



**SIR -- IT'S WHO WE ARE:
SOCIAL ACTIVITES FOR MEN**

BAKERSFIELD BRANCH 163

SEPTEMBER NEWS



THE SIR BRANCH 163 FAITHFUL ATTENDING THE AUGUST LUNCHEON



For those not attending you missed a delicious Hodel's luncheon and the feasting on fried chicken, pit beef, apple crisp, blueberry cobbler, and salads to match. And though our numbers were down, there was no extra charge. Always a treat, Hodel's exceeds the mark! THANKYOU Mr. HODEL.

ATTENTION SIR MEMBERS:

Three MOST IMPORTANT DATES in September

- **Sept. 12th**, LUNCH-OUT: SUGAR MILL Café, 2523 N. Chester.
- **Sept. 19th**, LUNCHEON at **HODEL'S**.
- **Sept. 30th**. Pool Buddies at **Bankshots**, 1129 Olive Dr Ste. A
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW LEST YOU FORGET!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



ALWAYS remember to keep Thursdays open: No appointments, no other commitments until you check for a conflict with a SIR's event.!

BRANCH 163 LEADERS

A number of you have asked who some of our leaders have been and are they still active. This is a list and 7 are still active:

FORMER BIG SIRS

Bruce Stickler	1991_92
Roger Lewis	1993
Herb Roberts/Cecil Gibson	1994
Charles Lentz	1995
Manuel Ruiz	1996
Bob Henry	1997
Stan Moore	1998
Bill Lingo	1999
Clint Bradshaw	2000
Shirlo Shively	2001
Jean Phillippe	2002
Frank Lorscher	2003
Tony de Contreras	2004
Bob Williams	2005
Marvin Belcher	2006
Ned Driggers	2007
Kurt Zander	2008
Lon Kellenberger	2009
Lynn Bender	2010-11
Richard Weigelt	2012
Keith Montgomery	2013-2014
Bender/Montgomery/R. Weigelt	2015
Tom Buck	2016
T. Buck/K. Montgomery/R. Weigelt	2017
Lon Kellenberger	2018
Ron Huntington	2019
David Fabrizius	2020
R. Huntington/K. Montgomery/R. Weigelt	2021

Gary Corbell
Larry Sitzman
Jim Shapazian

2022
2023
2024

In 33 years we have had 28 new and single term officers who stepped up to meet the challenge of Big Sir leadership. As you can see some years had no one single leader but former officers partnered to lead. I am told everyone got along and no one was injured, run out of town, or killed! In fact, stronger relationships were formed and participants reaped a greater joy from serving. So when we put the call-out for Little Sir, Big Sir, Chaplain, and others please raise your hand. You'll be glad you did and so will we. Thanks men.



POOL BUDDIES

- Where? Bank Shot: Olive Dr. and Roberts Lane
- **When? Monday, 30 September**
- Time? 11:00 A.M. Come join us
- Things to do? Shoot Pool. Tease your buddies. Get into Darts. And, of course, share a good lunch.



2 ETFs Track Congress Members' Holdings \$\$\$\$\$\$

Real-time disclosure of official's stock trading an aid to all investors!

by Albert Lawler, **Better Investing**, September 2024 Issue

On the eve of the pandemic in February 2020, then-Sen.

Kelly Loeffler, R-Georgia, and then-Sen. Richard Burr, R-North Carolina, former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, were secretly briefed on the impending COVID-19 crisis. Equipped with privileged intel, the two lawmakers sold millions of dollars worth of stock in travel, lodging and entertainment companies before the market crashed. In total, Loeffler and Burr made off with around **\$21.7 million**.

Loeffler, whose husband is the chairman of the New York

Stock Exchange and the founder, CEO and chairman of Intercontinental Exchange, was cleared of any wrongdoing by the U.S. Ethics Committee in June 2020. Then in January 2023, the Securities and Exchange Commission ended its insider trading investigation of Burr without acting.

LATHER, RINSE, REPEAT

Elected officials on both sides of the aisle raise suspicions with the timing of their trades, but it's difficult to prove they're illegal. Among the manifold provisions set forth by 2012's Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act, or STOCK Act, it (1) requires members of Congress to make financial disclosures about their investments and (2) forbids them from using "any nonpublic information derived from the individual's position... or gained from performance of the individual's duties, for personal benefit."

The jury's still out about the enforcement of the latter, but the first part about filing financial disclosures has yielded interesting results.

It's how we know Rep. William Keating, D-Massachusetts sold \$15,000 in shares of Boeing on Feb. 28, 2024, one day prior to the U.S. Department of Justice announcing its investigation of the aerospace company. It's also how we know that:

■ Last year, Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-New Jersey,

Rep. Daniel Goldman, D-New York and Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Alabama — the three most active investors in Congress — combined for 1,327 trades totaling \$111,131,000 in volume.

■ Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-California, whose estimated net worth is \$250 million, is up 73% on her NVIDIA position.

■ Sen. Rick Scott, R-Florida, whose estimated net worth is \$328 million, has purchased \$13.8 million worth of shares so far this year and sold \$8.8 million.

The financial disclosures required by the STOCK Act make this information publicly accessible. And armed with that, two exchange-traded funds (ETFs) now track the collective investments of Congressional Democrats and Republicans, making their opportunities available to constituents who don't have behind-closed-doors access to special committee meetings or intelligence briefings.

INVEST LIKE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL

Two funds offered by Subversive ETFs have gained attention this year as they aim to mirror the portfolios of Congressional traders. The Unusual Whales Democratic

ETF (ticker: NANC) and the Unusual Whales Republican **ETF (KRUZ)** "invest In equity securities purchased or sold by.. -members of Congress and their spouses...!"

The ETFs make opportunities available to constituents who don't have behind-closed-doors access to special committee meetings.

Both ETFs debuted on Feb. 7, 2023, and have performed admirably with NANC gaining 41.54% since its inception and KRUZ up 20.99%. Their infancy explains their reasonably low assets under management, which collectively is \$105.33 million, and both funds have relatively higher expense ratios of 0.75%.

The top five holdings of each ETF demonstrate why their shares appreciated so well over the past year and a half. Top allocations by weighting for NANC include NVIDIA, Microsoft, Apple, Alphabet and Amazon; the top five for KRUZ include JPMorgan Chase, Comfort Systems, NVIDIA, Arista Networks and Intel.

ACTIVELY MANAGED

While an expense ratio of 0.75% may seem high for an ETE given that both funds are actively managed, it makes sense. According to the Subversive ETFs' fact sheets, both aim to "allow investors access to near-real-time trading disclosures of members of Congress in both parties."

So if you've ever been curious about what's in a Congressperson's portfolio, ETFs like NANC and KRUZ provide that insight — and profit potential — in order that the electorate can benefit from the market the same questionable way some politicians do.

BETTERINVESTING | SEPTEMBER 2024 | CASH FLOW 7

Copied by Sir Larry Sitzman August 2024



KERN COUNTY -- DAIRY CARES



- One in 5 Californians have uncertain or inconsistent access to food. That's why California's dairy farm families are continually doing their part to help feed those in need.
- In 2023, California dairy organizations collectively donated more than 3.6 million pounds of dairy products to local food banks.
- This includes donations of milk and cheese, as well as yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, evaporated milk, macaroni and cheese, ice cream, and more. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Food and Agriculture purchases tens of millions of pounds of dairy products per year that are provided to Californians in need through various government programs. Milk continues to be one of the most requested items at California's local food banks.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

KERN COUNTY FAIR

SENIOR DAY

FRIDAY September 22nd

9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

FREE ADMISSION and PARKING

TEHACHAPI APPLE HARVEST DAYS



- 11 October 2024 Downtown
- Also, run up to: **PULFORD APPLETREE Orchard**
- 4 September thru October
- Best Apples you will ever get
- 19440 Highline Road
- 661-822-5021

The Mysterious PISTACHIO NUT



Why Pistachios you might ask? Well, for starters, I worked in the Ag industry for 37 years providing equipment solutions for Kern County farmers. In that period I witnessed the transformation of crops from cotton, potatoes, and alfalfa to permanent crops such as grapes, almonds, and pistachios. I found Pistachios of great interest as they slowly grew in acreage and prominence by local farmers. They are extremely costly to grow and won't produce a positive payback for 5 to 6 years. One local grower said today's investment cost on Paid-for ground with two sources of average cost water is about \$12,000 per acre and plan on \$3200 per acre annual growing costs. So, it takes deep pockets and optimism when one makes that investment. The one over-riding essential factor is water. One must water them generously especially between mid-June and mid-August with over 3 acre feet of water in order to finish a quality crop.

What's mysterious about this nut? Each year the grower prepares a budget estimate with: "unknown" for estimated yield, "unknown" for insect and disease pressures, and "unknown" for quality! Yes, of course, he has past averages of production per acre but with pistachios he does not know if this is a bearing year or an 'off' year. Since God designed these trees as self-pollinating, 'dioecious' with male and female trees, the potential yield depends on receiving the right amount of Gentle Breezes at the right time of early spring. The Mystery: Male trees are planted at one every 4th or 5th tree to produce ample pollen while the female tree must 'open' within a 7-20 day window to receive pollen. The size of the bunch depends upon the number of chilling hours(850 hours below 50 degrees with limited sun). The per cent fill depends on temperatures between 75 and 83 degrees and the amount of pollen moving through the orchard. Now the biggest question, 'When do you know what the yield will be?' Answer: Right before harvest which has just started in some areas. Good news for this year so far is a very high fill rate with only 4% blanks. Talk about nail-biting time, and remember the farmer has already inked the bank loan, bought the fertilizers and amendments, contracted with his PCA, etc. So when you eat a pistachio nut, remember its' mystery! I always consider farmers as 'Stewards of the land and the crops planted'. As one farmer put it, "We plant and water, but God brings the harvest"!

Sir Larry Sitzman

SIR BARRY YOUNG

THANK YOU BARRY!

- ATTENDANCE CHAIRMAN
- WELCOME CENTER HOST
- ENSURES EVERYONE GETS CHECKED IN FOR OUR HODEL'S MEETINGS
- ASSISTS NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS
- KEEPS THE LINE MOVING
- Barry has been a member for Eleven years and we appreciate your support.



MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

We never want to miss a member birthday especially those milestone markers.

This last meeting in August we recognized EIGHT members for their latest mark in life.

Not all were present so if you see them at the next meeting give them a big SHOUT OUT.

- ROBERT HIMES – 95
- HERB HOCHSTATTER – 90
- TOM HOLSON – 90
- VAL VASQUEZ – 90
- TOM BUCK – 90
- BUD MCDONALD – 90
- HARVEY WARREN - 90
- MARVIN NEABECK – 95

SHARING MEMORIES WITH TOM HOLSON, JR.



You know Tom when you see him, as he usually sits at the Hodels table front right side. He has been a member of Branch 163 since September of 2018 and when you get to know him, Tom can tell lots of stories from the many experiences in his 91 years on this planet.

Born in Bakersfield April 25, 1933, Tom was a product of the Great Depression as were his two siblings. That depression story is much

the same as other families seeking jobs for food and shelter but with a twist.

Tom's Grandfather, Charlie Holson, was an authentic Vaquero type cowboy in Silver City, New Mexico. Permanent jobs were exceedingly hard to find so he moved to Bakersfield in 1924 where he was employed by the Kern County Land Co. as a Cowboy (remember the story of Ron Huntington?). He left Tom Sr. and family back in New Mexico where Tom was working as a 'Line-a-Type' machine operator for the local newspaper. This kind of typewriter would create impressions on a lead plate and then be used for printing a page of words.

In those days Tom Sr. said men would come in off the street and tell the owner "Whatever you're paying him I'll do it for less"! Pretty tempting for an owner or manager to accept so he could add to the bottom line!!! For this and other economic reasons they moved around a lot looking for better employment anywhere in the South West. In fact, each of the children were born in a different state! Finally, Tom Sr. 'loaded up the 1931 Dodge Touring Sedan' and headed to Bakersfield where he found meaningful employment at the Bakersfield Californian Newspaper where he worked for 33 years.

Tom Jr. has recollections of the depression post-economy: everyone who could, had a garden that they truly 'cared for' and depended upon for sustenance. Tom said, "Mom 'canned' a lot of fruit and vegetables to store in the basement for winter". He remembers when he was ten, Mom giving him 25 cents to go buy a loaf of bread from the store - keeper. Tom said he put the quarter in his shirt pocket and ran as fast as he could to the store. When he got there the quarter was gone! Luckily the store - keeper knew the family and gave Tom a loaf of bread. However, when he got home he had to face his Dad. "Dad was a fair man but he made a big deal out of careless handling of money!" Tom says they ate more spinach during those years than you could imagine.

The 1950's were a tumultuous time for Tom and family and he packed each day with jobs, activities, and studies that would benefit him in the future if not that very day. In 1950 he also worked for Kern County Land Co. running a weed sprayer using chemicals that probably should have been banned from the planet! At 13 he went to Colorado, somewhere along the Platte River, and worked for an uncle. Tom said he learned most farm jobs including driving a tractor pulling implements

like disks, harrows, and a one-way plow which if you turned the wrong way at the end of the field could cause the operator death or dismemberment!

Education for Tom was Graduating from the 'University of East Bakersfield High' in 1951. He attended Bakersfield College and took courses that he thought would improve or complement his skills and not just what the college program required.

He married his lovely wife, Betty, on Flag Day 1952. Betty's dad who worked for Standard Oil Company encouraged Tom to go work for Chevron Oil Corp. which was hiring at the time. Tom did so in 1953 and spent nearly 40 years with them becoming Compliance Coordinator for Chevron Pipeline Co. Tom speaks quite highly of Chevron Corporation and how well they treated employees. Even back then they paid college tuition, books and fees, and paid him his salary while he did duty in the Navy Reserve. Tom retired here in Bakersfield in 1992.

U.S. Navy Reserve. During the Korean War build-up, the draft was coming his way so Tom enlisted into the Navy Reserve in 1951. This plus the fact their first baby was due kept the draft from pulling him into the army. He would have gone anyway but he preferred the Navy and served this country faithfully, did his duty, and learned a lot about many things while on duty.

He was assigned to the USS John C. Butler, Destroyer-Escort (D-E) ship: the first DE designed ship which could be used either or both ways expanding its capabilities in the war effort. Oddly enough, and to the benefit of Tom Holson, the USS John C. Butler spent most of its time in the early '50s working the west coastline from Mexico to Canada. Because of his assignment, Diesel Engineer 3rd class, Tom learned how to repair just about anything from lawn mowers, small engines, refrigeration, etc. Actually, I think he would rebuild a tractor today if you asked him!

His most indelible memory? Watching the swells of ocean water pouring onto the ships deck three feet high and then just as quickly running off. He said during severe ocean storms, the ship's commander really does save the ship and the lives of the seamen aboard!

After retirement from Chevron, Tom served on the school board at **Standard School** for five years.

He also worked for **The North of the River Municipal Water District**. They hired Tom because of his knowledge of pipeline design, operation and management.

Much happened in his early years, especially during the 1950's. Tom attributes 'being at the right place and the right time, all the time' as a statement of his life history. Even though there were times when a move didn't seem right at the time, it always turned out well.

What is dear to your heart? Family. Tom is most proud of his family history and the recording of family details from early grandfather years until now. Tom is working on the third and fourth generation family heritage book and much like the first one will be in color and bound in a professional hardcover. "Preservation of family heritage is important to the children if you make it that", says Tom.

I was impressed to say the least at the detail his grandfather and father spent recording the family life through the generations, something I wish my forefathers had done for me and my brother. Much is now lost and never to be known. If you want to do something for your family, start digging through your family history **and write it down.**

SIR Organization: Tom joined SIR's in 2018 and really enjoys the **man** factor and also the fact we include our women in activities. He said he lost his Seven Best Friends from high school now and SIR's along with Men's Bible Study have really been a salvation for him. Tom says, 'My good friend R.J. Chaffee, gives me a ride to both functions which he could no longer do on his own.'

Thanks to Good Friends! Tis a reminder to be a Good Friend to someone!



USS JOHN C. BUTLER, DE-339

DESTROYER ESCORT CLASS, 1951 - 1970

Specifications:

Class: John C. Butler

Type: WGT (geared-turbine drive, 5" guns)

Displacement: 1350 tons (light), 1745 tons (full)

Length: 300' (wl), 306' (oa)

Beam: 36' 10" (extreme)

Draft: 11' 0" (draft limit)

Propulsion: 2 "D" Express boilers, 2 geared turbine engines, 12,000 shp, 2 screws

Speed: 24 kts

Range: 6,000 nm @ 12 knots

Armament: 2 - 5"/38 cal. DP guns (2x1), 4 - 40mm AA (2x2), 10 - 20mm AA, 3 - 21" TT, 1 Mk10 Hedgehog, 8 Mk6 Depth Charge Projectors, 2 Mk9 Depth Charge Stern Racks
Complement: 14 / 201

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KERN COUNTY WW II VETERANS MEMORIAL



Our Speaker for September will be ED GAEDE President of the K.C. WWII Veterans Memorial foundation. Whether you have heard him speak before or not come to support him and the efforts of many patriots who have contributed to this memorial.

Thanks,

Sir Larry Sitzman

661-703-9450

