



SIR 101

# Bulletin

May, 2024

Volume 43, Number 5

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 Dwight Lang

I hope you have been out and enjoying the nice spring weather, when we had it. But where did this cold front just come from, dropping 0.8 inches of rain on Livermore and over 2 feet of snow in the Sierras? It even caused Interstate 80 to be closed over Donner Summit for a while. Hopefully your weekend activities didn't get washed out.

Mark your calendars for our annual SIRs Picnic on June 20th; it should be a lot of fun. We will be out on the Asbury patio, which is very nicely shaded. The BBQ menu has been set, and we will have live music performed by Tim Gomes, a local singer and guitarist. We are planning on some fun games, including a trivia game and a bingo game. Wives and significant others are invited as well, so plan on coming, you will enjoy it!

We continued to have very good attendance at our April luncheon with 76 people attending, including five guests. This level of attendance allows us to keep the cost of the luncheon unchanged.

The talk by author Michael Barrington about the French resistance during World War II was very informative. Our next meeting will be May



16th when Herbert Cole, the City of Livermore Emergency Manager will talk about emergency preparedness.

At the last luncheon we welcomed one new member, James Knecht, and have since added another new member, Mike Love. Sign up to attend and invite your friends and neighbors to come as your guest. I will see you there!

Past Big SIR John Didlake has sent out an email asking all members to indicate what activities interest them. If you haven't responded to the email please do so; we want to hear your feedback and ideas for new activities.



## April Speaker

### ***Emergency Preparedness***

Herbert Cole, City of Livermore Emergency Manager

May 16, 2024

Asbury United Methodist Church  
4743 East Ave, Livermore, CA



Herbert Cole is a Certified Emergency Manager with over 30 years in the field of emergency management. As the City of Livermore Emergency Manager, he is responsible for making sure that the City can mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from “all hazard” emergencies and disasters.

Herbert is a nationally recognized speaker and author on emergency management topics. He is a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers, the California Emergency Services Association, and has served as President of the Alameda County Emergency Managers Association.



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 March, 2024  
 See our web site for the complete Form 28.

Beginning Cash Balance (Total Cash)..Line 1: Month: \$9,559.78 Jan 1: \$8,337.78  
 Ending Cash Balance (Total Cash).....Line 8: Month: \$9,458.58 YTD: \$9,458.58

## 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: 2—James Knecht and Mike Love**  
 ♦ **Visitors: 0.**  
 ♦ **Guests: 3**

**MEMBER CARE GIVERS:**

♦ Care Givers: 0.

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:**

♦ **Deleted:** 1—Paul Gubiotti moved away  
 ♦ **Passed:** 1—Ray Culy died on March 11.

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS:**

♦ The ACTIVE Membership of SIR 101 as of May 4, 2024 is **130** members  
 ♦

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

♦ May: 73.

The complete SIR Form 27 Monthly Branch Membership Report for April, 2024 is available on our website.

## Future Speakers

***Our Planned Speakers :***

**June 20th**—Summer Picnic, no speaker.

**July 18th**—Terri Molano, Executive Director of Partners For Change Tri-Valley

**August 15th**—Joe Testa, Fire Chief of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department

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

Do you have ideas for speakers? Let Bob Johnson, [SIR101LittleSIR@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101LittleSIR@googlegroups.com), know.

From Bill: I'm currently experiencing life at several WTFs per hour.

## Bocce

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

**Next:** May 23, June 13 & 27, 2024

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

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

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



The SIR Bocce activity during April was well attended with 10-12 players on both April 11 and 25. The games were competitive and the conversations varied and interesting. Even after playing many years we are still trying to figure out why the balls make the curves they do, but those unexpected turns give us the excuses we need to explain our poor shots. Since all of us, both old and new players all have about the same ability, we always have a lot of fun being together.

SIR bocce takes place on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the two boc-

ce courts at Bothwell Park at Eighth & H Streets in Livermore. We bring our own balls and there is no cost to play. There are also shade covers at both ends of the courts which are very welcome during the warmer summer months. Our normal starting time is 10:00 am, but when the predicted high temperature is more than 90°, we start at 9:00 am. If you are interested in joining us on the bocce court this summer, ask Chuck Molenkamp (cmole44@gmail.com) to add you to the SIR Bocce Email Reminder list, and you will be reminded of the starting time for that week a couple days before we play.



Bocce Players on April 25, 2024 are Scott Henderson, Chuck Molenkamp, Mark Kelly, Dave Dunlap, Dale Schauer, Werner Schlapfer, Walter Schindler, and Raul Pomares (kneeling). The photographer was Harry Levin.

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

**When:** First Tuesdays

**Next:** June 4, 2024

**Where:** TBD

**Contact:** Vic Wheatman, Chairman  
[SIR101Romeos@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Romeos@googlegroups.com)



A full table of eight visited Livermore's Lanna Thai for May's ROMEO Luncheon. It was delicious. Topics discussed included: Volunteering to rebuild Paradise California and the nature of its relationship with Chico from a real estate point of view, traveling in Eastern Europe, proving Canadian citizenship, riverboats versus

cruise lines, the Baltimore bridge disaster and its impact on Midwest farming equipment. A fun collegiate time was had by all.

Our next luncheon site isn't yet decided. To get an email invitation, just send a note to Vic asking to be added to the mailing list.



From left, Chuck Molencamp, Rick Roller, Bruce Henry, Vic Wheatman, Jim Herminding, Marcos Contreas, Ken Nuger, Bob Johnson

## 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.

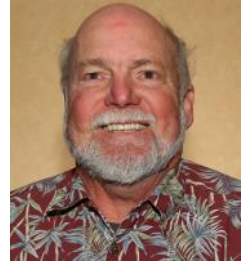
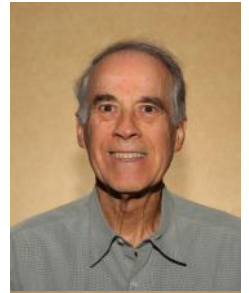
The promise of April and spring wildflowers is here! Hiking anywhere is rewarding. Come on out!

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.



I'm taking steps to overcome my hiking addiction. I'm not out of the woods yet.





## SIR 101 Kayaking

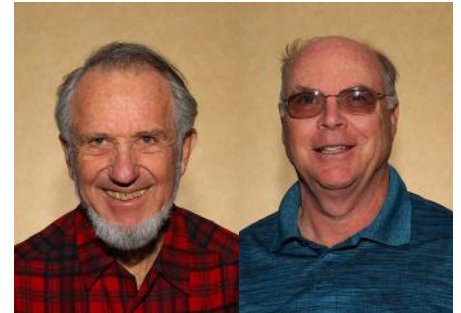
**When:** First Tuesday of the month (usually)

**Next:** May 7, 2024

**Where:** TBD

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

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



With the rain last Saturday, I looked up the weather forecast in the days preceding our scheduled kayak outing on May 7th to Sausalito and Richardson Bay. (We were last at Richardson Bay in January 2022, when we had a good turnout and fine weather.) This time, the forecast started a few days in advanced with NW wind 8 to 11 kt, with gusts as high as 18 kt. Sunny. In the next days, the gusts were dropped from the forecast, but otherwise remained pretty constant, so good news. When we arrived at our launch site on May 7th, we had clear blue sky and virtually no wind and flat water. Somebody said it was as calm as Lake Del Valle on a windless day. We paddled northward, passing under Highway 101, and continued to a nice park at the end of Richardson Bay, where we enjoyed warm weather, conversation, and lunch.

We contemplated going over to Belvedere Island, maybe as far as Tiberon, on the return trip, in order to increase the paddling distance a bit. However, a couple of people needed to return to Livermore fairly early, so we returned directly to the starting point. At Dunphy Park in Sausalito we completed our trip of about 6 miles in about 3.5 hours. It was another fine day on the water!

Our next paddling destination has not been decided yet, but it may be to Elkhorn Slough and Moss Landing. Humpback whales are being reported just outside the harbor entrance. The deep Monterey Canyon leads directly to the harbor entrance, which is the reason whales are seen close to shore. I once lead a group out of the harbor, where we must have seen a hundred whales. It may have been the same 10 seen over and over again, but as many as five spouts were seen at the same time! Those whales seem to be as curious about us as we are about them. A pod of whales followed us into the harbor entrance, emerging from the depths in the middle of our group, scattering us in all directions! Actually, except when feeding or simply leaping out of the water, they seem exquisitely aware of their own size and location of their bodies, and avoid contact with us little folk on the surface.

Our usual scheduled trips are the first Tuesday of each month. If you don't yet have a kayak and would like to join us, some of us have extras boats to lend. Just let me know, and likely it can be arranged.

## Wine Tasting

**When:** Friday, May 24, 3pm

**Where:** JMC Cellars, Livermore

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

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





A dozen wine enthusiasts met at Don Carter's home in Livermore on a sunny April Friday to enjoy a selection of Concannon Cabernet Sauvignons. The setting was idyllic, located at the north side of the Concannon vineyards with a half-acre or so of Don's grenache vines abutting their vineyards.

Participants enjoyed wines created back in 2014 through the youngsters that were created in 2020. We enjoyed wine-countrysque snacks and shared stories and recounted adventures. Bill brought some rocks (really fancy ones), Don showed off his considerable skills at art and gave us a tour of his workshop. A pleasant time was had by all.

Join us this month at a new winery that recently (re)opened on Greenville Road, JMC Cellars.

JMC Cellars is located at the site that once hosted Big White House/John Evan Cellars. Jessica Carroll was the winemaker there with John Marion (the younger) and she has reopened under her new label with a rededicated tasting room. It is at the southern end of Greenville Road, just before the pavement ends and the road continues to Charles R.

Please let us know in advance if you plan to attend by sending an email to Bill Bish or Steve Skedzielewski ([skedz@acm.org](mailto:skedz@acm.org)).



## 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)



### Venice and Croatian Islands Cruise September 30 to October 12, 2024

We have a great group of 21 travelers signed up for the Venice and Croatian Islands Cruise for next September/October. Our group has 11 of the 18 cabins on the yacht. I look forward to sharing pictures next fall. The last I heard there were 2 cabins left on the yacht, but this trip fills up fast.

I have some friends interested in a Christmas Markets Cruise on the Danube for November-December 2025. I preciously organized this trip for SIR in 2018 and it was wonderful, so I'm looking at offering it again next year. I'll keep you posted later in the year.

Here are some trips offered by other SIR groups that you might be interested in joining. *Contact the leaders directly.*

**Princess 11 Night Inside Passage Cruise from San Francisco to Alaska:** May 26 – June 6, 2024. Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway AK and Victoria, Canada. Cabins start \$2590 pp to \$3322 pp double occupancy. Contact John Cardoza (Branch 143) at 209-483-7722 or [johncardoza@hotmail.com](mailto:johncardoza@hotmail.com)

**Fall Mexican Riviera Getaway** Oct. 15 – 26, 2024 11 Days. Branch 98 Cost \$844 - \$944 - \$1074 - \$1424 - \$6083pp. depending on cabin. Highlights: Departs from and returns to San Francisco, ports of call Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlán, Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo. Contact Katherine Gervais of Branch 98 at 916-337-1623 or [Kathig@shipsandtrips.com](mailto:Kathig@shipsandtrips.com)

**Prague to Budapest River** November 6 through 20, 2024.

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. Ports and cities: Prague, Linz, Krems, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest.

Pre-trip US departure date: 11/01/24. Post-trip to Budapest return date: 11/23/24

Dresden and Berlin: \$995pp PRE-TRIP - Warsaw and Krakow: \$1095 PRE-TRIP. Budapest: \$745 POST-TRIP. Contact Milt Smith ASAP for more info at 925-258-2897, [miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com) or book directly with Group Code G4-23630. Call 1-800-221-2610

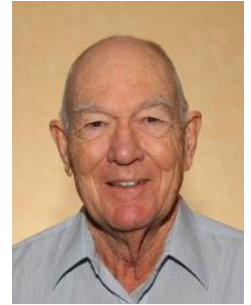
**Panama Canal Cruise** San Francisco to Ft. Lauderdale. Jan. 20 – Feb. 5, 2025, 17 days. Cost from \$4,185 - \$6,295 depending on cabin choice. Ports of Call: Puerto Vallarta Mexico, Puerto Quetzal Guatemala, Puntarenas Costa Rica, Fuerte Amador Panama, Full Transit through the historic locks, and Cartagena Columbia. Includes transfers from Modesto to Port of San Francisco and airfare from Ft. Lauderdale to Sacramento. For more information contact John Cordoza (Branch 143) at 209-483-7722 or [johncardoza@hotmail.com](mailto:johncardoza@hotmail.com).

Happy Travels,  
Bill Britton



## Sunshine

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



Former member Lee Pittenger died on April 30. His funeral mass is scheduled for May 13th.

will spread the news and get a card out to them.

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

Alcohol and calculus don't mix, so don't drink and derive.



## 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



## Dining Out

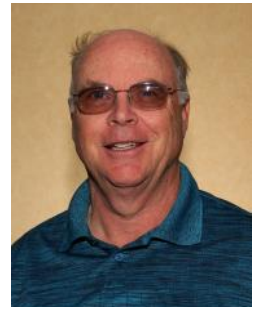
**When:** Usually 2nd Tuesdays at 5:00pm

**Next:** May 14, 2024

**Where:** Dmitri's Taverna, Livermore

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

[SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com)



This month's gathering is scheduled for next Tuesday, May 14, at Dmitri's Taverna near the flagpole in Livermore. Please send an email to Doug at [SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com)

if you plan to attend, or if you wish to be added to the mailing list.

**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**  
**Charles Caulfield,, Bob Dashner, Don Faul, Kim Grandfield, Christopher Holland, Bob Horton, Mark Kelley, James Knecht, Mike Love, Ken Nuger, Scott Peters, Philip Simon, Everitt White.**

### Membership Rules:

- A Member will be considered in good standing if his annual dues are paid up. There is no longer a luncheon-attendance requirement.
- A member is responsible for replying to the RSVP alert sent via email prior to each monthly luncheon, If he responds that he will attend but later finds that he cannot, he must notify Werner Schlapfer, [SIR101Attendance@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Attendance@googlegroups.com) not less than 48 hours before the luncheon.
- Each member is responsible for confirming that we have accurate contact information for him.
- If you plan to bring a guest or caregiver, please send an email to Dwight Lang, [SIR101BigSir@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101BigSir@googlegroups.com) at least 48 hours before the luncheon.

**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](http://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](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.

## Birthday Boys\*

### April Birthday Boys Winners

Dick Edwards and Bob Hoffman

### May Birthday Boys

Ben Barrientos  
Fred Coffield  
Ron Colvin

Mark Kelly  
Roger Perry  
Rick Roller



#### Lunch [Prepayment Instructions](#) / [Yearly Member Dues 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 do 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.

