



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 35th year! March 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

A big thank you goes out to the 77 SIR members who participated in the completion of the Member Survey at the February Luncheon Meeting. Now we'll await the results of the compilation by Mike Park and the BEC. Hopefully this information will guide our upcoming Membership Drive toward not only an increase in membership, but a decrease in the average age of our membership (significantly under the age of 80+ years).



Again, thank you for all your help in supporting Branch 161 to make it the best organization that it can be. The membership's input is a very valuable part of the process because you are the organization. Let's see where this survey/membership drive takes us. It will be exciting to watch these recently-developing negative trends reverse themselves. Looking forward to seeing you all at the luncheon on Tuesday, March 3rd.

Little Sir, Dave Ciruli

I want to thank all the Sirs who participated in our survey and discussion. We had some interesting suggestions on what we can do to help our future growth. I particularly want to thank those of you who had speaker suggestions for our future meetings. We will be reviewing all we learned to see how we can improve future growth.



continued on page 2 ...

March 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

March events & activities

Check the respective articles for more details.

March Meetings

BEC meeting - March 3

General meeting & luncheon - March 3

March Activities

Bowling

- Weekly (Mondays) - Lucky Strike, Brentwood
- March 5 - Citrus Heights
- March 24 or 25 - Concord

Cycling (3 weekly rides)

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

Golf - March 17 - Elkhorn, Stockton

Dinner with the ladies - March 31 - Zephyrs

Wine tasting - March 26

Visit us on the web:

<https://www.sir161.org>

Little Sir report, continued from page 1

This month you are going to hear about Camp Gold Star. Captain Frank Morgan is going to tell you all about the project he started to honor our nation's bravest heroes. He has made amazing progress and I'm sure you will enjoy his presentation.

Since St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner we are hoping for corned beef to be included in this month buffet.

March Birthdays: Steve Bordi, Terry Bekke, Roy Brett, Ron Crawford, John Davis, Andy Geckler, Dave Goodwin, Keith Jones, Gary Leonis, Mike Maita, Sean Murphy, Dennis Pachucki, Joseph Riggs, James Sniadecki, Vince Vargas, and David Vicencio.

Next month our meeting will be on April 7th.
Little Sir, Dave Ciruli

February Awards, Bob Damico



At the February meeting, Big Sir Steve Bordi was presented with a Special Certificate of Appreciation signed by all Branch 161 Executive Committee (BEC) members. Steve was our Little Sir in 2024, and again in 2025, and for ten months he also sat in for our Big SIR Jim Wangeman who was out due to illness. During this time (2025), while performing both duties as Little Sir and Big Sir, we had one of the biggest changes ever experienced by our Branch: After 34 years, we moved our meeting location/venue from Discovery Bay Country Club to The Trilogy Event Center in Brentwood. This was a major undertaking that, without Steve's dedication and oversight, would not have happened. Steve's dedication and efforts are recognized and appreciated by the BEC and the entire membership. Thank You Steve!



Jim Bordi receives a Special Certificate of Appreciation



John Jewel receives Branch 161 twenty year membership award

Membership, Luis Figueroa

At the February luncheon we had one guest (Jim Brunicardi, Bob Damico, sponsor).

During the February luncheon Mike Park distributed a membership survey to help better understand what members valued. He will provide an update in a separate section of this newsletter.



We are averaging approximately 72% active member attendance at the luncheons. Last year the average active member attendance was 71%. The median age for the membership is 80.8.

The current headcount is 122

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

In Memoriam

We are sad to report that our fellow Sir Chuck Niessen passed away on February 25, 2026, at home under Hospice care.



Chuck joined our branch in July 2004, and received his 20 year Branch Membership award in 2024. He was a retired attorney and CPA, a longtime resident of Discovery Bay, enjoyed Boating, and playing Bridge.

Please keep his wife Mary and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

When known, we will share Chuck's Memorial Service information.

Membership Survey Results, Mike Park



Thank you all for participating in the recent member survey. Below is a summary which highlights many of your comments and or suggestions. Your input provides a viable sample to begin conversations on potential new directions. The good news is that most of you are satisfied with our Branch and only want to see it flourish. The next step is for the BEC to evaluate the results and discuss how they may impact the Branch moving forward. So stay tuned.

GENERAL SATISFACTION: 79% = 7 or greater, 21% = 6 or less

How likely are you to recommend SIR to others and why?

Most Likely: good camaraderie, good food and speakers.

LEADERSHIP:

Where do you see a role in leadership?

Most do not see themselves as future leaders. Why? health, too tired, been there, done that. Several said OK to assist with new activities, e.g. bocce ball.

MEETINGS:

Do you find our meetings beneficial? *Most = Yes Few = No*

Reasons: Yes = Good lunch, good friends, food and some of the speakers.

No = cost, speakers and location.

What changes to our meetings would you recommend?

Move to Discovery Bay, more mingle time not at seats, better speakers.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

Which SIR activities or events do you attend and how often?

Bowling, golf, lunch with ladies, biking, wine tasting when available.

If you do not participate in activities or events tell us why?

Too old, not healthy, not enough time, not interested.

What new activities or events would you recommend in the future?

Bocce, monthly tours to varied events and wineries, RV club and fishing.

New Membership Drive kicking off next month

Our Branch thrives when new members join the table, and next 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 lunches 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



Will it rain or be cold? Every day we were looking at the TV weatherperson hoping for the best. Up until the morning of our Shadow Lakes event, someone was predicting 100% rain. Even when we started there was a 60% chance of rain at 1:00 pm but it didn't happen. It was cloudy but warm. No wind. A perfect winter's day to start the SIR Golf season!

The day started early with a workshop on Rules and Strategies for playing in a 2-Ball Scramble. It was like a regular scramble, but each hole was a mini match. The number of holes won determined the winner of the match. It was good practice for our competition in June with SIR Branch 8 Concord. Looks like we will be ready.

Everyone seemed to have a good time with the format. Early play was less than 4 hours 30 minutes. But possibly because one team didn't tee off at their scheduled time and went last, things got backed up within our group ... and two groups had a very long day. 26 players competed. Winning teams received \$5 each for winning the match and every player won \$1 for each hole won.

Winning Team		Holes Won	Opponents		Holes Won
David Vicencio	Phil Kepp	6	Johnny Welton	Michael Park	5
Joe Stanley	James Taylor	5	Randy Zierau	Ken Fanucchi	2
Chris Diaz	Rick Maniz	9	Chris Lyon	Tom Denning	3
John Sutton	John Emerson	6	Isao Nishijima	Tony Petralia	2
Dennis Pachucki	Tony Rubino	5	Mike Carmichael	Gale Nelson	3
Sol Robin	Vince Vargas	7	Mike Kaufman	Joe Riggs	2
Jim Spann	Norm Petersen	10	Blind Draw		1

The next event is at one of our favorite courses, Elkhorn Golf Course in Stockton. A shotgun start will begin at 9:30 am. It should be a big turnout. Please register early. Deadline for registration and payment (\$70) is March 10. This will be our usual four player team: 2 Best Ball competition with 2 closest to the pin holes, and flighted Skins, Gross, and Net prizes. To register – just email to: johnnywelton40@gmail.com.

Be sure the check is made out to "SIR Branch 161."

This year each event will include a variety of door prizes, determined by a drawing. At Shadow Lakes six players received either a SIR logo poker chip or a hat magnet with ball marker.

Please join us. We have a great time especially when the weather cooperates!

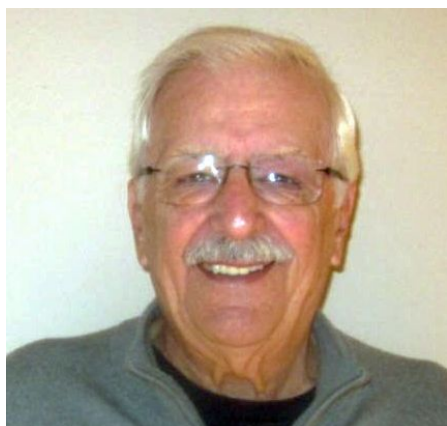
Johnny Welton,
Golf Director

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 are sad to report the passing of Don Shegich on January 21, 2026. He was a member of Branch 161 for a total of twelve years (originally joined in September 1998). He was our Little Sir in 2003, and Big Sir the first half of 2004, before moving away for several years. He returned to Brentwood and rejoined our Branch in October 2017, and then resigned in February 2023. Don was an avid golfer and friend to many.

Please keep Don, his wife Pat and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sympathy cards may be sent to:

Pat Shegich and Family
313 Burr Knot Way, Brentwood, CA 94513

Bowling news, Ron Wilson



In my last newsletter we were waiting for the Napa tournament results. Of the nine bowlers from our branch 161 there were no casher's. We found dry lane conditions at Napa with difficult scoring. Also, the "String Pin Setters" were producing some very unusual pin fall and dropping pins during reset. This is the third year we have bowled with these new pin setters and this is the first year we have seen so many problems.

In our Monday SIR and Guests league we had some very nice high scores thru the first half (17 weeks) as follows.

Men:

Keith Jones	Scratch Game	300
Danny Roberts	Scratch Series	747
Derek Schutz	Handicap Series	831

Women:

Vicky Reid	Scratch Game	224
Vicky Reid	Scratch Series	558
Rosemarie Larkin	Handicap Game	290
Rosemarie Larkin	Handicap Series	760

Tournaments:

Sacramento at "Country Club Lanes" As I write this, we will be taking 8 bowlers to this tournament on Feb. 19th.

Citrus Heights at "Fireside Lanes" on Thursday March 5th. This will be the last SIR tournament at Fireside Lanes due to difficulty in obtaining lanes for tournaments in this very busy center.

Concord at "Clayton Valley Bowl" on your choice of March 24th or 25th.

Carson City Nevada at "Gold Dust West" on April 13,14,15. This is a Singles, Doubles and 4 person team event bowled over your choice of 2 or 3 days. Now is the time to get your entry processed. The room rates are very reasonable plus they include "Real" breakfast for each person per days stay. This venue is especially nice because the bowling center is in house. If you plan to go you should make your room reservations now. Call 877-519-5567 or 775-885-9000 and press 1 for reservations. Ask for the "SIR Bowling Tournament 2026" room block. I will be sending detailed information via e-mail.



For any tournament entries I will prepare and process all of the entry paperwork for you. All you need to do is give me your entry fee in a timely manner, show up and have fun.

See you on the lanes----Ron

Wine Tasting Report, Terry Silva



The February wine event was held at Johnny Welton's house on the Discovery Bay Golf course.

Attendees:

Terry and Sue Silva, Dick and Carolyn Jamison, Dave and Jini Ciruli, Will and Raquel Myers, David and Lee Vicencio, Brett and Lauren Lamb, John and Teri Davis, Dennis Pachucki and Karen Capra, Gary and Linda Tucker, Vince and Bobbi Vargas, Jim and Karen Spann

Hosts: Johnny Welton and Mimi Conley.

The hosts did a great job and we all had a great time.

Next Wine Event- March 26

Terry Silva, SIR Wine Chairman





Dinner With The Ladies, Dennis Pachucki



When: Tuesday, March 31, 2026
Where: Zephyr Grill & Bar, 613 1st St. #100, Brentwood.
Time: Arrival & Cocktails starting at 5:00 pm. Dinner served at 6:00 pm.

Starter Caesar Salad: romaine | house-made Caesar dressing | parmesan | croutons
Entre Choices, served with buttermilk mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables:

- Chicken Marsala: pan-seared | cream | mushroom marsala wine sauce
- Grilled King Salmon GF: lemon butter
- Braised Short Rib GF: wine & mushroom reduction.

Water, soft drinks, coffee, tea included.

Dessert: Carrot Cake: spiced cake | carrots | walnuts | raisins | cream cheese filling | caramel sauce | whipped cream

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

Deadline: We need your RSVP no later than Friday, March 27.
There will be envelopes at our General Meeting on March 3.
Maximum Capacity is 60 so 1st come 1st served.

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:

Chicken Marsal

Groilled Salmon

Short 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.

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/>