



The Pathfinder

Branch 59 Fremont

Fiftieth Year

January 2025

Bulletin No.1

THE ROOSTER TALES

By Big Sir Rob Perrill



So here we are at the beginning of a brand new year. I love the newness and the opportunities. I am excited to be taking on the honor of being the new Big Sir and look forward to building upon the years of SIR tradition.

I have heard from several members about how much this organization means to them and the importance of fraternity and fellowship. Coming from a Business Development background I clearly understood this. As I became more involved with this organization, I began to see my experiences and friendships grow. These are life's treasures that will last a lifetime and how wonderful is that? I encourage everyone to become more actively involved in our Pathfinder Branch 5 Niner. The pay is not that great but the benefits are simply extraordinary.

2025 is the FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY of the Pathfinder. What a Golden opportunity to help build our thriving group of local talents and manpower. After all, it is up to us. We are so much more than golfers, bowlers, walkers, wine tasters and the like. Our strength comes from our shared values, our friendships and unity. Let us build together. This is of course, a group effort and we can have fun doing it.

A question or three to ponder: What keeps you coming back to us, whether it be our activities or our great luncheons? What is it that you enjoy or are not pleased with? What would you like to see changed and what ideas do you have? Over the next 12 months I will be asking for a volunteer or two to share his thoughts during our gatherings. We may not be able to act on all the ideas presented but having your feedback will give us direction.

Of the 134 plus members we currently have, I know only too few of you. I aim to change that and welcome us all to do the same. As Emerson said: "The only way to have a friend is to be one."

Ken Brunskill (Attendance Chairman) will now be sending invitations to the monthly luncheons by email and will no longer be using Evite. It is important to RSVP for the Luncheon by the Thursday (January 9th) prior to the luncheon, so the caterer can plan accordingly.

JANUARY GUEST SPEAKERS

Kellie Barron and Anju Sharma
Tri-City Volunteers Food Bank



Kellie Barron is the Program Manager at TCV.

I am grateful to be here today and would like to share a bit about my journey with TCV.

I have had the privilege of working with this organization during two different periods.

My first experience was from 2018 to 2021, where I served as the Mobile Pantry Coordinator. I returned in 2023, and I am now proud to hold the position of Program Manager.



Anju Sharma, dedicated Volunteer Coordinator at TCV. Anju has been with TCV for over two years, passionately overseeing the efforts of more than 30 volunteers each day. Her commitment and leadership have been invaluable to our community.

For more information visit our website at:

<https://tcvfoodbank.org/>

Can you find Rollie? 

You can win a bottle of wine if your name is selected. Submit your answer by placing your name and the page number where Rollie is located in the *Pathfinder* onto a slip of paper and into the Rollie "tub." The tub is located at the small table up front.



January 15th Luncheon Menu

Beef Stroganoff and Jerusalem Chicken
Noodles and Rice

Steamed Vegetables, Green Salad and Dinner Rolls
Chocolate Cake and Vanilla Ice Cream

Branch 59 Officers

Big Sir

Rob Perrill
(510) 468-1274

Little Sir

Richard Henry
(510) 458-8291

Secretary

David Nelsen
(510) 673-5042

Asst. Secretary

OPEN

Treasurer

Larry Lardie
(510) 579-5934

Asst. Treasurer

Mark Silvera
(408) 605-3416

Directors

Ken Brunskill
Jerry Ford
Nat Lord
Sammy Lum
Bob Marshall

RAMP

Jim Ulam-Recruitment
Fred Serena -Activities
Rob Ingebretson-Membership
Bob Marshall-Publicity

Branch 59

Meets at Fremont Elks
38991 Farwell Drive,
Fremont CA on the 3rd
Wednesday of each
month

10:00 AM

Executive Board Meeting

11AM Social Hour

12 Noon Lunch



Make it one of your New Year's resolutions: join one of the many SIR activities this year. Is there a new activity you're interested in? Be sure to let Activity Chairman Fred Serena know! (email: pizzanight@comcast.net)

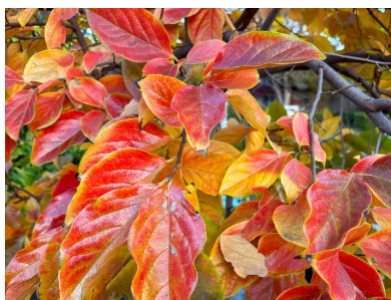
BOWLING UPDATE



The Monday SIRS bowling program has completed 16 weeks into a year-long season, with approximately 20 bowlers showing up each week. Our regular group of 27 is comprised of 18 Branch 59 members, 5 from Branch 128, 1 from Branch 19 and 3 regular lady guests. A cash prize of \$100.00 awaits the one who accumulates the most points by the end of August 2025; \$60.00 goes to second place and \$40.00 to third. Six points are awarded to the bowler with the highest handicap series each week, 5 to the second highest, down to 1 for sixth place.

We're expecting to send 10 bowlers from our Monday league to participate in the next monthly SIR tournament which will be held in Napa, on January 21-22. The bowling alley in Napa is equipped with string pinsetters, a new technology that uses cords to move pins instead of gravity. The bowling string pinsetter requires much less power and maintenance overall and is projected to be the future look in bowling.

~Miguel Ferras Bowling Chairman



The Wednesday Walkers were in Union City on November 27th really fudged our time (21 minutes) without our leader (at the dentist) who caught up with us later at Suju's Coffee and Tea. Lots of leaves on our record-breaking short walk. We did have some lively conversations which continued for those who drifted over to the coffee shop.

~ Bruce Roberts



Sir Sammy Lum Birthday Chairman



You may have noticed that our birthday procedure has changed. If it is your birthday month you are to pick up a lei in the box located next to the gentleman that gives you your badge when you enter. You are to wear it during the luncheon and you may sit anywhere you want as there will no longer be a birthday table. Some time during the luncheon you will be given the opportunity to say your name and how old you are. After all the birthdays have been announced there will be a drawing for a bottle of wine given to one of the birthday members present. We ask that when you leave the luncheon that you please return your lei to the same box where you picked it up.

We will celebrate the December 2024 birthdays with the January birthdays this month

January Birthdays



Thomas Blalock
Age 93



Sterling Strickland
Age 91



Dominic Aiello
Age 83



Clem Paraiso
Age 81



Bob Banfield
Age 80



Frank Scrivani
Age 79



Robert Marshall
Age 77



Harvey Look
Age 76



Michael Burns
Age 75



Michael Huntzinger
Age 74



John Mallon Jr.
Age 74



Victor Okumura
Age 68



*Large turnout for our
Christmas Holiday
Luncheon*



CYBER GEEZERS



Cyber Geezers meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm. Login information is given below.

Recent topics have included Artificial Intelligence (AI), cyber security, EVs, photography, and various other topics. Join us and get your tech questions answered.

Please send any suggested topics to Jerry at jlsabo3@comcast.net.

Join the next Zoom Cyber Geezer Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/96358532596>

Meeting ID: 963 5853 2596

POKER



The "Dealer's Lunch Bunch" meets for Poker every month on the Monday immediately following our monthly luncheon. We currently have about 10 members who routinely attend games. We have a seven-seat table, so space is limited to the first seven

players who reserve. But don't let that stop you from joining our group! We have had up to 10 players (lots of common card games) since the group started, and IF we consistently get more than 10 reservations, we will open a second table. The buy-in is \$10, with dime-quarter-half dollar chips, so it is within everyone's means. If you have a desire to play, please contact Sir Larry Jett (larrywjett@gmail.com), or Sir Bob Marshall (hdog48@gmail.com).

BOCCE BALL



We have free use of the new court at the beautiful Warm Springs Age Well Center on Fridays. Meet up is every Friday at 10:00 a.m. at 47111 Mission Falls Ct. (near Warm Springs Blvd. and Warren Ave). This will be a co-ed activity; everyone is welcome. Bocce Ball is easy to learn and very fun to play. For more

information contact Howard Elz at ELZH663@GMAIL.COM

PINOCHLE



We are meeting after the Wednesday Luncheon. For more information contact Victor Okumura at VICTOROKUMURA13@GMAIL.COM

BOWLING



We have plenty of room for bowlers to join us on Mondays (Earl Anthony Bowl-Dublin) beginning at 11:00 am. Arrive at least 15 minutes early for lane assignments and practice. Cost is \$16 per week including a weekly prize pot. For more information contact Miguel Ferras at MIGUELFERRAS@MSN.COM



GOLF



Golf is in full swing with regular play at Spring Valley in Milpitas every Tuesday around 9:00 am. We usually get three tee times on a first-come-first-served basis. Pairings are changed regularly to ensure everyone plays with everybody.

Golfers of All Abilities

If you want to play golf with other SIRs you've got to contact me, Jim Ulam or Larry Lardie! Let me put you on our email list!

Call, text or email Jim Ulam or Larry Lardie with any questions.

jimulam@gmail.com (510) 371-1757

larry.lardie@yahoo.com (510) 579-5934



WEDNESDAY WALKERS



Come join us on a weekly walk every Wednesday at 9:00 am. The location is updated once a week. We walk about one hour. Get some exercise and visit with other Sirs. Everyone is welcome, we are co-ed. For more information contact Jerry Ford at

SIRJERRYFORD11@GMAIL.COM

COUPLES WINE TASTING



Yes, (by popular demand) we will be having a Winter wine tasting event. We currently have 33 people signed up to attend!!!

IT WILL BE AT PAGE MILL WINERY ON FRIDAY JANUARY 17, 2025

Page Mill serves a good variety of red and white wines. We will be nice and warm on their covered and heated patio with a picturesque view. Page Mill is known for their excellent service.

- Located at 1960 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore
- 12:30 till 2:00 pm
- Friday January 17, 2025
- \$20 tasting fee for 5 pours
- Discounts for bottle purchases
- Bring your own snacks or purchase snacks from Page Mill
- Check out their website: <https://www.pagemillwinery.com>



We have room for only one or two more couples, so let me know soon if you wish to attend.

Email me at fmtlangs@pacbell.net or call or text me at 510-290-6007.

Thanks, ~Andy Lang -Couples Wine Tasting Activity Honcho



December 18th Christmas Luncheon





Robert Briesch and his guitar delighted us during our social hour and meal. The fine music even enticed some to the dance floor.



Little Sir Rob Perrill presenting Sir Rob Ingebretson with the Distinguish Service Award in recognition of exceptional and extraordinary service to the SIR organization. He has been Big Sir twice, Area Governor, and is currently the Social Chairman and Membership Chairman.



Sir Larry Jett entertained the crowd with his amusing jokes and captivating stories.



Our own Sir John Vickroy led us in a festive group sing-along of Christmas songs. Sir Bob Marshall accompanied with the rhythmic beats of the tambourine.



Sir Richard Henry and Little Sir Rob Perrill handed out around 40 door prizes to some of the lucky members.



The Logan High School Jazz Choir concluded the afternoon with their distinctive takes on classic Christmas songs.

This 'AI Granny' Bores Scammers to Tears

By Jibin Joseph
November 14, 2024

UK-based mobile operator Virgin Media O2 has created an AI-generated "scambaiter" tool to stall scammers. The AI tool, called Daisy, mimics the voice of an elderly woman and performs one simple task: talk to fraudsters and "waste as much of their time as possible."

Here's how Daisy works: O2 added phone numbers linked to its AI tool to the lists used by scammers to target vulnerable people. When a scammer dials a number linked to Daisy, the AI tool can have random conversations about its made-up family and hobbies or provide fake bank details to beat scammers at their own game.

https://youtube/RV_SdCfZ-0s

The telecom operator came up with the idea for Daisy after a survey revealed that 71% of Brits wanted to get back at scammers without wasting their own time.

Multiple AI models were used to create Daisy, which was trained with the help of YouTuber and scam baiter Jim Browning. The tool now transcribes the caller's voice to text and generates appropriate responses using a large language model. All of this takes place without input from an operator. At times, Daisy keeps fraudsters on the line for up to 40 minutes, O2 says.

"We're committed to playing our part in stopping the scammers, investing in everything from firewall technology to block out scam texts to AI-powered spam call detection to keep our customers safe," says Murray Mackenzie, director of fraud at Virgin Media O2.

Last year, a group of Australian cybersecurity experts developed a chatbot that does the same thing as O2's tool. Apate, named after the Greek goddess of deceit, essentially takes ChatGPT-style technology and pairs it with voice cloning to create a dummy human designed to hold long and convincing conversations with a scammer.



**NO BUSINESS MEETING AT SUJU'S
COFFEE AND TEA THIS MONTH**



SIR Branch 59 Membership Dues for 2025

Please make checks payable to **SIR Branch 59**

Amount : \$50

Deadline: February 28, 2025

Mail to : Larry Lardie, 38247 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA. 94536 or bring your **check** (preferred form of payment) or cash to the luncheon. Return the form below with your payment.

NOTE: \$60 for members who have not paid their dues by February 28, 2025.



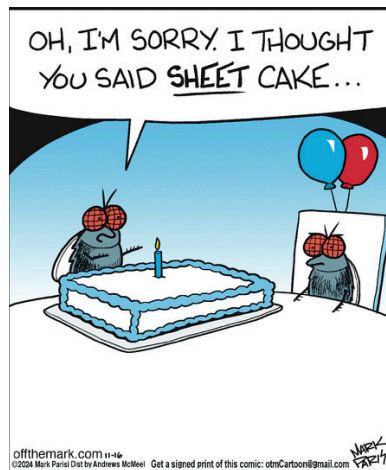
SIR Branch 59 Membership Dues for 2025

Name: _____ Badge #: _____
Date Paid: _____ Amount Paid: _____ Check #: _____

Fun and Games

BIZARRO

Wayno and Piraro



SUPER QUIZ

Take this Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: WHICH FICTIONAL CHARACTER SAID THAT?

(e.g., "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." Answer: Winnie-the-Pooh.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down."

Answer _____

2. "After all, tomorrow is another day."

Answer _____

3. "Please, sir, I want some more."

Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

Answer _____

5. "Th-Th-Th-That's all, folks!"

Answer _____

6. "Toto, I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore."

Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all."

Answer _____

8. "Here's looking at you, kid."

Answer _____

9. "La-di-da, la-di-da."

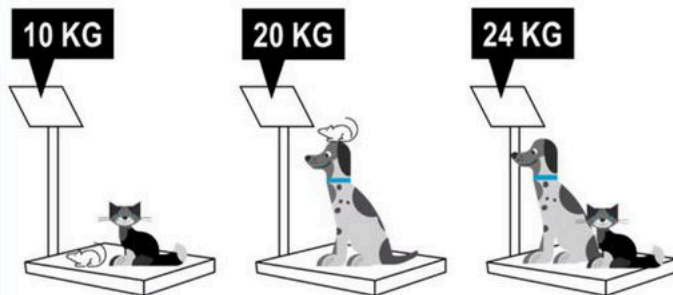
Answer _____

ANSWERS: 1. Mary Poppins. 2. Scarlett O'Hara. 3. Oliver Twist. 4. Ebenezer Scrooge. 5. Porky Pig. 6. Dorothy (Gale). 7. Thumper ("Bambi" film). 8. Rick (Blaine). 9. Annie Hall.

SCORING:

18 points — congratulations, doctor;
15 to 17 points — honors graduate;
10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

Super Quiz is a registered trademark of K. Fisher Enterprises Ltd. © 2024 Ken Fisher North America Syndicate Inc.



Quiz about animals' weight

A dog, cat, and rat have been weighted two by two.

Question:

What is the weight of each animal?

*Answer on page 11

It's that time of year again when the Darwin Awards are bestowed displaying obvious flaws in Darwin's theory of evolution!

Here is the winner:

When his 38 caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.

Who remembers when kitchen tables looked like this?



WHO REMEMBERS



CAN YOU REMEMBER AS A KID, STOMPING ON THE HOSE THAT MAKES THE BELLS RING?



When You Love Her ...



... Even Though She Has A Drinking Problem



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON REVIEW

I want to take this opportunity to thank all my SIR Brothers and their wives or significant other, that had a part in the Christmas Party Luncheon. We had an attendance of 123 guests

If I tried to thank everyone individually, that had a part in the luncheon, I am afraid I would leave someone out. But I must recognize Tom Blalock's wife Gail, and her helpers, for making all of our beautiful centerpieces. We had several SIR Brothers and their wives help set up all the tables. In a addition I want to thank Bruce Roberts for all the photographs he took at the luncheon which you will see in our January Pathfinder. Finally I can't forget two wonderful woman, Catherine Ploor who sold the door prize tickets and my best friend, Gig Ingebretson for distributing our guest name tags.

Thanks to all our SIR Brothers who donated a gift basket or a personal gift or obtained one from our Fremont merchants. If you get a chance to visit one of the merchants, please thank them. They were; Papillon Restaurant, The Country Way Restaurant, Bogie's Pet Food and Supplies, Swiss Park, El Patio Mexican Restaurant, Lazy Dog, BJ's, Market Fish Broiler, Cabrillo Park Café, Costco, and El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant. In all we had about 40 door prize gifts to give away.

Daniel, our caterer and his staff, did a wonderful job in preparing and serving the food.

Finally, the entertainment which made the party special, was provided by Robert Briesch and his guitar. His music entertained us during our social hour and while we were eating. Several couples took the opportunity to dance to his fine music. After we finished eating we were entertained by our own member, John Vickroy who lead us in a few Christmas songs in a group sing along. Another member, Larry Jett made us laugh with a few jokes and finally the wonderful James Logan High School Choir finished off the afternoon with their lovely harmony on some old favorite Christmas songs

**Rob Ingebretson
Social Committee Chairman**

IF YOU BRING A GUEST TO OUR NEXT LUNCHEON COULD YOU PLEASE CALL, ROB INGEBRETSON, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, AT (510) 657-7828 OR EMAIL ROBINGY@COMCAST.NET

Do You Need a Ride to our monthly luncheon? If the answer is yes then let Rob Ingebretson know at (510) 657-7828 or email at ROBINGY@COMCAST.NET

You can get your Pathfinder at [Newsletters-2025](#)
Comments, photos for site etc. email to: sirbranch59@gmail.com

Send news and questions to:
Sammy Lum,
Editor
lumsam@sbcglobal.net
Jerry Sabo,
jlsabo3@comcast.net
Assistant Editor

THE BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (BEC)

Do you even know what it is? Well it is a bunch of members, like you, that keep our branch operating. They would love to have you come and watch and listen to one of their meetings. Their meetings start at 10:00 am near the bar at our Elk's Lodge and finish at 11:00 am. right before our social hour. Although you cannot participate in the voting, your opinion is welcomed. Attending one of their meetings might spark an interest in you to volunteer and become more of an active member or learn how to become part of the BEC.

PATHFINDER DEADLINE
Copy deadline for the next issue of the Pathfinder will be Wednesday, a week after the regularly scheduled Monthly Luncheon Meeting.

Can't Put a Name to a Face?
Visit our branch website at www.sirbranch59.org

Click on the Member Gallery tab on the website and then enter the password: SIR59

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND ASSISTANTS

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Fred Serena - Chairman
ATTENDANCE
Ken Brunskill - Chairman
Bob Marshall - Assistant
Andy Lang - Assistant
AUDIO-VISUAL
Sammy Lum/Jerry Sabo
AUDIT
Carl Nordling - Chairman
Open - Assistant
BOCCE BALL
Howard Elz - Chairman
BIRTHDAYS
Sammy Lum - Chairman
BOWLING
Miguel Ferras - Chairman
CHAPLAINS
Ted Bresler and Russ Blowers
CIRCULATION
Open - Chairman
COUPLES DINING OUT
Jim Ulam - Chairman
COUPLES WINE TASTING
Andy Lang - Chairman
CYBER GEEZERS

Jerry Sabo - Chairman
DATABASE
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Jerry Sabo - Assistant
GOLF
Jim Ulam - Chairman
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Jerry Ford - Chairman
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Sirbranch59.org
Sammy Lum - Webmaster

PATHFINDER BRANCH 59
Sammy Lum, Editor & Publisher
40150 Canyon Heights Dr.
Fremont, CA. 94539

Return Service Requested

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

PAST BIG Sirs

STATE OFFICERS	1976 Peter Clark*	2001 Bob Beam	*(deceased)
STATE PRESIDENT Dale Decker	1977 Karl Heine*	2002 Rollin Cunningham*	
VICE-PRESIDENT Lee Lamp	1978 Harry Cooper*	2003 Don Henry	
STATE SECRETARY Rich Carlston	1979 Kenneth Foster*	2004 Tom Sherba*	
STATE TREASURER Carl Mason	1980 Larry Varblow*	2005 Howard Thompson*	
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER Roy Hodgkinson	1981 Guido Milano*	2006 Les Addison*	
AREA REPRESENTATIVE, REGION 15 Fred Serena	1982 Alex Fulton*	2007 Ted Bresler	
SENIOR HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS Nat Lord	1983 Stephen Epler*	2008 Richard Holley	
HONORARY LIFE MEMBER Arthur Winkley Rob Ingebretson	1984 George Herman*	2009 Don Gillis*	
	1985 Ray Crosby*	2010 Frank R. Thomas	
	1986 Loran Coburn*	2011 Hugh Twomey*	
	1987 Robert Davis*	2012 James Ferenz*	
	1988 Robert Klindt*	2013 Skip Mugford*	
	1989 Martin Annen*	2014 Rob Ingebretson	
	1990 Lee Updegraff*	2015 Skip Mugford*	
	1991 Fred W. Fretter*	2016 Jim Ulam	
	1992 Lyle Kingery*	2017 Jim Ulam	
	1993 LeRoy J. King*	2018 Harvey McAninch*	
	1994 George Hubach*	2019 Harvey McAninch*	
	1995 Clyde Killion*	2019 Richard Henry	
	1996 Bill Schwan*	2020 Richard Henry	
	1997 Nat Lord	2021 Larry Jett	
	1998 John Buchanan*	2022 Bob Marshall	
	1999 Art Lampert*	2023 Jerry Halligan	
	2000 Harry Heyen*	2024 Rob Ingebretson	