



SIR Branch 116 Newsletter December 2024

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

Message from Alan

As the year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the privilege of representing you as Big SIR over the past year. Together, each of us has shared memorable moments and supported one another through challenges and triumphs alike. I extend my deepest gratitude to our volunteers, whose dedication and hard work have been the cornerstone of our success. Your commitment has made a difference and enriched the lives of everyone involved.



The advantages of being a member of SIRS are not only staying active by participating in the activities we have going but also the opportunity to make new friends. It is truly a blessing to make new friends that enrich our lives. Whether it's playing golf, bocce ball, pickle ball, Mexican train, or bridge, making new connections expands our opportunities for mutual support, shared experiences, and diverse perspectives. Ultimately, forming friendships fosters a sense of belonging, making life more enjoyable and fulfilling. Friendship is what keeps us together.

There's an Irish proverb that says: "A good friend is like a four-leaf clover; hard to find and lucky to have." I believe that being a SIR provides each of us the opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy our lives.

The Holiday Party is Tuesday, December 17. This event provides another opportunity to get together once again as a group along with our spouses and partners to enjoy the holidays with friends. Check out the flyer in our December Newsletter.

Being at the start of the holiday season, I also want to wish each of you the joy and togetherness with your loved ones. With Paul Russell as the Big SIR next year, may the coming year bring new opportunities and continued growth for our group. Thank you all for being part of this journey. It has been an honor to serve as your representative. Warm regards and happy holidays.

Alan Pope, Big SIR

Next Meeting

Jan. 20, 2025 @
Boundary Oak,
11:30 AM

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Trampas Topics



**There is just enough
time to signup for the
December 17th
Holiday Party**



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

2024 SIR Branch Officers



Big SIR Alan Pope	Little SIR Paul Russell	Treasurer Charlie Guthrie	Asst. Treas. Al Satake	Secretary Paul Ramacciotti	Asst. Sec. Dan Lawrence	Membership Phil Goff	Asst. Memb. Neil Schmidt
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2024 SIR Branch Directors



Don Benioff	Gary Bonfiglio	Jeff Johnson	Sam Beret	Roger Craig	Dave Williams
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2024 Support Chairmen

RAMP Department Heads

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| • Recruitment | Don Schroeder |
| • Activities | Mike Ward |
| • Member Relations | Sam Beret |
| • Publicity | Robin Lemmo |

Branch Support Chairmen

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Audit Committee | Ron Armijo |
| • Nominating Committee | Roger Craig |
| • Sunshine Committee | Open |
| • 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 | Dennis Snarr |
| • 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 | Paul Russell |

2024 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
Chess	Gary Bonfiglio	
Community Service	Jeff Johnson	TBA
Computer & Tech	Neil Schmidt	Phil Goff
Dine-O-SIR	Jerry Hicks	
Fishing	Harry Sherinian	Terry Miller
Golf—18 Hole	Bernie Wroblewski	Ed Lichtig
Golf—9 Hole	Dick Chaffee	D. McLaughry
Golf—Treasurer	Harry Oberle	
Golf—Carmel	Phil Goff	
Golf—Clinic	Chris Doan	
Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
Parties	Paul Russell	TBA
Pickleball	Ed Solomon	Gary Bonfiglio
Poker	Open	
\$ums Investment	Dave Sutton, Br.8	
Sunshine	Open	
Theater	Terry Sherman	
Travel	Open	
Walking Tours	Greg Hughes	Jim Tamulski
Wine-O-SIR	Dave Havlik	

Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities

Astronomy	Larry Lange (Br. 8)	925-254-6281
Bowling	Dan Weller (Br. 8)	925-935-5510
Cycling	Larry Kaye (Br.8)	925-698-4030
Digital Photography	Meng Horng (Br. 8)	309-287-5654
Men's Hearts Cards	Bob West (146)	925-518-8472

Monthly Activities Calendar

December 2024

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	3	4 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Dublin Ranch)	5	6 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00 Countrywood Shopping Ctr.)	7
8	9 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	10 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	11 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) Mexican Train (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	12 Dine-O-SIR (10:30 @ Lone Tree GC) Community Service (9:00@ White Pony Express)	13 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ WC Civic Park) Chess (1:00@ PH Senior Ctr.)	14
15	16 18-Hole Golf (10:00@ Dublin Ranch)	17  Holiday Party (5:30@ Boundary Oak)	18 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Skylinks)	19 Fishing Group (8:30@ Diablo Creek)	20 Pickleball (7:30@ Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Osage Station Park)	21
22	23 18-Hole Golf (No golf)	24	25  Christmas	26	27 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (No walk) Chess (1:00@ PH Senior Ctr.)	28
29	30 18-Hole Golf (9:35@ San Ramon) Book Group 1 (10:15@! Orinda Books)	31 				



Branch Administration



Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 188		
Name	Action	Sponsor
Eric McNamara	New Member	Don Schroeder
Doug Aalders	Resigned	Health Issues
Mike Howard	Resigned	
Terry Fleming	Resigned	Health Issues



Treasury Report

Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

	22-Nov.	2024 YTD
Beg Bal 2024		\$ 11,222.12
Contributions	\$ 4,662.00	\$ 63,137.49
Disbursements	\$ (4,187.73)	\$ (65,134.32)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ 474.27	\$ (1,996.83)
November Cash Balance		\$ 9,225.29

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/

If you can't attend luncheon,
please email
luncheon116@gmail.com or
call 925-322-1318

December Birthdays

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

1. John Alonso	7. Lou Johnson
2. Allan Chasnoff	8. Walt Kawecki Jr.
3. Jim Gleason	9. John Kopchik Jr.
4. Kirk Harding	10. Ed Solomon
5. David Harris	11. Jim Tamulski
6. Larry Heaton	12. Vince Yamamoto

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)

Branch Executive Committee (BEC) Minutes - Summary

Meeting of November 18, 2024

- Financial: Branch cash balance as of 10-1-24 is \$9,893.34.
- Annual dues: 179 of our 188 members have paid 2024 dues as of 10-1-24.
- Luncheon: 105 attendees were submitted for the November Luncheon.
- Membership: Current active membership is 188. One new member was introduced.
- Honoring our Veterans: Neil Schmidt showed a 6-minute video honoring each of our branch's

veterans. In addition, Joel White shared his experiences as an Army physician while stationed in Okinawa during Vietnam.

- Activities: 22 activities are operating during March. Three activities are still in need of a chairperson: poker, travel & sunshine. Computer and Technology activity holds monthly meetings via Zoom.
- March Guest Speaker: Mr. Lawrence Striley, Reporter of Decisions for the State Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Branch Activities



Holiday Party

SIR Branch 116

Tuesday, December 17



Social Hour at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM.

Entertainment by the **FOG CITY SINGERS** followed by DJ for dancing.

Free Christmas
Photos!!

Wine \$5/glass
Well Drinks \$5

Dinner Menu

Appetizers: Crab Cakes, Spring Rolls, and Pulled Pork Sliders

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

Entrée Choices:

- Seared Marinated Bistro Fillet with caramelized shallot au jus
- Herb & Potato Crusted Chicken Breast
- Four Cheese & Spinach Cannelloni with tomato basil sauce (Vegetarian)

Dessert: Tiramisu (Served with coffee, regular and decaf, and tea)

Holiday Party Reservation (Deadline December 6th)

NAME: _____ Selection: Steak ___ Chicken ___ Vegetarian ___

NAME: _____ Selection: Steak ___ Chicken ___ Vegetarian ___

E-Mail _____ No. Attending: ___ x \$85 = \$ _____

Pay by credit card by using "Shopping Cart" button on our Branch website at branch116.org
or by check — make check payable to SIR Branch 116 and mail to:

SIR Charlie Guthrie, 3136 Serene Court, Richmond, CA 94803-1930.

Questions? Call or email Paul Russell at (925) 207-0784 or peruz@att.net

Luncheon Speaker



Little SIR
Paul Russell

2024 has been a very fun, busy, active and entertaining year for all us at SIR. We had fun events such as The Spring Fling in May at Byron Park and will have our Branch116 Holiday Party on the 17th of next month. So don't forget to sign up for it.

This year we've had loads of fun taking part in Golf (both 18 hole and 9 hole), Bridge, Book Clubs 1 & 2, Bocce ball, Pickleball, Wine-O-Sirs, Dine-O-Sirs, Mexican Train Dominoes, Community Service, Amblers Walking Group and more that I can't think of at the moment.



HELP WANTED FROM A SIR MEMBER SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

The Membership Recruiting Task Force is seeking help in engaging Social Media as a tool to spread the word about SIRs with the objective of attracting new members in the demographics that use those platforms. Are you an experienced social media coordinator or have the skill set that can help in identifying appropriate social media platforms and how to best utilize them to achieve our objective. If so, please contact Jeff Johnson at jeffjohnson9000@att.net or 415-652-4840.

2024 Veterans Video

If you missed the "2024 Veterans Video" honoring our branch veterans that was shown at our November luncheon, you can view it by selecting the "Play Video" button in the Member Info tab of our website (www.branch116.org).

Get a Hardcopy of Your 2025 Newsletter

If you wish to receive, a hardcopy of the Trampas Topics newsletter mailed to your home each month, the 2025 subscription fee of \$20. Send your check, made-out to "SIR Branch 116", to our Treasurer: Charlie Guthrie at 3136 Serene Ct., Richmond, CA 94803.

SIR Computer & Technology

The SIR Computer & Technology groups next Zoom meeting will be on January 7, 2025 at 10:00 AM.



The topic for this meeting will be "Backing Up Your Computer" by Fred Wachowicz.

If you haven't already signed up for the Computer & Tech mailing list, send a request to: technologyforSIR@gmail.com

Branch Administration



New Member Eric McNamara with Sponsor don Schroeder



Member Joel White discussing his experience as a veteran



Luncheon speaker Lawrence Striley discussing the court system



Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

The Book Exchange continues to provide free books on an exchange basis for SIR members. All of us Sherpas hope that you are utilizing and enjoying our service .

Wishing all of you Happy Holidays.



Sherpas Art Donaldson and John Riordan bringing books for the Book Exchange

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>

Branch Administration



November Branch Executive Committee meeting

Anyone interested in what is going on with our Branch should attend a meeting sometime (9:15 AM on Luncheon meeting day)



Wine-O-SIR David Havlik

The WINE-O-SIRS had our final wine tasting event of the year on November 21st, hosted by Dick and Gail Breitwieser. Dick chose Spanish wines as the theme for this tasting, and his selections led us through four very different wine regions of Spain, including Priorat, Montsant, Ribera del Duero, and

Rioja. Many of the grapes used to make these wines differed from what we normally drink, with Granacha, Samsó/Carinena, Tempranillo and Carignon taking their place alongside Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. It made for a very delightful and educational evening.



Chess Gary Bonfiglio

New Branch Activity-CHESS

Chess, a new joint branch activity with BR 8, 116, 146 was formed a couple months ago. They meet every second and fourth Fridays at Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, PH. We play in the Game Room Noon to 3 pm in the afternoon.

We welcome any one from beginners to expert players. Please remember to bring your chess set

and any beverage you will enjoy during the activity. As we go forward, you will need to become a member of PH Senior Center for a modest fee of \$20 per year. Any questions, contact Gary Bonfiglio of our branch at 925-330-9612. crlbonfiglio@yahoo.com. Still looking for players from our branch!!!

Branch Activities



Book Group 2 Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met Thursday, November 21 to discuss Hamnet, by Maggie O'Farrell. The group voted the book 4.6/5. A brief summary below:

HAMNET

Drawing on Maggie O'Farrell's long-term fascination with the little-known story behind Shakespeare's most enigmatic play, Hamnet is a luminous portrait of a marriage, at its heart the loss of a beloved child.

Warwickshire in the 1580s. Agnes, William Shakespeare's wife, is a woman as feared as she is sought after for her unusual gifts. Agnes settles with her husband, William, on Henley Street, Stratford-on-Avon, and has three children: a daughter, Susanna, and twins, Hamnet and Judith. The boy, Hamnet, dies in 1596, aged eleven. Four years or so later, Shakespeare writes a play called

Hamlet.

Award-winning author Maggie O'Farrell's novel breathes full-blooded life into the story of a loss usually consigned to literary footnotes, and provides an unforgettable vindication of Agnes, a woman intriguingly absent from history.

Book Club 2, January 2025 Meeting

Our first meeting of 2025 will be **January 16, 2025 @ 11 am**, at Boundary Oaks Country Club, upper level/back of the club.

We will discuss The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson.

Questions? Contact Scott Clark, 925.998.4553



Bridge Jon Dickson

We are winding down our year of bridge, with one game left in 2024, on Tuesday, December 10th. We will not play a second game in December.

On November 12th, Jia Yee was first with 5,160 points, Gordon Gonsalves second with 4,440 points, Vince Yamamoto third at 4,130 points, Art Donaldson fourth with 3,910 points and Dicks Chaffee fifth with 3,530 points. Five tables, five prizes.

On November 26th, Art Donaldson was 1st with 3,720 points, Jai Yee 2nd with 3,520 points and David Williams 3rd with 3,250 points. Three table, three prizes. This game was the lowest scoring game of this year with an average score of 2,568 points.

We start our new year of lunch & bridge on Tuesday, January 14th at the Brass Door Restaurant. If you have an interest in bridge, do join us.



Bocce Bob Huck

We just finished our season on October 17. We had a great time being competitive, socializing, and having fun. After our last game we all had a lunch celebration at La Veranda Cafe in Clayton. We plan to continue again next year starting in April and

ending in October. We look forward to more players and more teams next year. Spouses and friends are welcome.

Bob Huck
bhuck10@sbcglobal.net

Branch Activities

Finding New Members

Are we enjoying SIR? The luncheons, and the speaker programs, and golf, and the book groups, and... of course we are! And bocce ball, and bridge, and... well, I don't need to sell you. But what about those who aren't with us? So many men out there need what we're enjoying, so we're reaching out to all those we can to draw them in to us!

We need YOU to be part of this! Word of mouth

invitation is always best. Talk to folks! Telephone folks! Take some of our 'recruiting cards' with you and hand them out. **Bring in guests!**

Oh... and the guest enjoys a free lunch, and if he becomes a member so do you! So everyone – do your part! It's for all of us!

Brad Stribling



Book Group 1 Rich Black

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books at Orinda Books at 10:15 am on the following dates.

- Monday, January 6 ... "The Emerald Mile" by Kevin Fedarko
- Monday, January 27 ... "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon
- Monday, February 24... "Isaac's Storm" by Eric Larson

Book Group #1 met on Monday November 25, 2024 at Orinda Books to discuss "James" by Percival Everett, a reimagining of the adventures of N.... Jim from Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn. On one level this is a quest by the protagonist to flee slavery, reunite with his wife and daughter and finally flee to the free state Iowa. On another it is a description of the psychological and physical pain of slavery. On

still a third, it illustrates the language of subjugation for both slave and slave holder. Various incidents in the book play off the characters and situations from Huckleberry Finn. The very different messages and nuances which the author gave these situations added much weight to our discussion.

Paul Freitas introduced the book while Richard Black led the discussion with John Riordan, Garrett Girvan, Peter Loew, Mac McLoughlan, Mike Schneider, Brad Stribling, Tim Tinnes, Steve Bort, Art Donaldson, Jim Flesner and Joel White. Book Club #1 awarded the book 3.8 stars for this novel which explored complex issues around 19th century life which continue to resonate.

Book Group #1 will not meet until January of 2025. Happy Holidays and we shall resume in 2025.



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, Phil Scimonelli 661-917-8060 and Harry Sherinian, 510-207-7067, 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, December 19th at 8:30am. Come early. REMEMBER, DECEMBER'S MEETING IS ON THE THIRD THURSDAY DUE TO CHRISTMAS!!!

20 of us chartered a party boat for rock fish and ling cod out the gate and got limits for all. 27 of us ate our fill at Carl's back yard fish fry. Although crab season started November first only Carl Moyer and Dennis Lee captured the clawed crustaceans and caught sand dabs on the same trip. Mike Corker and Tom Kostik enjoyed black and striped bass fishing in the delta. Eric Finson got some black bass in a small pond. Eric, Dennis Lee, Ken Bellendir, and Carl Moyer netted some trout at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir including a 5 pounder. Stan Wong got Stripers in the delta. Ron Lew and crew caught sharks and rays in the bay.

Branch Activities



Amiable Amblers John Riordan

November walkers included Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Dan & Andrea Green, Essie Naddaf, John & Gail Riordan, Brad & Winnie Stribling, Tim Tinnes, and Joel & Susan White.

On November 8 we walked north on the Iron Horse Trail from the Stone Valley Rd West trailhead, with a post-walk gathering at Peet's Coffee. On November 15 we walked south on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail from the Lafayette Community Center, with a post-walk gathering at the Moraga Town Bakery and Cafe. The November 22 walk was rained out, but we gathered at the Countrywood Black Bear Diner anyway for breakfast and conversation.

All December walks are scheduled to begin at 9:00AM, weather permitting. On **December 6** we will gather in front of Panera Bread in the Countrywood Shopping Center for a walk east on

the Contra Costa Canal Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at Panera Bread. On **December 13** we will gather at the Walnut Creek Civic Park for a walk north on the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Buttercup Diner. On **December 20** we will gather at Osage Station Park for a walk around the park and then south on the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Danville Black Bear Diner. No walk is scheduled for **December 27** because of its proximity to the Christmas holiday.

These walks are for individuals or couples; spouses and significant others are encouraged to participate, even when the member is unable to. SIR members, including those from other branches, wishing to join this congenial group or to be added to the email 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.



Pickleball Ed Solomon

Are you looking for a fun and engaging way to stay active, meet new friends, and enjoy some friendly competition? Look no further! Our Pickleball Activity Group is always welcoming new members, and we'd love for you to join us!

What is Pickleball?

Pickleball is a fast-paced racquet sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. It's easy to learn, making it perfect for players of all skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or a complete beginner, you'll find enjoyment and camaraderie on the court.

Why Join Us?

- Social Connections: Meet fellow enthusiasts and make lasting friendships.

- Health Benefits: Enjoy a great workout that improves agility, balance, and cardiovascular health.
- Fun Environment: Participate in friendly matches and group activities that promote teamwork and sportsmanship.

When and Where?

We meet every Friday morning at 7:30 AM at Heather Farm Park Tennis Center in Walnut Creek. Equipment is provided, so just bring your enthusiasm!

For more information contact Co-Chairs:

- Gary Bonfiglio- (925) 330-9612
- Ed Solomon---- (415) 215-2684

Branch Activities



Golf Clinic Chris Doan

The SIR Golf Clinic continues to support golfers of all skill levels with an opportunity to fine tune and improve your consistency and handicap. SIR Branches 116, 146 and 19 are all now participating in the Clinic. We will be offering clinics in 2025 starting in January with a

a Club House session on Course Management. Then in the spring and summer of 2025, a series of Clinics will be offered.

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 available for private lessons at a discounted rate of \$60/hr.

Skill Level: All from low handicappers to high handicappers

Clinic Fees: \$30 for one hour Clinic

How to register and participate:

- 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.

If you have other questions, feel free to contact me at any time.

Chris Doan
cdoan99@gmail.com
602-908-0292

My wife asked me what I was going to do today. I told her, "Nothing".



She said, "You did that yesterday". I said, "I wasn't finished".



Have a Merry Christmas!



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.

Contact Richard Madden, at maddenram@sbcglobal.net or 925.788.4223 for more info on the next meeting.

Branch Activities



Community Service Jeff Johnson

"If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be heard."

We had a great turn out at White Pone Express on November 21st, breaking down in-coming produce crates and packing for redistribution to food banks, kitchens and other worthy causes.

I am booking the Food Bank in advance next year. So far, we are committed to work at the Food Bank in Concord as follows:

- Thursday January 16th from 1:00 to 3:00
- Thursday March 20th from 1:00 to 3:00
- Friday May 16th from 9:00 to noon

In February, April and May, we will be working at White Pony Express or the following additional

opportunities – details on dates and times provided later:

- Salvation Army – pantry in Concord.
- First Place for Youth – collecting and kitting hygiene kits.

In December, we will be at the White Pony Express on Thursday the 12th at 9:00 AM.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Community Service Volunteer activity. Jeffjohnson9000@att.net or 415-652-4840

REMINDER!

Bring your food donations for the Food Bank barrel which will be located at the entrance to our lunch next Monday at Boundary Oaks.



Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

Ring in the New Year with Dine-O-SIR 10:30 AM Sunday Brunch

Happy New Year and celebrate 2025 with a sumptuous **Mimosa Sunday Brunch on January 12th** at Lone Tree Golf Club. We have a reserved area for an estimated 50 guests with seating at **10:30 AM**. Lone Tree has spacious



for many more; invite friends to join with us. Be prepared for good food, good service, and good views! Cost is **\$49.00** per person, inclusive. A Dine-O-SIR Flyer with information and reservations is included in this edition. Send reservations with checks to Jerry Hicks.

Happy Holidays by Dine-O-SIR Committee:
Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Mike Yale

Branch Activities



Dine-O-SIR *Sunday Mimosa Brunch* *January 12th, 2025*



At 10:30 AM

Lone Tee Golf Course
4800 Golf Course Road, Antioch
Overlooking the 18th green and lake
Cost of \$49.00 inclusive per person



Typical Buffet:
Mimosa and Juices
Pastries and Rolls
Fruits and Salads
Shrimp and Smoked Salmon
Eggs and Meats
Custom Omelet and
Prime Rib Carving Stations
Waffles and French Toast
Dessert Table
Coffee and Tea Served



SIR 116 Sunday 10:30 AM Mimosa Brunch at Lone Tree Golf Club, Antioch; January 12, 2025

Name: _____ **E-Mail** _____

Name: _____ **No. Attending** _____ **x \$49.00 = \$** _____

Check payable to: SIR Branch 116 Dining
Mail to: Jerry Hicks at 74 Amberwood Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
Call or e-mail if you have questions: C) 925-360-0447 or jerryhicks@astound.net

Branch Activities

2025 Annual Golf Membership Dues

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

There are three options for you:

Option 1) Cost: \$82

18-Hole Golf with an NCGA membership.

Option 2) Cost: \$36

18-Hole Golf membership with NCGA from elsewhere.

Option 3) Cost: \$36

9-Hole Golf membership only.

Go to the Golf website for more info:

<https://branch116golf.org/membership-faq/>

Pay via Shopping Cart (+3% added) or check at the November 18 Luncheon, or send check to:

SIR BRANCH 116 GOLF

PO Box 683

Lafayette, CA 94549-0683

The deadline for joining the 2025 Golf Club is December 1, 2024.

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.

Cruising With SIR Friends



In early November, several members of SIR Branch 116, along with their friends, embarked on a delightful cruise down the California coast. The 7-day Princess cruise began and concluded in San Francisco, with stops at Ensenada, San Diego, San Pedro, and Santa Barbara. Though the ports were

familiar, we discovered plenty of activities off the ship. The weather was fantastic, and we had a great time eating and socializing. If you enjoy fun trips with friends, we highly recommend it.

Lutkus, Boswell, Harris, Schneider and Goff

\$UMS Investment

Tom Henry (Br. 174)

Due to the holidays, there will be no \$UMS in Retirement Zoom meeting in November and the December.

Email Dave Sutton to be included or to learn the topics.

Chair: Tom Henry, Branch 174,
tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair: Dave Sutton, Branch 8,
davesutn@comcast.net

Branch Activities



SIR Golf

Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

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.

In addition to the Tournament format, Special Events such as Match Play, Best Ball, Scramble, and others are also periodically scheduled.

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 the Trampas Topics and on our web site at branch116.org/116-golf. Join up with us and enjoy outings with a great bunch of guys at some great courses with reasonable prices.



9-Hole Golf

Dick Chaffee

The 9 Hole Golf Club is open to SIR golfers of all levels. We play every Wednesday morning except holidays at 4 courses in the area. This year, each month, we are playing Pleasanton Golf Club, Diablo Hills, Buchanan Fields and Dublin Ranch. Our first tee time is 10:00am. Some months have a fifth Wednesday. On the fifth Wednesdays, we schedule

special 9 hole events at courses in the area.

If you would like to play 9 hole golf, please contact Dick Chaffee, the 9 hole golf chairman, (925)-932-5087.

If you would like more information on 9 hole golf, please visit our Branch 116 golf web site.

Golf Website

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.

December 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 04	10:00	Dublin Ranch	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 11	10:00	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 18	10:00	Skylinks	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 25		No golf	-

December 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 02	9:40	Boundary Oak	Dirk Meyer
Mon. 09	9:40	Boundary Oak	Dirk Meyer
Mon. 16	10:00	Dublin Ranch	Dirk Meyer
Mon. 23		No golf	-
Mon. 30	9:35	San Ramon	Dirk Meyer