



# SIR Branch 116 Newsletter February 2025

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

## Message from Paul

Groundhog Day, February 2, and Punxsutawny Phil will (supposedly) give an insight into what the weather will be like coming up. The holiday dates back hundreds of years, and has grown to be a widely celebrated tradition, especially in Punxsutawny, Pennsylvania



What is Groundhog Day?

According to The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, the celebration began within Christianity when, on Feb. 2, "Christians would take their candles to the church to have them blessed," in order to "bring blessings to their household for the remaining winter."

Enough of that for now, we'll have whatever weather befalls us this year. But for Branch 116, it could mean lots of Golf and other outdoor activities OR other indoor activities like Book Clubs, Bridge, Chess etc.

January's speaker was very insightful into the Blackhawk Museum which has grown from basically a car showcase into a museum that now exhibits Cars, The Old American West and Native American Folklore among other things. Ed Holloway brought his narrative to bear in telling us the history.

We had three new members join our ranks in December, but since we didn't have a luncheon we welcomed them in January.

It's never too late for new members to step up and explore our many activities and meet new friends. Or you can connect by joining a committee or leading an activity. Currently, we are seeking members to organize our spring fling in May or our Holiday Party in December.

As you read through this newsletter, take a moment to read the Little Sir Report regarding Dan Hanal's writing.

*Paul Russell, Big SIR*

Next Meeting  
Feb. 17, 2025 @  
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.

## 2025 SIR Branch Officers



**Big SIR**  
Paul  
Russell



**Little SIR**  
Brad  
Stribling



**Treasurer**  
Charlie  
Guthrey



**Asst. Treas.**  
Al  
Satake



**Secretary.**  
Dan  
Lawrence



**Asst.Sec.**  
Bill  
Foulds



**Membership**  
Phil  
Goff

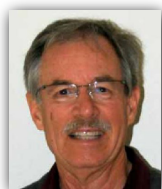


**Asst. Mem.**  
Neil  
Schmidt

## 2025 SIR Branch Directors



Sam  
Beret



Gary  
Bonfiglio



Jeff  
Johnson



Alan  
Pope



Harry  
Sherinian



Jim  
Tamulski

### 2025 Support Chairmen

#### **RAMP Department Heads**

- Recruitment Don Schroeder
- Activities Mike Ward
- Member Relations Sam Beret
- Publicity Alan Farbman

#### **Branch Support Chairmen**

- Audit Committee Ron Armijo
- Nominating Committee Alan Pope
- 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 Ramaciotti, 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

### 2025 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	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

## February 2025

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					3 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Moraga Safeway)	1
2	3 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	4 <b>Computer &amp; Tech</b> (10:00 via Zoom)	5 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Dublin Ranch)	6	7 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ WC Civic Park)	8
9 <b>Dine-O-SIR</b>	10 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	11 <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door)	12 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills)	13 <b>Community Srvc.</b> (10:00@ 1 <sup>st</sup> Place for Youth)	14 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Lafayette Community Ctr,t)	15
16	17 <b>SIR Br. 116 Luncheon</b> (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	18 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Paradise Valley)	19 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Skylinks) <b>\$ums Investment</b> (1:30 via Zoom)	20 <b>Book Group 2</b> (11:00@ Boundary Oak)	21 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (9:00@ Stone Valley Rd. West)	22
23	24 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Creek) <b>Book Group 1</b> (10:15@ Orinda Books)	25 <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door)	26 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills)	27 <b>Fishing Group</b> (8:30@ Diablo Creek)	28 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (10:00@ San Leandro Park)	



# Branch Administration



**Branch Membership**  
Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

**Total Membership is 183**



**Treasury Report**  
Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

	26-Jan	2025 YTD
Beg Bal 2025		\$ 10,842.15
Contributions	\$ 7,752.50	\$ 7,752.50
Disbursements	\$ (9,794.55)	\$ (9,794.55)
Net (gain/ (loss))	\$ (2,042.05)	\$ (2,042.05)
February Cash Balance		\$ 8,800.10

## February Birthdays

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

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ron Armijo      | 10. Sheldon Lawrence |
| 2. Norm Azevedo    | 11. Eric Linak       |
| 3. Jon Dickson     | 12. Ed O'Rourke      |
| 4. Merle Eaton     | 13. Harry Oberle III |
| 5. Claes Elfving   | 14. Tom Oneto        |
| 6. Max Foust       | 15. Fred Schafer     |
| 7. Charlie Guthrie | 16. Mike Schneider   |
| 8. Jeff Johnson    | 17. Ernie Wong       |
| 9. Pete Kallas     | 18. Rich Yamanaka    |

## New Members (December 2024)



**Tom Leahy**



**Tom Oneto**



**Bill Trilisch**



**Bocce**  
Bob Huck

We are in the process of scheduling our 2025 Season. Specific dates are not yet determined but we will start in mid April and finish in mid October. We will play from 10:00am until noon every other Thursday at the Clayton Bocce Courts. We will be putting

together our teams of players and if you're interested in joining please contact me.

Bob Huck  
bhuck10@sbcglobal.net

# Luncheon Speaker

## Dan Hanel - "WWII Novel Inspiration"



**Little SIR**  
Brad Stribling

Our January luncheon speaker was Ed Holloway, a docent with the Blackhawk Museum. Ed has been with the museum (originally the 'Behring Collection') for 36 years! He treated us to a grand exposition of many of their exquisite automobiles, both ancient in design and magnificent in grandeur.

But then... there's much more to Blackhawk Museum than cars! Ed illustrated the museum's extensive exhibits of the Old West – Native American attire and art, the wildlife, the settlement, the missions! And more... extensive displays from China, from Africa, and more.

This is a vast experience, and Ed has easily lured us all to come check it out!

### February Lunchron Speaker

Dan Hanel is a celebrated author and public educator. He will present an illustrated talk about the inspiration behind his award-winning historical mystery novel series, In the Shadow of Diablo. Topics include Contra Costa County's first American settler ... and his murder, a secret WWII interrogation center, a secret society dating back to 500 b.c., and the world's largest winery. The novels blend fascinating, yet little known, local history with a present day murder mystery.

### 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/)

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

Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Salad

#### Entrées

Herb & Potato Crusted Cod with White Wine Butter Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, and Broccoli

—or—

Seared Marinated Bistro Fillet with Caramelized Shallot Au ju, Mashed Potatoes, and Broccoli

—or—

#### Vegetarian

Vegetable Cannelloni

Four Cheeses, Spinach with

Tomato Basil Sauce Stuffed Pasta and Broccoli

#### Dessert

### SIR HAPPENINGS

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

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

### Trampas Topics Submissions



We need your contributions and suggestions for Trampas Topics. Please send photos, news items, SIR activities, and Letters to the Editor:

Neil Schmidt, Trampas Topics Editor  
([trampastopics@gmail.com](mailto:trampastopics@gmail.com))

# Branch Activities



## Branch Executive Committee

Secretary Dan Lawrence

### BEC Minutes- Summary

#### Meeting of January 20, 2025

- Financial: Branch cash balance as 01-01-2025 is \$10,884.75, and reserve balance is \$10,842.15.
- Luncheon: 100 attendees were submitted for the January 2025 Luncheon.
- Membership: Current active membership is 183. Three new members were introduced.
- Holiday party: 100 signed up, a wonderful evening was experienced by those who attended. Financially,

we made a profit of \$179.

- Community Services: 1st Place for Youth provided an inventory of hygiene items that were purchased and assembled into clear plastic bags. Once assembled they will be provided to the Youth agency for distribution to the intended youths. This activity will occur before the February meeting.
- January Guest Speaker: Ed Holloway, the Blackhawk docent. He will make a presentation about the museum and the many changes that have occurred since the museums inception.



## Book Group 2

Scott Clark

Book Club 2 members met January 16 to discuss Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson.

Members in attendance voted the book a 3.5/5

The Demon of Unrest by Eric Larson

On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln became the fluky victor in a tight race for president. The country was bitterly at odds; Southern extremists were moving ever closer to destroying the Union, with one state after another seceding and Lincoln powerless to stop them. Slavery fueled the conflict, but somehow the passions of North and South came to focus on a lonely federal fortress in Charleston: Fort Sumter.

Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter—a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals. Lincoln himself wrote that the trials of these five months were “so great that, could I have anticipated them, I would not have believed it possible to survive them.”

At the heart of this suspense-filled narrative are

Major Robert Anderson, Sumter's commander and a former slave owner sympathetic to the South but loyal to the Union; Edmund Ruffin, a vain and bloodthirsty radical who stirs secessionist ardor at every opportunity; and Mary Boykin Chesnut, wife of a prominent planter, conflicted over both marriage and slavery and seeing parallels between both. In the middle of it all is the overwhelmed Lincoln, battling with his duplicitous Secretary of State, William Seward, as he tries desperately to avert a war that he fears is inevitable—one that will eventually kill 750,000 Americans.

Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers, and plantation records, Larson gives us a political horror story that captures the forces that led America to the brink—a dark reminder that we often don't see a cataclysm coming until it's too late.

### Book Club 2 February Meeting

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 20, @ 11 AM, Boundary Oak Golf Club. We will discuss The Women by Kristin Hannah. All are welcome to attend.

Contact Scott Clark for more information, [scottmclark72@gmail.com](mailto:scottmclark72@gmail.com) or 925-998-4553.

# Branch Activities



## Community Service Jeff Johnson

*"It's the human desire in all of us to want to make life better for somebody else. It makes you feel larger. It makes you feel part of the whole human race."*

On January 16th, we worked at the Contra Costa Food Bank packaging fruit – primarily apples – for further distribution to the needy. We were 10 of the almost 7,000 volunteers who help the Food Bank implement its mission.

On February 13th, we will be at 1st Place for Youth, where we will be assembling hygiene kits for Foster Care young men aging out of the state-run system to be on their own. All the items in the hygiene kits have been purchased through the generosity of many of Branch 116 Community Service volunteers.

In March we will be at the Food Bank again on Thursday March 20th from 1:00 to 3:00

- White Pony Express – Thursday April 17th from 9:00 to 11:00
- Food Bank - Friday May 16th from 9:00 to noon

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Community Service Volunteer activity. Jeffjohnson9000@att.net or 415-652-4840, or if you have any organizations that can use our collective help.

### **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.**

### **Food Drive Most Needed Items**



Peanut Butter, Whole Grain Cereals, Hearty Soups, Dried or Canned Beans, Canned Poultry, Meat & Tuna, Canned Fruit in Juice, Nonperishable Ready to Eat Meals, Canned Vegetables, Brown Rice, Whole Wheat Pasta, Canned Tomato Products

**PLEASE NO EXPIRED ITEMS AND NO GLASS CONTAINERS**



## Wine-O-SIR David Havlik

The WINE-O-SIRS met at Dave and Carol Williams home for our January Wine Tasting. This time we enjoyed pinot noirs from the Russian River Valley, Santa Maria Valley, and New Zealand. Each of the four pinots tasted substantially different, reflecting their unique terroirs. We had a big turnout,

including folks such as Allan and Nancy Farbman, who hadn't been to a wine tasting since before Covid. Our next wine tasting event will be on Thursday, March 27th, at the home of Dave and Judy Havlik. If this sounds like fun, please contact me at [jdhavlik@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdhavlik@sbcglobal.net).

# Branch Activities



## Walking Tours Greg Hughes

Effective immediately, Jim Tamulski has become the Chairman for the Walking Tours activity, and Greg Hughes is now the Assistant Chairman. We have scheduled the following Walking Tours for 2025

**March 15, 2025 - Mare Island Historical Tour** – We have booked a private tour with the Mare Island Historic Society covering the Mare Island buildings and grounds. The cost is \$20 per person. There are two lunch venues close to the end of the tour, and we will advise you when we make the reservations. This beautiful site showcases buildings of historical architectural design, a museum and a chapel containing the largest collection of Tiffany stained glass windows under one roof. To schedule the private tour, the Historical Society requires a minimum of 10 participants. If you wish to participate please advise Jim or Greg by Saturday,

March 1. Jim @ tamulski.james@gmail.com, or Greg @ greghughes505@gmail.com.

**May 16, 2025 - Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park** – Please note we are scheduling this event on a **FRIDAY**. We are visiting the Rosie the Riveter/ World War II National Historical Park in Richmond, CA. We begin our tour at 10:30 in the Rosie the Riveter Visitor Education Center and museum. Ranger Crystal will provide a short introduction. Next, our participants will do a self guided tour of the Rosie Museum (45 min.) At 11:30 Rosie Jeanne will do a presentation discussing her personal experiences during this time. This is a very special presentation that you will greatly enjoy. All Rosie activities are free. Lunch is at Lara's Fine Dining which overlooks the Richmond harbor.

## \$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.

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

## SIR Computer & Technology

Hello Techies,



I'm sure you've all heard of AI (Artificial Intelligence), but did you know there are several AI assistant applications that are not only incredibly useful but also free and available on smartphones and Windows/Apple computers? Applications like ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, and Google Gemini are frequently mentioned in the news and advertisements, but do you know how they can benefit you?

At our next meeting on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, we'll explore some of these AI applications and how they can assist with everyday tasks—whether it's

helping around the house, planning trips, answering questions, and more.

**SIR Computer & Tech Meeting**  
**Time: Feb 4, 2025 10:00 AM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/5303483737?pwd=yDsyGxTjmKwZj2bAWkmwCMihtj0lEO.1&omn=91050516675>

Meeting ID: 530 348 3737  
Passcode: 123456

If you want to get on the mailing list for the SIR Br. 116 Computer & Tech group, send a request to [technologyforsir@gmail.com](mailto:technologyforsir@gmail.com)



# 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 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, February 27th at 8:30am**. Come early.

2025 got off to a slow start. Ocean fishing is closed to almost everything. A very few of us got crab

in late December. The ocean was inhospitable for the most part then. Carl Moyer, Dennis Lee, Stan Wong, Zbig Mrozek, and Gordon Linebaugh caught a few small trout at local reservoirs. Tom Kostik continued to catch striped bass. Ken Bellendir celebrated new years in Florida boating some red snappers. Brion Beetz, Paul Dubow, Dave Havlik, and Gordon Linebaugh limited on striped bass in the delta. 2024 was not a good year for we fisherfolk, but we remain optimistic and hopeful for a great year ahead.



## Bridge Jon Dickson

Our bridge year started with good average scores, over 3,600, our first meeting, but on January 28th our average dropped 1,000 points, for a rather tough day for scoring, with an average score of 2,633 points. It is, what it is!

On January 14th, Dick Chaffee came in first with 5,340 points, Dave Williams second with 5,130 points and Gordon Gonsalves was third with 4,810 points.

January 28th was our low scoring day and Eric

McNamara won with 3,910 points, Denny Morrissey second with 3,880 points and Don Beniott third with 3,840 points. A couple slams not bid, lots of going down, so the set pot earned a lot of dimes.

We play bridge, have lunch, at the Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. We welcome any and all bridge players.



## Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

Lone Tree Center is by far the best Sunday Brunch in East Bay. We welcomed Happy 2025 New Year with a sumptuous Mimosa Sunday Brunch on January 12th. Mimosas were served a few minutes late but gave us time for camaraderie. Lone Tree Oak Room was reserved for our hungry 42 Sir members. It overlooked the 9th hole of the golf course and the reservoir lagoon, a very attractive ambiance. This was our third annual January Sunday Brunch at Lone Tree with many suggested again for ringing in 2026 New Year. Calendar now and don't miss a terrific Brunch.

Another excellent Dine-O-Sir dinner is planned for the highly recommended Italian cuisine at **DeVino's** in Pleasant Hill. Save **March 26** for a bargain **\$45.00** inclusive per person. See the DeVino's flyer attached. You'll love Happy Hour and the menu arranged by Bob Donohue.

**Don't forget Valentine's Day!**  
**Your Dine-O-SIR Committee:**  
**Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Mike Yale**

# Branch Activities

## Dine-O-SIRs

Branch 116 on March 26, 2025

Enjoy dining together at



2221 Morello Avenue, Pleasant Hill

Cost of \$45.00 per person inclusive

Wednesday, March 26. Social Hour at 5:45 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM

Happy Hour all day!

Wines (\$7) and Beer (\$3); Wells (\$5); Corkage \$15

Appetizers

Zucchini and Cheese Sticks

Dinner Menu

House Salad with Garlic Baskets

Entrée Choices:

Sauteed Salmon with Vegetables

Chicken Marsala

Lasagna

Dessert:

TBA

*Parking: Shopping Center with adequate parking*

Detach\*\*\*\*\*

DeVino's Pizza & Pasta, Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Must be received by no later than March 17, 2025

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

Entrée: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Entrée: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees @ \$45 .00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Check to **SIR Branch 116 Dining**, 1717 Chardonnay Lane, Brentwood, CA 94513-4252 (Bob's address)

Call Bob Donohue if you have questions at (925) 513-5141 or [bobdonohue17@gmail.com](mailto:bobdonohue17@gmail.com)

# Branch Activities



## 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, February 24... "Isaacs's Storm" by Eric Larson
- Monday, March 24, ... "Empress of the Nile" by Lynne Olson
- Monday, April 28, ... "The Barn" by Wright Thompson

This month's report is a doubleheader since Book Group #1 met twice in January.

On January 6, 2025, the group discussed "The Emerald Mile" by Kevan Fedarko, an account of simultaneous and interacting events: the June 1983 release of unprecedented snowmelt into the Colorado River of the Grand Canyon by the staff of the Glen Canyon Dam and the successful attempt by three river guides, Kenton Grua, Steve Reynolds and Rudy Petschek to ride this discharge to a new speed record for a transit of the river (36 hours, 38 minutes, 29 seconds). The group found Fedarko's prose an engaging concurrent discussion of canyon exploration, dam construction, and the epic race while also exploring the inherent tradeoffs of the 20th-century conservation movement with the imperative to prevent floods, supply water, and generate power.

Todd Berman introduced the book while Richard

Black led the discussion with Paul Freitas, Garrett Girvan, Dick Kauffman, Peter Loew, John Riordan, Brad Stripling, Tim Tinnes, Art Donaldson, Larry Setren, and Bill Trilsch.

Book Club #1 awarded the book 4.1 stars for this account of three river guides who challenged nature and themselves with near-poetic ambition.

\*\*\*\*\*

On January 27, 2025, Book Group #1 discussed "The Frozen River," a work of fiction that drew upon the facts from the life of Martha Ballard, a late 18th-century midwife from Hallowell, Maine. A body frozen in river ice is retrieved and examined by the midwife, who judges that he was hanged. In some sense, this is a detective novel, a who-done-it. In another sense, it is a reimagining of love, conflicts, family loyalty, greed, and the panoply of personal relationships in a different time, which resonates with our time. As might be expected in a tale about a midwife, the agony and triumphs of the labor and delivery process received considerable attention in this novel. John Riordan recommended the book, and Richard Black led the discussion with Todd Berman, Steve Bort, Art Donaldson, Jim Flessner, Paul Freitas, Dick Kauffman, Peter Loew, Mac McLoughlan, Eric McNamara, Dan Renke, Brad Stripling, Bill Trilsch and Joel White. The group awarded the book 4.1 stars.



# Branch Activities



## Pickleball Ed Solomon

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

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

Required equipment- Paddle, balls, and tennis

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

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

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

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



## Amiable Amblers John Riordan

January walkers included Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Steve Bort, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Al & Nancy Farbman, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Dan & Andrea Green, Eric McNamara, John & Gail Riordan, Brad & Winnie Stribling, Bill & Maureen Trilsch, and Joel & Susie White.

On January 10 we walked north on the Iron Horse Trail from the Walnut Creek Civic Park, with a post-walk gathering at the Buttercup Diner. On January 17 we walked south on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail from the Moraga Safeway to the Valle Vista Staging Area, with a post-walk gathering at the Ranch House Café. On January 24 we walked east on the Ygnacio Canal Trail from San Miguel Park, with a post-walk gathering at the Countrywood Black Bear Diner. The January 31 walk (too late for inclusion in this report) is planned for the Lafayette Reservoir Loop Trail, with a post-walk gathering at the Village Inn Cafe in Orinda.

All February walks (except on the 28th) are scheduled to begin at 9:00AM, weather permitting.

On **February 7** 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 **February 14** we will meet at the Lafayette Community Center and walk south on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Moraga Town Bakery and Cafe. On **February 21** we will meet at the Stone Valley Rd West trailhead in Alamo and walk south on the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Danville Black Bear Diner. On **February 28** we will meet at 10:00AM at the San Leandro Marina Park and walk south on the Bay Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at nearby El Torito.

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](mailto:jriordan730@gmail.com) or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.

# SIRs Have More Fun

# 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 on February 1 with 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](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.

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

Chris Doan  
[cdoan99@gmail.com](mailto:cdoan99@gmail.com)  
602-908-0292



## Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

### Book Exchange

Believe it or not, the Book Exchange has been operating for 11 years!

In November 2013, Jerry Christopherson suggested that we start a Book Exchange. As tradition demands, a committee was formed consisting of Richard Black, Art Donaldson, John Fraser, Joel White and myself to pursue the Book Exchange. Unlike most committee efforts ours was quick and positive and by January 2014 the Book Exchange was operating and continues to run 11 years later.

The key to the Book Exchange are the many volunteers (aka Book Sherpas) who lug a couple bags of books to and from the luncheon meetings. There have been over twenty Book Sherpas and without their help, there would not be a Book Exchange.

We believe that we are serving our SIR branch well and welcome any input on how to improve and better serve our members. And no, we do not have a method to exchange audio or ebooks at present.

Again, a big Thanks to all of the past and present Book Sherpas.

Happy Reading



# Branch Activities

## 2025 9-Hole Golf Awards



**9-Hole Flight Winner  
Tony Latini**



**9-Hole Tournament Winner  
Kevin Donahue**

## **SIR Branch 116 Special Event at Boundary Oak Monday, February 3 Two Man Team Golf**

No cost entry; receive pats on the back, handshakes, and bragging!

You will have our usual flight points!!!

Make your two-man team or we can pair  
Both players will score with total net strokes; best is least strokes

Bonus:

Scoring for total net scores winning:

net birdies: -1 for each net birdie

net eagles: -2 for each

net holes-in-one: -5 for each: (must buy for all Branch Sirs at Tap House)

(For scoring, keep track by hole for any bonus points then total at the end. Subtract from your total net scores for your two-man team and write the adjusted score at the lower right side.)

# 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.

### February 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 05	10:00 AM	Dublin Ranch	Chris Doan
Wed. 12	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 19	10:00 AM	Skylinks	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 26	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry

### February 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 03	9:40	Boundary Oak	B. Wroblewski
Mon. 10	9:40	Boundary Oak	B. Wroblewski
Tues. 21	10:00	Pasradise	B. Wroblewski
Mon. 27	10:32	Diablo Creek	B. Wroblewski