SIR
BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 35th year! *December 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



Over and Out for 2026; It has been a fun ride and a pleasurable experience for me to serve as your Big Sir. Happy New Year and a prosperous 2027.

Greetings and happy holidays to all you Sirs and your families. Having been on the BEC (2024 and 2025 as Little Sir, and 2026 as Big Sir) I have seen a lot of changes occuring at the State level in the areas of member retention and in the recruitment of new members. Our BEC is attacking these two issues head-on by instilling an advertising and marketing plan. It's too early to tell, but it appears to be working. For the past six months we have stabilized at 115 members (we are holding our own and are not declining). Kudos to all you Sir members for your efforts on our behalf.

Our dedicated Activity Directors/Chairmen have done a fabulous job of running first class activity programs which are competitive and fun. These programs are growing, which will bring in new members over the long haul. We are adding Bocce Ball in January of 2027, which is further evidence of growth (17 have already signed-up ; this will be a Co-Ed activity). We are accomplishing the goals of SIR (Make friends for life, have fun, and healthy socialization through activity). Also, the monthly luncheon meetings are being well attended with approximately 70% of membership attendiing monthly. Engaging guest speakers, good food, and friendships are key to the success of the monthly meetings.

We are heading in the right direction, thanks to the dedication and loyalty of all our SIR members. Keep up the good work.

I would like to close by acknowledging my mentor and good friend, Past Big Sir Jim Wangeman. RIP Jim, you will be greatly missed by all your SIR buddies.

REMINDERS: Dues for 2027 of $30 are now due and payable at the January regular meeting luncheon on Tuesday, January 19 (third Tuesday in January). The remainder of all the 2027 luncheon meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, starting with the February 9th meeting.

Effective January 19 ,2027), the price for lunch will rise to $37(cash or check), $38.50 if paid by Credit Card.

Hope to see you at the Holiday Luncheon.The menu will be delicious and the entertainment will be nice. You can still obtain tickets for December 1 at $48 per plate - see page 3.

Steve Bordi

Has your contact information changed?

We are currently compiling our 2027 Branch 161 Handbook. If your contact information (mailing address, phone number, or email address) has changed, please let us know:

email: webmaster@sir161.org
Phone or text: (209) 298-5006

Visit us on the web:
https://www.sir161.org

Little Sir, Dave Ciruli



Last month Don Paiva from the Patriots Jet Team Foundation closed out our speakers for 2026. I'm sure you all enjoyed his presentation. Unfortunately, I missed it since I had to leave for a Doctor's appointment. I really wish I could have stayed, but I didn't want to wait another 6 Months for an appointment.

Remember our lunceon this month is our annual Holiday Luncheon with the ladies on December 1. The Liberty Holiday Singers will be entertaining us. There are a few tickets still available for $48. Contact our Treasurer immediately if you would like to attend.
Skip Zehnder (502) 528-3512.

Our next regular meeting will be January 19, 2027. Next year we are moving our meetings back to the second Tuesday of the month. However, Club Los Meganos will be doing some renovations and will not be open for us until January 19.

I hope to see you on December 1st. Have a blessed Holiday Season.

Little Sir
Dave Ciruli



Big Sir Steve Bordi presents our November speaker Don Paiva with a Cerificate of Appreciation.

December Birthdays
Kenneth Butler, Sid Cruser, Gary Hess, Jerry Marshall, Dennis Platania, John Reichenbach, Joseph Stanley, Leon Thompson.



2027 BEC members inducted at the November meeting (L-R):
Skip Zehnder, Dave Ciruli, Russ Reid, Randy Zierau, Ron Wilson, Tom Denning, Saul Gold, Dennis Pachucki, Will Myers. Phil Newlin, Bob Damico.
Missing from the photo: Jerry Wiebe and Mike Park.

Christmas Luncheon Tickets

Tickets for our Christmas luncheon with your significant other are still available, but there's a cutoff date for notifying Club Los Meganos of our headcount. If you need to purchase tickets, call Skip Zehnder (our Treasurer) ASAP at: (502) 528 3512.

2027 Dues are Due January 1, 2027

Amount : $30.00, pay no later than the April 2027 meeting.

Member name:

Date paid:

Pay at a meeting in the new year, or mail your check (payable to SIR Branch 161) and include this coupon to:

Skip Zehnder,
2488 Wayfarer CT.,
Discovery Bay, CA 94505

Membership - Luis Figueroa



At the November luncheon we had 1 guest: Bill Sievers (Johnny Welton, sponsor).

Three new members were inducted: Jack Perry (Phil Newlin, sponsor); Ray Valdez (Johnny Welton, sponsor); and Pete Padilla (Luis Figueroa, sponsor).

The current branch headcount is 116.



Jack Perry and his wife have lived in Trilogy since 2016. They also have a second home in Discovery Bay, where they enjoy fishing and taking leisurely boat rides.

Jack was born in San Jose. He enjoys fishing and cycling. He is looking forward to meeting new friends and participating in the Branch's social activities.

Left in the photo is Jack with his sponsor, Phil Newlin.



Ray Valdez lives in Discovery Bay, where he moved from Santa Clara six years ago. He worked in construction demolition for 47 years before retiring three years ago.

He lives with wife Terri, and they have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. They both enjoy socializing and are looking forward to participating in the Branch's social activities. Left in the photo is Ray with his sponsor Johnny Welton.



Pete Padilla lived in Oakley for 48 years and moved to Brentwood three years ago. He retired from the Social Security Administration in 2007 where he worked as a claims representative. His significant other is Sally Martinez.

Pete has two daughters, one son, and four grandchildren. He enjoys fishing and camping. He also enjoys taking short day trips, going out to dinner, and wine tasting. He is an ardent San Francisco 49er fan! Left in the photo is Pete along with his sponsor Luis Figueroa.

October Awards



Louis Figueroa (L) and Mike Park (center) received Certificates of Appreciation for their efforts in Marketing our Branch and recruiting new members from Big Sir Steve Bordi (R)



Saul Gold received the Sir Branch 161 twenty year membership award.

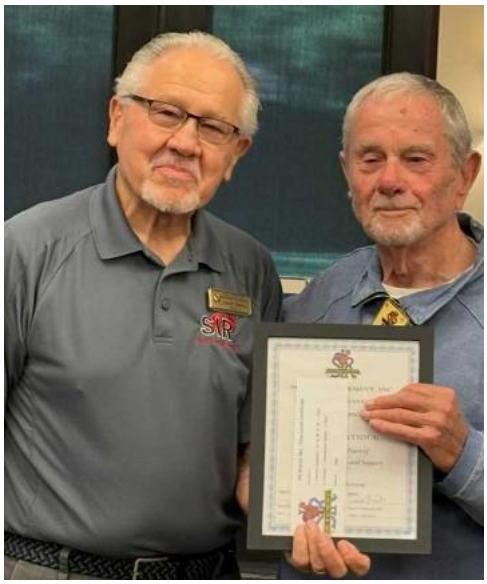


Joe Palestro received the SIR State Presidential Senior Sir award for reaching his 90 year milestone.

November Awards



Bob Damico (center) receives the Distinguished Service Award for 25 years of dedicated service to Branch 161.



Bob Damico presents Ed Fitzpatrick (R) the SIR Branch 161 25-year membership award certificate.



Fred Critchfield received the SIR Sate Presidential Super Senior SIr Award for achieving his 95-year milestone.

November Awards, continued



Big Sir Steve Bordi (L) Presents Terry Silva (R) a certificate of appreciation for four years of dedicated service as Wine Tasting Chairman.

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



SIR bicyclers on a sunny day at Big Break in Antioch, a 30-mile ride.
L-R: Jack Perry (our newest member, Sean Murphy, Jerry Wiebe, Phil Newlin, Lee Donell, Bruce Bohnsack. Not pictured, Dennis Pachuki and Frank Alexander

Bowling news, Ron Wilson



This being a quiet time for SIR Tournaments there is not much to report. Our “SIR and Guests League” is now in 11th week of our winter 35 week season. We have 12 teams of 4 with a couple of vacant slots. If anyone is interested we would welcome you to join us in our Winter league.

The 2027 SIR Tournament calendar is now available. I sent it to our regular tournament bowlers. If you did not receive the calendar it is available on our State web site sirinc.org. Navigate this site by clicking on “Bowling” then click on “State” and this will take you to our Tournament page and you can then see the calendar along with other tournament information.



The first Tournament for 2027 will be held at “Napa Bowl” in Napa on your choice of January 19th or 20th. Napa Bowl is 100% String Pin Setters. If you have never bowled with this new Pin Setter technology you should give it a try. I will be sending entry applications around the middle of December.

I want to thank all of you who support our State SIR Tournament bowling program. It is appreciated by the Branches who sponsor and run these tournaments for our bowling pleasure. I also really appreciate your support for these events!

See you on the lanes.
Ron Wilson

In Memoriam



We’re sad to report the passing of our fellow Sir Dan Lippstreu. Dan joined our Branch in May of 2021, was an avid golfer, and will be missed.

Please keep Dan, his wife Luka and their family in your thoughts and prayers. When known, we will share information on Dan’s Memorial Service.

Bocce Ball, Tony Petralia, Larry Barron




We're happy to announce the successful launching of the SIR Bocce Ball group.

We finally did it! After polling the SIR membership for the last 2 or 3 years at our monthly luncheons to find out that there is definitely a general interest in bocce, we finally started taking some real action towards making it happen.

We've created a contact roster of about 23 individuals who have turned out very enthusiastically for our three inaugural sessions. Larry has been instrumental in getting things rolling and producing a very professional looking flyer, which was displayed at our November luncheon.

We have been playing at the Brentwood Veterans Park courts. Since I have never played or even watched a bocce match before this, I'd say the four lanes they have there are very good.

So far, we've decided to do two hour sessions, which allows us to get in about 2 or 3 rounds each time. There are many variations to the rules of bocce and I'm in the process of nailing down a set of rules as a basis for future games.

We had our first outing on Thursday, 29 Oct, and have played the following two Wednesdays. Each time we had about 16 to 23 folks participating. We have "officially" suspended the games due to the holiday seasons and weather until March or April when the city leagues start up again. If there are people that want to play may do so. The nice thing about Veterans Park is that Brentwood allows access to the courts during the winter months on a first-come-first-serve basis with no need to pay for reserving courts. If we end up using the courts via a reservation, the city charges a fee. Depending on the turnout, we're still working on the best way to handle this, and we're considering charging players a small amount to build up a kitty for prizes and such.

SIR Bocce is co-ed, and people can bring a guest. This has worked pretty good so far and has been fun. We also have been bringing goodies for munching after the games.

We've had some good low pressure competition, and everyone has enjoyed the experience.

If you are interested in playing or joining the group, you may contact me, Tony Petralia, via email: boatguy867@gmail.com

See you on the courts!
Ciao!

Golf News, Johnny Welton



With major storms before and after, we couldn't have had a nicer day to play, and the course was in great shape. Twenty-two players enjoyed the Blue Rock Springs East course in Vallejo. I think everyone arrived in about 45 minutes except those that followed their GPS which took many away from the main parking lot. Traffic was good both ways. It was good to leave dense fog in Discovery Bay to warm sunshine.

The play was a "Shamble." Each player had a "Lippstreu" (special rule Mulligan).and received a "Dan" bag of chocolate. Those that hit the green with their first stroke on Holes 2 and 11 won at "Turkey Shot" … a trip to the cooler to pick a shot or soda.

I had a great day! Lee Donnell and I tied for low gross score with 83s. Tom Denning was a close third with 86. Ray Valdez had 88 and Rick Maniz 89. On the net side of things, I had a 67!!! Joe Riggs and Dennis Pachucki tied for second with a net 73. Lee Donnell had a net 74.... All on a day when there wasn't a prize for low gross or net! Congratulations on some great rounds in part due to some great drives being shared in the "Shamble" format.

Cash Prizes will be paid for Team awards for First, Second, Third Place, and Fourth Place (In January). A special congratulations to Jerry Wiebe. Up until today, he was the only one to play in more than one event without winning anything. Today, Jerry made it 42/42 that played in more than one event that won something.

FINAL STANDINGS

POS	TEAM	OVER PAR	TOTAL
1	Ray Valdez/Larry Barron/Dennis Pachucki/Lee Donnell	+19	299
2	Tom Denning/Gale Nelson/Isao Nishijima/Joe Riggs	+37	317
3	Phil Kepp/Jerry Wiebe/Johnny Welton/Bill Sievers	+44	324
4	Rick Maniz/Mike Kaufman/Ken Fanucchi/Blind Draw	+47	327

2026 has been a record-breaking season for SIR Branch 161 Golf. This season we have had our highest number of participants (291). 43/45 were SIR members. 19 were new to SIR golf. 23 played seven times or more (51.1%). The average event had 29.1 players (up from 25.4) with a range of 22-32 players. $2,078 were distributed in prize money. 95.6% of the players went home with prize money.

The NCGA membership renewal for 2027 begins now. Anyone can join through the SIR Branch 161 Golf. The cost is $48. Checks should be made out to "SIR Branch 161." See the promotion included in this newsletter. Checks should be sent in before January 1, 2027, to David Vicencio, SIR Golf Treasurer at 1945 Edgeview Way, Discovery Bay, CA 94505. There are lots of benefits to SIR Golf and NCGA membership.

The 2027 Golf Schedule is included in this newsletter. Put these dates on your calendar now. Fees are included. Registration will begin in February.

I wish you the best of Thanksgiving and Holiday Seasons. There is much to be thankful for and to look forward to in 2027!
Johnny Welton, SIR Golf Director

Golf photos



Please thank your SIR Golf Committee for a wonderful 2026 Season: Michael Park, Lee Donnell, Tom Denning, Johnny Welton, John Sutton, David Vicencio, Dennis Pachucki, and Bill Konold.



Lee Donnell (L) receiving the 2026 SIR Branch 161 Individual Championship Trophy from 2025 Winner Dennis Pachucki.



Tom Denning (L) receives the Low Gross Trophy from Johnny Welton.



Joe Riggs, Tom Denning, Gale Nelson, and Isao Nishijima - Second Place.



Mike Kaufman, Rick Maniz, and Ken Fanucchi - Fourth Place.



Bill Sievers, Jerry Wiebe, Phil Kepp and (front) Johnny Welton - Third Place.

SIR Branch 161
Discovery Bay, CA

Serving the greater East Contra Costa County

AN OFFICIAL NCGA LEGACY CLUB

SIR Branch 161 Golf Club Benefits

- 7 Events: Come and Play Golf
- SIR Branch 161 Individual Championship
  - Special Treats and Gifts
  - Team and Individual Contests
  - Cash Prizes
- Newsletter Recognition
- Invite Guests to Play
- Lots of Fun and Friends!

NCGA Benefits

- ✓ Official USGA Handicap Index and free score posting
- ✓ App with GPS
- ✓ Hundreds of events for all ages and abilities across the region
- ✓ Bi-Monthly Handicap revision updates

Monthly NCGA GOLF Magazine

- ✓ Exclusive member perks on golf, travel, and more
- ✓ Members only savings at NCGA-owned Poppy Hills and Poppy Ridge golf courses
- ✓ And more!

Membership

$48 for All of 2027

- Duplicate NCGA/USGA/GHIN Membership NOT Required
- May Cover Other Club Requirements
- Activate Existing GHIN Number
- This NCGA Legacy Club May Have Lower Dues
- Not SIR Branch 161 2027 Dues

Make check payable to:
"SIR Branch 161"
Mail to:
David Vicencio, SIR Golf Treasurer
1945 Edgeview Drive,
Discovery Bay, CA 94505
Before January 1, 2027
Check won't be cashed until 1/5/27

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 in 2027 will be held on the second Tuesday of the month (third Tuesday in January) 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. 2027 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.

Your newsletter team



Tom Jones
Editor & email copies distribution



Bob Damico
Paper copies & USPS mailing

SIR Branch 161 on the web: https://www.sir161.org
View *The Rooster Crows*, the State SIR newsletter: https://www.sirinc.org/newsletters/