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# GOLD COUNTRY BRANCH 95



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.

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Bulletin 436

March 2026

Kevin King, PBS; HLM - Editor

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## **BIG SIR** | Brian Lemley 530-903-7184



*"Late last night I heard the screen door slam and a big yellow taxi took away my old man. Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone."* From the song "Big Yellow Taxi" by Joni Mitchell (1970)

Well I must have tempted fate. In last month's newsletter I gloated about our beautiful California weather compared to the rest of the country and bragged about sending a pair of much needed snowshoes to my five year old grandson (who lives in Pittsburgh PA) accompanied by pictures of my bright green front field. I called him and asked him to send the snow shoes back!

Two weeks ago, on February 17th, it started snowing at Sheryll's house in Camino. And it kept snowing for several days. 30 inches in total accumulated. Trees snapped and fell. Roads were closed. There was no power, no heat and (oh no!) no cable! By the 24th, we abandoned ship and headed for warmer weather. Power wasn't restored for another 3 days.

I'm pretty resilient and, as an old eagle scout, I was prepared with food and layers of clothes, but those cold and dark days of isolation coincided with our plans to attend the SIR wine tasting and the SIR best burger pursuit activities. When I couldn't get through the snow to attend either event, I was surprised at how

much I missed seeing my SIR friends. You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.

Have you all contemplated what you would miss the most if it was gone? For me, it is certainly my health. For me, it is certainly my family and friends. For me, it is certainly my music. One of my high school buddies lost his house in Altadena to the Eaton fire last year. He surprised me when he said all the stuff he'd lost didn't matter. The stuff was easily replaced. His house is being rebuilt.

As I keep saying in my email invitations to all of you to attend our lunches and to sign up for our growing and varied list of branch activities, Remember our SIR mission is to "enhance the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making friends for life." I continue to be grateful for the friendships and camaraderie those events have provided to me. I hope you feel the same.

And, I am going to keep saying 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. For those of you who have, thank you. I believe you have found me to be a willing listener who is open to your ideas and recommendations.

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### Gold Country Branch 95 2026 BEC Members- PBS denotes Past Big SIR; HLM denotes Honorary Life Member

|   |   |  |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Big SIR</b><br>Brian Lemley<br>530-903-7184        | <b>Little SIR</b><br>John Yost<br>831-359-2740                    | <b>Secretary</b><br>Terry Starkel<br>916-817-1524          | <b>Assistant Secretary</b><br>Don Nicholson<br>408-386-4119  | <b>Treasurer</b><br>Bill Klump<br>209-679-4087          | <b>Assistant Treasurer</b><br>Grant McMicken<br>530-306-2468   |
| <b>Director at Large</b><br>Ken Mahar<br>650-504-1393 | <b>Director at Large</b><br>Bill Yeager, PBS; HLM<br>916-941-6632 | <b>Director at Large</b><br>Tim Irish, PBS<br>916-933-3466 | <b>Director at Large</b><br>Lew Chapman, PBS<br>510-912-5658 | <b>Director at Large</b><br>Scott Ravel<br>408-690-3816 | <b>Director at Large</b><br>Marshall Armstrong<br>650-438-7802 |

## LITTLE SIR | John Yost 831-359-2740



Well, despite the rain, which may have spoiled some outdoor activities, February was a pretty good month. Big Sir Brian Lemley set up a pop-up fly fishing class attended by about eight members. It was quite interesting and informative and good for those interested in pursuing fly fishing further. Brian has also suggested several other pop-up ideas which we could explore. These pop-ups could become regular SIR activities if enough member want to continue with them.

Our speaker for March is Paul Helman from the Railroad Museum. Paul spoke to us in 2024 about the building of the Transcontinental Railroad. He will continue discussing the Transcontinental Railroad, particularly the explosives used in creating the tunnels through the mountains. Black Powder was developed in China, came to the Western World around 1200 and was the main explosive used for blasting tunnels and making roadbed for the Central Pacific Railroad during construction in the 1860's. Newly developed Nitroglycerine became available at this time and its use, though more dangerous, reduced drilling time by about one-half. The talk will be about the history of both explosives, a little STEM and how both were used by the Central Pacific Railroad.

Finally, I am currently working on our Annual Picnic which will be held on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Several members have volunteered to provide games, tents and other items that are required for the picnic. In addition, I also need some members to provide items for our prize baskets. If you are willing to donate such items, please let me know. If you would like to contribute but can't think of an appropriate item, a cash donation would allow us to shop for items for the baskets. Any help you can provide would go a long way in making this year's picnic a fun and memorable day.

I look forward to seeing you all for our March meeting.



By Joe Heller, Washington Post, March 4, 2026

**General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 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**



## March Birthdays

Ed Bowman (31)  
 Wil Brunet (30)  
 Donald Dupere (4)  
 Dave Gersten (16)  
 Tim Irish (7)  
 Byron Loney (9)  
 Norm Orrick (31) - 90th!  
 Dennis Petersen (12)  
 Jim Peterson (5)  
 Hugh Thompson (14)  
 Fernando Ureno (24)  
 Bill Yeager (2)



## March Br95 Anniversaries

1 year - Al Cooney, Jim Coward, Dave Gersten  
 2 years - Bill Klump, Scott Ravel, David Tom  
 4 years - Dan Maglionico  
 5 years - Bob Noyes  
 6 years - Ray Guenther, Terry Wild  
 8 years - Dennis Eyler  
 9 years - Kevin King  
 12 years - Ken McCoy

## Membership (as of 2/28/2026)

New members: 0  
 Departing members: 5  
 Current number of members: 113

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

If you haven't paid your annual dues yet, be sure to bring a check for \$40 to the March meeting to ensure your continued membership.

Our newest activity, Museum Exhibits & Eats, was approved at our February Board meeting. The concept is that the group will meet for lunch and then visit a museum for a group tour. It will be scheduled as a recurring activity on the first Friday of every month. If you're interested in joining this group, give Big Sir, Brian Lemley, a call at 530-903-7184 to be put on the group's distribution list.



Speaking of Museum Exhibits & Eats and continuing on John's message in his Little Sir article, Brian has proposed several other "pop-up" activities to gauge members' interests in making the activity a permanent addition to our activities list. You should have received an email from Brian on 2/16 asking you to respond YES or NO to several potential activities including fly fishing, introduction to golf, rafting, star gazing, travel plans & planning, music jams and a tech group. If you haven't responded yet, please give Brian the courtesy of a reply.

Activities are at the center of everything we do at SIR so support one or more of these groups or let Brian know of an activity that you'd like to see our branch have. Who knows, you may find that some of your SIR brothers may share the same interest as you.

And finally, from the desk of Past Big SIR Tom Gamble...What do you call literature that's not worth the paper it's written on? Litterature.

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

**1961:** President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, an organization sending young American volunteers to developing countries to assist with health care, education and other basic human needs.

**1918:** The 'Spanish' influenza first reached America at Fort Riley, Kansas. Private Albert Gitchell, a US Army mess cook, woke feeling hot and achy, his throat burning. Physically unable to attend to his duties, he dragged himself to the infirmary where his temperature was taken, recording a shocking 103°F. Wary of spreading whatever disease had infected Gitchell, the camp doctor recommended that the cook, whom he diagnosed with "a bad cold" spend a few days in a separate tent. It was already too late as several more patients descended on the infirmary complaining of the same symptoms. Before lunchtime, 107 cases of the mysterious flu were recorded. One quarter of the U.S. population eventually became ill from the deadly virus, resulting in 500,000 deaths. The death toll worldwide approached 22 million by the end of 1920.

**1609:** The island of Bermuda was colonized by the British after a ship on its way to Virginia was wrecked on the reefs.

**1888:** The Great Blizzard of '88 struck the northeastern U.S. The storm lasted 36 hours with snowfall totaling over 40 inches in New York City where over 400 persons died from the surprise storm.

**1974:** The five-month-old Arab oil embargo against the U.S. was lifted. The embargo was in retaliation for American support of Israel during the Yom Kipper War of 1973 in which Egypt and Syria suffered a crushing defeat. In the U.S., the resulting embargo had caused long lines at gas stations as prices soared 300 percent amid shortages and a government ban on Sunday gas sales.

## BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman

916-817-1524



We have finished one month of golf in the 2026 season. We have played two rounds and had two rounds cancelled by rain. Not the start I was looking for. In March, we will play Empire Ranch, Mather, Wildhawk and Lincoln Hills. Hopefully, we will have better weather going forward.

This year is providing more challenges. Many of the golf courses now require one payment to be made for all of the green fees for the group. At this time, that means bringing cash to cover the fees. I am still looking for alternatives, but have not come up with a workable solution yet.

We are always trying to speed up play. We use a 20" putting rule to aide in that. If the putt is within 20" of the hole, you may pick it up and count the stroke. Most of us have a mark on our putters to make this simple, but often it is pretty obvious that the ball is within the limit. We also try to pair walkers together with a cart to cut down on the number of carts used. A reminder also that many courses require 8 to 10 days advanced notice of the number of players we have scheduled. Please respond to the sign up requests as soon as you can.

This should be an enjoyable time spent together with your SIR friends, let us look forward to good times this season. Good play wouldn't hurt either.

## 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

February 3rd - Empire Ranch

1st place - Byron Loney  
2nd place - Ray Guenther  
3rd place - Ron Wadsworth  
4th place - John Ashley  
Closest to the pin - John Ashley

February 10th - Mather

1st place - Bob Carlson  
2nd place - Bill Klump  
3rd place - Byron Loney  
Closest to the pin - Bill Yeager

February 17th - Wildhawk

Cancelled due to rain

February 24th - Ancil Hoffman

Cancelled due to rain

Golf balls are like eggs. They're white, sold by the dozen, and a week later you have to buy some more.

A golfer sliced his drive deep into the woods. He looked at his caddie and said, "I suppose I should go in there and play it." The caddie replied, "If you want to, but you're not properly dressed for an all-day stay!"

What's the difference between a good golfer and a bad golfer? A good golfer hits it where he means to. A bad golfer hits it where he hopes to!

#### SIR Websites

Branch 95: [sirinc2.org/branch95/](http://sirinc2.org/branch95/)

State SIR: [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org)

The Rooster Crows (State SIR newsletters):

[sirinc.org/newsletters](http://sirinc.org/newsletters)

SIR-Branded Merchandise: [sir.ourproshop.com](http://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. \$20 buy-in is all that's needed. Give me a call to be put you on our contact list.

**FOOTHILLS COOL CARS |**

**Rick Talone 916-761-7222**



Look for more information as this group will resume 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. We 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.

**WHISKEY TASTING | David Tom 925-667-1291**

Meets the first Tuesday of the month at a member's home. Give me a call to be added to our distribution list.

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



*Surely, You're Joking, Mr. Feynman* Non-fiction - A+ I highly recommend this book for folks who appreciate pure genius and humor at the same time!

A delightful book by renowned physicist, Dick Feynman. He won the Nobel Peace Prize for Physics, (1965) and was a professor at Cornell and Cal Tech. He was always extremely curious about everything and started fixing radios for others at the age of 10. He helped in the creation of the atomic bomb at Los Alamos during WW2. He thrived on outrageous adventures. During his summer retreats from teaching, he would go to Brazil and ended up in a samba band. He loved to play the bongo drums and taught himself (w/ a little help). To ease boredom at Los Alamos (there were no side relaxations), he learned how to crack safes and combination locks and tormented the secretaries by breaking into "confidential" files. He decided he wanted to learn to draw (as he was terrible at it) and took classes and became good enough that he had a couple of showings. He learned a bit of Japanese when he visited there after the war. "A compulsive need to solve puzzles, his indignant impatience with pretension and hypocrisy, and his talent to one up anybody who tried to one up him." Albert Hibbs, (Caltech).

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



The Sacramento tournament held in February at Country Club Lanes had great participation. 83 bowlers from 14 Northern California SIR branches attended. The Best Participation award goes to local Branch 69 with 18 bowlers followed by Branch 55 (Grass Valley) with nine participants.

Scores were outstanding. Rudy Crisolo, Sacramento Branch 69, shot a 752 scratch series. Other high scores were Patrick Breeden, Napa Branch 65, with a 279 scratch game and Danny Roberts, Brentwood Branch 161, with a 267 scratch game.

Tod Davis and Branch 69 were outstanding hosts by coordinating with the center and supplying door prizes and delicious donuts (I must admit I ate a few ... maybe more because Cindy wasn't there to watch me). Door prizes also included two high performance bowling balls donated by the Lucky Bowler Pro Shop.

Applications for the upcoming tournaments are posted on our State SIR Bowling website: [SIR BOWLING](#). Be sure to note 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.

- Citrus Heights, March 4 – Fireside 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

See you on the lanes,

Sir Ray



Pictured l-r: Ray DiBasilio, State SIR Bowling Committee Operations Advisor awarding Tod Davis, Sacramento Tournament Host, with a SIR coffee mug

**Striking up Friendships**



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



This month the wine tasting group met at the home of Nancy and Steve Annen. Sixteen members were in attendance. This month we did not do a blind tasting but instead opened all the bottles for informal tasting. This month's theme was Red Blends from Around the World.

The wines for the evening included a Jacks are Wild, 2019 red blend from Starfield Vineyards (\$35). Next was a Justin Vineyards 2023 Savant. It is a blend of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon (\$45). The wine with the most beautiful bottle was from BF Vineyards, a 2024 Gigi's Garden red blend. Also included was a Freemark Abbey 2021 Cabernet Bosche. I have always been partial to Freemark Abbey going clear back to the 1970s. Additionally, a 2020 Aglianico Sierra Foothills, a sturdy southern Italian grape, from Everhart Cellars. And finally, one of my favorites, 2021 Clos Saint Michel, Chateaufneuf-du-Pape. (\$65)

Our Wine Tasting group is just an excuse for a wonderful get-together with good friends, good wine and tasty food. Nancy and Steve prepared the most spectacular Beef Bourguignon with mashed potatoes. Side dishes included roasted vegetables and deserts were rich and delicious.

Our next event is March 19th. George and Micki Alboff will be hosting an intimate Zinfandel wine tasting. Space is limited to the first 14 people who respond, so respond quickly. Confirmations will be sent to the first 14 responding and anyone else wanting to attend will be put on a wait list. Further details will be sent to those attending.

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 last Best Burger Pursuit (BBP) was at a new place - Brick Oven Pub in Placerville. Everyone seemed to really enjoy Brick Oven, however, in the final ranking they came in very middle of the road at 6<sup>th</sup>, out of 12 burger venues. Out of the 12 burger venues visited, a well-defined break has appeared between the top 6 and the bottom 6. The top 6 only have a spread in the rankings of 0.25, while the next venue down, Number 7, is 0.33 ranking points down, followed by the rest of the pack.

The current, updated BBP Standings for the top 6 are:

|                     |                      |                     |                   |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>FIRST PLACE</b>  | Sportsmans Hall      | <b>FOURTH PLACE</b> | Out of Bounds     |
| <b>SECOND PLACE</b> | Bricks Eats & Drinks | <b>FIFTH PLACE</b>  | Relish Burger Bar |
| <b>THIRD PLACE</b>  | Poor Reds            | <b>SIXTH PLACE</b>  | Brick Oven Pub    |



Since we are almost 2 years into the BBP activity, and Sportsmans Hall has held the Number 1 slot for some time now, we felt that it would be appropriate to present them with an award to recognize their accomplishment (and, at the same time, provide SIR 95 a little promotion). Three SIR members made the trek up the hill to Sportsmans in Pollack Pines and presented them with a framed certificate on 3/6/2026.

Our next BBP activity will be Friday, March 20, 2026 and will be back at a taco venue after several consecutive burger venues. The exact venue has not been selected yet, but will be provided via email in the next week or so. Same time as always - 12:00 noon. Same process as always - eat a burger/taco and rate it!

## MARCH ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th - see the Golf page on our website for the 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 - Alboff's; Zinfandel; limited to the first 14 to respond



20th - taco venue TBD; noon



4th - Fireside Lanes; Citrus Heights  
24th - 25th - Clayton Valley Bowl; Concord



Foothills Cool Cars resumes in April



3rd - TBD



6th - California Museum and lunch at Ella's

## A LIGHTER MOMENT | Harry Hall

Some thoughts on getting older...

I'm responsible for what I say, not what you understand.

My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously, there's a new strain out there.

It's not my age that bothers me; it's the side effects.

I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.

As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of ... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation marks.

As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is, I'm just being more energy efficient.

I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

I put my scale in the bathroom corner, and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.

Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.

She says I keep pushing her buttons. If that were true, I would have found mute by now.

Sometimes the Universe puts you in the same situation again to see if you're still a dumbass.

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is, once you get old, you stop being polite and start being honest.

I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open a stupid plastic bag.

### 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.