



“SIR IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF OUR MEMBERS THROUGH FUN ACTIVITIES, LUNCHEONS AND EVENTS WHILE MAKING FRIENDS FOR LIFE.”

**Gold Country Branch 95  
2020 Elected Officers**

**Big Sir**

Kevin King .....916.337.9811

**Little Sir**

Bob Carlson .....916.817.1181

**Secretary**

Terry Starkel.....916.817.1524

**Asst. Secretary**

Dan Link.....916. 467.7465

**Treasurer**

Tim Irish.....916.933.3466

**Asst. Treasurer**

Bob Birgbauer .....530.677.5627

**Membership Chairman**

Mike Mohr.....530.391.1626

**Asst. Membership Chairman**

Dennis Petersen.....916.817.1149

**Directors at Large**

Joe Giacomini.....916.939.2060

Rich Turoff.....916.934.0176

Bill Drummond.....925.683.3120

Jay Muzio.....650.302.1902

**Region I Director**

**Dave Gonzales**

**Area 4 Governor**

**Hugh Thompson**

**Chairmen**

**Attendance** Jim Purcell 916.358.5251

**Badges** Bill Yeager.... 916.941.6632

**Bocce** Dan Cockcroft 408.781.0714

**Bulletin** Jon Jakowatz 916.941.6792

**Chaplain** John Ninan ... 916.941.9479

**Golf** Terry Starkel. 916.817.1524

**Asst Golf** Dennis Petersen .....

..... 916.817.1149

**PickleBall** Dan Cockcroft 408.781.0714

**Publicity** TBD

**Webmastr** Jon Jakowatz. 916.941.6792

**BIG SIR – Kevin King**

**Zoom Instructions**

**SIR Branch 95 General Meeting**

Monday, December 9, 2020 12:00 PM

To join the Zoom meeting from a desktop or laptop computer, click on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85679407897>

If joining using a smartphone or tablet, open the Zoom app and use Meeting ID: 856 7940 7897

If none of the above options are available to you, you can dial in as follows: +1-669-900-6833, 85679407897#

Happy December fellow SIRs! I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving. With Thanksgiving in the rearview mirror, we can now shift our focus in earnest to the holiday season. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, or Kwanzaa or all three, it's a special time of year filled with fond family memories.

In reflecting on the past year as your Big SIR, it's been a very different and challenging year. The year started out as any other. We met the first three months at Empire Ranch where we enjoyed lunches together and had a wide range of interesting speakers sharing their expertise in the areas of climate change, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and African safaris. The Little SIR was busy making plans for our annual lady's day picnic and then the statewide and SIR shutdowns came. With little time to prepare, we had to cancel our April meeting but resumed our meetings via Zoom beginning in May. We've continued to hold monthly Zoom meetings ever since. Those that have participated on those calls have enjoyed the opportunity to continue to meet with their friends and have continued to hear a number of interesting speakers on a wide variety of topics. As for as our activities, golf was shut down and resumed in July only to be shut down again in November.

SIR is a social organization. Its mission is to enhance the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events. It's been a challenge for us, and most SIR branches for that matter, to fulfill that mission under the current environment. Some branches have gone into a temporary hiatus or simply threw in the towel. Your Branch Executive Committee (the Board) has worked hard throughout the year to continue to provide each member as normal an experience as possible. I think the majority of our members recognize the effort being made and appreciate that we're trying to keep our group together.

Big Sir continued Page 2



## Sand Traps

by Terry Starkel, Golf Chair

SIR Branch 95 Results  
2020 Tournaments:

**GOLF TOURNAMENTS  
SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID**

## Branch 95 Comings and Goings

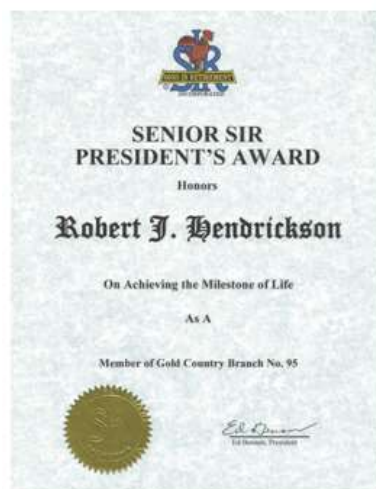
Congratulations to our very own Hugh Thompson who was elected Area 4 Governor. Hugh begins his duties in January 2021 and, as Area Governor, will have oversight of six branches in and around the Sacramento area. Hugh only recently joined our Branch. He was Big SIR at Branch 14 (Sutter Fort) this past year and transferred to our Branch at the end of August. Coming from a small Branch, Hugh has a number of ideas as to what it takes to help small branches like ours continue to be successful. Hugh replaces Dave Gonzales who will move up the food chain to take on the position of Region 1 Director. Hugh will remain a member of our Branch. We wish Hugh and Dave the best in their new positions.

As I don't believe it was previously reported, I'd like to welcome new member Curtis Johnson. Curtis joined our branch in October. He and his wife Gaye live in Folsom.

In other news, I'm saddened (but happy for them) to report that Dennis Callahan and Keith Hepler have both moved to Arizona. I don't believe it was widely reported at the time, but Dennis moved back in August to be closer to his family. As he explained to me, the move occurred much quicker than he anticipated because his home sold very quickly accelerating the time schedule. He was a member of our branch the past 14 years and regrets not being to say a proper goodbye to his many SIR friends and golf buddies.

I talked to Keith following our November Zoom meeting. He bought a home in a retirement community in the Phoenix area (it's funny the lengths some will go to get out of the purple tier). Like Dennis, he has been a long-time member of our branch – having been a member since 2007. He also regrets leaving without saying goodbye.

I wish Dennis and Keith both well as they adjust to their new lifestyles. Hopefully, we'll all remain in contact.



Finally, a special shout out goes to fellow SIR Bob Hendrickson. He had his 90th birthday earlier this year and SIR recognizes this special milestone with the Senior SIR President's Award. Bob joined Branch 95 in April 2007. You can find him out there every week honing his golf skills. I just received the certificate in the mail from SIR Inc. this week. It will be properly presented to him at a future, in-person event. Congratulations, Bob!

### **If the Shoe Fits...**

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00PM is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand-new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes you heart rac, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

### **Sunshine**

It's with great sorrow that I must report that Dennis Petersen's wife Arlene and Bill Yeager's wife Jan both lost their long battles with illness this past month. Be sure to keep Dennis and Bill in your prayers as they both recover from their great losses.

If you learn that a fellow SIR is going through an illness or a personal hardship, please send me an email so that I can let the membership know. This way members can keep them in their thoughts and prayers. Consider reaching out to offer support and encouragement during their time of need. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated.

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### **The (New) World We Live In**

It's been month's since we started hearing on the news of this flu-like virus that was sweeping the globe. As you may recall, fellow SIR Joe Giacomini and his wife Roz, were stranded on a cruise ship off the coast of California way back at the beginning of all of this when it first began getting our national attention. Other than being inconvenienced for weeks in quarantine on the ship, at Travis Air Force Base and then at home as part of the first statewide lockdown, both came out of it relatively unscathed and coronavirus free.

For months now, we've been hearing about the number of cases, associated ICU cases and deaths rising every day. For many (most?) of us from March until recent weeks, the news seemed so distant because we didn't know anyone who had contracted the disease. After nine months of hearing the daily news, it's more likely in recent weeks that we now do know someone – perhaps a friend or neighbor or even a family member – who has tested positive. What once was something happening in someone else's neighborhood is now in ours. One of our fellow SIRs recently left isolation after testing positive. He's unsure how he contracted the virus but assures me that it's unrelated to any SIR activity. His wife subsequently also tested positive and should complete her isolation in the next few days. Fortunately, both had relatively mild cases and, while not yet 100%, are feeling much better.

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## Christmas Trivia

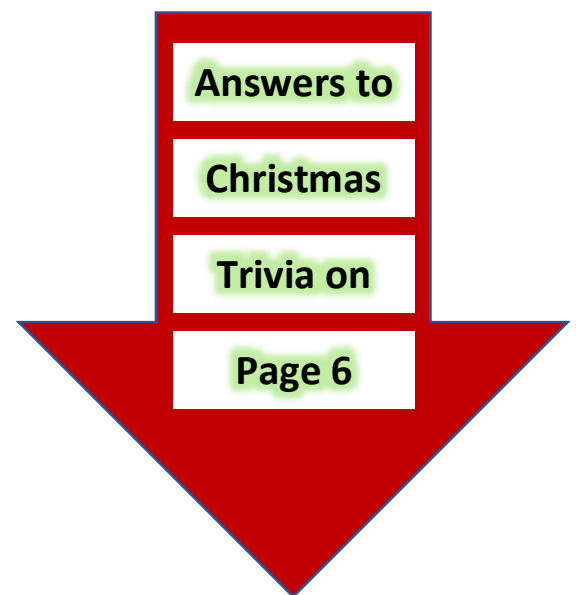
Given the popularity of our trivia challenge last year, following are a number of Christmas trivia questions to get you in the holiday spirit:

1. We all know that Rudolph has a red nose, but does Rudolph have antlers?
2. Round/oval candies filled with fruit preserves or cream and covered with chocolate are called?
3. Which country created eggnog?
4. Who said, "God Bless Us, Every One!"?
5. What were Frosty's last words?
6. What is the most popular item put on top of a Christmas tree?
7. How many Wise Men were there according to the Bible?
8. After Joseph, Mary and Jesus left Bethlehem, which country did they go to?
9. What does "Advent" mean?
10. McDonald's puts what holiday image on bags during the Christmas season?
11. December 24, 1814 ended what war?
12. In "Jingle Bell Rock" everyone is dancing and prancing. Where do they do it?
13. "Greensleeves" is another name for what Christmas song?
14. The custom of finding a button in the plum pudding means what to an unmarried man?
15. What was the most popular toy of 1984?
16. What's the average number of gifts an adult male gets for Christmas?
17. What is the main ingredient in ginger-bread cookies?Flour, ginger, molasses?
18. In "It's a Wonderful Life", what did Clarence receive for accomplishing his mission?
19. What river did George Washington cross on December 25, 1776?
20. What song contains the line "Let's be jolly, deck the halls with boughs of holly"?
21. What city name do the states Kentucky, Indiana, New Hampshire, Maryland, Connecticut and Georgia have in common?
22. This Florida town maintains a fully decorated tree year-round?
23. After red and green, what are the two most popular Christmas colors?
24. What popular children's cracker today was introduced in 1902 as a Christmas ornament?
25. Which U.S. President barred the Christmas tree from being displayed in the White House?

## The (New) World We Live In Continued...

Both were good examples of people practicing isolation, wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, rarely seeing family and remaining socially distant when they did, and only leaving the house for essential services – yet they still got COVID-19. His message to fellow SIRs, "if you can get it in the bubble. You sure as heck can get it if you venture out of the bubble."

My intent is not to be preachy since it seems taking sides on this issue is polarizing putting it in the same category as talking about politics or religion. Whether you agree or disagree with the restrictions that have been and will continue to be placed on us, it's simply important to note that as we stretch our bubble – whether due to COVID fatigue or not sensing an immediate or severe threat – that you increase the likelihood of being exposed. Even if you only experience mild symptoms, will those you may spread it to be as fortunate? What's clear is that we're not out of the woods yet. Are more restrictions or the pending vaccines the silver bullets we've all been waiting for to return to a "normal" life? Only time will tell. In the meantime, please continue to be vigilant and remain safe.



## Answers to Christmas Trivia

1. Yes
2. Sugar plums
3. United States
4. Tiny Tim
5. I'll be back again someday
6. Angel
7. It does not say
8. Egypt
9. Coming
10. Trees
11. The War of 1812
12. Jingle Bell Square
13. What Child Is This?
14. Bachelorhood
15. Cabbage Patch Doll
16. 6
17. Flour
18. His wings
19. Delaware River
20. Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
21. Bethlehem
22. Christmas, Florida
23. Silver & gold
24. Barnum's Animal Crackers
25. Teddy Roosevelt

*Editor's note: Do you have any items of interest that you think the group would enjoy?  
Please send a brief article on any hobbies, stories related to your experiences during these times, insights, encouragement,  
or other pertinent information you wish to share with the rest of the members.*