



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 29th year! April, 2020

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the Lives of Our Members Through Fun Activities and Events—While Making Friends For Life

Roy Bristow, Big Sir

In light of the Corona Virus and the many issues it brings with it, our SIR Branch found itself in a state of flux.

On March 17, 2020 we received a very specific directive from SIR Inc., the Parent Corporation. And I quote, *"All Sir luncheons and activities are to be postponed until further notice"*.



Please know that your Branch 161 SIR Activities Chairmen are constantly evaluating and reevaluating our opportunities and options for upcoming events and activities. You will find updates in this newsletter and we will do our best to keep you informed. Also, I plan to forward BEC Board updates to you each Monday via our website. Feel free to contact me if you wish: roybristow1@gmail.com.

I know the COVID-19 virus is paramount on all of our minds right now. We are all doing our part to keep our friends and loved ones safe during this difficult time.

Remember, SIR is a social organization where we look forward to making new friendships and strengthening existing ones. I suggest to you all, take this "shelter-in-place" time period, and make it an opportunity to call a fellow Sir. Text, email, or telephone them. Let them know that you miss them. Give each other some much needed encouragement. Let them know that this hardship will pass and we can all get back to our luncheons and many great SIR activities. Your friends will feel better having received your call and you will be the better for it too.

Branch 161 news and updates

At these difficult times, check our web site frequently for news and announcements:

<http://www.sir161.org>

In addition to the web site **Home** page, check out the **Branch 161 Links** on the right of the page.

Next Branch 161 meeting: Stay tuned

In this issue

- Big Sir message
- Little Sir report; Sunshine message
- Did You Know? Golf news
- Membership update
- Bowling news; Dinner With The Ladies
- SIR Travel
- Activities; 2020 Meetings calendar
- Branch 161 Activities & Events summary
- Policy and responsibility clauses

Rick Harris, Little Sir

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 virus there will be no luncheon meeting in April, and we must also cancel the Mother's Day luncheon in May. When I canceled, Elvis told me that he'd been expecting the call. Stay tuned beyond that, because we don't really know how long our routines will be disrupted by this crisis.



During this difficult time, please stay safe and follow the directives from government agencies!

MARCH SPEAKER

Our March speaker was Chief Brian Helmick from the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, accompanied by Susana Williams, the Community Engagement Field Coordinator. Chief Helmick presented an update on the status of fire and emergency services in our area, and answered numerous questions from the group.



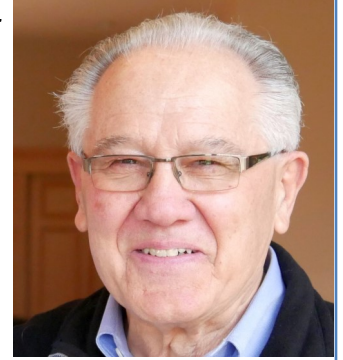
Little Sir Rick Harris presents Chief Brian Helmick and Susana Williams with certificates of appreciation.

April birthdays

Tom Biggam, John Douglas, Saul Gold,
David Goplen, Ray Hutchings, Bill Konold,
Ken Landoline, Don Rentzel, Paul Van Emmerik,
Hal Whitlow, Randy Zierau

Sunshine Chairman - Bob Damico

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of our members through fun activities and events - while making friends for life.



This statement is not only the SIR Mission; it appears on our website and in the heading of our newsletter each month. And is most likely often taken for granted or simply forgotten.

Occasionally we get reminders of this from outside the organization; but not so often from within. We (the Branch) recently received a positive reminder from one of our SIR Ladies (Joyce State) who recently lost her husband, Tom - a 24 year member of Branch 161. Joyce and Tom enjoyed SIR Branch 161 so much, that she felt compelled to thank us (our Branch) for how SIR contributed to their many years of happiness during their retirement. Mrs. State's Thank You note to the Branch is transcribed below:

To the Great Men of SIR Branch 161,

Thank you for the honor of having a tree planted in Tom's memory in a U.S. National Forest, and for all the cards, phone calls and support you have given our family. And also for the many years of fun the group provided: great trips planned by the Matteucci's, Bowling, Bocce ball, Ladies night out, and the help this last year in getting Tom to his cherished Poker games.

Many Thanks and love,

Joyce State and Family

Joyce's testimonial of what SIR meant to them is more than likely shared by many of us and our spouses. Think about it: What would your retirement be like without SIR?

Did You Know? - Roy Bristow

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



Brad Vinson and his wife, Sandy, live in Discovery Bay. They share a love for travel with friends and spend time in Mexico at least once annually. He and Sandy are very active with the SIR "Dinner with the Ladies" group. Sandy's career spanned 17 years with Livermore Labs and now she enjoys raising roses. Brad served our country as a part of our Navy armed forces and spent 2 tours in Vietnam. Thank you for your service, Brad. He continues to be active with the Brentwood American Legion Post and is a member of the 'Legion Riders', a well known local motor cycle group participating in parades and funeral escorts.

Did you know that Brad is one of our SIR golf cart operators? Yes, he is one of our luncheon chauffeurs who makes your trip from the parking lot to the club house a pleasant one. Next time you see Brad, give him a special thanks. After all, he has been shuttling for over 3 years.



John Reichenbach and his wife Maryann, live in Brentwood and enjoy bowling together and participate in short trips sponsored by the Brentwood Senior Center. John meets the Wednesday Rough riders for golf at Summerset, Monday SIR bowling, and still finds time for Bocce on Friday. He joined us as a transfer from the Brentwood Branch 108 over 3 years ago and is glad he made the move. A Viet Nam Veteran, he served our country for 8 years. Thank you for your service, John. Still very active in the Brentwood American Legion Post, you can find him and MaryAnn as part of parades and funeral escorts with the ever popular 'Legion Riders'.

Did you know that John is part of a two SIR cast of Luncheon Chauffeurs that shuttle you from parking lot to the club house each month. Just another way to make your SIR luncheon experience a comfortable one. Thank you for the ride my friend.

Golf News, Larry Mensch

Our golf at Manteca and at Discovery Bay has been cancelled due to the ban placed on us by State SIR and the shelter in place mandate by the State of California government. I will try to re-schedule this to some time in the future.

On May 6-7 we are scheduled for our away event at Copperopolis. A lot of people have signed up for this event and it might also have to be cancelled. I have

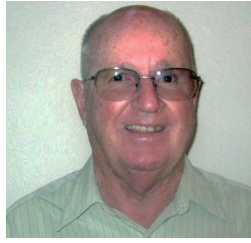


been given a little more leeway as to when we have to cancel and not lose my \$500 deposit. We just don't know yet how long the shelter in place order will be in effect. I will let you know by the second week in April.

On May 19th we are scheduled to play at Lonetree. I hope we can at least get this one in. Send me an email if you intend to play, but don't send me the \$45 entry fee yet. I don't want any more fees paid until I know we will be playing.

Membership, Will Myers

March saw a slight, but positive, increase in our membership with the addition of 2 new members. They were: Milton Piver, sponsored by Dennis Pachucki, and Leon Thompson who transferred from the former Brentwood SIR Branch 108. Their photos are shown below.



Milton (Milt) Piver and his wife, Marly, lived in Discovery Bay from 1989 to 2003 before moving to Hawaii. In 2019, they moved back to Discovery Bay to be with their family. They have 4 children, 9 grand-children and 1 great-grandchild. Milt retired from Waste Management as a heavy equipment mechanic, but has had various experience as an architectural draftsman, labor relations union officer, yacht sales and management, and real estate sales. He has raced Corvettes at Solo I and II events, as well as drag racing and TSD rallies all over the western USA. He also served as President of the Northern California Corvette Association for 3 years and as President and Regional Governor of the Western States Corvette Council for 7 years. Milt enjoys travel, motorsports, boating and his dogs.

Leon (Lee) Thompson, and his wife, Lillian, live in Brentwood Summerset I. They have 2 sons in Law Enforcement and one daughter living in Newport Beach, CA. Lee retired in 2006 as Operations Manager for Yellow Freight Lines. He enjoys golfing, bocce ball, wine tasting, card games (poker and pinochle), gambling casinos and short travel trips.

Members John Davelaar, Luis Figueroa, Russ Reid and Frank Cramer were awarded a free bottle of wine for bringing in guests Larry Versaw, Curt Snow, Mitch Sine, and Mike McMahon, respectively, to our March meeting.

Glen MacBride, a SIR member of our Branch for almost 19 years, passed away. His loss brings our SIR March membership to 171.

The Sons In Retirement organization began in 1958 and at one time had as many as 179 Branches. Currently 68 Branches cease to exist due to an insufficient numbers of members. Of the existing 111 Branches, 56 have less than 100 members, while 10 have less than 50 members.

Only 13 Branches have more members than we currently have, so keep up the great job of recruiting new members. The State SIR officials have been tracking the continual decline in SIR membership for many years and have concluded that the current generation of retired men are not joiners, as noted by the decline in membership in other men organizations. In 1990, there were as many as 32,000 SIR members and presently we are down to 12,795. One of my tasks as Membership Chairman is to prepare a Form 27-Monthly Branch Membership Report for the State SIR officials. This report provides, along with other information, our monthly increase and loss of Branch members, the number of members and guests attending each meeting, and our Branch member median age. The median age of our Branch members is now slightly over 78 years, and it has continued to increase in spite of efforts to recruit younger members. Our Branch membership is presently doing well, but with everyone getting older, it is imperative that new member recruitment efforts continue to counter the normal 10% annual membership loss due to health issues and relocations. Remember we have our annual award to the member who sponsors the most new members and there still is plenty of time for you to get involved this year.



Milton Piver (left) and sponsor Dennis Pachucki



Leon Thompson

Bowling News, John Fry

Due to the current shelter in place order issued by the Contra Costa Health Services our Bowling Center (Harvest Park Bowl) is closed until April 8, 2020.



All SIR Bowling activities have been cancelled or rescheduled until after April 8, 2020. This includes the Monday SIR and Ladies League.

The Carson City Tournament scheduled for April 13 thru 16 at the Gold Dust West Casino has been Cancelled.

The SIR Annual State Bowling Tournament in Modesto at McHenry Bowl, scheduled for May 13 & 14, has been rescheduled to November 5 & 6, 2020.

The complete SIR Bowling Tournament schedule is online at the State SIR website.

Dinner with the Ladies, Dennis Pachucki

There will be no Dinner With The Ladies in April.

We'll resume the dinners when COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.



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.

Due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, check with the respective trip organizer.

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

As most of you are aware, all activities have been postponed for at least a month because of the shelter-in-place ruling. The plan now is to wait until the ban is lifted, at which time notices will be sent out via email notifying participants for each activity on resumption plans. Meanwhile, stay healthy!



Tennis - Larry Mensch

The weather and the shelter in place order has slowed the tennis down. Hopefully we will get back to our Monday, Wednesday and Saturday schedule in the near future. 8:00 am at the Community Center. Drop in when this all clears up.

SIR Cyclers - Jerry Wiebe - 916-206-9221

Currently on hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Wine Tasting while responsibly practicing social distancing



Larry and Barbara Mensch

John and Connie Douglas

March award



Big SIR Roy Bristow presents a 25-year award to Dave Goodwin (right)

2020 Branch 161 Meetings Calendar

Luncheon meetings will resume when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted

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 - CANCELLED	10/13/2020
05/12/2020 - CANCELLED	11/10/2020
06/2/2020 (1st Tuesday)	12/8/2020 (Christmas)

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 ...

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 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.

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