



Mission Trail Branch 35, Los Altos, California

Branch 35 web [www.sirinc2.org/branch35/](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch35/)



**- NEXT MEETING -**

**Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

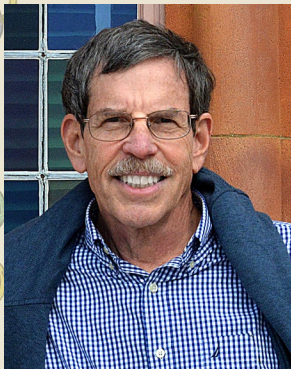
SIR Branch 35 Lunch Meeting 11:00am-1:30pm

Business 12:15am, Lunch 12:45pm

Venue: **Mountain View Community Center**

**Program: Building the Future:**

**A Visual History of the Architecture of Silicon Valley**



**Richard Adler**

In 2013, the LA Times declared that “Silicon Valley is an architectural wasteland.” But over the past decade this bleak picture started to change. As the Valley’s leading high tech firms grew to be enormously successful global brands, they hired world-class architects to design iconic new headquarters to represent their importance. The best

known example is Apple Park, opened in 2017. Other local companies – including Adobe, Google, Meta and Nvidia – have also created landmark headquarters in the past few years.

Since 2019 Richard Adler has photographed these iconic new buildings, along with some prominent older structures from the emergence of Silicon Valley. These photos were the basis for an exhibit at the Los Altos History Museum in the fall of 2023.

Richard arrived in Palo Alto in 1972, just as the region was becoming known as Silicon Valley. He worked as a researcher and consultant focused on emerging technologies at the Institute for the Future, where he is a Distinguished Fellow. He has also

been actively involved with introducing older adults to new technologies.

Richard has been seriously involved in photography for more than 50 years. His photographs of the traditional architecture of Kyoto, Japan, were exhibited at the San Francisco Zen Center.

Jerry



**The Big Sir says...**

I hope you enjoyed yourselves at our July Picnic at Blackberry Farm. We had very comfortable weather under a covered canopy with music in the background, appetizers, BBQ menu, loads of refreshments and games. Congrats to the winners at Bingo and Wine Tasting. I would like to shout out a big “Thank You for Doing Your Part” to all the members

that volunteered to help Ben plan and execute this event.



To keep the spirit of Summer going, I would like to declare August our *Hawaiian Shirt Month*. So break out your finest summer attire and come admire all the patterns that your fellow Sirs bring. I am sure your shirt will be a great conversation starter as you mingle with your fellow SIR members!

In our upcoming August luncheon, we will recognize our fellow branch volunteers that are “Doing Their Part” to help run and keep our branch healthy and active throughout the year. Who are these members you ask? They include the BEC, Staff, Activity Leaders, Member sponsors, and individual contributors.

Our SIR State Executive Board is trying to address organizational changes to sustain and grow SIR for the future. To keep us abreast, Andy Danver, Branch 35 leader and SIR Area 13 Representative will provide a summary of State short term and long term initiatives at our next luncheon. I am sure you received the invitation to be part of the contest to develop a new name and logo with the vision to “Enhance Your Lifestyle” while “Making Friends for Life.” “In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.”—Abraham Lincoln

See you all at the Mountain View Community Center with your Hawaiian Shirts on Aug 21st. Cheers!

Peter Wong.



## SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS



- See the second of our two-part featured article series by Bruce Karney about major disasters that occurred at Moffet Field over the years. This was discussed briefly at our SIR Luncheon in May.
- Ron Nakamoto earns the 'Most Prolific' award this month with another feature article in addition to his normal contribution!
- Baseball, anyone? Sir Lee Moy (Fresno branch 159) has tickets for the Oakland A's vs the SF Giants scheduled for Sunday August 18th at 1:00pm at the Oakland Coliseum. The seats are in the shaded section 105R and the view will be from the first base side field level. Tickets are \$70 each, but you are on your own for travel and parking. You have until August 8th to place your order. If interested, please call Lee at 559-709-9851 to confirm availability. For more details, you can follow this link: <https://sirbranch35.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Events/A's%20vs%20Giants.pdf>
- Check out the SIR Happenings link towards the end of this newsletter. You'll see sample articles from several branches, including our own, and you'll see how our activities compare to some of the other well-organized branches.
- A calendar of the coming month's Branch activities is at the back of this newsletter. Print it out and stick it up on your refrigerator!

## AUGUST 2024 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

**Active Members: 296 Net Monthly Change: +2**

We had two new members join us in July. We always welcome new members so bring a friend or neighbor to the lunch as a guest to 'check us out', it's on us!!

Remember, you can search our member database at this link:

[SIR Branch 35 - Membership Directory \(wildapricot.org\)](https://sirbranch35.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Events/A's%20vs%20Giants.pdf)

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YRS.

How long have you been a member? We have thirteen members celebrating a 10+ year anniversary with SIR Branch 35 this month!

Russ Atkinson (10)	Terry Barnhart (17)	Larry Baugher (11)
John Brittain (20)	Vern Dale (10)	Chris Goodman (10)
Jim Lunt (12)	Richard Moll (18)	Tom Moulton (17)
Dave Squellati (17)	Milt Wehrman (17)	Larry Yelowitz (10)
James Yoshida (12)		

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday this month to the following members:

Don Bray	Dave Dardis	Jovy de Villa
Larry Dike	Herb Fischgrund	Sam Im
Ken Jones	Walt Joyce	Peter Meigs
Jim Miller	Dave Ogle	Jerry Ososkie
Dick Peacock	Glen Pedigo	Carl Plescia
Cliff Reinhardt	John Rinehart	Stan Scardino
Vern Schmidt	Joe Sordi	Dave Squellati
Todd Stewart	Mark Temme	Tim Topole
Dick Treakle	Pete Van Kuran	Al Ward
Ed White		

## NEW MEMBERS

We had two new members join us in the past month. Welcome John and Kenny!

Name	City	Former Employer(s)
John Hall	Los Gatos	IBM, Oracle
Kenny Brown	Los Gatos	Chevron, SGI, 3Com, Toshiba

## BOOK SWAP

See our [web page](#)

TIM TOPOLE  
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The book swap is back in business this month, see us at the monthly luncheon. Bring along a book you enjoyed, to share. Take a look and grab one that piques your interest!

Tim

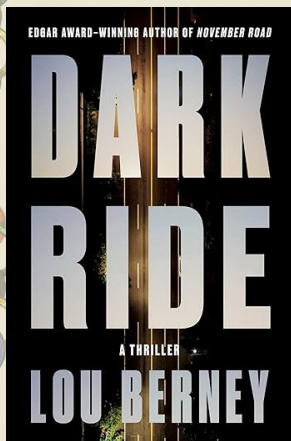
## BOOK CLUB

See our [web page](#)

JERRY BELDEN  
650-322-1391  
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The Book Club is an activity where most months of the year, all members read the same book and then meet to discuss it. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 1:30 till 3pm at the Los Altos United Methodist Church.



For our July meeting we read and discussed the book "Dark Ride, A Thriller" by Lou Berney. The novel, set in middle America, features a stoner college dropout named Hardy who goes by the nickname Hardly, since he's hardly ever succeeded at anything. He's in a dead end job and living in a garage. By chance he sees some young children with multiple cigarette burns and realizes they're being abused. He tries to get authorities to investigate, but is

unsuccessful. So he takes on the case himself. With the help of a Goth lesbian chick, a teenage fanboy, and a paranoid prepper landlord he sets forth to investigate and try to see that the kids are in a safe place. The book combined suspense and wit. Club members at the meeting all enjoyed the book immensely and especially praised the writing.

Our August book selection is "Man's Search for Meaning" by Victor Frankl.

Jerry

## WINE FINDERS

See our [web page](#)

ALAN GAUDIE  
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RUSS AYRES  
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This activity is for couples who want to have fun and meet new people. We gather at the home of a host couple to blind taste, grade wines and share appetizers. Contact either Alan or Russ to join or for more information.

Alan

## PERSONAL FINANCE

CHAIR: BOB BOOTH  
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DISTR'N: ANDY DANVER  
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The Branch 35 Personal Finance Discussion Group will meet after our summer break at the Moffett Field Museum library on August 7th beginning at 1pm. Suggested topics to be discussed include:

1. The Fed: When investment interest rates eventually go down due to the Fed's action, where do we think the 'parked money' will get re-invested? Perhaps we can anticipate what will happen and make some smart investment choices.
2. Helping our children with first time home purchases. There are several options: loans, gifts, co-signing on a loan, part equity owner, or let them figure it out. Discuss the pros, cons and other general thoughts.

3. Were we better off tax-wise under Trump than Biden? How limiting SALT impacted our deductions strategy and benefit.
4. Our favorite 501c charitable organizations and why.

Andy

## BIKING

See our [web page](#)

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HANK BOTTINO  
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**Next ride: None in August. Next is Third Thursday, 12th September 2024, 11:00am**

Wives and guests welcomed; helmets required and face masks optional.

### Coyote Creek Trail (South San Jose)

For the month of August 2024, there will be NO planned SIR ride on the 8th August because Gordy will be out of town and his Branch 35 Bicycling Co-Leader, Hank Bottino is injured and unable to ride.

We will resume the SIR Branch 35 bike ride on Thursday, 12th September 2024. The designated ride will be the beautiful, ocean front San Lorenzo-Alameda Trail ending up on Bay Farm Island. The San Lorenzo-Alameda Trail will showcase the iconic SF Cityscape. More to follow in the September 2024 SIR Newsletter.



San Francisco Skyline view from the San Lorenzo-Alameda Trail

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordy Tong or Hank Bottino (details above).

Gordy

## HIKING

See our [web page](#)

JOHN TUCKER  
408-655-5435  
[tuckerjg6@gmail.com](mailto:tuckerjg6@gmail.com)



For July we hiked along the bluffs above the surf and the ocean from Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach to Pillar Point. It gave us a nice break from the valley heat with temperatures in the 60's. Round trip we hiked about 5.5 miles with 19 participants. Our lunch stop was a sea wall with a good view of the beach.



## AUGUST'S SPECIAL DAYS



Our group was excited to get started on the hike, especially Big Sir Peter Wong



Deluxe lunch accommodations at Pillar Point



We weren't the only ones enjoying the beach and the surf

Come join us for our next hike in September! If you would like to get on the mailing list for the Hiking Group contact John Tucker.

John



- 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Air Force Day
- 1<sup>st</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Summer Olympic Games
  - Gymnastics – up to Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Athletics – from Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Swimming – up to Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Golf – up to August 10<sup>th</sup>
- See the full schedule here:

<https://olympics.com/en/paris-2024/schedule/grid>

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Santa Clara County Fair
- 7<sup>th</sup> Purple Heart Day
- 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Tour De France Femmes
- 18<sup>th</sup> National Senior Citizens' Day
- 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> World Rowing Championships
- 28<sup>th</sup> National Red Wine Day

## CHESS

See our [web page](#)

BEN KUCKENS  
650-400-0353  
[bengk@att.net](mailto:bengk@att.net)



The Chess group meets on Wednesdays 9am to 1pm at the Los Altos Civic Center, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, in the senior center room. All are welcome to come and play non-competitive friendly games of chess (no time clocks). All levels of players are welcome. Ben and a few others are available to play on many other days; dates and times are flexible. If interested, contact Ben.



Ben and Friends playing chess at L.A.C.C.

Come along and give it a try!

Ben



# BRIDGE

See our [web page](#)

MARK LEVI  
650-305-9132  
[mlevi@comcast.net](mailto:mlevi@comcast.net)



SIR Bridge Group in action! From left to right; Jack Tooley, Fred Emmenegger, Les Fisher and Mark Levi

The Bridge Club is regularly meeting at the Los Altos Senior Center on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We play from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. Join us for a fun afternoon of bridge and good conversation. We are looking for additional players of any experience level.

Mark

# BOCCE BALL

See our [web page](#)

RICHARD OEHLBERG  
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MICHAEL MAURIER  
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Every Friday, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Guests are welcome.

The SIR Bocce Ball group meets and plays every Friday morning at the Los Altos Community Center Bocce Ball Courts. (97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022).



The Bocce Ball Gang, ready for show time!

We begin at 9:30 AM when some of our SIR volunteers do court maintenance before we play. Play begins right after the maintenance is completed, usually around 10 AM, and lasts until noon. On very hot days we may start at 9:00AM to beat the heat!



Lou Wolner showing us how it's done

All are invited to join this friendly group of SIR Branch 35 Bocce Ball players and interact with a great bunch of people. Guests are welcome! Emphasis is on an active but leisurely time to engage with old friends and make new ones.

All skill levels are welcome – from beginners who have never played before to those who have been playing for quite a while. There are no regular teams. We are happy to include and coach new players. Come and join us and share some easygoing fun.

Richard & Michael

# BOWLING

See our [web page](#)

BOB TAGGART  
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PRIZES: ALAN GAUDIE

DOUG ANDERSON  
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[marktinti@aol.com](mailto:marktinti@aol.com)



Every Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. (for a couple hours), at Homestead Bowl, Homestead & Stelling, in Cupertino.

We keep a scorecard which is updated regularly and can usually be found here in Trail Tips. Call Bob or Doug if you have any questions.

Doug



# GOLF

LES MILES 408-528-5473  
[lpomi@yahoo.com](mailto:lpomi@yahoo.com)



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 LARRY LOW 408-533-2651 [llow1721@gmail.com](mailto:llow1721@gmail.com)

See our [web page](#)

## Garten Shoots His Age and Has the Round of the Month

**Bob Garten** was literally on fire – no, make that figuratively – on July 1 at Moffett. Despite being a month away from turning 82, he carded a gross 75, net 63, to win Round of the Month honors! Bob previously shot his age in a Branch 35 tournament in 2022. For doing it again in 2024 he earned a \$25 prize!

## Fixtures for the following month – sign up now!

SIGN-UP with John Gerich by Fri August 9 for the following			
<b>Cinnabar Hills (CBH)</b>	<b>Wed Sep 4</b>	<b>10:50</b>	<b>\$95</b>
Scramble akamoto 408-440-2330 ronandela@comcast.net ** NEED ATC **			
<b>Eagle Ridge (ERG)</b>	<b>Thu Sep 5</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>\$83</b>
lcGrath 408-307-8056 richard.mcgrath@yahoo.com ** NEED ATC **			
<b>Spanos Reserve</b>	<b>Mon Sep 9</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>\$62</b>
** NEED TC / NEED ATC **			
<b>Crow Canyon</b>	<b>Thu Sep 12</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>\$86</b>
** NEED TC / NEED ATC **			
<b>Spring Valley (SPV)</b>	<b>Mon Sep 16</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>\$48</b>
Lau 408-730-9115 ronwjlaw@gmail.com ** NEED ATC **			
<b>Salinas Fairways (SAF)</b>	<b>Thu Sep 19</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>\$37</b>
O'Meara 408-506-4714 Omearatimo@gmail.com ** NEED ATC **			
<b>Coyote Creek - V (CCV)</b>	<b>Mon Sep 23</b>	<b>9:35</b>	<b>\$85</b>
Weberg 408-205-9120 cweberg1@gmail.com ** NEED ATC **			
<b>Callippe Preserve (CPR)</b>	<b>Thu Sep 26</b>	<b>9:34</b>	<b>\$64</b>
** NEED TC / NEED ATC **			
<b>Moffett Field (MFD)</b>	<b>Mon Sep 30</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>\$51</b>
Lau 408-730-9115 ronwjlaw@gmail.com / Wilson			

## It's Not Quite Golf

Our sport of golf is more than 700 years old, but there are (or were) several variants you might not know about -- and I'm not talking about miniature golf!

**Disc Golf:** This sport has been around since the 1970s. Instead of a ball and clubs players use 8" diameter discs which must be thrown at a set of hanging chains that, when hit by your disc, will drop it into a basket. The objective, of course, is to complete your round in the fewest throws. Players usually have a set of 3 discs: "driver," "mid-range," and "putter" with different weights and flying characteristics.

**FootGolf:** FootGolf was invented in the Netherlands in 2011. You use your foot to kick a soccer ball into a 20.5" cup. Otherwise, the rules are like golf's. It seems like a great way to get children familiar with being on a golf course, with the hope that eventually they will take up real golf.

**FlingGolf:** I recently saw a program about this new sport on ESPN. It is played with a regular golf ball and a FlingStick, which looks like a lacrosse stick but has a specially designed head to cradle the ball as you fling it. The current record for the farthest fling is 252 yards. Flinggolf.com has details.

**Flogton** ("Not Golf" backwards) was introduced in 2011, but now seems to be extinct – at least its web site is no longer around. It was played like golf but with many rule changes to reduce scores and frustration levels. You got a mulligan on every hole and instead of a 6-inch bump you got a 6-foot bump on every shot. Any putt inside the leather was good, and your third putt on a green was always conceded. Scott McNealy (Sun Microsystems co-founder and Maverick McNealy's dad) was an early advocate.

## July's Golf Results:

### 2024 Individual Match Play Tournament Results

(If a name is in red it means the player's "over/under" score was -2.0 or better.)

Round	Course	Match	Score	Prize
3	Moffett Field	Tom Taboada def. Peter Wong	2 & 1	\$10
3	Moffett Field	Mack Asrat def. Les Miles	2 & 1	\$10
3	Crystal Springs	Joe Cioni def. Paul Lesti	6 & 5	\$10

Moffett Field				Par 72			July 1, 2024		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$	
Bob Garten	63	\$18	R. Pattison	67	\$18	Joe Enos	71	\$22	
Rich McGrath	69	\$14	Jerry Ososkie	69	\$14	V. Navarro	72	\$16	
Joe Cioni	70	\$10	M. Haberman	73	\$10	G. O'Brien	73	\$12	
						W. Stephens	74	\$7	
Shot his age: Bob Garten (age 81) shot 75 (\$25) & Joe Cioni (age 84) shot 83									
Inside Putter Length: Bob Garten on #5 (\$15)									
Low Gross (forward tees): Bob Garten 75									
Low Gross (back tees): Joe Cioni 83									

Corica Park South				Par 72			July 8, 2024		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$	
J. Rittweger	71	\$18	Jay Jonekait	72	\$18	Joe Enos	73	\$18	
Rick Wheat	72	\$14	Stan Scardino	76	\$14	Tim O'Meara	74	\$12	
Chris Weberg	72	\$10	Tom Taboada	76	\$10	Ben Gikis	75	\$17	
Inside Putter Length: John Rittweger on #11 (\$15)									
Low Gross (forward tees): Tim O'Meara 97									
Low Gross (back tees): Rick Wheat 79									

Crystal Springs			Par 72		July 11, 2024		
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize		
Larry Low	73	\$18	Sam Im	72	\$22		
Les Miles	73	\$14	Ramesh Patel	73	\$18		
Richard McGrath	73	\$10	Gerald Cooley	74	\$12		
Richard Pattison	74	\$5	Joe Enos	78	\$7		
Low Gross: Richard McGrath 83							

Lake Chabot			Par 71Wh. 70Red		July 15, 2024		
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize		
Stan Barkey	68	\$24	Tim O'Meara	69	\$17		
Bob Garten	71	\$18	Joe Enos	69	\$10		
Peter Daley	71	\$12	Larry Wall	69	\$5		
Jim Thorne	73	\$8					
Low Gross (forward tees): Chris Weberg and Richard McGrath tied at 83							
Low Gross (back tees): Jim Thorne 79							

Laguna Seca			Par 71		July 18, 2024		
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize		
Chris Weberg	67	\$25	Jim Narva	74	\$17		
Richard McGrath	72	\$20	Larry Wall	75	\$10		
Peter Daley	72	\$15	Wendell Stephens	77	\$5		
Ken Jones	74	\$10					
Les Miles	74	\$7					
Low Gross (forward tees): Richard McGrath 81							
Low Gross (back tees): Chris Weberg 80							

Coyote Creek Tournament Course	Par 72	July 22, 2024	
Team		Score	Prize
Bill Hall & Herb Peterson		64	\$30@
Chris Weberg & John Rittweger		65	\$20@
Richard Pattison & Dave Dardis		66	\$15@
Ron Nakamoto & Ken Jones		67	\$10@
Paul Lesti & Larry Low		69	\$5@
<b>Inside Putter Length:</b> Richard McGrath on #11 (\$15)			
<b>Low Gross (forward tees):</b> 4-way tie at 85: P. Lesti, L. Low, C. Weberg, J. Rittweger			
<b>Low Gross (back tees):</b> Rick Wheat 80			

Los Lagos			Par 68	July 25, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize
Bruce Karney	69	\$25	John Ray	65	\$21
Paul Lesti	70	\$19	Don Mattson	70	\$16
Bill Hall	72	\$14	Wendell Stephens	70	\$12
Ron Nakamoto	72	\$9	Sam Im	70	\$7
Bob Garten	73	\$5			
<b>Low Gross:</b> Paul Lesti 79					

Bruce

**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ARTICLE**  
**COYOTE CREEK TOURNAMENT COURSE**  
**“TWO MAN BEST BALL” TEAM TOURNAMENT**  
 BY RON NAKAMOTO

We had an opportunity to play this semi-private course located in Morgan Hill. As this course is challenging, we decided to play it with two member teams using a format called “Two Man Best Ball”. We were maxed out with 16 teams competing for prizes. Friends paired together and the rest of the team members were matched by similar golf handicaps.

The Tournament Conductor was in the first group and after play was able to set up a scoreboard at the 19th hole. The team of Ron Nakamoto, Ken Jones, John Gerich, and Tim O’Meara organized themselves to quickly review the scorecards, read the individuals scores, enter it onto the spreadsheet, and post the team’s score. This went on while we snacked and drank at the table. Afterwards, the final team score was posted and the winning teams were announced.

- First Place: Team 16: Bill Hall and Herb Petersen
- Second Place: Team 12: Chris Weberg and John Rittweger
- Third Place: Team 14: Richard Pattison and David Dardis
- Fourth Place: Team 1: Ron Nakamoto and Ken Jones
- Fifth Place: Team 9: Paul Lesti and Larry Low

We had some fun prizes which included a sleeve of balls to the player that lost the most balls. We had a tie at the course with three losses, so we split the sleeve to Dave Dardis and Chip Williams. We found out later that Paul Schutz should have won the sleeve with 11 lost balls. The final fun award was a trophy of a Skunk with a plaque that said “U Stink”. That trophy went to Mike Kerr with a high score of 123. Unfortunately, Mike was not present as he probably was too exhausted!

Ron

**SPORTS CAR GROUP**

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Our July Sports Car Group FunRun took us from Sand Hill road to Skyline Blvd, south to Highway 9 and down through Boulder Creek, Ben Lomand and Felton to our lunch spot at the Laughing Monk Brewing and Gastropub in Scotts Valley. It was trees and curvy roads the whole way. The first part of the run took about 1.5 hours and we covered about 45 miles. It was a bright sunny day and we stopped along the way to get a good overview of the San Lorenzo Valley.



The crew stops for an overview of the San Lorenzo Valley

After lunch we headed off to Canepa Motorsports Museum where we viewed their two floors of sports and racing cars. We also got a tour of their restoration shop where we saw Ferrari, Jaguar and Porsche’s being worked on. It was a good day with good people.



The shop was so full, this Lamborghini Diablo was parked outside

Our next run will be Wednesday, August 7th when we will travel from our meeting place on Skyline Blvd down Highway 84 and Pescadero Creek Road through trees and twisty roads to Highway 1. We will follow the coast north with views of the surf and the ocean until we reach Half Moon Bay. Lunch will be at the San Benito House and Cantina. The drive to Half Moon Bay will take a little over 1 hour and after lunch we will head back home. A good way to spend a nice day.





The Porsche 959 is very rare and will run you into Mega\$\$\$\$

The goal of the Sports Car group is to drive our cars on curvy roads to some interesting place, get together with like minded SIR members and have FUN. Activities normally happen on the first Wednesday of the month. Information and directions will be sent out in the month before the event. Feel free to bring your spouse or a friend with you. Contact John Tucker to get added to the mailing list.

John

SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE  
IT USED TO RAIN JETS!  
SECOND OF TWO ARTICLES  
BY BRUCE KARNEY

In last month's Trail Tips, I wrote about the 1973 mid-air collision of two aircraft over the Sunnyvale Golf Course. While researching it, I read a story in the San Jose Mercury titled "It Used to Rain Jets." It detailed the incredibly poor reliability of jets in the 1950's and listed more than ten crashes of jets based at Moffett.



Headlines in the Mountain View Register Ledger

Most spectacular and best remembered is the crash that took place in downtown Mountain View on Feb. 1, 1957. An F-84 Thunderjet was flying north toward Moffett, approximately following the route of Castro Street. It exploded at an altitude of about 2000 feet. Had the explosion happened only a few seconds earlier, the flaming debris would have landed on the Mountain View Union High School (near where City Hall now stands). A few seconds later, and the Mountain View Academy or the Dana Street School could have been hit.

The largest piece of the plane landed on the home of Mr. & Mrs. Les Wright of 1093 California (near Oak). Mrs. Wright was slightly injured while escaping from her home through a window. She returned to try to get her purse but was driven back by a wall of flame. The house and its contents were destroyed by the fire.



Mrs. Opal Wright with her husband in the wreckage of their home

Fire also destroyed the second floor of the house at 427 Franklin St. and damaged several other buildings. The body of the pilot, Capt. Robert Mulvehill, fell at 445 Bryant St. The jet engine landed in front of 420 Franklin, which suffered some fire damage.

Just four months later, on June 20, 1957, a Moffett-based jet and a propeller-driven plane collided over Mtn. View-Alviso Road (Hwy. 237) just south of Bayshore Highway. Both pilots were killed, and the wreckage landed on a cement truck being driven on Mtn. View-Alviso Road. The truck driver narrowly escaped death.

Another deadly crash in Mountain View took place on Feb. 15, 1960. An A4D Skyhawk jet returning to Moffett Field smashed into a home at 679 Emily Drive. Mrs. Margit Halmi, a refugee from Hungary who lived there, was killed instantly. The pilot, Lt. (j.g.) Gordon Blake, ejected from the plane, but his parachute did not fully deploy and he also died.

The 1973 San Jose Mercury article said that "a safety crackdown in 1956 eventually lowered the accident rate from 3.8 per 10,000 hours flying time to 1.8." To put this in perspective, in 2004 when this article was originally published, Southwest Airlines was flying about 3,500 hours per day. If their fleet had been as unreliable as military jets were in the 1950's, Southwest would



have a crash every day or two! In reality, commercial airlines now have less than one accident per million hours flying time.



A Republic F-84 Thunderjet

The frequent crashes of Moffett jets caused an outcry from residents and elected officials. Consequently, in 1961 jet operations were moved from Moffett to the less-populated environs of Lemoore Naval Air Station in the Central Valley. But four-engine turboprop P-3s continued to operate, with an excellent safety record, until NAS Moffett was decommissioned in 1994.

Author's note: Much of the material in the first article of this series came from *Lost Birds* magazine, Jan./March, 1998. Lee Boyd and Ray Kong both shared their memories with Bruce via e-mail, and Bruce was able to visit the crash site with Mr. Boyd and interview him.

Bruce

social climbing there is plenty of time for assignations and even a ménage à trois. Series 3 has a lot more sexual content than its predecessors, wonder what's next if there is a season 4. The series continues to delight, so sign up for Netflix if you aren't already. Rated TV MA for language and strong sexual content. It is a Peggy's Pick.



**Fly Me to the Moon.** The truth about the 1969 staged moon landing is laid out for all to see and to evaluate for yourself. Was it Hollywood trickery or a lot of hard work by a lot of people? The film is wanting as an expose, but it is a better than average Romcom. Scarlett Johansson lights up the screen as Kelly Jones, a born conman but now a NASA Public Relations officer working secretly for one of Nixon's special operatives. Channing Tatum

is Cole Davis a "by the book" pilot who is the Mission Director for Apollo 11. He wants to get the job done and Kelly wants to manage the event. These two opposites attract and have quite a thing. Rated PG-13 for some strong language, and smoking. In Theatres but wait for it to stream.



**Jim Henson: Idea Man.** If you are a fan of the Muppets and/or Sesame Street, this is a must-see documentary. Even if you are not a fan, see it anyway and you will be a fan. Ron Howard made the film. His expertise is everywhere as he documents the life of Jim Henson and his creation, the Muppets. Using archival footage, we get to see behind the scenes and see how the magic was done. Interviews with

Henson's co-workers, family and friends provide insights into his brilliance. The documentary is wonderfully paced as it just seems to fly by but misses nothing. Check this one out on Disney+. Not rated, but suitable for all. It is a Peggy's Pick.

Jim

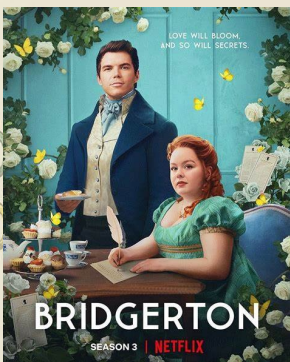
MOVIES

MOVIES

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See Jim's [web page](#)

Our Movies group will meet on Zoom on August 16th at 3 PM. If interested, contact Jim Quillinan.



**Bridgerton.** The popular Netflix series has released all of the episodes (8) of season 3. The series continues the saga of the Bridgertons, Queen Charlotte, the Featheringtons, the Cowpers, Lady Danbury and their societal machinations in early Nineteenth Century England. The women are all trying to marry. The men seek adventure and a bride with a large

dowry. There is much secrecy and hypocrisy. The enigmatic Lady Whistledown stirs the pot with her juicy gossip column loaded with intrigue and accusation. In this swirl of pomp and



## MOVIE AND MUSIC HISTORY

RON NAKAMOTO

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*There are few constants in life. Turbulence, ever changing, "as time goes by" are phrases we typically cast to describe periods that we lived through. This monthly article hopes to spur those memorable moments in your life when you first saw the movie or heard the song from your youth. What were you doing ... in days of yore? Ron*



### Movie: Grand Prix, 1966 directed by John Frankenheimer

Before there was Steven Spielberg, Oliver Stone, and John Woo, there was John Frankenheimer. He was a gifted director, with a clear vision of what story he wanted to tell, and he did so in an exciting and breathtaking way, "...bending the cinematic form into a gritty visually intoxicating canvas."

His effects captured the audience and immersed them into his world with multiple camera positions, often recording simultaneously, overlaid with sounds to give you the feel of the moment.

With the filming of Grand Prix, he conveyed the sensation of real racing by positioning cameras all around the course including inside the race cars, in helicopters, as well as mounted on a fast-moving vehicle. He positioned microphones in the engines, on the course, and in the driver's cockpit to capture the "shot" and immerse you into the driver's seat, or the pit crew, or the fans in the stands.



James Garner enjoying the ride

It was not enough to work the camera and sound to make the film realistic. John also insisted that the actors drive the race cars so he could capture their actions and reactions to the high speed

of the car, the race track below them, and the speeding cars around them, so he made the actors train and race the course. How fast did they go? Well, Yves Montand was quoted in a 1967 French interview that "Sometimes, we had to drive at 300km/h (187 mph) like at Clermont-Ferrand. If they offered me \$500 to \$750 thousand dollars today, I wouldn't do the film again because it's too dangerous!"

Some facts about the making of the movie:

- Frankenheimer refused to film cars using a common film technique to move slowly, then speed up the finished film, as he thought the moviegoers would notice the difference.
- To film the racing cars at speed, the camera car used was a Ford GT40, known for its speed and endurance from its reputation in the 24 hours Le Mans racing in the early 1960's. Other cars used were the AC Cobra, the Lotus 25, and the McLaren M2B Ford. (Editor's note: I know, you car buffs are drooling over the assembled horsepower they had in one location.)
- John was unhappy with the crowd's lack of reaction to the dramatic action during rehearsals, so he had his special effects crew wire a truck off camera. As the flaming sports car drove into the pit the signal was given and the wired truck exploded. The crowd was instantly shocked and Frankenheimer got his shot.
- Special effects included a modified cannon that could fire entire gutted cars a considerable distance in the air. This was especially useful in some of the crash scenes.
- Visual filming innovations were the use of Point-of-View angles i.e. what a driver sees taking a turn; split-screen with triple or quadruple panels, gave the viewers, what the drivers experienced racing across the roads, at high speeds, cramped with other cars all around him. These techniques were possible with the use of radio-controlled super Panavision cameras and microwave viewfinders.

Variety magazine movie critics called the film "one of those rare pictures that draws its basic strength, excitement and interest-arresting potential through the visual (the pure art of cinema) alone." The Los Angeles Times called it "the new, definitive, great film about auto racing." The movie won three Oscars for Best Film Editing, Sound Mixing, and Sound Editing.

John Frankenheimer's credits of successful, suspenseful, action thrillers included, "The Manchurian Candidate" starring Frank Sinatra, the "Birdman of Alcatraz" starring Burt Lancaster in 1962, "Seven Days in May" starring Kirk Douglas and Burt Lancaster in 1964, "Grand Prix" starring James Garner and Yves Montand in 1966, and "French Connection II" starring Gene Hackman in 1975. He directed 40 feature films and over 50 plays for television and was known as a pioneer of the modern-day political thriller.

To personalize this article, we have our own Don Mattson, who drove the last 60 miles of the Mille Miglia (1000 miles), the Italian



alternative to the Italian Grand Prix and Ken Jones who raced with modified muscle cars.

French version. Nat King Cole took it to number one on the hit parade in 1955 and Frank, Tony, Andy and even Eartha Kitt followed.

Here is the official movie trailer for "Grand Prix".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oTOIOMSdk4>

Here is Nat King Cole singing another of his Number one hits, "Autumn Leaves".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gnp58oepHUQ>



**Music: "Autumn Leaves" by Nat King Cole**

The song "Les Feuilles Mortes" ("The Dead Leaves") was a popular French song originally recorded in 1945. The song was composed by Joseph Kosma with lyrics by French poet Jacques Prevert. The song was featured in a French movie that

"Autumn Leaves" used the same music but different lyrics changing the French song from a bitter story to one as bittersweet. Which do you prefer, the French, Yves Montand or the English, Nat King Cole version?

*As Paul Harvey is quoted as saying, "And now, ... you know the rest of the story."*

starred Yves Montand.

Ron

Here is young Yves singing "Les Feuilles Mortes". .

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWfsp8kwJto&t=17s>



**Young Yves singer/actor**



**Grand Prix Yves**

The 'young Yves' on the left, and as he starred in "Grand Prix" These French guys do age well!



Our State SIR Organization publishes a quarterly bulletin highlighting SIR events, branch activities and state-wide activities. It's called **SIR Happenings**, and you can read the latest issue [here](#)

<https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>

The English lyrics were written by Johnny Mercer in 1950 and given the title "Autumn Leaves". Mercer did much more than translate the verses and in effect it became a completely different song from the rambling elegy Prevert had created. The Mercer version was more nostalgic and bittersweet vs. the angst and bitter



**Your SIR State and Branch 35 Officers and Leaders**

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 Sports Cars Group John Tucker (408) 655-5435

**Wellness and Comfort**

Death or illness of a fellow Sir should be reported to **Pat O'Connor**. He will express condolences of our Branch and communicate memorial announcements among the BEC and members via email.



SIR Branch 35 Activities - August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				Golf 10:04am Callippe Pres - \$68	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Golf 10:00am Poplar - \$46		SIR State Team Championship Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	SIR State Team Championship Golf 9:36am Bridges - \$69	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Golf 9:30am Moffett - \$51	Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center Personal Finance 1:00pm Los Altos Community Ctr.		Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Golf 10:00am Santa Teresa - \$76	Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl Movies 3:00pm Zoom Meeting	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center Branch 35 Luncheon/Meeting 11:00am - 1:30pm Mtn. View Community Center	Golf 9:30am Metropolitan - \$49	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Hiking 10:00am TBC	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Golf 10:00am DeLaveaga - \$61	Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	Golf 11:30am The Villages - \$83	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	