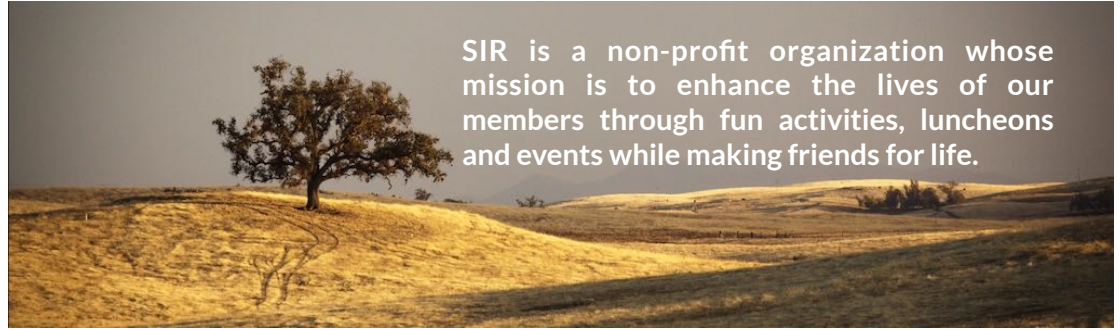


GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95



Bulletin 429

August 2025

Kevin King, PBS; HLM - Editor

BIG SIR | Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484



AUGUST REFLECTIONS: LEADERSHIP AND LIFE

August is often a month of transition—summer's winding down, fall is just around the corner, and for many of us, it's a time to take stock. As I reflect on this past year, I'm reminded that while leadership does require focus, responsibility, and time, it doesn't mean life's personal joys have to be put on hold. I believe many in our branch may believe that when considering volunteering for a leadership role, it means giving up the personal time we all desire in retirement.

What better way to show that this is not the case, than to share some of the highlights this past year in my own personal life.

This year has been full. Alongside my leadership responsibilities, I've had the chance to take part in some memorable moments.

Most recently, my daughter Lauren's wedding was an unforgettable highlight. We spent four memorable days in Graeagle. It was a beautiful day filled with love, laughter and a lot of dancing. This came on the heels of my youngest daughter getting married in Phoenix seven months before that. Watching your daughters begin a new chapter is both humbling and joyful.

I also got some quality golf time as well as games of pickleball with family—always a good reminder that leadership and competition don't always have to be so serious. Sometimes it's just about being together outdoors, enjoying the game and each other.

Our home has been a revolving door for visiting dogs this summer—our own Ollie and a parade of visiting furry friends. It's been loud, chaotic and full of wagging tails. I wouldn't have it any other way.

And finally, Tami and I celebrated our 33rd anniversary. That's a milestone worth honoring, and a quiet dinner together was the perfect way to reflect on all we've built.

So as August rolls in, I hope this encourages you to consider what we've been asking of you: leadership requires commitment, yes—but there's always space to enjoy and celebrate life.

EDITORS NOTE: There's no doubt Ron has had a very busy and, I imagine, pretty hectic family life so far this year. In addition, he makes time for many of our SIR activities. He's only missed two weeks of golf and has participated in a couple State-wide tournaments. He can also be frequently seen on the pickleball courts and having lunch with the Best Burger Pursuit guys. He's leading the Branch and still taking advantage of a lot of what SIR has to offer. Our Branch needs more guys like Ron.

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 | Randy Scott 916-834-9475

- 1934: In Germany, a plebiscite was held in which 89.9 percent of German voters approved granting Chancellor Adolf Hitler additional powers, including the office of President.
- 1935: President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act establishing the system which guarantees pensions to those who retire at age 65. The Social Security system also aids states in providing financial aid to dependent children, the blind and others, as well as administering a system of unemployment insurance.
- 1939: Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons. "A single bomb of this type carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory." Six years later, on August 6, 1945, the first Atomic Bomb, developed by the U.S., was dropped on the Japanese port of Hiroshima.
- 1959: President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Hawaii to the Union as the 50th state.
- 1969: Woodstock began in a field near Yasgur's Farm at Bethel, New York. The three-day concert featured 24 rock bands and drew a crowd of more than 300,000 young people. The event came to symbolize the counter-culture movement of the 1960's.

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



Please welcome our newest member, Levent Ersoy. Levent is a retired Executive Director for Loral (Aerospace). He has many interests. Among them are dancing, photography, gardening, model railroading and woodworking. Backgammon and chess are other activities he listed for which we already have active groups. He and his wife, Anita, live in El Dorado Hills.

Check out our newest activity, hiking. Randy Scott has volunteered to lead this group on hikes throughout the local region. He's started out surveying the members on what they'd like to see in a hiking group and has had conversations with another nearby branch to partner on some of our hikes while expanding the possibilities for new and interesting adventures. See the brief write-up on page 4 and give Scott a call if you want to be on his email list.

General Meeting

Wednesday, August 13, 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, speaker & general meeting

12:00pm ~ 2:00pm

Menu

Chicken Piccata
Oven roasted
vegetables
Roasted red potatoes
House salad
Rolls & butter
Coffee, iced tea &
lemonade included



August Birthdays

Alan Ahnfeldt	Dan Cockcroft
Marshall Armstrong	Ray Guenther
Chad Barrow	Rick Hernandez
Bob Birgbauer	Dan Maglionico
Oli Bohlman	Ken Mahar
Alan Bowles	Terry Starkel
	Rick Talone
	John Yost

August SIR Anniversaries

1 year - Joe Spezza
2 years - Alan Lampe
4 years - Jim Canty
5 years - Hugh Thompson

Membership (as of 7/31/2025)

New or reinstated members: 1
To be inducted this month: 0
Departing members: 0
Current number of members: 103

BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman

916-817-1524



We are really fortunate so far this summer to have had good golf weather. Even through July, I don't remember any 90+ golf days. August may be different, but we will have to wait and see. Just a reminder that our Club Championship rounds will begin in September, just about one month away.

This is my seventh year of serving as golf chairman of SIR 95 golf. Some years I have had a number of other Directors to help with the weekly tournaments and some years not so much. I have been approached by a few people recently that have suggested we have some of the younger golfers take over some of the tournaments, so it does not all fall on one or two people. I wholeheartedly agree. If anyone is interested in taking on some of the responsibility of running some of the weekly tournaments, please let me know. There are three primary responsibilities that take place for each tournament. First, sending out notices to the group to have members sign up and letting the course know the number of players signed up in their time frame. Second, setting up the starter list with handicaps, which includes preparing the score cards and informing the course. Third, running the tournament including collecting and distributing the prize money, checking all scores, posting the scores to USGA and informing the golf group of the results.

I was recently asked if I check all the scores or only the lowest scores that look to be possible winning scores. I check them all. The reason is that sometimes the addition or subtraction is off. This last time there were two different golfers that actually had 10 strokes less than the score card stated. A simple subtraction error, but it happens. I try to be as accurate as possible, but I depend on all of players to help me catch any errors that I make. Let's have a good rest of summer of enjoyable golf and play well.

Golf was once a rich man's sport, but now it has millions of poor players!

Q: What do they call a mulligan in Scotland? A: They call it a 3.

Golf is an easy game...it's just hard to play.

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

July 1st - Empire Ranch
1st - Mike Bettencourt
2nd - Chad Barrow
3rd - Alan Bowles
Closest to the pin #12 - Chad Barrow
Closest to the pin #16 - Ray Guenther

July 8th - Mather
1st - Don Nicholson
2nd - Mike Bettencourt
3rd - Steve Thomson
Closest to the pin - Ron Wadsworth

July 15th - Wildhawk
1st - Alan Bowles
2nd - Chad Barrow
3rd - Steve Thomson
Closest to the pin #4 - Bill Yeager
Closest to the pin #7 - Dan Cockcroft

July 22nd - Ancil Hoffman
1st - Randy Hood
2nd - Bill Yeager
3rd - Terry Starkel
Closest to the pin - Rick Willson

Check out the current leaderboards and who has qualified for our Club Championship on our [golf page](#).

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
Fred Serena (Br59 - Fremont)

Area 3 Representative
Jim Gragg (Br98 - Rocklin/Roseville)

BOCCE | Oli Bohlman 916-844-4067

Come join other members and their spouses/significant others at Promontory Park every Thursday at 9:00am 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

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports. Come out and see what all of the buzz is about. Our group plays weekly at Heritage Public 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. 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. If there's enough interest, the next ride will be August 11th at 9:00am. It'll be a 90 minute ride with a short break in between. We'll meet in the Mexquite parking lot in Folsom. Let

me know if you'd like to join us.

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, call or 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.

FOOTHILLS COOL CARS |

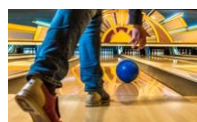
Rick Talone 916-761-7222



Meets at 10:30 the last Friday of the month at the old Purple Place's parking lot before driving as a group to lunch to share car stories and experiences.

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 Spezza 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.

HIKING | Randy Scott 916-834-9475

Get ready to explore trails, experience the outdoors and connect with fellow nature enthusiasts! Whether you seek strenuous climbs or relaxing strolls, you'll find a place with a variety of hikes, catering to different skill levels and interests. Come join us for monthly group hikes throughout the local region. The day and time will generally be sent out to those on the email list. Call me to get on the list.

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



We had a delightful “glamping” wine tasting at Jeff and Pam Jarvis’ house this month. Pam and Jeff outdid themselves as hosts.

The wine selection for this month was “white wines,” so selections ranged from Chardonnay to Sauvignon Blanc, to Viognier and a Pinot Grigio. However, there were two very unusual wines presented in the mix. The first was OOmrang 2022 Siegerrebe from Puget Sound. It was like a Sauvignon Blanc with a clear, pale, straw appearance. The nose and taste featured pineapple, green apple and hints of citrus. The second unusual wine was from the Basque region of Spain, Saint Mont Pyrenean 2020. It was composed of 60% Gros Mamseng, 25% Petit Courbu and 15% Arrufiac. It was a dry, straw-colored wine with green apple and citrus notes, reminiscent of Sauvignon Blanc.

The winning wine for the evening was Bella Grace 2023 Amador County Sauvignon Blanc (\$10), presented by Jeff and Pam. It was the least expensive wine presented. The second-place winner was the Saint Mont Pyrenean 2020 (\$20) mentioned above. Jim Peterson, a consistent top competitor, brought it.

The dinner this month was provided entirely by Pam and Jeff. The poached salmon, green salad and roasted potatoes were superb, and a wonderful lemon and caramel dessert topped off a delightful evening.

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 3rd taco activity was on 7/18/25 at an out-of-the-way Mexican restaurant, Taqueria El Carnaval, located off Missouri Flat Road, just south of Hwy 50. This place was kind of a sleeper in that it isn’t an especially fancy place but the food was good and it now sits in 1st place in the taco side of our burger/taco rating endeavor. A little bit of a light turnout - there were only 6 of us – but it was nearly unanimous that everyone liked Taqueria El Carnaval. They got a 4.67 out of 5 rating in the ‘Would Return’ category, indicating that most people basically liked the whole setup. I have modified the rating categories a little since Lew Chapman started this activity in April, 2024. There originally was a rating category for ‘Restrooms’ but that has now been discontinued. I understand that a clean restroom is a legitimate concern when going to a restaurant, but it looked like most of our “young SIR raters” still can make it through a meal without hitting the head. What was happening was that often, maybe one person would visit the restroom and rate the restroom category. Since each category has equal weight, this would skew the results in favor of how that one person rated the restroom. Anyway, no more restroom rating. It is kind of included in the ‘Atmosphere’ category anyway.

For our next BBP activity we will go back to our burger lunch at 12 noon. It was decided as a group several months ago to alternate each month between burgers and tacos. The actual burger venue has not been selected yet but an email will be sent to the BBP list in a week or so to let everyone know where the next BBP-burger venue will be. It will be on Friday, August 22nd at 12 noon. If anyone has a favorite burger place they would like us to try, I can throw that into the hat also. You can let me know by email, text, or phone (dankoelzer@yahoo.com, 916-718-0521) or I’m usually at the Thursday morning drop-in bocce games at Promontory Park in Folsom.

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



July was a busy and exciting month for SIR tournament bowling. We first visited Foothills Bowl in Auburn, easy access from 80. The two-day event brought 68 bowlers which is a slight increase in participation from last year. The oil pattern was suitable for everyone making scoring better than average, with a good number of 600's.



Ray DiBasilio, Tim Hetzer and
SIR Bowling Committee Chairman Dan Weller

Next, we went to Clayton Valley Bowl in Concord for another well attended two-day event. With 82 bowlers we had a 10% increase over last year. I am liking this trend! Another favorable oil pattern resulted in more high scores, a couple 700 series, and perfect 300 game rolled by SIR Tim Hetzer, Branch 65 Napa. This was Tim's second perfect game; his first was in Napa earlier this year (on string pins). Tim just proved a good bowler can do it all! Going back in the records, the last 300 shot in a SIR tournament was in 2016 in Reno at the National Bowling Stadium when we had two - scored by SIRs Ray Buttacavoli and SIR David Rossi.



Foothills Bowl

Our annual tournament in Reno is coming up soon - August 11-13. If you don't have your application in already, be sure to call me. The National Bowling Stadium awards an elegant 300 crystal trophy for 300's bowled on their lanes. We want to assure you do not miss out on rolling a 300 in this very special location!

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

SEE YOU ON THE LANES!

Striking up Friendships



SIR 95 BOCCE TEAM | Dan Cockcroft 408-781-0714



Signori Novanta Cinque

We're midway through this season's SIR Regional Bocce Tournament. We hosted in July on our home courts at Promontory Park. The team went 2-1 with a highly contested game with Branch 98 (Rocklin/Roseville) as the team's only loss. The team was down 11-3 before fighting back to lose 12-10. We are currently tied for 2nd with Branch 37 (Auburn) at 3-3 - one game behind the leader, Branch 98 (Rocklin/Roseville), who is 4-2. Branch 55 (Grass Valley/Nevada City) rounds out the teams in this year's tournament. They are 2-4. While Branch 98 is a formidable opponent this year, we can't forget 3-time defending champion Branch 37. It's really anyone's chance to snatch the trophy with six matches remaining. Next up, the team travels to Western Gateway Park in Grass Valley on August 20th. The courts there are extremely fast and reasonably true. Three wins there will put us in a really good position. Go get 'em Signori Novanta Cinque.

AUGUST ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



5th, 12th, 19th, 26th; see the [golf schedule](#) for a list of courses and check-in times



14th - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



Drop-in pickleball; Heritage Public Park, day and time announced weekly



6th, 20th - Drop-in bowling; FLB Entertainment Center; Folsom; 1-4pm



Thursdays - Drop-in bocce; Promontory Park EDH; 9:00am



Thursdays - Breakfast & Walking - Denny's Cameron Park; 9:00am



13th - BEC Meeting & Luncheon; Cameron Park Country Club



21st - varietal and host TBD



22nd - burger month; noon; location TBD



11th-13th – National Bowling Stadium; Reno
27th-28th - Prosperity Lanes; Grass Valley



29th; meet in the Purple Place parking lot at 10:30am; drive and lunch destination TBD



11th - Mexquite parking lot in Folsom; 9:00am



Wednesdays - Placerville library; 4-6 pm;
Thursdays - Cameron Park library; 2-4 pm

A LIGHTER MOMENT | SIRS Wild & Gamble

You know how they throw the ball into the crowd after they win the game? That's not allowed in bowling. I know that now.

I did some financial planning and it looks like I can retire at 97 and live comfortably for 11 minutes.

It's a good day. The bulb finally burned out on my check engine light.

I changed my password to "incorrect". So, whenever I forget what it is, the computer will say "Your password is incorrect".

When I get old, I'm going to leave snacks in little baggies on the floor all over the house in case I fall down.



I'm old enough to remember when paper bags were being blamed for the destruction of trees and plastic bags were the solution!



Let's finish up with some Yogi-isms...

You can observe a lot by just watching.

No one goes there nowadays, it's too crowded.

It's like déjà vu all over again.

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.