



SIR 101

Bulletin

October, 2023

Volume 42, Number 10

SONS IN
RETIREMENT 101
LIVERMORE, CA

FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
ABOUT OUR
BRANCH, PLEASE
VISIT OUR
WEBSITE

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The Big Sir Message from John Didlake

This month's luncheon speaker is Charles Crohare, local olive oil producer and scion of one of Livermore Valley's early families, and in November we have a re-visit by Will Bolton from Duarte Garage with a bit of Livermore Valley history.

Save the date for our Christmas Co-ed Luncheon, which is Thursday, December 21st at Asbury United Methodist Church at 11:30 am. We are working on having a live singing group, so stay tuned.

Well, with your help in finding new members and keeping the luncheon attendance up, we have turned the corner on finances and losing money on each luncheon – great job everyone. We have broken even or been slightly positive on the last two luncheons, which are traditionally lower in attendance.

So, what do we focus on next? Retaining our membership. One way to do that is to offer fun and enjoyable social activities. Hiking has been our main stay, even through COVID. Thanks, Art! Dwight Lang has been able to find a golfing group for those of you who are avid golfers. If you are interested in golf, see Dwight. We have other activities

that have also hung in there through, or restarted after, COVID: Dining Out, ROMEO, Investments, Bocce, Kayaking, International Travel, Wine Tasting. Thanks to all our activities chairmen. See the chairman, which you can find in our Newsletter, if you are interested in any of these activities.

One activity we would like to restart is Domestic Travel. Bill Britton has volunteered to help as a Co-Chair, but we need someone to step up to help him. If you might be interested, please see Bill about what it would entail to be the SIR 101 Domestic Travel Chair.

We are always open to trying new activities. I have heard suggestions like: Scrabble, Mexican Train (dice game), or even a board game night. If you are interested in any of these or have other ideas, please see me, Dwight Lang, or Dennis Gately.

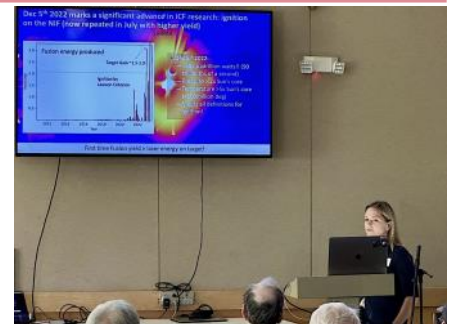
Note: If you need a ride to the luncheon contact me, we can have someone pick you up.



Photos from the September meeting:

Left: Cal Wood Sr. and his Senior SIR Award

Right: Annie Kritcher speaking about NIF and ignition experiments.



October Speaker

October 19, 2023
Growing and Producing Olive Oils in Livermore
Charles Crohare
Owner, Olivina Estate



Charles Crohare will be speaking about growing and producing Olivina Olive Oils and Vinegars in the Livermore valley. Charles is the 4th generation of the Crohare Family to operate the Olivina Estate. After 40 years of being a local banker and helping run the Olivina, he is now a full-time farmer watching over the 9,000 olive

trees and olive mill. So he did not retire, just transitioned from banking. He and his wife, Patty, live on the property that is next to Sycamore Grove Park and the Veterans Hospital

Future Speakers

Our Planned Speakers :

November 16th Will Bolton, President of the Livermore Heritage Guild will provide an overview of the Heritage Guild, its history, and will describe a few of its major projects.

December 21st—Christmas Luncheon

January 18th—Chris Carter, Executive Director of Livermore Valley Arts, speaking about the Livermore Valley Arts organization and the upcoming

performances in 2024.

Speakers are a great attraction for getting potential new members to come to our SIR meetings. Click [SIR 101 Meeting Speakers-Public](#) to see available information about each presentation.

Do you have ideas for speakers? Let Dwight Lang, SIR101LittleSIR@googlegroups.com, know.

From the Editor's Desk

Contact: Steve Skedzielewski, 925-455-5579
SIR101Editor@googlegroups.com

I apologize for the tardy arrival of the Bulletin this month, but travel pushed everything back (including taxes!!). Definitely a first-world problem. In case you're interested in learning how we put this newsletter together and send out SIR announcements, please consider volunteering to act as a back-

up newsletter editor. I promise that I'll continue to handle the majority of the issues, but once or twice a year I hope to be traveling and could use some help. Thanks!



A farmer comes home to find his sheepdog waiting for him. The sheepdog says: "I herded the sheep into the barn, like you said." "You sure you got 'em all?", asks the farmer. "Yep, all 40 of them", says the dog. "40? But I only have 37 sheep." "I know. I rounded them up."

Financial

Contact: Roger Grimm, Treasurer, 925-290-5891
SIR101Treasurer@googlegroups.com



Monthly Cash Report for September, 2023
 See our web site for the complete Form 28.

Beginning Cash Balance (Total Cash)..Line 1: Month: \$9,465.08 YTD: \$4,032.72
 Ending Cash Balance (Total Cash).....Line 8: Month: \$9,561.88 YTD: \$9,561.88

Membership and Attendance

Contact: Larry Wiley, Chairman, 925-443-7979
SIR101Membership@googlegroups.com



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, VISITORS and GUESTS:

New Members: 0

- ◆ **Visitors:** 0.
- ◆ **Guests:** 3

MEMBER CARE GIVERS:

- ◆ Care Givers: 0.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

- ◆ **Deleted:** 19
- ◆ **Passed:** 0

MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

- ◆ The ACTIVE Membership of SIR 101 as of September 11, 2023 is **124** members
- ◆

MEETING ATTENDANCE— All lunch meetings are planned to be In person. BEC meetings follow in-person lunch meetings.

- ◆ September meeting: 65 attendees.

The complete SIR Form 27 Monthly Branch Membership Report for June, 2023 is available on our website.

COVID-19 News

The State SIRs organization has adopted new guidelines that you can visit by clicking [here](#). We still encourage members to not attend events if you are feeling ill, and should you have paid for a monthly luncheon that you can't attend, we will refund the payment.

You may want to visit these websites that provide information about COVID exposure and what to do if you have symptoms:

[COVID Symptoms](#)
[Recommended Steps](#)
[COVID testing](#)

Check out our **SIR Branch 101 web site**.

Click SirInc2.org/Branch101 to see the latest edition. Click on this link to email Dennis Gately, SIR101Web@googlegroups.com or call 925-443-1953 for the member id and password.

Do you need a member phone # or email address? It's in our web site's '**Members Only**' section, which has a Member Roster, Member Photo Gallery, Speaker Videos, Member Videos, and BEC Meeting Minutes.

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Bocce

When: 2nd and 4th Thursdays* 9-10:30

Next: October 26, November 9, 30, 2023

Where: Bothwell Park, 8th and H St

Contact: Chuck Molenkamp, Chairman, 925-413-1414

SIR101Bocce@googlegroups.com



SIR Bocce is such a great activity for SIR members. It is a chance to get outside, play a non-strenuous game, visit with friends, and have a really nice morning. We play on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the Bothwell Park bocce courts at Eighth and H Streets in Livermore. Play normally starts at 10:00 am and lasts for about 1 ½ hours. This time of year the weather is really pleasant, not too hot or cold and usually dry. Normally there are 4-8 players although the two courts would actually accom-

modate 16. The rules of bocce are really simple and since we only play every two weeks we never seem to get any better. We would love to have a few more people join us for a lot of fun and friendly competition.

*The next few games will be on October 26 and November 9 and 30. Note that because of Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November we delay play by a week. If you are interested in getting an email reminder a couple days before we play just ask Chuck Molenkamp

Dining Out

When: Usually 2nd Tuesdays at 5:00pm

Next: TBA

Where: TBA

Contact: Doug Mansur, Chairman, 925-640-5233

SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com



Dining out didn't meet this month. Doug is away on family business, so we don't have an update .

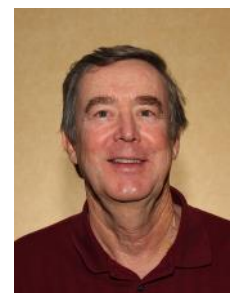
Golf

When: 7:30 Monday and/or 8:30 Thursday Mornings

How: Through the Livermore Valley Golf Club

Where: Las Positas golf course

Contact: Dwight Lang 925-784-1389



Many new SIR 101 members have expressed an interest in playing golf with a group. We currently do not have organized golf activity in Branch 101, as we do not have over 20 member golfers to form a SIR golf activity.

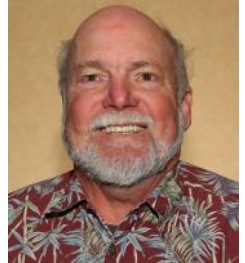
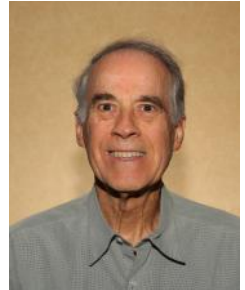
Many SIR 101 members now play with the Livermore Valley Golf Club, as I do, and the organizers of that club are welcoming SIR 101 members to join their club. They play on Monday and Thursday mornings at Las Positas golf course. Information about how to join this group is available from Dwight Lang.

Hiking and Walking

When: Wednesdays, 8:30 am
Where: South L St. and Railroad Ave.

Contact

Art Hull, Chairman, 925-443-5479, Dave Lunn, Asst. Chairman, 925-784-2624
SIR101Hiking@googlegroups.com



We meet every Wednesday at the southeast corner of South L St. and Railroad Ave. and leave at 8:30 am for our hiking destination.

Spouses, friends and family are welcome.

We form three groups of various hiking levels (Amblers, Ramblers, and Scramblers). Bring plenty of water. The Amblers do a level hike usually at a park such as Sycamore Grove, Shadow Cliffs, or Holdener. The Ramblers do a moderate hike and the Scramblers do a more strenuous hike at one of the many surrounding regional parks such as Del Valle, Sunol, Morgan Territory, Pleasanton Ridge, Vargas Plateau, Garin/Dry Creek, Coyote Hills, Brushy Peak or Lake Chabot.

This month we visited Ida Holm Park, Holdener Park, Dublin Hills, Martin Canyon, and more...

Hiking is good for your heart, good for your brain, and good for making friends. I guarantee we have a group for you. Try it, you might like it!

Our Motto: Remember, there's no such thing as bad hiking weather, just inappropriate clothing.



More Hiking Photos

Remember to Zoom in (Ctrl+) and out (Ctrl-) of any page.



Apparently, when you drink a pint of beer, you shorten your lifespan by nine minutes. If that is true, I died back in 1850.





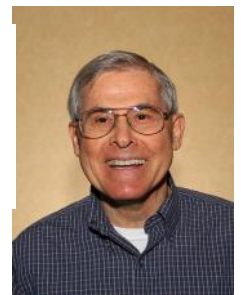
Wine Tasting

When: (nothing planned for October)

Where: TBA

Contact: Bill Bish, Chairman, 925-447-1266

SIR101Wine@googlegroups.com



In September four of us gathered at Retzlaff Winery to enjoy wines on their beautiful lawn. We were entertained by Michel, who not only served us very enjoyable wines, but added his recommendations for Costco food items that he thought would pair very well with them! It was an entertaining afternoon for all of us.

We're going to skip meeting in October, so look again in the November newsletter for our next meeting time and place.



From Bill: I just read a book on marriage that says treat your wife like you treated her on your first date. So after dinner tonight I'm dropping her off at her parents' house.

SIR 101 Kayaking

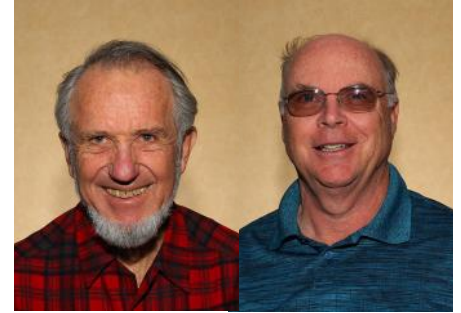
When: Usually First Tuesdays

Next: November 7, 2023

Where: Cosumnes River Reserve

Contact: Dick Ryon, 925-447-8907, Doug Mansur, 925-640-523

SIR101Kayaking@googlegroups.com



We had a smaller group of participants than usual, but nevertheless, a fine group of paddlers (Scott Peters, Phil Simon, Doug Mansur, and Dick Ryon) for our scheduled First Tuesday trip to Alameda Island. The weather forecasts were what we experienced for a fine day on the water: Sunny, with a high near 79. Variable winds less than 5 kt becoming W 5 to 8 kt in the afternoon. Wind waves 1 ft or less.

We launched at Grand Street ramp, opposite of Coast Guard Island, paddled around the east end of Alameda island to Crown beach, where we enjoyed lunch a lively conversation. We returned by the same route, for a total distance a

bit over 12 miles. It was a fine, leisurely paddle. As I say, "a day in the water is always a good day." See photos below, thanks to Scott Peters.

Our next scheduled outing is the First Tuesday of November, the 7th, to Cosumnes River Reserve in the Central Valley. We expect to see large sandhill cranes that will have returned from a summer as far away as Siberia. New paddlers are welcome for this leisurely trip. If you don't (yet) have a kayak, some of us have extras to share: contact Dick Ryon <dickryon@comcast.net> if interested.



NEAL'S ROMEOs (Retired "O" Men Eating Out)

When: First Tuesdays

Next: November 7, 2023

Where: Kokolo Donburi (across from Bankhead Theatre)

Contact: Vic Wheatman, Chairman
SIR101Romeos@googlegroups.com



Five members of ROMEO and one ringer (see below) participated in a particularly lively set of discussions over soup, salad, pizza and Piadina (look it up - we did) at the October ROMEO get-together. We met at Paxti's in beautiful downtown Livermore. Topics under discussion included nuclear bomb simulations compared to at-

mospheric tests, the national alert that happened right before our lunch buzzing every electronic device, visits to Japan, Israel, Palestine and Alabama, working at a Corvette factory, and very detailed discussions about changes in farming. Turns out that two members are partial owners of working farms .



Present, from left front were Jim Hermerding, Kurt DeStighter (ringer/prospective member), "Jani" Janakiraman, Vic Wheatman, Chuck Molenkamp, Bob Johnson.

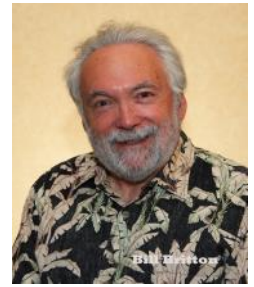
Romeo now meets the first Tuesday of the month.

To get on the interest list, please contact Vic Wheatman at VictorW318@aol.com Subject: SIRS ROMEO.

SIR 101 Travel

"The world is a great place. You should see it!"

Contact: Bill Britton, Chairman, 925-443-9913,
SIR101Travel@googlegroups.com



Croatia Tour and 2023-24 SIR 101 Trips

Our great group of 27 travelers are wrapping the Croatian portion of our travels, but some are going on to Rome, Slovenia, other parts of Croatia, Vienna, and other parts of Italy before they return home. Lots of great food, site seeing, and swimming in the Adriatic. Enjoy some pictures [here](#).

I am working on an ambitious itinerary for next fall. It will start with "The Treasures of Egypt" (starting 10/3/24) with the possibility of an added extension to Petra in Jordan. There is a separate trip "Exploring Greece and Its Islands" (starting 10/17/24) which will follow

the trip to Egypt. You can choose to go on one of these trips flying round trip from SFO, or join us for both trips back to back flying out bound from SFO to Egypt and returning to SFO from Greece. Of course it will include transportation between the two trips as well. These are in the eastern end of the Mediterranean so this would be an efficient way to see both of these ancient and historical regions.

I'll start working on promoting these trips when I return from our fall trip in late October.

Happy travels,
 Bill Britton



"Siri, why am I so bad at relationships with women?"

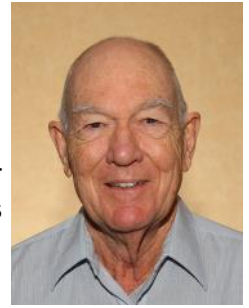
"This is Alexa."

Sunshine

Contact: Art Molvik, 925-373-8437
SIR101Sunshine@googlegroups.com.

No news is good news!

If you hear of someone needing a word of encouragement from all of us, or hear good news of someone's recovery, please let Art know. He will spread the news and get a card out to them.

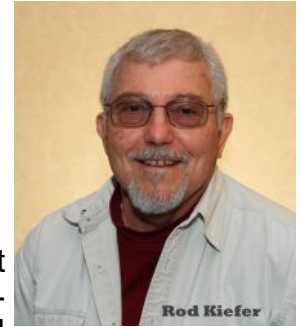


Investments

When: The **first** Friday of the month from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Where: Zoom meeting

Contact: Rod Kiefer, Chairman, 925-447-4173,
SIR101Investments@googlegroups.com



The goal of our activity is to share investment experiences, strategies, market research tools, and other investment topics the group may be interested in discussing. If you're interested in joining the investment group, please contact Rod Kiefer.

Activities

Contact: Ron Saltgaver, Chairman, 925-443-0693,
SIR101Activities@googlegroups.com



What: Do you want to start something new? Describe it in your own words.

Where: Please, suggest location based on your ideas with current restrictions considered.

When: How often and what duration would you think would be best to keep up interest?

Contact: Do you want to be the Chairman for this?

Please contact Activities chair Ron Saltgaver for more information.

The following groups are on hiatus.

BackPacking

Contact: Dave Lunn, Chairman, 925-784-2624, SIR101Backpacking@googlegroups.com

Game Day

Contact: Ron Saltgaver, Chairman, 925-443-0693, SIR101GameDay@googlegroups.com

If you are interested in the following activities we would welcome volunteers to chair them!

- **Chess**
- **Domestic Travel**
- **Golf**
- **Fishing**

Membership Rules: A member will be notified in writing of the pending termination of his membership should he be responsible for any of the following: (a) missing three (3) consecutive regular luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting Werner Schlapfer, SIR101Attendance@googlegroups.com not later than the Thursday before the meeting day; (b) not attending a minimum of five (5) of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period. Excused absences are not included in achieving the five (5) luncheon meeting minimum. Certification of attendance at another Branch Meeting or State SIR meeting will be considered as a credit to the attendance record.

Non-responsibility clause: All activities arranged for or by, or sponsored 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 any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matter pertaining to said activities. Travel events of four (4) or more nights and all air and sea travel must be arranged and booked through a travel agency. Members and guests shall make their checks payable to the travel agency involved. Tour and travel events of three (3) or fewer nights shall require participating members and guests to make their checks payable to the appropriate Branch of Sons in Retirement, Inc., whether or not a travel agency has booked the event.

SIR 101 web information:

SIR 101: SirInc2.org/Branch101. Our site has a 'Members Only' section. SIR 101 members may contact our Webmaster for the User Name and Password. See the Member Roster, Member Photo Gallery, Speaker Videos, Member Videos, Form 27, Form 28 and BEC Meeting Minutes.

Is your Photo Gallery photo missing? Send a digital photo similar to the Photo Gallery pictures to Webmaster Dennis Gately and to Bulletin Editor Steve Skedzielewski. No photo? Contact the Bulletin Editor.

State SIR information: SIR Inc.: sirinc.org, **SIR Sports:** State SIR Sports Chair W. Lee Moy, HealthStudio@gmail.com (559) 709-9851. The **SIR newsletter** [SIR Happenings](#) features news about SIR and all the things that are still going on in our Branches.



What is the Green Dot Program? (Editor's note: the **Green Dot** program continues to recognize recent new members Each member is assigned an identification number that appears on his lapel badge which is filed in numerical order near the Luncheon Meeting entrance. He will wear his badge at all meetings and must leave it when he departs the meeting. For about the first six months after he joins SIR 101, his badge will have a **Green Dot** on it which signifies he is a new member and entitles members who share his dining table, early access to the buffet line. The main purpose is to encourage members to introduce themselves to the new members and help them feel comfortable and learn what SIR is all about. The badges also provide a means of noting meeting attendance.

Current Green Dot members

Paul Bauman, Robert Buckley, Bob Cowgill, Bob Dasher, Jim Doggett Jr., Bob Horton, Scott Peters, Walter Schindler, Donald Sheaffer, Philip Simon, Scott Smith, Everitt White.

Birthday Boys*

September Birthday Boys Winners: Dick Larder and Don Meeker

October Birthday Boys

Randy Christensen
Dave Coats
Gregory Davis
Hugh Gregg
Bruce Henry
Paul McCandless

Jim Muir
Jim Murray
Chuck Noland
Ted Schaefer
Terry Tikalsky
Larry Wiley

Lunch [Prepayment Instructions](#) / [Yearly Member Donation Reminder](#)

Prepay your \$32 lunch or make your Annual Dues payment of \$30.

You can best support our branch with your yearly \$30 dues. SIR promotes entertaining and enriching our lives through many activities as well as branch meetups, like in-person luncheons, restarting now after the Covid hiatus with the new policies mentioned in the Big SIR's message. If you haven't already paid for the year, please consider doing so!

Pay online or on your cell phone or computer with Zelle ([preferred](#))!

Check with your bank to see if it provides the Zelle service. If it does, you can use their app or web site to send money *at no cost* by just adding the SIR101Treasurer@gmail.com as a payee.

If not on your computer go to the zellepay.com website.

Avoid the long lunch line: RSVP the meeting invitation online, pre-pay your lunch via Zelle and arrive early to visit at the lunch.

PayPal We currently can't accept PayPal payments.

Mail checks to: Roger Grimm at 3034 Chateau Way, Livermore 94550

Questions or more Information? Contact Treasurer: Roger Grimm, SIR101Treasurer@googlegroups.com.

*** What is the Birthday Boys Program?** It is a program that offers each member, who is celebrating a birthday in the current month, to have a chance to receive a free luncheon credit, if that member's name is chosen in a drawing and is in attendance at the monthly meeting. Currently, two names are called each month.

