



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 33rd year! Dec 2024

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

Jim Wangeman, Big Sir

Thank you to everyone attending our November luncheon and to our new Board for next year. Our speaker from the Fire Department, Tom Aubert, gave us a complete update on our Fire Protection and the future.



The BEC reviewed several Bids from various locations and after a lot of discussion, the BEC selected Discovery Bay Country Club as our meeting place for 2025. Everything will be the same as this year, with a sit down lunch and 2 choices for lunch. The price of \$38.00 will include the meeting place, 2 Golf Carts, Flag, podium and microphone, and service. They will require a final count 7 days prior to the event. We will have Valet parking for our December Lunch with our Ladies, and the Bar will be back starting in January. Thank you to our BEC for making a tough decision. Please remember to notify Phil Newlin, if you will not be able attend at least 7 days prior to our meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Big Sir Jim Wangeman

Little Sir report, Steve Bordi

Last month's guest speaker was Con Fire's Deputy Fire Marshal, Steve Aubert. Starting his career at age 19 after graduating from Sequoia High School in Redwood City, CA. (also the Alma Mater of our Big Sir, Jim Wangeman), Steve rose up through the ranks to become the last Fire Chief at Oni-



uka Air Force Station in Sunnyvale, CA. (Part of the Navy's closed Moffett Field which fielded the Blimps and their Hangars). Now out of a job, he made a career move to Con Fire in 2009 where he was assigned to help East County Fire with their fire investigations. In 2019, Steve was selected out of a field of 16 candidates to be named as the first Fire Inspector in the history of Con Fire. This new position was deemed necessary after the 2016 "Ghostship Warehouse Fire" in Oakland.

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Christmas luncheon (tickets required)
December 10, 2024.

December events & activities
Check the respective articles for more details.

Christmas luncheon - December 10.
No BEC meeting in December.

Activities

Bowling

- Dec 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Brentwood Bowlero

Cycling

- Dec 2 & 6 - long ride
- Dec 4 - short ride

Little Sir report, *continued from page 1*

As a Deputy Fire Marshal, Steve deals with both old and new construction , building fire code violations, and fire investigations, including arson. He is a sworn "Peace Officer", capable of making arrests. His PowerPoint presentation was well received and very informative. Q & A's followed his presentation.

This month's Christmas with the Ladies luncheon will feature entertainment by the Liberty High School Choir and the "Songsters".



Deputy Fire Marshal, Steve Aubert receives a Certificate Of Appreciation from Little Sir Steve Bordi

Christmas Luncheon Menu

9 oz. Prime Rib with Au Jus and Creamy Horseradish Sauce, Steamed Red Potatoes, and Seasonal Veggies. Garlic Bread or Roll with Butter. Meal followed with a "SURPRISE DESSERT" with Coffee or Ice Tea.

Alternate Meal: Chicken Piccata instead of Prime Rib; You Must notify Phil Newlin by November 27 if you want this option:

email: ward28fred-sirs@yahoo.com

Tel. (408) 505 5359

December Birthdays

Ken Butler, Sid Crusier, Gary Hess, Larry Lindsey, Dan Lippstreu, Jerry Marshall, Howard Patton, Dennis Platania, John Reichenbach, Joe Stanley, Leon Thompson

SIR Cyclers, Jerry Wiebe (916) 206-9221

We continue to enjoy our California weather year after year that provides so many opportunities for morning and early evening bicycle riders. Riding just a few miles a week helps you to maintain your balance and strengthens your muscles to help keep you in good health.

All levels of bicycling experience are welcome, and electric bike riders are encouraged to join us. We are here to help you brush up on your riding skills if you have not ridden for a while. It only takes a few weeks to wake up those muscles and build some endurance. Just start at a mile a day...then add another, then another. In no time you'll be surprised how stronger you feel. The best part is feeling good... ALL OVER!

Contact your physician and discuss the health benefits of bicycling. Our cyclists often get up in the morning on Lee Donell's driveway on the corner of Windward Point and Clipper Drive In Discovery Bay. When you feel confident about a longer trip, we have as many as three rides a week. Our favorite morning trek is on Friday, pedaling into Brentwood to enjoy a cup of coffee and a lot of gab at a local coffee shop. We are always on the lookout for new members to join us at this fun exercise activity that has a lot of plusses.

Now get those bicycles down you have hanging on the wall of your garages, dust them off, and put some air in the tires. We are waiting for you!



November awards



Frank Cramer (right) receives the Super Senior SIR membership award From Bob Damico

In Memoriam



Al Box

We were sad to report that Al Box passed away November 13. Al was a long-time resident of Discovery Bay and a 30 year member of SIR Branch 161. He was our oldest member at 98, and achieved the Super Senior SIR status in August of 2021. Please keep his wife Dana and their family in your thoughts and prayers. We will let you know about service plans as they become available.



Brad Vinson

We were sad to report the passing of Brad Vinson on November 17, 2024. He was a member of SIR Branch 161 since January 2011. Please keep Brad, his wife Sandy and their family in your thoughts and prayers. A graveside service is planned for December 10, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at:
The Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5810 Midway Road, Dixon, CA 95620.

2025 BEC Installation

Past Big Sir Ken Landoline performed the Installation of our 2025 BEC (Branch Executive Committee) at our November General Meeting.



Left to right:

Bob Damico, Dennis Pachucki, Ron Wilson, Johnny Welton, Dave Ciruli, Phil Newlin, Luis Figueroa, Skip Zehnder, Norm Petersen, Saul Gold, Bruce Bohnsack, Steve Bordi, Jim Wangeman.

Key Of The City



Our Big Sir Jim Wangeman was presented with the Key Of The City of Brentwood by outgoing Mayor Joel Bryant at the Brentwood City Council meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12.

A surprised Jim was given the key for his lifetime service to Brentwood, and he said he was “overwhelmed, speechless, and emotional”.

Jim built Harvest Park Bowl, which opened in December of 1994, and has done many things for the City, including starting the Brentwood King of the Grill BBQ competition in partnership with Brentwood Police Activities League.

Mayor Bryant was quoted as saying “Big Jim is not called ‘Big Jim’ because he is a tall man with broad shoulders; It’s because he has a heart as big as the city.”

Congratulations Jim, and thanks for all you’ve done for the community.

Annual dues

Our SIR organization is dependent on annual dues. It is important that all members pay their \$25 annual dues by the end of February 2025. You can mail a check made to SIR Branch 161 to our Treasurer, Norman Petersen at 5711 Augusta Court, Discovery Bay, CA, 94505, or bring your check to our next SIR Branch 161 lunch. Thank you to those members who have already paid their dues.

Christmas Luncheon Tickets - Jerry Wiebe

We are pleased to announce the tickets for the SIR Christmas Lunch with the Ladies are still available for purchase. Tickets are \$35 per person and include lunch of 9 oz. Prime Rib with Au Jus and Creamy Horseradish Sauce, Steamed Red Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables. Garlic Bread or Roll; Dessert and Coffee or Iced Tea are included. Entertainment will be Christmas tunes by the Liberty High School Choir and Holiday Songs by the Songsters.

You may send your check along with a self-addressed, stamped return envelope to Jerry Wiebe, 1202 Alderman Lane, Brentwood, CA 94513. Jerry will mail your luncheon tickets to you as soon as he receives payment. This event is always my favorite, don't miss out.

Mystery Sir

Our November mystery Sir was Frank Cramer.



Can you guess who this month's mystery Sir is? (photo on left).

If you have an 'early' photo of yourself you'd like included, please email to:

sir161@comcast.net

October Attendance Report, Phil Newlin

Fellow SIR members, here is a summary of attendance numbers for our November 12th luncheon..

Date	NOV 12	
Members, including New	127	NO CALL - NO SHOW This is the number of members subject to lunch charge for not calling and not showing up
NO CALL - NO SHOW	5	
Notified	35	Notified - This is the number of members that notified the Attendance Chairman of their non-attendance.
Actual Count Total	87	Actual Count Total - This is the total members - No Call/No Show - Notified.

Membership, Luis Figueroa

At the November luncheon we did not have any guests or new members inducted. Since we will not have a regular December luncheon I am happy to announce this year's winner of the member who recruited the most branch new members. This year's winner is Dennis Pachuki who recruited 3 new members (Joe Riggs, Rick Martin, and Jim Sniadecki). I will present Dennis his free meal certificate at the January luncheon.



Please refer to the Membership section on our branch web site at www.sir161.org to better understand the new member process, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Prospective members have the option to become inducted at their first luncheon meeting if they have already completely filled out their application and submitted it, or wait until after attending the first luncheon and later submitting the application. In addition when bringing in guests, please notify Phil Newlin or myself in advance of the meeting in order to allow time for the preparation of a guest package. The Branch will continue to give a free bottle of wine to any member who brings in a guest to our luncheons, and a free lunch certificate to the member who sponsors a new member.

The current headcount is 125.

Our SIR Branch 161 membership marketing flyer, available for download from our [web site](#)

Enrich Your Life

Have you ever thought, I want to do that, but didn't have someone to do it with? Have you ever just wanted to get out, but had nowhere special to go?

SIR is your answer.

For over 60 years, SIR has provided opportunities for active senior men to enjoy activities with friends, both old and new.

Our Branch welcomes your participation in our activities.

Come have lunch with us! Our treat. Contact our Branch representative to RSVP and get the date, time and location.

In addition to our monthly lunch, our major activities include:

- Golf
- Bowling
- RV trips
- Pickle Ball
- Tennis
- Wine tasting
- Cycling
- Monthly dinner at local restaurants with ladies
- Bi-annual entertainment events

Our Branch contact information:

www.sir161.org
Meet monthly at the Discovery Bay Golf and Country Club
Membership Contact:
figueroa50@yahoo.com; 415-997-5172

To learn more about SIR and other branches visit the organization website: www.sirinc.org

THE BEST TIME OF YOUR LIFE IS NOW!

Don't Miss a Minute

SIR is a social club for men, with over 95 Branches in Northern and Central California.

SIR is nonprofit 501 (c) (4) and is nonpolitical.

Golf News, Johnny Welton



The chill is in the air. The fire feels good. Holidays are upon us and golf is off the schedule for a couple of months. But that doesn't mean that SIR Golf isn't busy. End of the Year Surveys are about to be emailed. NCGA dues are due. Soon we will be making reservations for all those events on the 2025 Schedule!

Last meeting we celebrated another great year. Ten well attended and quickly played rounds of golf. Randy Zierau won the Individual Championship for the second year in a row but picked up the "Sandbagger" award for the first time. Forty (90.9%) of the players this year won something. \$1,972 was awarded. Each year, golfers retire from the game, but our golf group continues to grow. 16 new players tried our group for the first time and two have already signed up for next year. The core of the group is 20 that played seven or more times. We averaged 23.5 players at each event, which is the most ever to play.

In golf, the objective is to score the lowest number of strokes possible. In stroke play, you count all your shots for each hole, and the player with the lowest score at the end of the round wins. In match play, you compete against another player, and the winner is determined by who wins the most holes.

A handicap is a measure of a player's skill level, and it's used to level the playing field when playing against more skilled players.

The earliest record of the golf handicap being created dates way back to the 17th century (although the word handicap was not used at the start). During the 19th century, a three-score method for calculating a golf handicap was created in England and Scotland.

To get your number, you used to take the difference of the average of your three best scores during the year. That number represented your official handicap.

In the United States, the USGA introduced its world handicap system in 1911. It was based on the three-round average that started in England. They also developed a par rating system that assessed the average score of a scratch golfer on every course. This allowed golfers who played at different courses to understand their handicap relative to one another.

By the 21st century, there were six different handicap systems recognized throughout the world. Most of these systems shared common features, but there were some significant differences that also made them non-universal.

Golf is a game that requires both skill and etiquette. Following the rules of golf and practicing proper etiquette is essential to ensure that everyone enjoys the game. The rules of golf are set by the USGA and are designed to maintain the integrity and fairness of the game. We like to be competitive but to fairly compete, we need a handicap system. More importantly, we need everyone to use the handicap system in the same way and with the same attention to the rules. If there is not the same commitment to the rules and posting scores, a handicap system cannot create fair competition.

Remember to always be respectful of other players and the course, and you'll be on your way to having a great day at the golf course!

Here is a helpful web site with more information on our handicap system:

<https://www.fairwayapproach.com/golf-handicap-guide-explained/>

Happy Holidays!

Johnny

Golf Awards Photos



Dan Lippstreu (right) presents the Individual Championship Trophy to Randy Zierau (center)



Randy Zierau displays his Chief Sandbagger t-shirt.



Tom Denning (right) receives the Low Gross award from Johnny Welton

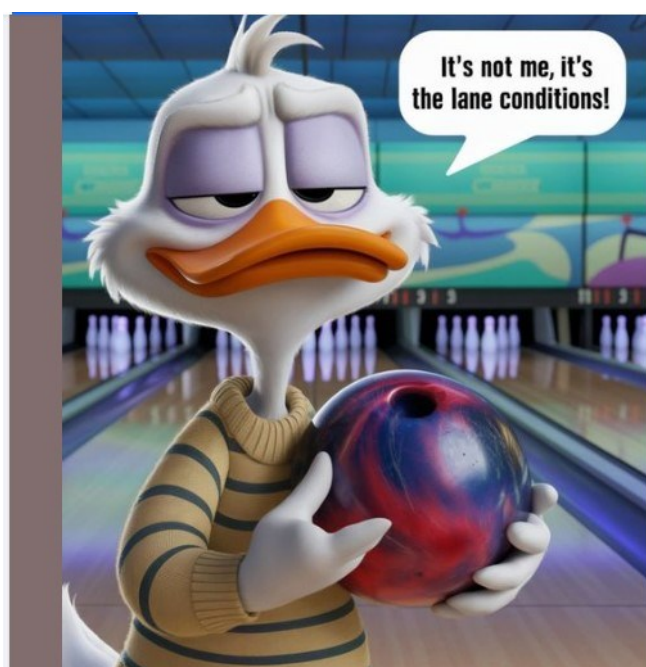


Randy Zierau (left) and Johnny Welton

Bowling news, Ron Wilson

We finished our SIR tournament year with 4 of our bowlers at the Modesto tournament. There were no casher's this time.

Our first tournament in 2025 will be held at Napa Bowl on your choice of January 21 or 22. The "Napa Bowl" is equipped with the new technology "String Setters". This pin setting technology has produced a wide variety of responses as to being good or bad for bowling. For those of you who have not bowled in a center with this technology, you should try it and form your own opinions. We bowled it last year and I and my wife Marie plan on bowling it again. The tournament application should be available in two weeks or so. I will Broadcast it via email to those on my list. You may also access all state tournament information by going to "sirinc.org", click on Bowling, then click on State.



On October 28th, during our weekly league session, Keith Jones Bowled a perfect "300" game. This, itself is an impressive achievement in the world of Senior Bowlers. What makes this especially impressive is it being Keith's 14th career perfect "300" game. Congratulations Keith on your fine achievement.

By doing the math for our summer and winter leagues over a 20 year period, approximately 138,000 games were bowled and our league produced only 7 or 8 perfect games.

For those of you who want to bowl SIR tournaments at other branches I will continue to do all of the paperwork to make it easy for you. All you have to do is write the check and show up.

As we close our 2024 bowling year I want to thank all of you who support our League and our tournaments. This past year has seen an increase in our league and tournament bowlers. I am hopeful we can continue this improvement in 2025.

See you on the lanes.

Ron Wilson

Membership Requirements & Principles

(revised 2019)

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 *(Revised July, 2012)*

Luncheon meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Discovery Bay Country Club, 1475 Club House Drive. (There are 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 may be charged 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. For those who have yet to pay their dues, be sure to mail a check for \$25 (made out to SIR Branch 161) to our Treasurer, Jerry Wiebe.

Dress code for our meetings is "Country Club Casual", which means no jeans or denim, cutoffs or exercise shorts, shirts must have a collar, no tank tops or T-shirts, no flip-flops or thong type sandals. Please ensure that your guests are aware of this policy. It is suggested that hats be removed while reciting the Pledge Of Allegiance.

If you're unable to attend a meeting, our Branch is obligated to pay for lunches not served. Please email or call Phil Newlin by the Friday preceding the meeting if you don't plan to attend.

Phil Newlin: ward28fred-sirs@yahoo.com

Tel: (408) 505 5359

Your newsletter team



Tom Jones
Editor & email copies



Bob Damico
Paper copies

View SIR Happenings, the State SIR newsletter: <http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>

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