



Mission Trail Branch 35, Silicon Valley, California

Branch 35 web <https://sir35.org>



## Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 15th, 2025

11:00am-1:30pm

Lunch 11:30am Mountain View  
 Program 12:15pm Community Center

**Richard Holmboe**  
**'Tale of the Whale'**

**Guest Speaker: Richard Holmboe**

### Tale of the Whale



We all have heard the expression "Whale of a tale". Well, our speaker for January, Richard Holmboe, will provide us with an entertaining "Tale of the Whale".

Richard will present information on three giants of the sea - the gray whale (as big as a big bus), the humpback whale (bigger than a big bus) and the blue whale (bigger than two big busses). Then, he will show several video snippets demonstrating evidence of high intelligence in whales. We will learn that these giants among all animals survive by eating some of the smallest of animals. Then, you'll learn of a tiny animal that

eats the giant whale. All of this will be accompanied by a slide deck of pictures and videos that are guaranteed to amaze us.

Richard Holmboe is a retiree, married and living in San Jose. In his civilian career, he worked for HP and Agilent Technologies. He spent a good part of that career writing high-tech manuals and training courses. He spent 22 years in the navy and naval reserve - in submarines, surface navy and naval air. He has been a docent at the Pigeon Point lighthouse near Pescadero for six years. In those six years, he developed the whale stories he'll be presenting today. Though, he is not a scientist nor a true expert on whales, he is a storyteller that draws upon the research of those experts.

Jerry Ososkie



### The Big Sir says...

As we enter the new year, I would like to wish all our members and their families a healthy, happy and abundant life. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all who helped our SIR Branch 35 survive and thrive over the past several years. Special thanks to our past Big Sirs Andy Danver and Stan Barkey who sustained us through the early pandemic period, to Ron Nakamoto who led us to our current home at the MVCC and finally to Peter Wong who inspired us throughout 2024 to become one of the most engaging social organizations in the bay area.

I am very honored to serve as your Big Sir this year and look forward to an exciting 2025. We have a wonderful legacy to build upon. During 2024 we were able to host 10 luncheons with a variety of entertaining, educational and inspirational speakers, enjoy our annual fun-filled picnic lead by Ben Gikis, and celebrate our Holiday year end party with the fabulous Mountain View Madrigal Singers. We offered an ever-increasing number of activities, bringing our total to 14, including the new Sports Car activity headed by John Tucker. All of this was possible only through the dedication of you, Branch 35 members, willing to serve as BEC members, staff members and activity leads. Altogether we have over 70 volunteers who shared their talents and time to make us a resounding success. I thank all of you and urge other members to join us in 2025. It's a great feeling to be active and engaged.



This year, we have the continuing challenge to sustain and grow our membership. We have a great organization, but we are also known as “one the best kept secrets” in Silicon Valley. This year we will engage in an active promotional campaign to attract new members. I look forward to our “Young Guns” group, under the leadership of our Little Sir Scott Hiller and senior advisory director Ron Nakamoto, to lead us in this effort. Of course, we must all do our part in bringing vitality to Branch 35. Please invite your friends to join us as guests at our luncheons or to one of our many activities. This is always the best source of growth.

May 2025 bring us together as we build our life-long friendships.

Jerry

## SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS



- The table of Branch 35 Officers and Leaders at the back of this newsletter has been updated to reflect the changes for 2025.
- Due to low response from SIR members, The Chess group will not have updates in Trail Tips going forward. However, you are still welcome to join on Wednesdays 9am to 1pm at the Los Altos Civic Center, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, in the senior center room. If interested, contact Ben Kuckens.
- Ron Nakamoto has completed his second year as Editor of his monthly Movie and Music History articles. He invites your comments and nominations for movie and song choices that you remember as you travelled through your life. Send your nominations to ronandelaine@comcast.net
- A calendar of the coming month’s Branch activities is at the back of this newsletter. Print it out and stick it up on your refrigerator!

## JANUARY 2025 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

**Active Members: 306 Net Monthly Change: 0**

We had two new members join us but we lost two in December. We always welcome new members so bring a friend or neighbor to the lunch as a guest to ‘check us out’, it’s on us!!

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

[SIR Branch 35 - Membership Directory \(wildapricot.org\)](http://wildapricot.org/SIR_Branch_35_-_Membership_Directory)

## NEW MEMBERS

We had two new members join us in the past month. Welcome!

Name	City	Former Employer(s)
Matt Arena	Palo Alto	BNA
Dan O'Brien	Menlo Park	Michael Patrick Partners

## IN MEMORIAM

### MILT WEHRMAN



Milt Wehrman passed away on December 15th after a battle with illness. Milt has been a member of Branch 35 since 2007.

Milt wrote a profile of himself for [Trail Tips in October 2018](#). He was a golfer with SIR and loved to travel. He was also an avid Rock & Roll fan! You may remember Milt’s performances as the “oldies” DJ for many years at our summer BBQ/picnic.

Milt’s Celebration Of Life will be held at 11am on January 18, 2025 at the Los Altos United Methodist Church.

He will be missed, R.I.P.

## IN MEMORIAM

### PETER THURSTON



Peter Thurston passed away on December 20th. Peter has been a member of Branch 35 since 2015 and was a very active contributor, serving as Big Sir in 2019 and as Hiking Chairman for several years. He sponsored many friends to join SIR. Peter set up some of our Branch’s website tools to help with payments and administration, and was a big contributor during the pandemic when we switched to hybrid Zoom meetings.

Peter wrote a profile of himself for [Trail Tips in November/December 2018](#).

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YRS.

How long have you been a member? We have ten members celebrating a 10+ year anniversary with SIR Branch 35 this month! Congratulations guys!

Stan Barkey (20)	Bob Booth (9)	John Brown (14)
Jim DeLong (24)	Herb Fischgrund (21)	Dick Knock (21)
John McGowan (11)	Ernie Robertson (14)	Dick Treakle (13)
John Wong (25)		

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday this month to the following members:

David Arata	Russ Atkinson	Richard Blackborow
Vince Ciampa	Dick Costa	Dick DeLoof
Gerry Feeney	Don Fidler	Joe Geist
David Gobuty	Clive Hallatt	Rob Lipshutz
Robert Manetta	Les Miles	Cal Morris
Joe Mullen	Ron Murphy	Joe Scheid
Wendell Stephens	JT Tompane	Ron Wilensky

## BOOK SWAP

See our [web page](#)

TIM TOPOLE  
650-793-0838  
[topole@yahoo.com](mailto:topole@yahoo.com)



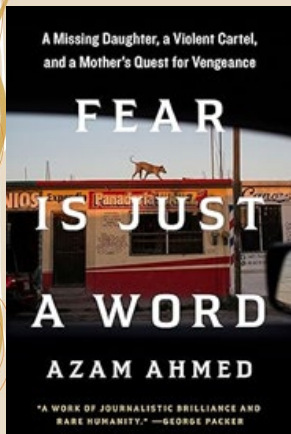
The book swap will be open for business at the January Meeting. Bring a book you enjoyed to share, grab one that piques your interest. See you there!

Tim

## BOOK CLUB

See our [web page](#)

JERRY BELDEN  
650-322-1391  
[jerry@gbeldenlrc.com](mailto:jerry@gbeldenlrc.com)



Next meeting is January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm in the Los Altos United Methodist Church

The Book Club is an activity where all members read the same book and then meet to discuss it. Contact Jerry if you have questions or would like to join.

There was no book club meeting in December. Our next meeting is January 8<sup>th</sup>, and the book we will discuss is "Fear Is Just a Word" by Azem Ahmed.

Jerry

## PERSONAL FINANCE

CHAIR: BOB BOOTH  
408-307-3274  
[booth19@gmail.com](mailto:booth19@gmail.com)

DISTR'N: ANDY DANVER  
650-906-3747  
[adanver@ix.netcom.com](mailto:adanver@ix.netcom.com)



Due to the 1st Wednesday in January being January 1<sup>st</sup>, we have decided to meet on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Moffett Field Museum Library beginning at 1pm. It's a great site with plenty of parking. Typically, we have 10 to 15 attendees with varied financial backgrounds.

Again this month there will be an around-the-table discussion on topics raised by attendees as we consider our 2025 financial plans and other potential issues brought on by the new government structure. Please join us if you have specific topics you would like to discuss on these topic or others.

In December 12 of us discussed topics on Health Insurance alternatives, Tax Bracket Management, end of the year Capital Gains, and approaches to making Charitable Contributions. Attendees raised questions and related personal insights.



Moffett Field Museum Entrance

If you wish to be added to our email distribution list, please send Andy Danver an email ([adanver@ix.netcom.com](mailto:adanver@ix.netcom.com)).

Andy



## BIKING

GORDON TONG  
408-242-0557  
[gordy6850@gmail.com](mailto:gordy6850@gmail.com)



See our [web page](#)

HANK BOTTINO  
650-207-4320  
[bottinoh@comcast.net](mailto:bottinoh@comcast.net)

**Next ride: SIR Branch 35 Biking on the 2nd Thursday—  
January 9th, 2025 at 11:00 AM**

*Wives and guests welcomed; Helmets required.*

### Stevens Creek Trail & Shoreline Park (Mt. View)

**Ride:** We will ride a relatively flat (including 3 overpasses), scenic 14 mile round-trip to Michael's Restaurant in Shoreline Park, plus an optional 5-mile loop to the Palo Alto Duck Pond, next to the Palo Alto Airport (total ride 19 miles). Lunch will be at the Baylands Cafe (at 1875 Embarcadero Rd, PA) at the Baylands Golf Link near the PA Duck Pond. After lunch, we will ride back to our starting point. For those riders still unable to ride, please join us for lunch at the Baylands Cafe at approximately 12:15pm.

**Directions:** Meet at the south end of the Stevens Creek bike path at the corner of Sleeper and Franklin Avenues. From Palo Alto, go south on El Camino Real to Grant Rd; turn right. Drive past the 3rd traffic signal to Sleeper Ave.; turn left. Drive to the end of Sleeper Avenue which is the intersection of Franklin Avenue. Park your car near the intersection.

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordon Tong at 408-242-0557 or [gordy6850@gmail.com](mailto:gordy6850@gmail.com).

Gordy

## HIKING

JOHN TUCKER  
408-655-5435  
[tuckerjg6@gmail.com](mailto:tuckerjg6@gmail.com)



See our [web page](#)

For our last hike of the year, we again tackled Mount Umunhum. Our November and December hikes are combined because of the holidays and this year we hiked on Friday, December 6, 2024. This is the sixth time we have hiked this route at this time of year since 2018 (no SIR hikes in 2020 due to the pandemic).



Our view of Mount Umunhum from part way up the trail

We gathered at the Bald Mountain parking lot and had a few words in memory of Tom Moulton and Ranney Thayer, two SIR members who did a lot of hiking with the group. We had 16 hikers ranging in age from 59 to 89 on the 8 mile trail to the top of Mount Umunhum and back, a gain of 1,289 feet of elevation. It was a clear, sunny day, the temperature was cool but not cold. After the hike the group met at Malibu Grill for refreshments and more talk.



View of downtown San Jose and Silicon Valley from the peak



Our hikers in front of the eight and half story concrete radar tower called The Cube at the top of Mount Umunhum. This structure was used to hold a huge radar antenna at the Air Force station located here as part of a Cold War radar surveillance post operated from 1958 to 1980

The next SIR Hike will be Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Contact John Tucker if you are interested in joining us.

John



## JANUARY'S SPECIAL DAYS



PAT O'CONNOR  
[patoconnor61@outlook.com](mailto:patoconnor61@outlook.com)

- 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day
- 1<sup>st</sup> NHL Winter Classic (Hockey)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Rose Bowl (College Football)
- 4<sup>th</sup> World Braille Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards
- 12<sup>th</sup> Critics' Choice Awards
- 12<sup>th</sup> Start of Australian Open (Tennis)
- 15<sup>th</sup> National Hat Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> Inauguration Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Start of Winter X Games (Extreme)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Robert Burns Night
- 29<sup>th</sup> Chinese New Year
- 31<sup>st</sup> Start of Six Nations Championship (Rugby)

<b>Football</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> 49ers @ Arizona Cardinals, 10:00AM
<b>Basketball</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Philadelphia 76ers @ Warriors, 7:00pm
	4 <sup>th</sup> Memphis Grizzlies @ Warriors, 5:30pm
	5 <sup>th</sup> Sacramento Kings @ Warriors, 5:30pm
	7 <sup>th</sup> Miami Heat @ Warriors, 7:00pm
	9 <sup>th</sup> Warriors @ Detroit Pistons, 4:00pm
	10 <sup>th</sup> Warriors @ Indiana Pacers, 4:00pm
	13 <sup>th</sup> Warriors @ Toronto Raptors, 4:30pm
	15 <sup>th</sup> Warriors @ Minn. Timberwolves, 5:00pm
	18 <sup>th</sup> Washington Wizards @ Warriors, 5:30pm
	20 <sup>th</sup> Boston Celtics @ Warriors, 2:00pm
	22 <sup>nd</sup> Warriors @ Sacramento Kings, 7:00pm
	23 <sup>rd</sup> Chicago Bulls @ Warriors, 7:00pm
	25 <sup>th</sup> Los Angeles Lakers @ Warriors, 5:30pm
28 <sup>th</sup> Utah Jazz @ Warriors, 7:00pm	
29 <sup>th</sup> Oklahoma City Thunder @ Warriors, 7:00pm	
31 <sup>st</sup> Phoenix Suns @ Warriors, 7:00pm	

<b>Hockey</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> TB Lightning @ SJ Sharks , 7:30pm
	4 <sup>th</sup> NJ Devils @ SJ Sharks , 1:00pm
	7 <sup>th</sup> LV Golden Knights @ SJ Sharks , 7:30pm
	10 <sup>th</sup> SJ Sharks @ Utah HC, 6:00pm
	11 <sup>th</sup> Minn. Wild @ SJ Sharks , 7:00pm
	14 <sup>th</sup> SJ Sharks @ Detroit Red Wings, 6:00pm
	16 <sup>th</sup> SJ Sharks @ Col. Blue Jackets, 4:00pm
	18 <sup>th</sup> SJ Sharks @ NY Islanders, 4:30pm
	20 <sup>th</sup> SJ Sharks @ Boston Bruins, 10:00am
	21 <sup>st</sup> SJ Sharks @ Nashville Predators, 5:00pm
	23 <sup>th</sup> Nashville Predators @ SJ Sharks , 7:30pm
	25 <sup>th</sup> Florida Panthers @ SJ Sharks , 7:00pm
	27 <sup>th</sup> Pittsburgh Penguins @ SJ Sharks , 7:30pm
30 <sup>th</sup> SJ Sharks @ Seattle Kraken, 7:30pm	

## BRIDGE

MARK LEVI  
 650-305-9132  
[mlevi@comcast.net](mailto:mlevi@comcast.net)



See our [web page](#)



SIR Bridge Group in action! From left to right; Jack Tooley, Fred Emmenegger, Les Fisher and Mark Levi

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

## WINE FINDERS

ALAN GAUDIE  
 650-964-6510  
[alanguddie@yahoo.com](mailto:alanguddie@yahoo.com)



See our [web page](#)

RUSS AYRES  
 650-776-6391  
[rarryes3@hotmail.com](mailto:rarryes3@hotmail.com)

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.

**Note:** We are now working to find hosts for 2025, so watch for emails.

Alan

**BOCCE  
BALL**

RICHARD OEHLBERG  
650-823-7720  
[rntheo1@icloud.com](mailto:rntheo1@icloud.com)



MICHAEL MAURIER  
[forest129@yahoo.com](mailto:forest129@yahoo.com)

See our [web page](#)

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

The SIR Bocce Ball group meets and plays every Friday morning at the Los Altos Community Center Bocce Ball Courts. (97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022).

We had no activity in the latter half of December due to a combination of weather and Holidays. We hope to resume soon, watch out for Richard's email!

All are invited to join this friendly group of SIR Branch 35 Bocce Ball players and interact with a great bunch of people. Emphasis is on an active but leisurely time to engage with old friends and make new ones. There are no regular teams. We are happy to include and coach new players. Come and join us and share some easygoing fun.

Richard & Michael

**BOWLING**

BOB TAGGART  
650-321-2654  
[chtaggart@earthlink.net](mailto:chtaggart@earthlink.net)



See our [web page](#)

PRIZES: ALAN GAUDIE

DOUG ANDERSON  
415-407-4000  
[markinti@aol.com](mailto:markinti@aol.com)

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

There is no update from the Bowling group this month. 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.



**A happy bunch, rolling and chatting on a Tuesday afternoon!**

Doug



# GOLF

LES MILES 408-528-5473  
[Impomi@yahoo.com](mailto:Impomi@yahoo.com)



BRUCE KARNEY 650-964-3567 [bkarney@comcast.net](mailto:bkarney@comcast.net)  
 LARRY LOW 408-533-2651 [low1721@gmail.com](mailto:low1721@gmail.com)

See our [web page](#)

## Fixtures for February – sign up now!

SIGN-UP with John Gerich by Monday January 13			
<b>Sunnyvale (SVL)</b>	<b>Mon Feb 3</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>\$41</b>
Barkey 408-472-7353 stanbarkey@gmail.com / Wilson			
<b>Metropolitan (MET)</b>	<b>Thu Feb 6</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>\$52</b>
Cioni 650-393-5711 jacioni@yahoo.com / Enos			
<b>DeLaveaga (DLV)</b>	<b>Mon Feb 10</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>\$64</b>
Metheany 408-375-7854 brad_metheany@fuhisd.org / Cornwell			
<b>Las Positas (LPS)</b>	<b>Thu Feb 13</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>\$62</b>
Stephens 408-489-1758 wnedellstephens@mac.com / ** NEED ATC **			
<b>Baylands (BAY)</b>	<b>Wed Feb 19</b>	<b>10:20</b>	<b>\$75</b>
Weberg 408-205-9120 cweberg1@gmail.com / Cornwell			
<b>Shoreline (SHL)</b>	<b>Thu Feb 20</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>\$45</b>
McGrath 408-307-8056 richard.mcgrath@yahoo.com / ** NEED ATC **			
<b>Crystal Springs (CSP)</b>	<b>Mon Feb 24</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>\$69</b>
Miles 408-264-1899 impomi@yahoo.com / ** NEED ATC **			
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Thu Feb 27</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>

## Ogle Had the Round of the Year

**Dave Ogle** had the best round of the more than two thousand rounds played by Branch 35 golfers in 2024. On October 17 at San Jose Muni Dave Ogle shot **10.1 strokes** less than his expected score. You can read about the secrets of his success on page 7 of the [November issue of Trail Tips](#).

## Joe Cioni Shoots December's Round of the Month

**Joe Cioni** had the best round of the month on Dec. 12 at Deep Cliff. Joe had a gross 62, net 52, on the par-60 course. He was 8 strokes "under." Congratulations, Joe!

## Rain Thins the Field at Deep Cliff Eclectic

Dec. 12 was a bit rainy, leading to a smaller turnout for the second round of the Eclectic. Only twenty-one golfers played Round 2 compared to thirty for Round 1.

The Eclectic tournament has three flights. In the low-handicap Palmer flight, **Joe Cioni** led after two rounds followed by **Nazeem Noordeen** and **Les Miles**. In the high-handicap Palmer flight, **Ron Grace** held the lead followed by **Richard Pattison** and **Larry Baugher**. **Joe Enos** had the best score among Nicklaus players, followed by **Jim Narva** (who played Round 1 but not Round 2) and **Venicio Navarro**.

Among the outstanding Round 2 achievements: **Richard Pattison** lowered his Eclectic score by 23 strokes; **Roy Nakamura** and **Tom Taboada** each improved by 17; **Ron Grace** and **Dave Ogle** both shaved off 16.

## November's Golf Results:

Spring Valley			Par 70		Dec. 2, 2024	
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize	
<b>Bernard Soules</b>	<b>68</b>	\$25	<b>Don Mattson</b>	<b>68</b>	\$24	
Chris Weberg	69	\$20	Man Tran	71	\$18	
Bill Hall	70	\$15	Tim O'Meara	71	\$12	
Marc Haberman	71	\$10	Jim Narva	72	\$8	
Jim Thorne	71	\$7				
Shot his age: <b>Don Mattson</b> (age 92) shot 91						
Low Gross (forward tees): Chris Weberg 77						
Low Gross (back tees): Jim Thorne 77						

Deep Cliff Eclectic Round 1				Par 60			Dec. 5, 2024		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$	
Chris Weberg	59	\$18	<b>Larry Baugher</b>	<b>55</b>	\$18	<b>Jim Narva</b>	<b>54</b>	\$18	
N. Noordeen	60	\$14	Stan Scardino	62	\$14	<b>Joe Enos</b>	<b>56</b>	\$14	
Joe Cioni	62	\$10	Paul Schutz	65	\$10	W. Stephens	61	\$10	
Jim Thorne	65	\$5	Ron Grace	66	\$5				
Shot his age: <b>Joe Cioni</b> (85) shot 72, <b>Wendell Stephens</b> (85) shot 83, <b>Jim Narva</b> (82) shot 78, <b>Rich McGrath</b> (75) shot 73, <b>Jim Thorne</b> (71) shot 70									
Low Gross: Chris Weberg 68									

Los Lagos				Par 68			Dec. 9, 2024		
Palmer Flt. 1	Net	\$	Palmer Flt. 2	Net	\$	Nicklaus Flt.	Net	\$	
Larry Low	66	\$25	Marin Virelas	69	\$25	Man Tran	67	\$21	
Scott Hiller	71	\$19	B. Metheny	73	\$19	Ben Gikis	70	\$16	
J. Rittweger	71	\$14	Mark Taylor	75	\$14	Peter Wong	72	\$10	
R. Nakamoto	73	\$9	Bill Hall	76	\$9	V. Navarro	73	\$5	
Inside Putter Length: <b>Chris Weberg</b> on #8 (\$15)									
Low Gross (forward tees): Ben Gikis 96									
Low Gross (back tees): Larry Low 78									

Deep Cliff Eclectic Round 2			Par 60		Dec. 12, 2024		
Palmer Flight	Net	Prize	Nicklaus Flight	Net	Prize		
<b>Joe Cioni</b>	<b>52</b>	\$25	Venicio Navarro	59	\$15		
Ron Grace	59	\$20	Joe Enos	64	\$7		
Tom Taboada	63	\$15					
Les Miles	63	\$10					
John Rittweger	64	\$7					
Shot his age: <b>Joe Cioni</b> (85) shot 62, <b>Jay Jonekait</b> (78) shot 77							
Inside Putter Length: <b>Roy Nakamura</b> on #7 (\$15) and <b>Joe Cioni</b> on #8 (\$15)							
Low Gross: Joe Cioni 62							

Bruce



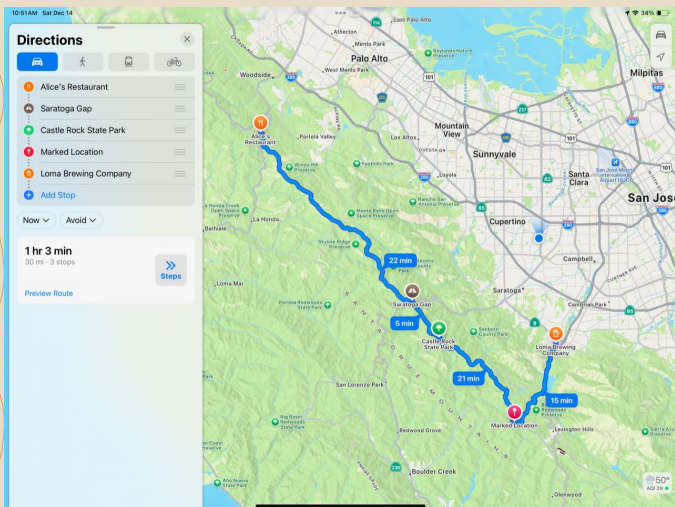
**SPORTS CAR GROUP**

JOHN TUCKER  
(408) 655-5435  
[tuckerjg6@gmail.com](mailto:tuckerjg6@gmail.com)



**SIR 35 November Sports Car FunRun to San Juan Bautista**

Our December FunRun was held on Wednesday 12/18/24, and started from Alice's Restaurant located at the intersection of Highway 84 and Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard). We had 7 people in 4 cars (3 Porsches and a Thunderbird). We drove from Alice's on Highway 35 to Bear Creek Road and then down into Los Gatos where we had lunch at Loma Brewing. Because we were in the Santa Cruz mountains at a higher altitude we had sunny skies which was a nice change from the fog down in the valley. It was a good day with beautiful scenery, curvy roads and good company with lively conversation.



**Perfect route for a fun run!**

Come join us on our next run in January. If you are interested contact John Tucker.



**OBJECTS IN MIRROR are receding rapidly....**

John

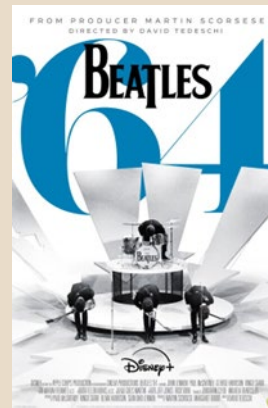
**MOVIES**

**MOVIES**

JIM QUILLINAN  
408-838-4379  
[jvquill@pacbell.net](mailto:jvquill@pacbell.net)

See Jim's [web page](#)

Our Movies group will meet on Zoom on Tuesday, January 14th at 3 pm. If interested, contact Jim Quillinan.



**Beatles 64.** There have been many films about the Beatles, documentary and otherwise. This is another one and may be the best of them all. Using largely never seen before footage taken in 1964, the film documents the Fab Four's trip to the US culminating in the Ed Sullivan Show appearance. Interposing contemporary interviews with Paul, Ringo and others who were there, the film really brings the boys alive. The film captures the youthful energy of the time. Not rated but would be R for language, smoking and drug use. Available on Disney+.



**The Sticky.** Take a bunch of Canadian Maple Syrup growers, inept police, clueless mobsters and factor in a bunch of greed and you have this unique comedy that will keep you laughing. There are tons of holes in the plot, but they make the experience enjoyable as you wonder what sort of tomfoolery is around the corner. Margo Martindale plays Ruth Landry with bravura toughness and cunning. She is a middle-aged maple syrup farmer. When the local authorities threaten to take away her livelihood, she turns to crime. She teams up with a volatile mobster, and an affable French-Canadian security guard to carry out a multi-million-dollar heist of Quebec's maple syrup stores. They swap out barrels of water for barrels of syrup. The story is crazy but is based on actual events despite the film's protestations to the opposite. This is loads of fun so watch it on Amazon Prime Video. Not rated but would be TV MA for language.





**The Order.** Based on actual events, it is set in 1983 in small town Idaho. The town harbors white supremacists who spew their antisemitic, racist and general xenophobic blather. A new group of young men, The Order, escalates the violence and calls for armed revolution. The local cops are of little use, but the FBI sends in agent Terry Husk (Jude Law) who knows The Order's mind set and finally is able to take them on and out. The film is

timely as it gets into the minds of terrorists and how they work. The good folks who look the other way are also complicit. Nicholas Hoult as Bob Mathews is chilling as the boyish good-looking leader of the Order. Rated R for some strong violence, and language throughout. In Theatres.



**Out of My Mind.** The film is based on the best-selling novel, *Out of My Mind*. It is the story of Melody (Phoebe-Ray Taylor). She is twelve years old and is a non-verbal victim of cerebral palsy. She has been in the same special education class since beginning school and is now in the sixth grade and feeling stifled. Her parents are her champions but ill equipped to see what's best for her. A young educator wants to get her into a

regular sixth grade class but runs into well-intentioned resistance. Melody is quite bright and with the help of technology and her team of supporters she breaks out of the stereotype and thrives. Phoebe will melt your heart. Watch this must-see with the whole family. Available on Disney+, recommended by our grandson, Colin, it is a Peggy's Pick.



**Y2K.** It is December 31, 1999, and pundits are predicting catastrophe because computers cannot manage the date change to the year two thousand. This movie takes that prediction and makes it worse, much worse. Two high school nerds, Eli and Danny, crash the cool guys' and gals' big New Year's celebration before the dreaded new millennium. At midnight the world comes unglued, and the nerds have to save the world. The film

is raunchy, funny, crazy and foreshadows the current AI controversies. Rated R for bloody violence, strong sexual content, nudity, pervasive language, and teen drug and alcohol use. If you are easily offended, take a pass on this one; otherwise wait for it to stream and check it out. In Theatres.



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/>

There is also some marketing material you can use to help when encouraging a friend to come check us out. You can see it at <https://sirinc.org/sir-branded-marketing-materials/>



## MOVIE AND MUSIC HISTORY

RON NAKAMOTO  
[RONANDELAINE@COMCAST.NET](mailto:RONANDELAINE@COMCAST.NET)



*There are few constants in life. Turbulence, ever changing, "as time goes by" are phrases we typically cast to describe periods that we lived through. This monthly article hopes to spur those memorable moments in your life when you first saw the movie or heard the song from your youth. What were you doing ... in days of yore? Ron*



### Movie: "Gone with the Wind" 1939, Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh

Released on December 15, 1939, with an opening premiere at Loews Grand Theater in Atlanta, GA, this epic movie had all the stars in attendance. Crowd counts were estimated at nearly 300,000, and the State of Georgia declared the day a state holiday. Yet with all the hoopla, the soon to be, Best Supporting Actress "Mammy" could not attend. The Loews

Grand did not have segregated seating, but the Jim Crow laws ensured an all-white audience. Clark Gable threatened to boycott the premiere when he heard of what was planned but Hattie McDaniel (Mammy) convinced him to attend, to her credit. Black Atlanta had to wait four months to see the movie at a "colored theater". MGM relied on their local hosts to handle the delicate issue of race relations with the upcoming premiere. The lead MGM executive planning the event said, "...while it was unfortunate to exclude Mammy, it was the wisest policy."



Loews Grant Theater Premiere in Atlanta, GA 1939.  
 Look at that line!

The first week, the movie grossed \$945,000, the largest gross box at that time. Today the total take is \$3.4 billion, making it the highest grossing movie ever. The 1939 budget was an astounding \$4.25M which is about \$35M in today's dollars. The movie went on to be nominated for 13 Academy Awards and won 10 in 1940, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress and Supporting Actress, Best Cinematography, and Best Film Editing. Clark Gable lost the Best Actor award to Robert Donat in "Goodbye, Mr. Chips". The other nominees in that category were Laurence Olivier in "Wuthering Heights", Mickey Rooney in "Babes in Arms", and James Stewart in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington". What a line up!

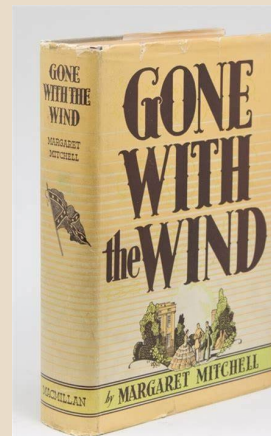


*(Editor's note: History recounts, Gable's very public affair with Carole Lombard (left), flaunting public decorum at a time when the Academy committee was populated with bible thumping members. This contrasts with Vivien Leigh who was having her own affair with Lawrence Olivier, both of whom were also married but managed to keep it discreet. Talk about Hollywood's "turning a blind eye".)*

Here is the official trailer for this movie. This version has been restored from the original release so you can experience the sweeping scenes, the elegant costumes, and the breathtaking beauty of the actors and actresses.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dTsf6-X8>

Here are some of the backstories for this top grossing film of all time.



**The Property:** Katherin Brown's job was to find "properties" that her boss, David O. Selznick could make into box office gold. She worked 24-7 at her job as her boss was short-fused and infamous for his three a.m. phone calls. On May 20, 1936, she sent a teletype to David saying "...this is an absolutely magnificent story ... we must have it ... I beg, urge, coax and plead with you to read it at once ...." Selznick, never read the book, instead he relied on

Brown's 150-page synopsis. After, several weeks, he bought the movie rights to the story.

**The Script:** How do you distill a 1037-page, 63-chapter, 5-part book to a movie? Well, you need someone like David O. Selznick who was raised on Hollywood's back lot as his father amassed much power and wealth in the movie business, later losing it all in the 1929 stock market crash. At the time Selznick purchased the movie rights to the book, he had already left MGM and his father-in-law, Louis B. Meyer to set up his own company, Selznick





International Pictures, and was producing movies and making money. Selznick wasn't sure how best to condense the book into a movie, so he teamed up with George Cukor his first-choice director and both selected Sidney Howard (left), a veteran screenwriter to draft a script. Howard, a Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, took the job on one condition, that he work alone

and free from Selznick's infamous meddling. Selznick reluctantly agreed and Sidney started his work on his farm in Massachusetts, 3,000 miles away.

Six months later, Howard produced a draft that would make a 5 ½ hour movie. Selznick was incensed and issued a laundry list of changes which Sidney tried to respond to but after several months of debating and thrashing, and sensing no end to the changes, he finally lost patience and quit. Selznick was fine with that and proceeded through a number of writers making little progress and realized he needed Sidney back ... which he refused to do. Filming had already started with the "burning of Atlanta" scene. With costs mounting, the search for Scarlett still in process, and no acceptable scriptwriter, Selznick decided to rewrite the script himself and did so, fueling his all-nighters with drugs (uppers) and scotch. The script continued to change throughout filming as scriptwriters were brought in responding to Selznick's insistent changes throughout the shoot.

**Actor selection:** Selznick knew the success of the movie would depend on the actors he picked, none more important than Scarlett O'Hara. Many Hollywood stars lobbied for the role including Bette Davis, Katharine Hepburn, Lana Turner, Joan Crawford, Barbara Stanwyck, and Susan Hayward. In fact, they auditioned 128 actresses for the role without success. Howard Hughes contacted Selznick to promote Katherine Hepburn as she was his girlfriend at the time. The story is that Hepburn was particularly aggressive and told Selznick, "I am Scarlett O'Hara! The role is practically written for me." Selznick replied, "I can't imagine Rhett Butler chasing you for 12 years." Privately, he didn't think Hepburn had sex appeal. Ouch.



**So, who would you pick to play the aristocratic southern belle?**

Paulette Goddard along with Vivien Leigh were considered the two finalists but Paulette ended up losing partly because Selznick

was afraid of the public backlash as she was Charlie Chaplin's mistress, and both were married. (Hollywood morals, again.) George Cukor, Director, immediately took to Leigh as she was "...charged with electricity who seemed possessed of the devil." He told her she had the part at his Christmas Day party.



**Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in costume – Perfect!**

**Director and Filming:** Eighteen days later, Cukor was fired by Selznick as he worked too slowly, and Gable pushed to get rid of him. Why? Gable feared that Cukor, who was known as a "woman's director" was too focused on Leigh. Victor Fleming, who was a "man's man" and Gable's friend, took over and proceeded to make Leigh's working life miserable, with numerous retakes, binding her breasts so she had more cleavage showing, and redoing kiss scenes with Gable's false teeth and bad breath. Ugh! Clark Gable was 38 and in his prime in Hollywood. Vivien Leigh was 26.

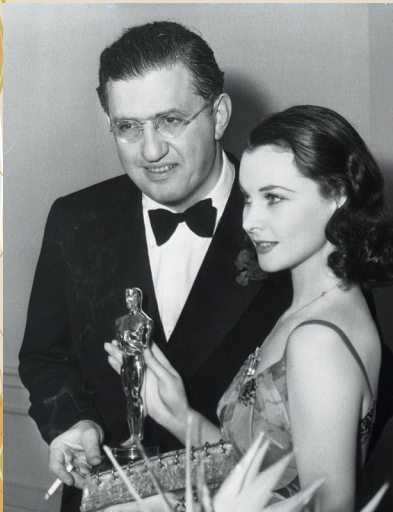
Fleming was a tireless field marshal, taking charge and orchestrating progress as Selznick continued to create chaos, firing the cinematographer, key technicians, and constantly sending memos to all players. It is reported that he dictated over 1.5 million words using two stenographers and sent Vivien a message that weighed a half pound and took the actress ten days to reply.





On set, it was utter chaos. "Vivien Leigh hated Victor, and he had a strained relationship with her demanding nature, frequent emotional breakdowns, and her limited acting ability. Everybody hated Selznick as he interfered in everything ... and everything had to be done and redone." The production crew was totally exhausted with the set-up, modified set-up, different set-

up, and on set, last-minute demands.



**The Producer:** Selznick (left, with Leigh) was considered by many to be a genius. He brought Alfred Hitchcock and Ingrid Bergman to the United States. He discovered Gene Kelly and Gregory Peck along with a host of other now famous industry players. He understood that making one big movie well was better than a bunch of medium size ones. He dealt with race,

class and gender, all controversial topics best hidden from the public. He stayed true to presenting the South from the view of Southerners. He dealt with letters from the Ku Klux Klan, the NAACP, governments of some of the Southern States, and the expectations of readers of Margaret Mitchell's novel. He dealt with the epic scale of some of the sets like the "Burning of Atlanta" and the elaborate production sets of the Tara plantation and the Twelve Oaks home.



From left to right: Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, author Margaret Mitchell, David O. Selznick and Olivia de Havilland at the film premiere in Atlanta GA

"Mercurial, shrewd, self-confident and enormously gifted, David O. Selznick climbed to the pinnacle of power and success in Hollywood with films that are now classics and actors who are considered screen immortals." There are also these words that circulated around Hollywood, "Selznick eats directors, writers, and secretaries." He passed away at the age of 63 from a heart attack.

**The Closing Scene to Act 1:** Here is the movie clip of the "Injured from the Battle of Atlanta" scene. The scale of the scene, the panoramic pull away shot, and the bulky technicolor cameras made it physically very difficult to shoot.

<https://keithharrishistory.com/keith-harris-history/gone-with-the-wind-and-the-battle-of-atlanta-wounded>

The scene required 800 actors plus 800 dummies, all dressed in costume and make-up, props everywhere, spread over a 40-acre lot. The pull away shot required a camera angle 90 feet above the ground plus the camera was the new bulky technicolor camera that recorded three separate film strips and required a pallet platform plus a blimp over the camera to reduce the noise.



The Injured from the Battle of Atlanta

The production manager found a 125-foot crane, but the crane motors vibrated too much as it moved. The solution was to build a 150-foot concrete ramp so the entire crane could slide down the ramp to capture the breathtaking panoramic shot. It took four months to plan and shoot a less than two-minute segment of the movie. Was it worth it? Did you experience the magnitude of the Confederate loss of Atlanta and get a sense of the hopelessness of their cause as the tattered Confederate flag came into view? You decide.

There are many more stories to tell about the costumes, how the burning of Atlanta was shot, other actors/actress's stories, but going on would turn this article into a book.

*This movie backstory required more research than usual and more words to tell its story so I will forego the Music portion of this monthly article.*

*As Paul Harvey is quoted as saying, "And now, ... you know the rest of the story."*



**Your SIR State and Branch 35 Officers and Leaders**

**SIR State Officers**

State President	<b>Rich Carlston</b> (925) 324-0838	State Vice President	<b>Lee Lamp</b> (530) 921-1375
State Secretary	<b>Jeff Chin</b> (209) 602-3912	State Dir. of Branch Support	<b>Jim Gragg</b> (916) 708-5154

**Branch 35 Executive Committee (BEC)**

Big Sir (President)	<b>Jerry Ososkie</b> (408) 219-6924	Little Sir (Vice President)	<b>Scott Hiller</b> (408)568-9625
Secretary	<b>Leland Chan</b> (510) 490-5369	Asst. Secretary	<b>Dave Squellati</b> (408) 334-7988
Treasurer	<b>Larry Low</b> (408) 533-2651	Asst. Treasurer	<b>Jim Narva</b> (408) 930-3353
Chairman (Awards, Young Guns)	<b>Ron Nakamoto</b> (408) 440-2330	Chairman (Special Events)	<b>Ben Gikis</b> (408) 802-0794
Senior Advisor	<b>Andy Danver</b> (650) 906-3747	Chairman (Nominations)	<b>Peter Wong</b> (408)921-4884
Chairman, Parliamentarian	<b>John Rittweger</b> (650) 740-3156	Senior Adviser	<b>Paul Schutz</b> (408) 313-6852
Senior Advisor	<b>Richard Blackborow</b> (408) 314-2378	Director (Membership)	<b>Joe Enos</b> (408) 499-9614
Director (Communications)		Director (Activities)	
Director (Technology)			

**Staff Chairmen**

Attendance	<b>Bill Young</b> (650) 493-1710	Audio/Visual Support	<b>Ron Schoengold</b> (408) 309-9830
Auditing	<b>Gerry Feeney</b> (408) 515-8604	Beverage Service	<b>Ben Gikis</b> (408) 802-0794
Historian/Photos	<b>Frank Crossman</b> (650) 493-9182	HLM	<b>Bob Garten</b> (408) 253-5860
Luncheon Host	<b>Dave Squellati</b> (408) 334-7988	Medical Emergency Resp.	<b>Dave Ogle</b> (650) 704-2130
Membership Roster	<b>Jerry Belden</b> (650) 207-6280	New Member Orientation	<b>Paul Schutz</b> (408) 313-6852
Trail Tips Editor	<b>Pat O'Connor</b> (408) 480-0409	Wellness & Comfort	<b>Pat O'Connor</b> (408) 480-0409
Website Maintenance	<b>John Ray</b> (408) 386-3573		

**Activity Chairmen**

Bicycling	<b>Gordy Tong</b> (408) 242-0557	Personal Finance	<b>Bob Booth</b> (408) 307-3274
Bocce Ball (Co-Chair)	<b>Richard Oehlberg</b> (650) 823-7720	Bocce Ball (Co-Chair)	<b>Michael Maurier</b> (650) 384-5754
Book Club	<b>Jerry Belden</b> (650) 207-6280	Book Swap	<b>Tim Topole</b> (650) 793-0838
Bowling	<b>Doug Andersen</b> (415) 407-4000	Bridge	<b>Mark Levi</b> (650) 305-9132
Chess	<b>Ben Kuckens</b> (650) 400-0353	Golf	<b>Les Miles</b> (408) 528-5473
Hiking	<b>John Tucker</b> (408) 655-5435	Movies	<b>Jim Quillinan</b> (408) 838-4379
Trail Birds	<b>David Skurnick</b> (650) 796-5314	Wine Finders	<b>Alan Gaudie</b> (650) 575-4332
Dining In (interim)	<b>Andy Danver</b> (650) 906-3747	Sports Cars Group	<b>John Tucker</b> (408) 655-5435

**Wellness and Comfort**

Death or illness of a fellow Sir should be reported to **Pat O'Connor**. He will express condolences of our Branch and communicate memorial announcements among the BEC and members via email.



SIR Branch 35 Activities - January 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	2 Golf 9:30am Deep Cliff \$43	3 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	4
5	6 Golf 9:27am Los Lagos (LLS1) \$39	7 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	8 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center Pers. Finance 1:00pm Moffett Field Museum Library Book Club 1:30pm Los Altos Utd. Methodist Church	9 Golf 9:35am Coyote Creek \$80 Biking 11:00am Stevens Creek Trail & Shoreline Park	10 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	11
12	13 Golf 9:30am Canyon Lakes \$54	14 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl Movies 3:00pm Zoom Meeting	15 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Branch 35 Lunch Mtg 11:00am - 1:30pm Mountain View Community Center	16 Golf 10:00am Spring Valley \$49	17 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	18
19	20 Golf 9:27am Los Lagos (LLS2) \$39	21 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	22 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Bridge 12:00pm Los Altos Senior Center	23 Golf 9:30am San Jose Muni \$49	24 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr. Hiking 10:00am Venue TBC	25
26	27 Golf 9:27am Los Lagos (LLS3) \$39	28 Bowling 1:00pm Homestead Bowl	29 Chess 9:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	30 Golf 10:00am Callippe Preserve \$68	31 Bocce Ball 10:00am Los Altos Community Ctr.	1