

SIR Mission Branch 32

Newsletter

Promoting the Independence and Dignity of Retirement

January 2025 Volume 57 No. 1

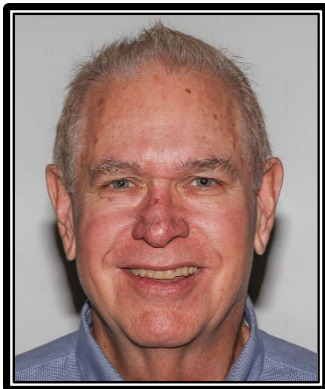


Branch 32 Website: <https://sirinc2.org/branch32>

State SIR Website: <http://www.sirinc.org/>

SIR Happenings Newsletter: <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>

From Big SIR



SIRS, Welcome to 2025!

I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy New Year! My wife and I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season, and are excited and ready for an active, fun-filled 2025. Branch 32 membership has exploded with new members and activities, giving us all a

chance for new friendships and activities to make 2025 even better.



We all need to give a big thank you to Jim LeBlanc and his entire Christmas Luncheon Planning Committee for an amazing celebration lunch. For all those that attended you made for a most joyful and wonderful experience. I feel this was one of our best Christmas luncheons, and I loved all the beautiful and colorful holiday sweaters.



Be sure to look at some of the photos in this newsletter and more on our website!

As your new Big SIR, I'd like to thank you for all your support, and I will do my best to work with our Branch leadership to continue the very positive trends, growth in membership, and activities that we experienced this past year.

A big thank you to last year's Big SIR, Tony Mazzucco for all his outstanding leadership and guidance! With our membership exceeding 150, I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know every one of you over this next year. Our luncheon attendance has continued to be strong and regularly exceeding 100 attendees. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime with any concerns, suggestions, comments, or ideas on ways to continue to improve our activities and fellowship. I'm looking forward to seeing what 2025 will bring for our Branch, including some new activities, along with a continued line-up of interesting and helpful luncheon speakers and topics.

We'll be looking for additional help from some of you to help organize and lead some of the new activities. It takes everyone to keep our Branch active and vibrant, with more opportunities for participation, friendship, and attracting new members. You all have done a fabulous job inviting friends and guests, many of whom have decided to join our Branch. Please continue doing so in 2025! Branch 32 is known as the "Friendly Branch", and it's because of our outstanding members that we can be proud of that reputation. I look forward to serving you this year.

Wes Howard, Branch 32 President (Big SIR)

REMINDER MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Our regular luncheon meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at Three Flames Restaurant.



Our speaker for January is Vanessa Souza, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a focus on supporting older adults. She has a particular interest in ensuring people living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and their family and friends have the knowledge



needed to prepare for the future. She has worked as an assisted living administrator, memory care director, and as a social worker in adult day healthcare. Today, she works as the Senior Manager for Community Engagement at the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada. Vanessa holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Seattle University and a Master of Science in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University.

Vanessa will talk to us about Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer is not a normal part of aging. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's; the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia; stages and risk factors; current research and treatments available for some symptoms; and Alzheimer's Association resources.

Future speakers

February – Richard Holmboe will talk about Whales Along the California Coast

March – Joe Galiardi will talk about his Guinness World Record for the largest collection of autographed golf balls

Member Care



Skip Saunders



The members and loved ones of SIRs Branch 32, listed below have been ill or injured in the past month:

Mort Berlant, #82, has been transferred to a Critical Care rehabilitation facility for further care.

Mark Reynolds, #60, is currently battling significant cancers.

Paul Gardner, #50 has undergone shoulder and neck surgery successfully and is recovering

The members of Branch 32 should keep these members in their thoughts and prayers.

If anyone knows of any Branch 32 members in sickness or distress, please feel free to contact Skip Saunders at 860-961-1311.

Book Readers Delight

Did you know SIR Branch 32 has a great book lender library? Thank you to Stan Schneider for his efforts in bringing us a great selection of books every lunch meeting. You come to SIR Branch 32's lunch every month to enjoy good food, great friendship, and the chance to meet new friends. Are you passing up on the opportunity to indulge your pleasures of a quiet time of exploring life through books?

Stop by the book table to explore and pick up a book or two to fill in your down time at home or on a trip. Our books are free to our members. Yes, we do accept books you want to pass on to give your fellow members the pleasure that you received. Please say thank you to Stan when you have a chance. Stan could use a helper to help set up the book table before lunch, plus help when he is unable to make a luncheon.

2025 Rosters will be Distributed at January Luncheon, plus Looking for 2026 Roster Editor

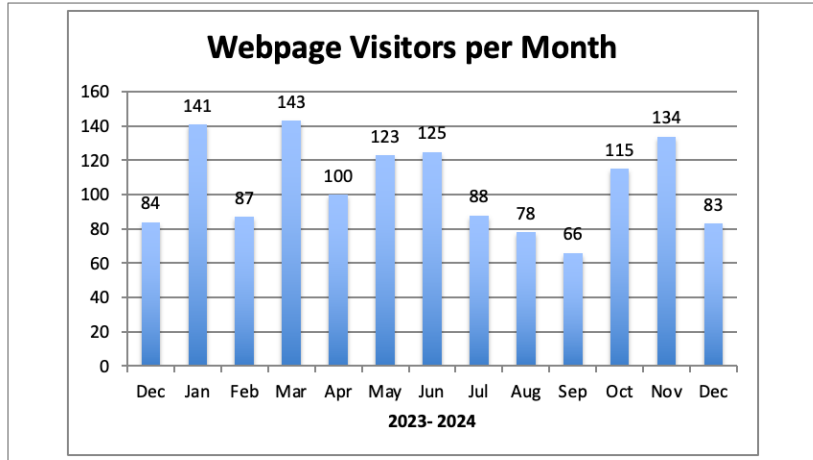
The 2025 Roster will be distributed at the January luncheon. We are looking for a person to update the roster for 2026. Don Soderman has been publishing the roster & mid-year update for the past two years. After these major enhancements in the 2025 roster (addition of nearly 100 new members over the past 2 years), the future updates should be easier. The volunteer should be familiar with Microsoft PC software running windows 11. Don will train the person for roster edits using MS publisher & transfer the software license to their computer. It is fun to learn something new.

Don Soderman (408)482-2228

Branch 32 Website <https://sirinc2.org/branch32>



Jim Caratozzolo



Jim Caratozzolo, SIR Branch 32 Webmaster (408) 623-3405 [onlinejim@aol](mailto:onlinejim@aol.com)

Membership Report



Database Status as of January 1, 2024

Members: **159** Approved: **6** Applicants: **0** Widows: **12**
Open Numbers: **11** **Total Database Count: 188**

The December Ladies luncheon was attended by 153 members and guests. There were no new member inductions.

Members Inducted: 0

Recent Deactivated Members: 0

Approved for Induction: 6

RJ Bleske #38, sponsored by Jim Caratozzolo
Bill Hawk #76, sponsored by Wes Howard
Dennis Uram #96, sponsored by Floyd Wolfe
Paul Bergeron #77, sponsored by William Creel
Robert Telesco #65, sponsored by William Creel
Randy Spencer #100, sponsored by Harvey Fox

Applications for January BEC Review: 0

Jim Caratozzolo

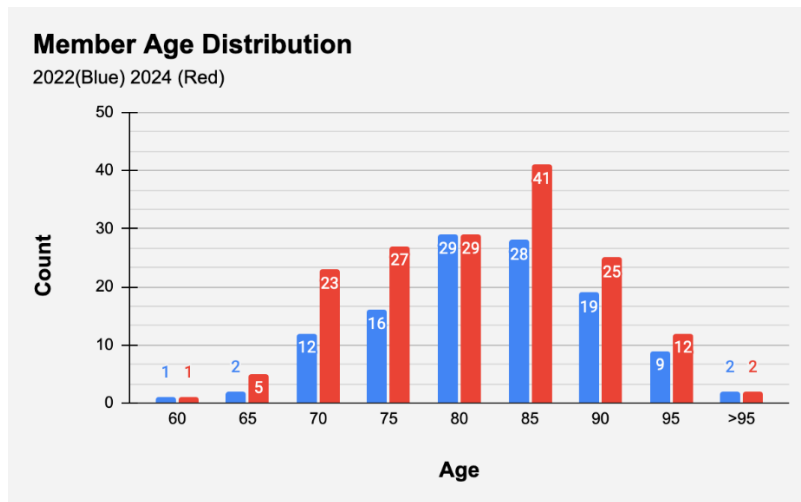
SIR Br 32 Membership Chairman

January 2025 Membership Characteristics Compared to January 2023

Annually it is useful to understand the characteristics of our membership and how it is changing. The following charts look at Age and Longevity for both January 2023 and two years later on January 2025.

Membership Age:

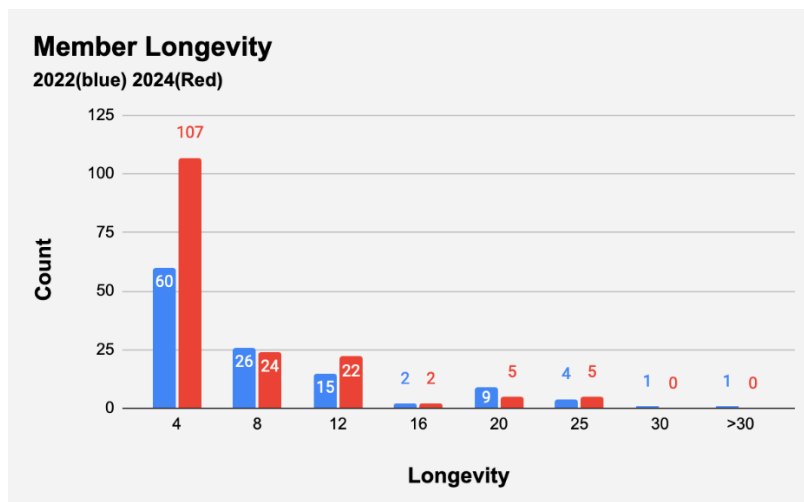
For both time snapshots, the age distribution spans quite a range from the low 60's to the high 90's with an average age of 78.9 and a median age of 79.5. Membership Count in Jan 2022 was 93 and at the start of 2025 it is 159, with a total of 98 new members and a net growth of 66 members. In both periods, the average age has stayed stable in the high 70's to low 80's. Many of those new members are in the 85-year range.



Membership Longevity

Three years ago, at the start of 2022, our membership was 93. The recruiting effort for the last three years following the pandemic has been exceptional. The longevity chart show we have added almost 2/3's (107 out of 159) of our membership since then. In fact, the average longevity metric in Jan 2025 is 4.4 years and the median is 2.0. Furthermore, the average age of the membership has dropped over 3 years from 81.9 to the current average 78.9. Clearly the branch is dominated by members added in the last 12 years.

The average age of the 107 members that joined in the last 4 years is 75.9, so we are on a good trend toward maintaining the vitality of our branch.



January Wedding Anniversaries

Married Name	Wedding Year	Years Married
N S and Leela Viswanathan	1970	55
David and Michele Neuhaus	1979	46
Kevin and Eileen Madej	1979	46
Michael and Darlene Bishop	1981	44
Todd and Sylvia White	1990	35
Ernest A. and Deborah Brookfield	1990	35
William and Karyn Meadows	1995	30
Michael and Lek Sinnott	1998	27



January Birthdays

Full Name
 Robert Araldi
 Ed Barrett
 Mike Braden
 Michael Cirimele
 Robert H Gordon
 James F. Kilty
 Andrew B Leach
 Hans Lingens
 Cheng Quinn Ma
 Lambert Malloy
 Robert E. Oliver
 Larry R. Paaske
 Maurice Pisciotta
 Kelvin Thomas
 N S Viswanathan

Longevity

Full Name	Years As Member	Year Joined
Jim Sleigh	26	1999
Dick Priest	24	200`
Mike Price	21	2004
Wesley Howard	11	2014
Aare Onton	10	2015
Steve Sabanovich	10	2015
Gary Espinosa	8	2017
Paul Gardner	8	2017
Doug Krause	8	2017
Thomas Collins	5	2020
Gil Mesa	5	2020
Robert Jamello	2	2023
Charles Swan	2	2023
Darrell Gray	2	2023
Dennis Hawkins	1	2024
Michael Ross	1	2024
Jack R. Gorham	1	2024
Larry R. Paaske	1	2024
Gerald Lee Perry	1	2024

Board Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2025

<u>BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u>	2025
POSITION	NAME
PRESIDENT (BIG SIR)	Wes Howard
VICE PRESIDENT (LITTLE SIR)	Nick Jize
SECRETARY	Doug Krause
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Stan Schneider
TREASURER	John Pfahnl
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	John Caldwell
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	Jim Caratozzolo
ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	Tony Mazzucco
DIRECTOR #1	Kelvin Thomas 2023 - 2025
DIRECTOR #2	Mike Bishop 2024 - 2026
DIRECTOR #3	Jim LaBlanc 2025 - 2027
DIRECTOR #4	Darrel Gray 2025 - 2027
DIRECTOR #5	Paul Gardner 2025 - 2027 Second Term
DIRECTOR #6	Larry Hallinan 2025 - 2027 Second Term
<u>COMMITTEE CHAIRS/ASSISTANT</u>	<u>COMMITTEE CHAIRS/ASSISTANTS</u>
AUDITORS	Wally Hayes
BIRTHDAY CHAIR	Jim LeBlanc
CHAPLIN	Hans Lingens
CHAPLIN ASSISTANT	Jim Claitor
DOOR PRIZES	Bernie Coullahan - Mike Price
GREETER CHAIRMAN	Mike Bishop
LADIES HOLIDAY LUNCHEON	Jim LeBlanc
LADIES DAY BBQ	Rick Hausman - Tony Mazzucco
LUNCHEON NAME BADGES	Mike Bishop
LUNCHEON TICKET SALES - ATTENDANCE	Marv Zietzke
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	Jim Caratozzolo
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ASSISTANT	Tony Mazzucco
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Steve Ferree
NEWSLETTER EDITOR ASSISTANT	Jon Wiseman
NOMINATING COMMITTEE	Tony Mazzucco - Bob Grandey - Skip Saunders
TRAINING OFFICER	Don Soderman
PHOTOGRAPHER	Troy Duffer
PHOTOGRAPHER ASSISTANT	Don Soderman
PROGRAM COMMITTEE	Ken Roberts - Doug Krause
R.A.M.P. RECRUITING	Bob Grandey - Larry Hallinan

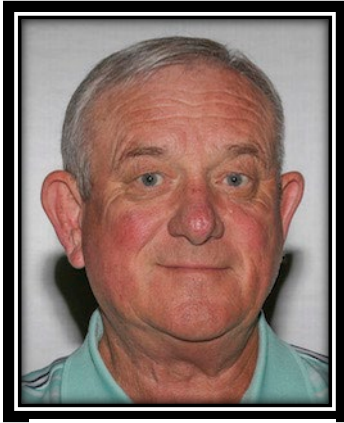
R.A.M.P. MEMBER RELATIONS	Skip Saunders
R.A.M.P. PUBLICITY	Larry Hallinan
ROSTER BOOK EDITOR CHAIRMEN	Don Soderman
SONG LEADER	Doug Krause
TRAVEL CHAIRMAN	OPEN
WEB PAGE CHAIRMAN	Jim Caratozzolo
<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	ACTIVITIES
ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN	Fred Jones
BIKING	Fred Jones
BOCCE	Roger Earle
BRIDGE Club - MENS	Reaid Chikhani
BRIDGE Club - MIXED	Roger Earle
CAMERA CLUB	Jim Allen
GOLF - TUESDAY	Rick Hausman
GOLF - FRIDAY	Bob Grandey
HIKING	Doug Krause
HORSESHOES	Fred Jones
PICKLEBALL	Dave Smith - Jon Wiseman
POOL	Galen Gipson - Fred Rassmussen
PING PONG	Dave Smith
WINE SOCIETY	Paul Gardner – Bob Jamello

2024 Christmas Ladies Luncheon Party

We had a great time at the Christmas Ladies Luncheon Party on December 18, with some fine entertainment from the "All Sorts" quartet, along with great camaraderie, and loads of fun and laughs.



Golf Club



Rick Hausman

Along with December came cold, rain, fog, and frost!! Occasionally, all in the same day! Sometimes we have had to cancel Tuesday Golf and other times, if we have 8 or less players, we don't publish scores. As a result, we only had two recorded outings for December. They are shown in the matrix below.



The Branch 32 Annual Individual Championship Tournament was reinstated this year and was held on December 10th at Los Lagos Golf Course. A total of 28 players signed up for a chance to be crowned 2024 Champion!

The event was certainly a success with everyone having a good time, the weather perfect for December, and the course being in really good shape!! Up front I want to give an awesome shout out to **Dan Love, Jerry Strah, and Dan Shumer** who were collectively responsible for every aspect of the event! Thank you!!

A summary of the players who won awards is shown below. A special congratulations to **Wes Howard** who was the overall "Net" Branch Champion for 2024! Pop up your chest and you are granted Bragging Rights for 2024!! Well done!!

Results:

Overall Net Champion: **Wes Howard** (Trophy presented at next reg Luncheon)

Flight A (Gross Score)

- 1st (\$75) Kelvin Thomas
- 2nd (\$30) Bob Thompson
- 3rd (\$25) Holt Gordon

Flight B (Gross Score)

- 1st (\$75) Keith Balch
- 2nd (\$30) Skip Saunders
- 3rd (\$12.50) Rudy Ancheta (Tie)
- 3rd (\$12.50) Wes Howard (Tie)

Closest to the Pin

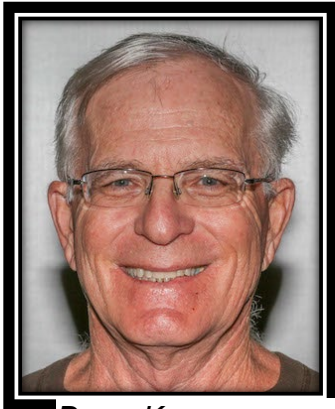
- Hole #7(\$10) Holt Gordon 6'3"
- Hole #16(\$10) Kelvin Thomas 15'2"

	December 3rd		December 17th	
Low Gross	Jim Caratozzolo	89	Wes Howard	97
	Garry Sellers	90	Bill Schlaefer(R)	97
	Jim Claitor	93	Garry Sellers	97
Low Net	Jim Caratozzolo	70	Wes Howard	71
	Garry Sellers	73	Bill Schlaefer	72
	Bill Creel	73	Bob Grandey	78
Low Putts	Gar Sellers	29	Garry Sellers	29
	Wes Howard	34	Wes Howard	34
	Aare Onton	34	Aare Onton	34

Rick Hausman, Golf Club Chair, rhausm@aol.com

Hiking Club

SIR Hiking for December



Doug Krause

Happy New Year to everyone and all the hardy hikers that have gone on some great hikes over the past year. The year went fast and now that we are back into the new year I am looking forward to another great year of experiencing the great outdoors in various beautiful settings.

We took off the month of December as it was quite wet and what with the holidays, members were traveling out of town or gathering with family and friends. Look at the January 2025 activity following.



Remember, we always meet every Monday at 8:50am at the top of the dam in Vasona in Los Gatos. Park on Garden Hill Drive Los Gatos to meetup. We leave at 9am and return by 10:30 a.m. Any questions should be directed to Doug Krause at diamondtub@sbcglobal.net or 408-821-3263.

SIR Hike Wednesday January 22, 2025
Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve
4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037. 408-224-7476

This is a COED Activity! _Ladies are invited.

RSVP: Monday, January 20 by 9pm. Doug Krause diamondtub@sbcglobal.net. 408-821-3263

When: Wednesday, Jan. 22 Meet 8:50am Cambrian Park Plaza parking lot facing Union Ave.

Carpool to Morgan Hill leaves at 9am

Hike Starts from Parking lot at 9:50am. Bathroom facilities at parking lot.

Hike Description

Check out this 6.4-mile loop trail near San Jose, California. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 3 h 3 min to complete with a total elevation gain of 1,167'. This hike is a 4.6 out of 5-star rating. This is a popular trail for backpacking, birding, and hiking, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of day. The trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime. You'll need to leave pups at home — dogs aren't allowed on this trail.

This trail starts from the parking lot off Casa Loma Road and meanders through Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve. Visitors will be treated to wonderful scenery and breathtaking views. The trail is mostly exposed and rocky, although there are some shaded spots too. You'll encounter multiple varieties of wildflowers on the hillsides, creating a colorful display. Nice views. Shady forest sections with a mix of dry grass fields. Incline sections weren't too steep and the view at the peak overlooks entire South of San Jose onward, gorgeous views at the top especially.

Conditions: No bugs, Dry ground, well maintained.

Lunch Afterwards at Chili's 1039 Cochrane Rd Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Bike Activity



Fred Jones

SIRS January 31 Bicycle Activity on the Los Gatos Creek Trail

WHEN: January 31st on the 5th Friday of the month

LOCATION: The Los Gatos Creek Trail

MEET AT : Blackford Elementary School parking lot 1970 Willow Street, San Jose.



Willow Street dead ends into the Blackford Elementary school about 1-1/2 miles W/O Meridian Ave. You can park anywhere on Willow Street. **Do not park in the school parking lot.**

It is a towaway zone. We can start riding on the trail going past the parking lot.

TIME: Rendezvous at 9:50AM leave at 10:00AM

LENGTH OF RIDE: About 15 miles round trip. We will take a more direct route from the restaurant to the start of the ride. That should shorten the miles and time. It will be about 1-1/2 hours with breaks going to Los Gatos and about an hour going back to the start. The lunch might be a little over an hour. From start to finish the ride should take about 3-1/2 hours with lunch and breaks.

DESCRIPTION OF RIDE: The ride will be on semi level paved trails with one short steep hill at the Vasona Dam. We will start the ride going west on the paved Los Gatos Creek Trail at Blackford Elementary School.

We will ride under Leigh Ave following Los Gatos Creek. We will pass under Bascom Ave, Campbell Ave, go through Campbell Park and go through Los Gatos Creek Park. We will Pass practice fly fishing ponds and percolation ponds through urban/rural multi use Los Gatos Creek Trails. We will pass over some foot bridges spanning over Los Gatos Creek.

We will ride around Vasona Lake seeing waterfowl and turtles along the way. We will ride by the Davy Jones railroad and by Oak Meadow Park.

We will ride out the backside of Vasona Park alongside Los Gatos Creek and Highway 17 to a wood foot bridge taking us to Main Street in Los Gatos. There, we can have lunch at Willow Street Pizza.

It is a popular restaurant in Los Gatos. Standard and electric bikes are welcome. I look forward to riding with you. I have two electric bikes I can lend out. Please let me know.

The December 27th Bike ride to Harvey Bear Ranch at Coyote Lake was rained out

Please RSVP by January 28th to Fred Jones Your Bicycle Chair/Coordinator Cell 408-609-1926 E-mail Freddyelect@sbcglobal.net

Fred Jones, Your Bicycle Chair/Coordinator
Cell 408-609-1926 e-mail Freddyelect@sbcglobal.net

Horseshoes



Fred Jones

December 19th Horseshow Tournament

The December 19th Horseshoe Tournament was held at Almaden Lake Park at 10:00 am. Fred Jones and Don Soderman played a fun game of shoes.

We had great conversations while having coffee and pastries.

The next tournament will be on January 23rd at 10:00 AM at Almaden Lake Park on the Winfield Blvd side of the lake between the bocce courts and Coleman Rd



Please RSVP to Fred Jones your Horseshoe chair/Coordinator at cell 408-609-1926 or e-mail Freddielect@sbcglobal.net

Ping Pong Plus



Dave Smith

On January 2 four men and three women joined in the games. We played ping pong, corn hole, threw the softball. Women won the corn hole. It was a nice day and people wanted to relax in the sun. We still have not done mini putt or shot the BB gun.

Remember that we meet the first Thursday of every month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Our next event is February 6.

We will have Ping Pong, cornhole, mini putt, bb gun, throw the ball. Bring a mitt if you want to throw a soft ball. Or bring your game and teach us.



To learn more and get the address please contact Ping Pong Plus Chair Dave Smith. smith333@comcast.net



Bocce Club



Roger Earle

We play every Monday afternoon at the Almaden Lake Park located in South Jose (Winfield Road Side) starting at 1:00 pm. Reservations are not needed, there are no court fees, and we never turn players away even if they arrive late. The team selections are always randomly made. We do restrict our playing to those days not expected to exceed an early afternoon temperature of 90 degrees.



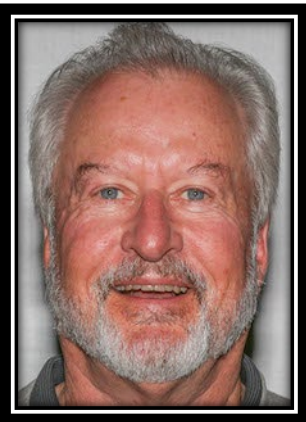
Stan Schnieder

Roger Earle and Stan Schnieder, Bocce Co-Chairs



Wine Society

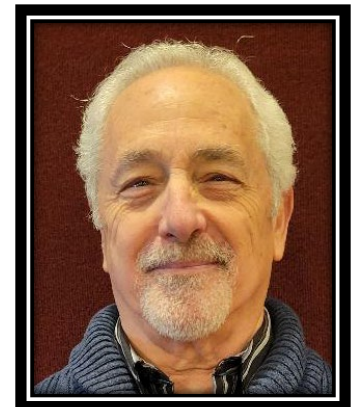
Working on January Wine Tasting



Paul Gardner

There were no Wine Tasting events in December due to the holidays and rain. We are working on a January Wine Tasting and hope to have confirmation soon. We will then send a notice to all Wine Society members. Rest assured that the January winery will have indoor seating where it will be warm and cozy.

Feel free to call Paul if you have any questions.



Bob Jamello

*Paul Gardner and Bob Jamello,
Wine Society Co-Chairs,
paulgardner1757@yahoo.com 408-505-1757
bobjamello@yahoo.com or text 408-398-8682*

Pickleball



Dave Smith

Pickleball was played on courts where the rainwater had been squeegeed and mopped off. We usually have two courts going and players are improving.

Pickle ball is looking for women players. We have about ten men who like the game and are doing well. Women are the most numerous on other courts and are consistently good players. 9 a.m. Tuesday at Hayes Mansion Park.



Pickleball Chair: Dave Smith, smith333@comcast.net or 408-226-1238

Pool Club

We have two venues for Pool, Monday evenings 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Cuetopia Billiards, 4700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose and Wednesday afternoon from noon to 2:00 p.m. at 946 Billiards at 946 El Camino Real, Sunnyvale. We are getting 5 to 8 players at each location, there are plenty of Pool tables available for more members, so come out and join us, if you would like more information, please contact us.



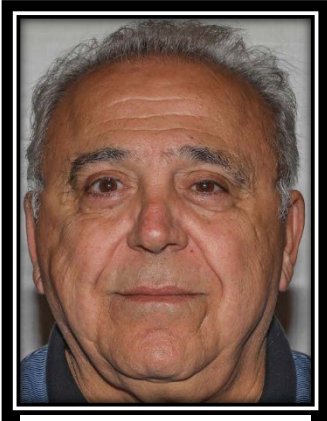
Galen Gipson



Fred Rasmussen

*Galen Gipson, Fred Rasmussen,
Pool Club Co-Chairs*

Bridge



Reiad Chikhani

The Bridge Club has restarted and meets every Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. We are looking for additional members that love to learn and play Bridge. If you have any interest in Bridge and enjoy a good time, please call Reiad Chikhani for additional information.

Reiad Chikhani. Bridge Chair, 408-425-3738



Couples Bridge



Roger Earle

The SIRS Br 32 couples bridge group has been playing for over a year now. We continue to enjoy gathering for one of our periodic Saturday afternoon bridge sessions which always includes a delicious dessert. The scheduling depends only on the availability of our players. If you are an experienced bridge player and would like to join our merry band, please give Roger a call.

Roger Earle, Couples Bridge Chair, 408-476-4760



Photography Club



Jim Allen

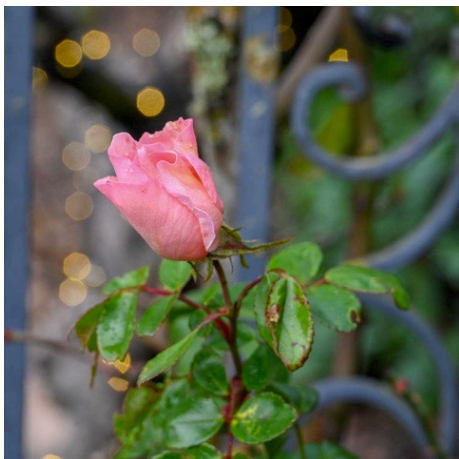
The Photography club had a Zoom call to discuss the next field trip. It was decided to visit the Filoli Garden and Historical House in Woodside. There was also a discussion about gear, both film and digital.

The club visited Filoli on December the 17th. Great flowers and many Christmas decorations in the Garden.

There will be a Zoom call soon to select another field trip location as well as other interesting photo topics.

If you are interested in attending the next call, please contact Jim Allen.

Jim Allen, Photography Club Chair, Email: jamesjayallen72@gmail.com



What has happened in history in the month of January?

- January 1, 1863** The **Emancipation Proclamation** by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union
- January 3, 1959** **Alaska admitted to the union** as the 49th U.S. state with a land mass almost one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states together.
- January 10, 1920** The **League of Nations officially came into existence** with the goal of resolving international disputes, reducing armaments, and preventing future wars. The first Assembly gathered in Geneva ten months later with 41 nations represented. More than 20 nations later joined; however, the U.S. did not join due to a lack of support for the League in Congress.
- January 16, 1991** The **war against Iraq began** as Allied aircraft conducted a major raid against Iraqi air defenses. The air raid on Baghdad was broadcast live to a global audience by CNN correspondents as operation Desert Shield became **Desert Storm**.
- January 21, 1954** The **USS Nautilus**, the world's first nuclear powered submarine, was launched at Groton, Connecticut.
- January 22, 1973** **Abortion became legal in the U.S.** as the Supreme Court announced its decision in the case of *Roe vs. Wade* striking down local state laws restricting abortions in the first six months of pregnancy.
- January 23, 1968** The American ship **USS Pueblo was seized by North Koreans** in the Sea of Japan amid claims the Navy ship was spying.
- January 24, 1848** The **California gold rush began** with the accidental discovery of the precious metal near Coloma during construction of Sutter's sawmill.
- January 24, 1895** **Hawaii's monarchy ended as Queen Liliuokalani was forced to abdicate.** Hawaii was then annexed by the U.S. And remained a territory until statehood was granted in 1959.
- January 27, 1973** **U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended** as North Vietnamese and American representatives signed an agreement in Paris.
- January 28, 1986** The **U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded** 74 seconds into its flight, killing seven persons