



SIR 101

Bulletin

April, 2025

Volume 44, Number 4

SONS IN
RETIREMENT 101
LIVERMORE, CA

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

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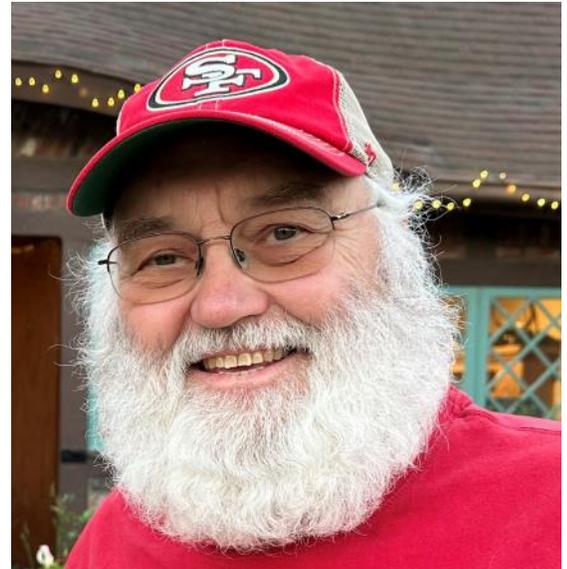
The Big Sir Message from Bob Johnson

April Showers bring May flowers, or so the saying went when I was growing up in the Midwest. Spring arrives earlier here. Hikers have reported seeing a lot of flowers while hiking. With the warmer weather it is great to be outside. I am in the process of putting in a vegetable garden. We are well beyond the risk of a late frost for this area. That is not necessary the case yet in other parts of the country.

We are only about two months away from our Annual Branch Picnic, which is a very special event. Don't miss it! Hold the date for Thursday, June 19th. As most of you know, this is an event at which you can bring your spouse, partner, friend, whatever the appropriate description. More details to follow soon.

I hope you enjoyed at our March luncheon the presentation by Loretta Kaskey on the history of libraries in Livermore. She provided a lot of interesting information. I found it particularly fascinating that in 1910 there were some who opposed the location on which the Carnegie Library was built in Livermore, because they thought it was "too far" from downtown. I guess disagreement over where a new building should go is not anything new.

We have a great speaker lined up for



our April luncheon on Thursday, April 17th. Jon Gulick will share his experience as a Navy SEAL during Vietnam, where he earned a Bronze Star with Combat V and a Purple Heart.

Just a reminder that doors open at 11:00 am and our meeting starts at 11:30 am. Please come early so you can enjoy socializing, catching up with friends, and making new friends before the meeting begins. See you on April 17th!

Bob Johnson

April Speaker

John Gulick

My story as a Navy SEAL

I did a talk in 2023 to a bunch of oldish former military types about the path I took to go into the military in the early 1960's that wound up steering me to Navy SEAL duty in Vietnam in 1966-97. One of my friends put together the collage I have attached to this email. The interesting thing to me is that in 1963 when I graduated from college, everyone was facing military service either voluntarily or the draft. I chose to volunteer and had a very fun, interesting and terrifying four years. But mine is typical of the time following WWII with a spirit of patriotism that we all felt and that I believe still exists.

I graduated from Washington & Lee University in 1963. I was an undistinguished student and spent more time partying and playing lacrosse than I did studying. I was commissioned in the Navy in 1963 and served on board the destroyer USS Fletcher (DD-445) before going to UDTRA (the precursor to BUD/S) in an effort to become a Navy frogman. I was successful and was assigned to Underwater Demolition Team 12 and then to SEAL Team ONE. I deployed to Vietnam in a SEAL platoon in September 1966. I was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V and the Purple Heart Medal. I mention those awards because they are evidence of the fact that my service involved combat duty. After I detached from the Navy in 1967 I went to law school at Case Western Reserve Univ. in Cleveland, OH and then have practiced law in the Bay Area since then. I have 4 sons and six grandchildren. My English wife Heather is coming with me on the 17th.



John Gulick

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,

[Index](#)

Financial

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



Monthly Cash Report for March, 2025
 See our web site for the complete Form 28.

Beginning Cash Balance (Total Cash)..Line 1: Month: \$8920.14 **Jan 1:** \$8,337.78
 Ending Cash Balance (Total Cash),,,,,,Line 8: Month: \$8807.87

Membership and Attendance

Contact: Larry Wiley, Chairman, 925-337-4263
SIR101Membership@googlegroups.com



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, VISITORS and GUESTS:

New Members: 1

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

MEMBER CARE GIVERS:

- ◆ Care Givers: 0.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

- ◆ Deleted: 1
- ◆ Passed: 1—Larry Thompson

MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

- ◆ The ACTIVE Membership of SIR 101 as of March 06, 2025 is **132** members

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

- ◆ February : 70?? attendees .

BEC meetings follow in-person lunch meetings.

The complete SIR Form 27 Monthly Branch Membership Report for March, 2025 is available on our website.

Future Speakers

Our Planned Speakers :

May 15th—Monya Lane, CEO & Board Chair of the Quest Science Center

July 17th-Ashley Grenier, East Bay Region Parks

Speakers are a great attraction for attracting po-

tential 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 Terry Titalsky, SIR101LittleSIR@googlegroups.com, know.

Bocce

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

Next: March 13 and 27, April 10, 2025

Where: Bothwell Park, 8th and H St

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

SIR101Bocce@googlegroups.com



We normally play bocce on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Usually there are 5-10 players, and two courts are available to us at Bothwell Park on Eighth and H Streets in Livermore. We have fun playing bocce and talking. There is plenty of room for you to join us for our next games on March 13 and 27.

Starting time is 10:00 am. A reminder email is sent out on the Tuesday before we play. If you are interested in joining us to play bocce sign up with Chuck Molenkamp (cmole44@gmail.com) to receive an email reminder a couple days before we play.

Winter was still hanging around in March so we only played bocce on March 27; the game scheduled for March 13 was rained out. I issued rainchecks for use during April when games are scheduled for April 10 and 24.

SIR's play bocce at Bothwell Park at 8th and H Streets in Livermore on the second and fourth Thursday of each month starting at 10:00 am. However, since it is spring and warm sunny weather is ahead, when high temperatures are predicted **we modify the schedule to start at 9:00 am**. A reminder is sent to SIRs on the bocce email list a couple days before each game that announces the starting time for that week. If you wish to be added to that list just email a request to Chuck Molenkamp (cmole44@gmail.com). While we play bocce we have a good time trying to explain why the balls sometimes make strange curves. We also talk about anything else that strikes our fancy. And we rarely remember whether we won or lost.



Bob Johnson, Bruce Henry, Chuck Molenkamp, Raul Pomares, Dale Schauer, and Roge Everett. Bob Johnson's long arm took the photo.



Chuck Molenkamp sends the red ball off hoping it will go straight, but it rolls off into the

Chuck Molenkamp

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

When: First Tuesdays
Next: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 11:30AM
Where: *Star Chaat (Hacienda Crossings, Dublin)*
Contact: Vic Wheatman, Chairman
SIR101Romeos@googlegroups.com



Six ROMEO members gathered at Star Chaat, an Indian venue located down an alley across from the Regal Movie Theatre in Hacienda Crossings center in Dublin. You can't miss it (actually, you can). The conversation started damply with remarks about that morning's rain deluge, moved improbably to tugboat races in Olympia, Washington, on to big yachts in the La Conner, Washington harbor. Then came a thankfully brief discussion about the aroma when driving down/up the Grapevine, approaching Harris Ranch, followed by the reason the Naval Air Stations in Lemoore, California and (originally) Livermore were placed inland rather than on the coast (has to do with fog), and attempts to grow cilantro. Finally, the discussion turned to renovations in Yosemite, seeing snow on the valley floor, the Horsetail Fall lightup on El Capitan, and rock slides causing detours onto an old railroad right-of-way. Some diners may have ordered "the wrong thing" and were heard remarking about the spice, while others enjoyed their food and many finished by paying with their phones after scanning a bar code on the presented check (when it worked). A fun time was had by all.



From left, clockwise: Bruce Henry, Chuck Molenkamp, "Jani" Janakiraman, Vic Wheatman, Rick Knowles, Marcos Contreas, Jim Hermerding and Steve Skedzielewski.

- . Considering that most people are buried in suits and dresses, any zombie apocalypse is likely to be a rather formal affair.
- . How did the tractor salesman find out his wife had left him? He came home from work and found a John Deere letter.

Dining Out

When: Usually 2nd Tuesdays at 5:30pm

Next: April 8, 2025

Where: Little India Restaurant and Bar

Contact: Ted Schaefer and Dave Dunlap, Chairmen,
SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com



A group of 10 enjoyed a lovely evening at Casa Orozco with plenty of cervezas and margaritas! Oh, and the food was delicious too!!!

Next month we'll be sampling Indian cuisine at Little India Restaurant & Bar.

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.

Hiking and Walking

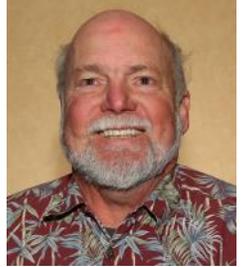
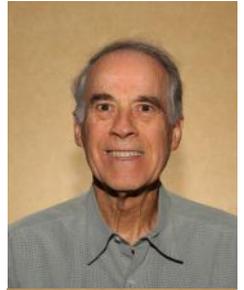
When: Wednesdays, 8:00 & 8:30 am (see note below)

Where: South L St. and Railroad Ave.

Contact

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

SIR101Hiking@googlegroups.com



April is one the best months to get out into nature, mild temperatures and green hills and valleys. This month we will do the Morgan Territory shuttle hike as well as the popular Moller Ranch hike at the north end of Pleasanton Ridge. We try to do a different trail every Wednesday forming 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. Ramblers and Scramblers leave at 8:00 AM from the parking lot on the southeast corner of South L Street and Railroad Avenue and Amblers leave at 8:30 AM, usually from the trailhead but sometimes from the aforementioned parking lot if carpooling is needed (check the Ambler signup spreadsheet which is emailed every week). Spouses, friends and family are welcome. Bring plenty of water and hiking poles if needed.

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



SIR 101 Travel

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

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



I am not scheduling anything for 2025. I had proposed a trip in October to eastern Canada but there were only two couples possibly interested. As always, I am happy to work with you to book any trips with Collette through me and save some money.

I have had interest recently for the Christmas on the Danube river cruise starting November 27, 2026 to visit many of the wonderful Christ-

mas Markets and historic old towns along the Danube from Frankfurt to Vienna with the addition of Prague at the end. I will be working on a bit of customizing for this trip to include an additional pre-night and post-night. We did this in 2018 and it was great! I will work on the proposal in a few months for BEC approval and also schedule an informational meeting sometime in May or June.

SIR 101 Kayaking

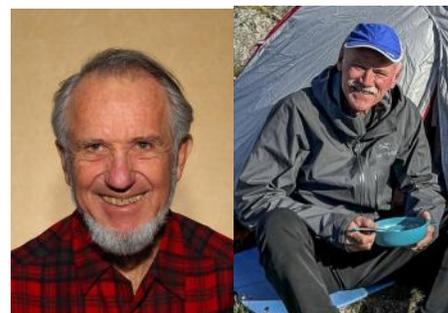
When: *Second* Tuesday of the month May 13, 2025

Next: M

Where: Alameda Island

Contact: Dick Ryon, 925-447-8907

SIR101Kayaking@googlegroups.com



Kayaking also occurs on the second Tuesday, so its report will arrive at the publication time. They may or may not include photos.

Kayaking friends,

11 kayakers started the hike on a cool and sunny morning at the Lodi Lake Park. It was perfect kayaking weather and the landscape was beautiful and varied.

Kim recorded about a dozen bird calls on his Merlin app, but it was hard to actually see the birds.

We roamed along the Mokelumne on a peaceful river and paddled a little more than 8 Miles. I started the track a little bit late.

The pictures and videos are best viewed on a large screen (tablet or computer)

Feel free to add a few of your best pictures to the page.

Greg Davis



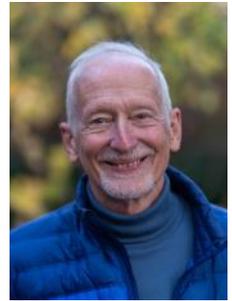
Wine Tasting

When: Friday April 18, 2025, 3pm

Where: Occasio Winery

Contact: Steve Skedzielewski, Chairman, 925-455-5579

SIR101Wine@googlegroups.com



Six SIRs and four spouses enjoyed a wonderful evening of deserts and wine at the home of John and Suzanne Didlake. They offered a selection of five (!) Port wines from their recent visit to Portugal, which was supplemented by four more desert wines brought by others. We also brought deserts to complement the wines.

Steve began with a white port (Viognier) from Cedar Mountain Winery, where he worked until its closure last year. The other ports were of the ruby and tawney persuasions and ranged from a few years old to a twenty-year-old vintage port.

We discussed the differences among them and had lots of discussions about travel, winemaking in the valley, and...

Next month we will visit Occasio Winery on Greenville Road in Livermore. We enjoyed wine and our snacks last year (or was it two?); I hope that you can join us this month.

If you are interesting in joining us, please ensure that Steve has your email address by phoning or emailing him. We'll send out more details as the date approaches.





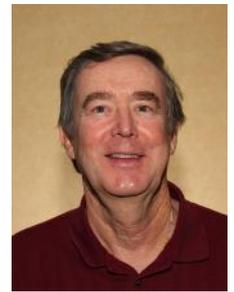
Golf

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.

. When I say "Enjoy them while they're young", I'm not referring to your kids, I'm referring to your hips and knees.

. I put my scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until she apologizes.

Sunshine

Contact: Art Molvik
SIR101Sunshine@googlegroups.com.



I'm sorry to announce that Dave Dunlap is having heart issues.

Dennis Gately had quadruple bypass surgery on Monday, April 7, 2025. I was happy to hear that

it went well and he is expected to go home on Friday, April 11, 2025. We can't expect him at our Luncheon on April 17, 2025, but we are hopeful to see him next month.

Investments

When: WAS on first Friday of the month from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Where: Zoom meeting

Contact: TBA

SIR101Investments@googlegroups.com

The Investments group is looking for a new chairman. If you might be interested in leading the investment group, please contact Big Sir Bob Johnson and he can fill you in on the duties and responsibilities.

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

Birthday Boys*

March Birthday Boys Winners

D. Lynn Shaeffer and Don Carter

April Birthday Boys

Dick Edwards
Dennis Gately
Kim Granfield
Russell Greenwall

Bob Hoffman
Bob McGarry
Everitt White

*** 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 must be present at the monthly meeting. when the names are drawn. Two names are drawn each month.

Lunch Prepayment Instructions / Yearly Member Dues Reminder

Prepay your \$33 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 SIR101Treasurer@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.

What is the Green Dot Program?

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: Greg Barr, Dale Berven, David Cabral, Jim Durkee, Phillip Garbutt, James Knecht, Harry Levin, Mike Love, Thomas Parham, Tarry Schmidt, Ken Simons, Larry Thompson, David Weir.**

BADGE	MEMBER	DATE JOINED
027	James Knecht	4/17/24
057	Mike Love	4/18/24
059	Tarry Schmidt	6/10/24
061	Harry Levin	8/28/24
079	Dale Berven	11/13/24
083	David Cabral	11/13/24
085	Jim Durkee	11/13/24
086	Greg Barr	1/2/25
090	Ken Simons	1/2/25
096	David Weir	1/2/25
024	Thomas Parham	1/15/25
063	Phillip Garbutt	1/16/25
013	Gary Tompkins	3/20/25

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, SIR101Big-Sir@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.