



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 30th year! *December, 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

As they say, time flies when you're having fun. As our branch welcomes its new officers for 2022, this will be my final newsletter article as Big Sir. The upside for you is that it's the last one you will have to read!



Reflecting on my time in the role, I'd say my term was unlike any before, and hopefully any in the future! When I began last January we were in the midst of the pandemic, uncertain when any activities could resume. So the job, together with the Branch Executive Committee, was to hold things together until the situation improved.

As much as SIR likes its rules, policies and procedures, the manual didn't cover what to do in a pandemic. From the State SIR level, there was a lot of work done to manage through the situation and provide guidance to the branches. Your BEC continued to meet every month, efforts were made to stay connected with members, some outdoor activities were conducted, and finally we were able to resume luncheon meetings in July.

As you know, even that presented challenges, but to my knowledge we were the first branch in our region to do so and we continue to progress toward normal.

My view of a successful term is to hand over a healthy branch to the next Big Sir, and not leave a mess to clean up! I'd like to thank my fellow BEC members for their support throughout the year, and all the contributions they have made to help me avoid leaving a mess for Dennis Pachucki. I would also like to thank all the members for your patience and cooperation as

we navigated through the ever-changing circumstances 2021 dealt to us.

One last thing. As the outgoing Big Sir, I have some news to deliver that for some may not be received favorably. Every year, we have to arrange a contract with the country club for our lunches. As you know, for several years we've charged our members \$20 for lunch, even though the cost to us has exceeded that amount for some time now. For 2022, the club has increased the price by an amount that will force us to increase the cost to members.

As you know, if you visit restaurants or the supermarket, food costs are spiraling upward, and the country club is no exception. Therefore, we will have to increase our cost to \$24 beginning in January. Aside from the fact the cost goes up, there is a side effect... \$20 was a nice round number, for the most part allowing us to process people through check-in without making change. With this increase, it will help the process significantly for people to pay either by check (made out to SIR Branch 161 in advance), or with exact change. We will look at ways to make this as seamless as possible.

I wish all of you and your families a joyous holiday season!

Your 2021 Big Sir,

Rick Harris

In this issue

- Big Sir message
- Christmas Luncheon; Membership report
- 2022 Branch 161 Handbook
- SIR Cyclers; Activities; Awards
- Golf news; Podcast Corner
- Bowling report
- Policy and responsibility clauses

Christmas SIR Luncheon with the Ladies

Merry Christmas to all you Sirs, significant others, widows and guests. This year's Christmas luncheon I hope makes up somewhat for missing last year, and I hope you will enjoy our event.



Lunch: Chicken & Mushroom Crepes ala Reine, Wild Rice, Sauteed Fresh Vegetable Medley, Rolls & Butter. Coffee & Tea

Dessert: Cheesecake with Fresh Berries, Whipped Cream & Fresh Mint Garnish

Entertainment: We will have the Liberty High Choir singing Christmas carols as a background during our social hour and upon entry.

Bill Ramirez and friends will be playing music and singing for your listening and dancing enjoyment.

Dennis Pachucki

December Birthdays

Colin Brodie, Sid Cruser, Dick Donald,
Ronald Fritz, Gary Hess, Dan Lippstreu,
Gerald Marshall, Howard Patton, Dennis Platania,
John Reichenbach, Lee Thompson.

Membership, Luis Figueroa

In November we inducted four new members - Al Goodspeed, Dave Rardin, Rob Ryan, and Harold Sagert. They were sponsored by Don Rentzel, Harlin Averitt, Phil Talley, and John Fry respectively. Photos and brief bios of the new members along with their sponsors are shown on page 3. Al Goodspeed was born and raised in Central Florida and graduated from high school there. He later attended Brevard Community College. For 7 years he was in the U.S. Army, including 1 Vietnam tour. His career spanned several sales jobs in food oriented companies and he owned a pizza store. Three years ago he moved from the Atlanta area to Discovery Bay after his wife, Johnnie, had retired from a school administration career in order to be closer to their daughter and grandkids. Al and wife, Johnnie, have been married since 1970.



David Rardin has lived in Discovery Bay for 30 years. He moved from Pleasanton in 1991. He retired in 2015 as a contractor with the Lawrence Livermore National Lab where he was a management consultant in the Laser and Photon Science Directorate working on the National Ignition Facility. David and his wife, Cyndi, have a daughter and son, along with five grandchildren. He enjoys playing golf and traveling. He is looking forward to being an active SIR member. Rob Ryan has lived in Discovery Bay for 4.5 years and

was a fireman for 28 years. He retired in 2013. Rob has 2 adult kids and one 3 year old granddaughter. He currently lives with his awesome girlfriend. His biggest hobby is playing Pickle ball and he hopes to get some more players through the SIR organization.

Harold Sagert was born in Detroit, Michigan. He is a widower and has no children. He served two years in the Army Signal Corps. He worked 10 years as an electronic technician and later received a BS degree in electrical engineering. He later moved to Silicon Valley where he worked for 30 years as a manufacturing test engineer in control and telecom systems. He retired in 1999 and moved to Brentwood with his former wife. Harold enjoys bowling and playing Bocce. He is a regular church attendee and has been involved in the building of Lutheran churches in Brentwood and San Jose.

At the November luncheon we had two guests (sponsored by Dave Ciruli). All members are reminded when a guest is brought in the sponsor will receive a free bottle of wine. If the guest decides to become a member, the sponsor will also be awarded a free lunch certificate. The member who sponsors the most new members for the year will receive an additional free lunch certificate. If a guest wants to become a member of our branch please direct him to our website (<https://sir161.org>) so they can download the latest application form.

Continued on page 3 ...

Membership continued from page 2

Once the application is filled out there are 4 ways to proceed: Mail the application to me (my address is provided on the top of application form); Scan the application and attach a PDF copy to an email addressed to me; Attach a PDF copy and text it to me (949-400-4815); Have your sponsor bring the completed application to a luncheon event. Please try to have the prospective new member completely fill out the application, sign it, and also the sponsor should sign it. Thank you for all your efforts in recruitment during 2021.

If you plan to bring a guest to a luncheon you will need to contact either Phil Newlin (ward28fred-sirs@yahoo.com) or Luis Figueroa (figueroa50@yahoo.com) so we can plan for the additional meals and also prepare guest packages.

In November Angel Aviles and Dan Meckfessel have left the branch.

The branch membership stands at 150.

New members inducted in November



Don Rentzel (sponsor) with Al Goodspeed



Rob Ryan with his sponsor, Harlin Averitt



David Rardin with his sponsor, Phil Talley



Harold Sagert with his sponsor, John Fry

2022 SIR Branch 161 Handbook

As in prior years, we plan to publish the annual SIR Branch 161 Handbook around the end of the year. The format will be the same as 2021 - a PDF file emailed to members on our email list, and a hard copy (8.5"x11") sent via US mail to members who don't have email.

SIR Cyclers, Jerry Wiebe (916) 206-9221

SIR Cyclers have changed the Fall and Winter starting time to 9:00 a.m. as the daylight starts getting short and the weather somewhat cooler. They will continue to have their short rides on Thursday and longer rides on Monday, weather permitting.

Every Thursday the Cyclers pedal into Brentwood. This ride includes a coffee stop. Mondays they go for a longer and more challenging ride, often along the Marsh Creek Trail through Brentwood and Oakley. Occasionally they take their bicycles into the Livermore Valley for even more challenging bicycle trails.

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

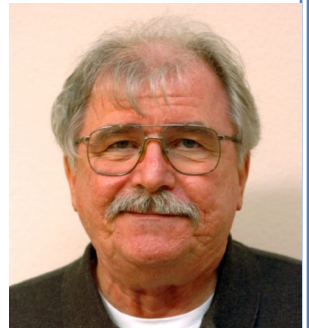
The Cyclers assemble and leave from Jerry's driveway at 2071 Windward Point in Discovery Bay. If you would like to join in the fun, contact Jerry with any questions; then get that bicycle down you have hanging on the wall of your garage, dust it off, and come along for some healthy exercise and camaraderie.



Activities, Alan Jarvie (408) 219 8240

Gary Tucker (925-634-0930, mytoothdoc@comcast.net) is assuming responsibility for our Wine Tasting activity. As expected, conditions are allowing us to resume our monthly tastings in January 2022 and, as before, the tastings will be at 5:00pm on the 4th Thursday of the month. We have hosts lined up through the first four months of the year - Alan and Pam Jarvie on January 27, Randy & Lynda Zierau on February 24, Vince & Bobbi Vargas on March 24, and Dick & Cam Donald on April 28.

Also, we need poker players !! We routinely play with 7 at the table (7 being the optimum number), we have been using a rotating schedule with 9 players with everyone playing 4 times every 5-6 weeks, and also giving us the ability to schedule around players travel plans, family commitments, etc. However, for a variety of reasons, these nine players have dropped to six, so if one of us can't play for any reason, we don't have a game. We'd like to add 4-6 players to the group, and we are open to holding the game some night other than Monday. This is a 3-hour (currently 6:30-9:30) nickel-dime game in a friendly environment, completely suitable for rookies, so if you'd like to join in please let me know: 408-219-8240, akjarvie1@gmail.com



November awards—presented by Little Sir Dennis Pachucki



Murray Cole receives the 30-year award



Al Sauvadon receives a certificate of appreciation

Golf News, Johnny Welton

Participation

Please join us. We will do whatever we can to increase our numbers playing in each of our events. The goal is 32 each event. We need everyone to recruit players (SIR members, guests, etc.) that will sign up for every event. The best way to keep the price down is to have more participants. We had two courses require a minimum number of players to allow us to schedule an event.



It has been reported many times that the primary reason that the many golfers who are members of SIR Branch 161 (many of whom play regularly with the DB Senior Men's Group), do not play in SIR golf events because of the pace of play. No one wants to take more than five hours to play a round of golf. Last year Larry got the group to play in 4.5 hours for almost all events. That is a great pace for 32 golfers. We will also try to get as many "shot gun starts" as possible but most courses want 64 players before they will allow a shot gun start. If you have an idea as to how to increase participation, please share it.

If you are not on and want to be on the SIR 161 Golf Activity distribution email, please send me an email: johnnywelton40@gmail.com

Waivers

To participate in SIR activities you must have a signed "SIR EVENT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR EXPOSURE TO COVID-19" form on file with the Branch Executive Committee. You need to do this only one time. If you have done it before, do not do it again. All guests must sign the waiver before they can participate.

Golf Membership Dues

Basically we do not charge a membership fee except that every participant (unless specifically stated for the event) must have a GHIN number. If you want a

GHIN number though the SIR Branch 161 group, you must pay the fee. First time members cost \$49. Continuing members cost \$39. The fee is due now and late on February 1. If you want to use an existing GHIN number, you must let me know the number and name of the group providing it. If you do not have a GHIN number you will only be allowed to participate in one event (the Discovery Bay Invitational that is TBA). Talk to me if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Payments

As Larry explained at the November SIR luncheon, the bank has required us to follow the federal tax law for banking. Golf will be the first SIR activity to fully comply. Not much will change, however, all payments for golf shall be paid by check and all checks will be made out to "SIR Branch 161." Golf checks should be given to me or mailed to: Johnny Welton, 5751 Prestwick Court, Discovery Bay, CA 94505. Cell: 925-876-5844 Email: johnnywelton40@gmail.com Payments need to be received by the first of the month in which the event is scheduled to allow time for the checks to be deposited and the Branch Treasurer to issue a check to pay the golf course and create cash prizes.

If anyone has an issue with this procedure, please see me. Prizes will continue to be paid in cash. Prize money will not be held or used for payments of future golf fees. If some of you do not want to write a lot of checks, I suggest you pay for more than one event at a time.

Events

The golf calendar is shown on page 7. This year's schedule will include some new courses as requested, as well as many of our favorites. We are looking at some exciting offerings. Some additional events may be added if the opportunity arises. Also being considered are tee prizes, snacks, drinks, box lunch, or a sit down lunch. More on that when each event is advertised.

Continued on page 6 ...

Golf—continued from page 5

We will continue the optional skins game and gross/net prizes by flight. You will sign up for the optional skins game and gross/net at the event with cash (\$5 for each) if you choose to participate. There may be a few events that will have a different approach to the team game (ever heard of a “chip flip”?).

Basically, we want everyone to have a relaxing, good time! Contact me if you have questions or suggestions.

Have a good one!

Johnny

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 previous 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 our 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 Architecture category describing how you could get a house by mail! Maybe your parents or grandparents ordered one of these. Listen, learn, and enjoy. Episode 323, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/the-house-that-came-in-the-mail/>

Our previous month's recommended podcast: Episode 462, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/i-cant-believe-its-pink-margarine/>

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

SIR Branch 161 2022 Golf Schedule

Tuesday, March 15	Manteca Park, Manteca
Tuesday, April 19	Swenson Park, Stockton
Tuesday, May 17	Lone Tree, Antioch
Tuesday, June 21	Elkhorn, Stockton
Tuesday, July 19	The Reserve, Stockton
Tuesday, August 16	Las Positas, Livermore
Tuesday, September 20	Rio Vista
Tuesday, October 4	SIR Individual Championship at Diablo Creek, Concord

Bowling news, John Fry

The Monday Sirs and Ladies Bowling league is now in the tenth week of league play. We bowl every Monday at Harvest Park Bowl starting at 10:00 AM.

First place is Team 8, Jack Disney, Alice Disney, Val Heck, and Frank Smith.

Second place is Team 5, Karen Capra, Dennis Pachucki, Marry Ann Reichenbach, and John Reichenbach.

Third place is Team 1, Ron Wilson, Frank Cramer, Mary Patterson, and Mitch Wisinski.

Season high Scores are:

Men's Scratch Series, 670 Mitch Wisinski, 660 Ron Wilson, 648 Paul Elmer.

Men's Scratch game, 280 Bob Damico, 256 Tony Guarascio, 232 Michael Carmichael.

Men's Handicap Series, 804 Dennis Pachucki, 796 Jerry Dittman, 795 Ken Fanucchi.

Men's Handicap Game, 309 Harold Sagert, 298 Todd Ramsdell, 292 Tom Kirtley.

Women's Scratch Series, 653 Rosie Elmer, 602 Natalie Paris, 533 Linda Fletcher.

Women's Scratch Game, 243 Vickey Reid, 214 Terry Damico, 188 Diane Leonis.

Women's Handicap Series, 807 Tamie Fanucchi, 793 Marie Wilson, 748 Mary Patterson.

Women's handicap Game, 295 Alice Disney, 290 Val Heck, 269 Karen Capra.

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)

John Fry



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. Dues will be \$25 starting 2022.

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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Your newsletter team



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*Editor and email
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*Paper copies
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View SIR Happenings, the State SIR newsletter: <https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>