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SIR 101

# Bulletin

November, 2025

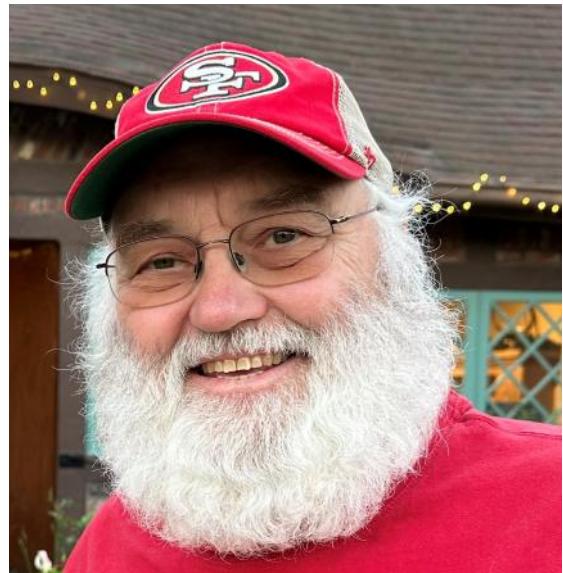
Volume 44, Number 11

## The Big Sir Message from Bob Johnson

**T**he holidays are fast approaching. Our SIR Holiday Gala Dinner will happen on December 11th. If you plan to attend, the deadline to RSVP and prepay is Monday, November 24th by 7:00 pm. I hope you will be able to join us with your wife, or significant other, or a friend. Put on your holiday finery and join us for a wonderful evening. The invitation that has already been sent by email has all the details.

I hope you enjoyed the presentation on the James Webb Telescope at our October luncheon. The photos were amazing! At our upcoming luncheon on November 20th the presentation will be by a member of our branch, Paul McCandless, who will share his experience serving as a judge for the Olympic Biathlon in Salt Lake City in 2002. Great timing with the 2026 Olympic Games happening soon in February. Be sure to join us.

Soon it will be the end of the year and the end to my term as Big SIR. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity. I want to thank the many people who keep our branch functioning. I especially want to thank all of the Activity Chairs and our Branch Executive Committee (BEC) for all they do to provide a wide range of great activities and events.



I want to especially thank Terry Tikalsky for doing a great job as Little SIR. We will be in good hands when he becomes Big SIR. Thank you to Brent Dixon who stepped up to be the next Little SIR. Secretary Bill Leach and Treasurer Roger Grimm deserve much thanks and gratitude for all they do to keep the branch running. Of course I have to give a shoutout to Bill for his monthly "Story Time."

I want to thank Larry Wiley for his work as Membership Chair and for stepping up to become the next Walking/Hiking Chair, and thank you to Scott Henderson for becoming the new Membership Chair. Of course I can never say enough about Art Hull's incredible record as Walking/Hiking Chair for over 19 years. He built a wonderful, enduring pro-

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

gram that has the most participants in our branch.

I thank Steve Skedzielewski and all of his excellent work to produce the Bulletin. A big thank you and much appreciation go to Dennis Gately, who takes care of our website and to John Didlake who manages Constant Contact so that we can communicate to all our members. John also prepares important data in various lists needed each month.

A special thank you to Dwight Lang who set a great example for me to follow as Big SIR and for

always being readily available to answer questions. A big thank you to the Wednesday lunch group at the Ale House, who became my informal focus group, or kitchen cabinet.

Thank you to all of you, our branch members who make our branch a wonderful place to be. I hope to see you on the 20th, but in case not, **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

## Holiday Dinner is December 11th Prepay by Monday, November 24

### November Speaker

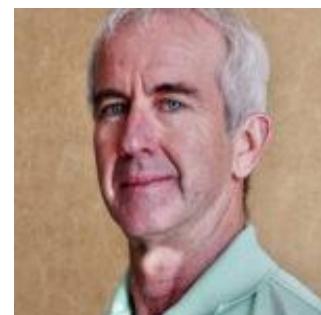
**Speaker: Paul McCandless**

**Topic: The Olympic Biathlon**

The Sport and My Personal Experience

**Time and Location:**

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 11:30AM  
Asbury United Methodist Church



Paul McCandless is a member of SIR101.

Paul will begin with an overview of the biathlon—how the sport started, how the competition works, including equipment and safety.

He'll recount how he got involved in the sport, his experience at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, and end with suggestions for biathlon events to watch at the upcoming 2026 Olympics in Milan/Cortina in February.

KFC has asked me to edit the chicken genome. They want something Crispr.

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 October, 2025  
 See our web site for the complete Form 28.



Beginning Cash Balance (Total Cash)..Line 1: Month: \$6071.30 **Jan 1:** \$7116.59  
 Ending Cash Balance (Total Cash).,.,.,.,Line 8: Month: \$5517.25

## Membership and Attendance

**Contact:** Scott Henderson, Chairman  
[SIR101Membership@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Membership@googlegroups.com)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, VISITORS and GUESTS:



#### **New Members: 2**

Bill Hopps, Kelly Rogers

- ◆ **Visitors:** 2
- ◆ **Guests:** 1

#### **MEMBER CARE GIVERS:**

- ◆ Care Givers: 0.

#### **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:**

- ◆ Deleted: 0
- ◆ Passed: 0

#### **MEMBERSHIP STATUS:**

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

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**— All lunch meetings are planned to be in-person  
 ◆ October: 68 attendees .  
 BEC meetings follow in-person lunch meetings.

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



If a word in the dictionary were misspelled, how would we know?

## Future Speakers

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

**TBD** — Ricky Deutsch, *HEXAGON Spies in the Skies—Reconnaissance Technology During the Cold War.*

Speakers are a great attraction for attracting po-

tential new members to attend our SIR meetings. Do you have ideas for speakers? Let Terry Tikalsky, [SIR101LittleSIR@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101LittleSIR@googlegroups.com), know.

## Bocce

**When:** 2nd and 4th Thursdays 10:00am  
**Next:** October 23, November 9, 2025  
**Where:** Bothwell Park, 8th and H St  
**Contact:** Chuck Molenkamp, Chairman, 925-413-1414  
[SIR101Bocce@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Bocce@googlegroups.com)



The SIR 101 bocce players were on the court twice during October for some fun and exciting games, some wonderful conversations, and a really good time. On October 9 there were 6 players and we stuck to one court. On October 23 there were 9 players and we used both courts. The weather was perfect on both days. In fact, I came wearing a jacket expecting it to be cool, but I took the jacket off right away because it was already warm and comfortable on the court, especially in the sun.

Since the two courts will easily accommodate up to 16 players, we would love to have you come and join us for some festive bocce games. Since Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day all occur on Thursdays this year, I am planning a modified schedule. We will play bocce on

November 13 and December 4 and 18. In January we will go back to our regular schedule playing on the second and fourth Thursdays, January 8 and 22.

If you have trouble remembering these dates and would like an email reminder a couple days before we play, make sure Chuck Molenkamp (cmole44@gmail.com) has added you to the bocce email reminder list. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to everyone. And make sure you sign up for the SIR Holiday Gala Dinner at Dublin Ranch Golf Course Clubhouse on December 11!



Bocce Players on October 9 are Dom Saccullo, Chuck Molenkamp, Bruce Henry, Werner Schlapfer, Scott Henderson, and Art Hull.



Bocce Players on October 23 are in the front Dale Schauer and Steve Skedzielewski, and in the back Lynn Shaeffer, Bruce Henry, Dom Saccullo, Art Hull, Werner Schlapfer, and Chuck Molenkamp. Raul Pomares also played bocce but left before the photo was taken.



One game it's Good to be Red.

The next — Green!



## Dining Out

**When:** Usually 2nd Tuesdays at 5:30pm

**Next:** January 13, 2026

**Where:** TBD

**Contact:** Ted Schaefer, Chairman,  
[SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Diningout@googlegroups.com)



The SIRS Dining out group gathered on a gloomy, cold October evening at Cattlemen's Steakhouse in Livermore and enjoyed the warmth of laughter and friendship as well as some really good comfort food! The never-ending salad and huge baked potatoes were an excellent accompaniment to everyone's protein of choice - steaks, prime rib and roasted salmon. A few brave souls had enough room for the decadent chocolate brownie supreme! Everyone headed home with happy tummies (and a few leftovers)!



In November, the hungry tribe headed to a local Thai favorite - Lana Thai!! Thirteen or so members and guests enjoyed a wide selection of dishes, beginning with some complementary potstickers. We ordered a wide range of main dishes — who knew that tofu could taste so good?



The group will not meet in December, but many will be attending the Holiday Party on December 11. We hope to see you there!



## Hiking and Walking

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

**Where:** South L St. and Railroad Ave.

### Contact

Larry Wiley, Chairman, 925-443-5479  
[SIR101Hiking@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Hiking@googlegroups.com)



The SIR Hikers have been actively hiking in October and early November. In the last month, the Railroad Avenue. If Ramblers and Scramblers Scramblers and Ramblers, who hike in the hills of the East Bay Regional Parks, have hiked at

Del Valle, Morgan Territory, Dublin Hills, Pleasanton Ridge and Brushy Peak. The Ambler have hiked in Livermore, Springtown, and Sycamore Grove Park and take mostly level hikes. We usually have about 15-25 Scramblers and Ramblers who most often start their hikes together at 8:00 AM, while the 5-10 Ambler start later (8:30 AM), usually from their trailhead/starting point.

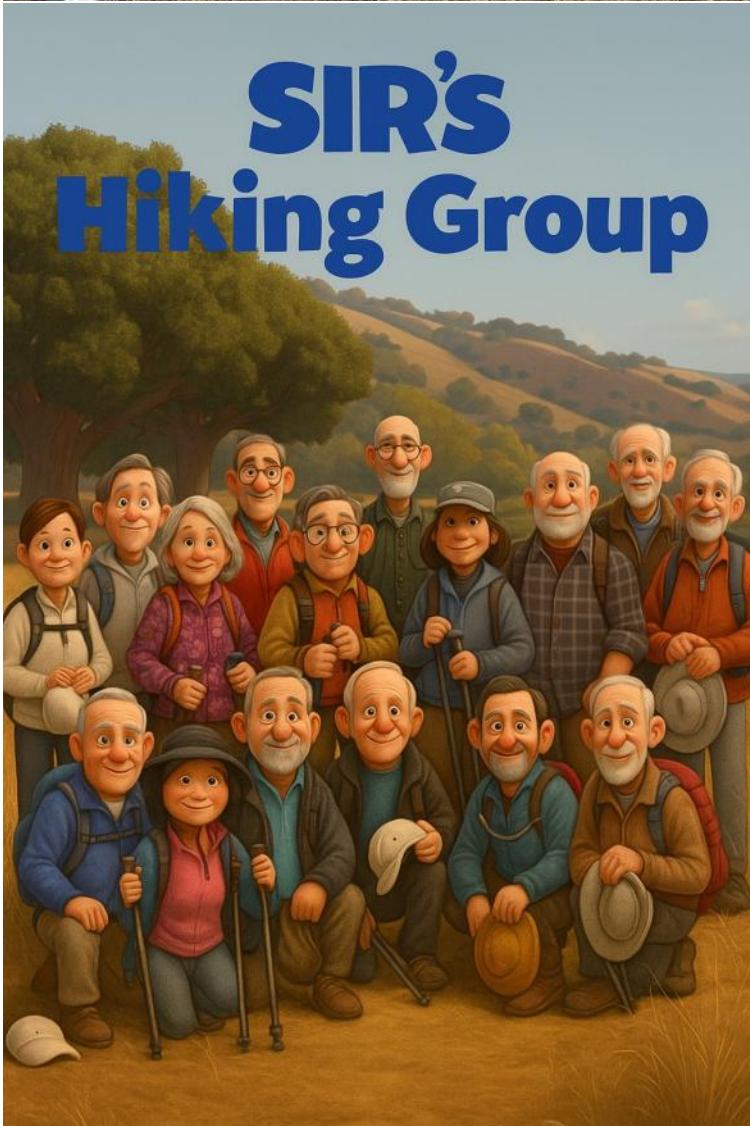
Ramblers and Scramblers carpool to their trail-

heads, leaving at 8:00 AM from L Street and Railroad Avenue. If Ramblers and Scramblers wish to meet at the trailhead, they can time it accordingly, and they do not need to report in. Amblers leave at 8:30 AM from either L Street and Railroad Avenue, or they meet at the trailhead. All Ambler participants, are asked to please enter their name in the [online spreadsheet](#) to report their intention to join the hike (Click the link).

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







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

**When:** Tuesday January 6 at 11:30am — On Hiatus in December

**Where:** TBA

**Contact:** Vic Wheatman, Chairman

[SIR101Romeos@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Romeos@googlegroups.com)



Ten ROMEOs attended our last luncheon before the new year, eating at Fratello's on Railroad Avenue in Livermore. Many had fond memories about the previous restaurant in this space, Anita's.

As usual the conversation proved lively and very far reaching: finding a shrine to local hero John Madden in a roadside restaurant in Gonzales, Texas. The football legend who wouldn't fly would stop in his bus with his team as they drove between games.

There were brief discussions on nuclear non-proliferation, travelling between cities in Switzer-

land in Winter when key roads are closed, hassles with standard time changes and why didn't California stop flipping the switch as did Hawaii and Arizona, even after we and the legislature voted to do so. [Yeah, why?] There was admiration for local bands, using the MyShake app for earthquake warnings, why Portland, Oregon real estate owners can't evict renters, living in Durango, Colorado and visiting a grocery store in Portugal, seeing large pieces of dried Cod. The question was how do you prepare it? It stays salty my friends.

A good time was had by all participating.



From Left: Stephen Myers (guest), Vic Wheatman, Chuck Molenkamp, Steve Skedzielewski, Bob Johnson, Marcos Contreas, "Jani" Janakiraman, Rick Knowles, Bruce Henry, Paul McCandless.

## 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)



The deadline is fast approaching when I will lose the 24 spaces that are being held for us. They will be released after November 29th. After that date, if you want to go it will depend on space being available and your preferred cabin level may not be available. Currently we have only one cabin reserved. Here are some details. If you want more information, or to sign up, click on [this link](#).

**Christmas on the Danube** cruise for November 27 to December 8, 2026. You can find more details on the trip in last month's newsletter. I want to point out some key things that are included:

- \* Hometown (Livermore) transfers to and from SFO
- \* Round Trip air included which also includes airport transfers in Europe
- \* All gratuities (tips)

- \* 10 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, & 7 Dinners
- \* Travel Insurance
- \* Cancel for any reason up to 24 hours before departure and receive a full refund minus the cost of the insurance.
- \* All ground transportation in Europe
- \* Full time tour manager
- \* Local guides with Whisper Headphones
- \* One additional pre-night in Wurzburg
- \* 2 nights Prague Post Tour Extension with possibility to add an additional night

I am available to answer your questions in person at our SIR November Luncheon or over the phone or by text at 925-200-1062. I can also email you the brochure.



**Lower Outside Cabin Rates: Double \$5,897; Single \$7,437;**

**Middle Outside Cabin Rates: Double \$6,697; Single \$8,737;**

**Upper Outside Cabin Rates: Double \$7,097; Single \$9,437;**

**Suite Cabin Rates: Double \$7,497; Single \$10,537;**

**Included in Price:** Round Trip Air from San Francisco Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers, Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$699 per person, Gratuities and SIRS fee

A lot of women say their husband never listens to them.

I am proud to say that I've never heard my wife say that.



## 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

[SIR101Sunshine@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Sunshine@googlegroups.com).

I learned from Dick Ryon that Howard Storms is homebound with 24 hour care. I have fond memories of hiking with Howard, another Minnesota boy.

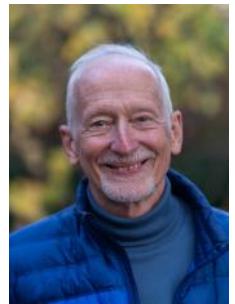
Roger Everett's Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, December 20 at 2 pm at Asbury Methodist Church.

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



## Wine Tasting

**When:** On hiatus until January  
**Where:** TBD  
**Contact:** Steve Skedzielewski, Chairman, 925-455-5579  
[SIR101Wine@googlegroups.com](mailto:SIR101Wine@googlegroups.com)



Hallowe'en turned out to be a beautiful afternoon to enjoy wines on the patio at Charles R winery, nestled under the Arroyo Vineyards just past the end of Greenville Road. None of us had visited there lately and the new winemaker (to us, anyway) delivered an enjoyable tasting menu.

This meeting will be the last of the calendar year. I'll be traveling until early December, so we'll reconvene in January. I hope to visit one of the wineries that made the "top ten" in a recent [Zoe Report poll](#) of wineries with women wine-makers.

See you then!



## Investments

**When:** No info on the next meeting  
**Where:** Zoom meeting  
**Contact:** Bob Dashner  
[sir101investmentschairman@gmail.com](mailto:sir101investmentschairman@gmail.com)

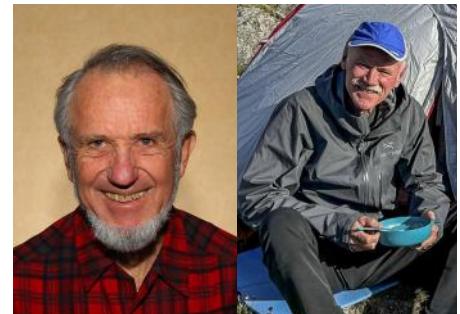
If you are interested in joining the group, please send a note to Bob at the address above and he'll add you to the group's email list.



## SIR 101 Kayaking

**When:** Second Tuesday of the month (*usually*)  
**On hiatus**  
**Contact:**

Dick Ryon, Chairman 925-447-8907  
 Kim Grandfield, Asst. Chairman



Dick's recovery is taking longer than hoped and Kim is recovering from his second knee surgery, so we don't have an update about the kayaking activity this month. However, an informal set of outings is happening—if you're not receiving

invitations and would like to join them please let Dick know.

Paddle and live long!



If I were a plastic surgeon, 100% I would put a squeaky toy in every breast implant.

## Birthday Boys\*

### November Birthday Boys

Dick Finn  
Scott Henderson  
Art Hull  
Jani Janakiraman

Coleman Johnson  
Phil La Scola  
Brian Mayall  
Rick Morrow

Bill Nebo  
Ron Pererson  
Don Schaeffer  
Vic Wheatman

### October Birthday Boys Winners

Bruce Henry and Larry Wiley



\* **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. Two names are drawn each month, however, the member must be present at the monthly meeting when the names are drawn to receive the credit

#### 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](mailto:SIR101Treasurer@gmail.com) as a payee.

**If your bank doesn't participate** visit 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 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:

**Vic Avila, Greg Barr, Dale Berven, David Cabral, Phillip Garbutt, Bill Hoppes, Dick Lear, Marcus Libkind, Bob Lormand, Tim, Meier, Tom Parham, Kelly Rogers, Ken Simons, Mike Telang, Gary Tompkins, Rick Vistnes, John Whitehead**

### 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 Bob Johnson, [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, 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:** [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](http://SIRHappenings) features news about SIR and all the things that are still going on in our Branches.



Never make the same mistake twice.  
There are so many mistakes to explore.