



SIR Branch 116 Newsletter January 2025

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

Message from Paul

Welcome to a new year in 2025!! I want to express my sincere gratitude to Alan Pope for his knowledge, his creative leadership and dedication to SIR in 2024. It was my pleasure to work with and for him in my capacity as Little SIR, just getting to know him was great.



I'd like to extend my grateful thanks to members of the Branch Executive Committee: Paul Ramacciatti, Greg Hughes, Charlie Guthrie, Al Satake and Phil Goff ... along with directors Don Benioff, Gary Bonfiglio, Jeff Johnson, Kevin Donahue, Darrell McClaughry, Sam Beret, Roger Craig and Dave Williams for their advice and guidance throughout the past year. This all comes with a special shout out to Phil Goff and Neil Schmidt for their outstanding work on the Branch116 website and the membership roster. I'd also like to recognize and express my gratitude to the Activity Chairman, Mike Ward, the RAMP chairmen and the Activities Chairmen (listed in the newsletter) whose dedication as volunteers make for a great Branch 116.

The Holiday Party we had this year was a success once again! Members enjoyed reconnecting with each other and their spouse/significant others, enjoying entertainment by a barbershop quartet and dancing to great songs played by the DJ. Thank you to the volunteers who planned the event, Alan Pope and his wife, who delved into the bowels of Costco for some terrific raffle gifts, Ron Armijo, Brad Stribling and Charlie Guthrie. All in all, it was a job well done by all.

Our new Secretary, Dan Lawrence will continue to publish an article in the Newsletter to let all of us know what decisions and discussions took place at the BEC meetings each month.

Since 1984, Branch 116 has provided countless opportunities to engage in diverse activities and forge meaningful connections. This aligns perfectly with SIRs' mission to foster happiness, renew existing friendships and cultivate new ones through our activities.

Primarily this year, I would like to concentrate on expanding our membership, diversifying our activities, while encouraging greater participation in them. We would like to get more volunteerism in them. Branch 116 is a healthy branch in SIRs and we would like it remain so. You are always welcome to volunteer to improve the Branch and it goes without saying that your contribution would be greatly rewarding and welcomed. Our January luncheon will take place on January 20th, and I hope to see you all there.

Paul Russell, Big SIR

Next Meeting

Jan. 20, 2025 @
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.

2025 SIR Branch Officers



Big SIR
Paul
Russell



Little SIR
Brad
Stribling



Treasurer
Charlie
Guthrie



Asst. Treas.
Al
Satake



Secretary.
Dan
Lawrence



Asst.Sec.
Bill
Foulds

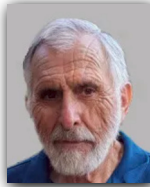


Membership
Phil
Goff



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 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 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
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

January 2025

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1 	2	3 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Moraga Safeway)	4
5	6 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak) Book Group 1 (10:15@ Orinda Books)	7 Computer & Tech (10:00 via Zoom)	8 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pleasanton) Mexican Train (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	9	10 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ WC Civic Ctr.) Chess (1:00@ PH Senior Ctr.)	11
12 Dine-O-SIR	13 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	14 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	15 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills)	16 Book Group 2 (11:00@ Boundary Oak) Community Srvc. (1:00@ Food Bank)	17 Pickleball (7:30@ Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Lafayette Community Ctr,t)	18
19 SIR Br. 116 Luncheon (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	20	21 18-Hole Golf (10:00@ Rancho Solano)	22 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Skylinks) \$ums Investment (1:30 via Zoom)	23 Fishing Group (8:30@ Diablo Creek) Wine-O-S:IR (4:00@ Dave Williams House)	24 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ San Miguel Park) Chess (1:00@ PH Senior Ctr.)	25
26	27 18-Hole Golf (10:00@ Franklin Cyn.) Book Group 1 (10:15@ Orinda Books)	28 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	29 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills)	30	31 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Lafayette Reservoir)	



Branch Administration



Branch Membership
Phil Goff, Membership Chairman



Treasury Report
Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

Note: Several members failed to remit their dues and attend luncheons this year. Big SIR Alan Pope mailed letters to these members, but many did not respond, resulting in their involuntary resignation.

Total Membership is 183

<u>Name</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Bill Trilsch	New Member	Don Schroeder
Tom Oneto	New Member	Jim Hemmenway
Tom Leahy	New Member	Jim Hemmenway
	—	
Bob Colvin	Resigned due to health issues	
Lou Johnson	Resigned. No reason given	
Bob Campbell	No response to letter (Resigned)	
John Fraser	No response to letter (Resigned)	
Dave Heck	No response to letter (Resigned)	
Bob Romero	No response to letter (Resigned)	
Roger Tuma	No response to letter (Resigned)	
Jerry Zampino	No response to letter (Resigned)	

The 2025 budget was approved at the November BEC meeting. It is largely unchanged from 2024. Our major expenditures continue to be SIR State dues, general operating expenses (ink, paper, stamps, roster printing, ...) and recruiting. SIR state dues are increasingly slightly from \$10.00 per member per quarter to \$10.25. However, the BEC does expect to need to spend more on recruiting new members in 2025. Mainly for this reason the BEC decided to increase 2025 annual membership dues to \$25. We will start collecting 2025 dues in January. **If you pay your dues at one of the monthly lunches, please ensure one of the folks taking your money notes that you have paid your dues on the list that they will have.** If you pay with cash, this list is the only way we can tell who has paid and who hasn't. You can also pay your dues via the web site's Shopping Cart starting January 1.

The cost of lunch will not increase in 2025. We were able to work together with the other two SIR branches that meet at Boundary Oak to hold the lunch price at \$37 for 2025.

	23-Dec	2024 YTD
Beg Bal 2024		\$ 11,222.12
Contributions	\$ 7,087.90	\$ 74,295.78
Disbursements	\$ (8,745.87)	\$ (74,737.65)
Net (gain/ (loss))	\$ (1,657.97)	\$ (441.87)
December Cash Balance		\$ \$10,780.25

2025 Roster Books are in the Mail

Well, almost in the mail. The new books will be mailed to all members in early January.

Please be advised that an up-to-date online roster is always available on our website in the "Member Info" section. The username and password required to access this information are included in the 2025 and 2024 booklets. This resource provides an efficient means of locating the phone number and/or email address of new members throughout the year.

January Birthdays

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

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Ken Binning | 5. Gary Halick |
| 2. Dick Conger | 6. Jim Ranger |
| 3. Tom Eller | 7. Dennis Snarr |
| 4. Bill Ginter | 8. Dick Socolich |

Luncheon Speaker

“Blackhawk Museum” by Ed Holloway



Little SIR
Brad Stribling

Now we enter a new year – 2025 – of exciting and fulfilling activities and intriguing luncheon speakers! We get to hear presentations on the unusual history of Mt. Diablo and the Black Diamond Mines, on Autonomous Vehicles and Contra Costa transportation, on the life of a carrier-based Navy fighter pilot and the USS Hornet, on Waves and Tidal Energy, and... and... well, I won't go on. But don't miss out! Oh, here's a little more:

In 1988, Danville resident Ken Behring opened his world class collection of automobiles to the public. Over the years the collection began to be known as the Blackhawk Museum and has expanded its galleries to include Automobiles, the Spirit of the Old West, Art of Africa, Into China, and The World of Nature. The Blackhawk Museum is a hidden Bay Area gem, waiting for your discovery! Ed Holloway, our luncheon speaker on January 20, is well versed in all this and will introduce us, and invite us, to explore this vibrant resource.

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>

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/

The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak **Luncheon Menu**

Monday, January 20th

Salad

Boundary Oak Green Salad

Mesclun Greens, Dried Cranberries, Candied Walnuts, Blue Cheese Crumbles, Poppy Seed Dressing

Entrées

Chicken Piccata

Herb Marinated Chicken Breast, Garlic and Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetable, White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce

Cod Piccata

Herb Marinated Cod Filet, Garlic and Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetable, White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Creamy Tomato Tortellini

Five Cheese Tortellini in a Creamy Tomato Sauce, Seasonal Vegetable

Dessert

Tiramisu

**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 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 December 12th, we spent the morning breaking down in-coming produce crates and packing for redistribution to food banks, kitchens and other worthy causes.

I am booking some monthly activities in advance next year. So far, we are committed to work at the following locations:

- Food Bank - Thursday January 16th from 1:00 to 3:00
- 1st Place for Youth – Thursday February 13th from 9:30 to 11:00
- Food Bank - 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

At the 1st Place for Youth, we will be assembling hygiene kits for Foster-Care young men aging out of the state-run system to be on their own. We are

also purchasing the kit inventory through the generosity of many of our volunteers.

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



\$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

Branch Activities



Wine-O-SIR David Havlik

The WINE-O-SIRS did not meet in December. Our next event will be a wine tasting at Dave and Carol Williams home on Thursday afternoon, **January**

23rd. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Dave Havlik.



Walking Tours Greg Hughes

Greg Hughes and Jim Tamulski are evaluating proposed Walking Tours for 2025. The events and the calendars are discussed below.

Events

1. Mare Island – Booking a private tour covering the Mare Island facilities and grounds. The cost is \$45 (\$20 + \$25 for a private docent) per participant. Planning lunch at a craft beer bar.
2. Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park - Plan to request a "short orientation introduction by a staff volunteer.
3. SF Library Tours - We will identify 4 tours and provide proposed lunch venues, i.e. tour Chinatown and lunch in a Chinese restaurant.
4. Heather Farms - Docent Tour of Gardens - Greg will identify the park staff members who schedule docent tours. We are planning a picnic lunch on that date.

5. Oakland Zoo - Glowfari - <https://ticket.oaklandzoo.org/glowfari> Greg & Marilyn plan to see Glowfari in December. They will and we will propose a plan for this event after their visit.

Event Dates - All on a Saturday

1. March 8 & 15
2. May 10 & 17
3. July 12 & 19
4. September 13 & 20
5. December 8 & 15

The above dates are for our planning purposes and we will provide the final schedule when available.

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



Chess Gary Bonfiglio

New Branch Activity-CHESS

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

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

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

Branch Activities

SIR Computer & Technology



Hello Techies,

It never hurts to review your Backup Plan and keep up with the updated procedures for keeping your files safe.

In the airplane business we say that there are those who have and those who will. (this refers to remembering to lower the landing gear in an airplane).

In the computer business we say the same thing about remembering to run your backups before a disc failure.

In our January meeting we'll review Windows 10 and Windows 11 Backup and Restore capabilities for keeping you out of the data failure world.

Join us for our Jan 7th Computer & Tech Zoom Meeting for review of this significant topic.

Fred Wachowicz

Join Zoom Meeting at:

January 7 at 10:00 AM (or 9:45 AM+)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85673306793?pwd=jvsiuRqM9yMRsixchiaw0CrbPOF2vu.1>

Meeting ID: 856 7330 6793

Passcode: Zenith1

Or dial: 408 638 0968



Bocce
Bob Huck

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

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

Bob Huck
bhuck10@sbcglobal.net



Dine-O-SIR
Jerry Hicks

Last Call for Mimosa Brunch
10:30 AM Sunday Brunch January 12
Celebrate 2025 Happy New Year



With a sumptuous Mimosa Sunday Brunch on January 12th at Lone Tree Golf Club. We have a reserved area with seating in Lone Tree Oak Room at 10:30 AM. We have spacious available; invite friends to join with us.

Be prepared for good food, good service, and good views! Cost is \$49.00 per person inclusive. A Dine-

O-SIR Flyer with information and reservations is attached. Send reservations with checks to Jerry Hicks.

Happy New Year by Dine-O-SIR Committee:

Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Mike Yale

P.S. Dine-O-Sir, led by Bob Donohue, presents March 26th dinner at Pleasant Hill's recommended Italian DeVino's restaurant.

Branch Activities



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



At 10:30 AM

Lone Tree Golf Course
4800 Golf Course Road, Antioch

Overlooking the 18th green and lake

Cost of \$49.00 inclusive per person

Typical Buffet:

Mimosa and Juices

Pastries and Rolls

Fruits and Salads

Shrimp and Smoked Salmon

Eggs and Meats

Custom Omelet and

Prime Rib Carving Stations

Waffles and French Toast

Dessert Table

Coffee and Tea Served



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

Name: _____ **E-Mail** _____

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

Check payable to: SIR Branch 116 Dining

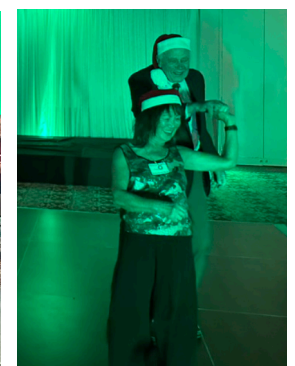
Mail to: Jerry Hicks at 74 Amberwood Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Call or e-mail if you have questions: C) 925-360-0447 or jerryhicks@astound.net

Branch Activities

Holiday Party Photos

December 17, 2024



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

Book Group #1 wishes all SIR's a happy and fulfilling holiday and will not meet in December of 2024. Our January 2025 report should a Duesie. (Slang for outstanding, as in a comment one might make when inspecting a 1923 Duesenberg Model A.)



Bridge Jon Dickson

Our 2024 bridge games have ended as we do not play the 2nd Tuesday in December. Our next game is the 2nd Tuesday of January, on January 14th. We play every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at The Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon, lunch & bridge. Play is Chicago style, changing partners every 4 hands, winners move.

Our last game of the year on Tuesday, December 10th had Dennis Snarr come in first with 6,060 points, Ron Banducci at second with 5,790 points, Ben Bryce third with 4,810 points and in fourth place was Joel White with 4,740 points. We had year's high 20 players, 5 tables of bridge. Our average

score for the day was also a high of the year with 4518 points average.

For our full year of playing, Jai Yee came in first with an average score of 3,759 points. Jon Dickson second with 3,746 points, Jerry Christopherson third with 3,718 points and Denny Morrissey fourth with 3,680 points. All the above players played at least 10 games to qualify

May all have a joyous Holiday Season, and I want to see all at the January 10th game, recovered from the Seasonal festivities.



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, January 23rd at 8:30am. Come early.

Weather has been a problem for us all year! Wind is our enemy, and it has been BLOWY all year. Oh woe was us! Crab catching began December 1st, but wind and big waves were so bad, even the

party boats did not go often. But Brion Beetz, Carl Moyer, Lee Clark, Barry Latner, Steve Paulick, and Stan Wong braved the turmoil and got crabs and rockfish. Dennis Lee, Ken Konzak, and Carl Moyer got trout in the East Bay, but Fred McNeil travelled to Bridgeport for his. Ron Lew and Ken Belendir caught dorado and marlin all the way down to Baja, Mexico. Phil Scimonelli, Sam Oomen, Stan Wong, Harry Sherinian, Tom Kostik and Dennis Lee landed stripers from the delta. And, over 50 of us enjoyed our annual Christmas dinner with our ladies at Zio Freido. A truly pleasant evening. May the new year bring you joy, health, laughing children, light winds and calm waters.

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/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!!**



Amiable Amblers John Riordan

December walkers included Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Al & Nancy Farbman, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Eric McNamara, Essie Naddaf, John & Gail Riordan, Brad & Winnie Stribling, Tim Tinnes, and Joel & Susan White.

On December 6 we walked east on the Contra Costa Canal Trail from the Countrywood Shopping Center, with a post-walk gathering at Panera Bread. The December 13 walk was rained out, but we gathered at Caffè La Scala anyway for breakfast and conversation. Dick Frankel led the December 20 walk on the Iron Horse Trail from Osage Park, with a post-walk gathering at the Danville Black Bear Diner.

All January walks are scheduled to begin at 9:00AM, weather permitting. On **January 3** we will meet at the Moraga Safeway and walk south on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail to Valle Vista; the post walk gathering will be at the Ranch House Café nearby. On **January 10** we will meet at the Walnut Creek

Civic Center Park and walk north on the Iron House Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Buttercup Diner. On **January 17** 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 Café. On **January 24** we will meet at San Miguel Park and walk east on the Ygnacio Canal Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Countrywood Black Bear Diner. On **January 31** we will mee at the Lafayette Reservoir and walk the lower loop trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Village Inn Cafe in Orinda.

These walks are for individuals or couples; spouses and significant others are encouraged to participate, even when the member is unable to. SIR members, including those from other branches, wishing to join this congenial group or to be added to the email list should contact me at jriordan730@gmail.com or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.



Book Group 2 Scott Clark

Book Club 2 did not meet in December.

Our next meeting is **Thursday, January 16**, 11 am, at Boundary Oak Golf Course. We will discuss Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson. Whether you read the book, or not, all are welcome to attend.

At our February 20 meeting, we will discuss The Women, by Kristin Hannah.

For more information, contact Scott Clark at 925-998-4553

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.

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



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 2025 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 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!



Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

The Book Exchange says Thanks!

Thanks to all of you who brought extra books to build up the Book Exchange inventory. This should enhance the selection of books available to all of us.

At the next luncheon come on by and check out the new books that are available.

Happy reading,
The Book Sherpas



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.

January 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 08	10:00 AM	Pleasanton	D.McClaughry
Wed. 15	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 22	10:00 AM	Skylinks	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 29	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry

January 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 06	9:40	Boundary Oak	Jerry Hicks
Mon. 13	9:40	Boundary Oak	Jerry Hicks
Tues. 21	10:00	Rancho Solano	Jerry Hicks
Mon. 27	10:00	Franklin Cyn.	Jerry Hicks