



THE MAIL POUCH



Website: branch69.org

Facebook: Pony Express SIR Branch 69

The Pony Express Branch #69
August - 2022 Edition

John Popadak, Editor



Message from Mark

Wow August is already looking to be another **TERRIFIC** month with something for everyone. Starting off with Golf at Wildhawk for the State Individual qualifier, then club playing Turkey Creek, Antelope Greens (4 clubs) & Teal Bend. Cribbage at County Club Center, Walking at William Land Park, Monthly Luncheon with speaker, Dine - Out location still not decided at the time of this writing. **ACTIVE SENIORS!**

After 25 years, Lennie Silva is retiring from chairing the Branch 69 Golf Club!

Congratulations Lennie! We can't show gratitude enough for the challenging effort you've done for 25 years as Golf Chairman! THANK YOU!



Dine-Out We gathered on July 20th at El Tapatio for a fantastic Mexican dinner. It seems like all 28 were enjoying their scrumptious meals and alcoholic beverages!

In August we will be dining at Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ in Rocklin on Wednesday, the 17th, at 6:00 pm. Check out their menu on their website at: [#22 Rocklin | Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ \(lucillesbbq.com\)](http://#22 Rocklin | Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ (lucillesbbq.com)).

In July the BEC (Branch Executive Committee) APPROVED four new activities:

MIXED GOLF OUTINGS: (Members, Couples, and Guest) I have contacted Donna Costello who is willing to set tee times for those interested in **STARTING A GOLF - OUT!** The group will gather just to go out and have fun and play a round of golf and gather afterwards for lunch. Another SIR member needs to Co-Chair. Please let me know if you're interested in participating in **GOLF - OUT** and I will share with Donna so we can begin in September! Will not interfere with Monday golf, Wednesday bowling or Thursday golf.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: December 17th we will be placing wreaths at a Veteran's Cemetery. This is

volunteer activity. Please view the website & YouTube (<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>) (https://youtu.be/5_EW6a_VAs) and see if you are interested in participating (open to family and friends) in placement of wreaths at a veterans cemetery. You do not need to purchase a wreath to participate in this activity. If you are interested, please contact me, and let me know the number to register for Pony Express SIR Branch 69 to participate.

BOCCI BALL: Again, if you're interested in Bocci Ball please call SIR Terry Block who has volunteered to coordinate exciting new endeavor for our members. SIR Terry, 916-686-0797.

\$UMS INVESTMENT: SIR Joe Cain has volunteered to coordinate Investment Programming Group. At times we'll be able to coordinate through zoom with SIR 128. If interested, please give SIR Joe a call @ 530-219-3709. Also, more information to follow about upcoming events.

Explorers Group! STILL no one willing to Co-chair this fantastic exploring group (show I'M DOING MY PART)

I'M DOING MY PART: Please welcome our new members for July: **SIR Bill Boruff** - Sponsor (SIR Don Agostinelli) and **SIR James Svobodny** - Sponsor (SIR John Valdez).



Currently, we have received back 28 surveys indicate you are a veteran. If you're one of the 28, **THANK YOU!** If you haven't, please e-mail or text Membership Chair SIR John Popadak and just let him know if you are a veteran, since we would like to **RECOGNIZE YOU** with a **special desert** at the November luncheon!



Mark Steffens, Big Sir



Alan's Chit-Chat

AUGUST - Amazing how time flies. Remember when we were kids how LONG summer vacation used to last? Seems like it went on forever... probably seemed that way too for our moms! I grew up in the area of Fruitridge Road and 65th street and we used to ride our bikes to the old State Fair when it was at Broadway and Stockton Blvd. Free range kids - only rule was: Be home by the time the streetlights came on! Kind of feel sorry for kids today. Sigh. ANYWAY -

This month we will have Mr. John Wagner presenting. He has a story to tell about the battle of Guadalcanal in WWII. His dad served there, and he has done considerable research into it.

The ladies Holiday Luncheon is coming. I will have a flyer in the SEPTEMBER Newsletter as well as copies on the tables at the September luncheon!

As I am ALSO the Roster chair ... actually, the whole committee... I would like to let you know that I will be sending out a personal e-mail to everyone asking for verification of your personal information for the 2023 Roster.

As always, bring a friend! That is HOW the branch will stay strong and healthy. As we age, we NEED to bring in new, and younger, guys. That is simply a fact of life.

Lastly, **SPECIAL THANKS** to Sir Tom Page for his tireless work for the branch. He publishes the bios for new members, does recruitment and is the league secretary for our bowlers. Without guys like him our branch would be greatly diminished and perhaps not even exist... If YOU have an idea for an activity, even if you cannot run it yourself, PLEASE let Mark know. The more activities we get the better!

See you at the August meeting!

Alan Weinel, Little SIR

Check out the State SIR newsletter "**Happenings**" for information about statewide SIR activities and other branches by clicking on the Rooster at the right.



2023 BEC SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR SIRS BRANCH 69 (REVISED)

The Nominating Committee recommends:

OFFICERS

Big SIR Alan Weinel



Little SIR Connor Chin



Secretary Jim Huffman



Asst. Secretary Bernie Moreno



Treasurer Hal Copperberg



Asst. Treasurer Bob Sanchez



DIRECTORS

PBS Marek Steffens
Term: 2023



Jim Oblizalo
Term: 2021-2023



Ted Patterson
Term: 2022-2024



John Popadak
Term: 2022-2024



Ron Peters
Term: 2023-2025



Paul Sickert
Term: 2023-2024



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

SIR Bill Boruff

147 46th Street
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 212-8865
boruffsandy@comcast.net
Sponsor: Don Agostinelli



Bill was born in Bakersfield but grew up in nearby Wasco, Seattle and Sacramento. He joined the Navy just out of high school and began a long life of military service. During his enlistment in the Navy, Bill was a signalman using signal flags, flashing lights and semaphore. His first service was on a LST 1177 landing craft. Later, he served on a larger LPH 3 (helicopter carrier) and sailed from the east coast through the Panama Canal to San Diego. The ship then headed to Viet Nam in the Da Nang area. Bill served two tours off the coast of Viet Nam supporting Marine Corps operations before returning to the US and civilian life. He worked as a locksmith initially before becoming a school bus driver, which he did for the rest of his working career.

Bill wasn't done with military service, though. He joined the Naval Reserves in 1980 and then transferred to the Army National Guard. That turned into a real adventure when his unit was called up to serve in the Desert Storm/Desert Shield conflicts supporting Marine Corps operations again. Bill was a 40-ton truck driver in Saudi Arabia for this period. He later re-joined the Naval Reserve and served until 1997.

Bill and his wife Sandy have one child and 3 grandchildren. He enjoys bike riding, travel and bocce ball.

Birthday: December 12, 1946
Anniversary: Sandy, February 27, 1971

SIR Jim Svobodny

11122 Oberun River Court
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 425-1791
jsvobodny@aol.com
Sponsor: John Valdes



Jim was born in Weissbaden, Germany, as part of a military family. He grew up in Germany, Spain, Ohio, Seattle, and Riverside. After high school, he worked at several jobs, including Tower Waterbeds, before going to work for his father's window installation business. He did this work for 20 years until his father passed away. At that time, Jim and a friend bought out the business and continued to operate until it became time to retire.

Jim and his wife Rhonda have a son and a 3-yr old grandson. Jim loves golf and plays a lot now, just as he used to do with softball leagues. He was an avid softball player for years until his knees just couldn't take it anymore. Jim also likes to travel and follows a lot of professional sports.

Birthday: November 29, 1953
Anniversary: Rhonda, May 14, 1983

New Members (NM) and Their Sponsors (S)

- Jim Valdes (S)
- Bill Boruff (NM)
- Jim Svobodny (NM)
- Don Agostinelli (S)
- BS Mark Steffens



August Birthdays

Paul Ogden	08/01	87 Years
Dan Calcagno	08/06	
Conrad Cookman	08/07	
Bill Auch	08/09	
Warren Senegal	08/12	90 Years
Heman Smith	08/20	93 Years
Bob Dant	08/21	92 Years
Joe Riley	08/31	

August Anniversaries

Greg & Norma Schweitzer	08/10	
Ross & Susan Martin	08/12	55 Years
George & Karen Langford	08/12	50 Years
Mark & Jan Kraut	08/14	
Dan & Kathy Calcagno	08/16	
Joseph & Sharon Cain	08/21	
Michael & Shelly Brassil	08/21	
Dan & Cheryl Nelson	08/23	53 Years



YOUR 2022 CALLERS



Wing Tse	Dan Nelson	Rex Bowling	BS Mark Steffens	Steve Haakenson	Connor Chin
Jack Osborne		Marty Miller	Steve Brandenburger		
Jim Huffman (Caller Coordinator) (Inset)			Tom Knoble		Bob Clanton (Inset)

Your 2022 Golf Directors



Rick Hom—Regular Course



Greg Schweitzer—Progressive Golf Club

AUGUST GOLF

August 4 - Turkey Creek - Low Net - \$53/crt

August 18 - Teal Bend - Low Net - 53/crt

August GOLF






August 1 - Bing Maloney - 4 man scramble

August 15 - Antelope Greens - 4 clubsonly



NEW GOLF COMMITTEE

Lennie Silva, who had been the golf director for 25 years, has stepped down from this position as of July 31. To replace him, we have created a Golf Committee to schedule the golf tournaments with the golf courses, establish the foursomes for each tournament, collect the money from the golfers, pay the golf courses, and calculate and pay-out the winnings. The committee members are:

- President: Pat Quinn 
- Treasurer: Jerry Buhlert 
- Handicap Director: Dan Nelson 
- Tournament Co-Directors:
 - Rick Hom (Br 69 GC) 
 - Terry Block (PGC) 
- NCGA Ambassador: Jim Huffman 

Beginning August 1 they will assume these duties except for Terry Block. The PGC will transition from Greg Schweitzer to Terry later this year.

Lennie will be missed!

NCGA NEWS

The "myNCGA App" will be discontinued this fall. In its place, NCGA recommends the "USGA GHIN" app. the "USGA GHIN" app, is available NOW and can be found in the Apple App Store or on Android, Google Play as a free download. With score posting, handicap lookups, and stats tracking, the GHIN app continues to deliver innovation and reliability. In addition, the "USGA GHIN" app has golf course GPS and Apple Watch compatibility with more to come, including advanced stat tracking and a game feature that will make it easier to keep track of friendly competitions if desired. If anyone needs help with this or any NCGA-related matter, I am more than happy to assist you.



**Jim Huffman
NCGA Ambassador**



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BOWLING NEWS

OK, bowlers, last call for signing up for bowling this season. It's not really the last call, you can join us any time during the year, but I'm putting the teams together right now. If you want to be on a team, you have to let me know right away if you haven't already done so.

Important dates:

Wednesday, August 24, 11 am at Country Club Lanes. This is our annual bowling meeting and free practice bowling day. Try to keep this date open so you can join your new teammates and get that arm loosened up, too.

Wednesday, August 31, 10:30 am at Country Club Lanes. This is the start date for our 2022-2023 bowling season. Definitely plan to be there.

Other bowling information:

If you want to practice bowl anytime during the weekdays, identify yourself as a SIR league bowler at the front desk at Country Club Lanes and you can bowl for \$.25/game. Also, if you still have some of those old free bowling coupons from making splits, Country Club Lanes will continue to honor them.

The State SIR Bowling Committee has several upcoming SIR tournaments on their calendar. Go to the State SIR Bowling website to view the calendar; the entry forms are also on the site.

See you all soon at Country Club Lanes.

Stay safe and stay healthy,

Tom Page, League Secretary
916-488-6465



When someone asks you, "A penny for your thoughts", and you put your two cents in, what happens to the other penny?



WINE TASTING

It is with much enthusiasm that I announce the first (of hopefully many) Wine tasting experience.

On Wednesday August 24th, 2022, at Bogle Winery in Clarksburg at 2:00 PM (that's 1400 for you veterans). The outing is for both members and Spouses and is limited to the first 20 sign-ups. Both myself and my wife will be attending therefor we are down already to 18 available slots.

The cost for the event is \$21.45 per person and checks should be made payable to the Winery.

This information will be repeated at our August 11th luncheon, but should you have any further questions my contact info is as follows; (530)-312-3896, wis-chixen1@aol.com.

Dennis Kramer
Wine Aficionado



RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY

I contacted Morton Golf once again to consider an idea for our branch to advertise at Haggin Oaks. I'm sorry to say that, once again, the answer was a resounding "no." This is getting more than a little frustrating. Also, I contacted the Farmers' Market that meets Saturdays behind Macy's at El Camino & Watt to see if we might be allowed to set up an information table. Their answer, too, was no. Their website has a special section that outlines the rules prohibiting outside groups, no matter the type or purpose of the group, from advertising or otherwise handing out publicity material at the market. Sir Blake Thompson approached the Farmers' Market at Arden Fair and received an identical answer. So, it looks like local Farmers' Markets are not going to work as a venue for advertising our branch.

I'm continuing to work with our new Golf Committee to see if we can bundle our tournament commitments at golf courses with advertising for our branch. I think this could have real potential. We'll see.

Meanwhile, we added two new members to our branch in June. Be sure to read their bios in the newsletter. Each Branch 69 member should give some thought to friends, golfing and bowling buddies who might have an interest in our branch. We know how much fun our golf and bowling programs are, not to mention new activities, such as dinner outings, walking group and card playing—we have to share this information with prospective members.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the next luncheon.

Tom Page Recruiting & Publicity Director



WALKERS AND HIKERS



Walk with us at our new location, WILLIAM LAND REGIONAL PARK, on Wednesday August 10, 2022 at 9 a.m. We will walk the scenic 2.0 mile rectangle that encompasses the lake, golf course and water lily pond.

Bring a friend, this activity is open to everyone. Bring water and sunscreen.

We are gathering in the parking lot directly behind FairyTale Town, 3901 Land Park Drive, which is across the street from the Sacramento Zoo.

If you have any questions, please call Paul Sickert (916) 396-6230. Thank you.

Paul Sickert, Walk Activity Chair



From Dave Barry, Nationally Syndicated Columnist:

Men are like fine wine. They start out as grapes, and it's up to the women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.



CARD CLUB

The card club will meet on the first and third Wednesday of every month starting August.

So our next meeting of card players international (supposed to be a joke) is August 3rd and then again August 17th.

Then on September 7th and September 21st.

**Dan Nelson, Card Game Facilitator
916-895-5673**



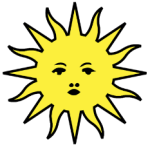
2022 ROSTER REPAIRS

Rick Hom has a new email address which is:

rahom@currently.com.

Please send roster corrections to Alan's personal Email account Alan_Weinel@ATT.Net with subject "Roster Correction". Don't forget to update your rosters with new members.

Alan Weinel, Roster Chairman



SUNSHINE



Dick Borah has had a virus infection.

Bernie Moreno has suffered the loss of his mother.

Paul Sickert had a serious cat bite that caused blood poisoning.

Greg Schweitzer has been battling a kidney infection.

George Langford has been coping with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

If you know of any of our members or immediate family with health problems give me a call at (916) 206-2732, or Big SIR Mark Steffens

**Lieutenant Coopwood,
Sunshine Chairman
ltcoopjr@gmail.com**



August 11th Luncheon Menu

Spinach Mandarin Salad,
Teriyaki Chicken Thighs, Rice Pilaf,
Seasonal Vegetables,
Dinner Rolls with Sweet Butter,
and Chef's Choice Dessert



2022 Officers

BIG SIR	MARK STEFFENS	(916) 214-8650
LITTLE SIR	ALAN WEINEL	(209) 843-1804
SECRETARY	JIM HUFFMAN	(916) 468-8197
ASST SECRETARY	BERNIE MORENO	(209) 245-6313
TREASURER	HAL COPPERBERG	(916) 722-2606
ASST TREASURER	CONNOR CHIN	(916) 601-1854

Directors

PBS PAUL SICKERT	(916) 396-6230	STEVE BRANDENBURGER	(916) 765-0585
BUD ROGERS	(916) 991-2611	JIM OBLIZALO	(916) 747-8172
PBS TED PATTERSON	(916) 607-3050	JOHN POPADAK	(916) 662-0695

State Officers

STATE PRESIDENT:	RICK KINDLE
REGION 1 DIRECTOR:	HUGH THOMPSON
AREA 4 GOVERNOR:	JACK REEFER

Recruitment, Activities, Member Relations & Publicity (RAMP)

RECRUITING/PUBLICITY/BIO	PBS TOM PAGE	(916) 488-6465
ACTIVITIES	PBS JERRY SCHROEDER	(916) 801-2530
MEMBERSHIP	JOHN POPADAK	(916) 662-0695

Committee Chairs

Programs	Alan Weinel	(209) 843-1804
Newsletter	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Chaplain	Lieutenant Coopwood	(916) 206-2732
Roster	Alan Weinel	(209) 843-1804
Golf (RC)	Rick Hom	(916) 395-7433
Golf (PGC)	Greg Schweitzer	(916) 687-8629
NCGA Ambas	Jim Huffman	(916) 468-8197
Bowling	PBS Tom Page	(916) 488-6465
Audit	Bob Sanchez	(916) 996-7342
Nominating	Paul Sickert	(916) 396-6230
Attendance	Allen Riker	(916) 873-3779
Lunch Recptn	Mark Kraut	(916) 929-3494
Orientation	Steve Goodman	(916) 521-6546
Meeting Rev	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Sunshine	Lieutenant Coopwood	(916) 206-2732
Web Site	Ross Martin	(916) 427-0559
Book Club	Steve Brandenburg	(916) 765-0585
RAMP	Jerry Schroeder	(916) 801-2530
Information	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Cards	Dan Nelson	(916) 895-5673
Walking	Paul Sickert	(916) 396-6230
Wine Tasting	Dennis Kramer	(530) 312-3896
Branch Apprl	https://sirinc.org/apparel-and-signage	

Honored Members

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

PBS RON HUTCHESON
PBS TOM PAGE
PBS JIM PORTERFIELD
PRD WARREN SENEGAL
PBS LENNIE SILVA

SENIOR CERTIFICATES

SIR JIM PAGE
SIR KEN TOWNS
SIR VERNON FREEMAN
SIR HEMAN SMITH
SIR LLOYD PLANK
SIR CHARLES DANT

A doctor examining a woman who had been rushed to the Emergency Room, took the husband aside and said, "I don't like the looks of your wife at all."

"Me neither, doc," said the husband. "But she's a great cook and really good with the kids."

NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION: ALL ACTIVITIES arranged or sponsored by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of its members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property in matters pertaining in to said activities.

Checks, money orders or credit cards for Travel for one day or less (no overnight), where a bus/busses is/are used as the primary means of transportation, may be made payable to the Branch sponsoring the event. All other checks, money orders or credit cards for travel must be made payable to the travel agency. (Rule 420 & 421).

Members are obligated to attend all regular luncheon meetings unless prevented by illness or absence from the Branch locale. (Rule 60). **REQUIRED ATTENDANCE** - A member who misses three (3) consecutive luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting the designated Branch Attendance person prior to the meeting date, and giving a valid reason, or did not attend one half of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period. may be notified, by letter, of the pending termination of his membership in SIR. (Rule 60, 100 & 107).