



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 28th year! November, 2019

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

Alan Jarvie, Big Sir

As many of you know, Branch 108 in Brentwood has made the decision to disband; They held their final meeting on October 22. We anticipate that approximately fifteen Branch 108 members (including those who have already transferred and have been added to our roster), will transfer to Branch 161. Most of us know at least a few of these Sirs, through bowling and other groups and activities. Please join me in welcoming them all.



Tickets for our December 10 Holiday Lunch will be on sale at our November 12 lunch meeting. Entertaining us will be Bill Ramirez, back by popular demand after rave reviews for his performance at last May's Mothers Day lunch.

We will also continue to collect our 2020 annual dues; both the Holiday Lunch (\$25/person) and the \$20 annual dues are unchanged from previous years. Remember, the \$19 we collect for lunch only covers the cost of your meal; our dues cover all of our other costs, including printing and mailing our newsletter, and lunches for speakers and guests. Your continuing support keeps our Branch running.

Our next meeting is November 12, and I hope to see you all then - but if you can't make it, please remember to call Bill Konold @ 925-634-2738 !!

PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff

Below is the link for the PG&E PSPS look-up tool, "For the most accurate information about potentially impacted PSPS locations":

https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/public-safety-event.page

Christmas Luncheon

Tickets for the Christmas luncheon with the ladies will be on sale at the November 12th luncheon meeting. See the flyer on page 9.

Next meeting: November 12, 2019

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Roy Bristow, Little Sir

October Speaker

Our October speakers were the team of Discovery Bay Resident Deputy Sarah Ballard and Sgt. Daniels, Supervisor of the Discovery Bay area, Contra Costa Sheriff's Department. The officers addressed many topics including the changing responsibilities of the Department and how they work in concert with the California Highway Patrol and other law enforcement entities. The officers afforded our luncheon group an extensive questions and answer session.

Their presentation touched briefly on the subject of "Neighborhood Watch" programs. For information about initiating a neighborhood watch in your neighborhood contact Sheriff Specialist Tony Fontenot at (925) 427-8510. Deputy Sarah Ballard is a member of that team and will attend meetings in your home as well.

It is always a pleasure to meet and talk with those officers who work closely with our Discovery Bay community.



November speakers Sgt. Daniels and Deputy Sarah Ballard each receive a certificate of appreciation from Big Sir Alan Jarvie (left) and Little Sir Roy Bristow (right)

November Speaker

Our November speaker will be Discovery Bay SIR's own Al Sauvador. Many of you have enjoyed Al's programs in the past and this will prove to be one of his proudest presentations. Al's presentation is titled "Why I Love America", with a special tribute to our Veterans in honor of Veteran's Day.

This luncheon celebration will start as you come through the Country Club entrance past an Honor Guard of flags and an "Old Faithful" replica at each table place setting. Flags representing all branches of service, Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, and US Coast Guard, will flank the speaker's podium.

In addition you will experience a very special vocal dedication by Discovery Bay favorite, Bill Ramirez. Bill will honor America & our Veterans by singing our "National Anthem" and "God Bless America".

All this and More !! DO NOT MISS this unique and very special luncheon !!!

Bring a guest. You will be glad you did.

November birthdays

Jack Bree, Rick Crago, Frank Cramer

Frank Graunstadt, Chuck Niessen

Andrew Zwemer

November luncheon menu

Rolls with butter

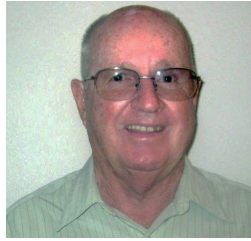
Roast Sirloin with Sauce Bearnaise, Steamed Red Potatoes, Vegetable Medley

Dessert: Cookies / Brownies

Includes Ice Tea & Coffee

Membership, Will Myers

Our October membership saw a slight increase with the addition of 2 new members. They are Arlie Blackshear and Don Sarkozy, transferring from the Brentwood SIR Branch 108. Their photographs are shown below.



Arlie Blackshear and his wife, Lee, moved to Brentwood, CA sixteen years ago from San Diego, CA to be with their children. He retired from the Navy in 1978, and then later from the Navy Training System Center of Orlando, Florida in 2001 as a Systems Electronics engineer. Arlie and Lee, married 58 years, have four children and four grandsons. He enjoys painting in watercolors, traveling, reading, biking and bowling.

Don Sarkozy and his wife Jan have lived in Summer-set II in Brentwood for 20 years, living previously in San Jose for 25 years. He spent 5 years in the USAF, mostly in Germany. Don retired in 1992 from Ford

Aerospace as department manager. He has been a SIR member at the Brentwood Branch 108 for 18 years. Don and Jan have 2 daughters and 1 son, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He enjoys golf, boating, cruising and traveling over the years.

Chris Diaz received a free bottle of wine for bringing in guest Angel Aviles. Richard Barber, a member of Branch 108, was also there as a guest.

Unfortunately we will lose Norm Spencer, a SIR member for over 7 years and our Assistant Song Leader, who will be moving to Boise, Idaho. This brings our October membership to 154.

Remember you still have the month of November to sponsor new members and win an extra free lunch certificate for winning the most members sponsored for the year award.

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.



Arlie Blackshear



Don Sarkozy

Editor's note

Thanks to Bob Damico and Larry Mensch for various photographs featured in this issue.

Golf News, Larry Mensch

John Fry is Branch 161 Champion Golfer for 2019.

The Championship Tournament, which is the last tournament of the year, was held at the very nice Paradise Valley Golf Course in Fairfield, CA. The group that played voted to include it in next year's courses we play.



John Fry scored an impressive net 66 and was the low net winner overall and the B flight net winner. He outscored Bill Konold's net 67 by only one stroke. Bill won first place net in the A flight and Roy Bristow won first place gross in the A flight. Other winners in the A flight were Chris Diaz, and Todd Ramsdell, Lowell Onstad, and Larry Mensch.

Mike Quier was the B flight gross winner, followed by Mike Carmichael and Johnny Welton. In the B group, John Fry's low net score of 66 was followed by John Douglas and Warren Emerson.

Thank you to all who played for making this a good event.



Rough Riders Golf, Bill Konold

Hello from the Rough Riders golf group. We are a group of 65 old guys that play 9 holes of golf at the Brentwood golf course every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am during the winter months and 7:30 am during the summer months. No NCGA number is required. We have our own handicap program and we have "Closest to the Pin" competition. It's a great time. If you are interested in playing with us, please contact Bill Konold at 925-634-2738 or bkonold@comcast.net. Give us a try. You'll have a good time.

Tennis report, Larry Mensch

Tennis weather today (October 14) was great. We had 6 players in our rotation and we played for 1 1/2 hours, followed by coffee at Starbucks.

We usually have 6-8 players who play at 8:00am Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. It is easy tennis, and a lot of fun. Anyone can play. Just show up with a tennis racquet even if you haven't played in 10+ years. You will fit right in.



Please update your contact information

We will shortly be preparing the 2020 edition of our Branch 161 Member Handbook, which includes our membership roster. If you've changed your contact information (physical address, phone number, or email address) since the 2019 Handbook was published, please let Tom Jones know:

email: webmaster@sir161.org

Cell: (209) 298-5006

Thank you.

Dinner With The Ladies Report, Bob Damico

October 22, 2019 was our last "Dinner with the Ladies" for the year.

It was at Cap's Oak Street Bar and Grill in Brentwood. As usual, it was well attended, and the food, service and atmosphere were great.



This year we sat in the outside seating area, which provided a cozy atmosphere on a very pleasant October night in Brentwood.

Once again our Hosts Dennis Pachucki and Karen Capra did an excellent job in coordinating the event. Thank You Dennis and Karen for all your hard work in putting together these monthly dinners for us.



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 (ticketed event).

Note 3: First Tuesday in June.

2020 Branch 161 Meetings Calendar

01/21/2020 (note 1)	07/14/2020
02/11/2020	08/11/2020
03/10/2020	09/1/2020 (note 4)
04/14/2020	10/13/2020
05/12/2020 (note 2)	11/10/2020
06/2/2020 (note 3)	12/8/2020 (note 2)

Note 1: Third Tuesday in January.

Note 2: Lunch with the ladies (ticketed event).

Note 3: First Tuesday in June.

Note 4: First Tuesday in September

Bowling News, Paul Elmer

After completing 7 weeks of bowling in this winter season of the 14 team Monday SIR Bowling League, Bowling Buddies



(Lorraine Burt, Mary Pita-Fry, Mary Branscum, Fred Critchfield), who won this league last season, seem to be on a mission to repeat it this year. They are in first place at this time by 4 games over 3 other teams who would dearly like to challenge them and may in fact do this. We have 27 weeks left in this current season and anything can and will happen.

Lane conditions appear to be quite consistent as bowling averages are a little high this year. Mitch Wisinski has high average for the men with 207 as well as high scratch series with 687. Mike Carmichael has high scratch game with 254, John Fry has high handicap series with 687, and John Welton has high handicap game with 265. Rosie Elmer and Vicky Reid

are tied for high average for the women with 180. Terry Damico has high scratch series with 576, Vicky Reid has high scratch game of 224, Mary Patterson has high handicap series with 716 (well done!) and Jean Scurlock has high handicap game with 256.

The annual Matteucci Memorial Tournament was held at Harvest Park Lanes on October 15th with 71 bowlers from various SIR Branches attending. This was up a little from last year when we had 66 bowlers. Branch 161 had a few that placed in the cash column. They were John Fry (your Bowling Director) 8th in All Events "A" Division and 3rd in "A" Division Singles, Jerry Marshall 6th in All Events "B" Division, 2nd in Singles "B" Division, and with Fred Critchfield placed 2nd in Doubles "B" Division.

There are only 3 tournaments left for this year. Modesto Oct 31, Nov 1, Concord Nov. 12 - 13, and Danville Dec. 4-5. If you would like to enter these tournaments please see John Fry for entries.

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.



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"

\$UMS in Retirement

\$UMS in Retirement meets next on Wednesday, November 20 at 8 AM at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4. Note this is the 3rd Wednesday due to Thanksgiving - not our usual.

The presenter will be our own Jamshed Gandhi, CPA, updating us on income taxes.

The Legends opens at 7 AM. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Ladies are welcome.

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 on Thursday, November 21st. Larry and Barbara Mensch 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

SIR Bocce Ball will take a hiatus when daylight savings time ends, and will return next Spring.

Pickleball - Bob Lyman – 628-7906

Something new - very basic beginner pickleball exposure for both men & women is now being held at 4 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. 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 9 am. Have any questions, check with SIR 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*

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***

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 matters pertaining to tours, trips, or other activities.

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



Tom Jones
*Editor and email
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View SIR Happenings, the State SIR newsletter: <https://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>