



# THE MAIL POUCH



Website: [branch69.org](http://branch69.org)

Facebook: Pony Express SIR Branch 69

 **The Pony Express Branch #69**   
**September - 2024 Edition**

John Popadak, Editor



## CONNOR'S LUCK OF THE IRISH

In the month of September there are several exciting events taking place: NCAAF, NFL Football, and Friday Night Football has started, the PGA Tour Championship, and the President's Cup.

ident's Cup.

One member has resigned and four other members have been dropped due to non-payment of dues.

We need to get a better member response and attendance status to the Ten Dedicated Volunteer Phone Callers. For the past four months, we have had a high number of members that said "Yes", but they did not show up at the luncheons. Their missing appearances has caused an added expenses to the monthly Dante Cub Luncheon Payment. At the July BEC Meeting, a policy of back charging these non-attending members has been approved for reimbursement of these non-attended meals.

Note that effective August 1st with new 2024 annual contract with the Dante Club, the cost of the membership luncheon has gone up by \$2.00 to \$27.00. The previous contract price for 2022 and 2023 was \$25.00. Blame it on the cost of inflation and the higher wage cost of the staff.

Planning for the SIR 69 December 12th Christmas Party has begun. The Christmas Party is a great social time and fun loving for the membership. Induction of the 2025 BEC Nominations will be done at the Christmas Party. Tickets will be available to purchase at the October and November Membership Luncheons.

Hopefully, everything has been healthy and enjoyable for your family. Looking forward to see everyone at the SIR Branch 69 Luncheon on September 12th Luncheon.

**Connor "Lucky Irish" Chin, Big SIR**  
**Cell Phone: 1 (916) 601-1854**  
**Email: [cljschin@gmail.com](mailto:cljschin@gmail.com)**

## COOP'S CORNER

Good day everyone,



Well this job has proven to be quite interesting. Last month I booked the speaker for the wrong day (thanks Mark for stepping in and doing an outstanding presentation). The board members didn't let me live that down. I thought owning up to my mistake would be looked upon as worthy of knighthood, but noooooo, not with this bunch, they rode me like an old mule in a horse race. Their compassion and understanding is boundless, except when it comes to the best looking guy at the meeting I might add. Never pass up a good chance for some good ole public humiliation. "It's so much FUN"!!

Well hopefully I'll do better the rest of the year. But I must say, I almost goofed again by booking two speakers for this month's meeting. Thank God I caught it in time, one good tongue lashing a year is enough for me. So here's what's supposed to happen the rest of the year (fingers crossed) Alzheimer's will be here in September, "yes Tom I did say Haggin Oaks" but they will be here in October. Seeing that I need some serious couch time, Alzheimers seems more apropos next month anyway. Wild Things was gracious enough to reschedule for November. Apparently they take tips, because I was presented with a Tip Jar for them, from one of our members. So all you cheap people bring extra money in November. And don't forget to tip your Little Sir as he's done an outstanding job of being not only being over the top handsome, but marvelously mediocre this year.

Anyway, Bonnie Rea of the Alzheimer Group will be our speaker this month.

**Lieutenant (Couch Time)**  
**Coopwood, Little SIR**



## September Birthdays

Brooks, Larry	09/04	
Lieutenant Coopwood	09/05	
John Popadak	09/09	
<b>Jim Porterfield</b>	<b>09/09</b>	<b>84 Years</b>
Leslie Kurtz	09/11	
<b>Don Neufeld</b>	<b>09/14</b>	<b>83 Years</b>
David Busch	09/15	
Patrick Fintel	09/15	
<b>Steve Brandenburger</b>	<b>09/18</b>	<b>83 Years</b>
<b>Arnie Keller</b>	<b>09/18</b>	<b>91 Years</b>
Larry McLeod	09/20	
<b>James Critz</b>	<b>09/23</b>	<b>80 Years</b>
Jim Smalling	09/25	
Bill Rhoe	09/30	



## September Anniversaries

<b>Dave and Judy Yorston</b>	<b>09/05</b>	<b>59 Years</b>
<b>Ritchie and Glenda Carlson</b>	<b>09/10</b>	<b>62 Years</b>
Dwight and Gloria Zook	09/10	
Jimmy and Velma Buckley	09/12	
Jim and Jana Aylett	09/19	
Robert and Ruth Kiehne	09/20	
<b>Otis and Willa Benning</b>	<b>09/21</b>	<b>62 Years</b>
Mike and Rosanna Evans	09/23	
<b>Tom and Donna Costello</b>	<b>09/29</b>	<b>62 Years</b>



# NEXT MEETING

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday **September 12, 2024**

Dante Event Center, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento  
95825

Check-In and Social Hour: 11:00 am to 12:00 noon  
General Meeting, Lunch,  
and Speaker: 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm

**REMEMBER: The Lunch Cost is now \$27**

**YOU'RE ALL INVITED!**

**All members are also invited to attend the  
Branch Executive Committee (BEC) Meeting: 10:00 am**





# WELCOME NEW MEMBER!!

## SIR Craig Weckman

P. O. Box 601172  
Sacramento, CA 95860  
(916) 541-4133  
weckmac@gmail.com  
Sponsor: Brian Thurston



Craig was born in Washington, DC, while his father was in the military there. His family soon returned to Sacramento and Craig went to Encina and Rio Americano High Schools. After high school, he attended Sac State and also worked in his grandfather's construction equipment business. After graduating from Sac State with a BS degree, Craig continued to run his grandfather's business and at the same time pursued an advance degree. He soon reached a MA degree in online education and taught at Los Rios College. Later, Craig became the Regional Director of Northern California Colleges and worked there until his retirement five years or so ago.

Craig and his wife have done a lot of cruise ship voyages and have traveled throughout the lower 48 states. He is planning to bowl with our branch and hopes to improve his beginning golf game. He is interested in our branch card games and dining out, too.

Birthday: June 12, 1958  
Anniversary: to Marie, March 6, 1999



## RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY

On Friday, August 16, Alan Weinel and I staffed a table at the Renaissance Society's Open House at Sac State. We set up our full house advertising material, complete with a lift-out banner, business cards, golf club flyers and new Branch 69 tri-fold brochures. We met a lot of interesting people and talked with them about the benefits of Sons in Retirement and in particular our branch. Did we get a great recruiting response? Hard to tell, but probably not. The Renaissance Society people are not, for the most part, avid golfers, plus they already have lives full of activities both mental and physical. We did hand out quite a few business cards and tri-fold brochures, and we did get contact info for two of the men we met. I'll be contacting them prior to the September luncheon to see if they might want to attend.

Overall, I'm very happy Alan and I staffed our table at the open house. The Renaissance Society will be having another open house in January, which I am planning to attend again.

As I've mentioned previously, if any members have ideas about possible recruiting measures, please let me know. We have a couple new outreach efforts to explore in the coming months, but we can always use new ideas. Let me know if you have a brainstorm to share!

I'll look forward to seeing everyone at the September luncheon.



**Tom Page, Recruiting & Publicity**

## SIR Membership Application Form

If you know of someone who would like to join Branch 69, download an application form to give them by clicking on the form at right:



← New Member, Craig Weckman (Center) is welcomed into Branch 69 by his sponsor Brian Thurston (Left) and Big SIR Connor Chin (Right).



# SUNSHINE



Please keep the following folks in your prayers:

**Bob Dant** is recovering from a stroke he suffered in August.

**Otis Benning** (Burst Vein in the area of his Knee) (Pneumonia) - I received a report in early June that Otis had burst a vein that pushed his knee out of shape and while he was in the hospital he picked up a case of pneumonia. He was last reported resting up and recovering at home.

**Thomas (Train) Walton** (Recovering from Cancer) - Thomas has been fighting with diabetes and the doctors have been actively trying to save his foot. The latest approach has been to encase his foot in a box temporarily while treating it. (My guess this is to aid in circulation)

**James Aylett, Sunshine  
Chairman  
penholder19@gmail.com**



## LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER

Due to a scheduling SNAFU, the scheduled speaker was not able to come to the meeting. However Mark Steffens was able to do an impromptu presentation on Canine Companions. Mark raises dogs that go into training programs to be service dogs.

# SUPER SENIOR-95



Heman Smith receives the Super Senior SIR—95 Year Presidential Award from Big SIR Connor Chin.







# GOLF NEWS



**Rick Hom—Regular Course**



**Terry Block—Progressive Golf Club**



## UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Sept 5 - Diamond Oaks - \$56 - Stroke Play

September 19 - Wildhawk - \$36 - Modified Stableford Stroke Play

Sept 26 - Bartley Cavanaugh - \$38 - 4-Man Scramble

October 2 - Lincoln Hills-Orchard - \$65

October 17 - Mather GC - \$55

## AUGUST RESULTS

### Teal Bend (08/01) - 2nd Round Club Championship

*Congratulations to all of our participants and Special Congrats to Tom Page for shooting a terrific net 68 on this challenging course!*

1st Low Net, 2nd Low Net, 3rd Low Net

1st Flight: Rick Hom, Nate Gauff, Joe Riley

2nd Flight: Tom Page, John Valdes, Jack Osborne

3rd Flight: Mart Miller, Fred Smith, Ritchie Carlson

CTPs: Jim Oblizalo, John Valdes, Bill Mullen, Rich Stratton, Russ Prophet, and Fred Smith

### Wildhorse (08/15) - 2 Man Chapman

*This was a new tournament format for most of our players. It puts a premium on both partners to hit decent tee shots that find fairways (to set each other up for hitting the other's second shot), making a strategic decision as to which partner hits the approach shot to a green, and as always, putting. Most of us found this format to be both challenging as well as enjoyable. A lot of (strategic) thinking was going on!*

1st Place Team: Terry Block & Nate Gauff

2nd Place Team: Ernie Flores & Connor Chin

3rd Place Team: Tom Page & John Valdes

4th Place Team: Fred Smith & Rick Hom

## UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

September 23 - Antelope Greens - \$32 - 2-Person Net

September 30 - Bing Maloney - \$38 - Individual Net Stableford

October 7 - Ancil Hoffman - \$62

October 21 - Wildhorse - \$57

October 28 - Teal Bend - \$57

## AUGUST RESULTS

### Swenson Park (08/05) - 3rd Rnd Club Championship

*Low Gross, Low Net*

1st Flight: Jim Oblizalo, Jim Svobodny

2nd Flight: Alex Canada, Dan Nelson

CTPs: Rick Hom, and Jack Osborne

### Cherry Island (08/12) - 4-Man Shamble

1st Place Team: Jerry Buhlert, Conrad Cookman, Jack Osborne, and Ernie Flores

2ns Place Team: Rick Hom, Tom Costello, Dan Nelson, and Fred Smith

*A couple of our groups didn't find CTP gear when they arrived at the CTP holes, which I will take responsibility for. After conversations with the affected players who landed tee shots on these greens, I believe that it is appropriate to make multiple CTP awards for #4 as shown on the Results sheet.*

CTPs: Bob Baker, Dan Nelson, Gary Lukins, Mark Steffens, Sandy Davis, Rick Hom, Alex Canada, and Fred Smith

(Continued on Page 6)

# BOWLING NEWS

The SIR Branch 69 & Friends bowling league had a good meeting on Wednesday, August 14. We re-elected the usual officers to their various positions, selected 12:30 as our league start time for this season, and voted to increase the side pot from \$2 to \$3 each day.

The season started on Wednesday, August 21, 12:30 at Country Club Lanes and will continue every week (except Christmas Day and New Year's Day) until mid-April. For those bowlers who were not at the meeting on the 14th, the daily bowling cost will be \$11 this year. The annual USBC dues will remain at \$30. We have quite a few subs this year, so I hope we will be able to cover short-term absences and perhaps any long-term illnesses or injuries.

As always, I have tried to balance the talent on each team. The goal is to have every single team in contention to win at least one half of the season and to have a shot at the overall title. We're all looking forward to close competition and lots of fun!

### 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 \$.50/game, an increase from the previous \$.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.

Stay healthy, stay active,

**Tom Page, League Secretary**  
916-488-6465



## MORE GOLF NEWS

(Continued from Page 5)



### Ancil Hoffman (08/29) - 3rd Rnd Club Championship

*Out on the course, I thought that the course played tough last Thursday. Obviously, many of you didn't! Special Congratulations to Joe, Alex, Marty, Bob and Ernie for shooting terrific net rounds. Extra Special Congratulations to Chris Wicks for needing only 25 putts for his round, just incredible!!!*

1st Low Net, 2nd Low Net, 3rd Low Net, 4th Low Net

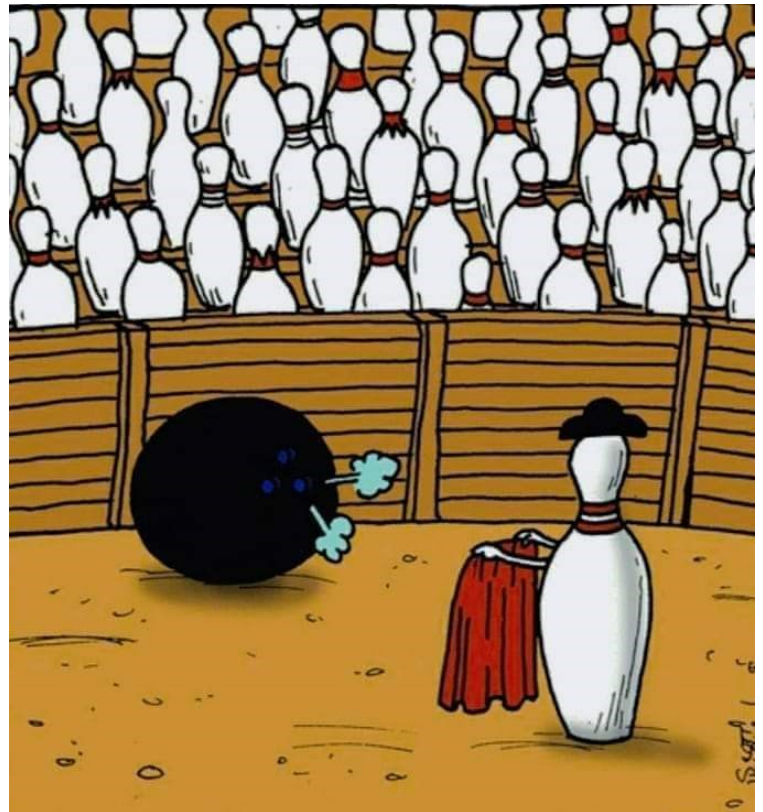
1st Flight: Joe Riley, Jim Oblizalo, Rick Hom, John Mes-tek

2nd Flight: Alex Canada, Terry Block, James Garror, Jack Osborne

3rd Flight: Marty Miller, Bob Clanton, Ernie Flores, Fred Smith

CTPs: Bill Katsifolis, Ron Hutcheson, Richie Carlson, Joe Riley, Conrad Cookman, and Paul Woods

## BOWLING MATADOR





# BRANCH ACTIVITIES

## ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

### NEXT DINE-OUT:

September 16th at  
**La Porta Restaurant  
and Bar,**

6:00 PM

1860 Howe Ave, Unit 140,  
Sacramento



Picture a canvas of hand-tossed dough, painted with the freshest, locally sourced ingredients. From the timeless Margherita to innovative creations that challenge the palate, their variety of craft pizzas elevate the humble pie to a gourmet experience.

They serve four different types of pizza: PIZZE DI NEW YORK (thin, round, crispy crust), PIZZE DI TOSCANA (thin, round, northern Italian crust), PIZZE DI SICILIA (thick, light, airy focaccia crust), and PIZZE DI DETROIT (thick fluffy crust with crisp, cheesy edge). They also have a number of salads, antipastas and lasagna.

Check out their full menu at:  
[laportarestaurants.com](http://laportarestaurants.com)

Enjoy time with your SIR buddies, bring a guest & make a new friend!

For more information & RSVP, PBS Mark Steffens, call or text (916) 214-8650 or [steffens.mark@gmail.com](mailto:steffens.mark@gmail.com).

Mark Steffens, Activities Chairman



Last month's Dine-Out was at the Cattleman's restaurant.



# BRANCH ACTIVITIES

(Continued)



## CARD CLUBS

### CRIBBAGE

The Cribbage Group will meet September 4th and 18th this month at the Country Club Bowling alley in the back room. Remember it starts at **3:00 pm**. Bring your friends and come play Cribbage with us. Maybe we will do monster Cribbage this month.



See you there and bring your friends.

**Dan Nelson, Cards Chairman**  
 (916) 895-5673  
[Dan.8733@yahoo.com](mailto:Dan.8733@yahoo.com)



### TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER



Our next Texas Hold'em Poker game will be Sunday, September 29 at 1:30 at my house. Hopefully this works well between people's lunch and dinner, and allows for driving to and from our house during the daylight hours.

The cost is still \$10.00; with the proceeds distributed back to the top 3 finishers. We will provide soft drinks and snacks.

There is a maximum limit of 16 players.

Please RSVP me at [rschrumpf@hotmail.com](mailto:rschrumpf@hotmail.com), or (916) 897-7114.

See you at my house, 5418 Lequel Way, Carmichael, on 9/27/2024 at 1:30.

**Robert (Bob) Schrumpf**  
 Poker Night Chairman



## INVESTMENT GROUP



The investment group meets (via ZOOM) on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on September 25. Information and materials will be sent out a few days before the meeting. Please contact Joe Cain for more information.

**Joe Cain, Investment Group Chairman**  
 (530) 219-3709  
[jl Cain45@yahoo.com](mailto:jl Cain45@yahoo.com)



## PING-PONG



Ping-pong is still available to all at Swanston Rec&Park on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11am to 1pm; and at Gibbons Rec&Park on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3pm to 6pm.

**Robert Schrumpf, Ping-Pong Chairman**  
 (916) 897-7114  
[rschrumpf@hotmail.com](mailto:rschrumpf@hotmail.com)







## BRANCH 69 CALANDER OF EVENTS AND ACTIVIES FOR SEPTEMBER

- September 4 - Cards - Cribbage
- September 12 - Branch Executive Committee (BEC) Meeting (10:00 am)
- September 12 - General Branch Meeting and Luncheon (12:00 noon)
- September 16 - Dine-out - La Porta Restaurant & Bar
- September 18 - Cards - Cribbage
- September 19 - Golf - Wildhawk
- September 23 - Golf - Antelope Greens
- September 25 - Investment Group Zoom Meeting
- September 26 - Golf - Bartley Cavanaugh
- September 29 - Cards - Texas Hold'em Poker
- September 30 - Golf - Bing Maloney

### THINGS TO PONDER

100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Now everyone has a car and only the rich own horses.

Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.

### 2024 ROSTER CORRECTIONS

Please send Roster Corrections to my personal Email account Alan\_Weinel@ATT.Net with subject "Roster Correction"

Be sure to add the new members to your copy of the roster.

**PBS Alan Weinel, Roster Chairman**  
(209) 843-1804  
Alan\_weinel@att.net



<b>2024 Officers</b>		
BIG SIR	CONNOR CHIN	(916) 601-1854
LITTLE SIR	LIEUTENANT COOPWOOD	(916) 206-2732
SECRETARY	BERNIE MORENO	(209) 245-6313
ASST SECRETARY	ROBERT SCHRUMPF	(916) 897-7114
TREASURER	HAL COPPERBERG	(916) 722-2606
ASST TREASURER	JIM SPRIFKE	(209) 200-2107
<b>Directors</b>		
PBS ALAN WEINEL	(209) 843-1804	JOHN POPADAK (916) 662-0695
BLAKE THOMSON	(916) 922-5227	RON PETERS (916) 847-7196
PBS TED PATTERSON	(916) 607-3050	PBS PAUL SICKERT (916) 396-6230
<b>State Officers</b>		
STATE PRESIDENT:		DALE DECKER
AREA 4 REPRESENTATIVE:		JACK REEFER
<b>Recruitment, Activities, Member Relations &amp; Publicity (RAMP)</b>		
RECRUITING/PUBLICITY/BIO	PBS TOM PAGE	(916) 488-6465
ACTIVITIES	PBS MARK STEFFENS	(916) 214-8650
MEMBERSHIP	JOHN POPADAK	(916) 662-0695
<b>Committee Chairs</b>		
Program	Lieutenant Coopwood	(916) 206-2732
Newsletter	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Chaplain	James Aylett	(650) 240-6019
Roster	PBS Alan Weinel	(209) 843-1804
Audit	George Langford	(650) 823-5493
Nominating	PBS Alan Weinel	(209) 843-1804
Attendance	Mark Kraut	(916) 929-3494
Orientation	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Information	John Popadak	(916) 662-0695
Sunshine	James Aylett	(650) 240-6019
Web Site	Ross Martin	(916) 427-0559
Picnic	PBS Jerry Schroeder	(916) 801-2530
Activities	PBS Mark Steffens	(916) 214-8650
<b>SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN</b>		
Golf (RC)	Rick Hom	(916) 395-7433
Golf (PGC)	Terry Block	(916) 686-0797
Bowling	PBS Tom Page	(916) 488-6465
Book Club	PBS Alan Weinel	(209) 843-1804
Cribbage	Dan Nelson	(916) 895-5673
Dine-Out	PBS Mark Steffens	(916) 214-8650
Investmnt Gp	Joe Cain	(916) 219-3709
Picnic	PBS Jerry Schroeder	(916) 801-2530
Ping Pong	Robert Schrupf	(916) 897-7114
Poker Night	Robert Schrupf	(916) 897-7114
River Cats	Dennis Kramer	(530) 312-3896
Wine Tasting	Dennis Kramer	(530) 312-3896
Branch Apprl <a href="https://sirinc.org/apparel-and-signage">https://sirinc.org/apparel-and-signage</a>		

#### Honored Members

#### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

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

#### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

- PBS PAT QUINN

#### SENIOR CERTIFICATES

- PBS WARREN SENEGAL
- SIR KEN TOWNS
- SIR VERNON FREEMAN
- SIR HEMAN SMITH
- SIR CHARLES DANT
- PBS ARNIE KELLER
- SIR SIDNEY NEWMAN

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).