



“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

Pat O’Keefe ..... 831.809.5830

Shoji Kumagai..... 408.472.6102

Rich Turoff ..... 916.934.0176

**Membership Chairman**

Dennis Petersen..... 916.817.1149

**Region I Director**

Dave Gonzales

**Area 4 Governor**

Hugh Thompson

**Chairmen**

Attendance TBD.....

Badges Bill Yeager.....916.941.6632

Bocce Dan Cockcroft408.781.0714

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

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 stayed 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 – a heartfelt 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**



## **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.

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## **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.

### **From Under the Russian Snow**

By Michelle A. 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**







## **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.

