

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 410

January 2024

Kevin King - Editor

BIG SIR | Lew Chapman 510-912-5658



In his opening article last January, Jay Muzio promised a great year for SIR Branch 95 in 2023 and indeed it was! Thanks again to Jay for his two consecutive years as Big SIR with lots of progress toward our branch goals as promised. Jay has raised the bar and I pledge to do my best to maintain this level of leadership.

As we stand at the threshold of a brand-new year, it's not just a change in the calendar and leadership; it's an opportunity for another good start, and a chance to set new goals. These words sound lofty, so my initial goal, at a minimum, is to not mess things up. If it ain't broke, don't fix it! I'll have more about 2024 branch goals in a future article after I have had a chance to brainstorm with all of you and with the BEC leadership team regarding what we all want for Branch 95 in the future.

Most importantly, as members of this remarkable branch, let us approach the coming year with a spirit of friendship and camaraderie, and, above all, involvement. Let's harness the collective energy of our group to propel our branch toward an even more fun and inclusive organization. To this end I look forward to working with a full and enthusiastic team of Branch Executive Committee (BEC) members.

For those of you who were not able to attend the Holiday Dinner, I want to use the rest of this article to mention the awards which were given out to five individuals at the dinner. These awards recognize significant contributions to the past success of our branch, the leadership they have provided and the time they have devoted to Branch 95. You can see them on our website and in other sections of this newsletter, but as incoming Big SIR I want to extend my congratulations and gratitude to the following guys:

Honorary Life Member

The Honorary Life Member (HLM) Gold Lapel Pin award is the highest and most prestigious award available within SIR.

- Kevin King - two-term Past Big SIR, current Newsletter Editor and current Gold Country Branch Webmaster
- Bill Yeager - Past Big SIR, current BEC Director at Large and current Member Relations Chairman

See **BIG SIR** next page

Gold Country Branch 95 2024 BEC Members- PBS denotes Past Big SIR

Big SIR Lew Chapman 510-912-5658	Little SIR Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484	Secretary Terry Starkel 916-817-1524	Assistant Secretary Bob Carlson 916-817-1181	Treasurer Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067	Assistant Treasurer Marshall Armstrong 650-438-7802
Director at Large David Chighizola 530-558-9336	Director at Large Ken Mahar 650-504-1393	Director at Large Bill Yeager, PBS 916-941-6632	Director at Large Hugh Thompson 916-276-5117	Director at Large Tim Irish, PBS 916-933-3466	Director at Large Jay Muzio, PBS 650-302-1902

**NOTE 2024
PRICE CHANGE**

BIG SIR continued from previous page

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) Silver Lapel Pin award is the 2nd highest award in SIR, to recognize exceptional/extraordinary service at the Branch and/or State levels.

- Jay Muzio - two-term Past Big SIR, current BEC Director at Large and current Activities Chairman
- Dennis Petersen - Past Big SIR and current Mather Golf Director
- Terry Starkel - long-time and current BEC Secretary and current Golf Chairman

Finally, our membership renewal for 2024 starts in January. Our dues remain the same as last year—\$40—and must be paid by our March 13th meeting to continue membership.

Our next meeting is January 10th at Cameron Park Country Club. Social hour starts at 11:00 am and the general membership meeting starts at 12:00 noon. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, make it a New Year's resolution to attend January's meeting. I hope to see you all there.

I am looking forward to a great 2024 and I thank all of the BEC leadership team and all of you for making our SIR Gold Country Branch 95 an ongoing success.

LITTLE SIR | Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484



Well, it's January, 2024. Let that sink in for a minute!

I'm writing my first article as the new Little SIR, and honestly have been a little perplexed about how to go about it. My journey with SIR all started in May of 2022, when after recently retiring, I was walking my dog near Promontory Park and slowed down to watch a bunch of "old guys" play bocce ball. It was there that I saw a SIR flyer that discussed weekly golf, something I was now finding the time for after a 40 year career in business and operations, mostly in pharmaceutical distribution.

So without an official USGA handicap, I joined the group in June, and immediately enjoyed the camaraderie and the high stakes (\$3) weekly competition. When the guys I was first paired with gave a (sarcastic?) whistle and declared they hadn't seen a swing speed like that in while :) , I knew I had found my gang.

See **LITTLE SIR** next page

General Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Buffet lunch \$35 per person

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

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

Lunch, general meeting & speaker
12:00pm ~ 2:00pm



January Birthdays

- Steve Annen
- Bob Davenport
- Bill Keane
- Gary Kretschmer
- Bob Mello
- Jim Nystrom
- Dennis Pfaff
- Malcolm Ramsay



January SIR Anniversaries

7 years - Bob Woodford

Membership

Current number of members: 89

Do you have something interesting to share with our group (a hobby; vacation; career highlights)? Consider writing an article for our February newsletter. **The deadline for submissions is 1/31/2024.**

LITTLE SIR continued from previous page

As I began attending the luncheons, I quickly decided I better keep a low profile, lest someone “discover” me and begin asking me to volunteer for things. That lasted awhile, but slowly I began to see that this group could not be possible without people giving their time, so I agreed to be the point person for Wildhawk golf each month, believing that would satisfy the volunteer portion for me. Not so....it wasn't long before I'd turn around at the luncheon and see either Jay or Lew lurking quietly in the shadows, eyeing me up and down. I'd been around long enough to know what that meant. Lol. With time it became harder to dodge these persistent but well-meaning men, and to make a long story short, here I am as the newly minted 2024 Little SIR.

I'm looking forward to serving the group, and developing some of my own “stalking” skills this year to help build our future leadership. Dan Maglionico has generously volunteered to assist with setting up luncheon speakers this year. Our January speaker is Jeffrey Mount whose topic will be “*Water in California: The Weather Gods Must Be Crazy.*”

See below for our January speaker bio.

Jeffrey Mount

SENIOR FELLOW



EXPERTISE: Water policy, climate change policy

Jeffrey Mount is a senior fellow at the PPIC Water Policy Center. He is an emeritus professor of earth and planetary sciences and founding director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California, Davis. A geomorphologist who specializes in the study of rivers, streams and wetlands, his research focuses on integrated water resource management, flood management and improving aquatic ecosystem health. He has served on many state and federal boards and commissions that address water resource management issues in the West. He has published more than a hundred articles, books and other publications, including the seminal book *California Rivers and Streams* (UC Press). He holds a PhD and MS in earth sciences from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

HOLIDAY DINNER RECAP | Lew Chapman, Big SIR 510-912-5658

On December 13, we held our annual Holiday Dinner and Gala Event. We had a very good turnout, over 100 members and guests, possibly a record turnout for such a SIR event. As usual the Cameron Park Country Club was a perfect venue, nicely decorated for the season. Everyone seems to have had a very enjoyable evening.

We did change things up a bit this year. The no-host bar worked out well and seemed quite busy. We decided not to provide wine on tables this year as not all of us drink and what is not usual, much of it goes unconsumed. Individuals purchasing their own alcoholic beverages seems more fair since, in past years, half the “raffle” funds we raised went to purchasing table wine.

Also, to conform to CA state law, we did not sell raffle tickets. Instead, we received very generous donations of cash and items which enabled us to put together about two dozen really nice gift basket items. Thanks to all the members who made donations. The Branch also provided \$500 in funds to supplement our holiday event budget which went a long way to round out our gift basket drawing. Just about ½ of the members who attended were able to take a nice gift home.

See **HOLIDAY DINNER RECAP** next page

HOLIDAY DINNER RECAP continued from previous page

Very special thanks go to Irene Muzio who put a tremendous amount of time and energy into creating a creative array of gift drawing offerings. Jay helped, too, as well as Jessica Disney and other BEC members who came early to get things set up. Thanks to everybody who helped organize the evening.

Our formal business was a lot of fun where Kevin King swore in our new slate of 2024 officers and we gave out some well deserved recognition in the form of Distinguished Service Awards and Honorary Life Member awards (see further down as well as my Big SIR article). We would like to thank Jim Gragg, our Area 3 Representative, who attended to help confer some of these awards.

We also had four Live Auction items which raised money for our Branch 95 Treasury for 2024. Tremendous thanks go to donations from Moni Van Camp, Tom Gamble's significant other, for the Gregory Kondos art, Ken Mahar for the framed photograph, Jay and Irene Muzio for the Cioppino Cooking and Feeding evening, and Lewis Chapman for the Shenandoah Valley wine tasting adventure. The branch raised a total of \$1,775 from the auction of these items! The BEC will discuss the best use of these funds for 2024, but initial thoughts are they can be used to subsidize ongoing and new future activities including "Pop-Up" activities, and to defray some future increasing branch costs, etc.

Following are some photographs of this festive evening. Thanks to all of you who submitted photos. Additional photos can be found at [2023 Holiday Dinner](#).



See **HOLIDAY DINNER RECAP** next page

HOLIDAY DINNER RECAP continued from previous page

Following dinner, members of the 2024 Branch Executive Committee (BEC) were installed. Congratulations to everyone! We're happy to report having a full BEC. Thank you for agreeing to serve our branch in a leadership capacity for the coming year.



Past Big SIR Kevin King inducts the 2024 Branch Executive Committee. From left to right: Director, Ken Mahar (partially obscured); Director, David Chighizola; Director, Bill Yeager; Little SIR, Ron Wadsworth; Big SIR, Lew Chapman; Asst. Treasurer, Marshall Armstrong; Director, Hugh Thompson; Secretary, Terry Starkel; Treasurer, Oli Bohlman; Asst. Secretary, Bob Carlson; Director, Tim Irish; and outgoing Big SIR and current Director, Jay Muzio.

Following the induction of our 2024 BEC, several of our members were recognized for their contributions to the Branch. Long-time Branch Secretary and Golf Chairman, Terry Starkel, and Past Big SIR and Mather Golf Director, Dennis Petersen, were awarded the Distinguished Service Award (DSA). Also receiving the DSA was outgoing, two-term Big SIR, Jay Muzio. The DSA Silver Lapel Pin award is the 2nd highest award in SIR, to recognize exceptional/extraordinary service at the Branch and/or State levels.



Two-term Past Big SIR Kevin King honors Terry Starkel with the DSA.



Region 3 Area Representative, Jim Gragg, presents the DSA to Dennis Petersen. Big SIR, Jay Muzio looks on.



Two-term Big SIR, Jay Muzio, receives the DSA and plaque from Region 3 Area Representative, Jim Gragg.

Past Big SIRs Bill Yeager and Kevin King were likewise recognized by the Branch by receiving Honorary Life Member (HLM) awards. The HLM Gold Lapel Pin award is the highest and most prestigious award available within SIR.



Past Big SIR and Honorary Life Member recipient, Bill Yeager (left), shows his HLM plaque and thanks the audience for this special honor.



Region 3 Area Representative, Jim Gragg, presents the Honorary Life Member award to two-term Past Big SIR Kevin King.

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

Don't forget lunch prices increase this month to \$35. Having the exact amount is appreciated and will help streamline the registration process. Also, 2024 annual dues are due. Please consider bringing a check for \$40 made out to SIR Branch 95 to our January meeting. To continue your membership, be sure your dues is paid at or before our March 13th meeting.

Our branch exists to serve our members. We do so by providing monthly lunches with interesting speakers and multiple, fun activities of interest to our members. Everything we do is designed to keep members active and engaged in their senior years. In addition, the Branch, with all of its offerings, provides an environment in which members can remain active in activities they already love as well as to develop new interests, strong social connections and lifelong friendships. This only works if you're an active participant. Lunch attendance averages less than 60% of our members. Golf, which is far and away our most popular activity, has 50+ members but barely averages 50% of those members any given week. Some of our newer activities such as drop-in bocce, pickleball, breakfast & walking, Texas Hold'em and wine tasting all have a steady and/or growing following. Other activities are ones members requested but really haven't supported.

- Should the BEC consider dropping those activities that members do not participate in?
- Are we offering the right activities?
- Are there other activities you're interested in that you believe other members would enjoy?

Those members who put on the lunches, arrange the speakers and lead the various activities work hard to give members a positive experience. Please show them that you support their efforts by participating in lunches and the activities that are of interest to you or ones that you may just want to check out. Our ability to continue to attract and retain members depends on your active participation.



Wishing you and your family a joyous new year filled with success and happiness.

~ SIR Branch 95 BEC



MY ABILITY TO REMEMBER SONG LYRICS FROM THE 80S FAR EXCEEDS MY ABILITY TO REMEMBER WHY I WALKED INTO THE KITCHEN.



What is a New Year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.

My New Year's resolution was to drop my bad habits, but no one likes a quitter.

I love when they drop the ball in Times Square. It's a nice reminder of what I did all year.

What do you tell someone you didn't see on New Year's Eve? I haven't seen you since last year!

BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman

916-817-1524



The 2024 SIR 95 golf season is coming soon. Our first scheduled golf will be at Empire Ranch on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, with the first tee time at 11:20 am. This year we have 39 rounds of golf scheduled at nine different courses. The Club Championship will be held in September this year after having been changed to October this past year due to the maintenance conflicts at the courses. Our season will end at Mather on December 10, 2024.

Because of the increase and restructuring of the NCGA dues, our dues went up to \$55 this year. That is what it was about six years ago when we reduced it to \$50. We will have a few special format rounds this year, all of which will be team events with additional prize money added to the pot.

The new schedules will be sent out in early January along with some SIR 95 rule revisions/clarifications. A reminder that for all SIR 95 golf events, the tournament director will adjust and post the scores. For individual play on your own, each member should be posting their score to NCGA to keep the handicaps accurate.

2023 started with a lot of rain cancellations. Hopefully, 2024 will see fewer cancellations and improved play. We can always look forward to enjoying the company of our fellow SIR golf members as we work our way around the courses and meet afterward in the clubhouse. Also, a welcome to all new members that have recently joined our group. For those members that have decided not to renew with us, thank you for your participation in the past years.



5 weeks to the 2024 season opener at Empire Ranch. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, 2/6.

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

December 5th - Empire Ranch
1st - Peter Apel
2nd - Jay Muzio
3rd - Marshall Armstrong
Closest to the pin - Peter Apel
Closest to the pin - Bob Carlson

December 12th - Mather
1st - Tim Irish
2nd - Alan Bowles
3rd - Jeff Zehner
Closest to the pin - Bill Yeager



2023 SIR Branch 95 Club Champion
Randy Hood

2023 Gold Country Cup Champion
Al Gurevich

2023 Marksman of the Year Champion
Bob Carlson

Final results and other golf news are available on our [golf page](#).

SIR Websites

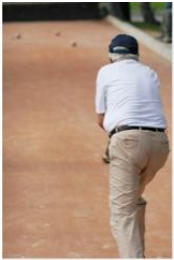
Branch 95: sirinc2.org/branch95/
State SIR: sirinc.org
State SIR Marketing: WeAreSIR.com
SIR Happenings (State SIR newsletters):
sirinc.org/newsletters
SIR-Branded Merchandise: sir.ourproshop.com

State SIR Officials

State President
Dale Decker (Br136 - Sonora)
209-573-0833

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

BOCCE | Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067



A regular group of members and spouses show up each week for drop-in bocce. There's plenty of room for other players. No experience required. Come join us as we play at Promontory Park every Thursday at 10:00am. 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 in our drop-in pickleball group remains high. We meet at 1:00pm on Wednesday's 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 9:00am)
- 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



The group meets at Dennys in Cameron Park each Thursday at 10:00am. We eat, discuss the week's events or whatever comes to mind. Then those that wish, take off for a mile or two walk. To receive a weekly reminder, send an email to 7norte@google.com.

E-BIKING | Ken Mahar 650-504-1393



We are looking for more riders to join up on these rides. I know that not everyone has an e-bike, but if you do, or are planning on getting one in the near future, than you just might want to join this group. If you have a road bike and think you can keep up with the pack, you are free to join us as well. It is not like we are trying to break any speed records as we generally only ride at a moderate pace.

In the colder months we start around 11 or 12 noon once the chill is taken off. Once it starts warming up, we start earlier before it gets too hot. We start out from different locations just to mix it up a bit. We generally meet at the RT parking garage in Old Town Folsom, the Raley's parking lot near the Mexican restaurant, Mexquite, or at the Nimbus fish hatchery off Hazel. Our rides often take us along the river's edge which is most rewarding with an abundance of wildlife to be seen.

Contact Ken Mahar at kmahar@comcast.net or 650-504-1393 with your name and contact information to be added to the list. Once on the list, you'll begin receiving weekly emails telling you when and where to show up. Riders will reply to **ALL** letting everyone knows who will be attending the ride that week.

I hope you'll consider joining our group.

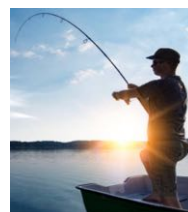
TEXAS HOLD'EM | Ken Mahar 650-504-1393



We meet the first Wednesday of every month at someone's home. A \$20 buy-in and you're good to go. 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



Nothing to report this month. If you want to put together an outing, contact Dan at the number above or email him at danmag@sbcglobal.net.

WINE TASTING GROUP | Jay Muzio, PBS 650-302-1902



The wine tasting group did not meet in December so there is no news to report this month. Our next event will be January 18th, the hosts for this month's event are yet to be determined. 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?

BOOK EXCHANGE | Lew Chapman, Big SIR 510-912-5658



From my previous Book Exchange article, I finally finished reading *Slovakland*. It does not end well. And I'm still going through *Indigenous Continent*. More on that when I finally finish it.

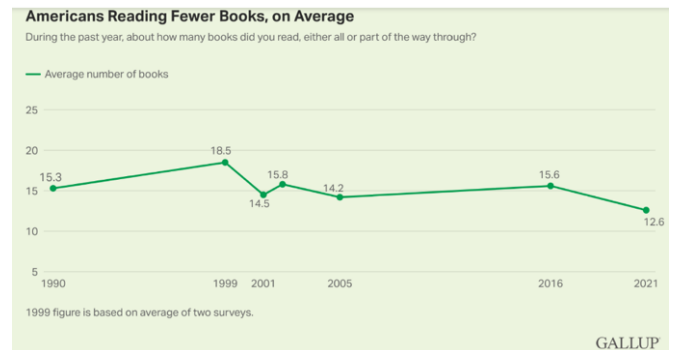
I just started reading *Oath and Honor, A Memoir and a Warning* by Liz Cheney. You can guess what it's about, it's political so I can't comment. Actually, it's an audiobook narrated by the author, and I'll be listening on my upcoming drives between here and SoCal.

I just saw this on the Internet:

****NEWS FLASH****

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Americans say they read an average of 12.6 books during the past year, a smaller number than Gallup has measured in any prior survey dating back to 1990. U.S. adults are reading roughly two or three fewer books per year than they did between 2001 and 2016.

Here's the chart to prove it from Gallup.



You would think COVID-19 would have caused a spike, apparently not.

I've never read this many books in one year! Who are these people who just lie around all day and read?! Not me, I've got stuff to do, I belong to SIR, social activities for men. Golf, pickleball, you name it.

Anyway. I was thinking, perhaps we should start a "Book Group?" We could all read the same book and every other month meet up for lunch or coffee somewhere and discuss the book. I have never participated in a book group and would have no idea how to lead a book discussion. Have any of you? Let me know what you think of that idea.

In the meantime, remember, *SIR Branch 95 Book Exchange: no cost, no library cards, no late notices, no fines.*

What's the easiest way to keep your New Year's resolution to read more? Watch TV with subtitles.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions.

JANUARY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



4th, 11th, 18th, 25th - Drop-in bocce
Promontory Park EDH; 10am



No golf this month; 2024 season
begins 2/6/2024 at Empire Ranch



10th - BEC & general meeting
Cameron Park Country Club



18th - location TBD



16th and 17th - Napa Bowl



4th, 11th, 18th, 25th - Breakfast &
Walking - Denny's Cameron Park;
10am



3rd - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



Mondays and Fridays - e-Biking;
various starting locations



3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st - Drop-in
pickleball; Heritage Park; 1-4pm

BOWLING | Ray DiBasilio, HLM 530-558-9727



Branch 65 and Napa Bowl will host the first tournament of the New Year on January 16-17. This will be a singles/doubles event in which you can bowl both events on one day, or like Cindy and I, drive and

bowl one event in the afternoon, spend a night, and bowl the next event the following morning. We always enjoy having dinner with fellow SIRs that travel with us accompanied by some that are local to the area. Doing this allows us to drive home earlier in the day avoiding rush hour traffic.

Napa Bowl is one of only fifteen centers in the nation that have installed USBC-certified string pin setters. USBC has done much research on bowler scoring between free fall and string pin setters which indicate a minimal difference in averages. Those findings will allow bowlers to use their current average in tournaments with string pin setters. I look forward to testing this theory!

February 15-16 we will be bowling a tournament hosted by Branch 69 held at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento. This has been a very popular tournament drawing one of largest groups of SIRs. Interestingly enough, some of the lanes at Country Club also have string pin setters; however, they are not USBC certified and we will not be using those lanes. With this one so close to home, you won't want to miss it!

Interested in how string pins work and the research behind them? Visit the USBC website for all you need to know: BOWL.com | String Pinsetter Research Better yet, come with us to Napa in January and try them out for yourself!

For more information about SIR bowling and the calendar, 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.