



SIR Solano Branch 88 Newsletter

July
2023

"Live Longer, Live Happier, Join SIR"

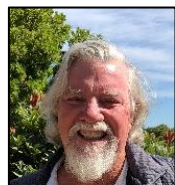
State Website – sirinc.org

Branch 88 Website – sirinc2.org/branch88/

P.O. Box 502, Benicia, CA 94510

Big SIR ... My Two Cents

– Harold Persily



Happy July everyone. Really, we are already halfway through 2023. Just amazing. I thought time flew when I was a kid. For a retired person, I certainly seem to be very busy. Some of that is the fun SIR stuff ... Bocce, Cribbage, and pool ... some is handling SIR business ... all trying to help make SIR Branch 88 an enjoyable experience. There never seems to be enough time to get everything on my list done, but it is still better than commuting and working at an office.

I was hacked and a spam email was sent under my name last week asking for members to purchase gift cards. Remember, anytime anyone asks for gift cards or your credit card number, it is a SCAM. Keep yourself safe and do not fall for these things.

About 20 branch members, and many of their families, attended the Benicia torchlight parade on July 3. We had Chuck Maddox and his fiberglass custom kit auto and John Lawson's convertible (driven by yours truly), and a lot of walking members who gave out candy ... some 31 pounds of candy ... and we still ran out a few blocks short. We also gave handouts to old looking guys. A fun time was had by all. So many kids ... small and large ... just enjoying themselves and waving. We were behind a marching band and ahead of Jazzercise, so the music was sometimes conflicting, but lots of waving to the crowd and the crowd waving at us.

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NEXT MEETING

*Thursday,
July 13, 2023*



Zio Fraedo's
23 Harbor Way

Happy Hour 11:00
Lunch 12:00
Program 1:00
(BEC 10:00am)

Lunch \$25



Program
Paul Gosslin

Department of Water Resources



Benicia Torchlight Parade
July 3, 2023

Big SIR ... My Two Cents



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Last month a few branch members met to share thoughts on how to improve our branch. We focused mainly on the luncheon, member retention, and outreach to new members. We believe the check-in process needs improvement and are looking at ways to do that. Also, we recognize that the luncheon has been running too long. We will try to start on time and limit the business meeting to half an hour or less (11:30 to 12:00). We would like to return to having the guests' sponsors introduce them. We will be clear that the speakers limit their talk to 30-35 minutes. We also discussed having themed lunches, such as tropical shirt day, crazy hat day, western day, etc.

The subject of the 50/50 raffle was discussed ... keep it, modify it, or cancel it. Also, should we have background music during the luncheon?

It was believed there is a need for personal contact with each member such as calling members to remind them of the meetings, or if someone has a transportation issue, see if that can be resolved. The goal, as always, is to make Branch 88 the best it can be so members enjoy the luncheons as well as activities.

A lot of good ideas, do you have any?

Well, that's all I got this month. Say safe and healthy.

Harold

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



Little SIR – Wayne Burdick

Just Saying...

Hello Sirs. This was my first time participating in the annual Torchlight Parade in Benicia with some 15+ of our fellow SIR's. It was gratifying to see the streets lined with friendly people waving and cheering as we passed by. I bet a lot of people ran into old friends they hadn't seen for a while, and some may have made new ones because they make the effort to come out.



That is the same opportunity you have when you come to our monthly meetings. By attending the

luncheons, we build friendships. Fun activities and making friends is the goal of our SIR group and it is also important to the health of our club. I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report –

Roy MacGregor



Our financial situation remains good. Our treasury balance is \$5,380, down from just over \$6,000 at the end of May. We pre-paid the City of Benicia 2023 bocce fees in order to avoid an increase in fees effective July 17; thereby saving almost \$1,000. We still have a few members who are in arrears, so we may collect some more membership fees, not counting any new members we can recruit. If you are one of those not yet paid, please mail your check to:

SIR Branch 88
PO Box 502
Benicia, CA 94510

Thanks!



- Wayne Burdick
- Richard Craig
- Roger Ford
- John Hilsenbeck
- Jim Jewell
- Mike Latone
- Phil Less
- Garland McClure
- Rene Millado
- Frank Palmaymesa
- Frank Pasley
- James Little

Editor's View – Carl Mason



We had a meeting of the branch leaders a week or so ago. We want to make the luncheon experience more enjoyable for everyone. Any event should be examined occasionally to see if there are things that we have “always done that way” that should be changed.

We all agreed that we need to focus on the fun part of the meeting, and minimize the business part to bare essentials. We want to see if we can bring music back ... something we have not had since Gary left ... and be respectful of members' time by keeping the meeting to the scheduled time. We will continue to work with Zio's to get enough food to ensure no one in the line has to wait.

We are handing out a survey this week to get your opinion on how things are going and ideas on what can be done better.

We have a lot of fun activities ... Golf, Bocce, Bowling, Pool, Card Games, etc. AND ... this week we added marching in a parade. We had some 14 or 15 members, two cars, including Chuck Maddux's amazing kit car, and ... oh yea ... George's 6-foot rooster. We were behind a band and just before the Jazzercise folks. We had some eight or so walkers who handed out candy to the kids and pamphlets to men-of-a-certain-age. Last year we had 12 pounds of candy and ran out about halfway. This year I ordered 31 pounds, feeling confident we had enough. Well, we ran out about a block and a half from the end. Next year we will try 35 pounds. The kids were great. One even asked me for my autograph. (???) We all finished with smiles on our faces and some with tired feet. Wait until next year. I'll see you at the Luncheon next Thursday.

Sunshine –

John Lawson



Our get-well wishes go out to SIR Gary Cady's daughter who is in the hospital.

If you know of any of our members who are sick or having problems, please let me know (707-853-6972).



**Benicia Torchlight Parade
July 3, 2023**



Bocce Ball (Co-Ed) –

Tim Tarazi



The first half of the season ended July 7. The second half starts July 14, and we will play again for 10 weeks. The winner of the first half will play the winner of the second half to determine who gets the cup. Good luck to everyone. I believe everyone is having a good time this season.

The City of Benicia notified us that starting next season there will be a rate increase. We will notify everyone in a future writing what next year's rates will be.



Pool League – Ed Droesch

League play ends at the end of this month. The current race for the traveling trophy is held by Ed Brice by a single game.



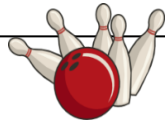
The next league will play at Bottom of the Fifth, where our negotiators have secured the use of their tables for our Monday matches until the Rancho Benicia clubhouse work is finished.

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say: "close enough."



Bowling –

Don Ramsay



The winter league season starts on September 6. The league fees are still \$20 per week. I have not heard how much the sanction card will cost this year. If you want to bowl let me know by phone (707-644-2194) or e-mail (donram2@comcast.net) as I will be setting up teams soon. If the sanction card stays at \$25 the first week of bowling will be \$85 which covers the first and last two weeks of league bowling and the sanction card. The minimum I can except the first week would be \$45 if the sanction card stays at \$25.

If anyone is interested in semi-professional baseball the Vallejo Seaweeds are playing at Wilson park. Check your paper for times and dates.



Bocce Ball (Men) –

Steve Hazelton



Bocce at the Veterans Park in American Canyon has finally gotten to the point of a regular competition on Thursday mornings.

After eight rounds of competition and realigning the teams, we are all smiles each Thursday.

Currently the standings are:

1. Ball Busters with 12 wins, including forfeits
2. The Golfers with 9 wins
3. Watts a Matta U's 8 wins
4. The Over the Hill Gang with 7 wins

Players are getting serious and having fun, especially Hank.

Opportunities to help your branch

— Harold Persily

Branch Photographer

As you know, we maintain a directory of our members including member pictures. We would like someone to be the branch photo coordinator. You would get members photos for the directory and maybe pictures of our luncheons or activities for the newsletter.

Birthday Cards

Feel creative? ... or just want to do something for the branch? We have been sending birthday cards to individual members for several years. We are seeking someone to help or take over sending birthday cards to members. It involves sending some 10-12 per month. It is a way to give back to the branch and its members.



Pop-the-Cork – David Muth

In June we continued the idea of drinking wine from different countries of the world and sampling some of that country's food. That country was really a continent ... South America.

It was all about wines of Chile, Argentina, and others. The Latin food was delicious. We talked and laughed a lot.

Our next gathering is July 23. If you are interested in joining us, give David Muth a call (707-332-3352) or email (david66muth@gmail.com).



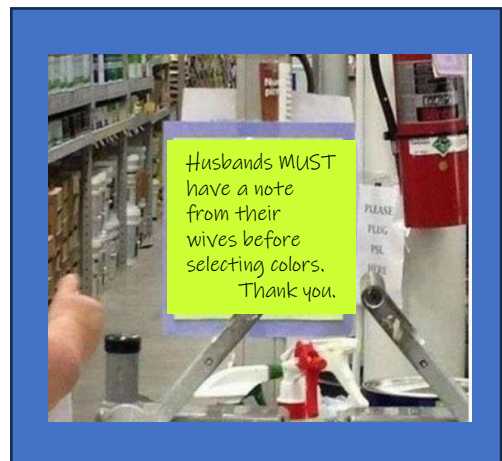
Bridge – Tim Tarazi

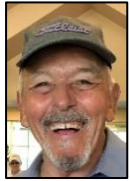


Monday morning classes have been rather successful despite having a lower number of expected participants. For the 5 or 6 who have been attending, thank you. We hope it has been fruitful.

Our last class will be July 31. Players are then welcome to join the Benicia Bridge being held at the Benicia Senior Center every Tuesday at 9:00am. We can set up a beginners table for honing and developing your skills. Improving your bridge skills can be done only by practicing and playing. So don't be shy to joining the Tuesday games.

Again, many thanks to our instructor Wayne Miller, and many thanks for those who participated.





Golf – Jim Jewell / Dick Schumacher



Our next three tournaments are as follows:



Tuesday July 25 – Kennedy Golf Course in Napa

Tuesday August 8 – Paradise Valley in Fairfield

Tuesday August 22 -- Blue Rock East in Vallejo

We are having a good turnout this year, but we always can use more golfers.

You can sign up at the SIR luncheon next Thursday or contact Jim Jewell or Dick Schumacher.

Jim (707-373-6598) / Dick (707-745-1571)

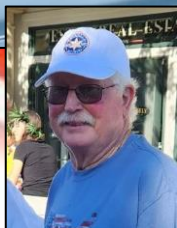
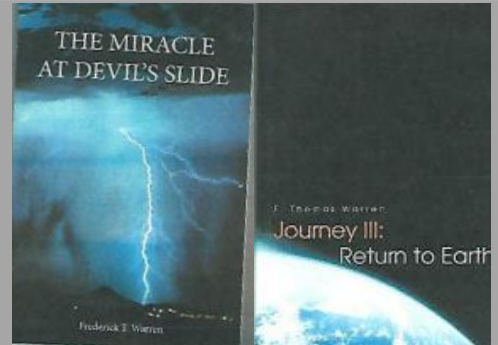
The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.

Of Interest ...

Did you know that our Fred Warren has written a couple of science fiction / fantasy books:

- Journey III: Return to Earth – An attempt to describe visitors from outer space.
- The Miracle at Devil's Slide – A fantasy that 20-some book club reviewers concluded was a religious tale from someone who is a non-believer in man's obsession with God/gods.

Both books are available on Amazon.



Benicia Torchlight Parade
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July 2023 ★ ★ ★

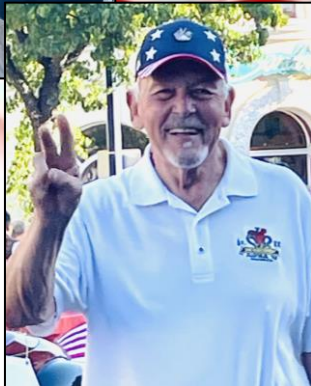
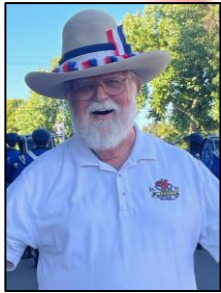
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						1
2	3 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool 6:30 – Benicia Parade	4 	5 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	6 9:00 – Men's Bocce	7 9:30 – Co-Ed Bocce	8
9	10 9:00 – Men's Bocce 9:30 - Bridge 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	11	12 10:00 – Bowling	13 10:00 BEC 11:00 – Luncheon	14 9:30 – Co-Ed Bocce	15
16	17 9:30 - Bridge 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	18	19 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	20 9:00 – Men's Bocce	21 9:30 – Co-Ed Bocce	22
23 4:00-6:00 – Pop the Cork	24 9:30 - Bridge 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	25 9:00 – Golf Kennedy Golf Course	26 10:00 – Bowling	27 9:00 - Men's Bocce	28 9:30 - Co-Ed Bocce	29
30	31 9:30 - Bridge 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool					



Benicia Torchlight Parade
July 3, 2023



**Benicia Torchlight Parade
July 3, 2023**



**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.com
Bocce Co-Ed	Tim Tarazi	297-5957	timtarazi@gmail.com
Bowling	Don Ramsay	644-2194	donram2@comcast.net
Chaplain/Sunshine	John Lawson	853-6972	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	masonguy@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 Hebster*	2010
Bill Hester	2009
Richard Stone*	2008
Don Waterbury*	2007
Ed Sweet*	2006
Ed Bradley*	2005
Gerald Davis	2004