



SIR Branch 116 Newsletter October 2024

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

Message from Alan

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Phil Goff for his hard work in organizing the Carmel golf/non-golf event, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. We hope this will become an annual tradition. Additionally, thanks to Jerry Hicks and his Dine-o-SIR Committee—Tom Eller, Bob Donohue, Larry Heaton, and Mike Yale—for their efforts in planning yet another excellent Dine-o-SIR dinner on October 24th at Kacha Thai Bistro. Having dined there several times myself, I can personally attest to the quality of the food. If you're able to attend, you're in for a delicious meal.



For this month's Big SIR message, I decided to take a look back at some past messages to reflect on our concerns before the pandemic. In the October 2019 Newsletter, Big SIR Jerry Hicks shared the following:

"The State SIR annual conference was held in August at the Thunder Valley Casino and Resort, a great location. Of interest to us is a developing change in direction and modernization of SIR. The logo has been revised, removing 'Sons in Retirement' and replacing it with 'Social Activities for Men.' The new vision statement is 'to become the best active men's organization in Northern and Central California by improving longevity through providing opportunities for physical, mental, and social engagement.'"

Five years later, on September 24, 2024, State SIR held its annual conference at the Lafayette Veterans Hall. The organization is still working towards modernization, with some changes in direction. This ongoing transformation is something to watch in the coming year.

Reflecting further, in the October 2016 SIR 116 Newsletter, Big SIR Jim Barstow noted that Richard Madden had just started the Mexican Train activity. We owe Richard a big thank you for his eight years of service as Chairman of the Mexican Train activity. Many others have also contributed significantly over the years. Individuals such as Rich Black, Neil Schmidt, Harry Sherinian, Bernie Wroblewski, Sam Beret, Phil Goff, Bob Donohue, Don Schroeder, Ron Armijo, Joel White, Fred Wachowicz, Jerry Kaplan, Jon Dickson, Paul Ramacciotti, Al Satake, Joel White, Fred Schafer, Dick Chaffee, Dick Kaufmann, Alex Lutkus, and others who may have been missed were all listed as Officers, Directors, Activity Chairmen, or Support Chairmen in the 2016 Newsletter. Their volunteer service has helped sustain Branch 116 over the past eight years. Please take a moment to express your appreciation to them for their commitment to the success of our Branch. Without these dedicated volunteers, our Branch wouldn't thrive. A heartfelt thank you to all!

Please hold Tuesday, December 17 for the Holiday Party. It promises to be a fun event. Happy Halloween to all! I look forward to seeing you at our luncheon on October 21.

Alan Pope, Big SIR

Next Meeting

Oct. 21, 2024 @
Boundary Oak,
11:30 AM

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

Trampas Topics

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 Alan Fitzgerald	Asst. Membr. Greg Hughes
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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
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

October 2024

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1 Computer & Tech (10:00 via Zoom)	2 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pleasanton)	3 Bocce (10:00@ Clayton Courts)	4 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Newhal Community Park)	5 Golf Clinic
6	7 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	8 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	9 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) Mexican Train (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	10	11 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ WC Civic Park) Chess (1:00@ PH Senior Ctr.)	12
13	14 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	15 18-Hole Golf (10:03@ Paradise Valley)	16 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Skylinks)	17 Book Group 2 (11:00@ Arbolado Park, WC) Bocce (10:00@ Clayton Courts)	18 Pickleball (7:30@ Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Moraga Commonst)	19
20	21 SIR Br. 116 Luncheon (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	22 18-Hole Golf (10:03@ Paradise Valley) Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	23 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Dublin Ranch) \$ums Investment (1:30 via Zoom)	24 Fishing Group (8:30@ Diablo Creek) Dine-O-SIR (5:45@ Kacha Thai Bistro)	25 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Railroad Museum) Chess (1:00@ PH Senior Ctr.)	26
27	28 18-Hole Golf (9:30@ Lone Tree) Book Group 1 (10:15@! Orinda Books)	29	30 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills)	31 		



Branch Administration



Branch Membership
Alan Fitzgerald, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 191

<u>Name</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Eric Linak	New Member	Jeff Johnson

Note: If you change your email address or other contact information please let me know so I can update the Membership DB and the Google Group DB (used for sending out branch messages).



Treasury Report
Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

	20-Sep	2024 YTD
Beg Bal 2024		\$ 11,222.12
Contributions	\$ 6,661.00	\$ 52,074.82
Disbursements	\$ (6,790.05)	\$ (53,403.60)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ (129.05)	\$ (1,328.78)
September Cash Balance		\$ 9,893.34

October Birthdays

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Steve Beck | 11. Carl Langhorst |
| 2. Todd Berman | 12. Dan Lawrence |
| 3. Jerry Christopherson | 13. Don Marini |
| 4. Scott Clark | 14. Don Nix |
| 5. Wayne Cook | 15. Frank Portillo |
| 6. Jed Daniel | 16. Al Satake |
| 7. Bill Foulds | 17. Dick Thomson |
| 8. John Fraser | 18. Jim Wilson |
| 9. Dave Heck | 19. Jerry Zampino |
| 10. Marty Katz | |

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/

Branch Executive Committee (BEC) Minutes - Summary

Meeting of August 19, 2024

- **Financial:** Branch cash balance as of 8-1-24 is \$10,022.39. Reserve balance is \$12,383.06.
- **Luncheon Attendance:** 102 lunches were paid for even though only 99 were served due to members not cancelling their reservation in time to adjust the lunch count. The three menu choices for lunch were Chicken Fajitas, Shrimp Fajitas and Vegetarian Fajitas.
- **Membership:** Current active membership remains at 191.
- **Activities:** 26 activities are currently operating resulting in 27 activity days. Four activities still need a chairperson: Sunshine, Poker, Computer Tech and Travel.
- **Holiday Party:** The date of this year's

Holiday Party is December 17th at Boundary Oak. A four- person committee has been formed to organize the evening's festivities.

- **Nominating Committee Selections:** Chairperson Roger Craig presented to the BEC the list of Officer and Director nominations for 2025. A motion was passed to approve the nominations which will be presented to membership for approval at the September luncheon
- **Recruitment and Member Retention:** After a lengthy discussion on recruiting new members was initiated by Publicity Chair Rob Lemmo, resulting in numerous suggestions, a five-person committee was formed to come up with a plan to both facilitate recruitment and member retention.

Luncheon Speaker

“Oakland Zoo” by Nik Dehejia



Little SIR
Paul Russell

October Speaker –Nik Dehejia

Our speaker for October will be who is the CEO of the Oakland Zoo. The Oakland Zoo is managed by the Conservation Society of California (CSC), a non-profit organization leading an informed and inspired community to take action for wildlife locally and globally. With over 25 partners and projects worldwide, the CSC is committed to conservation-based education and saving species and their habitats in the wild.

Oakland Zoo is dedicated to the humane treatment of animals and is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the national organization that sets the highest standards for animal welfare for zoos and aquariums.

I also want you to SAVE THE DATE for our Holiday Party on December 17th this year.

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>

The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak **Luncheon Menu**

Monday, October 21st

Salad

Arugula Salad

Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese, Herb Vinaigrette

Entrées

Crispy Chicken Costoletta

Yukon Gold Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Creamy Lemon Sauce Breaded Filet of Sole

—or—

Herb Roasted Cod

Garlic Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables , Creamy Lemon Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian Option

Spinach and Ricotta Stuffed Manicotti
Fresh Mozzarella and House Marinara

Dessert

Pumpkin Cheese Cake

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

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 Administration



New Member Eric Linak
with Sponsor Jeff Johnson



Book Exchange
Dick Kauffman

Books, Books, Books

We have books for you.

Come and browse our books and hopefully you will see something that you would like to read.

Take a book and bring a book to the next luncheon.

All we are trying to do is to keep books in circulation and available to our members.

The Book Sherpas



Newly Elected 2025 Branch Officers & Directors

Branch Officers

Big SIR – Paul Russell
Little SIR – Brad Stribling
Treasurer – Charlie Guthrie
Asst. Treasurer – Al Satake
Secretary – Dan Lawrence
Asst. Secretary – Bill Foulds
Membership – Phii Goff
Asst. Membership – Neil Schmidt

Directors

Jim Tamulski
Gary Bonfiglio
Jeff Johnson
Sam Beret
Alan Pope
Harry Sherinian

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 hearty turn out at White Pony Express's new facility on September 12th, breaking down incoming produce crates and packing for redistribution to food banks, kitchens and other worthy causes. And we picked up a new SIR member who was working there – Eric Lidak – who joined the branch at our September lunch meeting.

We expect to be working at the Food Bank in November.

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.



\$UMS Investment

Tom Henry (Br. 174)

As usual we will Zoom with SIR Branch 128 (San Ramon) on the 4th Wednesday at 1:30 PM (except for Nov and Dec when the dates change due to the holidays).

Email Dave Sutton to be included or to learn the

topic.

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

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

Branch Activities



Wine-O-SIR

David Havlik

After an extended hiatus, the WINE-O-SIRS had a very nice wine tasting at the home of Bill and Bev McCallum. We all sampled five red 'mystery' wines and were challenged to identify the varietal (the grape the wine was made from). We then learned that the five were a zinfandel, syrah, cabernet and

blends, from either California or Chile. While no one claimed to have done very well in identifying the wines, everyone had a good time anyway. The next wine tasting event will be on **Thursday, November 21st**, at the home of Dick and Gail Breitwieser.



Bocce

Bob Huck

We are nearing the end of a very successful and fun bocce season. We have 2 sessions left on Thursdays, October 3rd and 17th. After our final session we will all enjoy lunch together at LA VERANDA CAFE in Clayton. The plan for next year will be seminar to

this year starting in April and finishing in October. Please let me know if you are interested in playing next year. Spouses or others are welcome.

Bob Huck
bhuck10@sbcglobal.net



Chess

Gary Bonfiglio

New Branch Activity-CHESS

Chess, a new joint branch activity with BR 8, 116, 146 was formed last month. 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

SIR Computer & Technology

The new **SIR Computer & Technology** group will have their first Zoom meeting on Tuesday, October 1 at 10:00 AM.



The topic for this meeting will be "**Who is monitoring you on the Dark Web?**"

We will show how you can see what info about you is currently available on the Dark Web and steps you need to do to protect yourself.

Meeting will start via Zoom at 10:00 AM but come 10-15 minutes early if you can't remember how to use Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting at:

October 10:00 AM (or 9:45 AM+)
[https://zoom.us/j/98214742072?
pwd=YrU885VIHRWVvs69WBI7DCW6NaZrF0.1](https://zoom.us/j/98214742072?pwd=YrU885VIHRWVvs69WBI7DCW6NaZrF0.1)

Meeting ID: 982 1474 2072
Passcode: 123456

One tap mobile
+16699006833,,98214742072#,,,,*123456# US

Branch Activities



Book Group 2 Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met September 19 to discuss A Killing on the Hill by Robert Dugoni. Members voted the book 3.9/5. A brief summary follows.

A Killing on the Hill

The Great Depression. High-level corruption. And a murder that's about to become Seattle's hottest mystery. It's the kind of story that can make a reporter's career. If he lives to write about it.

Seattle, 1933. The city is in the grips of the Great Depression, Prohibition, and vice. Cutting his teeth on a small-time beat, hungry and ambitious young reporter William "Shoe" Shumacher gets a tip that could change his career. There's been a murder at a social club on Profanity Hill—an underworld magnet for vice crimes only a privileged few can afford. The story is going to be front-page news, and Shoe is the first reporter on the scene.

The victim, Frankie Ray, is a former prizefighter. His accused killer? Club owner and mobster George

Miller, who claims he pulled the trigger in self-defense. Soon the whole town's talking, and Shoe's first homicide is fast becoming the Trial of the Century. The more Shoe digs, the more he's convinced nothing is as it seems. Not with a tangle of conflicting stories, an unlikely motive, and witnesses like Ray's girlfriend, a glamour girl whose pretty lips are sealed. For now.

In a city steeped in Old West debauchery, Shoe's following every lead to a very dangerous place—one that could bring him glory and fame or end his life.

Book Club 2 October Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **October 17, 11 AM**, at Arbolado Park, Walnut Creek. We will discuss The Ministry of Time by Kaliane Bradley. Contact Scott Clark for more information, 925-998-4553 or scottmclark72@gmail.com



Bridge Jon Dickson

Chicago Style bridge with SIR's is played every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, starting at 10:30 AM at Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon. All bridge players are encourage to join us for lunch & bridge.

On September 10th, Vince Yamamoto came in first with 4,420 points and Joel White was second with 3,700 points.

September 24th had Jon Dickson first with 4,600 points and Dennis Snarr second with 4,060 points.

Next game is **October 8th**. Do join us for a fun day of bridge.



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



Book Group 1 Rich Black

Book Group #1 met on Monday, September 23, 2024 at Orinda Books to discuss *There There* by Tommy Orange. We were introduced to this book, Orange's first novel, by Todd Berman who offered much of the following synopsis. A large number – over a dozen – characters are developed, most of whom are Native American by ancestry though a couple may not be fully cognizant of it. Some of these characters are unexpectedly related – offspring of rape or anonymous adoption – and the plot brings them together in emotional and tension filled manner. And most of these 'urban native' (in Oakland, California) characters are seriously compromised by alcohol and substance abuse and are in dysfunctional relationships and families. And... many of them harbor deep mistrust, resentment, even hostility towards America and its government and want things back 'the way they used to be'.

Moreover, many seek to maintain cultural traditions such as tribal dancing in traditional regalia along with associated drumming, as will be done in a huge 'powwow' in the Oakland Coliseum, and they are excitedly planning their participation and performance in this event. Other of the characters, who are members of native help agencies including AA, are to coordinate the powwow and award monetary prizes. And yet certain other of the characters, under the control and direction of a hierarchy of drug lords, set about robbing the event of the prize money, shooting people as necessary using 3-D printed 'ghost guns'. Not surprisingly the

result is a chaotic, confusing, riot of suffering, injury, and death.

The book group praised the character development though two of us had to resort to using an 'org chart' of the characters to stay on track. All agreed that, though uncomfortable, exposure to the views and attitudes of this cultural entity was of much value. Even the final thoughts before death of a few of the shooting victims was enlightening. A repeated question by the group was the 'why'... what was the author's motivation for writing this? Our general speculation was that Tommy Orange wanted to expose readers to the difficulties and sentiments of this important but somewhat invisible American cultural entity.

This week's participants, including Tim Tinnes, Art Donaldson, Todd Berman, Jim Flesner, John Kopchik, Mac McLoughlin, Dan Renke, Mike Schneider, Garrett Girvan, and Brad Stribling, awarded this book 3.6 stars.

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books at Orinda Books at 10:15 AM as follows:

Monday, October 28: *The Women* by Kristen Hannah

Monday, November 25: *James* by Percival Everett

We are exploring *The Emerald Mile* by Kevin Fedarko as a possible successor.



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, October 24th at 8:30am. Come early.

20 members of the SIR fishing group, family and friends, chartered the Sea Wolf and went north to

Point Reyes for limits of ling cod and rock fish. Brion Beetz, Pedro Contreras, Stan Wong, and Steve Paulick took a long range boat from San Diego down to Mexico where they actually caught over a 2 tons of fish, including yellow fin tuna, and yellow tail. Tom Kostik caught trout and bass at Pine Crest Lake, and black bass from the delta with Mike Corker. Trout fishing in our local lakes has not yet started as the water is too warm. We hope for a good winter season for that. Rock cod fishing changes on October first, and we will have to fish below 300 feet till November. Then crab and rockfish combo trips begin.

Branch Activities

Carmel Travel & Golf Photos September 11-12, 2024



Branch Activities

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE 1%ers: A repeat but worth another read.

- A staggering 99% of people born between 1930 and 1946 are now dead. (That's a 16 year span GLOBALLY.)
- If you were born in this time span, your ages range from 77 to 93 years old, and you are a rare surviving 1%er.
- You are also one of the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's.
- You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.
- You are the last to remember ration books for everything from tea to sugar to shoes.
- You saved tin foil and poured fried meat fat into cans.
- You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" at the front door.
- Discipline was strictly enforced by parents and teachers.
- You are the last generation who spent childhood without television and instead, you "imagined" what you heard on the radio.
- With no TV, you spent your childhood "playing outside". There was no city playground for kids.
- The lack of television in your early years meant that you had little real understanding of what the world was like.
- We got "black-and-white" TV in the late 50s that had 3 stations and no remote.
- Telephones (if you had one) were one to a house and hung on the wall in the kitchen (who cares about privacy).
- Computers were called calculators; they were hand-cranked.
- Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon. INTERNET and GOOGLE were words that did not exist.
- Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and your dad would give you the comic pages after he read the news.
- The news was broadcast on your radio in the evening. The radio network gradually expanded from 3 stations to thousands.
- New highways would bring jobs and mobility. Most highways were 2 lanes and there were no Motorways.
- You went to the city to shop.
- You walked to school and back.
- Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into working hard to make a living for their families.
- You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus.
- They were glad you played things like Fiddle Sticks, Grab, Monopoly, Marbles, and Jacks by yourselves. They were busy discovering the postwar world.
- You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed yourselves.
- You felt secure in your future, although the depression and poverty were deeply remembered.
- Polio was still a crippler. Everyone knew someone who had it.
- You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our country. World War 2 was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life.
- Only your generation can remember a time after WW2 when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty.
- You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better.
- More than 99% of you are retired now, and you should feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!"
- If you have already reached the age of 77 years old, you have outlived 99% of all the other people on this planet. You are a 1%er!

Branch Activities



Amiable Amblers John Riordan

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

On September 6 we met at the Stone Valley Rd West trailhead and walked south on the Iron Horse trail, with a post-walk gathering at Peet's Coffee. On September 13 eighteen Amblers (see photo below) met at the Walnut Creek Civic Park and walked north on the Iron Horse Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Caffe La Scala. On September 20 we met at the Lafayette Community Center and walked south on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, with a post-walk gathering at the Town Bakery and Café. On September 27 we met at the Countrywood Shopping Center and walked east on the Contra Costa Canal Trail.

The October walks will begin at 9:00AM. On

October 4 we will meet at the Newhall Community Park and walk the loop; the post-walk gathering will be at Huckleberry's. On **October 11** we will meet at the Walnut Creek Civic Park and walk north on the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at Caffe La Scala. On **October 18** we will meet at the Moraga Commons and walk north on the Lafayette Moraga Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Town Bakery and Café in Moraga. On **October 25** we will meet at the Railroad Museum and walk north on the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Danville Black Bear Diner.

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.



Amiable Amblers at Walnut Creek Civic Park

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 September with seven in attendance. Those present were Gary Bonfiglio, Paul Freitas, Alex Lutkus, Richard Madden, Kirk McVean, Alan Polanger, John Riordan, and Harry Sherinian. Our scores ranged from 161 to 469. Alex was low with 160. The average score was 324.

Come join us at our next meeting on October 9th.

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



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 was...

- 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 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!



Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

Kacha Thai Bistro on Thursday, October 24th is finale Dine-O-Sir of 2024 and brings an exceptional Thai menu with fine cuisine. Ing, owner of Kacha, graciously extended Happy Hour for our social camaraderie beginning at 5:45 PM followed by 6:30 PM serving by family style tables of ten. You will

enjoy the food and the price inclusive of just \$45.00 is a special. See the attached flyer for information and send ASAP your reservation and check.

See you there!

Jerry

Branch Activities



Branch 116 Dine-O-Sir 2024, A delicious dinner, enjoy together at

Kacha Thai Bistro

1665 Mt Diablo Boulevard, Walnut Creek

Cost \$45.00 per person inclusive

Thursday, October 24, 2024. Social Hour at 5:45, Dinner at 6:30 PM

Happy Hour Red and White Wines, Beers, and Classic Cocktails; Corkage \$20

Dinner Menu

Tables (for 10) Family Style

Appetizers: Satay, Fresh Mint Rolls, Lady Fingers

Salad: Green Salad with Asian Dressing

The Lover (Chef Special)

Pumpkin Curry

Ginger Eggplant

Pad See Ew

Pineapple Fried Rice with Beef

Jasmine Rice

Dessert: Mango with Sticky Rice

Parking: Olympia Parking Garage (No cost up to 4 hours)

Detach*****

Kacha Thai, Thursday, October 24, 2024
Must be received no later than Friday, October 18

Name: _____ Name: _____

Number of Attendees ____ @ \$45.00 = \$_____

Check to **SIR Branch 116 Dining**, c/o 74 Amberwood Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
Call Jerry if you have questions at 925-360-0447 or jerryhicks@astound.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.

October 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 02	10:00	Pleasanton	Chris Doan
Wed. 09	10:00	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 16	10:00	Skylinks	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 23	10:00	Dublin Ranch	Chris Doan
Wed. 30	10:00	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry

October 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 07	9:40	Boundary Oak	Richard Madden
Mon. 14	9:40	Boundary Oak	Richard Madden
Tues. 22	10:03	Paradise Valley	Richard Madden
Mon. 25	9:30	Lone Tree	Richard Madden