



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 35th year! April 2026

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

Our Members come from from Discovery Bay, Brentwood & surrounding Communities

Steve Bordi, Big Sir

Judging by the sudden change in the weather, it appears that Summer has arrived in March this Spring. This is all good for our outdoor activities, and our upcoming Membership Drive.



At the April luncheon we will kick off our drive to increase the Branch 161 membership. Our future depends on what we do today. Time is not on our side, as we have a median member age of 80+. We are slipping in our recruiting, but we can all help to turn this trend around.

The emphasis will be on inviting someone to lunch (a friend, a neighbor, someone who plays Golf or Bowls or wants to participate in any of our many activities). We will supply you with "Sir Introduction Cards" that can be handed out to prospective members. If they are interested and come as a guest to a luncheon, they pay half price for that guest lunch (\$17.50). Keep the Sir Introduction cards in your wallet, car, golf bag, or bowliing bag to hand out to those you feel might be interested. The more cards we put out there, the more we will be noticed .

We want to focus on men under 70 (Baby Boomers), minorities, nearby communities who don't know of us (Mountain House, Knightsen, Oakley, Bethel Island, and Antioch). Getting the word out is key; Who we are, our activities, our...

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April Luncheon Menu

Smorgasbord Buffet - assorted salads, seasonal vegetables, main entrees, roll and butter or garlic bread, coffee and iced tea, and dessert. Cost:

\$35 if paid by cash or check

\$36.50 if paid by credit card

April events & activities

Check the respective articles for more details.

April Meetings

BEC meeting - April 7

General meeting & luncheon - April 7

April Activities

Bowling

- Weekly (Mondays) - Lucky Strike, Brentwood
- April 13-15 - Carson City
- May 12 or 13 - Sacramento

Cycling (3 weekly rides)

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

Golf - April 21 - Swenson Park, Stockton

Dinner with the ladies - April 28 - Smith's Landing, Antioch

Wine tasting - April 23

Visit us on the web:

<https://www.sir161.org>

Big Sir, continued from page 1

monthly luncheons with guest speakers, etc. I plan on writing an article in the local newspaper for publicity. When they find out about our competitive golf, bowling and pickle ball, it may very well pique their interest. Also, the addition of competitive bocce ball will draw interest, along with monthly Dinners with the Ladies, and our two special Luncheons with the Ladies (Mothers Day and Christmas).

We have already had someone volunteer to be the Director for Bocce Ball, if the Board approves the new activity.

We're off to a good start - get the word out - do what you can to help Sir Branch 161 survive, and think about taking a leadership role in 2027.

Big Sir, Steve Bordi.

Little Sir, Dave Ciruli

Happy Spring everyone. The past couple of weeks reminds us of why California is so expensive. I hope this Spring weather continues.



Last month our speaker was Captain Frank Morgan. I know we all enjoyed learning about Camp Gold Star. For those of you who weren't there, Camp Gold Star will be a new resort on the Delta that honors our Veterans. You can go to campgoldstar.com and learn more about it.

We also got more information about the results of our survey. This month we will continue to hear from Mike Park about the future direction of our Sir Branch and how we can make it grow.

Our speaker this month will be Sean McCauley. Sean is a major force behind the revitalization of the downtown districts of Antioch and Brentwood. He will tell us about his view of the future of these areas.

April Birthdays: Don Blotzer, Chris Diaz, Bill Dowden, Saul Gold, Bill Konold, Ken Landoline, Richard Martin, Isao Nishuima, Mike Park, Paul Van Emmerik, and Randy Zierau.

See you on April 7th at Club Los Meganos, and we can all enjoy a wonderful meal together.

Little Sir, Dave Ciruli

A welcome surprise March sighting

We were pleasantly surprised to see Jim Wangeman at our March luncheon meeting. Past Big Sir Jim had been unable to attend our meetings for some time due to an ongoing illness.



Membership, Luis Figueroa

At the March luncheon we had no guests or new members inducted.

Our current membership statistics are trending downward and the Branch BEC is in the process of exploring actions to address the challenges. More will be addressed at the April lunch.



The fix isn't complicated; We need to stop "recruiting" and start inviting friends to lunch. Make every guest feel welcome the moment they walk in.

With a median age above eighty, time is not on our side. Every month without new faces accelerates the decline. But on the upside every lunch is also an opportunity - a room full of good food, good company, and good conversation that simply needs more people to experience it first hand. Every member is an integral element in making this happen.

The current headcount is 118.

Thank you for your continued recruitment efforts and bringing guests to our luncheons.

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

New Membership Drive to start in April, Mike Park

Our Branch thrives when new members join the table. This month we're launching a friendly membership drive. The idea is simple: invite someone you'd enjoy having lunch with. Think about friends, neighbors, former colleagues, or family members who might appreciate good company, a great lunch, lively conversation, and a few laughs. If you know a man who could benefit from the camaraderie, activities, and fellowship that SIR offers, consider inviting him to an upcoming luncheon at Club Los Meganos at Trilogy.



Our monthly lunch meetings feature a discounted lunch, an engaging guest speaker, and the chance to connect with a welcoming group of guys who enjoy everything from golf and bowling to simply catching up over a good meal. It's an easy, no-obligation way for a guest to see what SIR is all about.

Start thinking now about who you might invite. Even one invitation from you could make a real difference for our Branch - and might just make someone's week a lot more engaging.

Golf News, Johnny Welton

It was a beautiful day and not too hot! The course was in very good condition and a good challenge. Thirty players enjoyed the best of Elkhorn Golf Course in Stockton. Jim Sniadecki had his best day with us as he led his team and the whole field. Also enjoying a personal great day were Mike Kaufman and Tony Rubino.



Jim Sniadecki positioned himself for his great day with a gross 85 score – the lowest of the day. Chris Diaz came in second in Flight A after a three-hole tiebreaker with Tom Denning (87). Also, in Flight A Rich Maniz had a net score of 76 for First Place and Erv Rivers was Second with 78. In Flight B it was Mike Kaufman's 88 for lowest gross score and Johnny Welton was second with 87. Tony Rubino had the lowest net score on the day with 71. Isao Nishijima was second (74).

Joining Jim in first place were Bill Konold, Tony Rubino, and Sol Robin with a team score of 133. Second place at 137 was John Emerson, Ken Fanucchi, Mike Kaufman, and Bob Rodrique. Third place went to Bill Dowden, John Jewell, Rick Maniz, and Isao Nishijima scoring 141.

Closest to the pin prize on hole 2 went to Jim Sniadecki (10' 2") and on hole 13 Phil Kepp (10' 5").

In the Skins Contest the guys with the great scores kept popping up: Mike Kaufman (4), Tony Rubino (3), and Jim Sniadecki (2).

We continue to work on pace of play and a lot of information is being read. Golf in the bigger sense is becoming more scientific than athletic. Whether equipment, technique, or psychological, everything has been measured and analyzed! So it is for pace of play. "Golfers identify pace of play as the No. 1 thorn in their side detracting from their enjoyment of the game" (Lucis Riccio Ph.D. Golf Journal Spring 2025 "Keeping Pace" by Jim Gorant). If the first group of the day plays only one minute per hole slower each hole it can mean 36 to 50 minutes extra or more for the last group. Many of the "speed up" tips they discuss and more are included in our SIR 161 "Golf Guidelines."

Most of us know how to speed up and play ready golf. We encountered something different at Elkhorn. The first two groups, with only three players, were done in about four hours. The next three groups were 4.0 to 5.0 hours. It doesn't seem like slow play for a foursome. The last three groups finished just short of six hours. What happened? The later groups started hitting before their assigned tee times and they lost the gap between teams. When there was a ball to hunt, or an extra shot, or extra time needed to line up a birdie putt – the time was lost to "catch up" when they started early. That is what the 10-minute tee time increments become. A buffer between teams. If holes were always completed in 10 minutes, there would be no waiting. But it is not just putting out – you must tee off in ten minutes to keep pace. As unrealistic as it is, it does happen but often it takes a little longer to play a hole. However, if you are on the first hole and you tee off early, you will lose the buffer and continue to press the team in front of you, which means you will wait ... the same amount of time that you were early ... plus the time that is added by each team ahead of you ... plus the time that you add. So, be advised that keeping your tee time may shorten your playing time. Do your own scientific study: Simply write down the time you start and the time you finish. Try different strategies and see which one pays off in real time savings and maybe we will be reading your article in The Golf Journal.

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Golf, contuned from page 5

Our next event is Tuesday, April 21 with tee times at 9:30 at Swenson Park in Stockton – another great course. We have 26 registered currently and have room for six more. Send an email as soon as possible. You don't want to miss out!

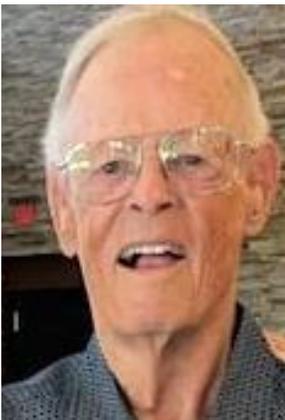
Johnny Welton, Golf Director

SIR Branch 161 2026 GOLF SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday, February 24	9:30	SIR 161 Winter Two Ball - Match Play Scramble Shadow Lakes, Brentwood Course Tee Prize: Range Balls
Tuesday, March 17	9:30	Elkhorn, Stockton [32 miles] Shotgun Start
Tuesday, April 21	9:30	Swenson Park, Stockton [16 miles] Shotgun Start. Course Tee Prize: Range Balls and Sleeve of Balls
Tuesday, May 19	9:30	Manteca Park, Manteca [33 miles]
Tuesday, June 16	9:00	Elkhorn, Stockton [32 miles] Match Play with SIR Branch 8 Concord. Shotgun Start
Tuesday, July 21	9:30	Franklin Canyon [44 miles]
Tuesday, August 18	9:30	Diablo Creek, Concord [17 miles] Course Tee Prize: Sleeve of Balls}
Tuesday, September 15	9:30	Blue Rock Springs West, Vallejo [36 miles]
Tuesday, October 20	9:30	SIR Individual Championship at The Reserve, Stockton [30 miles], Flier and guidelines to follow. Course Tee Prize: Range Balls
Tuesday, November 17	9:30	SIR 161 Fall Four Ball Shamble, {Best Drive Then play your own ball with 70% handicap} at Blue Rock Springs East

In Memoriam



We're sad to report the passing of our fellow Sir Hal Whitlow on February 28, 2026.

Hal joined our Branch in April of 2000 and received his 25-year membership award in June of 2025.

He was a long-time resident (1976) of Discovery Bay, an avid boater, served as Commodore of the Discovery Bay Yacht Club in 1983, and was a friend to many.

Please keep Hal and his family in your thoughts and prayers. When known, we will share Hal's Memorial Service information with you.

Bowling news, Ron Wilson

Our Branch 161 took 8 bowlers to Sacramento and we had some nice cashes, along with some very nice scoring.

Derek Schutz had an outstanding tournament with a 6 game average (Scratch) of 233; This put him in 2nd place (Doubles), 2nd place (All Events Handicap) and 2nd place (Scratch All Events).



Danny Roberts also had a great tournament with a six game scratch average of 222. This put him in 2nd place (singles), 4th place (All Events Handicap) and 4th place (All Events Scratch).

Bill Konold was doubles partner with Derek and shared in 2nd place doubles.

Don Blotzer cashed in 8th place (All Events Handicap).

Upcoming SIR Tournaments:

Concord/Clayton: Our Branch 161 will have 12 bowlers at this one on March 24 & 25.

Carson City, Nevada: We will have 12 Branch 161 bowlers at this 3 day event (April 13-15). This tournament is at "Gold Dust West".

Sacramento Country Club Lanes: This is our annual State tournament (Doubles and Singles) and is open to SIR members only. This event is on your choice of May 12th or 13th (Tuesday or Wednesday).



When bowling one of our SIR events I will take care of all entry application paperwork. All you have to do is pay the entry fee, show up and have fun.

See you on the lanes.
Ron

Wine Tasting Report, Terry Silva



The event was held at the home of Little Sir Dave Ciruli and his wife Jinni.

Attendees:

Dennis and Karen Pachucki, Linda Tucker, Linda Zierau, John and Teri Davis, Will and Raquel Myers, Terry and Sue Silva, Michael and Pam Quier, Vince and Bobbi Vargas. It was a fun night and the Ciruli's did a great job of hosting.

The April event will be on Thursday 23 @ 5pm.

Terry Silva
SIR wine Chairman



Dinner With The Ladies, Dennis Pachucki



When: Tuesday, April 28, 2026.
Where: Smith's Landing, 1 Marina Plaza, Antioch.
Time: Arrival & Cocktails starting at 5:00 pm. Dinner served at 6:00 pm.

Menu Choices, Dinner includes salad, dessert & non-alcoholic beverage (iced tea, water, coffee).

- Simply Grilled Salmon, mashed Potatoes, seasonal vegetables.
- Chicken Saltimbocca Breast Cream Sauce, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables.
- GF Petit Filet Sliced, green peppercorn sauce, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables.
- Baby Back Pork Beer Ribs, BBQ sauce, French fries, creamed corn.

Cost: \$44.00 per person (includes tax and tip).

Deadline: We need your RSVP no later than Friday, April 25.
There will be envelopes at our General Meeting on April 7.

Please send your checks to me in advance.
Please make your checks out to Dennis Pachucki, 2125 Sand Point Road, Discovery Bay, CA 94505. Phone 408-309-5206.

_____ **Please detach and mail with your check** _____

Your Name(s) _____ Phone: _____

Your menu choices:

Grilled Salmon

Chicken Saltimbocca

GF Petit Filet

Baby Back Pork Ribs

Membership Requirements & Principles

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 are 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 will be assessed a fee 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. 2026 dues are \$30, payable at the January meeting, or by mailing a check (payable to SIR Branch 161) to our Treasurer, Skip Zehnder, 2488 Wayfarer Court, Discovery Bay, CA 94505.

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

If you're unable to attend a meeting please email or call Phil Newlin by the Friday preceding the meeting:
Phil Newlin: ward28fred-sirs@yahoo.com
Tel: (408) 505-5359

No-shows who fail to notify Phil in advance will be assessed a fee of \$20.

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