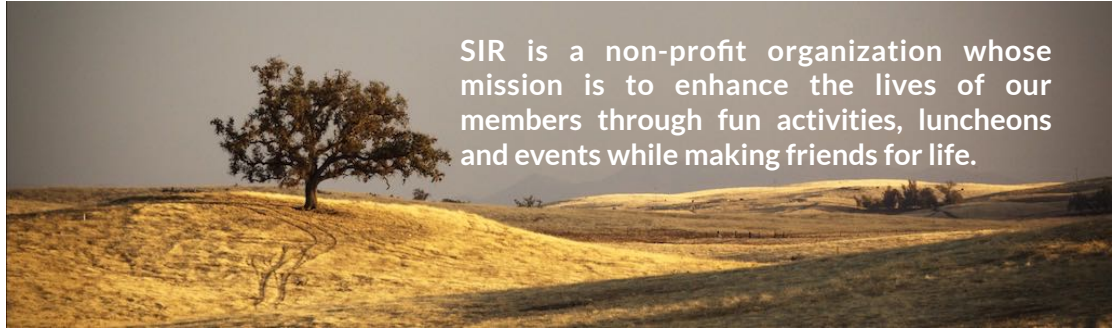


GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95



Bulletin 433

December 2025

Kevin King, PBS; HLM - Editor

BIG SIR | Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484



As this year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on my time serving as your 2025 Big Sir. This December article will be my final one in this role, and it has truly been an honor to help lead Branch 95 as a Little Sir and Big Sir over the past two years. I have appreciated every handshake, every conversation and every bit of support from the remarkable men who make this Branch what it is.

The growth of Branch 95 during my time on the BEC has been nothing short of impressive. We began January 1, 2024 with 89 members, ended the year with 103 and today we proudly stand at 117. This kind of momentum does not happen by accident—it's the result of engaged members, strong recruiting and a culture that continues to welcome both new and longtime SIRs with open arms.

When we began 2025 the goals I set were ambitious but achievable. We expected to have a full and active BEC team, and that has been accomplished and I want to acknowledge the tremendous help and dedication shown by everyone who has stepped up and contributed this year. We have benefited greatly from a mix of experienced leaders and fresh perspectives,

and we have enjoyed a record number of activities. In addition, we successfully enabled payment by debit and credit card for luncheons and other items—one more step toward making our operations smoother and more convenient. As we head into 2026, Branch 95 is strong, healthy and positioned well for continued success.

Of course, December also brings with it one of our most popular events—the Holiday Dinner on December 10th. It will be a wonderful evening to enjoy time with loved ones and fellow SIR members. I encourage everyone to form your bidding teams now for the great auctions we'll have. It promises to be a fun and memorable night.

As mentioned at the November luncheon, we have secured our agreement for next year's luncheons at Cameron Park Country Club. They have been a reliable and valued partner for many years. With rising food and labor costs, we feel the new lunch price of \$41 remains fair. Importantly, we are holding annual dues at \$40 again - even as our State assessment has increased. To ensure we continue to get the best value, we will form a committee to evaluate options for 2027 and plan to report back by mid-year.

See **Big Sir** next page

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

Big SIR Ron Wadsworth 916-417-1484	Little SIR Brian Lemley 530-903-7184	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

We were also honored to have SIR State President, Rich Carlston, join us on November 19th, where he presented Kevin King with the prestigious President's Award (see photo)—an honor given to only thirteen individuals across the entire organization. We are extremely proud of Kevin and grateful for his outstanding service.



As you celebrate Christmas with friends and family, please know how much I have enjoyed serving you. Thank you for your trust, support and friendship.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY | Randy Scott 916-834-9475

1877: At his laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey, Thomas Edison spoke the children's verse "Mary had a Little Lamb..." while demonstrating his newly invented phonograph which utilized a revolving cylinder wrapped in tinfoil to record sounds.

1903: After three years of experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flights. They made four flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the longest lasting about a minute.

1942: Physicists led by Enrico Fermi carried out the world's first successful nuclear chain reaction at the University of Chicago.

1947: The transistor was invented at Bell Laboratories by John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley, who shared the Nobel Prize for their invention which sparked a worldwide revolution in electronics.

1982: The first permanent artificial heart was implanted in 61-year-old Barney C. Clark by Dr. William DeVries at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City. Clark, who was near death at the time of the operation, survived 112 days after the implantation.



Wishing you and your family a happy and joyous holiday season and a healthful year ahead.

Annual Holiday Dinner Wednesday, December 10, 2025

CAMERON PARK COUNTRY CLUB
3201 Royal Drive
Cameron Park, CA 95682

No host cocktails
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Dinner, door prizes & auction
7:00pm - 9:00pm

Menu

Garden Salad w/ balsamic dressing

*Braised beef short ribs or
Chicken Saltimbocca or
Vegan & vegetarian options*

*Potato au Gratin
Steamed vegetables*

Tiramisu

Coffee & tea

December Birthdays

Bob Carlson (8th)
Dennis Eyler (20th)
Carl Gaymon (23rd)
Jeff Jarvis (2nd)
Rod Smrcka (4th)
Joe Spezza (22nd)
Ron Wadsworth (15th)



December Br95 Anniversaries

3 years - Jim Peterson

Membership (as of 11/30/2025)

New members: 4
Departing members: 0
Current number of members: 117

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

Please welcome our four newest members:



Terry Blesso was invited to join by Scott Ravel. Terry was a Physical Education Teacher at Vista del Lago High School. He has many interests. Among them are biking, bocce, golf, pickleball and wine tasting. He noted that he's really interested in golf, pickleball and adventures (travel, RV, biking, etc.). He also listed a number of volunteer positions in which he could help. Terry and his wife, Connie, live in El Dorado Hills.



Mark Borgert learned about our Branch through the Gold Panner newspaper insert. He was with the United States Coast Guard for 28 years and the United States Department of the Interior. He enjoys antique cars, biking, bowling and pickleball among other activities. He also expressed an interest in Computers and Technology and volunteering in IT which I'll be exploring more. Mark lives with his wife, Ronda, in Cameron Park.



Ted Lee was self-employed as an Agribusiness Consultant. He enjoys books, bocce, dominoes and economic studies. He and his wife, Phyllis live in El Dorado Hills.



Lauro Sepulveda was a Construction Inspector for the City of San Jose. He heard about SIR from Ed Bowman. His activities include antique cars, bocce, bridge, poker and wine tasting. Lauro and his wife, Bernice, live in El Dorado Hills.

As Ron mentioned in his Big Sir article, annual dues remains at \$40. This covers our branch operating expenses including quarterly assessments to State SIR, guest and speaker lunches as well as door prizes and the monthly birthday award. Dues is due in January but must be paid by our March meeting to remain a member. If you know you do not plan to keep your membership, it would be helpful to let us know. Just email me and I'll be sure to let the right people know.

Much thanks goes to outgoing Big Sir, Ron Wadsworth, for his leadership over the past year. We've added new activities, enabled the use of credit cards for our lunch payments and seen our membership grow by 14% during his time as Big Sir. Thanks, too, go to the other BEC members who will remain in their respective positions in 2026. With 2026 just around the corner, we welcome our incoming Big Sir, Brian Lemley, and Little Sir, John Yost. Our Branch is strong and vibrant and will continue to be so under this group of leaders. Be sure to give them your support and consider saying "yes" if they approach you to help out in various roles throughout the year.

There's still time to purchase tickets for the Assistance League's annual Homes for the Holidays tour. It's a great way to kick off the holiday season and something that many of our members look forward to each year. Having a home on the tour a few years ago, I can personally attest to the joy it brings to a lot of people in the community and the many benefits that the funds from the event bring to people in need in El Dorado County. The event is this weekend, so don't wait to get your tickets. Tickets are available on the Assistance League Sierra Foothills website by clicking [HERE](#).



HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

2025 FUNDRAISER

Saturday, December 6th 10-4 | Sunday, December 7th 10-4

Tour Private Homes in El Dorado County

- SEASONALLY DECORATED HOMES
- SIGNATURE RAFFLE
- DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE
- HEARTFELT & HANDCRAFTED BOUTIQUE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
www.assistanceleague.org/sierra-foothills (September 20)
 Barrel and Bliss Wine Bar in Town Center (Cash and Check Only) and from members (October 22)

\$40 Adult \$10 Youth 12 and Under

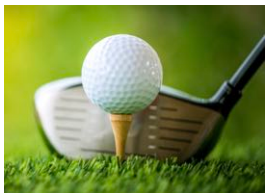
AL assistance league® Sierra Foothills

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



BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman

916-817-1524



As of this writing, we only have two golf dates left in the 2025 season. By the time you receive this newsletter we will be down to one. The winner of the Gold Country Cup and Marksman of the Year awards will be presented at the luncheon in January.

For those new to SIR 95 golf, if you have not submitted your application and membership fee yet, now is the time. I told some of our members to hold off joining because NCGA would charge for both 2025 and 2026, if we add you to our roster before the first of the year. When you join now, I can submit your information to NCGA the first week in January and you will be on our roster before the 2026 season starts. If you need more information, check out the golf page on our website or contact me. Next year's schedule will be posted in January.

We currently have 44 members on our roster. I have been contacted by 3 members that they will not be renewing for next year and another 22 have already paid next year's dues. Please either let me know you do not wish to renew, or get your \$55 dues payment to me by mid-December. Remember the \$55 includes NCGA membership, which is increasing by \$2 in 2026.

Our 2026 golf season will start on February 3rd at Empire Ranch. The season will end on December 8th at Mather. We have 41 golf dates scheduled for the 2026 season and hopefully we can avoid most rain days, although there are usually one or two rounds dropped either because of rain or very high temperatures.

Also, please be aware that like almost everything else, the rates at most golf courses are increasing this year. Most of the increases are around \$3 or \$4 dollars per golfer. Also, more courses are now requiring one payment be made in place of golfers paying individually. We will discuss this in more detail over the winter months.

Finally, thank you for your participation this season. It is always a pleasure to get to know more of our members through playing a round of golf with them. Thank you also to Dennis Petersen for again agreeing to be Golf Director at Mather and for Randy Hood for agreeing to be Golf Director at Wildhawk. I will continue to be responsible for golf at Empire Ranch and the fourth Tuesday golf tournaments.

SAND TRAPS

Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman
916-817-1524

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

#####

SIR Branch 95 Results 2025 Tournaments

November 4th - Empire Ranch
1st - Rick Willson
2nd - Tim Irish
3rd - Randy Hood
Closest to the pin - Mike Wilke

November 11th - No golf
Veterans Day

November 18th - Wildhawk
1st - Alan Bowles
2nd - Bill Klump
3rd - Bob Carlson
Closest to the pin - Chad Barrow

November 25th - No golf
Thanksgiving week



SIR Websites

Branch 95: sirinc2.org/branch95/
State SIR: sirinc.org
The Rooster Crows (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 10:00am for drop-in bocce. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the sport, come out and join us. Give me a call to be added to the distribution list.

PICKLEBALL | Chad Barrow 209-603-7346

The Picklers play Thursdays at 1:30pm (that's a new time) at Heritage Public Park. An email is sent out the weekend before to those on the email list confirming the day and time. Beginners are welcome. Contact me to be added to the distribution list.

E-BIKING | Ken Mahar 650-504-1393

We plan weekly small group rides on paved trails in the local area. We generally meet in the Mexquite parking lot in Folsom. Rides are typically 90 minutes with a short break in between. 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. A \$20 buy-in is all that's needed 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



The car enthusiasts' group is on a brief hiatus until the Spring. They look forward to starting up again the last Friday in April.

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.

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.

SIR is all about social activities for men. Our members have a diverse set of backgrounds, hobbies and interests. Do you enjoy something that you think other members would enjoy? Contact our Activities Chairman, Jay Muzio, to see if we can get a new activity off the ground. As we've all heard before, keeping active and engaged with a group of friends keeps the old man out.

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



Bob Noyes and Xiaoyan Huang hosted our November event at Lake Forest Wines in El Dorado Hills. They were very concerned about the very small turnout. The number of expected turnout of about 20 turned out to be five (see photo) from SIRs plus a friend I am talking to about joining. Lake Forest Wines was very accommodating. They treated the six of us like we were VIP customers. Their wine server Al treated us to some tequila tasting in addition and provided great discounts on the wines, tequila and bourbon. Great stories were told and all enjoyed our small group get together.



WHISKY/WHISKEY TASTING GROUP | David Tom 925-667-1291



The whisky/whiskey tasting group pop-up event occurred on December 2nd. A recap of the event will be published in the January newsletter. Based on members' interest in such an event, it may become a regular, monthly activity.

This activity is intended to be a potluck event in a member's home, with each participant bringing a bottle (based on that month's type, as determined by the host) to share and contributing a light snack to accompany the tastings. It gives members a chance to share their appreciation, explore something new and/or something old, exchange thoughts (savor or gag) or simply enjoy the company of other SIR members that share in this common interest.

If this type of activity sounds of interest to you, give David a call to join the group.

BEST BURGER PURSUIT | Dan Koelzer 916-718-0521



Our 15th burger activity was on 11/21/25 at our previous Number 3-rated burger place – Out of Bounds (OOB) in Folsom. OOB is a good place for us - great burgers, a lot of good beers and plenty of room to spread out at one table. Our ratings were consistent for OOB. It still came in 3rd overall. OOB came in strong in both of our visits in the Sides category with French Fries being the most popular side. Apparently, a burger and fries is truly a winning combo. In our recent visit, they also came in strong in the Beverages, Service Promptness and Price categories.

Attendees rate the restaurant on nine different categories and an average of all categories is determined. Following are the current standings based on overall rank:

- 1st place: Sportsman's Hall - Pollock Pines
- 2nd place: Bricks Eats & Drinks - Placerville
- 3rd place: Out of Bounds - Folsom
- 4th place: Poor Reds - El Dorado

For our next BBP activity we will revisit the previous Number 4 burger place, Relish Burger Bar, in El Dorado Hills by the Town Center. Same time as always – 12:00 noon. Due to the holidays, we will skip December and will reconvene next year, 2026, on Friday, January 21st.

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



It's been an amazing year for Bowling. Let's recap...

- 15 Tournaments held in 13 different centers
- 388 unique bowlers
- 8,134 games bowled
- 1,322,668 total pins knocked down
- Most games bowled in the year: JC Surratt, Branch 65, 105 games
- Highest average in a single tournament, a tie, both bowled at Concord:
 - o Gary Kaufman, Branch 19, average 237
 - o Lou Gilson, Branch 19, average 237
- Highest tournament attendance: Reno with 163 individual bowlers
- Total dollars running through tournament accounts: \$88,291
- One perfect 300 game bowled by Tim Hetzer at Clayton Valley Lanes in Concord.



Striking up Friendships



The State SIR Tournament Committee is working on cleaning up our website and creating a new SIR Bowling Tournament Average (SBTA) look-up tool (you may have already seen the preview: [Tournament Data](#)). With the new tool comes updated SBTA Rules:

SBTA Rules:

- A bowler must have bowled 12 SIR Tournament games in a calendar year in order to have a valid SBTA;
- All games bowled in a SIR Tournament will be used when calculating SBTA. If a bowler is injured and a game is not completed, that game will not be used. However, all other full games bowled in the series will be used; and
- SBTA will be updated after each tournament and before the next scheduled tournament.

It has been my pleasure to be a part of providing so much fun to so many bowlers. The 2026 Bowling Calendar is already posted on our State SIR Bowling website: [SIR BOWLING](#)

Cindy and I are definitely looking forward to doing it all again in 2026!

Happy Holidays,
Sir Ray



THE READER'S CORNER| Harry Hall 916-939-7161



True Believer, Jack Carr, 2019 Fiction. ~"This is seriously good!" Lee Child.

I really liked this book by Jack Carr. It was the 2nd book in his James Reece series. It explains a lot about the friendship with his friend Raife. James is running from the US government for his actions in exposing and removing folks in government who were responsible for the death of his wife and child. He takes his friend's boat and sails all the way to Africa, where he meets up with Raife's uncle who runs a game hunting company (I learned a lot about this). James is recruited by the CIA. If he'll hunt down a terrorist who is wreaking havoc on the world economy, they will grant him immunity for his past transgressions.

A well written book with a good plot line. A good read for action and conspiracy readers!!

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



2nd, 9th; see the [golf schedule](#) for a list of courses and check-in times



11th - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



Thursdays - Drop-in pickleball; Heritage Public Park; 1:30pm - **NEW TIME**



3rd, 17th - Drop-in bowling; FLB Entertainment Center; Folsom; 1-4pm



Thursdays - Drop-in bocce; Promontory Park EDH; 10:00am



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



10th - Annual Holiday Dinner; Cameron Park Country Club



See you after the Holidays



Nothing in December; next up Relish Bar 1/21



Resumes in January; 1/20-1/21 Napa Bowl



Foothills Cool Cars resumes in April



Contact activity leader, Ken Mahar, for any scheduled rides

A LIGHTER MOMENT| Harry Hall



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.