



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 31st year! *January 2022*

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

Dennis Pachucki, Big Sir

First of all I'd like to start off by wishing all a happy and safe New Year and hope all had a Merry Christmas. Speaking of Christmas, for those who could not attend our Christmas luncheon, here is a short recap...



Attendees were greeted to Christmas Carols sung by the Liberty High School Choir Carolers during social hour. There were 145 Sirs and their ladies that listened and some danced to our guest performer Bill Ramirez. Also, Past Big Sir Roy Bristow added to the event by crooning several Christmas songs. But there was more, for those who stayed to the end were treated to unrehearsed Natalie Paris and Bill performing a duet. All performers did a great job and were appreciated by all attending.

Next, I'd like to thank Rick Harris our now past Big Sir for keeping our Branch together during this pandemic and getting us started in the direction of our new normalcy. Thanks Rick for all your hard work and guidance over the past year and trust we are committed and will continue forward as set by your leadership example.

Good News; it's anticipated that we are resuming Dinner With The Ladies beginning in January. There may be some snags, changes, or repeat appearances at the restaurants until their staffs are fully functional again.

More info in our activity section.

Bad News, but unavoidable; Our Branch 161 monthly lunches will be increased to \$24.00, and need to be paid by check if at all possible so as to decrease wait time in line. Yearly dues increased to \$25.00.

I'm looking forward to the opportunity of being your Big Sir in 2022 and in leading our Branch in the New Year.

Bringing back once again SIR Branch 161 Dinner With The Ladies. This social event will normally be held the last Tuesday of the month at various restaurants through the year. We typically have 40 to 60 or more delighted attendees at the dinners. Hope you can attend. See page 5 for January information.

Dennis Pachucki

Next luncheon meeting

Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

Note that this is the **3rd Tuesday** in January.

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Little Sir, Ken Landoline

Happy New Year to all my fellow Sirs! This is my first newsletter as your new Little Sir, and I am happy to move up to this position following two years as your Branch



161 Secretary. I am looking forward to a more normal year than we experienced in 2021 as we hopefully progress over the “COVID hump” and we continue on a regular SIR meeting schedule.

For those of you I have yet to meet, let me give you a quick intro. I am a native of New Jersey, where I was born and educated (Rutgers College & Seton Hall University), and met my wife Marian, a retired Dublin school teacher. I retired this past July after 51 years in the telecommunications industry where I worked in a variety of management positions in marketing, product management, and strategic planning with ITT and AT&T before moving to San Jose to accept a position with Fujitsu America as Director of Marketing for large business telephone systems. I spent the last half of my career, beginning in 1990, as a telecom industry analyst and consultant focused on customer engagement technologies, and retired in 2021 as a principal analyst at OMDIA, a London-based high-tech consultancy. Marian and I moved to Discovery Bay in 2004 from San Ramon, where we lived for our first 17 years in California, to join our two daughters, their husbands, and our three grandchildren who were already living in Discovery Bay.

A major part of my role as your Little Sir will be developing an interesting and relevant luncheon speaker program aimed at providing insights into these changing times, the local business environment, and the geographical area in which we live. I have tentatively arranged a set of speakers for the first quarter of 2021 which will include an overview of our East Bay real estate market trends before and after COVID and through 2022, a presentation by the East Bay Historical Society focusing on how our surrounding area

was developed, and a discussion with the newly-appointed Discovery Bay Town Manager to better understand her plans regarding where Discovery Bay is headed into the future. Of course, if you have any special areas of interest you might want to have explored at our luncheon meetings, please feel free to let me know and I will pursue those topics in future months.

Please remember that our January SIR luncheon will be on the third Tuesday of the month, January 18th, instead of the usual second Tuesday. The menu for that day will include Chicken Scaloppini, wild rice pilaf, broccoli with cheese, and dessert. I look forward to seeing you there.

January Birthdays

Alberto Delgado, Paul Elmer, Len Fadda,
Martin Freitas, David Harrison, John Lopp,
Kenneth Marsh, Jerry Nielsen, Matias Pardo,
Russ Reid, Donald Shegich, Frank Smith,
Eric Swalwell, Jerry Wiebe

Golf News, Johnny Welton

December doesn't seem like it should be a busy month for golf. However, your golf committee has met, NCGA dues have been collected, and the 2022 season is ready for play. There was one adjustment to the October date at Diablo Creek that you will want to put on your calendar. Be sure to put all the dates on your 2022 calendar and plan accordingly. We need everyone to join in the fun!



Last year a core group of 26 players gave us 17-20 players per event (without counting Discovery Bay GCC). It didn't matter how far the distance we drove or how high the price of the event. Most important factor to how much you won last year was how many times you played. The more you played, the more you won. There was a good distribution of prize money among almost everyone that played. A realistic goal for participation is a minimum of 24 players for each and every event. All of us need to encourage everyone we know to play. There are 48 on our email list now. If you know of a name that should be added, please let me know.

Twenty-three players depend on the SIR Branch 161 Golf Club for their membership to NCGA (GHIN number). All have been registered for 2022. There is lots of room to add new members. You must have a GHIN number to play in 2022.

The emphasis will be on fun. Have you ever Flipped A Chip, Putted With A Rope, Putted To A Rope, or used the Best Ball On The Green? Two events include a box lunch. Two events have a tee prize. We are adding back a closest to the pin prize.

Come on now. Plan to join us now. Don't miss out on the fun!

Have a good one!

Johnny

2022 Handbook

The 2022 issue of our SIR Branch 161 annual Handbook will be published in the next couple of weeks. Check your email or USPS mail box.

The Handbook contains calendars of our monthly luncheons, various activities, your Branch Executive Committee, Activities Chairmen, and the Branch 161 Roster.

From the 2021 Christmas Luncheon

Photos by Bob Damico



Liberty High School Choir Carolers

Sang Christmas Carols as we arrived and throughout our social hour prior to lunch



Entertainer Bill Ramirez

Sang Christmas songs and more



Outgoing 2021 Big Sir Rick Harris
and First Lady Jennifer

Christmas luncheon (continued)



Dennis Pachucki and Karen



Dancing to the music of Bill Ramirez

Dinner with the Ladies Dennis Pachucki

When: January 25, 2022

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

Time: Arrival & Cocktails starting at 5:00 pm Drinks to be ordered by your server. Dinner served at 6:00 pm

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

Entrees: - Traditional slow-roasted Prime Rib (6 oz)

- Orange Bourbon Glazed Salmon (8 oz)

- Braised boneless Short Ribs (1/2 order)

All entrees include mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Cost: \$40.00 per person (includes tax and tip)

Deadline: We need your RSVP no later than Friday, January 20 – there will be envelopes at our General Meeting on January 11. Please send your checks to me in advance.

Please make your checks out to Dennis Pachucki and mail to

2125 Sand Point Road, Discovery Bay, CA 94505.

Cell phone 408-309-5206

----- Detach and mail with your check -----

Your Name(s) _____ Phone: _____

Circle Your Menu choice(s) and write 1 or 2 next to your choice:

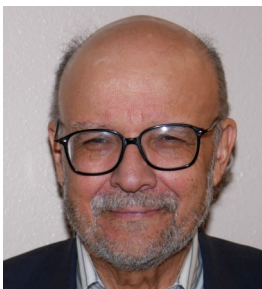
Prime Rib _____

Orange Bourbon Glazed Salmon _____

Short Ribs _____

Membership, Luis Figueroa

In 2021 our Branch recruited 14 new members and lost 34. The net loss of 20 members was disappointing, but perhaps given the unusual environment due to the ongoing COVID pandemic and the vaccine mandates enacted, it was perhaps not unexpected.



With the median branch member age increasing from 78.4 years to 79.4 years, we can expect to see a continual increase in the number of members that drop. Thus, it is important to continue bringing guests for luncheons and exposing them to the wide range of activities available to them if they join our branch.

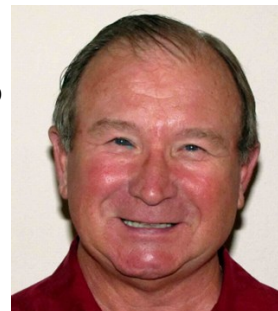
One bright spot is that our monthly luncheons after the COVID restart have generally drawn over 60% participation rate. However, we need to do better in 2022, and hopefully exceed 70% rates!

Last year two of our branch members tied for the highest number of new recruits. Both Phil Talley (sponsored Richard Pontes and David Rardin) and Bill Konold (sponsored Dennis O'Connell, and Johnny Sutton) sponsored two new members. We are in appreciation to all members who sponsor guests at the monthly luncheons. The guests are the primary source of candidates in our recruitment efforts.

Please refer to the Membership section on our branch web site at www.sir161.org to better understand the new member process, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Prospective members have the option to become inducted at their first luncheon meeting if they have already filled out their application, or wait until after attending the first luncheon. The Branch will continue to give a free bottle of wine to any member who brings in a guest to our luncheons, and a free lunch certificate to the member who sponsors a new member. An additional lunch certificate will be awarded to the member who recruits the most the new members for the year.

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.

Bowling news, John Fry



The Monday Sirs and Ladies Bowling league is now in week 14 of a 35 week league.

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 2, Jerry Dittman, Tamie Fanucchi, Ken Fanucchi, and Mike Carmichael.

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

Season high Scores are:

Men's Scratch Series, 719 Mitch Wisinski, 660 Ron Wilson, 598 Frank Smith.

Men's Scratch game, 280 Bob Damico, 258 Paul Elmer, 245 Todd Ramsdell.

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

Men's Handicap Game, 312 Tony Guarascio, 309 Harold Sagert, 292 Tom Kirtley and Mike Carmichael.

Women's Scratch Series, 653 Rosie Elmer, 618 Marie Wilson, 557 Terry Damico.

Women's Scratch Game, 243 Vicky Reid, 237 Natalie Paris, 202 Linda Fletcher.

Women's Handicap Series, 807 Tamie Fanucchi, 777 Val Heck, 748 Mary Patterson.

Women's handicap Game, 295 Alice Disney, 291 Maddie Beckwedithdel, 271 Diane Leonis.

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)

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 and last month's suggestion.

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 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 History category describing major league sports logos, Olympic gold medals in the Arts, and a penguin pool. Listen, learn, and enjoy.

This month: Episode 471, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/mini-stories-volume-12/>

Last month: Episode 323, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/the-house-that-came-in-the-mail/>

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 \$25 (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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