



SIR BRANCH 171

September 2016

<http://branch171.sirinc2.org/>

A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation for Retired Men Devoted to the
Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement



Our next meeting will be Wednesday, **September 7** Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Hall

1700 School St., Moraga
Social time begins at 11
Meeting begins at 11:30

BIG SIR MESSAGE: TOM MARNANE, chartom@pacbell.net 925-376-6312

Dear Fellow SIRs,

I am writing this early and will be in Ireland when you see this letter. Erin Go Bragh (Ireland Forever).

We had a good meeting in August. Our speaker delivered some interesting points in his presentation, a bit beyond what we expected, but the world is not perfect. Hope you found it of interest. Spencer Christian next month should be outstanding.

We do not have a Little SIR at this writing (early August). If you have been approached, please re-consider. If would like to be a candidate, let me know. Tim Freeman, Ralph Blumenthal and I stand ready to help with the 2017 speakers, so the role is not formidable and you will enjoy it. Please contact me with your interest.

Recruiting picked up this month, thanks to the work of Tim Freeman. We still need to push to meet our goals of seven more for the end of the year. Ask a friend or neighbor!!

Plans are well underway for our Christmas luncheon and details will be forthcoming soon. It will be great fun having an outing with our spouses or significant others.

I recently had the opportunity to be part of some communications involving a couple of delicate matters. I want you to know that they exemplified why we like SIR -- we are very thoughtful and considerate of our members and former members. I am very proud to be one of you.

Tom Marnane, Big SIR



LITTLE SIR MESSAGE: RALPH BLUMENTHAL, ralphblu@comcast.net 925-254-6935

To assist you with plans to bring a prospective member to a meeting, each month I provide not only a summary of the presentation for the coming month, but also for the subsequent month. Please try to get our meeting on some potential members' calendars.

This Month's Speaker

The speaker at our September 7 meeting will be none other than the very popular and entertaining Spencer Christian, weather forecaster for KGO-TV in San Francisco, former host of TV's "Christian's Wine Cellar", former reporter for Good Morning American, author of five children's books, and joke teller extraordinaire!

Spencer was also seen on The Black Entertainment Television cable network as the host of the music game show "Triple Threat" and has hosted the PBS train series "Track Ahead." We are all looking forward to Mr. Christian's appearance.



Our September Speaker

The speaker at our October 5 meeting will be SIR 171 member Jim Scala. Jim is a nutritionist/biochemist by education and an author and amateur astronomer by choice. He has written more than 14 books on nutrition and biochemistry (some best sellers), has co-authored more than 50 research papers on those subjects, and has been a professor at both Cal University and Georgetown Medical School.

However, he will not be talking about those heavy subjects. Instead he will be discussing old sayings and wives' tales and how they originated and why they originated, how they have helped people lead better and longer lives, and, surprisingly, how they have lead to some of the habits we still use today, even though they go back several centuries.

Ralph Blumenthal, Little SIR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members

A warm welcome to our newest member, Marty Aufhauser. Marty was inducted at the August meeting and was sponsored by Tim Freeman. Marty is from Southern California, attended UC Berkeley, has lived in Moraga over 35 years, has been married to Judy since 1969, has three children and four grandchildren. Please introduce yourself to Marty, welcome him to the group, and answer any questions he might have.



There will be two new members inducted at the September meeting.

Historical Adventures Activity

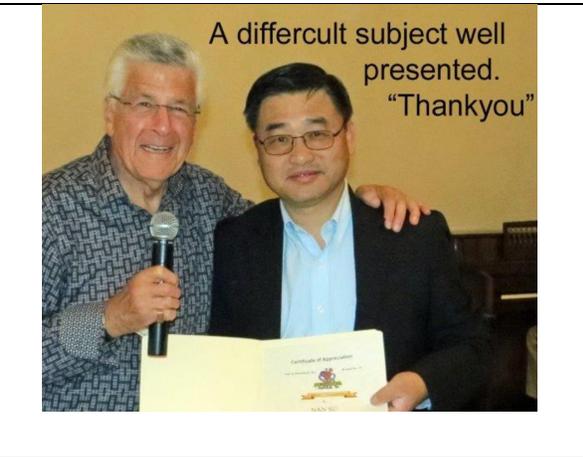
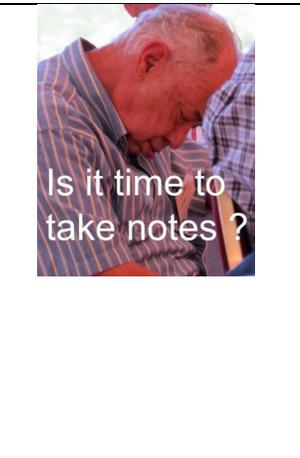
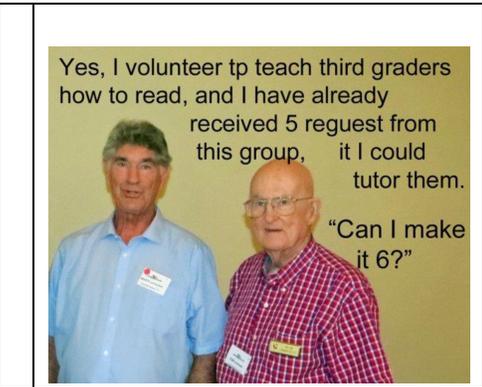
The following note was written by our outgoing chairman, Ted Westphal

"The 'Historical Adventure Tours' activity has proven to be very popular over the past several years. Although I have very much enjoyed the chairmanship position, I have retired, and I badly need a replacement! Basically, the position description is as follows: First, the tour dates are arranged, which are simply a matter of a phone call. From then on, the position requires someone who is willing to prepare tour sign up sheets, make occasional announcements at our monthly luncheons, and most importantly, handle all necessary follow-up by email. It does take computer time, but I have found that the enjoyment you will provide to your fellow Sirs is quite satisfying. I hope someone will step up and volunteer, and I will gladly help you get started. My contact numbers are: phone: 283-2172; email: tawiii@att.net."



Nov. 14, 2013 photo of Ted Westphal, leading a tour of the Red Oak Victory.

AUGUST PHOTOS & COMMENTARY -- by Club photographer Russ Aubry (with his comments and intended typos)



Featured Photos of the Month



The 171 Walkers on Redwood Park's West Ridge Trail with Mt. Diablo framed between the trees.



WOW !! The Fishing Group did well.



Little SIR Ralph admiring one of his bocce shots

Please send in a photo that you would like to have considered for inclusion in the Photos of the Month section of the newsletter. These typically come from one of the SIR activities, but do not need to if there is another picture of a member or members that would be great to share in the newsletter. Send your choice to Stan Holcenberg (sholcemb@comcast.net) by the 10th of each month for consideration. Please include a description of the photo. Cell phones work great, and also simplify emailing the photo.

SEPTEMBER LUNCH

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON MENU

Sausages and bratwurst with peppers and onions; baked beans
Green salad, seasonal fresh fruit salad, dessert

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO SIRs

- ❖ Ralph Blumenthal ❖ Mike Brodsky ❖ David Byrens ❖ Michael Chinn ❖ Robert Church ❖
- ❖ Al Donner ❖ Ken Haley ❖ Chuck Healy ❖ George Henrich ❖ Steve Honda ❖
- ❖ Dennis Kelleher ❖ Allen Kite ❖ Bob Krompholz ❖ Monte Logan ❖ Frank Mori ❖
- ❖ Jim Scala ❖ Dave Shunick ❖ Ted Westphal ❖

One of the above members for September will win a free lunch if he attends the September meeting. Members whose birth month is in September, and who do not see their name in the above list, should call the Big SIR prior to the meeting to ensure that their names are included in the drawing. **NOTE:** Members 90 years of age or more will receive a free lunch on their birth month each year, but they must notify the Big SIR prior to the meeting. Big SIR Tom Marnane can be reached at chartom@pacbell.net 925-376-6312

GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

\$15 Luncheon fee for first time guest

The first time a guest attends a meeting the lunch fee is \$15. The regular luncheon fee will be charged for subsequent visits as a guest.

If you are inviting a guest don't forget to call the hotline at 925-377-5880. Provide the name of your guest if he is a first time guest. If you have questions about this policy, call Larry Thompson, Membership Chair (925-631-9528).

Branch 171

It is sad to report the passing of former **SIR Dominic Sidari**. A memorial mass celebrating Dom's life was held at St. Monica Church on August 16th. Dom became inactive in SIR's in 2007. He was one of the organizers of the Bocce Ball League at the Moraga Commons and an active member of bocce ball in the senior group Moraga Movers. He also enjoyed bowling. Dom was active in the St. Monica Men's Club and served as president in 1977-78. He ushered at St Monica Church in its early years. He always had a smile and good word for everyone. We will miss him.

SIR Bert Enstrom is home on the road to recovery from open-heart surgery.

SIR Reg Whittington is home recovering from a broken arm.

Branch 174

It is sad to report the passing of **SIR Bill Watson** on August 10th. His daughter said there may be a neighborhood celebration of his life to include friends. She will let us know if and when. He was a member of SIR Branch 174 and he joined in Oct. 2013. A number of people from Branch 171 had known him through the SIR's walking group. Bill was an intelligent guy and will be missed by us all.

••Please try to contact SIR's with illnesses to offer your support and encouragement and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. A friendly call is welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you are aware of an ill SIR, please let Monte Logan know by e-mail or phone.

KNOW YOUR SIRs

No articles this month.

Know Your SIR is edited by Dave Humm dmh2@silcon.com 376-5895. We would like to have all of our members, who wish to do so, be included in this directory. Please write down the salient points of your life (1/2 page) and provide it to Dave (via e-mail if possible). It will then be written up in a future newsletter. Dave has copies of all past "Know Your SIR" reports. Access to them is available via e-mail; or a hard copy can be had for the cost of printing.

SIR Haberdasher

Our club haberdasher, John Haffner (johnhaffner@comcast.net or 925-376-9064), wants to help our members get attired in the latest SIR fashions. Call John and discuss the fantastic line of logo items, what you can wear to club meetings and to impress your friends, as well as SIR merchandise items.

BRANCH 171 NEWSLETTER: Editor **STAN HOLCENBERG** sholcenb@comcast.net, 3954 Campolindo Drive, Moraga, CA 94556. The deadline for receipt of Newsletter material by the Editor is the 15th of the month. E-mail is preferred.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES (BRANCHES 171 & 174)

ACTIVITY LIST

Apple Users Activity	Astronomy
Barbershop Harmony	Big Hikers
Bocce Ball	Book Club
Bowling	Bridge
Computers and Technology	Couples Dining Out
Dominoes	Fishing
Golf	Historical Adventures
Investment Group	Pinochle
Poker	Stamp Club
Senior Strollers	Table Pool
Tennis	Travel
Walking	Wine Tasting

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN: (open)



The Activity Chairman's role is to keep in close contact with each of the chairmen of the branch activities in order to understand what they are doing and how things are going, to determine if they are planning any special activities that they want to communicate to the rest of the Branch, and to determine if there is anything special that requires assistance. Also, the Chair keeps in communication with the other branches in the area to determine if there are additional activity announcements that should be made to our branch.

The Chair is always looking for suggestions for additional activities (e.g. Chess, Cooking, Current Events Discussions, etc etc), and is the focal point to communicate with if you would like to chair any of the open activity groups.

APPLE USERS ACTIVITY: **DICK MACY** (Br. 171) m.hobie@comcast.net 376-1180
JOE TRACY (BR. 174) jotracy@comcast.net 954-7801



The meetings focus on Apple/Mac computers, iPads, & iPhones. Each meeting includes a discussion of recent Apple/Mac announcements and releases; a roundtable discussion of applications, general rumors, issues, and problems members may be having; and a few formal topics.

There are rumors that the next iPhone and other products will be announced in early September. If so, the group will discuss those products as well as continue the discussion of TV in the Apple world.

The next meeting will be Monday, September 25.

Meetings are held in the conference room at the CC County Supervisor office at 3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, on the **fourth Monday of each month at 10:00 AM to noon**. The location is the fire station building across the street from El Charro restaurant. Enter left side door at top of steps. Novices and advanced users are welcomed. Come and be a part of the group.

ASTRONOMY: **GEORGE COBB** (Br. 174) gecblue@aol.com 200-7749
LARRY LANG (Br. 8)



We meet the **second Monday of each month** in the Tilden Room at the Concord Hilton Hotel on Diamond Boulevard. Our meetings commence at 1:30. Please join us for an entertaining meeting. All are welcome. Call or e-mail George (GECBlue@aol.com) for details and further information.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY: **BRAD DEWEY** (Br. 171) ebdewey@att.net 376-3349
RON LEIKER (Br. 174) leikerinda@comcast.net 376-3884



The SIRpremes are basically a barbershop octet. We sing songs in four-part harmony. By having two people on each part, the problems caused by absences are greatly reduced – obviously. **We meet just about every Tuesday for one hour.** We take a few minutes to discuss the affairs of the world, and then get down to business, working on one or two songs, finishing by partaking of some delicious cookies, freshly baked by Brad's wife, Carol. Our self-determined purpose has been to add a little variety to the monthly luncheon meetings of Branches 171 and 174, plus the Christmas luncheon with our ladies. Our only other singouts have been for the Moraga Movers and at Sam Zorich's birthday party.

BIG HIKERS: **AL DONNER** (Br. 171) aajdonner@gmail.com 376-1594



One of three SIRS walking groups, the Big Hikers aims to engage SIRS who want some longer and stronger routes than our two around-town walking groups. The "**Big Hikers**" offer opportunities to do some hikes more than 3 miles in length and sometimes do a little more elevation. They can be further afield, Mt. Diablo or other regional parks, such as Vasco Caves. The Big Hikers operate on a varied schedule, trying to do a couple hikes each month. They go to interesting places as the spirit moves us. Contact Al Donner (aajdonner@gmail.com) to get the on the Big Hikers notice list.

If you want a slower pace, try either the WALKING or the SENIOR STROLLERS group.

BOCCE BALL: **BILL BONDY** (Br. 171) WBondyO@aol.com 254-1266
JOE FITZGERALD (Br. 174) joefitger@aol.com 376-4656



Bocce season is upon us !!!!

Bocce is played every Tuesday and Friday at 10 am just beyond the bandstand at the Moraga Commons. The cost is all of \$2. The game is really easy to learn and is great fun, including a lot of good chat. Call Bill Bondy for information on Tuesday play and Joe Fitzgerald about Fridays. You can play on either or both days.

BOOK CLUB: Bob Krompholz (Br 171 chair) krompholz@comcast.net 528-9937
Al Dessayer (Br 171 co-chair) dessayer@pacbell.net 376-7430



The goal has developed an agreed upon list of books which club members will discuss at future monthly meetings. An attempt will be made to vary the selections to include the latest best sellers as well as some classics, bacon fiction and non fiction.

Each member selects a book he has read or would like to read and suggests it to other members, who will then read the book and be ready for discussion at subsequent meetings. This is a great way not only to continue your reading enjoyment but also to discuss your comments and ideas with intelligent, curious, cerebral fellows like yourself

There are currently 12 members of the club. Contact Bob or Al if you are interested in joining.

BOWLING - AREA 2: **LLOYD WEST** (Br. 19) 228-9037



Area 2 Tournament bowling is held at Diablo Lanes in Concord on the **4th Thursday of each month**. Be there at 9:30 am. League Bowling is also available every Wednesday at 10 am. There is also open bowling on Tuesdays at 10 am for practice. More members are welcome. Call for more information.

BRIDGE: GREG TCHERKOYAN (Br. 171) gresta2@sbcglobal.net 838-0361
STEWART KNUDSEN (Br. 174) svknudsen619@aol.com 376-4919



We meet at the Moraga Hacienda on the **second and fourth Tuesdays of each month**. Please arrive by 9:50 am. Play starts promptly at **10:00 am**. Bring \$5 and a bag lunch. Call Greg or Stu for further information.

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY: DEREK SOUTHERN (Br. 8) Derek.southern@gmail.com 253-1646
NEIL SCHMIDT (Br 116; Area 2 CAT Chairman) np_schmidt@pacbell.net



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces that the next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on **Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 9:30 am**. SIRs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

Glen Coleman will be discussing "**How to use computer based notebook ... The power of One Note, EverNote and other computer based notebook tools.**" Glen is the owner and founder of Coleman IT Group, based in Walnut Creek, which provides IT support and management services to individual and small professional bay area businesses. Checkout their web site at:

<http://colemanitg.com/>

Arrive early to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies -- Thursday September 15, 2015, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. The group asks for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

COUPLES DINING OUT SAM ZORICH (BR. 171) sam.zorich@gmail.com 376-7799



The group dines out every other month at a fine location in the East Bay. Planning for the venue rotates among the various members of the group.

The Orinda Country Club will be the location of the September 21st Dining Out gathering and will be arranged by Mitch and Karen Tarkoff.

DOMINOES Tom Westhoff 376-2609 westhoff40@comcast.net



The new SIR 171 Domino group meets every Thursday at Moraga Royale at 1:00pm. Contact Tom for information and to determine space availability.

FISHING: KARL DROESE (Br. 171) kdroese@comcast.net 376-0468 PAUL DUBAW (Area 2)



All SIR members and guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Next meeting will be Thursday, September 22 at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, starting at 8:30am.

Whether you fly fish, spin fish, troll or bait fish there will be events of interest. If you are new to fishing or are interested in trying a different type of fishing we have experienced and knowledgeable members happy to share their expertise, and even their equipment. With nearly 100 events scheduled throughout the year, some type of fishing is available almost every week.

August Fishing Report: Karl Droese (Br.171), and Dick Medel, Mike Simenstead and Donn Mall from Br. 174 along with several others traveled to Buena Vista Baja, catching and releasing billfish (striped and blue marlin and sailfish), including some big ones, and taking home dorado, tuna and other fish. Lee Clark interrupted an Alaskan cruise to fish from Ketchikan catching salmon. Ernie Wong, Stan Wong and Carl Moyer got ocean rockfish outside the Gate. Ernie Wong ended his summer shad season with 59 more on his last two outings. Mike Corker caught black bass in the delta, and was joined by Terry Miller, Pete Gates, Joe Miscione, Harry Sherinian, and Tom Kostik for many small stripers on another venture.

Activities scheduled for September and October include the SIRs in the Kitchen annual fish fry, salmon outings outside the Gate on 6 packs, party boats and a member's boat; multi-day trips to Davis Lake, Lake Almanor and Pyramid Lake NV for trout, a trip (not SIR sponsored) to La Paz Mexico; rock fishing on a party boat outside the Gate; and day trips to San Pablo for trout and catfish, to Shadow Cliffs for trout, and to the Delta for stripers, sturgeon and black bass.

For more information or if you wish to sign up for a trip - call Karl Droese at 376-0468.

GOLF – 18 HOLES: **GENE BELL** (Br. 171) gdbell1@comcast.net 284-1786
TONY SCHOEMEHL (Br. 174) tonyliby@comcast.net 376-1471



Any members who are interested in joining the Golf Group, please complete the application that is available at the following link -- <http://branch174.sirinc2.org/golf/home.htm> There is also a 2014 schedule and contact information at the link.

HISTORICAL ADVENTURES: **TED WESTPHAL** (Br. 171) tawiii@att.net 283-2172



From Ted Westphal – “The highly interesting Historical Adventure tours activity needs a new chairman. I have been the chairman for the past 8 years and am retiring. I hope someone will volunteer to continue this very successful activity, and I will help you get a good start! Please let me know if you might consider taking the rewarding position. Ted Westphal: 283-2172 or tawiii@att.net.”

INVESTMENT GROUP: **TOM HENRY** (Br. 174) tomh925@icloud.com 254-5724
David Sutton (Br-8) 686-0158



\$ums~The investment activity of Sons-In-Retirement, Area 2, is restarting its meetings on Wednesday mornings on September 28. The location remains the Diablo Creek Country Club on Port Chicago Hwy. just North of Hwy 4. The time remains 8:00AM - 9:30AM.

This month we will have a video presentation of Warren Buffett on his investment methods. We will follow the presentation with a discussion of 'value-investing' and how his methods can be used by smaller investors who wish to own individual company equities and not mutual funds.

NOTE: There is no meeting in August.

PINOCHLE: **BILL KORN** (Br. 171) blairkorn@comcast.net 376-1643



The Sirs pinochle game is held **every Wednesday morning at 9:30** at the Moraga Royale on the corner of Country Club Drive and Moraga Road. We play in a comfortable private room and many of us stay there for a delightful lunch, at a very minimal cost. The Wednesday game is moved back to Tuesday on the Sirs meeting day. We hope you can attend as we have a good time. If you don't know pinochle we will teach you, as it is not difficult. We hope to see some new players in the near future.

POKER: **DICK MEDEL** (Br. 174) 376-5568 & **BILL WIEGMANN** (Br. 174) bigwieg@comcast.net 376-6088



Our low-stakes poker group meets the **fourth Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 4:30pm**. We meet at various locations. To join us please contact Dick or Bill for information.

SENIOR STROLLERS: **JIM COUNTRYMAN** jcountry@comcast.net 631-1766



Meets every **Wednesday** at 9 AM for an easy walk of less than a mile around/near the Moraga Center, generally with a stop for coffee at some point along the way. Contact Jim to get on the mailing list the starting point (which varies).

If you want a longer walk, try the WALKING group. For an even longer walk, with some elevation, try the BIG HIKERS group.

STAMP GROUP: LARRY BEANS (Br. 171) larrybeans@comcast.net 376-7306



We meet on the Friday following Branch 171 lunch meeting at 9:30 am. The group meets at Larry Beans' home at 20 Carr Drive in Moraga. Please call Larry or Rich for more information, or if you would like to attend.

TABLE POOL: AREA #2: **BILL WEINBERG** 682-0962



We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet on the **1st & 3rd Mondays at 11:30 am** at Masse's – 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5.00 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All SIRs are welcome.

TENNIS: JIM COUNTRYMAN (Br. 171) jcountry@comcast.net 631-1766
RALPH THORNICROFT (Br. 174) grtincal@aol.com 376-8140



The Tennis Group plays at St. Mary's College **every Tuesday and Thursday. Times vary between 8:00am and 8:30am, depending on the weather.** Players are at varying skill levels, mostly around the 3.0 range. Members' wives are invited to join us, so let them know they are welcome. Call Jim or Ralph for information.

TRAVEL: BOB SPELLMAN (Area 2 Chmn.) bobnjo@astound.net 934-8428
JOE TRACY (BR. 174) jotracy@comcast.net 954-7801



Sep 13-26, 2016: Essence of the Elbe: Berlin to Prague. 13 day river cruise tour aboard the M/S River Allegro, a privately owned 90 passenger ship exclusively for American Travelers. Ports of call include Prague, Dresden, Meissen, Torgau, Wittenberg, Magdeburg and Berlin. Trip includes 2 night hotel stay in Prague and 3 nights in Berlin, 29 meals, 10 exclusive tours with headsets, transfers, port charges, gratuities for local guides, motorcoach drivers and a dedicated Program Director. Cost \$3595 to \$4195 depending on Cabin. Contact Ken Richter, Br. 146, 925-689-6217.

Sep 28-Oct 3, 2016: Custer State Park. Feel the thunder of pre-historic beasts as they rumble by during this fall tradition in the beautiful Black Hills. This one of a kind program also includes the Buffalo Roundup Art Festival, a buffalo steak dinner, a ride on the famous 1880 train, Rushmore, Crazy Horse and much More. Cost \$1565 or \$2065 with air. Contact Larry Yarberry, Br. 8, 925-890-9245.

Oct 8, 2016: Fleet Week (Blue Angels) Join us on the San Francisco Belle Paddlewheeler the crown jewel of San Francisco Bay. There is no better vantage point to see the Air Show then on the SF Belle. Cost is \$141.00 including RT Motorcoach, Cruise aboard the Belle, Reserved seating, Hosted Hot Buffet Lunch with Beverage, Music Entertainment, Special viewing of Blue Angel Show, and Driver Gratuity. Contact Milt Smith Br. 146, 925-280-0328 or John George 408-600-4635.

WALKING: **AL DONNER** (Br. 171) aajdonner@gmail.com 376-1594
LYLE DECK (Br. 174) lgdeck@aol.com 254-3829



If you feel left out of something good, come join the group. Just show up across from the Serbian Church by 9 am any Tuesday and you are good to go. No initiation fees, hazing or other sophomoric rituals, just walking and talking and coffee after. The group walks for about three miles.

And if you want a slower pace, try the SENIOR STROLLERS group. If you want to try a faster pace, try the BIG HIKERS group.

WINE TASTING: GENE BELL (Br. 171) gdbell1@comcast.net 284-1786
JON LEUTENEKER (Br. 174) jonleuteneker@comcast.net 376-7035



There are now two wine tasting groups. Both are couples events and normally held in-home starting about 7:00 p.m. with a cost per person averaging about \$15. Jon Leuteneker is chairman of the group that meets on the **second Tuesday of each month** - this group has a full roster. Gene Bell is chairman of the group that meets on the **third Tuesday of each month** - membership in this group may still open.