

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 424

March 2025

Kevin King, Editor

BIG SIR | Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484



March Update: Growth, Trivia & Exciting Events Ahead

As we move into March, we continue to see great momentum in our branch. Attendance at our luncheons has reached record numbers—thank you for your enthusiasm and participation! Your engagement is what makes our branch strong, and we look forward to continuing this success in the months ahead.

March is a time of change and renewal. It's the start of spring, a season full of new energy and fresh goals. As a branch, we are focused on growth, collaboration and ensuring that we provide valuable opportunities for everyone. Whether it's professional development, networking, or just strengthening our sense of camaraderie, we are committed to making 2025 a great year. Here are the goals I shared with you at the February luncheon:

1. 8-10% member growth (year-end final total of 112-116 members).
2. Flesh out non-additive activities and/or events and eliminate them from our calendar and/or newsletter.

3. Be cognizant of our BEC positions, and make inroads on balancing them with new members and fresh ideas. Have all positions filled as soon as possible (currently seeking director at large and Little Sir).
4. Identify good back-ups and additional person for the IT role.
5. Continue to search for efficient ways to track membership, pay for events, etc.
6. Keep up with region and state needs, information and expectations.

A little March trivia for you: Did you know that March was originally the first month of the year in the Roman calendar? It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war, symbolizing new beginnings and action - fitting as we set our sights on our goals for the year.

This month's luncheon speaker will be Andrea Duane, owner of Andrea Duane and Company Real Estate Group.



See **BIG SIR** next page

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

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

BIG SIR continued from previous page

With 21 years of experience, Andrea has been recognized as a leader in her field by the Realtor community, and was recently named one of the top 100 Realtors in El Dorado, Sacramento & Placer Counties. Andrea has successfully closed more than \$225 million in sales, guiding over 400 clients through one of life's most significant financial decisions.

Her reputation for excellence isn't just built on results—it's built on relationships. A lifelong advocate and trusted advisor for her clients, Andrea's business is driven by repeat clients, referrals and personal clients who continue to trust her not only with their homes, but with their family and friends.

It's no surprise she's been voted "Best Real Estate Agent in El Dorado Hills" by the readers of the *Folsom and El Dorado Hills Telegraph* for the past 7 years from 2018 through 2024. Come hear what she has to say about the current real estate market at our luncheon on March 12th.

Looking ahead, don't forget to mark your calendars for our **Summer Picnic on June 11th!** It's always a highlight of the year, and we can't wait to share more details soon. It's a great chance to relax, enjoy good company (including significant others) and celebrate all we've accomplished.

Remember, to continue your membership, this is the last month to pay your SIR 95 branch dues. Please plan to do this as soon as possible or at the March 4th luncheon at the latest.

Lastly, if you haven't yet watched the video I sent out to the full group, please take a moment to do so—it contains important updates and insights about the SIR organization. You can find it by clicking on the following link [SIR Introductory Video](#).

WHERE DOES MY DUES GO?

You may wonder about the push to collect dues and what exactly your dues is used for:

- State Per Member Assessment (the bulk of the assessment goes toward the premium for the State's liability insurance that includes coverage for our BEC members)
- Guest lunches
- Speaker lunches
- Newsletter trivia winner lunch
- Monthly birthday award
- Monthly door prizes
- Offsets some of the cost of picnic and holiday dinner door prizes

By the way, the March meeting is the deadline for paying your dues.

General Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 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



March Birthdays



Ed Bowman
 Wil Brunet
 Tim Irish
 Byron Loney
 Norman Orrick
 Dennis Petersen
 Jim Peterson
 Hugh Thompson
 Ed Walsh
 Bill Yeager

March SIR Anniversaries

1 year - Bill Klump; Stan Lemke; Scott Ravel;
 David Tom
 3 years - Dan Maglionico
 4 years - Bob Noyes
 5 years - Ray Guenther; Terry Wild
 7 years - Dennis Eyler
 8 years - Kevin King
 11 years - Ken McCoy
 16 years - Norm Matzen

Membership (as of 2/28/2025)

New members: 2
 To be inducted this month: 4
 Departing members: 1
 Current number of members: 105

BRANCH HAPPENINGS | Kevin King, PBS; HLM 916-337-9811

In the past couple of month's I've written about the need to volunteer and my own decision to accept a position on the State SIR Board of Directors as Chief Information Officer. I had some initial hesitancy due to my perception of the necessary time commitment and whether I was best-suited to direct the activities of the individuals supporting the Information Technology needs of the SIR organization. After a few short months, I realized I should have trusted my instincts. It wasn't the time commitment or the challenge of the job. What I found was that my skills and interests lie in learning new technologies and problem solving - doing rather than being the visionary and directing others to get the job done. While I could have probably pushed through, I wasn't enjoying it and it was weighing on me to the point I felt it was beginning to affect other areas of my life. With some reluctance and a lot of regret, I asked to step down from the CIO position and to take on a more technical role. I will continue to support the State as the State membership database administrator, assisting with the State and branch's websites as well as special projects. Ramesh Thadani from Branch 98 (Rocklin/Roseville) will replace me as CIO.

Even before my brief stint on the State Board, one of my persistent questions to the Board was "why is Bakersfield our southernmost branch?". Well persistency may be paying off. A SIR member recently moved to the San Diego area and was looking for a SIR branch or something like it in his area. There's actually quite a bit of ongoing discussion that may lead to SIR expanding to Southern California. Our own Lew Chapman has told me he could also probably get a branch started in the area of his second home in Rancho Mirage. Who knows, we may be on the verge of SIR's second act.

The BEC approved two new members at their February meeting. Neither were present at our meeting so their inductions will be held off until some future meeting.



Bill Barry heard about us from another, unnamed member. Bill's an attorney. Among the activities he listed that he enjoys are backgammon, biking, bocce, breakfast club and golf. He also indicated that he could assist the branch by finding guest speakers and editing the newsletter - both valuable skills that our branch may utilize. Bill and his wife, Candace, live in El Dorado Hills.

Dan Cox (no picture at press time) is Jay Muzio's neighbor. In fact, he moved into the house that former member, Steve Crane, lived in. He was FinTech Sales Director for Fiserv - a financial services company headquartered in Milwaukee, WI. He listed golf, investments, pickleball, poker and wine tasting among the activities he enjoys. He and his wife, Donna, recently moved to El Dorado Hills as a pre-retirement move from Pleasanton. Both Dan and his wife are looking forward to participating in our activities.

Thanks to those who took the time to respond to my newsletter survey. Even though I wasn't specifically looking for them, I received many comments about the quality of the newsletter. Thank you. Of course, all of the credit should go to the many contributors. There were also a number of suggestions as to how to make the newsletter better and more enjoyable for a larger number of members. I've summarized those comments and sent them to the BEC. We'll be discussing them and any needed changes to the newsletter at their next meeting.

The adult version of "head, shoulders, knees and toes" is "wallet, glasses, keys and phone."

Today on a drive, I decided to go visit my childhood home. I asked the people living there if I could come inside because I was feeling nostalgic, but they refused and slammed the door in my face. My parents can be so mean.

No one should say that someone is completely useless. They can always be used as a bad example.

What's the process of applying for a job at Hooters? They just give you a bra and say, "Here, fill this out."

BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman

916-817-1524



We made it through February with one rain out and two cart path only days. We finally had a nice day at Ancil Hoffman. What can we expect in March? Golfers, join us to find out. We are picking up new golf members as our Branch expands. If you are a new Branch 95 member and would like to join us for golf, let me know.

This is flu season and Covid is still going around, so if you find yourself not feeling well, please cancel your golf round to help keep everyone else safe and well. Also, we are trying something different this season in an effort to speed up play or at least justify to some courses that we are not as slow as they may think. We are having each group post their starting and ending times on their score cards. The only problem we are currently having is that golfers are forgetting to do that. Please make an effort to write your start and end times on the cards. There is usually a highlighted area on the card for that information.

We still have two dates, one in June and one in October, for which we do not have confirmation of tee times. If you have suggestions for courses that we could play, please let me know. In March, we will be playing Empire Ranch twice, with Mather in between and Lincoln Hills at the end. Please watch your email to sign up for these tournaments, as some require close to two weeks notice.

I am looking forward to more warm days for our golf, but that may still be a month or so away. Also, a reminder that when you play golf with our Branch, your scores are posted by the Tournament Director. If you play with another group or on your own, it is your responsibility to post your scores. This is the way the World Handicap System works, by taking into account all of your scores. Your scores are adjusted to double-bogey plus your handicap maximum and if you are posting your own score, you can post hole by hole and the software will make the adjustment for you, from what I understand.



Above all let us try to have fun on the course. It is a place that we can try to get away from all outside noise and enjoy the nature around us and the friendship of our fellow SIR 95 members.

SAND TRAPS

Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman
916-817-1524

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

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SIR Branch 95 Results 2025 Tournaments

Feb. 4th - Empire Ranch
Rained out

Feb. 11th - Mather
1st - Al Gurevich
2nd - Chad Barrow
3rd - Ray Guenther
Closest to the pin - Al Cooney (guest)

Feb. 18th - Wildhawk
1st - Rick Willson
2nd - Bill Klump
3rd - Mike Bettencourt
Closest to the pin - Rick Willson

Feb. 25th - Ancil Hoffman
1st - Simon Martin
2nd - Terry Privott
3rd - Bob Carlson
Closest to the pin - Byron Loney

SIR Websites

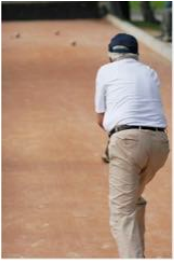
Branch 95: sirinc2.org/branch95/
State SIR: sirinc.org
State SIR Marketing: WeAreSIR.com
SIR Happenings (State SIR newsletters):
sirinc.org/newsletters
SIR-Branded Merchandise: sir.ourproshop.com

State SIR Officials

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

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

Area 3 Representative
OPEN

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 weekly at Heritage Community Private Courts. The day and time are generally sent out the weekend before to those on the email list. We encourage all skill levels to come out and join us. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports. Come out and see what

all of the buzz is about. 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, send a text to 916-709-1693.

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.

"We do not stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing." ~ George Bernard Shaw

"Get up and go outside, don't let the old man in." ~Toby Keith

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



The SIR Branch 95 wine tasting group met at Total Wine and More in February. The theme of the tasting was California Uncorked—Napa Valley and Beyond. Jenny, our wine expert for the evening, poured one French bubbly, three California whites and five California Reds for our sampling. Her commentary was very informative.

Twenty-four members signed up to attend with two couples having to cancel due to illness. If all twenty-four had attended, it would have been a record number for our group gathering. Everyone brought appetizers to go with the tasting and a good time was had by all.

On Thursday, March 20th, George and Micki Alboff will be hosting a night at La Cascada Mexican Restaurant. Bring your favorite bottle of Tempranillo to see if it's judged everyone's favorite. If this sounds like fun, give me a call and I can give you more details.

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



We are now officially on to the 'Best Taco' pursuit – in addition to our ongoing burger pursuit. As a group, it was decided to branch out from a strictly burger pursuit and to also include tacos. We will alternate between burger and taco venues every month, so our next activity, in March, will be at a burger venue.

Friday, February 21st was our first Best Taco activity at Martin's Tacos in Gold River. We had a good turnout at Martin's, and, wouldn't you know it, they came in at number 1! Never mind that they are the only taco venue so far, but, hey, they are currently Number 1! There will be more to come on the taco venue ratings as we try more taco places. Generally, Martin's seemed to do pretty good. A lot of 4's in the 1 to 5 ranking system, so they are looking pretty good so far. Their top ranking was for Service Promptness, followed closely by Atmosphere and the Overall categories.

The BBP/BTP group meets once a month on the Friday in the week after the week of the main SIR meeting for a burger or a taco, at noon. Our mission, as always, is simple - eat it and rate it. The next BBP event is set for Friday, March 21st, 2025, at noon. The location is still to be determined, but it will be a burger venue. Likely candidates are Old Town Grille in Placerville or Moonraker in Cameron Park. If you have an idea for a great burger or taco (preferably not a fast-food chain), please email me, call me, let me know at the Thursday morning drop-in bocce or at the SIR meeting.

My therapist says I have a preoccupation for revenge. We'll see about that.

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

I can tell when people are being judgmental just by looking at them.

Do you ever notice that when you're driving, anyone going slower than you is an idiot and everyone driving faster than you is a maniac?

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



In February, 90 bowlers competed at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento. High scores were abundant! Rick Land had a 278, narrowly missing a 300 game. Five other bowlers scored over 250 (quite an accomplishment). Always good to see smiling faces when lane conditions are favorable. Our newest Branch 113 SIR, Alan Lowry, was our big winner taking first place in a couple of events. Alan, you're now hooked for life!

Our next tournament will be held at Clayton Valley Bowl in Concord, March 25-26th. As usual, Cindy and I will be there both days, staying at one of our favorite hotels. Doing so allows us to bowl doubles one day, and singles the next. We also get to have a night away and dinner with out-of-town friends. Let me know if you'd like to join us!

Applications for the Carson City tournament in April are starting to arrive in my mail box. This venue is always popular as it is an under one roof get-away. Gold Dust West offers rooms, meals and bowling. How can you beat that!?

Striking up Friendships



This year's Annual SIR State Tournament is scheduled for May 12-13th at Country Club Lanes. The central location and the \$500 added to the prize fund should bring in plenty of bowlers. This one is a SIR-only event, no guests allowed (cheerleaders are always welcome).

For the full schedule, head over to the [SIR BOWLING](#) webpage.

See you on the lanes.

MASTERING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The English language can be quite puzzling at times. It's full of quirks, inconsistencies and complex grammar rules that often leave even native speakers scratching their heads. Here are a couple of examples:

What word pronounced differently becomes its antonym?
Invalid - invalid (sick); invalid (not valid).

What word can mean the opposite of itself? *Sanction* - sanction can mean "approve" or "penalize".



HERE'S A FEW MORE...



NEW ORLEANS AUCTION DINNER PARTY | Jay Muzio, PBS 650-302-1902

On February 15th, a very merry group of Branch 95 members and their wives gathered at Jay and Irene Muzio's house for a Mardi Gras-themed dinner party. The group had generously bid on and won the dinner at the 2024 holiday dinner. The group of guests included Dennis and Cynthia Eyer, Steve and Nancy Annen, Brian Lemley and Sheryl Hoeberg, and Ron and Tammy Wadsworth. Adding Jay and Irene, the partygoers totaled ten. Everyone arrived dressed in Mardi Gras finery to elevate the mood of the evening.

The evening started with Hurricanes, Southern French Martinis and appetizers. The appetizers included muffuletta potato skins, Creole mustard chicken wings, pimento cheese mini-peppers and candied pecans. The main course followed with jambalaya and rice, NOLA salad and cornbread with honey butter. This course was paired with two wines, a 2021 Justin Zinfandel and a 2023 Celdina Albarino from Spain. The final course of king's cake bread pudding with bourbon sauce and praline sugar was paired with Emeril's Dessert Coffee and a 2017 Chateau Guiraud Sauternes.

Chef Irene and bartender Jay have been presenting these dinners as an auction item fundraiser for SIR 95. They hope to be able to continue these dinners in the years to come, so be sure to get your bidding buddies together for the holiday party auction in December of 2025.



MARCH ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



4th, 11th, 18th, 25th; see the [golf schedule](#) for a list of courses and check-in times



13th - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



Dates vary - Drop-in pickleball; Heritage Community Private Courts; 1:00pm



5th, 19th - Drop-in bowling; FLB Entertainment Center; Folsom: 1-4pm



6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - Drop-in bocce Promontory Park EDH; 10:00am



6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - Breakfast & Walking - Denny's Cameron Park; 9:00am



12th - BEC Meeting & Luncheon; Cameron Park Country Club



20th - La Cascada Mexican Restaurant; Tempranillo is the varietal of the month



21st - TBD



25th and 26th - Clayton Valley Bowl; Concord

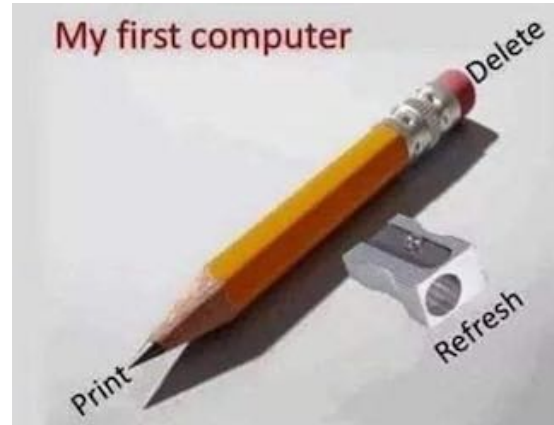


Fun Cool Cars - resumes in April



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

A LIGHTER MOMENT



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 Inc. and its branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. SIR 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.