

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.

Bulletin 437

April 2026

Kevin King, PBS; HLM - Editor

BIG SIR | Brian Lemley 530-903-7184



"Is that an eagle?" she called out. It was, soaring high above us on the currents. "It's a golden!" Over the course of the next hour we (I say we, but mostly Ann) spotted yellow-breast warblers, an assortment of squawking scrub jays, cedar wax wings, blackbirds, a magpie, a western bluebird, and several turkey vultures."

From a travel article from June 2023 by Jim Farber titled "Days of Wine and Warblers in Paso Robles".

This is starting to be fun for me - writing these "Big Sir" articles for our SIR Gold Country Branch newsletter. Let me pause to say thank you, again, to Kevin King for the quality of our newsletters. At first, I worried about not having much to say. At first, I aspired to say something profound. Now, besides acknowledging that I guess I am an aspirational worrier kind of guy, I realize the problem is choosing. I have a lot going on at work that I could write about. I have a lot going on at home that I could write about (by the way, our next SIR luncheon meeting will feature "Living with Sheryll" jokes....). I have a lot going on with my kids and my grandson (by the way, taking a five year old to Disneyland this month was wonderful). I read a lot. I travel. I collect art. I enjoy music. I'm not patting myself on the back (although my elbow has been a bit sore

lately). I hope you get the point. I have realized there is actually a lot for me to write about!

So.... I've chosen to write about the act of choosing or should I say the act of choice. Hang in there with me. We should have figured this out by now - it is all about choice. We may not get to choose what happens to us, but we can choose how to respond. We may not get to choose what someone says to us (or about us), but we can choose how to reply. We may have lost family and friends, but we can choose to invite new people into our lives. We may not be able to do all we used to do as we advance in age, but we can choose to adapt to our current level or we can find new things to enjoy. The travel article I referenced (above) is about a couple who decided to combine things (travel, wine tasting and bird watching) for a new experience.

I am really so encouraged and motivated when I read about people, like the couple in the Wine and Warblers article, who keep finding new things to enjoy; who keep traveling to new destinations; who recover from setbacks and loss; who keep making new friends; who stay connected to family members near and far; who fall in love again. I celebrate their choice to live full and fulfilling lives.

See **BIG SIR** on next page

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

BIG SIR continued from preceding page

I want to be like them. I have certainly had setbacks (mostly due to my own actions or inactions) and I have suffered loss. I have had health challenges. But I want an active and full life filled with purpose. I want to be surrounded by supportive friends and a loving family. I saw that potential - that pathway or way forward - with my membership in SIR.

I made a list of things I like to do, things I used to like to do (but haven't done in a while) and things I'd like to try doing (that I have never done before). It turns out to be a long list - and it keeps growing. Note: I just added Bird Watching with Wine Tasting! And I decided to start sharing my list with our SIR branch. I really believe that if I enjoy doing something or want to try doing something, I bet there are other SIR members who do, too.

We will discuss our list of current and proposed Branch activities at our next meeting on April 8th. Note: I've been sending emails to all of you asking for your feedback. Did you reply? I think you will be surprised at the number of SIR members who did reply and who have said "YES, I'm interested!". I think you will be amazed at the progress we have made to establish places and dates for the choices we have made for the "new" things we plan to do together.

Thanks for reading 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.

LITTLE SIR | John Yost 831-359-2740

Our speaker this month is Natalie More from Child Advocates of El Dorado (CASA). CASA provides support, empowerment and a voice for the abused, neglected and at-risk youth in our community. At the heart of the CASA program is the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), a specially trained and supervised community volunteer, appointed by a Juvenile Court judge. CASA advocates make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children by researching and monitoring cases involving children in foster care.

Also, keep in mind that we have our annual Picnic on June 10th (just three months away). I have asked for volunteer help with the various needs for the picnic and received good support. I also need help with prize baskets. This could be donated items or cash contributions. Please contact me at the above number if you are able to make such a contribution.

EDITOR'S NOTE: You'll notice only one photo in this month's newsletter. This is the result of the State's new Photo Release Policy. I'm not protesting the policy, it's just that branches have been advised not to post pictures of people in public places, such as on their websites, marketing materials, etc. without first getting permission from those in the photo. Our BEC is working through how to best rollout and administer this new policy. I'm sure you'll hear more about it in the coming weeks/months.

General Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 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

**April Birthdays**

Jim Coward (3)
 Randy Hood (16)
 Michael Long (10)
 Grant McMicken (15)
 Ed Ricci (25)
 Alan Sherman (7)

**April Br95 Anniversaries**

1 year - David Sandfort; John Yost
 2 years - Byron Loney; Scott Walberg
 3 years - Rick Willson
 5 years - Lew Chapman
 8 years - Peter Apel; Don Nicholson
 13 years - Rich Christensen

Membership (as of 3/31/2026)

New members: 4
 Departing members: 3
 Current number of members: 114

WHY I JOINED SIR | Brian Lemley 530-903-7184

I joined our SIR branch because of the opportunity it offered to me to enjoy fun activities while making new friends. Although my work schedule prevents me (for now!) from participating in a lot of the sports-oriented activities which are scheduled during the day (for example, golfing, pickleball, bocce, bowling, biking, etc.), I have been able to participate in the luncheon meetings, summer picnics, holiday parties and activities that occur during lunch time (for example, Best Burger Pursuit) or in the evenings (for example, Wine Tasting). Each activity has fulfilled the promises of having fun and making and enjoying new friends.

When I joined the branch leadership team this year, I proposed a list of new activities and I have been sending emails to all of the members asking if there is an interest in doing these things together. These activities included the following:

- a) Visit a local museum for a docent-led group tour with lunch at a nearby restaurant on the first Friday of every month);
- b) Attend an "Intro to Fly Fishing" group classes with a fishing "pro" and schedule group fishing trips;
- c) Attend an "Intro to Golfing" group classes with a golfing "pro" and practice sessions;
- d) Grab a paddle and a life vest and participate in a group trip "Rafting down the American River with a River Guide";
- e) Visit the Community Observatory in Placerville for an evening of "Star Gazing" with a guide;
- f) Bring an appetizer and share your "Travel Plans and Planning Tips" at in-home meetings;
- g) Bring a musical instrument and/or your vocals to "Jam" at a local multi-track professional recording studio;
- h) Attend Technology Updates Workshops & Q&A (one-on-one sessions) for personal assistance with your devices;
- i) Attend "Art Classes" (and associated activities) in collaboration with the Placerville Art Association;
- j) Put on your dancing shoes and attend "Ballroom Dance Classes" to learn to Foxtrot, Waltz, Tango, etc.); and
- k) Join us for group "Date Nights" at local live music venues and attend our local summer concerts series.

If you are interested in any of these new activity ideas or if you have a suggestion for other new activities, please let me know.

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

1775 - The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes occurred as the two men rode out of Boston about 10 p.m. to warn patriots at Lexington and Concord of the approaching British.

1800 - The Library of Congress was established in Washington, D.C. It is America's oldest federal cultural institution and the world's largest library. Among the 145 million items in its collections are more than 33 million books, 3 million recordings, 12.5 million photographs, 5.3 million maps, 6 million pieces of sheet music and 63 million manuscripts. About 10,000 new items are added each day.

1860 - In the American West, the Pony Express service began as the first rider departed St. Joseph, Missouri. For \$5 an ounce, letters were delivered 2,000 miles to California within ten days. The famed Pony Express riders each rode from 75 to 100 miles before handing the letters off to the next rider. A total of 190-way stations were located about 15 miles apart. The service lasted less than two years, ending upon the completion of the overland telegraph.

1889 - The Oklahoma land rush began at noon with a single gunshot signaling the start of a mad dash by thousands of settlers. They were seeking to claim part of nearly two million acres made available by the federal government. The land originally belonged to Creek and Seminole Indian tribes.

1961 - A U.S.-backed attempt to overthrow Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba failed disastrously in what became known as the Bay of Pigs fiasco. About 1,400 anti-Castro exiles invaded the island's southern coast along the Bay of Pigs but were overrun by 20,000 Cuban soldiers and jailed. Trained and guided by the U.S., the exiles had expected support from U.S. military aircraft and help from anti-Castro insurgents on the island. Instead, due to a series of mishaps, they had fended for themselves with no support. The failed invasion heightened Cold War tensions between Cuba's political ally, Soviet Russia, and the fledgling administration of President John F. Kennedy. The following year, the Russians brazenly installed nuclear missiles in Cuba resulting in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

BRANCH 95 GOLF | Terry Starkel, Golf Chairman

916-817-1524



Golf in March was much better than February golf. No rain outs, no cold days and good participation. We ended the month with an alternate shot format at Lincoln Hills, playing the Hills course. With 12 teams of two playing, it seemed to be a good format for a course that we only play once a year. The winning teams all had a score of 69 and it went to a tie breaker based on how the hardest hole was scored. Coming out with first place was the team of Byron Loney and Scott Walberg, in second was Ray Guenther and Terry Starkel and in third was the team of Bill Klump and Al Gurevich.

In April we will be playing Empire Ranch, Mather, Wildhawk and Diamond Oaks. We are looking forward to some more good weather before we get into the summer heat. We also look forward to some of our golfers that have been out with injuries to be able to return to play. We seem to take longer to recover as we get older, but no matter how well or poorly you play, it is still good to get out with fellow SIR golfers.



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

March 3rd - Empire Ranch
1st place - Don Nicholson
2nd place - Terry Privott
3rd place - Mike Wilke
4th place - Ron Wadsworth
Closest to the pin - Byron Loney

March 10th - Mather
1st place - Bill Yeager
2nd place - John Yost
3rd place - Terry Starkel
Closest to the pin - Byron Loney

March 17th - Wildhawk
1st place - Jay Muzio
2nd place - Ray Guenther
3rd place - Mike Bettencourt
Closest to the pin - Randy Hood

March 24th - Lincoln Hills (2-man alt shot)
1st place - Team of Byron Loney and Scott Walberg
2nd place - Team of Ray Guenther and Terry Starkel
3rd place - Team of Bill Klump and Al Gurevich

SIR Websites

Branch 95: sirinc2.org/branch95/

State SIR: sirinc.org

The Rooster Crows (State SIR newsletters):

sirinc.org/newsletters

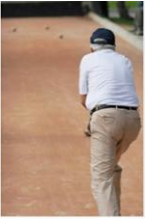
SIR-Branded Merchandise: sir.ourproshop.com

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. \$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



Back from our Winter hiatus. See the article on the next page.

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.

FOOTHILLS COOL CARS| Rick Talone 916-761-7222



The car group, FCC, will be starting their monthly drive April 24th. All future drives will be on the last Friday of every month through October. Our drives are off the beaten path where we can enjoy our beautiful foothill countryside and away from regular city driving. Every month we have a different route and destination.

This month we will be motoring up Green Valley Rd. from the old Purple Place parking lot starting at 10:30 to Placerville where we will break for lunch at GEARTOOTH ALEWERKS. We will discuss plans for future drives and car-related events for the summer. From there we will head back to El Dorado Hills via Green Valley Rd.



On March 24-25 our tournament schedule brought 84 bowlers to Clayton Valley Bowl for a two-day friendly competition. As you walk into CVB it seems like a step back in time, not much remodeling and, in the middle of the house, you see a glass enclosed smoking cubicle that is still used ... crazy.

The tournament had two handicap divisions based on entering averages for both the singles and doubles competition. Everyone had an opportunity to excel, and boy did they! In the A division, Mark Blackshere from Branch 8 Walnut Creek, bowled a high scratch game of 288. This was followed by a 278 from Raul Cienfuegos, Branch 19 Concord, and a 266 by Wilson Silva, Branch 142 San Mateo. The B division showcased Jim Lucia, Branch 136 Sonoma, who bowled his second 600 series ever with a 628 for a first-place finish. Laurie Furlani, a guest from Branch 65 Napa, has only been bowling about a year, but that didn't stop her from rolling a 241 game in doubles - her highest ever! I think averages for many will be going up.

Applications for 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.

- Carson City, NV, April 13-15 – Gold Dust West
- SIR State Tournament, May 12-13 – Country Club Lanes
- Placerville, CA, June 4-5 – Apex at Red Hawk
- Dublin, CA, June 22-23 – Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl
- Auburn, CA, July 9-10 – Foothill Bowl
- Reno, NV, August 10-13 – National Bowling Stadium

Striking up Friendships



See you on the lanes,

SIR Ray

The fact that there's a highway to hell and only a stairway to heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.

This getting old is a terrible thing. I blacked out for about twenty minutes this morning, then I realized I'd put my hoodie on backwards.

Once you hit a certain age, life is just a delicate balance of trying to stay awake and trying to fall asleep - while slowly getting worse at both.

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



In March, the SIR wine tasting group met at the home of Micki and George Alboff. The weather was beautiful so many people sat outside to enjoy the evening. Eighteen members attended, and nine wines were sampled. The varietal for this month was Zinfandel, and since there was no formal tasting, there was no favorite noted. Each wine was outstanding, and everyone had a preferred choice.

This month's wines included: 2023 Cabana Old Vine Zinfandel from Lodi, 2020 1850 Wine Cellars Zinn-Petite Sirah blend from Amador County, 2020 Toscano Rattlesnake Rock Zinfandel from Shenandoah Valley, 2020 Perseverance Old Vine Zinfandel from Lodi, 2020 Noceto OGP Zinfandel Amador County, 2022 Oak Ridge Winery OZV Old Vine Zinfandel from Lodi, 2014 Newsom Harlo Big John Zinfandel from Calaveras County, 2019 Bella Grace Vinyards Old Vine Zinfandel from Amador County and, lastly, 2021 Malam Cellars Zinfandel from Harris Kratka Vinyard Alexander Valley Sonoma County.

The food was the high point of the evening. There were several delicious appetizers followed by lamb and chicken kabobs, expertly BBQed by George, paired with herbed rice and side salads. The dessert was a luscious carrot cake to top off the 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



The Best Burger Pursuit activity is back in our alternating burger/taco schedule as agreed several months ago. Our last BBP activity was at a new taco place – La Cascada Family Mexican Restaurant in El Dorado Hills at Francisco Drive and Green Valley Road. This is only our fourth Taco venue, so the standings are just developing. We had a great turnout and everyone seemed to really enjoy La Cascada. They are currently 3rd, out of 4 taco venues and came in strong in the Taco/burrito Quality and the Beverages categories (9 total categories). Not a bad place to be!

The current, updated BBP Taco Standings are:

1st PLACE	Taqueria El Carnaval	2nd PLACE	Martins
3rd PLACE	La Cascada	4th PLACE	Soriano's

Our next BBP activity will be Friday, April 24, 2026. It is actually a week later in the month than the normal, one week after the main SIR meeting, but a couple of us Burger Guys are on vacations the previous week, so I did what all good project managers do – just change the schedule. We will be back at a burger venue which this time will be The Original Mels Diner in Folsom, at 13399 Folsom Blvd. Same time as always – 12:00 noon. Same process as always – eat a burger and rate it!

MUSEUM EXHIBITS & EATS | Brian Lemley 530-903-7184



The SIR "Museum Exhibits & Eats" activity is a newly approved monthly activity for our branch. Members are encouraged to include their spouses and/or guests. Our objective is to meet on the first Friday of each month for an early lunch and then a visit to a local museum.

Our last visit was on Friday, March 6th. It started at the elegant Ella's Restaurant in Sacramento followed by a short walk to the California Museum. We had 23 participants!

Our next event is scheduled for Friday, April 3rd with lunch at Il Fornaio Restaurant in Sacramento followed by a short walk to The Crocker Art Museum for a docent-led tour of their current special exhibit: "Sense of Beauty". In June we will be visiting the California Railroad Museum and in July we will be visiting the California Auto Museum. Why not join us!

APRIL ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - see the [Golf page](#) on our website for the complete schedule



9th - Texas Hold'em; host varies; 6:30pm



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



1st, 15th - 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



8th - BEC Meeting & Luncheon; Cameron Park Country Club



16th - Rhine Valley wines; DJ and Jodi Peterson will be hosting



24th - a week later than normal; The Original Mel's Diner; Folsom; noon



13th-15th - Gold Dust West; Carson City, NV



24th - 10:30 old Purple Place parking lot; drive to Geartooth Aleworks in Placerville for lunch



7th - TBD



3rd - Il Fornaio Restaurant; Sacramento; The Crocker Art Museum

A LIGHTER MOMENT | Tom Gamble and Terry Wild

One morning, I watched my wife make her breakfast and noticed that she made too many trips to get each item she needed. So I said in my best engineer voice, "Hey, sweetheart, why don't you utilize the load maximization principle and carry all the items you need in one trip, thereby minimizing the total distance traveled?"

Well, don't you know, she loved my suggestion!

It used to take her 11 minutes to make her breakfast... now I do it in 5.

An elderly man thinking his wife was losing her hearing stood about 20' behind her and asked "Can you hear me, Sweetheart?" No reply. He moved to 10' and asked again. No reply. 5' and not a word. He moved a few inches behind her ear and asked "Can you hear me now, honey?"

His wife said in an exasperated voice, "For the fourth time, YES!"

A man goes to the doctor, worried about his wife's temper.

The doctor asks "What's the problem?"

The man says, "Doctor, I don't know what to do. Every day my wife seems to lose her temper for no reason. It scares me."

The doctor says, "I have a cure for that. When it seems that your wife is getting angry, just take a glass of water and start swishing it in your mouth. Just swish and swish but don't swallow it until she either leaves the room or calms down."

Two weeks later, the man comes back to the doctor looking fresh and reborn. The man says "Doctor, that was a brilliant idea! Every time my wife started losing it, I swished with water. I swished and swished, and she calmed down! How does a glass of water do that?"

The doctor says, "The water itself does nothing. It's keeping your mouth shut that does the trick."

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.