GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95





Bulletin 408 November 2023 Kevin King, Editor

BIG SIR | Jay Muzio 650-302-1902

Greetings fellow SIRs. Here we are in November of 2023. Where has the year gone? November is a month where we pause to consider our blessings and the things we are thankful for in our lives. I know I am thankful for my health, my home and my

family. I am also thankful for you--my fellow SIRs. If we have accomplished anything in these last two years to further and improve our Branch 95, it is because of all of you. You who have participated in our activities, you who have taken leadership and contributed to our activities and especially to those who have mentored and guided me through my time as Big SIR.

"Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen and a push in the right direction." ~John Crosby. Many of you have offered great advice to me over this time, none more valuable than the wisdom and direction I received from Kevin King. Without Kevin's guidance I don't think I would have known where to start, let alone the path on which to proceed. Along the way, I received direction and encouragement from many others including Terry Starkel, Tim Irish, Bill Yeager, Terry Privott, Dennis Petersen, Jay Guertin and Dan Cockcroft just to name a few. I am also especially grateful for my board members and committee chairs that have done all the hard work over these last two years to grow and improve our branch. And then there have been so

many members who have taken the time to ask questions and make suggestions that have led to enhancements.

I am also thankful that next year's leadership team is the strongest that we have ever had. With your new Big SIR, Lew Chapman, Little SIR, Ron Wadsworth, a full board of directors, all critical committee positions filled and a membership of over ninety members, Branch 95 has a great future ahead.

Our general membership meeting is November 8th, and our soon-to-be Big SIR, Lew Chapman, will be running the meeting—a trial run prior to his installation at the December holiday party. Be sure to attend, because we will be voting in next year's slate of Branch officers.

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.

> "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." ~ Isacc Newton

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

Big SIR Jay Muzio 650-302-1902

Director at Large David Chighizola 530-558-9336

Little SIR Lew Chapman 510-912-5658

Director at Large Ken Mahar 650-504-1393

Secretary Terry Starkel 916-817-1524

Director at Large Marshall Armstrong 650-438-7802

Assistant Secretary Bob Carlson 916-817-1181

Director at Large Bill Yeager (PBS) 916-941-6632

Treasurer Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067

916-276-5117

Tim Irish (PBS) 916-933-3466

Director at Large Director at Large Hugh Thompson OPEN

Assistant Treasurer

LITTLE SIR | Lew Chapman 510-912-5658

Nothing is certain except death and taxes -

This famous quote about taxes originated with Benjamin Franklin in 1789. Over 234 years later, it still rings true.

Have you paid the first installment of your 2023/2024 property taxes vet? The first installment is due December 10th in most counties. Since it's the season, we thought that a presentation from a County Tax Assessor might be a very relevant topic.

Our speaker at the Wednesday, November 8th SIR Branch 95 luncheon is Christina Wynn of the Sacramento County Assessor's Office.



Have you wondered about which states have the highest property taxes rates? From Wisevoter.com,

the ten states with the highest property taxes in the United States are as follows: New Jersey, Illinois, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Texas, Nebraska, Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio. New Jersey ranks first with a property tax rate of 2.13%, followed closely by Illinois at 1.97%. California is in the next ten, but of course, the average cost of real estate in CA makes the absolute tax dollars paid a big bite out of the budget!

Perhaps Christina can enlighten us further on this question, but she has told me she will cover these topics: property assessments, Prop 13, and property tax savings benefits including the homeowners' exemption, disabled veterans' exemption, and Prop 19 base year and inheritance transfers.

Re-elected as Sacramento County Assessor in June 2022, Christina Wynn has served with the Sacramento County Assessor's Office for over 22 years. Christina has 33 years of experience in appraisal and assessment administration in both the public and private sectors and she is certified by the California State Board of Equalization as an Advanced Appraiser for Property Tax Purposes. Christina is a member of the Appraisal Institute and the International Association of Assessing Officers. She is currently serving as the President-Elect of the California Assessor's Association and is past President of the Bay Area Assessor's Association. She is a graduate of the University of California, Davis, with a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural and Managerial Economics. Christina lives in Carmichael with her husband Ed and miniature American shepherd Cooper. In her free time, she enjoys baking, downhill skiing, hunting, fishing and traveling across the country to spend time with her grown children and extended family.

Please plan to attend our November luncheon and hear what promises to be an informative discussion about your property taxes.

General Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 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 ~

Roasted turkey, potatoes, stuffing, green bean casserole, rolls and butter Coffee, tea and lemonade included

November **Birthdays**



Bob MacDonald Bob Noyes DJ Peterson Terry Privott

Steve Thomson Mike Wilke Bill Willman

November SIR Anniversaries

1 year - Sam Griffis, Michael Long, Simon Martin and Arlo Miller

4 years - Chad Barrow

7 years - Bob Carlson and Bill Drummond

13 years - Dan Link and Terry Starkel

15 years - Dennis Petersen

Membership

Welcome new members: Grant McMicken and Peter Puglia

New members this year:

22

Current number of members: 89

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

Welcome to new member Grant McMicken. He is sponsored by Bob Davenport. Grant served in the Army in the mid-60's. He's a former high school math teacher in San Juan Unified High School District. He was also a computer programmer/analyst for the California Department of Finance and owns his own IT consulting firm, Grant McMicken Consulting Services (GMCS). Grant has received many awards for his work in education and with the State including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Secondary

Mathematics Teaching in 1993. He developed activities and trained teachers throughout the Western states in the use and functionality of graphing calculators. Grant can be found on the bocce courts and hopes to join in many of our other activities. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Rescue.



Peter Puglia is another new member. Peter was a Senior Airman in the U.S. Air Force and served in Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada in the 80's. Peter was an Electric Generation and Transmission Analyst for the California Energy Commission. He recently accepted a promotion delaying his retirement until Autumn of 2025. He checked off a number of activities that interest him that could lead to future activities offered by the Branch. He and his wife, Laurie, live in Rescue.

Stephen Paulick, who joined our Branch in 2018, has elected to transfer to Branch 112 (Rancho Cordova) to stay close to his fishing buddies. Iain Marshall, who only joined in April of this year, has also elected to leave.

Plans for our holiday dinner are set. Details and the registration form were emailed to members. If you happened to miss it, it can also be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Dan Maglionico will assist next year's Little SIR, Ron Wadsworth, by arranging speakers for our meetings in 2024. If you know a potential speaker or have a topic that you think would be of interest to our group, give Dan a call at 916-719-6821 or email him at danmag@sbcglobal.net.

A LIGHTER MOMENT

An Irish man walks into a pub.

"What'll you have?" the bartender asks.

"Give me three pints of Guinness, please," says the man.

The bartender brings him three pints, and the man proceeds to sip them alternately — the first one, the next one, and then the third one, until they're all gone. He then orders three more.

"Sir," says the bartender, "I know you like them cold. You don't have to order three at a time. I can keep an eye on you, and when you get low I'll bring you a fresh cold one."

"You don't understand," the man says. "I have two brothers, one in Australia and one in the States. We made a vow to each other that every Saturday night we'd still drink together. So right now, my brothers have three Guinness Stouts too, and we're drinking together."

"What a wonderful tradition," the bartender says, smiling.

Every week after that, the man comes into the bar and orders three beers. But one week, he orders only two. He drinks them and orders two more.

"I know what your tradition is," says the bartender sadly, "and I'd just like to say that I'm sorry that one of your brothers died."

"Oh, me brothers are fine," says the man. "I just quit drinking."

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



Here we are in November, by the time this newsletter is out we will be down to our last few golf tournaments left in the year. I have started to work on next year's schedule and hope we don't have as many rain outs as we did in 2023. I will try to add in some courses we haven't played in the past year and schedule some golf games and

scrambles into our schedule to add some variety to the weekly golf rounds.

The points for the Gold Country Cup are getting closer and is still to be decided. There is currently a four-way tie for Marksman of the Year and we could still have someone come from the field and overtake the leaders, so keep playing. The winners of these two awards won't be decided until December.

Congratulations to Randy Hood who won our Club Championship with the lowest net score total from the three rounds. This is always a source of achievement for our golfers to be able to hold this trophy for the year. For the rest of us, we can try again next year.

There are some changes coming in 2024. NCGA is increasing their membership fee schedule, so we are going to be increasing SIR Branch 95 golf fees as well. For the past several years we have had golf fees set at \$50 for all members, new and returning. For 2024 we will increase the Golf membership fee to \$55 for the year. That will include your dues to NCGA as well as dues to SIR Branch 95 golf. I will be sending out renewal information as soon as I get the latest information from NCGA. A reminder: please do not renew with NCGA on your own. unless you plan on dropping out of SIR 95 golf. I will update our membership roster in December and they will bill us for the dues for each member that we have on our roster and I will submit one payment to cover all of our members. NCGA usually offers to allow new members to join in October and that covers the dues for the next year. They haven't made that offer yet. I know some of you are waiting to join our golf group and for NCGA to make that announcement. I will inform you when I have the information.

Some of our newer members may want to know what the SIR 95 Golf dues cover. Most of it goes to NCGA to cover their dues, the remainder is used to supplement some of the prize money for certain contests, golf balls for the closest to the pin awards, Club Championship Prize money and the cost of trophies and engraving. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know and I will try to address them.

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

October 3rd - Empire Ranch

1st - Randy Hood

2nd - Al Gurevich

3rd - Dennis Petersen

4th - Ken McCoy

Closest to the pin - Ron Wadsworth

October 10th - Mather

1st - Jay Guertin

2nd - Dennis Petersen

3rd - Ron Wadsworth

Closest to the pin - Jay Guertin

October 17th - Wildhawk

1st - Randy Hood

2nd - Bill Yeager

3rd - Don Nicholson

Closest to the pin - Alan Bowles

October 24th - Diamond Oaks

1st - Al Gurevich

2nd - Randy Hood

3rd - Steve Crane

Closest to the pin - Randy Hood

Keep up with the 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: <u>WeAreSIR.com</u> 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



Drop-in bocce continues to be a lot of fun. As the weather cools we are planning on moving to a 10am start time. Hopefully, this time change will encourage some new players to participate. Hope to see you at Promontory Park on Thursdays. If you are not on the current email list and would like to be, contact

Oli Bohlman at obohlman@sbcglobal.net.

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



The interest for our drop-in pickleball group has been high. We just moved to Wednesday's from 3-6pm at Heritage Park in El Dorado Hills. 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.

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 remains 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 October wine tasting event was held at the new home of Jim and Maureen Canty. There were seven couples in attendance, which is the maximum number of members that can be accommodated at one house.

This month our featured varietal was Petite Sirah. Petite Sirah is a dark inky-colored wine with good acidity and firm tannins. The bouquet has herbal and black pepper overtones and typically offers flavors of dark fruits, plumbs and blueberries.

In order of preference this month:

- 1. Runquest 2019 Clarksburg Petite Sirah (\$25)
- 2. Petite-Petit 2020 Michael David, American Canyon Petite Sirah (\$12.50)
- 3. Shadow Ranch 2021 El Dorado Petite Sirah (\$25.99)
- 4. Stag's Leap 2019 Napa Petite Sirah (\$43)
- 5. Andis Sierra Foothills 2018 Petite Sirah (\$33.99)
- 6. Petite-Petit 2020 Michael David, American Canyon Petite Sirah (\$12.50) (Same as #2-go figure!)
- 7. Ironstone 2020 Lodi Petite Sirah (\$15)

The wine tasting was accompanied by bread, crackers, cheeses and assorted olives. The tasting was followed by a delightful supper of chicken enchilada casserole, taco salad, and for dessert, a yummy cheesecake and Florentine cookies. All presented by the Canty's and the Alboff's.

There will be no more wine tastings this year, as the holidays have everyone very busy. Our next event will be January 18th, hosts to be determined.

Interest in the Wine Tasting Group is growing. With most homes having an indoor capacity of 10-12, the 2024 format may include two homes for each wine tasting. However, it is best if there



is a minimum of 8 at a single home so we are looking for a few more regular attendees. 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. Don't hesitate just because you or your partner don't drink wine. We have a few members who prefer not to taste the wine but come to enjoy the camaraderie. Why not check us out?



May the blessings of Thanksgiving fill your heart and home with joy.

~ SIR Branch 95 BEC

BOOK EXCHANGE | Lew Chapman 510-912-5658



Do you have any books lying around you wish to unload? Please bring them to the SIR 95 Book Exchange at the next monthly luncheon on Wednesday, November 8th. We can always use more donations.

In this space I have often written a short book report about what I have been reading. This month I find myself still up to my eyebrows in two: The Indigenous Continent (reviewed in August) and Slovakland (reviewed last month).

At the same time, and as some may recall, I am taking several very interesting courses this semester at the Sac State Renaissance Society. One of them is on the history of ancient religions. Not knowing much about this topic, I find the material fascinating. It goes back to 3500 BCE and the religions of the Samaria and Mesopotamians. I had never heard of the Epic of Gilgamesh which is a series of Mesopotamian tales that recount the exploits of Gilgamesh, King of Uruk. We learn of his overwhelming power, his friendship with Enkidu, and his quest for eternal life. With this, the Epic creates a parallel to the bible and the society of Mesopotamia nearly 4,000 years ago. Gilgamesh is known to be the first great hero, and the epic is known as the 'first great masterpiece of world literature'. I did not know that and so I will have to add it to my reading list from the classics I wrote about in my June Book Exchange article.

I also I found a coffee table book which I acquired a few years ago left by the previous owner of the house I now occupy. It is called The World's Great Religions. It was published by Henry Luce, Editor-in-Chief of Time Inc. in 1957! It could be collectable. It reviews how mankind worships and makes the point that endless are the forms man's religion have taken. It covers not ancient religions but the practice of the worlds most prevalent still practiced religions from Hinduism, Buddhism, Philosophy of China, World of Islam, Law of Judaism and the Faith of Christianity. Here is an image from the inside cover of the book:



"God the Creator" by Michelangelo on Sistine Chapel Ceiling

SIR Branch 95 Book Exchange: no cost, no library cards, no late notices, no fines.

TRIVIA

- 1. What is nephology the study of?
- 2. What is the name of the sailboat that is featured in the book "The Perfect Storm"?
- 3. What decade gave us the first ATM?
- 4. What were the last two letters added to the english alphabet?
- 5. Which planet is known as the Morning Star?
- 6. What is campanologist the study of?
- 7. A 8 to 12 mph wind on the Beaufort scale is called what?
- 8. What virtue do the red stripes on the American flag stand for?
- 9. Which major city is located in both Europe and Asia?
- 10. What typewriter key was introduced by Remington in 1878, ending the need for two keys for each letter?
- 11. What are the official United Nations languages?
- 12. In the Bourne film series, what is Jason Bourne's real name?

French, Russian and Spanish 12. David Webb

11. Arabic, Chinese, English,

10. Shift key

9. Istanbul

8. Valor

7. Gentle breeze

6. Bells

Suns .?

3. 1970s Ubnst. .4

2. The Satori

t. Clouds

TRIVIA ANSWERS

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NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th - Drop-in bocce Promontory Park EDH; 9am



7th - Empire Ranch 14th - Mather 21st - No golf (Thanksgiving week) 28th - Wildhawk



8th - BEC & General Meeting Cameron Park Country Club



The Wine Tasting group is on hiatus over the holidays; will resume in January



No planned tournaments until January 2024



2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th - Breakfast & Walking - Denny's Cameron Park; 8am



1st - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



Mondays and Fridays - e-Biking; various starting locations



1st, 8th, 15th, 29th - Drop-in pickleball; Heritage Park; 3-6pm

BOWLING | Ray DiBasilio 530-558-9727



Fireside Lanes in Citrus Heights was the venue for the last tournament in 2023. 70 bowlers competed in the one-day tournament on October 18th. Our hosts, Branch 112, led by Art

Tourtilott, ran an excellent event. Results are being tabulated now and will be posted on the SIR website soon.

Unfortunately, the Modesto tournament, that was initially scheduled for November 2-3, has been canceled.

The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) has published a new study and has certified string pinsetters and string pin bowling as an independent category of equipment and competition, separate from free-fall machines effective August 1, 2023, for the 2023/2024 season. The introduction of string pins is not without controversy. Napa Bowl will be the first 2024 venue for SIR bowling in January. They have recently converted to string pins. Let's all try them out for ourselves!

Interested in how string pins work and the research behind them? Visit the USBC website for all you need to know: <u>BOWL.com | String Pinsetter Research |</u> wonder how long it will be before golf decides to use strings ... wouldn't that be fun?!?

For more information about SIR bowling, check out our website at:

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





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.

Christmas Holiday Dinner Party

December 13th 6:00pm

\$65 per person

Cameron Park Country Club 3201 Royal Dr, Cameron Park, CA 95682



Fantastic themed baskets



Buffet style dinner No host bar

ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY

O WRITE YOUR CHECK TO SIR BRANCH 95

Number attending ____ X \$65 per person

- O COMPLETE DINNER ORDER FORM ON BOTTOM OF FORM
- BRING FORM & CHECK TO NOVEMBER'S MEETING, OR MAIL TO: LEW CHAPMAN, LITTLE SIR,
 6006 MONET WAY, EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762

TICKET DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 6TH



SALAD

CPCC House: Baby greens, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, red onions, carrots, dried cranberries, sunflower seeds, choice of dressing

MAIN COURSE / SIDES

Choice of Short Rib with Rib Jus or Chicken Marsala

Garlic mashed potatoes, Seasonal vegetable medley, Rolls and butter

DESSERT

New York style cheesecake with strawberry compote

DRINKS

No host bar, coffee, iced tea

No ticket sales this year

Wine for dinner may be purchased at the bar

Please enclose check made out to SIR Branch 95

<u> </u>	DINNER ORDER FORM		
	DIMMER ORDER I ORM		
		Dietary restricti	ons (circle)
Member Last Name	First Name	No restrictions Vegetarian	Vegan Gluten free
Guest Last Name	First Name	No restrictions Vegetarian	Vegan Gluten free