



Wine Valley Press

SONS IN RETIREMENT WINE VALLEY BRANCH #149



State President Rich Carlson

Area 7 Representative Jerry Stabile

A non-profit organization for retired men

MEETS EVERY FIRST TUESDAY, 11:00 AM

ELKS LODGE NAPA

JANUARY 2026

VOLUME 48

Website: <http://branch149.sirinc2.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SIR-Branch-149-1403748883208712/>

MESSAGE FROM THE BIG SIR

Gentlemen,

Our Holiday Dinner was once again a great success, and I was very sorry to miss the festivities and the opportunity to visit our members and their wives, partners and significant others. I hope everyone enjoyed the time spent together as we kicked off the holiday season.

I am very excited and honored to be your Big Sir/President for the upcoming year. With our newest Little Sir, Craig Ruess our incredible board of directors and activity chairs I want to extend our deepest appreciation to Sir Peter Drier for his outstanding commitment and leadership to Branch 149.

During 2026 we will be exploring some new and some past ideas encompassing all aspects of our branch. Our main goal is to obtain new members and to retain them, we will be asking current members to participate in assuring that the group will be able to move forward with membership numbers that grow annually. These items will be presented and discussed as we move through 2026.

Our speaker for January will be Lt Col Ed Bruc, Ret of the United Staes Air Force; Col Bruce flew KC 135 Stratotankers used for mid-air refueling of all types of aircraft used by military branches. I have been told that aside from war time sorties this is one of the most dangerous operations in the air.

In the coming months we will have Jennifer McRoberts, Jen is a dispatcher for the Napa Police and Fire along with other first responders in The Napa Valley. She has some wonderful stories to share with us. Christine French of Napa Valley Landmarks will share some interesting facts about many of the buildings we walk or drive by each day. Shortly after her talk we will offer a short walking tour of the historical areas of downtown Napa in the spring. Other speakers will include Sheriff Oscar Ortiz, a representative from the Napa Water Department and please let me know if you have anyone else in mind you would like to hear from.

From Our Home to Your,

We wish you and your family peace, prosperity and good health this holiday season.

Yours in Service,

Daniel



We have a great opportunity to learn all those hidden secrets of our electronic devices. I am scheduling some students from Chamilie Creek High School here in Napa to come by between 10:00am and 11:00am before our February Luncheon to provide individual hands-on help with your phone, I pad or laptop. I have had the pleasure of working with these teens at the senior center and they are amazing.

By the end of the hour you will hear beeping, binging and noises you might not even know your device could make. I will be more than happy to continue this throughout the year.

Statistics

Current membership = 199

Number of Sirs November luncheon = 79

Number of guests at our November meeting=2

Number of new members 2025 11

Number of new applitions 0

BAKED SALMON w/ RICE PILAF & VEGS.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR LITTLE SIR

Why are you a member of SIR 149?

I'm guessing there are 200 combinations of reasons between us but, of those I've asked in person, a common theme is camaraderie. Our ages range from 55 to 95. Older members tend to seek camaraderie via our monthly luncheon meetings where they can see their buddies. Younger members participate in more activities where camaraderie usually trumps competition.



But, in SIR 149 there are only about 100 members who regularly participate in activities and/or attend luncheons. Fewer than 50 members click through to the newsletter when it arrives each month. Our membership is about 200. What value do we provide to the 100 who do not participate? If you are one of those, and maintain your membership in good standing, I'm interested in learning why. Please send me a short email at craigcargo@gmail.com if you care to share.

My mission for the next couple years is to help make our club a better value for the membership we currently have while attracting and retaining new members. You are some experienced, diverse and interesting dudes. Everyone should want to be in your club!

We're going to highlight our members again each month. You may have already read the first "Under the SIR-face" profile by Mike Murrell of exiting Big Sir Peter Drier. The live version will be conducted at the January 6, 2026 luncheon meeting. One of our members will be featured each month.

We are always open to new ideas to make our luncheon meetings better

I look forward to meeting more of you. I also look forward to working with some of you to make our club better. I hope you are one of those.

Happy Holidays.

Craig

Our speaker for January will be Lt Col Ed Bruc, Ret of the United States Air Force; Col Bruce flew KC 135 Stratotankers used for mid-air refueling of all types of aircraft used by military branches. I have been told that aside from war time sorties this is one of the most dangerous operations in the air.

DON'T MISS HEARING LT. COL BRUC'S INCREDIBLE STORIES.

SEE YOU ON JANUARY 6TH .

Ladies Day Picnic

Select Committee

Mission: a) find reasons why only 30% of SIR 149 members participate in this event. and b) recommend action to increase participation while making the experience more enjoyable for all who do attend.

The committee surveyed the membership. 38 members responded (19%). Here is a summary of the survey results,

To the question asking for the best excuse for not attending: The most humorous excuse was from Gerry Schneider with "I am a grouchy old man and all that smiling is bad for my image". The promised prize for this is two free tickets to the picnic. **This requires BEC approval.**

The most frequent excuse for why members did not attend was some derivation of "I don't have a lady to take to the Ladies Day Picnic." (See our recommendation below for partially addressing this.)

The most popular games to offer are bingo, bocce, horseshoes, corn hole

There was no clear winner for food choices but hamburgers and hotdogs were the most popular response.

The auction was popular by a margin of 5:1

Over half of the respondents wanted to leave the event in July

About half wanted the word "Ladies" removed from the event's name. The committee suggests changing the name to "Summer Luncheon and Picnic" to coincide with the most popular name change option and to remove the suggestion that one may need to be accompanied by a lady to attend

Next ROMEO dinner will be at

Napa Valley Bistro on Feb. 17.

\$55 per person.

RSVP to John 707 254-1056.

WHERE IN NAPA AM I?

EMAIL YOUR ANSWER

TO ME

DKWONDERUL@GMAIL.COM



COMFORT REPORT FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER

SIR Branch 149

I have the honor to serve as the Comfort Chairman for the coming year. The focus of this report is to highlight efforts to support members' well-being, foster camaraderie, and ensure that all members feel welcomed and cared for within our branch.

Throughout the year, I will strive to maintain regular contact with members who have experienced illness, injury, or loss. Personalized phone calls, cards, and emails will be sent to express the branch's concern and support. These gestures help to reinforce the sense of community within our branch.

Efforts will be made to ensure that new members feel welcome and comfortable. The Comfort Chairman, in collaboration with the membership team, introduce new members at meetings and followed up with them to answer questions and address any concerns. This approach is to contribute to a positive experience for newcomers.

Goals for the Coming Year

Maintain regular outreach to members who are facing health or personal challenges, ensuring that no one feels isolated or forgotten.

Increase the visibility of comfort initiatives at branch meetings and through our newsletters, so all members are aware of the support available to them.

Actively seek feedback from members to continually improve the effectiveness and reach of our comfort activities.

Report health concerns and lead in a blessing before meals at monthly meetings.

Conclusion

As Comfort Chairman, I remain dedicated to supporting every member of SIR Branch 149. Through ongoing outreach, recognition, and integration efforts, my goal is to maintain a welcoming environment where everyone feels valued and cared for. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation. I can be reached by email at nbpharmd@gmail.com or phone call at (707) 235-6645

God's blessings,

Sir Neill Barker, Comfort Chairman



ACTIVITIES

Bicycling with SIRs Bill Shields & Chuck Youngson

Get your heart pumping, enjoy the fresh air, and share the road with friends — the **SIR Bike Riders** hit the trails **every Thursday**! Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or just dusting off your wheels, all levels of riders are welcome. It's a great way to stay active, explore beautiful routes, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow SIR members.



For more information, contact: **Bill Shields** – bshields6@comcast.net | 707-287-1246



Book Exchange with SIR Rich Hanf:

Bill and his colleagues have put together a **wonderful display of books for loan**, spread across several tables. The **Book Exchange Table** invites you to not only **borrow a book** but also **donate some of your favorites** to share with others! When our collection grows beyond the Sirs storage space, the overflow is donated to the **Napa Library** — and nearly every month we're proud to deliver a big box of books thanks to your generosity.

Special Bonus: Your spouse or significant other is welcome to come before the meeting to browse and pick out books, too! For more info, contact **SIR Rich Hanf** **224-7464** rjhaf49@gmail.com



Cards with SIR Bob Hairston

It's time to get your classic's out and enjoy our beautiful area. The second Sunday of each month is Cars & Coffee at the Napa Factory stores from 8 am to 10 am. At each SIRS meeting we will have updates to other events. For more information contact Dan McCabe 707-738-0842 or email djmccabe547@comcast.net



NEWSLETTER



Please send any pictures, announcements, or items you'd like included in the upcoming newsletter to:
dkwonderful@gmail.com

Bocce with SIR Jim Davis

¶¶ Thursday is BOCCE Day! ¶¶

Join your fellow SIRS every **Thursday** at the **Bocce Pavilion, Napa Senior Center** for some friendly competition, laughter, and plenty of camaraderie. Whether you're a seasoned player or brand new to the game, bocce is easy to learn and a whole lot of fun! So dust off your throwing arm, bring your best aim, and get ready for a great time with friends. For more information, contact:

Chairman Jim Davis 707-2261119



jimmyWD@comcast.net

CRIBBAGE WITH BOB BENNING

Wow...2026 is here and the cribbage boards are warmed up and ready for action.

January 19, third Monday of the month, John Lansing will be hosting cribbage at his home at 1288 River Park Blvd. His door opens at 2 pm to accept players of all skill levels. His doors will remain open until 4 pm. Bring a board and cards are NOT a requirement. RSVP to John 707 254-1056.



ROVING ROOSTERS

The Roosters are done roving for the year, but we are looking forward to more adventures into new and familiar places in the coming year.

We Roosters wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



CARDS WITH BOB HAIRISTON

The poker group has changed their meeting day. We now play on Monday at 1PM at the Elks. No more Thursdays. Bob's email is forebleepers@yahoo.com



GOLF

Napa SIRS golf is coordinated by both Jim Keller (jmkellerrealestae@icloud.com) and Gary Garver. gdgsirsgolf@yahoo.com Please contact them to get on their lists to be notified of upcoming events. There are weekly golf outings (both 9 and 18 holes) at a variety of courses generally within one hour of Napa.



COFFEE WITH MIKE MINUS BOB

SIRS Coffee Chaos – Caffeine, Banter & Zero Productivity

SIRS Coffee Group

Finally—a group activity that requires *no actual activity*. We meet at Brewed Coffee Shop in the outlet center, grab the communal table at 8:30 AM, and proceed to do... well, basically nothing except sip, chat, and solve the world's problems. We usually drift out around 10 AM—or whenever caffeine, conversation, or patience runs out.



WINE TIPPLERS WITH CHRIS BAILEY

Sirs Wine Tipplers had successful and fun tastings in 2025. Our next Tasting is Sparkling Wine (AKA champagne) on the 3rd wed of Jan. We are also trying to pair wines with food

Please RSVP

Chris Bailey 925 8904630



WEB PAGE AND FACEBOOK

WALKERS WITH DAVE HENRY

Monday Walkers,

We meet in the East parking lot at Nob Hill Market at the corner of Trancas and Old Soscol. At 8:00 AM we will cross Trancas Ave and will walk the River Walk from Trancas to Lincoln and back. The walk takes about an hour and has beautiful river views with occasional wildlife viewing. The course is level and paved. So, there is no mud or strenuous hills to climb. I hope to see many of you there. Any questions please contact me.

Best Dave Henry

I: dhenry91@comcast.net

Mobile: (707) 227 7413



We are proud website. Note button that will of the new



of our SIR #149 that there is a be linked to a PDF person application.

Please look at our site and suggest any changes you would like to see so that we can make it very user friendly. We encourage all SIRS to keep up with what is happening between newsletters by signing up for Facebook and look at our SIR Branch 149 Facebook page. Also watch the Upcoming Events column and calendar on our website Home Page

at www.branch149.sirinc2.org. Please send any happenings, updates, and photos of SIR events to SIR Adrian at napadentist@sbcglobal.net or contact him at 479-4688.



Artfully crafted brewski's were shared today 12/4, at St Claire Brown brewery in Napa. The honey wheat and red ale were very satisfying and all enjoyed the great holiday cheer!



Coffee with Mike on Tuesdays at Brewed



Your new board

**Bob Weeks receiving the
Distinguished Service Award**



**Bill Clark receiving the
Distinguished Service
Award**



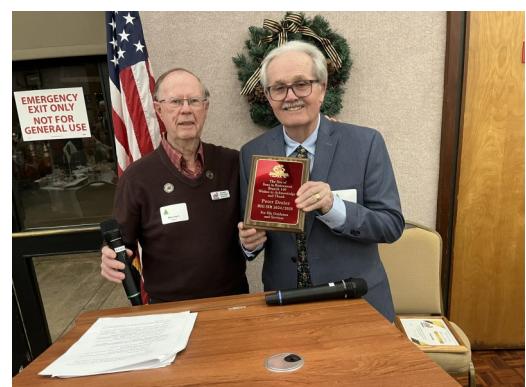
Ron Irwin being presented with by Jerry Stabile and our State Big Sir the Honory Life Member Award



**Tom Atkinson receiving the
Joe Catania Award**



Bob Wolfe leading us in a patriot song



Peter receiving is Past Big Sir Award

Many apologies if we have issued
anyone's names!
Please let us know if our data-
bases are not correct!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Tony	Mc Grath	01/04/1945
Webb	Parker Jr.	01/07/1943
Jim	Slater	01/09/1933
Ed	Fell	01/10/1943
Bob	Klein	01/14/1948
John	Marchesini	01/15/1952
Charles	Lee	01/16/1952
John	Iding	01/16/1947
Gene	Sullivan	01/17/1941
Eric	Wallace	01/18/1948
Craig	Ruess	01/20/1952
Jim	Cherniss	01/21/1942
Rex	Williams	01/23/1944
Bob	Austin	01/23/1943
Jim	Saylor	01/24/1949

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jay	Rhonda Simon	Blitstein	01/01/1982
Bruce	Sandra	Clymer	01/19/1980
Dave	Barbara	Larson	01/20/2002

50+ Years of Wedding Bliss

Dave	Nancy	Helzer	01/06/1968
------	-------	--------	------------

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

Bicycling	Bill Shields	287-1246
Ass't.	Chuck Youngson	225-2814.
Bocce.:	Jim Davis	226-1119
 Book Exch.	Rich Hanf	224-7464
Cards	Bob Hairston	252-0252
Clasic Cars	Dan McCabe	224-6835
Ass't.	Dan Silveira	252-2284
Computers	Adrian Fenderson	479-4688
Cribbage	Bob Benning	337-2614
Events	Dan McCabe	224-6835
Fishing	Daniel Harter	637-3859
Golf	Weekly Gary Garver	
Monthly	Jim Keller	415 827-4904
Sec./Treas.	Jim Keller	415 827-4904
HNDCP.	Larry Timmer	252-8079
Area 7 Golf	Chairman	
	Jim Keller	415 827-4904
Trips	Dan McCabe	224-6835
 Romeo	John Lansingh	254-1056
Travel	Looking for a new chairman	
 RV's/Roving Roosters		
Coordinator	David Dennis	392-8837
Theater	Bob Benning	337-2614
	Adrian Fenderson	479-4688
 Veteran's Act	Vacant	
Walkers	Dave Henry	227-7413
Website	Adrian Fenderson	479-4688
Wine Tasting	Chris Bailey	925 8904630
World of Beer	Gary Toczyłowski	510-507-6870

PAST

1992	Lou Hughes	1993	F. Heid *
1994	W. Barber*	1995	T. Tomlinson*
1996	D. Gibson *	1997	P. Miller
1998	D. Westover *	1999	E. Coyne*
2000	B. Johnson *	2001	D. Newell *
2002	M. Jack *	2003	D. Brooks*
2004	K. Pieper*	2005	J. Gibbany*
2006	A. Brambrink	2007	T. Jensen
2008	E. Suden	2009	G. Greco *
2010	C. Harris	2011	J. Chandler
2012	D. Collins	2013	R. Barker
2014	J. Cox	2015	T. Borman
2016	D. Pangburn	2017	Stu Williams*
2018	J. Prudhomme	2019	Carl Hammond
2020	Carl Hammond	2021-22	Tom Dawson*
2023	Ron Irwin	2024-25	Peter Dreier

* Deceased

2026 OFFICERS

Big Sir	Daniel Harder	637-3859
Little Sir	Craig Ruess	650-544-3909
Secretary	George Clark	812-5385
Asst. Sec	Byron Petterson	337-1971
Treasurer	Bill Clark	253-2477
Asst. Treasurer	Bob Klein	310-5947

Email branch149@sirinc2.org

DIRECTORS

Richard Brockmeyer	1st Year	479-5406
Neil Barker	2nd Year	235-6645
Rex Williams	2nd year	707-255-5834
Dave Loomis	1st Year	415-272-5426
John Lansingh	2nd year	254-1056
Peter Dreier	Past Big Sir	257-3630

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Attendance	Bill Wheadon	224-3901
Membership	Craig Ruess	650-544-3909
Newsletter	Don Krieger	925-548-5714
Auditors	Rex Williams	707-255-5834
	Bill Parks	707-326-9596
Birthdays	Steve Smith	326-3914
Greeters	(open)	
Statistician/Historian		
Dennis Pangburn		224-9231
Photos	Adrian Fenderson	255-6502
Parliamentarian	Ed Suden	226-5310
Nominating Chair	Ron Irwin	363-8754

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Paul Miller	Al Brambrink
Keith Pieper	James Schlatter
Bobbie Hairston	Dennis Pangburn
Ed Suden	Adrian Fenderson
Ron Irwin	

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Adrian Fenderson	Byron Petterson	Mike Murrell
Carl Hammond	Tim Borman	Peter Dreier
Dennis Pangborn	Jim Prudhomme	Ron Irwin
Rex Williams	Bill Clark	Bob Weeks

An Opportunity to Walk with Friends, At Your Pace!

Starting November 19, 2025 and continuing every **Wednesday at 9:00AM**, SIR Branch 149 will offer urban hiking/strolling in downtown Napa as an activity. Come join us for exercise and camaraderie in beautiful Downtown Napa!

Assembly and departure is from the city parking lot at the corner of **Main and Clinton St.** "Urban hikers" will depart on a course roughly 2.5 miles in length and "strollers" will depart on a course about 1.25 miles long. Both in Downtown Napa.

All will finish urban hiking/strolling before 10AM and (optional) meet for coffee at the **Barnhouse Coffeehouse** (1004 Clinton St.).

This is for hikers/strollers of all speeds but **all SIR 149 Members are welcome to join us for coffee.**

For more information, please contact Craig Ruess at craigcargo@gmail.com.

Thank you.



Spouses and partners are all invited to join us

SON'S IN RETIREMENT

WINE VALLEY BRANCH #149

26 RAVENWOOD LANE

NAPA, CA 94558