



# Bulletin

SONS IN  
RETIREMENT 101  
LIVERMORE, CA

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

**Inside this issue:**  
(click the page # to go  
directly to that page)

Announcements	2
Big Sir Message	<u>1</u>
Birthday Boys	<u>14</u>
Financial	3
Membership	<u>3</u>
Speaker's Preview	<u>2</u>
Sunshine	<u>11</u>
Backpacking	<u>12</u>
Bocce	<u>4</u>
Dining Out	5
Game Day	<u>12</u>
Hiking and Walking	<u>6</u>
Investments	<u>12</u>
Kayaking	<u>8</u>
ROMEOS	<u>5</u>
Travel	<u>11</u>
Wine Tasting	<u>10</u>

## The Big Sir Message from John Didlake

As I am sitting down to type my final Big Sir Newsletter article, I note that we are expecting over 100 for our Branch 101 Christmas Luncheon. I am looking forward to a great event with fun, food, fellowship, and a great musical program by the Devil Mountain Barbershop Chorus. However, I cannot help but reflect on where we began back in January as I took the position of Branch 101 Big Sir.

But first we cannot thank Rick Morrow and Dennis Gately enough as they navigated the Branch through probably the most difficult time that we have faced, that of COVID. I believe that Rick served as Big Sir for two years and only hosted one in-person luncheon. We also need to thank Ted Schaefer, Little Sir 2022, for providing great speakers as we began to meet in-person again last year.

However, as I became Big Sir in January of 2023 the Branch was facing numerous challenges:

Our average attendance at our monthly luncheon was between 40 and 50. At \$35 per person we were losing between \$100 to \$300 on each luncheon, mainly because of the cost of the venue.

Our bank account had dipped below the required minimum balance and we were incurring a monthly bank service charge.

The luncheon venue was going to raise our cost per luncheon in February by \$125 and then another \$400 in June.

This meant we were going to need to raise the price of the luncheon to \$45 or \$50 per person, which we expected to reduce the number of attendees, further exasperating the issue.

If that were not enough, Len Smith, our Newsletter editor and Webpage manager unexpectedly passed away in December.

Fortunately for me, I had a great set of Officers and Directors on our Branch

Executive Committee working behind the scenes to right the ship and keep us afloat. Thanks goes to Roger Grimm, our new treasurer, for finding and transitioning to a new bank with a lower minimum balance for free checking. Thanks to Dennis Gately stepping up to be our Webpage Master and to Steve Skedzielewski for becoming Newsletter editor. All are doing great jobs.

I also need to thank our Activities Chairmen who were able to keep their activities going during the toughest of times or were able to restart activities in 2023. Big thanks to Art Hull who kept the Hiking Group going through COVID and to Dwight Lang for finding a way for Branch 101 Golfers to join other golfing groups this year after the golfing activity had collapsed in 2022.

Special thanks go to Roger Everett and Dick Crawford for finding and negotiating with Asbury United Methodist Church for use of their Fellowship Hall and at a lower cost than the previous venue. However, we needed to change our luncheons from the 4th Tuesday of each month to the 3rd Thursday. Also, we needed to increase our attendance at the luncheons to amortize the venue cost over more attendees to keep the



## Big Sir's Message, continued...

luncheon cost down. I thank all of you, our members, for 1) being flexible with the change of day for the luncheon, 2) going out and bringing back members who had not been attending the luncheons and 3) inviting guests that have become new members and regular attenders.

Out of tragedy came a Branch blessing; Lea, Len Smith's wife, asked that people make donations to SIR Branch 101 in Len's memory. We established a Len Smith Memorial Fund that we were able to use to reduce the cost of luncheons early in the year until we were able to raise the luncheon attendance. Thanks Lea and your family for your support of our Branch! We had 70 members attend the November Luncheon and now have over 100 members, significant others,

and friends planning to attend the December Christmas Luncheon. We faced the challenges of 2023 together and have made it. Therefore, I view my year as Branch 101 Big Sir as a success, not from what I have done, but from what you all have done. It just goes to show, success is being in the right place at the right time and surrounding yourself with the right people.

One final analogy, I liken the Branch to one of the ducks that must swim like mad then while flapping its wings run on the surface of the water to take flight. We have finally taken flight. We did not sink. As I hand over the reins to Dwight Lang and Bob Johnson, I am confident that we will begin to soar again as we have in the past.

## December Event

**December 14, 2023  
Christmas Luncheon  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
4743 East Ave, Livermore, CA**



Check out our **SIR Branch 101 web site**. Click [SirInc2.org/Branch101](http://SirInc2.org/Branch101) to see the latest edition. Click on this link to email Dennis Gately, [SIR101Web@googlegroups.com](mailto: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.

## Financial

**Contact:** Roger Grimm, Treasurer, 925-290-5891  
[SIR101Treasurer@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Treasurer@googlegroups.com)



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

Beginning Cash Balance (Total Cash)..Line 1: Month: \$7,697.68 YTD: \$4,032.72  
 Ending Cash Balance (Total Cash),,,,,,Line 8: Month: \$10,697.68 YTD: \$10,697.68

## Membership and Attendance

**Contact:** Larry Wiley, Chairman, 925-443-7979  
[SIR101Membership@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Membership@googlegroups.com)



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, VISITORS and GUESTS:

**New Members:** 1—Ken Nuger

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

### MEMBER CARE GIVERS:

- ◆ Care Givers: 0.

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

- ◆ **Deleted:** 1—David Morgan
- ◆ **Passed:** 0

### MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

- ◆ The ACTIVE Membership of SIR 101 as of November 25, 2023 is **126** members
- ◆

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

- ◆ November meeting: 70 members and two guests or assistants.

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

## Future Speakers

### ***Our Planned Speakers :***

**January 18th—Chris Carter**, Executive Director of Livermore Valley Arts, speaking about the Livermore Valley Arts organization and the upcoming performances in 2024.

**February 15th – Werner Schlapfer**, the former Livermore SIRs Travel organizer, has extensive knowledge about hiking in Switzerland, being born there, and has led many trips traveling and hiking in Switzerland. He will be giving a new

presentation on hiking in Switzerland.

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](mailto:SIR101LittleSIR@googlegroups.com), know.

I told my suitcases, no vacation next year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.

## Bocce

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

**Next:** December 21, 2023, January 11, 25, 2024

**Where:** Bothwell Park, 8th and H St

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

[SIR101Bocce@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Bocce@googlegroups.com)



During November and December SIR bocce players are navigating a changing schedule to maximize the dates we can play bocce without conflicting with holidays and the SIR Christmas Luncheon.

On November 9 there were seven players on a beautiful day as one can see in the photo where only one player is wearing a jacket. We had a lot of good discussions and a lot of fun. On November 30 there were five players so we could all

play on the one court. The games were closely contested, and we caught up on everyone's Thanksgiving.

In December we plan to play bocce on the 7th, 21st, and 28th. We have scheduled an extra game just in case it rains. In January we will go back to our regular schedule of every second and fourth Thursday. We love to have new players join us at the Bothwell Park bocce courts; we really do have a very good time.



November 9: Lynn Shaeffer, Dom Saccullo, Werner Schlapfer, Raul Pomerias, Dale Schauer, and Dick Ryon. Chuck Molenkamp was the photographer



November 30: Dom Saccullo, Chuck Molenkamp, Werner Schlapfer, and Harry Levin. Steve Skedzielewski was the photographer

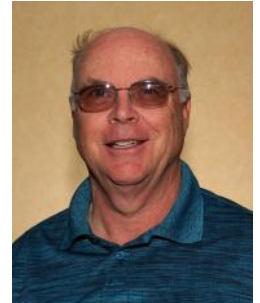


Dom Saccullo shows us how to score four points. He rolled all four balls within 6 inches of the pallino. Awesome!

It amazes me how much exercise and extra fries sound alike.

## Dining Out

**When:** Usually 2nd Tuesdays at 5:00pm  
**Next:** November 14th, 5:30pm  
**Where:** Terra Mia Ristorante  
**Contact:** Doug Mansur, Chairman, 925-640-5233  
[SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com)



Our last dining adventure was at the Canton Village Chinese Restaurant where the 8 attendees formed into two groups and ordered the special dinner selections. This allowed each person to sample many dishes. For example, the "Special Dinner for Four" included Egg Rolls, Chicken Chow Mein, Sweet and Sour Pork, Broccoli

Beef, Lemon Chicken and BBQ Pork Fried Rice. We had a great time having fun conversations all around the table.

We are skipping December, but in January our first destination will be Terra Mia Ristorante in Livermore

## 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.

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

**When:** First Tuesdays  
**Next:** January 2, 2024  
**Where:** TBD  
**Contact:** Vic Wheatman, Chairman  
[SIR101Romeos@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Romeos@googlegroups.com)



Due to holiday travel and a busy social calendar, we took December off. The next ROMEO luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2 at a place to be named.

If you'd like to join us, just send me a request at the email address above and I'll add you to the email list.

From Bill Leach : You know, if you don't cut the pizza and eat the whole thing, technically you've had only one piece.

[Index](#)

## 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](mailto: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.

This month we visited Brushy Peak, Sycamore Grove and the newly opened Patterson Ranch Trail, Morgan Territory, the Mocho Trail, and more...

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.

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.



"Somebody keeps sending me flowers with the heads cut off."

"Sounds like you're being stalked."

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



[More Hiking Photos on Page 15](#)

## SIR 101 Kayaking

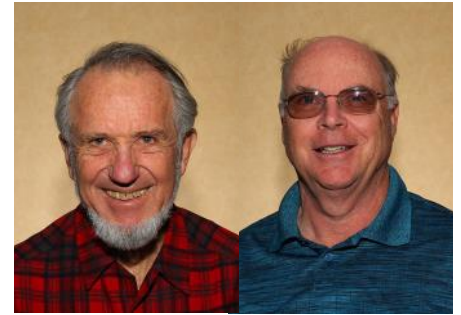
**When:** Usually First Tuesdays

**Next:** January, 2024

**Where:** TBD

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

[SIR101Kayaking@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Kayaking@googlegroups.com)



We had a very good turnout of 12 kayakers for our trip to Lodi Lake and the Mokelumne River. Lots of birds, flat, clear water, excellent weather, and great company made for a stellar day. All that, in spite of the NOAA weather forecast of "Patchy dense fog before 9 am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 66. Southeast wind 3 to 5 mph." There was no wind, only a touch of fog at the outset, and mild temperature, and blue sky. In other words, a perfect day to be on the water!

We traveled about 65 minutes and 58 miles to reach the Lodi Lake Park in the town of Lodi, where we put in at the boat launch ramp on the north side of the lake.

Having forgotten the route from the lake to the river, we took a bit of a detour and found the familiar river. On the north side of the river, it was either vineyards or forests. On the south side were nice "country cottages," in reality beautiful homes, large enough to be hotels. Not far away were homeless encampments that elsewhere could have been back-packers' camps. We paddled a bit more than three miles at a leisurely

pace to the Highway 99 bridge. Because of the noisy traffic, we turned around to a nice take-out spot we had been to a year before, a wide area of mowed grass under trees--perfect for our picnic. We had a sunny and warm time of lunch and conversation.

We returned to our launch spot, again at a leisurely pace, for a total time out of about 5 hours at 7.7 miles. Wild-life seen included some geese and a bunch of buzzards in a tree and flying over our heads. If you had been with us, you would have enjoyed a beautiful fall day on the water! Maybe next time – .

Our next outing location, normally scheduled for the first Tuesday in January, has not yet been decided, but likely will be closer to Livermore. If you don't (yet) have a kayak, some of us have extras that you can borrow. Just let me know, and it likely can be arranged. We tend to do easy trips, so little or even no experience is necessary! Try it – you will like it!

Paddle and live long!









## Wine Tasting

**When:** A Friday (TBD) in January, 2024

**Where:** TBD

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

[SIR101Wine@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Wine@googlegroups.com)



Four wine aficionados met on a cloudy afternoon at Rios-Lovell winery on Tesla Road in Livermore. It's a beautiful setting with an Italian-inspired garden in its center. We were able to choose from a large tasting menu and enjoyed comparing and contrasting the selections

We won't meet in December, but will start up again in the new year. Please check the January Bulletin for our plans. Join us and bring a friend. You don't need to be a oenophile to enjoy the company and conversations!

Two more from Bill:

I do all my own stunts, but not intentionally

When bees move to a new hive, do they have a house swarming party?



## Sunshine

**Contact:** Art Molvik, 925-373-8437  
[SIR101Sunshine@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Sunshine@googlegroups.com).

Lynn Shaeffer has been hospitalized for the last few days. We are hopeful that he can return home soon.

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.



## SIR 101 Travel

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

**Contact:** Bill Britton, Chairman, 925-443-9913,  
[SIR101Travel@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Travel@googlegroups.com)

### 2024 SIR 101 Trips

As I mentioned at the last luncheon, I've canceled plans for back-to-back trips next fall to Egypt and Lebanon combined with Greece. Conditions in the Middle East have convinced me to postpone this until another time. I'm working on some ideas for next year but I'm not ready to commit yet. However our SIR State Travel Chair has sent me an opportunity that you might be interested in and I'm including it here.

Bill Britton  
 101 Travel Chair

#### **SIR River Cruise for all Branches.**

SIR Grand Circle River Trip Prague to Budapest 2024 special price.

Here is information about a river trip Prague to Budapest 11/6-11/20 2024, discounted by \$1000 if booked by 12/31/23; also pre and post trips are available, see below.

This additional \$1000 off my listed prices is only if you book by December 31. So act now, If you have any questions call or email Milt Smith State Travel Chair. Br 146, 925-285-2897  
[miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com)

Take a look let us know what you think. We can give you chapter and verse on shipboard life, cabins, weather, air etc. We also have excellent prices for solo travelers.

Cheers, Milt Smith, State Travel Chair, Branch 146.

Dates: 11/06-20/2024

Pre-trip to Dresden and Berlin and pre-trip to Warsaw and Krakow depart US 11/01/2024

Post-trip to Budapest return date: 11/23/2024

Per person pricing, by cabin level: **\$1000 off if confirmed by 12/31/2023**

Serenade A: \$3995

Serenade B: \$3895

Sonata C: \$3795

Sonata D: \$3695

Cantata E: \$3595

Cantata F: \$3495

Prelude G: \$3395

Prelude H: \$3195

Air from SFO: \$1100

Dresden and Berlin: \$995

Warsaw and Krakow: \$1095

Budapest: \$745

The group code for the trip is G4-23630. This is fully linked to the cruises date - all set for registrations to come through at 1-800-221-2610 once travelers are ready.

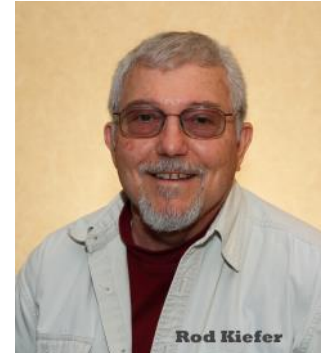


## Investments

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 activities are on hiatus.

**BackPacking:** **Contact:** Dave Lunn, Chairman, 925-784-2624, [SIR101Backpacking@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Backpacking@googlegroups.com)

**Game Day:** **Contact:** Ron Saltgaver, Chairman, 925-443-0693, [SIR101GameDay@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](mailto: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:** [Sirlnc2.org/Branch101](http://Sirlnc2.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](http://sirinc.org), SIR Sports: State SIR Sports Chair W. Lee Moy, [HealthStudio@gmail.com](mailto: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, Charles Caulfield, Bob Cowgill, Bob Dasher, Jim Doggett Jr., Christopher Holland, Bob Horton, Scott Peters, Walter Schindler, Philip Simon, Scott Smith, Carl Tilchen, Everitt White.](#)

## Birthday Boys\*

**November Birthday Boys Winners:  
Roger Grimm and Subramaniam Janakiraman**

**December Birthday Boys (will be drawn in January)**

Brent Dixon  
Dave Dunlap  
Lloyd Garbutt  
Rick Knowles

Dwight Lang  
Bruce Langdon  
Bill Moran  
Nile Runge

### 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 have not 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](http://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](mailto: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.

More Hiking Photos

