

## February 2005 Meeting

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Mt Diablo Branch Welcomes  
Mystery Writer John Billheimer



**John Billheimer** has published four mystery novels - all are centered in his native West Virginia. The latest is *Drybone Hollow*, [St. Martin's Press, Minotaur Books, Apr 2003.] It's subtitled "A Memoir." Hmm . . . probably a trick to make the book appear twice in the genre lists. His first novel, *The Contrary Blues*, was named one of the 10 best mysteries of 1998 by [The Droid Review](#). In between were *Highway Robbery* (2000) and *Dismal Mountain* (2001).

His stories are variously described as "quirky," "engaging," "a fun blend of humor and excitement." It would probably be a mistake to label the books either 'plot driven' or 'character driven.' One review cited "appealing and strong characters and intricate plots." Forbes lauds "a wonderful blend of numerous, superbly developed - and often eccentric characters; wry, politically incorrect humor; surprises and suspense..." Booklist also praised Billheimer's ability to create believable characters, "so vividly drawn they threaten to wander off the page into the real world."

John Billheimer holds an engineering Ph.D from Stanford and for the past thirty years has been Vice President of a small consulting firm that specializes in transportation research. He lives in Portola Valley, is married with two children, is an avid tennis player and movie buff. And, he is on the board of directors of the NorCal Chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

Visit the author's [website](#) to learn more about him and his books. There's even an eight minute track of him reading from one of his novels.

Join us and learn of this author's experience with research in mystery writing - February 12th, 11:30 a.m. for socializing, luncheon to follow. The luncheon public meeting will be at THE HUNGRY HUNTER, 3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd., in Lafayette.

**The Hungry Hunter restaurant is at 3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette (corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.) Take the Pleasant Hill Rd. SOUTH exit off Hwy. 24 freeway. HH is just south of the freeway. In case you get lost, call  (925) 938-3938  for directions.**

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