
GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95



Bulletin 435

February 2026

Kevin King, PBS; HLM - Editor

BIG SIR | Brian Lemley 530-903-7184



"Why, what's the matter, that you have such a February face, so full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?" – William Shakespeare

This is my second "Big Sir" article for the SIR Branch 95 Newsletter. I'm still hoping to say something profound. I don't think I am there yet. But I did think finding the Shakespeare quote about a "February" face was pretty interesting. Especially "The Bard's" reference to frost, storms and cloudiness given all of our fellow citizens across the country who are dealing with a massive winter storm.

I sent my five year old grandson a pair of snowshoes - they received 11" of snow in their yard in Pittsburgh, PA - but I don't think they will get there (because of the 11" of snow!). I'm also sending him pictures of my front field in Placerville with its spring green grass and bright blue skies overhead. What a contrast. How many of you have been making the comparison between our temperatures and most of the rest of the country? Are you taking advantage of the opportunity to get outside and enjoy our weather?

If so, congratulations. If not, be sure to come to our luncheon meeting on February 11th and enjoy the beautiful view of the Cameron Park Country Club and be sure to read the activities section of this newsletter. Our branch offers us a growing list of things to do and each activity provides an opportunity for friendship and camaraderie.

If you come to the meeting, I'll remind you about the big day in February and encourage you to do something special for the special people in your life. I've also uncovered some witty sayings (none of them mine) about Valentine's Day which I plan to share. Hope to see you there!

Thanks again for the opportunity you have provided to me to contribute to our SIR branch as part of your leadership team. If you have suggestions don't hesitate to communicate with me.

Gold Country Branch 95 2026 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 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

LITTLE SIR | John Yost 831-359-2740

Hello SIR95 Members,

We are into the new year and I am looking forward to all the meetings and activities that round out our SIR branch. Our speaker for February is Edward (Ed) Harmon – Former NASA Mission Manager. Ed will provide a program overview, history, key achievements and legacy of SOFIA (Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy). Ed will also discuss the unique aspects of the observatory, advantages/challenges to OCONUS (Outside the Continental United States) deployments, airborne astronomy and discuss some of the complex missions SOFIA was able to complete during its operational lifespan.

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

1848: The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In exchange for \$15 million, the U.S. acquired the areas encompassing parts or all of present-day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Texas. The treaty was ratified on March 10, 1848.

1910: The Boy Scouts of America was founded by William Boyce in Washington, D.C., modeled after the British Boy Scouts.

1913: The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting Congress the authority to collect income taxes.

1942: During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.

If you haven't paid your dues, now's the time to do so. Your \$40 dues must be paid by next month's meeting to maintain your membership.



- Branch photographer to capture highlights of our monthly meetings and activities for our newsletter and the website
- Assistant Newsletter Editor
- Assistant Webmaster

Call Kevin King at 916-337-9811 for more information.

General Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 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

**February Birthdays**

Peter Apel (17th)
 Terry Blesso (16th)
 Rich Christensen (16th)
 Bob Doetting (6th)
 Harry Hall (1st)
 Bill Koponen (10th)
 Alan Lampe (10th)
 David Sandfort (13th)
 Jeff Zehner (8th)

**February Br95 Anniversaries**

2 years - Dan Koelzer; Bart Magoffin;
 Bill McClanahan (30+ in you include all of his time in SIR & our Branch); Angelo Perata
 3 years - Bill Douglas; Bob McDonald; Norm Orrick
 4 years - Al Gurevich
 6 years - Dennis Windsor
 7 years - Jay Muzio
 8 years - Oli Bohlman
 12 years - John Ashley
 >20 years - Tom Gamble (29); Malcolm Ramsay (28);
 Steve Thomson (26); Bill Yeager (24)

Membership (as of 1/31/2026)

New members: 1
 Departing members: 0
 Current number of members: 118

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



Let's welcome our newest member, Dave Blaszkowski. He learned about our Branch on the pickleball courts. He attended our last meeting as our guest and joined on the spot. He was an Optical Technician for VSP. He enjoys a number of activities including bowling, golf and pickleball (of course). Dave and his wife, Valerie, live in El Dorado Hills.

There's some exciting news to report on the State SIR front. The State is opening its first new branch in several years. What's significant about it is that the branch will be in San Diego - our first Southern California branch! Since its inception, SIR was a Central and Northern California organization by choice. Our Founding Fathers thought they could not effectively manage a State-wide organization and set a Southern boundary of Bakersfield. Well, that changed last year. Past President, Rich Carlston, spearheaded an effort last year to remove that arbitrary boundary. Now, SIR is a Statewide organization! That creates a lot of potential for membership growth. This is important for our Branch, too. Our branch has been selected as San Diego's Sponsoring Branch. That means our leadership team and I will help mentor San Diego in getting their branch up and running. In a way, it's like 1958 all over again. That's when SIR was founded and the first branch was opened in San Mateo. Now we're starting up SIR all over again - but this time in Southern California. Just as important, our branch will forever be associated with the expansion of SIR into Southern California and the launch of its first branch!

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



The first tournament of 2026 was held at Napa Bowl. The Napa Valley enjoys beautiful scenery with rolling hills and vineyards typically making the drive very enjoyable ... this year we enjoyed the fog. Fortunately, the fog rolled out in time to allow 76 bowlers to come together for our two-day event, up a few from last year. We were reminded at dinner with fellow bowlers that it had been 60 days since our last tournament - far too long for friends to be away from each other! Not to worry, 2026 is packed with tournaments - time to plan some trips (and dinners out!).

Our host Dave Ellingson (Branch 65) did an outstanding job of coordinating the event with Napa Bowl. Dave and Branch 65 also procured eight bottles of local wines which were distributed as door prizes. In appreciation for his help as Tournament Host, the SIR State Bowling Committee presented Dave with a SIR coffee mug. Bowlers with top scores included John Pocekay (Branch 73) with a 676 series, Laurie Furlani (Branch 65 guest) with a 192 game, and a near-perfect 279 game rolled by Lou Gilson (Branch 19).



Pictured l-r: Jim Erikson, State SIR Bowling Committee Chairman; Dave Ellingson, Napa Tournament Host; Ray DiBasilio, State SIR Bowling Committee Operations Advisor

Applications for the upcoming tournaments are posted on our State SIR Bowling website: [SIR BOWLING](#). Applications have group codes for discounted room rates for both Carson City in April and Reno in August. Make plans early and **be sure to use the appropriate code** when booking your room.

- Sacramento, February 18-19 - Country Club Lanes
- Concord, March 24-25 - Clayton Valley Bowl
- Carson City, NV, April 13-15 - Gold Dust West
- SIR State Tournament, May 12-13 - Country Club Lanes

Striking up Friendships



See you on the lanes,

Sir Ray

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



February begins the 2026 golf season for Branch 95. We go through mid-December and we can only hope for good weather on Tuesdays throughout the season. It has been cold, so I feel we may be in for a few cold days on the course, although I guess that is better than cold and rain.

We have tee times reserved for 24 players at each of the courses this year. You can check out the golf schedules on the Branch [website](#). The website also has who to contact to get on the list for each course. I suggest you print a copy of the schedule and keep it handy so you can respond to the email request for signups each week. You will notice that some of the courses do not have the costs listed on the schedules. That is because some of the courses did not have their pricing for this year completed when the contracts were signed. Some courses will be making adjustments during the year and for at least one, the cost varies with the tee times. Since most courses require one payment, we will be sure that you know the cost prior to the round, so you can bring cash to pay for the green fees and prize money contribution.

We would like to speed up play as much as possible, which is one reason we have a 20" rule for putts on most rounds. We would also like players to play ready golf and keep the flow up as much as possible. Be prepared to play when it is your turn and have fun.

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

No tournaments played in January.

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

You can hit a 1 acre fairway 5% of the time, but a 1 inch branch you will hit 95% of the time.

I find it a lot easier to hit the fairway when I tee off – if I'm not too picky about which fairway.

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



We took a brief hiatus during 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 one of our luncheons or give me a call at the above number. We look forward to seeing you at future tasting events.

Our next gathering will be Tuesday, February 3rd. Scott Ravel has graciously offered to host our next gathering. I'll email the details to those that have signed up once they are hammered out.

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

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

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

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

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

Hiking with friends in 2026 transforms a physical activity into a comprehensive social and mental health experience. 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. Give me a call to get on the list.

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



The first 2026 meeting of the Branch 95 wine tasting group got off to a roaring start. Twenty-five members were present to taste five Champagnes and nine Pinot Noirs. This month instead of having each member rate every wine, we divided the group into three tables with each table rating only the wines assigned to their table.

Table one, the Kitchen Table, rated two Champagnes and three Pinot Noirs. The top-rated Champagne was Jacqueline Leonne \$19. And the top-rated Pinot was a tie between Duckhorn Decoy (\$19) and King Estate from Willamette Valley (\$27).

Table two, the Dining Room Table, rated two Champagnes and three Pinots. The top-rated Champagne was Mumm Rose, and the top-rated Pinot was from Bogle winery.



Table three, Entryway Table, rated only one Champagne so it came in first. It was a Charles Roux Blanc de Blanc, and I think it would have been highly rated at one of the other tables also. Of the three Pinots assigned to this table, the top-rated Pinot was a 2019 Kason Vinyard Pinot (\$45) from Willamette Valley Oregon.

As always, the food was a highlight of the evening. Irene Muzio made Minestrone soup for the main course, and everyone brought appetizers, side dishes and desserts to round out the meal.

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 your own beverage of choice to drink. Why not come and check us out?



BEST BURGER PURSUIT | Dan Koelzer 916-718-0521



The Best Burger Pursuit is off and running after a brief break over the holidays. Our last lunch was at Relish Burger Bar ("RBB") in El Dorado Hills and we had a great turnout with 15 members in attendance, which is tied for our largest attendance with That Dam Place (currently last place?) back in May, 2024. Everyone seemed to like RBB since the ranking for last week's visit was 3rd overall. However, since we had also visited it in July, 2024 and that visit only has a current ranking of 9, their average was pulled down to 5th overall. Anyway, RBB is still one of our favorites with 4 of the 9 ranking categories falling in the top 4. Sportsmans Hall, still our number one venue, has 9 of 9 ranking categories in the top 4!

Our next BBP activity will be Friday, February 20, 2026 and will be at a new burger place recently discovered – Brick Oven Pub in Placerville by the Government Center. It is located at 2875 Ray Lawyer Drive, in a small shopping center near Ray Lawyer and Placerville Drive. Same time as always – 12:00 noon. Same process as always – eat a burger and rate it.

The current, updated BBP Standings (still) are: FIRST PLACE - Sportsmans Hall; SECOND PLACE - Bricks Eats & Drinks; THIRD PLACE - Poor Reds; and FOURTH PLACE - Out of Bounds

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th - see golf webpage for complete schedule



12th - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



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



4th, 18th - 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



11th - BEC Meeting & Luncheon; Cameron Park Country Club



19th - Annen's; your favorite red from around the world



20th - Brick Oven Pub; Placerville; noon



18th - 19th - Country Club Lanes; Sacramento



Foothills Cool Cars resumes in April



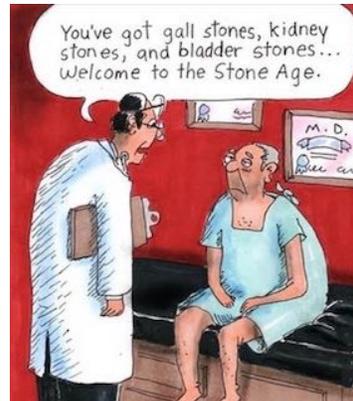
3rd - Scott Ravel's house

A LIGHTER MOMENT | Terry Wild

One minute you're 21 staying up all night drinking beer, eating pizza and doing sketchy stuff just for fun. Then...in a blink of an eye, you're 70, drinking water, eating kale and can't do any sketchy stuff because you pulled a muscle putting on your socks this morning.

It's better to be the oldest at the gym than the youngest in a nursing home.

Tell your grandkids to enjoy their 20s, 30s and 40s because in their 60s, that check engine light is going to come on.



When a man says he'll do anything for a woman, he means fight bad guys and kill dragons, not vacuum or wash dishes

This morning, I accidentally changed the GPS Voice to "Male." Now it just says, "It's around here somewhere. Keep driving."

Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow, plus you have nothing to do today.

DON'T BOTHER PAYING A THERAPIST. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU FOR FREE.

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

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.