BIG SIR GREETING
MARCH - 2016

Saint Paddy’s Day. Our March meeting is on the Day O’ The Wear’n O’ da Green and while we will not serve green beer and drink Irish whiskey to remember (or not) Ireland and Nigeria’s Patron Saint we should be “wearin’ a bit o’ the green” to honor the feast day of Saint Patrick. Most of us knew of the Saint’s relation with Ireland but I was surprised to learn that Nigeria had also adopted Patrick as its Patron Saint as well. It is the only other country to do so.

Saint Patrick has a few years on most of us since he was born about 491 AD. He is credited with removing the snakes from Ireland by chasing them into the Irish Sea. (I have an uncle from Dublin who swore that the Saint sent them to England instead.) Ironically, Saint Patrick’s major shrines are at Armagh, Northern Ireland and Glastonbury Abby, England. March 17 is his day and I hope to see you at the Elkhorn at 12:00 for lunch and comradery.

Our February meeting was attended by 66 members plus guests and our speaker, Don Mazy. Don knew a great deal about U.S. ships named Hornet and did a good job sharing his knowledge. The Bucket Brigade collected a grand total of $219 or a little better than our goal of $3.00 per member. The food was good and the company –excellent! The teamwork that goes into these luncheons continues to amaze me. I arrived early at about 11:00. The room was set up and badges were out; in short order, we were set to do the 50/50, collect for meals and sign up for ROMEO. Ron had the new member packets ready and all signs were “go”. Kudos to this great team!

As you all know, we are continually recruiting new members (6 joined us in February) but we are also recruiting for new members to our officers and directors group. If you are even remotely considering one of these positions or know someone you think could fill the job, contact Jack Lamberty. His number is 209-451-1165. Uncle SIR Needs You!!

See you Saint Paddy’s Day!!

Paul Wagner- Big Sir 2016

OFFICIAL BRANCH 46 MARCH CALENDAR With Important Dates

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<th>SUN</th>
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March 2 National Old Stuff Day
March 13 Daylight Savings
March 14 Executive Board Meeting
March 17 Branch Luncheon-St. Patrick Day
March 20 1st Day of Spring
March 23 National Puppy Day
March 25 Good Friday & Last Day for Bulletin Input
March 27 Easter

New in This Edition
March Birthdays & Anniversaries
March Speaker & Calendar
February Luncheon Highlights
Roster Additions
Couples Bridge Results (w/photos)
Romeo-1 Photos
Romeo-2 info
Miss a Meeting?
When you know you will miss a luncheon meeting, please give our Attendance Chairman, Lee Talbott, a call (473-4159) or send him an e-mail: wital@aol.com

Bring a Friend, Win a Prize
When you bring a friend (prospective new member) to a Branch 46 lunch meeting, you will receive FREE five 50-50 tickets. Good luck!  ALSO, if your friend happens to join, then you will receive a free lunch.

SIR BRIDGE
Bridge starts at 9AM preceding the monthly meeting.  Please contact Dave Palmer to reserve a seat at a bridge table.
Dave Palmer Bridge Chairman 242-2093 or E-mail Dave at dpalmeretal@aol.com

Sunshine & Memorials:
Rich Mayo is our chairman for this committee. His phone number is 952-9177. Whenever you are aware of a member who has a serious illness or whose family has experienced some tragic circumstances, please give Rich a call. Please don’t be hesitant to call Rich if you are aware of a member who is having problems. A call from the SIR would be greatly appreciated.

9 Hole Golf
The 9 hole golf group plays every Tuesday at Swenson Executive Course. Players should arrive by 8:30 a.m. to get their tee times. In the winter months we play on an informal basis. Come and join us. Lee Talbot
Any questions, call me at 473-4159 wital@aol.com

SWITCHING TO E-MAIL
Sending out bulletins via Snail-mail (USPS) is time consuming and expensive. If you have a computer and are now receiving your bulletin thru the mail, please consider switching to E-mail. Simply contact Jack Lamberty and we’ll take care of the rest. Thank you. Remember – E-mail is in color!!
Jack Lamberty 451-1165 JackL68734@aol.com

WELCOME OUR NEW STARS
New members to Branch 46 are easy to recognize. They have a star on their badge. When you see a star on a SIR’s nametag, make sure you introduce yourself and welcome them to Branch 46. We suggest you also send a welcoming E-mail to the new member.

SIR BOWLING
Come join us for bowling fun every Wednesday morning, 9:30 am, at Pacific Bowl. Experienced bowlers, beginners and anybody in between will have a great time. Women are welcome, too. Call Ron Korock at 951-4759 for more information. Or ronkorock@comcast.net
Photos and scores from the January 28, semi-annual Couples Bridge luncheon at Buds are now posted on the Bridge link of the Branch website. The Photos link contains photos from the February Luncheon plus the February 4 Romeo Luncheon also at Elkhorn. Although this Bulletin has photos from each of these events, the website contains a complete set for all three activities. As usual, the Golf page has the 18-hole schedule for all of 2016. The Computer link continues to feature interesting summary articles on technology by Bill Bromily of Branch 1. This month’s write up contains another article on driverless cars. Google is into the driverless car business with a car having no steering wheel or pedals. As a result, California is developing legislation to the effect that all cars in California must have a steering wheel and pedals. Also, in this technology series, there is also a link for a short video of the views and features available from the Observatory at the top of the new One World Trade Center in New York City. This is an excellent video and is highly recommended. Finally, if you would like to have something posted on the web concerning Branch 46, please contact Jack Lamberty.

State Sir Happenings
The quarterly edition of the State Sir Newsletter is available on the SIR website. Just click on http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/. You may have to use the CTRL-click feature to do this. This edition has several articles about how we can reverse our declining membership, considered to be the number one problem in practically all branches. Also, there are write-ups about many of the SIR activities, including fishing, golf, bocce ball, bowling, and hiking plus lots of photos.

IN MEMORIAM
Sadly, we lost 2 members of Branch 46 in January and February.
--Sir Don Romero died on January 28, 2016. Don became a member of branch 46 in October, 2014.
--Sir Chet Miller passed away on February 3. Chet was a long time member of Branch 46 having joined in October of 2005.
--Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences go out to the family and friends of these Sirs at this sad time in their lives.

ROSTER ADDITIONS
Please add the following new members to your Roster
Tyler, Elvin ( ) (Iry) (02-16)
9140 Chianti Circle BD Dec 09
Stockton 95212 Ph 952-2896
Iryt@comcast.net
Plumbing Contractor, Tyler Plumbing Fishing, Biking

Young, Greg ( ) (Janet (02-16)
2023 Venetian Dr BD Nov 15
Stockton 95207 Ph 475-8330
Gergtenaj@aol.com
Ret. Military-Ret Fed Gov, GSA Golf

Blanco, Rudy ( ) (Chris) (02-16)
10385 Almanor BD Mar 25
Stockton 95219 Ph 993-5377
RudyChris.Blanco@gmail.com
Ret USN- Sub. Service USS Sam Houston Golf, Tennis
February Luncheon Highlights
The speaker for the February Luncheon was Don Mazy. Don was a Naval Flight Officer for 21 years and retired in 1984. During his service Don was a Bombardier-Navigator in the A-3B Skywarrior which was the largest carrier-based aircraft, and he accumulated over 400 carrier landings plus 18 medals for eight different service awards. Don is currently a docent for the USS Hornet museum at Alameda NAS. In spite of his lengthy military career, Don chose to speak about the history of the Naval ships named Hornet ranging from the first in 1775 which participated in the Revolutionary War to the last Hornet decommissioned in 1970 and is now on display at the USS Hornet museum. Noteworthy in the history of these ships is the USS Hornet (CV-8) which was the first aircraft carrier and commissioned in 1941. The CV-8 launched the Doolittle raid, participated in the battle of Midway, and was sunk in the battle of Santa Cruz Islands in 1942. The next USS Hornet was designated CV-12 and was active through the rest of WWII. It was also the recovery ship for astronauts returning from the Apollo moon missions. Don also spoke extensively about all the features, exhibits, and tours available at the Hornet museum at Alameda.

Transferring, Returning, and New Members

WELCOME TO BRANCH 46 GENTLEMEN!!

New Transferee Greg Young with Gary Calhoon

New Member Elvin Tyler with Tom Rut
MICHAEL J. MACHADO was a member of the California State Assembly from 1992 – 2000, a California State Senator from 2000 – 2008. Senator Machado represented San Joaquin, Yolo, Solano and parts of Sacramento County during his years of legislative service. In the Legislature, Senator Machado distinguished himself as a pragmatic moderate Democrat, whose business background kept him grounded as he considered public policy issues. Senator Machado was considered an expert in many complex policy areas, including water. As Chair of the Senate Banking, Finance and Insurance Committee during the foreclosure crisis, he enacted legislation regulating home loans in California. He was executive director of the Delta Protection Commission. During his tenure the Delta Protection Commission produced the Economic Sustainability Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Mike is a strong advocate for preserving the Delta and improving flood protection. Since 2008 Mr. Machado has been the owner and operator of a diversified farming operation in California’s Central Valley. He received an undergraduate degree in Economics from Stanford University and a Master’s degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Davis. He and his wife Diana reside in Linden.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Sirs branch 46 ..........Membership Chair .. ron korock

Our 2016 Birthday Greetings go to THE FOLLOWING SIRS ...

Jim Fenelon Marty Kjelson Lou Thanas
Jim Harris Ken Dunham Dave Derksen
Howard Stokes Rudy Blanco Ernest Ito
Duke Wilkinson Craig Potter

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March is the month when the fewest SIRS were married. Only four anniversaries to celebrate.

Our best wishes to ...

Mary & Dennis Fultz Married March 17, 2008
Holly & Drew Meyers Married March 10, 1973
Margaret & Norio Kawai Married March 23, 1967

CONGRATULATIONS AND SPECIAL WISHES GO TO....

Lillian & Ken Dunham ... 61 years Married March 3, 1955

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Active Members 101 Inactive Members 13
February Attendance : 66 = 65%
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<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>La Contenta</td>
<td>2 man Scram</td>
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<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Swenson</td>
<td>Skins game</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Elkhorn</td>
<td>2 MAN bb</td>
<td>$40,adv</td>
<td>8:00 S/G</td>
<td>Rutherford</td>
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<td>April 29</td>
<td>Swenson</td>
<td>Indiv. medal</td>
<td>8:00 T/T</td>
<td>Noel</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
<td>Dry Creek</td>
<td>4 man 1-2-3,</td>
<td>$40,adv</td>
<td>8:30 S/G</td>
<td>Rutherford</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Swenson</td>
<td>ABCD St Qual</td>
<td>S/G</td>
<td>Calhoon</td>
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<td>June 15</td>
<td>Micke Grove</td>
<td>4 man blind Scram</td>
<td>$45, adv</td>
<td>8:30? S/G</td>
<td>Rutherford</td>
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<td>June 24</td>
<td>Van Buskirk</td>
<td>2 man Alt/Scram</td>
<td>S/G</td>
<td>Stevens</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Discovery Bay CC</td>
<td>2 man scram</td>
<td>$55, adv</td>
<td>9:00 S/G</td>
<td>Rutherford MON. Range balls, lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Swenson</td>
<td>State Qual Indiv</td>
<td>S/G</td>
<td>Calhoon</td>
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<td>Aug 17</td>
<td>Elkhorn</td>
<td>2 person mixed scr</td>
<td>$55 +/-, adv</td>
<td>8:00 S/G</td>
<td>Rutherford</td>
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<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Lockeford Sprgs</td>
<td>Mod’d 4 man BB</td>
<td>$35, adv</td>
<td>8:30 S/G</td>
<td>Cossey</td>
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<td>Sept 30</td>
<td>Diablo Grande</td>
<td>Mod. 4 man</td>
<td>$44, adv</td>
<td>9:00 S/C</td>
<td>Cossey</td>
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<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>The Reserve</td>
<td>2 man scram</td>
<td>$43, adv</td>
<td>9:00 SG</td>
<td>Rutherford</td>
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<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Van Buskirk</td>
<td>4 man 2 BB</td>
<td>S/G</td>
<td>Calhoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Mickey Grove</td>
<td>2 man BB</td>
<td>$35, adv</td>
<td>8:30? S/G</td>
<td>Rutherford</td>
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Sign up sheet will be at Swenson and Micke Grove. You may sign up by calling or E-mailing the host.

Other questions regarding participation in our 18 Hole golf call Gary Calhoon

**Tournament Hosts**


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**ROMEO 2 AT ANGELINA’S**

Our next Romeo lunch will be at ANGELINA’S on March 24. You can sign up at our regular March 17th meeting or call/email Pete Lepisto. Lunch will be Angelina’s outstanding PASTA BUFFET at 11:30 am. The cost is $15 per person at the door and includes TAX and TIP. Angelina’s is located at 1514 E. Fremont Street in Stockton. This is just EAST of Wilson Way. Hope to see you there.
EMERGENCY FOOD BANK

The following is a condensed version of a letter sent to John Sefried, our Food Bank Coordinator. John is in charge of our yearly Food Bank donation activities.

Jan 4, 2016 SIRs Branch 46

Dear Sir, On behalf of the Emergency Food Bank and Family Services, I would to thank you for your total donation amount of $314 for the year of 2015. For your convenience our Tax ID is 68-0002165. With your donations the Emergency Food Bank can continue to provide emergency food assistance to the families, seniors, and individuals that visit our main pantry each day. These are generous donations and we want you to know your generosity is sincerely appreciated. The Emergency Food Bank and Family services rely on the support and kindness of donors like you. We value your support in helping us fight hunger and food insecurity in San Joaquin County!

Thank you again for your compassion, kindness and generosity.
Sincerely (signature) Mario Supnet – Executive Director

COUPLES BRIDGE

SIR couples get together twice a month at each other’s homes to play Contract Bridge over a 5-month period. There currently are sixteen couples divided into two sections of 8 each. These five-month sessions are followed by a bridge luncheon, usually in January or July, where awards ($) are given out to the winners from the previous session followed by a post-luncheon bridge tournament involving all couples. The luncheon for the fall session was held at U.J.’s on January 29. Results follow.

Couples Bridge at UJ’s, January 29, 2016

Photos by Dave Derksen

Section “A” High Scores for the Money
Jack & Alice Lamberty 23390
Mike and Anita Martin 21140
Corwin & Linda Jones 19590
John & Dee Pulver 17030

Section “B” High Scores for the Money
Larry Smith/Ruth Strombom 21830
John & Charlotte Doisy 20030
Fayne & Mava Wolford 17140
Frank & Velda Rubino 16080

Post-Luncheon Winners
Donna Halboth
John Pulver
John Doisy
Corwin Jones

Post Luncheon Winners
SIR Travel Opportunities 2016

Note: If you decide to book one of these trips or cruises, please go through the branch Travel Chairman shown in the listing. He has spent a great deal of time and effort setting up these opportunities for SIR members, and you will be able to socialize with a group of your fellow Sirs.

Experience the hospitality and charm of the south through educational tours of Natchez, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and New Orleans. See spring in full bloom with the surrounding flowers at historic sites and plantations.
3 nights Baton Rouge & 3 nights New Orleans 7 day, 13 meals from $2105.
Bruce Bentley, Santa Cruz, Br 20, 831-465-6590

Mar 12-31, 2016: South America Cruise.
18 day cruise starting in Santiago, Chile where you will board the Star Princess for a long cruise of South and Central America ending in Los Angeles. Costs of $3660 to $5260 depending on cabin selection include home pickup, transfers, meals and entertainment aboard ship, all departure and port taxes, all driver and porter gratuities. Rollo Parsons, Br 141, San Jose, 408-268-5245 or Brian Serpa, 408-227-7658.

Mar 25-Apr 10, 2016: Big Band Voyage Across the Atlantic Ocean.
16 day, all inclusive cruise across the Atlantic on the Crystal Symphony. Relish the blissful luxury of days at sea, highlighted by visits to Bermuda, the Azores, Barcelona, Bandol, and Monte Carlo.
Cost from $3665. Ken Richter, Br.146, Walnut Creek, 925-689-6217.

Apr 2-17, 2016: Princess Hawaiian Cruise.
San Francisco R/T to Hawaii. Stops at Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui and Ensenada, Mexico. Includes R/T pier transfers, gratuities, excursion special, cocktail party and gifts. Costs range from $2400 to $3800.
Tom Molinari, Br.147, Petaluma 707-762-1880.

Apr 16-25, 2016: Heritage of America.
10 day escorted tour of New York, Philadelphia, Amish Country, Gettysburg, Shenandoah Valley, Monticello, Williamsburg, Mt Vernon, Washington DC. Cost of $3399 includes Cancellation insurance, air tax fees, surcharges, hotel transfers, gratuities and R/T air fare. Bill Rodman, Br.38, San Jose, 408-274-4521 or Hank Clark 408-223-6464.

Apr 17-25, 2016: AMA waterways Tulip Time Cruise.
8 night river cruise through the Netherlands and Belgium aboard the AmaSerena riverboat. You will visit Amsterdam, Volendam, Edam, Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges, Kinderdijk and Keukenhof Gardens. Trip includes air, transfers, guided excursions, wine or beer with dinner, free WiFi and more. Cost $5950 to $7950 depending on cabin. Jim Stoner, Br.114, 408-238-8458 or Larry Martinson 408-528-0746.

May 9-21, 2016: Kenya Safari Adventure.
Visit the best game reserves to see hundreds of animals. Game drives in the mornings and late afternoons. This tour is active and exciting! 4 & 5 star hotels, Mt Kenya National Park, Lake Nakura National Park, Amboseli National Park, Samburu National Game Reserve and Maasai Mara. 13 days, 28 meals. Starting at $3975, Bruce Bentley, Br.20, Santa Cruz, 831-465-6590.

May 11-21, 2016: Alaska Cruise.
This 10 day cruise aboard the Grand Princess starts and ends in San Francisco and will make 4 ports of call: Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and Victoria. The ship will also cruise beautiful Glacier Bay. Included: Transportation to and from SF. Port taxes, taxes on included items, Travelex Group Protection Plan and porter tips. Cost $2150 to $3270 depending on cabin. Don House Br 74, 408-268-1703 or Allen Daily 408-265-8140.