



SIR Branch 116 Newsletter December 2025

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

Message from Paul

This has been a great year, and I had a great time serving as your Big SIR. We had our share of obstacles to deal with, but with Brad Stribling's assistance, we were able to get by okay. We've only two more to deal with this month. Since I'm in South Lake Tahoe this week, I won't be able to make the meeting with Mike Ash and Angelique. So once again, Brad will handle the negotiations with Mike and the other two branches that meet at Boundary Oak. The negotiations could entail having a couple of buffets each year, which could lower costs, hopefully.



We're still have one more big Branch event in December! We're excited about our Holiday Party on December 10th—a delicious meal, fantastic entertainment, and lots of fun. We'd love for all our members to come celebrate with us! Please sign up by December 3rd if you haven't already.

I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude to our officers and directors as well as to all SIR members without whom we would not be able to exist.

Thank you so very much for all of your support and loyalty this year, and please remember those who are in poor health or have passed away. Have a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season in 2025 / 2026.

Paul Russell, Big SIR

SIR Branch 116

Holiday Party

December 10, 2025

The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak

5:30 PM – ??

We have some slots still available for the Holiday Party and are moving the reservation deadline out a few days – to **December 3 – to enable those remaining signups.**

Please act quickly to get your names on the list while you can!

See page 8 for event details...

FYI - On our Shopping Cart, you can order two different meals by:
Selecting the 1st meal choice and hitting the "Attend" button to put it in your "Cart."
then

Selecting the 2nd meal choice and hitting the "Attend" button to put it in your "Cart."
Continue to Cart to pay for both meals.

Next Meeting

**January 19, 2026 @
Boundary Oak,
11:30 AM**

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Call 925-322-1318

or email to

luncheon116@gmail.com

**by the Monday prior
to the
meeting to cancel your
standing
reservation.**

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 Jeff Johnson
- 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

Luncheon Support Team

- Attendance Eric Linak
- Audio Visual Neil Schmidt
- Chaplain Committee Terry Sherman
- Greeters Committee Dan Lawrence, Marty Katz
- 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
Carmel Getaway	Jim Avila	
Community Service	Frank Colligan	Eric Linak
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	David Harris	
Mexican Train	Alan Polanger	Gary Bonfiglio
Parties	Brad Stribling	
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

December 2025

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	2	3 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Pleasanton)	4	5 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Lafayette Community Center)	6
7	8 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	9 Luncheon Bridge (10:30@ The Brass Door)	10 Holiday Party (5:30@ (Boundary Oak) 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Diablo Hills) Mexican Train (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	11	12 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Stone Valley West)	13
14	15 18-Hole Golf (10:02@ San Ramon)	16	17 9-Hole Golf (10:00@ Skylinks)	18 Community Svc (9:00@ White Pony Express) Fishing (8:30@ Diablo Creek GC)	19 Pickleball (7:30@ Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (9:00@ Countrywood Shopping Center)	20
21	22 18-Hole Golf (9:40@ Rancho Solano)	23	24 Sums Investment (1:30 via Zoom)	25  Christmas	26 Pickleball (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) Amiable Amblers (No walk)	27
28	29 18-Hole Golf (10:30@ Paradise Valley)	30	31	1  HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 Amiable Amblers (No walk)	3



Branch Administration



Branch Membership

Phil Goff, Membership Chairman

Total Membership is 178
2025 New Members: 21

Member

Bill Dastic	New Member, Sponsor is Jerry Ricker
Thom Cox	New Member, Sponsor is Rich Black
Jeff Hollings	New Member, Sponsor Richard Slaton
Marsh Stayshn	Passed away.
Bob Colvin	Passed away.



Treasury Report

Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

	24-Nov	2025 YTD
Beg Bal 2025		\$ 10,842.15
Contributions	\$ 9,293.51	\$ 63,501.24
Disbursements	\$ (6,090.90)	\$ (61,485.47)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ 3,202.61	\$ 2,015.77
November Cash Balance		\$ 12,857.92

December Birthdays

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

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. John Alonso | 8. Walt Kaweck Jr. |
| 2. Allan Chasnoff | 9. John Kopchik Jr. |
| 3. Jim Gleason | 10. Ed Solomon |
| 4. Jim Grant | 11. Gary Summers |
| 5. Jeff Hamill | 12. Jim Tamulski |
| 6. David Harris | 13. Ron Wetter |
| 7. Larry Heaton | 14. Vince Yamamoto |

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

In Memoriam

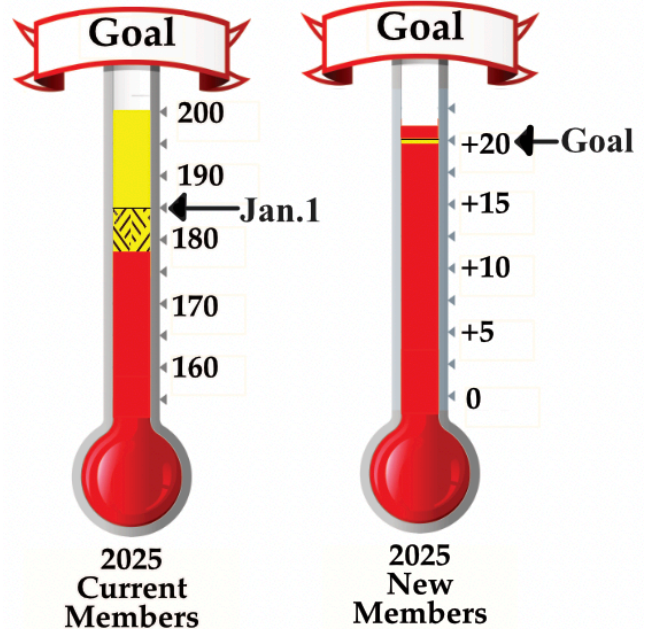
Marshal G. Stashyn

April 17, 1932 - October 30, 2025

In Memoriam

Robert J. Colvin

March 11, 1940 - November 14, 2025



2025 Membership Challenge

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/

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>

Branch Activities



Little SIR Brad Stribling

We had a fine pre-Thanksgiving luncheon in November – including turkey and all the trimmings. Not bad!

We also had a most interesting talk, with slides and videos, by Mark Clifford. Mark was with a Marine platoon in the Philippines when Mount Pinatubo erupted. He and his fellow infantrymen were nearby in a Quonset hut and were buried alive by the ash fall. How they survived and climbed out above the roof deeply covered by hot ash is an amazing story. And he regaled us with his photos and story of his return decades later to find the ruins of his hut, a fascinating journey of healing.

No luncheon or program in December because of our Holiday Party. But in January, our program speaker will

be our own Branch 116 member, Eric McNamara. Eric is extraordinarily knowledgeable about nuclear power – well, you have to be when underwater with it in a submarine. Eric will offer an informative discussion on the future of nuclear power in America.

Speaking of the Holiday Party... this has emerged as a truly exciting event. Don't forget to sign up for a great meal, entertainment, and fun!

Planning ahead, our discussions with Boundary Oak management have gone well. They are openly receptive to more creative and enjoyable lunch offerings. Jointly with the three branches which meet there, we expect very favorable plans and agreement very shortly.



Book Exchange Dick Kauffman

Twelve years ago, Jerry Christopherson suggested that a book exchange could be a worthwhile activity for SIR Branch 116, by providing free books to the members on an exchange basis. It appears that he was correct, as we are still exchanging books every month and starting our thirteenth year. The success of the program is due to the convenience of free books available to the membership and the willingness of SIR members to lug a couple of bags of books to and from each luncheon. Over the years we have had many volunteers (aka Sherpas) provide this assistance.

During 2025 the following SIRS have provided Sherpa services:

Gary Boniglio (Co lead
Sherpa)

Richard Black

John Riordan

Art Donldson

Doug Allen

(and hopefully I have not missed anyone)

Greg Hughes
Fred Wachowicz

Mike Ward

Mike Schnider

Ed O'Rourke

A big thanks to all of them because without them there would be no Book Exchange.



One more reminder about the Holiday Party!



The SIR Branch 116 Holiday Party is always a wonderful evening to celebrate the season with friends and fellow members. Enjoy a festive meal, lively conversation, entertainment and plenty of holiday cheer!

Date: December 10, 2025

Time: 5:30 p.m - ???

Location: The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak

Significant others and guests are welcome. Let's make this a memorable way to close out the year together!

The signup deadline has been delayed a few days to December 3 so there is just barely enough time to signup if you haven't already done so. Please act quickly to get your names on the list while you can!

Use the Shopping Cart if possible to signup.

Branch Activities

2026 Branch 116 Officers & Directors

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Directors</u>
Big Sir	Brad Stribling	Sam Beret
Little Sir	Dan Lawrence	Eric McNamara
Treasurer	Charlie Guthrie	Jeff Johnson
Asst. Treasurer	Al Satake	Paul Russell
Secretary	Tim Tinnes	Harry Sherinian
Asst. Secretary	Terry Sherman	Jim Tamulski
Membership	Phil Goff	
Asst. Membership	Dave Havlik	

SIR Branch 116 Member Feedback

The following comments from outgoing BEC member Gary Bonfiglio are being posted to highlight the advantages of volunteering to be a member of the BEC, as well as to provide some positive and negative feedback, along with suggested changes. If you are interested in becoming a BEC member or an officer in the future, please contact outgoing Big SIR Paul Russell.

Comments: Gary Bonfiglio 15 Year Member and Former BEC Board Member Branch 116

I want to thank the BEC for asking me to be a member for the past three years. I have been more of an “observer” than a “contributor” while learning about the operation and procedures of this great and wonderful organization. More members should step forward to serve.

Below are some of my positive and negative comments about the Branch and suggestions of changes/improvements.

Positive:

- Food servers are friendly and efficient, considering the number of tables/persons they have to serve.
- Excellent speakers. They have been quite interesting and age-appropriate to our audience.
- Greatly improved sound system.
- Overall, the meetings are well run by the officers.

Negative:

- The cliques (both company and activity groups)

seating at reserved tables, making both new and some older members feel uncomfortable. Late attendees who come to the meeting trying to find a seat.

Suggested changes and comments to be considered by BEC:

- Try “Open Table” seating at luncheon, at least once.
- Try buffet luncheon.
- Limit the time of the luncheon speaker to 45 minutes or so.
- Do away with individual activities presentations. Have the Activities Chairman still make a summary at luncheon. Members should read TT for activity details.
- Create more interaction of members at luncheons: Funny Hat Day, Funny Shirt Day, Old Necktie Day, Theme Days (Western, Hawaiian, Sports, Military), table contests “games” or “story telling”.

In summary, keep luncheons FUN, INTERACTIVE, SHORT for members, so they will want to come back next month and more.



Walking Tours Jim Tamulski

The Walking Tour group is experiencing difficulty identifying additional local attractions, as previous proposals—such as touring downtown San Francisco or visiting the Computer History Museum in Mountain

View—were deemed too distant to justify the drive.

If you have any suggestion for future tours, contact Jim Tamulski or Greg Hughes.

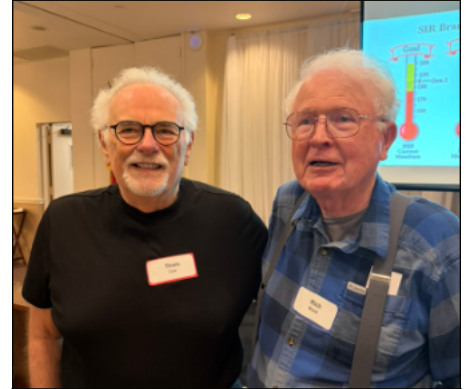
Branch Activities



**New Member Bill Dastic
with Sponson Brad Stibling**



**New Member Jeff Hollings
With Sponsor Richard Slaton**



**New Member Thom Cox
with Sponsor Rich Black**



**November Luncheon Speaker
Mark Clifford Talking About
Mt. Pinatubo Eruption**



2025 Veteran's Video

The veteran's video that was shown at our November luncheon can be viewed via the "Member Info" section of our branch website. It's an entertaining video featuring many of our members in their military uniforms.



Branch Executive Committee

Secretary Dan Lawrence

Meeting of November 17, 2025

- Financial: Branch #116 cash balance as 11/01/2025 is \$9,709.31.
- Luncheon: 110 were submitted for November 17, 2025.
- 2026 Budget: Treasurer Guthrie presented a proposed budget for 2026. However, there was a long discussion about increasing dues, food costs, room rental costs and how to determine an accurate budget for 2026 without knowing what Boundary Oak (BO) will charge our branch. A meeting has been scheduled between a subcommittee from Branch 116, led by Little Sir Brad Stibling, with representatives from the two other Branches that also hold luncheons at BO. After that meeting a "special" December BEC meeting will be scheduled to finalize the budget for 2026.
- Membership: Branch 116 has 177 active members.
- The Holiday Party is scheduled for Wednesday December 10, 2025, 5:30PM to 10PM. The costs are \$85, which is the same as last year. Social Hour at 5:30PM and the Holiday meal at 6:30PM. Entertainment by the Blue River Band, followed by dancing until 10PM.
- November 17, 2025, Guest Speaker is Mark R. Clifford. Mark is a San Francisco native. He served in the US Marines for 10 years as an infantryman rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant. He also served as a police officer for 26 years. As a sergeant he also served on the Swat team and worked undercover narcotics. Mark is also a writer and author of several books and has been featured in local print media. His subject today is about his experience as a Marine during the historic 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines, the title of which is: Echoes of Ashes, A Survivor's Pilgrimage to a Volcano's Heart.

Branch Activities



Holiday Party



SIR BRANCH 116

Wednesday, December 10

Boundary Oak, 3800 Valley Vista Rd., Walnut Creek

No host bar. Social Hour will start at 5:30 PM and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Entertainment by the Blue River Band, followed by DJ for dancing (8:30 to 10 p.m.).

Cost – same as last year!! – just \$85.00 per person, tax & tip included.

Sign up early to preserve seats and meals! Golf cart pickup provided from/to parking lots.



Dinner Menu

Appetizers: Spring Rolls, Crab Cakes, Citrus Marinated Prawns

Sunburst Salad: Baby greens with seasonal berries, oranges, Gorgonzola cheese, & poppy seed dressing

Entrée: Choice of: 1: Herb & Potato Crusted Chicken Breast with tarragon wine cream reduction;
2: Seared Marinated Bistro Fillet with caramelized shallot au jus; 3: Salmon with dill sauce;
4: Manicotti vegetarian specialty

Side: Potatoes Au Gratin

Dessert: Tiramisu – served with coffee (regular or decaf) and tea

(Cut) -----

Holiday Party Reservation (Deadline: December 3rd)

NAME: _____

Entrée Selection: Chicken ____ Steak ____ Salmon ____ Vegetarian ____

NAME: _____

Entrée Selection: Chicken ____ Steak ____ Salmon ____ Vegetarian ____

E-Mail _____ No. Attending: ____ x \$85 = \$ _____

Please pay either by credit card using SIR Branch 116 Shopping Cart System (use “Shopping Cart” button on our Branch website at branch116.org) or by check (make check to: SIR Branch 116 and mail your reservation/check to: Charlie Guthrie, 3136 Serene Court, Richmond, CA94803-1930. Call or email Brad Stribling if you have any questions. (925) 683-1440 or brad.stribling@outlook.com

Process: Sign in at registration table and pick up envelope with name tag, table tents, dinner selection. For table selection, arrive early and place table tents provided at desired table.

If you wish to reserve a group table, have your ‘leader’ contact Brad Stribling to label that table. Also, B.O.

Branch Activities



Wine-O-SIR

David Havlik

The WINE-O-SIRS held their final wine tasting event of 2025 on November 20th at the home of Paul Russel and his wife Pam. Jim Johnson and his wife Mo co-hosted the event. We had a big turnout and all enjoyed wines from the Sonoma region. We sampled a Rhone white, a pinot noir, a cabernet, and Bordeaux blend and a Zinfandel, all

selected by Jim. We also indulged in a variety of appetizers and desserts, provided by Pam and Mo. The evening was cold and damp, and the warm company, wine and food was the perfect antidote for the weather, and a great start for the holiday season. Hopefully, the next WINE-O-SIRS event will be in late January.



Pickleball

Gary Bonfiglio

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States. We here at Branch 116 has a core of dedicated players, who play two/three times a week at local venues. Primary play is every Friday morning at The Tennis Center, Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek. If interested in joining

our fun players and the great sport of pickleball contact:

Gary Bonfiglio Co-Chair 925-330-9612

Don Marini Co-Chair 925-935-5036



Amiable Amblers

John Riordan

November walkers included Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Todd & Tina Berman, Frank & Carol Colligan, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Al & Nancy Farbman, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Peter & Sandy Loew, Eric McNamara, Essie Naddaf, Bob & Nan Price, John & Gail Riordan, Brad & Winnie Stribling, Bill & Maureen Trilsch, and Joel & Susan White.

On November 7 we walked the lower loop trail around the Lafayette Reservoir, with a post-walk gathering at the Orinda Village Inn Café. On November 14 we walked north along the Contra Costa Canal Trail from Larkey Park; Bill and Maureen hosted a delicious post-walk breakfast for 24 Amblers at their home. On November 21 we walked north on the Iron Horse Trail from the Railroad Museum in Danville, with a post-walk gathering at the Black Bear Diner.

All December walks are scheduled to begin at 9:00AM.

On **December 5** we will meet at the Lafayette Community Center and walk south on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Ranch House Café. On **December 12** we will meet at the Stone Valley West trailhead for the Iron Horse Trail and walk north; the post-walk gathering will be at Peet's Coffee. On **December 19** we will meet at the Countrywood Shopping Center and walk east on the Contra Costa Canal Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the Black Bear Diner. No walks are planned for **December 26** and **January 2**.

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.

Branch Activities



Book Group 2

Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met November 20 to discuss *Agent Running in the Field* by John le Carre. Eleven (11) members in attendance voted the book 3.8/5

Agent Running In The Field

Nat, a 47 year-old veteran of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, believes his years as an agent runner are over. He is back in London with his wife, the long-suffering Prue. But with the growing threat from Moscow Centre, the office has one more job for him. Nat is to take over The Haven, a defunct substation of London General with a rag-tag band of spies. The only bright light on the team is young Florence, who has her eye on Russia Department and a Ukrainian oligarch with a finger in the Russia pie.

Nat is not only a spy, he is a passionate badminton player. His regular Monday evening opponent is half his age: the

introspective and solitary Ed. Ed hates Brexit, hates Trump and hates his job at some soulless media agency. And it is Ed, of all unlikely people, who will take Prue, Florence and Nat himself down the path of political anger that will ensnare them all.

Book Club 2 January Meeting

Book Club 2 next meeting will be Thursday, January 15, 2026, 11 AM. The group meets at Boundary Oak golf course club house (upper level).

We will discuss *Into Africa: The Epic Adventures of Stanley and Livingstone*, by Martin Dugard.

For more information, contact Scott Clark, 925-998-4553, or scottmclark72@gmail.com



Bocce

Bob Huck

We are in the off season for Bocce Ball. We plan to start next season in the middle of April and play every other Thursday through the middle of October. We plan to play at the Clayton Bocce courts from 10:00am till noon. We are open to more players joining us this year. We can add

2 more teams and rent a 3rd court. Please let me know if you want to join or need more information.

Bob Huck
bhuck10@sbcglobal.net



Book Group 1

Rich Black

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

- January 5..."Careless People" by Sara Wynn-Williams
- January 26.. "Reflections on Captivity" by Porter Halyburton
- February 23. "On Call" by Anthony Fauci

In "The Fifteen," William Geroux states that during WWII, the US Army allowed 400 thousand German POWs in more than 500 camps across America to keep their rank. Not surprisingly, dedicated Nazi officers maintained a discipline that led to the murder of perhaps 72 of their own men, whom they judged not sufficiently dedicated to the Third Reich. Fifteen of these officers were

tried by secret American military courts and condemned to death at Fort Leavenworth. In response, the German High Command inflicted death sentences on 15 American POWs. Geroux details events in Washington, Berlin, and on the European battlefield in the closing months of the war, which culminated in the liberation of all fifteen.

All agreed the book revealed a part of our WW II history of which they had been ignorant, but some felt the book lacked a central compelling focus. Garrett Girvan and Dan Renke recommended the book, while Richard Black led the discussion with Steve Bort, Thom Cox, Art Donaldson, Jim Flessner, Dick Kauffman, Mac McLoughlin, Eric McNamara, John Riordan, Bill Trilsch, Tim Tinnes, and Joel White. The group awarded "The Fifteen" 3.4 stars.

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, December 18th at 8:30am**. Come early. **THIS IS THE THIRD THURSDAY!!!!**

November first we all got crabby. Dungenous crab season started, and many of us went out on the ocean in our own boats and party boats to use crab hoops to catch em. Because we often eat crab on Thanksgiving, we feel we

are saving the life of a turkey. While our hoops soaked collecting crabs, we went off fishing for rockfish, and often got limits of both fish and crab. Of course the rough ocean and rains slowed us up a bit. Meanwhile, Tom Kostik, Mike Pruitt, Stan Wong, and Harry Sherinian plied the delta for striped bass. Stan won some money in a tournament! Stan also limited on trout at Lake Berryessa. Eight of us spent a few days at Lake Almanor for trout. Ben LaSala got his trout at Collins Lake. Ken Beleindir rassled yellowfin tuna down south to Cabo. And 26 of us feasted on rockfish at Carl Moyer's fall backyard fish fry. We wish you all a joyous Christmas, and a new year filled with huge fish, new stories, love, and light winds.



Bridge

Jon Dickson

SIR's lunch & bridge is every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Except in December we play only the 1st Tuesday. No game on the 4th Tuesday. December 9th will be the last game of year 2025 for bridge. In January we announce the highest average score for the year for our winning player.

On November 11th, Jon Dickson was first with 5,270 points, Darrell McClaughry was second with 4,620 points and Denny Morrissey was third with 4,380 points, with an average score of 3,201 points

On November 25th. Dennis Snarr finished first with 4,330 points, Dave Williams was second with 4,300 points, just one trick behind. and Ken Binning was third with 4,280 points, again one trick behind. Overall, it was an average day for scoring with 3,175 points our average.

f you play bridge, please do join us.



Computer & Technology



We are still looking for presenters for this activity. Without volunteers, this group cannot exist. If you are willing to volunteer, send a note to technologyforsir@gmail.com.

Presentation topics could be on Windows or Apple operating systems, smartphone apps, home entertainment, security systems, etc.



Branch Activities



Dine-O-SIR
Jerry Hicks

Mimosa Sunday Brunch



Once again, our Dine-O-Sirs will celebrate Happy 2026 New Year at Lone Tree Golf Club with an extravagant **Mimosa Sunday Brunch on January 25th**. We have a reserved area with seating in Lone Tree Oak Room at **11:00 AM**. We have spacious available; invite friends to join with us. Be prepared for good food,

good service, and good views! Cost is **\$49.50** per person inclusive. A Dine-O-SIR Flyer with information and reservations is attached. Send reservations with checks to Jerry Hicks.

Yuletide Greetings from Dine-O-SIR Committee:
Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Mike Yale

Dine-O-SIR ***Sunday Mimosa Brunch*** ***January 25th, 2026***

At 11:00 AM

Lone Tee Golf Course
4800 Golf Course Road, Antioch
Overlooking the 18th green and lake

Cost of \$49.50 inclusive per person

Typical Buffet:

Mimosa and Juices
Pastries and Rolls
Fruits and Salads
Shrimp and Smoked Salmon
Eggs and Meats
Custom Omelet and
Prime Rib Carving Stations
Waffles and French Toast
Dessert Table
Coffee and Tea Served



**Sir 116 Sunday 11:00 AM Mimosa Brunch at
Lone Tree Golf Club, Antioch; January 25, 2026**

Name: _____ **E-Mail** _____

Name: _____ **No. Attending** _____ **x \$49.50 = \$** _____

Check payable to: SIR Branch 116 Dining

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

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

Branch Activities



Community Service Frank Colligan

"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives" — Jackie Robinson

Branch 116 was very well represented in November at the Contra Costa Food Bank Warehouse. Twelve of us re-packaged donated barrels of food into shipping containers that filled an entire truck trailer. We also bagged about 300 pounds of carrots for distribution to the neediest in our community.

So far, we have the following activities scheduled:

- December 18 -- White Pony Express (9-11 AM)
- January 15 – Food Bank – Concord
- February (TBD) -- White Pony Express

Please let me know if you know of any other organization that can use our collective help.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the

Community Service Volunteer activity.

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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**



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 meet at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Church of Christ located at 500 Minert Rd in Concord.

We met in November and had eight members in attendance plus one guest, Donna Madden. Members present were Gary Bonfiglio, Alan Polanger, Kirk McVean, Jim Grant, Alex Lutkus, Paul Freitas, Harry Sherinian, and Richard Madden. Alan Polanger achieved the low score for the day.

Please email me if you would like to talk, and I can give you a call. A notice will be sent out for the December meeting. Which is scheduled for Wed., 12/10 at 10 a.m. Let me know if you would like to be put on our list.

Please contact Alan Polanger, Apolanger@sbcglobal.net or 925.922.2151.

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.

December 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 03	10:00 AM	Pleasanton	Marty Katz
Wed. 10	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 17	10:00 AM	Skylinks	Dick Chaffee

December 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 1	9:40	Boundary Oak	Tom O'Brien
Mon. 8	9:40	Boundary Oak	Tom O'Brien
Mon. 15	10:02	San Ramon	Tom O'Brien
Mon. 22	9:40	Rancho Solano	Tom O'Brien
Mon. 29	10:30	Paradise Valley	Tom O'Brien