

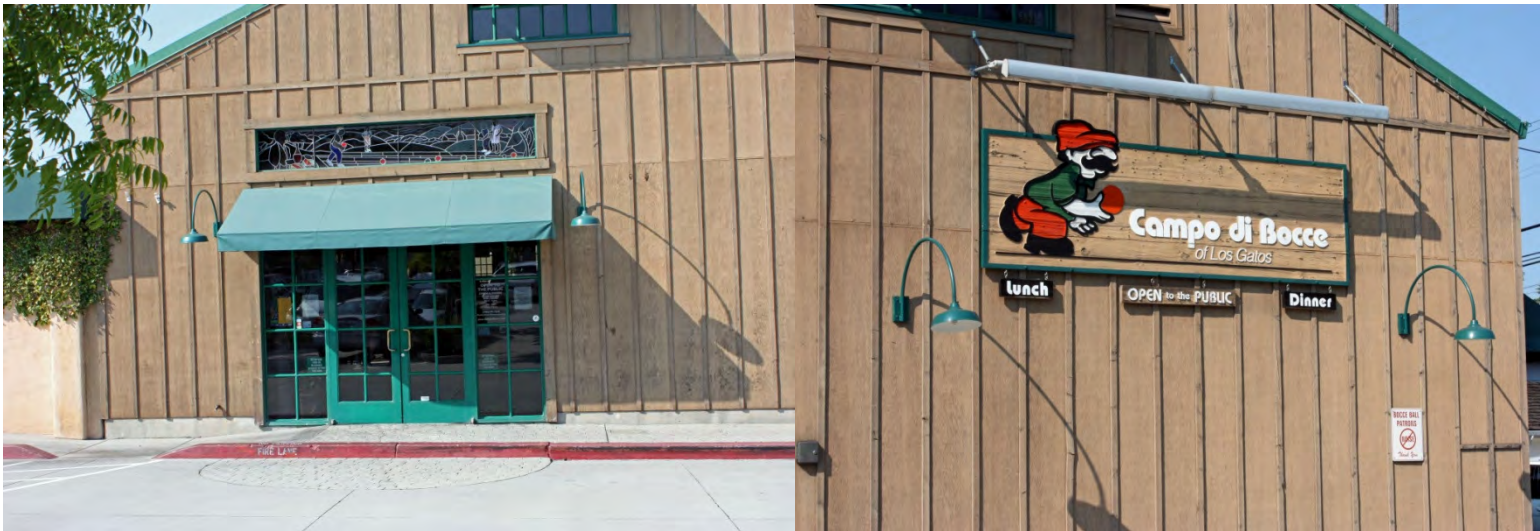
ERA – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NEWS AND VIEWS By Bob Parsons

We were privileged to join many current members of the Northern California Chapter of ERA at the Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos August 3rd for an evening of fun, laughter, spirited participation – everything that could be asked of such an event. As has been our bent for some time, we managed a few good pictures to share with you.

- We must confess that there we lost a few bad pictures, not shown, all involving action on the bocce courts. It may well have been caused by our getting too involved in the laughter and the cheers. Fuzzy indicates camera movement and movement indicates excitement.

Finding the Bocce is quite easy. Located at 565 University Ave., the place dominates a corner lot and since it requires a lot of space, it looks like a barn. Well, you judge . . .



There are four courts outside and four more inside. It takes a barn to hold all this and provide for a dining area, kitchen and bar.



Everything is buffet, of course and the event starts with a selection of hors' d'oeuvres to get everybody in the mood. As we wander through the pictures we join several of our members, members and wives, guests as well, all looking very "moody."

The new Bridge Marketing was well represented. Here we see Sandy Smith, Diana Bowman (Mrs. Brad) and a happy Paul Halek, along with guest Bill McCarty, who seems to be present at all events where Antoinette is doing her thing as the current Office Manager of the Chapter.

Both the girls and Paul Halek came to Bridge Marketing as part of Electro Sales' merger a year or so ago. This appears to be a typical arrangement where older members of the firms involved get together to facilitate their successful retirement. The younger members are better able to adjust to more senior participation in the company while the seniors start thinking about what to do with their free time.

Don Onken (Bridge founder) had more pressing demands and couldn't show up but Jerry Head (the "other" company founder) was present -- not nearly as busy. Jerry misses his daily activity and says he may very well go back to work full time. He can be seen below, right, musing with Sandy at the dinner table and across from Brad and Diana Bowman and the newest member of their team, Cindy Bingley.



One can feel the joy in the eyes of the final Bridge entry above . . .

Michael and Sandy Onken.



< Next, we found Larry and MaryAnn Loeswick of LS Engineering enjoying the food while keeping an eye on the games . . .



And a truly retired Brian Trankle, with another view of Paul Halek. >

As we made commented earlier, we lost some pictures of those members who were actively participating in the games. You can see clearly the layout for Bocce Ball in the picture above. The flat, hard surface of the court is carpeted and smooth. Teams each have distinctive colored balls called *bocce*. One member sets up the game by rolling the *pallino*, a smaller steel ball to an arbitrary location. Then the opposing teams roll in various orders trying to get more of their *bocci* (plural) closest to the target *pallino*. The game requires skill and patience. For an activity where a carefully laid down ball can take forever to stop rolling due to its slow speed, the game can become quite exciting.

As we continue we show JoAnn Shane, daughter of Hugo Shane our senior Past President, with her usual smiling charm. Such a nice lady to be around. <



And below are Sue Barden (Mrs. Ben) and Bev Floyd, (Mrs. Steve) enjoying a pleasant chat, judging from their smiles.



For those of you who missed this event, particularly if you chose not to attend, we call your attention to the general demeanor of all the folks we picture. Not everyone is giggling and laughing, but most everyone is happy and it shows. Remind yourself of this the next time the event takes place.



With pictures from four tables to cover, we'll take liberties with the spacing so that we can actually save space. We'll name names where they can be seen clearly.



< Above we have Heather Coursey; Paul Gagner; Les Velez; JoAnn Shane; John Latimer; and Jerry head, all facing us. On the other side of the table, alongside Dennis Gagne > is long time member Hugh Shyba; Ed Blake; Mrs. And Mr. Loeswick and Diana Bowman.

You can clearly see the bowlers behind our tables. The dining area is set up inside the barn and the games go on while eating. It can get a little noisy but took nothing from the excellent meal provided by the Campo di Bocce.



< Conversations, even at dinner time, can get serious. We hope that Hugo Shane and Steve Floyd found the conversation enlightening. Moving on we have Bev Floyd; Brian Trankle; our illustrious President, Mark Holcomb and Antoinette.

We were pleased that Dave Gastel of DEG Components invited Jeff O’Harra of Prime Resource to join us in the fun (below, right). He seemed quite interested in ERA and, of course, we welcome him! And continuing below right we also show Sue Barden; Ben Barden; Lou Gado and Bill McCarty.



<And here’s a better shot of Brad Holcomb; Antoinette Nguyen; Bill and Lou again.

No such event would be finished without some “give-back” time. Here we see Mark and Antoinette pulling > numbers out of a hat to give those chosen a little something to remember about their visit. Goodies!

We were pleased to hear positive comments about business in general during the meeting. Several reps were actually buoyant about how business is looking for them and that is truly good! It has been a long, less-than-pleasant period for our country. While there have been difficulties in our part of the high tech industry, here in Silicon Valley there is still a lot of hope.

We were particularly pleased to have been invited to this meeting. We saw several of our old friends, some with great relief. Unfortunately, we are not in as regular contact with them as while running the office. Until the next time, thanks . . .



Bob Parsons
408-246-4582
bobparsons@sbcglobal.net