



SIR Branch 116 Newsletter April 2025

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

Message from Paul

Last week I thought Spring had arrived, when what to my dismay, I find out that when I went to a volunteer for Food Pantry Parking at my church, it was a mere 36 degrees when I arrived. However, we did have a good day of golf today and I'm looking forward to a much warmer and drier spring in April. This is being written on the 23rd of March and the temperature is, or has been in the 70's.



As we get together for the days ahead, let us all get our \$25 dues paid and enjoy the many activities that we enjoy together. You can easily pay for them online in our shopping cart or you can pay for them at the luncheon, with a check written out to Charlie Guthrie, our treasurer. The dues help us to bring money into the Branch and helps pay for our guests and speaker luncheons.

We went out to Byron Park this year to get details together for our Spring Fling. However, since we met with them they have had some kind of water damage in the building which is putting a damper on things. So, Athena has told us that we can use The Kensington this year instead. Byron Park and The Kensington are sister communities and they can offer the same type of service at The Kensington as was done last year at Byron Park. The event will take place between 1:00pm – 3:00pm on May 21st and will be buffet style serving several entrees such as meat, vegetarian and salads. Athena will get back to me this month and will provide some information on the details.

We will only have room for about 60 guests, so sign up early to avoid getting put on a waiting list. The registration form is on page 9 of this Newsletters. More details will follow.

Fred Wachowicz will be putting together our activity survey and you will all get a chance to put your two cents in as to what you may like to do and what additional activities you may want to have included if they aren't already. This is one way you get to have a voice into the goings on in our Branch 116.

Paul Russell, Big SIR

Next Meeting

April 21, 2025 @
Boundary Oak,
11:30 AM

Topics Index

Sums Investment	..... 8
Amiable Amblers	.. 14
BEC Minutes	..... 7
Big SIR Report	..... 1
Birthdays	..... 8
Bocce	..... 10
Book Exchange	..... 8
Book Group 1	..... 16
Book Group 2	..... 7
Branch Officers	..... 2
Bridge	..... 12
Calendar	..... 3
Community Service	10
Computer & Tech	.. 15
Dine-O-SIR	..... 12
Fishing	..... 12
Golf Clinic	..... 16
Golf- 9&18 Hole	.... 17
Luncheon Menu	..... 5
Luncheon Speaker	... 5
Membership	..... 4
Mexican Train	..... 14
New Members	..... 5
Pickleball	..... 16
SIR Happenings	..... 5
Spring Fling	..... 9
Topics Submissions	. 8
Travel	..... 13
Treasury	..... 4
Walking Tours	..... 11
Web Addresses	..... 8
Wine-O-SIR	..... 8

**Please do not forget to sign up
for the Spring Fling at The
Kensington (1580 Geary Road,
Walnut Creek)**

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

Trampas Topics

2025 SIR Branch



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.
Dave
Havlik

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
Computer & Tech	Neil Schmidt	Phil Goff
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	TBA	
Golf—Clinic	Chris Doan	
Mexican Train	Alan Polanger	Gary Bonfiglio
Parties	Paul Russell	TBA
Pickleball	Gary Bonfiglio	Don Marini
Poker	Open	
\$ums Investment	Tom Henry (Br.146)	
Sunshine	Open	
Theater	Terry Sherman	
Walking Tours	Jim Tamulski	Greg Hughes
Wine-O-SIR	Dave Havlik	

Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities

Astronomy	David Bushnell (Br. 8)	925-838-3914
Chess	Steve Schramm (Br.8)	925-222-0801
Cycling	Larry Kaye (Br.146)	925-698-4030
Digital Photography	Meng Horng (Br. 8)	309-287-5654
Men's Hearts Cards	Bob West (Br.146)	925-518-8472
Travel	Glenn Breslin (Br. 146)	925-788-6520

Monthly Activities Calendar

April 2025

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1 Computer & Tech (No meeting)	2 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pleasanton)	3	4 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Sutherland Dr)	5
6	7 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	8 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	9 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) Mexican Train (10:00@ Aegis Living)	10	11 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Arbolado Park)	12
13	14 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	15 Tax Day!	16 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Skylinks)	17 Bocce (10:00@ Clayton Bocce) Book Group 2 (11:00@ Boundary Oak)	18 Pickleball (7:30@ Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (No Walk)	19
20 Easter	21 SIR Br. 116 Luncheon (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	22 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door) 18-Hole Golf (10:00@ Roncho Solano)	23 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) \$ums Investment (1:30 via Zoom)	24 Community Service (9:00@ White Pony Express) Fishing Group (8:30@ Diablo Creek)	25 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Zio Fraedo's)	26
27	28 18-Hole Golf (11:00@ Eagle Vines) Book Group 1 (10:15@ Orinda Books)	29	30 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Dublin Ranch)			



Branch Administration



Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 181
2025 New Members: 7

New Member Bruce Lewis
 Sponsor Michael Barrington
 New Member Gary Summers
 Sponsor Michael Barrington
 New Member Frank Mycroft
 Mentor Sam BereT
 New Member Ron Wetter
 Mentor Alan Pope
 Jim Ranger Resigned. Working at Boundary Oak
 Sam Patti Resigned. Return to full time work
 Brad Lee Resigned.
 Claes Elfving Resigned.
 Ed Lichtig Resigned.
 Doug Janes Resigned.
 Warren Garrison Resigned.
 Bill McCord Resigned. Passed away on 3/5/2025.

Membership Note:

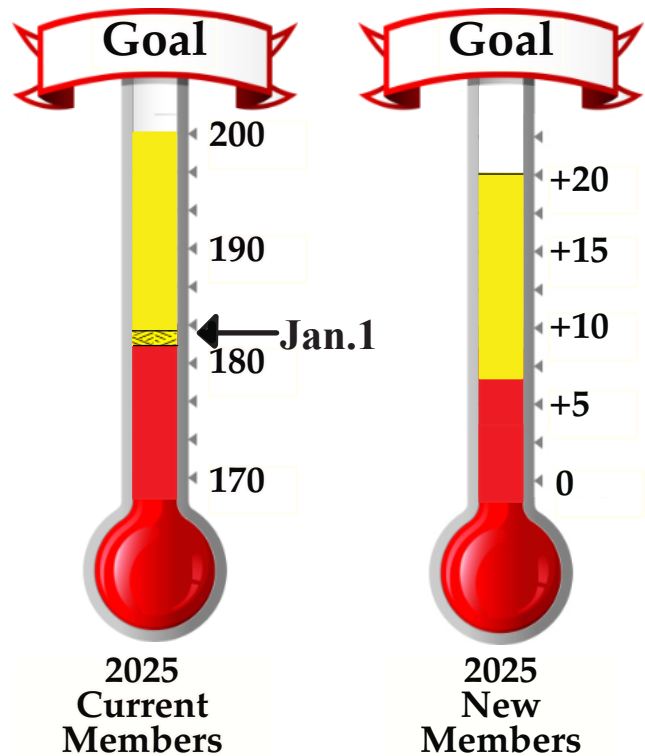
Our Branch experienced a small loss in membership this past month. When we sent out a notice to members to pay their annual dues, a few decided not to renew their membership due to a lack of involvement in activities and lunch meetings. This was not unexpected and we are sorry to see them go. Fortunately we continue to add new members to offset these losses but we need to maintain our ongoing efforts to recruit new members.



Treasury Report

Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

	21-Mar	2025 YTD
Beg Bal 2025		\$ 10,842.15
Contributions	\$ 4,423.39	\$ 19,124.35
Disbursements	\$ (4,277.73)	\$ (18,934.96)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ 145.66	\$ 189.39
March Cash Balance		\$ 11,031.54



2025 Membership Challenge

Recruiting Monthly Report – April 2025

You guys are doing a great job of recruiting new members:

- Our goal for 2025 is 20 new members
- As of April 1st we have 7 new member for the year
- A very favorable trend

Remember, we are all responsible for recruiting new members. Recruiting **cards are on the tables** at every lunch – grab a few and hand them out.

Guests are treated to lunch, and if your guest joins us, you get a free lunch.

Luncheon Speaker

Bill Nelson - "Carrier-based navigator in Korean War and Nuclear Weapons Engineering"



Little SIR
Brad Stribling

March Speaker Review

Our March SIR Luncheon speaker was Lindy Johnson, Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Director of External Affairs. She eloquently discussed CCTA's innovative transit programs including congestion reduction, safety and accessibility, public transit, environment protection, and 'first mile' projects. Also covered was an intriguing disclosure of their partnering to launch GoMomentum Station, a test site for cutting-edge autonomous transportation. Our SIR thanks for this informative program!

April Speaker Preview

Bill Nelson, a man of many accomplishments, will appear as speaker for our April SIR Luncheon. Bill flew as a carrier-based navigator in the Korean War era, was even awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for a Commanding Officer, and retired as a Captain, USNR with 27 years in active and reserve service. He later worked for 20 years with Livermore Laboratory as a director in nuclear weapons engineering.

Currently a docent on the USS Hornet, he will discuss many engaging details about such carriers, and some about his life as a carrier-based flyer.

The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak

Luncheon Menu

Monday, April 21th

Salad

Backyard Cole Slaw

Red and Green Cabbage, Carrots, Creamy Slaw Dressing

ENTREES

Tailgate BBQ Ribs

Pork Ribs, Mac and Cheese, Seasonal Vegetable, Tangy BBQ Sauce
or

Lemon Garlic Cod

Garlic and Herb Marinated Cod, Mac and Cheese, Seasonal Vegetable, Creamy Lemon Sauce
or

Vegetarian

Roasted Tomato Penne Pasta

Fire Roasted Tomato Sauce over Penne Pasta, Seasonal Vegetable

DESSERT

Banana Cream Pie

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>

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.

New Members



New Member Bruce Lewis
with Sponsor Michael Barrington



New Member Frank Mycroft
with Mentor Sam Beret



New Member Gary Summers
with Sponsor Michael Barrington



New Member Ron Wetter
with Mentor Alan Pope



March Speaker Lindy Johnson talking
about Contra Costa Transportation Authority

In Memoriam
William McCord
March 29, 1928 - March 6, 2025

In Memoriam
Robert J. Shader
April 23, 1929 - March 18, 2025

Branch Activities



Branch Executive Committee

Secretary Dan Lawrence

BEC Minutes- Summary Meeting of March 17, 2025

- Financial: Branch cash balance as 03/01/2025 is \$10,943.38, and reserve balance is \$10,553.25
- Luncheon: 112 attendees were submitted for the March 2025 Luncheon.
- Membership: Current active membership is 181. Four new members were introduced and two guests attended as well.
- The Branch Publicity Committee Chair, Al Farbman reported that a comprehensive Publicity Plan was

recently completed. He reported that the goal of the plan is to increase awareness of Branch #116 and that it hopefully it will attract new members and engage the community through various publicity efforts.co

- March 2025 Guest Speaker: Ms Lindy Johnson, external Affairs of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. Ms Johnson will speak about people centered mobility including information about autonomous vehicles that in use at several county locations.



Book Group 2

Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met March 20 to discuss The Wide Wide Sea by Hampton Sides. The 10 members in attendance voted the book 4.4/5

The Wide Wide Sea by Hampton Sides

The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook provides an account of the final voyage of Captain James Cook, emphasizing the dramatic encounters and tragic events that defines this historical journey. Sides, a historian and journalist who writes narrative nonfiction, discusses the complexities and significance of Cook's expedition and the 18 century maritime world. This historical nonfiction work explores themes such as the cash between European and indigenous cultures, the motivations for exploration, and the transformation of geographic knowledge. The book provides a chronological account of Cooks journey but also explores the impact of European exploration on indigenous populations.

With 3 complete circumnavigation of the earth, each lasting over 2 years, Cook joins Hudson and Champlain as one of the foremost explorers of his time. All members of our group agreed this was an informative and well written book.

Book Club 2 April and May Schedule

On **April 17** we will be discussing Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari. The meeting starts at 11:00 and will be held at Boundary Oak Club house.

On May 15 we will be discussing the Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu. Meeting will start at 11:00 and our location moves to Arbolado Park Walnut Creek, the picnic tables in front of the basketball courts.

All are welcome to attend.

Contact Scott Clark for more information, 925-998-4553 or scottmclark72@gmail.com

Branch Activities

April Birthdays

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Lyle Buckert | 8. Richard Madden |
| 2. Dick Chaffee | 9. Mac McLoughlin |
| 3. Rich Gerchow | 10. Alan Pope |
| 4. Denny Giambastiani | 11. Dan Renke |
| 5. Logan Happel | 12. Garrett Romain |
| 6. Bill Hemmelsbach | 13. Marsh Stashyn |
| 7. Tony Latini | |



Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

The Book Exchange has books for you
and they are free!

We always have a large selection of books for you
To browse and hopefully find something that may
interest you. The premise of the Book Exchange is
to replace a book that you take. If you see a book
that you want to read, take it and bring a
replacement book to the next luncheon.

Hope you find a book that you would like to read.

The Book Sherpas

\$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.

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

SIR BRANCH 116

SPRING FLING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025, 1:00PM-3:00PM

The Kensington at Walnut Creek

1580 Geary Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94597



Cost: \$20/person
(\$21 / person via Shopping Cart)

Start of event:

1:00-1:45 pm

Welcome check-in and hand out personalized cards with raffle tickets. Live music and cocktails accompanied with a social game for mingling. Photo booth opportunity.

Linner Service:

1:45-2:30 pm

Buffet style Linner with a vegetarian, fish, and meat option. Seating in the dining room.

Welcome Message

2:15-2:30 pm

Welcome message from Athena and Big SIR, raffle's given out.

Conclusion:

2:30-3:00 pm

Dessert/coffee/tea table with more live music, mingling, and photo booth opp.

Limited to 60 persons. Anyone over the limit will be a waiting list.

Application deadline of May 12.

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Spring Fling 2025

At The Kensington

May 21, 2025

Name _____ Name _____

Make checks payable to: SIRS Branch 116 \$20 x _____ = \$ _____

Mail checks to: Charlie Guthrie, 3136 Serene Court, Richmond, CA 94803-0580

You can also pay via Shopping Cart (\$21 / person)

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, at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, Alamo, we assembled 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.

On Thursday March 20th, we were at the Food Bank again, sorting food:

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



Bocce Bob Huck

Our 2025 season will start on **Thursday, April 17** and continue every other Thursday through October 16. We have 4 teams and 35 players total. We play from 10:00am until noon at the Clayton Bocce Courts. Let

me know if you have any interest in playing in the future.

Bob Huck
bhuck10@sbcglobal.net

Branch Activities



Walking Tours Jim Tamulski

Mare Island History Comes to Life: Walking Tour a Resounding Success

Vallejo, CA – March 15, 2025 – A group of history enthusiasts embarked on a fascinating walking tour of Mare Island, the former naval shipyard in Vallejo, offering a glimpse into the rich past of this iconic location. The tour, which commenced at the historic St. Peter's Chapel, proved to be a memorable experience for all participants.

The tour began at St. Peter's Chapel, a gem of architectural and artistic significance. The chapel boasts approximately 29 stunning stained glass windows, a majority of which were crafted by the renowned Tiffany Studios of New York. This impressive collection, considered to be the largest west of the Mississippi, captivated visitors with its intricate designs and vibrant colors. After an hour of admiring the chapel's artistry, the group embarked on a 30-minute walk through Alden Park

and the historic core of Mare Island, situated along the waterfront. The scenic route provided insights into the island's naval heritage and its evolution over time.

The tour concluded with a poignant visit to the USS Vallejo submarine memorial, a tribute to the submarine's service and the personnel who served aboard her. This memorial served as a powerful reminder of Mare Island's vital role in the nation's maritime history.

"It was a truly enriching experience," remarked one participant. "The combination of the chapel's stunning stained glass and the island's historical landmarks made for a captivating tour."

The event fostered a sense of community and shared appreciation for Mare Island's unique legacy. Participants enjoyed each other's company and the shared meals, making the day both educational and enjoyable.



Walking Tour at St. Peter's Chapel, Mare Island on March 15th

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, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator, 510-207-7067. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on **Thursday, April 24th at 8:30am**. Come early.

With the ocean closed for almost everything, our early spring fishing has been limited. Tom Kostik, Mike Corker, Brion Beetz, Phil Scimonelli, and Ken Bellinder got stripers in the delta, but not many keepers. Carl Moyer, Zbig Mrozek, Dennis Lee, and Gordon Linebaugh caught trout in Contra Loma Reservoir, but not a lot.



Bridge

Jon Dickson

Chicago Style bridge, plus lunch, at Brass Door Restaurant every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Join us for a great day of bridge.

March 11th was another low scoring day of bridge with Dave Williams coming in first with 5,370 points. Eric Linak was a close second with 5,100 points and Dennis Snarr came in 3rd with 4,180 points. No others above 4,000 points.

March 25th, a bit better as a scoring day, but not much, found Denny Morrissey first with 5,270 points, Sam Baret a distant second with 4,040 points and Jai Yee third with 3,790 points. Three others were within 100 points of Jai's score in the race for third.

We welcome any bridge players to our group.



Dine-O-SIR

Jerry Hicks

DeVino's Pizza & Pasta, a favorite local Pleasant Hill Italian bistro, could include "Pub" in their name as they included a boisterous Happy Hour preceding four delicious courses. Our 79 Dine-O-Sir ravenous friends were served DeVino's popular appetizers to go with economical beers, wines and cocktails along with enthusiastic conversations. Dinner started with salad followed by a selection of three entrees; their Lasagna was divine. The exceptional dessert of Tiramisu was creamy and delicious. The evening, led by Bob Donohue, was enjoyed by all with a

recommendation to return to DeVino's.

Save Wednesday, June 25th, for our Dine-O-Sir celebrating the summer solstice at Hazy BBQ in Danville. This will be our third annual popular evening with delicious Hazy Barbeque buffet on their outdoor patio. Information will be coming!

Your Dine-O-SIR Committee:

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

Branch Activities



Travel
Glenn Breslin (Br. 146)

Many SIRs have already traveled extensively and now only desire to travel to specific areas. Many SIRs are not able to travel anymore. To increase SIR Travel opportunities, SIR146 will collaborate with multiple other SIR Groups. This will increase in-common travel destinations. Therefore, more SIR Travel Trips will occur. So far, SIR146 has recently collaborated with SIR Travel groups in Branches 8 and 116.

If you are interested to travel with other SIRs, then

please reach out to me: glennbreslin@gmail.com. I will then send you a travel a travel questionnaire to identify where you like to travel and how you would like to travel. If multiple SIRs share both the travel location and how they like to travel, then a SIR trip can be planned. Multiple SIR trips can also be scheduled. Whether you desire to travel within California, in the United States, or Internationally, the matching process starts after you submit your travel questionnaire to me.

SIR Multi-Branch Trip Information

Vietnam/Cambodia

10/19/25 to 11/7/25

(\$3495-No Airfare/\$4695-With Economy Airfare)

- Angkor Wat Post-Trip Included available
- Click this link for details
- <https://www.oattravel.com/trips/land-adventures/asia/inside-vietnam/2021/itineraries>
- Group code is **G5-30339**

Australia/New Zealand

1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295-No Airfare/\$7645-With Economy Airfare)

- Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available
- Click this link for details
- <https://www.gct.com/trips/land-tours/south-pacific/australia-and-new-zealand/2021/itineraries>
- Group code is **G6-30339**

Japan/Korea

4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495-No Airfare/\$9095-With Economy Airfare)

- Hiroshima Post-Trip available
- Click this link for details
- <https://www.oattravel.com/trips/land-adventures/asia/south-korea-and-japan-temples-shrines-and-seaside-treasures/2021/itineraries>
- Group code is **G6-30339**



Large turnout for Dine-O-SIR at DeVino's on March 26

Branch Activities



Amiable Amblers John Riordan

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

On March 7 we walked north on the Iron Horse Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Buttercup. The March 14 walk was rained out. On March 21 we walked south on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail from the Moraga Safeway with a post walk gathering at the Ranch House Cafe. The March 28 walk (too late for inclusion in this report) was planned for the Contra Costa Canal Trail from the Countrywood Shopping Center, with a post-walk gathering at the Black Bear Diner.

All April walks are scheduled to begin at 9:00AM, weather permitting. On **April 4** we will do a short wildflower walk in the Walnut Creek Open Space.

Meet at the Sutherland Dr trailhead and walk (part or all of) the Fossil Hill Loop; the post-walk gathering will be at Caffè La Scala. Dick Frankel will lead the **April 11** walk; meet at Arbolado Park and walk north on the Ygnacio Canal Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Starbucks in the Ygnacio/Oak Grove Shopping Center. No walk is planned for **April 18**. On **April 25** we will meet at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill and walk south on the Contra Costa Canal Trail, with a post-walk gathering at Zio Fraedo's.

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.



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 March and had eight in attendance. Present were John Riordan, Alan Polanger, Jim Grant, Harry Sherinian, Alex Lutkus, Paul Freitas, Kirk McVean and Gary Bonfiglio. We had two games of four players. Winning low scores were achieved by Alex and Paul.

Please email me if you would like to talk and I can give you a call. A notice will be sent out for the April meeting. Which is scheduled for Wed, 4/9 at 10 AM. 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

New SIR Branch 116 Website



Home Who We Are Activities Member Info Join Us Facebook

Walnut Creek SIR Branch 116

Enjoy Life, Stay Healthy,
Live Longer, Join SIR!

Fun Activities:

- Golf
- Fishing
- Books
- Pickleball
- Community Svc
- Bridge
- Dining
- Wine
- Computers
- And Many More.....

We Are A Men's Organization That Offers Fun Activities For Our Members And Their Partners.

Be Our Guest At Our Monthly Luncheon At Boundary Oak Golf Course. No Obligation, Just Tell Us You're Coming! [Click Here](#)

Checkout What Is Happening This [Month](#)

Next Luncheon
Mar 17th @
11:30AM At
Boundary Oak.

Luncheon Speaker:
Lindy Johnson:
"Autonomous
Vehicle Innovations
In Transportation."

[Lunch Shopping Cart](#)

Have you noticed our new Branch Website Design?

Our newly launched website is specifically designed to welcome and support new prospective members as part of our 2025 Membership Challenge effort. It offers an upfront interface that outlines the advantages of joining our Branch.

In making this New Member focus on the website, we haven't though forgotten about our existing members. The site now includes a new "Member Hotlinks" section at the bottom of the Home Page, which provides quick access to the following resources:

- Newsletter
- Member Photos
- Roster
- 18-Hole Golf Schedule
- Next Event Pairings
- Boundary Oak Signups
- Shopping Cart

Many other pieces of information specifically for our existing members can now be easily accessed in the "Member Info" header tab.

The Branch website remains at the same website location: branch116.org.

We encourage you to check it out!

SIR Computer & Technology



We had to cancel the April 1st meeting due to scheduling conflicts. The next meeting will be on May 6th (Cinco de Mayo). The presentation topic will be "Google Docs and Sheets" by Sam Beret.

Please note that to have regular meetings, we need more presentation "volunteers."

You may feel like you're not an expert in any intriguing Computer & Tech topics, but all you need to do is conduct some research on a subject and then share your findings with the rest of the group. We have individuals who can assist you with presentation materials, so please consider volunteering for one of our meetings. To volunteer, send a note to technologyforsir@gmail.com.

Branch Activities



Golf Clinic Chris Doan

No Golf Clinic This Summer

As we have worked to put the SIR Golf Clinic together for 2025, we have run into a number of complications which make it necessary to cancel the program this coming summer. A big factor in the complications affecting the clinic is actually very

good news for the game of golf ... the First Tee youth program has grown exponentially again this year taking up practice space at Diablo Creek on Saturdays. Both Pete Asselin and I have enjoyed making the clinic possible since 2020 and wish all the golfers continued enjoyment playing the game.



Pickleball Gary Bonfiglio

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/watch?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!!!

Gary Bonfiglio Co-Chair 925-330-9612

Don Marini Co-Chair 925-935-5036

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



Book Group 1 Rich Black

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books at Orinda Books at 10:15 am on the following dates.

Mon., April 28: "The Barn" by Wright Thompson

Mon., May 19: "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell
NOTE CHANGE IN DATE

Mon., June 23: "The Black Count" by Tom Reiss

Mon., July 28: "Wide, Wide Sea" by Hampton Sides

On March 24, 2025, Book Group #1 discussed "Empress of the Nile," by Lynne Olson, a biography of one Christiane Desroches- Noblecourt, whose crowning achievement was the relocation to higher ground of the Abu Simbel Temples, constructed by Pharaoh Ramses II in about 1250 BCE and doomed to inundation by the rising waters behind the Aswan High dam in the early 1960's. French by birth, she was an active member of the resistance early in WW II, a professor of Egyptology, a curator at the Louvre, and a principal field archaeologist, beginning in the mid-20th century when the science

was an exclusively male domain. Despite the mutual enmity of the Egyptians, Americans, French, and British after the Suez crisis of 1956, Desroches-Noblecourt was eventually invited back to Egypt with the tacit approval of French authorities. She was almost alone when she sought to marshal multinational support for a joint Egyptian-UNESCO effort to relocate the Abu Simbel Temples. John F. Kennedy, at the urging of his wife Jacqueline, succeeded in freeing American funds, which were a significant component of the multinational financing. With financial and engineering support from a host of nations, the relocation was completed in 1968. Steve Bort read the recommendation of the book by Tim Tennes, and Richard Black led the discussion with Todd Berman, Steve Bort, Art Donaldson, Jim Flessner, Paul Freitas, Garrett Girvan, Dick Kauffman, Peter Loew, Mac McLoughlin, Eric McNamara, Dan Renke, John Riordan, Mike Schneider, Brad Stribling, and Bill Trilsch and Joel White. The group awarded the book 4.0 stars.

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.

April 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 02	10:00 AM	Pleasanton	Marty Katz
Wed. 09	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 16	10:00 AM	Skylinks	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 23	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 30	10:00 AM	Dublin Ranch	Riger Craig

April 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 07	9:40 AM	Boundary Oak	Don Schroeder
Mon. 14	9:40 AM	Boundary Oak	Don Schroeder
Tues. 22	10:00 AM	Rancho Solano	Don Schroeder
Mon. 28	11:00 AM	Eagle Vines	Don Schroeder