

SIR Mission Branch 32 Newsletter

Promoting the Independence and Dignity of Retirement



March 2023 Volume 55 No. 3

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

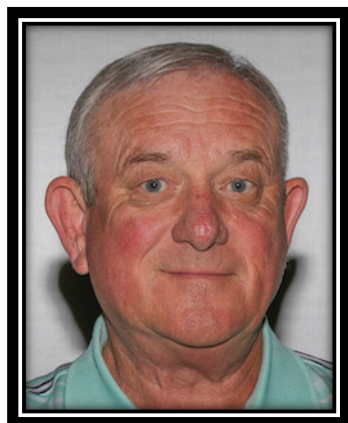
State Sir Website: <http://www.sirinc.org/>

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

March Luncheon is Wednesday 15th at Three Flames.

Social hour begins at 11:00

From Big SIR



We are now into the Ides of March. Basketball is half way through the season, Baseball is in Spring Practice season, Football is in the Off season, Golf is starting it's 2023 season and Hockey seems to go on forever! There are lots of sports to watch!

Likewise, we have lots of activities to choose from. Which comes back to the question of whether you are just a "Taker" and/or also a "Giver"? The objective of being a member is to socialize and enjoy being active with your fellow SIR. Hopefully you are "taking" the opportunity to be involved in activities. At a minimum it should include the monthly lunch meeting. We have had a steady attendance of around 70-75 members, a number that we want to see grow. With our membership sitting at a healthy 119, we should be having a larger luncheon attendance. If you have been sitting on the sidelines wondering when would be a good time to get back to attending, well NOW is the time!! Put it on your calendar and plan to come! You will likely surprise yourself with how much you enjoy it.

Now to the “giving” part. Our Branch has done exceptionally well, even over the recent challenging years. That is a tribute to strong leadership and willing volunteers. But, as the saying goes, “what have you done for me lately?”. Many have stepped up and helped, but some of you are still waiting in the wings. If all you want is an invitation, then you have it now. Ask yourself how you can contribute to our continued strength and organizational health. If you are not sure, reach out to me and I will help you find your niche!

In a salute to our legion of “recruiters”, there were 7 guests that attended the last lunch and 5 new applications were approved at the March Board Executive Committee (BEC) meeting. Keep up the great work!

Finally, the Ladies Summer BBQ has been scheduled for Saturday, July 22ⁿ. The change to a Saturday was caused by the City of Saratoga blocking out the Prospect Center every weekday this summer!! So, save the date!! Price will be \$38 per person and tickets will go on sale beginning in April. Note, the same caterer as last year will be providing the awesome meal again!!

If at any time during the year you have a concern, suggestion, or even a complement for someone, please feel free to call me at 408-828-5416. I’m at your service!

Rick Hausman, Branch 32 Big SIR

March Luncheon Presentation Solo Ocean Row To Hawaii



During the summer of 2022 on a cold and foggy July morning, Carlo Facchino climbed into a 19-foot ocean rowing boat and headed west underneath the Golden Gate Bridge. After 72 days at sea, he reached the Big Island of Hawaii where he was greeted by friends and family.

Ken Roberts, Program Chairman

Speaker

Carlo Facchino was born and raised in San Jose, CA. He was introduced to the sport of rowing as a freshman at the University of California Davis. Prior to his solo row, Carlo successfully completed ocean crossings of the Pacific Ocean and the Arctic



Ocean as part of a team. He holds numerous Guinness World Records including a record for the northernmost latitude ever reached by a rowing boat.

Oakridge Mall Senior Fair

The city of San Jose held a Senior Fair and Walk at Oakridge Mall on Friday Feb 17. The District 10 council member invited Branch 32 to participate as a vendor that supplies services for seniors.

We had a table near the center of activity and displayed items that represent our activities – golf, bocce, pool, cards, cycling, etc. We also had a table sign and a tablecloth with the SIR emblem. We had brochures that describe our branch and handed out invitation to lunch cards. We asked each interested person to complete a contact sheet so we can follow up with them before the next lunch.



Six members of Branch 32 participated by talking to men who might be interested in joining SIR. Thanks to Wes Howard, John Plesch, Larry Hallinan, Rick Hausman, Skip Saunders and Bob Grandey.

We had **12** people give us their contact information so we will be contacting them next week.

There were a number of local and state politicians there and Skip got his picture taken with the mayor! It was a great way to let more people know about SIR and the services we provide.



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



The update of the Br 32 webpage has been completed and is activated, replacing the previous version.



The primary purpose was to utilize the SIR State website template that is based on a WordPress development environment. This change insured that the website would display accurately and properly on all display screen sizes from mobile phones to desktop computers. The previous HTML based design had not achieved that objective. Further, the WordPress approach has been considerably simpler to create and maintain the website because of the built-in features that the tool environment provides. Note for example the Event Calendar is now Google based as offers more viewing flexibility. Also adding and organizing photos is considerably easier to achieve.

Please have a look and provide any feedback including suggestions for improvement or additional features that you believe will improve both the membership experience as well as the outreach to the public.

Jim Caratozzolo
 SIR BR 32 Web Master
 (408) 623-3405 onlinejim@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



The Branch 32 member headcount is 119, as we lost two members this month of February: Bob Edward # 11 passed, and Don Knoesler # 7 moved out of the area and resigned. There was 1 induction in February: Augie Argrabright # 128.



The January luncheon was very well attended with 71 members, 7 guests, and a speaker. Four of the guests submitted applications at the meeting and one used the web page online application form to submit his. A first use of that feature of the new website. The five applicants approved by the BEC are Tac Berry, Mike Branden, Mike Harvey, Mike Kallbrier and Dave Smith.

Database Status as of Mar 1, 2023

Members: **119** Inductees: **0** Applicants: 5 Widows: **22** Other: **12** Open Numbers: 28

Total Database Count: 186

Respectfully Submitted: *Jim Caratozzolo*, Membership Chair

MEMBERSHIP CARE

Bob Edwards, Badge Number 11, passed away. Bob joined SIR in 2005, sponsored by Jim Sleigh. He was very active in the group, arranging speakers, operating audio-proofreading the annual roster was primarily in printing some time from advanced short time in a memory survived by his wife, Nancy



in the group, arranging visual equipment and for Bruce Henry. His career controls. Bob had suffered for dementia and resided for a assisted facility. He is and a son.

Aare Onton's wife, Judy, after suffering a burst currently and progressing

recently was hospitalized appendix. She is at home slowly in her recovery.



If any Branch 32 member knows of anyone in sickness or distress, please call:
Mort Berlant at (408) 264-5706 or **Skip Saunders** at (860) 961-1311



ANNIVERSARIES

Morton E. and Barbara Berlant	03/06	1960	63
Richard H. and Dianne Priest	03/25	1961	62
Jerry and Carolyn Petersen	03/22	1978	45
Daniel and Diane Shumer	03/09	1984	39
Rick and Karen Hausman	03/27	1999	24

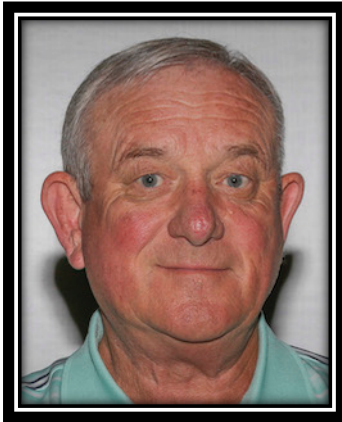
BIRTHDAYS

Harold Ray Hall	03/09
Larry Hallinan	03/13
Michael Sinnott	03/23
Fred Boyce	03/13
Tom Boyce	03/05
Steve Sabanovich	03/01
Ed Henderson	03/04
Larry See	03/06
Rudy Ancheta	03/22
Keith Balch	03/14
Peter Duke	03/26
Gene Zambetti	03/12
Daniel Love	03/13
Kenneth Tarquinio	03/07
Kevin Madej	03/14

LONGEVITY

Daniel C. Tam	11	2012
James D. Claitor	10	2013
Harold Ray Hall	10	2013
Larry St.Denis	10	2013
Rick Hausman	8	2015
David Pries	4	2019
Daniel Shumer	1	2022
David Neuhaus	1	2022
James McGuire	1	2022
Nick Jize	1	2022

GOLF CLUB



The first three weeks of February brought some reasonably good golf weather. So much so, that we had record sign ups to play in the Tuesday weekly golf at Los Lagos. We had to turn people away when the playing interest exceeded our allowed 24 players!! As soon as we got the golf course to increase the player slots to 28 in the next week, we got rained out. Go figure!! However, we are keeping the higher availability going forward until we see what happens. See the results for the three weeks we were able to play in February below.

The first Area 11 Monthly Tournament at Spring Valley (for which we had 17 players) was scheduled for Monday, Feb 27th. Unfortunately, it also got rained out! The next monthly tournament will be hosted by our Branch 32 and will be held at San Jose Muni GC on Monday, March 27th. Our Branch already has 23 members signed up!

Friday golf is unique in that it “floats” among several local golf courses lending variety to the options. The signups also reflect a variety of different players from week to week.

	February 7th		February 14th		February 21st	
Low Gross	Kevin Madej	90	Kevin Madej	85	Steve Guyon	78
	Jim Caratozzolo	91	Jim Claitor	89	Jim Claitor	86
	Rick Hausman	92	Jon Wiseman	92	Garry Sellers	88
			Steve Guyon	92		
Low Net	Mike Bishop	70	Kevin Madej	72	Steve Guyon	70
	Jim Caratozzolo	72	Jim Claitor	75	Mike Bishop	70
	Don Soderman	75	Garry Sellers	75	Garry Sellers	71
Low Putts	Don Soderman	33	Kevin Madej	26	Jim Claitor	33
	Galen Gipson	33	Wes Howard	29	Wes Howard	35
	Bill Schlaefer	33	Bob Grandey	31	Bill Schlaefer	35
			Jim Claitor	31		

With only 2 responses to Don Soderman’s email last month about continuing co-ed golf, the cold/wet weather, and other golfing events, there will be no SIR co-ed golf the second Thursday in March (3/9) at Deep Cliff. Let Don know if you are interested in

continuing this activity otherwise this activity will be cancelled.
Don Soderman (408)482-2228

Rick Hausman, Golf Chairman

BIKE ACTIVITY (NEW ACTIVITY)

ELECTRIC & NON-ELECTRIC BIKES ON PAVED TRAILS

RIDES WILL BE ON THE 1st THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT A DETERMINED LOCATION. THERE'S MANY TO CHOOSE FROM



HELMETS REQUIRED & BIKE IN WORKING ORDER

RECOMMENDED ITEMS--Gloves, Left handlebar mirror, Sunglasses, Patch kit, Bike tools, Bicycle bell, & flashing red light to Alert your presence

BRING WATER, SNACKS, BIKE RACK OR BACKPACK, DRESS TO UNDRRESS. IT COULD BE COLD

Fred Jones. Bike Activity Chairman

BOCCE CLUB



During the month of February we had the pleasure of playing Bocce three out of the four Mondays in the month. On each of these days we played under really pleasant conditions. But our luck did not hold with the rain returning for the last Monday of the month. We had 14 players for the first match and 16 match players for the next two matches. With this many players participating we are preparing to expand onto three courts as necessary in



the future.

Our Bocce match on February 6th was won by the team of Bernie Coullahan, Nick Jize, Skip Saunders, and Jim Sleigh after winning their two games 11 to 9 and 11 to 10. Saunders, and Jim Sleigh

The Bocce match on February 13th was won by the team of Fred Boyce, Roger Earle, Bob Grandey, and John Pletch, after winning their two games 11 to 6 and 11 to 5.

We play every Monday afternoon starting at 1:00 pm at the Almaden Lake Park located in South San Jose (Winfield Road Side). No reservations are needed, there are no court fees, and we never turn players away even if they arrive after the start

Roger Earle and Hersh Booth, Bocce CoChairmen

POOL/BILLARDS CLUB



We have been having 6 to 8 players on Monday nights at Cuetopia Cafe and Billiards, 4700 Almaden expressway, San Jose, Between Branham Lane and Cherry Avenue
5:00PM to 7:00PM come out and join the fun.

Galen Gipson
Fred Rasmussen
Co-Chairmen



COUPLES BRIDGE

During the month of February we were able to hold two Saturday afternoon bridge sessions. On February 11th 4 couples met at the Grandey house for a fun afternoon of bridge. For this event Bob Grandey had a high score of 3500 points with Roger Earle well behind at 2490. Third place went to Betsy Grandey at 2180 points. On February 18th 4 couples met at the Daner house for our second Saturday afternoon bridge session. Claire McGuire racked up 3610 points for the afternoon with Betsy Grandey close behind at 3300 points. Jane Earle came in third at 2800 points.



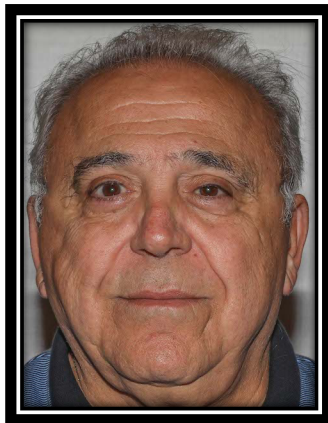
We currently have 8 couples in our bridge group and play on Saturday afternoons whenever we can gather enough couples. We are a very busy group being involved in lots of other activities. We would like to get 2 or more additional couples so we could play more often. If you like to play bridge and are interested in joining our fun couples group please contact me.

This is a picture of the six couples participating in our January 28 Bridge match held at the Earle house. Everyone looks happy because we have just finished eating our deserts after playing several rounds of fun bridge



Roger Earle, Couples Bridge Co-Chair

BRIDGE



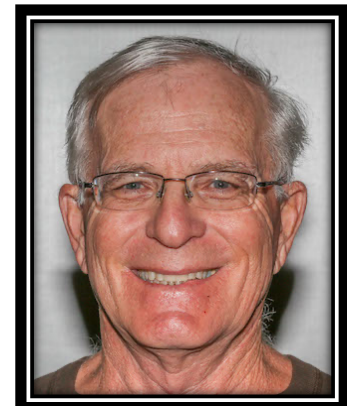
The Bridge Club has restarted and meets every Thursday morning at 10 AM. We are looking for additional members that love to learn and play Bridge. If you have any interest in Bridge and enjoy a good time, please call Reiad Chikhani (408) 425-3738 for additional information.

Reiad Chikhani, Bridge Chairman

HIKING CLUB

Arastradero Creek Trail

On Wednesday February 22nd there were 9 of us that hiked a Palo Alto favorite Easy grade hike at Arastradero Creek Trail. We hiked 4.6 miles over 2 hours.



There are many trails there. We took the Arastradero Creek Trail paralleling the creek



for a good amount. We passed by the Arastradero Lake, a rather small lake that had egrets and ducks. We eventually found our way to the Woodrat Trail that took us up from approximately 328-foot elevation to 656 foot level, a 328 foot gain. That was a moderate grade uphill of about 0.5 miles heavily wooded with mainly old growth oaks. We arrived at the summit and the reward was the view of the west lower SF Bay looking at I-280 and eastward of the Bay

extending from Alviso to the San Mateo Bridge. Everything was very lush and green from all the recent rains in a landscape of rolling hills of open grasslands. We lucked out in dodging rain during our hike and it just started to sprinkle as we reached the cars at the end of the hike.

We drove over to The Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar in Cupertino and they set up a large table for us. We talked about the hike and how much fun we had and what a great day it was. Another terrific time together in the great outdoors experiencing a wide open landscape. Participants were: Don Collins, Bernie Coullahan, Bruce Fenton, Bob Grandey, Bob Jamello, Fred Jones, Doug Krause, Ken Tarquinio and Todd White.



Every Monday at 8:50am we meet at the Vasona Dam to walk 4.2 miles roundtrip in 1½ hours. We leave at 9am and return by 10:30am. It's a great way to start the week with wholesome exercise amongst friends. What could be better. Come join us! Navigate to 281 Garden Hill Dr Los Gatos and you'll see us. Call Doug Krause at 408-821-3263 or email at diamondtub@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

Doug Krause, Hiking Club Chairman

From Stanley Schneider

