

GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95



Bulletin 407

October 2023

Kevin King, Editor

BIG SIR | Jay Muzio 650-302-1902



"And all at once Summer collapsed into fall."

~ Oscar Wilde

Welcome to October and the fourth quarter of the year. There is a lot to be liked about October, the cooler days, the longer nights, the fall colors, football and the fall festivities in the foothills. However, there are a few things that I could do without. Pumpkin spice for instance. What's with pumpkin spice everywhere? Why would people put pumpkin spice in coffee? Then there is pumpkin spiced Jello, pumpkin spiced Goldfish, pumpkin spiced Oreos, and pumpkin spiced Cheerios of all things. Who thinks of these things? Of course, we can understand pumpkin spiced candles and air fresheners, but why pumpkin spiced dog treats and throw pillows? And, just to make sure everybody knows that you like pumpkin spice, why not a Starbucks **I Like Pumpkin Spice** tee shirt? Don't even get me started on my aversion to Halloween. Raising two boys and having to be the strict parent that wouldn't let them loose on Halloween to wreak havoc in the neighborhood still comes back to haunt my memories of this day.

I want to thank Lew Chapman and the men who have stepped up to take on the responsibilities of SIR

Branch 95 leadership for next year. We will be voting on our slate of officers at our November meeting and installing our new officers at the Holiday Dinner on December 13th. The slate of 2024 officers we will be voting on are:

- Big SIR Lew Chapman
- Little SIR Ron Wadsworth
- Secretary Terry Starkel
- Asst. Secretary Bob Carlson
- Treasurer Oli Bohlman
- Asst. Treasurer Marshall Armstrong
- Director-at-large Dave Chighizola
- Director-at-large Tim Irish
- Director-at-large Ken Mahar
- Director-at-large Jay Muzio
- Director-at-large Hugh Thompson
- Director-at-large Bill Yeager

I also want to thank Dan Maglionico for taking on the responsibility of scheduling our monthly speakers and Jay Guertin for taking on the responsibilities of chairing the nominating committee, and of course a big thank you to all the members that are chairing committees and organizing activities for our Branch.

See **BIG SIR** next page

Gold Country Branch 95 2023 BEC Members- (PBS) denotes Past Big SIR

Big SIR Jay Muzio 650-302-1902	Little SIR Lew Chapman 510-912-5658	Secretary Terry Starkel 916-817-1524	Assistant Secretary Bob Carlson 916-817-1181	Treasurer Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067	Assistant Treasurer Tim Irish (PBS) 916-933-3466
Director at Large David Chighizola 530-558-9336	Director at Large Ken Mahar 650-504-1393	Director at Large Marshall Armstrong 650-438-7802	Director at Large Bill Yeager (PBS) 916-941-6632	Director at Large OPEN	Director at Large OPEN

NOTE ONE-TIME DATE CHANGE

BIG SIR continued from previous page

Please support all the efforts of those who work so hard to provide an enjoyable and worthwhile experience by honoring us with your attendance at our monthly luncheon meetings.

"Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

LITTLE SIR | Lew Chapman 510-912-5658

We have a very interesting speaker lined up for our SIR Branch 95 October 4 luncheon at Cameron Park Country Club. I was able to connect to her through our August speaker Deborah Seiler of the Renaissance Society. Her name is Helen Kanderka and the title of her presentation will be: **The History of Ukraine, Caught in the Middle.**



Helena Kanderka is the granddaughter of four Slovak-American immigrants. She spent several years researching their roots for her first novel—Slovakland, book of historical fiction. It covers the history of Hungary and Slovakia from the Dark Ages to 1904. Helena has given lectures on Eastern European history to the Renaissance Society for the past two semesters. She holds a

degree in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and holds a master's degree from California State University Sacramento.

So, who really "owns" Ukraine? It is a relatively new country, yet its storied history precedes that of Russia. For a millennium, the area served as a ping-pong ball between Poland and Russia. This presentation will cover Ukraine's unique history beginning with its Slavic, Viking origins with a few Mongols, Turks, Cossacks, Byzantines, Muslims and Catholics thrown in along the way.

Please plan to attend our October luncheon and hear what promises to be a fascinating and timely story about an intriguing country and people and a Europe you never knew.

We're very close to reaching our membership goal for the year. Consider reaching out to your friends, neighbors, golfing buddies from other leagues, etc. to come check out what SIR membership has to offer. Also, think about reaching out to past members to tell them how things have changed for the better and see if they'll give us another try.



General Meeting
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
Buffet lunch \$30 per person

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

Check-in & social hour
11:00am - 12:00pm

General meeting, lunch & speaker
12:00pm ~ 2:00pm

~ Menu ~

Sheppards pie (beef stew w/veggies under baked mashed potatoes); salad and rolls

October Birthdays



- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Rick Butterworth | Kevin King |
| Steve Crane | Michael Steinbach |
| Sam Griffis | Rich Turoff |
| Irv Joseph | Bob Woodford |

October SIR Anniversaries

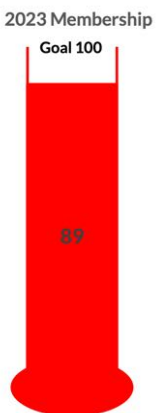
- 1 year - Randy Hood; Brian Lemley & DJ Peterson
- 2 years - George Alboff & Bob Burdt
- 3 years - Curtis Johnson
- 6 years - Rick Butterworth
- 13 years - Dan Cockcroft & Jay Guertin
- 16 years - Bob Mello
- 19 years - Bob Gilmore & Bill Keane

Membership

Welcome new members:
Bill Amerman, Steve Annen & Barry Jacobsen

New members this year:
20

Current number of members:
89



BRANCH HAPPENINGS / SIR COMINGS & GOINGS | Kevin King (PBS) 916-337-9811

Please remember that our next meeting has moved up a week. October's meeting will be on the 1st Wednesday of the month (9/4) due to a venue scheduling conflict. Meetings will resume on the 2nd Wednesday in November.

Three new members were installed at our September meeting. Be sure to say hello and invite them to your table.



Bill Amerman is a recent Nevada transplant. He heard about our Branch from a relative. He was sponsored by David Chighizola. During his working years, Bill was a Mechanical Design Engineer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He has many interests including bocce and fishing. He served in the United States Coast Guard. Bill and his wife, Carol, live near the airport in Cameron Park.



Steve Annen comes to us from Tri-Valley SIR Branch 34 in Pleasanton. He was sponsored by David Chighizola. Steve indicated an interest in bocce and wine tasting among other activities. He's already been seen at drop-in bocce and wine tasting. Steve and his wife, Nancy, live in Cameron Park.



Barry Jacobsen is also a transferring member. He was previously with Branch 49 in Folsom until he had to drop out when his wife became ill. He was sponsored by David Chighizola. Barry was self-employed as a pool repair contractor for 45 years. He indicated an interest in many activities - many of which that our branch currently offers including bocce, fishing, golf, pickleball, poker and wine tasting. Barry lives in El Dorado.

Craig Smith and his wife Mary sold their El Dorado Hills home and moved to North Carolina to be closer to their daughter. We'll miss seeing them at wine tasting and other activities. We wish them both well.

It's with a heavy heart that I must report that Dennis Windsor's wife, Iris, passed away on September 16th. Keep Dennis and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this time of grieving.

SIR REGIONAL BOCCE TOURNAMENT UPDATE | Dan Cockcroft (PBS)

Dan Cockcroft (team captain), Jim Canty, Kevin King, Ken Mahar, Jay Muzio and Terry Starkel represented our Branch in this year's SIR Regional Bocce tournament. In addition to our Branch, teams from Branch 23 (Sacramento), Branch 37 (Auburn), Branch 55 (Grass Valley) and Branch 98 (Roseville/Rocklin) participated in the tournament. At the end of the summer-long tournament, our Branch and defending champion Auburn tied with 9 wins and 3 losses each but Auburn won the tie-breaker by one point, giving them their second championship in a row. Congratulations to our team. We were in it until the very last game. Dan will be looking to build out his team for the 2024 campaign sometime next Spring.



A LIGHTER MOMENT

A pregnant woman lapses into a coma. She awakens and frantically calls for her doctor. "You had twins, a boy and a girl. They're fine," he says. "Your brother named them."

Oh, no, the new mother thinks. *He's an idiot*. Expecting the worst, she asks, "What's the girl's name?"

"Denise," the doctor says.

Not bad, she thinks. I guess I was wrong about him. "And the boy?"

"DeNephew."

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



Here we are at the beginning of October already. It seems like the summer passed by so quickly. We were fortunate to have only a few golf days of temperatures around the one hundred degree mark. Most of the summer days we seemed to complete the rounds before it got too hot.

We are now into the Fall season and the start of our Club Championship. I hope everyone enjoys the cooler temperatures, later start times and the increased competition. A reminder that all members of SIR golf can play all of the Championship rounds, using the same rules as the competitors, but only those that have played a minimum of 10 rounds throughout the year will be in competition for the Club Championship trophy. The golfer with the lowest net score total at the end of the three rounds will be our 2023 Branch 95 Club Champion. The three rounds will include Empire Ranch, Mather and Wildhawk, starting on October 3rd and ending on October 17th.

We have had a few new SIR members join us for golf recently, welcome! I have suggested they wait to join us until NCGA offers their membership for next year to avoid paying NCGA dues twice. That notice should be coming out soon. Since NCGA will be increasing their dues this year, we must increase ours as well to cover the cost. Dues for SIR 95 Golf for next year will go from \$50 to \$55 for the year. That includes your NCGA membership, so please do not renew through NCGA. They will bill us for our entire golf membership at the end of the year.

After they went into the locker room, another golfer who had heard the old guys talking about their game went to the pro and said, "I've been playing golf for a long time and thought I knew all the terminology of the game, but what's a rider? The pro said, "A rider is when you hit the ball far enough to actually get in the golf cart and ride to it."

You spend too much time thinking about golf! Do you even remember the day we got married? Of course I do! It was the same day I sank that 45-foot putt.

SAND TRAPS

Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman
916-817-1524

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

Golf Director (Wildhawk)
Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484

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SIR Branch 95 Results 2023 Tournaments

September 5th - Diamond Oaks
1st - Steve Crane
2nd - Chad Barrow
3rd - Alan Bowles
Closest to the pin - Dan Maglionico

September 12th - Mather
1st - Terry Starkel
2nd - Al Gurevich
3rd - Mike Wilke
Closest to the pin - Marshall Armstrong

September 19th - Wildhawk
1st - Chad Barrow
2nd - Bob Carlson
3rd - Terry Starkel
Closest to the pin - Mel Hallett

September 26th - Diamond Oaks
1st - Rick Willson
2nd - Ken McCoy
3rd - Don Nicholson
Closest to the pin - Rick Willson

Keep up with the Club Championship, Gold Country Cup and Marksman of the Year by checking out the leaderboards on our Branch's [Golf page](#).

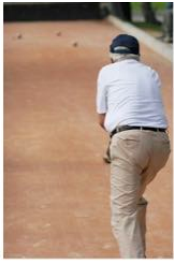
SIR Websites

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

State SIR Officials

State President
Dave Gonzales (Br98 - Rocklin)
916-587-3538

Area 3 Representative
Jim Gragg (Br98 - Rocklin)
916-708-5154

BOCCE | Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067

Bocce is easy to learn and lots of fun. No experience needed. We play Thursday mornings at 9am at Promontory Park. Couples are welcome. Give me a call or email me at obohlman@sbcglobal.net for more information. Just drop in sometime if you want to play.

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

Drop-in pickleball is just getting off the ground. The interest has been high so far. The group is still forming; so, if you want to be placed on the email interest list, contact Lew Chapman, Ron Wadsworth or Dan Cockcroft. We will send out a reminder early each week to confirm play time. We play on

Friday's from 3-6 pm at Heritage Park in El Dorado Hills.

Other courts in the area (not SIR-sponsored) where you'll occasionally find our members playing during the week include:

- EDH Community Services District gym (indoor; Tu & Th 9am)
- Cameron Park Community Services District Gym
- Andy Morin Sports Complex (Folsom; indoor)
- Lembi Park (Folsom; outdoor)
- Heritage Village Park (EDH; outdoor)
- Cameron Park Lake is closed indefinitely

BREAKFAST & WALKING |

Norman Orrick 916-709-1693



Come join us every Thursday morning for breakfast and discuss the day's events; come up with the solution to all the world's problems; or maybe just BS. Afterwards, we go on an easy walk. As of now, we are meeting at Denny's 3446 Coach Lane, Cameron Park at 8:00am. Send me an email at 7norte@gmail.com if

you're interested and I will send you a weekly reminder the day before.

E-BIKING | Ken Mahar 650-504-1393

We are still looking for e-bike riders to ride on Mondays and Fridays beginning at 9am from various starting locations.

I'll put out an e-vite to interested members a few days before each ride so you can sign up. Simply reply "YES" or "NO". It's as easy as that.

We generally cover about 20 miles which is a snap on an e-bike. Our rides take about an hour and a half with a break in between. There's a lot to see on the trails, wildlife abound. Join us and get in on the fun. In order to get regular updates about upcoming rides, give me a call or email me at kmahar@comcast.net to be put on the list.

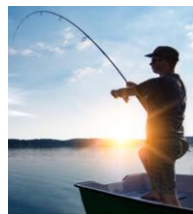
TEXAS HOLD'EM | Ken Mahar 650-504-1393

We currently have eight permanent players and two subs. We can always use additional players.

The game is Texas Hold'em and is a lot of fun to play. A \$20 buy-in and you're good to go. We meet the first Wednesday every month.

We would like to have several additional players to cover open chairs when a player cannot make it. We've set the maximum number of players at a table at 8.

More information about Texas Hold'em rules and strategy can be found at <https://www.pokerzone.com/rules/texas-holdem/>. If this sounds like something that you might be interested in, please give me a call or email me at kmahar@comcast.net.

FISHING | Dan Maglionico 916-719-6821

A number of our members enjoy fishing. However, there hasn't been any activity to report in recent months. As the seasons change and cooler weather is on the way, let's see if we can get this activity jumpstarted again.

Do you have a hobby or interest in another activity that you think other members would enjoy? Contact Jay or another BEC member and let them know.

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



The September wine tasting event was held at the home of Jay and Irene Muzio. There were six couples in attendance with two first-time couples attending. The featured varietal was Chardonnay. In cool climates (such as Carneros AVA) Chardonnay wine tends to be medium to light bodied with noticeable acidity and flavors of green plum, apple, and pear. In very warm locations (such as the central Coast AVA of California), more fig and tropical fruit notes come out. Wines that have gone through malolactic fermentation tend to have softer acidity and fruit flavors with a buttery mouthfeel and hazelnut notes.



This month, as always, the bottles submitted for tasting were of very high quality and selecting a winner was challenging. However, a winner was selected. Final rankings were:

- 6th Place: MV 2019 Chardonnay from Fair Play (\$25);
- 5th Place: Head Turner 2021 Chardonnay from Horse Haven Hills (\$30);
- 4th Place: Wente 2021 Riva Ranch Chardonnay (\$14);
- 3rd Place: Frank Family 2021 Carneros Chardonnay (\$40);
- 2nd Place: River Road 2022 Reserve Russian River Chardonnay (\$21); and
- 1st Place: McIlroy 2020 Reserve Chardonnay, Aquarius Ranch Vineyard, Russian River Valley (\$24).

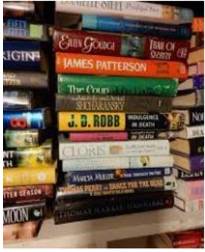
A potluck dinner followed the wine tasting. The dishes included a gourmet assortment of appetizers to accompany the wine tasting. The main course was chicken pot pie accompanied by a lovely green salad. Strawberry cake, chocolate brownies and a Tiramisu were served for desert and were accompanied by a Prinopovac 2012, Traminac, Ledena Berba, from Croatia.

Our next wine tasting will be October 19th. If you would like to join the wine tasting group, contact Jay Muzio at jaymuzio@gmail.com. Besides being able to sample a variety of great wines and wonderful food, the Wine Tasting Group provides a fantastic opportunity to get out of the house and socialize with your SIR friends. Why not check us out?

Arlo and Janis by Jimmy Johnson



BOOK EXCHANGE | Lew Chapman 510-912-5658



Well, since our speaker this month is the author of a book, I thought a brief overview of her work would be the appropriate topic to cover. Our speaker is Helen Kanderka and she goes by the pen name of Helena.

Helena Kanderka is the granddaughter of four Slovak-American immigrants. She spent several years researching their roots for her first novel—*Slovakland*, a book of historical fiction. It covers the history of Hungary and Slovakia from the Dark Ages to 1904. Below is her own description of the work:

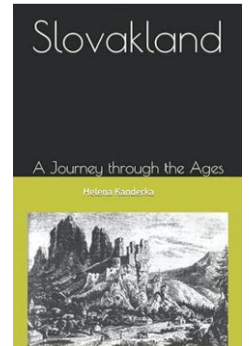
“When it comes to the epic history of Central Europe, the Slovaks were involved in it all, yet little is known of their story. Textbooks skim or omit it. Even my Slovak immigrant grandparents never talked about the "old country".

The captivating history of the Slovaks is finally told here. It begins with a cunning jewel heist and escape from the Hunnic Avars in 791. The characters then survive through the centuries as they become part of Great Moravia, Magyar-controlled Hungary, and finally the mighty Austro-Hungarian Empire. The years connect them to Charlemagne, Crusaders and the Mongols. They survive plagues, famines, bloody battles, fires and cruel lords. We see them forced to work, fight, and change their religion. They learn to live by their wits and determination. Yes, they eventually rebel.

Despite the rape, plunder and gore, there are many light moments--the crazy priest, magnificent knights, the wonder of building a castle. And here the beautiful and mighty Slovak castles are settings for their own intriguing stories, not stand-ins for Game of Thrones or Braveheart.

Come and take a journey through the ages. You may be surprised at what you learn!”

I plan to obtain a copy of this book on Amazon, read it and put it into the Book Exchange by November. And remember: no cost, no library cards, no late notices, no fines.



FROLICKING FUN TIME AT FALL FEST POP-UP EVENT | Irene Muzio, Assistance League



Pleasantly warm weather and good company awaited several of our members and their guests who attended the Fall Fest hosted by Assistance League Sierra Foothills on September 16th. The entertainment was provided by Neon Moon Band with our very own member Brian Lemley as lead singer and rhythm guitar.

Guests relaxed on the grounds of a private home and indulged in food tidbits, alcoholic drinks and desserts. All this while enjoying and dancing to the exquisite music. During the band’s break, a “Ducky Dunk” raffle ensued. Guests purchased rubber duckies which were

then thrown into the pool and over 20 lucky ducky winners were scooped out.

In addition to the fun had by all, approximately \$5,000 was raised to support the work Assistance League Sierra Foothills does through its six philanthropic programs in El Dorado County.

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



5th, 12th, 19th, 26th - Drop-in bocce
Promontory Park EDH; 9am



3rd - Empire Ranch
10th - Mather
17th - Wildhawk
24th - Diamond Oaks



4th - BEC & General Meeting
Cameron Park Country Club
NOTE ONE-TIME DATE CHANGE



19th - Wine Tasting; host varies;
different varietal each month



18th Fireside Lanes; Citrus Heights
To apply, see the link in the Bowling section



5th, 12th, 19th, 26th - Breakfast &
Walking - Denny's Cameron Park; 8am



4th - Texas Hold'em; host varies;
6:30pm



Mondays and Fridays - e-Biking;
various starting locations



6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - Drop-in
pickleball; Heritage Park; 3-6pm

BOWLING | Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727



Branch 160 hosted the SIR bowling tournament in Carson City, Nevada on September 8-9. Our co-tournament managers Dave Moore and Tim Hall made us all feel welcome at the newest venue on our schedule. All the registered bowlers were surprised to receive a \$5 coupon at check-in compliments of Branch 160; good toward any purchase in the facility. Made my delicious lunch even better! Home Grown Lanes (formerly Carson Lanes) is now under new ownership. Danny and Jennifer Dunbar, who have been bowling since childhood, have been working hard to preserve bowling in the Carson Valley. Stop by Home Grown when in town, say hi and support this young couple.

Tournament participation over the last nine months has shown a measurable increase. I anticipate that SIR membership, bowling in particular, will continue to grow into the coming year.



Upcoming tournaments

Oct. 18	Fireside Lanes	Citrus Heights
Nov. 2-3	McHenry Bowl	Modesto

Applications and results of all tournaments are available online:

<http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling/index.html>

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.