



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 30th year! *September, 2021*

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

Rick Harris, Big Sir

Our second post-lockdown Luncheon Meeting was held August 10, and it more closely resembled the meetings we've enjoyed in the past, including a speaker! We also elected our Branch Executive Committee officers and directors for 2022, as listed in the August newsletter. I would like to congratulate these gentlemen and wish them well for the coming year. Also, all our members owe thanks to the outgoing BEC officers who have dedicated their personal time to support the branch.



Our next Luncheon Meeting is Tuesday, September 14, and you can read more about it in the Little Sir's newsletter article. If you attended meetings in either July or August, we have all we need from you to satisfy the Covid protocol. If you have not yet attended a meeting, please remember that we need proof of vaccination (or a negative test result) and the State SIR-mandated waiver. If you are not going to attend the September meeting, you must notify our Attendance Director, Phil Newlin, by Friday, September 10 (unless you are on leave of absence under Policy 25). For our first two meetings, we've encountered a high number of no-call/no-show situations, and as a part of membership all of us need to understand and comply with the attendance policy described in this (and every) newsletter.

One of the key aspects of keeping our organization healthy is communication. E-mail is the primary means we have to communicate to members, so it is important that it works for all, especially when the Covid situation can change our plans at any time. The

branch newsletter is emailed every month, and this has been the case even during the pandemic. Our board has become aware of several cases where members are not aware of what is going on... upcoming meetings, newsletters, etc, and this is unfortunate. Each of these cases is investigated, and the causes vary, with a primary one being emails redirected into junk folders. Another prominent cause is members changing email addresses and not informing us (Tom Jones). I realize that if you received this newsletter, you are not likely affected, however by spreading awareness maybe everyone can help. Also, as a reminder, current and past newsletters are available for viewing and/or downloading on our branch website www.sir161.org. There are links to a lot of other information as well.

Here's hoping for a successful meeting in September, with fingers crossed that the pandemic doesn't throw us another knuckleball. It's getting old. Isn't it?

Your 2021 Big Sir,

Rick Harris

In this issue

- Big Sir message
- Little Sir report; August awards
- Membership report
- SIR Cyclers; Activities
- Golf news
- Bowling report; Podcast Corner
- SIR COVID waiver form
- Policy and responsibility clauses

Little Sir, Dennis Pachucki

September Lunch Menu:

Chicken Parmesan w/Pasta Alfredo and Vegetable Medley.

Guest Speaker:

Louis Quecada retired San Jose Police officer also was a Public Relations spokesman



for the department. Presently, in charge of security for all the Horse Racing Tracks in the State of California. Presentation should be very interesting.

September Birthdays

Jeffery Asbury, Richard Barber, Ed Fitzpatrick, John Fry, Tony Guarascio, John Jewell, Brad Vinson.

August awards



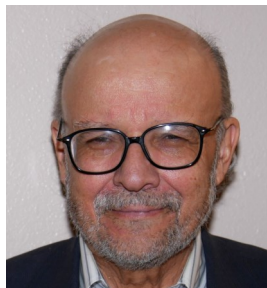
Al Box receives the Super Senior Sir (95 year) award from Big Sir Rick Harris on his 95th birthday. Al has been a member of Branch 161 for 27 years.



Jim Wangeman receives a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation

Membership, Luis Figueroa

In August we inducted two new members, Richard Pontes and Howard Patton. Richard and Howard were sponsored by Phil Talley and Luis Figueroa respectively. Photos of Richard and Howard, along with their sponsors are shown below.



Richard Pontes has lived in Discovery Bay since 1986. He retired 10 years ago from his real estate office, Real World Delta Country, in Byron. He was a golfer for many years but has now quit. He is looking forward to participating in some of our branch activities, and in particular bicycling.

Howard Patton has lived in Discovery Bay since 1988 and is a retired Project Engineer who worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the Nuclear Weapon and Laser Programs and retired in 1995. He was also a Director of International Physics/Engineering Society (AVS).

He has been President of the Discovery Bay HOA and Fire Commissioner Byron/East Contra Costa Fire District.

He also was a Commodore in the Discovery Bay Yacht Club.

He is life long tennis player and for several years owned a 42 foot recreational trawler where he cruised the Delta, Bay and California coasts. He is a U.S Navy veteran and diver.

Some of his hobbies include wood working, writing, travel, early western history (1800-1900), and backpacking.

Howard has 2 daughters who are both doctors four grand children (attorney, writer, archeologist, and technical manager).

We had 3 guests at the August 10th luncheon. Pete Schneider (sponsored by Gino Pagano), Phil Kepp (sponsored by Dan Lippstreu), and Bob Wantuck (sponsored by Luis Figueroa). Each of the sponsors were given a free bottle of wine for bringing in a guest. In addition, two of those guests have already filled out their membership applications and are expected to become members at the September 14th luncheon.

Any branch member who brings in a guest will receive a bottle of wine. If the guest decides to become a member, his sponsor will be rewarded with a free lunch certificate. The member who sponsors the most new members for the year will receive an additional free lunch certificate.

In August we did experience some attrition. Mike Quier has left the branch. Mike had been a member since 2013. Steve Greenfield has left the geographic area. Steve had been a member since 2014. In addition James Wenster has left the branch due to ill health. James had been a member since 2020. Lastly, Lynn Pierce has also left the area. Lynn had been a member since 1998.

The branch membership stands at 153.



Howard Patton and sponsor Luis Figueroa



Richard Pontes and sponsor Phil Talley

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.

SIR Cyclers, Jerry Wiebe (916) 206-9221

SIR Cyclers have individually racked up nearly 1500 miles on their twice-a-week rides since the beginning of 2021. Keeping themselves healthy and in good physical shape is a major goal of their dedication to their endurance but is not the only reason they ride. It's also about just having fun and enjoying each other's company. SIR Cyclers often add more personal rides weekly on their own, enhancing their commitment to bicycling and conditioning.

We have two scheduled rides every week pedaling each Thursday into Brentwood for a coffee stop, and riding Sunday for a longer and more challenging ride on the Marsh Creek Trail through Brentwood, Oakley, and Antioch. Occasionally they take their bicycles into the Livermore Valley where even more numerous bicycling trails are located.

All levels of bicycling experience are welcome, including those that may prefer to ride on electric bikes. The Cyclers are all well suited to help others brush up on their riding skills if one hasn't been riding for a while. You've heard it said, "That it's as easy as riding a bike!"

We assemble and leave from Jerry's driveway at 2071 Windward Point at 8:30am. Several new members have joined us, and we would really enjoy seeing more of you. If you would like to join in on the fun, contact Jerry with any questions you may have, then get that bicycle you have hanging on the wall of your garage down, dust it off and come along for some healthy exercise and camaraderie.



Activities, Alan Jarvie (408) 219 8240

As announced at our August 10 meeting, the recent shift in COVID protocols has caused us to put our Wine Tasting program back on hiatus – our usual 24-person groups in close quarters, and the impracticality of wearing masks while tasting wine and sharing food, dictates caution. We fully expect to resume our monthly tastings in January (on the 4th Thursday of each month with Randy & Lynda Zierau scheduled to host on February 24, and Dick & Cam Donald hosting on April 28. Volunteers for the other monthly hostings will be gladly accepted !!



On the plus side, our Monday-night poker group continues. This is a weekly, low-stakes, 7-player game, hosted by the players on a rotating basis. We use a rotating schedule with everyone playing ~4 times every 5-6 weeks, this arrangement works best with a pool of at least 10-12, so there's definitely room to add several more players. Let me know if you'd like to join in.

Also, the survey we took earlier this year showed a strong interest in adding "Day Trips" to local points of interest (e.g. wineries, baseball games, SF theater, etc). Getting this going will take a little work; please let me know any suggested specific destinations.

Golf News, Larry Mensch

We have a tournament at Brentwood on August 17th. The cost is \$50 with optional skins and low gross/low net for an additional \$5 each. The format will be 2 best net balls of the foursome.



There are than 2 tournaments remaining for this year. We will play at Rancho Solano in Fairfield on September 7th and Paradise Valley on October 19th. The format at Rancho Solano will be two best net balls of the foursome. The cost is \$60 each at Rancho Solano with optional skins and low gross/low net for an additional \$5 each. Notify Larry Mensch if you wish to play along with your entry fees.

The tournament at Paradise Valley is our Year End Championship to determine our Branch 161 Champion. It is an individual low net tournament. Any SIR can play and win prize money, but to be eligible for the Championship, you need to be a member of Branch 161 and have played in at least two of our events. The cost is \$60 at Paradise Valley with optional skins and low gross/low net for an additional \$5 each.

Our Discovery Bay Branch 161 golf team played against SIR Branch 8 in Scramble Match Play. We had 16 players, 8 teams, representing Discovery Bay against 16 players from Branch 8. This was our first such type of event and we won 3 matches and lost 4 and tied one. - 3,4,1. Overall Branch 8 won 41 holes and Discovery Bay won 31. It was a good event and I would see a rematch in our future.



Bowling news, John Fry

Attention SIR Bowlers, The Winter league is starting on Monday September 13 at 10:00 AM.

We always have room for new bowlers, no experience necessary.

If you haven't bowled in our league before and are interested in joining the league please let me know. (John Fry 925 783 5614).

If you bowled in last winter's league some of the teams are not full so there may need to be some shuffling to make sure teams are balanced. If you have questions call me.

Harvest Park Bowl is now under new ownership and there have been some changes.

Masks are Required in the Bowling center.

Operating hours now start at 10:00 AM instead of 9:00 AM.

Payment must be made by cash or check, no credit cards accepted.

The cost of league bowling will remain the same.



Podcast Corner, Phil Newlin

Fellow Sirs, welcome back to this month's edition of Podcast Corner. I hope that you enjoyed and improved your knowledge with the podcasts suggested in the previous two newsletters. Below is this month's suggested podcast for you and I've included last month's suggestion, in case you missed it.

If you have an interest in learning about and understanding the world around you, some of its history, about human nature, and other areas of general interest, this Podcast Corner may be of interest to you. Each month, I'll suggest one or more educational/informational podcast episodes that I have discovered or have been member-recommended. I'll give a brief description and a website link for each episode.

If you have a recommended podcast episode or subject category, such as hot rods, golf, or healthcare, that you believe would be of interest to the members, please send it to me for research, or review and inclusion in one of the next newsletters. Send your suggestions to newlinp@sbcglobal.net.

If you are not familiar with podcasts, go to the inaugural edition in the July 2021 newsletter, where you'll find information about podcasts and how to get started.

This month's recommended podcast again comes from 99% Invisible from their Technology category describing the science of snake venom antidote and where it comes from. Hint: horses are involved. Listen, learn, and enjoy.

Episode 437, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/science-vs-snakes/>

Previous (August) recommended podcast:

Episode 413, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/ubiquitous-icons-highways-101/>

I hope you enjoy this Podcast Corner and these podcasts and share them with others. I'm looking forward to your recommendations.



**SIR EVENT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF
LIABILITY FOR EXPOSURE TO COVID-19**

Branch Name: Discovery Bay

Branch Number: 161

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the general unavailability of insurance to cover liability related to that matter, the SIR branch listed above ("Branch") is requiring members, visiting SIR members from other branches, guest speakers, guests, and spouses/significant others attending events sponsored by the Branch or by Sons in Retirement, Incorporated ("State Sir") to agree to the following:

1. In attending activities sponsored by the Branch or State SIR, the undersigned agrees to comply with mask, social distancing, and other Covid-19 protocols required by applicable government bodies, the Branch, State SIR, and the applicable venue. Failure to do so will result in the attendee being asked to leave the event.
2. Regardless of adherence to mandated protocols, requirements, recommendations, and vaccinations, the undersigned acknowledges that there is a risk of Covid-19 exposure whenever an individual enters a public space, a building with other people, or a group of other individuals.
3. Knowing the foregoing risk, the undersigned assumes the risk of Covid-19 exposure and accepts sole responsibility for any exposure to Covid-19 and resulting health conditions that may occur due to attendance at a Branch or State SIR event.
4. The undersigned hereby releases and holds harmless the Branch, State SIR, and their respective officers, directors, and members from any and all responsibility for illness, death, or other losses arising from exposure to Covid-19 at a Branch or State SIR event.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAS READ AND UNDERSTANDS THE ABOVE WAIVER AND RELEASE, UNDERSTANDS THE RISKS POSED BY COVID-19, AND SIGNS THE WAIVER AND RELEASE VOLUNTARILY.

Attendee's Name (print): _____

Attendee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Once you sign this document, it is valid for all future Branch and or State activities.

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 mail a check for \$20 (made out to SIR Branch 161) 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 Phil Newlin 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/>