



# SIR Branch 116 Newsletter May 2024

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

## Message from Alan

May I say that I believe May reinvigorates people and the new year. The rain and cold of winter and early spring is over and outdoor activities begin. In our area there are fantastic views of the green hills and beautiful blooming flowers and moderate temperatures. Fishing, walking, bocce ball, pickle ball, and golf have all begun and now is the time to get out there and have some fun!



Rancho Solano is one of my favorite golf venues. I wanted to know a little bit more about the area, so my wife and I visited the wine region around Suisun. That's right, Suisun. It was "Passport Sunday". Participants pay a fee and enjoy the wines of 10 wineries, the jellybeans of the Jelly Belly Candy Company and olive oil from the Il Fiorello Olive Oil Company. We were not there for the Passport event, so we just went to one winery and had a great time nevertheless. It felt great to be out doing something again!

Remember that Mother's Day is May 12. For those of you fortunate enough to have your mothers with you, and for your wives who are the mothers of your children, it's important to let them know how much you appreciate them. Two other important days, Armed Forces Day on May 18 and Memorial Day on May 27 give us the opportunities to say thank you to all those men and women who have served in the armed forces and to remember those who gave their lives serving in the military.

A reminder that there will be no Branch 116 luncheon in May. Our next luncheon will be on June 17. There will be a Spring Fling on May 9 and I encourage you to attend the Spring Fling. The Spring Fling will be at Byron Park and you will enjoy a delicious meal, good conversation, and your fellow Members and their spouses. There is still room to sign up. I hope to see you there.

*Alan Lope, Big SIR*

**It is still not too late to sign up  
now for the exciting new  
Spring Fling on May 9th**

### Next Meeting

June 17, 2024 @  
Boundary Oak,  
11:30 AM

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**Trampas Topics**

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.

## 2024 SIR Branch Officers



<b>Big SIR</b> Alan Pope	<b>Little SIR</b> Paul Russell	<b>Treasurer</b> Charlie Guthrie	<b>Asst. Treas.</b> Al Satake	<b>Secretary</b> Paul Ramacciotti	<b>Asst. Sec.</b> Dan Lawrence	<b>Membership</b> Alan Fitzgerald	<b>Asst. Membr.</b> Greg Hughes
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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
Community Service	Jeff Johnson	TBA
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	Open	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**

Apple User Group	Stan Holcenberg (Br.171)	925-376-1180
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	Bill Phelon (Br.8)	925-254-8338
Men's Hearts Cards	Bob West (146)	925-518-8472

# Monthly Activities Calendar

## May 2024

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Pleasanton)	2	3 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ WC Civic Center)	4
5	6 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	7 <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door)	8 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills)	9 <b>Spring Fling</b> (1:00@ Byran Park) <b>Community Service</b>	10 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Mitchell Cyn, Clayton)	11
12 <b>Mother's Day</b>	13 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	14	15 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Buchanan Fields)	16 <b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts) <b>Book Group 2</b> (11:00@ Arbolado Park, Walnut Creek)	17 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Iron Horse Trailhead at Stone Valley Rd.)	18
19	20 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:36@ San Ramon) <b>Book Group 1</b> (10:15@! Orinda Books)	21 <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door)	22 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Dublin Ranch) <b>\$ums Investment</b> (1:30 via Zoom)	23 <b>Fishing Group</b> (8:30@ Diablo Creek) <b>Wine-O-SIR</b> (4:00@ Jon Dickson)	24 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (No event)	25
26	27 <b>Memorial Day</b>  <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (No Golf)	28	29 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills)	30	31 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Martinez Bocce Court)	



# Branch Administration



**Branch Membership**  
Alan Fitzgerald, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 191	
Noel Concepcion	New Member Sponsor is Peter Loew
Kirk Harding	New Member Sponsor is Don Schroeder
Garrett Romain	New Member Sponsor is Steve Beck
Jim Ranger	New Member Sponsor is Tom O'Brien

## 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>



**Treasury Report**  
Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

	26-Apr	2024 YTD
Beg Bal 2024		\$ 11,222.12
Contributions	\$ 4,781.00	\$ 28,493.82
Disbursements	\$ (4,787.38)	\$ (27,903.99)
Net (gain/ (loss))	\$ (6.38)	\$ 589.83
April Cash Balance		\$ 11,811.95

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

1. Doug Aalders	14. George Kohut
2. Ron Banducci	15. Ed Lichtig
3. Ed Barney	16. Peter Loew
4. Ben Bryce	17. Darrell McClaughry
5. Al Farbman	18. Essie Naddaf
6. Jim Flessner	19. Dave Newman
7. Rudy Gebert	20. John Riordan
8. Al Guzman	21. Tony Rohrs
9. Dave Havlik	22. Paul Russell
10. Jerry Hicks	23. Roger Tuma
11. Bob Huck	24. Mike Yale
12. Greg Hughes	25. Al Zavattero
13. Bruce Kessler	

## Branch Executive Committee (BEC) Minutes - Summary

Meeting of April 15, 2024

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Financial:</b> Branch cash balance as of 4-1-24 is \$16,774.83.</li> <li>• <b>Annual Dues:</b> 170 of our 189 members have paid their dues for 2024 as of 4/12/2024.</li> <li>• <b>Luncheon Attendance:</b> 127 attendees were submitted for the April luncheon. The three menu choices for lunch were Tailgate BBQ Ribs, Lemon Garlic Cod and Penne Pasta.</li> <li>• <b>Membership:</b> Current active membership is 189. Four new members were welcomed in April: Noel Concepcion, Kirk Harding, Garrett Romain and Steve Beck.</li> <li>• <b>Activities:</b> 20 activities are currently</li> </ul>	<p>operating. Six additional activities are piggy-backed with other branches: Apple User Group, Astronomy, Bowling, Cycling, Digital Photography and Men's Hearts Cards. Four activities still need a chairperson: Parties, Sunshine, Poker and Travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>April Guest Speaker:</b> The April guest speaker was Meteorologist Ron Baskett who discussed the latest methods and technological advances used in weather forecasting in the Bay Area.</li> <li>• <b>Events:</b> SIRS Branch 116 Annual Spring Fling, Thursday, May 9, 2024, 1:00PM to 3:30PM, Byron Park, 1700 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek, Buffet Menu.</li> </ul>
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# New Members



New Member Jim Ranger  
with Sponsor Tom O'Brien



New Member Noel Concepcion  
with Sponsor Peter Loew



New Member Kirk Harding  
with Sponsor Don Schroeder



New Member Garrett Romain (R)  
with Sponsor Steve Beck

# Branch Administration



## Little SIR Paul Russell

Our April speaker was Ron Baskett from SIR Br.171. Ron is a certified Consulting Meteorologist with 50 years of experience in weather forecasting, modelling accidents involving hazardous materials and expert testimony. Ron retired as Deputy Division Leader in Atmospheric, Earth and Energy

Division at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Currently, Ron leads the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance, a non-profit encouraging civic action to improve our future air quality. He and his family have lived in Pleasanton since 1983.

# 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, Phil Scimonelli 661-917-8060 and Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator, Harry Sherinian, 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, May 23th** at 8:30am. Come early.

Our rockfish season for nearshore rockfish starts on May first. So far we have only been able to fish deeper than 300 feet, and only Carl Moyer has

ventured out for a nice limit. We did better on halibut in the bay, but barely as that had a slow start. Ron Lew, Lee Clark, Cleo Bolen, and Paul Dubow all caught some of the tasty flatfish. Stan Wong, Tom Kostik, Phil Scimonelli, Ron Lew, and Pedro Contreras caught striped bass in the bay and delta. Brion Beetz, Carl Moyer, George Vogt, Phil Scimonelli, Ray Pixton, Sam Oomman, and Gordon Linebaugh, all caught trout from San Pablo Reservoir. Chuck Vanoncini bagged some fine cutthroat trout from Pyramid Lake. And finally there will be no salmon fishing for us in the bay area this year.



## 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 April 29...(rescheduled) "Black Death and the Golden Gate" by Randall
- Monday, May 20..."Fever in the Heartland" by Eagan
- Monday, June 24.. "The Code Breaker" by Walter Isaacson

Book Group #1 met on Monday, March 25, 2024 at Orinda Books to discuss "Born A Crime" by Trevor Noah. Mixed marriages were illegal in The Republic of South Africa at the time of Noah's birth, leading

to a host of stories in this comedian's childhood and young adulthood. To Noah's credit, he uses humor, irony, and satire to explore profound issues surrounding Apartheid, cultural conflict, and political repression in South Africa's recent History. The guys awarded the book a solid 4.0 stars

Richard Black led the discussion which Dan Renke opened. Also contributing were Joel White, Richard White, Steve Bort, Art Donaldson, Jim Flessner, Peter Loew, Mac McLoughlin, Brad Stribling, Mike Schneider, John Riordan, Todd Berman, and Dick Kauffman.



## 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/atc?v=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

## \$UMS Investment

Tom Henry (Br. 174)

As usual we will Zoom with SIR Branch 128 (San Ramon) on the 4th Wednesday, May 22 at 1:30 PM. Topic to be announced.

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



## Golf Clinic

Chris Doan

The Golf Clinic is designed specifically for the SIR Golfer and Spouse/Significant Other. It is focused on "tuning up" your game and shaving off some strokes to have a more enjoyable outing. Since the most improvement can normally be gained in the short game, we start the series at the green and work back to the tee box.

The 2024 rotation will begin with...

- |                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| • Putting & Sand Shots        | June 15 |
| • then Chipping               | July 13 |
| • then 50-70 Yards Short Game | Aug 3   |
| • followed by Fairway Shots   | Aug 24  |
| • and finally, Tee Shots      | Sep 21  |

### 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.

Hope you will join us in 2024 to tune up your game. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss clinic topics which are important to you.

FORE!

## Don't miss it!

# 2024 Spring Fling

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024, 1:00PM-3:30PM

Byron Park

(1700 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek)

Hosted bar and social hour with appetizers followed by a wonderful buffet-style "Linner" meal with surprises

## Cost: \$15.00 per person

There is still time to signup - Contact Alan Pope immediately!

# 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."*

On April 11th we worked at the Contra Costa/Solano, packing individual food cartons. It was a conveyor line Food Bank.



Our barrel over runneth – we filled a Contra Costa/Solano food donation barrel at our lunch on Monday. It is our intention to have the barrel at every lunch going forward. Great job for all those members who donated food.

And we made a delivery to Loaves & Fishes this

month, which will be a continuing activity.

Next month on May 9th we will be at the White Pony Express sorting produce and other food donated by large grocers into smaller quantities to send to food kitchens and other worthy food distribution agencies.

Let me know if you are interested in joining us. (jeffjohnson9000@att.net or 415-652-4840.



## Walking Tours Greg Hughes

### Saturday Walking Tours

The Saturday Walking Tours activity leads (Greg & Jim) have come to learn that many events are best done on days other than Saturdays. Previously, and in planning our annual program, we penciled-in the fourth Saturday of each month. Now, and going forward, we are targeting the fourth Friday.

Currently, we are planning the following activities on the fourth Fridays:

**Friday, June 21, 2024 – SF Maritime Museum –** Museum staff will discuss present a film covering the museum's history and participants will explore the museum's displays.

**Friday, August 23, 2024 – Lafayette City Tour:**

Lafayette Historical Society will provide a one hour presentation covering the history of Lafayette, followed by a 45 minute guided walking tour of the historical downtown buildings.

We are also planning a **free Ukulele concert in Larkey Park, Walnut Creek.** These performances are only scheduled for Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM. More information will be provided when available.

If you have questions please contact Greg Hughes (greghughes505@gmail.com, 925-998-5650, or Jim Tamulski (tamulski.james@gmail.com) , 415-297-2655).

# Branch Activities



## Support Chairman Michael Ward

### CHESS ACTIVITY

In the Annual 2024 Survey, there were five members that were interested in starting a CHESS Group. So far, only one member has contacted me about forming a CHESS Group.

In checking around, I have found that Branches 8 and 146 are in the process of forming a new Chess Group together. Our Branch 116 members are also welcome to join Branches 8 and 146 to play Chess.

The first Chess play date will be on Friday May 24, 2024. The Chess Group will meet on the 2nd and the 4th Friday of each month from 1:00PM to 3:00 PM at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center. The center is located at 233 Gregory Lane in Pleasant Hill.

If you have an interest in playing CHESS with Branches 8 and 146, please contact me by phone or email.

### 2024 ANNUAL SURVEY- NEW ACTIVITIES

Out of the recent survey, the following new Activities were requested by five or more (each activity) members that took the survey.

- BOWLING
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- GROUP THEATRE
- WEST COAST WEEKEND TRAVEL

- ONE TO THREE WEEK TRAVEL TRIPS
- CYCLING
- COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY
- INVESTMENT GROUP
- WORKOUT GROUP
- CHESS
- HIKING (½ to 1 Day trips)

If any member has a desire to start one of these activities up or become a Activity member, please feel free to contact me.

### ACTIVITY CHAIRMAN NEEDED

Due to relocation, sickness and Activity Chairman changes, our Branch has four (4) Activities that do not have Activity Chairman.

These activities are:

- PARTIES
- POKER
- SUNSHINE
- TRAVEL

These ACTIVITIES will remain closed until our branch has Chairman that will step up and take over the Chairmanship of each Activity.

Please contact me if you have a desire to take over as Chairman.



## Wine-O-SIR David Havlik

Following our normal schedule, the WINE-O-SIRS did not meet in April, However, we will have a wine-tasting event on **Thursday, May 23rd** at Jon

Dickson's home. Details will be forthcoming about May 1st.



## Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

### Hazy BBQ

Dine-O-SIR is bringing back to you for a wonderful June evening at the Danville's popular Hazy BBQ .

The attached flyer is with information and reservation. Send in NOW for you and spouse/ special partner to Tom Eller.

# Branch Activities

# Dine-O-SIR



**Branch 116 June 26, 2024, Buffet Outdoor Patio**

200 Hartz Avenue, Danville

**Cost \$44.00 per person inclusive**

Wednesday, June 26, 2024. Social Hour at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM

*Featured Performance with Tony de Grassi, Guitar and Singing*

Special price Red and White Wines, Beers, frozen cocktails, and Beverages; Corkage \$15

## Buffet Dinner Menu

Appetizers for Social Hour:

Bruschetta and Brisket Meatballs

### **Dinner Buffet:**

Chicken, Brisket, and Salmon with sauces

Sides: Creamy Slaw, Potato Salad, Brisket Beans

### **Delicious Decadent Dessert:**

Fudge Brownie Bar, Brown Butter Mallow Bar

Parking: Few spaces in lot, City parking across the street, few street spaces

Detach\*\*\*\*\*

**Hazy Barbeque on the Patio, Wednesday, June 26, 2024**

Must be received no later than June 18, 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_ @ \$44.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Check to SIR Branch 116 Dining, c/o 10 San Ardo Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598**

Call: Tom Eller if you have questions at 925-939-5897 or tomeller2000@yahoo.com; or  
Larry Heaton at 925-939-5998 or alamoheaton@yahoo.com

# Branch Activities



## Book Group 2 Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met April 18th to discuss *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. Members in attendance voted the book 3.9/5

Our next meeting is Thursday, **May 16** at 11 AM (always the third Thursday of the month). We will move to our "summer" location, Arbolado Park Walnut Creek, in front of the basketball courts. We will discuss *Half American* by Matthew F. Delmont. Whether you have read the book or not, all are welcome to attend. Contact Scott Clark for more information, 925-998-4553 or [scottmclark72@gmail.com](mailto:scottmclark72@gmail.com)

### Brief summary of "The Four Winds"

Texas, 1934. Millions are out of work and drought has broken the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and livelihoods as the crops are failing, the water is drying up, and dust threatens to bury them all. One of the darkest periods of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl era, has arrived with a vengeance.

In this uncertain and dangerous time, Elsa

Martinelli—like so many of her neighbors—must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or go west, to California, in search of a better life. *The Four Winds* is an indelible portrait of America and the American Dream, as seen through the eyes of one woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

The author tells us in a note that Elsa is a fictional character, but she represents the resilience and strength in the wake of seemingly uncontrollable circumstances of so many real people who lived through these times. Like most good historical fiction, reading this had me looking for information about this place and time and these events. Hannah has done justice to these times with characters to care about and a captivating story and a realistic portrayal of this slice of American history. Not quite 5 stars because we felt at times it was drawn out, about 100 pages too long, and endlessly depressing. Recommended for historical fiction lovers, especially for women's fiction.



## 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 forming your TRAIN. 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 makes for a lot frustration or 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.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **May 8th**. Come join us.

We met in April with eight in attendance. Those present were Gary Bonfiglio, Paul Freitas, Earl Gore, guest, Alex Lutkus, Richard Madden, Kirk McVean, John Riordan and Harry Sherinian. Scores ranged from 280 to 517. Richard had the low score of 280. Five players, Gary, Earl, Harry, Paul and Alex had scores ranging from 333 to to 374.

You can contract Richard Madden, [maddenram@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maddenram@sbcglobal.net) or 925.788.4223

# Branch Activities



## Bridge Jon Dickson

SIR's Chicago Style bridge plays (with lunch) every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at the Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon. We welcome all bridge players of all skills.

On April 9th Jai Yee was the winner with 4,190 points and Ben Bryce close behind with 3,950 points Average scoring was 2,920 points so nobody all did

all that well playing cards.

On April 23rd, Jon Dickson ran away from the crowd, on a very low scoring day for all others, with 5,200 points. Far back, coming in second was Don Benioff with 3,530 points.

Please do consider playing bridge with us on Tuesdays.



## Bocce Bob Huck

We had our first games of the year on Thursday, April 18 at the Clayton Bocce courts. The weather was nice and we had about 28 players representing 4 teams. We will continue every other Thursday

through October 17. We basically have 4 full teams but if anyone would like to come by and check things out for the future please do so.



Beverly Croshal rolling for palling.

# Branch Activities



## Amiable Amblers John Riordan

April walkers included Todd Berman, Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Al & Nancy Farbman, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Peter & Sandy Loew, Essie Naddaf, John & Gail Riordan, Brad Stribling, Tim Tinnes, Tom & Mary Welte, and Joel & Susan White.

On April 5 Dick Frankel led the walk west along the Contra Costa Canal Trail from the Countrywood Shopping Center, with a post-walk gathering at the Black Bear Diner. On April 12 we enjoyed beautiful views walking along Mulholland Ridge, with a post-walk gathering at the Moraga Town Bakery and Café. On April 19 we walked along the Lafayette-Moraga trail from the Olympic Blvd Staging Area, with a post-walk gathering at Starbucks. April 26 walk was cancelled due to weather uncertainties.

The May walks will begin at 9:00AM. On **May 3** meet at the Walnut Creek Civic Center and walk north on the Iron Horse Trail; post-walk gathering at nearby

Buttercup. On **May 10** meet at Mitchell Canyon in Clayton for a wildflower walk (subject to change); post-walk gathering at Huckleberry's. On **May 17** meet at the Iron Horse Trailhead on Stone Valley Rd in Alamo; post-walk gathering at Peet's Coffee. There is **no walk planned for May 24**. On **May 31** meet at the Martinez bocce courts for a walk in the Regional Shoreline; post-walk gathering at States Coffee & Bread.

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.



## Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

### Book Exchange

Bring one or many books to the luncheon and exchange them for other books.

The Book Exchange is here to provide free books on an exchange basis.

Hopefully you can find some books that may be of interest to you.

**Happy Reading**

### 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.

### 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/)

### 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))

# 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](http://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](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.

### May 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 01	10:00 AM	Pleasanton	Chris Doan
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	Chris Doan
Wed. 28	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry

### May 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 03	9:40	Boundary Oak	Tom O'Brien
Mon. 10	9:40	Boundary Oak	Tom O'Brien
Tues. 18	9:36	San Ramon	Tom O'Brien
Mon. 24	9:30	No golf	