



Hobbyists Unlimited

1966 - 2026

Spring 2026

President – **Peter Weinstein** First Vice President – **Steve Friedman**
Second Vice President – **Chuck Woehrle** Secretary – **Dick Boswell**
Treasurer – **Gary Engelhardt** Church Liaison – **Lew Dickinson**
Sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood, NJ
<http://www.hobbyists-unlimited.com>

Message From Our President

I am greatly honored to be leading this marvelous organization as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary. The club is very strong and vibrant, evidenced by the continual addition of new members and new activities. Harold Wilt and the other fifteen Founding Fathers of Hobbyists Unlimited would be very proud and happy to see how their club has progressed from its humble beginnings at First Presbyterian Church in 1966.

We are truly blessed to have a wonderful partnership with First Presbyterian Church. That relationship has never been stronger. It sounds trite, but I stand on the strong shoulders of my predecessor presidents, all of whom I greatly admire.

I am so grateful to all the members and officers who make Hobbyists Unlimited the great organization that it is. Thank you all.

Hobbyists Past Presidents

1966	Harold Wilt (Founder)	1986	Walter (Bud) Wehrell	2006	Bob Paoli
1967	Harold Wilt	1987	Russ Wollemann	2007	Bob Morris
1968	Harold Wilt	1988	Furman Stanley	2008	Jerry O'Callahan
1969	Harold Wilt	1989	Lou Van Lenten	2009	Bill Carbone
1970	Henry De Witt	1990	Herb Asdal	2010	John Butler
1971	Bart Bartlett	1991	Jon Harvey	2011	Bob Norelli
1972	Jim Moore	1992	Bill Ashe	2012	Giancarlo Bisone
1973	Don Calder	1993	Earle Barker	2013	Mike Doherty
1974	Bill Bankaup	1994	Bob Munschauer	2014	Bob Stevenson
1975	King Kerr	1995	Bert Madison	2015	Joe Burns
1976	Bill Paulison	1996	Frank Healey	2016	Jim Sutherland
1977	Walker Armington	1997	Tom Hand	2017	Syd Robertson
1978	Jack Wilcox	1998	Bob Stone	2018	Rich Edelman
1979	Frank McGuiness	1999	Hal Golle	2019	Ed Daly
1980	Lipton Bowen	2000	Mac Sayers	2020	Don Togneri
1981	George Jacques	2001	John Gilpatrick	2021	Cliff Matthews
1982	Fred Smedley	2002	Phil Engel	2022	Bill Healy
1983	Ray Whelan	2003	Don Ladd	2023	Bob Mosher
1984	Don Stephenson	2004	Bill Comis	2024	Mark Singer
1985	Vic Thaller	2005	Don Galletly	2025	Don Peterfriend

Thoughts From Former Presidents

I have been a member of the finest retired men's organization for thirty years. No other organization of senior citizens offers its members the fraternity, fellowship, and friendship as the Hobbyists. The numerous activities provide fun, education, and entertainment for the members contributing to their longevity and well-being. All retired men are welcome to join regardless of where they live, who they are, or what their profession. I look forward to many more happy years as a Hobbyist.

Bob Paoli

Bowling was the activity I liked the most. I learned to bowl in the army on a team that played two games a week for most of my time in service. I became president of the Hobbyists in 2001 at a time when the job was not as complex as it seems now. The first VP died and I took his place and did not have to serve as second VP. I played bridge since my start with the Hobbyists and at age 97 may have played more bridge than anyone.

John Gilpatrick

A Brief History of the Hobbyists

Harold Wilt, the first President and organizer of Hobbyists Unlimited, was often asked what motivated him to start this organization. Wilt replied, "I spent the first two years of retirement not knowing what to do with myself. After spending a lifetime in the field of industrial advertising, I was confronted with a gigantic boredom problem, which at first, I felt helpless to solve. I had no hobbies at all when I was working."

In 1966, he decided to use the organization abilities he had acquired during a business career to start different activities for a group of retired men. There was to be no limit to the number of activities: "Unlimited" referred to any hobby or interest that included a minimum of two persons, and the First Presbyterian Church agreed to provide their facilities for meetings and activities.

The original sixteen charter members were also church members, but church membership was not a requirement at that time nor in future years.

Hobbyists Unlimited is identified as a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that cultivates and expands the hobbies of retired men. A Constitution and By-Laws were approved and adopted in 1968 with numerous revisions in the succeeding years.

The most compelling evidence for the success of this organization is the increase in membership in its 60-year history. From its inception with 16 charter members, the membership increased to 294 after nine years despite attempts to "cap" the size as it approached the 150 and 250 levels. In 1989, there was a final attempt to stop its growth at 350. Once again, this was rejected by the membership, as was the boundary requirement for home addresses. Today, over 450 members can participate in over 30 activities.

Hobbyists Membership

WE ARE THE HOBBYISTS – A PLACE OF BELONGING

Bob Mosher, Membership Chairman, Past President 2023

Hobbyists Membership ensures a cohesive club connected by experiences, values, goals, and interests. Men want to be among men who are like them. Membership is vital and breaks down into key areas:

- *Belonging:* It provides a place outside of home where members can connect with like-minded people, reducing isolation and building a supportive social circle to be enjoyed and, during special events, by their spouses or significant others.
- *Access:* Members gain knowledge and opportunities and new experiences that are related to their current interests, and new ones.
- *Identity and Status:* Being part of the Hobbyists helps define a person's self-image and can signal shared values and social standing to others.

To ensure our club remains vibrant and relevant, we must prioritize integrating the next generation. We must incorporate the younger members and prepare them to take over from the older generation. It is a constant cycle to bring in the young as the older pass on. Today, we are 453 members strong, with continued interest in new members

Club Activities





Beer Appreciation

Rick Rosenthal, Chairman

The roots of the Beer Appreciation Group trace back to conversations between the late Pete Seibel and myself. Several Hobbyists went to Hackensack Brewery and Seven Tribesman informally and, with the encouragement of Mark Singer, we became the Beer Appreciation Group. Our first meeting was memorable as the site was initially closed to us for a private party. However, we were invited to join and share their food. At that meeting our then president recruited potential new members.



Bottoms Up!





Blackjack, Gin, Poker, Texas Hold'em

The Hobbyists Blackjack players have been enjoying games of Blackjack since 2019. We play on the second and fourth Thursday from noon to 4 pm. Our group consists of 8 to 10 members who alternate hosting in their homes and enjoy snacks provided by the host. We are a lively, fun-loving group and are always looking to welcome interested players. Gin Rummy partner games are played every other Tuesday from 12:30 until 4 pm. Hi-Lo Poker and Texas Hold'em are played every other Fridays at from 12:30 to 4 pm. All games are played in a member's home on an alternating basis. The host is responsible for serving refreshments. Each player contributes to the cost. Anywhere from 6 to 8 players participate in these games.

Chairmen of the games are: *Ray Litwitz/Blackjack; Dan Wolf/Gin and Texas Hold'em; Don Peterfriend/ Hi-Lo Poker.*



Hit me!

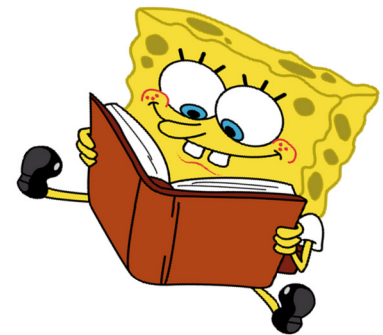




Bocce

Steve Friedman, Chairman

Bocce has been a long-standing game of the Hobbyists that used to be played indoors at the FPC. We play every Friday, spring through fall outdoors, weather permitting, at Borough Park in Waldwick from 9:30 to 11:30 am. The park has two bocce courts for our use if we have enough players. We are always looking for new players to join us – the only skill you need to have is the ability to roll a ball. We usually get about six to ten players per week. Teams are determined at the start of play based on a random draw. Everyone who shows up will play. Come and join us!

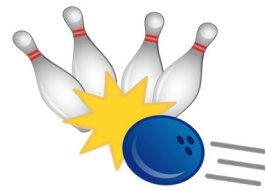


Book Club

Jon Sterling, Chairman

The Book Club continues to flourish with new members swelling our ranks to 23 enthusiastic readers at our last meeting. Members select the books with genres that range from history to mystery to fiction. We even occasionally read short stories and poetry. The most common compliment that members pay the club is that it allows them to enjoy books they never would have taken off the shelf. Upcoming selections are James by Percival Everett and Family of Spies by Christine Kuehn. Many thanks go to our recently retired Chairman, Peter Phillip, for his guidance and leadership, and to Chairman Emeritus Alan Stein who rang the bell only when necessary!





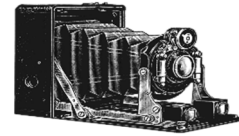
Bowling

Gary Don, Don Peterfriend, Mark Singer, Bill Raftery, Bob Mosher - Committee

Hobbyists Bowling originated over 55 years ago. The league started at Fairlawn Lanes and continued there until 2023, when we moved to Montvale Lanes. Currently there are over 60 Hobbyists bowling every Wednesday morning beginning the week after Labor Day until early May. Each season, the top four teams bowl in the playoffs in early May to determine the Club Championship team. Prizes are awarded each year for outstanding individual and team scores. We hold one tournament a year in addition to the League schedule. This year we are planning a 60th anniversary tournament in March. Below is the list of both individual and team club champions over the past 10 years, as well as a vintage picture from 1969, and a picture of the 2024-2025 championship team (Giancarlo Bisone was missing).

Hobbyist Bowling History 2016-2025

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>High Game</u>	<u>High Series</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Team Members</u>
2024-2025	Gary Don Don Peterfriend	278	721	1st 2nd	Kingpins Phantoms	Tercovich, Bisone, Boswell, Richert Stevenson, Burks, Litwitz, Don
-						
2023-2024	Sid Sobel	261	670	1st 2nd	Cobras Strikers	Hoppe, Boswell, Kozar, Gibbons Stevenson, Weinstein, Duke, Peterfriend
-						
2022-2023	Mark Singer Gary Don	268	704	1st 2nd	Devils Sharks	Edelman, Krakowski, Tuch, Healy Portsmore, Sachs, Coburn, Raftery
-						
2021-2022	Bill Raftery Bill Healy	258	654	1st 2nd	Devils Pirates	Portsmore, Frisco, Pensec, Healy Stevenson, Mosher, Coburn, Singer
-						
2019-2020	Bill Healy	266	684	1st 2nd		
-						
2018-2019	Abe Smulewicz Don Peterfriend	278	703	1st 2nd	Deadeyes Maybes	Stevenson, Savitscus, Gibbons, McCrodden Fontes, Spalckhaver, Litwitz, Keber
-						
2017-2018	Bill Healy	289	702	1st 2nd	Deadeyes Maybes	Smilon, Ianacone, Vrana, McCrodden Bonwick, Rodgers, Lehr, Keber
-						
2016-2017	Gary Don	286	693	1st 2nd	Jollyrogers Kingpins	McDonald, Spalckhaver, Sproviero, Mercer Ianacone, Levin, Giaquinto, Emglehardt



Camera Club

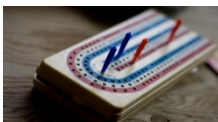
Tom Heed, Chairman

The Hobbyists Camera Club was founded by Giancarlo Bisone in 2010 with about 110 members. We currently have a mailing list of about 96 members. A central feature of meetings is a themed photo submission, where members bring images based on a selected topic—such as black-and-white photography, compositional ideas, or seasonal themes. The photographs are then discussed and critiqued in a supportive and educational setting.

Meetings also include presentations on topics such as composition, lighting, equipment, and photographic techniques. The club holds an annual photography competition, during which outside experts have been invited to provide critiques and commentary. Recent meetings have added a new focus on AI and computer-assisted photography, reflecting rapid changes in photographic technology.

Field trips are another important activity. The club has also organized overnight photography trips to cities such as Chicago, Boston, and Washington, D.C. The club has frequently organized public exhibitions of members' work, including shows at The Stable in Ridgewood and the Ridgewood Library, where framed photographs were displayed for the community.

The Hobbyists Camera Club continues to offer members a place to share their work, learn from one another, explore new technologies, and enjoy the art of photography together.



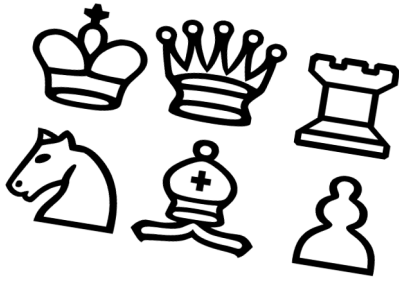
Cribbage

John Peterman and Don Dexter, Chairmen

The Cribbage Club was recently formed in February. We have been meeting at Don's home in Ridgewood on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 1-3 pm. Skill levels range from beginners to advanced. Our games are casual and fun, some with open hands until newer players (or rusty) catch on. We have been playing with either two or three players per game, and all are ensured participation. Most importantly, everyone seems to share enthusiasm for playing cribbage, enjoying a fun few hours of camaraderie and light snacks.

Cribbage is a great socializing game - not as psychological as poker or as complex as bridge. There is a strategy, but not so mind-consuming that you cannot carry on a conversation. There is enough luck to humble the proud and enough skill to pay off in the long run. Come join us for some fun.





Chess

Rick Pascal, Chairman

The Kingsmen began in 2023 by Rick Pascal, assisted by Jeff Kresky, after a hiatus of nearly thirty years. The first chess club, founded in the 1980s by John Gilpatrick, ran for about 10 years before it ceased.

The driving force behind the current chess initiative was that the brain, like other muscles in the body, needs exercise to maintain its fitness. Participants are encouraged to bring their own chess sets, and we are extremely fortunate to be the recipients of several chess sets generously donated by Enzo Magnano and Kevin Swisher.

Several of our current members stated that when they first joined the chess club, they hadn't played for 30 to 40 years, but that they were willing to try it. Now, they play with enthusiasm and gusto, enjoying the game they played when they were younger. Our more experienced players are eager, willing, and able to coach the beginners. As a result, we've witnessed a marked increase in all players' abilities.

We meet at the church each Wednesday morning from 9:30 am until noon from September through June. During July and August, we enjoy playing outdoors, weather permitting, at a picnic area in one of the Bergen County Parks in Ridgewood.



The Kingsmen Chess Club



Checkmate!



Summer Chess Outdoors





Cornhole

Stu Levine, Chairman

Our new Cornhole group successfully kicked off with 12 enthusiastic members! We meet twice monthly on Wednesdays, with plans to move outdoors during the summer. This low-impact, adaptable game is perfect for seniors, promoting social engagement, balance, and coordination while fostering fun and fitness in a safe environment. Come join us for some friendly competition, laughter, and light exercise!



Fellowship

Bob Mosher, Chairman

As we celebrate six decades of unwavering fellowship, we honor the profound impact of our members—past and present. A Diamond Jubilee is a monumental milestone. Like a diamond, our club has been shaped by time into something brilliant and resilient. This achievement is a testament to our enduring passion and dedication. To our current members and those who remain in our hearts, congratulations on this magnificent milestone. Each year, in April, we celebrate with a special luncheon honoring the fellowship fostered in the Hobbyists





Fishing

Peter Weinstein, Chairman

For as long as he can remember, there was always a Hobbyists Fishing Club. Bob Morris was the first chairman of the Fishing Club when Peter joined in 2011. Bob was a very knowledgeable saltwater angler. He turned over the chairmanship to Gene Boyle who ably ran the Fishing Club until 2023 when Peter became chairman.

The Fishing Club began as mainly a saltwater fishing group, but we are attempting to expand the scope of the club into freshwater. The primary anglers are Gary Engelhardt, Steve Weinstein, Ron Reedy, Steve Miezeiwski, Dave Smilon, and Perry Pohlhemus. We are always looking for new anglers.

During the season, we generally go out on party boat trips two or three times a month. The party boats are out of Atlantic Highlands and, sometimes, we will try a party boat out of the Belmar Marina that can accommodate 4-6 anglers.

To commemorate our 60th Anniversary, we are planning another weekend fishing trip to Lake George, similar to our previous excursions in 2024 and 2025. We will go out with a fishing guide on two six-hour charters. The anglers are Gary Engelhardt, Steve Weinstein, Ron Reedy, and Peter Weinstein.

Our Club does not have internal competition, and we do not yet feature a Fishing Club dinner. In 2025, Steve Weinstein won a boat pool with a huge 28" fluke. Dave Smilon split a boat pool with another fisherman with a large fluke in 2024.





You shoulda seen the one that got away!



“Have you tried looking in the ocean?”





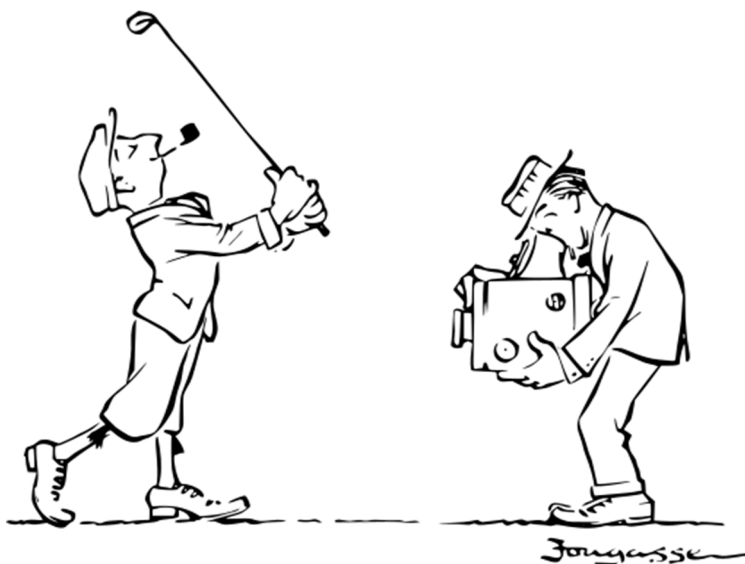
Golf

Committee: Gary Engelhardt, Gary Don, Paul Fazio, Mike Doherty, Giancarlo Bisone, Paul Richert, Charlie Tuch, Len Manis, George Giaquinto, Don Peterfriend,

Hobbyists Golf was started over fifty years ago. The activity has grown significantly over the last ten years from roughly 60 golfers to over 100 golfers. In 2025 we reached a record of 116 registered golfers. The activity takes place every Tuesday and Friday from April through October. In the off-season, we switch to indoor golf at the Players Club in Paramus every Monday morning from 9am to 12pm.

Each month we have a “Travel Tuesday.” We reserve a block of tee times at various courses and assemble foursomes. We arrange carpools to the courses out of the Bergen County area. After the round of golf most stay and enjoy lunch together.

We hold four tournaments during the season, with our last tournament in September where we crown a Club Champion. Below is the list of club champions over the past 25 years:





Year	Champion	Year	Champion	Year	Champion
2025	Jim Harte	2016	Gary Don	2007	Jim Wylie, Pat Callahan, Ed Mulane
2024	Ian Coburn	2015	John Smith	2006	Bob Norelli
2023	Ernie Lepori	2014	John Smith	2005	Bob Norelli
2022	John Smith	2013	John Smith	2004	Jerry O'Callahan
2021	John Smith	2012	Mike Doherty/ Jim McGuire	2003	Jerry O'Callahan
2020	John Smith	2011	Bob Ceplo	2002	Jerry O'Callahan
2019	Geoff Cooper	2010	Mike Doherty	2001	Howard DeHaven
2018	John Smith	2009	Mike Doherty	2000	Jerry O'Callahan
2017	Walter Perog	2008	Bob Norelli		

Each September for the past 14 years we arranged a three-day trip to Atlantic City to play golf. We have over thirty golfers going each year. Below is our group picture from last year.





Gourmet Cooking

J. McKeown, J. Warner, J. Atieh, J. Cinquina, Co-Chairmen

Gourmet Cooking Club began approximately 12 years ago. This group meets twice annually at a Hobbyist's home. All participants are required to prepare an assigned menu selection. Menus can consist of recipes from French, Italian, German, Irish, Mexican and Americana cultures and more. Each cooking event consists of appetizers, soup or salad, first course, entrée course, and dessert. Wine is paired with each course.

Recent cooking events included Beef Wellington, Herb-Crusted Rack of Lamb, Guinness Stew, Ossobuco, a Texas Chili Fest, and a New England Clam Bake. One outstanding event was a Tapas Pool party whereby each man brought a Tapas dish that reflected his ethnic heritage, followed by each man telling a story of his family background and their travel to America.

This spring we are preparing a gourmet event with a German theme. The main entrée dish will be classic beef rouladen supported by a Bavarian cheese spread appetizer, sampling of multiple German wursts (sausages), a variety of beer garden salads, and ending with a cherry strudel or a Black Forest chocolate cake. German Beer will be substituted for wine pairing.





Habitat for Humanity

Bob Becher, Chairman

The Habitat for Humanity activity was started in 1998. Habitat has been a family affair, as it was established by Jim Griffith, the father-in-law of the current chairman Bob Becher. The activity has also been chaired by Rich Edelman who is very active in Passaic County Habitat as well as internationally.

Most of the activities involve working with Passaic County Habitat, although there are also opportunities to work with Bergen County Habitat. Hobbyists usually meet one or two days a week at whichever site housing is being built in Paterson. We work on almost every aspect of building a home, from framing the exterior and interior of the house, to installing insulation, painting, flooring, installing kitchen cabinets and final trim work.

The number of participants has varied over the years. Currently there are about 18 Hobbyists interested in participating in building activities. We are in the process of finishing a home on Auburn Street in Paterson. It is expected that the next building activity will take place in late Spring.

Although nothing is final yet, we have reached out to Passaic County Habitat to schedule an event that would be open to all Hobbyists to participate in a building activity to celebrate our 60th anniversary.



Building Together





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Hiking

Ed Lundell, Chairman

The Hiking Club, formed in the early years of our organization, remains an active group with over 80 interested members and approximately 25 regular participants. We primarily explore state and county parks throughout Northern New Jersey, Southern New York, and along both sides of the Hudson River. We hike all year, weather permitting, and our weekly schedule includes three organized hikes: on Tuesday we have two concurrent hikes, a regular hike and a flex hike which is less challenging. On Friday we have one hike, intermediate in difficulty. Our activity page on the Hobbyists website features a catalog of about 100 hikes and a history of our recent outings.

In addition to our weekly schedule, we host two annual events. Each June, we hold a social outing for members and guests that includes a short hike followed by lunch or a picnic. In October, we organize a three-day trip to more distant locations such as Southern Vermont, the Catskills, the Delaware Water Gap, or the Berkshires. These trips typically include 10 to 15 hikers.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of Hobbyists Unlimited, one of our members, Dick Boswell, wrote a parody of Johnny Cash's "I've Been Everywhere." This song highlights many of the trails we have explored in recent years along with many photos of the hiking group. You can view the video here: https://youtu.be/_celGwe-SNQ.



Hikers at Mt. Graylock in the Berkshires



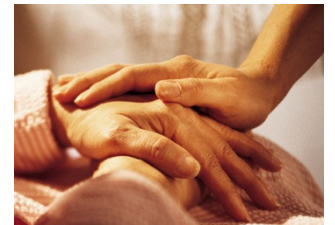


Hobbyists Dances

Bill Healy, Chairman

Bill Healy has chaired the Hobbyist Dance Committee for about eight years. In the beginning, we had four dances a year: Valentines Day, Spring (May), Fall (October) and Holiday (December). As a result of COVID, we now have only two each year: May and December. The dances have been held at Seasons in Washington Township, which is a spectacular venue.

For our 60th Anniversary, we will be holding our Dance at the Indian Trails Club in Franklin Lakes. Thanks go out to Past President Don Peterfreund for chairing the 60th Anniversary Committee as well as sourcing an alternative venue for this special event.



Hobbyists Concerned

Steve Rubin and Peter Philip, Co-Chairman

Steve assumed responsibility for Hobbyists Concerned following the many years of dedication and devotion to this activity by Peter Philip. One of the key aspects of the Hobbyists Unlimited is the fellowship that exists between its members. Hobbyists Concerned is responsible to inform and update the membership about significant health issues and/or passing of one of our members.





Hobbyists Songs

Steve Friedman and Dick Boswell, Co-Chairmen

Steve and Dick have been, individually, fans of music parodies for many years. Dick began dabbling in parodies about his new Hobbyist hiking and bowling buddies not long after joining the Hobbyists. He met a kindred spirit in Steve and together, they conceived the idea of this activity as an entertainment venue for The Hobbyists.

Much of Steve's inspiration for new songs come during his long, exhausting drive to visit his granddaughters in Cincinnati (10 ½ hours each way!) while listening to Solid Gold 60s on the radio.

In the 1960s, Dick was a big fan of Alan Sherman's parodies of popular folk songs and romantic ballads. He loved listening to Weird Al Yankovic's hilariously nerdy parodies of contemporary rock and roll songs.

The partnership Steve and Dick created has resulted in an explosion of sometimes clever, mostly tasteful, but home-made musical productions that gently skewer fellow Hobbyists, Hobbyists sports and activities, and the joys of aging. Lyrics illustrating these topics are transplanted into well-known popular songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s, replacing the original lyrics in a way that (ideally) preserve the style and character of the original songs.

The pair have already presented numerous songs during two Music Lovers meetings and will soon have enough material for a third. Perhaps one future song will include Steve as a singer. Perhaps.

Our web page now has 35 songs spread across 9 categories of Hobbyist activities. You can enjoy their song parodies on the Hobbyists website.





Investors Group

Ron Reedy and Mike Flannery, Co-Chairmen

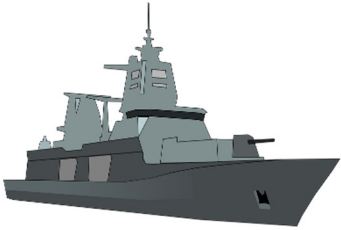
The Investors Group was established in the spring of 2024 by a couple of retired commercial bankers and a sense that there was some interest from the membership. This group is essentially the successor to the Investment Club of prior years.

We were heartened by the response and have approximately 25 active members who meet quarterly. It is the goal of the group to inform, rather than advise. We do not invite outside speakers that attempt to solicit to our membership. As such, we are a relaxed group and are routinely impressed by the presentations of our members. Most recently we enjoyed a presentation on The Federal Reserve's history and its impact on monetary policy.

Starting in 2025, we held an annual investment competition where each member was asked to invest a hypothetical \$100,000 among a series of investment options. Jim Albes won with a return of 22.9%.

We are still somewhat nascent, so we are always open to new ideas to keep the programs interesting and always welcome new members.





Military History



The Military History Club is a long-standing activity. Tom assumed leadership in 2000, taking over from by Joe LeMay.

Our programs cover a wide range of military history topics and formats. Over the years we have invited guest speakers, including authors such as Robin Bartlett, who described his experiences during the Vietnam War. Members also contribute presentations based on their own experiences and research. Vietnam veterans Lou DeVito and Wayne Lemme, who flew helicopters in Vietnam, have both shared their firsthand accounts with us.

In addition to presentations, the club has organized educational excursions, including a tour of West Point and a visit to the West Point Museum. We also attempt to connect historical study with current military developments. For the past four years we have opened our program year with a discussion of the war in Ukraine, reviewing major developments and their broader implications. Prior to that conflict, we examined the Armenia–Azerbaijan war, focusing particularly on the growing role of drone warfare. Recently we have experimented with multi-session thematic series, including the American Revolution.

Our current series is based on historian Russell Weigley’s concept of *The American Way of War*. Using Weigley’s ideas as a framework, we compare American military campaigns with contrasting campaigns from other nations. For example, one recent session compared George Washington’s Siege of Yorktown with Napoleon’s role in the Siege of Toulon during the French Revolutionary War. These comparative discussions have proven especially engaging and insightful.

Our next program will continue this approach with a comparison of the American Civil War and the Russian Civil War, including an examination of leadership and political context in the era of Abraham Lincoln and Vladimir Lenin.

Despite changes in attendance since COVID, the Military History Club remains an active and stimulating forum for exploring both historical and contemporary military issues.

The club now meets bi-monthly on the fourth Monday. Our current mailing list includes approximately 69 members, although typical meeting attendance is smaller. All are welcome.





Movie Lovers

Dick Oswald, Chairman

Movie Lovers was started around 2010 by the late Warren Boroson. He began by showing movies mainly from his own collection, many of which were quite old and little known. The first was “The Passion of Joan of Arc,” a 1928 silent film by the Danish director Carl Dreyer and starring a French stage actress known simply as “Falconetti” who made only this one movie. Warren had been a journalist and used his investigative experience to locate a family member in Argentina and uncover many facts about this forgotten actress. He donated this material to the NY Public Library. Warren passed the job to Dick in 2012, who tried to continue his original concept of avoiding recent favorites and instead searching out movies of unusual interest, many of which are very old and may be forgotten. Dick breaks this habit occasionally and presents a more recent favorite for the sheer fun of watching it.

One of the great satisfactions chairing this activity is that we learn so much about movies in the process. Dick admits that some of the best movies we’ve seen are ones that he’d never even heard of before reading about them. Audience members are invited to present their favorites also.

The movies are shown on the second Tuesday of the month from September to June at the Ridgewood Community Center (Village Hall). As we are using the Village facility, this activity is open to the public and is announced in the bi-monthly flyer of the Ridgewood Parks and Recreation Dept. To celebrate the Hobbyists’ 60th anniversary, Dick will try to select movies that were made in 1966.





Music Lovers

Jim McKeown, Chairman

Music Lovers is one of the oldest activities in the Hobbyist's listings of Personal Interest groups dating back to the mid-1990s. The founder was Warren Boroson who passed in the early 2000s, after which Jim assumed responsibility as Chairperson of this musical activity venue providing music history, education and entertainment pleasure.

Traditionally, programs have been centered on the classics, opera, and sacred. The Music Lover's club members began to branch out in 2008 into contemporary subjects such as Broadway Blockbusters, Pop, Jazz, Singing Icons, Protest Era music, great choral masterpieces, and musical historical events. All have a place in this now diversified club which now ranges from Christmastime sacred programs to comedy in music and song parodies.

Classical presentations will still be a mainstay with music of the Baroque and Classical Period composers such as Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Mozart, Beethoven and Haydn. These gentlemen have paved the way for Gershwin, Rodgers, Hart, Hammerstein, Webber, Bernstein and many more which our Music Lovers have touched over the years. And don't forget our epic events of the Irish, Russians, Finns, Napoleon, Scotch, and the protests music of the 1960s. Also, plans are being made to create a celebration program to salute the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America --- stay tuned!

We meet on the 2nd Friday each month from October through May in the church at 10 am.





Navigating Retirement

Mitchell Milch, Chairman

Navigating Retirement is in its infancy as a Hobbyist group. Our third monthly meeting took place on Wednesday, March 4th. We are averaging about 10 participants thus far. We will survey a broad landscape of issues our members may find instrumental in crafting rich and rewarding retired lives.



What'll I do today..tomorrow...next week?



Pickleball

Alan Lo, Chairman

Pickleball started only two years ago and is already picking up steam. Approximately 40 Hobbyists have signed up to play, but the number of participants on any given day varies.

Pickleball is a spring/summer/fall activity for the Hobbyists. Once the weather turns cold, individuals find their own indoor places to play in the winter. From early April until mid-November, we play in Rochelle Park on Monday and Wednesday mornings. It is 'open play' so there are usually other players there besides the Hobbyists.

Although we haven't made any specific plans to celebrate the 60th Anniversary, that may change, and information will be distributed once something is planned.





Picnic

Cliff Matthews, Chairman

Picnic is an annual event each summer held at Graydon Pool in Ridgewood. We offer a variety of games and free ice cream. Hobbyists and their families have a marvelous time socializing and making new friends in a relaxing and enjoyable venue. It's a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors.



Pinochle

Jim Atieh, Chairman

Welcome to the wonderful world of Hobbyists Pinochle. The Hobbyists have been playing pinochle for many years. Prior to COVID, we would play at the FPC and have a large round table for the multi-deck players, and a card table for the single-deck players since that was all we needed. Post COVID, the game has moved into private residences.

The multi-deck group meets in Mahwah on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm with a break for a BYO lunch. If we have four players, we play with two decks. For five to seven players, we use three decks. We played with four decks with eight players. For additional information, please contact Jim Atieh.

The single-deck group meets in Hawthorne on Thursdays beginning at 9:30 am. For additional information, please contact Chuck Berkowitz.

We are always eager to teach any Hobbyist how to play. The Hobbyist can then decide which level of pinochle he wants to play.





Romeo

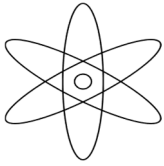
Cliff Matthews, Chairman

ROMEIO (Retired Older Men Eating Out) meets the third Friday of every month for lunch at one of several (mostly) Italian restaurants in Bergen County. Cliff Matthews has chaired this activity for the past 10 years, but the club has been in existence longer. We usually get between 20 to 25 participants, but sometimes over 30. Although we have no special plans for the 60th Anniversary, we plan to continue to meet and eat and enjoy each other's company as long as we're able to fit around the table.



Waiting for the food to come at Justin's





Science & Technology

Elliot Ratchik, Chairman

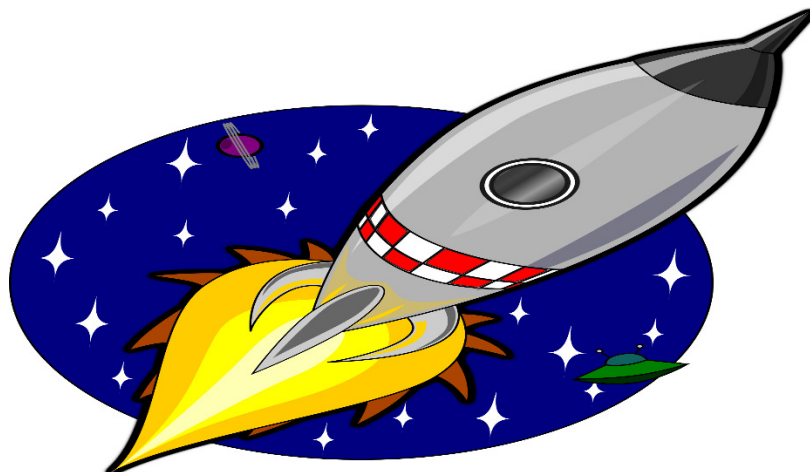
The Science, Technology & Computer Club (founded in 2013 by Elliot Ratchik and Jack Rosenberg) has been a welcoming, curiosity-driven community for more than a decade. Meetings have taken place on the third Wednesday of each month at the church, drawing between roughly six and thirty attendees—creating an intimate atmosphere that still supports lively discussion and hands-on learning.

Originally centered on Hobbyist presentations, the club showcased a broad range of scientific topics delivered by members and local enthusiasts. These member-led talks gave participants a chance to share personal projects, practical demonstrations, and niche interests in an approachable setting. A highlight of the club’s activities was a field trip to the American Museum of Natural History, which reinforced the group’s commitment to experiential learning and community outings.

Over time the club evolved into a TED-style lecture format, broadening its scope to include a wider range of science and computing topics and offering more polished, idea-focused talks. This shift has helped the club reach a more diverse audience while maintaining its original spirit of member involvement and discovery.

Strengths: consistent schedule, strong community feel, varied topics, hands-on learning.
Opportunities: consider expanding outreach to boost regular attendance, add workshops for beginners, and publish short summaries or recordings to extend impact.

Overall: a well-run local club that successfully nurtures curiosity and peer-led learning in science and technology.



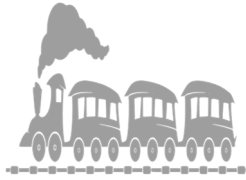


Tennis

Al Ianacone, Chairman

The Tennis Program has been active for the past 30 years. The main purposes of the program are to help members to stay physically fit, to socialize, and to have fun. We play doubles only and are grouped according to abilities. Currently we play at the Fair Lawn Racquet Club at 11-19 Saddle River Road in Fair Lawn. We are active from September to May. Currently we have 43 participants and play on Mondays from noon till 1:30 pm.

Every Spring we have a special luncheon at which gifts and prizes are awarded. This year's luncheon will have a theme of the Hobbyists 60th Anniversary. In the words of the tennis great, Billie Jean King: "Champions keep playing until they get it right. "



Trips and Tours

Hobbyists have enjoyed a variety of day trips, week-long trips and even longer voyages for many years. Some of the most memorable day trips have included The United Nations, The Tenement Museum, visits to historic landmarks such as the Samuel Morse Home in Poughkeepsie, NY, and Oktoberfest celebration in Pennsylvania. An annual visit to Philadelphia in December for a morning museum visit and an afternoon Holiday Concert at the Kimmel Hall was a special treat. We also enjoyed regional theater at the Elmsford Music Theater in New York (now permanently closed). Short trips have included several days at Woodloch Pines in Pennsylvania, as well as longer European excursions.

We are currently seeking someone – or several Hobbyists as a committee – to assume chairmanship of these wonderful activities that so many of our members have enjoyed, along with their spouses, dates, or significant others. Anyone interested should contact our president, Peter Weinstein.





Volunteer Service

Joe Hammer, Chairman

The Volunteer Group has existed for over 8 years. Our primary mission is to serve the needy of Paterson via Eva's Village. Eva's Village offers many programs - a women's shelter, drug rehabilitation, and the culinary arts school to provide skills and training, are some of the biggest.

The Hobbyists serve in the cafeteria. We set up tables, serve food, coffee and water, and cleanup lunch for as many as 400 customers per day. Often on hot days or cold days the number increases as people seek temporary shelter, hot coffee and clean water.

We currently have 18 volunteers. We try to send 8 - 10 people two Tuesdays per month to Paterson. We carpool from Graydon Pool in Ridgewood for the camaraderie and generally find time to socialize a bit between servings. The work is fulfilling and the customers are grateful. We hear "Bless you" from many as they leave after lunch.



Hobbyists Volunteers at Eva's Kitchen





Walking

Alan Stein



The Hobbyists Walking Group meets every week for a four-mile walk along the scenic Saddle River. We generally have between eight and fifteen members participating, who enjoy the opportunity for a brisk, healthful, outdoor walk, and a chance to share gossip, decide which sports team deserves the glory of being the best in its league, and settling the problems of the world. If the weather is averse to outdoor activity, we adjourn to a suitable indoor venue for a walk of a comparable distance, albeit not likely as scenic as our usual outdoor walk.

At the conclusion of the walk, those who are not yet fully satisfied and want some more camaraderie, retire to a local coffee shop for good coffee and still more conversation.



Wine Appreciation

Bob Stevenson, Chairman

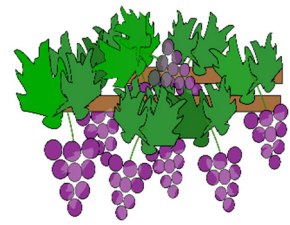


WAG, as an active Hobbyists activity, was launched in 2008 with the help of several members who wanted to sample fine wines at upscale Bergen County restaurants. These included Joe Augustine, Warren Boroson, Ed Collins, Jost Ladwig and Bob Stevenson with more recent valued contributions by Gerry Schott, Jim Cinquina and Alex Baron.

Bi-monthly luncheons feature four-person tables randomly seated. Wine selections include an opening social featuring sparkling wine, followed by two fine red and white wines to match the food entrée selections. The total cost of the luncheon and matching wines has risen in recent years to a cost of about \$50 range per attendee. Our WAG luncheon attendance has averaged in the mid-twenties although our membership mailing list now runs in the high eighties including many inactive members.

As part of the Hobbyist's 60th Anniversary activities, WAG is organizing a two-day Long Island Wine Country Trip in the fall for couples. We will stay at a local Riverhead motel, travel on a rented trolley to two or three wineries for tastings and meet for dinner as a group. The second day will include a catamaran boat tour of historical lighthouses with a tour guide and lunch on board. Those not interested in the boat tour will have the option to visit the Long Island Aquarium in Riverhead with interesting interactive exhibits. Details will be available in the spring or summer.





Winemaking

Paul Richert, Chairman

Since its inception in 2011, the Winemakers club has made 23 barrels of wine. We have made Opus One blends (5 times), Bordeaux blends (2 times), Super Tuscan (3 times), Amarone, Pinot Noir, Cabernet - Barbera, various Chilean blends (6 times) and our latest, Montepulciano d' Abruzzi.

Over the years, we have won medals for our wines including several gold medals and two double gold medals in the Wine Experience wine competitions. A double gold is awarded when all wine tasters involved in tasting a specific wine blend award it a gold medal.

Overall, over 90 different Hobbyists have taken part in making wine. The wine making process requires four separate trips to the winery in Tinton Falls, N J. The first trip involves crushing the grapes and separating the juice from the skins, pits and stems. One week later, we make a second trip to the winery where the juice is pumped out of the holding vat and the remaining "mash" is pressed to remove the juice. After the juice ferments for two months, we again visit the winery at which time the wine is pumped out of the barrel. We wash out the barrel to remove any sediment after which the wine is pumped back in. The wine then remains in the barrel to ferment further for about seven months. On the fourth trip we bottle the wine. Each 60-gallon barrel yields 24 cases of 12 bottles each.

Note from Paul: As the chairperson of the winemakers club, I want to thank all the Hobbyists who have participated over the years. It has been a distinct pleasure to get to know many of you. All are welcome to join us.



Cheers!





World Affairs

Don Togneri, Chairman

World Affairs has been meeting monthly for 4+ years in an online only 'ZOOM' format. Presentation and discussion usually are relevant to current situations / events with a look into what the history is behind the event. Attendance ranges from 8 to 15 members with a core group that shows up every month. Several members who are at home, or who travel (winter) or have relocated are able to participate regularly.

HOBBYISTS DEMOGRAPHICS – 60th Anniversary 2026

Born During	<u>2016</u>	<u>2026</u>	New Applicants	Most Common First Names	Member Towns
1910s -	4	0	2020 - 11	John - 2016 38 - 2026 28	Ridgewood 151 Now 113
1920s -	70	12	2021 - 17	Bob - 2016 27 - 2026 24	Wyckoff 20 Now 27
1930s -	196	103	2022 - 13	Bill - 2016 26 - 2026 16	Mahwah 25 Now 26
1940s -	140	215	2023 - 18	Steve/Steven - 16	Glen Rock 19 Now 24
1950s -	8	102	2024 - 36	Joe/Joseph - 15	Paramus 23
1960s -	0	16	2025 - 46	Mike/Michael - 15	Fair Lawn 22
1970s -	0	0	2026 - Goal 60	James/Jim - 15	NY State 17
Current oldest member – 1926 - 99				Current Total Members 451 - (A Constant Variable)	
Current youngest member – 1967 - 59				Life Members 77 – Average Age - 93	
Area Codes: NJ-433 NY-17; FL-2; Ma – 1; MD-1				Regular Members - 374 - Average Age - 78	

Hobbyists Resident Town Locations

Airmont, NY
Allendale, NJ
Bergenfield, NJ
Bloomingdale, NJ
Butler, NJ
Chestnut Ridge, NJ
Clifton, NJ
Cornwall, NY
Cresskill, NJ
DelRay Beach, FL
Demarest, NJ
Dumont, NJ
Elmwood Park, NJ
Emerson, NJ
Fair Lawn, NJ
Franklin Lakes, NJ
Glen Rock, NJ
Hackensack, NJ
Harrington Park, NJ
Havre de Grace, MD
Haworth, NJ
Hawthorne, NJ
Hillsdale, NJ

Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ
Lodi, NJ
Mahwah, NJ
Mattaponisett, MA
Mendham, NJ
Midland Park, NJ
Montvale, NJ
Myrtle Beach, SC
Nanuet, NY
New city, NY
North Haledon, NJ
Oakland, NJ
Old Tappan, NY
Paramus, NJ
Oradell, NJ
Park Ridge, NJ
Pompton Plains, NJ
Pearl River, NJ
Parsippany, NJ
Ramsey, NJ
River Edge, NJ
Rivervale, NJ
Saddle Brook, NJ

Ridgefield, NJ
Rochelle Park, NJ
Saddle River, NJ
Suffern, NY
Sloatsburg, NJ
Spring Lake, NJ
Tappan, NJ
Teaneck, NJ
Tenafly, NJ
Toms River, NJ
Tuxedo, NY
Upper Saddle River, NJ
Waldwick, NJ
Wanaque, NJ
Washington Twp, NJ
Wayne, NJ
West Milford, NJ
Westfield, NJ
Westwood, NJ
West Palm Beach, FL
White Plains, NJ
Woodcliff Lake, NJ
Wyckoff, NJ

Thanks to Bob Mosher for compiling this list from the Hobbyist Database

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The Hobbyists 60th Anniversary Newsletter Staff want to thank our president, past presidents, committee chairmen, co-chairmen, photographers, and all those whose input and dedication have made this Special Edition of the Hobbyists Newsletter possible. We are a volunteer organization and we could not have achieved success without their help. Collaborating on this project has been extremely gratifying for us. We also express our appreciation to every one of the Hobbyists for their participation in the various activities offered to all our members. It is this spirit of cooperation and friendship that continues to make Hobbyists Unlimited such a wonderful club of which we can all be proud. HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY!

