

GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95



Bulletin 425

April 2025

Kevin King, Editor

BIG SIR | Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484



April Updates and Upcoming Events for SIR Branch 95

Spring is here, and SIR Branch 95 has plenty in store! As we move into April, we continue to enjoy great camaraderie, engaging speakers and opportunities to connect.

Mark your calendars for our annual picnic on June 11th. This is always a highlight of the year—a chance to bring spouses, enjoy great food and share in the fellowship that makes our branch so special. Stay tuned for more details, and be sure to RSVP so we can plan accordingly.

At our upcoming luncheon, we will welcome Colette Thiel from the Shingle Springs/Cameron Park Chamber of Commerce, who will provide insights into local economic and workforce trends. It's sure to be an informative and engaging discussion.



As always, accurate membership counts are essential. Whether for our luncheons or special events, we need members to RSVP in a timely manner so we can plan meals and logistics effectively. Please make every effort to confirm your attendance when requested.

Please also assure you are paid up for your 2025 branch membership. Let Bill Klump know if you have any questions.

Finally, our branch thrives because of strong leadership. We continue to seek members willing to step up for leadership roles in late 2025 and 2026. If you have interest or know someone who would be a great fit, let us know. Your participation ensures the future success of Branch 95.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this month and at the picnic in June.



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

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

A surprising number of members who responded to my recent newsletter survey indicated they'd like to see a *This Month in History* feature. Let me know if you'd like to write this article each month. Otherwise, I'll be contacting those requesting it to see who would be willing to volunteer to write it each month. For now, here's a glimpse of what this feature might look like:

- After a break of 1500 years, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece on April 6, 1896.
- America's first astronauts were announced by NASA on April 9, 1959.
- Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space on April 12, 1961.
- The first space shuttle flight occurred with the launching of Columbia on April 12, 1981.
- The first Webster Dictionary was copyrighted by Noah Webster on April 14, 1828.
- The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912.
- The San Francisco earthquake struck at 5:13 a.m. on April 18, 1906.
- The Revolutionary War in America began on April 19, 1775.
- The United States Library of Congress was established April 24, 1800.
- Our first President George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789.

WE ARE THE GENERATION THAT WILL NEVER COME BACK

- A generation that walked to school and then walked back home.
- A generation that did their homework alone to get out asap to play in the street.
- A generation that during all their free time played in the street with their friends.
- A generation that played hide and seek when dark.
- A generation that made mud cakes.
- A generation that collected sport cards.
- A generation that found, collected and washed & returned empty Coke bottles to the local grocery store for 5 cents each, then bought a Mountain Dew and candy bar with the money.
- A generation that made paper toys with their bare hands.
- A generation who bought vinyl albums to play on a record player.
- A generation that collected photos and albums of clippings.
- A generation that played board games and cards on rainy days.
- A generation whose TV went off at midnight after playing the national anthem.
- A generation that had parents who were there.
- A generation that laughed under the covers in bed so parents didn't know we were still awake.

A generation that is passing and unfortunately will never return...

~ James Dickinson on Nextdoor

General Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 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



April Birthdays



Jim Canty
 Randy Hood
 Michael Long
 Norm Matzen
 Grant McMicken
 Ed Ricci
 Ron Ridnour
 Alan Sherman

April SIR Anniversaries

1 year - Byron Loney; Scott Walberg
 2 years - Rick Willson
 4 years - Lew Chapman
 7 years - Peter Apel; Don Nicholson
 12 years - Rich Christensen

Membership (as of 3/31/2025)

New members: 4
 To be inducted this month: 0
 Departing members: 10
 Current number of members: 99

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

Please extend a welcoming hand to the following men who recently joined our Branch:



David Gersten was asked to attend one of our meetings by one of our newer members, Craig Slinger. He retired from a career in sales and continues to work as a substitute teacher. Among the current activities the branch offers, he lists backgammon, bocce, breakfast club and pickleball. He indicated a willingness to take on an activities leadership position. He and his partner, Suzanne Blake, live in El Dorado Hills.



Jim Coward was sponsored by Tim Irish who, incidentally, is Tim's brother-in-law. He was an Agricultural Inspector for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Jim can already be found on the links with our other golfers. He and his wife, Patricia, live in Lodi.



Al Cooney was also sponsored by Tim Irish and has been a long-time friend of Jim Coward since high school. He was a US Army FNP. Like Jim, he's already an active member of our branch golf group. He and his wife, Kristiana live in Roseville.



Tim McClanahan is the son of longtime SIR member, Bill McClanahan. He is a Wildlife Biologist for the Wildlife Conservation Society. He enjoys golf and hiking among his other interests. He and his wife, Nyawira, live in El Dorado Hills.

Randy Scott is trying to start up a hiking group. This group is in the formative stages. Those members who have already expressed interest have been sent a questionnaire to see what the group would like to do. If you're interested in such an activity, now's a good time to join. Contact Randy at 916-834-9475.

We also have backgammon (see article on page 7) and chess groups trying to get off the ground. If you're an experienced player or just wanting to learn, contact Joe Speeza for backgammon at 707-367-8996 and Wil Brunet for chess at 530-391-6773.

Thanks to those of you who responded to my newsletter survey. A little over half of our members took the time to help shape how information is shared with the members of our branch. Rather than assuming all is good, I think it's important that members periodically weigh in as to whether the newsletter meets their needs. After all, the newsletter is your newsletter and is the principal means of getting Branch information to you. Overwhelmingly, the responses were very favorable but there were some comments about the length of the newsletter and certain features that I've discussed with the BEC. While the BEC felt it unnecessary to make drastic changes, you'll see some of your comments and suggestions reflected in future issues.

Lastly, many of our members' spouses and significant others belong to the Assistance League. See the flyer on page 8 regarding their annual Gardens of the Hills fundraiser. I know it's an event that many of you look forward to each year.

MENSA CORNER (see answers on page 9)

1. What is the number that is one more than one-tenth of one-fifth of one-half of 4,000?
2. Find the number that completes the following sequence:
1 2 4 7 11 ? 22
3. Tabitha likes cookies but not cake. She likes mutton but not lamb, and she likes okra but not squash. Following the same rule, will she like cherries or pairs?
4. Which of the words below is least like the others? The difference has nothing to do with vowels, consonants or syllables.

MORE, PAIRS, ETCHERS, ZIPPER
5. There is at least one nine-letter word that contains only one vowel. Do you know what it is?

BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman

916-817-1524



Here it is April already and we have had one really nice golf day. The weather for the Lincoln Hills two-man alternate shot format was nice and warm, a big difference from most of our outings so far this year. I am looking forward to some good weather to come and to see some of our golf members, that only play in good weather, return to play. Also, we have had several members that have had surgeries and we look forward to them playing again.

This month we will play Empire Ranch, Mather, Wildhawk and Diamond Oaks. Please check your schedules for the times and remember that Mather and Diamond Oaks both require us to make one payment; so please be prepared to pay cash to the Tournament Director.

Welcome to our three newest golf members, Al Cooney, Jim Coward and Tim McClanahan. All three have already played with us at least once and we look forward to many more rounds with them. You can check out schedules, rules and standings in the [Golf section](#) of our Branch website.



The only reason I play golf is to bug my wife. She thinks I'm having fun.

Golf is a game invented by God to punish guys who retire early.



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

March 4th - Empire Ranch
1st - Al Gurevich
2nd - Steve Thomson
3rd - Peter Apel
Closest to the pin - Al Gurevich

March 11th - Mather
1st - Mike Bettencourt
2nd - Randy Hood
3rd - Rick Willson
Closest to the pin - Al Gurevich

March 18th - Empire Ranch
1st - Tim Irish
2nd - Ray Guenther
3rd - Randy Hood
Closest to the pin - Randy Hood

March 25th - Lincoln Hills
(2-man alternate shot)
1st - team of Ron Wadsworth and Alan Bowles
2nd - team of Simon Martin and Bill Yeager
3rd - team of Jim Coward and Al Cooney

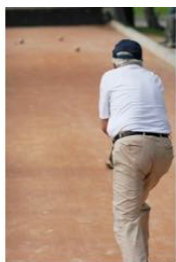
Gold Country Cup and Marksman of the year leaderboards and more are available on the [Golf page](#) of our Branch website.

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're back from our winter hiatus. Weather permitting, the group will kick off the new year by meeting at the old Purple Place's parking lot on April 25th at 10:30 before driving to lunch at Shoestring's on Broadway in Placerville.

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. A small, but dedicated group of us meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month. We have room for more members to join in the fun. We bowl from 1:00 to 4:00 and the cost is \$15 per person. Give me a call for more information.

BACKGAMMON | Joe Speeza 707-367-8996

Backgammon is one of the newest activities the Branch is trying to get off the ground. Haven't played for awhile or always wanted to learn how to play, then come check us out. See the article on page 7 to learn more.

"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

*"You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old."
~ George Burns*

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



The March wine tasting event was a huge success this month. It took place at La Cascada Mexican restaurant. George and Micki Alboff hosted a record number, twenty-four attendees. Everyone had a great time eating, tasting and socializing.

The featured varietal this month was Tempranillo. This was George's selection, and it worked well with the Mexican food. Twelve bottles were presented for judging, and picking a favorite from so many wines was not easy. However, two wines stood out from the rest. The first-place selection was ZANDI Tempranillo Reserva 2018 from the Rioja region of Spain. It is a Costco selection costing \$28. In second place was, Vina Marichalar Tempranillo Reserva 2018, also from the Rioja region of Spain. Its cost was \$24.

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?



Ken Mahar and Bob Noyes tallying the votes

BEST BURGER PURSUIT | Dan Koelzer 916-718-0521



The Best Burger Pursuit continues on..... We had our 10th burger activity on 3/21/2025 at the infamous Old Town Grille in downtown Placerville. This location had been previously recommended by several of our burger eaters; so, we finally got to try it out. Turns out that we have a pretty tough group of burger raters since it only came in at 3.49 (on a 1 to 5 scale) which is 9th place out of 10. However, don't be fooled by the final score. The 3.49 is the average of 11 different ranking categories. Where it really fell off was in the Beverages and Atmosphere categories (3.00 and 3.11, respectively). Not surprisingly, where it shined was the Meat Quality category - 4.00. Not the highest ranking in Meat Quality of the other venues, but definitely in the upper half. I think that Old Town suffered from the physical layout which is pretty tight. It is a pretty small little shop with only enough room for us in their back room area and we all had to sit at separate 4-person tables. I think what our group likes is the plenty-of-room places where we can all sit together. Our current top 3, Sportsman's Hall, Poor Reds and Out of Bounds, all had plenty of room. The other area where it fell off, Beverages, is, well, let's just cut to the chase, they didn't have any beers.

Our next BBP activity will actually be a Best Taco activity. We agreed a couple months ago to alternate between burgers and tacos, so next month, on Friday, 4/18/25, we will have our second 'Best Taco' pursuit. We don't have a specific venue selected yet, but that will come out in emails to the group shortly. The BBP/BTP group meets once a month at noon on the Friday in the week after the week of the main SIR meeting for a burger or a taco. Our mission, as always, is simple - eat it and rate it. 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 the SIR meeting.

As a sidelight, I noticed that the Drop-in Pickleball group plays every Friday at 1:00 pm. I would like to suggest that the Burger group convene at 11:30 and the Pickleball group play at 2:00 pm to accommodate those that might like to do both. Can you play pickleball on a full stomach??

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



The SIR Branch 19 Tournament held at Clayton Valley Bowl was a huge success. We had 93 bowlers over the two days which was an amazing 25% increase over last year. High scores were in abundance with more than 90 games over 200 including four super-high series: Tim Patterson 707, Rick Land 729, Gary Kaufmann 746 and Lou Gilson with an outstanding 758! Let's hope the increased participation and high scores continue in our upcoming tournaments.

Applications for the Carson City Tournament April 21st-23rd 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?!?

Shortly after April's Carson City Tournament we will hold this year's Annual SIR State Tournament at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento (May 12/13th). The central location and an added \$500 to the prize fund, should bring in plenty of bowlers. This one is a SIR-only event, no guests allowed (cheerleaders always welcome).

In June and July, we will be bowling at Red Hawk (Placerville), Earl Anthony's Bowl (Dublin), Foothills Bowl (Auburn) and Clayton Valley Bowl (Concord). We head to the National Bowling Stadium in Reno August 11-13th, definitely not one to miss. It looks like we'll have great room rates at the Silver Legacy (\$77/night, including resort fees). The application and reservation code will be posted on the SIR website soon.

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

See you on the lanes.

Striking up Friendships



BACKGAMMON | Joe Speeza, 707-367-8996



Want to learn one of the oldest games of skill and chance? Want to have fun while stimulating your brain, sharpen your cognition and memory and have fun at the same time? Want to find out how to improve your odds of winning and hang out with other 'gammon heads like yourself? Join the Gold Country Backgammon Club!

The game of backgammon was invented around 5000 years ago in ancient Mesopotamia. It is a game in which players on two opposing sides use the roll of two dice in a race to get 15 playing pieces around a board with 24 points, bear them off and win. It can be played with one or more players on each side, encouraging social interaction and teamwork. It is a game that you can spend a lifetime mastering, but most people find it easier to learn than chess. What also sets it apart from chess is that your plan of attack (or defense) can change with each roll and how you choose to use it. This keeps you on your feet and makes for exciting turnarounds in the game.

The Gold Country Backgammon Club is open to all skill levels. I encourage you to try out the group even if you've never played the game. Backgammon players love to teach others what they know. I should know, I'm one of them! There are no dues or fees and scoring is up to the players. Bring a board if you have one, but it is not necessary. Club meeting times are Wednesdays from 4 PM to 6 PM at the El Dorado County Library in Placerville and Thursdays from 2 PM to 4 PM at the El Dorado County Library in Cameron Park. Join the club!

Call Joe at 707-367-8996 for more information.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE GARDENS OF THE HILLS FUNDRAISER



Assistance League Sierra Foothills is holding their annual Gardens of the Hills tour the first weekend in June. Tour seven beautiful and diverse gardens. While the gardens are the stars, there is so much more to this event! In addition to the beautiful flowers and vegetables you will find many other features to make your day enjoyable. The always-popular

raffle will be in one of the gardens as will the Heartfelt and Handcrafted boutique featuring items designed and made by members. For even more shopping pleasure there will be artisan vendors with a selection of garden-related items.

Stop in the gardens and listen to music, listen to a mini-seminar, talk with a UC Davis master gardener, and watch local artists paint. Additionally, purchase lunch, shave ice, homemade toffee, or frozen yogurt. Find Nutmeg the squirrel in every garden and you will be entered in a drawing for a special prize.

There are two new additions to the tour this year. Enjoy a 15-minute neck and shoulder massage in a quiet casita in one of the gardens (\$15 for 15 minutes). And select a free, previously-loved book from our Second Blooms Library.

You can purchase your tickets online (<https://www.assistanceleague.org/sierra-foothills>) beginning April 1st. After April 24th you can purchase tickets from our members or at the El Dorado Hills Welcome Center.

GARDENS OF THE HILLS FUNDRAISER

June 7th 10-4 June 8th 10-4

TOUR SEVEN GARDENS IN EL DORADO COUNTY

- WORKING ARTISTS
- MINI GARDEN SEMINARS
- ARTISAN VENDORS
- HEARTFELT & HANDCRAFTED BOUTIQUE
- MUSIC
- SIGNATURE RAFFLE
- FOOD FOR SALE
- SECOND BLOOM LIBRARY OF FREE BOOKS
- NECK & SHOULDER MASSES

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
<https://www.assistanceleague.org/sierra-foothills> (April 1)
 California Welcome Center EDH & from members (April 23)

\$40 (Adults) \$10 (12 and Under)

Proceeds enable volunteers to enhance the lives of children and adults through community programs.

Thank you for helping us to enhance the lives of children and adults through community programs in El Dorado County. We encourage you to learn more about the work we do in El Dorado County by visiting our [website](#).

Jeff and Mary, an elderly couple, are driving through Louisiana when they come to the small city of Natchitoches.

Neither of them had ever been there before and they started arguing about how the name of the city is pronounced.

Needless to say, both of them thought they knew best and they kept on bickering until eventually, they decided to stop for lunch.

At the counter, Jeff smiled at the pretty, young waitress and said, "Ma'am, before we order, could you help us settle an argument, please?"

The young waitress smiled and said, "Sure! How can I help you, honey?"

"Could you please pronounce where we are right now, very slowly?" said Jeff.

The young waitress leaned over the counter and said, "Yes sir! It's Burr-r-gerrr Kiing."

APRIL ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd; see the [golf schedule](#) for a list of courses and check-in times



10th - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



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



2nd, 16th - Drop-in bowling; FLB Entertainment Center; Folsom; 1-4pm



3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th - Drop-in bocce Promontory Park EDH; 10:00am



3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th - Breakfast & Walking - Denny's Cameron Park; 9:00am



9th - BEC Meeting & Luncheon; Cameron Park Country Club



17th - Cock-a-Doodle-Rosé; 6:00pm; Armstrong's home



18th - taco month; location TBD



21st-23rd - Gold Dust West; Carson City



25th - meet at Purple Place at 10:30; lunch Shoestring's on Broadway in Placerville



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



Wednesdays - Placerville library; Thursdays - Cameron Park library

A LIGHTER MOMENT

An elderly couple has dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives leave the table and go into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one says, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly."

The other man asks, "What's the name of the restaurant?"

The first man thinks and thinks and finally asks, "What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that's red and has thorns."

"Do you mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's the one," replied the man. He then turns towards the kitchen and yells, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

At my age, everything hurts—and what doesn't hurt doesn't work!

I told my doctor I broke my arm in two places. He told me to stop going to those places.

"I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap." ~ Bob Hope

MENSA CORNER ANSWERS

1. 41 ($4000/2=2000$, $/5=400$, $/10=40$, $+1=41$)
2. 16 (each number adds 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, respectively, to the proceeding number)
3. Cherries (Tabitha only likes food with two syllables)
4. Zipper (the others can be anagrammed into the names of cities: Rome, Paris, Chester)
5. Strengths

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.