

BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 29th year! February, 2020

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

Roy Bristow, Big Sir

The 2020 SIR year is now in full swing and started with our luncheon at The Discovery Bay Country Club January 21st. Thank you to all who attended the event. The food was outstanding and the service was "Spot-On", as



always. Thank you to Jenelle and her Food and Beverage staff.

Food and labor costs grow each year, and as you know, our luncheon rate from the Country Club in 2017, 2018 & 2019 moved to \$19.50. However we were able to keep the cost to our members at a steady \$19. Our new rate has increased to \$20.50. We will raise the luncheon fee just one dollar going forward in February 2020 to a rate of \$20.00. Thank you all for your patience, and we look forward to seeing you at our next Luncheon Meeting on February 11, 2020.

Annual Dues

If you haven't yet paid your 2020 annual dues, bring a check for \$20, payable to SIR Branch 161, (or \$20 cash) to the next luncheon meeting.

Next meeting: February 11, 2020

In Memoriam

We were sad to hear that Tom State Sr passed away peacefully on January 22 at the Bruns Hospice House in Alamo, CA.



Tom was a loyal member of SIR Branch 161 since November of 1995, served as our Big Sir in 2001. Please

keep his wife Joyce, daughter Susan, son Tom Jr, and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Delta Community Presbyterian Church, 1900 Willow Lake Rd. Discovery Bay, on Saturday February 22 at 11:00 a.m. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Sympathy cards may be sent to:

The State Family, 1921 Windward Pt., Discovery Bay, CA 94505

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Did You Know? - Roy Bristow

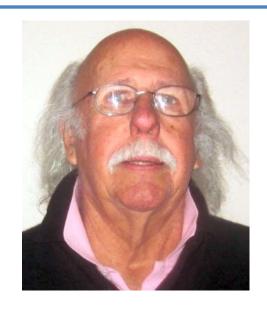


SIR Branch 161 members share some things that folks might not know about them.



Dick LaForge has been a SIR member since May of 2019. He and wife Randi have lived in Discovery Bay for over (9) years. They are members of Discovery Bay Yacht Club as well. Dick grew up in Massachusetts and was an avid Boston sports fan. As a math teacher, then guidance councilor, and vice-principal he enjoyed a career as an educator. Later conducted computer training for HP and Countrywide Financial.

Please join me in reintroducing ourselves to Dick at our next luncheon meeting Feb 11.



Ken Graunstadt joined our SIR group in February. He and his wife Mary Jo are long - time residents of nearby Byron and share interests in travel, tennis, food and wine. Ken's career spans (50) years in Contra Costa County in the Investment Recovery Industry. And did I forget to mention he has a passion for RACING? Please take a moment to get to know know Ken a bit better. Look for him at the February 11th luncheon and many more to come. Welcome again Dick!!

Rick Harris, Little Sir FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Our speaker for this month is Dee Scott, representing Honor Flight.

The Honor Flight Mission is to transport America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honor their service and



sacrifice. Honor Flight Bay Area is one of 132 hubs throughout the country. To date, over 200,000 veterans have been flown to Washington. The Bay Area hub makes 4 trips each year, 2 in the Spring and 2 in the Fall. There is no cost to the veterans, and 27 are transported on each trip. Priority is given to WW2, Korean and terminally ill veterans.

Dee started volunteering for Honor Flight Bay Area in 2017 as a guardian, where she had the privilege of accompanying a Marine on his trip to Washington.

Since then, she has flown on 3 more trips, twice as a flight nurse and most recently as the trip leader. She has been a registered nurse for 41 years, with experience in critical care, emergency room and administration. Dee currently works part time as a hospital nursing supervisor at Kaiser Medical Center in Antioch.

Please join us for this informative presentation. I know you will be inspired by the volunteer efforts to honor our veterans who may otherwise never be able to visit the memorials dedicated to their service. To learn more about Honor Flight, visit HonorFlight-BayArea.org, where applications, as well as photos from prior flights are available.

February birthdays

Frank Alexander, Gene Bianchi, Roy Bristow, John Carmelich, Dave Ciruli, Mike Cullen, Bob Damico, John Emerson, Robert Jacobsen, Stan Krotz, Glenn MacBride, Dane McCoy, Jim Venhaus, Johnny Welton, Keith Willis

JANUARY SPEAKER

Our January speaker was Steve Noble, who spoke about the Scottish Highlands Gathering and Games, an event held annually, running continuously in the Bay Area for 154 years, and for the past 25 years in Pleasanton. Steve showed up in full Scottish regalia, kilt included, and shared information about the event's rich history, culture, games and other activities. This was our first meeting utilizing our new large screen monitor, and Steve was able to show some video material from previous events. Hopefully this was an enjoyable experience for all!



Dee Scott demos the Highland Games on our new TV



Little Sir Rick Harris presents Dee Scott with a certificate of appreciation for his presentation

February luncheon menu

Rolls w/butter

Chicken Marsala, steamed red potatoes, vegetable medley

Cookies and brownies

Includes iced tea and coffee

Membership, Will Myers

January saw another significant increase in membership with the addition of 5 new members and the loss of none. They were John Davelaar and Lee Donnell sponsored by Jerry



Wiebe, and Ashwani Rana sponsored by Al Sauvodon. In addition, Harris Edwards and Fred Critchfield both transferred from the Brentwood Branch 108. Their photos are shown below.

John Davelaar and his wife, Shirley, have lived in Brentwood for the past 17 years. In 1979, they moved from Southern California to Pleasanton where John started a small manufacturing rep firm, Davelaar Sales & Eng. Inc. They have 2 children and 4 grand-children. John enjoys playing the Ukulele as a member of the Delta Strummers Ukulele Band. He currently is building a San Francisco Pelican Sailboat. They enjoy traveling and spending time with their children and grand-children.

Lee Donnell has lived in Discovery Bay since 1994 and in the greater Delta area since the mid 80's. He retired in October 2019 from AC Transit where he was a Maintenance Superintendent, working 35 years with them. He lives with his Fiance'e, Sandy Khashabi, and enjoys golfing, biking, fishing, and is a classic car enthusiast.

Ashwani Rana and his wife, Katie, have lived in Discovery Bay since August, 2018, moving here from Pleasanton, CA. He is originally from India and moved to the U.S.A in 1973. They have 3 daughters, 1 son, and 1 grandson.

Ash retired as a Senior Partner from New York Life and started his own practice of financial planning. He enjoys golfing, fishing, poker, wine tasting and travelling.

Harris Edwards and his wife, Beth, have lived in Summerset I, Brentwood since 2006. They previously lived in Discovery Bay when Harris joined our Sir Branch 161 in 2001. Harris was in Sales with National Abrasives located in San Leandro, CA. They have 3 daughters, 7 grand-children and 8 great grand-children. Harris is legally blind with macular degeneration and can no longer drive, but still bowls and plays golf.

Fred Critchfield and his wife, Ronnie, have lived in the Brentwood Summerset Vista for the past 20 years. They have 6 children between them and 9 grand-children. Fred was a faculty member and administrator at the Foothill Community College in Los Altos, CA for 45 years. He served in the USAF Strategic Air Command as a pilot during the Korean war. Fred enjoys bowling and bocce hall

Alan Jarvie, Carl Carlson, Robbie Robertson, Rich Barber and Mike Tomaselli were awarded a bottle of wine for bringing in their guests Jeff Asbury, Marty Freitas, Luis Figueroa, Mario Mandy and Gil Arthur, respectively.

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.

New members (see page 5 for transfer menbers)



Ashwani Rana



John Davelaar



Lee Donnell

Golf News, Larry Mensch

We are starting our golf season on March 17, 2020 at Manteca Park Golf Course. The cost is \$43. This is a guest day and the only guest



day scheduled for 2020. The format is two best ball of the foursome and you would play with your guest and two others. Send your check made out to Larry Mensch. 4308 Monterey Ct, Discovery Bay, CA 94505.

The second event is a big one. It is the Discovery Bay Invitational on Monday, April 13, 2020 at the Discovery Bay Country Club. It is a 9:00 am shotgun start. Eight other SIR groups have been invited to participate and I have had early sign-ups from some. The application was in the January newsletter so you can see it there. Sign up as soon as you can and let me know.

Our away event will be at the Saddle Creek Golf Course in Copperopolis on May 6-7, 2020. Many people (38) have signed up. Your total payment is due to me by March 1st. The prices may have changed a bit because of new ownership and by now you would have been notified of the changes. Please adjust your payment accordingly. If you are interested in playing and haven't signed up yet, give me a call right away. Make your checks out to me.

2020 SIR Golf Schedule

March 17, 2020 c Manteca 35+8 \$43 9:00am

April 13, 2020 Discovery Bay Invitational (Monday) 9:00am shotgun

May 19, 2020 c Lonetree 38+7 \$45 9:30am

June 16, 2020 c Elkhorn 36+8 \$44 9:00am Shotgun

July 21, 2020 c the Reserve 38+7 \$45 9:30am

August 20, 2020 Woodbridge 45+5 \$50 8:30am (Thursday)

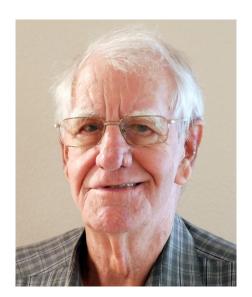
September 15, 2020 Dry Creek 34+8 \$42 9:00am

October 22, 2020 c (Thursday) Paradise Valley 45+5 \$50 10:03am

(Year End Championship Tournament)

November 17, 2020 c Brentwood 35+8 \$43 9:00am

Members who transferred from Branch 108



Harris Edwards



Fred Critchfield

Bowling News, John Fry

The first half of our SIR fall Bowling league season is complete.

First place team is Spare Parts; Edward Fitzpatrick, Frank Cramer, Marie Wilson, and Tony Guarascio.



Second place team is Bowling Buddies; Lorraine Burt, Mary Pitta-Fry, Mary Branscum, and Fred Critchfield.

Third place team is Ball Busters; Dennis Pachucki, Karen Capra, Tony Tell, John Reichenbach.

Season High Scores for the Men are as follows;

Scratch Series; 722 Paul Elmer, 687 Mitch Wisinski, 645 Ron Wilson.

Scratch Game; 279 Tony Guarascio, 256 John Fry, 254 Mike Carmichael Jr.

Handicap Series; 725 Tom Kirtley, 709 Jerry Dittman, 708 Frank Cramer.

Handicap Game; 281 Russ Reid, 274 Fred Critchfield, 269 Curtis Manning.

Season High Scores for the Women are as follows; Scratch Series; 602 Rosie Elmer, 576 Terry Damico, 561 Lorraine Burt.

Scratch Game; 248 Vicky Reid, 209 Mary Pitta-Fry and Marie Wilson, 200 Eloise Gatson.

Handicap Series; 717 Mary Branscum, 701 Videlle Marshall, 647 Dorris Cole and Diane Leonis.

Handicap Game; 256 Linda Jensen, Jean Scurlock and Mary Patterson, 248 Alice Disney, 245 Karen Capra.

The next SIR Bowling Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25 at Clayton Valley Bowl sponsored by the Concord Branch. Be sure to check the SIR State website for a complete calendar of SIR Bowling Tournaments and events, including application forms and Tournament results.

Lastly we always have room for more bowlers no experience necessary.

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 2020 trips are listed below.

Feb 24 - Mar 1, 2020 Hawaiian (2) Islands - Visit Honolulu & Kona

March 29 - April 5, 2020 Princess Cruise Pacific Northwest Coastal Cruise

April 17-27, 2020 Holland River Cruise

May 7-14, 2020 Holland Tulip Festival Tour

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

June 20 - July 5, 2020 Alaska Cruise – Queen Elizabeth

June 26 – July 2, 2020: Spotlight on South Dakota – Fly to Rapid City, SD

June 26 – July 10, 2020: Magical Rhine & Moselle River Cruise

July 11-20, 2020 Canadian Rockies by Train

August 18-31, 2020 Princess Cruise British Isles

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 February wine tasting will be at 5 PM on Thursday, February 27th. Dick and Cam Donald 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

Bocce ball continues informally at 10 AM Tuesday mornings, whenever the weather is favorable. If you would like to play, just show up. We plan to get more organized with our play once Daylight Saving Time starts in March.

Pickleball - Bob Lyman - 628-7906

A very basic beginner pickleball exposure for both men & women is now being done at 3:30 pm Sunday evenings at the Cornel Park pickleball courts. Come down and check it out. If 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 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 - Jerry Wiebe - 916-206-9221

During the winter the SIR Cyclers ride weekly at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings and they invite their spouses and new SIR riders to join them. They usually start from Jerry's home in Discovery Bay for a moderate round-trip to a Brentwood coffee-stop. Some weeks they may travel on other routes or nearby towns' bike trails to enjoy a new riding experience. An email message is sent weekly to inform interested riders 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. Contact Jerry if you are interested in joining the Cyclers.

Tennis - Larry Mensch - (951) 514-1448

The weather at 8:00 am has been a bit cold. 39 degrees one day, but that doesn't keep us from playing. We play Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday in the Town Center at 8:00 am. It's a friendly game, and we rotate players in and out to make up for an odd number of players. Many of us go to Starbucks afterwards, which is as enjoyable as the tennis.

2020 Member Handbook

If you didn't pick up your personal copy of our 2020 Handbook at the January 21st luncheon meeting, you can still pick it up at the February 11th luncheon. Look for your copy (with your name on the front cover) on the table in the lobby of the Discovery Bay Country Club.

2020 Branch 161 Meetings Calendar	
01/21/2020 (3rd Tuesday)	07/14/2020
02/11/2020	08/11/2020
03/10/2020	09/1/2020 (1st Tuesday)
04/14/2020	10/13/2020
05/12/2020 (Mothers Day)	11/10/2020
06/2/2020 (1st Tuesday)	12/8/2020 (Christmas)

Dinner with the Ladies, Dennis Pachucki

When: February 25, 2020

Where: Sports Bar & Steakhouse, 2477 Discovery Bay Blvd, Discovery Bay

Time: Arrival & Cocktails starting at 5:00 pm

Dinner served at 6:00 pm

Menu Choices: Salad, dessert & non-alcoholic beverage (soft-drink, water, coffee) are in-

cluded.

Entrees:

- Traditional slow-roasted Prime Rib (8 OZ)
- Orange Bourbon Glazed Salmon (8 oz)
- Braised boneless Short Ribs (1/2 order)
- Mushroom Risotto

All entrees except the Mushroom Risotto include mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Cost: \$29.00 per person (includes tax and tip)

Deadline: We need your RSVP no later than Friday, February 21 – there will be envelopes at our General Meeting on February 11.

Please send your checks to me in advance. Please make your checks out to Dennis Pachucki and send to 2125 Sand Point Road Discovery Bay CA 94505 phone 408-309-5206.

Name(s):	Phone:
Prime Rib	Rare Med Med Well Rare

Awards presented by Big Sir Roy Bristow



Bob Damico—for many years of service



Alan Jarvie receives his Big Sir badge

Branch 161 Activities and Events

Bowling (*): John Fry

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: Larry Mensch

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 (*): Larry Mensch

We also have a Branch 161 Away Golf Tournament each year. It is a men's and couples, tournament held last year at the Saddle Creek Golf Resort in Copperopolis, as it is again this year, May 6th and May 7th, 2020.

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 (*): Larry Mensch

Tennis is a new activity that was added in 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 ...

SIR Branch 161 News February 2020 Visit our web site: www.sir161.org

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 23, 2020, 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.

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

(*) 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.

SIR Branch 161 News February 2020 Visit our web site: www.sir161.org

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 Paul Elmer by the Friday preceding the meeting if you don't plan to attend.

Paul Elmer: prelmer@comcast.net

Tel: 462-9160

Your newsletter team



Tom Jones *Editor and email distribution*

Visit our web site: www.sir161.org



Dennis Pachucki
Paper copies
and USPS mailing

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