



SIR Solano Branch 88 Newsletter

April
2023

"Live Longer, Live Happier, Join SIR"

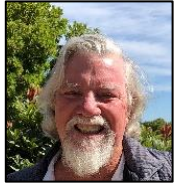
State Website – sirinc.org

Branch 88 Website – sirinc2.org/branch88/

P.O. Box 502, Benicia, CA 94510

Big SIR ... My Two Cents

– Harold Persily



Well, April is here. They say April showers are the norm, but I think March rained on it's parade this year. Hopefully we get some nice weather for a while. Not too much to impact the snowpack. Seems we have been pretty lucky in Solano County, so far.

Dues - I sent out an email, and we also made phone calls, regarding our SIR88 2023 dues. Please, if you have not done so, send your \$20 dues to our Treasurer, Roy (snail mail address is in Roy's Treasurer Report) or at the April luncheon.

Speakers - Last month's speaker, Joffre Lander, Lt. Col., USAF, was fascinating. The logistics of refueling our airplanes mid-air is just amazing. This month's speaker will be Barbara Jewel, Jim Jewel's wife, to talk about mediation. We can sure use some help with all that is happening around us.

Sturgeon Farm Visit - I have heard great things about the Sturgeon farm visit. Everyone had a good time and learned a lot. Thanks, David, for putting it together.

Bocce starts soon. Thursday men's will still be playing in American Canyon starting 4/27. The courts were fixed up. Unfortunately, it is still hard for some members to participate there. Co-ed in Benicia is slated to start 4/28. Can hardly wait.

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NEXT MEETING

Thursday,
April 13, 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

Barbara Jewell
Mediation

About our Speaker
April 13, 2023

– David Muth

Our guest speaker for April is
Barbara Jewel.



Barbara is a professional mediator and she is going to create a fictitious situation between two of our members that requires someone other than the two SIR participants to come to an agreement or not. It is a demonstration of what happens in the world when people cannot come to an agreement.

Big SIR ... My Two Cents



... continued from page 1

Corn hole toss is still waiting for American Canyon approval. Had hoped to get it established before Bocce starts, but not to be. Pickle ball and backgammon are in process. Rowing is still on me to get the ball rolling, will let everyone know when we have something together.

Spring - My wife had a good time with the seed catalog. She started with 4-inch seeding pots where she put 2-4 seeds in each. When they got to 3-4 inches tall, we split and transplanted those into 28 red beer cups (with holes punched in the bottom). There are 11 different tomato types. We may have a few to share in a month or two.

That's about it for my 2 cents this month. Be safe and stay healthy.

Harold



Little SIR — *Just Saying...*

Wayne Burdick

We are all looking forward to Spring and Summer. I personally can't wait to start playing bocce ball. If you haven't played, you should give it a try. It's a great game that anyone can play and you can get pretty good at it in no time.

We play Men's Bocce on Thursday mornings at 10:00am, except on the second Thursday, which is our luncheon meeting. That week we play on Monday mornings at the same time. Seems more complicated than it is.

COED Bocce will be played each Friday morning beginning the end of this month through September or October.

Don't forget to come to our luncheon at Zio Fraedo's on Thursday April 13 and sign up to play bocce ball with us. Good fun with a little bit of friendly competition thrown in. See you there.

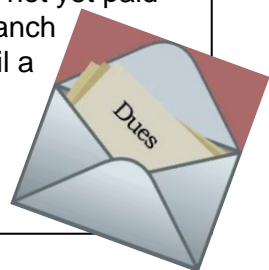
Treasurer's Report —

Roy MacGregor



Our branch currently has \$5,600 in the treasury. To date, 77 members have paid their annual dues of \$20 out of 141 total members. Members who have not yet paid are requested to pay at the Branch luncheon on April 13, or to mail a check to:

SIR Branch 88
P.O. Box 502
Benicia, CA 94510



May success be yours. Forgive quickly, Speak kindly & truthfully, Love truly, Laugh uncontrollably and never regret anything that made you smile. Leave the rest to GOD. In God we Trust.



Fred Beeghley
Gene Brock
Paul Cowles
Edward Droesch
Manuel Furtaco

Ron Gervasoni
Don Kopp
John Krisha
Troy Martin
Ken Mohr
Pete Paner
Bog Silver
Johnny Smith
Henry Sosine
Russell Sturgeon
Fred Warren

Sunshine –

John Lawson



Ken Palmer's wife of 50 years, Carol, passed away March 18. She was an avid golfer, being the past president of the Blue Rock Women's Gold club. She loved animals and playing cards and dominos. We are sorry for your loss, Ken. A Celebration of Life for Carol will be held Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 2-4pm at the Vallejo Moose Lodge (337 Nebraska Street, Vallejo).

Harold's wife Christy is recovering from knee surgery this week.

Steve Smith is having his knee surgery next week. We hope you both speedy recovery.

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



Cribbage – Michael McCamish

Cribbage is still going strong. We fluctuate between five and nine players each week. But no matter the number, it is always a fun crowd.



Editor's View – Carl Mason

Hi All.



At last, the sun is shining, at least temporarily, so we can begin our outdoor activities.

Golf is going, (between storms) and Men's and COED Bocce is going to start at the end of the month.

We had some great "field trips" this month thanks to David Muth. We had a very successful wine tasting at the Raymond Winery in St. Helena, followed with a great lunch at Gott's.

The trip to the Sturgeon Farm near Sacramento was well attended by some 25 members and guests. Everyone reported it was a great event with even a little taste of caviar.

Did you know our branch is one of the top seven branches for number of new members? We have to thank all of you. You not only invite visitors, but you go out of your way to be friendly and welcoming to them.

Another thing is the willingness of our members to step up and do what it takes. Being at SIR State, I see a lot of branches that close from lack of anyone willing to take a leadership role. So far, I don't see that as a problem for our branch.

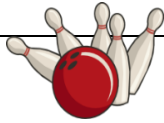
Keep up the good work, and I will see you on the Bocce Ball Courts.



Bowling – Don Ramsay

The top four teams are:

1 st Place	ONE AND DONE	31 wins
2 nd Place	1) PINOY N PINAY 2) THREE PLUS ONE	30 wins
3 rd Place	WE GOT EM	27 wins



Season High Awards

Handicap Series	Brandon Wroblewski	772
Handicap Game	Mario Pimentel	299
Scratch Series	Ed Aleman	656
Scratch Game	Dalton Cox	258

We have two weeks left of league bowling and then we have a roll-off of the first and second-half winners to determine the leagues and the runners-ups. The end of the season is on April 19 and then we will begin POT BOWLING on April 26 if everything goes well.

Men's Poker –

Steve Smith



Our poker group still meets every other Wednesday. It's a good time with lots of games that somewhat resemble poker ... lots of wild cards and wild dealers!

Bocce Ball (Co-Ed) –

Tim Tarazi



Here's the latest for Coed Bocce:

We already have 66 players which is an even bigger enrollment than last season. Thank you all for your enthusiastic participation. I have received responses from many for the selection of their teams. So far we have 43 players already assigned to teams. The remaining 23 will be assigned by lottery hopefully to be completed during our next luncheon.

Bocce Ball (Men) –

Steve Hazelton



I checked out the Bocce courts at Vets Park in American Canyon, and they look good. Fred Warren is checking out the courts in Vallejo.

I submitted a request to Parks and Rec to play there each Thursday morning at 10:00am. I am waiting for the certificate of insurance from SIR insurance agent.

I kept the same teams: Wats A Mattu, Late Bloomers, Over the Hill Gang, The Golfers / Bocce Warriors, and Ball Busters, with the same team members.

We plan a 20-week season, starting April 27. I will post the schedule soon as well as the rules, which Gary handed off to me last year, to be sure we are all on the same page.

The fee is \$15, to cover the end-of-season lunch increased by \$5 from last year, so that all get pizza, salad, beer and soda this year. Last year there was not enough money for everyone to get a salad, and still have money for a tip.



Bridge – Tim Tarazi

I have arranged with my colleague Mr. Wayne Miller, who is a bridge director and life master, to hold classes at the Benicia Senior Center on Mondays at 9:30am starting May 15. We have 14 who are interested in learning/refreshing their memories of the ever-popular bridge game.

I volunteered to assist Wayne and be the liaison representing SIR88 if there is no objection by our board.

Initially, we will be under the umbrella of the Tuesday Bridge Club and as such there will not be an enrollment fee or fees by the city. We are happy to sign up more players. I will be at our April luncheon, or you may call me at 707-297-5957.



Pop-the-Cork – David Muth

Raymond Wine Tasting

Eighteen of the wine group went to St. Helena on March 23 to sample some of the Raymond wines. We did a tour of the winery and then settled into the “Red” Room to enjoy some excellent wines. It was fun and it seemed that people had a good time. Afterwards, most of us went to Gotts for lunch.

Below is the Raymond web site if you want to shop for wine. Raymond is part of the Boisset collection of wineries.

www.boissetcollection.com

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

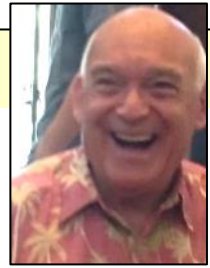
AT 65 YOU CAN GO TO ANTIQUE SHOPS AND VISIT YOUR OLD FURNITURE.

Pool League – Ed Drosch

After our luxurious awards lunch (see pic), we picked up our cues and continued playing our second week of the new season. We have 11 guys active, including several residents who are not SIR members ... YET.



Member Spotlight: Bob Silver



To tell you about myself, I have to speak of my beginning as a 2-months premature baby, born in my apartment in the Bronx, New York. My grandfather put me in a shoebox and carted me off to the Bronx Hospital where I was the first incubator baby.

Little did they know that this 3-pound baby boy would work hard in the school system and attend Stuyvesant High, a special school in New York, and would be fortunate to attend MIT becoming an electrical engineer with dual degrees (BS & MS).

I worked at the RCA Labs in Princeton, NJ from 1963-1972, with a military leave of absence to go on active duty from 1964-1966. My son and daughter were born during this time period.

In 1972 I moved my family to Santa Clara valley to escape the east coast weather and to participate in the Silicon Valley boom which was about to occur.

I worked at five different companies in the following 31 years, including a start-up company in which I was employee #6. The last company I joined was HP and I worked for HP for 23 years, retiring in 2002 in Roseville, CA.

My wife of 52 years passed away in 2015 and my son insisted, after a few months, that I go on a senior dating site, to help deal with my depression over her loss.

I met Ellen Blaufarb through the dating site and four months later we began a committed relationship. This April we celebrated our 7th year together. Life with Ellen has been a social whirlwind and so much fun. I don't plan to leave her or Benicia except "feet first".

I live in Rancho Benicia and give to my community by providing free technical support for electronic needs and IT services.

Ron Darling sponsored me for membership in SIR Branch 88 about 5 years ago and I have truly enjoyed my membership within this organization and the wonderful people that I have met.

Golf – Jim Jewell / Dick Schumacher

The SIRS 88 Golf season is finally underway. We had our first ever scramble golf tournament on the 4th of April at Hidden Brooke Golf Course. The attendance was great as was the weather. The course was in great shape and some fantastic golf scores were posted.

Everyone is looking forward to playing in the next 17 tournaments competing for prize money and of course winning the \$2,700 prize for a hole-in-one. The next tournament is at the



Paradise Valley Course on the 18th of April, followed by Chardonnay Course on the 25th of April. Golfers, please sign-up ASAP so grouping can be posted.

If anyone is interested in joining the SIR 88 GOLF group, please contact:

Jim Jewell (707-373-6598) or
Dick Schumacher (707-745-1571).

April 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	4 9:00 - Golf	5 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	6	7	8
9 	10 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	11	12 10:00 – Bowling	13 10:00 BEC 11:00 – Luncheon	14	15
16	17 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	18 9:00 – Golf	19 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	20	21	22
23 4:00-6:00 – Pop the Cork	24 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	25 9:00 – Golf	26 10:00 – Bowling	27 Men's Bocce	28 Co-Ed Bocce	29
30						



Sturgeon Farm Tour – David Muth

About 25 SIR members from our Branch 88 and some wives/companions visited the Sterling Caviar/Sturgeon farm north of Natomas in the Sacramento Valley on March 16. Allen was our tour guide, and he did an excellent job of describing the process of growing and harvesting Sturgeon over the fish life cycle of 7-9 years at the farm. He was incredibly knowledgeable about their aquaculture process. The tour lasted about an hour and forty-five minutes. After the tour, we went into the office and sampled some newly harvested caviar to everyone's delight ... well ... maybe not to the delight of the non-fish eaters. The tour started at 11:00am and we left the farm at about 1:35pm for lunch. Overall everyone had a lot of fun and seemed to really enjoy the tour.



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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	John Lawson	373-7395	johnjhawk@msn.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