



SIR Solano Branch 88 September 2023 Newsletter

"Live Longer, Live Happier, Join SIR"

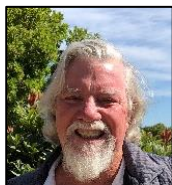
State Website – sirinc.org

Branch 88 Website – sirinc2.org/branch88/

P.O. Box 502, Benicia, CA 94510

Big SIR ... My Two Cents

– Harold Persily



Happy September everyone. The end of summer is here, or did we really have a summer this year? I guess we should not complain too much, a lot of

other states are immersed in major heat waves.

Last month we had a 'guest' Big Sir, our Little Sir Wayne Burdick. I heard some good things about the meeting from some members. I think he did a good job. So, I think we will be in good hands next year when he becomes our Big Sir. If he needs help, he has a great team behind him. We will be voting our next year's slate of branch leaders soon.

I am looking forward to the September luncheon Ladies' day and Hula Dancers. David Muth is organizing it, so it should be special. David asked for early reservations, so if you want to go, you should contact him soon. We need to give ZIO's a good estimate of attendance so we do not run out of food.

Pool has been interesting. We have been meeting at the Bottom of Fifth while the club house is being renovated. The first half ended so we had a plaza party before playing our last game at the clubhouse.

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NEXT MEETING

*Lady's Day
Thursday,
September 14, 2023*

Zio Fraedo's

23 Harbor Way

Happy Hour 11:00

Lunch 12:00

Program 1:00

(BEC 10:00am)

Program

Na Pua Lehua, Hawaiian Dance Group



**Ladies Day!
\$30 / person
Reservations
required**



*About our Program
September 14, 2023*

Hawaiian Ladies Day

September 14 is Hawaiian Ladies Day at Zio Fraedo's. So far 66 people have registered.

If you want to attend, there is still time. Just let me know to reserve your space. Pay at the door, \$30 per person. Hawaiian dancers as will provide entertainment. We will have games and prizes and lots of fun with island music. Looking forward to seeing you.

Reservations: David Muth (707-332-3352 or david66muth@gmail.com)

Big SIR ... My Two Cents



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Men's Bocce is coming to an end on September 7 with a pizza party, and Co-Ed bocce ends September 29 with a potluck party October 6.

There is talk of trying Cornhole toss activity as a winter activity when bocce ends. We can play it outdoors while the weather is nice, and then indoors during inclement weather when we find a location. If you can think of other activities, we can organize during the winter let us know.

Things you can learn reading the newspaper comics:

When typing on an Apple iPhone/iPad like a text, email or in word; just hold down the space bar, to move the cursor anywhere on the screen. It works! I have been frustrated trying to add or remove a letter or word when typing for years, and this did 'blow my mind'.

Anyway, hope everyone is staying healthy. Be safe.

Harold



September

William Blake
Gregory Cogliantry
Bill Emge

Gerald Hardisty
Ed Harwood
Dave Krenzke
Chris McNulty
John Reyes
Leon Thomas
Brandon Wroblewski
Edmund Malone
Ken Palmer
Jim Swindle



Little SIR –

Just Saying...

Wayne Burdick

I enjoyed the August meeting acting as MC. The meal was very good. The guest speaker, Michelle Dicky, and her assistant from the Solano Land trust did a great job. It was factual and informative with a Q&A time afterwards.

One question was about 50,000 acres of land being purchased secretly surrounding Travis Air Base by Flannery Associates. It has been a real mystery until recently. The parent company of Flannery Associates has gone public with a new website ... californiaforever.com Their stated plan is to build a new walkable community. It sounds utopian, but local, state, and federal officials are raising some concerns.

I am going to the Vallejo Farmers Market each Saturday to inform people about SIR 88. Come by and visit. I set up my table near the corner of Georgia Street and Marin. It's fun talking to potential members.



Sunshine –

John Lawson



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



I'm fairly certain that the person who put the first r in February also decided how to spell Wednesday.

Pool League – Ed Drosch

Ed Brice filled in for me as organizer of Pool while I made some changes to my situation. We are under way with the Summer league playing at "Bottom of the 5th" (BOT5), while renovations are happening in the Rancho Benicia clubhouse. We are now pairing the top and bottom players instead of randomly as a way to level the playing field.



Above: Don Reasoner won the first half of the pool 2023 season and gets to keep the coveted champion bird for a while. . Roger Ford watches from behind in "What just happened?" amazement.

Below: Pool League 2023



The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.



Editor's View – Carl Mason

This month has been busy both here and in the State. Harold and some 50 other Big Sirs attended the State's Annual Conference. We installed the new State officers, (including me) for next year. There was a lot of discussion on what the State does for the branches and what we do with the assessment money the branches send in.

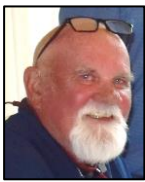


The State spends about 80 percent of its budget on direct support of the branches such as insurance, filing of taxes, web site support, etc. That leaves only \$16,000 which is spent on the in-person meeting, milage and supplies for officers, and committees.

My observation is that those at the State are dedicated professionals, who are doing their best to keep SIR going. The main outcome of the meeting is ... we need more members.

About 1/3 of our branches are growing, 1/3 are static, and 1/3 are losing members. The problem is that the bottom third is losing members at a greater rate than those gaining members, resulting in a net loss of some four percent per year. If this trend continues, there will be a time when we will not have enough State funds for us to operate.

We need to increase our recruiting efforts. I commend Wayne for going to the Vallejo Farmers Market on Saturday to let people know who we are. We need others to join him. But the main source of our growth is you. Do you know someone who would enjoy our members and activities, and just having a lot of fun with good people? Ask them to come with you to an activity and/or the luncheon. You will be doing them a favor.

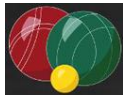


Bocce Ball (Men) –

Steve Hazelton

A sparrow decided to give one our Men's

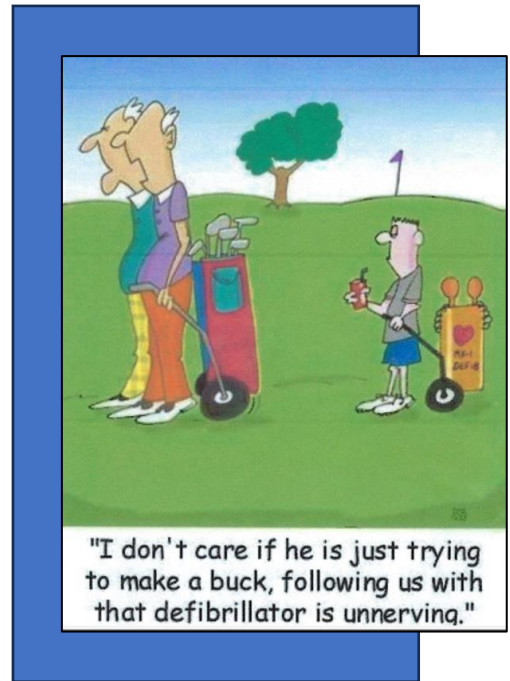
Bocce players a little advice. He still missed.



Bocce Ball (Co-Ed) –

Tim Tarazi

Now that the bye week for Labor Day is behind us, we have three more games to the end of the second half of the season. Stay tuned for the playoffs scheduled for September 29.



Golf – Jim Jewell / Dick Schumacher



SIR88 golf group continues to enjoy great weather and well-maintained local golf courses. We have four tournaments remaining in our 19 tournament 2023 SIR88 season. The group will finish with \$300 in prizes awarded to the winners of our own SIR88 FedEx cup after playing the final two Blue Rock Courses.



Our octogenarians such as Dick Schumacher, Mike Latone and Tommy Aldinger have shown, being over 80 years old does not prevent one from winning at golf as they continue to collect prize money!

Many thanks to George Fuller for helping Dick and I organize and complete another successful golf season.



Bridge – Tim Tarazi



Practice games will be on-going every Wednesdays at 10:00am at the Benicia Senior Center. I will continue to coordinate with those who wish to be available for practice.

In addition to those who attended classes with Wayne our bridge instructor, this is an open invitation for those who would like to just play non-competitively.



Member Spotlight Carl Mason

I was raised in San Diego. My parents had migrated from Texas in the '30's. (Think John Steinbeck). I went to school at Hoover High School in East San Diego, and then to San Diego State University, graduated in 1965 with a degree in Accounting, and got married soon after. Marcia and I had four children together.

I became an auditor for the Auditor General of the Navy in San Diego. The job required me to travel to just about every Navy or Marine Corps base in California, Hawaii, and the Western Pacific, including Japan, the Philippines, Okinawa, Guam, and almost Viet Nam (another story). Our main job was to go into a base or program and examine how they were accomplishing their mission and give them recommendations on how to improve. Each audit began with two lies: (us) "We're here to help", and (them) "We're glad you're here".

I eventually accepted a promotion and moved the family to the Washington DC, our headquarters office. While there, I was selected by the Navy Comptroller to go back to school to get my master's degree at full pay and all expenses paid at George Mason Univ. (no relation).

During my time in DC we became a foster home for Fairfax County for teenage girls. We had some 80 girls pass through our home with stays as short as one day and as long as two years. I consider this one of the best things I have done.

Eventually I was able to return to California as Auditor-in-Charge at Mare Island. I later accepted the position as Head of Mare Island's Accounting Division, a division with 86 employees. I was at Mare Island for nine years. During this time, several year after my divorce, I

met my forever wife, Gail, and I have been married to her for 35 years.

After taking an early retirement from Mare Island I thought I would never work again. I was a middle-aged ex-civil servant. Nine jobs later, I realized how wrong a person can be.

My post-retirement jobs included being the Principal Accountant for Solano County, and the Financial Director for the Contra Costa County Community Service Department where I was responsible for the financial aspects of several programs, including the Federal Head Start program. During this time, I also became an adjunct professor for Chapman and Emery-Riddle universities in accounting, computers, economics, and financial management. In addition, I also became a part-time Mall Santa for what turned out to be a 17-year stint. That was a great job. I estimate I was Santa to about 4,000 children per year. The best part was that meant 4,000 kid hugs each year. HO, HO, HO!!!



I finally retired for good in 2012 and found SIR88. It gave me a chance to make some life-long friends, stay active, and contribute to the running of the branch. I was the Big Sir in 2018 and became the Area Governor in 2019. I am currently the SIR State Treasurer, and one of the eight Officers on the State SIR Executive Committee.

I don't know about you, but SIR has given me a lot of good friends with whom I share a lot of fun activities and receive a lot of support. I came very close to dying of Covid in 2019. While I was in the hospital, Gail conveyed the good wishes and genuine concern you communicated to her. That's what SIR is all about. Thank you all.



Authentic Hawaiian Dancing and Singing

Please join us for a SIRs
Ladies Day Luau
Thursday, September 14, 2023
11:00 – 1:30
Zio Fraedo's
23 Harbor Way Vallejo

Break out that crazy Hawaiian
shirt or ??
Prizes for the best Hawaiian dress

\$30 per person
RSVP to (707) 332-3352 OR
david66muth@gmail.com



September 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 HAPPY LABOR DAY 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	5	6 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	7 9:00 – Men's Bocce	8 9:30 – Co-Ed Bocce	9
10	11 9:00 – Men's Bocce 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool Hog Island Oyster Farm	12	13 10:00 – Bowling 10:00 Bridge Practice	14 10:00 BEC 11:00 – Luncheon Hawaiian Ladies Day	15 9:30 – Co-Ed Bocce	16
17	18 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	19 9:00 – Golf Blue Rock West	20 10:00 – Bowling 6:00 – Men's Poker	21 9:00 – Men's Bocce	22 9:30 – Co-Ed Bocce	23
24 4:00-6:00 – Pop the Cork	25 10:00 – Cribbage 2:00 – Pool	26	27 10:00 – Bowling	28 9:00 – Men's Bocce	29	30

September 11 Hog Island Oyster Farm Tour at the Marshal site

After the tour, we have reservations to have oysters of your choice at the Boat Oyster Bar.

Love those oysters!

This event is sold out





Pop-the-Cork –

David Muth

Portugal

In August, we continued the idea of drinking wines from different countries of the world and sampling some of that country's food.

It was all about wines of Portugal. Some people brought wine, some brought port. What was unusual in our group was that two of the four bottles were corked with corks that broke apart making it very difficult to drink the wine. In my humble opinion, wine came in second to the port and the port stole the show.

Our next gathering is Sept. 24. If you are interested in joining, call or email me.



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 Hebson*	2010
Bill Hester	2009
Richard Stone*	2008
Don Waterbury*	2007
Ed Sweet*	2006
Ed Bradley*	2005
Gerald Davis	2004