



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 28th year! *October, 2019 rev 2*

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

Alan Jarvie, Big Sir

Hard to believe, but 2020 is coming up fast. Tickets for our December 10 Holiday lunch will go on sale at our next lunch meeting (October 8), at which time we will also begin collecting our annual dues for the coming year. Both amounts are unchanged from previous years - \$25 for the Holiday lunch, \$20 for our dues.



We continue to have a problem with members failing to inform our Attendance Chairman when they won't be attending our monthly lunch. For June through September – four months – we had 53 instances where a member did not attend and did not notify Bill Konold. That's 53 lunches, at \$19 each, that were ordered and not eaten, and that our Branch is obligated to pay for nonetheless. To make matters worse, we have been collecting the \$19 cost on less than half of the lunches involved, so we have to make up the difference with money from our annual dues. At the current rate, this is eating up almost 2/3 of our net annual dues collection; if this situation continues, we'll go into the red in 2020.

However, there is a bright side, as we have simple solutions:

If you can't attend the lunch meeting, call Bill no later than the Friday before our Tuesday luncheon - 47 sec-

onds to save \$19, that works out to over \$1400 an hour.

If something happens (you forgot your sister-in-law was coming to visit, or you forgot you'd be fishing in Idaho, or you just plain forgot to call Bill) – please come square on your amount due, because if you don't pay it, the rest of us will have to.

So, please remember. when you know you can't attend, you must contact Bill Konold no later than the Friday before our Tuesday luncheon. The yearly meeting calendar is included in our annual handbook, on our website, and in each monthly newsletter. And you don't have to wait until the Friday before the meeting, just call Bill when you know.

Our next meeting is October 8, and I hope to see you all then, but if you can't make it, please call Bill @ 925-634-2738.

In this issue

- Message from Big Sir
- Little Sir report
- Membership update;
- Golf news; In memoriam
- Duplicate bridge; Meetings Calendar
- Bowling news; SIR travel
- Activities;
- Dinner With The Ladies
- Christmas luncheon with the ladies
- SIR Day At The Races
- Branch 161 Activities & Events summary
- Policy and responsibility clauses

Next meeting: October 8, 2019

Roy Bristow, Little Sir

September Speaker

Our September speaker was Peter Petersen, owner and winemaker of Petersen Vineyards in Knightsen. Peter reminded us that we are practically neighbors, just an (11) minute drive from Discovery Bay.



Established in 2012, their first crafted wine in 2014 is their very popular "Diablo Sunset".

Petersen Vineyards is proudly a 100% Estate Winery. All grapes are hand picked and Peter introduced a number of his award winning varietals to us during his luncheon presentation. His passion for Port Wine was obvious as we were treated to a taste of Sao Pedro with our luncheon dessert. Nice touch Peter!

A short footnote: I am confident that the presentation was enjoyed by many of our members, as I personally attended a Harvest and Grape Crushing Festival September 13 and observed at least four of our SIR and their ladies as first time visitors to Peterson Vineyards.



September speaker Peter Petersen(center) receives a certificate of appreciation from Big Sir Alan Jarvie (left) and Little Sir Roy Bristow

October Speaker

Our October speaker is Tony Fantaneau, Team leader of the South Contra Costa Community Services, Neighborhood Watch Division.

In light of the recent cases of home invasions here in our Discovery Bay communities, we have invited Mr. Fontaneau and his team to speak to us at the October 8 luncheon.

Their presentation will address the value of Neighborhood Watch Programs available to us and how to implement them.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS LUNCHEON !! WHY NOT BRING A GUEST !!

October birthdays

Firoz Bharwani, Bruce Bohnsack, Richard Clark,
Michael Cline, Knute Kleinen, Larry Mensch,
Al Sauvadon, Robert Schier, Jim Spann,
Gary Tucker, Ron Wilson

October luncheon menu

Breadsticks or Rolls w/ butter
Fried Chicken, Yukon Mashed Potatoes W/Gravy
Green Beans w/ onion
Dessert: Cookies / Brownies

Editor's Note

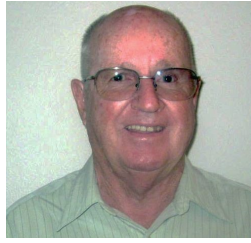
Special thanks to Larry Mensch for various photographs in this edition of our newsletter.

Membership, Will Myers

Our September SIR meeting increased by 3 new members.

They are; John Douglas sponsored by Larry Mensch, Ken Marsh sponsored by Jerry

Wiebe, and Eric Swalwell sponsored by Ward Messersmith. A photo of our new members, along with their sponsor, is shown below.



John Douglas and his wife Connie have lived in Discovery Bay for only 90 days, moving here from Paso Robles, CA. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. For the last decade, John has managed very large estates under Douglas Fiduciary, while devoting prior decades in high tech telecommunications and the production, importing and wholesaling of wine. He and his wife enjoy hunting, fishing, boating, golf and bocce ball.

Ken Marsh has lived in Byron since 1985, moving there from Alamo, CA. He and his wife (who passed away in May of this year) have 2 daughters, 1 son, 2 grand daughters, 2 great-grandsons, and a step daughter. Ken worked at the Lawrence Livermore Lab for 40 years as a nuclear chemist. He enjoys listening to Dixieland jazz and other types of music, playing a little guitar, and reading classic American authors like Hemingway and Steinbeck.

Eric Swalwell and his wife, Vicky, have lived in Dis-

covery Bay for 6 years, moving here from Dublin where they raised their 4 sons. They have 4 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. Eric was chief of police in the city of Algona, Iowa before moving back to California to work 14 years as senior investigator-fraud examiner for Global Security. He was past President of the Dublin School District. He also enjoys boating, bocce, fishing, golf, coin collecting and wine tasting.

Chris Diaz brought in guest Jim Moore and I had guest Rick Drauman. We also had 4 visiting SIR members from Branch 108 this month. They are Dan Sarkozy, Arlie Blacksheare, Keith Willis and Rod Alvernaz.

Unfortunately, we lost 4 members from our Branch this month, so our current membership is at 153. Don Roth, a SIR member for 12 years, passed away in August. Bob Young has found that he is travelling too often, and determined it best to drop out at this time. Dennis Sandau is moving out of California, and Gary Campbell has decided to drop out due to health issues.

SIR Membership Requirements

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



*John Douglas (left) with sponsor
Larry Mensch*



*Ken Marsh (right) with sponsor
Jerry Wiebe*



*Eric Swalwell (right) with sponsor
Ward Messersmith*

Golf News, Larry Mensch

It seems that we all had a good time playing Poppy Ridge on September 24th.

We had 5 foursomes and everybody played ready golf on a difficult course on a hot day. Two out of the five groups earned money back for their good play.

The group of Ramsdell, Rentzel, Welton and Wiebe earned first place with 2 best ball score of 121.

The second place team of Mensch, Spann, Douglas and Emerson had a score of 123.

Special note: Tom Denning shot the low gross round of the groups with an 84.

Next month is Paradise Valley in Fairfield and is our year end individual tournament. We have 24 openings and already five players signed up. The date is Thursday, October 17.

Sign up early or at least let us know you will be playing.

Thanks, Larry Mensch



In Memoriam

We were sad to report the passing of Don Roth on September 2, 2019. Don was a member of SIR Branch 161 since 2008.

Please keep Don, his wife Julia and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Duplicate Bridge

The 'ACBL Duplicate Bridge' game is scheduled for October 1, 2019. It will be at the Contra Costa Bridge Center; 3039 Willow Pass Rd. in Concord. Registration is at 9:15AM; Lesson at 9:30AM; Game 10:00AM > 2:00PM

2019 Branch 161 Meetings Calendar

01/15/2019 (note 1)	07/9/2019
02/12/2019	08/13/2019
03/12/2019	09/10/2019
04/9/2019	10/8/2019
05/14/2019 (note 2)	11/12/2019
06/4/2019 (note 3)	12/10/2019 (note 2)

Note 1: Third Tuesday in January.

Note 2: Lunch with the ladies.

Note 3: First Tuesday in June.

Christmas Luncheon

Tickets for the Christmas luncheon with the ladies will be on sale at the October 8th luncheon meeting. See the flyer on page 8.

Bowling News, Paul Elmer

As of this writing (Sept. 23) we have completed 3 weeks of our 35 week schedule with 14 teams all in competition for the league championship ending in May 2020.



Currently in 1st place is Team 3 (Paul Elmer, Rosie Elmer, Russ Reid, Vicky Reid) who leads Scared Spitless (Pam Quier, Diane Carmichael, Mike Quier, Mike Carmichael) by only one game and two other teams by only 2 games. Anything can and will happen with 45 games remaining in the first half of the season.

Handicap high game and series are established after nine games which was completed this week but not available at this time. Scratch scores are for the women; Scratch Series: Vicky Reid 566, Scratch Game; Rosie Elmer 202. For the men; Scratch Series Mitch Wisinski 589, Scratch Game Jerry Marshall 215.

The tournament held in Carson City on September 13-14 had 73 bowlers in competition with no one from branch 161 - 108 attending. There are two tournaments in October with the first in Citrus Heights on the 1st and 2nd and the other one being our own tournament held in Brentwood at the beautiful Harvest Park Bowl on Tuesday the 15th.

Please contact John Fry for entry forms, this will be a fun tournament as always.

The semi-annual state bowling meeting was held in Sacramento on Sept. 17th. Items discussed were the annual budget (no change) 2020 bowling schedule, tournament guidelines, SBTA average base, should we keep the minimum games at 18 or increase? It was voted to stay at 18. Clarify multiple participation by male guests (non-SIR) Will be kept at 3 to 5 per year. A statement was made that insurance costs will not increase for 3 to 5 years.

SIR Travel, Dennis Pachucki

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 table in the Discovery Bay CC lobby at our monthly luncheons. Some of the available 2019/2020 trips are listed below.

Oct 11-18, 2019 Niagara Falls and the Grand Hotel

Oct 13 – 20, 2019 Princess Cruise Pacific Northwest: 7 Day

Oct 18-25, 2019 Niagara Falls & Grand Hotel

Oct 20 to 27, 2019 Princess Cruise Pacific Northwest 7 Day-R/T San Francisco

Nov 4-23, 2019 Inside Vietnam: Grand Circle Cruise, 18 day Overseas Adventure Travel Tour of Vietnam

May 9 - 21, 2020. "The Passion Play In Oberammergau"

Aug 29-Sept 9, 2020 Top of Switzerland with Oberammergau



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.



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

Wine Tasting – Dick Donald – 513-2849

The next wine tasting will be at 5 PM on Thursday, October 24th. Jerry & Sue Wiebe will be hosting this month. If you are interested in attending this very popular activity please contact Dick Donald at the number above, or email DickDonald@Yahoo.com.

Bocce Ball – Dick Donald – 513-2849

We are currently playing SIR Bocce Ball at 9 AM on Tuesday mornings, planning to play about 2 hours. We will make up teams on the spot using all available players. If you would like to play, just show up. We will continue to play on Tuesday mornings until Daylight Savings Time ends in November, after which we will take a hiatus until next Spring.

Pickleball - Bob Lyman – 628-7906

Something new - very basic beginner pickleball exposure for both men & women is now being done at 5 pm Sunday evenings at the Cornel Park pickleball courts. Come down and check it out. You ever play a racquet sport of any kind and have the energy to use those skills again, come check out pickleball. It is a great game with lots of good social interaction. The best courts in Contra Costa County are right here

in Discovery Bay. Regular drop in play times are Tues, Thur & Sat at 8 am. Have any questions, check with SIRs players Dennis Pachucki, Phil Talley, Greg Moran, Don Patterson, Terry Silva, Randy Zierau or Bob Lyman.

SIR Cyclers

The SIR Cyclers ride weekly on Thursday mornings at 8:00am. during the long warm days of summer and invite their spouses and new SIR riders to join them on their rides.

They meet at Jerry's home in Discovery Bay for a moderate ride into Brentwood and back. Some weeks they may travel to other nearby towns' bike trails to enjoy a new riding experience. An email message is sent weekly to inform interested participants of the riding plan for that week.

If anyone would like to join their rides, contact Jerry Wiebe by phone or email to be added to the weekly email distribution. We look forward to and encourage SIR members to join us on our rides.



The SIR Cyclers' group continues to add new riders. Come join us for a fun way to exercise

Dinner with the Ladies, Dennis Pachucki

When: Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Where: Cap's Oak Street Bar & Grill, 144 Oak Street, Brentwood CA

Time: Arrival & Cocktails starting at 5:00 pm

Dinner served at 6:00 pm



Menu Choices: (inner includes salad, dessert & non-alcoholic beverage
(iced tea, water, coffee)

- Broiled Salmon with rice pilaf
- Stuffed Pork Chops with garlic mashed potatoes & fresh vegetables
- Petite (10 oz) New York Steak with garlic mashed potatoes & fresh vegetables
- Lamb Shanks with garlic mashed potatoes & fresh vegetables

IMPORTANT: Due to the long supplier delivery time, orders for Lamb Shanks must be received no later than Monday, October 17. Also I need to know by the Friday before the dinner if you need to cancel, depending on the restaurant you may or may not get your check back if notified after the Friday before the dinner.

Cost: \$30.00 per person (includes tax and tip)

Deadline: We need your RSVP no later than Friday, October 18 – there will be envelopes at our General Meeting on October 8 . Please send your checks to me in advance. Please make your checks out to Dennis Pachucki 2125 Sand Point Road, Discovery Bay 94505, 408-309-5206

Cap's is located at 144 Oak Street (at the corner of 2nd Street) in downtown Brentwood.

..... Detach and mail with your check

Your Name(s):

Phone:

Your Menu choice(s):

☐

Broiled Salmon with rice pilaf

☐

Stuffed Pork Chops with garlic mashed
potatoes & fresh vegetables

☐

Lamb Shanks with garlic mashed
& fresh vegetables

☐

Petite New York Steak with garlic
mashed potatoes & fresh vegetables

Christmas Luncheon With The Ladies

**Tuesday, December 10, will mark our
Christmas Luncheon With The Ladies**

Our entertainment will be
Discovery Bay's own Bill Ramirez !!!



With a singing
style modeled
on Frank
Sinatra,
Bill will share
music from the
50's through the
present -
*so be sure to
wear your
danci
shoes !!*

***Tickets will be \$25 Per Person
and will be available
At the OCTOBER 8 Luncheon***

SIR Day at the Races

When: Friday, October 18, 2019

Where: Golden Gate Fields

Times: Turf Club opens at 11:00 AM

Buffet Hours: 12:00–3:30 PM

1st race post-time 12:45 PM

Cost: \$41.00 per person



Deadline: I'll need your RSVP and check no later than Wednesday, October 9, 2019.

Golden Gate Fields is once again offering a special discounted "Turf Club" group rate of \$41 per person, for SIR groups on this date. The package includes valet parking, admission and reserved Turf Club seating, the daily racing program, Prime Rib buffet, and tax & tip for the food servers.

This is a fantastic opportunity for spending time with family and friends, as well as networking with SIR groups from all over the East Bay, while enjoying a superb luncheon buffet.

As we have in the past, we plan to car pool (in lieu of renting a bus at \$25+ per person) so please let me know if you can provide transportation, or if you will need a ride.

Please make your checks out to Alan Jarvie and mail to me at:

4121 Windward Court, Discovery Bay, CA 94505.

Cell phone 408-219-8240,

----- Please detach and mail with your check -----

Your Name:

Phone:

Number of attendees:

☐

I can PROVIDE transportation for _____ people.

☐

I will NEED transportation,

Branch 161 Activities and Events

Bowling (*): John Fry or Paul Elmer

Sirs & Ladies Bowling league happens every Monday @ 9:30 am at Harvest Park Bowl. Our league consists of four-person teams, with approximately 20 teams, and consists of two seasons – a Winter session of 36 weeks and a Summer session of 16 weeks; both are sanctioned with the USBC. We bowl every Monday except for Holidays, and we always have room for more bowlers, seasoned bowlers as well as newcomers. During the year various SIR Branches sponsor Bowling Tournaments throughout Northern California; Check the state SIR website (<http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling/index.html>) for dates and details.

Golf: Dale Welin

Golf is usually on the third Tuesday of each month from March through October, at various local courses. Also, there are a number of state-wide SIR-sponsored events during the year; Information can be found on the state SIR website, <https://www.sirinc2.org/golf2018> .

Away Golf Tournament (*): Roy Bristow

We also have a Branch 161 Away Golf Tournament each year. It is a mens and couples, tournament in which 42+ people participated in 2018. Last year it was at the Saddle Creek Golf Resort in Copperopolis, as it is again this year, May 1-3, 2019.

Pickle Ball (*): Bob Lyman

If you have ever played a racquet sport of any kind, and have the energy to use those skills again, come check out pickleball. It's a great game for both men and women, lots of good social interaction and the fastest growing sport in the country, with the best courts in Contra Costa County right here in Discovery Bay. Play is at the Cornell Park pickleball courts. Check the monthly Activities|Pickleball article for drop-in play days/times and learning day(s).

Wine tasting (*): Dick Donald

Monthly on the 4th Thursday, at different hosts each month. Each couple brings a bottle of wine and an appetizer to share. The bottle is covered so that the label is not visible and is poured in 1 ounce 'tastes', which is graded on a scale of 1 to 5 by each participant. At the end of the evening the bottles are uncovered and the scores are totaled to determine how each wine is rated.

Bike Riding (*): Jerry Wiebe

9:00 a.m. Thursday mornings, meeting at Jerry's address, 2071 Windward Point, Discovery Bay, for a weekly 13 mile ride into Brentwood, sometimes further on other routes, and when possible, a mid way coffee shop stop for a leisurely bit of group chit-chatting.

Tennis (*): Tom Snyder

Tennis is a new activity that was added this year (2019). It is a mixed co-ed group, similar to the pickle ball group. We play Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at the Discovery Bay Community Center starting at 8:00 am. Players rotate in so that everyone plays. It is an easy-going tennis group that usually ends up at Starbucks afterwards. Sometimes, we'll go out for breakfast or lunch, especially if the weather is not good.

Continued ...

Branch 161 Activities and Events (*continued*)

Dinner with the Ladies (*): Dennis Pachucki

SIR Dinner with the Ladies is a well attended event. We have 8 annual events at various local restaurants. Dinners are typically the last Tuesday of the month, 5:00 PM socialization and 6:00 PM dinner. All Sirs and ladies and their guests are welcome. Look for dates and locations in our Monthly newsletter.

Poker: Dick Donald

SIR Poker is a weekly, low-stakes poker game. It's played every Monday evening at 6:30 through 9:30. Games are quarter-limit dealer-choice and the dealer antes a quarter for everyone. A schedule is made with a different host and six additional players each week. Everyone plays about seven times over two and a half months.

Annual Al DiGiusto Boat Cruise and Luncheon (*): Bob Damico

In 1993, Al DiGiusto conceived the idea to plan a SIR event that would introduce some of our non-boating members and their wives to the world of boating in the Delta. Sirs with boats invited members and their wives to ride with them on a cruise to one of many Delta waterfront restaurants for lunch. Al coordinated this successful event until his passing in 2005, and the event continues in his honor. This year's boat cruise and luncheon will be Thursday July 18, 2019, and starts at the Boardwalk Grill in Discovery Bay. There will be sign-up sheets at the June meeting.

Eric Jensen Memorial Collector Car Show: Bill Konold

Our September meeting is also the SIR Collector Car Show. So polish that Collector Car of yours and bring it to the meeting. Any interesting car, old or new, is welcome. Got a new Hemi, a cool Corvette, or an old Mercury? Bring it to the September meeting and park with other SIR car enthusiast members. Tire kicking is both before and after the meeting, so arrive a little early, stay a little late, and enjoy the machinery.

Christmas Lights Boat Ride (*): Dick Donald

A mid-December evening ride with "Captain Morgan" on the waterways of Discovery Bay, to observe the Christmas light displays. We'll have an appetizer tray provided by the Boardwalk restaurant, and drinks will be available for purchase aboard.

Sporting Events (*):

The state SIR organization puts together special "SIR Days" for a variety of sporting events, such as A's & Giants games, Golden Gate Fields horse racing, Sacramento River Cats, AAA baseball, etc. Information on these events can be found on the state SIR website (http://www.sirinc.org/siractivities/SIR_sports.htm), and flyers are routinely included in our monthly newsletter.

Bocce Ball (*): Dick Donald

We are re-starting our weekly game, and we will once again use the Discovery Bay Country Club facilities.

Beer Tasting: Temporarily on hiatus.

(*) denotes a co-ed and/or couples activity. Details & schedules of individual activities can be found in our Branch 161 monthly newsletter. Contact information for coordinators can be found in the current Branch 161 Handbook.

Membership Requirements & Principles

(revised 2019)

Membership is open to men, regardless of age, race, color, or religion. Member volunteers and staff administer and govern all branch activities. Nominal membership dues help 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. Prospective members must be 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 when we need to hold our meetings on a different Tuesday, so please check the Meetings Calendar elsewhere in this newsletter).

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

Reminders

Annual dues defray the administrative costs of running our organization. For those who have yet to pay their dues, be sure to bring \$20 cash or check (made out to SIR Branch 161) to the next meeting. Or you can mail it to our Treasurer, Jerry Wiebe.

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 email or call Bill Konold by the Friday preceding the meeting if you don't plan to attend.

Bill Konold, bkonold@comcast.net

Tel: 634-2738

Your newsletter team



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View SIR Happenings, the State SIR newsletter: <http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>