

Spring is sprung, let's have some fun!

So glad the wind and rainy season has passed us, and we can enjoy some sun and fun outside!

Spring is traditionally a time when we emerge from winter shelter and work on projects halted by winter.

So maybe this is a good time to think about recruiting new members for our branches. There are plenty of community events in spring and summer where we can set up a table and reach out to prospects.

It is also a time when we reconnect with folks in our neighborhoods and towns. A great way to show folks you care about their happiness and health is to share the gift of SIR membership! So, go to work and give the gift of SIR to someone like yourself!

State SIR has been sending out Recipes for Membership to your branch leaders to provide some great ideas about how other branches have successfully increased membership. We hope branch leaders will talk about these ideas at BEC meetings and put them to work.

Soon we will be distributing a short message to every SIR member on how individual members can increase membership in their branches.

We will also be asking for 12 minutes or so at your monthly luncheon to present a brief slide show on this topic. We sincerely believe we can help each one of you find new members for your branch.

Best wishes and lots of fun in SIR,

Dave
2023 SIR State President



Sir Lee Moy is the State SIR Chairman of the Growth & Membership Committee. He has developed complimentary flyers that reinforce the messages mentioned in the nearly 50 recipe cards.

The cards will be distributed through the Area Representatives, who will share them with their respective branches. Membership buy-in would assist with ways to improve branch community outreach; increase fun at luncheons; entice the recruitment of new folks by offering more activities to engage in.

Four areas of focus are shown on Page 2 of the SIR Happenings. Sample recipe flyers are displayed on Pages 3 thru 6. Enjoy!

Lee will be visiting successful branches in the near future in search of their "secret sauce" for their abundant success.

Jerry Sabo

Happenings Editor



How will WE do this?



- Act as a consulting resource to the Branches
- Service to branches above compliance
- Seek out Branch needs
- Offer sensible solutions to Branch needs

Make a Splash



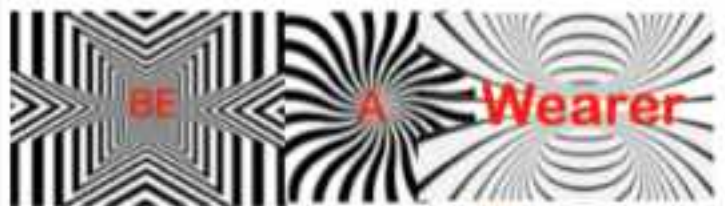
Have your newest members be part of the Greater Committee along with the BIC volunteers.

Wear: SIR shirts, especially at our "Celebration of our Creation" - July

Consider wearing sport team jerseys; Have a Hawaiian shirt day

Play some music to set the mood; Sing an extra song or two

+ Add some *pizzazz* to your Luncheon +



CELEBRATE OUR OWN CREATION

JULY 23, 1958-2023
(WEAR SIR APPAREL DAY)



July SIR Apparel Month



Celebration of our own Creation

Show your SIR pride
Wear SIR apparel
at your branch's
July monthly luncheon



Minority Outreach

Actively welcome men of all races.
Invite them to join in golf tourneys.
Recruit at their festivities.
A necessary infusion of diverse cultures.





“Where everyone knows your name.”

Branch Greeter



Allow new members and your BEC directors to form a Greeter Committee and welcome members at lunches.



Hawaiian Shirt Day

Brighten up your monthly luncheon with laughter and levity. Give wearing theme-style shirts a try.





Oh Rah! for our Home Team

* Sports Memorabilia Day: shirt, jacket, hat *

Dress to Impress

Wear your favorite team's colors at a luncheon.

NFL, NBA, MLB, College

“Be true to your school”



Purchase Package

1, 2, 3...easy as A, B, C

1-Individual-A

Wear your SIR pride proudly.
Purchase hats, shirts, casual sweats
with SIR symbol/logo.



2-Luncheon/Golf Activity-B

Post a sandwich board and/or a banner that clearly signifies your branch's presence.

Display SIR brochures in holders, and affix SIR posters onto business windows.

3-Connect Community-C

Send in newspaper SIR article for local publications.



Imagine if you will. Being welcomed at your branch's luncheon by the Greeter Committee members. 1: With piped in soft background music playing or a slightly more upbeat sound creating a soothing atmosphere. 2: Organize a choral group to make presentations from time-to-time. 3: Increase song selections by adding patriotic songs: Ray Charles-"America the Beautiful, My Country tis of Thee, You're a Grand Ole Flag, This Land is Your Land, Star-Spangled Banner."



Joining the SIR State Photography Club can be a great way to find motivation, inspiration, and learn more through challenges, sharing knowledge and personal experiences. In the true spirit of SIR, this will be a non-competitive club with acknowledgements nevertheless. The niche interest will vary. Consideration to have Zoom lectures. Play a small role in SIR history documentation; focusing around a Facebook group as it's platform that is easier to update and encourage participation; Instagram or Flickr profile. Try [MeetUp.com](https://www.meetup.com) to organize gatherings and you will increase membership while they search your new group and may join SIR.

2023 STATE OFFICERS
STATE PRESIDENT Dave Gonzales
VICE-PRESIDENT Dale Decker
SECRETARY Russ Salazar
STATE TREASURER Carl Mason
CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER Roy Hodgkinson



Keep up-to-date

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

Send news and questions to:
Jerry Sabo, Executive Editor Email:
jlsabo3@comcast.net

Sammy Lum,
Assistant Editor Email:
lumsam@sbcglobal.net

Note from the Happenings Editor

When the SIR Happenings gets compiled, I gather information from every SIR Branch that sends their Branch Newsletter to me. In this issue, several of the articles that I usually include are missing because I did not receive the Branch Newsletter. If you would like to submit comments or suggestions please email me at jlsabo3@comcast.net.

I would recommend that many of the newsletter editors take the time to go over one of the videos that I uploaded into YouTube involving embedding photos into a document. There is a question that many of you might have—Why is the Happenings (a 60+ page document) less than 5 GB in size while many newsletters that I receive from branches are as large as 25 GB (for an 8 page document)?

See https://youtu.be/YHd2O_kZUPs
Other YouTube tutorials can be found on our Branch 59 website at <https://sirbranch59.org/cyber-geezer-tutorial-videos/>

Thank you all for your input. I welcome your suggestions and your feedback. What would you like in the Happenings that has been left out?

Jerry Sabo

Publication Deadline for Future Issues

SIR Happenings will be published Quarterly

Deadline for future issues will be:

- *January 15 for the February Issue*
- *April 15 for the May Issue*
- *July 15 for the November Issue*
- *October 15 for the November Issue*

SIR Publicity

<https://www.wearesir.com/>

San Mateo

Sons in Retirement

"There are no strangers here, only friends that haven't met." W. B. Yeats

Data & Predictions

Electric Vehicle Market

Without doubt, electric vehicles (EVs) will replace most of those powered with gasoline or diesel fuel.

However, with all the hype around EVs, it's worthwhile to take a step back and look at the data. After reading a dozen different articles, your humble editor recommends one by Jacob Zinkula in the January 16, 2023 Business Insider. It provides an excellent summary of the current situation, identifies the more prudent and reasonable predictions of the future, and includes the following:

Electric vehicles (EV) sales ...

... in 2022, increased globally by 68% over 2021.

... in 2022, accounted for 10% of global auto sales.

... in 2022, sustained the largest increases in Europe (11%) and China (19%).

... by 2030, are expected to as much as quadruple over 2022 EV sales.

... are growing faster than some experts predicted, for example, by 2030, they will comprise 37% of U.S.

auto sales (from survey of 900 auto industry executives) and 7-12% of global sales (from International Energy Agency).

A key element of the US market is the \$7,500 federal tax credit, which Congress enacted in hope that EVs would reach 50% of total US auto sales by 2030.

A slowing of EV sales growth in the U.S. led to price cuts on top EV models. For instance, Tesla cut prices by up to 20% in an effort to maintain its market share.

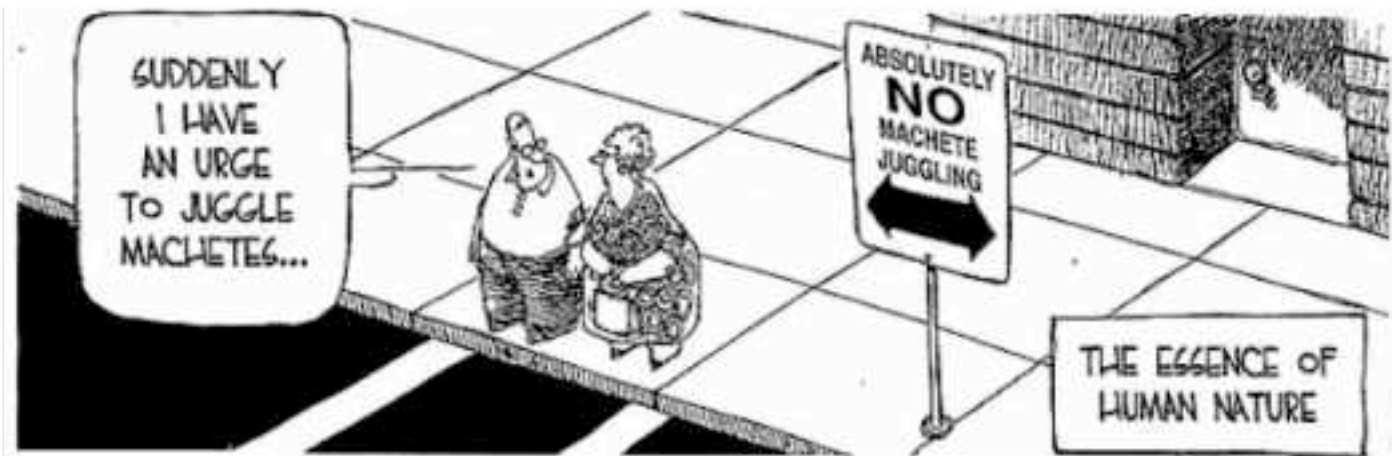


Recharging My Tesla On the Road 9

Body Ink, Waddya Think?

Startlingly, one in four Gen Zs have a tattoo! A survey of 20,000 randomly selected tattoo photos on social media found that the five most common bits of skin art are "rose" (7.8%), "popular adage" (5%), "skull" (4.5%), "pop art" (4.4%), and "bird" (3.9%). The five most common tattoo themes are "animals" (16.3%), "script" (13.6%), "flowers" (12.5%), "works of art" (8.2%), "face" (5.3%). Tattoos on men are most likely found on chest, back, biceps, forearm, and ankle. Tattoos on women are most likely found on front shoulder, back shoulder, back, ribcage, forearm, ankle. 21% of American adults who have a tattoo regret getting it. Their comments include "I was too young (or foolish, or drunk) when I got the tattoo" (20%), "it's permanent, I'm marked for life" (19%), and "I just don't like it anymore" (18%). Among those seeking tattoo removal, more than half reported that they "suffered embarrassment" due to a tattoo.





Reacting Against Threats to Freedom

Reactance Bias

Reactance bias (sometimes called the *Forbidden Fruit Principle*) is a strong, unconscious cognitive bias that folks instinctively employ to resist constraints on their personal freedom. Having control over actions and behavior is one of humans' most important and valued needs. Folks value their ability to choose freely, and choice is equated with freedom. Indeed, people become distressed, angry, and even aggressive to actual loss of freedom and even to perceived infringement on freedom.

Reactance bias manifests as folks' impulsive tendency to do the opposite of what is asked simply to assert their freedom to do what they want. Look at the example in the above cartoon. The psychological phenomenon of **reactance** is an emotional reaction to pressure or persuasion that results in the "knee jerk" strengthening or adoption of a contrary belief or exercise of a contrary action.

Studies of free behaviors and how folks react to their removal, or to threats of their removal, have revealed certain dynamics of **reactance**. When free behavior is threatened or removed, (1) the *more important* the free behavior is to an individual, the greater the magnitude of their **reactance**, (2) the greater the *level of threat* of its removal, the greater that magnitude of the **reactance**, and (3) the more *imminent* a threat, the more immediate and reflexive the **reactance**. When folks see another person's free behavior threatened or removed, they sense a threat to the same behavior. The less a social influence threatens folk's core freedoms, the less likely they are to induce **reactance**.

4

Latest installment in ongoing series covering all 218 currently-recognized cognitive Biases.

Primer on Contrarianism

Contrarians are folks who oppose or reject popular opinion or oppose current practices. It can be a label of either praise and condemnation. Some folks rejoice in the title while others shun it. Some folks see **contrarians** as courageous, unconventional, counterintuitive thinkers, who withstand herding pressures. **Contrarians** may suffer abuse from crowd-following **conformists**. Others may see **contrarians** as maverick, out-of-touch denialists who are unable to see the obvious. What makes an individual a **contrarian**? **Why are they able to resist pressures to conform**? And is this position always desirable? Psychologists and sociologists have been studying these questions for around 80 years, but these two types of social scientists have evolved significantly different views. Sociologists are likely to see **contrarians** as **deviants**, while psychologists may see them as **healthy, independent thinkers**.

Anticonformity Bias

Anticonformists intentionally do precisely the opposite of what a group does. They have rebellious personalities and are internally motivated to disrupt the balance of a group, and are not influenced by social forces or norms.

The difference between **reactance** and **anticonformity bias** is that **reactance** is *subconscious* response to a threat to personal freedom, while **anticonformity bias** is a *conscious* reaction to a group's position regarding an event or situation.

Conformity Bias

Conformity bias is the tendency of many folks to behave like those around them rather than using their own personal, independent judgment. Folks exhibiting this cognitive bias are more comfortable mimicking others, even regarding ethical matters.

Conformity bias can be seen as the “other side of the coin” from **Reactance bias** and **Contrarianism**. Studies show that many folks are more likely to act in a “prosocial” manner, such as contributing to charity or conserving water, if they see or hear that others are doing it too. Knowing that those around them are making an ethical choice indicates it’s the social norm, and this makes it easier for folks to follow suit. Unfortunately, the flip side is also true. As psychologist Dan Ariely notes, “Cheating is contagious. When folks see others succeed by cheating, they are more likely to cheat as well, rather than use their own independent, ethical judgment.”

Factors Influencing Choice Between Conformity vs. Anti-conformity

Research with human volunteers supports all of the following attributes of human psychology.

Task difficulty and ambiguity: the more difficult the task, or ambiguous the pressure to conform, the more folks look to others for clues on how to behave.

Nature of the stimulus: conforming behavior varies considerably with the type of judgment people are asked to make — the more factual and clear the problem, the less conformity occurs.

Source certainty: the more certain folks are of the reliability and correctness of their source of influence, the more likely they are to conform to it. The greater the reputation of the guru or pundit, the more likely herding behavior will occur around them.

Group size: If more serious pundits agree on a particular issue, the more likely folks will follow them.

Personality factors: folks with low self-confidence and more authoritarian attitudes conform more. More mature folks and those higher ego-strength conform less.

Private or public behavior: people tend to conform more when asked to give their judgment or behave publicly rather than privately. Anonymity has a powerful impact on conformity – hence secret voting.

Consistency of the minority: a convinced, coherent minority can greatly influence majority opinion. To



have any effect on the majority, the minority must be united and consistent in its position. Thus, small, strong, articulate, “contrarian sects” often can have a surprisingly powerful effect on the herding conformists.

Unanimity of group judgment: the more unanimous the group judgment, the more conformity is elicited. Quite small amounts of deviation from the majority lead to a large reduction in conformity. Ultimately, it only takes a few non-conformist contrarians to make herding falter.

Group composition and attraction: cohesive groups of high status and prestigious experts tend to elicit the most conformity. A guru’s opinion carries more weight, encourages herding, and discourages contrarianism.

Group acceptance: successful, clever folks are more often allowed to be contrarians. Only folks whose contrarian positions have been more right than wrong are viewed as serious, valuable contrarians.

Previous success or failure of the group: folks will conform more to a group with a past history of success than to one that has regularly failed. So, paradoxically, successful contrarians attract a loyal following, while failed conformists soon lose their glitter.

Cultural factors: they tend to be more individualistic. For example, folks in the Anglo-Saxon world have less pressure to conform than collectivistic cultures. Also, homogenous cultures and those with strong religious or political ideology tend to be more conformist.

Personality factors: folks with low self-confidence and more authoritarian attitudes conform more. More mature folks and those with higher ego-strength conform less.

Sound Familiar?

Early 20th-Century Slang

Branch Number One SIRs most likely heard their parents or grandparents using some of these terms.

Annie Oakley: a free ticket to a performance or sporting event. The phrase was coined by baseball player Ben Johnson.

Againstster: everyone who knows someone who loves to be the voice of opposition. To us, they're a hater or a contrarian. To our early 20th-century counterparts, they were an againstster.



Thank You, To Our Titillating Trio of Tremendous Proofers: Ed, Kevin, and Mike

Our Fine Publication

Salvation of the punctuation,
Mutation of a conjugation,
Our Eds do it bluntly,
Supporting us monthly,
Creating this fine publication. (by Ed.)

Bean Ball: (in baseball) a pitch chucked straight at the batter's head. Getting "beaned" by anything—a shoe, a fist, etc.—meant you got walloped in the head by it.

Beezer: A nose (originally prize fight slang) or an intelligent person (why is unclear).

Bosh: a noun or interjection meaning "nonsense." "Bosh" means empty or worthless in Turkish.

Chucklesome: amusing.

Conchie: conscientious objector.

Flivver: small, cheap, old automobile or airplane

Hipe: rifle; any gun

Imshi: go away (from Arabic)

Jake: excellent, admirable, fine; slightly jazzier spin-offs included *jakeloo*, *jakealoo*, and *jakerloo*.

The Life of Riley: an untroubled, happy existence.

Lunker: a big fish or any animal that exceeds size expectations.

Meller: melodrama morphed to mellerdrammer, which shortened to meller.

Saltash Luck: thankless or fruitless task that involves getting thoroughly wet (naval slang).

Up to Putty: worthless or useless.

Woofits: old evocative term to describe depression.



New SIR Branch Number One Members

James (Jim) D. Biernat lives in Sausalito. Before retiring he worked as an Attorney for Safeco Insurance. His interests include baseball, biking, book discussion, bridge, chess, chorus, cooking, digital photography, economics study, football, gardening, golf, investments, travel, and wine tasting (sponsored by Bill Brown).

Michael (Mike) J. Del Carlo and wife Mary live in San Mateo. Before retiring he worked as a retail clerk. His interests include fishing, gardening, and hunting wine bargains (sponsored by Bill Brown)

Joe M. Milner lives in Half Moon Bay. His interests include biking, bocce, crab feeds, golf, travel, veterans activities (sponsored by Michael Garb).

John Farcich lives in San Carlos. Before retiring he worked as a manager in distribution manufacturing. His interests include biking, bocce, bowling, football, games night, golf, horseshoes, pickle ball, and pool (sponsored by Mike Garoutte).



Join a Group (or two) & Get Involved Branch One Activities

BOCCE BALL: Team play for exercise and fun. Just show up ready to play. Every Friday, 10 am-12 pm, Beresford Park, San Mateo. Chris Witzel, cawitze38@gmail.com



BOOK DISCUSSION: Meets bi-weekly 1pm Friday, alternating between in-person discussion of a book at a member's home and open discussion of topics of interest via ZOOM. Jon Miller, (650-349-4106) jm330@att.net



March 3: *Prisoners of the Castle* by Ben Macintyre
March 31: *The Great Bridge* by David McCullough

BOWLING: League bowling, all skill levels. New bowlers acquire an "average" after 3 weeks, then join a team with a vacancy. Fridays. 10 am, BelMateo Bowl, Mike Garoutte, garouttes@aol.com (650-867-5717)



COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY: Monthly on 4th Tuesday, 10:00-11:30+ Redwood Shores Library. Ralph Riviello (650-773-9086) r.riviello@comcast.net



DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY:
Meetings currently suspended.
Herb Deitz (650-766-2926)
herbnj@gmail.com



ECONOMICS/CURRENT EVENTS
Meetings currently suspended.



Activities, the heart and soul of SIR, where friendships are made, developed, & deepened.
John Jordan, ddblljj@aol.com (650-544-8893)

GENEALOGY: Monthly on 1st Tuesday, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm via ZOOM, open discussion on topics of interest to the group, Kevin Moran m.kevin.moran@gmail.com (650-477-0493)



GOLF: Please confirm before attending; Rich Castro, 650-347-8133, reastro8@aol.com or Michael Garb, michaelgarb@comcast.net 650-218-5629



Wed	March 1	Shoreline	10:00 am
Thurs	March 9	Lake Chabot	10:00 am
Wed	March 15	Callippe	10:38 am
Wed	March 22	Poppy Ridge	10:00 am
Wed	March 29	Los Lagos	10:00 am



PICKLEBALL: Just show up in gym shoes (NO RUNNING SHOES) for doubles play. Thursdays, 10 am-12 Washington Park, 850 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame. John Jordan, 650-544-8893, ddblljj@aol.com (see pp. 9-10)

STOCK STUDY GROUP: Monthly on 2nd Monday, San Mateo Senior Center, 10:00-12:00 am, Jim Felker, (650-342-8103), jamesfelker@comcast.net; Alan Melnicoe, melnicoe@sbcglobal.net (650-343-2074)



TENNIS: Doubles play for exercise and fun. Just show up ready to play. Every Tuesday, 9am. San Mateo Central Park Courts, San Mateo, Bill Schmid, bill72240@aol.com





A Non-profit Organization For Retired Men

HOROLOGIUM

Monthly Newsletter - Est. 1963

North Bay Branch No. 7, San Rafael

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch7

<http://www.sirinc2.org/branch7>

New Members

#52 Lenny Ciancioio
#99 Thomas Martindale
#94 Ladd Sievenpiper
#55 Mark Swartz

IN MEMORIUM

Former Branch 7
member MacStaley
died in December.

Humor Section – Another year older....

Getting older is just one body part after another saying, "Ha-ha, you think that's bad? Watch this. I hate it when I see an old person and then realize we went to high school together.

You know you're getting old when you barely do anything all day, but still need to have a nap to continue to do barely anything.

Last night I ordered a glass of wine with my dinner and the waiter asked for my ID. I replied, "Do I look that young?", and the waiter said, "No, I just wanted to see if you qualified for the Senior Citizen discount."

Getting old sucks. I used to wake up feeling like a million bucks...now I feel more like a bounced check.

Old age comes at a bad time. When you finally know everything, you start to forget everything you know.

We might be old...but we had great hair, listened to cool music, and drove the best cars.

Humor Section – And winter continues...

Today's forecast...Holy crap I can't feel my face degrees.

Does shivering count as exercise?

The problem with going outside in the cold at my age is by the time I get all bundled up, I've forgotten where I was going.

Great, the sun is out. Now I can get sunburn and frostbite at the same time.

On a positive note.... I haven't seen any mosquitos in weeks!

There's a trick to driving on ice...and apparently no one knows it.

Car Passenger: "This is my least favorite time of year." Driver: "I know, I'm not a fan of 'warming up the car' season, either."

Helpful tip – Tired of shoveling your driveway? Spray everything with water at night. The snow won't stick when it's wet 😊

Dear Mother Nature - Please get back on your meds, pop open a bottle of wine, and start thinking warm, happy thoughts.

Q: When is a boat just like snow?

A: When it's a drift!



Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA

New Website: www.sir17.org

THE REDWOOD BARK NEWSLETTER

Recruiting:

(Article by Rich de Lambert)

Get in line to receive your medal for 2022! Our branch went off the charts due to your hard work. The year 2023 presents us with all kinds of opportunities. In the last year we have learned how important it is to get out and shake a lot of hands and meet potential members. Nothing is easy, but we have a wonderful Branch Executive Committee (BEC) and a strong recruiting committee that includes Bill Grafeld and Tony Negri. With your help our branch can reach new heights and open opportunities for a branch our size that have not been available to us. The state organization has also recognized us and is watching our branch. I am proud to be your recruiting chairman. Please work with me again for a successful year. We have a great committee, but they can't do it by themselves. If you have questions or can help out with our recruiting efforts, please contact me at richdelambert@gmail.com or call (707) 545-3490.



Doing My Part pins awarded to: L/R) David Harris, Ken Fox, Tony Negri, Dean Lundgren, Gordon Boulton. (Both photos by Rich Osborne)



Guests (left to right) John Acocella, Duane Peterson, Claude Schwarz

Our newest member



Duane Peterson, Inductee being congratulated by Big Sir Gary Bondi (Photo by Steve Carey)



90 Year award winner Ken Johnson.



90 Year Award Winner Duane Jensen



Marvin Schouweile (left) receives his I'm Doing My Part pin for sponsoring Dan Sullivan.



New Member Badge #131 Jim Richards



New Member Badge #066 Russell Dieter



New Member Badge #045 Barney Hays

Community Involvement Program:

It is a great to be a volunteer at the Redwood Empire Food Bank. In 2022 alone it assisted 117,000 people and provided twenty-one million meals. The Sonoma Valley Food Assessment Report, as reported in The Press Democrat Feb. 18, stated that in 2022 up to 8,000 people in Sonoma Valley faced food insecurity. Eleven of us worked at the Redwood Empire Food Bank on February 2 from 10 am to noon. We bagged 3-pound units of apples for distribution for those in need. This is a great opportunity for camaraderie when we work together. Your physical ability is not a problem as chairs and tables are available for workers who need them. We hope that you can join us in our next volunteer activity at the Redwood Empire Food Bank and experience the good feeling of helping others. Wear your SIR apparel so our Branch 17 is identified. The date is set for March 2nd from 10 am to noon. Just tell us (George, Rich, Barry, or Bob) that you are coming so we can inform the Food Bank of our number. The Redwood Empire Food Bank is located by the Airport at 3990 Brickway Blvd., in Santa Rosa. In the future we plan to be at the Food Bank every first Thursday of the month from 10 am to noon. If you can't make it on the 2nd, plan for next month. You can find us on the www.sir17.org website under the first Thursday of each month. All the information related to time and place is on that site. We are also planning other volunteer activities in the future. If you have any ideas, tell us. Watch for future announcements. Don't forget to bring used eyeglasses and hearing aids to the next monthly meeting. We will give them to charitable organizations to be used by the needy. There is no need for someone not to see or hear when those unused eyeglasses or hearing aids are only collecting dust in a dresser drawer.

Barry Bialkoski and Bob Reuther, Co-Chairs Rich de Lambert and George Traverso, Co-Vice Chairs

Pictures of Couples' Night Out at Kirin, on 2-23-2023



Jean + Jim Fenstermaker
Janie Gallagher + Fred Rose



Max + Nancy Rogers



Joyce + Art Appling

Lorraine + Robert Reuther



Neil Weaver
Kurt Weikensky

Bonnie Carter
Paige Weikensky



Ted + Lynn Scapozza

Dee + Gary Bondi

What a wonderful dinner featuring the great food and lots of conversation between the 13 couples who attended this event. It started out as just a normal evening but with the dark clouds that finally turned into a heavy downpour of rain. No problem, we were all dry inside and just stayed a little longer until the rain decided to let up a little bit, then we made a run for it to our cars.

SIR members working in the Community Involvement Program at the Redwood Empire Food Bank on March 2, 2023



L/R: Gary Bunas from Oakmont Branch 92, Gordon Boulton, Dennis Mangan, Jim Taylor, Bob Reuther, Rich de Lambert, Wayne Brigden, & Ken Johnson. *(Photo by Charlene Bunas)*



BRANCH 22, *Ignacio Pacheco*

La Presenter Informe

Promotion of Independence, Dignity and Social Activities For Men
 Published by *Diego Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22 of SIR, Inc.**

Because Romans believed even numbers to be unlucky, each month had an odd number of days, which alternated between 29 and 31. But, in order to reach 355 days, one month had to be an even number. February was chosen to be the unlucky month with 28 days.



"Would you say you are 'extremely happy,' 'happy,' 'average' or 'bored stiff'?"



MY FAVORITE RESTAURANT FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Restaurant review by Mike Dean

BUCKEYE ROADHOUSE

Shoreline Hwy
Mill Valley

It's always good to have a favorite restaurant for special events like birthdays, anniversaries, reunions, very special friends, etc. Debbie and my special restaurant is the Buckeye Roadhouse just off 101 before the tunnel to the Golden Gate Bridge.



The Buckeye restaurant has been there for years, originally a wonderful German restaurant -with quite a history - which opened in the 1937 at the completion of the Golden Gate Bridge. Apparently, the Buckeye was once a clandestine meeting place for Nazi sympathizers before and during the second world war (or so I was told by my parents). It stayed a German restaurant until being taken over by a group headed by the renown chef, Bill Higgins, in the 90's, who remodeled it and changed the menu to up-scale American cuisine.

The Buckeye kept its warm lodge-like feel after the remodel, retaining its classy ambiance and a fireplace in the main dining room. The bar area is wonderful as well - lively and cozy with tables for dinner or lunch. There's an upstairs mezzanine for private parties or more intimate dining. A small outside area is available also for those of us who choose to take our dogs out to eat.

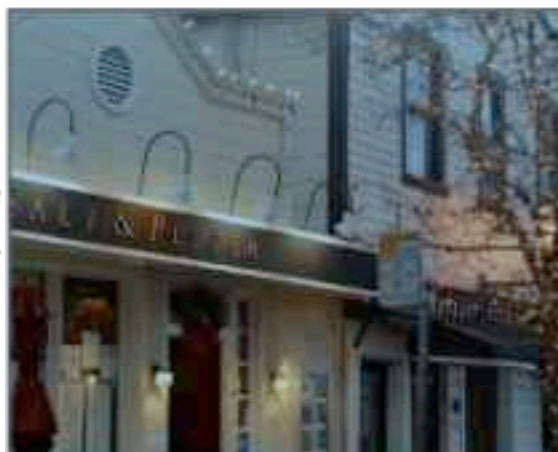
The fare is not cheap, but not outrageous either by Marin standards. My favorite appetizer is the Oysters Bingo, but there are plenty to choose from. I like the Brick Chicken for my entrée and there's a great House-Smoked Chicken Salad. The Key-Lime Pie is a must for Debbie and I for a special event dessert.

Marin old-timers are very familiar with the Buckeye, but if you haven't been there, it's a must - especially for special occasions.

NON - WORKING MAN RESTAURANT REVIEW Mike Dean - SIR Branch 22

Salt and Pepper 38 Main St. Tiburon, CA 415 435 3594

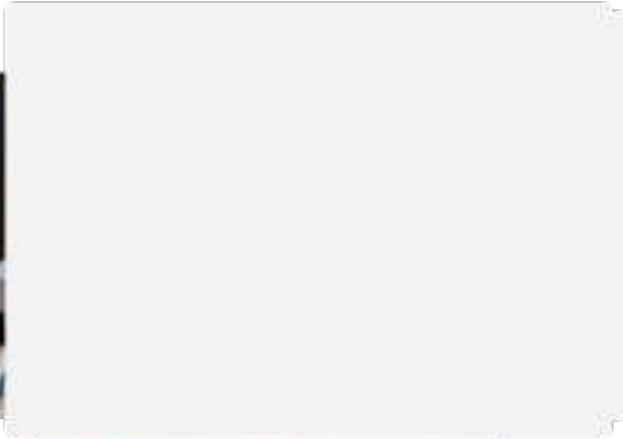
Small but really good, Salt & Pepper is a great neighborhood restaurant located right in downtown Tiburon - great for the COMING sunny weather. Although it has a substantial indoor dining area, Debbie and I like sitting outside (with our dog Olive of course) especially for a delicious breakfast or brunch. For special occasions, you can wait for your table next door at The Caviar Co./Champagne Lounge. Outside has a great view of the street and parking lot.



For breakfast/brunch choose a delicious variety of eggs benedict, omelets and scrambles along with standard morning fare. Debbie's favorite is the crab benedict, mine is a "build it yourself" scramble with crab or chicken hash. Olive's favorite is just bacon.

The menu has a wide variety of choices for lunch and casual dinner. You can have breakfast or anything from a huge list of salads to oysters, clams, octopus to hamburgers, rib-eye steak and rack of lamb. All the food is good, some dishes great and prices are "Marin Reasonable"!!

More Branch 22 News: Attendance is up to 61% of our Members from 42% last year. We hope this is a positive sign that we are coming out of the Pandemic.



Mother Nature Has the Round of the Month

Mother Nature dominated January's golf scene. While many will chastise her slow pace of play -- 18 days to complete her epic round -- and even though she doesn't have an official handicap index, Mother Nature defeated all comers.

There is some uncertainty about her exact score, but I believe that she finished 10 under - as in burying local golf courses under 10 inches of rain!



MOVIES

JIM QUILLINAN jvquill@pacbell.net

A Man Called Otto.

Tom Hanks turns in another bravura performance as a grumpy old man, Otto. Otto singlehandedly enforces the local traffic and parking rules along his private street. Otto has been recently widowed and sees no point in living especially with all of the scofflaws visiting his street. When all seems lost, a young family moves onto his street. The Hispanic mom, Marisol, is a quick wit who embraces life and is the opposite of Otto. She is full of exuberance and optimism. Marisol cracks Otto's crusty exterior and a friendship slowly develops. The film is touching as we really get to know the characters and their dilemmas. It will make you laugh and then make you cry as life plays out. The story is entertaining as the cast all turn in exceptional performances. Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving suicide attempts, and language. In Theatres. It is a Peggy's Pick. We saw the film in Sydney, Australia in a theatre with a dedicated lounge providing full bar and food service just to this showing - the Aussies know how to do it.

Cunk on Earth. This review will be short. This is an absolutely fabulous satire on talking head presenters and pomposity. It's on Netflix so stop what you are doing and open the app, find Cunk and get ready to laugh uproariously. If you don't have Netflix, sign up now! The show is hosted by Philomena Cunk (Diane Morgan) as she sardonically tells us the story of humankind's time on earth. She asks real experts non-sensical questions that are actually right on. Obviously on Netflix. Rated TV MA for language. It is a Peggy's Pick.



NEW MEMBERS

Michael D. Maurier (Judith) Fairmede Ave.,
Palo Alto Information Systems Development

Shaun P. Millard Corlista Dr., San Jose
GE, US Army, Apple

In Memoriam

Ed Pausa, served as Travel Chairman for many years. He will be missed! R.I.P.

Peter Mueller (Palo Alto), a member of the biking group. He will be missed! R.I.P.

MOVIES continued

Missing.

This is about a 90% great movie that derails at the denouement. It is a mystery drama that uses modern technology to unravel the mystery. If you think you are a computer power user, this film will show you a thing or two. Grace (Nia Long) disappears in Colombia while on vacation with her new boyfriend. June (Storm Reid), Grace's teenage daughter, tries to locate her mother in Colombia using her computer. She runs into international red tape with local police and the FBI are of little use. June is in Los Angeles and uses the latest technology to try and locate her mom. She is even able to locate people on the ground to help. The technology is astonishing and keeps us amazed and what she is able to do. The sleuthing turns up all sorts of secrets that unravel June's view of her mother and her life. It keeps us on the edge of our seats. As the film reaches its climax, the story turns mundane, reminiscent of the Perils of Pauline but with computers. The performance of Storm Reid as June is noteworthy. Rated PG-13 for some strong violence, language, teen drinking, and thematic material. In Theatres.

Women Talking.

This is a brilliantly written story about the plight of women in a repressive religious cult that also has universal meaning. The real travesty is that it is based on actual events in a Mennonite community in Bolivia. The women of the community have been repeatedly, brutally raped by the men. The religious leaders require the women to forgive the men and move on. While the men are away attempting to bail out the just arrested rapists, the women unite and appoint a committee of their members to decide on a course of action: Do nothing; Stay and fight; Or leave. The film follows these women trying to reconcile the vicious reality of rape with their faith. Different views are brought up and analyzed. Horrible stories are recounted. The purposefully uneducated women try to think of a future away from the only community they know. Their interactions are erudite and inspiring. They make their decision and execute it well. Rated PG-13 for mature thematic content including sexual assault, bloody images, and some strong language. In Theatres. It is a Peggy's Pick.



HIKING tuckerjg6@gmail.com

Bring your spouse, significant other or friend and join us. There are many opportunities to socialize and make new friends. Pack a trail lunch and we will find a scenic spot to eat and enjoy nature. Hikes normally occur on the 4th Friday of the month.

John Tucker

SIR Branch 35 - 14th Annual Golf Banquet

February 5, 2023



Golfer of the Year - Ron Lau
Club Champion-Gross - Richard McGrath
Club Champion-Net - John Gerich
Match Play Winner - Les Miles
4 Ball Match Play - Les and Bob Garten
Most Improved (%) Golfer - Bob Garten
Iron Man - Peter Wong, Jay Jonckait



This and That

When I get a headache I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

Just once, I want the prompt for username and password to say, "Close enough".

If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.

"Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo".

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's five and it's past his bedtime.

Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while ... she is mowing the lawn.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

Be the Best You

A man was asked to paint a boat. He brought his paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red ♥, as the owner had asked him.

While painting, he noticed a small hole in the hull, and quietly repaired it. When he finished painting, he received his money and left.

The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice check, much higher than the payment for painting.

The painter was surprised and said "You've already paid me for painting the boat Sir!"

"But this is not for the paint job. It's for repairing the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant." "My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened: When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention the hole. When the paint dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip. They did not know that there was a hole and I was not at home at that time. When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole. Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing. Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now, what you did? You saved the life of my children! I do not have enough money to pay your 'small' good deed." So no matter who, when or how, continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively, and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find. You never know when one is in need of us, or when that care and kindness may return to you in surprising ways. Along the way, you may have repaired numerous 'boat holes' for several people without realizing how many lives you've saved.

Make a difference...be the best you.

State SIR RV Camping?

Attention all SIR members with a Motor Home, Travel Trailer, Fifth Wheel, or Camper. We are trying to revive the State SIR Activity Group.

If you are interested in joining fellow SIR members on an RV trip to a location where we can meet to swap stories around the campfire, let me know. We can have our first meeting on Zoom to find out about the choices of locations to meet and how often to meet. For further information contact Bob Lucido, Branch 146 Activity Chair/State Activity Chair, and Keeper of the Secrets of the Mystical Sirs.

[E-mail Bob Lucido \(no email address listed?\)](#)

APRIL : SPRING BLOOMS

Program: SIR Shares with Bill Ackerknecht and Paul Fewel

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz
Our own Bill Ackerknecht and Paul Fewel will kick off our occasional series of member biographies. They will share stories from their professional and personal experiences.



When I was a kid my parents moved a lot, but I always found them.— Rodney Dangerfield

I was going to have cosmetic surgery until I noticed that the doctor's office was full of portraits by Picasso.— Rita Rudner

I saw a bank that said "24-hour banking," but I don't have that much time.— Steven Wright

My father always used to say, "What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger." Until the accident.— Jimmy Carr

Adults are always asking kids what they want to be when they grow up because they are looking for ideas.— Paula Poundstone

A good rule to remember for life is that when it comes to plastic surgery and sushi, never be attracted by a bargain.— Graham Norton

You can't lose a homing pigeon. If your homing pigeon doesn't come back, then what you've lost is a pigeon.— Sara Pascoe

Pie can't compete with cake. Put candles in a cake, it's a birthday cake. Put candles in a pie, and somebody's drunk in the kitchen.— Jim Gaffigan

Why do dogs always race to the door when the doorbell rings? It's almost never for them.— Norm MacDonald

I'm going to get married again because I'm more mature now, and I need some kitchen stuff.— Wendy Liebman

I hate housework. You make the beds, you do the dishes, and six months later, you have to start all over again.— Joan Rivers

My doctor told me that jogging could add years to my life. I think he was right. I feel 10 years older already.— Milton Berle

I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it. — Groucho Marx

Married Life in Our Maturing Years.

An older couple was having memory problems so they went to the doctor. The doctor advised them to write things down to help them remember.

That night after they went to bed the old man got up to get ice cream, and the old lady asked him to get her some too. He said OK and she asked if he was going to write it down.

He said, no I can remember that! He was gone a long time and when he came back he handed his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She said: See! I told you to write it down. I wanted OJ with mine!

SIR Dave Nelsen invited fellow Wednesday Walkers to his garage workshop to see his lathe, wood-turning equipment and other tools. He showed them the equipment and how he used them. He had a bowl on the lathe which he was currently working on.



A senior citizen said to his eighty-year-old buddy:

'So I hear you're getting married?'

'Yep!'

'Do I know her?'

'Nope!'

'This woman, is she good looking?'

'Not really!'

'Is she a good cook?'

'Nah, she can't cook too well.'

'Does she have lots of money?'

'Nope! Poor as a church mouse.'

'Well, then, is she good in bed?'

'I don't know.'

'Why in the world do you want to marry her then?'

'Because she can still drive!'

March 15th Luncheon



New members (L-R) Sir Robert Branch, Sir David Lind with sponsor Sir James Draughan



March Birthdays (L-R) Sir Ed Nelson, Sir Nat Lord and Sir John Prior



Guest Steve Dring with his sponsor Sir Richard Holley



Sir Jerry Ford and Big Sir Jerry Halligan can't wait for St. Patrick's Day!



Our guest speakers from the Carlton Senior Living RJ Galarsa and Olivia Allen



Jumble: ELDER SNOOT ENSAGE HAGGLE
 Answer: Even during a drought, the golf course's sprinkler system could keep the — GREENS GREEN

Niles - No Rain, Just a Fun Time Almost in the Movies

Five hearty SIRs listened to the Weatherman on March 8th and the rain stopped at 9 AM just like he predicted. The temperature stayed on the cool side, but the walkers had fun as Jerry toured us through Niles showing and telling the rest of us about the town in the early 1900s. Up to 100 trains a day choo-choo'd through Niles. Essanay Studios made movies for four years, 1912-1916 - yes, the studio is gone now, but the Silent Film Museum shows those movies on Saturday nights at 7:30 PM. Some of the actor's houses still sit where they did way back then. Niles is a sleepy little town (incorporated into Fremont in 1956) with interesting cafes and antique stores, and even Bronco Billy's Pizza (named after the famous silent film character who spelled his name Broncho Billy). Jerry told us that the studio wrangled a lot of the extras for those movies from Niles itself. Wouldn't it have been fun to be in the movies way back then?

But seriously folks, join the SIRs Walkers on Wednesday mornings as we find interesting places to walk, and you can enjoy the scenery with us.

~ Bruce Roberts



Snowplow vs. B-52 ~ by Rick Henry

This story is not - a story - it really happened. Scary, Scary, Scary!

The snowy winter of 1968. My job to drive one of five snowplows at Fairchild Air Force Base took on an ominous air as I got word that a B-52.... You may remember that the propulsion for the B-52 Strategic Bomber consisted of eight J-57 jet engines, four on each wing. Much of the fuel in that bomber was carried in the wings, loaded so heavy on takeoff that the wings had to be supported on the ends so they would drag on the runway. Some B-52s prowled the airspace in the north of the US and Canada for many years in case our country was attacked. The job of delivering a nuclear payload to a foreign country had to be accomplished in time of war - any way the bomber could get through.



Defeating enemy radar called for low level flying. This meant low, really low-level flying, only to be attempted by seasoned pilots with lots of guts (to my way of thinking). One way to practice low level flying was to "buzz" a runway; no "obstacles" on a runway, right?

So, this night the five of us drove our Oshkosh snowplows to remove the snow from our Air Force Base runway. As lead plow I pushed the snow on an angle to the next plow who then pushed it the next guy and so on until the last plow pushed it off the runway. It was about 4:30 AM in the middle of a plowing sequence when I got the call - incoming low-level B-52. Weren't we obstacles?

It was nice of the pilot to shine his super-bright landing lights in my eyes, followed by eight J-57 engines at full throttle (Balls to the Wall the pilots called it, as the knobs on the top of the "throttles" were called) attached to the huge fuselage at about 20-feet altitude. Nothing we could do but sit there and hope the pilot was a good as he thought he was.

I'm here to talk about it, so I guess he did his job. The roar was deafening - he was gone in an instant.

~Editor, Bruce Roberts

A man was telling his neighbor,
'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me
four thousand dollars, but it's state of the
art. It's perfect.'
'Really,' answered the neighbor. 'What kind is
it?' 'Twelve thirty.'

Behind every angry woman is a
man who has absolutely no idea
what he did wrong.

The best way to make somebody
remember you is to borrow money
from them.



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Brown handle is shorter. 2. Backpack strap is moved. 3. Floor is not in kitchen. 4. Bridge on apron is different. 5. Lipstick color is white. 6. Bowtie opening is smaller.



The ROOSTER

The Monthly Bulletin of

Sunnyvale Branch # 62

SONS IN RETIREMENT

A Non-Profit Organization of Retired Men

Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity in Retirement

DeAnza Flea Market Recruiting Event!

We have rented a booth at the **June 3rd** Saturday Flea Market from 7AM to 3PM to recruit new members. **WE NEED 2 or 3 VOLUNTEERS** to man the booth for 2 to 3 hour shifts.

Contact Wally Anderson

(408) 736-6408

wallyowen@comcast.net

2023 Picnic Help Needed!

Our SIR Picnic will be held on **July 13th** this year at Ortega Park in Sunnyvale. Starts at 11AM. Watch later for details.

Volunteers Are Required!

Please step up and help out - you will find it very rewarding.

Contact Heber Slusser

(408) 769-1851

hebers@comcast.net

SIR TRAVEL - BRANCH 62

Travel Chairman: Jim Hohenshelt (408 394-7226). jim_hohenshelt@yahoo.com Assistant: Roy Jordan (408 735-8765) jordan_roy_s@yahoo.com

There is no Branch 62 travel activity at this time Other Branches' Trips State SIR occasionally sends out a newsletter which includes some trips put on by other branches. There is still one trip which may be open from the last newsletter we received. Autumn Colors trip to East Coast, Oct. 13-22, 2023. 2 nights in Boston, visit Manchester and Burlington, Vermont; North Conway and Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Bar Harbor, Maine, and Acadia National Park; take scenic drives along the Mohawk Trail and Kancamagus Highway. \$4330 pp/dbl. occ. plus air fare. Roy has the contact information to get brochures and additional information. There may be information about trips sponsored by other branches on our web site

<https://sirinc2.org/branch62> under Travel. Roy may also have access to information about these trips.

Reminder: Trips organized by SIR are available to SIR members, their spouses, siblings, children, grandchildren, also to guests and widows of SIR

Meeting Cash Awards

Remember that, in addition to one \$25 cash birthday award at our Monthly Luncheon Meeting, there will be one additional \$25 cash attendance award. You must be present on Zoom or in person to be eligible to receive an award. Be involved and have a shot at these riches.

Wine Tasting

Dave and Lora hosted a very fine wine tasting event at their home on March 3. It was well attended, and was a fun event for all!

Watch for upcoming events...

Dave Riopel Wine Tasting
Program Coordinator

Branch 62 Web Site

Have you visited our web site lately?

Want to read the joke from the luncheon?

Forgot the luncheon's speaker details?

Want to read back issues of the Rooster?

Read meeting minutes and Treasurer reports?

Get all of this and more on our Web Site at:

<https://sirinc2.org/branch62/index.php>



SIR Branch 65
 Volume 47 #7
 July 2022

Napa



NEW ACTIVITY !!! "Coffee Talk"

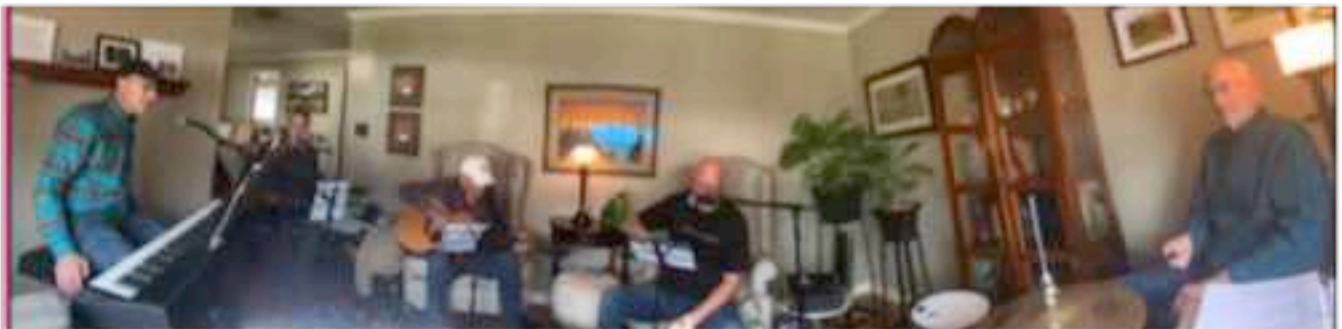
Br. 65 members are waking up and having a great time at our new weekly gathering, "Coffee Talk". Every Monday at 9:30 you are all welcome to join your friends for coffee, hot chocolate, pastries or more while sharing whatever is on your mind.



In February we met at the Golden Bagel.
 In March we will meet at Winston's Bakery *
 1517 3rd St.
 Stop by & enjoy the fun!
 *the former ABC bakery



🎵 SIR SESSIONS 🎵



If you want to join in our rag-tag happy bunch of amateurs, contact Jerry Stabile, Jeff Richard, Allan Armstrong, Margis Malisuskas, Richard Bennett or Jim Kempton.



The Vine Walkers Adventure Club

Lance Houser, Chair

We had two fun walks, the 1st Tuesday we met in North Napa at Vine Hill Park and poof! a hot air balloon landed a half a block away in the middle of the street!

Our 3rd Tuesday walk was on the R.A.D. section of the VineTrail to check out the murals and sculptures.



JOIN US FOR
 OUR TWICE A
 MONTH
 NEIGHBORHOOD
 WALKS



FEBRUARY LUNCHEON



Our meeting was on Valentine's Day and some members brought their favorite ladies. It was their lucky day since Big Sir Peter brought roses for members to give to their wives!

The usual fun with various birthday, anniversary, raffle, hidden # and key tag drawings kept the rest of the meeting moving!

See who the big winners were in the box to the right>

Awards and Rewards

- Cash Drawing
 - 1st Place - Tom Shoar \$50
 - 2nd Place - Bob Boucher \$31
 - 3rd Place - Russ Kindig \$17
- Birthday wine - J.C. Surratt
- Anniversary sparkling wine - Dave & Adel Ellington
- Key tag drawing - FREE LUNCH Jerry Hall
- Hidden Badge # Terry Berger

IN MEMORIAM

Long time Branch 65 member **Dale Sandbak** passed away in February.





Branch 68

Are We Done?

Is it Sunset or Sunrise for us? The official date of the merger between 68 and 47 will be March 27. Most of the paperwork and negotiations are completed and we are in the process of merging Rosters, Badges and Databases along with Activity Chairmen. Two of our B.E.C. members will be stepping up and joining the new branch's B.E.C. as Directors at Large. I want to thank Bill McNicholas and Frank Luttringer on doing their part to make this a smooth transition. I would also like to thank the rest of the board in their help on getting this accomplished.



Kent Dutrieux

Alan Rossi's Trivia



Jennifer Joes and William Holden away from camera , profound hostility. Holden barely uttered a single word to Ms. Jones. He complained she chewed garlic every time they shot a love scene.

Holden tried his hardest to develop a warm rapport, even bringing her white roses every day. She threw the flowers in his face literally. The two never spoke to each other for the rest of their lives.

Actor James Garner: I got to walk 18 holes with James Garner, along with Lucy Ball's husband Gary Morton at Peacock Gap 18 hole golf course, back in the day. Lucy was also present, she didn't play, followed Gary in a cart. On one occasion, Garner a bad shot, I over-heard him say, "damn glove!" Whenever Jim hit a shot that looked like it might be out of bounds, he was always certain it was, and say, "Shit, it's OB!" "Be positive said his playing partner Mac Davis. "Okay, I'm positive it's out of bounds!" Garner could certainly hit the ball off the tee a mile, as could Jim Lange, ("Dating Game Host"). At the same charity event Joe DiMaggio actually talked to my dad, "turn off your camera,"my Dad was filming Joe putting. Lange was the opposite, would wave at my dad's camera, always have a smile on his face. There were no gallery ropes at this charity golf tournament, you could actually walk & talk with the stars, down the fairways as I did on hole number 6 when my dad introduced me to Buddy Rodgers who was once married to Mary Pickford, I didn't know then who he was.

Jim Garner never took lessons. He learned to play by observation. Also, "bootleg lessons", keeping his ears open for tips. Golf is an endless quest for perfection, you're playing against yourself as well as your opponents. One of the great things about golf is the camaraderie. You can also tell a lot about a person's personality on the golf course. Does he have a quick temper? Does he show patience? Does he take his medicine after playing a bad shot, and play the next shot safe, or go for broke. When Garner turned 70 he shot his age. It was one of the biggest thrills Jim ever had in golf. Achieving that feat is rarer then making a hole in one. It takes skill, good luck, and, of course longevity.

"JAWS". Author of the book, Peter Benchley strongly was against ending, (blowing up the shark). In book shark dies of blood loss. Peter had to be forcefully removed from the set.

Members Who Have Passed



Garry Altamirano



Kenji Tomita



FRUITRIDGE BRANCH 93

A Huge Welcome and Applause to the 2022 New Members to Branch SIR 93 !!

Walter Liang Mike Husak Mark Carlos Paul Fite Paul Fong
Jim Laurin Efrain Corona Dennis Johnston Don Nevis Howard Davis
Robert Ortega Michael Woodcheke

Please remember all the SIR 93 members that have gone on to the Rainbow Bridge & the Gates of Heaven

Michael Sharif Al Machado Bill Reiff Jack L. Campbell

SIR 93 Golf Club Rule Changes to speed up course play for the 2023 Season

(1) Limit lost ball searches to 3 minutes or less. If your ball is lost in a "No Entry" Area where you are not allowed to enter or hit from, just take the penalty stroke and drop a ball in a safe area no closer to the hole, and take your recovery shot. Do not continue to look for your ball.

(2) After a four over par score on a hole and STILL NOT HOLDED OUT, a player shall pick up his ball and be ready to proceed to the next tee. In this case, circle that four over par score on the scorecard to alert the handicapper that more strokes were not taken. The remaining players will continue play of the hole.

(3) Additional changes may come if the above two changes do not result in an improved pace of play.

Visit us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SIRBranch93SoialActivites>





GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95

SIR is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making friends for life.

BRANCH HAPPENINGS / SIR COMINGS & GOING Kevin King (PBS) 916-337-9811



Please welcome our two newest members, Iain Marshall and Rick Willson. Both came to last month's meeting and submitted their applications shortly thereafter. Both are expected to be approved and inducted at our April meeting.



BOWLING | Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727

SIR State Bowling and sponsoring Concord Branch 91, held a tournament at Clayton Valley Bowl in March. Sixty-seven bowlers competed in the two-day event. These tournaments are not always profitable to the bowler, but my ball rolling skills placed me in the winner's column and earned enough \$\$ to replenish two gallons of gas toward our trip. As usual everyone had a great time and we look forward to the next few months as the SIR State Bowling calendar schedule continues to provide us a reason (excuse) to travel.

This year's SIR Annual State Tournament will be held in May at Fireside Lanes in Citrus Heights. Rancho

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17-20	Gold Dust West	Carson City, NV
May 16-17	Fireside Lanes	Citrus Heights
June 8-9	Gold Country Lanes	Sutter Creek
June 19-20	Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl	Dublin
July 6-7	Foothills Bowl	Auburn
July 25-26	Clayton Valley Bowl	Concord
August 7-9	National Bowling Stadium	Reno, NV
August 23-24	Prosperity Lanes	Grass Valley
Sept. 11-13	Gold Dust West	Carson City, NV
Sept. 26	Brentwood	Brentwood
Oct. 17-18	Fireside Lanes	Citrus Heights
Nov. 2-3	McHenry Bowl	Modesto

Sir Ray DiBasilio Receives SIR State Distinguished Service Award (DSA) January 17, 2023

Ray has provided essential and necessary services and improvements for the betterment of SIR Bowling Tournaments at the State level. His contributions are above and beyond his assigned duties and responsibilities.



Ray Receiving His DSA from the Bowling Chairman



Ray Proudly showing his DSA medallion (right label)

It was the end of the school year, and a kindergarten teacher was receiving gifts from her pupils. The florist's son handed her a gift. She shook it, held it overhead, and said, "I bet I know what it is. Flowers." "That's right," the boy said, "but how did you know?" "Oh, just a wild guess," she said.

The next pupil was the sweet shop owner's daughter. The teacher held her gift overhead, shook it, and said, "I bet I can guess what it is. A box of sweets." "That's right, but how did you know?" asked the girl. "Oh, just a wild guess," said the teacher.

The next gift was from the son of the liquor store owner. The teacher held the package overhead, but it was leaking. She touched a drop off the leakage with her finger and put it to her tongue. "Is it wine?" she asked. "No," the boy replied, with some excitement. The teacher repeated the process, tasting a larger drop of the leakage. "Is it champagne?" she asked. "No," the boy replied, with more excitement. The teacher took one more big taste before declaring, "I give up, what is it?" With great glee, the boy replied, "It's a puppy!"

When a kid says "Daddy, I want mommy" that's the kid version of "I'd like to speak to your supervisor."

I thought growing old would take longer.

If I am ever on life support unplug me and plug me back in and see if that works.

I see people out there zip lining and mountain climbing and here I am feeling good about myself because I got my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

Last night the internet stopped working so I spent a few hours with my family. They seem like nice people.

You know you are getting old when friends with benefits means having someone who can drive at night.

Some of my friends exercise every day, meanwhile I am watching a show I don't like because the remote fell on the floor.



APRIL ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



6th, 13th, 20th, 27th -
Drop-in bocce - Promontory Park



4th - Empire Ranch
11th - Lincoln Hills *(note change)*
18th - Wildhawk
25th - Ancii Hoffman



12th - BEC & General Meeting
Cameron Park Country Club



14th - Wine Tasting
Total Wine and More - Folsom
Note one-time change of day and format



Applications and results of all tournaments are available online:
<http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling/index.html>



6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - Breakfast
& Walking - various locations

THE ROOSTER TALE

LITTLE SIR REPORT—Gary Carrier



Let me open with a Thank You to the 100 plus members and guests that were in attendance for a nice lunch; engaging and informative presentation on the USS Hornet CV-12. This month presentation is titled **WHAT HIDES IN THE MYSTERY TRUNK, presented by Sharalee Falzerano – Archivist with the Roseville Historical Society.**

Joe Alameida – Big Sir and our (New) State President Dave Gonzales presented **Jim Gragg and Steve Eastman with The Outstanding Achievement Award for serving as Big Sir of Branch 98.** Congratulation and Thank you, both, for the giving your time, experience, and leadership.

As we look forward, I need everyone to mark their calendar for our Branch 98 BBQ – May 10 details will be forth coming. New members, this a wonderful opportunity to volunteer, it's a great time! Sign up at the next luncheon in the back of the room with Robin Doria – Volunteer Chairman.



APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN JANUARY 2023

By **Tim Maurice, Membership Chair**

We started with 266 active members and inducted 1 new member and lost 3 members. This brings our total to 264 active members

Steven H Matthews DOB: 05-11
Roseville, 916-380-8861
sbmatthews78@comcast.net
Partner: Brenda Sponsor: Charlie Aichele

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN MARCH 2023 By **Tim Maurice, Membership Chair**

Please visit the web site and view the Roster for more contact details on these new members

We inducted 3 new members. This brings our total to 266 active members

Mark Ostroff
Jeff (JT) Tepe
Bruce Hopkins

Welcome

Why aren't you married?

Jack is 32 years old and he is still single. One day a friend asked, "Why aren't you married? Can't you find a woman who will be a good wife?" Jack replied, "Actually, I've found many women that I have wanted to marry, but when I bring them home to meet my parents, my mother doesn't like them." His friend thinks for a moment and says, "I've got the perfect solution, just find a girl who's just like your mother." A few months later they meet again and his friend says, "Did you find the perfect girl? Did your mother like her?" With a frown on his face, Jack answers, "Yes, I found the perfect girl. She was just like my mother. You were right, my mother liked her very much."

The friend said, "Then what's the problem?" Jack replied, "My father doesn't like her."

Waiter: "How do you like your steak, sir?"

Sir: "Like winning an argument with my wife."

Waiter: "Rare it is!"

Len Sampaio received the Distinguished Service Award at the SIR Luncheon meeting on March 8th. Len attended the luncheon with his wife Shirley. This award is the second highest award in the SIR Organization and is well deserved for Len's service and commitment to Branch 98. Len was presented by Past Big SIR Jim Gragg and received a silver lapel pin from SIR State President David Gonzales. Congratulations Len.



Have
a
happy
spring

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN... OUR MONTHLY HAPPY HOUR EVENT!

The next month's Happy Hour will be on Tuesday April 18th at 3-6pm. Location will be Paul Martin's, Eureka Road, Roseville.



Our most recent Happy Hour was enjoyed by our group of thirsty happy couples. As usual, the conversations ranged from classic cars, travel, sports, movies, etc. ha! We took advantage of the Happy Hour offerings (food and drinks) as they were a great value! All in all, another fun event. Its casual and stress free. Please join us by letting Charlie Wells, wells.chas@gmail.com, know you are planning to attend. See you there!



Beer Nutz Outing Jim Friedrich

Beer Nutz had another amazing night at the High Hand Brewery in Loomis. First, the brewery just opened 3 days prior to our visit. It felt like they were waiting for us to approve of their beautiful, spacious and open venue. Second, the brewery had a wide selection of beer and everyone, but one person, enjoyed what they ordered. Finally, the most surprising experience was watching five SIRS swill down the most delicious tacos. I'm sure the beer made those tacos taste better. Our next meeting is on Thirsty Thursday April 20 at 5pm. We are headed to Hillenbrand Farmhaus Brewery in Newcastle. If you are interested in joining then text, call or email Jim Friedrich 916-768-6942 jfried83@gmail.com



SSS BURGER Outing Steven Eastman 916-548-6641 stepheneastman68@gmail.com

This month the SSS Burger group went to Just Kickin it. Just Kickin it is a Sports Bar located at 313 Riverside Ave in Roseville. Just Kickin It received a score of 4.54 which says that it is a very good burger. We had a great discussion and a lot of fun.

Next month we are going to Goose Port which is located at 316 Vernon Street in Roseville. It starts at 11:30 AM and don't be late, if you are on time...you are late. I hope to see you there.



1% Special Group! That is many of us

If you know someone in this age group you are lucky. They have a wealth of experience and knowledge of history. Thought you'd enjoy this. Interesting Facts For You . .

- **This special group was born between 1930 & 1946 = 16 years. In 2022, the age range is between 76 & 92.**
- **You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's.**
- **You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.**
- **You are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.**
- **You saved tin foil and poured fried meat fat into tin cans.**
- **You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch.**
- **You are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, you "imagined" what you heard on the radio.**
- **With no TV until the 1950s, you spent your childhood "playing outside." There was no Little League.**
- **There was no city playground for kids.**
- **The lack of television in your early years meant that you had little real understanding of what the world was like.**
- **Telephones were one to a house, often shared (party lines), and hung on the wall in the kitchen (no one cares about privacy).**
- **Computers were called calculators; they were hand-cranked.**
- **Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon.**
- **'INTERNET' and 'GOOGLE' were words that did not exist**
- **Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on your radio in the evening.**
- **New highways would bring jobs and mobility.**
- **The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands.**
- **Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into working hard to make a living for their families.**
- **You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus. They were glad you played by yourselves.**
- **They were busy discovering the postwar world.**
- **You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed ourselves and felt secure in your future although the depression poverty was deeply remembered**
- **Polio was still acrippler.**
- **You came of age in the '50s and '60s.**
- **You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland.**
- **The second world war was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with unease.**
- **Only your generation can remember both a time of great war and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty.**
- **You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better... You are "The Last Ones."**
- **More than 99% of you are retired, and you feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!"**

The Town Crower

Volume 40, Number 1

The Monthly Newsletter for SIR Branch 103

January 2023

Modesto SIR Branch 103



Past SIR State President Rick Kindle installing 2023 Branch 103 Officers. Pictured : Coe Barnard, Don Rowe, Dick Nelson, Ted Bracht, Lance Underwood, and Rick Kindle

2023 Branch 103 Officers being installed. Pictured: Dennis Imhoff, Gary Del Nero, Barry Butrica, Brian Donahue, Dave Cooper, and Kerry Newman. Gary Del Nero views the installation in the foreground.



Membership Chairman Bob Kredit handing out membership certificates to two new members of Branch 103, Claude Fross and Don Ahrens.



Otto is a grump who's given up on life

following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around. It is a movie that has a little of all of us in it. Demographics are right on the point with our group. This movie stars Tom Hanks as a grouchy man that is at the crossroads of life, just losing his wife and out of a job. Very funny at times, and will leave you with a tear at the end. A 97 on the tomato meter. Movie review by Gary Del Nero.



Rules of the game: Pickleball

Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of tennis, table tennis and badminton. It is played on a court that measures the same as a doubles badminton court and uses a ball similar to, but smaller and harder than, a wiffle ball. The game can be played indoors or outdoors. The National Senior Games pickleball courts are inside the Cleveland Convention Center daily through Thursday.

Official ball:
Hard plastic
white, yellow or orange
2 3/4 inches diameter
(actual size)

Paddles:
Hard-surface paddles may be made of wood, metal or graphite. The hitting surface must be noncompressible or not have holes or textures to increase the speed or spin of the ball. Paddles and grips must conform to size standards.

Like tennis in slow motion:
The pickleball flies about one-third as fast as a tennis ball, on a court that is about one-third as large as a tennis court.

Divisions:
Senior Games will have men's and women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles, by age.

Scoring:
Serves are made underhand from behind the baseline, diagonally to the opponent's service court, alternating from the right and left. The serve and the service return must bounce once before striking the ball. After that, returns can include volleys.

The server scores when the opponent fails to return the ball over the net.

A game is when a player or team has 11 points and leads the opponent by at least two points. Matches are two out of three games.

SOURCES: International Federation of Pickleball; 2013 National Senior Games

KEIN MARSHALL | THE PLAIN DEALER



SONS IN RETIREMENT

TWIN RIVERS BRANCH #109

Marysville, California
Incorporated June 18, 1984

FUN
FOOD

FELLOWSHIP

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

A SIGN IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE IN VANCOUVER READS: *We will heel you. We will save your sole. We will even dye for you.*

A SIGN ON A BLINDS AND CURTAIN TRUCK: *Blind man driving.*

In a Podiatrist's office: *Time wounds all heels.*

On a Septic Tank Truck: *Yesterday's Meals on Wheels*

At an Optometrist's Office: *If you don't see what you're looking for, You've come to the right place.*

On a Plumber's truck: *We repair what your husband fixed.*

On another Plumber's truck: *Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.*

At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee: *Invite us to your next blowout*

On an Electrician's truck: *Let us remove your shorts.*

Drink green beer on St Patrick's Day! It counts as a vegetable! May your glass be ever full. May the roof over your head be always strong. And may you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows you're dead.



On Saint Patrick's Day, an Irishman who had a little too much to drink was driving home from the city and his car was weaving violently all over the road. A cop pulled him over. "So," said the cop to the driver, "Where have you been?" "Why, I've been to the pub of course," slurs the drunk. "Well," says the cop, "it looks like you've had quite a few to drink this evening." "I did all right," the drunk says with a smile. "Did you know," says the cop, standing straight and folding his arms across his chest, "that a few intersections back, your wife fell out of your car?" "Oh, thank heavens," sighs the drunk. "For a minute there, I thought I'd gone deaf."

There's a big conference of beer producers. At the end of the day, all of the presidents of all beer companies decide to have a drink in a bar. The president of 'Budweiser' orders a Bud, the president of 'Miller' orders a Miller Lite, Adolph Coors orders a Coors, and the list goes on. Then the waitress asks Arthur Guinness what he wants to drink, and much to everybody's amazement, Mr. Guinness orders a Coke! "Why don't you order a Guinness?" his colleagues ask. "Naah. If you guys won't drink beer, than neither will I."

St. Patrick's Day Knock Knock Who's there? Irish! Irish Who? Irish you a happy St. Patrick's Day!



A boy was taking care of his baby sister while his parents went to town shopping. He decided to go fishing and he had to take her along. "I'll never do that again!" he told his mother that evening. "I didn't catch a thing!" "Oh, next time I'm sure she'll be quiet and not scare the fish away," his mother said. The boy said, "It wasn't that. She ate all the bait."

- Ø Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- Ø If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- Ø We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
- Ø War does not determine who is right -- only who is left.
- Ø Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- Ø The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- Ø Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
- Ø To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- Ø A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. My desk is a work station.
- Ø How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
- Ø Some people are like Slinkies ... not really good for anything, but you can't help smiling when you see one tumble down the stairs.
- Ø Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.



SLOWTROLLERS - Sir Don Allen (530)743-2160 dsallen74@comcast.net
Fishing Report by Don Allen.

Last month we had a "Team Tournament" at Collins Lake on March 20th and lots of Bass were caught, but only one Trout was weighed in.

This month we have a "Tournament" at Englebright on April 20th. Fishing has been slow at all Local Lakes due to the cold water temperature.

We meet the 1st Monday of the month at the Moose Lodge in Yuba City, 8:30 - 9am Coffee and Donuts meeting to follow a 9am.



BOWLING Sir Ray Buttacavoli, (530)671-5599



Sir Jeff Brockman (530)755-0746



We were preparing to run our first of three Sweepers for the season. We had 21 bowlers competing for over \$500 in prize money.

The remodel of Beale Lanes is behind schedule and we are still waiting for a notification of when we can resume bowling.

GOLF --- Sir Dennis Dempsey 487-3830 / Sir Roland D'Arcy 743-8742



BOCCE BALL Chairman -

Carey Saunders (530) 632-1859



Jack Schoen, Assistant - (719) 400-9830





Michael Garcia, Frank Wnuk (new HLM member) and Monica Wnu

SIR
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR MEN

ROOSTER

a monthly bulletin of

San Ramon Valley Branch 128



Honorary Life Members: Jim Kaiser, Ernie Fierro, Dan Poulin, Bill Olmo, Joe Ravello and Bill Buhl

Dale M. Masino #172
Sponsored by:
Steve Kolda #229



NEW MEMBERS

Brent Tucker #195
Sponsored by:
Mike Thelen #130



Mike M. McSweeney #189
Sponsored by:
Buhl #134 & Maddox #90



LONGEVITY AWARDS

15 Years



Leonard Dorin

10 Years



Tommy Barclay



Dave Miller



Steve Miller

15 Years



Jim Noe

5 Years



Ken Davies

15 Years



Karl Scheick

5 YEARS

No Photo



Available



Ken Duley



Jack O'Bryan



Bill Stein



Dan Vanderzanden

Special and Upcoming Events:

February 17 - Twenty of us took the TCHO Chocolate Factory tour and tasting in Berkeley. Very well done and we all had a great time and tasted lots of chocolate.

February 23 - Ano Nuevo elephant Seal tour. Cancelled due to weather.

March 19 - Frank Sinatra vs. Bobby Darin, Walnut Creek Leshner Center (Waitlisted)

March 23 - Oracle Park/Giants Stadium tour at 10:30 A.M. Reminder: This is a two-step registration process. First, register on the Sir 128 Web site then type in Oracle Park tours/public tours, to reserve your ticket for the tour.

April 7- Mt. Diablo Mitchell Canyon Wildflower Walk (Waitlisted)

April 12 - Ladies Day Luncheon, Blackhawk Country Club. Please sign up ASAP. Deadline is March 29th.

May 10- Central Contra Costa Sanitation District Walking tour May 19- Mt Diablo Summit Wildflower Walk

May 31-Oakland A's vs. Atlanta Braves Baseball

All scheduled events are communicated to members well in advance via the Rooster, SIR128 website, email and/or monthly luncheons. They typically sell out quickly. Please visit the SIR 128 website under the social or RSVP tab for more detailed information and other current and future events.

SIR MICHAEL LEE ACTIVITIES UPDATE

We now have **35 activities** and **17 are co-ed**. In addition to bocce, we have three book clubs, four golf groups, tennis, and everything in between.

Bocce Winter Ball continues every Monday in March at Livorna Park in Alamo at 9:30 am. Contact Ed Martin emartin771@aol.com

Book Club #3 now meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00pm. Denny Hintz dennyhintz@gmail.com



Brunch Bunch is a new group we're forming for those who just want to get together for coffee and bagels. We meet next on Tuesday, March 14th at 11am at Noah's Bagels at 415 Railroad Avenue in Danville. Contact Michael Lee 88mlee@gmail.com

Cooking for March will be in honor of St. Patrick's Day so we will prepare a classic Irish Stew with Guinness Beer, Irish Soda Bread, and a classic Irish dessert. No blarney! Get your Green on and join us. Thursday, March 16 at 4:30 (we eat at 6:30-ish). Sign up now. John Noll john@coastal-mktg.com

Cribbage: As the weather changes and it gets colder outside, you may be looking for an indoor activity that you can enjoy. If so, come out to the San Ramon Senior Center on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month between 1:00 and 4:00PM to play cribbage and other card games. This is a COED activity so wives and partners are all welcome to play. Contact Joe Santone joe.santone@comcast.net

Fishing meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 8:30 AM at Legends located at the Diablo Creek Golf Course 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Members often come early to enjoy breakfast and share fish lies! Contact Pedro Contreras petjan@pacbell.net

The **Friday Monthly Breakfast** gets together next on Friday, March 31st at 9am at the Black Bear Diner in Danville for good food and conversation. It will likely be full so register early. Pat Wilson pat3wilson@gmail.com

Golf, 9-Hole: We all agreed to keep the same schedule over the winter. If the weather is bad, it will be up to each individual whether to play or not. Bo Brummett carolnbo@comcast.net

Hiking: Our next hike is scheduled for March 31st. Bob Turner urnerta@gmail.com

Lunch in the Park: Starts in March when the weather improves. An email invite will be sent to everyone on the mailing list. Mike Sorensen msorensen.us@gmail.com

Metropolitan Opera: Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm at Regal Hacienda Cinema. If you would like to be kept informed e-mail Rich Vivrette at r.vivrette@am-alarm.com.

Movies meets next on Thursday, March 16th. If you want to watch a variety of movies and then discuss afterward over Happy Hour contact Michael Lee 88mlee@gmail.com

Senior Fitness will be on hiatus until May as Michael is out of town. If you want to learn how to lose weight and maintain muscle as well as balance attend these easy classes in-person or on Zoom. Michael Lee 88mlee@gmail.com

Technology User Group meets the last Friday of the month from 10am until noon at the Danville Library starting on March 31st. Contact Dan Poulin dan.poulin@comcast.net

Travel meets for 90-minutes on Zoom to talk about senior travel topics. If interested in joining contact Michael Lee 88mlee@gmail.com

Walking Group resumes on Tuesday, March 14th at 9am at Peet's Coffee in Danville. We walk for 90 minutes on flat ground. Bring your significant other or your dog or both. Walking can help you lose weight, improve cardiovascular fitness as well as strengthen your bones and muscles. Bob Henry roberthentry181@gmail.com

Wine Fellowship. We have Zoom calls on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, happy hour at 4pm. Mike Sorensen msorensen.us@gmail.com

SIR Newsletter



SIR Branch 129 Facebook page link.
<https://www.facebook.com/socialactivitiesformen/>
SIR Branch 129 Private Facebook page link.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/401463741647384/>
For more information on Zoom: Go to
<https://sirinc.org/Zoom/LearningZoom.pdf>
State SIR Newsletter "Happenings".
<https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>



Bocce by Dennis Compomizzo

Not much to report on bocce or the waterlogged courts. We will need multiple days of warm dry weather in order to start playing on a regular basis.

I will be inquiring about league play sign ups with the City of Redding Recreation Dept. and the Sons of Italy at our meeting on February 20, 2023. The bocce leagues may be of interest to our SIR member's. I'll keep everyone informed, once I get additional information.

If you have any questions, call, text, or email. 530-356-9966
dennysz71@yahoo.com.

A Little Humor submitted by Len Napoli

John, who lived in the north of England, decided to go golfing in Scotland with his buddy, Shawn. They loaded up John's minivan and headed north. After driving for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. So they pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night. "I realize it's terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed," she explained, "and I'm afraid the neighbors will talk if I let you stay in my house."

"Don't worry," John said. "We'll be happy to sleep in the barn And if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light."

The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night. Come morning, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way. They enjoyed a great weekend of golf. But about nine months later, John got an unexpected letter from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he had met on the golf weekend. He dropped in on his friend Shawn and asked, "Shawn, do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our golf holiday in Scotland about 9 months ago?" "Yes, I do," said Shawn. "Did you, er, happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?" "Well, um, yes!," Shawn said, a little embarrassed about being found out, "I have to admit that I did." John replied "And did you happen to give her my name instead of telling her your name?" Shawn's face turned beet red and he said, "Yeah, look, I'm sorry, buddy I'm afraid I did. Why do you ask?" To which John responded, "She just died and left me everything."

(And you thought the ending would be different, didn't you?...
I know you smiled...

3/5/23

The first Indy Car race of the year was held today in St. Petersburg, Florida. A great race with several wrecks that made for exciting coverage. Some of the best cars were taken out by accidents. Penske driver Scott McLaughlin came out of the pits and drag raced the second place car of Romain Grosjean through the first few turns only to have both cars touch and crash attempting to take or retain the lead. Andretti Autosports lost all of their four entries to accidents. Marco Andretti drives the number 98 for that team and I didn't see him driving today. Marcus Ericsson won the race for Skip Ganassi Racing in the #8 car with Scott Dixon finishing 3rd in his #9 Dallara. If today's race is any indication of the Indy season, WOW! And keep an eye on the McLaren racing team with Pato O'Ward in the 5, Felix Rosenqvist in the 6, and an ex-Andretti driver, Alexander Rossi in the 7 car. Rossi lives in Nevada City, California. O'Ward finished 2nd and Rossi was 4th. McLaren is now a very strong competitor to the big three of Andretti Autosports, Team Penske and Chip Ganassi Racing. Meyer Shank Racing, Ed Carpenter Racing, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, and Dale Coyne Racing all provide excellent talent and equipment to challenge the big boys during the season. Stay tuned.



Now turning to NASCAR in Las Vegas, the weather was cold but clear and Chevrolet came to race today in this wind swept venue. Team Penske looked really good in qualifying with Joey Logano in the Pennzoil #22 Mustang on the pole and teammate Ryan Blaney starting right behind Joey. But things didn't work out well for the Ford teams today and the Chevys of Hendricks Motorsports were the class act in short and long runs. William Byron won the race and his teammate Kyle Larson was right behind him. That's not to say that the lead didn't swap out with Toyotas and Fords, but in a final analysis of the race, Chevy looked really strong. The biggest news of the day was that Chase Elliot wasn't in his #9 Chevy because he broke his Tibia bone in a skiing accident in Colorado last week and underwent a three hour operation to repair the damage on Friday. With rehab starting on Monday, it will still take weeks of healing before he returns. One of JR'S Xfinity drivers drove the #9 today. We'll see if he continues to be the replacement driver. Trackhouse Racing and 23/XI Racing continue to impress each and every week. JRTDaugherty and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. pulled the major surprise of the year so far by winning the Daytona 500. During our March membership luncheon I think it was Lee Dickey that brought up the Daytona winners name and I felt lacking in not mentioning his fantastic accomplishment in doing so in the newsletter. Yes, for Ricky to win anything is a great deed, but the big one is fantastic. See you all next week, and don't forget, I'm open for meetings in person and would love to pass on any information you might like to know.

3/12/23

Nascar in Phoenix, AZ. was another example of Hendricks Motorsports amazing ability to put quality race cars on the track. Kyle Larson and William Byron were the two best cars on the track today, leading most of the laps in a display of superiority. But Kevin Harvick worked his way up to the front by the end of the race and looked to be the eventual winner. However, with about a dozen laps left Harrison Burton spun his Wood Brothers Ford Mustang and blew a front right side tire. The yellow came out and Harvick's crew decided on changing all four tires on their pit stop. Kyle Larson, Byron, and Ryan Blaney all took two tires and fuel and were the lead cars on the restart. Tyler Reddick was also up front and he too took four tires on his stop. Kyle was in the lead and Blaney made it past Byron and was challenging Larson for the win when Reddick got behind Byron and pushed him out front. Byron won the race by barely leading Blaney to the checkered flag and followed by Reddick. A great end to a race that was dominated by the Hendricks Chevies. Next week we'll be in Atlanta.

3/19/23

Today's Nascar race in Atlanta was terrific. By the way, Nascar caught Hendricks Motorsports cheating with their hood vents last week and penalized the four car team \$100,000.00 per team, loss of key crew members for a month and losses of drivers and team points. They also fined Kaulig Racings #31 team for similar reasons. They penalized Denny Hamlin for admitting he put Ross Chastain into the wall on purpose during a podcast by Denny. All will be appealed. But this week found Team Penske on the poll with Joey Logano, Austin Cindric next to him and Ryan Blaney starting third. Penske hasn't pulled that hat trick in quite a long time. Joey led Austin and Ryan for most of the first stage and won that stage. Then things changed in the second stage and several cars led with the Penske cars dropping like rocks. Brad Keselowski and his teammate, Chris Buescher from RFK Racing have been running up front for most of this season and it's good to see Roush doing well again. Kyle Busch went to the front several times and was a factor in the top 10 all day. Brad was leading many

laps in stage three and looked like he was the car to beat. But Team Penske managed to get all three cars back up front with 25 laps remaining. They raced on the inside lane while Brad and others worked the upper lane (also known as the outer lane). With just a couple of laps remaining Christopher Bell moved down the track to the lower lane in front of Joey Logano and Joey moved up the track and got pushed by Bell to move in front of Brad K. Joey won the race with Brad second. Ryan Blaney was 7th and Austin Cindric finished 11th. It was anyone's race with 20 laps remaining and even though several cars crashed out in the third stage, the racing was excellent.

3/26/23

COTA took place today and what a fun race to watch. The Circuit of The Americas is 3.4 miles long and was built to attract Formula One back to race in the United States. Since this column is lengthy I'll tell you that if you missed the race, you missed something special. Corning's Tyler Reddick won his first race driving for his new team, 23/XI, with owners Michael Jordan and Denny Hamlin. The days two fastest cars were William Byron in the #24 (Hendricks Motorsports) and Tyler Reddick. The two drivers combined to lead 79 of the 86 laps run. Tyler has moved into the #45 car that Kurt Busch retired from last year. Many fenders were damaged today and a few didn't finish the race. But what an entertaining event. See you next month.

[Share this newsletter with your friends and help us grow the membership!](#)

A Little Humor submitted by Len Napoli

A (bakers) dozen adages for seniors

- 1 - Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
- 2 - "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.
- 3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.
- 4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
- 5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
- 6 - "On time" is when you get there.
- 7 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound
- 8 - It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.
- 9 - Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
- 10 - Growing old should have taken longer.
- 11 - Aging has slowed you down, but hasn't shut you up.
- 12 - You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.

And one more: "One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.

Lunch Bunch

by Duane Nelson

Join us at Good Time Pizza in Palo Cedro on April 19th at 1130am. Please contact me to RSVP (email bandan@msn.com or call 530-547-5157). Thinking ahead to May we have a special event planned at View 202 with the special lady in your life in honor of Mother Day.





BULLETIN

Website: sonorasirs.org
SONORA BRANCH #136

RV CLUB NEWS

Eddie Toews (209) 5323970
lcoinlady@aol.com

The RV Club had its kickoff breakfast in February. We had a good turnout and a lot of discussion about our outings for 2023. Our first outing will be to Bakersfield from March 26th to the 27th. We will be visiting the Crystal palace Dance Hall, where Buck Owens played when he was home. They still have some top name entertainers, like Dwight Yoakum, that will stop by and play for the crowd.

Other outings discussed were Bass Lake in May, Jackson Rancheria RV Park in October with a day trip to Apple Valley. There are several other outings in the making, so read the bulletin for more information as



KAYAKING

Sol Robin (707) 315-1284
solrobin57@gmail.com
No Report this Month



FISHING CHAIRMAN

Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550
simons4890@yahoo.com
No Report this month



CAR CLUB NEWS

Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826
brunnerick@gmail.com
No Report this Month



Wine Valley Press



SONS IN RETIREMENT
WINE VALLEY BRANCH #149

State President Dave Gonzalez
Area 7 Representative Jerry Stabile

A non-profit organization for retired men
MEETS EVERY FIRST TUESDAY, 11:00 AM
ELKS LODGE NAFA

Volume #16
April 2023

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

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



**Wine Tipplers.
Blind Tasting**



**Tuesday Morning coffee at
Brew Coffee at the outlets.
9:00 am every week**



**Last month's Sir Spotlight Member. Dennis
Pangborn With one of his larger catches.**



**Welcome New
Member David Carr**



**Bart receiving his
award from Big Sir Ron**

NEW ACTIVITY Weekly *Sirs Coffee (or Coffee with Bob and Mike)* and conversation with your fellow *Sirs*.

Every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Brewed Coffee at 865 Factory Store Drive in the Factory Outlet Center off of Freeway Drive.

Bob Benning and Mike Murrell are co-chairing this new activity. This activity is open to members of both Branch 149 and 65. Come for coffee and serious or silly talk and to meet new friends with similar interests. One requirement: leave emotions and weapons at home. Bob and Mike's email addresses are: bobofnapa@gmail.com mikemurrell.1@gmail.com



Traveling with SIR Tom Jensen: Tom arranges a **SIRS DAY AT THE RACES** each year. This has become an annual fun-filled event. Sign up early & have a great day at the Races the next time Tom schedules the events. Tom also arranges other travel events during the year. For more info contact Tom at 707-255-7160



Hikers and Trippers with Dan McCabe

**SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM
IN CALISTOGA!!!**
MARCH 24

I am organizing an outing for Friday, March 24, 2023 to tour the SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM in Calistoga. Meet in the Elks parking lot at 10:30 if you want to carpool to the museum. Wives and significant others are welcome to attend. Dan's email is:

dimmccabe547@comcast.net

Let me know if you are planning on attending. Or just show up at the Elks.



Walkers with SIR Dave Henry:

Our Monday Walking group will move to our wet season walking course. We will meet in The east parking lot at Nob Hill Foods at Trancas and Old Soscol. At 8:00 AM we will cross Trancas Street and walk the big loop at Trancas Crossing Park. Then we cross Trancas again and walk the River Walk to Lincoln and back. It's a great walk 100% paved. I hope to see some of our new members who've checked the Walking Interest Group. See you then.



Webpage & Facebook with Adrian

Fenderson: We are proud of our SIR #149 website. Note that there is a button that will be linked to a PDF of the new person application. Please look at our site and suggest any changes you would like to see so that we can make it very user friendly. We encourage all SIRS to keep up with what is happening between newsletters by signing up for Facebook and look at our SIR Branch 149 Facebook page. Also watch the Upcoming Events column and calendar on our website Home Page at www.branch149.sirinc2.org. Please send any happenings.

Wine Tasting with Ron Schneider and Christopher Bailey



We meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at RiverPointe Resort, 500 Lincoln Ave., Napa, starting at 2pm. Cost us usually \$10 per person and bring 6 glasses each. Wives, significant others, friends, are always invited.

February tasting will be the usual 3rd Wednesday and will be blind tasting Sangiovese.

RSVP to Christopher Bailey, cpb49ers@comcast.net or Ron Schneider nowino@gmail.com



Veteran's Activities with Del Fahlstrom: Veterans!

"Attention on deck": A new website is available, allowing you to make online purchases from the PX catalog. The website is: www.shopcgx.com. Also, RSVP to the Napa County Veteran's Office to attend a monthly orientation by Patrick Jolly. Learn firsthand about veteran's benefits for you and your spouse. Call 253-4558 to RSVP for the meeting scheduled each 2nd Tuesday of the month, located at 650 Imperial Way, Napa. For more information contact Del Fahlstrom at delcare@att.net or (707) 637-3933.





ACTIVITIES FOR MEN

BULLETIN

SIR# 172 • Twain Harte, CA

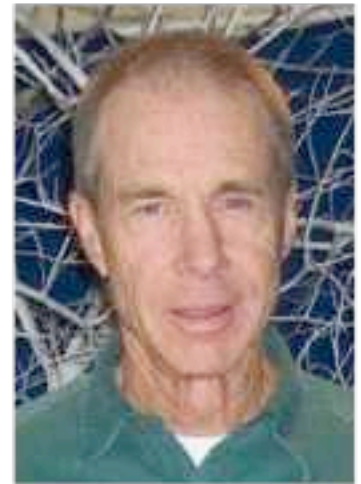
Website: www.sirtwain.org

PO Box 1143 • Twain Harte, CA 95383

Members in the News



SIR Jerry Morrow was appointed as the California SIR Director, State Support Chairman. This position serves as a State Officer reporting to the President and plans, enhances and implements the State Staff Support positions to meet the SIR Mission Statement to provide fun activities and enrich members lives. He is also on the team planning logistics.



SIR Dick Chimenti was the fastest participant in the over 80 age group in the Orient Express Run at the Chinese Camp School on Saturday, February 4.

He finished the four mile run in 38 minutes and 19.337 seconds. You are an inspiration to us all...

New Members



Ken Rorabaugh
Badge# 118



Dave Kerrin,
Badge 24

Glenn Miller
Badge# 92

Dave Kerrins
Badge# 24

And two possible returning members:

Ken Hayes & Patrick Hendrix
Photos will be in next bulletin.



In Memoriam

It's with great sadness that I tell you about the passing this morning, February 6th, of Tony Robinson.

I woke up this morning determined to drink less, eat right and exercise...
But that was 4 hours ago...when I was younger and full of hope.



2023
SIR - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR MEN
Tuolumne County
Combined Group Activity Chairmen

Branch 77-Sierra; Branch 136-Sonora; Branch 172-TwainHarte

All SIR members are welcome to join in any branch activity. Ladies are welcome to join in activities.

Please start and chair a new activity if it's not listed.

	Branch	Chairmen	Telephone 209
Big Sir	77	Donald Ronalter	984-9383
	136	Eddie Toews	532-3970
	172	Tom Francis	533-3180
Biking	172	Steve Happel 2 nd Tues of the month	532-7240
Bowling	77	Mike Coe	769 3413
Car Club	136	Rick Bronner	408 318 4826
Fishing	136	Chuck Simons	532-9550
Golf	77	Danny Laureta	586 4567
	172	Richard Broddie	586-3151
Hiking	77	Mike Clay (moderate hike) Every Friday	588-1345
Horseshoes	172	Rich Brandau Last Thurs of the month	352 4320
Kayak	136	Sol Robin	707 315 1284
	172	Dave Kenney 4 th Tues of the month	650-867-4671
Pinochle	136	Bob Morrison Every Monday	588-0994
RV Travel	136	Eddie Toews	532-3970
Tech/ Computer	172	Dick Chimenti	677-7070
		Rich Nedbal	247-6497
Theatre	172	Dave Tibbets	532-2453
Travel	143	Bill Stires (Modesto)	988-5445
	172	Charles Luke	533-3683

FEBRUARY 2023 CONSUMER TIPS

■ Q: Dear Car Talk:

"I love your column and always get a laugh from it. I have a 2018 Mercedes Benz C300 with 21,000 miles. Yes, I am a little old lady! It has that gas-saving feature where the engine shuts off when you stop at a red light. Well, at first, it really annoyed me, but now that I've gotten used to it, it has suddenly stopped stopping! It's been over two months, and it hasn't shut off once. Can I just ignore that? Or am I asking for trouble if I don't take it in?"

Sharon

A: Continue to live your life, Sharon. This does not require an emergency \$1,200 trip to the dealership. There are several possible explanations for why your automatic stop-start system stopped stopping. The most likely one is that the car's computer has decided the engine needs to run more. Why would it decide that? Is it in cahoots with the Saudis to keep oil prices high? No. Well, not that I know of.

It's just that sometimes the engine needs to run for a variety of reasons. For instance, if your battery is not fully charged, the computer will keep the engine running at traffic lights in order to keep charging the battery. With only 21,000 miles on the car since 2018, it sounds like you don't drive a lot. And if most of your trips are short, the engine may need the whole trip just to get the battery fully charged.

Or, the battery could be weak, and wearing out, requiring more charging time than it did during the first few years you owned the car.

The stop-start system will also be suspended if the engine hasn't fully warmed up yet. So, short trips can affect that, too. If your climate control system is working hard to heat or cool the car, the engine will also keep running. So you may notice the stop-start feature activates less in very hot or cold weather.

Source: Ray Magliozzi, Columnist, Bay Area News Group

■ **Additional Tip For Browning Foods:** John Noll posted some good tips for browning of meats/proteins in this issue of the Rooster. Add this tip to his – **MAKE SURE ALL FOODS ARE COMPLETELY DRY BEFORE PLACING IN HOT SKILLET.** "Wet" items will not brown readily. Use paper towels or clean cloth towels. Your food items will not 'brown' until all the surface moisture has been driven off. When food items are wet, they will steam the exterior surfaces instead of browning that improves flavor, texture and appearance.

■ Kirkland Brand Gel Dishwashing Detergent is Not Good:

"The Kirkland Signature Gel is one of our lowest-rated detergents," stated and confirmed by Consumer Reports. This was also said about the product in question: "It struggled with dishes, pots and pans, and resistance to water spots." **Note:** This is their liquid dishwasher detergent, not the pre-measured pods.

Source: <https://www.learnitwise.com/worldwide/costco-ob/36>

■ **More Phishing and Scam in Your Email Box:** Scams, malicious spam and sophisticated Phishing Attempts are rapidly growing and multiplying these days. A year ago, I was receiving about 2 to 3 per week. Now I get at least 6 of them everyday.

Millions of people are receiving the Costco survey reward email scam spam, with Costco survey rewards of "up to \$100" promised. Others get email promising a "Costco survey free gift". They are all scams, don't fall for them! Says Costco, "These offers are not from Costco Wholesale. You should not visit any links provided in messages such as these, and you should not provide the sender any personal information."

Here is what a typical Costco survey scam email looks like (this is an actual sample, with the blank lines removed for ease of reading):

From: Melanie Herta

To: (email address redacted)

Subject: Congratulations Costco Customer. up to \$100 Reward 1669161

ClickHereFor The Survey & Pick Up To \$100 Bonus

Start the Survey & Choose Your BonusHere

Fast! Deal Expires in 24 Hours.

126 'E. TWENTY-THIRD St. NEW YORK NEW YORK 10010

To no longer receive this message, Go Here.

Source: Costco Website.

■ **Real Lemon Juice:** If you want a commercial Lemon Juice product to use in cooking, seasoning and in drinks, try **Volcano Burst, Juice Lemon Burst Organic, 6.7 Fl Oz.** from Whole Foods @ \$2.49, each, or order through Amazon: <https://tinyurl.com/3kw6vwar>. This produced in Italy and is excellent in augmenting real lemon flavor in your food/drink. It does require refrigeration after opening.

■ **Kaiser Prescriptions Expire After 2 Years:** If you are a Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage Plan Member, be aware that your individual pharmacy prescriptions automatically expire in 2 years. These must be renewed by your Primary Care Physician to get refills beyond that expiration date. Typically, I fill all my prescriptions online for delivery by USPS well in advance of my running out for any specific meds. Last week, I went to order my Glaucoma eye drops that I've been using for the last 10+ years. I went to the Pharmacy site but it was no longer listed. I went to our local Kaiser Pharmacy and told them that my prescription was no longer shown as available for reorder. They researched it on their monitor and told me that it had expired after 2 years. They would call my PCP and have it renewed. That was done and I received my eye drops shortly afterwards. The weird part is that I use 6 prescription meds through Kaiser Pharmacy – all of them for more than 10+ years and none had ever “expired out” like this one. So, watch your available prescriptions and if some of them ‘drop off’ call or visit Kaiser Pharmacy.

■ **Local Food Trends:**

Apparently, Hot Dogs are making a comeback in the local food scene. DareDevil Dogs, San Ramon, opened recently offering just hot dogs, hamburger, fries and a few other sides. Two Hands Corn Dogs, a Korean Fast Food Chain just opened within the last few weeks in East Dublin. Hillside Dawgz, Concord just opened and their website shows a Chicago Hot Dog on their menu. Myungran Hot Dogs, another Korean fast food chain, is about to open in East Dublin not far from the corn dog place!

I happen to be a Chicago Hot Dog fan so I keep hoping that someone will open a hot dog shop that features genuine Chicago Hot Dogs. DareDevil Dogs has a Chicago Hot Dog on their menu. I've tried it but it is a very poor version of it. It doesn't have the authentic Sport Peppers, Neon Green Relish, Sesame Bun or the Vienna Sausage Frankfurter. And the bun was cold. It should have been steamed and hot – a total disappointment. So, the only way to get a genuine Chicago Dog is to order them from Portillo's, Chicago. The price for a complete kit to make 10 Chicago Dogs is \$69.99 - \$89.99 and includes 2-day shipping. I've had this package and it really is authentic and is really close to the real thing! The nearest branch of Portillo's is located in SoCal near Knott's Berry Farm.

■ **Two Classic Restaurant Closings:** This is to advise you that we have just lost two stellar, local restaurants at the end of 2022! Both of these happen to be favorite places of ours. Thai House, Danville, has been in business for 20 years. The owners, Alyssa and Sam have retired. They had earned a Michelin Bib Gourmand Award along the way. They did a superb job for all of those 20 years. They will be sorely missed!

Barone's was open for 27 years but Covid 19 and the lack of skilled labor and high inflation in the economy has forced them to give up on Fine Dining. They just couldn't cope with all that's going on in the Fine Dining category of restaurants these days. So, after 27 years, Joe and Maricela Barone have closed their doors. They may reopen an eatery somewhere in the area but it won't be fine dining.

■ **Heart Health:**

What's the first sign of heart disease? Unusual fatigue and sleep problems, as well as shortness of breath, indigestion and chest pain, especially during exercise, says Suzanne Steinbaum, an osteopathic preventive cardiologist. The average age for a first heart attack for men is 65.6 (for women, it's 72).

Is red wine good for my heart? No. The American Heart Association does not recommend drinking any form of alcohol to gain health benefits. "Occasional" alcohol is probably not going to have a large impact on your cardiovascular health," says Luke Laffin, M.D., co director of the Center of Blood Disorders at the Cleveland Clinic. "More than one daily drink for women and two for men, however, could raise your risk.

Source: AARP Magazine, April/May 2022 Issue

Do you have a prominent crease in the skin of your ear lobes? **Frank's sign** is a **diagonal crease in the ear lobe** extending from the tragus across the lobule to the rear edge of the auricle. The sign is

named after Sanders T. Frank, MD. It has been hypothesized that Frank's sign is indicative of cardiovascular disease and/or diabetes. Some studies have described Frank's sign as a marker of cardiovascular disease but not linked to the severity of the condition. In contrast, other studies have rebutted any association between Frank's sign and coronary artery disease in diabetics. There have also been reported cases of Frank's sign being a predictor of cerebral infarctions. A link between Frank's sign and premature aging and the loss of dermal and vascular fibers has also been hypothesized. Some studies have focused on association between bilateral earlobe crease and coronary artery disease. It is probably prudent to consider Frank's Sign alongside other clinical markers of physiological ageing, rather than utilizing it as a stand-alone sign in the identification of coronary artery disease.

Source: Wikipedia.org

▪ **Use a Tennis Ball Hung From the Garage Ceiling/Joists:**

This is a good way to mark the correct stopping position for your vehicle. If you decide to do this, be very careful. Do not use a Utility Knife to cut an "X" in the tennis ball to create a hole, unless you can mount it in a vise. To cut into a tennis ball without a good, firm grip is to risk injury to yourself. The outer ball is a rubber material with a covering of fabric and is incredibly tough. If you slip during cutting, you could suffer a serious cut in your hand. A better method would be to drill a 1/8" dia. Hole with an electric drill through the top and bottom of the ball. Tape a string to a piece of coat hanger wire to guide/pass the cord through the ball and secure it to the ball by tying it to the ball or use hot melt or liquid glue to fully secure the string to the ball. Then simply hang it from the ceiling or joists so it touches the windshield at the proper stopping point in your garage.

▪ **Do You Use Costco Kirkland brand AAA and AA alkaline batteries?:**

Please be aware that all alkaline batteries can leak. The internal chemical mixture is highly acidic and can easily ruin your battery operated tools, instruments, radios, digital thermometers, clocks, etc. Consumer Reports has found that the Kirkland brand alkaline batteries are about 20% more likely to leak and damage your cordless items. **TIP: Always remove the batteries** from your cordless items before any long-term storage, regardless of brand. If you discover there is acid damage in the battery compartment of the item, try to safely remove the caked on battery acid by using CRC Battery Cleaner or equal product. They can be found at your local auto parts store. Follow the instructions carefully. Use a cotton swab dipped in this battery cleaner to apply to the affected areas. Once it has dried, blow or brush the dried residue out of the instrument. This may allow you to salvage your cordless tool/item.

▪ **Do You Want/Need to Cool a Food/Drink Item in a Hurry?:**

Wet a double-ply paper towel with tap water and wrap the item in it. Place it in the freezer compartment. This will speed up the cooling process considerably.

▪ **Left Over Pancake Batter or Biscuit/Muffin Mix:**

If you end up with left over batters, they can be saved for future use. Store this batter in a clean, empty, plastic squeeze bottle with a built-in, closable spout and store in the refrigerator. Ketchup, syrup and mustard bottles are often packaged this way. Now, you can use that built-in spout to easily fill cupcake, biscuit and muffin tins with excellent control to avoid making any spills or messes. If there is still some leftover batter in the squeeze bottle, simply close the spout and you can put it away in the refrigerator for future use.

▪ **Do You Need a Long Match to Reach a Difficult Spot?:**

Use a match or lighter to light one end of an unbroken length of dry Spaghetti Noodle. Now, you have a long, lighted "match" - long enough to reach a gas pilot light orifice or to light candles with a long reach.

▪ **How to Build a Fire Without Kindling or Paper:**

This is an easy one! Simply use any deep fried snack food (potato chips, corn chips, Doritos, corn nuts, tortilla chips, corn puffs, etc.) Simply make a small pile of the fried snack food and light it just like kindling. The residual cooking oil will burn at a high temperature and should do a good job as a fire starter.

▪ **Washing a large amount of raw, unpeeled potatoes:**

If you need to wash a large number of raw potatoes, simply place them in your dishwasher in a single layer (can use both top and lower drawer trays) and set the controls on "cold" temperature and rinse cycle, only – no soap or detergent. Let the dishwasher do the hard work.

■ **Pouring Liquids From a Plastic Bag:**

When using a large plastic bag to marinate meats and fowl, what do you do after the period of marinating is over? After removing the meat/fowl, you're left with a considerable amount of liquid made up of marinade and raw meat/fowl juices. Trying to pour it out from the bag top opening into a sauce pan to cook and reduce it to make a glaze can be very messy. Instead, squeeze most of the air out of the bag and tie off the open top end. Now you have a smaller, sealed bag that is easier to handle. Carefully place one corner of the bag at the bottom into the sauce pan or other container. Use a pair of scissors to snip the corner off the bag to allow the liquid to flow into the sauce pan.

■ **When traveling on Long Flights, Download Movies and Other Program Material to View During the Flight onto Your Smart Phone, Tablet or Laptop:**

The seat pitch on airliners today is very skimpy. Placing your playback device on your tray table often turns out to be very uncomfortable or impractical. A better solution would be to place your wireless device into a clear plastic bag and hang it on the tray table locking lever on the back of the seat in front of you. You may have to punch a hole in the bag at the center/top to slip it over the rotating lever. You'll need to use wireless Bluetooth earbuds/headphones or if using a corded listening device, punch a hole in the plastic bag to connect the wireless device to your listening device.

MARCH 2023 CONSUMER TIPS

■ **Outdated Covid 19 Test Kits:**

Most of us have Covid 19 Home Test Kits obtained when they first became available. Those early units are probably now outdated per the original printed expiration date on the outer packaging graphics. However, FDA and the manufacturers have found them to still be viable past that original expiration date. To find the new, updated expiration date, do the following:

1. On your PC or Apple device, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/mwvtemwy> and scroll down to the listing table of manufacturers to find your specific test kit. Look under the column titled "Expiration Date" for that particular product. If there is a new expiration date for this product, there will be a link "Expiration Date: [See link for list of updated expiration dates.](#)" If there is not notation as shown above, there are no extended expiration dates for this product.
2. Click on this link and it will take you to all the product lot numbers with original expiration dates shown. The last column will show the new Expiration Date.
3. Mark packaging graphics with the new Expiration Date and save for future, extended use.

■ **Top 5 Hot Dog Picks:** Obviously, hot dogs are not all alike! Here are the top 5 picks by a Washington Post survey.

#5. Whole Foods 365 Uncured Beef Hot Dogs - Score: 71

I'm not sure what it is about this hot dog. Maybe it was the moment in the taste test when the nitrates finally started to go to our brains. But Whole Foods' house-brand hot dog – "a good blend of salty and sweet," "spicy, good size and thickness" – inspired some of the most descriptive comments of the entire taste test. "It's a little bigger than I like to see in a hot dog, but this is a family newspaper, so I won't make jokes," said one colleague. "Did they put liquid smoke in this thing? Because it has a weird smoky note," said another. For those of you who can relate to the colleague who has a specific appreciation for the tips of hot dogs, here's this detailed feedback, verbatim: "Some of the tips curve upward, and I was excited to try, because I thought the texture would be chewy, but it was just mush. It's a little wobbly and curvy, like the drunk uncle of hot dogs." (When I followed up with said colleague to inquire about his thing for hot dog tips, he mused, "I wonder what Freud would say.") Here's some feedback in the form of pure poetry, from another taster: "Salty, thick meat stick. There's not much more to say about this bad boy. I feel like Goldilocks rating these hot dogs. There's a juuuust right size, and this ain't it."

4. Trader Joe's Uncured Beef Hot Dogs - Score: 73

Trader Joe's does nostalgic favorites well – [its offerings came in first and second place in our mac and cheese taste test](#) – so we were not surprised to see a high score for its dogs. Though the spices were confusing for some tasters – "Is there rosemary or some other Italian spice in this?" one asked, while another inquired about liquid smoke – they earned high marks for their bold flavor and spice blend. "These are sweet and a little tangy, which is weird but also kind of pleasant," said one taster, while another noted, "I'm getting a smoky flavor, and I like it." They are "très snappy," and "somehow looked

less processed than most of the dogs." And the pepper! "You can see pepper flakes in these," said one taster, while another deemed them "a little more peppery than salty — one of my favorites."

3. Oscar Mayer Classic Beef Uncured Franks - Score: 82

The beloved hot dog brand remains at the top of its game. They're on the slimmer side, but that worked for some of our tasters: "I like a good compact hot dog over a wider one." "This hot dog packs a decent punch in its tiny frame, but it gets lost in a bun. A good option for someone who likes bread, condiments and just a little bit of meat." People appreciated its appearance — "a very optimistic red with just a hint of brown" — and its "umami-ish" "smoky" flavor. "These are snaptastic." "A top hot dog." "This one tasted extremely Nats Park, hot dog + beer + summer day."

2. Nathan's Angus Beef Franks - Score: 84

This Coney Island hot dog is an American classic for a reason. "In a bun — and with condiments, ideally — this is a well-balanced, tasty hot dog," said one taster, and most agreed. It is "uniform with a nice sweat going" and "thinner than the others, the Kate Moss of this tasting." It has a "good snap, but the casing is more on the rubbery side," one taster complained. Nevertheless, an incredibly solid dog.

1. Costco's Kirkland Beef Hot Dogs - Score: 93

Surprise! The same place where you can buy a 36-pack of toilet paper also produces the best store-bought hot dog in America. They were universally loved by our tasters for their "solid salt and garlic balance," "a very beefy hot dog with a lot of seasoning" and "good size, pretty good snap and well-balanced taste." They have a quintessential hot dog appearance: "These pick up grill marks nicely." "This one is more red, and I prefer red over brown." All in all, this "pleasing overall" hot dog scored the most points for having the right combination of spices, beef and snap that reminded our tasters of the best summer days of their youth. They epitomize "classic dog taste." "I could eat three of these at a ball-game." They "taste like childhood." They "taste like summer."

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/25mk6c6v>

NOTE: Costco sells these in 3-packs of 12 hot dogs per package (36 hot dogs, total). Packaged hot dogs can be stored in the refrigerator 2 weeks before opening. After opening a package of hot dogs you can keep them for a week in the refrigerator (40 °F/4.4 °C or less). **These meats can also be frozen for 1 to 2 months for best quality.** Freeze them in their original package. To freeze less than a package, place them in a freezer grade Ziploc Bag. Frozen foods are safe indefinitely.

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/yc633z26>

■ **Care of Cast Iron and Carbon Steel Pot & Pans:** Use the following preserving tips to make sure your good cookware lasts.

HAND WASH » Putting pans in the dishwasher will accelerate their demise and could warp them. Though a Cookware maker may say pans are dishwasher safe, dishwashers are harsh environments. All cast iron and carbon steel pans should be washed by hand with a sponge, pan scraper, or chainmail scrubber.

COOL IT » Do not rush your hot pan into cold water. Thermal shock is hard on metal and could warp pans and shorten their lives. A pan should be cool to the touch before you wash it. Similarly, don't throw a cold pan on a high flame. Let it warm up gradually.

EMBRACE THE GRUNGE » Pans are not décor items. Cookware that looks used is a badge of honor. "You don't want the carpenter with the hammer that looks brand new. "You do want the carpenter with the beat up tools." Although the brownness left from burnt-on oil is not bad, if you want to restore some original shine, mix Barkeepers Friend with water to make a paste then scour. Stained enamel? Though enamel-coated pans won't acquire non-stick seasoning like cast iron, their light surfaces can darken. To restore them, make a solution of one part bleach and three parts water and let the mixture soak in the pan overnight.

EMBRACE THE PLASTIC SCRUBBER >> The beauty of Stainless-steel pans, which often have a core of aluminum, is their durability. Hand wash them with soap, scrub all you want with a plastic scrubber (steel one can scratch the surface) and if you need to soak them, go ahead.

SEASON THEM » Cast iron and carbon steel need seasoning, which means creating a coating of oil and fat, so when the pan heats, it has a naturally non-stick surface. For pans that don't come pre-seasoned or that need re-seasoning, here's one way to do it: Wash pan in warm water. Let dry completely. Spread a thin layer of melted shortening or oil over it. Put it in a 400 °F oven on a rack upside down. Put a baking sheet underneath to catch drip. Bake for one hour. Let cool, then wipe.

DON'T USE SOAP » When washing cast iron or carbon steel pans, let them cool a few minutes, then turn the tap on hot. Rinse and scrub with a brush or plastic scrubber, no soap. Soap will strip all the seasoning you are working hard to lay down. Don't worry about germs. The heat will kill them. Don't soak cast iron. If food is stuck on, use boiling water to loosen it. Rinse, dry and set it back on the warm burner to finish drying. While you can let a stainless-steel pan soak overnight, soaking cast iron or carbon steel breaks down the oils you want to preserve. Once the pan is dry, add a drop of any kind of oil about half the size of a dime. Wipe it all over the pan until the oil disappears.

LOSE THE SHINE >> Carbon /steel pans usually arrive shiny and silver, but they don't stay that way for long. With use and seasoning they turn blotchy brown and eventually black. Because these pans arrive with beeswax or industrial grease to prevent rusting, you need to scrub this coating off before seasoning. Rust is okay. If your cast iron or iron or carbon steel pans get rusty, no problem. People over-complicate this! If you mess up, just scrub the pan and start over. You can't hurt these pans. They are very forgiving.

NOTE: The above is an excerpt of an article that appeared in the November 1, 2020, issue of the Tri-Valley Times by Syndicated columnist Marni Jameson. She is the author of five home and lifestyle books including "Downsizing the Family Blended Home What to Save, What to Let Go" and "Downsizing the Blended Home - When Two Households Become One."

▪ **Safe Removal of Self Adhesive Labels and Tapes:** Use WD-40 as a solvent to soften the adhesive on paper labels such as price markers and other permanent adhesive items for safe removal without harm to the labels or substrates. Spray it on the labels to be removed and wait an hour or more. The adhesive will soften to allow removal of the 'sticker' without harming the article or substrate that the label was attached to. Use more WD-40 on a clean rag to remove the remaining adhesive residue on the article. An alternative method is to use an electric heat gun to heat (soften) the sticker adhesive and remove it manually and use WD-40 to clean off any remaining residue.

Note: This works as long as the adhesive is still "sticky" to the touch. If it has been exposed to sunlight or other UV light sources for very long, the UV light will crystallize the adhesive. At this point, the adhesive will no longer be fluidic. At this point there is no hope of removing the label without damaging the substrate. Once crystallized, your only method of removal is to physically abrade the label and crystallized adhesive (now a stubborn solid material) using sandpaper, copper scouring pad or other abrasive agent.

▪ **Save Your Tongue and Saliva:** If you have lots of stamps or envelopes to attach or seal, try using a used semi-wet tea bag in place of your tongue to wet the water soluble adhesive. Save this tip for Christmas or some other occasion requiring this kind of activity. **Source: This idea was submitted by Jerald Cerri.**

▪ **Removal of Limescale and Mineral Deposits:** Generally speaking, we are fortunate to have reasonably good water quality in East Bay, especially for homes served by EBMUD water. Even with high quality water, Limescale and Mineral Deposits will still build up over time. Small appliances like coffee makers, electric hot water kettles and plumbing fixtures (faucets and shower heads, etc.) can have performance issues due to this buildup. To Remove Limescale From Your Kettle, Coffee Maker, Toilet, Shower Head, Door And More, do this - Fill your kettle with water and white vinegar (or lemon juice) in equal amounts. Leave this mixture to soak for an hour. Boil the kettle. Drain the mixture away and give the kettle a good rinse. Wipe down the outside of the kettle with your vinegar and water mix. For plumbing fixture exteriors and sinks, use a mixture of equal parts white vinegar and bicarbonate of soda and blend this into a paste. Use your fingers to rub this white paste into any hard water stains, rough-to-the-touch areas (signs of buildup). Wait five minutes

while the paste softens the limescale patches. Gently scrub each stain with a soft sponge and rinse the treated surfaces to remove any remaining paste. Dry the sink and polish the taps. To clean the faucet/sink aerators and shower heads, unscrew them from the fixture and soak them submerged overnight in mixture of equal parts water and white vinegar. Use a stainless steel mixing bowl for this simple task. Reattach them to your fixture and run water through them to rinse the vinegar mixture clear. **Note:** WD-40 is not an effective descaling agent. Don't use it.

▪ **How to Safely Retrieve Small, Loose/lost Items:** You've probably seen or heard of this one before but it's worth repeating. If you lose a small piece of jewelry, a very tiny part of something you've disassembled (screws, springs, nuts, retainer clips, etc.), sweep the suspected area of the floor, carpet, grass or ground and examine small pile of debris. Or, cover the front nozzle entrance with an old nylon stocking and vacuum the area. The screen will stop your tiny lost article from being ingested by the hand vacuum cleaner.

▪ **The Best and Worst Laundry Detergents:** Consumer Reports rates the top 3 best and the bottom 3 as follows:

Best: #1 – Tide Plus Ultra Stain Release, score **84**, 28¢/load; #2 – Kirkland Signature (Costco) Ultra Clean, score **76**, 11¢/load; #3 – Persil Proclean Sensitive Skin, score **75**, 37¢/load.

Worst Pods/Packs: Arm & Hammer 4 in 1 Power Paks OxiClean, score **32**, 16¢/load; **Worst Liquid:** Sun Triple Clean, score 31, 8¢/load; **Worst Strips:** Tru Earth Eco Strips, score 11, 39¢/load.

Source: CR, Nov. 2022 issue

▪ **When to Replace Your Electric Toothbrush Head:** You may have heard that you should swap out your brush every three to four months-and that's true, according to the American Dental Association. But electric brush head replacements can be costly (a two-pack for the Oral-B can cost \$30), which may make you hesitate to chuck your brush that often. So check it for signs of wear. If the brush still has upright, intact bristles, you're probably okay to keep using it. But if the bristles are matted or frayed, pull out a new one. Worn-down bristles are less effective at cleaning. And toss your brush if you've just gotten over a cold. Lingering germs on the bristles can lead to reinfection. By the way, non-OEM brush heads are often significantly lower-cost (four for \$10).

Source: CR November 2022 issue

▪ **Air Fryer Tips:** To get great results, try these.

No matter which model you choose, here are a few easy air fryer hacks to get perfectly cooked food.

Pat food dry before cooking. Remove excess moisture from unbreaded food that you want crispy or browned, such as meat, fish, and vegetables, before seasoning.

Line the basket to cut down on the mess. Reusable and disposable air fryer liners work well with most foods. The small holes allow for air circulation while keeping marinades and batters in place-and reducing the time you spend cleaning the basket.

Avoid overfilling the basket. Crowd the basket or tray and you'll prevent the hot air from reaching all of the food, which slows down cooking and gives you uneven or soggy results.

Flip the food as it cooks. For bigger items, such as a chicken breast, use tongs to flip the food over, typically halfway through the cook time, for more even results. For smaller pieces, take the basket out and give it a quick shake.

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▪ **ACT Kids Anticavity Fluoride Rinse:**

Previously, I had mentioned that my Dental Hygienist recommended that I use an Anticavity Fluoride Rinse after brushing my teeth. I've been using **ACT Kids Anticavity Fluoride Rinse** for the last 6 months. I just had my last cleaning and inspection performed by my Dental Hygienist. She reports that there is a marked improvement over my previous sessions with her – no new cavities and less plaque. She attributes this improvement to the use of a Fluoride Rinse product combined with better (longer) brushing technique using my Braun electric Toothbrush. I recommend this product. It comes in several different flavors and the plastic bottle has a built in measuring dispenser cap that is super easy to use with no drip or measuring issues.

▪ **Watch for lower prices at the retail level for Australian Red Wines:** Australian red wine grape growers are being urged to consider pulling out their grapes as the industry battles plummeting

prices, a glut of wine and soaring farm input costs. This excess production started with over production of red grapes going back to 2015. The red wine excess grew when China levied a heavy, punitive import tariff on Australian Red Wines as the result of a trade dispute. At the same time, competitors began producing quality red wines in Spain, Argentina and Italy at lower prices. As a result Australian red exports have fallen by 20% over the past several years. This should result in lower prices and higher quality for Australian wines on wine shelves throughout the Australian Red markets.

Source: <https://drinksdigest.com/2021/12/17/australian-wine-glut-challenges-industry/>

▪ **Do not avoid or delay paying any DMV fines or late charges:** This is a cautionary tale. Some years ago, Brenda Angulo, a Bay Area resident ignored a 50¢ Express Lane Fee. She accumulated additional fees and penalties for bridge tolls, parking tickets and other minor offenses. The total she owed to multiple express lane and bridge toll agencies was far worse, climbing to over \$30,000 made up mostly of late payment fees and other fines, tacked on to her original charges of about \$3,000!

Source: Bay Area Newsgroup

▪ **Phishing and other Scams are reaching epidemic proportions:** The following is a legitimate email I received from Costco:

"Millions of people are receiving the Costco survey reward email scam spam, with Costco survey rewards of "up to \$100" promised. Others get email promising a "Costco survey free gift". They are all scams, don't fall for them! Says Costco, "These offers are not from Costco Wholesale. You should not visit any links provided in messages such as these, and you should not provide the sender any personal information."

Here is what a typical Costco survey scam email looks like (this is an actual sample, with the blank lines removed for ease of reading):

From: Melanie Herta

To: (email address redacted)

Subject: Congratulations Costco Customer, up to \$100 Reward 1669161

ClickHereFor The Survey & Pick Up To \$100 Bonus

Start the Survey & Choose Your BonusHere

Fast! Deal Expires in 24 Hours. 126 'E. TWENTY-THIRD St. NEW YORK NEW YORK loolo

To no longer receive this message, Go Here"

For more info, here is a link to a Costco webpage giving warning of more phishing and scam emails purported to be from Costco: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2m7j64>

FYI, phishing and other scam attempts has become so common that I have been receiving multiple email and cell phone attempts every day purported to be from other well known businesses and organizations that include Lowe's, Geek Squad, Amazon, Kohl's, PayPal, Xfinity, etc.

▪ **Best Cocoa Powder for Use With Your Home Recipes:** 1. Proste, 2. Guittard, 3. Hershey's

Source: America's Test Kitchen

▪ **Your Best Deals for Tires in local area:>**

The table below shows prices our undercover shoppers were quoted by a sampling of local tire dealers - including big chains, warehouse clubs, independent tire stores, auto repair shops, new-car dealers, and online sellers - for four specific models/sizes of tires: two sets for a Honda Accord and two for a Toyota Highlander. We asked each seller to quote prices for four tires for each tire model, including mounting, balancing, and disposal fees.

The table also reports Checkbook's price comparison score for each store or chain. These scores show how each store's prices compared to the average of all stores' prices for the tires we shopped. We adjusted the scores so that the average of all stores equals \$100. A score of \$105, for example, means prices averaged five percent higher than the all-store average.

Note that for online-only retailers, which don't offer installation services, we added a \$121 installation fee (that was the average cost for installation quoted by local shops) to their prices.

Here's a rundown of what our undercover shoppers found:

- Major price differences, with some outlets charging hundreds of dollars more than others for the exact same set of tires. For example, prices for a set of four Michelin Latitude Tour tires for the Toyota Highlander ranged from \$830 at Costco to \$1,482 at Castro Valley Tire Pros—a difference of \$652.
- Among local stores, Costco was the clear winner for price. For the four sets of tires we shopped the warehouse club's prices were 19 percent lower than the average prices quoted by all stores, about 10 percent lower than those at America's Tire, and a staggering 39 percent lower than Les Schwab's.
- Big chains America's Tire, Pep Boys, Firestone Complete Auto Care, Wheel Works, and Sam's Club also generally offered low prices, but we also found deals when shopping at some independent tire dealers, repair shops, and even new-car dealerships.
- Not all of the big chains offered low prices. Surveyed stores for Just Tires and Les Schwab quoted prices that overall were more expensive than average. Prices quoted by the Les Schwab stores we surveyed were among the highest we found.
- Although Costco and Sam's Club offered low prices, a big advantage to using a conventional tire shop is that selection at warehouse clubs is fairly limited.
- Online sellers Amazon and [DiscountTireDirect.com](https://www.discounttiredirect.com) also offered consistently low prices—with vast selection. These retailers will ship tires to your home or to a local shop for installation. Among the online sellers, we found that DiscountTireDirect.com's prices were the lowest—about 14 percent lower than the average prices we collected from all the stores we surveyed. Prices at several other online-only outlets were just slightly better than average once we factored in installation costs.
- Stores that had low prices for one tire model tended to be competitive for others, but you can't count on that. Some stores quoted low prices for one tire model but average or higher-than-average prices for others.
- When shopping for price, specify exactly what you want. If you want mounting, balancing, and valve stems to be included, make sure prices you are quoted include that. And because there are so many tire models, many with very similar names and specifications, double-check the tire model by comparing its parts number.
- Stores tend to specialize in certain brands, order some upon request, and refuse to handle others. They are likely to offer their best prices for their specialties. Indeed, some of the stores we shopped would probably have looked better if we had shopped for other brands.

Where can you get great installation service? Considering how technically complicated cars have become, you'd expect general repairs to be much more challenging than just selling and installing tires. Not so. In our surveys of tire-buying consumers, an astounding 25 percent said they did not recommend the stores or shops where they most recently bought tires. [The feedback we've collected from local tire buyers should at least help you avoid the worst of the lot.](#)

One way to make sure you get a good price on tires and quality installation is to order tires from a low-priced online seller (in our survey of tire prices, among stores we shopped [DiscountTireDirect.com](https://www.discounttiredirect.com) offered very low prices), and have them shipped to a top-rated repair shop ([click here for our ratings of hundreds of area shops for quality and price](#)). Not all repair shops install tires, but many do.

Source: Consumer's Check Book, December, 2021

■ **Clearing Clogged Drains in Home Sinks and Wash Basins:** Start by using the easiest technique first. That would be going to the hardware store and getting a good, commercial, chemical drain cleaner. Follow the product instructions carefully. It may take multiple attempts to clear the blockage. If that doesn't work, try using a plunger. Clear the counter around the sink as this will likely get very messy. Use extra towels to surround the sink splashes and keep the area clean, if possible. Fill the sink with tap water before beginning to pump the plunger. Find a way to block the sink vent holes – usually located in the basin high and to the rear of the sink. This is especially important on the down strokes of the plunger. Duct tape or Blue 3M Painter's Tape should work well. You may have to apply pressure to the tape to keep it from dislodging from the vent holes. Once the drain begins to run (even partially) use hot, boiling water to help free up the blockage further. Repeat the process until the basin drain runs freely. Check the drain on a regular basis and repeat the procedure if it begins to run slowly, again. Once it is running free and clear, spray the entire counter with

antiseptic cleaner and wipe everything down as a precaution against harmful bacteria that might be present in that clogged drain water.

■ **Home Warranties Are Lousy Deals:**

For decades we have urged consumers not to buy home warranties. Although companies that sell these policies promise their coverage can save thousands of dollars in potential repair bills, you can't count on them to provide that peace of mind. These plans are typically terrible deals for most buyers. They are costly and don't fully cover the most expensive types of problems. Plus, when things do go wrong, these warranties tend to dispatch third-party repair companies that are beholden to the home warranty company, not to you. Often, the contractors they send do awful work.

■ **Warranty Companies Advertise Affordability but Their Products Are Actually Quite Expensive!**

Warranty companies promise they can save you big money in repair bills if you have a problem with an appliance or home system. Select Home Warranty says its products will "Shield your wallet from unexpected costs of repairing or replacing a home appliance. This and other sales pitches make it seem like you'll never pay for a home repair again, but it's not all that simple. To start, there's a monthly premium that ranges from \$25 to \$80 or more (\$300 to \$1,000+ per year). Then you'll be responsible for a "trade Service fee" that typically costs \$75 to \$150 for the initial service visit for each claim you make. (With most plans, repairs are done by businesses that warranty companies hire.) If the warranty company denies your claim - which often happens - you still pay that initial service fee. These plans also usually promise that if an appliance is too costly to fix, the company will replace it. But as with repairs, we find that there are lots of fine-print 'gotchas' here, too. Most homeowners who get home warranties pay far more in premiums and service fees and for uncovered repairs than if they skipped buying coverage. The SEC filings for the nine months ending in September 2022 for Frontdoor, the parent company of American Home Shield and a few other home service plan providers, reported revenue of \$1.3 billion, nearly all of it from the sale of these types of plans. But its cost to provide services to its customers was only \$757 million. That means Frontdoor paid out about 57 cents to cover claims for every dollar it took in. Frontdoor reported having 2.2 million active home contract sales nationwide.

Home warranties really aren't warranties at all; they're service contracts that you pay for mostly in advance as a hedge against costly repairs. Think of them as insurance coverage. But most homeowners don't need to insure against such relatively small risks. We often write that insurance is for catastrophes, for risks that are intolerable, like fires, auto accidents, or medical problems. The risks covered by home warranties might be unpleasant, but for most homeowners, replacing a dishwasher or fixing a fridge won't be financially catastrophic. In fact, most repairs covered by these policies are inexpensive - the most common costs of appliance, HVAC system, or plumbing repairs run only \$150 to \$350.

Too Many Fine-Print Gotchas! The cost and range of the coverage from these policies vary by company and the level of protection you choose. But even the most comprehensive plans include long lists of fine-print exclusions that limit the companies' financial exposure from things that break often or that can be costly to fix or replace. Some companies have poor disclosure of these limitations.

Think you're covered if your roof leaks? Some plans will pay for limited repairs; none of the contracts we reviewed will reimburse for a full replacement. Water heater sprung a leak? Many home warranties don't cover that, either. It's often the same if you have trouble with a window air conditioner, heating system humidifier, home security system, smart-home devices, or solar power system. Having a problem with your garage door or the track it runs on? How about your stand-alone microwave oven? Don't expect any of that to be covered. One plan we examined even excludes any damage that occurs during your oven's self-cleaning cycle.

Even for covered repairs, you might find your claim denied if you don't have records to prove you performed the manufacturer's recommended maintenance or if the problem was caused by something other than normal wear and tear, such as a power surge. Buried in Select Home Warranty's "sample Service Contract Terms & Conditions, the company declares it "reserves the right and may request prior years (3) maintenance records and/or pictures, without proper maintenance records and pictures the maximum payout on any system/appliance is up to \$150." Companies also can deny claims if they decide the problems were caused by a product defect or a preexisting condition that predated your coverage.

Those are just a few of the fine-print limitations that let providers wiggle out of covering claims. And based on feedback from our members and the complaints on file with consumer agencies, plan providers are all too eager to impose them. Even when these companies do cover claims, they often limit their payouts. For instance, the sample

contract we reviewed for American Home Shield said the company caps reimbursement for HVAC equipment repairs or replacements at \$1,500; that same limit applies if you have a leaky roof. Similarly, Select's payout limit for electrical, plumbing, and appliance repairs is \$500. We found several warranty companies advertise "fully covering appliances" but hide in fine print that they'll reimburse only up to the depreciated value of your dead model if it needs replacing. While their websites and brochures boast about the things that are covered, important limitations are buried in contract terms and conditions. With some companies, we couldn't find actual contracts on their websites to review; even for companies that make them available, we usually found them loaded with hard-to-understand technical terms and legalese. In Some cases, we couldn't determine whether common problems would be covered. Select Home Warranty's on-line enrollment pages include a link to its "Terms and Conditions" page. Even that wall of text describing numerous policy exclusions and coverage limits lacks important specifics: While it indicates policy-holders are responsible for a copay for each service call, and its sales page mentions "you pay a minimal service fee," it left us guessing as to the amount.

Source: Bay Area Checkbook, Volume 19, Winter/Spring 2023.

Note: *The above is verbatim information published in the article. The following important issues are also noted but without explanation, sample or detail.*

1. Thousands of Dissatisfied Customers:
2. Warranty Companies Work with Lousy Contractors – Who **don't work for you!** Home **warranty** businesses often send out lousy companies to make repairs. These technicians work for the warranty companies, not you! But all the policies we examined stated that the warranty companies aren't responsible for quality of work!
3. Real Estate Agents Often Recommend Policies – and earn Commissions for Doing So.
4. Online Reviews of Home Warranty Companies are not truthful and cannot be trusted.
5. Don't Buy Home Warranty Policies

Additional Related Note:

Recent articles have also recently been published in Consumer Reports Magazine concerning Extended Warranties for Home Appliances, Automotive Extended Warranties, Extended Warranties for lost/damaged/defective Credit Card Purchases. All the information for these extended warranties is very similar to those shown above for Home Warranties.