



TRAIL TIPS

Mission Trail Branch 35, Silicon Valley, California

Branch 35 web page <https://sir35.org>

of Merit for his work establishing *Mothers Against Drunk Drivers* (MADD) with founder Candy Lightner.

He and his wife, Judy, have two children and three granddaughters. He lives in Cupertino, California.

Art Bernstein

President's Message



Summer is finally here, bringing longer days, warmer weather, and plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy all that SIR has to offer. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the many great activities available through our branch. In addition to our ever-growing golf club, now with more than 120 members, we also offer

bobce ball, biking, hiking, and several other enjoyable activities that help keep us active, engaged, and connected.

While we currently do not have pickleball or tennis groups, there has been growing interest in both. If you would like to help start one of these activities, please reach out to Joe Enos. New activities are always a great way to bring members together and continue strengthening our branch.

We are also close to finalizing our Branch Executive Committee for 2027. If you would like to be part of a close-knit team that helps guide important decisions for our branch, please contact me. Serving on the BEC is a great way to contribute and stay involved.

I would also like to thank our May speaker, Tara VanDerveer, for her outstanding presentation. Tara shared the challenges she faced growing up and the determination she used to turn those obstacles into remarkable success. Her story was truly inspiring and left a lasting impression on everyone in attendance. The standing ovation from our branch at the conclusion of her presentation was a wonderful tribute and a fitting end to the day.

Looking ahead, our annual picnic will be held on July 15th at Blackberry Farm. This is always one of the highlights of the summer and a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great food and fellowship together. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with setup and food service during the event. If you are able to lend a hand, please contact our picnic coordinator, Ben Gikis.

I hope everyone has a safe, active, and enjoyable summer, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and activities.

Scott Hiller

Next Meeting

Wednesday June 17, 2026

11:00am-1:30pm

Lunch 11:45am Los Altos United
Program 12:15pm Methodist Church

Guest Speaker: Joe Galiardi
Hooked on Autographs

Guest Speaker: Joe Galiardi

Holder of Guinness Record in Autographed Golfballs!



Joe Galiardi has assembled a private collection of signed golf balls that is the biggest and most varied in the world. Besides famous and best-loved golfers, his signed golf ball collection includes autographed balls from famous entertainers, notable athletes, and nine U.S. presidents. In his 2009 book, *Hooked on Autographs* (now in its 7th edition), he shares many of his favorite tales about securing autographs on golf balls. Joe will have copies of his book available for purchase at our Branch luncheon.

In April 2015, Joe was awarded the Guinness World Record for the Largest Collection of Autographed Golf Balls. His one-of-a-kind collection is featured in the 2017 Guinness World Records, on page 92 in the Collectors section.

Joe Galiardi received his diploma from Penn State in 1957, was drafted and spent two years in the U.S. Army after college. He worked at Fayette National Bank in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco, then began a 30-year Public Affairs career at Allstate Insurance Company.

Throughout his career at Allstate, Joe participated actively in civic affairs, was named *Man of the Year* in Sacramento in 1968 and was awarded the City and County of San Francisco's *Award*

SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS



- This June edition of Trail Tips is packed with special reports from members, including Roy Nakamura’s member profile of George O’Brien, John Rittweger’s writeup of the State SIR golf tournament at Fairfield, and Bill Moniz’s reporting of the Sunnyvale Tennis Club competing in the USTA National Invitational Tennis Championships in Surprise, Arizona. Then see Bruce Karney’s discussion of Prop. 19 and related tax considerations when selling or bequeathing your home to your children.
- Sign up for our Branch Picnic, being held on July 15th, from 10:30am to 2:00pm, BBQ starts at 11:30am. Registration opens on June 2nd. See full details in the flyer later in this newsletter.
- Remember to contact Roy Nakamura, Ron Nakamoto or Pat O’Connor, if you’d like to have a profile written of you and posted in Trail Tips and on our membership website!
- A calendar of the coming month’s **Branch Activities** and local **Sports Happenings** is in this newsletter. Print them out and stick them up on your refrigerator!

JUNE 2026 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Active Members: 299 Net Monthly Change: +4

We had four new members join our branch in May and we had no resignations, so the net Branch membership at the end of May is 299. We always welcome new members, so bring a friend or neighbor to the lunch as a guest, it’s on us!

Remember, you can search our member database at this link:

[SIR Branch 35 - Membership Directory \(wildapricot.org\)](https://sirbranch35.wildapricot.org/directory)

<https://sirbranch35.wildapricot.org/directory>

NEW MEMBERS

We had four new members join this past month. Our thanks and congratulations to their sponsors for bringing this great new talent to the branch!

Name	City	Former Companies	Sponsor
Bill Eaglstein	Los Altos	Uni. of Pittsburgh, Uni. of Miami, GSK (Glaxco)	Dan Zemanek
Bruce Entin	Los Gatos	SJMN, Atari, LSI Logic	George Mednick
Lew Jamison	Los Altos Hills	Sun, eGain, Portal SW, Cisco, BAE, Ayla, NetApp	Dan Zemanek
Fred Landis	San Jose	Netscape, Gartner, Callidus SW, Caggemini, LexisNexis	Jeff Kelley

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YRS.

We have 13 member anniversaries in June, one of whom has been with us for over twenty years!

Joe Cioni (14)	Gerry Cooley (19)	Dick Costa (12)
John Galli (11)	John Gerich (23)	Ken Jones (17)
Mike McHenry (10)	Bill Monroe (16)	Ken Newton Jr. (22)
Herb Petersen (19)	Joe Scheid (12)	David Skumick (18)
Tim Topole (10)		

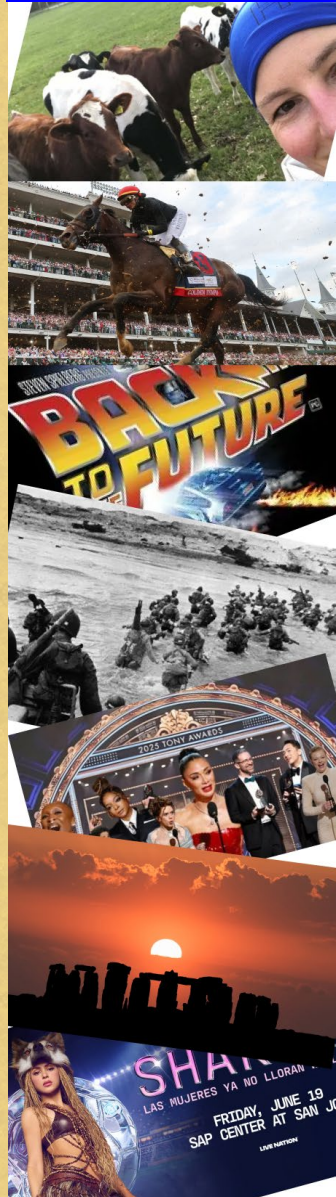
JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday this month to the following members:

Matt Arena	Henry Chik	Aram Darmanian
Mike Deggelman	Joe Enos	John Galli
John Gerich	Carl Hellman	Mike Humphries
Jay Jonckait	Howard Kalt	Don Lintz
Don Mattson	Bill Moniz	Roy Nakamura
Ryan Prabhakaran	Roger Smith	Nick Smyth
Paul Suchma	Gordy Tong	Scott Trappe
Greg Unangst	Chris Weberg	Dick Wilson

JUNE'S SPECIAL DAYS

PAT O'CONNOR
408-480-0409



- 1st World Milk Day
- 3rd Global Running Day
- 3rd -7th Back to the Future, Broadway SJ, SJCPA
- 4th National Cheese Day
- 6th D-Day Anniversary
- 6th Belmont Stakes
- 6th-7th SJ Youth Symphony, Cal. Theatre SJ
- 7th Tony Awards
- 8th World Oceans Day
- 11th Elena Ariza & Solomon Ge, Cello & Piano, MVCPA
- 12th-13th West Valley Dance, SJCPA
- 13th Pacific Symphony Summer Concert, Grant Pk Los Al.
- 14th Flag Day
- 19th Juneteenth
- 19th-20th Shakira, SAP
- 20th Working World, Cal. Theatre
- 21st Father's Day
- 21st Summer Solstice (Summer)
- 25th-28th Six: Teen Edition, Peninsula Youth Theatre, MVCPA

Golf	PGA Tour 4 th – 7 th Memorial Tournament, Dublin 11 th – 14 th RBC Canadian Open, Toronto 18 th – 21 st U.S. Open, Shinnecock, Southampton 25 th – 28 th Travelers Championship, Cromwell CT
Basketball	Golden State Warriors N/A Valkyries 2 nd Portland Fire @ GS Valkyries, 7:00pm 4 th GS Valkyries @ Minnesota Lynx, 6:00pm 6 th GS Valkyries @ Las Vegas Aces, 12:00pm 9 th Phoenix Mercury @ GS Valkyries, 7:00pm 12 nd GS Valkyries @ Seattle Storm, 7:00pm 15 th Los Angeles Sparks @ GS Valkyries, 7:00pm 17 th Dallas Wings @ GS Valkyries, 7:00pm 19 th Minnesota Lynx @ GS Valkyries, 7:00pm 21 st GS Valkyries @ Las Vegas Aces 1:00pm 24 th Atlanta Dream @ GS Valkyries, 7:00pm 26 th Atlanta Dream @ GS Valkyries, 7:00pm 28 th New York Liberty @ GS Valkyries, 4:00pm
Hockey	S.J. Sharks N/A
Soccer	Quakes N/A Bay FC N/A

Pat O'Connor

Baseball	S.F. Giants 1 st – 4 th SF Giants @ Milwaukee Brewers 5 th – 7 th SF Giants @ Chicago Cubs 8 th - 10 th Washington Nationals @ SF Giants 12 th - 14 th Chicago Cubs @ SF Giants 16 th – 18 th SF Giants @ Atlanta Braves 19 th – 21 st SF Giants @ Miami Marlins 23 rd – 25 th Athletics @ SF Giants 26 th – 28 th Atlanta Braves @ SF Giants 29 th – 30 th SF Giants @ Arizona Diamondbacks
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MEMBER PROFILE

GEORGE O'BRIEN,

BY ROY NAKAMURA



Fun Facts about George O'Brien

- **Travel:** George has been to 55 countries and 43 states, racking up close to two million travel miles
- Though he worked many different jobs growing up, he stayed at one company his entire career from 1957 to his retirement
- During his career he worked for fellow SIR members Carl Hellman and Ron Nakamoto
- He became an avid downhill skier able to tackle the black diamond routes, played tennis and now enjoys golf
- During his college days, he and a buddy stripped down and rebuilt a '40 Ford into a "hardtop" racer. They served as pit crew during the exciting Saturday night dirt track races at the old Alviso Speedway - the type of racing that eventually grew into NASCAR

Early Life

George was born in 1936 and was raised in the South Bay. He received a solid Catholic education from St. Leo's kindergarten, to St. Patrick's for elementary and middle school, Bellarmine College Prep, and ultimately Santa Clara University, where he earned his degree in Electrical Engineering.

Growing up, George became a Boy Scout and played in a drum corps that took home the state junior championship in 1951. Like many kids back then, George started working early. At 12 years old he worked a paper route across 4th, 5th, and 6th Streets between Julian and Taylor, just a few blocks from his home at 8th and St. James Street. Summers were spent picking fruit in the countless apricot and prune orchards that filled the valley. George vividly remembers a time when driving up El Camino Real or the Bayshore Highway meant seeing nothing but trees stretching through Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and beyond. In those days, the towns were separated by wide-open spaces, a far cry from the interconnected neighborhoods we see today.

When he turned 16, George got his first "real" paycheck at the Montgomery Street car wash and later spent a brief, low-paying

stint as a tour guide showing visitors around the iconic Winchester Mystery House. Seeking something better, his dad helped him get a job at the Richmond-Chase Cannery on Stockton Avenue, located near where the SAP Center stands today. Working on the line was a turning point for George; seeing older coworkers in their 50s doing that grueling labor made him aspire to something better.

To pay his way through school and college, George did:

- Landscaping and maintenance work
- Gas station hand at the old Star and Bar station
- Assisted the survey of power plant water lines at the IBM facility on Cottle Road as a mechanical contractor
- Surveyed roads throughout the Sierras with the Plumas County Road Department
- Ranch-hand cowboy, physical labor handling cattle and maintenance work at the Coe Cattle Ranch in E. San Jose
- Wind tunnel technician for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA)—later restructured as NASA—at Moffett Field in Mountain View. He worked at the massive 40-by-80-foot wind tunnel, large enough to evoke the awe of walking into a cathedral.

George initially sought a change of scenery upon graduation and interviewed with North American Aviation and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in SoCal. Concurrently, he learned of an East Coast-based electronics firm named Philco, had recently established a modest office in Redwood City, whose small team of 20 employees offered a dynamic, entrepreneurial atmosphere.



Young George (aged 24 in 1960), his whole life ahead of him

Preferring Philco's collaborative, close-knit environment over the rigid, large-scale bureaucratic operation of JPL, he declined the position at JPL to join Philco—an organization he would remain with through decades of corporate evolution, including transitions to Philco-Ford, Ford Aeronautics, Ford Aerospace, Loral, and ultimately, Lockheed Martin. Given his varied employment background during his youth, it is notable that George spent his entire 45-year professional career with a single employer, from 1957 until his retirement in 2002.

For the first time, young George had his own money and the freedom to decide what to do with it. He and a close buddy built a boat together from a kit and took up water skiing, which sparked a love for downhill skiing. Before long, he was skilled enough to tackle advanced black diamond runs, spending many weekends

skiing around Soda Springs and Sugar Bowl Resort in the Sierra Nevada mountains near Lake Tahoe.



Those carefree bachelor days wrapped up in 1959 when George met Jeanne. They fell in love and tied the knot in 1961, when George was 25 and Jeanne was 21. Life moved fast after that—by the time George turned 30, they were blessed with four wonderful children. Today, he has four grown children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. George and Jeanne shared a beautiful life together until she passed away in 2024.

Some years later in 1976, George bought a house in a new development in Cupertino just off Stevens Creek, not far from Blackberry Farm. It was a new neighborhood filled with young families, where everyone knew one another, and they had great block parties. Today, most of the original families have moved on, but George continues to live in that same house to this day.

George kicked off his career at Philco grappling with the complex math behind moving giant antenna dishes in three different directions—turning sideways, tilting up and down, and rolling smoothly without a hitch. Working without computers, he did these heavy calculations by hand on a slide rule, covering the office walls with giant sheets of butcher paper covered in math equations. When the team realized hydraulic systems worked way better than old-school electro-mechanical ones, George got sent off for a few weeks of intensive training. This made him the go-to resident expert on all things hydraulics.



One of George's first antenna installations, Fort Greeley, Alaska, 1962. His first daughter was born during this installation and he flew home over the Christmas holidays to be there for the birth

Later on, George shifted into program offices as an Antenna System Engineer. He became the crucial bridge between the program manager, the customers, and the engineering teams, handling everything from early blueprints to final on-site testing. It didn't take long for him to move up to project engineer, where he

ran the show for antenna controls and drive systems on projects for the military, government agencies, and commercial clients all over the world. His roles and projects grew even more diverse:

- Controls System Section Supervisor: George spent a few years leading teams on a ton of different antenna setups.
- Special Projects: While he mostly stuck to ground antennas, he also got to work on optical telescopes, solar cell sun trackers, and automated people movers.
- Department Manager: During a quick stint managing both ground and spacecraft control and power, he worked on weather satellite projects and the Ford People Mover project.

One assignment George will never forget was setting up a NASA satellite tracking antenna over in Quito, Ecuador. Sitting at 9,350 feet, it is the world's second-highest capital city. Back then, flights in and out of the old airport—since replaced in 2013—were total white-knuckle experiences. The runway was surrounded by volcanoes, mountains, and tight city buildings. It was a famously terrifying setup, and the danger was real: since 1947, the old airfield had seen at least 15 major plane crashes.



Map of 55 countries George had been to in the course of work

George wrapped up his career with three memorable programs:

- NATO: George spent seven years upgrading old dishes and building new ones across Europe.
- Orion: A similar systems engineering role for a classified customer, working for program manager Ron Nakamoto.
- SBIRS: George crossed the career finish line in 2002 as the Chief Engineer for the *Space Based Infrared System* ground program. This massive project involved setting up missile-warning earth stations in Colorado, Europe, and the South Pacific to keep tabs on global threats.

One thing George loved to do was go backpacking; during Labor Day weekend in 1974, a late summer backpacking trip turned into a fight for survival. George, his wife Jeanne, their four kids, and another family with three young kids set out for a scenic trek around Saddlebag Lake in the Eastern Sierras. Everything was going smoothly until nature threw a massive curveball. A sudden, brutal snowstorm slammed into the mountains, trapping the group at a staggering 11,000 feet. To put that in perspective, the ill-fated Donner Party met their tragic end at just 7,000 feet. George and his crew were nearly a mile higher than that. With the

temperature plummeting and the snow piling up, the situation quickly became life-threatening. Realizing they had to get the seven kids down the mountain immediately, George and the group made a radical choice and abandoned all of their heavy gear right there in the snow drift, and began a grueling *do-or-else* trek out. By some miracle, they managed to navigate the storm and make it back to safety. A week later, once the weather cleared, they went back up the mountain to dig out and retrieve their left-behind gear—officially closing the chapter on one harrowing, unforgettable adventure.

When asked what advice he would give to the younger generation, George emphasizes one main thing: appreciate the people in your life. He believes that if you compliment people on the little things, the big things usually take care of themselves.



Looking back, he wishes he had spoken up and expressed even more appreciation to his wife, Jeanne, over the years—pictured here around 1959. Even though his career was full of milestones, George always put family ahead of work, making time to coach Little League and soccer (despite never playing soccer himself) and taking the family out on backpacking trips. He will always cherish Jeanne, the love

of his life.



George and Jeanne, Den Hague, Netherlands, 2011

Roy Nakamura

REPORTS FROM OUR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

BOOK SWAP

BOB STEINBERG
(408) 316-1161



Welcome to the Book Swap Notes for June 2026.

First, for those of you who brought paper bags in response to our request, thank you! We still need more bags so please bring any that you might have. Bags such as shopping bags with rope handles, or similar, are preferred; but any will do.

You brought many books in May! We started with 7 and ended with 28. All but 5 were donated by us to Los Altos Library.

Those five will be at the Book Swap table on June 17. The titles are a surprise, so come check them out. Please bring your books to swap and see what others have brought.

Bob Steinberg

BOOK CLUB

ED MILLS
(408)439-2234



See our [web page](https://sir35.org/?page_id=3262) at https://sir35.org/?page_id=3262

DAVE GOBUTY
(650)325-2533

The next Book Club meeting will be on Wednesday, June 10th.

The SIR book club usually meets on the second Wednesday of the month in the Live Oak room of Los Altos United Methodist Church from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm for a discussion of the book chosen for that month.

Some interesting June dates for readers:

- June 16 Bloomsday, a celebration of Irish writer James Joyce's life and his novel, *Ulysses*



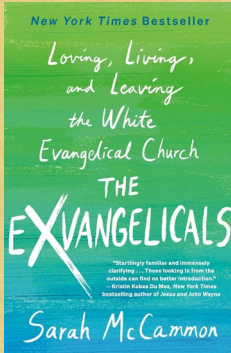
At the last meeting of the Sir branch 35 book club we discussed *Nathaniel's Nutmeg* by Giles Milton, recommended by Frank Crossman.

Frank summarized the book as follows: "Today, the tiny, 2 1/2 mile-long island of Run in the East Indies is remote, tranquil, and now largely ignored. At the beginning of the seventeenth century, however, it was front and center in a battle for the Spice Islands trade in nutmeg between

the well organized Dutch East India Company and the seemingly amateurish and underfunded British East India Company. It was up to a young English trading agent, Nathaniel Courthope, to occupy Run and prevent the Dutch from possessing this last British claim in the Spice Islands. Thanks to his courage and tenacity, in a treaty that was signed after the 2nd Anglo-Dutch War, this tiny island of Run was ceded to the Dutch in exchange for another small island in the Americas, Manhattan, and, in effect,

for all the lands from Delaware to Rhode Island that the Dutch had claimed in the New World”.

The group generally liked this nonfiction book, citing the description of the difficulties in traveling from England to the East Indies as well as the impact of the spice trade on the British empire. Some readers found the use of archaic language and tracking the numerous characters distracting. The reaction from the group was favorable with an average rating of 4.0 out of 5.



Next month we'll be discussing *The EXvangelicals* by Sarah McCammon, recommended by Art Bernstein.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday June 10 at the Los Altos United Methodist Church, Live Oak room, from 1:30 to 3 pm. If you would like more information about the books we read or if you want to visit the group, please contact either Ed Mills at 408 439-2234 or Dave Gobuty at 650-325-2533

Ed Mills

BOCCE BALL

See our [web page](#)

RICHARD OEHLBERG
650-823-7720

MICHAEL MAURIER



(Normally) every Friday, 10:00 a.m. to noon when weather and court conditions permit. Guests are welcome.

We play at the Los Altos Community Center Bocce Ball Courts, located at 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos, CA 94022.



Nearest color to the white *pallino* wins, and red squeaks it by a hair!

All are invited to join the friendly SIR Branch 35 Bocce Ball players and interact with a great group of people. Guests are welcome and encouraged! Come and meet old friends and make

new ones. We welcome all skill levels from beginners to those who have been playing for quite a while. We love to coach new players. Come and join us and have fun.

We begin at 9:45 AM on most Fridays for court maintenance by SIR volunteers (OK, being retired, a number of us view starting times as advisory and not strictly adhered to.) Play begins right after the maintenance is completed. We normally quit around Noon. Come join us!

Richard Oehlberg & Michael Maurier

BOWLING

See our [web page](#)

PRIZES: ALAN GAUDIE
REPORTER: BOB GARTEN

BOB TAGGART
650-321-2654

DOUG ANDERSON
415-407-4000



Every Tuesday, at 1:00 p.m. (for a couple hours), at Homestead Bowl, Homestead & Stelling, in Cupertino.

Want to get some exercise, have fun and make new friends while throwing a 14-pound stone down an alley at ten pins? Come join the SIR 35 Bowling Activity.

We bowl at 1 PM on Tuesdays at the Homestead Lanes, 20990 Homestead Rd, Cupertino. Cost is only \$20 per week including the prize fund. Improve your balance, arm strength and mental focus while enjoying a good time!

Spring Season Week 5 Standings	
1st Place	Ruth Ososkie, Larry Malbaum, Jerry Ososkie,
2nd Place	Joe Hauser, Paul Cook, Man Tran, Jay Jonekait
3rd Place	Ron Grace, Nazeem Nordeen, Stan Barkey, Bob Garten
4th Place	Bob Feigelson, Brad Ashmore, Bob Froelich, Joe Enos
5th Place	Ramesh Patel, Chris Weberg, Larry Low,
6th Place	Oren Abramson, Peter Wong, Scott Hiller,
7th Place	Doug Anderson, Lynn Emmenegger, Fred Emmenegger, Tom Petro
8th Place	Karen Soules, Alan Gaudie, B Soules, Ken Allen
9th Place	Les Fisher, Gary Coluccio, Marc Haberman,
10th Place	Gordon Frierson, Rick McColloch, Bob Taggart,

Week 5 Top Scores			
	Scratch Series		Scratch Game
Men 1	539 Stan Barkey	1	197 Larry Low
	526 Bob Garten	2	166 Rick McColloch
	461 Man Tran	3	166 Bob Taggart
Women	375 Lynn Emmenegger		158 Ruth Ososkie
	Handicap Series		Handicap Game
Men 1	631 Jerry Ososkie	1	231 Peter Wong
	614 Gary Coluccio	2	230 Joe Hauser
	614 Nazeem Noorde	3	211 Ron Grace
Women	567 Karen Soules		

Contact Bob Taggart (650-321-2654) or Bob Garten (408-253-5860)

Bob Garten

PERSONAL FINANCE

BILL MACK
408-836-6440



The next meeting is Wednesday June 3rd at 1PM at the Moffett Musuem.

The Personal Finance Group met May 6th at the Moffett Museum.

- Fixed Income Investing - George Mednick gave a useful presentation on fixed income investing; where and how to look for various kinds of CD's, T-Bill, and Bonds. He noted issues to watch out for.
- QCD Reporting 2026 vs 2025 - Frank Crossman showed Tax forms and how the 2026 rules are different for Qualified Charitable Deductions (gifts from your IRA to lower the RMDs).
- Asset Disposal Methods - Bill Mack gave brief updates on FIFO/LIFO/highest cost basis, etc. Be sure to check all your accounts for the behavior you want when selling.

The next meeting is June 3rd and will focus on members' Favorite Investments.



Blimp or Airship? The Museum at Moffett Airfield

If you wish to be added to our email distribution list, please contact Bill Mack.

Bill Mack

BIKING

GORDON TONG
408-242-0557



See our [web page](#)

The next bike ride will be on the Thursday, June 11th, 2026 (2nd Thursday of the month), meeting at 11am.

Wives and guests welcomed and helmets required

Guadalupe River Trail (From Alviso to Downtown San Jose)

Ride: We will begin the ride at the trailhead near 2040 Gold Street in Alviso. We will follow the scenic, paved trail past Mineta San Jose International Airport and on to San Jose Market Center on Coleman Avenue where we will eat lunch at the Panera Bread (503 Coleman Avenue, San Jose). We will ride back on the same route for a round trip of approximately 16 miles.

Directions: Take Highway 101 South to Highway 237 Eastbound (towards Alviso and Milpitas). Go 2.5 miles and exit on "Lafayette and Great America Parkway." At the intersection, turn left on Lafayette and then immediately into the right turn lane. The next traffic light intersection is "Gold St. Connector" so turn right. Go about a quarter mile to another traffic light which is Gold Street so turn left. Go another quarter mile until you see a yellow traffic sign "Narrow Bridge Ahead". Turn right into the New Alviso Educational Center parking lot.



The Guadalupe River Trail, Alviso

If you plan to ride, or have questions, please contact me, number above, or find my email in the [Branch Directory](#).

Gordy Tong

SPORTS CAR GROUP

JOHN TUCKER
(408) 655-5435



Our next SIR Sports Car FunRun will take place on the second Wednesday, June 10th, 2026. 🚗 🏁

Last Month's Fun Run

Our May SIR Sports Car Run began at Quarry Park in Saratoga, where 10 participants gathered in 8 cars for a scenic drive through the Santa Cruz Mountains. We traveled up Highway 9 to Skyline Boulevard, enjoying a reasonably sunny day and beautiful mountain views along the way. From Skyline, we continued to Highway 92 and made our way down to Half Moon Bay for lunch at the Miramar Beach Restaurant.



The racing Porsche lives again!

The drive lasted about an hour and featured plenty of winding roads and coastal scenery. We were also pleased to welcome Terry Bland on his first run with the group, arriving in his El Camino.



The beach at Half Moon Bay

As always, the outing included good food, good conversation, and plenty of automotive enthusiasm.

Our next SIR Sports Car Group Fun Run will be Wednesday, June 10th. Come join the fun!

John Tucker

HIKING

See our [web page](#)

JOHN TUCKER
408-655-5435



Our next SIR Hike will be on Friday, June 26, 2026.

Our May SIR Hike featured 21 hikers exploring a new trail for most of us - the Stevens Creek Nature Trail, Horseshoe Lake, and Lower White Oak Loop. The hike covered approximately 5.8 miles with 796 feet of elevation gain. We started from the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road — the same starting point as our January hike, but with a completely different route.



The crew, ready to hit the trail

Most of the hike was under tree cover as we descended into the canyon and climbed back out, crossed Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35), and looped around Horseshoe Lake before enjoying lunch at actual picnic tables. The weather was clear with beautiful blue skies, and though it turned out warmer than expected, everyone made it through just fine. After the hike, we gathered for our traditional debriefing at Rossotti's Alpine Inn.



Happy hikers on the way back to the trailhead and then on to Rossotti's Alpine Inn for the after-hike debriefing

Our next SIR Hike will be Friday, June 26, 2026. Come join us outdoors!

John Tucker

BRIDGE

See our [web page](#)

MARK LEVI
650-305-9132



The Bridge group meets regularly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Los Altos Senior Center, for fun bridge games and conversation. Contact Mark Levi if interested to get on our mailing list.

Mark Levi

WINE FINDERS

See our [web page](#)

ALAN GAUDIE
650-964-6510



RUSS AYRES
650-776-6391

This activity is for couples who want to have fun and meet new people. We gather at the home of a host couple to blind taste, grade wines and share appetizers (and stories).



Our June event is full, July event is for continuing members only. However, we would like to have some new participants for August and September so contact me if you'd like to join. It's a fun evening!

Alan Gaudie

GOLF

LES MILES 408-528-5473



BRUCE KARNEY 650-964-3567 LARRY LOW 408-533-2651

See our [web page](#)

Fixtures for July – sign up now!

SIGN-UP with John Gerich by Friday June 12			
Seascape (SCP) 4Man 2BB	Thu Jul 2	10:00	\$89
Garten 408-253-5860 xonon1@comcast.net ** / NEED ATC **			
Crystal Springs (CSP)	Mon Jul 6	9:30	\$72
Cioni 650-393-5711 jacioni@yahoo.com ** / NEED ATC **			
Almaden Country Club (ACC)	Thu Jul 9	12:30	\$130
Nakamoto 408-440-2330 ronandelaine@comcast.net / Kalsi			
Lake Chabot (LCH)	Mon Jul 13	10:00	\$47
Weberg 408-205-9120 cweberg1@gmail.com ** / NEED ATC **			
Villages (VLG)	Thu Jul 16	11:30	\$88
Barnhart 408-594-5949 terry.b2007@sbcglobal.net / Ososkie			
Coyote Creek - T (CCT) 3 day lock-in	Mon Jul 20	9:30	\$110
Nakamoto 408-440-2330 ronandelaine@comcast.net / Kalsi			
Bridges (BRI)	Thu Jul 23	9:30	\$69
Callippe Preserve (CPR)	Mon Jul 27	10:02	\$74
Cinnabar Hills (CBH)	Thu Jul 30	10:50	\$95
Nakamoto 408-440-2330 ronandelaine@comcast.net / Schutz			

SIR State Golf Fixtures

- June 24th – 25th *Spring Eternal*, Blue Rock Springs (East and West courses).

- August 5th (practice) and 6th (tournament) *The Chairman's Tournament* State Team Scramble Championship at Hiddenbrook Golf Club.

Ben Gikis

Stephens Has the Round of the Month

Wendell Stephens had the Round of the Month at Pacific Grove on May 18. His gross 88, net 57, was 12.7 strokes under and is the Round of the Year so far. Wendell is 87 years old and came within a whisker of shooting his age from the back tees! His write-up about his great round appears after the scoring tables in this month's column.

David versus Two Goliaths

Larry Baugher provided this recap of his recent victory:

"There was a lot of confusion before our Match Play at The Villages. My partner, Rich Pattison, was unaware that a match was scheduled for that day and didn't appear.

"It was a fine day and Jay Jonekait, Robert Manetta, and I agreed to play the match anyway. It would be a "David versus Goliath" scenario with me, handicap 36, against Robert, handicap 11, and Jay, handicap 22. I would have no one to back up my errant putts. But Robert was spotting me 25 pops and Jay was spotting me 14.

"On the first tee, I don't think anyone would have given me much of a chance in this match, myself included. My insecurity was amplified when Robert and Jay hit booming drives, but I followed with my own long drive. Robert and I both parred the hole, but I won it because of the pop. The second hole was similar and I got to +2. Then Robert and Jay battled back, and it was all even.

"I won the fifth hole to retake the lead, and from that point I never relinquished it. There were several times when it seemed I was going to blow the lead, including a conceded Par 5, but in the end I prevailed: 2 up with one to play. Both Jay and Robert were extremely congratulatory. As for me, I am still in shock."

Bruce notes: Rich didn't play, so the \$20 team prize goes just to Larry. Larry's net 66 was the best round of the day by any Branch 35 golfer; he was 6.3 strokes "under."

Shoreline Links Cutting Programs, Raising Fees

An [article](#) posted in the [Mountain View Voice](#) online newspaper on May 22 describes several major changes that will take effect on July 1. According to the article, the course will eliminate its Twilight Membership program. In addition to ending the Twilight program, the City plans to remove the more expensive Gold Membership, which allows golfers to pay a flat monthly fee to play anytime the course is open. Last fiscal year Twilight memberships brought in \$139,404 for the City. By eliminating the program and creating more opportunities to sell playing times at market rate, the city anticipates generating \$309,988 next year. The article is lengthy and quite detailed, please click the link above to read it.

May's Golf Results:

2026 Individual Match Play Tournament Results
(If a name is in red it means the player's "over/under" metric was -2.0 or better.)

Round	Course	Match	Score	Prize
1	San Jose	Dave Dardis def. Dale Leonard	1 up	\$10
1	San Jose	Larry Low def. Paul Lesti	2 & 1	\$10
1	San Jose	Richard McGrath def. John Rittweger	1 up	\$10
1	Spring Valley	Stan Scardino def. Nazeem Noordeen	1 up	\$10
1	Spring Valley	Les Miles def. Richard Pattison	3 & 1	\$10
1	Spring Valley	Jay Jonekait def. Venicio Navarro	3 & 2	\$10
1	Spring Valley	Tom Taboada def. W. Stephens (see note)	1 up	\$20
2	The Villages	Les Miles def. Dave Dardis	3 & 2	\$10
1	The Villages	B. Soules def. Martin Virelas	3 & 2	\$10
1	Dublin Ranch	Chris Weberg def. Walt Joyce	Forfeit	\$10

Note: Tied after 18 holes, Taboada and Stephens played another 18. Taboada wins \$20.

2026 Team Match Play Tournament Results
(If a name is in red it means the player's "over/under" metric was -2.0 or better.)

Round	Course	Match	Score	Prize
Play-in	San Jose	Navarro & Wong def. Squellati & Feeney	8 & 7	\$10@
Play-in	Spring Valley	Nakamoto & O'Meara def. Patel & Nakamura	4 & 2	\$10@
1	The Villages	Nakamoto & O'Meara def. Navarro & Wong	5 & 3	\$10@
1	San Jose	Baughner & Pattison def. Virelas & Hall	2 up	\$10@
2	The Villages	Baughner & Pattison* def. Manetta & Jonekait	2 & 1	\$20*
1	The Villages	Rittweger & Prabhakaran def. Scardino & Schutz**	5 & 4	\$10@

* Pattison was absent. Baughner played alone and won the match and the \$20
** Schutz was absent. Scardino played alone against Rittweger & Prabhakaran

San Jose Muni **Par 72** **April 30, 2026**

Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize
Jay Jonekait	66	\$25	Balbir Kalsi	73	\$18
Ken Jones	72	\$21	John Ray	73	\$14
Ron Nakamoto	72	\$16	Man Tran	74	\$10
Mark Taylor	73	\$11	Wendell Stephens	74	\$5
Joe Cioni	73	\$9			

Shot his age: Joe Cioni (age 86) shot 84
Inside Putter Length: Jay Jonekait on #4 (\$15)
Low Gross (forward tees): Jay Jonekait 83 (Larry Low shot 78 in a match)
Low Gross (back tees): Dan Crow 82

Spring Valley **Par 70** **May 4, 2026**

Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize
Ken Jones	64	\$25	Jim Thorne	67	\$25
John Rittweger	68	\$20	Larry Wall	69	\$20
Bob Garten	68	\$15	Balbir Kalsi	70	\$15
Chris Weberg	69	\$10	Kary Cochrane	70	\$10
Bill Hall	71	\$7	Jeff Knopf	71	\$7

Shot his age: Bob Garten (age 83) shot 82
Low Gross (forward tees): John Rittweger 80 (Nazeem Noordeen shot 80 in a match)
Low Gross (back tees): Bob Garten and Chris Weberg tied at 82

Crystal Springs **Par 72** **May 7, 2026**

Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
B. Soules	76	\$18	J. Rittweger	70	\$18	Jeff Knopf	74	\$21
Dale Leonard	76	\$14	John Gerich	73	\$14	Joe Enos	76	\$16
N. Noordeen	77	\$10	H. Petersen	75	\$10	G. O'Brien	78	\$10
						Larry Wall	79	\$5

Low Gross: John Rittweger 86

Sharp Park **Par 72** **May 11, 2026**

Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize
John Rittweger	69	\$25	Ben Gikis	74	\$24
Herb Petersen	72	\$21	Tim O'Meara	74	\$18
Chris Weberg	74	\$16	Joe Enos	75	\$12
Les Miles	74	\$11	Peter Wong	75	\$8
Nazeem Noordeen	74	\$9			

Low Gross (forward tees): John Rittweger 83
Low Gross (back tees): Dan Crow 92

The Villages **Par 72** **May 14, 2026**

Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Larry Low	70	\$18	Terry Barnhart	67	\$18	G. O'Brien	70	\$21
Rich McGrath	75	\$12	Tom Taboada	68	\$12	John Hall	72	\$16
N. Noordeen	76	\$7	Bill Hall	69	\$7	Joe Enos	73	\$10
						Balbir Kalsi	75	\$5

Low Gross (forward tees): John Hall 81 (Robert Manetta shot 79 in a match)
Low Gross (back tees): Larry Low 83 (John Rittweger shot 82 in a match)

Pacific Grove **Par 70** **May 18, 2025**

Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize
Jeff Kelley	62	\$24	Wendell Stephens	57	\$18
Les Miles	68	\$18	Eric Chang	69	\$14
Jay Jonekait	69	\$12	John Hall	73	\$10
John Gerich	71	\$8			

Low Gross (forward tees): Jeff Kelley 83
Low Gross (back tees): Nazeem Noordeen 85

Dublin Ranch **Par 63** **May 27, 2026**

Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize
Dave Skarlanic	57	\$18	John Ray	55	\$18
Larry Baughner	60	\$14	Joe Enos	57	\$14
John Rittweger	62	\$10	Wendell Stephens	60	\$10
Narayan Prabhakara	63	\$5	Ben Gikis	62	\$5

Shot his age: Wendell Stephens (age 87) shot 82, Bob Garten (83) shot 79, Dave Skarlanic (70) shot 67
Inside Putter Length: Ben Gikis on #14 (\$15)
Low Gross (forward tees): Wendell Stephens 82
Low Gross (back tees): Dave Skarlanic 67

Bruce Karney

My Best Day of Golf

By Wendell Stephens

It was my best golf day – by a long shot. It is kind of funny. I had intended to pull out of the Pacific Grove tournament until Nazeem said he would drive.

I have watched my handicap slowly go up from the 20's to the 30's. The last few times I thought I was playing better but my scores were still indicative of why my handicap was so high. I have watched tons of video lessons on how to correct the slice, chip the ball, pitch the ball, get out of sand traps, and putt. I think I have finally corrected my slice. I have a routine for putting now and that helps. The rest is still a work in progress – or, more accurately, a mystery. I just needed a day when things would come together. Drive the ball down the middle. Approach the green without taking the ridiculous chances that I usually do. You know this latter problem. You have trees in front of you. Your option is to hit safely out of the woods or try a miracle shot that will clear the trees and land on the green. A miracle shot for a high handicap player is not a particularly smart move. The last time I played Spring Valley #10 I tried that. I actually made pretty good ball contact from off the right side of the fairway, hit a limb and the ball glances further right, through the fence and out of bounds. My course management skills are low.

So, what was different at Pac Grove? I think the Golf Gods decided to align in my favor instead of their usual maligning against me.

Actually, the first three holes were rough off the tee. But the approach shots were great and my new routine on putting seemed to help. I had pretty good scores on those holes even though I had not played them well with the first shot. Then my drives started going down the middle. Never in much trouble. In fact, I began to

think I was playing with good course management skills. Who knew I had enough sense to do that? I actually tried to avoid trouble rather than hit over it.

My chips and pitches were great all day – even the ones I skulled rolled close to the hole. I don't recall a 3 putt. That never happens. I think my putting alone accounts for a 6 to 9 stroke improvement on this round.

When it was all over, I was actually a little disappointed. I missed shooting my age by a stroke. I had hit one ball on the back nine that went through a fence for a stroke penalty; but laid the next shot on the green for a pretty good recovery. My worst hole was the par 3 #17 over water. I put my tee shot in the water. With my next tee shot I was on the green and 2 putted for a 5. Another good recovery.

Anyway, I think I see a path to playing better golf and it has been a while since I have felt that way. I need to give a shout out to my playing partners – Nazeem Nordeen and Herb Petersen. They were not having their A-games, but they kept encouraging me. Most SIRs golfers are great playing partners, but to have constant encouragement from these guys was very nice.

Footnote: I want the world to know that on one hole, I outdrove Nazeem. OK, maybe his ball did hit a tree and bounce backward, but when all was said and done my drive was closer to the pin than his was. I take my little *victories* anywhere I can find them.

Wendell Stephens

SPECIAL REPORT SIR STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT FAIRFIELD BY JOHN RITTWEGER

SIR Branch 35 fielded 2 teams for the SIR State Golf Tournament in Fairfield on Wednesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 21. One team was headed by Dale Leonard and included Don Matson, Larry Baugher and Man Tran. The other team consisted of Chris Weberg, John Rittweger, Balbir Kalsi and Ben Gikis.

Several state branches participated in the 4-Man Team, 2-Best Ball Format event fielding 16 teams. The first day was held at Paradise Valley Golf Course, while the second event was at Rancho Solano. Both courses were in excellent condition and the weather was spectacular. It was sunny and in the mid to high eighties. The prize fund payout was \$2,900. Awards were given to the top teams each day, winners of each flight, closest to the pin on 2 holes and the longest made putt each day.

Branch 35 members collected a total of \$338. Though Branch 35 teams finished out of the money, several members placed in their flights. Larry Baugher finished first in his flight, while Chris Weberg and Balbir Kalsi finished second in theirs. Dale Leonard took third in his flight. Ben Gikis was first and Don Matson finished third in the 80+ flight. Of special interest: the longest putt on day 2 was 118 feet by a contestant from Sacramento. Special thanks to Lori Rittweger for assisting in administrating the tournament.

John Rittweger

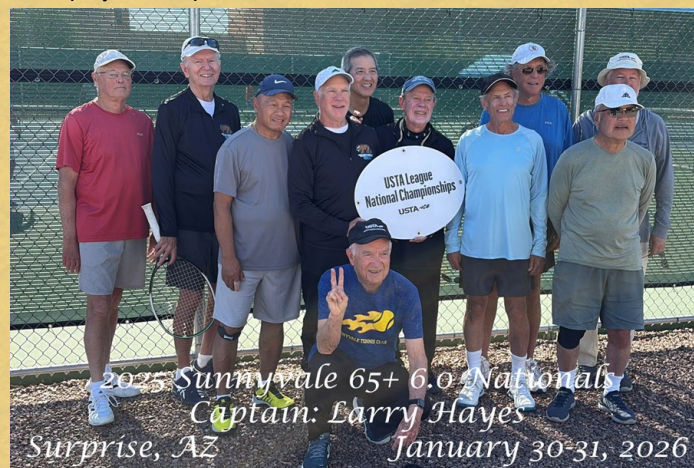
SPECIAL REPORT LOCAL SENIOR MEN'S TENNIS TEAM COMPETES IN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BILL MONIZ

For a record 5th consecutive year, the 65+ 6.0 men from the Sunnyvale Tennis Club competed in the USTA National Invitational Tennis Championships in Surprise, Arizona in February, 2026. The Sunnyvale team was undefeated in league play for the 8th consecutive year and won its 5th straight Northern California Sectional title by defeating teams from Vallejo, Walnut Creek, and Laney to again represent Northern California at the National Invitational Championship.

Thirteen USTA Sectional Champion teams from all over the United States competed in the grueling 3-day tennis tournament for both men and women in skill levels ranging from 6.0 to 9.0, featuring some of the best 65+ doubles tennis players in the country.

The Men's Northern California Champions (NorCal) from the Sunnyvale Tennis Club included Los Altans Bill Moniz and Paul Kutler, along with players from Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Campbell and San Jose.

The team not only had difficult draws in the first two days of competition, facing 3 of the 4 eventual final four teams, but lost 4 players to injuries, two a week before the tournament (a concussion and a broken neck) and two during the tournament. While their record in the tournament of 1-3 was disappointing, the team played competitive matches.



Kneeling: Captain, Larry Hayes

Standing left to right: Mike Dunnam, Joe Tremba, Phil Medina, Rich Reitman, Mel Fong, Bill Freeman, Bill Moniz, Paul Kutler, Cliff Nishimoto and Steve Honodel. Not Shown: Greg Borromeo, Jim Ducey, John McManus, Sam Tseng, Ron Wong and Tak Young.

The team started out with a tough first round 2-1 loss to the Eastern Section team from New York, and eventual 4th place finisher this year, losing both tie breaker matches. Later that night the team rallied to defeat the Hawaiian team from Oahu 2-1. Day two started with a loss against the always tough number one seed and the last four years champions, as well as this year's

champions, Northern, 3-0. The final match of the day was another 3-0 loss, this time against the number two seed and last year's runner up Intermountain team from Sandy, Utah, that also finished second again in this year's tournament. Finishing 9th of 13 teams, this was the first time in the last four years the team did not reach the final four.

With the current 2026 underway, Sunnyvale has clinched the league championship once again and will be playing in the Northern California Sectionals in May in hopes of once again returning to Surprise and another shot at the National Championship title.

Long time Captain/Player Hayes said: "Old is Gold. After 30+ years of captaining and playing on over 70 USTA tennis teams, taking 9 to the Nationals, I've learned that winning is great but at 86, the true victory is the lifelong friendships and bonds with my teammates who have stood by my side for decades"

Bill Moniz added, "tennis is a game for life and we are all glad we can still play. Our goal is to win Sectionals once again this year and return to Arizona once more to bring home the gold".

Bill Moniz

**** Registration starts June 2nd ****



SIR Branch 35 Annual Picnic
Wednesday July 15th
10:30 to 2:00 (BBQ 11:30-1:00)
Blackberry Farm, Cupertino



Our 2026 Annual Picnic at nearby Blackberry Farm is an old-fashioned outdoor picnic & BBQ, staffed by our own Branch 35 volunteers.

- Chicken, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Sausages, Grilled vegetarian option (by request during registration)
- Appetizers, Shrimp, Beans, Salads, Desserts
- Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, Water
- Music and Games: KerPlunk (new), Bingo, Cornhole, Horseshoes, Bocce Ball
- A great location – Only 5 miles from the Los Altos United Methodist Church
- Level terrain – A short walk from the parking lot (sorry, no cart rides)

All you can eat and drink for \$25 per person
Register and pay by credit-card on our website
Look for emails starting on June 2nd

During registration you will indicate which of the food choices you and your guests (up to 2) expect to eat.

Registration closes July 10th

Volunteers needed - contact Ben Gikis: gikisben@yahoo.com




 MOVIES


 MOVIES

 JIM QUILLINAN
 408-838-4379

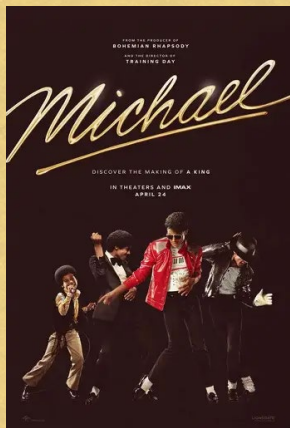
 See Jim's [web page](#)

Our Movies group's next Zoom meeting will be on Tuesday April 14th at 3 pm. If you are interested in joining, contact Jim Quillinan.



Vertigo. I saw another Hitchcock classic at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto. A large theatre just about filled to capacity is enough to recommend this nostalgic thriller. Jimmy Stewart does his normal outstanding performance as a retired SF police detective. The film was shot in and around San Francisco and is great fun to spot familiar places, albeit from 1957. Kim Novak is the beautiful blonde that

Jimmy falls for, but there are many secrets that stand in the way of romance. It is enjoyable to experience tension built on dialogue, human connection and camera angles. No need for vulgarity. Check this out. See it in a Theatre if you can. It is a Peggy's Pick.



Michael. This is a biopic of Michael Jackson from his infancy until he achieves worldwide fame as the King of Pop in 1988. Jaafar Jackson makes his screen debut as Michael. He is Michael's real-life nephew and turns in a brilliant performance; it's as if Michael has risen from the dead. The stories of Michael's incredible talent and abusive father are told convincingly. Michael's quirkiness is starting to take its toll, but the real tragedy of

Michael's life is left for another movie. Colman Domingo's performance as the abusive father is chilling; look for him at Oscar time. Put this film on your watch list. Rated PG-13 for some thematic material, language, and smoking. In Theatres.



The Sheep Detectives. Finally, a family movie that has interesting characters, a clever story line and adorable critters. Hugh Jackman is a devoted shepherd who reads aloud to his flock every night. The flock seems to prefer murder mysteries. He pretends that his sheep comprehend. Maybe they do. When he is found dead, the sheep sense at once that it was a murder. The flock combines its resources and unique knowledge to nudge the fumbling policeman and town folk to find the real killer. The film combines real life with animation to create a wonderful sense of whimsy. Rated PG for thematic material, some violent content and brief language. In Theatres. It is a Peggy's Pick.



Remarkably Bright Creatures. This is another wonderfully engaging story about octopuses and how we should learn from them. Sally Field plays Tova Sullivan, an elderly widow who works nights at a small local aquarium as the cleaning lady. Marcellus is a large octopus who lives in the aquarium. They form a bond that is peculiar but insightful. A young man comes to town and gets a job helping Tova at the aquarium. He is wandering in the wilderness but holds the key to unlock some long-held secrets. When the truth finally comes out, it is a big kumbaya moment. Rated PG-13 for thematic material, some strong language, suggestive references and brief drug use. It is a Peggy's Pick. Available on Netflix. The other Octopus movie is My Octopus Teacher (2020) also on Netflix.



language. In Theatres.

Animal Farm. George Orwell's 1945 classic novel is brought to the big screen with its chilling lesson of despotism. The animals take over the farm, but their altruism is no match for the lure of power. The animation is well done with remarkable characters and emotions. Put this one on your list to see. It should be available on streaming soon. Rated PG for thematic elements, some action/violence, rude humor and

MOVIE AND MUSIC HISTORY

RON NAKAMOTO, ROY NAKAMURA
AND PAT O'CONNOR



There are few constants in life. Turbulence, ever changing, "as time goes by" are phrases we typically cast to describe periods that we lived through. This monthly article hopes to spur those memorable moments in your life when you first saw the movie or heard the song from your youth. What were you doing back then? Ron

Movie: Bonnie and Clyde.



Original 1967 Movie Poster

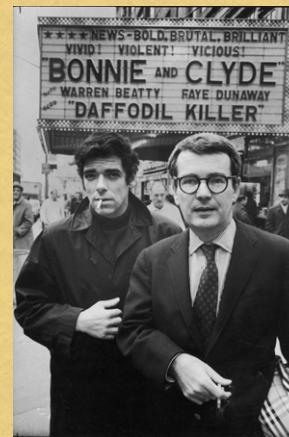
Directed by Arthur Penn
Produced by Warren Beatty
Screenplay by David Newman and Robert Benton with uncredited contribution by Warren Beatty
Starring Warren Beatty, Faye Dunaway, Michael Pollard, Gene Hackman and Estelle Parsons
Music Charles Strouse
Release date August 13, 1967

When originally released, *Bonnie and Clyde* met with mixed critical reviews. However, it quickly became a runaway audience favorite and the critics adjusted their views (after a few firings...). So what about this movie was at first off-putting but eventually became a knockout, and why is it so clearly remembered?

The first thing to say is that the film, and the stars, are beautiful to see. There is a romantic style in how the protagonists are pictured, always beautifully dressed and presented, even as they live rough, running from hideout to hideout. There is no effort to reflect the harshness of the times, set as it is in Depression-era America, apart from passing references to the struggles of evicted farmers and 'other folk'.



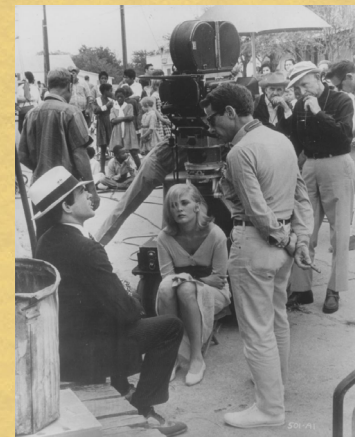
Beautiful people at an ugly time



Newman and Benton after the movie's release

The movie was a while in the making. Newman and Benton collaborated on an original script written in the French New Wave style after François Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard, using 'kitchen sink realism' to bring out the sense of the times. Their first attempt to interest possible directors (Arthur Penn, François Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard) in 1960 were unsuccessful due to a combination of other projects and a lack of enthusiasm from their would-be producer, Norah Wright.

Godard wanted to shoot it in New Jersey in winter, which made no sense to the writers who had set it in Texas. Shortly afterwards, Warren Beatty learned of the project from Truffaut and asked to see the script. He liked it, bought the movie rights and set about producing it.



Penn on-set with Beatty and Dunaway

Beatty's first task was to get a director involved. Despite the French style of the writing, he looked for an American director and tried to interest a number of contemporary directors including George Stevens, William Wyler, Karel Reisz, John Schlesinger, Brian Hutton, and Sydney Pollack, all of whom turned it down. Penn also turned it down but finally agreed to take it on, after heavy persuasion by Beatty.

In casting Bonnie, Beatty originally considered his sister, Shirley MacClaine for the role, but once he decided to play the role of Clyde himself, he looked again. He considered Jane Fonda among others and 'begged' Natalie Wood to do it, but she had had a 'difficult' time working with Beatty in the past and turned it down. Cher tried out for the part, but finally he offered it to Faye Dunaway, who later commented that she got the part by the skin of her teeth and it made her career! Adding Gene Hackman and an untried Gene Wilder, among others, rounded out the cast.



Beatty and Dunaway on-set amidst the crew

Beatty and Penn moderated the handling of sex in the movie. The original script depicted a three-way sexual relationship between the two leads and their getaway driver, but Beatty rejected this and Penn had it rewritten to depict Clyde as heterosexual but impotent. This was a choice that added complexity to the relationship between the two leads but helped underline the 'ordinary' nature of two people fleeing mediocrity and boredom to find a life of adventure.

Penn later stated clearly that there was no attempt to be historically accurate, it was going to be a romantic depiction using themes of the current times. The backdrop in the news at the time was the Vietnam War, with its violence and bloody scenes. Penn wanted to bring some of that to the screen, in contrast to the stylized depictions of violence traditional in Hollywood. He pioneered the use of squibs, small packets of stage blood with an explosive charge that were hidden in actors' clothes and triggered for a dramatic, bloody, bullet impact. They first appear in the shocking shooting in the face of a bank employee as the gang make their getaway. They are later used to devastating effect in the closing scene.

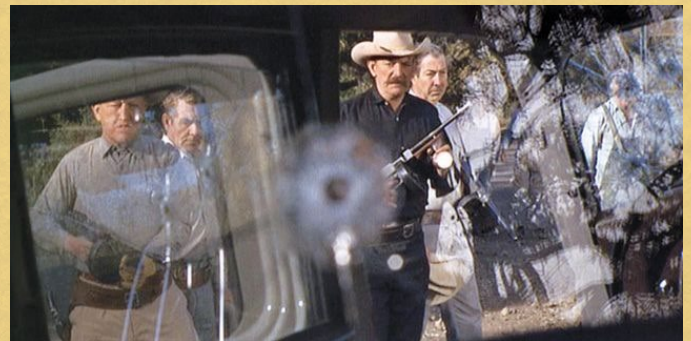
The film swerves between the romantic and the graphic. Dramatic car chase scenes during their getaways are

accompanied by the wonderful banjo music of Flatt and Scruggs (more of that later), creating an almost comic atmosphere like in the Keystone Kops of early Hollywood. Contrast that with the bloody shooting scenes and sad, frustrating intimate moments between Bonnie and Clyde, which land us in a much more serious, frame of mind.



Going to meet their fates...

But nothing in the movie prepares us for that final scene when the romance ends abruptly and Bonnie and Clyde are gunned down in bloody ruthless fashion by the sheriff's men. This is the anti-establishment peak of the film, where law enforcement are presented as 'the bad guys', attacking our hero and heroine in what feels like needlessly excessive violence. When we think back on this movie after a number of years, it is the first scene that comes to mind. Dramatic filming in slow motion from multiple camera angles, extensive use of squibs with stage blood squirting all over the couple's clothes, close-up shots of their bodies contorting under the bullet impacts. Penn noted "We had them wear white because it helps you see the bullet hits, and it gave it a romantic underpinning, because the violence was going to be enormous.." In the silence that follows it, the romance of the movie is stripped away. The Sheriff's men step out, almost contrite, to view the scene and we, the audience, are forced to reassess and understand who this couple really were and what they did to bring themselves to this moment.



Heroes or Villains? A contrite moment, in an anti-establishment telling of the story

The movie was premiered in Canada in 1964 at the Montreal Film Festival, then released in the US in 1967. The release was limited, with very little promotion, as Warner Bros. did not believe it had real commercial appeal. But the movie did excellent, sustained, box office business and Warner gradually broadened to a general release, though not before Beatty threatened to sue Warner for its lack of support. It finished the year with one of the largest box office takes and by the end of 1968 was the second

highest grossing Warner Bros. movie of all time, behind *My Fair Lady*. Beatty earned 40% and Penn 10% of the profits, so both did well!



Gangsters or Victims? The aftermath.

Initial critical reviews of the movie were mixed, many negative and some hostile. Bosley Crowther of the *New York Times* was particularly hostile, reacting to the competing comedic and violent treatment, as he was on an anti-violence-in-movies campaign at the time. *Newsweek* and *Variety* also panned the film for its graphic violence. But other critics, including Roger Ebert, were more positive. As audience response continued to grow and its commercial success became obvious, the *Times* fired Crowther for being so out of step with audience opinion. But the film marked a change in Hollywood's depiction of action and violence. Gone the stylized drama of cowboy gunslingers, where the gunslinger shooting and the victim falling are in separate, distant, camera shots. The shock and dramatic value of close up, animated bullet impacts was here to stay, and we have witnessed Hollywood embracing these methods and approaches ever since.

Here is the original trailer for *Bonnie and Clyde*. The long format feels slow to modern viewers.

<https://youtu.be/hZpm1zi9510?si=-pqrQKdaq1RPRfZ5>

Here is one of the bank robbery and car chase sequences with almost comedic depiction of the chase and shooting.

https://youtu.be/5Bin_aBTZPk?si=65voq6ZfE5MEXwNy

And, of course, the devastating final shootout. All warnings apply, this scene is graphic and not for the faint of heart!

https://youtu.be/NrmUpso_xT8?si=K4yOptDgMqg5LLQQ



Music: *Foggy Mountain Breakdown* by Earl Scruggs, performed by Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs and The Foggy Mountain Boys.

What music do you choose to provide a backdrop for a dramatic car chase between armed gangsters and pursuing law enforcement? In his creation of a romantic and often comedic

depiction of these events in *Bonnie & Clyde*, Penn used a fast-paced banjo tune played in bluegrass-style by the banjo master himself, Earl Scruggs.



Earl Scruggs was a virtuoso banjo player who popularized a three-finger picking style for the five-string banjo that elevated the role of the instrument from a strummed accompaniment to the lead in the emerging bluegrass style championed by Bill Monroe's *Bluegrass Boys*. Scruggs toured with Bill

Monroe but eventually broke out on his own and toured with guitarist Lester Flatt as *Flatt & Scruggs*. Flatt and Scruggs had a twenty-year career together and are credited with bringing bluegrass music out into the mainstream when they had number one records in the *Billboard Charts*. They went on to release 50 albums together before the duo broke up in 1969.

Flatt & Scruggs had a huge hit with *Foggy Mountain Breakdown*, which was released in 1950. The piece had a popular revival when it was used as the backing soundtrack for car chases in the popular movie, *Bonnie & Clyde*, in 1967. The film used the original recording, which was released on 78rpm vinyl, because the somewhat scratchy sound fits the period piece of the movie. This version has no lead breaks but just features the virtuoso playing of Flatt and Scruggs and their backing band. Later releases adopted the bluegrass convention of allowing different instruments to 'take a break'.

Here's the original recording of *Foggy Mountain Breakdown* performed by Flatt & Scruggs and The Foggy Mountain Boys

https://youtu.be/z_Y3mnl-8IA?si=rFs6NOaZ4LonXZ3M

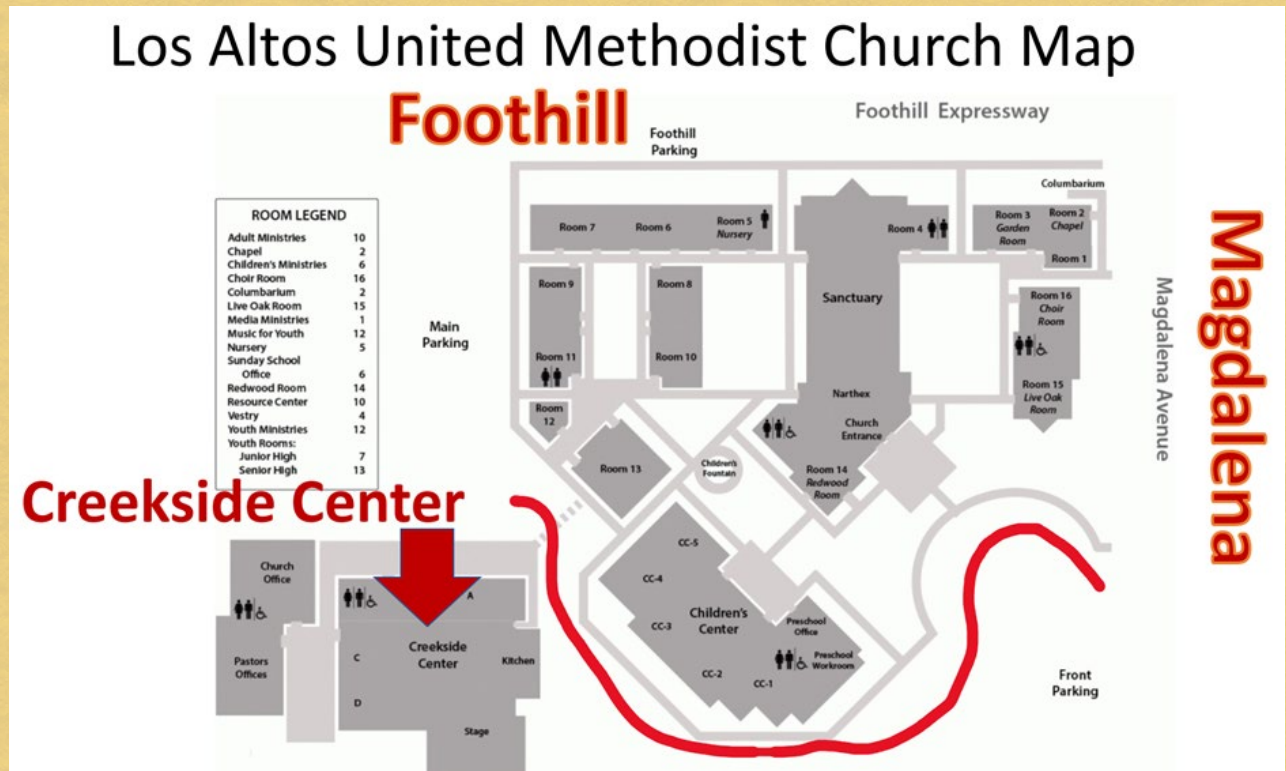
Here's a later recording where members of the band step forward to take their lead breaks.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Haxzx7evbNI?si=Aog1bkJFvmsHklFS>

As Paul Harvey is quoted as saying, "And now, ... you know the rest of the story."

Pat O'Connor

Parking Map for the
 Los Altos United Methodist Church
 Creekside Center



Your SIR State and Branch 35 Officers and Leaders

SIR State Officers

State President	Fred Serena (510) 489-0964	State Vice President	Nick Feimer (650) 341-3015
State Secretary	Jeff Chin (209) 602-3912	State Dir. of Branch Support	John Farcich (650) 267-0191

Branch 35 Executive Committee (BEC)

Branch President	Scott Hiller (408) 568-9625	Branch Vice President	Arthur Bernstein (408) 859-3738
Secretary	Ken Cornwell (650) 280-8290	Asst. Secretary	Dave Squellati (408) 334-7988
Treasurer	Larry Low (408) 533-2651	Asst. Treasurer	Jim Narva (408) 930-3353
Director (Communications)	John Rittweger (650) 740-3156	Director (Special Events)	Ben Gikis (408) 802-0794
Director (Technology)	Richard Blackborow (408) 314-2378	Director (Activities)	Joe Enos (408) 499-9614
Director (Membership)	Paul Schutz (408) 313-6852		
Senior Advisor	Andy Danver (650) 906-3747	Senior Advisor	Ron Nakamoto (408) 440-2330
Senior Advisor	Jerry Ososkie (408) 219-6924	Senior Advisor	Peter Wong (408) 921-4884

Staff Chairmen

Attendance	Scott Rotondo (408) 835-8030	Audio/Visual Support	Richard Blackborow (408) 314-2378
Auditing	Gerry Feeney (408) 515-8604	Beverage Service	Ben Gikis (408) 802-0794
Historian/Photos	Frank Crossman (650) 493-9182	HLM	Bob Garten (408) 253-5860
Luncheon Host	Dave Squellati (408) 334-7988	Medical Emergency Resp.	Dave Ogle (650) 704-2130
Membership Database	Richard Blackborow (408) 314-2378	New Member Orientation	Paul Schutz (408) 313-6852
Trail Tips Editor	Pat O'Connor (408) 480-0409	Wellness & Comfort	Pat O'Connor (408) 480-0409
Website Maintenance	John Ray (408) 386-3573		

Activity Chairmen

Bicycling	Gordy Tong (408) 242-0557	Personal Finance	Bill Mack (408) 836-6440
Bocce Ball (Co-Chair)	Richard Oehlberg (650) 823-7720	Bocce Ball (Co-Chair)	Michael Maurier (650) 384-5754
Book Club (Co-Chair)	Ed Mills (408)439-2234	Book Club (Co-Chair)	Dave Gobuty (650)325-2533
Book Swap	Bob Steinberg (408) 316-1161	Bridge	Mark Levi (650) 305-9132
Bowling	Doug Andersen (415) 407-4000	Golf	Les Miles (408) 528-5473
Hiking	John Tucker (408) 655-5435	Movies	Jim Quillinan (408) 838-4379
Trail Birds	David Skurnick (650) 796-5314	Wine Finders	Alan Gaudie (650) 575-4332
Dining In (interim)	Andy Danver (650) 906-3747	Sports Cars Group	John Tucker (408) 655-5435

Wellness and Comfort Death or illness of a fellow Sir should be reported to **Pat O'Connor**. He will express condolences of our Branch and communicate memorial announcements among the BEC and members via email.

SIR Branch 35 Activities - June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Golf 10:00am Diablo Creek \$54	2 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	3 Pers. Finance 1:00pm Moffett Field Museum Library	4 Golf 9:30am Las Positas \$65	5 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	6
7	8 Golf 10:00am Presidio \$123	9 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	10 Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center Sports Car Group Destination TBD 10:30am Book Club 1:30pm Los Altos United Methodist Church	11 Golf 9:30am Metropolitan \$54 Biking 11:00am Foster City Bay Trail	12 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	13
14	15 Golf 10:00am Wente Vineyards \$110	16 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl Movies 3:30pm Zoom Meeting	17 Branch 35 Lunch Mtg 11:00am - 1:30pm Los Altos United Methodist Church	18 Golf 9:40am Redwood Canyon \$47	19 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	20
21	22 Golf 9:30am Sunnyvale \$43	23 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	24 Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center StateSIR Golf Blue Rock Springs	25 Golf 10:00am Spring Valley \$51 StateSIR Golf Blue Rock Springs	26 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Hiking 10:00am Location TBD	27
28	29 Golf 9:30am Moffett Field \$60	30 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	1	2	3	4