



SIR Branch 116 Newsletter November 2023

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

Message from Roger

Another new member recruitment effort was recently conducted at the Shadelands Farmers Market in Walnut Creek. We handed out many trifolds and talked to many people who expressed an interest in SIRs. It is too early to tell if our efforts resulted in new members .



Many thanks to Gary Bonfiglio, Alan Pope, Paul Russell, Jeff Johnson and Tony DeGrassi who participated in our recruiting efforts.

We are asking for your early response to our annual Holiday Party. A really fun evening is planned. Knowing a response number early helps significantly in the planning. Sign up TODAY.

Our November luncheon will honor our veterans. If you have a picture on file great. If not, send one right away to Neil Schmidt. I know I like seeing what I looked like way back when.

Halloween has just passed and we are starting to think about Thanksgiving.

What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter ?

Quack, Quack !.

Roger Craig, Big SIR



**Sign up now for our
always fabulous & fun
Holiday Party
on Dec. 13th**

Next Year (2024)

Annual Membership Dues - \$15.00

Luncheon Cost - \$37.00

Golf 18 Hole - \$70.00

Golf 9 Hole - \$24.00

NOTE- There will be a three (3) luncheon attendance requirement in 2024

**Next Meeting
Nov. 20 @ Boundary
Oak, 11:30 AM**

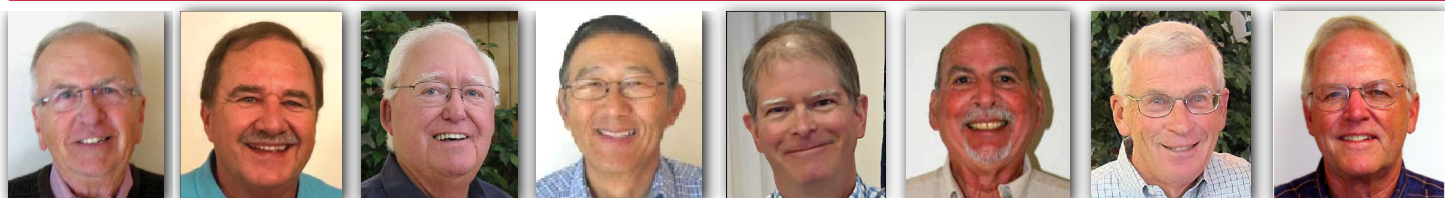
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Trampas Topics

Call 925-322-1318
or email to
luncheon116@gmail.com
by the Monday
prior to the meeting
to cancel your
standing
reservation.

2023 SIR Branch Officers



Big SIR Roger Craig	Little SIR Alan Pope	Treasurer Jeff Johnson	Asst. Treas. Al Satake	Asst. Treas. Charlie Guthrie	Secretary Paul Ramacciotti	Asst. Sec. Greg Hughes	Member.Sec. 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	Bob Huck	
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	Jeff Johnson	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	Harry Oberle	Phil Goff
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	Jeff Johnson	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

November 2023

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Brentwood)	2	3 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Walnut Creek Civic Park)	4
5 Walking Tour	6 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	7	8 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) Mexican Train (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	9	10 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ San Miguel Park)	11 Veterans Day
12	13 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	14 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door,	15 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Buchanan Fields)	16 Wine-O-SIR (4:00@ Havlik Home) Fishing Group (8:30@ Diablo Creek) Book Group 2 (11:00@ Ygnacio Valley Library)	17 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Lafayette Community Ctr.)	18
19	20 SIR Br. 116 Luncheon (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	21 18-Hole Golf (9:27@ Rancho Solano)	22 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Dublin Ranch) \$ums Investment (1:30 via Zoom)	23 Thanksgiving 	24 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (No event)	25
26	27 Book Group 1 (10:15@ Orinda Books) 18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Tilden)	28 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	29 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Shadow Lakes)	30		



Branch Administration



Branch Membership
Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 188

Dave Carlson Passed away on 9/29/23
Jim Wilson Transferred to San Ramon Br.

November Birthdays

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

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Norm Alberts | 6. Art Donaldson |
| 2. Bob Anderson | 7. Bill Hayes |
| 3. Bob Campbell | 8. JJ Johnson |
| 4. Bob Conlon | 9. Phil Perrelli |
| 5. Steve Croshal | 10. Neil Schmidt |

2024 Newsletter Hardcopy Subscription Due

If you are receiving, or wish to receive, a hardcopy of the Trampas Topics newsletter mailed to your home each month, the 2024 subscription fee of \$20 is due. Send your check, made-out to "SIR Branch 116", to our Treasurer: Jeff Johnson at 3906 Quail Ridge Rd., Lafayette, 94549.

SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site
branch116.org

Branch 116 Golf
branch116golf.org

Branch 116 Shopping Cart
sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site

SIR Happenings State Newsletter
sirinc.org/newsletters/



Treasury Report
Jeff Johnson, Treasurer

	10/31/23	2023 YTD
Beg Bal 2023		\$ 10,996.81
Contributions	\$ 13,669.12	\$ 80,418.87
Disbursements	\$ (13,657.09)	\$ (81,520.32)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ 2.03	\$ (1,101.45)
October Cash Balance		\$ 9,895.35

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

REMINDER

All members have a standing reservation for each luncheon. Call 925-322-1318 or email to luncheon116@gmail.com

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

In Memoriam

Linton (Dave) Carlson

June 9, 1940 - Sept. 29, 2023

Branch Activities

SIR Branch 116
Wednesday, December 13th



Holiday Party



Boundary Oak, 3800 Valley Vista Rd., Walnut Creek

No host bar Social Hour will start at 5:30 PM and Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM
House red/white wine @ \$5/glass or \$20/bottle; bar well drinks @ \$5.00, corkage \$15

Entertainment by the **BARBERSHOP QUARTET TEAM HARMONY** followed by DJ for dancing (8:30 to 10 PM).

Cost, just **\$65.00** per person, tax, tip. Sign up early as maximum seats at 200
(Golf cart pick up provided from/to parking lots)



Dinner Menu

Appetizers: Crab Cakes, Spring Rolls, and Citrus Marinated Prawns with mango and chili glaze

Sunburst Salad: with baby greens, seasonal berries, oranges, gorgonzola cheese & poppy seed dressing

Entrée: Choice of:
1. Seared Marinated Bistro Fillet with caramelized shallot au jus
2. Herb & Potato Crusted Chicken Breast
3. Butter Nut Squash Ravioli with Brown Butter & Sun Dried Cranberries

Dessert: Tiramisu (Served with coffee, decaf or tea)

(cut)-----(cut)

Holiday Party
Reservation (**Deadline December 1st**)

NAME: _____

Entrée Selection: Steak ___ Chicken ___ Vegetarian ___

NAME: _____

Entrée Selection: Steak ___ Chicken ___ Vegetarian ___

E-Mail _____ No. Attending: ___ x \$65 = \$ _____

Please pay by SIR Branch 116 Shopping Cart System (use "Shopping Cart" button on our Branch website at branch116.org) or, pay by check, (make check to: SIR Branch 116 and mail your reservation/ check to: Alan Pope, 229 Nob Hill Dr. Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596-6708. Call or email Alan if you have any questions. 925-899-0563 or apope4125@gmail.com)

Process: Sign in at registration table and pick up envelope with name tag, table tags, dinner selection. For table selection arrive early and place table tags provided at desired table.

SIR Luncheon

Speaker for November Meeting

Mark Trisha - Winemaking in the Tri-Valley area starting in 1840 and developing to what it is today.



Little SIR Report

Allan Pope

Thank you all for attending the October luncheon. Our speaker, John Geoghegan, a former New York Times special correspondent and now author of the non-fiction novel "When Giants Ruled the Sky", presented a fascinating local history of rigid airships, specifically the Macon, built right here at Moffett Field in the Bay Area. He discussed the construction, successes and difficulties with rigid airships and brought to life the people who built and flew the "giants of the sky."

Congratulations to Marty Katz the birthday boy who

won the free lunch. Our November luncheon speaker is Mark Triska representing the Livermore Valley Wine Growers. He owns and runs Triska Crane Ridge Vineyards, located at the southwest corner of Tesla Road and Greenville Road, just west of Poppy Ridge Golf Course. He will tell us about winemaking in the Tri-Valley area starting in 1840 and developing to what it is today.

Remember to sign up for the Holiday Party, which is be on December 13.

Br. 116 Veteran Video

We want a photo of you in your military uniform



Photo is to be used for a SIR Br.116 Veterans Video celebration at our November Luncheon. If you haven't already submitted a photo, send one via email to: TrampasTopics@gmail.com. Also indicate the approximate year and location.

**The Clubhouse at
Boundary Oak**

Luncheon Menu

Monday, November 20th

Salad

Mandarin Orange Salad

Spinach Salad, Parmesan, Raisins, Poppyseed Dressing

Entrées

Oven Roasted Turkey

Creamy Smashed Potatoes, Carrots, Turkey Gravy

Or

Lemon Herb Baked Cod

Creamy Smashed Potatoes, Carrots, Zesty Lemon Garlic Sauce

Vegetarian

Creamy Tuscan Ravioli

Butternut Squash Ravioli in a Creamy Sundried Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Pumpkin Pie with Vanilla Whipped Cream

Branch Activities



November Speaker & Author John J Geoghegan talking about The History of Rigid Airships



Recruitment Booth at Walnut Creek Farmers Market on October 14th



Travel Jeff Johnson

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. Contact Joe Salamida 408-767-2838. ascreenman756@gmail.com

Princess 11 Nigh Inside Passage Cruise from San Francisco Rt Alaska May 26 – June 6, 2024. Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway AK and Victoria, Canada. Cabins start \$2590 pp to \$3322 pp double occupancy SIR 143 Contact John Cardoza 209-483-7722 or johncardoza@hotmail.com

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. Contact Glenn Breslin 925-288-6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

THIS TRIP now cancelled...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. Contact Glenn Breslin 925-288-6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

Get the Current SIR Br. 116 Roster

The online SIR Branch 116 Roster is updated each month and includes all our new 2023 members. The Roster is password protected and you need the secret password access the information. If you don't know or remember the secret password, contact our Membership Secretary Phil Goff.

How to Get the Roster:

The online Roster is in the "Member Info" section of our Branch website (www.branch116.org) and the Username is "WalnutCreekBranch" (The Username is not a secret but the Password is).

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, October 30...“The Piano Tuner” by Mason
- Monday, November 27...“Chip War” by Miller

Book Group #1 met on Monday, October 2, 2023 at Orinda Books to discuss “The Wager” by David Grann. The title refers to a ship in the British navy which in 1741 wrecked on an island off the Patagonian coast. And yes, the subtitle, “A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder” certainly covers some of the themes of the book. We learned of the appalling shipboard conditions of the mid - eighteenth century during a cruise which had a most ambitious goal of assailing a Spanish naval squadron. Of the 250 men and boys who sailed with the Wager, only 32 returned to England, 29 from a

group packed into a jury-rigged boat and three in a separate band captured and released by the Spanish. Back in England these two groups confronted each other in a court martial. (The Admiralty Court conveniently ducked the issues.)

Steve Bort recommended the book while Richard Black led the discussion with no fewer than 16 SIRs including Todd Berman, Garrett Girvan, Peter Loew, Mac McLoughlin, Mike Schneider, Dick Kauffman, Richard White, Paul Freitas, Tim Tinnes, Art Donaldson, John Kopchik, Jim Flessner, Dan Renke, and alas for the last time because he is moving to Las Vegas, Richard Rossland. The group awarded the book 4.1 stars.

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



Celebrating Branch 116’s Past Big SIR’s at October Luncheon

(Art Donaldson, Carlos Xavier, Marty Katz, Paul Ramacchiotti, Bob Donohue, Jerry Hicks, Bill Hayes, Ron Armijo, Sam Beret, Michael Barrington, Neil Schmidt)



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!!**

Branch Activities



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, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator 510-207-7067. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on **Thursday, November 16th** at 8:30am. Come early. Remember in November and December we change to the **THIRD Thursday!**

Well we've been scuppered. Not only is salmon closed, but nearshore rockfish, a staple this time of year has also been closed by our Fish and Game

commission. Now we must go out for 3 hours to get deep enough for rock fish, and the ocean has been turbid and windy from incoming storms. OH! WOE IS US!!! Paul Dubow travelled all the way to Wisconsin to fish for walleye pike and bass. Stan Wong caught some stripers in the delta. And Nick Jabuka and his grandchildren had a blast catching and returning little stripers at the Antioch pier. Carl Moyer caught sand dabs from the ocean, and catfish from San Pablo Reservoir. Our crab season, usually open in November, may be delayed because of the presence of whales. The price of fishing tackle is near rock bottom.



Bridge

Jon Dickson

We had 16, four tables, for bridge on October 10th, with Ben Bryce coming in first with 4,710 points, and a tie for second between Denny Morrissey and Dennis Snarr, each with 4250 points. Winning that extra trick does pay off, if you make it.

Then on October 24th, with 18 players attending,

Ron Banducci swept the field with 5,470 points with Jon Dickson a far second with 4,340 points.

We play, plus have lunch, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon starting at 10:30 in the morning. If you enjoy bridge, please do join us.



Alan Pope celebrating a Hole-In-One on the 17th Hole at Boundary Oak on October 9th



Dan Renke Reciving Senior SIR-90 Year Presidential Award from Big SIR Roger Craig

Branch Activities



Bocce
Paul Russell

We've had a great season of Bocce Ball in 2023, we played 15 matches beginning on April 13th and ending on the 26th of October. I'd like to thank everybody that participated and made for such an enjoyable time during my tenure as activity Chairman. We had three teams of ten and one team of nine playing this year and we're always looking for new players to join us.

Bob Huck will be the new Chairman next year taking

my place, so you can email him if you'd like to join this activity next year. Oh, we'll also be looking for an assistant chairman if anyone would like to volunteer.

We have been playing at the Clayton Courts at the corner of Main St. and Oak St. in downtown Clayton. We play every other Thursday beginning in early April through the end of October.



Book Exchange
Dick Kauffman

BOOK EXCHANGE NEED BOOKS

The Book Exchange is doing so well that we need more books. It seems that more books are going out than coming in. And we could use a refresher of different, newer books. Please take a look at those books in your house that are just sitting around and need to be put into the SIRS circulation. The Book Exchange is used by many of the members of SIR 116 and if you haven't tried exchanging a book it is quite easy. All you need to do is bring a book and take a book or if you didn't bring a book, take one and bring one to the next luncheon.

All of us "Book Sherpas" are happy to provide this service to you and hope that you enjoy it.



Walking Tours
Greg Hughes

On Sunday, November 5, 2023, Walking Tours activity is visiting the Treasure Island complex. The tour starts at 10 AM in the Art Deco Building 1, 1 Avenue of Palms, San Francisco, CA, 94130. This building was originally designed as the air terminal for Pan America Airways during the years of the Clipper flights across the Pacific (1938-1945). Before entering the building participants will see the 4 Pacific Unity Sculptures. Once inside, they will view TI Naval History Mural, 251 feet wide. The free TI Museum presents the "You Are Here: The Story of Treasure Island" exhibit. The Exhibit explains how the island has been used for public and military roles. Lastly, the participants will enjoy 1 hour slide lectures covering the 1939-40 Golden Gate

International Exposition. Everything is in color and you will see GGIE as it was in 1939. The presentation is being done by Ms Anne Schnoebelen, Vice President, TI Museum. The cost for the presentation is \$15 per person.

Lunch is at the very popular Mersea Restaurant, <https://www.mersea.restaurant/menu>, which faces the San Francisco downtown skyline.

If you wish to participate in this event please contact Greg Hughes (925) 998-5650, greghughes505@gmail.com by Wednesday, October 18.

Greg Hughes
(925) 998-5650

Branch Activities



Book Group 2

Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met October 19 to discuss The Lost City of the Monkey Gods by Douglas Preston. Nine members were in attendance and rated the book 3.6/5.

The book is about a five-hundred-year-old legend. An ancient curse. A stunning medical mystery. And a pioneering journey into the unknown heart of the world's densest jungle.

Since the days of conquistador Hernán Cortés, rumors have circulated about a lost city of immense wealth hidden somewhere in the Honduran interior, called the White City or the Lost City of the Monkey God. Indigenous tribes speak of ancestors who fled there to escape the Spanish invaders, and they warn that anyone who enters this sacred city will fall ill and die. In 1940, swashbuckling journalist Theodore Morde returned from the rainforest with hundreds of artifacts and an electrifying story of having found the Lost City of the Monkey God-but then committed suicide without revealing its location.

Three quarters of a century later, in 2015, author Doug Preston joined a team of scientists on a groundbreaking new quest. In 2012 he climbed aboard a rickety, single-engine plane carrying the machine that would change everything: lidar, a highly advanced, classified technology that could map the terrain under the densest rainforest canopy.

In an unexplored valley ringed by steep mountains, that flight revealed the unmistakable image of a sprawling metropolis, tantalizing evidence of not just an undiscovered city but an enigmatic, lost civilization.

Venturing into this raw, treacherous, but breathtakingly beautiful wilderness to confirm the discovery, Preston and the team battled torrential rains, quickmud, disease-carrying insects, jaguars, and deadly snakes. But it wasn't until they returned home that tragedy struck: Preston and others found they had contracted in the ruins a horrifying, sometimes lethal-and incurable-disease called leishmaniasis.

Our next meeting is **Thursday, November 16**, 11 AM, at new location Boundary Oaks Country Club. Details to follow.

Due to the Christmas holidays we will not hold a December meeting.

Members selected two books to discuss at our January 18, 2024 meeting: Ben Franklin: An American Life by Walter Isaacson and A Fever in the Heartland by Timothy Egan.

Contact Scott Clark for more information, 925-998-4553.



Dine-O-SIR

Jerry Hicks

Columbus Day was an appropriate day for Dine-O-Sir's to enjoy dining at Jeff Assidi's La Finestra, an exceptional Italian bistro in central Contra Costa. Although Moraga is a further distance for some of our Sirs, it's worthwhile for the three delicious courses at a reasonable cost. The ambiance for the sixty-one diners, with background piano-playing during the social hour, was warm and relaxing. It was 13 years ago, in October, 2010, when our Dine-O-Sir's had dinner at La Finestra when it was located in Lafayette. Those who attended our 2023 Moraga dinner are recommending a return for Dine-O-Sir or suggest it for your special dining- out evenings.

La Finestra was the final curtain for 2023, preceded by five special outings: January Brunch, and a good variety of dinners at Maguey's, Three Brothers from China, Hazy BBQ, and the Brass Door. Your committee has again recommended a January Sunday brunch to debut for 2024. When dining out with your friends and families for the holidays, consider one of our restaurants and let them know of our Dine-O-Sirs.

Dine-O-Sir Committee: Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Mike Yale.

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 October and had six in attendance. Those present were Gary Bonfiglio, Earl Gore, guest, Alex Lutkus ,Richard Madden, Kirk McVean, and Harry Sherinian. Their scores ranged from 216 to 402. We congratulate Gary Bonfiglio with his score of 216 as the first place winner.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **November 8th** at 10:00am.

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



Wine-O-SIR David Havlik

The next WINE-O-SIRS wine tasting will take place at 4:00 PM on **November 16th** and will be hosted by Dave and Judy Havlik. In a break from California

vino, we will be sampling wines and appetizers from a few of the many wine regions of Spain, including Rioja and Jumilla.



Gail and Dick Breitwieser and JoAnn Dowe



Gary Boswell and Jim Johnson

\$UMS Investment Tom Henry (Br. 174)

Due to the holidays, we won't meet in November. We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on **Tuesday December 5** at 1:30 PM. Please adjust your

calendars. The topic will be announced.

Email Dave Sutton at to be included at omhenry925@gmail

Branch Activities



Golf Clinic Chris Doan

The 2023 Clinic schedule was completed in September so we are currently on a winter break. We will offer a classroom session on Course Management during the winter and plan to start the 2024 Clinic series in the spring.

During the break, our Clinic Pro, Pete Asselin, who supports the SIRs Clinic is available for private lessons at a discounted rate of \$60/hr. Contact him directly at adub1816@yahoo.com for an appointment.

How to register and participate in 2024::

- Start by getting on the Clinic email list. Send request to 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 2024 to tune up your game.

FORE!



Amiable Amblers John Riordan

October walkers included Todd Berman, Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Steve Bort, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Al & Nancy Farbman, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Dan & Andrea Green, Essie Naddaf, John & Gail Riordan, Brad Stribling, Tim Tinnes, and Joel & Susan White.

On October 8 we walked along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail from the Olympic Blvd Staging Area, with a post-walk gathering at Starbucks. Richard Black led the October 13 walk along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail from the Moraga Commons, with a post-walk gathering at the Moraga Town Bakery and Café. On October 20 we walked east along the Contra Costa Canal Trail from the Countrywood Shopping Center, with a post-walk gathering (minus coffee) at Panera Bread. On October 27 we walked north along the Iron Horse Trail from the trailhead at Stone Valley Rd West, with a post-walk gathering at Peet's Coffee.

The November walks will begin at 9:00AM. On **November 3** we will meet at the Walnut Creek Civic

Center Park and walk north on the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at Caffe La Scala. On **November 10** we will meet at San Miguel Park and walk east along the Ignacio Canal Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Countrywood Black Bear Diner. On **November 17** we will meet at the Lafayette Community Center and walk southwest along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Moraga Town Bakery and Café. There will be **no walk on November 24** because of the proximity of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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 or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.



Branch Activities



SIR Golf

Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

The Golf Website is: 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.

2024 SIR Golf Dues

It is time to renew your membership with the SIR Branch 116 Golf Club.

There are three options for you:

Option 1) Cost: \$70

18-Hole Golf with an NCGA membership. Allows you to play all 18 and 9 hole events and includes membership in the NCGA, giving you an GHIN / USGA number to post scores. The Branch 116 Golf membership is \$24 and the 2024 NCGA dues is \$46.

Option 2) Cost: \$24

18-Hole Golf membership. Allows you to play all 18 and 9-hole events, but you must have an active NCGA membership with another club.

Option 3) Cost: \$24

9-Hole Golf membership. Allows you to play all 9-hole events. No NCGA membership is required.

Credit card payment will be available for all three options. Go to the SIR Branch main website and

look to the right side and click the "SHOPPING CART" tile. Then, click the "2024 Annual Golf Renewal" tile. From there, you can select which option you wish to pay for.

If you prefer, you can bring your check (no cash) to the SIR luncheon on October 16.

Or, you can send a check to the Golf post office box.
SIR BRANCH 116 GOLF
PO Box 683
Lafayette, CA 94549-0683

The deadline for joining the 2024 Golf Club is December 1, 2023. If you are currently a member of SIR Branch 116 18-hole or 9-hole golf club, and you do NOT wish to renew, please let David Harris know.

If you have any questions, please e-mail David Harris at DcHa65@gmail.com, or call him at 925 672-5543.

You Can Help to Improve the Pace of Play

For both tee shots and fairway shots (and if need be for putting), just go. While it's proper to have the person farthest away hit first, time can be saved over a round by whomever is "ready" to go ahead and hit.

November 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 01	10:00 AM	Brentwood	D.McClaughry
Wed. 08	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 15	10:00 AM	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 22	10:00 AM	Dublin Ranch	Marty Katz
Wed. 29	10:00 AM	Shadow Lakes	Tony de Grassi

November 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 06	9:40 AM	Boundary Oak	Harry Oberle
Mon. 13	9:40 AM	Boundary Oak	Harry Oberle
Tues. 21	9:27 AM	Rancho Solano	Harry Oberle
Mon. 27	9:30 AM	Tilden	Harry Oberle