

GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95



Bulletin 434

January 2026

Kevin King, PBS; HLM - Editor

BIG SIR | Brian Lemley 530-903-7184



We are currently the oldest we have ever been and the youngest we will ever be again.

This is my first "Big Sir" article for the SIR Branch 95 Newsletter. I've been procrastinating and I want to apologize to Kevin King, our incredible editor, for missing the submission deadline. I wanted to say something profound. So I kept waiting for inspiration! I decided to settle for aspiration - an appropriate word for the new year and a good word to describe my intentions for honoring the opportunity you have provided to me to contribute in a SIR branch leadership position in 2026. Please note, the word aspiration has two definitions: a) a hope or ambition of achieving something; and b) the action or process of drawing breath. Seems like one requires the other.

Before I describe my aspirations for a "Happy New Year", I'd like to remember and celebrate last year, 2025. Looking ahead requires some context. 2025 was a pretty amazing year for me - and I hope you can all say the same. Since I was born in 1955, it was a "milestone age" year. Making it to 70 is quite an accomplishment - especially if that accomplishment included personal and professional goals being met, long anticipated travel destinations explored, time spent with loving family members (including a 5 year

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.

old grandson!), good health and a growing collection of supportive friends. On the topic of friends and friendship, I am grateful for the opportunity SIR provided to me to meet and spend time with many of you.

Looking ahead, I'd like more of the same. Can you say the same? If so, congratulations. If not, that's what new year's resolutions (or aspirations) are all about. Either way, being an active member in SIR Branch 95 is a great way to achieve "more of the same" or "something different". Please consider participating in an existing activity or suggesting a new activity. If there is something you enjoy doing, it is definitely something others would want to do as well. Share your goals and interests and spend time accomplishing and enjoying them with your SIR friends. That's my aspiration for 2026. I hope I've inspired you to do the same.

A final comment about celebrating 2025: At our January 14th luncheon meeting, we will take some time to acknowledge the contributions of our 2025 Branch 95 leadership team. If you haven't made a reservation to attend that meeting, please do so. It's your opportunity to say "thank you" for the investment of their time and talent in our continued success.

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

Big SIR Brian Lemley 530-903-7184	Little SIR John Yost 831-359-2740	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 Maher 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

LITTLE SIR | John Yost 831-359-2740

Happy New Year fellow SIR 95 members.

NOTE NEW PRICE

I am very happy to start this new year as your Little Sir. I look forward to continuing my SIR activities that have become a welcome part of my life as well as the duties that are part of my Little Sir role. One of those Little Sir duties is to assure we have speakers for our monthly luncheon meetings. I have arranged for speakers through July and am working on a few more, but I would welcome any ideas about speakers for our group.

The speaker for our January meeting is Michelle Ward who will speak to us about Estate Planning. This is an important topic for those of our generation and, although many of us may already have some degree of estate planning, it might be useful to hear some more about it.

I look forward to seeing you on January 14th.

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

1848: The California gold rush began with the accidental discovery of the precious metal near Coloma during construction of a Sutter's sawmill. An announcement by President Polk later in the year caused a national sensation and resulted in a flood of "Forty-niners" seeking wealth.

1915: The U.S. Coast Guard was created by an Act of Congress, combining the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

1959: Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state with a land mass almost one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states together.

1972: Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi was discovered on Guam after he had spent 28 years hiding out in the jungle not knowing World War II had long since ended.

1972: President Richard Nixon signed a bill approving \$5.5 billion over six years to build and test the NASA space shuttle.

Wishing you
good health
and happiness
throughout the
new year.



General Meeting
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
Buffet lunch \$41 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

House salad
Beef stroganoff w/
egg noodles
Vegetable medley
Dinner rolls & butter
Cookies
Iced tea, lemonade and
coffee included

January Birthdays

Steve Annen (7th)
Bob Davenport (24th)
Mark Owens (26th)
David Pearce (29th)
Angelo Perata (1st)
Dennis Pfaff (4th)
Malcolm Ramsay (26th)
Scott Walberg (23rd)

**January Br95 Anniversaries**

1 year - John Albano
9 years - Bob Woodford

Membership (as of 12/31/2025)

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

I was at the gym and asked what machine will impress a cute girl. The attendant told me to try the ATM.

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

With a new year comes new leadership. Thank you to Brian Lemley and John Yost for stepping up to lead our Branch as Big Sir and Little Sir, respectively, in 2026. Please give them your support as they gain their footing in their new responsibilities. And, consider saying yes should they approach you with any Branch needs. To refresh your memory or to learn more about Brian, you can read his Member Profile published in the [June 2024](#) edition of our newsletter.

Thank you, too, to the other Branch Executive Committee (BEC) members who agreed to stay on in 2026. They realize the importance of volunteerism for the continued viability of our Branch and will provide continuity in our Branch operation - building on the success we saw in 2025. You can find a full list of all BEC members at the bottom of the first page.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I did not acknowledge our outgoing Big Sir, Ron Wadsworth. Ron served first as Little Sir in 2024. With the help of Dan Maglionico, he provided an excellent variety of monthly speakers and set a high bar for future annual picnics and holiday dinners. As Big Sir in 2025, he oversaw a growth spurt in our membership and the introduction of some new activities. Without a Little Sir for much of the year, Ron was able to split those duties between three volunteers who ably provided interesting speakers and successfully pulled off our two annual events. Notably, toward the end of his term, Ron was solely responsible for keeping the increase in our future lunch costs at a minimum by skillfully negotiating, what started out as a significantly higher increase, with the Country Club. Ron has handed over the reigns to Brian with the Branch on solid footing going forward. Thanks, Ron, for two years of your leadership expertise.

Membership dues is now due and payable no later than our March meeting in order to continue your membership. The BEC held the cost of dues to \$40. Dues goes toward paying a per member State SIR assessment for insurance, annual State of California filing fees, minimal other operating expenses and our Branch operating expenses. Those expenses include the cost of monthly speakers, prospective members and badge draw lunches as well as birthday awards and door prizes. Membership growth allows the Branch to spread its costs across more members allowing the Branch to keep dues at a minimum.

Speaking of membership growth, we've seen a significant increase over the past two years. Inevitably, we see a dip at the beginning of each year. Now is not the time to let up on talking about the advantages of SIR 95 membership with your golfing buddies, neighbors and friends. Let's keep the growth trajectory pointing upward in 2026 and beyond.

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



2025 was a good year for SIR Bowling Tournaments with increased participation in 9 of 14 events. The 2026 Bowling Calendar is posted on our State SIR Bowling website: [SIR BOWLING](#). The first tournament of the year will be January 20th-21st in Napa at Napa Bowl with our host Dave Ellingson and Branch 65. Napa is centrally located for a one-day trip or you can spend a night and enjoy the local wines and ambiance of some fine dining.

Also posted are applications for six of next year's tournaments including Carson City and Reno.

Applications have group codes for discounted room rates and reservations are available for both Carson City in April and Reno in August. Make plans early to attend.

Cindy and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in 2026!

Happy New Bowling Year,

SIR Ray

Striking up Friendships



BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman 916-817-1524



Here it is January, 2026, we are less than one month away from the start of the 2026 SIR 95 golf season. I have scheduled 41 rounds of golf for the year, starting February 3rd at Empire Ranch and ending on December 8th at Mather. Most of our tee times start at 9 or 10 am. I have only reserved six tee times for each outing this year, so when the sign up emails come to you, please respond as quickly as you can to ensure you get on the play list.

Once again Dennis Petersen has agreed to serve as tournament director for the Mather events. Randy Hood has agreed to serve as tournament director for the events at Wildhawk. Thank you to both of these members for helping out with the SIR 95 golf events. I will take care of Empire Ranch outings and the fourth Tuesday tournaments.

By the time this newsletter is out, the new 2026 golf schedules should be posted on the Branch website. A few differences to note about the new golf season. Several of the courses now require one payment at the time of play. Mather, Wildhawk, Ancil Hoffman, Diamond Oaks, Castle Oaks and Lincoln Hills will all require us to make one payment this year. This will require more forethought and a stop at the bank or ATM to have cash available to pay the tournament director so he can make the payment to the golf course. I know this is not easy for some people, but until we can figure out a better way, this is how we will start the golf season.

We will again hold our Club Championship in September, with rounds at Empire Ranch, Mather and Wildhawk. The Gold Country Cup and Marksman of the Year will both continue until the end of the golf season. Congratulations again to the 2025 winners. Club Champion: Mike Wilke, Gold Country Cup winner: Rick Willson and Marksman of the Year co-winners: Randy Hood and Rick Willson.

We currently have 41 golfers on the Branch Golf roster. I look forward to seeing many of you out on the courses. I know a few of our members are not able to play with us as often as they would like and we hope for a healthy 2026 for all of our members.

SAND TRAPS

**Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman
916-817-1524**

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

**Golf Director (Wildhawk)
Randy Hood 707-365-2836**

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SIR Branch 95 Results 2026 Tournaments

December 2nd - Empire Ranch

1st - Steve Thomson
2nd - Terry Starkel
3rd - Don Nicholson
Closest to the pin - Mike Bettencourt

December 9th - Mather

1st - Al Cooney
2nd - Randy Hood
3rd - Mike Bettencourt
Closest to the pin - Randy Hood

The new season kicks off
2/3/2026 at Empire Ranch



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
Fred Serena (Br59 - Fremont)
510-489-0964

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

Vice President
Nick Feimer (Br1 - San Mateo)
650-341-3015

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 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

this sounds interested in, give me a call to be put you on our contact list.

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 like something that you might be

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.

Let's kickoff the new year with a couple of new activities. Contact our Activities Chairman, Jay Muzio, if you have any ideas of what our members might enjoy. Our 2026 resolution should be "stay active and keep the old man out."

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



The wine tasting group did not meet in December because of the holidays. The next meeting will be January 15th at 6:00pm at the Muzio's house. We will have a wine tasting (Pinot Noirs and Champagne), a potluck dinner and set plans for the 2026 new year.

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?

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



We conducted our inaugural whiskey tasting in December. A variety of Bourbons were on hand, spanning a wide range of labels, price points and proofs. Our gathering included new as well as seasoned members of Branch 95. Participants came with a wide range of whiskey knowledge, experience and interest. In the end, there was one clear favorite; Eagle Rare was clearly the popular choice for the evening. However, the variety of tastings helped to highlight that not all Bourbons are alike and every distiller has its own approach to their craft. In addition, there were plenty of snacks with everybody contributing not just a bottle but also something tasty to augment our whiskey samplings. The pool table also began to heat up by the end of the evening. Between the spirits, the conversation and the potential for table bragging rights, everybody seemed to have a good time.

We'll take a brief hiatus in January. However, going forward, we intend to meet on the first Tuesday of every month. If you have any interest in joining us, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at our next luncheon or call me at the above number. We look forward to seeing you in future tasting events.

Our next gathering will be Tuesday, February 3rd. Scott Ravel has graciously offered to host our next gathering. I'll post the details once we hammer them out.



BEST BURGER PURSUIT | Dan Koelzer 916-718-0521



Due to the holidays, a Best Burger Pursuit lunch was skipped for December. Our next BBP activity will be Friday, January 23rd, 2026 and will be the last of our revisits to the previous top four burger places. The previous number 4 place was Relish Burger Bar, in El Dorado Hills by the Town Center. It is located at 1000 White Rock Road, at the southeast corner of White Rock and Latrobe Road. Same time as always – 12:00 noon.

The current, updated BBP Standings are:

FIRST PLACE	Sportsmans Hall
SECOND PLACE	Bricks Eats & Drinks
THIRD PLACE	Poor Reds
FOURTH PLACE	Out of Bounds

JANUARY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



No January tournaments; resumes 2/3 at Empire Ranch



8th - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



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



7th, 21st - 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



14th - BEC Meeting & Luncheon; Cameron Park Country Club



15th - Muzio's home; potluck dinner; Pinot Noir and Champagne



23rd - Relish Bar; El Dorado Hills; noon



20th - 21st – Napa Bowl; Napa



Foothills Cool Cars resumes in April



Contact activity leader, Ken Mahar, for any scheduled rides

A LIGHTER MOMENT

A lawyer boarded a plane in San Francisco with a box of frozen crabs and asked a female flight attendant to take care of them for him.

She took the box and promised to put them in the crew's freezer.

He advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for them staying frozen, mentioning in a very haughty manner that he was a lawyer and proceeded to rant at her about what would happen if she let them thaw out.

Needless to say, she was annoyed at his behavior.

Shortly before landing in New York, she used the intercom to announce to the entire cabin, "would the lawyer who gave me crabs in San Francisco, please raise your hand?"

Not one hand went up...so she took them home and ate them.

A man's lovely wife kept dropping hints about what to get her for her upcoming birthday. She told him, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 100 in about 4 seconds." He went out and bought her a bathroom scale. And that's when the fight started...

A man told his wife that she should embrace her mistakes. She gave him a hug.

I'm writing a book on reverse psychology. Don't buy it.

A man went shopping with his wife to buy some new shirts but found that the largest size the store had was still too tight. He asked his wife, "Where do I go from here?" Without hesitation, she replied, "Straight to the gym!" And that's when the fight started...

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.