



# SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

April, 2015 Volume 15 Issue 04

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement

## Jim Davis, Big Sir

### Heads up - April Luncheon

The answer to the quiz at our March luncheon was, of course, "In April, we will meet on the first Tuesday, April 7th"!



ideas to make our Branch as inviting and interesting as possible – a "Member Relations Committee". If you would like to be involved in this new effort, and have ideas on how we can market our Branch in the community, recruit new members, or in any other way help to make us a healthy growing Branch, please contact your Big Sir, Jim Davis, Len Fadda, Membership Chairman, or Board Member Alan Jarvie.

### Welcome – New Members in March

We live in a smaller world than seems possible. One way this shows up is when we meet a Sir or new Sir for the first time, only to discover that we have quite a lot in common, or that our paths have crossed somewhere or some time in the past. We welcomed three new Sirs to our Branch in March. Have fun getting to know these guys. Thanks to the sponsors who invited these men, and congratulations on your free "sponsors" lunch.

These new Sirs bring our Branch total membership to 157. We need to invite 3 first-time guests each month in order to reach our year-end membership goal of 159. In March we had 2 new guests and 1 returning guest. Thanks to the Sirs who invited them. Check with our Membership Chairman, Len Fadda for a membership application, and to arrange for new applicants to be officially inducted into our Branch.

### Member Recruitment Committee

Many retired men in the Discovery Bay and Brentwood area are not aware of SIR, or have never had the opportunity to join us at a SIR luncheon. There are lots of possible ways to reach out and invite these men to our Branch. We would like to get a small group of men together here in our Branch to start working on recruiting new members, and developing

### Kudos - from SIR President

You should all be proud of our Branch 161 newsletter, the work of everyone involved in getting it out each month, and the details of design, layout, and publication by Tom Jones, our Editor. The work it takes every month, and the end product were recently applauded by the SIR State President, Sir Bob Hairston, who wrote that he thought our newsletter was a "Very well structured newsletter and eye-catching". Congratulations and thanks for a great job!

### Serve - Nominations for 2016 Board

What?! So you think this item was written too soon? Our Nominating Committee is already on the hunt for

*Continued on page 2*

### In this issue

- Message from Big Sir
- Little Sir report; Birthday Boys
- Golf news
- Dinner with the ladies
- Membership
- Bowling news
- Bridge; SIR Travel; 2015 meetings calendar
- Activities; Photography group
- Policy and responsibility clauses

### **Continued from page 1**

men who are wanting, willing, and able to serve on our 2016 Branch Board. If you want to be involved in the future success and direction of your Branch, please let the Nominating Committee know. SIR rules require the Nominating Committee to finalize their list of all nominees by the end of May. If you are interested, contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee: Dick Donald (Chairman), Bob Damico, or Eric Jensen.

### **Check it out – State SIR Bulletin**

The 1st quarter edition of SIR Happenings, the State SIR newsletter, is available online at [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org). It contains several interesting and informative articles that will give you a broader understanding of what's going on in SIR. It will also stimulate your "grey cells" with ideas for events and activities that you might like to see here in our Branch.

See you on April 7th (the first Tuesday).

Your Big Sir - Jim Davis

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### **Micheal White, Little Sir**

Mother's Day Luncheon tickets are now on sale. The tickets are available by mail, and can be purchased at the April meeting. Send your request to Glenn MacBride, 1860 Tangier Terrace, Brentwood, CA 94513. Include your check, made out to SIR Branch 161. The cost of the tickets is \$22.00 each.



### **March Speaker**

Our March speaker was Chris Steele, President, Discovery Bay Community Service District (CSD).



Of particular interest to folks living on the water in Discovery Bay was the schedule for treating invasive weeds. Following his talk, Chris answered numerous questions for attendees.

### **April birthdays**

Carlo Delazzar, Saul Gold, Eric Jensen, Bill Konold, Pete Prather, Don Rentzel, Norm Spencer, Hal Whitlow, Roger Wood, and Randy Zierau.

### **April luncheon menu**

Chicken Piccata, rice & vegetables.

**Please note:** If you have any special dietary needs, please call Bill Konold at 634-2738 by Friday before the meeting to arrange this.

### **April Speaker**

Our April speaker will be Ms. Mary Piepho, Supervisor Contra Costa County.

Micheal

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### **Your luncheon responsibility**

If you will not be able to attend the April luncheon, it is important that you call Bill Konold at 634-2738 as soon as you know that you will not be at the luncheon. We assume that you will be there, and we order a lunch for you, unless we hear from you that you will not be there.



### **Branch 161 on the web**

**[www.sir161.org](http://www.sir161.org)**

For more Branch 161 news & photos, and links to state SIR information, visit our web site. The latest issue of SIR Happenings can be downloaded via a link on our web site.

## Golf News, Dale Welin

We had 23 players for our first golf tournament in 2015 at Elkhorn GC in Stockton. The course was in good condition and it was a good start for the year. The format was 1 net ball for the odd holes and 2 net balls for the even holes. One exception was that all 4 net balls had to count on hole #15. Par for the day was 107. The results are as follows:



1st place - 102 - Mensch, Wiebe, Konieczny, Brodie.  
2nd place - 106 - Konold, Riordan, Ramos, Watkins.  
3rd place - 110 - Carr, Rentzel, Fanucchi, Disney.  
Closest to the pin winners were Ramos and Carr.

We acknowledge the players who were under net par for the day, and they were: 65 - Mensch, 67 - Ramos, 68 - Welin, Kirtley. We post all your scores for each SIR event.

We are providing the entry information for the tournament at Discovery Bay Country Club on Monday, April 13, 2015. We will be hosting Pleasanton Branch 34, Livermore Branch 115, San Ramon Branch 128 and our Branch 161. We need a good showing from Branch 161 and hope that you will sign up. The entry info is below:

Date: Monday, April 13, 2015

Time: Check-in starts 7:30, shotgun start is 9:00 am

Where: Discovery Bay Country Club

Format: 2 best net balls of the foursome

Cost: Non-member of DBCC - \$55.00 - golf, cart, range, box lunch, prize money

Member of DBCC with no cart (no private cart or club cart) - \$31.00 - cart, range, box lunch, prize money

Member of DBCC with private cart or club cart - \$16.00 - includes range, box lunch and prize money.

Please advise Dale Welin to get your name on the player list. Then follow that up with a check, payable to Dale Welin, for the amount that pertains to your price status, and send or get the check to Dale. The cutoff will be Tuesday, April 7, at the Branch 161 April

luncheon. You have a choice of 3 different sandwiches for your box lunch and the choices are ham, turkey or tuna. You must let me know of your choice when you sign up. If there are any questions, please advise.

We will ask for your help after the scores are announced, to assist in putting the chairs and tables back in place inside the cart barn. Thank you.

Dale Welin - Tournament Chairman

## God Bless America, Tom Jones & Norm Spencer

A little history of the patriotic song we sing at the close of our monthly luncheon meetings.

The song was originally written in 1918 by Irving Berlin, a Russian (Siberian) immigrant. Berlin rewrote the song in 1938, and singer Kate Smith made it popular on her radio show.

With the success of the song and the sale of sheet music, Berlin established the *God Bless America Fund*, dedicating the royalties to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

Most folks are either not aware of, or have forgotten, the fact that there's an introduction to the song; They start singing with the second verse, which begins "*God bless America, land that I love ...*". We at SIR Branch 161 correctly start by singing the first verse, which begins with "*While the storm clouds gather, far across the sea....*".

The original hand-written music score (1918) and the rewritten score (1938) can be found at the Library Of Congress web site, together with a longer version of the story:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm019.html>

Whenever I'm privileged to sing this song, either at a Branch 161 luncheon or at a public concert, I'm reminded of our passed member, Howie Fisher. Howie led our Branch singing for many years, and was a tough act to follow.

Thanks to Norm Spencer, one of our song leaders, for suggesting we share the story of this song.

## Dinner With The Ladies, Alan Jarvie

**When:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

**Where:** Island Joe's Café, 6210 Bethel Island Rd, Bethel Island, CA 94511.

**Time:** Arrival and cocktails starting at 5:00pm, Dinner served at 6:00pm.

**Menu choices:** (Salad, dessert & non-alcoholic beverage included):

### Entrees:

- Jagerschnitzel, a boneless, breaded pork cutlet with a creamy mushroom sauce, served with spaetzle and red cabbage
- Fisch nach Art der Mullerin, a filet of Petrale sole with an egg wash and sautéed with a Meuniere, lemon & butter sauce, and served with spaetzle and red cabbage
- Hungarian Golash, beef and pork slowly stewed with peppers, onions & paprika, and served over spaetzle
- Hahnchen Schnizel mit zitroen, chicken breast breaded and fried with fresh lemon, served with spaetzle and red cabbage.
- Spaetzle Prima Vera, spaetzle noodles with sautéed fresh vegetables in a light cream sauce with cheese.

**Cost:** \$26.00 per person (includes tax and tip).

**Deadline:** We need to receive your RSVP no later than Thursday April 23; There will be envelopes at our General Meeting on April 7.

Please send your checks to me in advance.

Please make your checks out to Alan Jarvie and mail to 4121 Windward Court, Discovery Bay, CA 94505. Cell phone 408-219-8240.

**Directions:** Take Hwy 4 west out of Discovery Bay, turn right at the traffic light for Bixler Road. Continue north on Bixler to the 2nd stop sign, and turn left on Balfour Road. Go west on Balfour to the 2nd stop sign, and turn right on to Sellers Avenue. Go north on Sellers ~3.5 miles – continuing through three 4-way stop intersections - and at the first traffic light turn right on Cypress Road. Go east on Cypress for ~1.5 miles – continuing through two flashing caution lights – and at the first traffic light turn left on Bethel Island Road. Go north on Bethel Island Road ~1.5 miles, Island Joe's Café is on the right hand side about 200 yards from the end of the bridge.



----- Tear out and return with your check -----

Name(s):

Phone:

Jagerschnitzel \_\_\_\_\_ Fisch nach Art der Mullerin \_\_\_\_\_ Hungarian Golash \_\_\_\_\_

Hahnchen Schnizel mit zitroen \_\_\_\_\_ Spaetzle Prima Vera \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner With The Ladies, April 28, 2015 at Island Joe's Café, 6210 Bethel Island Rd, Bethel Island, CA 94511.

## Membership, Len Fadda

Sponsor a new member

Branch members wishing to sponsor a new member should invite the prospect to a regular luncheon meeting as a guest.

If the guest wishes to become a SIR member, the sponsor should obtain an application form from Membership Chairman Len Fadda. Have the guest complete the form, and return it to Len. The prospective member and their sponsor should attend the next regular luncheon meeting.



The Executive Board will vote on the membership, and the new member will be inducted immediately prior to the luncheon.

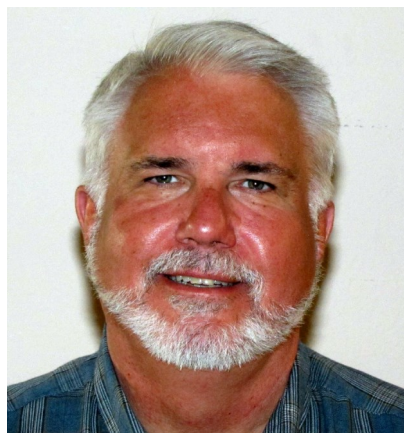
Three new members were inducted at our March luncheon.

### SIR Membership Requirements

Membership in Sons In Retirement is open to men retired from full time occupation, regardless of age, race, color or religion. See the last page of this newsletter for more information.

## New Members

### Don Burns



Don has lived in Discovery Bay for almost 9 months. He retired in 2013 from Sacramento Public Library where he worked as a publicist.

Hobbies include boating, golfing, and taking day trips.

Don's sponsor was Ken Fanucchi.

### John Emerson



John has lived in Discovery Bay for 15 years. He retired in 1999 from the San Jose Fire Department, where he was Fire Captain. John and his wife Carole have three children and 5 grandchildren.

Hobbies: golf and boating.

John's sponsor was Mitch Wisinski.

### Henry Van Heukelom



Henry has lived in Discovery Bay for 2 years. He retired in 1983 from a career in industrial piping, heating and air conditioning. Henry and his wife Janice have one daughter.

Hobbies include fishing, playing cards and cribbage.

Henry's sponsor was Colin Brodie.

## Bowling News, Paul Elmer

This is one of the months that is kind of a lull in the season. There are only seven weeks left in the winter bowling season, with six of them being competition and one being the last week, which is sweepstakes.



Lusk's Friends (Barbara Mensch, Larry Mensch, Cam Donald and Dick Donald) continue to lead the pack by 5 games with 24 to go. Four other teams, Split Happens, Three + One, Team 2, and Team 15 have a shot at catching Lusk's Friends. As far as the league high season scores go, they currently are:

For the men; scratch series Paul Elmer with 768, scratch game Greg Mattus with 299, handicap series Curtis Manning with 758, and handicap game Jim George with 315.

For the women; Marie Wilson has scratch series with 627, Rosie Elmer has scratch game with 226, Mary Hershberger has handicap series with 770, and Pam Jarvie has the handicap game with 301.

The SIR tournament held in Livermore in February saw only four of our SIR bowling members participate. They were Jerry Marshall, Curtis Manning, Jose Arroyo, and Bill Bayer, and only Jerry Marshall cashed with third place for All-Events.

As far as tournaments go, the first of the three major ones will be held in Carson City on April 13th - 16th. It appears that we will have approximately 32 people signed up for the event. We all look forward to bowling there as most of us do pretty well, and the bonus is there is some excellent local dining, good friendship, and of course gaming. We would appreciate any and all who would like to come and cheer us on and participate in the fun.

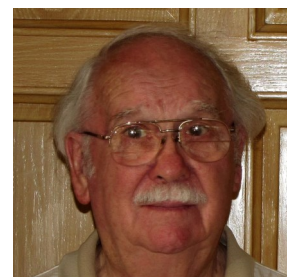
Paul

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## Bridge report, Harry Ohlson

The next Bridge session will be on April 21st at the Discovery Bay Country Club at 12:00pm. Any level new player is welcome to attend. Please call me first. 513-3048.

Thanks, Harry



## SIR Travel Opportunities

Various bargain-priced trips are available to SIR members through local travel agencies and other SIR branches. Look for the TRAVEL binder located on the entrance table at each monthly meeting. For more information contact Mitch Wisinski at: (408) 515-7655.



## 2015 Branch 161 Meetings Calendar

01/13/2015	07/14/2015
02/10/2015	08/11/2015
03/10/2015	09/1/2015
04/7/2015	10/13/2015
05/12/2015 (note 1)	11/10/2015
06/9/2015	12/8/2015 (note 1)
<b>Note 1:</b> Not 'required' Branch luncheon meetings.	

## SIR Activities, Dick Donald

We're always looking for new activities among SIR. If you have a suggestion for an activity not currently supported, let us know and we'll see if we can get a group going. You can contact me at 513-2849 or email [DickDonald@Yahoo.com](mailto:DickDonald@Yahoo.com).



Following are some ongoing SIR activities, including details on current plans.

### **Wine Tasting** – Dick Donald – 513-2849

Vince and Bobbi Vargas will be hosting the next wine tasting on Thursday, April 23rd. If you are interested in attending this very popular activity please contact Dick Donald at 513-2849, or email [DickDonald@Yahoo.com](mailto:DickDonald@Yahoo.com) by Friday, April 10th.

### **Pickleball** - Bob Lyman – 628-7906

Any of you Sirs who have an interest in doing something slightly more active than a long walk; you should come give pickleball a try. If you have ever

played racquetball, tennis, squash or badminton, you will find this a game somewhat similar but with less energy required using a large ping pong type paddle and a whiffle ball on a badminton-sized court. Drop-in play times are 9:00 am Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 4:00 pm Wednesday at the Discovery Bay public pickleball courts on Willow Lake Rd. Just bring yourself; we have everything else needed. The game is easy for beginners to learn but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players.

### **Poker** – Colin Brodie – 634-8564

Colin Brodie is looking for poker players interested in a game each month. If you would like to play in a fun, low-stakes game with fellow Sirs, please contact Colin or Dick Donald (513-2849).

### **Bocce Ball** – Dick Donald – 513-2849

How would you like a combination of wine tasting and bocce ball? Bring a bottle of wine to share with your fellow players. We have started playing on Wednesdays at 4:00 PM on the Discovery Bay Country Club bocce courts. If you are interested in playing, please contact Dick at 513-2849 or just show up and we'll organize a game.

## Photography, Frank Headley, 240-6511

The photography group meets periodically to share photographic knowledge and tips, ranging from scene composition to image storage and cataloging, to post-processing using software tools.

We also hold occasional field trips to photograph interesting scenes, activities, or objects.

To join our group, call Frank Headley at 240-6511. No special knowledge or equipment needed.

### **Field Trip - panorama views of the lower Delta**

Several members of the Photography Group recently visited the Delta View Golf Club to take photos of the great vista from the 8th tee.

Following the photo shoot, we had lunch at the Delta View clubhouse, where Frank Headley demon-



strated how to easily create 'panorama' shots by using software to digitally 'stitch' multiple photos together.

Thanks to Dale Welin for the photo and for organizing the (free) use of golf carts.

## Membership Requirements & Principles

Membership is open to men retired from full time occupation, regardless of age, race, color or religion. There are no dues, fees or assessments. Member volunteers and staff administer and govern all branch activities. Voluntary member contributions provide for these activities. SIR supports no outside cause or interest. We prohibit discussions of politics and religion or the selling of anything to any member. The only requirements to join SIR are that a man be retired, or semi-retired, and sponsored by an active member.

## Attendance Policy *(Revised July, 2012)*

Luncheon meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Discovery Bay Country Club, 1475 Club House Drive. (There are exceptions to when we need to hold our meetings on a different Tuesday, so please check the Meetings Calendar elsewhere in this issue).

Social hour is at 11.00am and lunch is at noon. All members are expected to attend Luncheon meetings unless prevented by illness, absence from the Branch locale, or acting as a caregiver to a spouse or companion. If you cannot attend, you are required to notify the Attendance Chairman by the Friday prior to the luncheon meeting or you may be charged for the luncheon.

Regular members missing three consecutive meetings without notifying the Attendance Chairman, or missing more than five (5) meetings within the last 12 months for any reason (not counting May and December), will have their membership reviewed by the Branch Executive Committee (BEC), and may receive a notice from the BEC of their decision to consider terminating the absent Sir's membership.

Certification of attendance at another branch will be considered a credit to attendance.

## Responsibility Clause

All tours, trips and other activities for or by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants, or in any matters pertaining to tours, trips, or other activities.

### Reminders

**Voluntary contributions** defray the administrative costs of running our organization. For those who have not "donated" their contribution, be sure to bring \$20.00 cash or a check (made out to SIR Branch 161) to our next meeting. You can also mail it to our Treasurer, Glenn MacBride.

**Dress code** for our meetings is "Country Club Casual", which means no jeans or denim, cutoffs or exercise shorts, shirts must have a collar, no tank tops or T-shirts, no flip-flops or thong type sandals. Please ensure that your guests are aware of this policy. Simple etiquette requires that hats be removed while in the dining room.

### If you're unable to attend a meeting

Our Branch is obligated to pay for lunches not served. Please contact Bill Konold by the Friday preceding the meeting if you don't plan to attend.

Bill Konold, 634-2738

### Your newsletter team

Let us know if we can improve this publication.



**Tom Jones**  
*Editor*



**LaVan Bock**  
*email  
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**Dennis Pachucki**  
*Paper copies  
and mailing*

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