



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 31st year! *February 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

Greetings, instead of wishing all just a happy New Year I wish all a happy Omicron-free New Year. Good news, we are going to have a February lunch meeting, but wearing your masks when not at your table unless eating and drinking is a necessity. I believe a variant of the virus may be with us for a long time so we should not hide from it but deal with it; This remark has been mentioned by many of our fellow Sirs. Remember, we all have had our 3 vaccines mandated by the state SIR in order to attend our meetings, so catching the virus would be at a very low risk from fellow Sirs; The risk is probably greater from the younger non-SIR contacts.



If you feel you need to take the test to verify you are virus free before attending then please do so. Additionally please call Phil Newlin and state you will not be attending because of your concern of being exposed or have tested positive. Once again we will have our February meeting as planned; Let's all be conscientious about our community obligations toward safe health. Hopefully, California will be past the Omicron surge, so we'll all feel a little more at ease.

At this meeting we will acknowledge John Lopp and Fred Critchfield for reaching Senior Sir status (age 90).

We will also make an announcement for those who have not paid their last year's membership dues (\$20), that they will be notified of being dropped from SIR if not paid. Also, non-payment of past missed lunches, if they never notified the attendance chairman regarding their absence, will be discussed. Sorry to see you go, but it's a matter of being compliant with our SIR Branch 161 financial obligations. Louis Figueroa will briefly explain in more detail at the meeting.

February Dinner with the Ladies is scheduled this month; See details in this newsletter.

Our Little Sir has a great speaker for you this month regarding our economy and real estate.

I am looking forward to the continuation of our monthly meetings and activities.

Dennis Pachucki Big Sir.

Next luncheon meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

In this issue

- Big Sir message
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- Bowling report
- Policy and responsibility clauses

Little Sir, Ken Landoline

Well, once again COVID has delayed our jump into our regular in-person luncheon schedule. However, we are hopeful that the peaking of the Omicron spread will enable our luncheon meetings to become a reality in February.



The cancellation of our January luncheon caused me to reshuffle the speaker schedule for the first quarter, but thanks to the cooperation of the planned speakers we are still able to cover the topics I had originally planned. Assuming a February beginning to live luncheons, the topics will include our county's rapidly evolving realty marketplace, an introduction to the East Contra Costa County Historical Society, and a discussion with the new Discovery Bay Town Manager.

Kicking off our speaker events at the February 8th luncheon will be Brian Sharp who writes a weekly piece on real estate in the Brentwood and Discovery Bay Press newspapers. I look forward to seeing you all there.

February Luncheon Menu

Chicken Marsala, steamed red potatoes, vegetable medley, dinner roll and dessert.

February Birthdays

Frank Alexander, Richard Allen, Ralph Arthur,
Gene Bianchi, Roy Bristow , John Carmelich,
Dave Ciruli, Mike Cullen, Bob Damico,
John Emerson, Robert Jacobsen, Dane McCoy,
Jim Venhaus, Johnny Welton, Keith Willis

Thoughts and prayers

We are sad to report the passing of our fellow Sir Dick Childress.



Dick passed away in October from an existing heart condition, at his Palm Desert Home. He was a 36-year resident of Discovery Bay, and a member of our Branch since September 2017.

Please keep Dick, his wife Vernie and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sunshine Note

The Sunshine Chairman needs your help.

He needs and depends on inputs from the membership to be effective.

If/when you know of the passing of a fellow Sir, a Sir spouse or family member, a Sir that is seriously ill or has recently had surgery, please notify Bob Damico (email deltacruz@comcast.net, or call 925-872-4920), so he can send an appropriate greeting card from Branch 161.

Golf News, Johnny Welton

NCGA/GHIN NEWS

A big "Thank You!" to everyone for responding to my late plea for help getting GHIN numbers and NCGA memberships submitted on time. We have 28 SIR Branch 161 Golf Club memberships and GHIN numbers for every player that will join us this year.

Please post all your scores, even for nine holes. It takes 10 postings to actually generate a handicap. Your handicap is based on the twenty most recent postings. If you need help or have questions, please give me a call or email.



EVENTS

Thank you for the "heads up" and good eye for those of you that noticed October 6 is not a Tuesday. The correct information is: Thursday, October 6, SIR Individual Championship at Diablo Creek, Concord. The revised calendar is included.

Please do all you can to encourage participation in our golf events. 24 is our goal for each event. We all just want to have a good time!

Next month instructions will be posted and we will begin taking registrations for all golf events. March 15 in Manteca will be here quickly.

COLD WEATHER PLAY

I am sure most of you have continued to play some golf during the cold weather. Here are a few things to think about:

Warm up slowly before taking that first big hit (Move, Stretch, and Swing).

Don't have high expectations in cold weather (the ball doesn't fly as far and the body doesn't perform the same as in warmer weather).

Winter rules allow you to clean and place your ball.

Dress in layers and don't get chilled.

Spend some extra time checking your gear.

Staying home, when you don't feel up to it, is not a bad thing.

Playing nine still gets you out there and counts!

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

Have a good one!

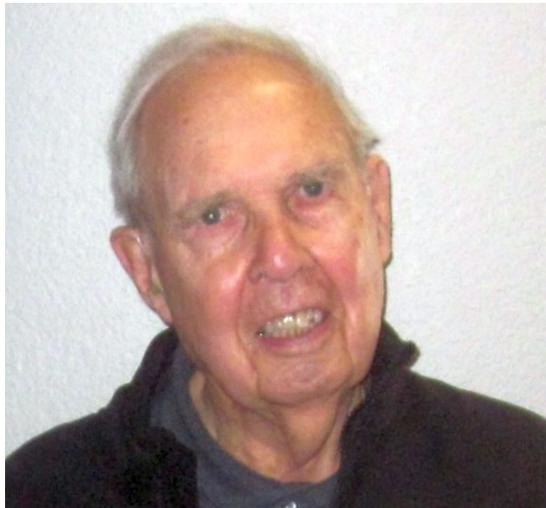
Johnny

SIR Branch 161 2022 GOLF SCHEDULE - revised

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, Rio Vista
Thursday, October 6	SIR Individual Championship at Diablo Creek, Concord

Senior Sirs

Fred Critchfield and John Lopp were both honored with the SIR State Presidential Senior Sir award in January. The Senior Sir status is bestowed on Sirs who have achieved the 90 year milestone of life. Fred reached his Senior Sir Status on October 11, 2021. John reached his Milestone on January 9, 2022. Congratulations Fred and John!!



Fred Critchfield



John Lopp

We now have four members who are Senior Sirs: Frank Cramer, Jack Disney, Fred Critchfield and John Lopp. AL Box is our one and only Super Senior Sir (95)!

All of these Gentlemen are long-time SIR members and are an inspiration to us all.

Podcast Corner by Phil Newlin

Fellow Sirs, 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 last month's suggestion.

If you have a recommended podcast episode or subject category that you believe would be of interest to our members, please send it to me for research, or review: 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 Tour de France and architectural history, whether Benjamin Franklin invented Daylight Savings Time, and how the firehouse pole came about. Listen, learn, and enjoy.

Episode 473, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/mini-stories-volume-14/>

Last month's recommendation: Episode 471, <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/mini-stories-volume-12/>

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.

Covid tests - Order your COVID-19 self-test now

Advice provided to Kaiser Permanente members, but applicable to us all ...

Testing, including rapid antigen home tests, is an important tool in slowing the spread of COVID-19. While self-tests are in extremely short supply throughout the world right now, here are some options for getting one.

- The federal government is now offering free rapid antigen tests by mail. Residential households in the U.S. can order one set of 4 free at-home tests, without shipping fees, on covidtests.gov.

- Rapid antigen home tests may also be available at your local drugstore or online retailer.

In addition to testing, vaccination and boosters provide the best protection against severe illness from COVID-19. Please wear a mask in public settings, keep your distance from others, wash your hands often, and stay home when sick.

Dinner with the Ladies Dennis Pachucki

When: February 22, 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, February 18 – there will be envelopes at our General Meeting on February 8. 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

As the branch gets ready to re-start luncheons in February I want to remind members to help recruit guests that might be interested in the many activities offered. As you know guests are the life blood for the new member recruitment process and it's imperative that all current members give it their highest priority. If you have any questions about the application and membership process, feel free to contact me at figueroa50@yahoo.com and don't forget to let Phil Newlin, the Attendance Chairman, know if you plan to bring a guest to the luncheon. Members are rewarded with a free bottle of wine for each luncheon guest they bring, and a free meal certificate, if the guest becomes a member.



As we kick off the New Year I want to provide members the SIR attendance policies as governed by Policy 25 (see below). Contact me if you have any questions.

POLICY 25: MEMBER ATTENDANCE

A member shall be required to attend one-half of the regular Branch monthly luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period, unless the Branch BEC has approved different attendance requirements. (See Bylaw 18).

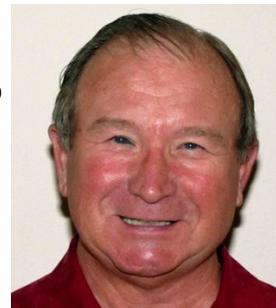
A Branch may grant attendance relief to a member who is unable to attend luncheon meetings due to prolonged illness, acting as a care giver to a family member or an extended absence from the Branch locale. A member who is granted attendance relief is still a member and subject to Branch Regulations. Should a member miss three consecutive meetings without notifying the Branch, the Branch should contact the member to ascertain the reason and work with the member to remedy the situation.

In January the branch lost 3 members. Earl Cole, a member since 2011 and who had been in ill health, is no longer a member. Richard (Dick) Childress, a member since 2017, sadly passed away. Lastly, Gerald Marshall, a SIR member since 1996, chose to drop out of SIR. The branch headcount stands at 147.

Luis

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 19 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 5, Karen Capra, Dennis Pachucki, Mary Ann Rie-ichenbach, and John Reichenbach.

Third place is Team 4, Paul Elmer, Rosie Elmer, Vicky Reid, and Russ Reid.

Season high Scores are,

Men's Scratch Series, 719 Mitch Wisinski, 660 Ron Wilson, 609 John Fry.

Men's Scratch game, 280 Bob Damico, 258 Paul Elmer, 245 Todd Rams-dell.

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, 622 Marie Wilson, 557 Terry Damico.

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

Women's Handicap Series, 807 Tami Fanucchi, 787 Val Heck, 748 Mary Patterson.

Women's handicap Game, 295 Alice Disney, 291 Maddie Beckwedithdel, 275 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).

Twelve Branch 161 Bowlers participated in the SIR Napa Bowling Tournament on January 18, 2022.

Keith Jones Bowled a 210, 299, 203 for a 712 series and first place in Division 1 singles. Way to go Keith.

Ron Wilson deserves a big thank you coordinating all the Bowling entries for the Napa Tournament.

The next SIR Bowling Tournament is in Sacramento at Country Club Lanes on February 17 and 18.

Here is Ron Wilson's input from the Napa Tournament on 1/18/22:

A big thanks to the 12 folks who bowled the Napa Tournament (Rosie and Paul Elmer, John and Maryann Reichenbach, Tom Kirtley, Tony Guarascio, Keith Jones, Natalie Paris, Mitch Wisinski, Gail Smith, Ron and Marie Wilson). I think all had fun even though the lanes were a bit tough. Even with a challenging lane condition Keith Jones wowed the house with a big 299 first game! We were all hoping to see that 300 but on his 12th shot he tugged the ball a bit left for a 9 count. Great bowling Keith!!!

The next SIR Bowling Tournament is at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento on February 17th or 18th. Singles will bowl at 10 am and doubles at 1 pm. NOTE: Marie and myself, Keith and Natalie will be bowling this tournament on Friday (18th). If for some reason you need to bowl on Thursday (17th) that is no problem, although we would like to see all bowl on Friday.

This will be a Singles (3 games) and Doubles (3 games) plus all events payout. The cost is \$49.00 per person. Handicap is 100% of 230 for singles and 100% of 460 for doubles. Prize payout will be on a ratio of at least one prize for each 4 entries. You pick your own doubles partner or I can help place you with someone. Don't wait until the last minute on this issue if you need my help.

If you want to bowl this tournament all you have to do is notify me and I will do all the paperwork for the entry. I will mail them all together with a request that our bowlers be assigned on adjacent lanes.

Along with your notification that you want to bowl I will need your check (\$49.00 per bowler) payable to "SIR Branch 69 Bowling Tournament". There will be a Pizza Buffet offered at \$10.00 each. If you want the Pizza buffet add the \$10.00 each to the \$49.00 entry fee.

If you want to bowl this event I will require your checks (payable as described above) **absolutely no later than February 1st.**

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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Your newsletter team



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