



SIR Branch 65

Volume 51 #3

March 2025

SIR is a non-profit activities based organization for senior men devoted to the promotion of independence, health and dignity of senior life. Luncheon meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month 11:30 am at the Napa Elks Lodge.

BIG SIR MESSAGE

JERRY STABILE

j_stabile@yahoo.com

408 828 3486



I really appreciate the affects of being a member of SIR. When I look at what activities my wife and I do, many of them are with friends that I have met while participating in luncheons, golf, bocce, SOBs and more.

Another great aspect is that if we have an interest that isn't happening in Br.65, we can ask around in the group and maybe find someone that is interested in what we want... and Poof! a new activity is born!

Please let me know if you have some ideas for activities.

New Members

It's been great that many of you are talking up the fun of being a SIR. We continue to have guests who have elected to become new members.

I will be asking some of you to join me in some new ways to have fun and attract new members. I'll talk about these ideas at the next meeting. If you have some ideas, please contact me.

LITTLE SIR MESSAGE

SANDY HARRIS

avharrisjr@gmail.com

360 440 4259



We heard from our own Sam Jones at the February luncheon about some Income Tax hints and tips.

Now I am getting cross-eyed from looking at my computer as I try to make some sense of the tax world again.

I'm suspecting that March will adhere to the nursery rhyme and come "in like a lion" and "go out like a lamb". Hopefully our luncheon will be right in the middle with fair winds and pleasant temperatures.

No excuses not to come to the March luncheon. I am aware of at least one more new member in addition to the two gentlemen that came to their first luncheon in February. If you haven't had a chance to welcome the new guys, make sure you introduce yourself at the upcoming luncheon.

The **luncheon menu** for Tuesday, March 11th will be the traditional St. Patrick's Day feast of **Corned Beef with Cabbage, carrots and potatoes**, plus the usual salad bar offerings.

MARCH SPEAKER

We got a call from our prospective speaker that he had to cancel due to a family oriented conflict. We will host him later. I immediately sent out an email to another speaker.

Speaking of speakers... Since I am still new to living in Napa, I don't know very many people in town. Thinking of places to call to ask for speakers is very new to me and I get stuck really fast. But..... You guys all have great ideas that I could follow up on if you ust let me know! Grab me at the luncheon or send me an email with your ideas anytime. And since I don't know all of you yet, there must be more of our own members that would make great speakers, too. Let me know about them too.



SUNSHINE REPORT **RUSS KINDIG**

ikindigit@aol.com 707-363-2421



It is enjoyable to write the Sunshine Report when the Sun is shining and there is good news to report. I have just learned that Our fellow SIR Larry Tronstad is feeling well and nearing a time when he can rejoin us in person. We are praying and keeping good thoughts for your recovery Larry. We would be very happy to have you with us again.

Please keep those good thoughts and prayers going for our caregivers and those for whom they are caring. If you know of someone who needs to be remembered for the tough time they are facing please let me know.



TREASURER'S REPORT **SAM JONES**

napasamjones@yahoo.com

Annual Branch Dues for 2025 started in January.

If you are not attending the meeting in March please mail me a check @ 2091 Morlan Drive, Napa, CA 945558.

Dues are \$25 after March 1st. If you don't pay dues by the end of March we will assume that you are not interested in being a member and take you off the roster.

Remember that luncheons are now \$28 cash or make out a check to Napa Elks Lodge.

MEMBERSHIP

JEFF RICHARD

jeff.richard@att.net

At our February lunch meeting, we welcomed two new prospective members, Tom Short and George Jeffrey. They joined, so our roster is at 77 members. Of those, 29 attended the meeting and enjoyed Sam Jones's informative tips and suggestions for our annual income tax ordeal.



BRUNO FEST 2025!!!



The SIR ORCHESTRAL BAND

Our second annual Bruno Fest was in early February when Margis' brother Bruno swings into town and joins us on accordion and harmonica....lotsa fun, tunes food and beverages at the Malisaukas' house!



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT TOM SHORT



Tom grew up on Long Island, NY, first in Malverne and then in Oyster Bay. As a kid he loved sports, especially football, but when his family moved to Oyster Bay on the North Shore, he enjoyed boating and water skiing.

Tom went to St. John's University majoring in Business Management, Accounting, and Marketing and graduated in 1975. From there, he moved to Manhattan and got involved in early technology, the mainframe era, mainly in sales. He worked for Burroughs Corporation (which later became Unisys) for 5-6 years, before getting involved with selling software/hardware solutions and high-speed computer scanning systems with several start-up companies.

Later, Tom landed at Scantron Corporation where he worked for the next 25 years until his retirement. Scantron created scanning systems and equipment for large corporations and government organizations, providing evaluation and survey products.

Tom met his wife back in 1983 while working at Burroughs and living and working in the NYC/Connecticut area before the allure of Hawai'i got to them moving to Mau'i. Tom was able to golf every day after work on Mau'i and truly loves the sport. Both he and his wife lived and worked on Maui for almost 10 years before moving back to the Mainland to Napa where they have lived for the past 17 years and recently celebrated their 41st Anniversary. Tom retired in 2017 and is enjoying retired life here in the Valley, golfing and wine-tasting as well as traveling and cruising.



BOWLING DAVE ELLINGSON oredave@aol.com

The second tournament of the year was in Sacramento on Feb 20-21 so I do not have results. Mark and JC went for doubles on Thursday and Mark, J. C., Donald and I went on Friday for singles and doubles. You can do doubles twice with a different partner. We all had fun as usual and got to see a few state bowlers that did not come to the Napa tournament.

Monday is league play at 11:00; join us for open bowling fun every Wednesday @ 1:00pm Weds for "No Tap or Friday @ 10:30 for Red Head.



The boys having fun in Sacramento. clockwise from top left, Donald winds up a winner....Mark and Dave taking a break and Dave colors!
Pics by J.C.



Marc Longoria, Captain
ICU2YRU@SBCGLOBAL.NET



Well, our new SIR Branch 65 Bocce Ball team is getting ready to start its second season. The first game will be on Wednesday March 5, and the season will run through June, with the last game on Monday June 23. The season will be a nice four-month run. We listed them last time but what the heck, here are your Branch 65 bocce ball players: Paul Cain, Sandy Harris, Mike Hill, Lance Houser, Marc Longoria, Ken Merritt, Bruce Reynolds, and Carl Such.

Going forward our intrepid Little SIR, Sandy Harris, will be providing the blow-by-blow reporting of our historical run through the tenacious senior bocce ball competition we face in the "C" division. Well actually almost everyone we played against in our first season, were very nice, friendly, and relaxed.

Wish them luck and great bowling guys!

Every Monday
@ Panera

COFFEE TALK

Join in the fun
9:30am



<<< Among the 12 coffee talkers in early Feb. we were entertained by Margis' brother Bruno (2nd from right) visiting from Winnipeg!

Remember you are always welcome at Coffee Talk. Drag a friend or neighbor, it's a great way to introduce them the fun of SIR Br. 65!

RANDOM DAD JOKES TO MAKE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES GROAN!

Why did Adam and Eve get kicked out of the garden?

Because they didn't read the Apple terms and conditions.

Why did the singer perform on an airplane?

Because she wanted her career to take off.

Why was the computer cold at work?

Because it left its windows open.



POKER CORNER MARC LONGORIA ICU2YRU@SBCGLOBAL.NET

SIR Poker continues to be well attended. On February 10th we again had a full table of ten enthusiastic Texas Hold'em players, and as they say, a good time was had by all. Even those that didn't cash enjoyed the game, company, and snacks. We paid four winners in the first round, and because there were a couple of rebuys, we paid five players in the second round. Half the players cashed!

In the first round three players from Branch 149, **Paul Pyle, Rich Hanf and Don Krieger** placed first, second, and third. **Ron Critchley** took fourth, and Branch 65 avoided a sweep.

Branch 65 did a lot better in the second round, taking first, second, third and fourth places. **Richard Bennett** took first, **Ron** second (for a double win), **I** came in third, and **Jerry Stabile** took fourth. **Rich** was again in the money taking fifth place.

With ten players starting each hand, there was a lot of action and some big pots were won early in the two sessions, even at the low starting betting limits. In our game, the betting limit goes up every 17 minutes. At the start of our session, the bet or raise amount during the last two betting rounds of each hand is 60 chips. When we start the fourth round after only 51 minutes of playing time, the last two betting rounds of each hand is 160 chips. Therefore, the pots are usually a lot larger later in the session. Winning a big pot early is a treat.



In the past I've talked about the importance of playing good sound opening cards. When there are a lot of players in the game, there may be occasions when you can loosen up a bit. One exception, if several players in front of you have called the pot, it may be worth your while to see a flop even with a marginal hand. Because of the many players in the hand, you may be getting pot odds that makes a so-so hand playable. If you get lucky and hit a good flop, you may win a big pot. If you don't hit the flop, fold, and play the next hand. Don't push your luck.

Our March second Monday poker session, will be on Feb.10th. If you would like to play Texas Hold'em with us, please give me or one of our players a call. The stake to play is a very small, \$10, but you get a lot of entertainment for your buck!

My number is 707-363-4551, or you can email me at: icu2yru@sbcglobal.net. Thanks !

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Allan Armstrong	3/5	John Hall	3/22
Bob Boucher	3/8	Ken Merritt	3/12
Tom Duncanson	3/18	Mark Morris	3/10
Mark Peters	3/3	Otto Pisani	3/25
Randy Obranovich	3/11		
Margis Malisaukas	3/24		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Willie & Robbie Joshua	3/19/76
Jeff & Kit Richard	3/27/82



Golfing weather has generally been very good the last month. We had some very cold mornings, and on Wednesday February 19 at Rancho Solano, it slightly drizzled most of the day, but the golf was enjoyable. I do have some results from that event. Jim Keller ran a closest to the pin contest on two separate par threes. Group 1 played the 8th hole, and Group 2 played the slightly shorter 15th hole. I should clarify, this was a closest to the pin, in **two** shots contest.

The 8th hole was dominated by **Branch 149**, with **Brad Onstad, Scott Jenest** and **Gary Toczykowski** taking the honors. For the 15th hole, **Branch 65** reigned supreme. **Mark Stinson**, a recent Branch 65 acquisition, took first, **Paul Cain** came in second, and **Jerry Hall** took third. Congrats gentlemen!



On the 19th hole.. (l-r) Paul, Bruce, Tom, Russ, (the new) Tom & Margis

Gary Garver reports from the contest on the 3rd Wednesday at Vintners...

On a gorgeous day for golf (is there any other?) fun was had by all, no matter how much they lamented their own performance. Players had the choice to compete from the red or white tees. Our resident Canadian Margis Malisauskas won the white tee contest with a net 30, edging out Jeff Richard's 32 and Gary Tozykowski with 33. On the front tees, Tom Shoar and Peter Dreier shared first place money with a record (for 2025) 29.

Another on-going contest we have within Branches 65 & 149, is our hole in one contest. It cost \$5.00 to participate, and that puts you in to the running for winning current prize pool. Get a hole in one at one of our scheduled SIR golf events, and you win the money.

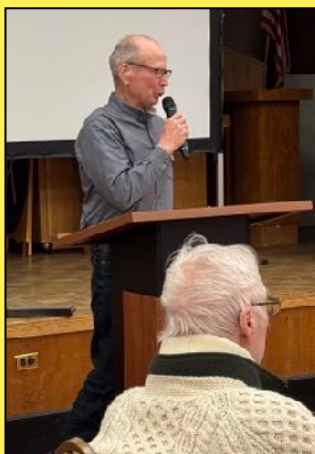
Currently the prize pool is at \$150.00. Of our currently playing Branch 65 golfers, the following are not on Jim Keller's list: Phil Coffelt, Russ Kindig, Chuck Morse, and Jeff Smith. So if you guys want in, contact Jim.

In **SIR State Golf news**, the Spring Fling, a two day event at Chardonnay and Eagle Vines golf clubs on April 23 & 24 is coming up. Wednesday at Chardonnay will be a four-man scramble, with teams consisting of any SIR golfer. Handicaps will be assigned by indexes, not ABCD rankings. Thursday at Eagle Vines will be a four-man best ball event. Deadline for entries is April 5. For more info and the entry forms, go to: SIRINC.ORG, scroll down to April and click on the forms you need. For additional information you can contact Ben Gikis at 408-802-0794 or gikisben@yahoo.com.

As always, Jim Keller and Gary Garver are your local tournament chairmen. Jim Keller's contact number is 415-827-4904, and Gary Garver's is 707-251-9122. Branch 65 SIRS, if you are interested in playing golf with your fellow SIRS, please give me a call, Marc Longoria, at 707-363-4551, or contact a Branch 65 SIR golfer and ask.

NAPA SIR GOLF Q1 2025
Monday, March 3rd: Blue Rock East**
Wednesday, March 5th: Eagle Vines*
Wednesday, March 12th: Napa Golf Course*
Wednesday, March 19th: Chardonnay**
Wednesday March 26th: Vintners GC*
*Gary Garver gdgsirgolf@yahoo.com - 707.251.9122
**Jim Keller JimKellerRealEstate@icloud.com - 415.827.4904

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON



Another interesting luncheon with our own **Sam Jones** presenting about income tax preparation and resources. Sam is one of the free AARP tax advisors available at the library to anyone with tax questions. Call the library for days and times available.



We had a surprise guest and speaker from Br. 149... Bob Austin* (r >>) thought he

had shown up fo Br. 149's luncheon, but he was a week late!

He had his latest writings about Abraham Lincoln who he has researched. He asked if he could share a poem about Lincoln and Sojourner Truth. One surprise that he learned about Lincoln was that Lincoln was a fan of Shakespeare and that some of his speeches reflected his influence. Ya never know what will happen at the luncheon! (* Bob said his wife saw the notice for the meeting in the Register thinking it was his branch!)



The bowlers table ...
AKA the winners table!!!



Feb. PRIZE WINNERS...

Key tag drawing Jim Kempton; free lunch...Hidden Badge # Bruce Johnson; wine Dave Ellingson; anniversary bubbly... J.C. Surratt; Birthday wine Raffle winners ...Tim Hetzer, Keith Knox, Chet Gunther, John Hall

Branch Executive Committee (BEC)

Branch Officers

Big Sir: Jerry Stabile
Little Sir: Sandy Harris
Secretary: Ron Critchley
Treasurer: Sam Jones
Asst, Treasurer: Marc Longoria
Membership: Jeff Richard

Directors

Gene Young
Chuck Morse
Frank Sanchez
Keith Knox
Past Big Sir;
Lance Houser

Committee Chairs

Sunshine: **Russ Kindig**
House Officer & Special Events Chair:
Frank Sanchez
Bocce, Golf & Poker:
Marc Longoria
Bowling: **Dave Ellingson**
Birthdays, Anniversaries,
Newsletter & Coffee:
Jerry Stabile

State Officers: President, Rich Carlston: Vice President, Lee Lamb;
Area 7 Representative, Jerry Stabile



Sam, Marc and Sandy take a break for a photo op...
Rt.>> can you spot the Br.65 riders?

Thursday Bicycling Group

On a recent Thursday they followed the Vine Trail on across-town Kennedy Park ride (11.5 mile round trip). We leave from the commuter parking lot on the corner of Redwood Rd. & Solano Ave. at 9:00 a.m. They also go north to Yountville and have driven their bikes to do routes between St. Helena and Calistoga or south around Stanley Lane and Cuttings Wharf Rd.

Contact Bill Shields, info below left. Submitted by Sam Jones



DIDJA KNOW THAT BR. 149 HAS A BICYCLING GROUP? WELL 4 OF OUR BR. 65 MEMBERS MARGIS, SANDY, SAM AND MARK ARE LOVING IT!

ALL FLAT ROUTES THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY, ALL TYPES OF BIKES WELCOME , NO SPANDEX IN SIGHT!

Bicycling with SIRs Bill Shields & Chuck Youngson

SIR bike riders meet every Thursday For more information contact Bill by email tbsields6@comcast.net or phone/text at 707-287-1246; or At chyoungson@yahoo.com or 707-225-2814.



ANOTHER WEEKLY BR. 149 ACTIVITY OPEN TO OUR MEMBERS

Br 149 walking group

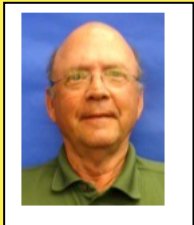
Glad to hear that there may be interest in Br 65. Of course all are welcome to join us, wives and friends included.

We gather in the east parking lot at Nob Hill Foods at the corner of Trancas and Old Soscol Rd. At 8:00 AM we step off to walk the River Walk from Trancas down to Lincoln and back. It is all paved and there are no mud or steep up and downs. The trail is about 2.5 miles long down and back and the walk duration is just under an hour. We hope to see all that can join us.

If there's questions I can be reached at:

Dave HenryMobile: (707) 227-7413 Email: dhenry91@comcast.net

Br. 65 members can just show up, no need to contact Dave ahead of time. This is a great opportunity to get out, get steps , socialize and stay healthy! -Jerry



Open play.... If you are itching to play or learn the game, Branch 149 holds weekly casual bocce impromptu games and lessons every **Thursday morning at 10:00 am at the Napa Senior Center on Jefferson.**

Look for Mario Mazzoli (left) or Mike Murrell (right) They will get you started

The Bocce courts are also open to anyone Monday through Friday mornings for public open play!



BR.65 CRUISERS.... Panama Canal Cruises January 5 – January 20 2025

Frances and I grabbed an opportunity to transit the Panama Canal this January. Our cruise began in Fort Lauderdale aboard the Island Princess cruise ship. This ‘Panamax’ ship was built to transit the older small locks of the Panama Canal.

From Fort Lauderdale we sailed to Cartagena, Colombia(R). This was an important port for the Spanish colonizers. There is a large colonial fort and a walled old town. Tourists spend most of their limited time in this area. Frances and I jumped aboard a Hop on Hop off bus that included a guided walking tour of this old section.(R) We visited a Catholic cathedral, an emerald shop and enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant where no one spoke English, the menu was in Spanish and the local beer was tasty and cold.

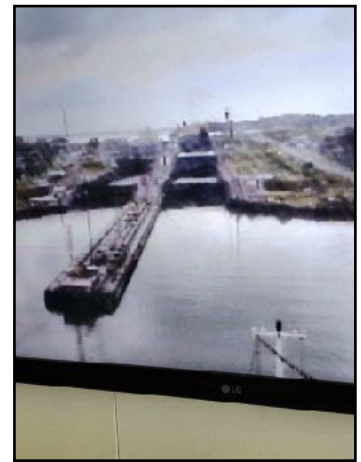
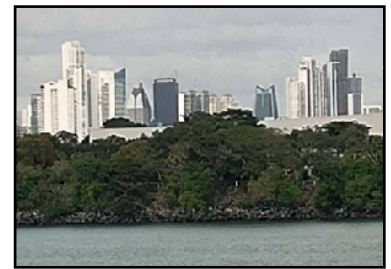
Next we transited the Panama Canal. There are three locks raising our ship to the man-made lake across which three locks lowered the ship to the Pacific Ocean level. Panama City is very modern. Of interest is that the French first attempted to construct the canal in 1881 but failed due to the difficult terrain and malaria/yellow fever which killed 20,000 workers. American ingenuity and rail tank cars loaded with DDT sprayed everywhere eventually saw the completion of the canal in 1914 after 10 years of construction.

Puntarenas, Costa Rica was our next stop. This is a very small port town with most of the excursions related to wild life and tropical forest trips. We saw a lot of crocodiles and over 40 species of birds during our excursion along the River Tarcoles. Needless to say, I did not dip my hand in the water over the side of the boat!

During our stop in Guatemala , we booked a ride to Antigua which was the old Spanish capital. Again, wonderful preserved Spanish architecture, many shops, restaurants and churches. We had a wonderful lunch at Frida’s restaurant! Guatemala has 37 volcanos with several active today.

Our last stop before Los Angeles was Puerto Vallarta Mexico. We strolled along the Malecon which is graced with many bronze statues. There was a pod of whales breaching about 100 yards shore. Of course, many shops, restaurants and bars plus another church. -Lance Houser

AND ON ANOTHER CRUISE LEAVING A DAY LATER...Below are pics of Marc & Terry Longoria and Ron & Holly Critchley pretty much on the same cruise booked a day later.... Ask them about their experiences along the way....Jerry S.



**Activities for Senior Men
Branch 65
2130 Camenson St.
Napa, CA 94558**

Dated Material: February 2025



Responsibility declaration: All activities arranged for or sponsored by Sons in Retirement, Inc., or its Branches, or 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 any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or passengers or their property or any damage whatsoever, in any matter pertaining to stand activities.

COMINGEVENTS

Br.65 LuncheonMeeting

March 2025

11:30 am

Elks Lodge

Branch Executive Meeting

BEC meets at 10:05

in the bar area tables

of the Elks Lodge

All members are welcome to attend