art Donaldson
Community Service	Open	TBA
Dine-O-SIR	Jerry Hicks	
Fishing	Harry Sherinian	Terry Miller
Golf—18 Hole	Bernie Wroblewski	Jim Johnson
Golf—9 Hole	Dick Chaffee	D. Mclaughry
Golf—Treasurer	Alan Pope	
Golf—Carmel	Jim Barstow	Goff, JJ, Harris
Golf—Clinic	Chris Doan	
Golf—Reno	Alan Pope	
Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
Parties	Open	TBA
Pickleball	Ed Solomon	Gary Bonfiglio
Poker	Lou Sandor	
\$ums Investment	Dave Sutton, Br.8	
Sunshine	Open	
Theater	Terry Sherman	
Travel	Open	TBA
Walking Tours	Greg Hughes	Marty Katz
Wine-O-SIR	Dave Havlik	

### **Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities**

Apple User Group	Dick Macy (Br.171)	376-1180
Astronomy	Bill Hunter (Br.8)	947-6947
Bowling	Dan Weller (Br. 8)	935-5510
Digital Photo.	Bill Phelon (Br.8)	254-8338
Pocket Pool	Jerry White (Br.8)	944-9068
Tennis	Ralph Thornicraft (174)	376-8140

# Monthly Activities Calendar

## August 2023

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			<b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Pleasanton Ranch GC)	<b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts)	<b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ Railroad Museum, Danville) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	<b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	<b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door, San Ramon)	<b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills GC) <b>Mexican Train</b> (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)		<b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ Heather Farms Playgound) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	<b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)		<b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Buchanan Fields GC) <b>Dine-O-SIR</b> (5:45@ Brass Door)	<b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts) <b>Book Group 2</b> (11:00@ Ygnacio Valley Library)	<b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ Moraga Commons) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	Walking Tour
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<b>SIR Br. 116 Luncheon</b> (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	<b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:36@ Chardonnay) <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door, San Ramon)	<b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Dublin Ranch GC) <b>\$ums Investment</b> (1:30 via Zoom) <b>Dine-O-SIR</b> (5:45@ Brass Door)	<b>Fishing Group</b> (8:30@ Diablo Creek)	<b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ San Miguel Park) <b>Pickleball</b> (8:00@ WC Tennis, Heather Farms)	Golf Clinic
27	28	29	30	31		
	<b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:02@ Rancho Solano) <b>Book Group 1</b> (10:15@ Orinda Books)		<b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Shadow Lakes GC)	<b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts)		



# Branch Administration



## Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 188	
Bob Colvin	New Member Sponsor is Dave Havlik
Chuck Vanoncini	Resigned Moved to Napa
Tim Hubbard	Resigned Passed away on 6/22/2023



## Treasury Report

Jeff Johnson, Treasurer

	7/26/23	2023 YTD
Beg Bal 2023		\$ 10,996.81
Contributions	\$ 3,929.83	\$ 47,155.11
Disbursements	\$ (4,196.32)	\$ (45,052.17)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ (266.49)	\$ 2,102.94
July Cash Balance		\$ 13,099.75

## August Birthdays

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

1. Jim Barstow	9. Jay Kellison
2. Steve Bort	10. Bob LaSala
3. Dick Breitwieser	11. Fred McBreen
4. Peter Coggiola	12. Kirk McVean
5. Jim Dawe	13. Roger Smith
6. Bob Donohue	14. Joel White
7. Paul Freitas	15. Jeff Wirch
8. Terry Grummitt	



## SIR HAPPENINGS

Checkout the new and improved State SIR Happenings Newsletter. With a new editor the newsletter February 2021 has been radically expanded with lots of information about fun things that are going on in our branches.

You can find it at: <https://sirinc.org/newsletters>

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

## SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site  
[branch116.org](http://branch116.org)  
Branch 116 Golf  
[branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)  
Branch 116 Shopping Cart  
[sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site](http://sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site)  
SIR Happenings State Newsletter  
[sirinc.org/newsletters/](http://sirinc.org/newsletters/)

## SIR Branch 116 Members

Get involved, try a new activity, attend a BEC (Branch Executive Committee) meeting, bring in a new member, startup a new activity, attend our luncheon, be a leader

# SIR Luncheon

## Speaker for August Meeting

**Jack Bair, chief legal officer, executive VP and director of the SF Giants**



### **Little SIR Report**

Allan Pope

Thank all of you for coming to the July lunch. The luncheon is one activity for all SIRS 116 members to get together and catch-up with friends. Congratulations to Tim Tinnes, who won the free lunch.

Our July speaker, Jamil Hassan recounted his family's experience trying to leave Afghanistan during the chaotic withdrawal of US forces from that country. As an Afghan interpreter Mr. Hassan, as well as other Afghan interpreters, risked their lives fighting next to American and NATO forces during the Afghan war. They were put in further jeopardy when they tried to leave the country during the Taliban's takeover of the Afghan government. Afghan immigrants felt betrayed by

the United States because their Special Immigrant Visas ("SIVs) which were supposed to facilitate their immigration to other countries, failed to help them and many Afghan interpreters remain in jeopardy in Afghanistan.

**Our August speaker will be Jack Bair. Mr. Bair is the Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of the San Francisco Giants since 1993. Mr. Bair will discuss the San Francisco Giants from A to Z, including the Giants' international operations, the building of the ballpark, baseball economics, and the uncommon events and experience of working with a major league baseball team.**

## August Luncheon Speaker



### **REMINDER**

All members have a standing reservation for each luncheon. Call 925-322-1318 or email to [luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com)

by the Monday prior to the meeting to cancel your standing reservation.

## **The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak Luncheon Menu**

**Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**

### Salad

#### **Butter Lettuce Salad**

Seasonal Berries, Citrus Segments, Feta Cheese  
Poppy Seed Balsamic Vinaigrette

### Entrées

#### **Pork Milanese**

Panko Breaded Port Loin, Creamy Polenta  
Sautéed Vegetable Medley  
Creamy Caper & Lemon Sauce

—or—

#### **Coconut Crusted Tilapia**

Citrus Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Vegetable Medley  
Chardonnay Butter Sauce

—or—

#### **Vegetarian Lasagna**

Seasonal Vegetables

### Dessert

**Red Velvet Cake**

# New Members

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Sponsor Dave Havlik with  
New Member Bob Colvin



Sponsor Bernie Wroblewski with  
New Member Alan Polanger

# Branch Activities

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## Walking Tours Greg Hughes

On **Saturday, August 19, 2023** at 10:00 the Walking Group will visit The Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum.

The museum is located in the historic district of Niles at 37417 Niles Blvd, Fremont CA. It is housed in the Edison theater, a century old Nickelodeon movie theater, just half a block from the former site of the Niles Essanay Studios where Bronco Billy and Charlie Chaplin made films in the 1910's.

The museum holds a large collection of Motion Picture equipment and related artifacts, as well as about 10,000 Silent Films in their archive. A docent

will provide a 30 minute tour of the museum's displays, and then the group will then watch two short silent films.

The cost is \$7 per person payable at the museum.

If you wish to participate please contact Greg Hughes at [greghughes505@gmail.com](mailto:greghughes505@gmail.com), or (925) 998-5650. Please let me know the number of people in your party.

Lunch will follow the tour and the movies.

A city parking lot is available across the street.



## Bocce Paul Russell

We will be playing Bocce Ball 3 times in August on the 3rd, the 17th and the 31st. We play at the Clayton Bocce Courts which are at the corner of Main St. and Oak St. in downtown Clayton. The time is at 10:00 - noon and we usually have lunch following.

All are welcome to participate in this co-ed activity at only \$41.00 per person.

Just let me know via email [peruz@att.net](mailto:peruz@att.net) or you can call me at 925-207-0784

# Branch Activities



## Theater

Terry Sherman

### O'NEILL'S "ANNA CHRISTIE" ON SEPTEMBER 15

Three area Branches of SIR are working together to promote a Theater Party for an award-winning play by Pulitzer-Prize playwright Eugene O'Neill at Danville's Tao House.

"Anna Christie" will be staged in the Old Barn at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in the hills above Danville on Friday evening September 15 for a 7:30 p.m. performance.

Members of SIR Branch 146, Branch 116 and Branch 128 have joined together for this Theater Party event. A special discount is available for members and guests of these three SIR Branches.

Tickets are \$60 on sale on the Eugene O'Neill's Foundation's website beginning July 6. There will be a special page on this website offering a limited number of \$5 discounts for members of the three SIR Branches. Tickets are available for purchase on July 6; purchase by August 15 to get the discount. Click on <https://eugeneoneill.org/event/sirs-tickets-to-anna-christie-sept-15/>.

Information on required shuttle access to the National Historic Site via NPS from Museum of San Ramon Valley in downtown Danville will be provided on the website: [eugeneoneill.org](http://eugeneoneill.org). If you need further information, contact Terry Sherman ([dtsh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtsh@sbcglobal.net)); (925-786-0598).

O'Neill is America's only Nobel Prize-winning playwright. He lived at Tao House in the hills above Danville from 1936-194, where he authored many notable works including "Long Day's Journey into Night" and "The Iceman Cometh." "Anna Christie" premiered in the 1920s, and evolved to become one of O'Neill's most popular works, and one of his only two comedies.



## Sums Investment

Dave Sutton (Br. 8)

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on **Wed August 23 at 1:30 PM.**

The discussion will be to Compare and Contrast

returns expected from Municipal Bonds, Corporate Bonds, CD's and Dividend Paying Stocks.

Email Dave Sutton to be included.(mailto:[davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)).



## Bridge

Jon Dickson

We had five full tables for bridge (20 players) on July 25th for the first time since Covid-19 struck. Life is getting back to normal!

On July 11th we had 18 players, with Jon Dickson winning first with 5,610 points and Gordon Gonsalves a distant second with 3,990 points.

Then on July 25th with five full tables, Jai Yee came in first with 4,850 points and Dennis Snarr a very

close second with 4,750 points. That extra couple tricks do make a difference! What is nice when we have five tables is there are five prizes, one for each table.

SIR's LUNCH & BRIDGE, each 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon. If you play bridge, we will welcome you.

# Branch Activities



## Wine-O-SIR

David Havlik

The WINE-O-SIRS met at the home of Tom and Ellen Eller in July, where we tasted a range of Zinfandel wines, from current to 'old vine (20 year old vines) to 'ancient vine' (70 year old vines). Everyone had

a favorite but no one wine stood out from the rest. There is no wine tasting event in August; the next will be on September 28th at the home of Jerry and Kathy Hicks.



JJ & Mo Johnson



Bill McCallum, Dave Williams,  
Jon Dickson and Mike Schneider



Judy Havlik and  
Elly and Gil Menegus



Tom Eller and  
Bob Huck



## Fishing

Harry Sherinian

SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are Big Fish, Bob Lively 925-383-5193 and Harry Sherinian, 925-846-7067, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, **August 24th** at 8:30am. Come early.

We continued to catch halibut in the bay, because it was the only big water game in town. Salmon stays closed all year, and rockfish did not open till mid July. Brion Beetz and Carl Moyer were the first and only SIRs to boat the tasty rockfish thus far. Too many of us to mention caught halibut. Ernie Wong, our dedicated shad fly fisherman has had his worst year ever so far, fishing upriver he caught 5 shad in 5 trips. Ken Bellendir went all the way to Indiana to catch a few bass. Tom Kostik caught bass from the delta. Blue fin tuna came within 30 miles of the

Golden Gate, and although no SIRs participated, others got the tuna to 160 pounds. Very rare occurrence.

Salmon fishing will not happen for us from the bay area. Closed for the year. Brion Beetz, Gordon Linebaugh, and Carl Moyer took the long trip out to over 300 feet and caught rockfish, sable fish, petrale sole, and ling cod. Brion, Gordon, Stan Wong, Steve Paulick, Tom Chapman, Dave Havlik, Ken Bellinder and Dave Miller went far south to La Paz, Mexico for 4 days of panga fishing for dorado, yellowfin tuna, roosterfish, and wahoo. They caught a lot fish and had a good time. Almost everybody caught halibut and stripers in the bay. Carl Moyer caught trout from San Pablo reservoir. Ernie Wong began his fly fishing summer after shad on the Yuba River by catching a few. Tom Kostik, Mike Corker, and Harry Sherinian sought black bass in the delta with limited success.

# Branch Activities



## Book Group 1 Rich Black

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books at Orinda Books at 10.15 on the following dates:

- Monday, August 28...“Horse” by Geraldine Brooks
- Monday, October 2...“The Wager” by David Grann
- Monday, October 30...“The Piano Tuner” by Mason

Book Group #1 met on Monday, June 26 at Orinda Books to discuss “Elephant Company” by Vicki Croke. This is an engaging book for SIRs if there ever was one so the group gave it 4.3 stars. A WWI veteran takes to the jungles of Burma to work with elephants logging teak. He really digs working with

elephants in spite of malaria and isolation. Yes, he finds the love of his life and then he has to lead Burmese laborers, their families, the elephants and some of the European community up the face of an escarpment to safety in India to escape the Japanese. There’s more but you have to read it for yourself.

Joel White recommended the book while Richard Black led the discussion with Dick Kauffman, Mac McLaughlin, Richard White, Paul Freitas, Richard Rosland, Tim Tinnes, Art Donaldson, John Kopchik and John Riordan.

New members are always welcome. It’s a discussion, not a class. If possible, contact Rich Black at Blackrw41@comcast.net ahead of time.



## Book Group 2 Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met Thursday, July 20 to discuss *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. The book is a psychological thriller of a woman’s act of violence against her husband and the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive.

Alicia Berenson’s life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to a fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London’s most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word.

Alicia’s refusal to talk, or give any kind of explanation, turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, a mystery that captures the public imagination and casts Alicia into notoriety. The price of her art skyrockets, and she, the silent patient, is hidden away from the tabloids and spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit in North London.

Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who has

waited a long time for the opportunity to work with Alicia. His determination to get her to talk and unravel the mystery of why she shot her husband takes him down a twisting path into his own motivations—a search for the truth that threatens to consume him...

Bill Foulds recommended the book. Nine members attended the discussion. The group rated the book a 3.6/5

Our next meetings/books are as follows:

- 8/17, *Billion Dollar Whale: The Man Who Fooled Wall Street*, by Bradley Hope & Tom Wright.
- 9/21, *Operation Pedestal*, by Max Hastings.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, 11 AM, Arbolado Park Walnut Creek (picnic tables in front of the basketball courts).

For additional information contact Scott Clark at 925-998-4553

# Branch Activities



## Pickleball Ed Solomon

**Pickleball**, is the fastest growing team sport in the U.S. for all ages. With the summer months coming soon, we now start **7:30 to 9 am every Friday**, at The Tennis Center in Heather Farm, Walnut Creek. Here's a brief Introduction to Pickleball...

<https://www.youtube.com/atcv=xEYsymCtIDY>

Required equipment- Paddle, balls, and tennis

sneakers. ( We have extra paddles and balls) Beginners all welcome....it's the best way to see what all the excitement is about. Come on down!!!

Ed Solomon. Co-Chair ———415-215-2684 m

Gary Bonfiglio Co-Chair ———925-330-9612 m

**COME ON BY TO PLAY, OR JUST WATCH!!!!**  
**We're not bad for a bunch of SIR Dudes!!**



## Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

Dine-O-Sir began in year 2009 with fun and interesting dining evenings; one of the favorite restaurants is Brass Door. We return for two evenings in August Wednesdays – 16th and 23rd. Choose your preferred evening - or both if you want to have good weekly dinners. Prime Rib is their "House Specialty" but their selected entrées are just as delicious. We will begin social adjustment at 5:45 PM with dinner served at 6:30. Location is just off I-680 and just south Danville and Brass Door parking lot is moderate size with additional parking

on San Ramon Valley Blvd.

See the attached flyer later in our Las Trampas newsletter. We will need to have your reservation and payment of \$50.00 per person that includes tax and gratuity not later that one week prior to either of the Dine-O-Sir evenings. It would be a great evening to invite guests to join us; we have space available. Join us for a very nice evening.

Your Committee: Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Mike Yale.

# Branch Activities

## Dine-O-SIR



### Adult Beverages:

House red or white \$8/Glass  
House red or white \$28/Bottle  
Corkage \$16  
Well Drinks \$8

2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon 94583

**Two Nights - Select August 16 or August 23, 2023**

Social Adjustment at 5:45 PM; Dinner at 6:30 PM

**Cost only \$50 p/p Inclusive**

### Dinner Menu

Starter: Tossed Green Salad

Entrée' Selection:

**Prime Rib (House Specialty)** served au Jus with fresh Horseradish, creamed Spinach, Baked Potato

**Chicken Parmigiana** -Melted Mozzarella, Marinara, Saffron Risotto

**Pacific Salmon** - Char-Broiled Filet, Chef's Sauce of the Day

**Pasta Primavera (Vegetarian)** – assorted Vegetables, Tomatoes, Garlic, extra Virgin Olive Oil

**Dessert:** Ice Cream

**Coffee or tea as request**

## Brass Door in San Ramon, 2023

(Circle) **August 16**      **August 23**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay by reservation, date, entrée, and check to: Sir Branch 116 Dining, or  
**Add total of \$1.60 per person if using Branch Shopping Cart**

Mail to Jerry Hicks at 74 Amberwood Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
For Information, email to [jerryhicks@astound.net](mailto:jerryhicks@astound.net) or phone (925) 360-0447

# Branch Activities



**Travel**  
Jeff Johnson

Here are trips being planned by other chapters – let me know if you are interested in joining any of them and I will put you in touch with the appropriate party. Jeff Johnson (jeffjohnson9000@att.net):

**Disney's Aladdin Wed. Aug. 9, 2023 1pm at the Orpheum Theatre.** Branch 7 & 8. Cost \$110 pp. Includes Lunch at Max's Opera Café, luxury motorcoach transportation, driver gratuity.

**Colorado Rockies, Rails & Western National Parks Sept. 10 – 18 2023. Branch 32. Cost \$3,649pp.** Includes r/t air, 11 meals 8 breakfasts, tour director, motorcoach transportation, all admissions, baggage handling. Highlights: 3 train experiences, Durango, Pikes Peak & Royal Gorge. 4 National Parks, Mesa Verde, Arches, Canyon Lands & Great Sand Dunes.

**Croatia and Its Islands. Sept. 24 – Oct. 7, 2023. Branch 101. Cost \$6,714 – 7,214pp depending on cabin.** Highlights: Dubrovnik, 7-night Adriatic Cruise, Slano, Mljet National Park, Korcula, Vis, Bisevo, Blue Cave, Hvar, Bol, Trogir, Slit. Choice on tour; Sibenik, Cathedral of St. James, Krka National Park, Zagreb, Stone Gate. The price includes round trip flights from SFO, Travel Insurance and tips. 3 cabins still available (6 people max.)

**Autumn Colors Oct. 13 – 22, 2023. Branch 143. Cost \$4,330pp.** Boston to Boston. Includes air & bus

transportation. Highlights: Boston, Mohawk Trail, Mount Washington.

**The Lion King, Matinee Wednesday December 13 Branches 7, 47 & 22. "The Musical of a lifetime!" Orpheum Theater SF.** Departs San Rafael 10am returns 5:30pm \$125pp. Includes luxury motorcoach, gratuity, hosted lunch at Max's Opera Café and rear orchestra seating.

**Rose Parade & New Year's Eve Dec. 30, 2023 – Jan. 4, 2024. Cost \$3,375pp.** Includes air fare, lodging, New Year's Eve party, Rose Parade, Nixon Library, coastal cities, luxury bus, lodging, 9 meals.

**Best of Spain and Portugal April 27 – May 12, 2024. Branch 146. Cost \$7,895pp.** Madrid, Segovia, Porto, Lisbon, Seville, Gibraltar, Costa Del Sol, Alhambra, Valencia, Barcelona, round trip airfare, 15-day guided tour with Travel Director, 14 nights at centrally located 4star hotels, 5 dinners and 2 lunches including wine, all tips, transfers and baggage handling.

**Memorials of WWII Tour Sept. 6 – 15, 2024 Cost \$4,972pp dbl.Occ.** London, Portsmouth, Paris, D-Day Museum, Landing R/T air, motor coach, ferry from England to France. 8 brkfst. 4 dinner.



**Book Exchange**  
Dick Kauffman

The Book Exchange continues to provide books for all of the members of SIRS Branch 116 at no cost. Just exchange a book. The exchange can be on the same day or at a later time. Whatever is convenient for you. Hopefully, you will bring in a book(s) that others will enjoy and can be enjoyed many more times.

We hope you enjoy this book exchange service.

The SIRS 116 Sherpas



# Branch Activities



## Amiable Amblers John Riordan

July walkers included Todd Berman, Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Dick Frankel, Paul Freitas, David Geary, Essie Naddaf, John & Gail Riordan, Joel & Susan White, and Tom & Mary Welte.

Joel White led the July 7 walk from Arbolado Park along the Ygnacio Canal trail, with a post walk gathering at Panera Bread. On July 14 we walked around the Lafayette Reservoir, with a post-walk gathering at Tutu's. On July 21 we walked along the Iron Horse trail from the Walnut Creek Civic Park, with a post-walk gathering at Caffe La Scala. On July 28 we walked along the Iron Horse Trail from Stone Valley Rd, with a post-walk gathering at Peet's Coffee.

The August walks will begin at 8:30AM. Joel White will lead the **August 4** walk. Meet at the Railway Museum in Danville and walk north along the Iron Horse Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Sideboard. Dick Frankel will lead the **August 11** walk. Meet at the Heather Farm children's playground and walk

west along the Contra Costa Canal Trail, with a post-walk gathering at the Countrywood Panera Bread. On **August 18** meet at the Moraga Commons for a walk north along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail with a post-walk gathering at the Moraga Town Bakery and Cafe. On **August 25** meet at San Miguel Park for a walk along the Ygnacio Canal Trail, with a post-walk gathering at the Countrywood Black Bear Diner.

We will resume the 9:00AM starting time in September. There will be no walk on September 1 because of its proximity to the Labor day weekend.

These walks are for individuals or couples, as spouses and significant others are encouraged to participate. The significant other/spouse is also invited to participate even when the member is unable to. SIR members, including those from other branches, wishing to join this mellow group or to be added to the email contact list should contact me at [jriordan730@gmail.com](mailto:jriordan730@gmail.com) or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.



## Golf Clinic Chris Doan

We have designed the 2023 schedule incorporating input and ideas from the SIR Golfing community. Starting in June, the new rotation and schedule will begin with...

- Putting & Sand Shots June 17
- then Chipping July 8
- then 50-70 Yards Short Game July 29
- followed by Fairway Shots Aug 26
- and finally, Tee Shots Sep 23
- These five topics will be supplemented with an opportunity to Play-With-The-Pro (dates Jul 19 - Aug 31)
- as well as a classroom session on Course Management (date TBD).

Other details about the Clinic offerings ...

**Clinic Location:** Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord

**Clinic Pro:** Pete Asselin, dedicated to the SIRs Clinic and also available for private lessons at a discounted rate of \$60/hr.

**Times** offered for Saturday Clinics: 9:15, 10:30, 11:45 and 1:00

**Skill Level:** All from low handicappers to beginners

**Clinic Fees:** \$30 for one hour Clinics

**How to register and participate:**

- Start by getting on the Clinic email list. Send request to [cdoan99@gmail.com](mailto:cdoan99@gmail.com) to be added.
- Each Clinic details will be communicated by e-mail ... reservations are made by responding to the e-mail.
- That's all there is to it ... hope you will join us in 2023 to tune up your game.

# Branch Activities



## Mexican Train Dominos Richard Madden

Mexican Train" is a domino game which uses a set of Double Twelve Dominoes. From 2 to 8 can play. Each player draws 11 to 15 dominoes. The number of dominoes each player draws depends on the number of players. The object of the game is to play all your dominoes. When you draw your hand, you set it up so that the adjacent dominoes match. During the play of a round there are things that can derail your train so that you cannot play. This can make the game very interesting and a lot of FUN!

We normally meet at 10:00 AM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Church of Christ located at 500 Minert Road, Walnut Creek.

We met in July and had six in attendance. Present were Gary Bonfiglio, Alex Lutkus, Richard Madden, Kirk McVean, John Riordan and Harry Sherinian. The scores ranged from 169 to 385. We had a close battle for high since we had scores of 375, 376 and 385.

Please email me and if you would like to talk and I can give you a call. Let me know if you would like to be put on our list.

You can contact Richard Madden, maddenram@sbcglobal.net or 925.788.4223



## SIR Golf Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

The Golf Website is: [branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)  
Please bookmark it in your "Favorites" list of websites to access information on the following:

- Annual Golf Schedule: Dates, times, and courses as well as detailed information on costs, payment information, deadlines, and special event facts.
- 18-Hole Pairings: Shows captains, teams, starting times & handicaps for next event.

- 18-Hole Leaders and Results: Shows results from recent events and leaders in each group.
- Paid-In-Advance Sign-Ups: Shows checks that have been received for the next 3-4 pre-paid outings.

Boundary Oak Sign-Ups: Shows who has signed-up for the next two Boundary Oak sessions.

### August 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 02	10:00 AM	Pleasanton GC	Marty Katz
Wed. 09	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 16	10:00 AM	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 23	10:00 AM	Dublin Ranch	Marty Katz
Wed. 30	10:00 AM	Shadow Lakes	Tony de Grassi

### August 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 07	9:40 AM	Boundary Oak	Neil Schmidt
Mon. 14	9:40 AM	Boundary Oak	Phil Goff
Tues. 22	9:36 AM	Chardonnay	Phil Goff
Mon. 28	10:02AM	Rancho Solano	Phil Goff

### Tip for Faster Golf

Start preparing your thoughts before you get to your ball. You can generally know what club you will need and the strategy before you get to the ball.

This will help get you into a routine and aid to increase the pace of play.

