



# SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

**Celebrating our 34th year!** July 2025

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

## Jim Wangeman, Big Sir

I want to say Thank You to Little Sir Steve Bordi and Bob Damico for taking over during my absence and ensuring a smooth transition to our new meeting place! I am still dealing with arthritis in my right hip, which requires me to be bed ridden! I hope to be back soon!



Big Sir Jim Wangeman

## Little Sir, Steve Bordi

Several Sirs in attendance commented that last month's speaker was perhaps the best that we have ever had in the 34 years of our existence as a SIR Branch. It was indeed an honor to have POW Vietnam Veteran, Arv Chauncey, address our June luncheon, our first at the new Trilogy venue.



*Continued on page 2*

## July Birthdays

Bob Bradley, Dick Jamison, Tom Jones,  
Tom Kirtley, Denny O'Connell,  
Lowell Onstad, Jim Taylor.

## July Luncheon Menu

Smorgasbord buffet, mixed hot and cold dishes, dessert (not a cookie or brownie), garlic bread, iced tea and coffee. A more definitive menu - classic Caesar salad, seasonal veggies, creamy Pesto pasta, chicken cacciatore, and short ribs.

Cost: \$33

## July events & activities

*Check the respective articles for more details.*

### Meetings

BEC meeting - July 1  
General meeting & luncheon - July 1

### Activities

#### **Bowling**

- Weekly (Mondays) - Brentwood Bowlero
- July 10 or 11 - Auburn
- July 22 or 23 - Concord

#### **Cycling** (3 weekly rides)

- Mondays & Wednesdays - long ride
- Fridays - short ride

**Golf** - July 15, Dublin Ranch

**Lunch and boat cruise** - Thursday, July 24

**Wine tasting** - July 24, Ciruli home, Discovery Bay

**Little Sir, *continued from page 1***

Arv's story kept the audience's attention for a full hour. His account of being shot down in enemy territory, escaping, nearly being shot to death when captured, spending 6 years in captivity, escaping prison, only to be recaptured, and then suffering severe torture. Thank you Arv for sharing your ordeal with us, and for serving our Country so honorably as a U.S Navy jet pilot.

What a way to start out at our new luncheon venue, and how about the food. I thought it was a big improvement. I had a second helping too, and all for just \$33. The dessert sure outdid the usual brownie that we are so accustomed to.

**July Guest Speaker**

Our July guest speaker comes from Pittsburg, CA. She is Vicki McDaniel, the Orientation and Access Manager for the "Lions Center For The Visually Impaired", serving Alameda , Contra Costa , and Solano Counties. This is a non-profit with 20 employees, and many, many volunteers . The mission of the organization is to preserve vision, foster independence, and enhance the quality of life for adults who are blind, or at risk of vision impairment. They offer services focused on early detection and intervention in order to prevent or slow vision loss for age related eye disease. They are always welcoming volunteers, and actively collecting used eye-glasses from donors.

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 1 at Club Los Meganos in Trilogy, Brentwood.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW VENUE AT TRILOGY



We were honored to  
have retired U.S. Navy Captain  
Arvin R. Chauncey  
as our Guest Speaker.

In 1967, while flying a combat mission  
over North Viet Nam, his A-4  
Skyhawk was hit by enemy fire,  
he was forced to eject and  
was taken prisoner. He was a  
Prisoner of War (POW) from May  
1967 till March of 1973.  
His heartfelt story touched us all.  
We thank him for his service.  
He is a True American Hero.



*Photos and collage courtesy Bob Damico*



## June Awards presented by Bob Damico



Jim Venhaus receives Senior SIR (90-year)  
State Presidential Award.



Hal Whitlow receives Branch 161  
25-year membership award.

### **HEY Sirs—WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

We **need** you to help us find **engaging** guest speakers that **you believe** would be of interest to yourself and to **our members**.  
If you have any suggestions for topics, or know of **an engaging** topic/speaker, please share that with our Little Sir Steve Bordi at a meeting or email **stevekay4010@yahoo.com** . Thank you.

## Membership, Luis Figueroa

At the June luncheon, our first at Trilogy's Club Los Meganos, we had 3 guests and no new inductees.

The guests included: Mike Quier (Dennis Pachuki sponsor); Carmen Martignetti (Dave Ciruli sponsor); Robb Robertson (Luis Figueroa sponsor).

The current branch membership headcount is 121.

Please refer to the Membership section on our branch web site at [www.sir161.org](http://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 completely filled out their application and submitted it, or wait until after attending the first luncheon and later submitting the application. In addition when bringing in guests, please notify Phil Newlin or myself in advance of the meeting in order to allow time for the preparation of a guest package. 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.



## SIR Cyclers, Jerry Wiebe (916) 206-9221

A group of SIR cycling enthusiasts meets weekly to ride in local communities, promoting the physical and mental benefits of regular exercise.

They hold three rides a week, typically on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and welcome riders of all levels, offering support for those looking to rebuild their skills and fitness. Beginners are encouraged to start small and gradually increase their mileage. Participants are advised to consult their doctor before starting.



For details, contact Jerry Wiebe at 916-206-9221 or [papadrone@gmail.com](mailto:papadrone@gmail.com)

Dust off your bike and join the fun!



## Nominations For 2026 B.E.C.

The Nominating Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dave Ciruli, has arrived at the following candidates to serve on our Branch Executive Committee (B.E.C.) for 2026. Attendees at our July General Meeting will vote on these nominations, following nominations from the floor and closing of nominations.

### **BEC Officers**

Big Sir:	Steve Bordi
Little Sir:	Dave Ciruli
Secretary:	Bruce Bohnsack
Assistant Secretary:	Saul Gold
Treasurer:	Skip Zehnder
Assistant Treasurer:	Norm Petersen

### **Directors**

Membership:	Luis Figueroa
Attendance:	Phil Newlin
Audit & Nominating:	Open
Bowling:	Ron Wilson
Golf:	Johnny Welton
Dinner with the Ladies:	Dennis Pachucki
Sunshine :	Bob Damico

### 30th Annual Al DiGiusto Boat Cruise and Luncheon, Bob Damico

We are having our Boat Cruise/Lunch scheduled for Thursday, July 24, 2025 at Marina Bar and Grill in Discovery Bay (outdoor seating). This is our annual Al DiGiusto Boat Cruise and Lunch, started in 1993 by fallen SIR Al DiGiusto, and has continued in his memory since 2005.



Boat rides are optional and will be up to Boat Captains to arrange with their fellow members.

Dining only, without a Boat Ride, continues to be an acceptable and popular choice.

Cost is \$30 per person (includes non-alcoholic drinks, dessert, tax, and tip). We have four menu choices: Chicken Hawaiian Burger, Chicken Caesar Salad, Philly Cheese Sandwich, and Fish & Chips.

Arrive by 11:30 a.m., lunch will be served at noon.

Call Bob Damico at (925) 872-4920 if you have questions.

Use the form below to submit your menu choices. Sign-up deadline is July 18, 2025.

~~~~~ Detach and return this stub with your payment by July 18, 2025 ~~~~~

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Menu choices:

Chicken Hawaiian Burger \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Caesar Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Philly Cheese Sandwich \_\_\_\_\_ Fish & Chips \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this menu form with your check (made out to Bob Damico) to:

Bob Damico  
1621 Gamay Lane  
Brentwood CA, 94513



## Bowling news, Ron Wilson

Our summer league began with a great start on June 9th. We have 40 bowlers on ten teams of four. This is a very good number for our summer league. We welcomed the following seven new bowlers to our league: Ed Fitzpatrick, Dave Vicencio, Johnny Welton, Ron Benge, Lee Thompson, Steve Avelar and Mike Quier. Ed, Mike and Johnny are actually returning bowlers who took a few years break; We welcome them and hope they have enough fun to return for our Winter league in September.



We elected new league officers as follows: President Bill Konold, Vice President Mitch Wisinski, Secretary Treasurer Videlle Marshall and Sargent at Arms Mike Sadler.

We took eight bowlers to the Placerville tournament with two cashers. Danny Roberts cashed in "Handicap All Events" and "Scratch All Events". Marie Wilson cashed in "Singles" and "Handicap All Events".

We are taking thirteen bowlers from our branch to the Dublin tournament on June 24th. This is a great showing in support of the SIR tournament program by our Branch 161 bowlers. I thank each of you for this support!



### Next tournaments:

Auburn at "Foothill Bowl" on your choice of July 10th or 11th.

Concord at "Clayton Valley Bowl" on your choice of July 22nd or 23rd. Reno at the "National Bowling Stadium" on August 11th, 12th and 13th. This is an awesome venue with 30+ foot ceilings and 78 lanes. The event will include "Singles", "Doubles" and "Team" (4 person) plus the usual "All Events" categories and there will be "Brackets". We usually bowl one event per day. However, it is possible to bowl in two days. Marie and I like to go up on Sunday then bowl Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and drive home Wednesday afternoon. There are special room rates at the "Silver Legacy". I reserved a room for a total of \$97.00 per night which includes the infamous

"Resort Fee" and all taxes. See me for the process to obtain this rate. The Silver Legacy is only a one block walk to the "Stadium". There are also large lockers so you do not have to tote your equipment.

**Special Note:** Our own Branch 161 27th annual "Bob Matteucci Memorial" tournament will be held here at our Bowlero home base on Tuesday October 14th. Last year you guys were awesome in supporting this tournament with 26 bowlers in a field of 87 total bowlers. I hope you will again show your support. It will be a "Singles" and Doubles event.

I will be providing the details on the above events via email and flyers at league play.

As always, I will take care of all the paperwork for your entries. All you have to do is pay the entry fee, show up, have fun and maybe win a little cash.

See you on the lanes.

Ron Wilson



## June Wine Tasting, Terry Silva

This month's SIR wine event was held at Serendipity Winery in Brentwood. This was the first time we held the event that was not at a member's house. This was coordinated by Dennis Pachucki. We all had a great time. The Winery owner gave us an informative history of their winery.



### Attendees:

Dave and Jinni Ciruli, Saul and Maureen Gold, Vince and Bobbie Vargas, Bob and Jan Rix, the Quiers, Dennis and Karen Pachucki, Tom and Madonna Leeper, the Sniadecki's, and some guests.

Next month we will be at the Ciruli residence in Discovery Bay. 5pm on Thursday July 24th.





## June 2025 Wine Tasting—More Photos



## Golf News, Johnny Welton



Actually this is a new article for the July newsletter ... it is just that the news seems to be once again much the same! We had 26 players (same as last month) at Elkhorn Golf Course. Again, everyone wants to come back next year. The weather wasn't hot but nicely warm and the course hosted us very well.

Dan Lippstreu for the third month had the lowest gross score (78). Mike Carmichael had the lowest net score (68) and won the most money (\$31). There were 3 first time winners with 18/26 taking home prize money.

First place went to the team of David Vicencio, Phil Kepp, Mike Carmichael, and John Sutton with 121. With a score of 125 second place went to Dan Lippstreu, Ron Bengé, Dennis Pachucki, and Jim Sniadecki. Third place winners were Bill Konold, Rich Martin, Jim Spann and Johnny Welton (BD) (131 after a tie breaker).

Closest to the Pin on hole 2 went to David Vicencio with 7' 7". Hole 13 went to Jeff Berg (11' 4"). Thirteen Skins were awarded. In Flight A Dan Lippstreu and Jim Sniadecki each won 2 and three others won one skin. Flight B saw Mike Carmichael with two skins and four others with one skin.

The change in the survey question about pace of play took place at this event. Seems that with 20/26 reporting Pace of Play came out as 4.6/5.0. And ... the specific play was 4:00 to 4:22 hours. Having a reverse shotgun start really was a faster approach to the whole day!

The next survey will also have an impact on where we play in November. We are scheduled for July 15 and November 18 at Dublin Ranch. The Survey in 2024 indicated 21/22 players that played last year wanted to return in 2025. We have 19 players registered for July 15 with some indication that several people don't want to play a course that has 12 holes that are par 3. So, the survey for this event, usually provided to only those that play the course, will be provided to the entire mailing list of approximately 74 members. Everyone will have a say in whether we keep the date for 2025 in November or change golf courses, and whether we schedule Dublin Ranch in 2026. It is important that everyone who wants to have a say about where we play, return the survey. Those who play will receive it at the event and everyone on the email list will receive it by email.

Now that we know what a great host venue we have at Trilogy for our SIR monthly luncheons, here is another reminder that SIR golfers are offering an organization wide challenge to help sustain and increase membership in the SIR organization. We will try and increase not just golf participation but SIR Branch 161 membership throughout the remainder of 2025 to demonstrate support for SIR. Will you get involved? From April 17 to December 31 there will be a count of new members to SIR Branch 161. The teams are those on the Golf Email list vs the balance of the membership. The prize is a glass of champagne (or soda) at the January 2026 luncheon. Will you accept the challenge? Contact Luis Figueroa, Membership Director (phone: 949-400-4715 or email: [figueroa50@gmail.com](mailto:figueroa50@gmail.com)) if you need forms for new members or help with the task.

The new or returning member will be credited to you/your team when a new member completes the membership application, pays their membership fee, and pays their 2026 membership dues ... before January 1, 2026. The induction ceremony may be held at or before the luncheon in January. The competition is just for fun but the support for your SIR Branch 161 is critical! The campaign is a great way to start the New Year!

Have a good one!

Johnny Welton, Golf Director





## SIR Branch 161 2025 GOLF SCHEDULE

If you want to add someone the SIR 161 Golf distribution email list or have a question, please send an email: [johnnywelton40@gmail.com](mailto:johnnywelton40@gmail.com)

12/19/2024

1. Tuesday, February 25 9:00 SIR 161 Winter Four-Ball Scramble Due: 2/11/25  
Shadow Lakes, Brentwood {Tee Prize: Range Balls}
2. Tuesday, March 18 9:00 Elkhorn, Stockton [32 miles] Due: 3/11/25
3. Tuesday, April 15 9:00 Swenson Park, Stockton [16 miles] Due: 4/8/25
4. Tuesday, May 20 9:30 Manteca Park, Manteca [33 miles] Due: 5/13/25
5. Tuesday, June 17 9:00 Elkhorn, Stockton [32 miles] Due: 6/10/25
6. Tuesday, July 15 9:30 Dublin Ranch, Dublin [30 miles] Due: 7/8/25
7. Thursday, August 21 8:00 Concord SIR: Match Play Diablo Creek, Concord Tee Prize [17 miles] SIR 161 players will receive prizes.  
Shotgun Start hosted by SIR Branch 8 Concord. Limited to 20 players {Tee Prize: Sleeve of Balls} Due: 8/12/25
8. Tuesday, September 16 9:30 Blue Rock Springs, Vallejo [36 miles] Due: 9/9/25
9. Tuesday, October 21 9:30 SIR Individual Championship at The Reserve, Stockton [30 miles] Flier and guidelines to follow. Due: 10/14/25
10. Tuesday, November 18 9:00 SIR 161 Fall Four Ball Shamble, Best Drive {Play your own ball with 70% handicap}  
Dublin Ranch, Dublin [30 miles] Due: 11/11/25

### Mystery Sir



Our June mystery Sir was Steve Bordi.

Can you guess who this month's mystery Sir is? (photo on left).

If you have an 'early' photo of yourself you'd like included, please email to: [sir161@comcast.net](mailto:sir161@comcast.net)

## 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

Luncheon meetings for the remainder of 2025 will be held on the first Tuesday of the month at Club Los Meganos at Trilogy in Brentwood. (There may be 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, Norm Petersen.

**Dress code** for our meetings is business casual. Also jeans, shorts and T shirts allowed. It is suggested that hats be removed while reciting the Pledge Of Allegiance.

**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.

Phil Newlin: ward28fred-sirs@yahoo.com

Tel: (408) 505 5359

### Your newsletter team



**Tom Jones**  
*Editor & email copies  
distribution*



**Bob Damico**  
*Paper copies  
and USPS mailing*

**View The Rooster Crows, the State SIR newsletter: <https://www.sirinc.org/newsletters/>**