

# GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95



Bulletin 422

January 2025

Kevin King, Editor

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



### Welcome to 2025!

As we step into the new year, I'm thrilled to serve as your Big SIR. Normally, I'd take a moment to share a bit more about who I am, but I'll leave that to Lew, who scripted a full article to introduce me in greater detail. For now, let's look back at our recent successes and ahead to the exciting events and opportunities this year holds for our Branch.

We ended 2024 on a high note with a phenomenal Holiday Party on December 11th. The evening was filled with laughter, camaraderie and plenty of excitement over the awesome door prizes. Even more importantly, we raised an impressive \$1,900 to support next year's events and Branch needs. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making the event such a success. Please see some of the event pictures later in the newsletter.

Looking ahead, our **first luncheon of 2025** will be held on **January 8th**. The day will begin with the BEC meeting at 10:00am, followed by a social hour from 11:00 to noon, and then lunch and our guest speaker and other items of interest from 12:00 to 2:00pm.

We're thrilled to announce that our speaker will be Master Gardner Debi Valerga. She will speak about the 4 P's of Tomato Growing (Varieties, Planting, Pruning, & Problems) – perfect timing to inspire your gardening plans for the spring!

As we kick off this new year, one of our top goals will be to maintain and possibly grow our membership. We'll do this in a thoughtful and intentional way, ensuring that our Branch continues to thrive and serve as a welcoming space for all.

While we've already had members step up to organize speakers and plan events like the 2025 summer picnic and holiday party, we're still seeking a **Little SIR**—someone who will be groomed to take on the role of Big SIR next year. If you or someone you know is interested, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Here's to a fantastic 2025 filled with friendship, learning and plenty of good times!



### Gold Country Branch 95 2025 BEC Members- PBS denotes Past Big SIR; HLM denotes Honorary Life Member

<b>Big SIR</b> Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484	<b>Little SIR</b> OPEN	<b>Secretary</b> Terry Starkel 916-817-1524	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Don Nicholson 408-386-4119	<b>Treasurer</b> Marshall Armstrong 650-438-7802	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b> Grant McMicken 530-306-2468
<b>Director at Large</b> Ken Mahar 650-504-1393	<b>Director at Large</b> Bill Yeager, PBS; HLM 916-941-6632	<b>Director at Large</b> Tim Irish, PBS 916-933-3466	<b>Director at Large</b> Lew Chapman, PBS 510-912-5658	<b>Director at Large</b> Bill Klump 209-679-4087	<b>Director at Large</b> Scott Ravel 408-690-3816

## BRANCH & STATE HAPPENINGS |

Kevin King, PBS; HLM 916-337-9811

NOTE 2025  
PRICE CHANGE

Well...I guess it's official. I've taken on the role of State SIR's Chief Information Officer (CIO) as of January 1st. I originally agreed to take on a lower level State Board position in order to advocate on behalf of our Branch and to be our Branch's eyes and ears. As I think I mentioned before, a few short years ago, State felt our Branch was one destined to fail because of declining membership, aging membership, a Branch with only a handful of activities and one that struggled finding volunteers to fill critically important positions. As Big SIR at the time, I was naturally offended by that characterization and wanted a voice at the table to ensure ours and similarly situated branches weren't prematurely dismissed and given up on, or for that matter, overwhelmed with unwanted offers of outside support to help turn us around.

As you can see for yourself, through the hard work and vision of our BEC, increased publicity and our members bringing their neighbors and friends as guests to our meetings, our Branch has seen a transformation. State SIR has taken note and today holds us up to other branches as one that other branches - successful or not so successful - could learn from.

Somehow the lower level Board position turned into the CIO position, which entails support for the State and Branch websites, maintaining the State's membership database, broadcast email services, State forms and videoconferencing services is a big job that which actually aligns better with my skillset and interests. I have a number of talented volunteers supporting me and I may be adding to the group by calling on a few of our technically-savvy members. In case you're wondering, I plan to continue handling our Branch newsletter and website. That said, for continuity planning purposes, it's never a bad thing to have someone assisting me in both of those areas. Let me know if you have any interest in assisting me at the Branch and/or State level.

As I previously reported, former member, Norb Witt, passed away just before Christmas. No further details about services are available at this time. Also, I learned that longtime Membership Chairman, Dave Chighizola, will be leaving us for personal reasons. Scott Ravel will be stepping in.

Wishing you and your family a joyous New Year filled with good health and happiness.

Don't forget lunch prices increase this month to \$38. Having the exact amount is appreciated and will help streamline the sign-in process. Also, don't forget your 2025 annual dues. 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 12th meeting.

**General Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
Buffet lunch \$38 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

### Menu

Beef stroganoff  
Vegetable medley  
House salad  
Dinner rolls & butter

Beverage station with  
iced tea, lemonade  
and coffee included

## January Birthdays

Steve Annen  
Bob Davenport  
Bill Keane  
Gary Kretschmer  
David Pearce  
Angelo Perata  
Dennis Pfaff  
Malcolm Ramsay  
Scott Walberg



## January SIR Anniversaries

8 years - Bob Woodford

## Membership (as of 12/31/2024)

New members: 0  
To be inducted this month: 0  
Departing members: 4  
Current number of members: 104

# HOLIDAY DINNER PHOTOS



## BRANCH ACTIVITIES | Jay Muzio, PBS, Activities Director 650-302-1902

Fellow SIRs, a menu of fun activities is the foundation upon which SIR was built. Next to fellowship, it is the most important recruiting and retention tool that we have. This year as your Activities Director, I will assist in forming new activity groups, oversee the needs of our activity groups as they are developing and ensure the ongoing success of all our activity groups in which our members may participate. For this we owe a huge thanks to the guys that have stepped up to lead these activities and get them going. Terry Starkel is the leader of our largest and most participated activity - golf. I don't have the exact numbers, but I believe that golf has attracted more new members to Branch 95 than all other recruiting activities combined. Thank you, Terry, Dennis and Ron for all your efforts in making this our most popular activity.



I also want to give special thanks to all the guys that have stepped up to lead our other activities. Oli Bohlman (bocce), Chad Barrow (pickleball), Ken Mahar (E-biking and Texas Hold'Em), Rick Talone (Fun Cool Cars), Rick Willson (Drop-in Bowling), Norm Orrick (Breakfast & Walking), Gary McKae (Investment Discussion), Jay Muzio (Wine Tasting) and Dan Koelzer (Best Burger Pursuit).

To all our wonderful SIR members, thank you for your participation in the offered activities. For without your participation there would be no activities, no Branch and no SIR. Let's make a New Year's resolution to participate in and volunteer to help with all that SIR provides to improve our lives through activities and fellowship.

## BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman

916-817-1524



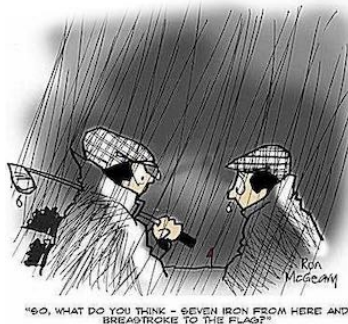
The golf year has ended and we are preparing for a new year of golf course challenges. We have an almost complete schedule for 2025 at this time. We still have a couple of dates to finalize with a couple of the courses but most of the schedule is complete.

I'm happy to have Dennis Petersen again acting as tournament director for the rounds that we play at Mather. Also, Randy Hood has agreed to be tournament director for the rounds that we play at Wildhawk next year. Thank you to Ron Wadsworth for filling that position this past year. I will again be tournament director for Empire Ranch and the (mostly) fourth week tournaments we hold at various courses in the area. When the schedule is complete, you will notice that most courses have raised their prices. Most by just a dollar or two, a few by about \$5. This information should be available around mid-January.

Congratulations to our golf champions for 2024. The 2024 Club Champion was Mike Bettencourt. Mike won the Championship by posting the best total score over the course of three rounds of golf in our Championship series. The 2024 Marksman of the Year was Randy Hood, who earned the most points in closest to the pin competitions throughout the year. The 2024 Gold Country Cup winner was Ron Wadsworth. Ron had the most points by having several high place finishes for the year. Ron was in first place three times, second place five times and third place five times. Congratulations to all and especially those golfers that come out week after week to enjoy the fellowship of their SIR 95 Branch golfers, and hopefully play some good golf, or at least do so part of the time.

I would also like to thank Kevin King for keeping track of all the golfers, their scores and rankings in the various competitions we have during the year and keeping the golf information up to date on the Branch [webpage](#).

I am looking forward to another year that will hopefully have few frost delays, rainy days and 100+ degree heat on our golf days.



## SAND TRAPS

Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman  
916-817-1524

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

Golf Director (Wildhawk)  
Randy Hood 707-365-2839

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## SIR Branch 95 Results 2024 Tournaments

December 3rd - Empire Ranch  
1st - Rick Horewitch  
2nd - Simon Martin  
3rd - Chad Barrow  
Closest to the pin - Dennis Petersen

December 10th - Mather (season finale)  
1st - Bob Carlson  
2nd - Mike Bettencourt  
3rd - Alan Bowles  
Closest to the pin - Bill Klump (#11)  
and Mike Bettencourt (#3)

**Congratulations!**



2024 SIR Branch 95 Club  
Champion - Mike Bettencourt



2024 Gold Country Cup  
Champion - Ron Wadsworth



2024 Marksman of the Year  
Champion - Randy Hood

Five weeks to the start of the 2025 season at  
Empire Ranch. Mark your calendars for 2/4.

### SIR Websites

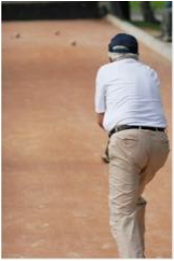
Branch 95: [sirinc2.org/branch95/](http://sirinc2.org/branch95/)  
State SIR: [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org)  
State SIR Marketing: [WeAreSIR.com](http://WeAreSIR.com)  
SIR Happenings (State SIR newsletters):  
[sirinc.org/newsletters](http://sirinc.org/newsletters)  
SIR-Branded Merchandise: [sir.ourproshop.com](http://sir.ourproshop.com)

### State SIR Officials

State President  
Rich Carlston (Br8 - Walnut Creek)  
925-324-0838

Vice President  
Lee Lamp (Br129 - Redding)  
530-921-1375

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

**BOCCE | Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067**

Come join other members and their spouses/significant others at Promontory Park every Thursday at 10:00am for drop-in bocce. It's a fun game everyone can play. If you are not on the current email list and would like to be, just give me a call.

**PICKLEBALL | Chad Barrow 209-603-7346**

Our group plays on Fridays at 1:00pm at Heritage Community Private Courts. Note the new date, time and location. If you're interested in joining, come on down. Never played but wonder why you're hearing so much about it? We'd be happy to teach you the basics of the game. Feel free to contact me with any questions. See you on the courts.

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

We plan weekly small group rides on paved trails in the local area. Give me a call at the above number if you'd like to be added to the e-biking contact list. Participation has been very low and without increased interest we may have to reimagine or discontinue this activity.

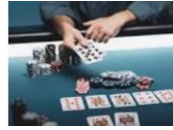
**BREAKFAST & WALKING |**

**Norman Orrick 916-709-1693**



The group meets at Dennys, 3446 Coach Lane, Cameron Park each Thursday at 9:00am. We eat, shoot the breeze, crack a joke or two and sometimes say something profound. The main thing is to enjoy each other's company. 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, give me a call at the above number to be put on my email list.

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

We meet the second Thursday of every month at someone's home. All that's needed is a \$20 buy-in for a fun-filled evening with your fellow members and a chance to go home the big winner. If this sounds like something that you might be interested in, give me a call to be put you on our contact list.

**FUN COOL CARS | Rick Talone 916-761-7222**

We've been on temporary hiatus due to the holidays and weather. We plan to resume our drives and lunch in April. To be put on the group's interest list, contact me at the above

number.

**DROP-IN BOWLING |**

**Rick Willson (916) 847-1452**



Come join us for drop-in bowling at Folsom Lake Bowl Entertainment Center located at 511 E. Bidwell in Folsom. We meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month. We bowl from 1:00 to 4:00 and the cost is \$15 per person. Give me a call for more information.

**INVESTMENT DISCUSSION GROUP |**

**Looking for a new leader**



We generally meet the last Wednesday of the month in the Community Center in the back of the store at Raley's O-N-E in El Dorado Hills. We invite other Branch members to join us to discuss financial topics of interest to the group. Give Ron or Jay a call to be added to the contact list.

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



Happy new year to all my fellow SIRs. This year the wine tasting group is looking forward to many fun activities. Already we have several events planned that include gatherings at members' homes and tastings at local wineries. As planned, there was not an event in December due to the busy holiday season. The next wine tasting event will be held January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Muzio's home. The featured wine will be Cabernet Sauvignon. As a unique twist, the January wine tasting will also include a gin tasting since Irene drinks gin at every wine tasting and has discovered fellow gin lovers.

If you have not already joined the wine tasting group and would like to join, contact Jay Muzio at the number above. Besides being able to sample a variety of great wines and have 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 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 us out?

## BEST BURGER PURSUIT | Dan Koelzer 916-718-0521



Our last Best Burger Pursuit event was on November 22nd at Sportmans Hall in Pollock Pines. We skipped the December BBP event since it would have been right before all the holiday celebrations. The BBP group meets once a month on the Friday in the week after the week of the main SIR meeting for a burger at noon which makes the next BBP event Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at noon. The location is still to be determined. Several possibilities have been suggested including Old Town Grille and Moonraker. I will send out a reminder in the next few days with the planned location. If you have an idea for a great burger (preferably not a fast-food chain), please email me, call me, or let me know at the SIR meeting. Our mission, as always, is simple - eat a burger and rate it.

## BOWLING | Ray DiBasilio, HLM (Branch 113) 530-558-9727



Happy New **Bowling** Year! The 2025 SIR bowling calendar is looking exciting. The calendar has us in quite a few locations this year with many of our old friends. Bill Bumbaca, formerly of Branch 113, will be a new tournament manager for both tournaments in Carson City (April and late August). We are reviewing locations for the SIR State tournament in May, hoping for a central location. All other tournament dates are set. Applications will be available as dates get closer. Check out the link at the end of this article to see the full 2025 bowling calendar.

Cindy and I hope to see you at the first tournament of 2025 in Napa on January 21-22. Applications for this one and the Sacramento tournament at Country Club lanes in February are available online now.

For more information about SIR bowling, the full 2025 calendar, applications and results, check out our website: <http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling/index.html>.

*Striking up Friendships*



## MEMBER PROFILE | Lew Chapman, PBS 510-912-5658

*This article will be an ongoing feature of our SIR Branch 95 newsletter. We would like to include a member profile in the monthly newsletter as well as have a member speak about themselves at our monthly luncheons. In this way, we will get to know about 20 members, over the course of a year, in a more detailed way.*



This month's profile is about Ron Wadsworth, our Big SIR for 2025. It seems appropriate, since as our new Big, we should know more about him and how he got here.

For those of you who may have missed it, Ron presided over our November 2024 luncheon as a practice run for January and did a great job. Moreover, he also organized our annual December Holiday Dinner and served as Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer (with the help of his wife Tami and committee). He did a really great job with that, too. Who knew he was such a comedian and so witty?

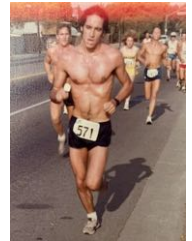
Ron was born in December, 1959 in Orange, California, while his father was stationed at El Toro Marine base. He grew up in a family of six, learning the value of resilience and adaptability early on. That is probably the theme of this biography - resilience and adaptability.

His father was a star basketball player at Saint Mary's College before joining the Marine Corp's officer program. As a Marine pilot flying the F-4 Phantom, his father's career led them to move frequently. While his father was stationed at Quantico in Virginia, Ron attended two years of high school in Mt. Vernon, Virginia. By then his father was a Lt. Colonel and was promoted to Commander of the F-4 Squadron back in Southern CA. Ron finished high school in Tustin, CA at Foothill HS. He attended 12 different schools before graduating high school! That's adaptability.

Out of high school, Ron was accepted to the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) but was asked by his dad to stay home to support the family following his mother's passing at a very young 41 years old. He

became an "adult" quickly for his younger siblings—a 14-year-old brother and a 9-year-old sister—while his father continued serving as an active-duty Marine. His older sister was just getting her college experience going at UCSB. That did not prevent Ron from pursuing his higher education objectives, so he managed to help his dad with the family, while doing full-time coursework at a local community college AND while working full-time in restaurant management, building valuable leadership and organizational skills. He put himself through college and helped take care of the family. Now, that is some resilience.

Ron had a physically demanding job, working as a logger in Washington during summers. Ron also discovered a passion for running, achieving top 4% finishes in most long-distance races across California, finishing five full marathons as well. More resilience!



After his two years at the JC, he matriculated to Cal State Fullerton and graduated with a business degree. Due a well-deserved break and adventure, he then embarked on a 45-day, 12,000-mile cross-country road trip across 40 states and Canada before starting a career in manufacturing in Los Angeles. While living and working in SoCal, he met his future wife Tami at a church function and started running with her (or is it "after" her?). When he confirmed she could run, he figured he should marry her before she could run away, which he did at age 32, beginning a lifelong partnership filled with shared goals and family values.

During all that, he founded and successfully ran a business with a high school buddy in international export sales in the 1980's. They exported electronics, etc. and their biggest selling product was an ultrasonic mice exterminator. There has got to be more to that story!

**MEMBER PROFILE** continued from previous page

Ultimately, Ron moved on and took a leadership role at Cardinal Health, a Fortune 15 healthcare supplier. He was Director of Operations at their Elk Grove distribution center. After five years in that role, he was promoted to a VP position in the corporate headquarters in Dublin, Ohio. Having punched that ticket, he got a chance to move back to CA and became a Regional VP working again out of the Elk Grove facility, and that is when he and Tami and growing family decided to reside in El Dorado Hills.

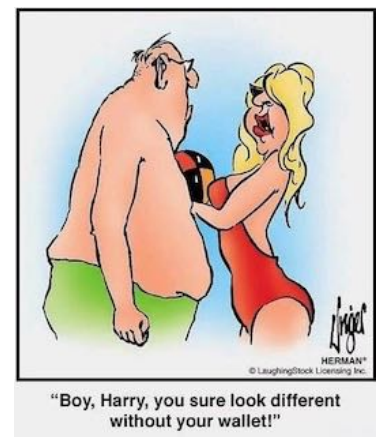
Ron retired almost 3 years ago, in March 2022, after 24 years at Cardinal Health. Shortly thereafter, he was walking the dog(s) in Promontory Park and saw the SIR sandwich board at the bocce ball courts. He picked up the Branch 95 flyer and the next month was out playing with the golf group and ended up joining SIR in June 2022.



Ron and Tami are parents of four wonderful young adult children (age range 22 to 30) now living in California and Arizona, with family celebrations like weddings just beginning. One of their daughters just got married last month in Arizona and they have another daughter's wedding coming up this next year. Tami has worked in the pharmaceutical industry as a sales rep when they first met, and then again as the kids got older.

So aside from becoming our new Big SIR for Branch 95, what else does Ron do? He enjoys golf, pickleball, running, and active participation in church activities. Through their church involvement, he mentors younger men in areas of finance and personal growth, helping them navigate life with purpose and clarity. Ron is excited to serve as the Big

SIR in 2025, embracing the opportunity to lead and give back to the community. That is where his adaptability and resilience - and we should probably add sense of humor and generosity - comes in.





## JANUARY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



No golf this month; the 2025 season begins 2/4 at Empire Ranch



9th - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st - Drop-in pickleball; Heritage Community Private Courts; 1:00pm



15th - Drop-in bowling; FLB Entertainment Center; Folsom; 1-4pm



2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th - Drop-in bocce Promontory Park EDH; 10:00am



2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th - Breakfast & Walking - Denny's Cameron Park; 9:00am



8th - BEC Meeting & Luncheon; Cameron Park Country Club



16th - Muzio's home



17th - TBD



21st and 22nd - Napa Bowl



Fun Cool Cars - resumes in April



e-Biking; weekly, small group rides; various starting locations



Investment Group - TBD

## A LIGHTER MOMENT

"People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do." ~ Isaac Asimov

"People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day." ~ A. A. Milne

"If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?"  
~ Abraham Lincoln

"Remember, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday." ~ Dale Carnegie

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." ~ Mark Twain

Two bored male casino dealers are waiting at the craps table. A very attractive woman arrives and bets \$20,000 on a single roll of the dice.

She says. "I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely nude." With that, she strips down, rolls the dice and yells, "Come on, baby, Mama needs new clothes!" As the dice come to a stop, she jumps up and down and squeals, "YES! YES! I WON! I WON!"

She hugs each of the dealers, picks up her winning and her clothes and quickly departs. The dealers stare at each other dumbfounded. Finally, one of them asks, "What did she roll?" The other answers, "I don't know - I thought you were watching."

My wife was blaming me for ruining her birthday. That's ridiculous. I didn't even know it was her birthday.

How can you convert dollars into pounds? By visiting your favorite fast food restaurant.

### 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.