



# GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95

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.

Bulletin 393

August 2022

Kevin King, Editor

## BIG SIR | Jay Muzio 650-302-1902



Welcome to the “Dog Days” of summer, July 3rd to August 11th . This time of year, with unbearably hot summer days, gets its name not from the tendency of dogs to laze around in the heat, but from the ancient belief about the brightest star in the sky. The “Dog Days” refer to Sirius, the brightest star

in the constellation Canis Major which means “Big Dog” in Latin and is one of Orion’s hunting dogs. In late July through mid-August Sirius rises together with the sun. This phenomenon led the Greeks and Romans to believe the heat from the two stars combined and caused this time to be the hottest days of the year. So where does the idea of lazy dogs come from? Anne Curzan, an English professor at the University of Michigan puts it this way: “This is a very human tendency. When we do not know the origin of a phrase, we come up with a plausible explanation.”

On the topic of “Dog Days,” August 1st is also known as Dogust 1st, and it is the universal birthday for shelter dogs. August 4th is National Assistance Dog Day, and if you combine August 10th, National Lazy Day with August 26th, National Dog Day you get National Lazy Dog Days.

I can’t let an article about dogs go without mentioning my past furry friends and grand doggies: Pepper; Caesar; Merlin; Luigi; Rubble; Rhea; Maggie; Callie; and Monty. And for you fellow dog lovers and readers, I recommend “The Speckled Dog and His People” by Rick Bragg.

Late summer heat has never been something I look forward to. I feel sorry for kids having to go back to

school in this heat, but at least today the schools have air conditioning. I grew up in Stockton and school did not start until after Labor Day. Nonetheless, I can still feel the torture of the new Levi’s, on 100-degree days. You know the pants that could stand up by themselves in the corner because they were so stiff until they were washed a dozen times? In my late teens and early twenties, I worked in the canneries at night and tried to sleep during the day in the upstairs of a house that only had a swamp cooler that blew into the kitchen downstairs. Sleep in those conditions was just a concept; tossing and turning was the reality. Now days I appreciate a house with good air conditioning and insulation. I will play golf in the heat, but that is about all I do outside this time of year. So be cool and enjoy the rest of your summer.

I would like to thank the members that attended the July luncheon meeting for your discussion and feedback regarding changing the State SIR bylaws to allow for women to become members of SIR. The straw poll showed an overwhelming consensus that we prefer to remain a men’s only group with coed activities. Please send me an email if you have something else you want to add to the discussion.

Our next luncheon meeting is Wednesday, August 10th at Cameron Park Country Club. It starts with an 11:00am social hour, and the regular meeting starts at 12:00 noon. Please support all the efforts of those who work so hard to provide an enjoyable and worthwhile experience by honoring us with your attendance. **Also, remember that the cost of our lunch is now \$30. The new increase starts with this month’s meeting.**

### Gold Country Branch 95 2022 Elected Officers - (PBS) denotes Past Big SIR

<b>Big SIR</b> Jay Muzio 650-302-1902	<b>Little SIR</b> Ken Mahar 650-504-1393	<b>Secretary</b> Terry Starkel 916-817-1524	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Bob Carlson 916-817-1181	<b>Treasurer</b> Tim Irish (PBS) 916-933-3466	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b> Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067
<b>Director at Large</b> Rich Turoff (PBS) 916-934-0176	<b>Director at Large</b> Joe Giacomini (PBS) 916-939-2060	<b>Director at Large</b> Kevin King (PBS) 916-337-9811	<b>Director at Large</b> Lew Chapman 510-912-5658	<b>Director at Large</b> OPEN	<b>Director at Large</b> OPEN

## LITTLE SIR | Ken Mahar

650-504-1393

Our speaker this month is Kristina Noble. She is the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Sustainability Team at El Dorado Disposal. She has been with the company for 5 years starting as a customer service representative. Kristina has a passion for providing proper education to the community about recycling and composting practices. Her presentation will include recycling best practices as well as touch on the new organics program put into effect by SB 1383.

## SUNSHINE | John Ninan, Chaplin

916-941-9479



If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill, please let me know by email at [ocninan@yahoo.com](mailto:ocninan@yahoo.com) or by phone 916-941-9479 so that our SIR members can be informed. Our intent is to remain in contact with a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during their illness.

## 2023 SLATE OF BEC CANDIDATES

At their July meeting, the BEC approved the Slate of Candidates for 2023. Thank you to those who have stepped up and those who will continue on the BEC for another year. Your dedication helps ensure the continued success of our Branch. Members will vote at one of our meetings later this year. Your 2023 Slate of BEC Candidates are as follows:

Big SIR	Jay Muzio
Little SIR	Lew Chapman
Treasurer	Oli Bohlman
Assistant Treasurer	Tim Irish
Secretary	Terry Starkel
Assistant Secretary	Bob Carlson

## NORTH TO ALASKA | Lewis Chapman

Remember the 1960's Johnny Horton song, North to Alaska? Great memorable song about the 1860's gold rush to Alaska. My wife, Kitti Rae and I got to visit and learn about aspects of the Alaska gold rush during our recent trip. It was a "golden" experience.

We have had the great fortune to travel the globe over our 70+ years, via business and personal travel. However, Alaska, our 49<sup>th</sup> state is a place we had never visited. Do you remember we purchased the Alaskan territory from Russia in 1867 for just \$7.2 million? That is 2 cents per acre. Do you know that less than 2% of Alaskan land is privately owned? The rest is National Forest, State Forest, National Parks, BLM land, etc. Denali National Park and Preserve is 6 million acres. Our takeaway is that Alaska is water, snow/glaciers, rivers, trees, and mountains everywhere. Oh yea, and salmon (5 main kinds) and wildlife.

See **NORTH TO ALASKA** on next page

## General Meeting

Wednesday, August 10, 2022  
Waiver & proof of vaccination required  
Buffet lunch \$30

**NOTE PRICE INCREASE**

## CAMERON PARK COUNTRY CLUB

3201 Royal Drive  
CAMERON PARK, CA 95682

Social Hour  
11:00 - 12:00

General Meeting & Lunch  
12:00 ~ 2:00

### Menu

Chicken cacciatore  
Penne pasta  
Primavera vegetables  
Caesar salad  
Garlic bread

Beverage station with  
iced tea, lemonade and

## August Birthdays

Chad Barrow  
Bob Birgbauer  
Oli Bohlman  
Alan Bowles  
Dan Cockcroft  
Bill Drummond  
Ray Guenther  
Dan Maglionico  
Ken Mahar  
Terry Starkel  
Graham Williams



## August Milestone Anniversaries

Shoji Kumagai- 5 years

**Happy SIR Anniversary!**

## Membership

Welcome to our newest members  
Ray DiBasilio and Ron Wadsworth

Current number of members = 79

## BRANCH HAPPENINGS / SIR COMINGS & GOINGS | Kevin King (PBS)

916-337-9811

Please welcome our two newest members Ray DiBasilio and Ron Wadsworth.



Ray is also a member of Branch 113 (Pollock Pines) and will maintain a dual membership. Ray is quite active in his branch and at the State level in bowling and has agreed to be our Bowling Activity Director. He is a retired meat cutter and Department Manager at Safeway. He and his wife, Cindy, live in Placerville.



Ron is a former VP of Operations for Cardinal Health. He learned about us while out for a walk through Promontory Park and picking up one of our brochures during one of our drop-in bocce activities. He's a good golfer and has already been very active with our golf group. He and his wife, Tami, live in El Dorado Hills.

### NORTH TO ALASKA continued from previous page

The trees in the tundra are predominantly white and black spruce which are skinny and short for confers and give the landscape a distinctive appearance. We were in the Tongass National Forest during most of this trip. It is the largest rainforest in North America at 16.7 million acres in Southeast Alaska. But this same conifer forest stretches all the way south to the lower 48 and into Oregon. The point is this is a vast and beautiful landscape as many of you probably know from trips there.

Here is a summary of our trip and some of the highlights and lowlights. First, I'll tell you that due to ongoing COVID-19 travel requirements, we have never had to do so much paperwork, submit so much information for any travel, ever. This included a medically supervised negative COVID antigen test 48 hours before we departed, as well as having to enroll in FLYSafe, ArriveCan, etc. (lowligh). That's all expected and appreciated as who wants to get on a ship if there are any sick folks aboard?

After all this homework we traveled to Vancouver BC and boarded the Noordham for a week cruise via the Inland Passage, stopping in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway—the cruise ship standard stops. The inland passage is interesting as it gets surprisingly narrow in places and navigating it is challenging for any boat let alone a ship. The towns, while very touristy, were interesting. A highlight in Ketchikan was a trip up to the Mendenhall Glacier, see photo.

That is us in front of the glacier at a distance with fireweed in the foreground. It was very impressive from a distance and up close (highlight). Leaving Skagway, we cruised the famous Glacier Bay and lost count of the glaciers in view. Most impressive was the Marjorie Glacier, the northernmost one in the bay; it's actively calving and receding 6-8 feet per day.



After we arrived at our cruise terminus in Whittier, we took a fast catamaran trip into the Prince William Sound to see the "26 Glaciers." While it poured rain all that day, it didn't matter as our cat cruised right up to the face of several glaciers. It had been raining hard for the few days before, so there were waterfalls everywhere. There was a Kittiwake bird rookery at one of the waterfalls where there were thousands of birds. We saw one glacier "calve" twice (that's where the face of the glacier falls off) while we idled around. It's true, the glaciers are melting fast, but they are still everywhere (highlight).



We spent a couple nights in Anchorage, then took the Alaskan Railroad to Denali National Park and Preserve. Here is one of my shots of Mt. Denali, 20,305 feet tall. We are now members of the 30% club, seeing Denali on a day when it is not shrouded in clouds. Our view was spectacular as you can see, still over 30 miles away (highlight). These days unless you are climbing it, you can't get much closer short of a flyscenic tour.



So, that is a brief overview of a really nice trip to Alaska. The only souvenir we brought home that we didn't want was COVID-19. It's fun to be back traveling again, but not without risk. I'll see you real soon when I'm 100%.

North to Alaska, the rush is on.

## BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman 916-817-1524



It is August and almost time for the SIR 95 Golf Club Championships. More information will be sent out at the end of the month. There are still some golfers that can qualify by playing the August golf rounds. At this time more than 20 of our golfers are qualified to play for the Club Championship. Our play at Whitney Oaks on September 6<sup>th</sup>. will be the last round before the Championship rounds start at Mather on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking to make some changes in some of our golf activity structure. Some are probably going to start with next year's play and some may start before the end of the current year, stay tuned for more information.

We had a good day playing at Lincoln Hills at the end of July. Usually, it is one of the hottest rounds we play, but this year we had cloud cover and temperatures in the 80's. I will try to schedule it later in the season next year to avoid the heat, as it is usually in the 100-105 degree range when we play there.

We welcome Dennis Petersen back to being a Golf Director. He will be taking over the Mather tournaments from Lew Chapman and Lew will take over the Wildhawk tournaments. For now, I will continue with the Empire Ranch tournaments and the fourth Tuesday tournaments. Dan Cockcroft will cover when and where needed.

## STRAW POLL RESULTS

An unprecedented 57 of 79 members (72.1%) participated in my straw poll where members weighed in on a number of issues that you are unlikely to hear about on the nightly news. Following are the results:

- 48 of the 57 respondents indicated that toilet paper should be placed over (not under) the roll (scientific studies seem to support this as a means to eliminate spreading germs on the rest of the roll...go figure. When did this become a thing?)
- 43 of the 56 respondents (one no response) favor Red Vines to Twizzlers (who knew so many of you could be wrong)
- 34 of the 57 respondents eat their sweetcorn lengthwise versus around the cob (really??? 0 for 3; I'm seeing a trend here)
- 30 of the 57 respondents prefer Coca-Cola products to Pepsi products (finally, we're in agreement)
- 30 of the 57 respondents prefer white to dark meat for their Thanksgiving turkey (Coke & white meat correlated? I think not)

## SAND TRAPS

Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman  
916-817-1524

Golf Director (Mather)  
Dennis Petersen 916-817-1149

Golf Director (Wildhawk)  
Lew Chapman 510-912-5658

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## SIR Branch 95 Results 2022 Tournaments

### July 5 - Empire Ranch

1st place: Lew Chapman  
2nd place: Don Nicholson  
3rd place: Dan Link  
Closest to the pin: Ron Wadsworth

### July 12 - Mather

1st place: Dan Maglionico  
2nd place: Jay Muzio  
3rd place: Tim Irish  
Closest to the pin: Ron Wadsworth

### July 19 - Wildhawk

1st place: Dan Cockcroft  
2nd place: Mike Wilke  
3rd place: Bob Carlson  
Closest to the pin: Tim Irish

### July 26 - Lincoln Hills

1st place: Chad Barrow  
2nd place: Mark Thompson  
3rd place: Jay Muzio  
Closest to the pin: Tim Irish

See the last page of the  
newsletter for information  
about the **2022 SIR Fall Classic**  
golf tournament - the final State  
golf tournament of the year.

### SIR Websites

Branch 95: [sirinc2.org/branch95/](http://sirinc2.org/branch95/)  
State SIR: [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org)  
State SIR Marketing: [WeAreSIR.com](http://WeAreSIR.com)  
SIR Happenings (State SIR newsletters):  
[sirinc.org/newsletters](http://sirinc.org/newsletters)  
SIR Merchandise: [sir.ourproshop.com](http://sir.ourproshop.com)

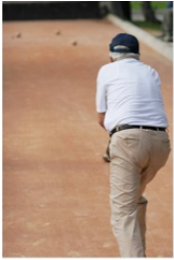
### State SIR Officials

State President  
Richard Kindle  
209-652-8608

Region 1 Director  
Hugh Thompson  
916-276-5117

Area 4 Governor  
Jack Reefer  
916-531-2551

## BOCCE | Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067



Attendance is increasing each week for our drop-in bocce activity. A number of members and some of their spouses enjoy coming out each week to throw a few balls and visit with each other. Play is non-competitive and open to SIR members, their spouses or significant others and invited guests. We play every Thursday at 9:00am at Promontory Park in El Dorado Hills. If you're a seasoned player or a first-timer wanting to learn the game, just stop by. Everyone is welcome. Mark your calendar for our next outing on Thursday, 8/4.

## PICKLEBALL | Dan Cockcroft (PBS) 408-781-0714

Drop-in play on local courts where you'll often find a few members playing. Call ahead for hours and fees.

- El Dorado Hills Community Services District Gym
- Cameron Park Lake Tennis Courts
- Cameron Park Community Services District Gym
- Andy Morin Sports Complex (Folsom)
- Lembi Park (Folsom)
- **OPENING SOON** - Heritage Village Park (EDH)



## FISHING | Dan Maglionico 916-719-6821



Fishing remains on temporary hold while Dan cares for his wife who is recovering from heart surgery. Let your fellow anglers know if you're planning an outing or looking to go out with someone on a day trip.

## E-BIKING | Rich Christensen 916-817-1838



Rides occur on paved bike paths in the area. All levels of riders are welcome. Other riding opportunities exist in the area that are not associated with SIR. Give Rich a call to see what's available and what rides are coming up.

## BOOK EXCHANGE | Lew Chapman 510-912-5658



Way up North...If you saw my article in last month's newsletter, I mentioned I was looking for a book to read about Alaska. I found it when I remembered one of my favorite books by Jon Krakauer, "Into Thin Air" about the 1997 Mount Everest disaster. Krakauer also wrote "Into the Wild" which tells the true story of the journey of 24-year-old Christopher McCandless into Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve, where he starved to death in an abandoned bus after spending four months foraging and hunting game. This was the perfect book for me to read this month. I'll put it into the growing book exchange collection.

We did not go to Alaska for the same type of experience that McCandless sought, but we are glad we went. See my article about our recent trip to Alaska. Remember the 60's song by Johnny Horton: Way up North, way up North, North to Alaska, we go North, the rush is on...?

Also remember the benefits of our SIR Book Exchange: No cost, no library cards, no late notices, no fines.

*A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.*

## BOWLING | Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727



The SIR State Bowling Committee holds 17 tournaments throughout California and Nevada. These tournaments are open to a SIR member and guest (male or female) that are USBC members and have an established average. Each tournament is hosted by a different SIR branch providing a great way to meet folks from other places while enjoying some friendly competition. Most are held over two days so bowlers can pick the best day that works with their schedules. My wife, Cindy, and I like to turn these tournaments into mini getaways and are often joined by other SIR members. We drive in the morning, bowl the 1:00 pm squad, have a relaxing dinner with friends, spend the night, bowl in the morning and leave around noon (avoiding traffic).

See **BOWLING** on next page

**WINE TASTING | Jay Muzio, Big SIR**  
650-302-1902



The July 21st wine tasting event was held at the home of Hugh and Faye Thompson. There were three-and one-half couples in attendance due to some last-minute cancelations due to illness.

The featured varietal this month was Rose'. The selections were particularly good. Two were from the Cote de Provance region of France and two were from California. One from Sonoma coast and one from central coast. The results of the tasting are as follows:

First place with 24 points was Justin 2021 Central Coast Rose'. (\$20)

Second place with 17 points was Martin Ray 2021 Sonoma Coast Rose' (\$16)

Tied for third with 13 points each were Wolfen Estate 2021 Cotes de Provance (\$24.49) and Olema 2020 Cotes de Provance Rose' (\$21).

A potluck dinner followed the wine tasting. The dishes included a delicious, marinated Tri-tip roast, a pasta salad with tinny broccoli and cauliflower florets, a tomato, watermelon, and Feta fruit salad and was topped off with a strawberry, kiwi, and blueberry cheesecake. A Hatcher Port style Zin was served with dessert.

Our next wine tasting will be August 18th . If you have not already joined the wine tasting group and would like to join, please contact Jay Muzio at [jaymuzio@gmail.com](mailto:jaymuzio@gmail.com).

*Did you know...Light travels faster than sound, which is the reason that some people appear bright before you hear them speak.*

*Did you know...refusing to go to the gym is a form of resistance training.*

**BOWLING** continued from previous page

August 8-10th we will be in Reno at the National Bowling Stadium. If you have never visited the center, it should be on your bucket list. In 2019 the NBS closed for nearly a year while undergoing a major remodel. There are 78 lanes on the main floor (upstairs) which are not used for public open bowling. Only through tournaments and special events can you enjoy rolling balls in this unique environment. The Kingpin Club is an additional venue with 10 lanes located on the first floor and is open to the public during the off-season. While there, be sure to visit the Bowling Museum also located on the first floor. The walk down bowling history is truly inspiring!

Here's the tournament lineup for the next few months:

August 8-10	National Bowling Stadium, Reno
August 24-25	Prosperity Lanes, Grass Valley
Sept. 12-14	Gold Dust West, Carson City

If you would like to add bowling as one of your activities, fall leagues will be starting at Knotty Pine Lanes in Pollock Pines at the end of August. There are three day-time senior leagues available, two on Monday and one on Wednesday. Come join us and meet a fun group of people.

As always, please contact me if you would like to bowl or have any questions. Looking forward to seeing you on the lanes.

**Striking up Friendships**



**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.

PLAY ONE DAY OR BOTH,

DAY 1 - \$ 60, DAY 2 - \$60, BOTH DAYS - \$120

# 2022 SIR Fall Golf Classic

**MEMBER & GUEST TOURNAMENT  
LADIES - NO HANDICAP REQUIRED!**

**Blue Rock Springs West  
Blue Rock Springs East  
Vallejo, CA**

**Wednesday & Thursday  
September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**

**"PLAY ONE OR BOTH DAYS"**

**8:00AM shotgun start both  
days**

**Entry fee includes green fee, cart, range  
balls & prize fund both days**

**Have a non-golfing spouse?  
Check out all the nearby  
activities [Click Here!](#)**

**Applications at [www.sirgolf.org](http://www.sirgolf.org)**

**Your Hosts: Jim Gurke, John  
Harrison, Pete Morelli, Mark Stuart**

**SIR members and men guests must  
have an established NCGA index.**

## Men's Program

Day 1 – 4 Men's Team - 2  
Best Ball (net) Play with a  
foursome of your choice  
or we place you on a  
team

Day 2 – Men's Scramble  
Play with a foursome of  
your choice or we will  
place you on a team

Closest to pin contests on  
both days! Front & Back  
nines.

## Women's Program

Day 1 – 4 Women Team - 2  
Best Ball (net) Play with a  
foursome of your choice or  
we will place you on a team

Day 2 – Women's Scramble  
Play with a foursome of your  
choice or we will place you  
on a team

Closest to pin contests on  
both days! Front & Back nines.

Click here for an electronic copy of the flyer,  
application, etc. <https://www.sirgolf.org/>