



SIR Solano Branch 88 Newsletter

March 2023

"Live Longer, Live Happier, Join SIR"

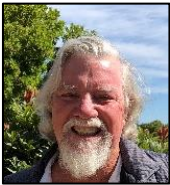
State Website – sirinc.org

Branch 88 Website – sirinc2.org/branch88/

P.O. Box 502, Benicia, CA 94510

Big SIR ... My Two Cents

– Harold Persily



Hi all. Hope 2023 is treating you well so far. It's been great weather if you are a duck. Be safe and drive carefully.

This Month's Luncheon

I highly encourage members to attend the luncheon on March 9 (11:00am) at Zio Fraedo's. Our meetings are a lot of fun, with good food and not so good jokes. It's a good time to meet new and old friends. We have a good variety of speakers. This month's speaker is Joffre Lander, Lt. Col., USAF, 9th Air Refueling Squadron at Travis Air Force Base. Should be an interesting presentation.

Last month's speaker was Dennis Green who gave a slideshow on the history of Mare Island and the ship's that were built there. Mare Island has a substantial history. Dennis has been with the Mare Island Museum for many years and knows his stuff.

Orientation

If you recently joined our branch, we request that you join David Muth and others for a brief orientation on how our branch and SIRs works. It will include an overview of SIRs, origins, purpose, organization, goals, and much more. See you there ... Thursday March 9, after the luncheon.

LCS-102 Visit

In February, we had a SIR88 trip to Mare Island's LCS vessel. The visit was a lot of fun. I think we had more than 20 members show up. This little ship has a lot of fire power. I

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NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 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

Joffre Lander

Lieutenant Colonel., USAF

About our Speaker March 9, 2023

– David Muth



Our Guest speaker for March is Joffre Lander, Lt. Col., USAF.

Colonel Lander is an operations officer for the 9th Air Refueling Squadron, 60th Operations Group, 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis AFB. He has experience in the KC-10 refueling aircraft and the C-17 transport aircraft. He has been in the Air Force for 14 years in various capacities, major operations, and geographic combatant commands. If you are into aviation, have your questions ready.

Big SIR ... My Two Cents



... continued from page 1

would not like to be on it in a battle though. Thanks to Armand Seguin for organizing the event.

Sturgeon Hatchery

David Muth has over 20 members already signed up. Take your walking shoes.

Corn Hole Toss, Rowing, Pickleball and Backgammon

There will be sign-ups available at the March luncheon for these new activities. We have a few already signed up for each and we're looking for more. Remember, these activities are for you, our members and significant others, and are a great chance to do something fun with other members.

Springtime Is Here

Seed catalogs are appearing in the mail. Thinking of initial first steps to readying the garden for new plantings ... pulling out the old plants and weeds, churning the soil. Once the rain stops, I may get to do that. Because of the lack of good soil in my yard (a bulldozer leveled environment), my garden consists of multiple barrels. Tomato here, zucchini there... Seems to work out well, with access to all sides. I do have an asparagus patch that is in ground. Dumped a lot of extra stuff in it to make it successful. We just cut back all its growth last month, so we can start anew. I think it is about five years old. Started with six bulbs - 3 green and 3 purple. Seems to be thriving. I know I am not the only one who gardens, so will try to include some progress reports in the coming months.

The Menu

Not sure where we found it, but my wife likes cooking shows, so thought we would give it a try (on demand?). This was a sleeper movie ... Twilight Zone-Rod sterling/Alfred Hitchcock kind of thing. Highly weirdly recommended.

That's it for now. Hope everyone is and remains healthy; enjoy life as you can.

Harold



Little SIR — Wayne Burdick

Just Saying...

Last month some of us took a little field trip over to Mare Island to visit the Landing Craft

Support Museum. It was an interesting piece of history that I wasn't aware of. The ship, LCS 102 is the last of its class, built for the US Navy during WWII. The LCSs were nicknamed the "Mighty Midgets". You can visit it Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm. There is no admission.

You may also want to visit the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum at 734 Marin Street, which has a lot of displays of navy memorabilia associated with Mare Island and the ships that visited it.

Do you know of interesting places in the area that you have enjoyed, why not let your fellow SIRs know?





March

Paul Brighton
Dalton Cox
Roberto Crescione
Scott Hankins
Edwin Tallyn
Marvin Turner
Robert Weldon

Sunshine –

Mike McCamish



If you know of any of our members who are sick or having problems, please let me know.



Treasurer’s Report –

Roy MacGregor



The Audit Committee, comprising Dave Krenzke, Sanford Gladding and Dick Schumacher, met on February 23 to audit the Branch 88 financial records for 2022. The audit was completed satisfactorily with no discrepancies noted.



Editor’s View – Carl Mason



We are all ready for winter to be over. We need the rain ... but come on! I have noted some flowers coming up in my mostly muddy backyard. A flock of robins has visited our backyard several times over the past few days, and today the Benicia goats/fire break eaters were in the Green Belt behind our house.

As far as the SIR State, we are still trying to recover from the loss of 1,500 members during the pandemic. The main problem was the smaller branches became too small to effectively function. Our branch, like most of the larger branches, is doing fine and growing. It is amazing we were able to add some 10+ members during the period when most of our most popular activities were closed for the winter.

So, there is another reason to look forward to Spring ... I expect we will grow even faster when we open the men’s and coed bocce ball leagues, and the potential Corn-Hole game is finally set up. Further, the upcoming trip to the Sturgeon Farm should be something to experience and remember.

So, emerging from winter, with the days being warmer and longer, I hope we all can enjoy each other’s companionship and finally get out of our coats and enjoy the sun.

“Kids today don’t know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.”



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





Bocce Ball (Co-Ed) –

Tim Tarazi

We have 40 players signed up and 8 more are interested but not yet paid.



We need more players to join. It is always a great time. Our season starts the last Friday in April (4/28/23).

Golf –

Jim Jewell / Dick Schumacher

As most of you have heard Dick Schumacher and I have assumed responsibility for the SIRS 88 golf program for 2023. George Fuller has had this “job” for the past two years and certainly deserves a break. I hope Dick and I can manage the program as well as he has. **THANK YOU GEORGE!**



The 2023 golf tournament schedule of 19 events has already been posted, including two scrambles at Hiddenbrooke Course.

If it ever stops raining, we will begin the season at Blue Rock on March 21. Otherwise, we'll simply put our rubber boots on and “play thru”.

Sign-up sheets will be available at each monthly luncheon, or you can sign-up for a tournament by contacting Jim Jewell or Dick Schumacher at SIRS88golf@gmail.com

Jim Jewell- 707-373-6598
Dick Schumacher 707-745-1571

We have about \$2,700 in the Hole-in-One prize. WHO WILL BE THE LUCKY GOLFER THIS YEAR?

Please update your NCGA membership prior to the start of the golf season.

Bowling – Don Ramsay



The league's top four teams are:

1st Place - PINOY N PINAY and ONE AND DONE with 21 wins each;

3rd place - 3 MEN AND A LADY with 19 wins;

4th place - NO NAMES with 16 wins.

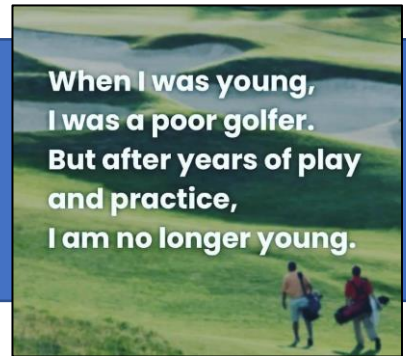


Season High Awards

Handicap Series	Brandon Wroblewski	772
Handicap Game	Mario Pimentel	299
Scratch Series	Dalton Cox	638
Scratch Game	Jhun Patricio	255

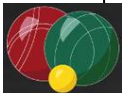
We have seven weeks of league remaining, plus our sweepers and league championship roll-off between the 1st half and 2nd half winners.

When I was young,
I was a poor golfer.
But after years of play
and practice,
I am no longer young.



Bocce Ball (Men) –

Steve Hazelton



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

Our Visit to the USS LCS 102 –

Armand Seguin

Some 20 SIR members and guests enjoyed a visit to the WW2 Landing Ship Support at Mare Island. The LCS 102 vessel saw action in WWII.



We saw how nearly 100 sailors were crammed into this 160-foot ship. These ships did not land material, but rather were specifically designed to give close-in fire support to marines landing on beaches. They had more firepower per foot (including four 40mm, four 20mm, and four 50 Cal guns, and 120 rockets) than any ships, and were nicknamed “mighty midgets”.

LCS 102 is the very last of this class and after WWII was transferred to Japan and later to Thailand.

SIR members and guests were shown a video of the history of the LCSs and the transfer ceremony from The Royal Navy of Thailand and subsequent being placed on the deck of a freighter and move 8,000 miles to Mare Island.

Gordon Stutrud is the Executive Officer, and he and two other volunteers graciously answered all questions from our group. The museum ship is maintained by volunteers and supported by the National Association of USS LCS. A good time was had by all.



Pop-the-Cork –

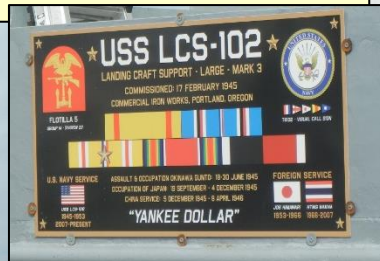
David Muth

Our next date for our wine group is March 23 - Boisset Wine Tasting.

We are on our way to St. Helena on March 23 to sample some of the Boisset wines. Twenty of us are signed up to go.

Afterwards, we will get some lunch in the area. If you want to know what kinds and brands of wine the Boisset winery owns and serves, go to : www.boissetcollection.com

In the upcoming months, we will be tasting wine and appetizers from foreign lands as we experience the friendships and relationships with our group members.



Member Spotlight: David Muth



I was born and raised in Milwaukee. I went to college at the University of Wisconsin Madison and graduated in May of 1969 just in time to get drafted into the Army. Five months after I got drafted, they started the lottery system. I was hoping that this was not a sign of more bad timing coming my way. But, as I finished my basic and advanced training, my future assignments in the Army came thru and I was going to R.V.N., the Republic of Vietnam. I was in I Corps in Vietnam, Chu Lie, Da Nang, Hai Van Pass and Hue. I really felt like I was on a path of many unenviable hardships. I was not wrong. I got to experience a world that I never would have experienced had it not been for the Army and the Vietnam War. Being in a combat zone pushes hard against your values. Once you cross that line into the unthinkable actions that you are faced with, if you make the wrong decision, you don't forget those actions that you took, ever. The memories stays with you and they are all yours; forever.

When I got out of the Army, I traveled in England and Europe for a year to restart my life. I needed a fresh start, new perspectives and a new beginning. I moved out to California a couple of years later in 1975 and within a couple of months of moving here, I met my future wife. Before we got married, we wound up traveling to India to practice yoga and live in an ashram for four months. India was a transformational time in my life. It helped to create a balance with my life experiences in Vietnam and set me on the course that would shape my life.

We decided to get married as soon as we returned to the states. My wife Rami got a job teaching at Benicia Middle School. It took me longer to find my career path but by 1980, I

owned my own business selling Ergonomic and contract furniture. For the last 20 years I sold performing arts seating found in college lecture halls, concert halls and other similar venues. I retired from the industry in 2016.

I am very fortunate to have two daughters, and their families and my grandchildren bring me immeasurable joy. One of my post retirement goals was to take classes in oil painting which I truly enjoy. I am also grateful for the friendships and experiences I have gained with my participation in SIRs.

I'm so glad
I was young
and stupid
BEFORE
there were
camera phones.

Pool League – Ed Drosch

The Winter league has ended, and I have retained the widely coveted **Rooster Trophy**.

The first day of Spring, March 21, is the launch of the Spring league. We currently have 11 players in the mix, and because we are now playing in teams, playing time has been kept to under two hours. Don't let that deter you ,, more players are absolutely welcome to join. We play Mondays at 2:00pm at the Rancho



Benicia Mobile Home Park clubhouse. A fee of \$10 is requested to covered the beer/pizza end-of-league recap and award ceremony.



March 2023



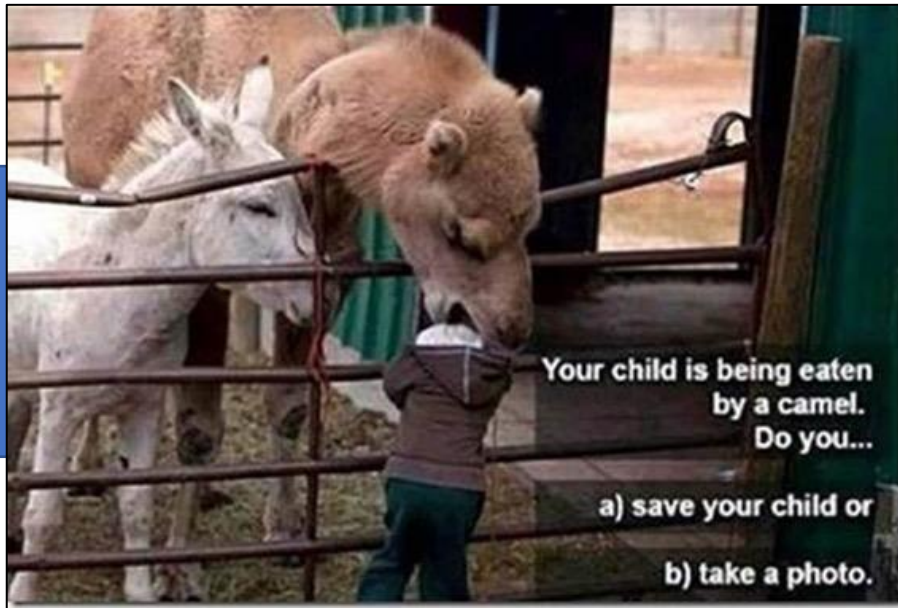
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	7 6:00 – Co-Ed Poker	8 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	9 10:00 BEC 11:00 – Luncheon 6:00 – Co-Ed Poker	10	11
12 	13 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	14 6:00 – Co-Ed Poker	15 10:00 – Bowling	16	17 	18
19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

Coming in April...

Coed and Men's bocce ball leagues begin.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.
- Will Rogers

AS I WATCHED THE DOG CHASING HIS TAIL, I THOUGHT DOGS ARE EASILY AMUSED. THEN I REALIZED I WAS WATCHING THE DOG CHASE HIS TAIL.



Your child is being eaten
by a camel.
Do you...

- a) save your child or
- b) take a photo.



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**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	halpers@yahoo.com
Little SIR	Wayne Burdick	642-7808	wburdick205@gmail.com
Secretary	John Lawson	853-6972	johnjhawk@msn.com
Treasurer	Roy MacGregor	297-6153	macgregor.roy@gmail.com
Asst. Treas.	Jerry Millard	642-8144	millardvallejo@aol.com

Committee Chairmen 2023

Bocce Men	Steve Hazelton	501-3535	steve.hzlt@gmail.net
Bocce Co-Ed	Tim Tarazi	297-5957	timtarazi@gmail.com
Bowling	Don Ramsay	644-2194	donram2@comcast.net
Chaplain/Sunshine	Michael McCamish	373-7395	bfmilkman@aol.com
Golf	Jim Jewell	745-3086	bfd@earthlink.net
Golf Handicap	Dick Schumacher	745-1571	dickschu@aol.com
Membership	Harold Persily	554-2380	halpers@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Carl Mason	746-1347	masonquy@aol.com

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