



# SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 29th year! July, 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

I am happy to report that some of the SIR Sponsored Activities have resumed, with some restrictions and COVID-19 guidelines applicable, of course. So be sure to contact your activity coordinator for details and updates. Please enjoy the reports outlined in this month's newsletter.



And please review the weekly message from your Big Sir on our website. It is just one way we are trying to stay in communication with our valued members.

The business of SIR continues to move forward. Your Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meets on a regular monthly basis to conduct business as usual but without a luncheon following. These 'meetings' are accomplished via Zoom video conferencing. Our next BEC meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2020.

We continue to look to our SIR future and encourage you to embrace the opportunity to participate in its management going forward.

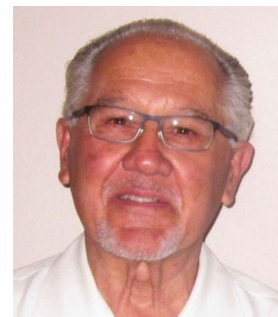
Our Nominating Committee, is Chaired by Vince Vargas, 2011 Big Sir (925) 516-5915, joined by Dick Donald, 2006 Big Sir (925) 513-2849, and Micheal White, 2016 Big Sir (925) 634-0415.

Please contact a member of this committee to find out how you can help strengthen this great SIR organization of ours.

Stay safe and healthy,  
Roy Bristow, Your Big Sir

## 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. In recent years the event has started with lunch at the Boardwalk Grill in Discovery Bay, followed by (for those interested) boat cruises through the Bays.

Unfortunately this year's luncheon and boat cruise, scheduled for Thursday July 23, 2020, is CANCELLED due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting social distancing/dining restrictions. We look forward to resuming this activity in July 2021.

**Next Branch 161 luncheon meeting: TBA**

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- Little Sir report; Activities; SIR Cyclers
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## Little Sir, Rick Harris

### Upcoming Luncheons:

As you know, some steps have been taken to loosen the COVID-19 restrictions, with more businesses being allowed to open, etc. Your SIR branch has re-instituted a couple of outdoor activities that can be safely done (bicycling, golf).

At the same time, if you're paying attention you've seen that the number of cases is increasing more significantly than before, and while there are many theories about the reasons, it's safe to assume that we are still not close to gathering 120+ seniors together for lunch. I know we all miss that, but the health of our members is of the utmost concern. Stay tuned, and hopeful some day not too far away we can see each other again!

In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy!



## SIR Cyclers - Jerry Wiebe - 916-206-9221

Good news to all our Branch 161 SIR Cyclers – bicycling is among the first branch activities to get back on our scheduled weekly ride and is up and running again! Several members have already wasted no time in joining our weekly rides in June.



There are but a few restrictions and they primarily relate to social distancing. In order for us to maintain our rides, we must ensure we follow the Contra Costa County's COVID-19 criteria for this outdoor sport. We all understand that everyone has their own view and comfort level with the situation, but SIR Riders will adhere to current Contra Costa County health orders. We remain committed to being socially responsible.

- Riders must not attend if they feel ill in any way - everyone should err on the side of caution.
- Riders must practice 'social distancing' at all times. This means 20 feet between bicycles while riding in line, 6 feet when stopped or off the bikes.
- Riders need to carry a mask in the event circumstances occur where you must be close to others (accident, helping with bike repair, going into a public space, etc.).
- Groups greater than 12 riders will be broken up into multiple groups (this usually happens naturally by speed or route).
- All riders ride at their own risk and must determine if they feel comfortable with group riding under the current conditions.

We will continue to meet during the summer months at 8:00am on Thursday at my address on 2071 Windward Point in Discovery Bay. We are looking forward to having you join us on our morning rides and exercise some of those lazy bones many of us have acquired during our weeks of being confined.

### July birthdays

Harlan Averitt, Bob Bradley, Murray Cole,  
Tom Denning, Jerry Dittman, Dick Jamison,  
Tom Jones, Tom Kirtley, Richard LaForge,  
Lowell Onstad, Gino Pagano, Dan Riordan,  
Paul Schmidt, Michael Tomaselli

## Activities, Dick Donald

As most of you are aware, all activities have been postponed indefinitely because of the shelter-in-place ruling. In particular, this affects wine tasting and the Monday poker game. 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!



## Golf News, Larry Mensch

We had two golf tournaments in June. The first one was at Elkhorn Golf Club in Stockton and the second was at Lone Tree Golf Course in Antioch. The results are below.



Our next golf tournament is July 21st at The Reserve at Spanos Park in Stockton on Eight Mile Road. Players will off from different teeing grounds depending upon their handicap. This will depend somewhat on the number of sign ups, but probably 0-14 from the Combo (blue/white), 15-28 from the Middle (white) and 29-54 from the Forward (green) teeing grounds. Essentially the "A" player will play from the Combo (blue/white) tees, the "B & C" placers will play from the Middle (white) and the "D" player will from the Forward (green) tees. The Format will be two best ball of the foursome. And a minimal token award for first and second low gross and low net in each tee group. \$5 skins game again that Mike Quier will run.

The cost is \$45. Send check made out to Larry Mensch, 4308 Monterey Ct, Discovery Bay, CA 94505.

The first tournament was played at Elkhorn Golf Course in Stockton.

The 1st place team, (which profited 4 strokes from their blind draw) had a score of 122. Congratulations to Dale Welin, Warren Emerson, and Jerry Wiebe. They earned \$15 each.

2nd place team with a group total of 125 is Rick Harris, Craig Wilson, Mike Quier, and Tom Denning and they earned \$12 each. Tom also won closest to the pin on hole #9 at 8 feet, six inches.

Third went to Lee Donnell, Ken Fanucchi, Johnny Welton. They needed 7 stokes from their blind draw to earn \$10 each with a team score of 128.

The Second golf outing was at Lone Tree Golf Course in Antioch.

1st goes to Rick Harris, Richard Lutz and Dennis Pachucki with a score of 129. They picked up 5 stokes from their blind draw to earn \$22 each.

2nd Place goes to Tom Denning, Todd Ramsdell, Jerry Wiebe and Jim Spann with a score of 131. They earned \$13 each.

Winning in a back nine tie breaker against the team of Donnell, Carmichael, and Rentzel, 3rd place goes to Bill Konold, Mike Quier, Randy Zierau, and Warren Emerson with score of 134. Bill and his team win \$9 each.

## Results for the Skins at Lone Tree, Mike Quier

Harris \$9.70; Donnell \$5.80; Konold \$3.82; Denning 11.64; Pachucki \$13.32; Fry \$3.33 Carmichael \$9.99; Quier \$3.33; Zierau \$23.31.

Congratulations to all our winners and thanks for all who participated. There were two holes that were not won in both divisions, and the money will be carried over to our next event.

## Bowling News, John Fry

Here is the latest from Rob Menconi at Harvest Park Bowl:



*"Hello everyone, if you have not heard yet Harvest Park Bowl will be opening July 1st for bowling! With this announcement, we have begun the process of taking reservations for July. We are strongly recommending reservations at this time, to better be able to control the flow of guests, and to best utilize the time we are going to be open. If you wish to make a reservation, feel free to give us a call at 925.516.1221 and press 0 for the front desk. For additional updates and information, feel free to visit our website and Facebook page."*

*"In addition to this, we are also considering running a few Penny Pincher Morning Leagues Monday-Friday. They would be a short season 2-person teamed league (6 weeks), starting the week of July 13th, with start times of 9:30am on Mon, Wed, and Friday, and 10am start on Tues and Thursday. Below is a quick five question survey regarding league."*

*"If you are interested in signing up for any of these leagues, simply reach out to us at leagues@harvestparkbowl.com or give Rob or Sherry a call at 925.516.1221."*

## 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](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.

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(\*) 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](mailto:bkonold@comcast.net)

Tel: (925) 634-2738

### Your newsletter team



**Tom Jones**  
*Editor and email  
distribution*



**Dennis Pachucki**  
*Paper copies  
and USPS mailing*

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