



TRAIL TIPS

Mission Trail Branch 35, Los Altos, California

Branch 35 web www.sirinc2.org/branch35/



- NEXT MEETING -

Wednesday, December 13th, 2023

SIR Branch 35 Holiday Lunch 11:00am-1:30pm

Buffet from 12:15pm, MVHS Singers 1:00pm

Venue: Mountain View Community Center,

Menu: Turkey, Ham + all the trimmings, Pies!

Honorary Life Member Awards, 2023 Andy Danver: State AND Branch HLM Awards Ben Gikis: Branch HLM Award

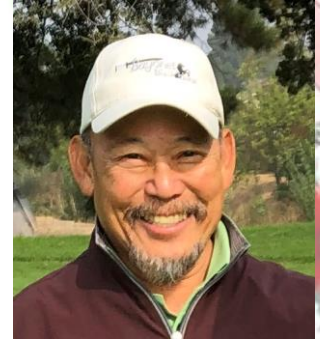
This year our awards program was revamped to spotlight our special members that volunteer of their time to help make this branch the best across the state. In June we held our Branch mid-term awards ceremony to award the "Distinguished Service Award" and "Doing My Part" awards to deserving volunteers.

In November, we conducted the end of term State and Branch "Honorary Life Member" Awards. "This award is the highest and most prestigious award available within SIR." Our Award evaluation process was conducted from April – August, with Bob Garten as Chair of the Branch HLM Committee. His committee convened multiple times, evaluated 77 candidates to eventually arrive at the two, most deserving of the recognition award. See the article in this edition for details!

Ron Nakamoto, Big Sir

The Big Sir says...

The year 2023 has had more than its share of challenges. Remember how the year started off when our host facility at the Elks Lodge, declined to renew our contract which sent us on a journey in search of a suitable facility? Through the efforts of your Board, we found and settled into the Mountain View Community Center which has served us well this year.



The Year in Review:

- No January meeting as the Elks double booked the facility but, ...
- After meetings with senior Elks management, we secured a great February luncheon at a huge discount, their consideration for their mistake.
- March was our first meeting at MVCC, our new home and it was well attended.
- April, we conducted our last hybrid remote (Zoom) video as the Pandemic risk subsided and we wanted everyone back together as before.
- In June we shifted our meeting to LAUMC as our alternate summer facility. We also recognized our Branch volunteers in a June Awards presentation.
- In July we had another great summer picnic at Blackberry Farms.
- In August we finally found and settled in with a good catering company that provided hot and cold quality meals with reasonable prices.
- In September we had to shift to the second Wednesday of the month as the facility blocked out our normal meeting time. There was no reduction in attendance.
- In November, we recognized our Honorary Life Member awardees, introduced our new branch officers, and concluded with a great topic on "Why Love Opera".
- This December will be our first Holiday Celebration at MVCC. It should be a very pleasant event to end this turbulent year.

My term as Big Sir has come to an end. I thank you for your support and patience throughout the year. I encourage you to support and help our new Big Sir and his Board through the coming year.

I'll end by asking you, don't you look forward to attending our monthly luncheons, our special events, and activities? Help and volunteer. It is easy to do, just let your activity lead or a board member know, and they can pair you up with something that works

for you. Contribute, Help, Volunteer. Don't be a mooch and just partake of all that SIR offers without giving back.

Happy Holidays to all and God Bless America.

Ron

Peter Wong...

Reflecting on a Year as "Little Sir"



It has been a year since I volunteered as your "Little Sir." This experience has been nothing short of transformative, offering unforgettable memories, and a profound sense of fulfillment.

My journey started with a simple desire to give back and make a positive impact. The Sons In Retirement (SIR) organization is dedicated to enhancing the lives of our members. As a relatively "young" volunteer, I initially felt a bit out of place, but I quickly realized there was a full team of volunteers that shared the passion to meet our organization's goal.

My role involved organizing our speaker program, supporting our meetings, summer picnic and planning for our holiday luncheon. I've had the opportunity to share my experience and re-energize my dormant skills. I've been a part of the tremendous change of our meeting venue, our lunch catering challenges and the countless emails that have left me filled with awe, joy and astonishment at what was accomplished.

Volunteering as a "Little Sir" has given me a sense of achievement. The smiles on the faces of the members, the gratitude they express, and the sense of purpose that comes from making a positive impact are immeasurable rewards. Knowing that I've played a small role in enhancing our members experience is a feeling I cherish. I especially would like to acknowledge members that helped secure and provided leads for our speaker program.

I am grateful to take the opportunity as it has reinforced the power of volunteering, the significance of connections, and the enjoyment that comes from giving back. As I step into my new role as your Big Sir, join me in volunteering to enhance your life. You all have the ability to contribute to keep our branch the best in California.

Peter Wong



SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SIR Branch 35 just got a great writeup on the website 'www.localnewsmatters.org'. Check it out at [https://localnewsmatters.org/2023/12/01/norcal-fraternity-helps-retired-men-build-social-connections-find-fun-through-events/!](https://localnewsmatters.org/2023/12/01/norcal-fraternity-helps-retired-men-build-social-connections-find-fun-through-events/)
- Registration for our annual Holiday Celebration Lunch is closed but I believe we had many members sign up with the partners and spouses. We look forward to a great event!

DECEMBER 2023 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Active Members: 308 Net Monthly Change: +4

We added four new members this month! There's room for more, we welcome new members so bring a friend or neighbor!

Remember, you can search our member database at this link:

[SIR Branch 35 - Membership Directory \(wildapricot.org\)](http://SIR Branch 35 - Membership Directory (wildapricot.org))

NEW MEMBERS

Don Bray Los Altos	Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Accenture
Dave Dardis Los Gatos	IBM
Gordon Frierson Palo Alto	Oakland Medical Group, UCSF
Greg Wadden Los Altos	Self Employed

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YRS

We have no 10 year anniversaries to celebrate this month!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mike Cascone	Wayne Dexter	David Falconer
Bob Feigelson	Tom Gazdayka	Ben Gikis
Don Girman	Marc Haberman	Peter Lau
Robert Lerner	Brian Lin	Bill Mack
Bob Morley	Bob Moss	Bill Nugteren
Steve Pomeroy	Ernie Robertson	Pete Squire
Bob Taggart	Jim Thorne	Darryl Walker
Eli Wismer	Larry Wray	

A Matinee at the Opera...



A Sunday matinee is the perfect time to attend the Opera. Twelve of us did so at our first SIR group event. "The Barber of Seville" is an Italian opera buffa (comedy) that first premiered in 1816 in Rome. It has endured and has become a regular favorite of "Operagoers".

As this was my first opera ever, I found the theater conveniently located and the theater itself to be well decorated and maintained. The group sat together on the first floor not far from the stage. Of course, I didn't understand a thing as they sang their recitative (conversations) but they display surtitles (live dialogue display) above the stage. Experienced operettas and newbies alike enjoyed the experience. I polled the group, and everyone would do another in the future. Thanks, Linda Reibel, for pointing out "Why Love Opera".

See some photos of the occasion next page!

Ron Nakamoto

An Afternoon at the Opera

Stage Opera
"The Barber of Seville"



David Skurnick,
Jennifer (daughter),
Bob and Marilyn Garten,
Ellie and Peter Wong

Chris and Tom Taboada,
Elaine Nakamoto.
Not shown, Campbell and
Joyce Scott, Ron Nakamoto

BOOK SWAP

See our [web page](#)

TIM TOPOLE 650-793-0838
topole@yahoo.com



No book swap at the Holiday Celebration. Bring your books for sharing to the January meeting!

BRIDGE

See our [web page](#)

MARK LEVI 650-305-9132
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The bridge group is meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Los Altos Senior Center from 12:00 to 2:00 for a friendly game. Send me your email address and I'll add you to our mailing list.

Mark Levi.

BIKING

See our [web page](#)

GORDON TONG 408-242-0557
gordy6850@gmail.com



HANK BOTTINO 650-207-4320
bottinoh@comcast.net

There's NO SIR Ride scheduled for December 2023!

Have a Happy Holidays and we will resume in January.

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordy Tong gordy6850@gmail.com or Hank Bottino bottinoh@comcast.net or 650 207-4320.

WINE FINDERS

See our [web page](#)

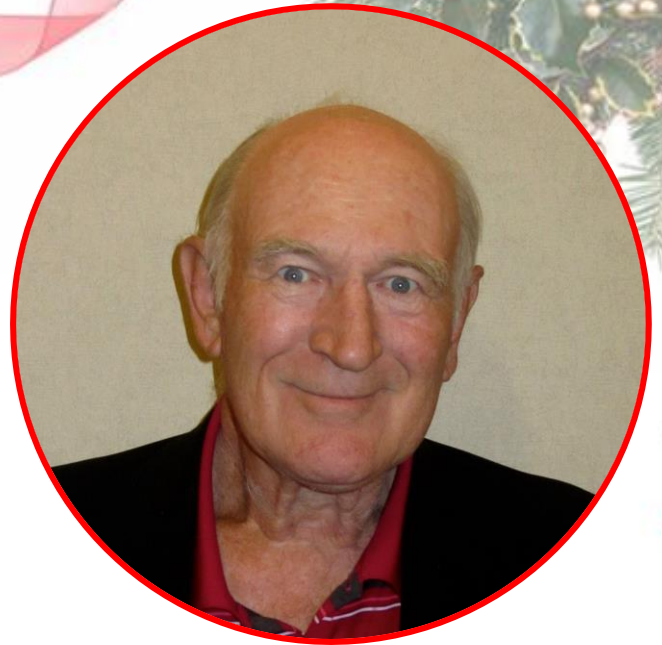
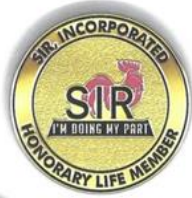
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This activity is for couples who want to have fun and meet new people. We gather at the home of a host couple to blind taste, grade wines and share appetizers. Contact either Alan or Russ to join or for more information.

Branch 35 Honorary Life Member Celebration and Awards Ceremony for 2023



Ben Gikis

Branch Awarded HLM:

- + Branch Big and Little Sir
- + Special Events Director continuously since 2012
 - o Chair and Co-Chair Summer Picnic. He revamped the entire picnic approach to benefit all members (shorter travel distance, more food and drink, less cost)
- + Co-chair Holiday Celebration 2013 – 2020. His leadership resulted in a truly festive table setting and event.
- + Area 16 State Golf Coordinator and State Golf Treasurer.

Ben is a model member, always willing to volunteer to help make things happen. He is uniquely creative

But ... there's more!

In recognition of their many years of service, the Big Sir and Branch 35 Board held an HLM Dinner Celebration to properly recognize and honor the awardees. It was a festive event, with Bob Garten as MC for the evening. Here are a few pictures of that memorable event, made better with our spouses.

The photos are courtesy of Jean Danver.

This year's HLM awardees are:



Andy Danver

State Awarded HLM:

- + Provided extraordinary help during the Pandemic period.
- + Consistently displays a passion for the success of SIR.
- + Developed and instituted a number of programs to better organize State functions.

Branch Awarded HLM:

- + Twice served as Big and Little Sir
- + Led the organization through the Pandemic period.
- + Volunteered to lead and support a number of branch functions over many years,

Andy is the first branch member to be awarded both a State and Branch HLM simultaneously for his work.

Honorary Life Member Awards Dinner Celebration



BOOK CLUB

See our [web page](#)

JERRY BELDEN 650-322-1391

jerry@gbeldenlrc.com



The Book Club is an activity where most months of the year, all members read the same book and then meet to discuss it.

For our November meeting, members read **The Johnstown Flood** written by David McCullough. The book chronicles the catastrophic failure of the South Fork Dam located upstream of the town of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. When the dam failed on the afternoon of May 31, 1898, a wall of water that ranged between thirty-five and seventy feet raced down towards the town of Johnstown, PA. The flood killed 2,208 people. The author, through extensive use of primary sources, tells the story of the people and events leading up to, during, and after the disaster.

Historical based books are not everyone's cup of tea but there was general agreement that this was a very good read for our group. There is a ton of information available online if you are interested in

more details. Start with Wikipedia where you will find a great collection of pictures and maps.

Our next book is "This Tender Land" by William Kent Kreuger. **Since we won't be having a December meeting, our next meeting will be January 10th.**

Gordy

CHESS

See our [web page](#)

BEN KUCKENS 650-400-0353

bengk@att.net



The Chess group meets on Wednesdays 9am to 1pm at the Los Altos Civic Center, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, in the senior center room. All are welcome to come and play non-competitive friendly games of chess (no time clocks). All levels of players are welcome. Ben and a few others are available to play on many other days, dates and times are flexible. If interested, contact Ben.

HIKING

See our [web page](#)

JOHN TUCKER 408-655-5435
tuckerjq6@gmail.com



What A View!

Our December 1, 2023 hike takes us to the top of Mount Umunhum. The hike is approximately 8 miles and 1200 foot elevation gain. We have 27 people signed up. As you can see from the photo from this vantage point you get a great view of Silicon Valley. The weather will be brisk but it should be an enjoyable hike. Our November and December hikes are combined because of the Holidays.

Our first hike of the New Year will be on Friday, January 26, 2024. I will announce the location as we get into January and we see what the rain situation is. I will try to include a few shorter and less taxing hikes in 2024 in an effort to get more people out on the trails, Not that we have a bad turnout. This year we have typically had between 15 and 30 hikers which is a big number for these hikes. If you are interested in joining us send me an email and I will add you to the Hiking Group email list.

I hope you all have a Happy Holiday and a Prosperous New Year.

John Tucker

DECEMBER'S SPECIAL DAYS

PAT O'CONNOR
patoconnor61@outlook.com



- 1st International Abolition Day
- 5th Bill of Rights Day
- 5th International Volunteer Day
- 7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance
- 16th-30th - College Football Bowls
- 17th Wright Brothers Day
- 21st First Day Of Winter
- 25th Christmas Day
- 31st New Year's Eve

Where can we see Holiday Light Shows this season?



- Holidays at Filoli - Historic lights in Woodside
- IlluminOdyssey Winter Light Experience, San Mateo
- Drive Through Light Show at History Park, San Jose
- Christmas Tree Lane in Palo Alto, Fulton Street, off Embarcadero
- Deacon Dave's world-famous display, Livermore
- Oakland Zoolights "Glowfari"
- Willow Glen, San Jose
- Los Gatos' Fantasy of Lights, Vasona Lake County Park

BOCCE BALL

See our [web page](#)

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JOHN RICHARDSON
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Every Friday, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Guests are welcome.

Location: Bocce Ball Courts at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos (off San Antonio Road), 650-947-2790. Ample parking in front. The Bocce Ball courts are in the left rear of the site as you face the front entrance of the Center.

1. **Weather Realities vs. Play Schedule:** Given the onset of rains, we adjust when play on the crushed oyster shell surface of the two courts is practical for our use. **Norm Pass** makes the final determination for how the weather impacts our Friday am play. Note that if it rains anytime on Wednesday, the court surfaces may not be ready for play on the following Friday morning, especially if the Thursday right after the Wednesday rain is not very sunny.

2. **Coffee/Tea Reality at the Los Altos Community Center:** On Monday through Thursday, from 9 am to 2 pm, coffee and tea are available at the Center in a room just inside the Hillview Ave. facing entrance. However, of course that does us no good given our Friday play schedule. The so called "Cafe" is now being used as a storage room for excess furniture. One year after the management of the Center started the process to secure a vendor that would offer beverages/sandwiches/snacks that process is stalled/stopped. Legal issues may have been a problem. Those of us who played Bocce in the Old Community Center remember always having hot beverages available on Friday mornings (at no cost) with the adjunct, sometimes, of participants offering fruits (citrus, etc.) from their yards free for the taking.

John

BOWLING

See our [web page](#)

BOB TAGGART 650-321-2654
chtaggart@earthlink.net



DOUG ANDERSON 415-407-4000
marktinti@aol.com

PRIZES: ALAN GAUDIE

Every Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. (for a couple hours), at Homestead Bowl, Homestead & Stelling, in Cupertino.

The final results of the Fall Session. The Winter Season starts on December 5th. We bowl every Tuesday (1:00 PM for a couple hours) at Homestead Bowl in Cupertino. Call Bob or Doug if you have any questions.

STANDINGS - FALL WEEK 16 FINAL - 2023	
1st Place --	Les Fisher, Gerry Cooley, Jim Narva, Larry Low
2nd Place --	Ruth Ososkie, Rick McColloch, Jerry Ososkie, Marc Haberman
3rd Place --	Brian Lin, Bob Taggart, Joe Enos
4th Place --	Doug Anderson, Daryl Walker, Stan Barkey, Bob Garten
4th Place --	Fred Emmenegger, Ken Allen, Don Haythronwhite
4th Place --	Harold Kaye, Peter Wong, Jay Jonekait
7th Place --	Alan Gaudie, Arnie Satterlee, Ron Nakamoto
8th Place --	Ranney Thayer, Jim Holman, Perry Brown

SEASON HIGH SCORES			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	588 - Joe Enos	1st	232 - Jay Jonekait
2nd	573 - Stan Barkey	2nd	214 - Larry Low
3rd	514 - Ron Nakamoto-T	3rd	210 - Ken Allen
3rd	514 - D Haythronwhite-T		
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	718 - Marc Haberman	1st	265 - Bob Taggart
2nd	695 - Ruth Ososkie	2nd	261 - Rick McColloch
3rd	685 - Gerry Cooley	3rd	253 - Ron Nakamoto

LAST WEEK'S HIGH SCORE			
Scratch Series		Scratch Game	
1st	573 - Stan Barkey	1st	191 - Bob Garten
2nd	518 - Joe Enos	2nd	185 - Perry Brown
3rd	496 - Jay Jonekait	2nd	179 - Marc Haberman
Handicap Series		Handicap Game	
1st	640 - Alan Gaudie	1st	231 - Harold Kaye
2nd	626 - Jim Holman	2nd	220 - Brain Lin
3rd	623 - Jim Narva	3rd	216 - Arnie Satterlee

Doug

Record Bowling Score



Wouldn't you know it, as we end our fall season of bowling, one of our bowlers posts a record one game score. You cannot see the scoreboard behind Marc Haberman, but it records a whopping single game score of 254 with 7 consecutive strikes, 9 total, and two spares. A perfect game is 300 so he was not far off. Congratulations Marc!

Our next season starts next week on December 5, Tuesday, 1pm at Homestead Lanes in Cupertino. It's fun, team competitive, handicapped so all are competitive, and you get to move around a bit.

Try it, you may like it. Call Bob Taggart or Doug Anderson or just show up.

Ron Nakamoto

GOLF

See our [web page](#)

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BRUCE KARNEY 650-964-3567
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LARRY LOW 408-533-2651
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Fixtures for the Coming Month

SIGN-UP with John Gerich by Fri Dec 8 for the following			
Deep Cliff (DCL III)	Thu Jan 4	9:30	\$43
Eclectic 3		** NEED TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
Los Lagos (LLS1)	Mon Jan 8	9:27	\$38/\$57
Eclectic 1		** NEED TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
Coyote Creek - V (CCV)	Thu Jan 11	10:05	\$80/\$90
		** NEED TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
Canyon Lakes (CLK)	Mon Jan 15	9:30	\$52
		** NEED TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
Los Lagos (LLS2)	Thu Jan 18	9:27	\$38/\$57
Eclectic 2		** NEED TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
Spring Valley (SPV)	Mon Jan 22	10:00	\$47/\$63
		** NEED TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
Moffett Field (MFD)	Thu Jan 25	9:30	\$51/\$69
		** NEED TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
Los Lagos (LLS3)	Mon Jan 29	9:27	\$38/\$57
Eclectic 3		** NEED TC ** / ** Need ATC **	
Castlewood CC Hill (CWH)	Mon Feb 26	10:00	\$115
		** NEED TC ** / ** Need ATC **	

Bill Nix Shoots His Age

Bill Nix is one of our newer golfing members, having joined in early 2022. Bill scorched Spring Valley on Nov. 2 and shot his age (87) from the silver tees. His course handicap was 20, giving him a net 67. The course rating is 65.4, so he doesn't win a cash prize, but he does get a full complement of bragging rights. Bill says: "Hey, I was just happy to get a couple of pars instead of my usual triple bogies 😊"

Glynn Shoots the Round of the Month

If you're a high handicapper who dreams of shooting the Round of the Month, Joe Glynn has lived your dream. Joe was carrying a course handicap of 45 at Boulder Ridge on October 30 when he shot gross 110, net 65, to card the best round of the month, finishing 6.6 strokes "under." Joe, we tip our hats to you for this stellar round, no matter how high or low our index is!

Rittweger Is the Match Play Champ

After each winning 3 or 4 matches to make it to the final, the concluding match of our season between Larry Low and John Rittweger was expected to be a closely fought battle. But that was not to be. It was John's day from the start, and the round concluded with a handshake on the 13th green and a 7 & 5 result.

Cioni & McGrath Place Third in Senior Team Tourney

The team of Cioni and McGrath was in sixth place going into the recent NCGA Senior Team Tournament final at Boulder Ridge, a tough layout: 5700 yards and 126 slope. (By the way, the NCGA says a "senior" is any man born before 1969 or woman born before 1974! Isn't it nice to know that the NCGA seems to think that playing golf causes women to age faster than men?)

Richard and Joe played very well (8 under par net score) and finished third in the event as well as third for the season, which netted them a \$100 prize. Joe shot 83 – one less than his age – and Richard shot 79.

The highlights of Joe's day included a CTP prize for landing 3 feet from the hole on #14 (and making the putt) and sinking an 85-foot birdie on #15. Richard carded birdies on #3 and #16.

Not bad for the oldest combined age pair in the tournament - 158 years between them!

McGrath Finishes Seventh in Super Seniors

Richard McGrath finished seventh out of more than 200 golfers aged 65 and above in the NCGA Super Seniors year-long series of tournaments. The final round was played at Danville's Blackhawk Lakeside course under exceptionally windy and difficult conditions.

The Rules Corner

This month's column features situations involving giving or receiving advice during a round. Most SIRs are friendly and love to give advice on all manner of topics. As a result, rules about advice are often violated in our matches. But rules are rules, and it is important to know what they allow – and what they don't.

You may give or solicit advice only if you're talking to your caddie (or partner or partner's caddie in a four-ball competition). Exception: **you may** ask or answer questions about general information such as distances and locations of course features. For example: "Is that flag red or blue?" "How far is it to the green?" "Is there a sand trap on the back side of that hill?" "Did you see where my ball went?"

You may not ask or answer questions like "How fast do you think the wind is blowing?" "What club did you just hit?" "Do you think I can reach the green with my 8-iron?"

Here are seven examples from Bruce Karney with answers provided by Joe Cioni.

Situation #1: Player A prepares to hit what he thinks is his ball, but it is Player B's. Before B hits, A says "Hey, that's my ball!" Player B then finds his ball and plays it. Any penalty?

Ruling #1: No harm, no foul.

Situation #2: Player X tees his ball 6 inches ahead of the tee markers. His opponent calls his attention to this so that X can re-tee the ball. Do any penalties apply?

Ruling #2: I assume this is match play since you use the word "opponent." In match play, if a player hits a ball that was teed up outside the teeing area, his opponent has the option of letting the shot stand or making the player re-tee in the correct area. No penalty in either case. If this were a stroke play competition, there is no penalty for calling attention to the fact that the ball is not in the teeing area. If X plays the ball outside of the teeing area, that is a two-stroke penalty and must be corrected.

Situation #3: On a par 3, the first player to tee off is surprised when his shot lands 15 yards short of the green. He exclaims, to nobody in particular, "I can't believe it! I crushed my 7 iron and still came up way short!" Is he penalized for offering advice?

Ruling #3: This is a tough one. If he said that to try to influence others

in his group, then yes, he was offering advice and should be penalized two strokes. This would be particularly true if there were weather conditions, such as wind in his face. The facts that he said it and that it was heard by others in the group who could be influenced by the statement, make it advice.

Situation #4: On another par 3, before the last member of the group tees off, he says: "I'm thinking of hitting a 6 iron. What did you guys hit?" Nobody answers. Was he seeking advice?

Ruling #4: He was definitely asking for advice, so it's a two stroke penalty for him. Because nobody answered, no penalty to the other players. If someone had responded, then both players would get two-stroke penalties.

Situation #5: After a player duffed a shot, another player in his foursome said. "You should have kept your head down."

Ruling #5: Borderline. But I would say not advice, just an explanation why the shot went bad.

Situation #6: After a player duffed his fourth shot of the front nine another player said, "If you want to stop doing that you should learn to keep your head down."

Ruling #6: This is an example of offering advice. Two stroke penalty.

Situation #7: After duffing yet another shot, the duffer asked a member of his foursome "Did I keep my head down that time?"

Ruling #7: No penalty. He wasn't asking for advice; he was asking to verify a situation.

2023 Individual Match Play Tournament Results

(If a name is in red it means the player's "over/under" score was -2.0 or better.)

** No cash prize awarded for matches played outside of scheduled Branch 35 tournaments

Round	Course	Match	Score	Prize
Final	Poppy Hills	John Rittweger def. Larry Low	7&5	\$10

Boulder Ridge			Par 72		Oct. 30, 2023	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
Bob Garten	68	\$25	Joe Glynn	65	\$17	
Dave Squellati	68	\$21	Peter Wong	68	\$10	
Mark Taylor	69	\$16	Don Mattson	69	\$5	
Ron Nakamoto	70	\$11				
Paul Schutz	70	\$9				
Low Gross: Richard McGrath 80						

Spring Valley			Par 70		Nov. 2, 2023			
Palmer Fit. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Fit. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Fit.	Net	\$
M. Haberman	66	\$18	Peter Lau	66	\$18	G. O'Brien	67	\$21
Bob Garten	67	\$14	Bill Nix	67	\$14	W. Stephens	68	\$16
Chris Weberg	72	\$10	B. Metheny	72	\$10	Peter Wong	68	\$10
						Ben Gikis	70	\$5
Shot his age: Bill Nix 87 (no cash prize, course rating was under 66)								
Low Gross (forward tees): Chris Weberg 82								
Low Gross (back tees): Bob Garten 83								

Poppy Ridge			Par 72		Nov. 6, 2023			
Palmer Fit. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Fit. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Fit.	Net	\$
R. Manetta	70	\$18	Herb Petersen	71	\$18	Peter Wong	66	\$21
Peter Daley	71	\$14	Ken Jones	72	\$14	Dave Ogle	69	\$16
Chris Weberg	73	\$10	R. Nakamoto	74	\$10	Joe Enos	71	\$10
Jim Thorne	73	\$5	Paul Schutz	75	\$18	Tim O'Meara	72	\$5
Low Gross (forward tees): Chris Weberg 84								
Low Gross (back tees): Robert Manetta 77								

Bay View (ABCD Scramble)			Par 72		Nov. 9, 2023	
Team			Score	Prize		
Larry Low, Dave Squellati, Stan Barkey, John Ray			51	\$17 @		
Jay Jonekait, Marc Haberman, Herb Petersen, Bruce Karney			57	\$10 @		
Richard McGrath, Dick Wilson, Bill Hall, Dave Ogle			57	\$5 @		
Low Gross: Team of Low, Squellati, Barkey & Ray 68						

Blackhorse			Par 72		Nov. 13, 2023		
Palmer Flight		Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight		Net	Prize
Les Miles		71	\$17	Don Mattson		70	\$17
John Gerich		73	\$10	Man Tran		75	\$10
Low Gross (forward tees): Les Miles and Bob Garten tied at 89							
Low Gross (back tees): Man Tran and John Gerich tied at 91							

Wente Vineyards			Par 72		Nov. 16, 2023		
Palmer Flight		Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight		Net	Prize
Jay Jonekait		70	\$25	Ben Gikis		74	\$15
Robert Manetta		71	\$21	Jim Narva		74	\$7
Jim Thorne		71	\$16				
Les Miles		73	\$11				
Ron Lau		73	\$9				
Low Gross: Robert Manetta 77							

Moffett Field				Par 72		Nov. 20, 2023				
Palmer Flt. 1		Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2		Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$
Bob Garten		72	\$18	Bill Nix		71	\$18	W. Stephens	69	\$22
Peter Daley		73	\$14	R. Nakamoto		72	\$14	Jim Narva	72	\$16
Ron Lau		74	\$10	M. Haberman		73	\$10	Sam Im	72	\$12
								Man Tran	73	\$7
Low Gross (forward tees): Joe Cioni 85										
Low Gross (back tees): Jim Thorne 84										

Crazy Horse Ranch			Par 72 Wh 70 Rd		Nov. 27, 2023		
Palmer Flight		Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight		Net	Prize
Marc Haberman		70	\$22	Man Tran		64	\$17
Chris Weberg		72	\$16	Jim Narva		74	\$10
Robert Manetta		73	\$12				
Jay Jonekait		73	\$7				
Low Gross (forward tees): Richard McGrath 84							
Low Gross (back tees): Robert Manetta 82							

ponderous to recommend. Peggy says take a nap at home and save the cost of a ticket. Rated R for strong violence, some grisly images, sexual content, and brief language. In Theatres.



Last Stop Larrimah. Tucked away alongside a wide spot in the road in the Australian Outback, this small town is surrounded by forest, crocodiles, and deep secrets. It has 11 residents., but Paddy has disappeared and now there are ten. Paddy was a transplanted Irishman who had more enemies than friends. The seemingly congenial town actually has a long history of feuds and infighting. The film digs deep into the locals and their prejudices as it tries to answer the question, what happened to Paddy? The characters are deliciously eccentric as the documentary peels away their facades. Check out this fascinating documentary. Streaming on MAX. Rated TV MA for language.



The Marvels. Marvel Studios is back with another installment in the Avengers saga hoping to exploit brand loyalty with a mediocre and confusing episode. Brie Larsen is Carol Danvers (AKA Captain Marvel). While looking great in spandex, she has her energy field get crossed up with Astronaut Captain Monica Rambeau and with Kamala Khan, a super fan. They figure out how to work together and save the Universe and restore balance. The film is a mess but by MCU standards, blessedly short. Rated PG-13 for action/violence and brief language. In Theatres.

MOVIES

MOVIES

JIM QUILLINAN
jvquill@pacbell.net



See more of Jim's movie reviews here:
<http://www.qsreviews.wordpress.com>

Our Movies group will meet on Zoom on December 12th at 3 PM. If interested, contact Jim Quillinan.



Napoleon. The rise and fall of the iconic French Emperor is brought to the Big Screen. The battle scenes are amazing as 19th Century warfare and its carnage are displayed in all of its wanton gore. Little is left to the imagination. The film even supplies the total dead per battle. Napoleon is played by Joaquin Phoenix as a grumpy old man who held himself in high esteem. The most interesting part of the film is his hot-blooded, almost kinky, relationship with his true love, Josephine, his wife (Vanessa Kirby). The film held a lot of promise but is just too



Next Goal Wins. Based on a true story, this is a predictable sports feelgood movie. The film is just fun to experience and full of good laughs. There are a few surprises that make the characters ever more endearing. It is the story of the American Samoa soccer team which lost to Australia 31-0 in 2001 - the worst loss in World Cup history. With the 2014 World Cup approaching, the team recruits the eccentric coach Rongen (Michael Fassbender) to turn the team around. Rongen and the Samoan people have a lot to learn about each other and do so. With this understanding comes success on the pitch. Be sure to stay until the end of the credits. Rated PG-13 for some strong language and crude material. It is a Peggy's Pick.

Jim

MOVIE AND MUSIC HISTORY

RON NAKAMOTO
RONANDELAINE@COMCAST.NET



There are few constants in life. Turbulence, ever changing, "as time goes by" are phrases we typically cast to describe a period we lived through. When you encounter the Rock of Gibraltar on your maiden trip to the Mediterranean Sea you remember the moment. On subsequent trips, your memories flood back to that time. It has become one of those constants in time for you, forever more. Movies and Music elicit those same moments for all of us, constants of where we were and what we were doing when we first saw or heard it. This monthly article recalls the bits of movie and music history keyed to the month of its release. Ron

This month, I am reversing our "Movie and Music History" order as this song was so popular that it spawned the movie



Music: White Christmas

Irving Berlin's holiday ballad was the most recorded and bestselling song of all time. Here are some facts you might not know about the song:

- The song "White Christmas" was composed by Irving Berlin in 1940 and first sung by Bing Crosby on

December 25, 1941, on the Kraft Music Hall Show, which Bing hosted. Pearl Harbor had been attacked just a few weeks before.

- Jody Rosin, author of "White Christmas: The Story of an American Song", believes, Irving Berlin wrote the song as a tribute to his young baby son, who died on Christmas day. "It was Berlin responding in some way to his melancholy about the death of his son." Rosen said.
- It was sung by Crosby in the film "Holiday Inn" and won an Oscar for Best Song in 1943.
- The song endured over the 1940's and climbed to #1 on the charts several times, particularly during World War II because of its nostalgic message. Crosby said the song was constantly requested by troops he was entertaining as part of the USO shows. "Heavens knows, I didn't come that far to make them sad. For this reason, several times I tried to cut it out of the show, but these guys just hollered for it."
- Here is Bing Crosby singing White Christmas in the film Holiday Inn which won an Oscar for Best Song.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJ36qbGlm8Y>
- Here is a story by Mary Crosby, his daughter, as she recounts Bing's passion to entertain the troops during WW II. It's titled "The Secret Story of Bing Crosby's 'White Christmas'"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkz_HKnoQyQ&t=93s
- For you super avid Crosby fans, here is Bing singing to support "Another Bond to Buy". (Note, \$18.75 gets you \$25.00 at maturity at that time.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfyhLQ856zs>



Movie: White Christmas

If it's December, it's "White Christmas" movie time with the family. Here is a bit of this movie's, history.

- Irving was the one that suggested a movie be made based on his song, but it took until 1954 with a \$2 million budget from Paramount and some major script rewrites to get it into production.
- Fred Astaire was to be paired with Bing Crosby as he did in "Holiday Inn" but bowed out after reading the original script which was awful.
- Donald O'Connor was to replace Fred, but he took ill and was replaced by Danny Kaye who agreed to take the role for a salary of \$200,000 and 10% of the gross. (His salary was 10% of the budget and his ownership interest was worth \$13M in today's dollars.)
- Berlin wrote seven new songs for the film including "Gee I Wish I Was Back in the Army" for the quartet of Crosby, Kaye, Clooney, and Vera-Ellen.
- All the main characters sang except for Vera-Ellen (Judy Haynes character) whose voice was dubbed by Trudy Stevens.
- The movie grossed \$12 million, equivalent to \$131 million today, making it the highest grossing musical film at the time.

Here is the original movie trailer for "White Christmas" filmed for the first time in VistaVision.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4K2C0gcEV3Q>

Some background on Bing, I bet you didn't know:

- His music career spanned decades with 43 #1 songs, including 50 million copies sold of "White Christmas."
- His movie career included a string of box office hits, to include a Best Actor Oscar for "Going My Way", the highest grossing film in 1944.
- Bing owned several local television stations and was a producer of TV hit series "Hogan's Heroes" and "Ben Casey".
- He was part owner of sports teams including the "Pittsburgh Pirates".
- Do you remember his Minute Maid orange juice commercials? He was a principal investor of Minute Maid.
- Perhaps his most unusual investment and as it turns out his most lucrative was his investment in magnetic recording tape.
- Of course, he was the host of the Pebble Beach Clambake in 1937 which evolved into the AT&T Pro Am. He was a significant personality that brought the game of golf to the public and made it fun with celebrities playing next to professionals. He had a golf index of 2.

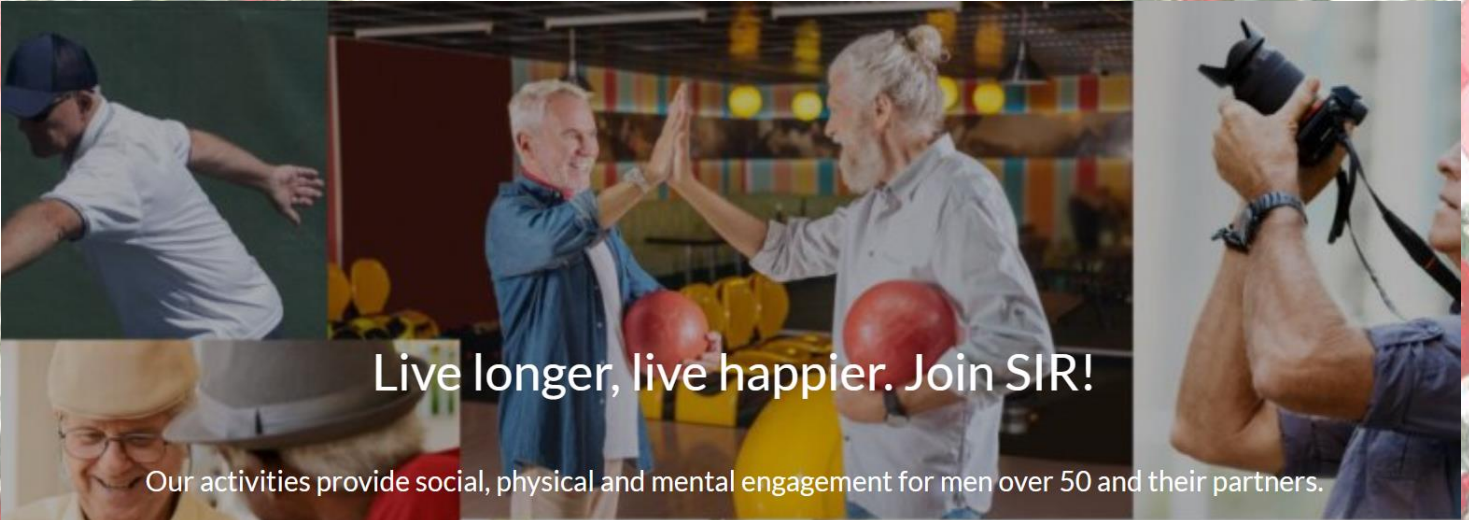
As Paul Harvey says, "And now, ... you know the rest of the story."

Ron

SIR HAPPENINGS

Our State SIR Organization publishes a quarterly bulletin highlighting SIR events, branch activities and state-wide activities. It's called **SIR Happenings**, and you can read the latest issue [here](https://sirinc.org/newsletters/)

<https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>



Live longer, live happier. Join SIR!

Our activities provide social, physical and mental engagement for men over 50 and their partners.

We live longer and have more fun!

Based in Northern and Central California, our branches provide a range of activities, and many are coed!



Let's Celebrate 2023 with our Holiday Celebration Luncheon



Happy Holidays



It's time to wrap up the year with a 2023 Holiday Celebration with your fellow SIR members. Our celebration party will be at the Mountain View Community Center, Redwood Hall on December 13th (2nd Wednesday). Doors will open at 11:00am, with check in, table assignment, and some social time to mingle with your fellow members and friends. We will have a buffet service from 12:15pm, and at 1:00pm we will be entertained by the MVHS Madrigal Singers. I'm sure they will put you in the holiday mood with their awesome singing and youth.

Our festive menu will include oven roasted turkey and honey baked ham with all the trimmings and a selection of pies for dessert. Coffee, tea, or hot chocolate is available to top off your meal. The tables will be fitted with fine dining plates, utensils, glasses, and coffee cups along with holiday decorations and some sweets for the ladies. We will also have a bottle of red and white wine on your table, all included. The price will be \$60.

Online registration and payment will start on November 16th via an email invitation from Branch 35 and will continue until November 30th. Each member may also register one paying guest (spouse/partner or a friend).

Put on your holiday best and as in the past, if you would like to sit with a group, please appoint one person to be your table captain. That person must email Andy Danver at adanver@ix.netcom.com with the names of the members and guests at his table. Tables will be set up for eight which will allow a maximum of 160 participants.

Here's looking forward to you and your special someone to be part of our Branch family Holiday Celebration for 2023.

Ron
Big Sir

STATE OFFICERS

State President..... David Gonzales 916-587-3538
 Vice President..... Dale D. Decker 209-573-0833
 Representative Area 13..... Foster Kinney 650-575-4920

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 Little Sir.....Peter Wong 408-921-4884
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 Assistant.....Leland Chan 510-490-5369
 Treasurer.....Larry Low 408-533-2651
 Assistant.....Jim Narva 408-930-3353
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 & Hank Bottino 650-207-4320
 Bocce Ball.....John Richardson 650-996-7787
 & Norm Pass 408-737-7639
 Book Club.....Jerry Belden 650-207-6280
 Book Swap.....Timothy Topole. 650-793-0838
 Bowling.....Doug Anderson 415-407-4000
 Bridge.....Mark Levi 650-305-9132
 Chess.....Ben Kuckens 650-400-0353
 Golf.....Les Miles 408-528-5473
 Hiking.....John Tucker 408-655-5435
 Investments.....Jim Dunaway 650-229-4602
 Bob Booth 408-307-3274
 Movies.....Jim Quillinan 408-838-4379
 Trail Birds.....David Skurnick 650-796-5314
 Wine Finders.....Alan Gaudie 650-575-4332

WELL & COMFORT WISHER: Death or illness of a fellow Sir should be reported to **Don Lintz (408-888-7391 or donlintz(at)comcast.net)**. He will express condolences of our Branch and communicate memorial announcements immediately among members via e-mail.

All activities arranged for or by Sons in Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of its members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons in Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property in any matters pertaining to said activities.

SIR Branch 35 Activities - December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
					Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
					Hiking 10:00am Mt. Umunhum, Sierra Azul OSP	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Golf 10:00am Castlewood - \$115	Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center	Golf 9:30am Los Lagos (LLS) - \$35 Biking 11:00am HMB Coastal Trail Meet at Poplar Beach parking lot	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Golf 10:30am Deep Cliff - \$41	Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl Movies 3:00pm Zoom Meeting	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Branch 35 Luncheon/Meeting 11:00am - 1:30pm Mtn. View Community Center	Golf 9:30am Sunnyvale (SVL) - \$39	Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center		Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	