



THE MAIL POUCH



Website: branch69.org

Facebook: Pony Express SIR Branch 69

 **The Pony Express Branch #69**
December - 2023 Edition 

John Popadak, Editor

ALAN'S BS STUFF



Gentleman – This concludes my term are your Big Sir. Thanks to EVERYONE for their support. With that support the job was very easy. I trust that everyone will support Big Sir Connor Chin and Little Sir Lieutenant Coopwood in 2024.

I have been in this club for something like 10 years now. It ONLY works when we have volunteers. When you are asked to take on a position, PLEASE consider it carefully. Most of the time it is not really that time consuming. And, if nobody steps up ... things fall apart quickly. The ones who DO volunteer can get burned out and possibly even leave the club. So, PLEASE help out.

On a similar vein, PARTICIPATE: Come to the monthly lunches. Play golf. Or bowl. Or play cards. Come to the monthly Dine-out dinners – with or without your significant other. As guys we generally do not have the same network of friends that women have. It is really important for us to have those friendships and SIR can be one of those places. When we retire, we kind of leave those relationships behind. Having them will help us keep mentally alert and I think it even helps physically. Being active is one of the best medicines available.

Lastly (wearing my OTHER hat as Roster Chair) the Roster is “that close” to being ready to go to the printer. It SHOULD be available for distribution at the January meeting.

I will see you all at the Holiday Luncheon! It will be a lot of fun.

Stay safe, happy, and healthy.

Alan Weinell, Big SIR

CONNOR'S LUCK OF THE IRISH



This is my last letter as your 2023 Little SIR. It has been a surreal and “fun loving/enjoyable” experience to behold. Many thanks to PBS Mark Steffens and Alan Weinel for their training and advice in being a member of the 2023 BEC.

The SIR 69 Christmas Party is all set for December 14th at the Dante Club - 11:00 Drinks and Greetings 12:00 Noon Luncheon – great menu and soft music entertainment with a Christmas raffle of prizes. There was a reservation submittal cutoff date of November 24th so hopefully everyone got their reservation form into Hal Copperberg – Treasurer in due time.

At the Christmas Luncheon, the new BEC officers for 2024 will be introduced to the membership as they get ready to assume their BEC positions in January.

See you all at the December 14th Christmas Luncheon.

Connor Chin, Little SIR

REMEMBER!

The next general meeting is not until **January 11, 2024**. You're all invited!



December Birthdays

Mark Kraut	12/01	
George Langford	12/06	80 Years
Dwight Zook	12/06	80 Years
Ed Linn	12/14	87 Years
Greg Schweitzer	12/14	
James Aylett	12/19	
Gary Ransom	12/23	82 Years
Gary Lukins	12/25	
Rich Taylor	12/25	87 Years

December Anniversaries

Bill and Betty Mullen	12/07	
Rod and Cheryl Lukins	12/08	50 Years
Richard and Rosemary Slocum	12/10	
Floyd and Helen Scott	12/16	62 Years
Conrad and JoAnn Cookman	12/20	57 Years
Paul and Carolyn Ogden	12/21	
Larry and Nancy McLeod	12/23	



YOUR 2023 CALLERS






A special shout out to the 2023 callers: (From Left) Dan Nelson, Richard Terrell, Bernie Moreno, Wing Tse, Jim Happs, Patrick Lord, Steve Haakenson, Tom Knoble, Marty Miller, Connor Chin, and Bob Clanton (inset).

Great work guys!

IN MEMORIAM

We honor the memory of those SIR Branch 69 members who passed away this past year. They will be missed.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year Joined</u>	<u>Passed Away</u>	<u>Years a Member</u>
 Wayne Plauster	2000	Mar	23
 Adrian Herrell	2011	May	12
 Bud Rogers	1997	Jun	26

RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY

I've pretty much covered our recruitment activities for the year. We are continuing with our major recruiting effort, which is advertising in the Mission Oaks Recreation & Park District magazine, plus our flyers in their organization display racks. I have just renewed our ad in the MORPD magazine for the fall issue. As before, this magazine goes out to 30,000 addressees, so a lot of eyeballs get to see information about our program. This is an ongoing effort, one that we hope will bring in new membership prospects in the coming months. If anyone has ideas about other types of recruiting steps, please let me know. I always love to hear new thoughts on how we can improve our branch.

We are also continuing our work to place our advertising posters in the local golf courses. This work has been done primarily by our Golf Committee chair, Rick Hom. Many of the courses seem very willing to let us display our posters.

Most important--Keep working on your buddies who might be interested in our various activities. 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, ping pong, walking group and card playing—we have to share this information with prospective members.

I'll look forward to seeing everyone at the December Ladies Day Holiday luncheon.

Tom Page, Recruiting & Publicity Director



BRANCH 69 MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Month</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Percent</u>
January	129	86	67%
February	132	87	66%
March	132	83	63%
April	132	83	63%
May	132	89	67%
June	131	79	60%
July	131	80	61%
August	127	82	65%
September	128	81	63%
October	130	78	61%
November	130	89	68%

State SIR sets the goal at 70% attendance.

To maintain membership, a member is required to attend one-half of the regular Branch monthly luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period, unless the Branch BEC has approved different attendance requirements (State SIR Policy 25; Bylaw 18).





GOLF NEWS



Rick Hom—Regular Course



Terry Block—Progressive Golf Club



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

December 7 - the Reserve - Stroke Play - \$57

January 25, 2024 - River Oaks

NOVEMBER RESULTS

Wildhawk (11/2) Two-man Blind Draw

It was a perfect weather day for golf and OUR pace of play was good (we had to wait on some of the tournament groups in front of us). Good Job, everyone! Heard lots of rooting for each other out on the course, exactly what a blind partner draw format promotes. Sounded like a good time was had by all.

Low Net: Rick Hom & Mike Evans

2nd Low Net: Jim Svobodny & Gary Lukins

3rd Low Net: Richard Terrell & Danm Calcagno

CTPs: Rick Hom, Jerry Buhlert, Russ Prophet, Mike Evans, Paul Woods, and Carl Hefner

Empire Ranch (11/16) Stroke Play

It was a beautiful Fall day for golf at Empire Ranch, the course drained well after moderate overnight rain and it wasn't "cart path only."

Low Net, 2nd Low Net, 3rd Low Net

1st Flight: Jerry Buhlert, Rick Hom, John Mestek

2nd Flight: Mike Long, Jack Osborne, Jim Svobodny

3rd Flight: Rod Lukins, Russ Prophet, Terr Block



"30 OVER PAR, BUT I DID HIT THE GUY WHO PICKS UP THE GOLF BALLS TWICE."

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

December 11 - Davis GC - Individual Net Stableford - \$24

December 18 - Teal Bend - Stroke Play - \$58

NOVEMBER RESULTS

Haggin Oaks (10/30) - Stroke Play

Low Gross, Low Net, 2nd Low Net

1st Flight: Mark Machado, John Mestekl, Conrad Cookman

2nd Flight: Dan Nelson, Mark Steffens, Tom Page

3rd Flight: Fred Smith, John Popadak, Paul Woods

Ancil Hoffman (11/6)

It started out rainy and blustery, heavy rainfall 30 minutes before first tee time; it looked like golf would be cancelled but we ended up with 10 brave souls who waited for the rain to stop and who walked probably 5 miles that day (cart path only) and finished.

1st Low Gross: Rick Hom

2nd Low Gross: Mark Machado

1st Low Net: Terry Block

2nd Low Net: Tom Page

3rd Low Net: Sandy Davis

4th Low Net: Alex Canada

Swenson Park (11/13) Individual Net Stableford

Another nice day of golf; 13 members and 2 guests enjoyed a great fall day of golf; we played stableford format and there were plenty of positive scores.

1st Place, 2nd Place

1st Flight: Bob Baker, Rick Hom & Mark Machado (Tied)

2nd Flight: Terry Block, Alex Canada

3rd Flight: John Popadak, Mark Steffens

CTPs: Rick Hom and Paul Woods

2023 GOLF AWARDS BANQUET

Annual Golf Awards:

Low Gross, Low Net, 2nd Low Net, 3rd Allow Net

1st Flight: Jerry Buhlert, John Valdes, Joe Riley, Mike Long

2nd Flight: Dan Calcagno, Jack Osborne, Terry Block, Tom Page

3rd Flight: Marty Miller, Rod Lukins, Mark Steffens & Paul Woods (Tied)

2023 Low Net Trophy Winner: John Valdes

Fewest Putts: Dan Calcagno

2023 Closest To Pin Winner: Russ Prophet

2023 Most Improved Golfer: Joe Riley

Players of The Year: Jack Osborne & Fred Smith (Tied)



2023 Low Net Trophy winner, John Valdes, receives trophy from Golf Committee Chairman Rick Hom.





BOWLING NEWS

We're down to the last four weeks of the first half of our season. Right now, five teams (half the league) are within 2 points of the lead, so it's anyone's game to win. My January article will have all the details on the exciting finish. We've had some fine individual bowling, too. Jim Smalling came within one strike of a perfect game with a 299 effort. Jim has the top scratch series score, too, with 707. Neal McCoy is second in both categories at 277 and 671 while Roland Rodriguez is third with 255 and 637. Neal is tops in handicap game with 317, followed by Jim Smalling at 313 and Steve Haakenson at 304. Steve haakenson has the top handicap series with 815, followed by Neal McCoy at 806 and Jim Smalling at 749.

Other Bowling Information:

If you want to practice bowl, identify yourself as a SIR league bowler at the front desk at Country Club Lanes and you can bowl for \$.25/game. I had thought that evenings and weekends were excluded, but several guys have told me that they practiced then at the same low rate. Also, if you still have some of those old free bowling coupons from making splits, Country Club Lanes will continue to honor them during the weekdays.

Stay healthy,

Tom Page, League Secretary
916-488-6465



BRANCH ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

We had another fantastic Dine Out at Timber Creek Lodge! (Timbers at the Lodge) Sorry you couldn't make it! Going to take a break for the month December and begin again in January. Let me know if you have a favorite location that will seat at least 20 to 30 people and the kicker is we need individual checks! That's always been the big problem in locating a restaurant.

Mark Steffens, Activities Chairman

(916) 214-8650 /

steffens.mark@outlook.com



CARD CLUB



The cards group meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month to play cards. In the month of December we will meet on Wednesday the 6th and Wednesday the 20th. We meet at Country Club Lanes located at 2600 Watt Avenue, where the bowlers play.

Dan Nelson, Cards Chairman

(916) 895-5673

Dan.8733@yahoo.com





SUNSHINE



James Aylett will be the 2024 Chaplain/Sunshine Chairman.

Reach out to someone and let them know we care and they are not alone.

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

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



Last Month's Speaker



Last month's speaker was Andrea Haverland from the Sacramento City Zoo. She talked about the zoo's future move to Elk Grove which will provide much more space for the animals and a better experience for the public. Unfortunately, they had to relocate their chimpanzees to another zoo due to lack of space and their old male lion has passed away. Little SIR Connor Chin presented Andrea with a bottle of wine and a certificate of appreciation for her presentation.

2024 ROSTER UPDATE

The new roster for 2024 should be available at the January luncheon.

Alan Weinel, Roster Chairman
(209) 843-1804
Alan_weinel@att.net



2023 Officers		
BIG SIR	ALAN WEINEL	(209) 843-1804
LITTLE SIR	CONNOR CHIN	(916) 601-1854
SECRETARY	BERNIE MORENO	(209) 245-6313
ASST SECRETARY	LIEUTENANT COOPWOOD	(916) 206-2732
TREASURER	HAL COPPERBERG	(916) 722-2606
ASST TREASURER	JIM SPRIFKE	(209) 200-2107
Directors		
PBS MARK STEFFENS	(916) 214-8650	JOHN POPADAK (916) 662-0695
JIM OBLIZALO	(916) 747-8172	RON PETERS (916) 847-7196
PBS TED PATTERSON	(916) 607-3050	PBS PAUL SICKERT (916) 396-6230
State Officers		
STATE PRESIDENT:		DAVE GONZALES
AREA 4 REPRESENTATIVE:		JACK REEFER
Recruitment, Activities, Member Relations & Publicity (RAMP)		
RECRUITING/PUBLICITY/BIO	PBS TOM PAGE	(916) 488-6465
ACTIVITIES	PBS MARK STEFFENS	(916) 214-8650
MEMBERSHIP	JOHN POPADAK	(916) 662-0695
Committee Chairs		
Programs	Connor Chin	(916) 601-1854
Newsletter	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Chaplain	Lieutenant Coopwood	(916) 206-2732
Roster	Alan Weinel	(209) 843-1804
NCGA Ambas	VACANT	
Audit	George Langford	(650) 823-5493
Nominating	PBS Mark Steffens	(916) 214-8650
Attendance	Mark Kraut	(916) 929-3494
Orientation	Steve Goodman	(916) 521-6546
Information	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Sunshine	Lieutenant Coopwood	(916) 206-2732
Web Site	Ross Martin	(916) 427-0559
Book Club	Steve Brandenburger	(916) 765-0585
RAMP	PBS Jerry Schroeder	(916) 801-2530
Activities	PBS Mark Steffens	(916) 214-8650
Honored Members		
<u>HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS</u>		
PBS TOM PAGE		
PBS JIM PORTERFIELD		
PRD WARREN SENEGAL		
PBS LENNIE SILVA		
<u>DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS</u>		
PBS PAT QUINN		
<u>SENIOR CERTIFICATES</u>		
PBS WARREN SENEGAL		
SIR KEN TOWNS		
SIR VERNON FREEMAN		
SIR HEMAN SMITH		
SIR CHARLES DANT		
PBS ARNIE KELLER		
<u>SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN</u>		
Golf (RC)	Rick Hom	(916) 395-7433
Golf (PGC)	Terry Block	(916) 686-0797
Bowling	PBS Tom Page	(916) 488-6465
Bocci Ball	Bob Schrupf	(916) 897-7114
Cards	Dan Nelson	(916) 895-5673
Dine-Out	PBS Mark Steffens	(916) 214-8650
Investmnt Gp	Joe Cain	(916) 219-3709
Pickleball	Terry Block	(916) 686-0797
Picnic	PBS Jerry Schroeder	(916) 801-2530
Ping Pong	Bob Schrupf	(916) 897-7114
River Cats	Dennis Kramer	(530) 312-3896
Walking	VACANT	
Wine Tasting	Dennis Kramer	(530) 312-3896
Branch Aprpl https://sirinc.org/apparel-and-signage		

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



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).



TREASURER'S REPORTS



HOW ARE WE DOING?

11/24/2023

INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFF
Annual Dues	\$ 3,345	\$ 3,200	\$ 145
Special Activities*	\$ 2,235	\$ 0	\$ 2,235
Other	\$ 905	\$ 0	\$ 905
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 6,485	\$3,200	\$ 3,285
EXPENSES			
Printing & Postage	\$ 281	\$ 325	\$ 44
Officers' Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 25	\$ 25
Guest Expenses	\$ 350	\$ 300	\$ -50
State Assessment	\$ 1,040	\$1,050	\$ 10
Special Activities*	\$ 861	\$ 650	\$ -211
Other, Recruitment	\$ 0	\$ 50	\$ 50
Other, Misc.	\$ 1,869	\$ 750	\$ -1,119
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 4,401	\$3,150	\$ -1,251

*Special Activities = Day in Park & Holiday Luncheon

CASH BALANCE AT END OF 2022	\$ 3,809
CURRENT CASH BALANCE	\$ 5,943
PROJECTED YEAR END CASH BALANCE	\$ 4,509
PROJECTED 2023 YEAR END MEMBERSHIP	135
PROJECTED CASH BALANCE PER MEMBER	\$ 33

Hal Copperberg, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER, 2023

11/24/2023

Cash Balance 1/1/2023 = \$3,809

	AUGUST	YTD
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 4,792	N/A
Contributions & Other Income	\$ 1,226	\$6,485
Expenses	\$ 75	\$ 4,401
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 5,943	N/A
MEMBERSHIP		
Membership, Gain/Loss	0/-0	130

Hal Copperberg, Treasurer