



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 35th year! September 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 Discovery Bay, Brentwood & surrounding Communities

Steve Bordi, Big Sir

I was pleased to see our "SIR Advertisement" in the August 7 issue of the Brentwood Press. Mike Park did a superb job of presenting SIR to the members of our community. Hopefully, this will spark some interest in Branch 161, bringing new members into our group.



Mike and Luis Figueroa have both worked very hard to make our organization more visible in the community, and in addressing our declining enrollment issue. We will eagerly await the impact of this Ad on our future membership numbers.

So, to all you members, keep up the charge --- we can do it --- it's going to take time, and a concerted effort on our part over the next couple of years to turn the tide. The decline has been slow and gradual and its reversal is most likely going to be the same.

As always, looking forward to our upcoming luncheon meeting on September 1st .

Big Sir, Steve Bordi.

September 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

September events & activities

Check the respective articles for more details.

September Meetings

- BEC meeting - September 1
- General meeting - September 1

September Activities

Bowling

- Weekly (Mondays) - Lucky Strike, Brentwood
- September 2 or 3 - Grass Valley
- September 23 or 24 - Pacheco

Cycling (3 weekly rides)

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

Golf

- September 15 - Blue Rock Springs West

Dinner with the ladies - September 29

Wine tasting - September 24.

Visit us on the web:

<https://www.sir161.org>

Little Sir, Dave Ciruli



August speaker: Karen Mann, past President of Save the California Delta

August is just about over and we are making the transition to fall. That used to be a major transition time for us. Vacation season was over, and the kids were back in school and we had to adapt to a whole different schedule. But now, we're just turning the page on the calendar and hoping for some cooler weather.



This month our speaker will be Sonnet Rodrigues from Coyote Crossing Rescue. Most of us drive by Coyote Crossing Ranch every day when we turn right on Highway 4 from Discovery Bay. I'll let her tell you where they are located and what they do.

This month Club Los Maganos will have their usual buffet luncheon menu to be announced later. They will try to notify us early enough so that we can notify people that have told us about their dietary needs.

Our new method for picking the winner of the free luncheon worked really well. I will try not to knock the tickets off the podium this month.

Hope to see you on September 1st.
Little Sir, Dave Ciruli

September Birthdays

Rich Barber, Mark DiCortasso, Ed Fitzpatrick, Tony Guarascio, John Jewell, Mike Kaufman, Mike Stoiber.

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

Bowling news, Ron Wilson

Our summer league will finish with our Sweeper on August 31st. Our winter league will begin on Monday September 14th and end on Monday May 10, 2027 (35 weeks).

I am hopeful we will have 12 teams of 4. Winter League start time will be doors open at 10 am and Bowl at 10:30 am.

We only had 4 Branch 161 bowlers at the Reno tournament. This was a disappointing turnout. Scores were on the low side and all 4 of us managed to cash. Don Blotzer deserves special mention as he rolled a 279 Game! That's 11 out of 12 strikes and a 9 spare. Almost that elusive perfect 300 game. Nice bowling Don! There were 160 total bowlers.



Upcoming Tournaments:

Grass Valley at "Prosperity Lanes" on your choice of September 2nd or 3rd.

Pacheco at "Paddock Lanes" on your choice of September 23rd or 24th.

Please have your payment to me by Monday August 31st. I know I earlier said by September 7th but that is Labor day (no bowling) and I won't see you that day.

Brentwood at our own "Lucky Strike" on your choice of October 13th or 14th. A few of our bowlers will be bowling "Singles" on one day and "Doubles" on the other day. More and more bowlers are electing to do this as we age. So far I have 21 of our own bowlers committing to our tournament. I am hoping for about 90 total after other Branch entries.

As always I will prepare all of your tournament entry application paperwork. All you need to do is pay the entry fee, show up, have fun and maybe win a little cash.

See you on the lanes
Ron Wilson



Has your contact info changed?

We occasionally find a member's contact info (phone #, email address, mailing address) has changed, and we were not notified. If any of this info changes for you, please let us know:
email: info@sir161.org phone call or text: (209) 2985006.

2027 Officers and Directors

There being no nominations from the floor, the slate of nominations previously submitted by the 2027 Nominating Committee was elected by a vote of the members present at our August meeting. Formal installation will occur at our November meeting.



Left to right:

Skip Zehnder, Treasurer; Bob Damico, Director, Sunshine Chairman; Will Myers, Director, Nominating/Audit Chairman; Dennis Pachucki, Director, Dinner w/The Ladies Chairman; Ron Wilson, Director, Bowling Chairman; Dave Ciruli, Big Sir; Randy Zierau, Little Sir; Russ Reid, Secretary; Tom Denning, Director, Golfing Chairman; Saul Gold, Assistant Secretary; Jerry Wiebe, Cycling Chairman; Phil Newlin, Director, Attendance Chairman; Missing from the photo: Mike Park, Director, Membership Chairman.

In Memoriam

We're sorry to report the passing of Howard Patton. Howard joined our Branch in August of 2021. He lived in Discovery Bay since 1988. He was very active in the community, served as President of the Discovery Bay HOA, was Fire Commissioner Byron/East Contra Costa Fire District, was instrumental in establishing the Discovery Bay Yacht Club (DBYC), and was a Past Commodore DBYC. Please keep Howard and his family in your thoughts and prayers. We will share information regarding Howard's Memorial Service when it becomes available.



We're sad to report the passing of our long-time fellow Sir Tom Kirtley. Tom joined our branch 9/14/2004, and was an active golfer and bowler until his resignation (due to health) earlier this month. Please keep Tom and his family in your thoughts and prayers. We will share information regarding Tom's "Celebration of Life" when it becomes available.

Sympathy cards may be sent to:

The family of Tom Kirtley, 400 Nino Way, Los Gatos, CA 95032.



We're sad to report the passing of Mike Cullen. Mike joined our branch in March of 2009.

Mike was known for his Dancing and danced, as a young man in the 1950s, on the original American Bandstand TV Show.

Please keep Mike, his wife Barbara and their family in your thoughts and prayers. We will share information regarding Mike's memorial service / Celebration of Life when it becomes available.



Membership & Marketing - Luis Figueroa, Mike Park

Last month we experimented by including photos of guests to the lunch, along with their sponsors. But, after a few conversations it was decided not to continue the practice.

Also this month an article was published in the Brentwood Press describing our Branch, which will improve our recruiting efforts.

The current membership headcount stands at 115.

Reminder:

Growing our membership depends on you, our members, using your Invitation Cards at every opportunity.



Muarice Rollins (right),
Sponsor: Mike Park

Maurice Collins was born and raised in western South Dakota. He went to school at the University of Minnesota. After graduation he served in the USAF during Vietnam. After his service, Mike and his family moved to California and lived in Sonora for 45 years. He practised General Dentistry for 30 of those years.

Mike was a member of SIR Branch 136 for a number of years and really enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie. He moved to Brentwood 10 years ago, and looks forward to enjoying the same friendships here.

Mike and his wife Mary have a son and a daughter and five grandchildren.

Golf News, Johnny Welton



It was a warm day in Discovery Bay reaching 96 but at Diablo Creek we found another 85-degree day. The course was in great shape although the greens were lush and a little slow. It took a few holes to adjust. Gale Nelson and Bill Dowden were our SIR Course Marshals for the day and did a great job! Play was a little slow, but every SIR Group kept up with the group in front.

Phil Kepp had his personal best day with SIR (\$30). He posted a gross 81 to tie with Terry Dawkins for lowest round of the day. He led his team to first place. Won Flight A first place net with a 66 and won a skin to boot!

Close behind was Randy Zierau (\$29) with third place-team, Flight B first-place gross score of 92 and winning two skins. Terry Dawkins (\$26) collected with the first-place team, Flight A first-place gross 81, and 1 skin. Terry and Larry Barron (first-place team) were newcomers to the group.

The next event is at Blue Rock Springs West in Vallejo on September 15. We had a great time there last year. There are 33 players registered, with room for more. We are also looking for two players that would like to play nine holes and serve as SIR Course Marshals. It has worked out well having marshals to keep play moving.

Once again, the biggest event of the year is the SIR Branch 161 Individual Championship at The Reserve in Stockton on 10/20. Thirty-one are registered. There will be many tee prizes. Anyone, including guests, may play in the event but only those that qualify may receive tee prizes and be eligible to win trophies or prizes money. To be eligible you must be a SIR Branch 161 member (join now!), have registered for and paid for five SIR Golf events in 2026, and be an NCGA member at the time of the event. The big tee prize this year is a blue SIR logo shirt. Shirts have been ordered and will be distributed at the October luncheon. We will all be wearing blue shirts for the event and looking good!

The last event of the year has us returning to Blue Rock Springs in Vallejo to play the East Course on November 17. There are 24 registrations. Register as soon as possible. Two SIR Course Marshal positions are also available.

Have a good one!
Johnny Welton
Golf Director
Cell: 925-876-5844

Golf photos, courtesy of Bill Dowden



Bill Dowden: SIR Course Marshal



Gale Nelson: SIR Course Marshal



Phil Kepp, Rick Maniz, Tony Rubino,
and Larry Barron: First Place



Tony Petralia, James Taylor,
Joe Riggs, and David Vicencio

More golf photos ...



Dennis Pachucki, Jerry Weibe,
Jim Spann, and Joe Stanley



Mike Carmichael, Chris Diaz,
and Sol Robin



John Emerson, Ken Fanucchi,
and Tom Denning



Norm Petersen, Ray Valdez,
Bill Konold, and Randy Zierau



Isao Nishijima, John Sutton,
Lee Donnell, and Mike Kaufman



Andy Geckler, Gale Nelson,
Bill Dowden, Johnny Welton,
and Terry Dawkins

Pickleball, Randy Zierau

Hello Future Pickleballers,

I heard that some of you have been to the pickleball courts. Would be great if you could continue on. If you are new, lessons are given the first Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m., with snacks available. You can also play anytime on the courts. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday starting at 8:00 a.m. is group play with groups of various skill levels. Just pick a group that fits your level of play. Wishing you a happy experience on the courts.

Randy Zierau

Special dietary needs?

If you have special dietary needs and require the option for a dietary meal at our monthly luncheons, you need to register to be on our dietary meal mailing list. Members on this mailing list will receive an email letting them know what will be on offer at the upcoming buffet, and will have the opportunity to email Club Los Meganos requesting an alternate meal (Chef's choice). This will only happen if Club Los Meganos is able to notify us in time.

If you have a dietary need to be on the mailing list, please email: info@sir161.org

Do not use the above email address to request an alternate meal; This request has to be made via the contact info you'll receive if you're on the list.

Dinner With The Ladies

When: Tuesday, September 29, 2026
Where: Club Los Meganos, 1700 Trilogy Parkway, Brentwood
Time: Arrival & Cocktails starting at 5:00 pm
Dinner served at 6:00 pm



Menu Choices The menu includes rolls and butter, classic Caesar salad, seasonal vegetables, desert, ice tea and coffee.

- Grilled salmon
- Tuscan chicken

For purchase:

Club liquor, wine, beer, sodas.

Cost: \$49.00 per person (includes tax and tip)

Deadline: We need your RSVP no later than Thursday September 17 – there will also be envelopes at our General Meeting on September 1.
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

----- Detach and return this stub with your check -----

Your Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Your Menu choices:

☐

Grilled salmon

☐

Tuscan chicken

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 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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