

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



# ROOSTER TALES

**Next meeting - Thursday April 6th – 2017 – Oakhurst Country Club  
If you can't attend, call the hotline 925-338-1996**



### Big SIR Message

Happy Spring Season, Branch 19. It is great to see the change in the weather. April is always a month to watch the trees blossom, the gardens bloom and the evenings stay bright much later with daylight savings. It

allows us to enjoy more time outdoors. That means some of our outside activities move into full swing - pickle ball, golf, bocce, hiking and day trips to name a few. Thanks to our volunteers who coordinate these for us - Bernie, Jerry, Steve, John, John, Tom, Rich and Ted. It's a great time to bring guests to see how enjoyable the activities are.

April is also the month when we need to develop our slate of officers and directors for the 2018 Branch Executive Committee. SIR Art Owens is heading our nominating committee this year. Please let him know how you can step up as a leader for our branch. Volunteers are the key to success for SIR. It is a great way to make a difference for all of our members.

SIR Jerry Strain, our 2017 President of SIRinc, has provided the first of a series of planned recorded messages to better communicate to our statewide membership. Our web master, SIR Mike Mills, has posted this on our branch website in the "About Us" tab. I encourage all members to view this short and informative video. As you can see, we are moving into the digital age. I look forward to seeing all of you for lunch on Thursday, April 6.

*Jack Barnaba*  
Big Sir

### *The Program for April*



**Larry Kolano  
Teacher, Former Branch 19 Big SIR**

Larry Kolano, Alfred Lerner Fellow, has had an interest in Holocaust studies for over 50 years. He has travelled to Holocaust sites in Germany, Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. He will share his observations on Auschwitz on, this, the 75th anniversary of the camp's expansion as a death camp.

### April Menu

Mixed Green Salad  
 Chicken Piccata  
 Basa White Fish with Dill Cream Sauce  
 Chef's choice Vegetarian plate  
 Cheesecake

Menus for all 2017 Luncheons can be found on the SIR19.org site on the "Home" page

### April Birthdays



#### April Birthdays

*Bill Boyer, Silver DeTorres, Eldon Harwood, John Hresko  
 George Kapus, Jeff Lezer, Bill Maguire, Gordon Monroe  
 Ben Olison, James Perry, Roy Priest  
 John Rubiales, David Sims, Bernie Theobald*

### Financial Statement Branch 19 Statistics

#### Treasurer Report February 28, 2017

##### Account Balances

Petty Cash	\$ 250.00
General Account	
Unencumbered	\$4,154.48
Excursion Fund	67.31
Holiday fund	29.62
Picnic Fund	165.49
Total General Account	<u>\$4,416.90</u>

##### Custodial Accounts

Bowling	\$ 674.90
Golf	1,929.53
Total Custodial	<u>\$2,604.43</u>

Total Funds \$7,271.33

Darryl Diamond  
 Branch 19 Treasurer

#### 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



For future exotic hiking adventures, contact

Tom Lathrop 689-8981 [lathrop689@aol.com](mailto:lathrop689@aol.com)  
 George Vogt 672-3703 [cvogtgo@att.net](mailto:cvogtgo@att.net)

### The Bocce Report

Bocce season begins for Branch 19 teams on Wednesday May 10th and Thursday May 11th. We're counting down the days and anxious to get the bocce ball rolling again. All games are held at Baldwin Park in Concord directly across the street from the Concord Senior Center. Games usually begin at 6:30 p.m. Come on down and cheer us on!

John Fernando  
 Bocce Chairman

*Branch 19 Activities*

*Branch 19 Leadership*

Big Sir: Jack Barnaba  
 Little Sir: John Carl Sr.  
 Secretary: Richard Peterson  
 Asst. Secretary: Dwayne Williams  
 Treasurer: Darryl Diamond  
 Asst. Treasurers: Barry Silberman, Ken Kuhn  
 Activities Chair: Bernie Theobald (Director)  
 Bocce Capo: John Fernando (Director)  
 Golf Chairman: Jerry Burton (Director)  
 Sunshine Chair: George Vogt  
 Attendance Chair: Ron Cashion (Director)  
 Speaker committee: John Wolfe (Director)  
 Bowling: John Dorsett, Mike Kropf  
 Chaplin: George Vogt  
 Hiking: Tom Lathrop, George Vogt  
 Day Trips: Ted Dobbs  
 Nomination Committee: Art Owens, John Fernando, Ron Cashion  
 Newsletter Editor: Ken Kuhn  
 Membership Chair: Ken Kuhn  
 Public Relations: Bernie Theobald  
 Roster Chairman: Ken Kuhn  
 Recruitment Chair: Art Owens  
 RAMP Chairman: John Carl Sr.  
 Wine Tasting: Don Weimann  
 Webmaster: Mike Mills

*SIR Branch 19 Bowling News*



Well here we are, just 5 more weeks left in our season. The Silver Foxes have a commanding 5 1/2 game lead. On another note most of us just got through bowling a tournament at Diablo Lanes with **Jacky Luke finishing first in singles and all events.** With his partner John Dorsett they placed fourth in doubles. Finishing in the money also were Silver De Torres, Richard Leong and Gary Kaufmann. Let me not forget my wife taking first place for the women in the singles. She beat the pants off of me. Spring is here. Have a great day.

SIR Mike Kropf

John Dorsett 925.827.2852 [jddorsett@astound.net](mailto:jddorsett@astound.net)  
 Mike Kropf 925.689.1453 [mdkropf@astound.net](mailto:mdkropf@astound.net)

*Interested in a Particular Activity?*

SIR 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 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 Bernie Theobald.

**Bernie Theobald Activity Chairman**  
**351-3672 [bjt47@comcast.net](mailto:bjt47@comcast.net)**

## The Pickleball Report



### SIR PICKLEBALL!!!!

SIR#19 PICKLEBALL OPEN PLAY continues every Thursday morning from 10am to Noon at Concord's new Willow Pass Pickleball Courts. This winter's weather has been challenging at times but if it's not raining the courts are always open.

Come on out and enjoy the fun and friendship of this exciting new paddle sport! It's "easier on the bones" than tennis. The court surface is smaller than a tennis court using a wiffle ball like pickleball.

Learning pickleball is a natural transition for former or current tennis players. Ping pong players can also adapt quickly to the game. Court time is FREE. Rackets are available to borrow if you need one -- also at no charge.

Even though most of us are still beginners, the more experienced players on the courts are always welcoming, inclusive, friendly, and gladly offer up some patient helpful coaching pointers for us Newbees.

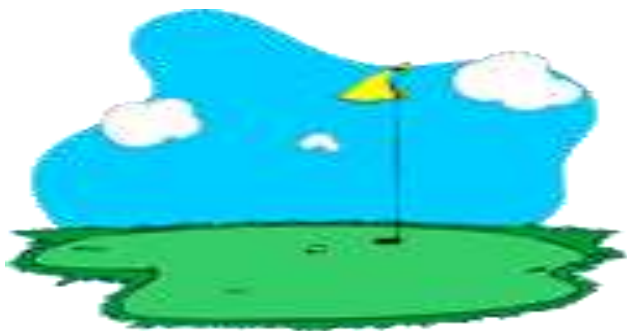
Why don't you plan to join us if you can! Bring your wife or significant other as pickleball is a great couples sport.

You can also register for FREE on the Meet Up smart phone app and let everyone know you're coming!

SIR BernieT

Any questions? Call Bernie Theobald at: [925-351-3672](tel:925-351-3672) or send email to: [bjt47@comcast.net](mailto:bjt47@comcast.net)

**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**  
**April Schedule**  
 Weather permitting we will be playing:

- April 4 – Eagle Vines 9:30
- April 11 – Lone Tree 9:30
- April 18 – Poppy Ridge 9:30
- April 25 – Lone Tree 9:30
- May 2 – Paradise Valley 9:30

**Rob Crabaugh got a hole in one** number 17 at Diablo Creek. Nice going.

Match Play will start on April 11th at Lone Tree and will be played at any golf course where both opponents are playing. If you want to participate sent a check for \$20.00 to Tom Lathrop or you can pay him at the course.

**Jerry Burton, Golf Chairman**  
[ajgolf24@gmail.com](mailto:ajgolf24@gmail.com)

**SIRS Branch 19 Dine Around  
Thursday, April 27th, 2017**

**The Old Spaghetti Factory**

2001 Contra Costa Blvd #50  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
925 672-7711



**Overview**

This is a long-running Italian chain restaurant with reasonably priced meals. They serve 3 course meals from \$12.99-\$16.50. A senior menu with reduced portions and choice is \$8.25-\$11.75. A gluten-free menu is also available.

**When**

Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 Dinner 6:00 pm

**Website**

<http://www.osf.com/location/concord-ca/>

**Menu**

Regular Menu: <http://www.osf.com/pdf/menus/Concord.pdf>

Senior Menu: [http://www.osf.com/pdf/menus/Senior\\_A1.pdf](http://www.osf.com/pdf/menus/Senior_A1.pdf)

**Contact Sign-up**

Don Weimann

(925) 672-7711 [weimanns@astound.net](mailto:weimanns@astound.net)



**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 we still have to pay for your meal and you will be charged.

So, if you can't attend, call. **(925) 338-1996.**

**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 April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Sums in Retirement  
Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Area 2 Fishing Group  
Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Dining Out/Wine Tasting  
Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Outings*

**Vasco Caves Regional Preserve**

All SIR hikers and those curious about modest caves..... This is too difficult to organize as a group as each person must register for the hike and individually pay \$30 for the tour. Google ..... Vasco Caves Regional Preserve .... and check it out. This preserve is only accessible by guided tour by registering on the website or by telephone. Jerry Burton put me on to this idea and I am interested to check out the salamanders, eagles, and hear about the connection to earlier Indian times.

Remember to check out the website and figure out what works for you.

Ted Dobbs [Ted\\_Dobbs@hotmail.com](mailto:Ted_Dobbs@hotmail.com) cell# [925-324-5047](tel:925-324-5047)

**DATE - Discussing Ancient Technology & Engineering**  
**Wednesday, April 12, 2017**



ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THIS SITE IS 10 TO 12,000 YEARS OLD? THEY PROBABLY USED SOPHISTICATED HI-TECH TOOLS! Göbekli Tepe

We are going to look for **UNEXPLAINED STRUCTURES** – at our next meeting of **DATE - Discussing Ancient Technology & Engineering** – on Wednesday, **April 12, 2017** at Clayton Valley Bowl, Conference Room, at 1:30 P.M. following the SIR Bowling League; we'll see if we can discover who created all that 10 -12,000 years old sophisticated megalithic stone masonry and why at **Göbekli Tepe**. Since no advanced machinery or tools were discovered; how did they do it? Is this site connected to other megalithic sites around the world? And speaking of megalithic stonework, how were the enormous JM23 stone blocks quarried, transported, shaped and moved into place at **Sacsayhuaman** without sophisticated tools and machinery? Viracocha the supreme god of the Incas was supposed to have been their teacher. But, who was he? And who erected over 3000 megalithic stones in geometric figures on the plains of **Carnac**, France? Were they really Roman legionnaires, turned into stone by Merlin the Magician? Why do the stones exhibit geomagnetic properties? Just a stone's throw away – a really big stone – we'll find the Armenian Stonehenge at **Karahunj**. This site is several thousands of years older than England's Stonehenge. 85 of the stones had holes bored into them at precise angles; to observe what? Was this a very early astronomical observatory pointing at the Cygnus star system? All the way around the world, we find ourselves in the USA at Homestead, Florida, site of the **Coral Castle**, built by a secretive Latvian American eccentric, Edward Leedskalnin (1887–1951). And, he did it all by himself. The castle is built of giant coral blocks that he evidently cut, shaped and moved into place by apparently using a mysterious device that has since disappeared. Where did he get the device and where did the device go? We may get these questions answered by previewing an Ancient Aliens episode entitled **UNEXPLAINED STRUCTURES**.

CARNAC SACSAYHUAMAN KARAHUNJ CORAL CASTLE





*Area 2 Activities for April*



***The Area 2 Computer & Technology Group***

*April 20, 9:30am – Walnut Creek Elks Club  
1475 Creekside Dr. Walnut Creek*

**Putting Together Your Own Desktop Computer**  
**<http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/>**

Barry Brown will be discussing “Putting Together Your Own Desktop Computer.” He will demonstrate how you can save money and get precisely what you want by personally configuring your own desktop, as opposed to buying online or from the big box stores. A copy of Barry’s notes can be downloaded a few days before the meeting by going to: <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/>

Arrive early to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies. 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 this 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 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs

**Thursday April 27**

**8:30 am**

4050 Port Chicago Highway in  
Concord.

Water ,water everywhere and not a fish in sight. This has been a difficult winter for us. We have fished for trout, sturgeon and striped bass. Terry Miller CAUGHT a striper, 13 pounds. Carl Moyer caught a small carp fishing for trout in San Pablo Reservoir. Carl fished for trout several more times with less luck. While fishing for stripers, many of us caught very few, and they were all small. While fishing for sturgeon we caught all manner of debris being flushed out by the high water. It is only up in all directions from here!

All SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings.

**Contacts: Paul Dubow (415-495-6504) Carl Moyer (925-685-5243)**

*Area 2 Investments / Wealth Management*

**The Area 2 Sums Investment Group**

**Next meeting April 26**

Legends – Diablo Creek G.C.

4050 Port Chicago Highway

Breakfast available at 7am.



Want to learn more about investing? Want to meet experts in the field? Want answers to your financial questions? Come join the **Sums in Retirement**.

Our next meeting is Wed April 26 at 8 am at the Legends Restaurant in the Diablo Creek Country Club - Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord. <http://www.a2sums.sirinc2.org>

The Legends opens at 7 AM. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

**Chair:** Tom Henry (Br-174) 925-284-5724 [tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** David Sutton (Br-8) 925-686-0158, [davesutn@yahoo.com](mailto:davesutn@yahoo.com)

**SIR Area 2 Travel Opportunities 2017**

**May 10-25, 2017: 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of JFK on Cape Cod.** Tour highlights include JFK Presidential Library, tour of Hyannis, JFK Museum, Hyannis Harbor cruise, Cape Cod Maritime Museum, Whale watching cruise and tour of Nantucket. Cost \$2,395.00 includes RT airfare, deluxe motor coach, 8 meals, tours and 5 night accommodations. John Pletsch Br.32, San Jose, 408-274-2992 or Mike Console, 408-246-1080.

**June 11-17, 2017: Southern Charm.** A 7 day trip to the south visiting Charleston, South Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, Jekyll Island, St. Simons Island, and St Augustine. Cost of \$2,989 includes 9 meals and 3 dinners, Cancellation Waiver insurance, RT airfare, all taxes, fees and hotel transfers. Bill Britton, Br 101/121 925-443-9913

**June 17-25, 2017: The Colorado Rockies.** 9 day escorted tour including Denver, Rocky Mt. Natl Park, Grand Junction, Arches Natl Park, Canyonlands Natl Park, Colorado Natl Monument, Durango & Silverton Narrow gauge railway, Garden of the Gods, Mesa Verde Natl Park, Pikes Peak Cog Railway. Cost \$3,159. Including air taxes & fees RT air, hotel transfers, and gratuities. Bill Rodman, San Jose, Br.38, 408-274-4521 or Alan Patmore, 408-867-4197.

**June 19-25, 2017: Yellowstone Wildlife Safari.** 7 day land trip to Yellowstone Park with over sixty species of mammals, untamed landscapes, and geothermal features. You will visit West Yellowstone, Old Faithful, Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, Yellowstone Wildlife Safari, Grand Teton National Park, Salt Lake City, and Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Tour cost is \$2,795 which includes Professional Guide, Hotel Accommodations, Meals, RT air, transportation on the tour, all taxes and gratuities. Tom Duncanson Br 20, 831-662-8605.

**July 3-15, 2017: Alaska Yukon Land & Sea.** 7 night land tour of upper Alaska and Yukon Territory followed by a 4 night cruise through the Inside Passage on Holland America M/S Nieuw Amsterdam. Tour features include Anchorage, Domed Rail Cars, Tundra Tour to Denali, Fairbanks, Klondike Spirit Paddle –wheeler Cruise, Dawson City Cruise includes Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan and Vancouver. Cost range from \$5,150 to \$5,895. Mike Console, Br. 54, San Jose, 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch, 408-274-2992.

**July 20-Aug 5, 2017: Ring of Kerry Land Tour & Princess Cruise.** 4 day land tour of Ireland and 12 days Princess cruise around the British Isles visiting 10 ports, including France. Trip includes beverage package worth \$6,76.20 if you sign up by Aug 20 for a balcony or mini suite. Prices range from \$4,999 to \$6,299 not including airfare. Tom Molinari, Br 147, Petaluma, 707-762-1880. Sold out. Standby only.

**Aug 14-22, 2014: US & Canadian National Parks.** Explore 7 spectacular including Glacier National Park, Banff National Park, Kootenay National Park, Waterton National Park. You'll also visit Lake Louise, Emerald Lake, Silverado Silver Mine, and Spokane. Cost of \$3,250 includes RT Air, Tour Transportation, Lodging, Meals, Taxes and Gratuities. Tom Duncanson, Br.20, 831-662-8605.

**Aug 14-18, 2017: Ashland, Shakespeare Festival.** 5 day tour featuring the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Jacksonville Belle Fiore Winery, Harry & David's Dinner Cabaret Show, Country Village, and Kitchens of Harry and David before returning to Ashland for a visit to the Oregon Cabaret Theatre. Cost of \$1,450 includes Deluxe Motor coach, 4 nights lodging, 9 meals, 3 performances and Tips. Bill Rodman, Br 38, San Jose, 408-274-4521.

**Sep 6-19, 2017: Atlantic Isles Cruise.** This 13 day luxury cruise aboard the Crystal Symphony begins and ends in Lisbon, Portugal, with several exotic ports of call in the Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands, and Morocco. Crystal distinguishes itself from other cruise lines by offering the very best in service, food, entertainment and

cultural programs. All beverages are included. Prices start at \$8,095 and include deluxe stateroom, \$250 shipboard credit, RT Air, all gratuities, port charges and transfers in SF. Larry Martinson, Br. 114, San Jose, 408-238-0746 or Jim Stoner, 408-238-8458.

**Sep7-20, 2017: Prague, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria.** This itinerary offers sights that will delight your senses. Highlights include: Prague, Rothenburg, Munich, Salzburg, Hitler's Eagles Nest , Oberammergau, Kleine Scheidegg, Black Forest, Rudesheim, and the Rhine River Cruise. The deluxe tour includes RTAir, most meals, accommodations, tour manager, admission to all activities, luggage handling, and all taxes. Cost \$5,495 including air. Lee Suess, Br 96, Jackson, 209-296-2235.

**Sep 10-23, 2017: Southern Italy & Sicily.** A 14 day trip touring Palermo, Monreale, Agrigento, Valley of the Temples, Giardini, Naxos, Taormina, Catania, Matera, Alberobello, Amalfi Coast, Sorrento and Pompeii. The cost of \$4,849 pp includes Cancellation Insurance, RT airfare, all taxes, fees and surcharges. Bill Britton, Br 101/121, 925-443-9913

**Sep 28-Oct 6, 2017: Norman Rockwell New England.** Tour the backroads of the Berkshire and Adirondack Mountains as you admire the fall foliage and visit the life memories of Norman Rockwell. The tour includes Boston City Tour then ferry cross Lake Champlain to Burlington VT and into the Green Mountains. Then cross the Connecticut River in New Hampshire into the coastal town of York Beach, Maine. Price is \$3,385, John Pletsch, Br 32, San Jose, 408-274-2992 or Mike Console, 408-246-1080 or Tom Duncanson Br. 20, 831-662-8605.

**Nov 9-20, 2017: Florida's Sunshine Trail.** This 12day trip spotlights Florida's top attractions including Orlando, St Augustine, Cocoa Beach, Kennedy Space Center, West Palm Beach, Key West and Miami. Air Boat experience through the Everglades, Naples, and Fort Myers. Cost \$4,250, Mike Console, Br32, San Jose, 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch, 408-274-2992.

Send your brief trip information to Bob Spellman at [bobnjo@astound.net](mailto:bobnjo@astound.net) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Only trips of at least 4 days or more in length will be listed