

# 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 412

March 2024

Kevin King, Editor

## BIG SIR | Lew Chapman 510-912-5658



“Beware the ides of March.” Do you remember this quote from high school English class reading assignment when you had to read Shakespeare? I seem to all these years later. Beware the ides of March is a phrase used to foreshadow something bad. The ides refers to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month. It comes from the historical fact that Julius Caesar was murdered by a group of Roman senators on the ides of March, 44 BC. In the Shakespeare play Julius Caesar, a prophet tells Caesar to “beware the ides of March”—and Caesar was subsequently killed on that day. On that note...I’m glad I don’t work in government in Washington D.C. Things seem a little tense back there. Whoops, I’m slipping into politics, and we don’t go there.

In this month’s article I will touch on our finalized goals, a dues reminder, our lunch check-in procedure and a mention of activities.

### Branch Goals for 2024

In the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meeting in February we finalized our goals for 2024 and I presented them at the branch lunch meeting. For those of you who missed it, here is a brief recap of our 2024 Branch 95 Goals:

- Recruit more and “younger” members
  - Minimum of 24 new members in 2024
  - Each current member should strive to bring one new guest (prospective member) this year to lunch
  - Minimum of 2 guests / luncheon
- Increase participation in existing activities
  - Increase lunch attendance
  - Create 2<sup>nd</sup> beginner golf flight (since golf is our most popular activity)
  - Organize beginner golf instructional clinic at one of our regular courses
  - Hold instructional clinics at one of our regular courses for established players
- Add 1-2 new main activities
  - Dine Out Group (2-3x/year?)
  - Cribbage (weekly/monthly?)
  - Dominoes (weekly/monthly?)
  - Best Burger Boys (pursuit of the best local burger place, 2x/month?)
- Hold 3-4 “Pop-Up” activities (one time events)
  - Night at the River Cats
  - Kings basketball game
  - Day on the Bay sailboat charter adventure
  - Evening at Harris Center
  - Dusk at Helwig Friday night concert in Shenandoah Valley wine region

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

<b>Big SIR</b> Lew Chapman 510-912-5658	<b>Little SIR</b> Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484	<b>Secretary</b> Terry Starkel 916-817-1524	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Bob Carlson 916-817-1181	<b>Treasurer</b> Marshall Armstrong 650-438-7802	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b> Grant McMicken 530-306-2468
<b>Director at Large</b> David Chighizola 530-558-9336	<b>Director at Large</b> Ken Mahar 650-504-1393	<b>Director at Large</b> Bill Yeager, PBS 916-941-6632	<b>Director at Large</b> Hugh Thompson 916-276-5117	<b>Director at Large</b> Tim Irish, PBS 916-933-3466	<b>Director at Large</b> Jay Muzio, PBS 650-302-1902

**BIG SIR** continued from previous page

- Nominating Committee identifies pipeline of leaders for 2025

Membership Dues

March 13th is the date of our next monthly luncheon. If you have not paid your 2024 dues yet, that is the deadline. Our dues remain the same as last year—\$40—and must be paid by our March 13th meeting to continue membership.

Lunch Check-In Procedure

Thanks to those who helped streamline our check in procedure at our February luncheon. It worked pretty well and we will do it again this way in March as we complete the dues collection process.

Activities

At our last meeting I mentioned that we have a couple activities which are on the “bubble” for discontinuation for lack of participation (e-Biking and Fishing). We took an informal poll, and it seems we will probably de-certify our fishing group. However, it does seem the e-Biking group may have some traction. We will see as the weather moves to spring if the participation in this activity picks up and we should continue it.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 13th 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 the March meeting. I hope to see you all there.

Finally, as some of you know, Oli Bohlman has decided to step away from the role of Treasurer for personal reasons. I wanted to thank Oli for his past work and his ongoing support as we transition the role to Marshall Armstrong. Thanks to Marshall for agreeing to become Treasurer and to Grant McMicken for volunteering to become our new Assistant Treasurer.



Big SIR, Lew Chapman (left) presents Mel Hallett a Senior SIR - 90 Year Presidential Award

Let the celebrations begin...



10th - Daylight Savings Time

17th - St. Patrick's Day



31st - Easter Sunday

**General Meeting**

Wednesday, March 13, 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



**March Birthdays**



- Ed Bowman
- David Chighizola
- Tim Irish
- Norman Orrick
- Dennis Petersen
- Jim Peterson
- Hugh Thompson
- Ed Walsh
- Bill Yeager

**March SIR Anniversaries**

- 2 years - Steve Crane
- 3 years - Bob Noyes
- 4 years - Ray Guenther
- 6 years - Dennis Eyler
- 7 years - Kevin King
- 10 years - Ken McCoy
- 15 years - Norm Matzen
- Terry Wild

**Membership**

New or returning members: 6  
Departing members: 1  
Current number of members: 92

## LITTLE SIR | Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484



### Spring and Baseball are in the Air!

The warmer weather and the leaves coming back to the trees always get me excited for Spring. And with Spring, comes baseball, and we know that the team to root for in baseball is the Giants!

This month for our luncheon we are pleased to welcome Zack Bayrouy of the Sacramento River Cats. After receiving interest from across the country, the Sacramento River Cats, proud Triple-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, recently announced Zack as the new voice of the franchise.

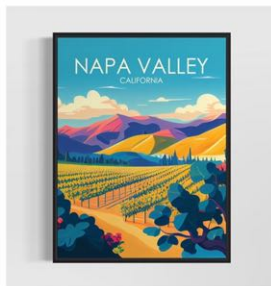
Bayrouy replaces longtime River Cats announcer Johnny Doskow, who accepted a position with the Oakland Athletics in January. The Worcester, Massachusetts native Bayrouy becomes the fourth voice of the River Cats.

“Johnny Doskow was synonymous with Sacramento sports for over two decades and we feel Zack is the perfect heir to usher the franchise and fans into a new era”, said Chip Maxson, President and COO of the River Cats.

Although from the east coast, Bayrouy is familiar with Northern California, calling games for the Oakland-affiliated Single-A Stockton Ports for 14 seasons, as well as serving as the play-by-play of University of the Pacific (Stockton) men’s basketball since 2010 (13 seasons). He has spent the last three seasons broadcasting for the PCL-rival Reno Aces (Triple-A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks), which included a 2022 PCL Championship.

So please plan to come and hear some of the great stories Zack shares about America’s pastime.

## State SIR Golf Presents In Concert with Branches 35 & 149 A 2 Day Golf Event



Details and entry forms are available on our golf webpage at [sirinc2.org/branch95/golf](https://sirinc2.org/branch95/golf) or at the SIR State Golf Website at [sirgolf.org](https://sirgolf.org).

### 2024 Spring Fling in Napa

Wednesday, April 24 at Chardonney Golf Club, a Four Man, 2-Best Ball Tournament with consecutive tee times.

Thursday, April 25 at Eagle Vines Vineyard & Golf Club, a Four Man Scramble with a Shotgun Start.

Ladies Welcome. Cash Prizes will be awarded for top teams and Closest-to-Pin. Entries can be for one or both days. Further details and Entry Forms will be posted later on SIR State Golf Website at <https://www.sirgolf.org>. For more information contact Ben Gikis (408) 802-0794, [gikisben@yahoo.com](mailto:gikisben@yahoo.com).

Reserve the Dates Today!

## THOUGHTS ON AGING...

Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind getting older, then it really doesn't matter.

Now that I've gotten older, everything's finally starting to click for me. My knees, my back, my neck ...

Bickering with your spouse is like trying to read the Terms of Use for a new service. In the end, you just give up and click "I agree."

My company recently gave me an aptitude test, and I found out the work I was best suited for was retirement.

I'm getting older and wider instead of older and wiser!

At my age, the only pole dancing I do is while holding on to the safety bar in the bathtub.

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

We're fortunate this month to welcome two returning members and four new members. Take a moment to welcome them and, perhaps, invite them to join your table.



Larry Keenan originally joined our Branch in 2002. Larry served as Little SIR in 2007, Big SIR in 2008 and Director at Large from 2009-2010. He left the Branch in 2022 due to his health. We're pleased that he decided to return. As a former member of our Branch's leadership team, Larry brings a wealth of knowledge and a unique perspective. In his corporate life, Larry was a Lobbyist for Bayer Corporation. He lives in El Dorado Hills.



Bill McClanahan also joined our Branch in 2002 - having transferred from Branch 115 in Carmel. During his career, Bill was a doctor for Kaiser. You'll sometimes find Bill leading us in singing *God Bless America* with his pitch pipe and/or keyboard. He left our Branch in 2019 to care for his wife. We're happy that he's rejoined us. Bill lives in El Dorado Hills.



Dan Koelzer learned about our Branch through his sponsor, Rick Hernandez. He served as a member of the US Air Force during the Vietnam years. During his career, he was a Civil Engineer for the State of California. He listed a number of activities - among them bocce, pickleball and poker. He also indicated having computer skills which are always in demand. He and his wife, Dian, live in Gold River.



Richard "Bart" Magoffin was introduced to our Branch by his sponsor, Harry Hall. Bart was a telephone tech/manager for 37 years for Pacific Bell, AT&T and SureWest. He moved from Walnut Creek to the Sacramento area in 1982 and has been in El Dorado Hills, with his wife, Chris, since 1995. He also has a family ranch in Jackson where he spends much of his time. He lists a number of activities that he enjoys that could lead to new activities that the Branch might consider offering.



Angelo Perata heard about us through friends. He was a member of the US Coast Guard. He previously worked for Oakland Garbage Company. Among the various activities he enjoys, he listed bocce, bowling, cooking, golf, pickleball and woodworking. He is a licensed boating instructor and enjoys restoring antique boats. He and his wife Bette live in Camino.



Alfred "Al" Thome heard about our branch through Folsom Branch 49. When it came time to decide which branch to join, he discovered that our Branch was closer to his home. Al served in the Army during the Vietnam era and was stationed in Germany. He worked in insurance operations for AIG. He listed baseball, bowling and breakfast club as the activities he enjoys. He lives in El Dorado Hills.

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## A LIGHTER MOMENT

In light of the rising frequency of human/grizzly bear conflicts, the Montana Department of Fish and Game is advising hikers, hunters and fishermen to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the field.

"We advise that outdoorsmen wear noisy little bells on their clothing so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them. We also advise outdoorsmen to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. Outdoorsmen should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear poop. Black bear poop is smaller and contains lots of berries and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear poop has little bells in it and smells like pepper."



## BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman

916-817-1524



We have started the 2024 SIR Branch 95 golf season. The first round of the season was cancelled due to weather. The second round was played, but it was pretty wet and some holes were cart path only while others were 90 degree. The third round was also pretty wet, but it was completed between rain showers, with a limited number of players braving the conditions. The fourth round came off without a hitch in spite of a threat of rain on Monday. This season has started out better than last season. Let's hope it stays that way in March.

A quick review for those of you new to our golf group and to others that would like to play. All of our rules, schedules and contact information is on the Branch website under activities. For those that signed up at last month's luncheon that you were interested in playing, but did not want to be competitive and join NCGA, let the tournament director know if you would like to play on a particular date. If we have openings, you are welcome to join us. The sooner we know the better, as we have to release unused tee times about a week in advance.

We would like to speed up play this year, so please be ready to hit when it is your turn and play ready golf. Maybe write down the scores when you get to the next tee box so the group behind you has a clear area around the green.

For closest to the pin awards, we will again give out a sleeve of golf balls. I went with the recommendation of one of the golf magazines and purchased what they thought were the best balls for senior players. Remember also that you must stay around after the round for the scores to be checked and the awards given out. If you leave before that, you are no longer eligible for the prizes. We have had many players in the past that paid their \$3 into the prize money pool and left before they could get their winnings.



## 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

February 6th - Empire Ranch  
Canceled due to rain

February 13th - Mather  
1st - Tim Irish  
2nd - Rick Willson  
3rd - Ron Wadsworth  
Closest to the pin - Randy Hood

February 20th - Wildhawk  
1st - Randy Hood  
2nd - Chad Barrow  
3rd - Ron Wadsworth  
Closest to the pin - Randy Hood

February 27th - Empire Ranch  
1st - Chad Barrow  
2nd - Al Gurevich  
3rd - Steve Crane  
Closest to the pin - Steve Crane

Bookmark our Branch's [Golf page](#) to keep up with State and Branch golf news as well as the latest results from our weekly tournaments.

#### SIR Websites

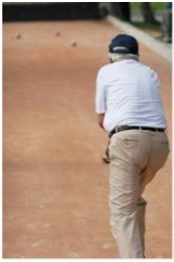
Branch 95: [sirinc2.org/branch95/](http://sirinc2.org/branch95/)  
State SIR: [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org)  
State SIR Marketing: [WeAreSIR.com](http://WeAreSIR.com)  
SIR Happenings (State SIR newsletters):  
[sirinc.org/newsletters](http://sirinc.org/newsletters)  
SIR-Branded Merchandise: [sir.ourproshop.com](http://sir.ourproshop.com)

#### 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](mailto:obohlman@sbcglobal.net).

## E-BIKING | Ken Mahar 650-504-1393



Member participation in this activity has been very low; yet, by a show of hands at our last meeting, there seems to be enough interest among members to keep this activity going for now. As Spring arrives and there are more opportunities to ride, the BEC will determine whether to continue to offer this activity. In the meantime, if you are interested in getting together to ride, contact Ken Mahar at [kmahar@comcast.net](mailto:kmahar@comcast.net) to get on his email list.

## 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:

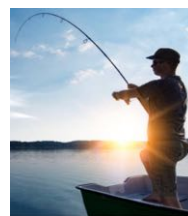
- [Pickleball Channel](#)
- [USA Pickleball](#)
- [playtimescheduler.com](http://playtimescheduler.com)
- [Places 2 Play](#)

## 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](mailto:kmahar@comcast.net) and I'll put you on our contact list.

## FISHING | Dan Maglionico 916-719-6821



As a result of an informal poll assessing members' interest in this activity, the BEC will likely vote at its next meeting to remove this activity from our Branch offerings. Now's the time to speak up if you want to keep this activity going. Let Dan know at [danmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danmag@sbcglobal.net) if you support keeping fishing as a branch activity.

## BREAKFAST & WALKING |

Norman Orrick 916-709-1693



The group meets at Denny's in Cameron Park each Thursday at 9:00am. We eat, discuss the week's events or whatever comes to mind. Sometimes we discuss a weighty subject, other times we might just tell jokes. After we eat and talk, those that wish, take off for a mile or two walk. We are looking forward to having new members to

enliven our discussions. To receive a weekly reminder, send an email to [7norte@google.com](mailto:7norte@google.com).

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](mailto:Jaymuzio@gmail.com) and let him know. He'll take the ball from there.



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



The February wine tasting was held at the home of DJ and Judi Peterson—a beautiful Victorian style and decorated home with a tropical backyard. There were a record thirteen people in attendance. The featured varietal this month was Barbara. Barbera is primarily a dry, non-sparkling wine that ranges from medium-bodied to full-bodied—think less like Pinot Noir and more like Syrah with low tannins and high acidity. The most common tasting notes include red fruit, such as cherry, strawberry and raspberry.

All the wines this month, as in most months, were very good. First place went to 2019 Mauro Veglio, La Morra, Italy. (\$49.00) Second place went to Andis Barbara d’Amador (\$30), Third place was a tie between Starfield 2019 El Dorado Barbara (\$42) and Bella Grace 2021 Amador County Barbara (\$18), fourth place went to Lake Sonoma 2019 Sonoma Valley Barbera (\$15.99) and finally fifth place went to Merkle Family Vineyards 2019 Amador County Barbara (\$27). Two couples brought bottles of Bella Grace Barbara so three bottles tied for third place and split third place prize money.

Judi Peterson made a delicious Tuscan soup and a yummy rum cake. Everyone else provided appetizers and desserts to round out the evening’s meal.

Our next wine tasting will be March 21st. If you have not already joined the wine tasting group and would like to join, contact Jay Muzio at [jaymuzio@gmail.com](mailto:jaymuzio@gmail.com). Besides being able to sample a variety of great wines and a wonderful meal, the Wine Tasting group provides a terrific opportunity to get out of the house and socialize with your SIR friends. And, as a reminder, not all of our attendees drink wine; some come with a wine-tasting companion and bring their own beverage of choice to drink. Why not come and check it and us out?

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



Last month I mentioned we are looking to take the Book Exchange electronic...because "books are heavy." Hauling them in and out every month has become a bit of a chore. So, with Harry Hall’s suggestion, and with the hired help of my grandson, some of the book catalog has become electronic. See the example below of what the spreadsheet is going to look like:

1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	Title	Publish Date	Author	Fiction (F)/Non Fiction (NF)	Grade A-D	Summary		BOX
2	The Greatest Generation	1998	Tom Brokaw	NF	A	Tom Brokaw goes out into America to tell the stories of individual men and women.		1
3	The Burning Mountain	1983	Alfred Coppel	F	A	A novel of the invasion of Japan.		1
4	The Prince of the Skies	2017	Antonio Iturbe	NF	A	Based on a true story of Antoine de Saint Exupery		1
5	Maui	2003	Douglas Peebles	NF	A	A book of photos of beautiful sights in the Hawaiian island of Maui		1
9	Bidding in the 21st Century	1990	Audrey Grant & Betty Starzec	NF	B	This book introduces a new player to the game of gambling		1

All you will have to do is find a title you like, let me know and I will bring it to an upcoming branch luncheon. If you have books to donate, continue to bring them in and I will add them to the electronic book exchange catalog and store them in a dry accessible location. I should be able to send out a full catalog in a month or two.

As has been my recent habit, a short book review this month follows. I just came across a book called The Black Widow by Hugo Clark.

The Black Widow is a non-fiction true crime novel about the notorious drug smuggler Griselda Blanco. Griselda's story covers her childhood on the streets, to becoming an international criminal mastermind. She partnered with infamous criminals like Pablo Escobar to become one of the most powerful businesswomen in organized crime history – generating billions of dollars along the way. She was a mother, a businesswoman and a ruthless killer. One of the most infamous female criminals in all of history, the story details the rise and fall of the Cocaine Queen of Miami in this winding, fascinating recount of history. Just out on Netflix is an 6-part miniseries called Griselda, starring Sofia Vergara. She is spectacular and scary in this role. Check it out, I binged it over three evenings, in a row! It was the Nielsen streaming ratings leader for the week of Jan 22-28, 2024 by a wide margin.

In the meantime, remember, *SIR Branch 95 Book Exchange: no cost, no library cards, no late notices, no fines. Going electronic to save my back!*



## MARCH ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - Drop-in bocce  
Promontory Park EDH; 10am



5th, 12th, 19th, 26th - see golf  
[schedule](#) for course and check-in  
times



13th - BEC & general meeting  
Cameron Park Country Club



21st - host varies



6th - Steve Cook's Fireside Lanes;  
Citrus Heights



7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - Breakfast &  
Walking - Denny's Cameron Park;  
9:00am



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



Mondays and Fridays - e-Biking;  
various starting locations



6th, 20th, 27th - Drop-in pickleball;  
Heritage Park; 1-4pm

## BOWLING | Ray DiBasilio, HLM 530-558-9727



On February 15-16<sup>th</sup> we held the second tournament of 2024 at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento hosted by Branch 69. This has been a very popular tournament drawing over 80 SIRs and guests.

Tournament Manager Tod Davis and his committee did an outstanding job of organizing. To the surprise of some of the winners, additional money was added to the prize fund. Rick Willson and his guest Steve Watkins representing Branch 95, and Ray DiBasilio Branch 95/113, shared in the prize fund. Lunch was also a treat with a pizza buffet, salad and soft drinks included.

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be attending a one-day tournament at Steve Cook's Fireside Lanes, another one of the venues that is close to home. We hope you can 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>



Branch 95 Bowling Activities Chairman and State Bowling Operations Advisor, Ray DiBasilio

### 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.