



Mission Trail Branch 35, Silicon Valley, California

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

**Holiday Celebration**  
**Wednesday, December 11th, 2024**  
**Members And Their Guests**  
**11:00am-1:30pm**

Lunch 11:40am                      Mtn. View  
Program 12:20pm                    Community Center

**MVHS Madrigal Singers**

### SIR Branch 35 Holiday Celebration Luncheon

#### Mountain View Community Center, Redwood Hall

It's time for our 2024 Holiday Celebration with your fellow SIR family. Our celebration party will be at the Mountain View Community Center, Redwood Hall on December 11th (2nd Wednesday). Doors open at 11:00am, with check in, table assignment, and some social time to mingle with your fellow members and friends. The buffet service will start at 11:40 am, and at 12:20pm we will be entertained by the MVHS Madrigal Singers. I'm sure they will put you in the holiday mood with their youth and splendid singing.



Mountain View High School Madrigals



### The Big Sir says...

Reflecting on my year as Big Sir, I am glad for the opportunity to lead and serve. It was a year with both successes and lessons learned. I, along with your branch leaders, have worked to meet and strengthen the mission of SIR, to enhance the lives of our members. Attending State SIR meetings, I find that our branch continues to be recognized as one of the largest active branches within SIR. The credit goes to all of our volunteers and their work to keep our branch vibrant. As I step down, I leave the branch with steady membership and an active Young Gun committee focused on growing our branch.

I offer my support to the incoming leaders, and I hope you all will join me to cheer them on as they embrace their roles. Your enthusiasm will ensure that our branch continues to be a model to follow.

See you all at our Dec 11<sup>th</sup> party.

Cheers and Happy Holidays!

Peter Wong.

## SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS



- Frank Crossman spoke with Robert Keahey, our November SIR lunch speaker, after his talk to ask if he had written up his presentation on how the Donner Party arrived so late to Truckee due to taking some ill advice on their route. Robert said that there were some videos on this and related "Trail to California" subjects on the Sunnyvale History Museum website and YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@sunnyvaleheritageparkmuseum> with several video series - one of which is 'On the Trail.' The fifth in that series "Cutoffs Aren't Always Bad" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qjc3ti\\_yxBQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qjc3ti_yxBQ) covers some of Keahey's talk to us. Perhaps others who missed this fine talk would like to check out this video.

- See a special article by John Rittweger in this edition, in the Golf section, about the State SIR Golf Outing to The Reserve at Spanos Park and to Eagle Vines Golf Course in American Canyon. The venues seem to have inspired our Branch 35 participants to great heights of achievement!
- See a flyer in this newsletter with details about our Holiday Luncheon, coming up on December 11th. Registration is no longer available.
- 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!
- Check with your activity chairman for activity plans over the Holidays, there could be misses in this month's calendar.

## DECEMBER 2024 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

**Active Members: 306 Net Monthly Change: 0**

We had two new members join us and we lost two in December! 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 \(wildapricot.org\)](http://wildapricot.org)

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Name	City	Former Employer(s)
Roger Estrella	Half Moon Bay	Genetech Inc/Roche, Alpha Therapeutics, Ortho Diagnostics
Ed Mills	San Jose	SCC Superior Court, Self Employed

## IN MEMORIAM

### LARRY DIKE



Larry Dike passed away October 17<sup>th</sup> last, at the age of 86 years. He had been with Branch 35 since 2006. Larry was a former Lockheed employee and attended our monthly lunch as recently as June this year.

A Memorial Service will be held at Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos, CA on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 2 P.M. and SIR members are invited to a reception after the service, at 3 P.M.

He will be missed, R.I.P.

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YRS.

How long have you been a member? We have NOBODY celebrating a 10+ year anniversary with SIR Branch 35 this month! What is it with December??!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday this month to the following members:

Shri Bhat	Mike Cascone	Wayne Dexter
David Falconer	Bob Feigelson	Tom Gazdayka
Ben Gikis	Don Girman	Marc Haberman
Peter Lau	Robert Lerner	Brian Lin
Bill Mack	Bob Morley	Bob Moss
Bill Nugteren	Steve Pomeroy	Ernie Robertson
Pete Squire	Bob Taggart	Jim Thome
Darryl Walker	Eli Wismer	Larry Wray

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBER AWARD RICHARD BLACKBOROW

At our October 16<sup>th</sup> SIR Branch 35 Luncheon Meeting, Peter Wong, SIR Branch 35 Big Sir, was joined by Derek Southern, State SIR Award Committee Chairman and State Advisor, to present an Honorary Life Member Award to Richard Blackborow in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to SIR Branch 35.



Presentating the Honorary Life Member award to Richard Blackborow (center), were Branch 35 Big Sir Peter Wong (left) and State SIR Award Committee Chairman and State Advisor Derek Southern (right). Photo by Frank Crossman.

We are familiar with Richard's presence at the sound board at our monthly luncheon meeting, but in listing his many duties and

contributions to our branch, Peter made it clear that Richard is the kind of exemplary member and volunteer who genuinely make the wheels turn and without whom many of our leaders could not effectively do their jobs. From managing the membership database and branch administration website to supporting the technology we use in our meetings, Richard's work in the background has become a core strength of our branch.

Wouldn't it be great if we saw many more members step up to volunteer, inspired by the leadership of people like Richard Blackborow!

Pat

beginning at 1pm. It's a great site with plenty of parking. Typically, we have 10 to 15 attendees with varied financial backgrounds.

This month there will be an around-the-table discussion on topics raised by attendees as we finalize 2024 Tax Planning ideas and other issues. Please join us if you have specific topics you would like to discuss on this topic or others.

In November Henry Chik, a Branch 35 Member, moderated a session covering topics on Tax Bracket Management, Gain/Loss Capital Gains Harvesting, Roth Conversions, and approaches to making Charitable Contributions. Attendees raised questions and related personal insights.



Moffett Field Museum Entrance

If you wish to be added to our email distribution list, please send Andy Danver an email ([adanver@ix.netcom.com](mailto:adanver@ix.netcom.com)).

Andy

### WINE FINDERS

ALAN GAUDIE  
650-964-6510  
[alanguddie@yahoo.com](mailto:alanguddie@yahoo.com)

RUSS AYRES  
650-776-6391  
[rarryes3@hotmail.com](mailto:rarryes3@hotmail.com)



See our [web page](#)

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.

NOTE: *There are no activities planned for the rest of this year. We plan to resume in 2025.*

Contact either Alan or Russ for more information.

Alan

### BOOK CLUB

JERRY BELDEN  
650-322-1391  
[jerry@qbeldenltc.com](mailto:jerry@qbeldenltc.com)



See our [web page](#)

**Note: we will not have a book club meeting in December, so our next meeting is January 8<sup>th</sup>.**

The Book Club is an activity where most months of the year, all members read the same book and then meet to discuss it. Contact Jerry if you have questions or would like to join.

For our November meeting we read and discussed "The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder" by David Grann. It was ranked number 1 on the NY Times Bestseller list for .

From the author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*, *The Wager* is a page-turning story of shipwreck, survival, and savagery, culminating in a court martial that reveals a shocking truth. The powerful narrative reveals the deeper meaning of the events on *The Wager*, showing that it was not only the captain and crew who ended up on trial, but the very idea of empire.



Members at the meeting all thought the book was excellent. It kept us wrapped up all the way through, and it was very revealing in its description of daily life and the dangers of being on a 1740's sailing ship.

We will not have a book club meeting in December, so our next meeting is January 8th and our next book is "Fear Is Just a Word" by Azem Ahmed.

Jerry

### PERSONAL FINANCE

CHAIR: BOB BOOTH  
408-307-3274  
[booth19@gmail.com](mailto:booth19@gmail.com)

DISTR'N: ANDY DANVER  
650-906-3747  
[adanver@ix.netcom.com](mailto:adanver@ix.netcom.com)



The Branch 35 Personal Finance group will meet on Wednesday December 4th at the Moffett Field Museum Library

# BOOK SWAP

See our [web page](#)

TIM TOPOLE  
650-793-0838  
[ttopole@yahoo.com](mailto:ttopole@yahoo.com)



There will be no book swap this month, due to the Holiday Luncheon. See you again in the New Year!

Tim

# 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 group is meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Los Altos Senior Center from 12:00 to 2:00 for a friendly game. Send me your email address and I'll add you to our mailing list.

Mark

# BIKING

See our [web page](#)

GORDON TONG  
408-242-0557  
[gordy6850@gmail.com](mailto:gordy6850@gmail.com)

HANK BOTTINO  
650-207-4320  
[bottinoh@comcast.net](mailto:bottinoh@comcast.net)



Next ride: TBC, January, 2025, 11:00am

There is no planned Branch 35 bike ride in December. Next bike ride will be January 2025.

The SIR Branch 35 bike ride took place on November 14th on the Coyote Regional Hills/Alameda Creek Trail in Fremont, CA, a scenic, paved trail from Fremont to the downtown of Niles. Here's our last photo below taken at our favorite lunch spot, the Nile Cafe.



The biking group enjoyed lunch at The Nile Café

Gordy

# HIKING

See our [web page](#)

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



Our next SIR Hike will be on Friday, December 6, 2024. Because of the holidays we historically combine the November and December hikes into one hike on the first Friday in December. This year we will be hiking up Mt. Umunhum in memory of Tom Moulton a long time SIR member and avid hiker who passed away this past summer. His friendly personality and big smile will be missed. If you are up for it, come join us.



Tom Moulton (yellow hat) with the hiking group on the Mt. Umunhum Trail with the SIR 35 Hiking Group

John

## DECEMBER'S SPECIAL DAYS

PAT O'CONNOR  
[patoconnor61@outlook.com](mailto:patoconnor61@outlook.com)



- 1<sup>st</sup> World AIDS day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cyber Monday
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Giving Tuesday
- 5<sup>th</sup> International Volunteers Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Remembrance
- 15<sup>th</sup> Bill Of Rights Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> Wrights Brothers Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> Winter Solstice, start of Winter
- 25<sup>th</sup> Holidays
- 26<sup>th</sup> Boxing Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve

<b>Hockey</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> SJ Sharks @ Capitols, 4:00pm
	5 <sup>th</sup> SJ Sharks @ Lightning, 4:00pm
	7 <sup>th</sup> SJ Sharks @ Panthers, 3:00pm
	10 <sup>th</sup> SJ Sharks @ Hurricanes, 4:00pm
	12 <sup>th</sup> SJ Sharks @ Blues, 5:00pm
	14 <sup>th</sup> UTAH HC @ SJ Sharks, 7:00pm
	17 <sup>th</sup> Jets @ SJ Sharks, 7:30pm
	19 <sup>th</sup> Avalanche @ SJ Sharks, 7:30pm
	21 <sup>st</sup> SJ Sharks @ Oilers, 1:00pm
	23 <sup>rd</sup> SJ Sharks @ Canucks, 6:00pm
	27 <sup>th</sup> Golden Nights @ SJ Sharks, 7:30pm
	28 <sup>th</sup> Flames @ SJ Sharks, 7:00pm

## BOCCE BALL

RICHARD OEHLBERG  
 650-823-7720  
[rntheo1@icloud.com](mailto:rntheo1@icloud.com)



MICHAEL MAURIER  
[forest129@yahoo.com](mailto:forest129@yahoo.com)

See our [web page](#)

**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).



**Some are shooting, some are shouting 'encouragement'!**

We had no activity last week or two due to a combination of weather and Holidays. We hope to resume soon, watch out for Richard's email!

Some of our SIR volunteers meet at 9:30am to do court maintenance before we play. Play begins usually around 10 AM, and lasts until noon.

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

<b>Football</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> 49ers @ Bills, 5:20pm
	8 <sup>th</sup> Bears @ 49ers, 1:25pm
	12 <sup>th</sup> Rams @ 49ers, 5:15pm
	22 <sup>nd</sup> 49ers @ Dolphins, 1:25pm
	30 <sup>th</sup> Lions @ 49ers, 5:15pm
<b>Basketball</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Warriors @ Denver Nuggets, 7:00pm
	5 <sup>th</sup> Houston Rockets @ Warriors, 7:00pm
	6 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Timberwolves @ Warriors, 7:00pm
	8 <sup>th</sup> Minnesota Timberwolves @ Warriors, 7:00pm
	19 <sup>th</sup> Warriors @ Memphis Grizzlies, 5:00pm
	21 <sup>st</sup> Warriors @ Minnesota Timberwolves, 5:00pm
	23 <sup>rd</sup> Indiana Pacers @ Warriors, 7:00pm
	25 <sup>th</sup> LA Lakers @ Warriors, 5:00pm
	27 <sup>th</sup> Warriors @ LA Clippers, 7:00pm
	28 <sup>th</sup> Phoenix Suns @ Warriors, 5:30pm
30 <sup>th</sup> Cleveland Cavaliers @ Warriors, 7:00pm	

# BOWLING

See our [web page](#)

BOB TAGGART  
650-321-2654  
[cbtaggart@earthlink.net](mailto:cbtaggart@earthlink.net)



PRIZES: ALAN GAUDIE

DOUG ANDERSON  
415-407-4000  
[marktinti@aol.com](mailto:marktinti@aol.com)

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

These are the Final scores of the Fall Session. The Winter Session starts on December 5th. If you have been considering joining the league, this would be the perfect time. We bowl every Tuesday (1:00 .PM for a couple hours) at Homestead Bowl in Cupertino. Call Bob or Doug if you have any questions.



Homestead Bowl at Homestead Rd. & Hollenbeck Ave.



A happy bunch, rolling and chatting on a Tuesday afternoon!

FINAL WEEK TOP SCORES			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	541 - Joe Enos	1st	209 - Larry Low
2nd	509 - Bob Taggart-(TIE)	2nd	191 - Marc Haberman
2nd	509 - Scott Hiller-(TIE)	3rd	175 - Arnie Satterlee
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	645 - Doug Anderson	1st	233 - Ron Nakamoto
2nd	611 - Bob Garten	2nd	232 - Bernard Soules
3rd	608 - Harold Kaye	3rd	228 - Ruth Ososkie-(TIE)
		3rd	208 - Bob Feigelson-(TIE)

Doug

# 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

FINAL PLACES - Fall 2024	
1st Place	-- Gordon Frierson, Bernard Soules, Larry Low
2nd Place	-- Marc Haberman, Jim Holman, Harold Kaye
3rd Place	-- Bob Garten, Jerry Ososkie, Ruth Ososkie
4th Place	-- Ken Allen, Bob Taggart, Bob Feigelson
4th Place	-- Joe Enos, Alan Gaudie
4th Place	-- Ron Nakamoto, Daryl Walker, Fred Emmenegger
7th Places	-- Perry Brown, Larry Mailbaum, Doug Anderson
8th Place	-- Scott Hiller, Peter Wong, Jim Narva
9th Place	-- Chris Weberg, Arnie Satterlee, Les Fisher
10th Place	-- Brian Lin

SESSION'S HIGH SCORES			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	588 - Perry Brown	1st	227 - Bob Taggart
2nd	564 - Larry Low	2nd	215 - Scott Hiller
3rd	541 - Joe Enos	3rd	204 - Jerry Ososkie
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	700 - Jim Holman	1st	273 - Brian Lin
2nd	693 - Ron Nakamoto	2nd	249 - Ken Allen
3rd	664 - Ruth Ososkie	3rd	246 - Doug Anderson



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



BRUCE KARNEY 650-964-3567 [bkarney@comcast.net](mailto:bkarney@comcast.net)  
 LARRY LOW 408-533-2651 [llo1721@gmail.com](mailto:llo1721@gmail.com)

See our [web page](#)

**Fixtures for January – sign up now!**

SIGN-UP with John Gerich by Monday Dec 16			
Deep Cliff (DCL3)	Thu Jan 2	9:30	\$43
Eclectic 3 Taboada 925-785-4318 <a href="mailto:tjtaboada@earthlink.net">tjtaboada@earthlink.net</a> / Ogle			
Los Lagos (LLS1)	Mon Jan 6	9:27	\$39
Eclectic 1 Garten 408-253-5860 <a href="mailto:xonon1@comcast.net">xonon1@comcast.net</a> / Hall			
Coyote Creek - V (CCV)	Thu Jan 9	9:35	\$80
Canyon Lakes (CLK) Metheany 408-375-7854 <a href="mailto:brad_metheany@fuhsd.org">brad_metheany@fuhsd.org</a> / ** NEED ATC **			
Scardino 650-743-6819 <a href="mailto:stanscardino@yahoo.com">stanscardino@yahoo.com</a> / Berry			
Spring Valley (SPV)	Thu Jan 16	10:00	\$49
Metheany 408-375-7854 <a href="mailto:brad_metheany@fuhsd.org">brad_metheany@fuhsd.org</a> / ** NEED ATC **			
Los Lagos (LLS2)	Wed Jan 22	9:27	\$39
Eclectic 2 Garten 408-253-5860 <a href="mailto:xonon1@comcast.net">xonon1@comcast.net</a> / ** NEED ATC **			
San Jose Muni (SJM)	Thu Jan 23	9:30	\$49
Jones 650-492-1461 <a href="mailto:crusingken@gmail.com">crusingken@gmail.com</a> / Ogle			
Los Lagos (LLS3)	Mon Jan 27	9:27	\$39
Eclectic 3 Garten 408-253-5860 <a href="mailto:xonon1@comcast.net">xonon1@comcast.net</a> / ** NEED ATC **			
Callippe Preserve (CPR)	Thu Jan 30	10:00	\$68
Weberg 408-205-9120 <a href="mailto:cweberg1@gmail.com">cweberg1@gmail.com</a> / ** NEED ATC **			

**Navarro Shoots the Round of the Month**

Dublin Ranch is an accommodating course, and many Branch 35 members did quite well there on Nov. 4, but none better than **Venicio Navarro**. His net 56 on the par-63 course was 6.6 strokes under his index. Keep up the great work, Venicio!

**Weberg and Kalsi Win the Team Four Ball Championship**

It took two months and 34 holes at three different courses, but **Chris Weberg** and **Balbir Kalsi** finally succeeded in defeating **Bill Hall** and **Bruce Karney** to win the 2024 Team Championship.

Their battle began on Sept. 29 at Spring Valley. Hall and Karney got off to a great start, and at one point were 4 up, but Weberg and Kalsi battled back to tie the match.

The rematch was scheduled for Nov. 11 at Moffett. Play began just as a rain squall set in. Chris and Balbir won the first three holes. As the rain intensified, Bruce and Bill proposed that they suspend the match and finish by playing the final 15 holes on a dry day. The proposal was accepted, and they joined the rest of the waterlogged golfers in Moffett's Hangar Four Grill and Bar.

The dry day arrived on Nov. 21, and they resumed the match at Bay View in Milpitas. They agreed to play the first 3 holes as practice and to restart the match on the 4th. Chris and Balbir won the 4th and 5th to go five up, but Bruce and Bill battled back to win the 6th and 8th, cutting the margin to three at the turn.

Chris carded a beautiful birdie on the 11th to win that hole and his par on the 13th was also a winner. Hall and Karney were now 5 down with 5 to play, but Bill won the 14th with a net par and Bruce won the 15th with a net birdie. The match finally ended on the par-3 16th. Chris and Bill both had net pars, so the Weberg-Kalsi team won by a score of 3 and 2.

Balbir and Chris started their run to the championship with a first-round victory over **John Rittweger** and **Joe Enos** (4 & 3). They next beat **Bob Garten** and **Les Miles** (2 & 1) and punched their ticket to the championship match by defeating **Joe Cioni** and **Larry Low** (3 & 2) in the semi-final round.

**Cioni and McGrath Have a Great Day in NCGA Senior Final**

**Rich McGrath** and **Joe Cioni** were among the top 20 teams invited to the NCGA Senior Series Team Final at the Green Valley Country Club in Fairfield on October 28. Players were all 55 or older, which made the youngest of them young enough to be Joe's (age 85) or Rich's (age 75) kids.

Joe writes: "At a combined age of 160, we were the oldest team in the tournament. We were also among the shortest hitters -- maybe the shortest -- in the tournament. One competitor we were paired with was hitting his drives 90-100 yards past us."

"In any case, we managed to post a net score of 3 under par which put us in 6th place, 5 shots behind the leaders. Among the highlights were a 40-foot putt by Rich on the 18th hole for net birdie and me making birdie putts on two par 3 holes for net eagles (also known as a net hole in one). We won't discuss the lowlights of the round."

**McGrath Prevails in Wind and Rain, and Places Second**



**Richard McGrath** (a former Branch 35 Club Champion) competed in the NCGA Senior Series Championship on Monday, November 11 at the exclusive Claremont Country Club in Oakland. It was built in 1897 and redesigned by Alister Mackenzie in 1929 to create a challenging golf course.

Nearly 200 golfers entered the multiple events that made up the qualifying rounds. The top 20 seniors (55-64) and top 20 super seniors (65+) qualified for the Championship at the Claremont. Richard placed 16th among the super seniors to earn his berth.

At Claremont, Richard and his competitors faced windy and rainy conditions along with bunkers that required a periscope to see the flag stick. Several golfers got so frustrated by the weather that they walked off the course. As **Joe Cioni** would say, "Champions adjust." Undaunted by the weather, Richard finished second and if only a pesky putt or two had dropped he would have won the tournament.

Richard's second-place finish in the final event bumped his season-ending standing from sixteenth to seventh place in the NCGA Senior Series Championship. Congratulations to **SIR** Richard McGrath for garnering recognition for Branch 35!

**Putting is a Matter of Degree**

Putting is an art, but there's some science to it too – or at least some trigonometry. If you can read the putt perfectly, here's how close to the intended line you need to hit the ball to sink it – if you get it to the hole at just the right speed.

On a 1-foot putt your line can be off by as much as ten degrees. But on a 5-footer, any deviation over two degrees will result in a miss. For a 10-footer it's one degree and for a 20-footer it's only half a degree. I think it's remarkable that we ever sink any putts!

**Why are Some Names Printed in Red?**

Achievements in red are **outstanding results** in a Branch 35 tournament that should be applauded by all our golfing members. There are four ways to join the red brigade: (1) if your "over/under score" is -2.0 or better; (2) if your tee shot on a Par 3 is within a putter length of the hole; (3) if you score an eagle or a hole-in-one; or (4) if you shoot your age or better on a course rated 66 or higher.

Cash prizes are \$15 for IPL, \$25 for eagle, \$200 for a hole-in-one and \$200 for the very first time you shoot your age or better in a Branch 35 tournament and \$25 for each subsequent occurrence, but no more than one cash prize per calendar year.

**November's Golf Results:**

Bay View	Par 72	Nov. 21, 2024	
Team		Score	Prize
Peter Daley & Wendell Stephens		56	\$30@
Bernard Soules, Ken Jones, Tim O'Meara & Joe Enos		59	\$15@
Scott Hiller, Brad Metheany, Dick Wilson & Ron Grace		59	\$10@
Low Gross: Peter Daley & Wendell Stephens 71			

Bruce

**STATE SIR GOLF EXCURSION  
BY JOHN RITTWEGER**

As we fell back to Standard Pacific Time, a group of intrepid SIR 35 golfers headed out on a field trip. Responding to SIR State Golf Chairman's invitation, Chairman Ben Gikis, Don Mattson, Herb Petersen, Venicio Navarro, John Rittweger and his wife Lori headed out to The Reserve at Spanos Park on Wednesday, November 6 for a pleasant day of golf. After the breeze died down early on the front nine, the day was perfect golf weather. The comradery and ambience produced a few birdies and some lasting memories. The group gathered after the round for a libation before heading out to Fairfield and the next adventure.



A group picture at the start of the round

After arriving in Fairfield, the group headed to a Japanese steak house for well appreciated and reasonable meal. The members then retired to their respective accommodations. The next morning everyone headed out to Eagle Vines Golf Course in American Canyon. They were joined that day by former SIR 35 member Jim Schlatter and two members from Branch 98 in Roseville; Mark Santor, the Branch Golf Chairman and Mike Kearns, Area 3 Chairman & member of the state golf committee.

2024 Team 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
Final	Bay View	Weberg & Kalsi def. Hall & Karney	3 & 2	\$20@

Blackhorse		Par 72		Oct. 31, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize
Larry Baugher	75	\$22	Venicio Navarro	82	\$17
Herb Petersen	76	\$16	Tim O'Meara	83	\$10
Ken Jones	77	\$12			
Ron Nakamoto	79	\$7			
Low Gross (forward tees): Bill Hall 102					
Low Gross (back tees): Jim Thorne 87					

Dublin Ranch		Par 63		Nov. 4, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize
Alex Bush	57	\$25	Venicio Navarro	56	\$18
Jim Thorne	62	\$19	Dave Ogle	58	\$14
Stan Scardino	63	\$14	Joe Enos	61	\$10
Larry Low	63	\$9			
Herb Petersen	64	\$5			
Shot his age: Joe Cioni (85) shot 80; Jim Thorne (71) shot 68; Alex Bush (69) shot 69					
Inside Putter Length: Alex Bush on #15 (\$15), Jim Narva on #15 (\$15)					
Low Gross (forward tees): Jim Thorne 68					
Low Gross (back tees): Alex Bush 69					

Shoreline ABCD Scramble		Par 72		Nov. 7, 2024	
Team				Score	Prize
Richard McGrath, Stan Scardino, Paul Schutz, Jerry Ososkie				54	\$20 @
John Hall, Balbir Kalsi, Dick Wilson, Ron Grace				56	\$15 @
Low Gross: Team of McGrath, Scardino, Schutz, Ososkie 67 (5 under par)					

Spring Hills		Par 71		Nov. 14, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize
Chris Weberg	78	\$17	Tim O'Meara	70	\$18
Brad Metheany	79	\$10	John Ray	73	\$14
			Balbir Kalsi	74	\$10
Low Gross: Chris Weberg 89					

Castlewood Hill		Par 70		Nov. 18, 2024				
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Jeff Allmon	74	\$22	R. Nakamoto	69	\$22	Peter Wong	75	\$18
Jim Thorne	76	\$16	John Gerich	72	\$16	Balbir Kalsi	77	\$12
Joe Cioni	78	\$11	Larry Baugher	74	\$11	Dave Dardis	78	\$7
Chris Weberg	79	\$6	Robert Berry	79	\$6			
Low Gross (forward tees): Chris Weberg 91								
Low Gross (back tees): Jim Thorne 84								





**State Chairman Ben Gikis prepares to impress!**

That Thursday was warm and picturesque, providing a wonderful venue for the golfers. Some highlights featured a 40 on front side shot by Jim Schlatter. Venicio Navarro blasted a long drive on the fifteenth hole and lofted an approach shot to the far edge of the green. A 65-foot birdie putt navigated a downhill and sloped

course to the hole, hit the pin and dropped in sending Venicio jumping for joy. After the round, the group enjoyed a meal and drinks at the 19th hole before heading home. All participants want to thank Ben Gikis for sponsoring this event.

John

**SPORTS CAR GROUP**

JOHN TUCKER  
(408) 655-5435  
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**SIR 35 November Sports Car FunRun to San Juan Bautista**

John McGowan led 5 sports cars and 7 Sirs on a challenging drive from the Evergreen District of San Jose through southern Santa Clara County, over Hecker pass through farm country beyond Watsonville to historic San Juan Bautista for lunch on November 6th. Highlights included the hills east of the Coyote Valley where UTC used to test rocket engines, and the dark redwood forests of Mt. Madonna State Park, plus the large agricultural complexes south and east of Watsonville. The Mission in San Juan Bautista dates back to the early 1800's, as do some of the historic buildings in town.



Cars and drivers at Uvas Reservoir rest stop

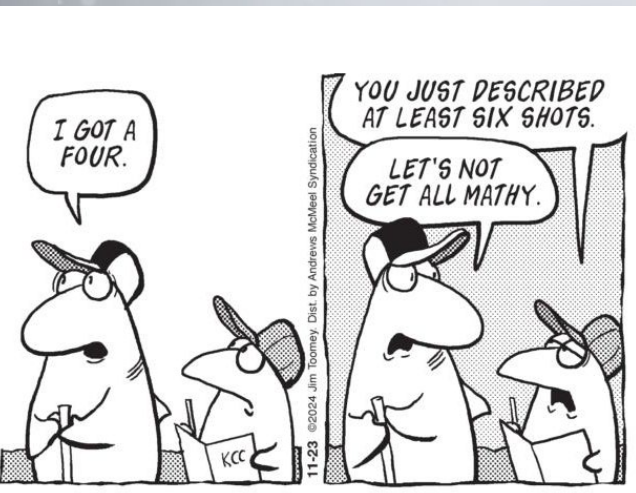


Mexican food on the patio at Jardine's Restaurant

German cars dominated with two Porsches and one BMW, a Lexus and a Corvette. The weather cooperated and was sunny and warm enough for tops to be lowered and the group enjoyed lunch on the back patio of the "Jardines" Mexican Restaurant.

John McGowan

**SHERMAN'S LAGOON: By Jim Toomey**



From: Les Miles

MOVIES

MOVIES

JIM QUILLINAN  
408-838-4379  
[jvquill@pacbell.net](mailto:jvquill@pacbell.net)

See Jim's [web page](#)

Our Movies group will meet on Zoom on Tuesday, December 10th at 3.PM. If interested, contact Jim Quillinan.



**Wicked.** After a year of hype, the extravaganza has arrived. It is enjoyable but does not live up to the hype. At 2 hours and 40 minutes it is too long; but don't despair this is Part One, Part Two is coming in a year. There are many musical numbers with great singing and dancing. The production values are stellar. Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba sings beautifully and is outstanding as the misunderstood Wicked Witch.

Ariana Grande as Glinda (nee Galinda) also sings up a storm as the Good Witch. She continuously tosses her blonde tresses to the point of real annoyance. The traditional Oz story is told as a fable about friendship and trust. Worth seeing in a theatre to experience the grand spectacle. Rated PG for some scary action, thematic material and brief suggestive material. In Theatres everywhere.



**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.** The movie's title tells it all – it is the best Christmas Pageant of all time. In a small town that could be anywhere, the annual Christmas Pageant is the town's keystone annual event. The children tell the story of the Nativity. It is the 75th anniversary if the event. Grace (Judy Greer) finds herself in charge of the event when the traditional director breaks two legs.

Unexpectedly the town hooligans, the Herdmans, show up and take over the pageant. The town folk are up in arms, but Grace sees something genuine in the Herdman kids. Despite all sorts of obstacles, the show must go on and does. This is a "faith based" film that does not preach and tells a good story. Put it on your Christmas list of films to see. Rated PG for thematic material and brief underage smoking. In Theatres. It is a Peggy's Pick.



**A Real Pain.** Even though Jesse Eisenberg wrote, directed and starred in this film, this is Kiernan Culkin's movie. Look for him at Oscar time. On the surface this is a buddy movie, but it is much more. David Kaplan (Eisenberg) and Benji Kaplan (Culkin) are combative cousins who unite for a Holocaust tour through Poland. They plan to honor their grandmother by visiting the home of her birth. A simple story that becomes much more as David has a hyper critical eye and challenges conventional attitudes and perceptions. His style is confrontational, but his diatribes ring true. This is very good film that has strong messages and amazing performances. Be sure to see it. Rated R for language throughout and some drug use. It is a Peggy's Pick.



**We Live in Time.** Almut (Florence Pugh) and Tobias (Andrew Garfield) are marvelous in this unconventional love story. Brought together by a car/pedestrian accident, their lives are changed. They build a life together. First as lovers; then as parents. They face life's challenges together. They realize that time is a precious commodity. They have some surprisingly difficult arguments yet come out of them with even stronger bonds. This is a wonderful indie movie – find it and enjoy. Rated R for language, sexuality and nudity. It is a Peggy's Pick.

Jim



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/>

There is also some marketing material you can use to help when encouraging a friend to come check us out. You can see it at <https://sirinc.org/sir-branded-marketing-materials/>

## MOVIE AND MUSIC HISTORY

RON NAKAMOTO

[RONANDELAINE@COMCAST.NET](mailto:RONANDELAINE@COMCAST.NET)



*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: "Titanic" 1997, Kate Winslett and Leonardo DiCaprio

Released on December 19, 1997, this epic movie grossed \$28.6 million through the first weekend of showings and to date has a cumulative gross revenue of \$2.2 billion. The budget itself was an astounding \$200 million, the most ever at that time. Remember the long wait lines? Even that experience was epic.

Here is the backstory to one of the top grossing films of all time.

Filming took from July 1996 to March 1997 (nine months). The on-site shoots, which are the most costly, had an original schedule of six months which compares to an industry standard of 60-90 days. The daily attendance of cast members, extras, wardrobe, make-up, production crew, catering, etc. had an average of 800-1000 people on location. No wonder expenses exceeded the budget soon after shooting started.



**A large vessel: on-set for the sinking**

James Cameron at the helm of this large vessel of a movie was a big plus, given his recent successes with "The Terminator", and "Aliens", but his lead actors were not proven box office draws, and his reputation for perfection drove many takes and retakes to the point where actors like Kate Winslet suffered hypothermia and nearly drowned several times. Was this backstory true? Well, here is a quote from Mr. Cameron himself responding to bad press rumors. "My manner on the set is intense, and I never give up until I know the scene is the best it can be. I ask people to rise to my level of commitment every single day."



**Cameron on-scene with Winslett, who '...suffered hypothermia and nearly drowned several times...'**

The actresses considered to play Rose included Reese Witherspoon, Winona Ryder, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Claire Danes. It is reported that Claire Danes said she turned down the role because she knew the film would be successful and she wasn't ready for the amount of attention it would bring her. (Editor's note: *Isn't acting all about attention, fame, and fortune?*) The actors considered for Jack included Matthew McConaughey and Johnny Depp. Depp was one of the most in-demand actors during this time and was offered the role but turned it down because the 180-page script was too long for him to get through. (Editor's note: *Who said Hollywood actors are not pampered and privileged?*) By the way, Kate Winslett was 22 years old, and Leonardo DiCaprio was 20 years old when they starred in this film. (Editor's note: *Youth ... sigh...*)



**Winslett and DiCaprio learning to fly**

Rumors of a box office dud was the talk amongst the crew with their grinding work schedule, the conditions under which they had to shoot, and the director's tyrannical push for authenticity. The studio executives at Paramount were also very anxious, with tens of millions over budget on a "tent pole" (Hollywood term for a hundred million film budget), given the recent super flops of "Waterworld", "Cutthroat Island", "Last Action Hero", and of course the all-time dud "Heaven's Gate" which forced United Artists into bankruptcy.

At one point during filming, in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, cast and crew members fell sick with ambulances lining up to transport them to the hospital. The cause was lobster chowder which someone had spiked with the hallucinogen PCP. There was talk about getting back at the Director...

Beyond the gross receipts that indicate a winner, the film was recognized with 11 Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Score, Best Cinematography, and yes, Best Visual Effects. James Cameron won three Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Film Editing.



#### The end justifies the means?

In the end, Cameron never lost sight of the movie's real appeal, a love story between two persons of different class stature whom faith had put together and circumstances had pulled apart, but memory of their time together lived on in the memory of an old lady and her story. So, in the end was James Cameron's behavior justified, given what he accomplished? Sometimes, the end justifies the means.

Here is the official theatrical trailer for 'Titanic', it is an astounding four plus minutes long, again unheard of at the time.

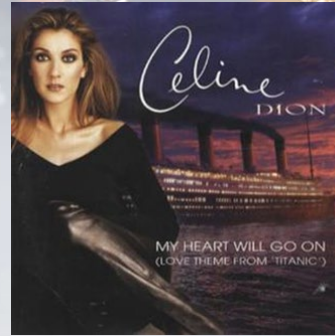
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFQ2AZVQ9mg>

If you are a fan of technology and specifically 3D in film, you should view this featurette narrated by James Cameron, Writer/Director and Jon Landau, Producer on the conversion of the film to 3D format.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4hqx1Uj19A>

As this movie was so titanic in many ways, here is a bonus link to view some behind the scenes commentary from James Cameron and Kate Winslett on their personal experiences during the making of this film.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vs8IAiOX84>



#### Music: "My Heart Will Go On", Celine Dion

This most memorable song was composed by James Horner who created it as an instrumental motif for the Titanic soundtrack. He later thought he could develop it into a song and enlisted lyricist Will Jennings to write the lyrics "from the point of view of a person of a great age looking back so many years".

The now-composed song was originally intended for the Norwegian singer Sissel Kyrkjebø to sing, but a colleague of Horner suggested Celine Dion with whom he had worked on some of her hits. Celine at this time had just finished "Beauty and the Beast" and "Because You Loved Me" and was tired, so declined the opportunity. Her husband, Rene, heard the song and soon convinced his wife to sign on to do it.

Horner carried the demo disk around until Cameron had some time "... and was in a good mood". After listening to it several times, he approved it but worried that it was too commercial to complement the movie, but he also knew that a hit song would add to a movie's panache, so he gave the go ahead. The official version you hear in the movie was produced by Walter Afanasieff who did not like Horner's demo version and replaced all instrumental parts of the demo except for Celine's singing.

Here is the official video release of the Oscar winning song, scrolling through many of the memorable scenes as it unfolds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2RnxZnubCM&t=122s>

Here is Celine's own video of her singing the song. It was very well done and worth viewing. She is a good person who was gifted with a powerful singing voice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bFHsd3o1w0>

Footnote: Sissel Kyrkjebø sang the arias on the Titanic, including the "I'm flying" scene with the couple at the bow of the ship. She was later selected to sing the song at the premiere of Titanic 3-D at the Royal Albert Hall, England and she also sang "The Olympic Hymn" at the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. Here is Sissel recording the opening aria to Titanic. What a voice!

<https://www.tiktok.com/@tripon531/video/7250864793190452485?lang=en>

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

Editor's Note: This concludes my second year as Editor of these monthly articles. As I plan next year's article selections, I would like your comments and nominations for movies and songs choices that you remember as you travelled through your life. Send your nominations to [ronandelaine@comcast.net](mailto:ronandelaine@comcast.net)

Happy Holidays to All!



## Let's Celebrate 2024 with our Holiday Celebration Luncheon



It's time for our 2024 Holiday Celebration with your fellow SIR family. Our celebration party will be at the Mountain View Community Center, Redwood Hall on December 11th (2nd Wednesday). Doors open at 11:00am, with check in, table assignment, and some social time to mingle with your fellow members and friends. The buffet service will start at 11:40 am, and at 12:20pm we will be entertained by the MVHS Madrigal Singers. I'm sure they will put you in the holiday mood with their youth and splendid singing.

Our caterer, Eisenhauer, will provide a festive Traditional Holiday Meal of Roasted Bosc Pear Friscee Salad, Roasted Turkey with Gravy, House Made Stuffing, Seasonal Roasted Vegetables, Yukon Gold Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Baked Dinner Rolls w/Butter, Gourmet Desserts. Citrus Water, Gourmet Coffee and Tea.

The tables which seat 8 will have fine dining plates, utensils, and glasses, along with holiday decorations and some sweets for the ladies. We recommend bringing your choice of wine to share with your table. The price is \$65 per person.

Put on your holiday best and here's looking forward to see you at our Branch family Holiday Celebration.

Peter Wong  
Big Sir

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

**SIR State Officers**

State President	<b>Rich Carlston</b> (925) 324-0838	State Vice President	<b>Lee Lamp</b> (530) 921-1375
State Secretary	<b>Jeff Chin</b> (209) 602-3912	State Dir. of Branch Support	<b>Jim Gragg</b> (916) 708-5154

**Branch 35 Executive Committee (BEC)**

Big Sir (President)	<b>Peter Wong</b> (408) 921-4884	Little Sir (Vice President)	<b>Jerry Ososkie</b> (408) 219-6924
Secretary	<b>Leland Chan</b> (510) 490-5369	Asst. Secretary	<b>Dave Squellati</b> (408) 334-7988
Treasurer	<b>Larry Low</b> (408) 533-2651	Asst. Treasurer	<b>Jim Narva</b> (408) 930-3353
Chairman (Young Guns), Senior Advisor	<b>Ron Nakamoto</b> (408) 440-2330	Chairman (Special Events)	<b>Ben Gikis</b> (408) 802-0794
Chairman, Senior Advisor	<b>Andy Danver</b> (650) 906-3747		
Director (Communications)	<b>John Rittweger</b> (650) 740-3156	Director (Membership)	<b>Paul Schutz</b> (408) 313-6852
Director (Technology)	<b>Richard Blackborow</b> (408) 314-2378	Director (Activities)	<b>Joe Enos</b> (408) 499-9614

**Staff Chairmen**

Attendance	<b>Bill Young</b> (650) 493-1710	Audio/Visual Support	<b>Ron Schoengold</b> (408) 309-9830
Auditing	<b>Gerry Feeney</b> (408) 515-8604	Beverage Service	<b>Ben Gikis</b> (408) 802-0794
Historian/Photos	<b>Frank Crossman</b> (650) 493-9182	HLM	<b>Bob Garten</b> (408) 253-5860
Luncheon Host	<b>Dave Squellati</b> (408) 334-7988	Medical Emergency Resp.	<b>Dave Ogle</b> (650) 704-2130
Membership Roster	<b>Jerry Belden</b> (650) 207-6280	New Member Orientation	<b>Paul Schutz</b> (408) 313-6852
Trail Tips Editor	<b>Pat O'Connor</b> (408) 480-0409	Wellness & Comfort	<b>Pat O'Connor</b> (408) 480-0409
Website Maintenance	<b>John Ray</b> (408) 386-3573		

**Activity Chairmen**

Bicycling	<b>Gordy Tong</b> (408) 242-0557	Personal Finance	<b>Bob Booth</b> (408) 307-3274
Bocce Ball (Co-Chair)	<b>Richard Oehlberg</b> (650) 823-7720	Bocce Ball (Co-Chair)	<b>Michael Maurier</b> (650) 384-5754
Book Club	<b>Jerry Belden</b> (650) 207-6280	Book Swap	<b>Tim Topole</b> (650) 793-0838
Bowling	<b>Doug Andersen</b> (415) 407-4000	Bridge	<b>Mark Levi</b> (650) 305-9132
Chess	<b>Ben Kuckens</b> (650) 400-0353	Golf	<b>Les Miles</b> (408) 528-5473
Hiking	<b>John Tucker</b> (408) 655-5435	Movies	<b>Jim Quillinan</b> (408) 838-4379
Trail Birds	<b>David Skurnick</b> (650) 796-5314	Wine Finders	<b>Alan Gaudie</b> (650) 575-4332
Dining In (interim)	<b>Andy Danver</b> (650) 906-3747	Sports Cars Group	<b>John Tucker</b> (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 - December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Golf 10:00am Spring Valley \$48	3 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	4 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Pers. Finance 1:00pm Moffett Field Museum Library	5 Golf 9:28am Deep Cliff \$40	6 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Hiking 10:00am Mt. Umunhum Trail	7
8	9 Golf 9:27am Los Lagos \$36	10 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl Movies 3:00pm Zoom Meeting	11 Holiday Luncheon 11:00am - 1:30pm Mountain View Community Center	12 Golf 9:28am Deep Cliff \$40	13 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	14
15	16 Golf 9:30am Sunnyvale \$39	17 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	18 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	19	20 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	21
22	23	24 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl				