

*A Non-Profit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement*



# ROOSTER TALES

**Next meeting - Thursday March 3th – 2015 – Oakhurst Country Club**



### Big SIR Message

Hello to March, the month of Daylight Savings time (March 13) and St Patrick’s Day (March 17), a chance for us Irish to drink responsibly. We also have the official start of Spring, March

21, where the day time and the night time hours are equal.

I am happy to report that our membership grew by 5 members since the beginning of the year, but we cannot rest on our laurels, we must still bring in more guests to continue to grow. With your help we can overcome the dreaded attrition of members, due to unforeseen events, so our Branch can remain vibrant and alive and grow. Remember your SIR cards whenever you go out and about. With St Patrick’s day in March we would encourage members to dress in their St Patrick’s day attire, we will have a contest for the attire that most resembles what St Patrick would wear on his day.

Members are always welcome to attend Branch Executive Board meetings. They begin at 10 on luncheon days and last no longer than one hour. Come on by and see how your branch works! You all have particularly unique skills that would serve our Branch in some capacity, step up, volunteer, and see how fulfilling serving the Branch can be.

Bring a friend, bring a colleague, bring a stranger, to our luncheon and show them what a good time we all have. Good food, entertainment, and informative speakers, what more can I add.

Bruce Persons  
Big SIR

### The Program for March



**Nicole Howell**  
**Executive Director**  
**Ombudsman Services of Contra Costa County**

Nicole is responsible for ensuring that the 9,000 residents of long-term care in her community have access to the highest level of care, respect and above all are able to live free of abuse and neglect. Prior to her role with OSCC Nicole worked for nearly five years as the Director of Operations for Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County where she became a fierce advocate for senior and dependent adults and immersed herself in culture change initiatives and person centered care philosophies. Ms. Howell has worked in the non-profit community for nearly a decade and attended the University of Nevada, Reno where she studied Political Science and Sociology. When she is not work she can be found at the Oakland Coliseum cheering on the Oakland A’s and hoping for a World Series Championship.

*March Menu*

Corned Beef and Cabbage  
 Blackened Catfish with Dijon Cream Sauce  
 Chef's choice Vegetarian plate  
 Chef's choice Salad and Dessert

*March Birthdays*



*Jerry Burton, Arnold Cota, John Crawford  
 John Dorsett, Bill Hockensn, Don Lambert, Tom Lathrop  
 Mike McKay, Dean Lucas, George Vogt, Dennis Webb  
 Dwayne Williams, John Wolfe*

**Financial Statement**

**Branch 19 Statistics**

February Attendance  
 Members and Guests –107

**Treasurer Report**

January 31, 2016

**Account Balances**

Petty Cash	\$ 250.00
General Account	
Unencumbered	\$4,510.39
Holiday fund	194.09
Picnic Fund	<u>155.59</u>
Total General Account	\$4,860.07

Custodial Accounts

Bowling	\$692.04
Golf	<u>1,164.12</u>
Total Custodial	<u>\$1,856.16</u>

Total Funds \$6,966.23

Ken Kuhn

**Our Focus**

*Our most important concern is you.*

We want to hear from you.

Your impressions and feedback will help us improve your SIR experience.

[branch19newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:branch19newsletter@gmail.com)



*Hiking Group*

We hope to restart the hiking group, weather permitting, in March. A good day for many of us is Thursday. Please let us know if you are interested, and the type of hike you would like.

Tom Lathrop 689-8981 [lathrop689@aol.com](mailto:lathrop689@aol.com)

George Vogt 672-3703 [cvogtgo@att.net](mailto:cvogtgo@att.net)

*Branch 19 Activities*

*Dine Around*

**Dine Around Group**  
 Meets on the third Thursday of every month.

**When:** Thursday, Mar 17. Social Time at 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm  
**Where:** DJ Bistro in Concord.  
 1825 Sutter St #C

It is located in Sutter Plaza on Sutter Street, adjacent to the Grocery Outlet on Willow Pass Road and 3 blocks from Todos Santos Park

Space is limited to 15 couple's! Great CZ / German Food and bier on tap.  
 Dis plats ist cer goot!!

**Payment:** By Individual Checks

**Sign-up:** Sheet at March 3<sup>rd</sup> SIR Luncheon  
 Contact Al Brunner 925.687.0594  
[albloryb@astound.net](mailto:albloryb@astound.net)

*SIR Branch 19 Bowling News*

Clayton Valley SIRS bowls on Wednesday mornings at Clayton Valley Bowl. If you are interest in bowling with a great bunch of folks, contact Mike or John.

SIR Mike Kropf  
 Mr. Have A Nice Day☺

**John Dorsett 689-1453 [jddorsett@astound.net](mailto:jddorsett@astound.net)**  
**John Carl 827-2444 [johncarl45@msn.com](mailto:johncarl45@msn.com)**

*Interested in a Particular Activity?*

The SIR organization offers numerous activities that are easily available to the members. If you are interested in joining a group that is not offered in your Branch activity list, start one and share the activity with other interested members. The various Branches of Area 2 have approximately 70 active groups participating in a wide variety of activities.

If you need info regarding an activity, how to find one, or how to start one, contact Jack Barnaba.

**Jack Barnaba Activity Chairman 672-0947**  
**[j.barnaba@yahoo.com](mailto:j.barnaba@yahoo.com)**

*The Bocce Report*

Bocce in March at Campo di Bocce in Livermore. All the info is in the anJM45nouncement below. Let's roll.

John Fernando

**John Fernando, Bocce Capo, Branch 19**  
**798-9978 [jaferna2003@yahoo.com](mailto:jaferna2003@yahoo.com)**

*New Members to Branch 19  
Welcome aboard gentlemen*

January 2016



From Left: Darryl Diamond sponsoring Dave Requa, Jerry Burton sponsoring Robert Crabaugh, Richard Leong sponsored by John Carl, Sponsor Mike Kropf sponsoring Mark Blackshere

February 2016



Rich Peterson sponsoring Francis Dobbs, John Wolf sponsoring David Atkinson, Silver DeTorres sponsored by Mike Kropf, Mike Thompson sponsored by John Millar.

***Let's Play Bocce***  
***Indoors. At a great facility. And have a great lunch.***  
***Thursday, 3/10. Details below.***



Our next day trip will be a really fun event: bocce ball and lunch at John Madden's Campo di Bocce in Livermore. This is a quality bocce facility that includes an excellent Italian Restaurant.

**Places are still open. If you can roll a ball and eat pasta you're qualified. No experience necessary.**

Here are the details:

Location: Campo di Bocce in Livermore, CA. ([www.campodibocce.com](http://www.campodibocce.com))

Trip Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016

Maximum Attendees: 24 SIR men (sorry, no spouses at this event this time)

Time: 10:30am to 1:30pm

After our Golf Group outing at Lone Tree earlier this month our Bocce Chair, John Fernando, selected the four Team Captains for our upcoming sold-out Campo di Bocce day trip in March. The Captains are: Dennis Barbieri, John Fernando, Jim Garcia, and Tom Lathrop. A team draft exercise was then conducted (see pic) to help insure the fair make-up of members for each of the four Teams. With both new and experienced bocce players equally welcome at this event the day should be a lot of fun, competitive, and enjoyable --- especially with the family style pasta feed luncheon afterwards! It's also worthwhile to mention that our Branch will be playing on the very same Campo di Bocce courts that will be hosting the 2016 National USA Bocce Ball championships this summer!



Call or write to me in order to reserve and pay for your spot---- or if you have any other questions. Feel free to contact Ricky directly if you have questions about the bocce game format.

Thanks.

SIR Bernie Theobald 925-3513672

*SIRS Branch 19 Wine Tasting Group*



**When:** Friday, March 11th at 7:00 pm

**Theme:** Southern Hemisphere White Wines

We will taste white wines from the southern hemisphere. This includes wines from Austria, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile and South Africa. Note: Please exclude New Zealand sauvignon blanc which we tasted last year. Any other whites are acceptable.

**Bring:**

- Your selected SA white bottle
- An appetizer to share. Hopefully, this should complement your wine. Hot ones are nice too

**Where:**

Ruth & Don Weimann  
 5738 Roanwood Way  
 Concord  
 672-7711 [weimanns@astound.net](mailto:weimanns@astound.net)

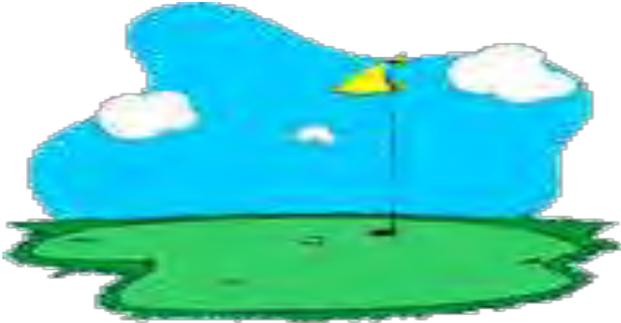
**Publicity Lets tell folks about Branch 19 Publicity**

Our SIR Branch #19 New Member Publicity efforts continue to grow! As part of SIR’s state level RAMP program you have probably already seen the recent news releases about our Branch’s 2015 golf program awards and our recent Haight Asbury day trip. These releases appeared in popular several community newspapers including the Concord Pioneer, the Diablo Gazette, and the Antioch Herald.

In partnership with the local In Shape Health Club in Concord we also had a Display Table at their facility recently to also attract new Branch #19 members. A special thanks goes out to our Branch members that dedicated several hours of their time to help with this innovative “on the ground” In Shape SIR #9 Publicity effort: Bruce Persons, Jim Martin, Bernie Theobald, Larry Kolano, Bill Stephenson, Nelson Luke, John Fernando, and Ken Peterson.

Most recently, another shout of thanks goes out to Jack Barnaba and Jerry Burton, who have also been able to secure permission to post our new SIR Branch #19 New Member Flyers on the wall boards at several of the area’s most popular golfing venues: Oakhurst Country Club, Lone Tree Golf Course, and Brentwood Golf Club. More postings are expected to take place in additional community locations real soon!

**Branch 19 Golf Information**



**Nine Hole Golf Group**  
 Every Monday at approximately 9am,  
 alternating at the following courses,  
**Buchanan and Diablo Hills.**

Contact: **Steve McMurdo**  
[smcmurdo@att.net](mailto:smcmurdo@att.net)  
 Phone 687-6271

**The 18 Hole Golf Group**  
**March Schedule**  
 Weather Permitting we will be playing:

- Mar 1 – **Delta View** 9:30
- Mar 8 – **Brentwood** 8:30
- Mar 15 – **Paradise Valley** 10:00
- Mar 22 – **Lone Tree** 9:30
- Mar 29 – **Boundary Oaks** 7:30

**Jerry Burton, Golf Chairman**  
[ajgolf81@yahoo.com](mailto:ajgolf81@yahoo.com)

Bill Stephenson makes the highlight reel for the  
 Contra Costa Times

NCGA PICS

Bill Stephenson of Contra Costa Times reports on the green at the Diablo Hills Golf Course in Concord, Calif., on Tuesday, Mar. 29, 2016. Diablo Hills is one of the public courses that is in no danger of closing, unlike an increasing number of public courses in the Bay Area. (Photo: Dana/Valley Area News Online) (Steve D'Amico)

Gentlemen

We have got to get back to playing at a steady pace . A 4 1/2 hr. round is not out of the question. The first 2 groups did it Tuesday at Lone Tree even looking for lost balls in the long rough.

Here are some tips.

1. Let the short hitters go if the long hitters can't
2. In the cart drop off your partner at his ball then go to yours or park in the middle and walk.
3. When you get to the Tee Box get out and tee-up don't wait because you had a high score on the last hole  
**PLAY READY GOLF**
4. Putt with the flag in the cup. If you are way out, putt up and pull the flag. Don't walk back and forth. You don't need to walk around a 3 foot putt 4 times. This is Not The Masters. Putt as the other players are approaching the green. You don't have to wait for everyone to get on first
5. Don't spend more than a couple of mins. looking for a ball. If you think that you are OB or in the water, hit a provisional. If you hit a ball in the water and can see it pick it out but don't try to pick every ball that you can out of a lake.
6. Be at the Course early enough to get your clubs on the cart so your partner isn't waiting in the parking lot.
7. Old and high handicaps is not an excuse. We have older players with high handicaps that play just as fast as the best players that we have.

*Pay Attention to This*

**About Monthly Attendance**

Please call the Hotline Number if you cannot attend.

**(925) 338-1996**

Call on or before five (5) days in advance of the monthly luncheon if you cannot attend.

That means call by Saturday at the latest.

Lunches are ordered for all members who have not called. If you don't show up the club is obligated to pay for the meal and you will be charged.

If you can't attend, call the Hotline.

**(925) 338-1996.**

Thank you for your cooperation

**Membership Attendance is required by the By Laws:**

**Rule 100:** A member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings without notifying the committee chair person (or calling the Hotline) giving valid reason or who attends less than six (6) meetings within the last twelve (12) months, shall be notified by the prescribed form, of termination of his membership. December Ladies Day is exempted.

**Lucky Badge number is somewhere in this issue. Look for JM followed by your badge number. Call the hotline before the luncheon if you find your number and your lunch will be free.**

**The Calendar**

**Computers & Technology**  
Thursday, March 17<sup>st</sup>

**Sums in Retirement**  
Wednesday, March, 23<sup>th</sup>

**Area 2 Fishing Group**  
Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

**Bowling**  
Wednesday mornings 10:00  
Clayton Valley Bowl

**Golf**  
Mondays (Nine Hole) and  
Tuesdays (18 Hole) (See above)

**Dining Out**  
Thursday, March 17

**Wine Tasting**  
Friday, March 11

*Area 2 Activities for March*



**The Area 2 Computer & Technology Group**

March 17, 9:30am – Walnut Creek Elks Club  
1475 Creekside Dr. Walnut Creek

**A presentation by a representative from Lawrence Livermore labs**

We are planning a presentation by a representative from Lawrence Livermore labs. The subject and speaker are being agreed so please watch the Area 2 CAT website ([A2cat.sirinc2.org](http://A2cat.sirinc2.org)) for an announcement of the details. They have a tremendous scope of research there, from super computers for weather forecasting to developing diagnostic tests for a wide range of ailments. They are leaders in many fields, so come to hear a very interesting talk.

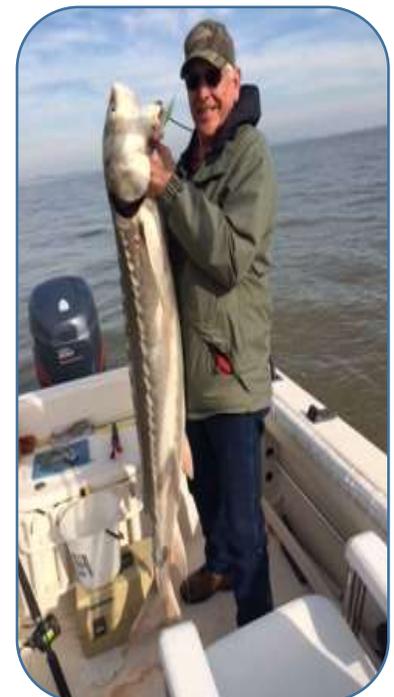
Some members arrive at 9:00 AM to enjoy coffee and chat before the presentation. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if our March meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Area 2 Fishing Group

The Legends
Diablo Creek G.C.
Meets on the 4th Thurs
Thursday March 25
8:30 am
4050 Port Chicago Highway in
Concord.



We made our annual trek to the Sportsmen's Expo in Sacramento, and our visit to Bass Pro Shop and Fisherman's Warehouse in Manteca. Both ventures were well attended. Romano Gnusti caught and released a 74 inch sturgeon, 120 pounds according to the chart. It was Romano's first sturgeon, and biggest fish ever. Carl Moyer caught and tagged a 53 inch sturgeon the very next day. Our reliable winter pond, Shadow Cliffs was dismal this winter. Several days of fishing there got not one bite. San Pablo reservoir, however, produced nice limits for Terry Miller, Carl Moyer, and Reggie Fromm. Paul Dubow went to Hawaii to catch a 15 lb. ono, an 8 lb. red snapper and several tasty blue snappers. Mike Corker and Tom Kostik caught many small stripers and several keeper sturgeon. A big sturgeon took about 15 minutes of Mike's life before saying goodbye. Several of us fished from Pittsburg for the sturgeon without a bite. Bruce Persons caught a 56" keeper sturgeon on Rich Fiscina's boat.



We will be very busy this winter with: delta fishing for catfish, striped bass, sturgeon, and trout in local lakes. We live in a fishermen's paradise.

Paul Dubow, Big Fish, (415-925-6054),
Carl Moyer Branch 8 Coordinator (925-685-5243)

Area 2 Investments / Wealth Management

The Area 2 Sums Investment Group

Wednesday, March 24, 2016.
Legends - Diablo Creek G.C.
4050 Port Chicago Highway
Breakfast available at 7am.



The program for March has not yet been announced. Check the website shown below for the latest info.

Tom Henry (Br-174) 925-284-5724
David Sutton (Br-8) 925-686-0158
www.a2sums.sirinc.org

**SIR Area 2 Travel Opportunities 2016**

**Mar 7-10, 2016: Arizona Spring Training.** Accommodations for 3 nights at the Hampton Inn, Tempe. Round trip Air from Bay Area to Phoenix. All breakfasts & 1 dinner plus home pickup, luggage handling, taxes and drivers gratuities. Cost \$995 for land and approximately \$1295 including air. Contact Larry Yarberry, Br 8 925-890-9245.

**Mar 13-17, 2016: Spring Training with #SIR 146.** 5 day trip with something for everyone. Upon arrival in Phoenix you will be transferred to your accommodations at the Embassy Suites for your 4 night stay. Amenities include hosted breakfast and happy hour. All meals during your stay are included. You will enjoy morning activities that include a variety of local attractions and guest speakers. Your game tickets are the best seats available. Every effort will be made to include A's and Giants games. Cost of \$1795.00 includes RT to and from airport, three games, 4 night accommodations, tours, and guide services. Contact **Ken Richter**, Br 146, 689-6217.

**Mar 25-Apr 10, 2016: big Band Voyage Across The Atlantic Ocean.** 16 day all-inclusive cruise on the Crystal Symphony. Relish the blissful luxury of days at sea, highlighted by visits to Bermuda, the Azores, Barcelona, Bandol and Monte Carlo. Cruise cost from \$3665. Join SIR 146 on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 1:30 pm for a special cruise presentation and extra savings opportunities. Contact **Ken Richter**, Br 146, 925-689-6217.

**May 3-5, 2016: Vatican Splendors exhibit at the Reagan Presidential Library.** The Vatican exhibit only travels every other year so don't miss the opportunity to experience 2,000 years of Vatican art and history. You will also visit the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Cost \$591.00 including RT motor coach, 2 night stay at the Pepper Tree in Santa Barbara, baggage handling, 6 meals, guided tours of the Library, and Santa Barbara Mission, with a visit to Solvang, and drivers gratuity. Contact **Ken Richter**, Br. 146, 925-689-6217

**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, motor coach 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.

The logo for SIR HAPPENINGS is centered within a light blue rectangular box. The word "SIR" is in a smaller, dark green font above the word "HAPPENINGS", which is in a larger, bold, dark green font. Both words are underlined with a thin yellow line.

Introducing SIR HAPPENINGS. The statewide newsletter for SIR.

Hi there Happenings Reader,

The latest edition of SIR Happenings has been posted on the SIR website:

<http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>

President Don's front page column "Our 2016 Challenge" is about growing our membership. He ends with a great slogan that Branches provide us with "Friends For Life"

Several thoughtful articles about SIR including Ed Benson's on Project 2016 "Building our Branches"

There are many great articles about Sirs and what they are doing.

Check the Travel Page for some exciting trips.

A terrific issue - don't miss it.

The SIR website has borrowed the travel page from "SIR Happenings" and you may click here to see the new link.

[http://sirinc.org/new\\_site/travel.html](http://sirinc.org/new_site/travel.html)

and then click on "Click to see a sample of SIR trips being planned"

I hope you enjoy reading our latest edition.

Don MacGregor

Editor, SIR Happenings

[donmac@wavecable.com](mailto:donmac@wavecable.com)