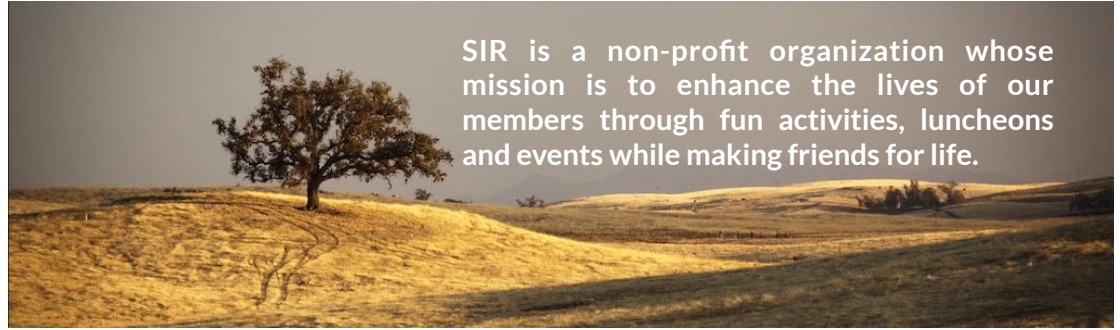

GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95



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 411

February 2024

Kevin King, Editor

BIG SIR | Lew Chapman 510-912-5658



In this month's issue, I will touch on five topics: Monthly Themes for February, Goal Setting, Membership Dues, Lunch Check-In Procedure and Activities.

Monthly Themes for February

Valentine's Day must top the list, especially since our meeting on the second Wednesday of the month has fallen on Valentine's Day. If my knowledge is not flawed, this will only occur every 7 years. So be forewarned, if there is a spouse or significant other in your life, you must make sure to remember her that morning before you leave or that afternoon/evening when you return. I'm pretty sure that if you do that you will be excused for attending the SIR luncheon in the middle of the day. In any event, good luck with that.

February brings other interesting events which recur each year. I looked up a bunch of them and these seem worth noting to me. Mardi Gras is always big, and it begins on February 13th. In the U.S., New Orleans is the epicenter of that one. Been there, done that, not to be missed but once is enough. The related Rio Carnival is on my bucket list, this year it runs February 9th to 17th.

Then there's the Six Nations Championship. The Six Nations Championship (known as the Guinness Six Nations for sponsorship reasons) is an annual

international men's rugby union competition between England, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Wales. The current champion is Ireland, who won the 2023 tournament.

Last I'll mention Chinese New Year. Chinese New Year is a festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. The celebrations traditionally take place from Chinese New Year's Eve, the evening preceding the first day of the year, to the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the year. The first day of Chinese New Year begins on the new moon that appears between January 21st and February 20th.

Goal Setting

I mentioned in our January meeting that the BEC would discuss goal setting for the branch and then communicate our agreed goals at an upcoming meeting. We have started but are not done discussing them, so I thought in this article I would comment on what I know and/or have learned about the importance of goal setting, for organizations.

When goals and plans are clearly defined and communicated, all members of the organization are able to work together to achieve a common objective. This enhances alignment and focus as everyone is clear on

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

what they need to do and how their individual efforts contribute to the overall success of the group.

Membership Dues

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 February 14th at the Cameron Park Country Club. Happy 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 February's meeting. I hope to see you all there.

Lunch Check-In Procedure

As I mentioned in my email to Branch 95 members on January 26th, we will have the badge pick-up at the top of the stairs, but we are moving the check-in tables to the bar room, so no one is standing on the stairs. This will hopefully minimize the congestion around the tables and make it a safer setup.

We will have two collection stations—one for dues and one for luncheon check-in. Please plan for this change, if you are writing checks, by writing two separate checks for lunch and dues rather than putting the payments on one check. This makes the accounting for the Treasurer an easier task and hopefully less confusing, especially when there are a lot of us lined up at one time.

Thank you for helping us to improve our check-in process and facilitate easier reconciliation for our check-in committee.

Activities

Fun activities are what we are all about. Why are activities important? As Kevin King pointed out in his email to membership on January 25th, a SIR branch exists to provide active, senior men an outlet for remaining active and making lifelong friends. Our branch does that by offering monthly lunches with engaging speakers to stimulate new ideas, a couple special events a year when we bring our spouses or significant other and a number of activities that are of interest to our members. However, we have a couple activities which are on the "bubble" for discontinuation (e-Biking and Fishing) for lack of participation. If you want these to continue, please take a look at Kevin's email and respond.

Finally, I want to thank all of you that participate in our activities, including our monthly luncheon meetings. We commend you all for your commitment to our SIR Branch 95 and count on you to continue to support our branch in any capacity in which you feel capable.

I'm great at multitasking. I can waste time, be unproductive and procrastinate all at once.

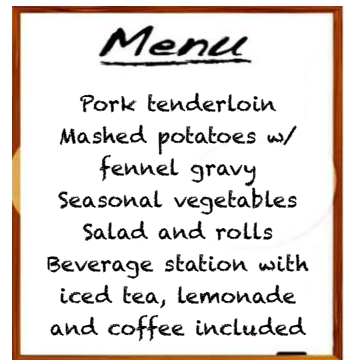
I like work. It fascinates me. I sit and look at it for hours.

General Meeting
Wednesday, February 14, 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



February Birthdays



- Bill Amerman
- Peter Apel
- Rich Christensen
- Bob Doettling
- Harry Hall
- Curtis Johnson
- Alan Lampe
- Jeff Zehner

February SIR Anniversaries

- 1 year - Bill Douglas, Bob MacDonald, Norman Orrick
- 2 years - Al Gurevich
- 4 years - Dennis Windsor
- 5 years - Jay Muzio
- 6 years - Oli Bohlman
- 10 years - John Ashley
- 22 years - Bill Yeager
- 24 years - Steve Thomson
- 26 years - Malcolm Ramsay
- 27 years - Tom Gamble

Membership

New or returning members: 0
Departing members: 2
Current number of members: 87

LITTLE SIR | Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484



It goes without saying that by the time February rolls around, we're all pretty much tired of Winter. Yes, Christmas was great, maybe we saw some snow, and of course as we learned from last month's speaker, God knows that in California we need the rain.

But if you're like me, you've seen just enough of the grey clouds, the bare trees, and most importantly having to ride "cart path only" on the golf courses!

Guess what? Just in time to help bring some optimism for those last dog days of Winter we've got a couple of great speakers at our February luncheon.

Our speakers for February will be **Vinny Jacobs**, head golf teaching professional and **Daniel Awe**, golf coach from Mather Golf Course. The presentation will not only pertain to current golfers but will include information for non golfers, past golfers and wanna'- be golfers. In addition to golf the presentation will include tips for stretching exercises and amusing stories from their many years of experience.



Vinny Jacobs is a native of Canton, Ohio. He started his golfing career by learning to caddy at a very early age, always saying, "**if a young person really wants to learn the game, they should try caddying, it is truly one of the best ways to learn the entire game.**" He turned pro in 1996 while playing on the California Golf Tour. He has attended several PGA forums and many clinics conducted by some of the best instructors in the game, such as Butch Harmon, Dave Pelz, Gary Wren, Hank Haney and many others. Vinny is also a certified club fitter with Titleist, Ping, Taylormade, and others. He has performed thousands of individual lessons in all age categories. In 2005 and 2006, he led the city golf courses in all group lessons.



Over the past 10 plus years **Daniel Awe** has given over 10,000 lessons to golfers ranging from beginner to expert level. As the former Director of Instruction at Cold Springs Country Club, he created a junior program to prepare young golfers for success in tournament golf and how to use golf to achieve success in other aspects of their lives.

Daniel has dedicated himself to understanding why tour pros are tour pros from a physical, mental and statistical standpoint. His goal with every lesson is to deliver factual information to help his students improve, based on them having a better understanding and a tailored plan on what's required to hit any desired shot more often. Daniel has played the game for over 20 years with a career low round of 64. He is a former Long Drive competitor with a longest drive of 445 yards in competition. However, his favorite part of golf is putting and shots hit from 100 yards and in. Daniel's motto is "success in golf is found in understanding the milliseconds and micro-movements of the swing."

Summer SIR 95 Picnic: It's not too early to mark your calendars for the **June 12th picnic**. Both members and significant others are invited. Look for more details soon, and please consider how you might be able to volunteer to help make it a great day!

A clean desk is a sign of a cluttered desk drawer.

If at first you don't succeed, redefine success.

I started out with nothing and I still have most of it.

I'm out of bed and dressed. What more do you want?

*My boss used to say that I lacked "passion and intensity."
I guess he never saw me alone with a Big Mac.*

*I get plenty of exercise - jumping to conclusions, pushing
my luck and dodging deadlines.*

Efficiency is a higher developed form of laziness.

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

I'm happy to report the return of two long-time members, Past Big SIR Larry Keenan and Bill McClanahan. In addition, Membership Chairman, Dave Chighizola, is presenting four prospective members to the BEC this month for their approval. More on all six of our new and returning members will be included in next month's newsletter.

If you haven't paid your \$40 dues yet, remember that they are due on or before our March 13th meeting in order to continue your membership.

As I was putting the finishing touches on this month's newsletter, I received an email from Lew with the Google Form to register for the February meeting. Do you recall back in the day when we had callers? It was more personal but very inefficient. The ever changing membership list was divided up amongst the ever changing number of volunteer callers so each had roughly the same number of members to call each month. There were missed calls, frequent voicemails if the member had that capability and calls that weren't returned that required multiple call backs. On the registration deadline, callers had to contact the organizer with their counts and unavoidable, last minute changes so the organizer could tally the final headcount. It was an organizational and logistical nightmare that actually caused the then organizer to eventually leave the branch.

Today, simple technology exists that handles all of that in the form of Google Forms. With Google Forms, you click a button in the email you receive each month to open the form, enter your email address, select whether you plan to attend or not and click the Submit button in the form. Tallies of those coming and not coming as well as those responding and not responding is always stored in one place and not across several voicemails and emails. The counts are always up-to-date and available to luncheon organizers making it a whole lot easier when it comes time each month to inform Cameron Park Country Club of our final headcount. Help us out. Use Google Forms to make your next meeting reservation. Someone will be glad to help you out if you run into problems.

CIOPPINO DINNER AUCTION EVENT

At the 2023 Holiday party, an auction was held to raise funds for SIR Branch 95. The Muzio's offered a Cioppino dinner for eight to be held at their house. Moni Van Camp, Tom Gamble's companion for the evening, won the bid and the event was held on January 27th. The four couples in attendance included Tom Gamble and Moni Van Camp, John and Pat Coburn, Tim and Dawn Irish, and Dave and Liz Chighizola as well as Jay and Irene Muzio, the donors and evening hosts.



The evening started with an introduction to the live crabs, Buster and Max, followed by Irene's cooking demonstration that culminated in our evening's dinner.

The menu for the evening started with a spinach and rice torta, assorted antipasti, crackers and breadsticks, and a ricotta and roasted grape crostini. The main course of course was Cioppino which was served with a butter lettuce and arugula salad with fruit, pinenuts, pasta and homemade croutons. The desert course included an Italian orange rice pudding, tiramisu, biscotti and candied orange peel. Everyone also enjoyed many fine wines and Moni's famous limoncello.



At the closure of the evening, everyone went home with homemade granola for breakfast and a bag of Irene's candied orange peel.

Additional pictures of the event are on our [website](#).

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

As we start the 2024 golf season, I would like to welcome the newer members of our group and review some of the procedures we have set up for our golf group for everyone. Each golf course

tournament director will send out emails requesting golfers to sign up for that tournament. For Empire Ranch and the 4th Tuesdays, that would be me. For Mather, Dennis Petersen will be handling the tournaments and, for Wildhawk, it will be Ron Wadsworth.

We would like members to reply as soon as possible. Some courses require us to have our numbers in 8 to 14 days in advance, with the final list of players 3 to 5 days in advance of the tournament. Mather and Diamond Oaks require us to make one payment to the course, so you will need to bring cash for the tournament director so he can then pay the fees for the entire group.

For each tournament, we collect \$3 from each player that has an NCGA handicap, to split among the top three or four places, depending on how many golfers we have playing. We also give out a sleeve of golf balls to the golfer that gets closest to the pin on the designated hole. You must be present at the end of the round to collect. Part of the SIR golf experience is the fellowship that occurs before, during and after the golf.



In September, we will have our Club Championship which consists of three rounds of golf at the three main courses we play. The lowest total score from these three rounds determines the Club Champion. All SIR 95 golf members that have played at least 10 rounds with the group during the season is eligible to play for the Club Championship. Golf members that have not played 10 rounds may still play, but will not be eligible to be Champion. We also have the Gold Country Cup, which is awarded to the player with the most points

(accumulated from 1st through 4th place finishes at the weekly tournaments depending on the number of places awarded). We also have the Marksman of the Year award for the player that had the most closest to the pin wins during the season.

A reminder to all of our golfers, especially our newer members that may not be aware of how we handle bad weather. A decision is usually not made until the day before play as to whether we need to cancel. If it looks like a high percentage possibility of rain during our play, we will send out a notice that we are canceling. If the course is going to have cart path only, we will give players the option of canceling if we can. Some courses are more demanding than others and, unless they deem it unsafe to play, they want us to play. I always approach these courses with the fact that most of our players are in the 70's and 80's and it is the health and safety of our players that we must consider first. We have not had too much trouble canceling in the past as we have been good at maintaining a good relationship with each of the courses and keeping communications open.

Also, we are going to try to speed up play of our group this year. Please be ready to hit when it is your turn, play ready golf and help keep an eye on each others' shots to reduce time looking for a ball in the wrong location. Also, two people should be keeping score and comparing scores at the end of 9 and 18 holes to be sure they match and resolving any differences. We will be trying to make out two set of scorecards for each group, so they will already be made out in the same order and with the handicaps listed for the group's players.

I hope everyone is ready to shake off the winter rust and start the new year looking forward to enjoying the game of golf. I wish everyone a good, safe and enjoyable golf season this year and, remember, our golf rounds are supposed to be fun and enjoyable, even if our golf game is not what we would like it to be.

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

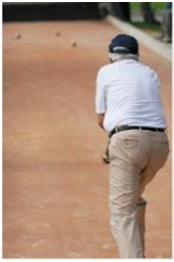
State SIR Officials**State President**

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 are four courts so there's plenty of room for more players. No experience is necessary - it's an easy game to learn. Come join us 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



We meet at 1:00pm on Wednesday's at Heritage Park in El Dorado Hills. Spouses/significant others are also invited to play. 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.

Some useful pickleball resources include:

- [Pickleball Channel](#)
- [USA Pickleball](#)
- playtimescheduler.com
- [Places 2 Play](#)

BREAKFAST & WALKING |

Norman Orrick 916-709-1693



The group meets at Dennys in Cameron Park each Thursday at 9:00am. 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



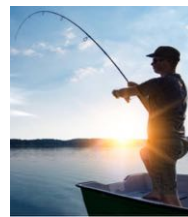
Because of low participation, an email was sent 1/25/2024 to all members asking them to express their interest in continuing this activity. Contact Kevin King at kmking00@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in this activity. The BEC will consider all responses in determining the future of this activity at their 2/14/2024 meeting.

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 and I'll put you on our contact list.

FISHING | Dan Maglionico 916-719-6821



Because of low participation, an email was sent 1/25/2024 to all members asking them to express their interest in continuing this activity. Contact Kevin King at kmking00@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in this activity. The BEC will consider all responses in determining the future of this activity at their 2/14/2024 meeting.

Branch activities are one of the mainstays of SIR membership. If you have a hobby or special interest that you believe other members would enjoy, contact Activities Chairman, Jay Muzio, at Jaymuzio@gmail.com and let him know. He'll take the ball from there.

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



Our Branch 95 wine tasting group kicked the year off with a dinner at Bacchus House Wine Bar & Bistro. There were seven couples in attendance, and everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time. Next month on February 15th, we will resume our regular tasting event at the home of DJ and Judi Peterson.

Click [HERE](#) to read the guidelines for the wine tasting events. We are looking for a few more regular attendees to join us this year. 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



Books are heavy, I think that's why audiobooks, Kindle's and other electronic devices have become so popular. I just finished an audiobook read by the author on a couple of my recent driving trips. It can definitely make a long drive go by fast. Speaking of heavy, the collection of books for the Book Exchange I have been lugging back and forth to each monthly lunch has gotten to be a chore. Thanks for all your contributions, I now have 5+ boxes full. Lot's to choose from. Good thing I work out and have the strength to keep moving them around.

BUT I am looking for another alternative. Last month in this article I mentioned maybe starting a book group where we all read the same book and then get together to discuss it. I did not get any responses of interest. That's ok, perhaps that's something for a women's activity group, I dunno.

So, I got another great suggestion from one of our new members, Harry Hall. Harry suggested I create a listing of the books in the collection showing title, author, type (fiction/non-fiction) or genre, year published, short synopsis, and rating grade (A=great read to D=not so good). I hired my 15 year old grandson to work on cataloging them (for spending money), and hopefully by March or April I can send out a list of the books which people can use to select from. That way all I am transporting around are the ones selected each month and the new ones donated to the collection. Thanks for the suggestion, Harry.

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

Going electronic soon to save my back!

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th - Drop-in bocce Promontory Park EDH; 10am



6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - see golf [schedule](#) for course and check-in times



14th - BEC & general meeting
Cameron Park Country Club



15th - host varies



15th-16th - Country Club Lanes;
Sacramento



1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th - Breakfast & Walking - Denny's Cameron Park; 10am



7th - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



Mondays and Fridays - e-Biking;
various starting locations

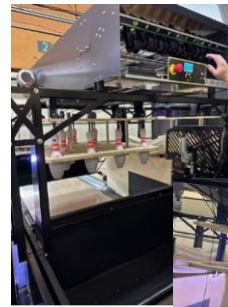


7th, 21st, 28th - Drop-in pickleball;
Heritage Park; 1-4pm

BOWLING | Ray DiBasilio, HLM 530-558-9727



The first tournament of 2024 was held at Napa Bowl with 82 bowlers trying out the new string pins. This was a 35% increase over last year. I don't know if our attendance is growing or the curiosity of string pins was the reason for such a great turnout. We enjoyed the smooth resets with (rare) minimal delays in scoring. Lane conditions were a little dry prompting a few ball and delivery adjustments. Bowler scores on the string pins did not vary from typical averages with



several 200 games bowled, including one 279. Rick Willson and I joined the competition and shared in a small slice of the pie \$\$ YEAH!

Everyone I have spoken with enjoyed the new experience. We look forward to bowling there again soon.

On February 15-16th we will be bowling at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento, hosted by Branch 69. This has been a very popular tournament drawing one of largest groups of SIRs. With this one so close to home, you won't want to miss it!

On March 6th we will have a one-day tournament at Steve Cook's Fireside Lanes - another close to home venue. Join the friendships and fun!

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.