SIR
# BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 35th year! *October 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

I, along with Little Sir Dave Ciruli and Treasurer Skip Zehnder, recently attended the annual State SIR Meeting in Lafayette. Some interesting highlights worth mentioning :

1. SIR has added a new Branch in San Diego, the first since 2020 (Covid). This is a BIG DEAL in moving forward. SIR now has 78 Branches (76 all men and 2 co-ed), scattered all over the State.

2. Presently there are 8,599 members statewide.

3. An average of 110 members per Branch . We (Branch 161) presently have 115 members.

4. After 25 years of steady, downward decline in membership, State SIR is noticing a bottoming out of the downward spiral. A low plateau is beginning to appear as a result of Branch "Marketing Campaigns" in 2025 and 2026 . We have only lost a net 181 members statewide in the last 81/2 months It appears that we are starting to stem the outgoing tide.

**Membership Statewide**

Year 2000: 24,210
2010: 19,111 (- 5,099)
2020: 11,950 (- 7,161)
2025: 8,780 (- 3,170). Start of Marketing Campaigns.
2026 to date: 8599 (-181). A major slowdown is appearing.

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## October 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

## October events & activities

***Check the respective articles for more details.***

### October Meetings

- BEC meeting - October 6
- General meeting - October 6

### October Activities

**Bowling**
- Weekly (Mondays) - Lucky Strike, Brentwood
- October 13 or 14 - Lucky Strike, Brentwood: Annual Bob Matteucci Memorial Tournament hosted by Branch 161

**Cycling** (3 weekly rides)
- Mondays & Wednesdays - long ride
- Fridays - short ride

**Golf**
- October 20 - The Reserve, Stockton

**Dinner with the ladies** - October 27- Cap's, Brentwood

**Wine tasting** - October 22

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

***Big Sir, continued from page 1 ....***

With 31/2 months to go in 2026 for year one, the next 4 years (2030) will show the outcome of our collective marketing campaigns. Will it turn positive in 2030?

NOTE --- The new Branch in San Diego has an average age of 65 years. YES,- it is possible to turn this downward spiral around.

5. The State now lists:

29 Branches as GROWING.

18 Branches as SLIGHTLY Declining (our Branch 161 is in this group, but we are holding our own!). More younger members is the key factor that is essential.

31 Branches as SIGNIFICANTLY Declining.

Our Branch 161 Marketing Campaign is showing promise; let's keep moving forward. We presently have 62 members hailing from Discovery Bay, 46 from Brentwood, 2 from Byron, and 1 each from Antioch, Concord, and Rio Vista. Where are the members from Oakley, Knightsen and Mountain House? These are giant neighboring areas. We need to concentrate on these areas for gaining new members; Signage (posters, flyers etc.) may be the answer for becoming better known in these parts. Keep up your good work.

Looking forward to our October Meeting and Luncheon on Tuesday the 6th. Hope to see you there.

Let's keep moving,

Big Sir Steve Bordi.

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## Little Sir, Dave Ciruli

Fall is officially here. You sure wouldn't know it judging by the weather. At least we have been getting a few cool days in between the hot ones.

I hope you enjoyed last month's presentation from Sonnet Rodrigues from Coyote Crossing. She certainly has a very busy life and does a lot for animals that no else would take care of. I hope some of you will visit Coyote Crossing Ranch on Willow Way.

This month we will be hearing from the Contra County Sheriff's office. Our speaker will be LT Ryan White. I am sure some of you will have questions about how the Sheriff interfaces with both Discovery Bay and Brentwood.

Earlier this month your Big Sir, Little Sir and Treasurer attended the SIR Annual Meeting in Lafeyette. We will be discussing it at our October BEC meeting. Hopefully some of the things we heard will benefit our branch.

I've given up trying to get information about what we are having for lunch. So expect to have something good from the Club Los Maganos kitchen served smorgasbord style.

We will have tickets for our Christmas Luncheon on sale at the door. of our October 6 meeting. Our featured entertainment will be the Liberty HS choir.

See you on October 6th.

Little Sir, Dave Ciruli

**October Birthdays**

Bruce Bohnsack, Fred Critchfield, Tom Denning, Knute Kleinen, Larry Mensch, George Soles, Jim Spann, Gary Tucker, Ron Wilson, Skip Zehnder

## Wine Tasting, Terry Silva

This month's wine tasting event was held at Gary and Linda Tucker's house.

**Attendees:**

Dick and Carolyn Jamison, Randy and Lynda Zierau, Terry and Sue Silva, Will and Raquel Myers, Dave and Jinni Ciruli, Vince and Bobbie Vargas, Michael and Pam Quier, Tony Petralia.

The hosts did a great job. We all had a lot of fun.

Our October wine event will be on the 22nd.

Terry Silva
SIR Wine Chairman

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## Congratulations to Skip Zehnder

Our Branch 161 Treasurer Skip Zehnder has been appointed to State SIR Treasurer. Congratulations Skip, and thanks for your service to the SIR organization.

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## 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.

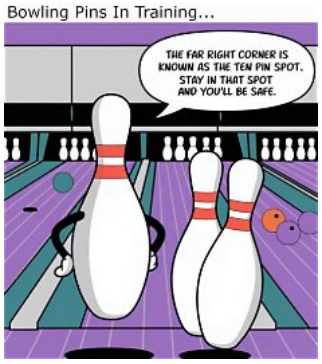
For details, contact Jerry Wiebe at 916-206-9221 or papadrone@gmail.com

## Bowling news, Ron Wilson

We completed our summer league on August 31st. Team # 7 (Esther Bloise, Ron Wilson, Mike Carmichael and Don Blotzer) took the Championship. Team # 6 (Bob Damico, Terry Damico, Shirley Jennings and Derek Schutz) followed closely in second place.
Our 35-week winter league began on September 14th with eleven 4-person teams.

### Upcoming SIR Tournaments:

Pacheco at “Paddock Lanes” on your choice of September 23rd or 24th. So far we have 10 of our Branch 161 bowlers going to this one.
Brentwood at “Lucky Strike Brentwood” on your choice of October 13th or 14th. This is our Branch 161 annual “Bob Matteucci Memorial” tournament here at our home center. So far I have 22 bowlers from our own Branch signed up. I am hopeful that we will see 90 total competitors after the other Branch entries are received.




This memorial tournament, held in honor of Bob Matteucci, began in year 2000 after Bob’s passing. Bob was the founder of our Branch 161 SIR Bowling League.
Modesto at “McHenry Bowl” on your choice of November 5th or 6th. This is the last tournament for this year.

See you on the lanes
Ron Wilson
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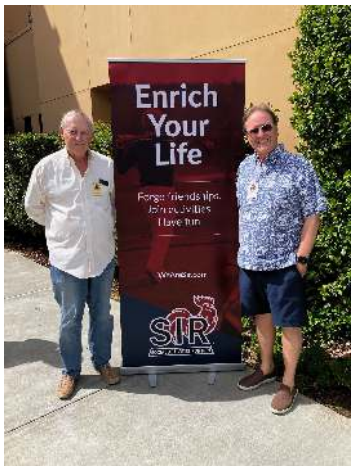
## Bocce Ball, Mike Park

We are pleased to announce that the following individuals have signed up for the newest SIR Branch 161 activity. The next steps will be the formation of an inaugural leadership group that will determine where and when the co-ed activity will be held. We are confident that this group will begin a new and exciting activity for many of our members. If you are interested in Bocce, please let us know by contacting Mike Park at Mike4 pines@gmail.com

**Founding Bocce players are:**
Gary and Linda Tucker
Dan Roberts
Don Blotzer
Martin Barry
Larry Barron
Dennis Pachucki
Ron and Marie Wilson
Mike and Phyllis Park
Johnny Welton
Tony Petralia

## Membership & Marketing - Luis Figueroa, Mike Park

Membership at end of August: 115
New Members in September: 3
Members lost in September: 2
Membership as of 09/21: 116
Guests in September: 0




Born and raised in Detroit, MI, Chuck Smith studied aerospace engineering at the University of Michigan and Stanford.
He worked 35 years at NASA, mostly in Mountain View, CA. Chuck worked on every aerospace vehicle you can imagine, from helicopters to entry vehicles.
Married to Annette Rodrigues.
Chuck has two children and five grandchildren.
He enjoys traveling, reading, genealogy, swimming, meeting new people, and wine tasting.
Chuck has resided in Trilogy for seven years.

**Photo:** Chuck Smith (L) and sponsor George Soles (R)

Born in 1954, Larry Barron grew up in Brentwood. After high school, in 1972 he moved to Madera County, near Fresno for 20 years, and moved back to Brentwood in 1992.

Larry is divorced, has 2 daughters and 6 grandchildren.
Larry enjoys bocce ball and taking morning walks.

**Photo:** Larry Barron (R) and sponsor Ron Wilson (L)

Martin Berry has lived and worked in the Bay Area for more than 40 years, is retired and lives in the Trilogy community. He spent his career in accounting and finance, including 20 years as Vice President of Finance for a manufacturing, importing, and distribution company.
Several friends who are members of SIR introduced Larry to the organization and encouraged him to join. Since retiring, Larry has looked for opportunities to stay active and meet new people. He participates in a bowling league, a bocce league, plays card games, and recently joined a backgammon club. He been married for almost 50 years and has two daughters and two granddaughters.
**Photo:** Martin Berry (R) and sponsor Phil Kepp (L)

## Golf News, Johnny Welton

SIR Golf has had a record-breaking year with more players than ever before (206 to date). Thirty-two players competed at Blue Rock Springs West Golf Course this month. It ties our largest group ever! This year has seen more players overall at every event. This ties a record!

It was a beautiful day that found the course in great shape and play was consistent but challenging. The day overall went to Lee Donnell with total winnings of $33. In Flight A Lee and Terry Dawkins tied for low gross scores of 84. Lee won the tie breaker on hole 18. Lee also won two skins and was closest to the hole on #15 with 1' 2". Rick Maniz also had a great day earning $29 including 3 skins. Randy Zierau won $26. Joe Riggs will collect $24 including closest to the hole on #3 at 8' 2".

In Flight B Johnny Welton had low gross with a 91 and Gale Nelson came in second (100). Randy Zierau (75) won a tie breaker on the 17th hole with John Sutton for low net score.

Terry Dawkins led the first-place team (134) which included Randy Zierau, Ken Fanucchi, and Joe Riggs. The second-place team included Rick Maniz, Larry Barron, Johnny Welton, and Isao Nishijima (140) which won a tie breaker on the 18th hole. Leaving Bob Rodrique, Ted Arcado, Gale Nelson and John Sutton (140) with third place.

The SIR Branch 161 Individual Championship at The Reserve in Stockton is on October 20th. Twenty-nine are registered. 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. SIR Course Marshal positions are available.

We return to Blue Rock Springs in Vallejo to play the East Course for the last event of the year. There are 27 registrations. Register as soon as possible. The event will be a "shamble" (the best drive is used for the whole team). Two SIR Course Marshal positions are available.

This is a good time to recognize those that have provided leadership to the SIR organization. The SIR Golf Committee has served the past year with many trials and tribulations. It has been an effective team that has been the core of this year's record success. Please take a minute to thank: Tom Denning, Lee Donnell, Mike Kaufman, Bill Konold, Dan Lippstreu, Dennis Pachucki, Michael Park, John Sutton, David Vicencio, and Johnny Welton. Great job fellas!

Have a good one!
Johnny Welton
Golf Director
Cell: 925-876-5844
Email: johnnywelton40@gmail.com

## Golf photos by Johnny Welton and David Vicencio

Isao, Nishijima, Rick Maniz, and Johnny Welton

Joe Riggs, Randy Zierau,
Terry Dawkins, and Ken Fanucchi

John Jewell, Ray Valdez,
Tom Denning, and Richard Martin

Lee Donnel-Hole 15:  1' 2"

Ted Arcado, Gale Nelson,
Bob Rodrique, and John Sutton

## Dinner With The Ladies

**When:** **Tuesday**, Octber 27, 2026
**Where:** Cap's Oak Street Bar & Grill, 144 Oak Street, Brentwood CA
**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).

- Broiled Salmon with rice pilaf
- Stuffed Pork Chops with garlic mashed potatoes & fresh vegetables
- Petite (10 oz) New York Steak with garlic mashed potatoes & fresh vegetables
- Lamb Shanks with garlic mashed potatoes & fresh vegetables

**Cost:** $45.00 per person (includes tax and tip)

**Deadline:** We need your RSVP no later than Friday, October 24 2026.
There will be envelopes at our General Meeting on October 6.
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

Cap's is located at 144 Oak Street (at the corner of 2nd Street) in downtown Brentwood. The plan is to dine outside on main patio.

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

Your Name(s): _____

Phone Number:_____

Your Menu choices:

☐ Broiled Salmon ☐ Stuffed Pork Chops

☐ Petite (10 oz) New York Steak ☐ Lamb Shanks

**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.

**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**
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