



SIR Branch 116 Newsletter March 2025

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

Message from Paul

Attendance continues to be a contributing factor of our growth in membership. Last month we had three new members and five guests ... now we just need to get them to join the Branch116 and/or join some of our activities whether it be pickleball, Book Club 1 or 2, Golf, 18 or 9 hole, Bocce, Amiable Amblers, Fishing or our couples activities such as Dine-O-Sirs and Wine-O-Sirs – (not that those are the only ones that can include Spouses / Partners).



Some of you may have had your photos taken at the Holiday Party in December. Phil Goff brought along his trusty camera and had some group photos taken, whether it was a couple or group of people. He knew just how to have the folks stand to get the best shot. I've received 3 or 4 emails from spouses or members, saying that they really liked the photos and would like it to become part of the standard practice – if we can get Phil to teach some of our younger people to take part. This all happened during the social hour before we sat down to eat.

Since the beginning of the year, we've grown in number thanks to the membership, recruiting and publicity of our branch. The lunch count rose significantly in February due the new guests and members. This is an addition of 10% above our January Luncheon Count.

We'll be having our Spring Fling ladies day party in May (I don't have the date set yet). But we'd like you all to come out for it in your Sunday go to Meeting duds, it will probably be sometime between the 16th and 23rd of May.

One other item of interest is that you're yearly Dues will be due this month and next, so the earlier you can get them paid, the earlier you can balance your checkbook with them included and you won't have to worry about it next month. These can be easily paid on the Shopping Cart on our Branch 116 website or we'll gladly accept your cash or check.

I'd like to give a big shout out to our Speaker Committee; Chairman Allen Farbman, Paul Freitas, and Little SIR Brad Stribling. We've had two very renowned speakers e.g. Ed Holloway (from the Blackhawk Museum) and Dan Hanel (Author of mystery novels in Contra Costa County). The March speaker will be s Tim Haile, the director of Contra Costa Transportation Authority. He will talk about autonomous vehicles and the innovations included in them. See the Little SIR report for more information.

Paul Russell, Big SIR

Next Meeting

Mar. 17, 2025 @
Boundary Oak,
11:30 AM

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Trampas Topics

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

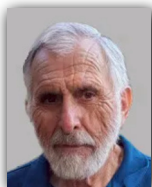


Membership
Phil
Goff

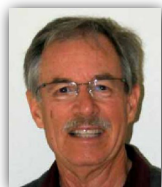


Asst. Mem.
Neil
Schmidt

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 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 Brad Stribling

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	Gary Bonfiglio
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	Alan Polanger	Gary Bonfiglio
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	Jim Tamulski	Greg Hughes
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

March 2025

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
2	3 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	4	5 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Dublin Ranch)	6 Community Srvc. (10:00@ San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church)	7 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ WC Ciuvic Park)	8
9 <i>Daylight Saving</i>	10 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	11 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	12 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) Mexican Train (10:00@ Aegis Living)	13	14 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (10:00@ San Leandro Marina Park)	15 Walking Tour
16	17 St. Patrick's Day SIR Br. 116 Luncheon (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	18 18-Hole Golf (10:00@Tilden)	19 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Skylinks)	20 Book Group 2 (11:00@ Boundary Oak) Community Service (1:00@ Food Bank)	21 Pickleball (7:30@ Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Moraga Safeway)	22
23	24 18-Hole Golf (10:00@ Franklin Cyn.) Book Group 1 (10:15@ Orinda Books)	25 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	26 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) \$ums Investment (1:30 via Zoom)	27 Fishing Group (8:30@ Diablo Creek)	28 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Countrywood Black Bear)	29
30	31 18-Hole Golf (10:00@ Dublin Ranch)					



Branch Administration

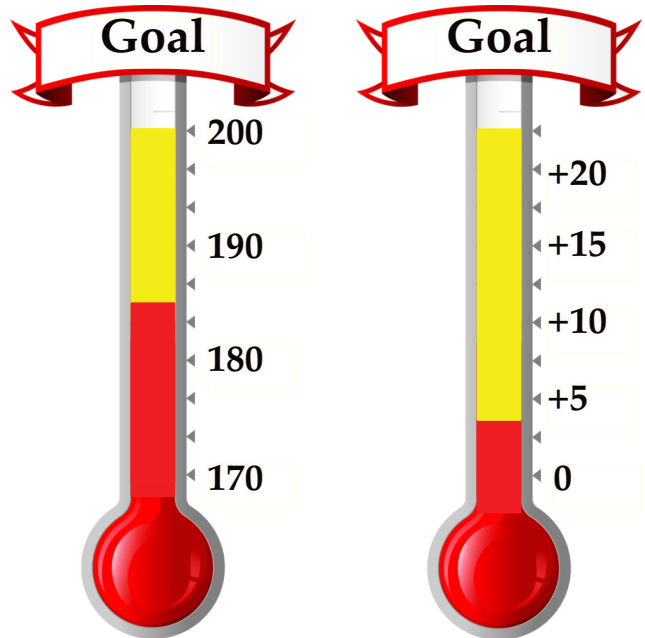


Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 185
2025 New Members: 3

- New Member: Logan Happel
Sponsor is Don Nix
- New Member: Jim Grant
Sponsor is Alan Polanger
- New Member: Frank Rudnick
Sponsor is Jack Minicucci
- Resigned: Willie Brown
Return to full time work



2025
Current Members

2025
New Members

2025 Membership Challenge

March Birthdays

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

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Doug Allen | 10. Zbig Mrozek |
| 2. Gary Bonfiglio | 11. Bob Price |
| 3. Jim Briggs | 12. Ron Radakovich |
| 4. Charles Collins | 13. Paul Ramacciotti |
| 5. Joe Datzman | 14. Norm Schoenfeld |
| 6. Mike DiMaggio | 15. Terry Sherman |
| 7. John Hughes | 16. John Story |
| 8. Dick Kauffman | 17. Tom Walsh |
| 9. Bill McCord | 18. Dave P. Williams |



Treasury Report

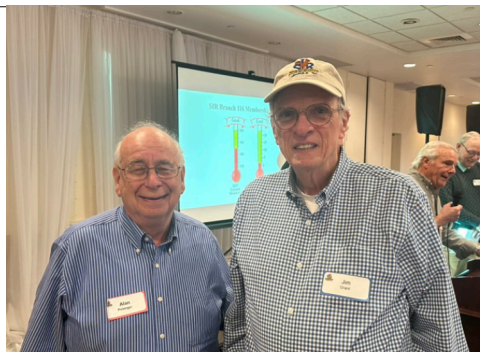
Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

	25-Feb	2025 YTD
Beg Bal 2025		\$ 10,842.15
Contributions	\$ 6,675.46	\$ 14,538.96
Disbursements	\$ (4,697.38)	\$ (14,494.97)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ 1,978.08	\$ 43.99
February Cash Balance		\$ 10,886.14

New Members



Sponsor Jack Minicucci with New Member Frank Rudnick



Sponsor Alan Polanger with New Member Jim Grant



Sponsor Don Nix with New Member Logan Happel

Luncheon Speaker

Tim Haile - "Autonomous Vehicles and Innovations in Transportation"



Little SIR
Brad Stribling

At our February luncheon we were treated to an engaging program by Mr. Dan Hanel. He is incredibly grounded in the early history of this area and has an uncanny ability to detect intriguing mysteries. He's also a published author of these mysteries in a series of historic novels called "In The Shadow Of Diablo". In The Mystery of the Great Stone House you'll wonder 'what was this huge house all about?' and 'why was the pioneering notable Charles Marsh murdered?' and 'where is all that gold?'. And the other books in this series are equally compelling – check them out!

March Speaker

This month we'll be honored with a talk by Mr. Tim Haile who is the Executive Director of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. His agency is charged with implementing programs to manage traffic levels and oversee innovative transit programs. He's a recognized leader in autonomous and free shared vehicles and his presentation will offer us a broad view of the present and future of transportation in our area.

REMINDER

If you haven't already done so, the 2025 Annual Branch 116 Dues of \$25 need to be paid by end of March. You can pay via the Shopping Cart, by sending a check to our Treasurer Charlie Guthrie, or at the March Luncheon.

If you don't remember if you have paid your Dues, you can check the "Have You Paid" list in the Member Info section of our web site.

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, March 17th

Salad

Mixed Green Salad

Broccoli, Red Onions, Dried Cherries and Cucumbers with Ranch Dressing

ENTREES

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Braised Corned Beef and Red Potatoes, Steamed Cabbage and Carrots

or

Creamy Herb Marinated Cod

Herb Marinated Cod, Red potatoes, Steamed Cabbage and Carrots, Creamy Citrus Sauce

VEGETARIAN

Pesto Ravioli

Cheese Ravioli, Garlic Roasted Grape Tomatoes in a Pesto Sauce

PRESET DESSERT

Bailys Irish Cream Cake

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/

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



A great turnout for February Luncheon with good food and great speaker



February Speaker Dan Hanel talking about his 3 Contra Costa Novels



Jon Dickson receiving the Senior SIR - 90 Year Presidential Award from Little SIR Bran Stibling



Bocce Bob Huck

The 2025 Bocce season is set to start on Thursday, April 17. We will be playing every other Thursday from April 17 through Thursday October 16. We will be playing from 10:00am until noon at the Clayton Bocce Courts. We currently have enough players for

4 full teams. Let me know if you may want to join if any openings become available.

Bob Huck
bhuck10@sbcglobal.net

Branch Activities



Branch Executive Committee

Secretary Dan Lawrence

BEC Minutes- Summary Meeting of February 17, 2025

- Financial: Branch cash balance as 02/01/2025 is \$8,908.06, and reserve balance is \$9,101.10.
- Luncheon: 110 attendees were submitted for the February 2025 Luncheon.
- Membership: Current active membership is 183. Three new members were introduced.
- The 2024 Branch Audit Report was completed with complimentary remarks about the year-end balance that has remained flat with the NCGA dues/ payments being the major on-going annual expenditure. General accounting practices and procedures for a cash accounting system have been followed.
- The approved Branch 116 Activities list with chairmen is included in the February 17, 2025, BEC minutes.
- February Guest Speaker: Dan Hanel is an author of a four book historical series: "In the Shadow of Diablo." Dan, who is a teacher at Los Medanos College, said that his four books are novels about four historical facts that occurred in Contra Costa County. Dan Hanel says his novels are where facts meet fiction, and was an extremely interesting presentation.



Book Group 2

Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met February 20 to discuss *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Members in attendance voted the book 4.0/5.

The Women by Kristin Hannah

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of San Diego by conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry

protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and patriotism, *The Women* is a story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.

Book Club 2 March Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Thursday March 20**, @11 AM. Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House. We will be discussing The Wide Wide Sea by Hampton Sides. The book is the story of the final voyage of James Cook, the great English explorer of the late 1700's. Having just finished the book, and after 3 years of running this group, I have to say this is one of my favorite books of all time. I would personally recommend it to anyone.

Contact Scott Clark for more information, 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 Tuesday March 4th @ 10:00 AM at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, Alamo, we will be assembling hygiene kits for 1st Place for Youth 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. Photo on right of the items in totes ready for assembly.



On Thursday March 20th, we will be at the Food Bank again from 1:00 to 3:00.

Future dates for us are:

- 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, 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



Wine-O-SIR David Havlik

The WINE-O-SIRS did not meet in February. We will have a wine tasting on Thursday, March 27th at 4:00PM. Dave and Judy Havlik will host this event

at their home in Danville. If you have an interest in joining us, please contact Dave Havlik at jdhavlik@sbcglobal.net or (925) 437-2668.

Branch Activities



Walking Tours Jim Tamulski

"As of February 25, 13 people have signed up for the Walking Tour of Mare Island on **March 15th**. All should meet at St. Peter's Chapel on the Island at 1181 Walnut Ave. no later than 9:45 a.m. Jim Tamulski will then collect \$20 per person in reimbursement for the donation he made to the Mare Island Historical Society, who will provide a tour guide. There is parking on the street in front of the Chapel.

After visiting the Chapel the docent tour guide will take the group on a 90 minute walk to see "The Admiral's Mansion," Alden Park, "The Historic Core" of the Island on the waterfront, and end the

tour in front of the USS VALLEJO submarine Sail Memorial. (There is also a museum on the Island which is not included in the tour.

It is recommended that the group have lunch at the Coal Shed Brewery located at 850 Nimitz Ave., (behind a large parking lot) a short drive from the Chapel. The Brewery is located in a building that is on the waterfront with indoor and outdoor seating. Its menu includes snacks, soups, salads, burgers, etc. all provided from a food truck that has been serving satisfying meals for years. The Brewery offers approximately 10 craft beers, various wines and non-alcoholic beverages. "



Mexican Train Alan Polanger

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 of 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 10AM on the second

Wednesday of each month at Aegis Living located at 1660 Oak Park Blvd. in Pleasant Hill.

We met in February and had eight in attendance. Present was one guest, Earl Gore. Members John Riordan, Alan Polanger, Jim Grant, Harry Sherinian, Alex Lutkus, Paul Freitas, and Kirk McVean.

Please email me if you would like to talk and I can give you a call. A notice will be sent out for the March meeting. Let me know if you would like to be put on our list.

You can contact Alan Polanger, Apolanger@sbcglobal.net or 925.922.2151.

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 Phil Scimonelli 661-917-8060 and Branch 116, Fishing Coordinator, Harry Sherinian 510-207-7067. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on **Thursday, March 27th at 8:30am**. Come early.

Rain, cold weather, fishing seasons, and mussel

problems have severely limited our fishing this year. Almost everything upon the ocean blue is closed till spring. Our local lakes and reservoirs have closed their boat launch ramps due to a possible invasion of golden mussels. And the delta is dangerous because the torrential rains send down whole boat killing trees. **NONETHELESS**. Ron Lew, Dennis Lee, and Ken Bellendir caught stripers and flounders in that delta. Carl Moyer got crabs from the ocean. That's all folks!!!



Bridge Jon Dickson

Lunch & Bridge is every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at the Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon, starting at 10:30 AM. All those with an interest in bridge are welcome. Come and join us.

On Tuesday, February 11th, Dick Chaffee came in first with a score of 5,050 points. Bud Grisanti was second with 4,840 points and Dennis Snarr was third with 3,840 points.

Then on February 25th Sam Baret ran away for first

prize with 6,090 points. Bud Grisanti had two small slams, one right after the other, and came in second with 5350 points and Jai Yee was third with 4,780 points.

The rest of we players seemed to have lousy cards, but had a lot of laughs. Hope all who play bridge will join us on March 11th at the Brass Door for lunch & bridge.



Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

Your Dine-O-Sir Committee meets together to plan our Branch's bimonthly events. We met this past week for a menu tasting at DeVino's in Pleasant Hill, planning our March dinner on Wednesday, March 26. Although DeVino's is well known by local diners for their pizza, Bob Donohue arranged for a great Italian menu of four courses at a bargain price of \$45 per person, tax and gratuities included. DeVino's on Wednesdays offers an "all-day" Happy Hour - much too long for us - so we set the time for social adjustment gathering at 5:45 PM. See the attached DeVino's and send **NOW** your reservation and checks to Bob Donohue.



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)

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, **March 24**, ...“Empress of the Nile” by Lynne Olson
- Monday, April 28...“The Barn” by Wright Thompson

On February 24, 2025, Book Group #1 discussed “Isaac’s Storm,” by Eric Larson, an account of the September 8, 1900 hurricane that obliterated much of Galveston, Texas, and cost at least 8000 lives. Isaac Cline, chief of the weather forecasting station at Galveston, prided himself on his advanced knowledge of meteorology and yet could not protect

what was then a major Texas city from devastation. Larson identifies a complex set of factors as the cause of the tragedy. Among others were the simple state of the science at the time, the lack of information from other weather stations, weather bureau dogma, Cline’s own preconceptions, and human folly despite deteriorating weather. Brad Stribling recommended the book, and Richard Black led the discussion with Todd Berman, Steve Bort, Noel Concepcion, Art Donaldson, Jim Flessner, Paul Freitas, Garrett Girvan, Dick Kauffman, John Kopchik, Eric McNamara, Dan Renke, John Riordan, Mike Schneider, and Bill Trilsch. The group awarded the book 4.0 stars.



SIR Computer & Technology



On February 4th, we had a very interesting presentation on using several different free AI assistants for Internet browsing, answering questions, travel planning, etc. It is amazing how helpful these tools can be.

The next Computer & Tech meeting will be on April Fools Day (April 1).

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

Branch Activities



Amiable Amblers John Riordan

February 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, Eric McNamara, John & Gail Riordan, and Bill & Maureen Trilsch.

On February 7 we walked north on the Iron Horse Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Caffe La Scala. On February 14 we walked south on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail from the Lafayette Community Center to the waterfall, with a post walk gathering at the Ranch House Cafe. On February 21 we walked north on the Iron Horse Trail from the Railroad Museum, with a post-walk gathering at the Danville Black Bear Diner. The February 28 walk (too late for inclusion in this report) was planned for the Lafayette Reservoir Loop Trail, with a post-walk gathering at the Village Inn Cafe in Orinda.

All March walks (except on the 14th) are scheduled to begin at 9:00AM, weather permitting. On **March**

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 Buttercup. On **March 14** 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. On **March 21** 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 Cafe. On **March 28** we will meet at the Countrywood Black Bear Diner and walk west on the Contra Costa Canal Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Black Bear Diner.

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.



Amiable Amblers at the Railroad Museum

Branch Activities



Golf Clinic Chris Doan

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

Details about the Clinic offerings ...

Clinic Location: Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord

Clinic Pro: Pete Asselin, dedicated to the SIRs Clinic and available for private lessons at a discounted rate of \$60/hr.

Skill Level: All from low handicappers to high

handicappers

Clinic Fees: \$30 for one hour Clinic

How to register and participate:

- Start by getting on the Clinic email list. Send request to cdoan99@gmail.com to be added.
- Each Clinic details will be communicated by e-mail ... reservations are made by responding to the e-mail.

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

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



Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

Book Exchange

I was asked at the last luncheon by a new member what is with all of these books that are on the tables? I realized then that most of the members may know about the Book Exchange but the new members need an orientation about the Book Exchange.

The Book Exchange was set up 11 years ago as a method to make available free books to our members on an exchange basis. This is a loose arrangement whereby you can bring a book and take a book or if you see a book you want now,

you can take it and bring a book to the next luncheon. There is no paperwork or record keeping. The only suggestion is to bring a book or books that others may enjoy reading. It is that simple. Also, everyone should realize that these books are brought to the luncheon every month by a volunteer group, affectionately known as the "Book Sherpas" who lug the books back and forth from home for you.

So to new members as well as the old timers, please enjoy the benefits of available FREE books.



Pickleball Ed Solomon

Pickleball, is the fastest growing team sport in the U.S. for all ages. With the summer months coming soon, we 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



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.

March 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

March 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 03	9:40	Boundary Oak	Harry Oberle
Mon. 10	9:40	Boundary Oak	Harry Oberle
Tues. 18	10:00	Tilden	Harry Oberle
Mon. 24	10:00	Franklin Cyn.	Harry Oberle
Mon. 31		Dublin Ranch?	Harry Oberle