



# SIR Solano Branch 88 February 2023 Newsletter

*"Live Longer, Live Happier, Join SIR"*

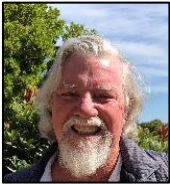
State Website – [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org)

Branch 88 Website – [sirinc2.org/branch88/](http://sirinc2.org/branch88/)

P.O. Box 502, Benicia, CA 94510

## Big SIR ... My Two Cents

– Harold Persily



Hi, All. Hope everyone had a good January and start to February.

Our last meeting speaker was Brenda Plechaty. She started a Traumatic Brain Injury support group after caring for one of our own members, Tom McClure. It was an interesting presentation, sorry if you missed it.

Speaking of which, our luncheon, attendance has not been great. I know attendance is not mandatory, but it would be great to see and interact with more of our SIR88 members. It is only once a month, and only \$25. Zio Fraedo's has good parking, great view and the food is not bad.

We try to make it a fun luncheon with corny jokes and interesting speakers. By the way, if you have trouble hearing the speakers, please sit closer to the front, and bring your hearing aid (with good batteries).

Between the rain and holidays, it has been hard on the SIR activities, but that has not stopped your activities committee from thinking of new ideas, like:

1. A visit to the LCS (**Landing Craft Support**) ship and museum on Mare Island on 1pm, February 16;

continued on page 2 ...

## NEXT MEETING

### Thursday, February 9, 2023



#### Zio Fraedo's

23 Harbor Way

Happy Hour 11:00

Lunch 12:00

Program 1:00

(BEC 10:00am)

Lunch \$25

#### Today's Program

Dennis Kelly

*History of First West Coast Naval Base*

## About our Speaker February 9, 2023

– David Muth



Our Guest speaker for February  
Is Dennis Kelly.

Dennis will be talking about The History of  
Our Nation's First West Coast Naval Base.

Some of you know Dennis Kelly. He is a  
historian and has extensive knowledge of the  
military's past presents in the Bay Area.

# Big SIR ... My Two Cents



... continued from page 1

- 2. Mid-March, a visit to a **Sturgeon Breeding farm**, north of Sacramento;
- 3. **Corn Hole toss**. A demo was held last meeting. We are still looking for a location, but we are ready to start a sign-up sheet. Sign-up will be at the luncheon or email me. Please indicate if you have a corn hole toss set we can use. Again, sign up at our luncheon or email me.
- 4. **Pickle ball**. Coming soon, details to follow. If interested sign up at the luncheon or send me a note. Everyone from beginner to expert are welcome.
- 5. **Backgammon**. Any interest? Meet for a few hours, once a week. If interested, sign up at luncheon or contact me.
- 6. **Rowing** is just in the discussing stage. I am sure you have heard that Vallejo has rowing competitions along the straits. If you are interested in joining an existing team or building a SIR88 team, sign up at the luncheon or contact me. It's great exercise and a fun competition.

We need help in organizing a process for us to hold silent auctions. If you have any experience or would like to make it happen, let us know at the luncheon or contact me.

We have a lot of activities ramping up to go along with existing activities and those scheduled to start when weather permits. I hope everyone can have fun and participate in our activities.

Be safe,

*Harold*



# Little SIR — *Just Saying...*

Wayne Burdick

## It Takes a Challenge

Kaiser sent me to Pulmonary Rehab to learn about Purse breathing. It is a six-week exercise program once a week. I did 10 minutes on the treadmill & 10 minutes on the bike. I'm supposed to exercise at home also, but I do my home exercise at the gym. Yesterday I got off the treadmill after 15 minutes.

I have wondered how some of the people I see working so hard do it. There was a man on a treadmill, he looked about my weight & age. I asked him how long he is going to walk. He said 30 minutes, and he does one minute more each time he comes to the gym. That answered my question. He is challenging himself. That's what we all need to do. Progress is not made by sitting still.





Larry Ayers  
 Gary Cady  
 James Calhoun  
 Richard Gaul  
 Leo Guison  
 Michael Ladd  
 Carl Mason  
 Gerald Millard  
 Donald Ramsay  
 Charles Toldon

### Sunshine –

Mike McCamish



Chapter 88 mourns and sends condolences to the family of Ron Darling who passed away January 15.



If you know of any of our members who are sick or having problems, please let me know (707-747-9416).

### In Memory

It is with great sadness we announce that our friend Ron Darling passed away in January.



Ron moved to Arizona last year to be near his kids. He joined SIR in 2011. He was our treasurer in 2014, Little SIR in 2015, and Big SIR in 2016. Ron played in the men's Bocce Ball team and was an avid golfer and poker player.

Ron always had a smile on his face and friendly handshake. We will miss him. Life is a little less friendly without Ron.

### Editor's View – Carl Mason



This month has been busy. As always, I enjoyed our luncheon. I love the jokes and the presentation, but most of all just engaging with our members. We have been growing with new members joining each month. This is amazing considering lots of our most popular activities are closed for the season. I think one reason is the pandemic reminded a lot of people that social contact is what makes life flow and helps us live longer.

I just read an article entitled "Experts Say Age Is Much More Than Just a Number". Considering I will be 80 in the next week or so, I was happy to hear that. It quoted geriatrics saying, "People in their 80's who are active, engaged and have a sense of purpose can remain productive and healthy – and that wisdom and experience are important factors to consider" I am not sure I qualify for the wisdom part of it, but for me SIR has certainly given me a chance to be active, engaged and have a sense of purpose.

I remember in my twenties I could not imagine being 80. If I did, I assumed I would be in a rocking chair or in a Home. Boy, was I wrong.

Thanks to our Activity Committee, we are adding activities all the time. If you don't see the one you want, start it up. As far as engagement ... the laughs and conversation at our luncheon and activities more than fills that. So far, I think the geriatric guys are right on. I hope that all of you who haven't yet gotten to the BIG 80 know that life is far from over. Keep moving and engaging.





## Bocce Ball (Co-Ed) –

Tim Tarazi



I attended the allocation meeting with the City of Benicia on Wednesday 1/25/2023, and we were granted the Bocce Courts in Benicia for Fridays from 8:30am to 1pm.

I booked us for the last Friday in April (4/29/23) ending the second week in October tentatively (10/13/23); we may conclude the season a week earlier. The final date will be advised before the start of the season.

I'll have sign-up sheets during our next two luncheons.



## Bocce Ball (Men) –

Steve Hazelton



Men's Bocce ball league will resume play in April. Sign ups will begin in February. We hope we have a great turnout again this year. See you there.

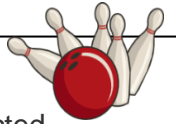


## Men's Poker –

Steve Smith



SIR poker continues with a game every other week. At this time, we can support only a group of seven players. We have had members inquire about playing. If five additional players indicate a desire to play, we might be able to host two tables of six players but we'll need additional volunteers to host. If interested, please contact Steve Smith.



## Bowling – Don Ramsay



Things are going along as expected, but we could use some replacement bowlers. Branch 88 did well in the SIR tournament last month at Napa. Results as follows:

### SINGLES

#### **Average 173 & Above**

Gordon Dinsdale	1 <sup>st</sup>	786	\$75
Jim Swindle	8 <sup>th</sup>	686	

#### **Average 172 & Below**

James Little	2 <sup>nd</sup>	751	\$66
Rodney Bush (guest)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	733	\$43
Loyd Holbrook (guest)	9 <sup>th</sup>	695	
Wayne Burdick	21 <sup>st</sup>	617	

### DOUBLES

#### **Average 330 & Above**

Holdbrook/Swindle	4 <sup>th</sup>	1,398	
Little/Swindle	6 <sup>th</sup>	1,369	

#### **Average 229 & Below**

Burdick/Little	1 <sup>st</sup>	1,550	\$136
Burdick/Calhoun	5 <sup>th</sup>	1,390	
Bush/Dinsdale	7 <sup>th</sup>	1,375	

### ALL EVENTS

#### **Average 173 & Above**

Gordon Dinsdale	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1,432	\$32
Jim Swindle	13 <sup>th</sup>	1,338	

#### **Average 172 & Below**

Rodney Bush (guest)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1,472	\$33
James Little	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1,468	\$18
James Calhoun	6 <sup>th</sup>	1,407	
Wayne Burdick	18 <sup>th</sup>	1,300	

Congratulations to all Vallejo SIR League bowlers!



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## Treasurer's Report –

Roy MacGregor

Our treasury balance at the end of 2022 was \$3,651. We started the year with \$3,192. We collected \$760 in dues during January (38 memberships). Total income for the month was \$1,875 and expenses totaled \$1,208. Our balance at the end of January is \$4,317.

For all members who have not yet paid their dues, please see me at the February luncheon meeting, or mail your \$20 dues to:

SIR Branch 88  
PO Box 502  
Benicia CA 94510



## Pop-the-Cork

Again, this month we had a great time tasting Malbec, a red blended wine. We had lots of food, laughter and conversation. We always have a little "icebreaker" to start things off and get to know everyone a little better ... questions like, "What is the strangest thing you have done to earn money?" ... or ... "What was your first car?" Most of the answers are usually funny, but they also show us how really unique and diversified we are. All this while sipping Malbec.

If you wish to join us, contact David Muth at 707-332-3352.

This month's tasting will be February 19.

## Golf – George Fuller

[SIRS88GOLF@gmail.com](mailto:SIRS88GOLF@gmail.com)

Hello everyone. By now you should have received the Golf Schedule for 2023 ... a very diverse schedule with Kennedy Napa added for the first time in quite a few years. Jim Jewell and Dick Schumacher have been working hard to update and improve our golf club and have made a few changes for the better. As most of you know the Golf Club fees for this year have been lowered to \$40 for returning members and \$50 for new members. You can send your golf club money to Jim, Dick or myself, or you can pay at the monthly luncheon, whichever you prefer.

This year for the first time SIR88 Golf Club will be playing several tournaments as Scrambles. The exact format may vary from tournament to tournament depending upon what you, the golfers want to play. We realize that many members over the past couple years have backed away from Hiddenbrooke based on the size and difficulty of the course. Both



tournaments scheduled at Hiddenbrooke this year will be scrambles so please sign-up and enjoy the course.

You will be updated with further information regarding SIR Branch 88 golf as the information becomes available through the current G-mail account. Both Jim Jewell and Dick Schumacher have invested a lot of time and effort into putting together a great upcoming season. Please give them the utmost respect and support as they continue to steer the ship. George Fuller, that's me, will be arranging groups for play in SIR State Sponsored Tournaments and if enough interest is present, we can arrange a 2-3 day trip to Reno or Carson City for a fun outing.

We are all looking forward to getting into the swing beginning March 21 and having a great fun year. Thanks everyone and if you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Jim, Dick or me via the G-mail account or by phone.

Thank you and take care.

## Member Spotlight:

**Tim Tarazi – *Why I Decided to Immigrate to the U.S.***



On completing my studies as a foreign student and graduating from the University of Detroit, it was time to go back to Lebanon where my parents took residence.

I quickly found a job in Beirut and at that time in 1975 it was called Paris of the Middle East ... a vibrant city just what someone like me would enjoy bachelor days.

It was unfortunately short-lived. Within three months a civil war was brewing, and turmoil ensued. Several political factions became uncontrolled. Riots, gun fire, kidnapping became a daily occurrence. Going to work was sometimes risky. Out of nowhere, roads were closed in some districts and danger loomed all over the city.

One day when the atmosphere seemed to have calmed down, we received word from our employer that something big was in the works and urged everyone to go home.

It was a midday in September, when I was heading back home that I was I faced a blockade in the main street that would lead me to my parents' house.

Cars were being stopped, and identifications checked. A 15-year-old boy carrying a machine gun came to me and ordered me to open the window and pointed his machine gun right at my temple. I remember keeping my calm and did not panic. He asked me for my ID and noticing the dialect he spoke indicated to me what faction he belonged to. Luckily, I was able to communicate with him in the same dialect. Just at that moment, across the other side of the boulevard a kidnapping was taking place. I then heard someone saying: Let's go we got our man.

As soon as that happened, life became normal again and I managed to continue my trek going home.

It was one of the scariest moments of my life that I swore I was not going to stay in Beirut and managed to leave the country to go to Jordan where I had relatives.

I decided that living in the US suits me more than having to worry about my own life due to some political uprisings which ended up being a civil war lasting more than 25 years.

So, I applied for immigration to the US that took several years but it finally happened in 1986 when my wife and family moved to America.



### Cribbage – Michael McCamish



The Cribbage group is 7 to 10 people each week. It is a lot of fun and good fellowship. We continue to meet on Mondays in American Canyon from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Y'all come! Knowledge of cribbage is not required. If you are interested, call Mick McCamish at 707-373-7395

### Pool League -



Ed Droesch



One month left to the Winter league competition. I'm still leading the competition but am looking over my shoulder, aware that things can change enough to let someone else pull off the upset win of the coveted traveling rooster trophy.



# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	7 9:00 – Golf resumes March 21 6:00 – Co-Ed Poker	8 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	9 10:00 BEC 11:00 – Luncheon 6:00 – Co-Ed Poker	10	11
12	13 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	14  6:00 – Co-Ed Poker	15 10:00 – Bowling	16 1:00 – Visit to LCS-102 at Mare Island	17	18
19 4:00 – Pop the Cork	20  10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	21  9:00 – Golf resumes March 21 6:00 – Co-Ed Poker	22 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	23	24	25
26	27 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	28 6:00 – Co-Ed Poker				

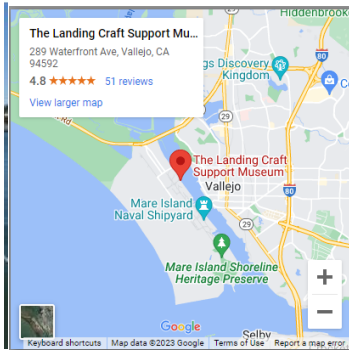
## Coming in March...

**The Sterling Sturgeon Farm Tour** – David Muth

The Sterling tour is scheduled for March 16 at 11:00am. There will be a short slide show at our meeting on February 9 to show you the layout and what to expect.




It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone.”  
- Andy Rooney



## SIR visit to LCS-102 at Mare Island - February 16 @ 1:00pm

The LCS-102 is a landing craft support ship and was launched in 1945 and participated in the Battle of Okinawa. She is 160 feet long and originally carried 8 officers and 70 men. They were heavily armored and gained the nickname "Mighty Midgets."

After the war she was transferred to the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and later to the Royal Thai Navy. They named her Nakha and she served with Thailand until 2007. The Royal Thai Navy transferred the ship to the Landing Craft Support group and requested that the name Nakha continued to be used. Dr. Bill Mason, a Professor at UC San Francisco had served with similar ships facilitated the move to Mare Island. Dr. Mason (who is in his 90's and lives in San Francisco) is considered the Captain and the Executive Officer is Gordon Stutrud, who lives in Vallejo. The ship is entirely supported by donations from the national association and visitors (free admission). The all-volunteer crew are continually working to maintain the ship and allow visitation by young and old alike.

The ship is now known as the Landing Craft Support Museum. They have a good website @ <https://www.usslcs102.org/> with drone views and much information.

SIR members will drive by themselves to the free parking lot next to the ship by 1:00pm on Thursday, February 16.

The ship is located on Mare Island, 289 Waterfront Avenue. Drive across the Mare Island Bridge and take a left on Nimitz Avenue, then turn left on "A" Street. Signs are posted. Admission is free but they do have a donation box.

Armand Seguin  
[armand.seguin11@gmail.com](mailto:armand.seguin11@gmail.com)  
 707.816.7428



### State Officers 2023

SIR President  
Dave Gonzales

Area Representative  
Jerry Stabile

### SIR BRANCH 88

P.O. Box 502, Benicia, CA 94510

#### Officers 2023

Big SIR	Harold Persily	554-2380	<a href="mailto:halpers@yahoo.com">halpers@yahoo.com</a>
Little SIR	Wayne Burdick	642-7808	<a href="mailto:wburdick205@gmail.com">wburdick205@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	John Lawson	853-6972	<a href="mailto:johnjhawk@msn.com">johnjhawk@msn.com</a>
Treasurer	Roy MacGregor	297-6153	<a href="mailto:macgregor.roy@gmail.com">macgregor.roy@gmail.com</a>
Asst. Treas.	Jerry Millard	642-8144	<a href="mailto:millardvallejo@aol.com">millardvallejo@aol.com</a>

#### Committee Chairmen 2023

Bocce Men	Steve Hazelton	501-3535	<a href="mailto:steve.hzlt@gmail.net">steve.hzlt@gmail.net</a>
Bocce Co-Ed	Tim Tarazi	297-5957	<a href="mailto:timtarazi@gmail.com">timtarazi@gmail.com</a>
Bowling	Don Ramsay	644-2194	<a href="mailto:donram2@comcast.net">donram2@comcast.net</a>
Chaplain/Sunshine	Michael McCamish	373-7395	<a href="mailto:bfmilkman@aol.com">bfmilkman@aol.com</a>
Golf	Jim Jewell	745-3086	<a href="mailto:bfd@earthlink.net">bfd@earthlink.net</a>
Golf Handicap	Vacant		
Membership	Harold Persily	554-2380	<a href="mailto:halpers@yahoo.com">halpers@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletter	Carl Mason	746-1347	<a href="mailto:masonquy@aol.com">masonquy@aol.com</a>

#### Board of Directors 2023

Jim Burcham	746-8645
Sanford Gladding	745-6430
Dave Krenzke	648-1308
David Muth	332-3352
Fred Warren	552-7261

#### Past Big SIRs

David Muth	2022
Fred Warren	2020-21
Jim Burcham	2019
Carl Mason	2018
Gary Savelli	2017
Ron Darling	2016
Dick Schumacher	2015
Stan Turrini	2011-14
Tom Hebson*	2010
Bill Hester	2009
Richard Stone*	2008
Don Waterbury*	2007
Ed Sweet*	2006
Ed Bradley*	2005
Gerald Davis	2004