

"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 2021 Elected Officers

Big Sir

Kevin King......916.337.9811 Little Sir Jay Muzio......650.302.1902 Secretary Terry Starkel......916.817.1524 Asst. Secretary Bob Carlson......916.817.1181 **Treasurer** Tim Irish......916.933.3466 Asst. Treasurer Chad Barrow......209.603.7346 **Directors at Large** Joe Giacomini......916.939.2060

Rich Turoff......916.934.0176 Membership Chairman Dennis Petersen..........916.817.1149

.....

Pat O'Keefe 831.809.5830

Shoji Kumagai......408.472.6102

Region I Director **Dave Gonzales** Area 4 Governor **Hugh Thompson**

Chairmen	
Attendnce TBD	
Badges	Bill Yeager916.941.6632
Bocce	Dan Cockcroft408.781.0714
Bulletin	Jon Jakowatz.916.941.6792
Chaplain	John Ninan916.941.9479
Golf	Terry Starkel .916.817.1524
Asst Golf	Dennis Petersen
	916.817.1149
PickleBallDan Cockcroft 408.781.0714	
Publicity	TBD
Webmastr Jon Jakowatz .916.941.6792	

CAMERON PARK COUNTRY CLUB 3201 ROYAL DR, CAMERON PARK, CA 95682

BIG SIR – Kevin King



It's hard to believe that it's November. Football season is nearly half over. Basketball and hockey are just at the beginning of their month's long journey to the NBA Championship and the Stanley Cup, respectively. And I'm writing my last

letter piece as your Big SIR.

It's been a privilege being your Big SIR the past two years. We faced many challenges, but we emerged from it in pretty good shape. Most notably, our Branch remained intact; we reopened in a new meeting venue; we're offering new activities to meet the interests of more of our members; and during the shutdown because of the pandemic and the few months since our reopening, we've attracted several new members. Our Branch's staying power was all possible due to a group of Branch leaders who stayed the course navigating the many challenges our Branch faced during the pandemic and our reopening. Credit also goes to our loyal members who staved with us during months of Zoom meetings because they saw the value the organization brings to their lives, and they wanted to preserve the many friendships they've developed over the years. Our growth is the direct result of our members telling their friends and neighbors about the many things our Branch offers. We may have often thought it would have been easier to throw in the towel, but we didn't and, today, we're stronger for it. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you.

To those that served with me on the BEC this past year -aheartfelt thank you. It took us all to accomplish what we did in 2021. As we look forward to 2022 and the seating of the new BEC, congratulations to Big SIR-elect, Jay Muzio, Little SIR-elect, Ken Mahar, new Director at Large, Pat O'Keefe and all this year's other BEC members who have agreed to serve another year. Volunteerism is one of the keys to our Branch's continued success. Thank you to these men who understood that need and had the willingness and ability to step up. I'm certain that their vision and leadership skills will help our Branch grow in 2022 and beyond.

Big Sir continued Page 2

Birthdays

November

Tom Hubbs
David Hyman
Stephen Paulick
Terry Privott(PBS)
Steve Thomson
Michael Wilke
Bill Willman

December

Bob Carlson Dennis Eyler John Guisto

Membership

by Dennis Petersen, Membership Chair

Active Membership – 71

Branch 95 General Meeting & Luncheon

Wednesday, November 10th Social Hour 11:00 - 12:00

General Meeting 12:00 ~ **2:00...**

CAMERON PARK COUNTRY CLUB 3201 Royal Drive CAMERON PARK, CA 95682

> (530) 672-7900 Lunch Menu



TBD at Press time

BIG SIR continued...

As you know by now, our Branch waived dues in 2021. That is largely attributable to our collecting dues in 2020 just before the shutdown. At our last BEC meeting and after a careful review of our annual expenses, 2022 annual dues was set at \$40 per member. New members joining us during the year will be assessed a prorated amount depending on which quarter of the year they join. During our October BEC meeting, the BEC voted that dues is payable by our January 2022 meeting and that those members who do not pay by the March 2022 meeting would be removed from our membership rolls. Those with a birthday/door prize carryover credit due to the shutdown may apply that amount toward their dues. Talk to Tim to see if you still have a balance.

Our next meeting is back on our normal 2nd Wednesday of the month. It's scheduled for Wednesday, November 10th. As part of his training to take over as Big SIR in January, Jay will lead the meeting. He has planned as excellent program for us.

Also, clear you calendars. Our Annual Holiday dinner will be held the evening of December 8th from 5:00-9:00pm at Cameron Park Country Club. Jay will be sending out additional information and signup details soon.

I wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving!

"It has been my privilege to serve the men of SIR Branch 95 the past two years as your Big SIR."

~Past Big SIR Kevin King~

"Don't follow in any footprints, make your own prints.

Because you are the future of tomorrow."

Jackie Joyner-Kersee

Little SIR – Jay Muzio

Greetings fellow SIRs,

As we move into the last couple of months of this year, we can be grateful for many things. Among these things is that our SIR group has survived intact and has actually flourished during this unpredictable time. We were able to retain almost all our membership, and over the last couple of months, we have recruited some new members as well. Big Sir, Kevin King, was visionary in his ability to convert us to the ZOOM platform for our monthly meetings. Through this platform, many members were able to attend our monthly meetings complete with speakers, raffles, jokes and information.

Little Sir continued Page 3

SIR Branch 95 Golf By Terry Starkel

At last month's luncheon I was able to present prize money to the first four place winners from this year's Club Championship. Jay Guertin also received the trophy for taking first place in the Club Championship. Again, congratulations to all participants and especially to those that turned in three solid rounds to be prize winners.

We have already had our first rain out of the season. It was not the rain on the day we were going to play golf, but the approximately six inches we got the weekend before that made the course unplayable. I can take some rain cancellations if it means we get some water to replenish our lakes and streams.

The renewal process has started for the 2022 golf year. If you want to renew your golf membership in Sir 95 and NCGA, just let me know. You can pay next year's membership fee when we play or send it to me. It is not due until December, but about half of the members have already paid. Remember, to be an active member, you also need to be attending the monthly luncheons. We have a terrific facility for our meetings and quality food. I hope you all try to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

We still need help in running the weekly tournaments. We used to have a different director for each week and that really helped to keep things running smoothly. If you would be willing to help, please let me know. It would entail sending out the sign-up information, making the list of responders, sending in the count to the course five to eight days ahead (depending on the course), making out the scorecards, checking people in at the course and collecting the prize money. After the round, checking all the cards (mistakes happen), awarding the prizes and getting the cards to me. I will then make the double-bogey plus handicap adjustments and submit the information to the NCGA. I will also send out the handicap information for the course to enable you to have that information for the scorecards.

SIR Branch 95 Golf continued Page 4

Little SIR - Jay Muzio

Kevin was also able to guide us through the myriad of ever-changing rules and regulations set out by the State of California, El Dorado County, Sacramento County, and state level SIR. Because we could comply with the rules, and because of our members' cooperation with vaccination and waiver of liability requirements, activities were able to resume.

Today we are in a new meeting facility that better meets the needs of our group. We have our activities going again and are adding more as time goes by and as members step up to lead the interest groups.

Let's keep it going. Let's think of friends that would benefit from joining our group and invite them to our lunch meetings with the goal of recruiting them into SIRs.

This month we are honored to have as our speaker author and journalist, Michelle Carter.







If you ask her, nosiness is the key to her success as a journalist and author. Asking nosy questions led to a 30-year newspaper career, ending as the managing editor of the San Mateo Times, a Bay Area daily.

It took her to the former Soviet Union (20-some-times) where she used her school- girl Russian to ask even harder questions across all 11 time zones of the country.

Little Sir continued Page 4

SIR Branch 95 Golf continues

We have most of the dates for 2022 assigned to courses now. We still have a few dates to fill and one that won't confirm until May for a Sept. date. Our group is too small for them to book us this far in advance.

I would also like to welcome two new golf members to our group. Lewis Chapman joined us recently and our newest member is Bob Burdt. Both good golfers that might keep the rest of us on our toes.

Sand Traps

by Terry Starkel, Golf Chair SIR Branch 95 Results 2021 Tournaments:

Oct. 5 – Empire Ranch

1st. place: Steve Thomson 2nd. place: Don Nicholson 3rd. place: Mel Hallett

Closest to the pin: Bill Yeager

Oct. 12 – Mather

1st. place: Tim Irish

2nd. place: Dennis Petersen 3rd. place: Bob Hendrickson Closest to the pin: Tim Irish

Oct. 19 - Wildhawk

1st. place: Peter Apel
2nd. place: Bob Carlson
3rd. place: Don Nicholson
Closest to the pin: Peter Apel

Oct. 26 – Diamond Oaks
Cancelled due to flooding

Little SIR - Jay Muzio

It led to the publication of her first book, Children of Chernobyl: Raising Hope from the Ashes and most recently to her memoir, From Under the Russian Snow, about her year as the US Information Agency's Journalist-in-Residence where she served as a sort of midwife to the flowering free press in pre-Putin Russia.

A little nosiness took her to the other side of the world and back, and her readers got to come along.

Michelle lives in Belmont, Calif., with her husband Mike. She is the mother of two teachers and the grandmother of Ezra, a senior at UC Santa Cruz.

I would love to see fifty members in attendance this month.

Jay Muzio

Member Attendance:

To maintain membership, a member is required to attend one-half of the regular Branch monthly luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period, unless the Branch BEC has approved different attendance requirements (Policy 25; Bylaw 18).

SIR Non-Responsibility Clause:

All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by SIR'S Inc. and its branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. SIR'S Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property in matters pertaining to said events or activities.

Branch 95 Bocce Ball Activity - Dan Cockcroft



Signori Novanta Cinque

We're off to a good start with a regular group of 12 (give or take) members and a few spouses/significant others participating at our drop-in sessions. Rain forced our last session to be cancelled but we'll resume our regular 1st and 3rd Thursday schedule, weather permitting. With the conclusion of this season's EDHCSD's league, more courts should be available if you just want to get out there to throw a few balls. Note that all courts are available on a first come-first serve basis.

If you're interested in getting on the drop-in bocce email list, please contact me at

cockcroftdaniel@gmail.com

SIR Websites
Branch 95
Under_Construction
State SIR

www.sirinc.org

SIR Happenings

www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/

Branch 95 Bulletin Updates No Bulletin in December

Please Submit January items by Tuesday, January 4th, 2021

Please send to

SIR95Bulletin@jakowatz.net

On the Lighter Side

A Minister and a Cabbie

A minister dies and, resplendent in his clerical collar and colorful robes, waits in line at the Pearly Gates.

Just ahead of him is a guy dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans.

Saint Peter addresses this guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The guy replies, "I'm Joe Green, taxi-driver, of Noo Yawk City."

Saint Peter consults his list, smiles, and says to the taxi-driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff, and enter into the Kingdom."

So, the taxi-driver enters Heaven with his robe and staff, and the minister is next in line.

Without being asked, he proclaims, "I am Michael O'Connor, head pastor of Saint Mary's for the last forty-three years."

Saint Peter consults his list and says, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the preacher, "that man was a taxi-driver, and you issued him a silken robe and golden staff. But I get wood and cotton. How can this be?"

"Up here, we go by results," says Saint Peter.
"While you preached, people slept — while he
drove, people prayed."

The brain is the most outstanding organ. It works for 24 hours, 365 days, right from your birth until you fall in love.

Branch 95 Comings and Goings - Kevin King

Mike Mohr has elected to leave the branch because our new meeting day conflicts with other obligations and interests. For that reason and because he spends a good portion of the year in Arizona, he felt it would prevent him from being able to keep up his membership. We wish Mike well. Dennis Petersen has stepped in to keep our membership list up to date.

Welcome to our five newest members in their order of joining our branch: Jim Canty, George Alboff, Pat O'Keefe, Bob Burdt and Ed Rice.

- Jim was Jay Muzio's guest at our August meeting and joined shortly after with Jay as his sponsor. He formerly worked for DHL and lives in El Dorado Hills with his wife Maureen.
- Spreading the word about our Branch quickly, Jim Canty brought George as his guest to our October meeting. George came prepared to the meeting armed with his application, waiver, and vax card. George was a fire investigator for the San Francisco Fire Department and later in private practice where he served as a consultant to many insurance companies. He and his wife, Micki, live in El Dorado Hills.
- Pat transferred to our branch from Monterey Branch 28. Pat is a Past Big SIR, 2-time Area Governor, 2-time Regional Director and probably some other positions that I'm not aware of yet. He expressed a desire to become active right away in our Branch and was elected to our BEC last month as a Director at Large. His experience and willingness to jump into the leadership of our Branch will benefit us all. He is a former high school teacher in computers. He lives with his wife Wendy in Cameron Park.
- Bob is sponsored by Curtis Johnson. He has already signed up for golf. He and his wife Virginia live in El Dorado Hills.
- Ed is our most recent member who was also sponsored by Jay. He was a Technical Training Manager for Sun Microsystems. He and his wife, Joanne, live in El Dorado Hills.

Thanks to those members who got the word out - telling their friends and neighbors the value of SIR membership and asking them to join our Branch. Attracting and retaining members is another key to our Branch's continued success.

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Did You Know: Part Deux? - Kevin King

As you probably know, our Branch has several expenses including State SIR dues; guest and speaker lunches; our annual picnic and holiday dinner; and our monthly birthday award and door prizes. Members share the cost of those expenses by paying annual dues. The easiest way to keep dues in check while maintaining the great programs and events our Branch offers is to spread our costs among a larger number of members. Who hasn't gone to Target or the grocery store or church or the golf course and seen numerous guys our age that might enjoy spending time with other kindred spirits and enjoying some of the activities we offer? Or, even easier, ask a friend or neighbor if they'd like a free lunch and the opportunity to check us out to see what we have to offer. We have a great group of guys, a beautiful new meeting venue that other branches are envious of and offer a growing list of activities offering something for everyone.

Get the word out that Branch 95 is BACK IN BUSINESS - AND GROWING!

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The Lottery

At breakfast, the husband asked his wife, "What would you do if I won the lottery?"

She replied, "I'd take half and leave you."

"Great," he said. "Here's \$6. I won \$12 yesterday. Stay in touch."

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Final Word – Kevin King

A SIR branch has a number of things in common. Great people, interesting programs and lots of activities that satisfies their members' diverse interests. As recent transferee Pat O'Keefe reflected "it'd be hard to go to any SIR branch and not make instant friends."

In 2022, Branch 95 will have been around for 42 years. We must be doing something right. Over that time, membership has risen and fallen as men have come and gone only to rise again. We've also faced many challenges but have always managed to bounce back – as we are now following the pandemic and hanging on for nearly 18 months via Zoom.

Members are our lifeblood and remain members so long as we meet their social needs – the same underlying things that the SIR organization was built on. Our providing a quality venue, good food at a fair price, interesting monthly programs, and numerous activities that satisfy members' varied interests go a long way toward attracting and retaining members. All those things are critically important, but those things don't just happen. It also takes a pipeline of ready, willing, and able member-volunteers to fill our required leadership positions and critical committee roles to keep the organization going.

We may not be in a geographically rich population center or have all the member resources to draw on that a large branch has. Some men are drawn to large branches because of its bigness and perhaps the possibility to stay in the shadows. Others, like me, prefer the personal feel that a smaller branch offers and the opportunity to make positive change. Regardless of whether you're part of a large or small branch, the keys to branch success remain the same.

