



SIR 101

Bulletin

November, 2024

Volume 43, 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 Dwight Lang

Hello fellow SIR 101 members, all 19 of the SIR travelers made it home safely from our trip to Croatia. In addition to the Collette tour, many of our fellow SIR travelers added additional side trips either before or after to other locations on their own. I recommend that you consider the various trips that SIR offers, contact our travel coordinator Bill Britton for the information. It is a great and easy way to travel.

We had good attendance at the October Luncheon, and people enjoyed the presentation by Brook Witherspoon on "Hiking Mount Whitney and Other Thoughts on Life." If you missed the luncheon and presentation, it was video taped by Dennis Gately, and is available on the SIR 101 website. Our speaker for the November 21 luncheon is Justin Wisely, a professional archeologist who will speak about archeology in the East Bay and California.

We had a special guest attend our October luncheon, Christina Cavallo, Assistant Editor for *The Independent Newspaper & Magazine* of Livermore. She attended our luncheon after a letter from us suggesting an article discussing all the activities that our SIR Branch 101 offers for senior men. She very much enjoyed attending our luncheon, speaking to a number of our members, and wrote a very nice article about our SIR

branch that appeared in *The Independent* on October 24. In case you missed it, a link to the online version is [here](#). Feel free to forward this link to possible members to learn



about our Livermore SIR group and invite them to be our guest for a free lunch at a future meeting.

If you haven't already done so, please save the date, Friday, December 6, 2024 for our Holiday Celebration Dinner at Asbury Methodist Fellowship Hall. In addition to the delicious dinner, we will have entertainment from the Devil Mountain Chorus from Walnut Creek, who entertained us last year.

I will see you at our November 21 luncheon!



November Speaker

Speaker: Justin Wisely

Topic: East Bay Archeology within the Context of California Archeology

Time and Location:

Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue, Livermore, CA
Thursday, November 21, 2024 11:30AM



Justin Wisely is a professional archeologist working in California and the Great Basin. He works for Pacific Legacy, Inc. doing cultural resource management for clients that include Caltrans, PG&E, and FEMA. He specializes in

ground stone analysis and starch grain analysis, a subfield of paleobotany. Justin is the son-in-law of Livermore Branch 101 member Rick Morrow. Thank you to Rick for recruiting Justin to be our speaker this month

Save the date: December 6, SIR Holiday Party



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

Financial

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



Monthly Cash Report for October, 2024
See our web site for the complete Form 28.

Beginning Cash Balance (Total Cash)..Line 1: Month: \$9000.01 **Jan 1:** \$8,337.78
Ending Cash Balance (Total Cash),,,,,,Line 8: Month: \$8605.41

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: 0**

MEMBER CARE GIVERS:

- ◆ Care Givers: 0.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

- ◆ Deleted: 0
- ◆ Passed: 0

MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

- ◆ The ACTIVE Membership of SIR 101 as of November, 2024 is **135** members

MEETING ATTENDANCE— All lunch meetings are planned to be in-person

- ◆ November : 66 attendees .

BEC meetings follow in-person lunch meetings.

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

Future Speakers

Our Planned Speakers :
January 16th—TBA.

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, know.

Bocce

When: 2nd and 4th Thursdays 10:00am

Next: November 14, December 12, 16, 2024
January 9 & 23, 2025

Where: Bothwell Park, 8th and H St

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



Livermore SIRs usually play bocce at the Bothwell Park bocce courts on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month starting at 10:00 am. A reminder email goes out on the Monday or Tuesday before each game. If you are interested in joining us to play bocce and do not receive the email reminder, ask Chuck Molenkamp (cmole44@gmail.com) to add you to the SIR Bocce email list.

In October we played bocce on the 10th and 24th with a group of 8 players on the 10th and 7 on the 24th. The weather was really ideal as we are past the hot days of summer. We always have good conversations while we play.

During November and December our schedule is impacted by the holidays and SIR special events. During November we will only play on the 14th as the fourth Thursday of November is Thanksgiving. In December we plan to play on December 12 and 26 assuming we can get up after being Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. During these two months it is especially important to get the email reminders as the schedule deviates from normal. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to all.



Bocce players on October 10, 2024 are Bob Johnson, Dale Schauer, Harry Levin, Scott Henderson, Chuck Molenkamp, Roger Everett, Werner Schlapfer, and Walter Schindler. Bob Johnson figured out how to get everyone in the photo



Bocce players on October 24, 2024 are Raul Pomares, Dom Saccullo, Dale Schauer, Scott Henderson, Werner Schlapfer, and Chuck Molenkamp. The photographer was Roger Everett.



Dining Out

When: Usually 2nd Tuesdays at 5:30pm
Next: January 14, 2025
Where: Emil Villa's Hickory Pit, Livermore
Contact: Ted Schaefer and Dave Dunlap, Chairmen,
SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com



Fourteen members and their spouses/guests gathered on Tuesday, November 12th to enjoy Japanese teriyaki at Kobe Japan restaurant in Livermore. Our group sat around grilling tables while colorful Japanese chefs prepared a choice of delicious menu items in front of us. Dinner conversations were great and the meal was very enjoyable!

Please send an email to Ted at SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com if you plan to attend, or if you wish to be added to the mailing list.

There is no dining out gathering in December. On Tuesday, January 14th, the group plans to dine at Emil Villa's Hickory Pit in Livermore. The Hickory Pit is relocating to the Rock House at the end of January so this will be our last opportunity to enjoy the old location. Check out the restaurant at emilvillaslivermore.com web-site.



Went to the farmers' market and bought some cherries and fireworks, Yep, bought a Bing, bought a boom.

My friend Sarah left her bottle of Pepsi at a rest stop about 60 miles south of Tampa, That's where Sarah's soda is.

Hiking and Walking

When: Wednesdays, 8:00 & 8:30 am (see note below)

Where: South L St. and Railroad Ave.

Contact

Art Hull, Chairman, 925-443-5479, Dave Lunn, Asst. Chairman, 925-784-2624

SIR101Hiking@googlegroups.com



Come hike with us. Get outside, meet new people, get exercise! The Ramblers and Scramblers just did nice hikes at Morgan Territory Regional Preserve and the Amblers walked at Del Valle. All skill levels are welcome.

We hike every Wednesday in one of the many nearby parks. Ramblers and Scramblers leave at 8:00 AM and the Amblers leave at 8:30 We meet every Wednesday at the southeast corner of South L St. and Railroad Ave. Spouses, friends and family are welcome. Bring plenty of water.

We form three groups of various hiking levels (Amblers, Ramblers, and Scramblers). 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.





SIR 101 Kayaking

When: First Tuesday of the month (usually)

Next: December 5, 2024

Where: somewhere near Livermore

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

SIR101Kayaking@googlegroups.com



SIR Kayakers at Big Break Seashore Park.

The weather forecast for our scheduled trip was sub-ideal, with wind at 18 to 21 mph, with gust to 34 mp. At the launch spot of Big Break Seashore Park at Oakly, there was only a gentle breeze. The four of us who showed up nevertheless agreed it was best to stay in the vicinity of Big Break rather than to head to Antioch as planned.

We therefore set out eastward, along the sloughs and thence to the south shore of the Sacramento River. The wind gradually increased as forecast, but to a steady rate with none of the predicted gusts. We traveled about 3 miles. With increasing wind, we decided to head back to our starting point. The wind increased to produce scattered whitecaps.

We managed to get back to our starting point at Big Break Park. It was still a good day on the water!

We are considering that our next outing may be instruction on kayaking skills, something

Doug Mansur and I have considered since the formation of of the SIR Kayak group. It seems appropriate that all participants have at least the same basic skills.

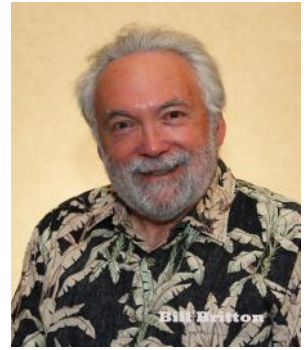
If you do not yet have a kayak, some of us have extras to lend. Contact Dick Ryon at e-mail <dickryon@comcast.net> and a loan can probably be arranged. As I say, "keep moving, and live long."



SIR 101 Travel

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

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



Venice and Croatian Islands Cruise

I am happy to say that everyone has made it back from our Venice and Croatian Cruise. Several folks went early and several more explored longer, or both. We had some rain at the start of our trip in Venice, but overall the weather was pleasant and we even had two opportunities to swim in the Adriatic from the back of our yacht (one less than last year).

Some of the pre-trip adventures included stop overs in Stockholm, UK, a train trip from Zurich to Venice, four nights in Florence and several extra nights in Venice before the tour began. Everyone else came one day early, before the tour began.

My wife and I started in Pisa, Italy and then visited family south of Genoa, drove across Italy to Lake Garda for several days. We then spent three nights in Venice before the rest of the group arrived.

The trip started in Venice for 2 nights and continued with a drive through northern Italy and a stop for lunch and a winery tour in northern Italy. We drove through Slovenia, then stayed in Rijeka, Croatia. We visited the Istria peninsula in-

cluding the small town of Hum; some claim it is the world's smallest town. We then boarded our yacht, the MS San Spirito. We sailed from island to island down the west coast of Croatia with stops at Cres, Krk, Punat, Košljun Island, Rab, Zadar, Šibenik, and Krka National Park. We departed our yacht and some flew home. A group of eight traveled to Dubrovnik for three extra nights. Four spent an extra night in Split then went on to Milan and Lake Como. One couple traveled by ferry and car through Croatia and Slovenia. My wife and I drove to Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina for an interesting visit in an area that suffered a lot more fighting and destruction than other places we visited in Croatia or Slovenia. There we had two great local guides. We then drove back to Croatia and stayed at Plitvice Lakes National Park after missing it last year. We flew home from Zagreb.

I'm sure my fellow travelers will be happy to share their stories if you ask. I enjoyed traveling with our SIR friends and there also was a group of ladies from Texas, and a Texas and Canadian couple on the trip.



Wine Tasting

When: Friday November 15, 3:30pm
Where: Retzlaff Winery
Contact: Bill Bish, Chairman, 925-447-1266
SIR101Wine@googlegroups.com



We're planning to visit Retzlaff Winery at 1356 South Livermore Blvd, on Friday the fifteenth at 3:30pm. Hope to see you there!

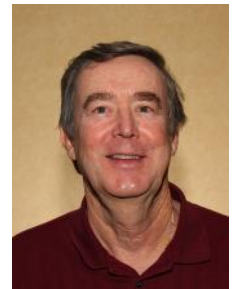
My best friend as a kid was Andy Zoff. He was the fastest boy in school.



Breaking news! Local man has invented reverse origami. More on this story as it unfolds.

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

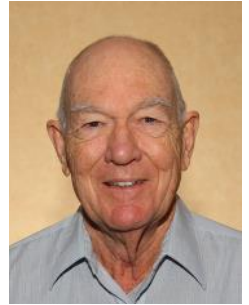


Many new SIR 101 members have expressed an interest in playing golf with a group. We currently do not have organized golf activity in Branch 101, as we do not have over 20 member golfers needed to form a SIR golf activity.

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.

Sunshine

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



I'm pleased to have nothing to report this month.

If you hear of someone needing a word of encouragement from all of us, or hear good news

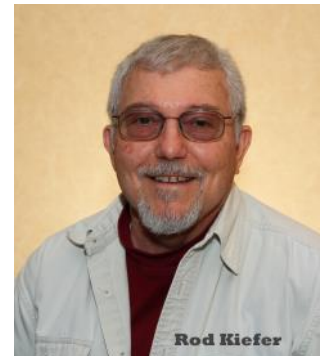
of someone's recovery, please let Art know. He will spread the news and get a card out to them.

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 activities 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

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

When: First Tuesdays
Next: Tuesday, January 7, 2024
Where: TBA (possibly tapas!)
Contact: Vic Wheatman, Chairman
SIR101Romeos@googlegroups.com



Seven members came to the Mayflower restaurant in Dublin to sample Dim Sum, some experiencing it for the first time. We probably ordered too much, but that meant take home boxes for some of us.

The conversations began outside, talking about the member's second SIRS trip to Croatia and having a sailboat in that member's earlier years. The conversation was careful to obey SIRS policy to not talk politics nor religion. Given it was election day, that proved challenging, but any mention was generalities to avoid disputes among our friendly collegial members. We turned to stories about eating Chinese food at a place in the Smokey Mountains, reading an amusing book about the Appalachian Trail and "walking it" for maybe a few blocks. Key word "hiking" reminded one member of a friend walking on the Hawaiian Kīlauea Volcano caldera before it collapsed (thankfully much later). Somehow someone brought

up a dangerous intersection in LA where the 210 and the 5 interconnect, and how that interchange is always under construction.

Members seemed to have a pretty good time while chowing down on assorted dumplings (steamed and baked) chow mein, soup and more. We passed on the chicken feet experience.

We will SKIP December due to the SIRS Holiday party that month, to restart on January 7. We hope (pending completion) to go to the new Spanish Tapas bar opening in downtown Livermore – so stay tuned!

If you're not receiving SIRS/ROMEO lunch invitations, let Vic know you'd like to be included: VictorW318@aol.com topic: ROMEO.



From left: Chuck Molenkamp, Bruce Henry, Marcos Contreras, Rick Knowles, Vic Wheatman, Ken Nuger and Steve Skedzielewski.

Chuck's comment to Vic: Great restaurant selection for the Romeo lunch today, and such a good group of participants. Really a lot of fun. That restaurant was definitely not what I imagined. Thanks a lot for your leadership and planning.. Ed. note: I agree!

Birthday Boys*

October Birthday Boys Winners

Bruce Henry and Jim Muir

November Birthday Boys

Dick Finn
 Roger Grimm
 Scott Henderson
 Art Hull
 Jani Janakiraman
 Coleman Johnson
 Phil LaScola

Brian Mayall
 Rick Morrow
 Mustafa Mohammed
 Bill Nebo
 Ron Peterson
 Don Sheaffer
 Victor Wheatman

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, 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 SIR10ITreasurer@gmail.com as a payee.

If your bank doesn't participate visit 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, SIR10ITreasurer@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, a chance to receive a free luncheon credit. However, that member's must be present at the monthly meeting, when the names are drawn Currently, two names are called each month.

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 year 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 are: Charles Caulfield, Don Faul, Kim Grandfield, Christopher Holland, Mark Kelley, James Knecht, Mike Love, Ken Nuger, Tarry Schmidt, Larry Thompson.**

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 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 at least 48 hours before the luncheon.

Non-responsibility clause: All activities arranged for or by, or sponsored by, SIR, 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 SIR, 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.



