

RIEL BOWL
XXXIV





The 34th Annual Riel Bowl Celebration:

A Family Tradition of Fun and Festivities

On December 28, 2024, the Riel family gathered for the 34th Annual Riel Bowl Celebration, hosted at the beautiful home of Listy and Bob Gillingham on Mount Helix. Starting at 1:00 pm, the event brought together nearly all members of the Riel family for a joyous holiday gathering, spanning three generations. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share updates, and enjoy each other's company in a festive atmosphere.



Earlier in the day, many family members participated in the Riel Golf Tournament, which was followed by the main event at the Gillingham home. (Look for a separate article covering the tournament details.)

As expected, the feast was a highlight of the celebration, with a spread that included a mouthwatering 20-pound prime rib roast brought by Robert and Karla. The meal was complemented by an array of dishes, each contributed by various family members. Salads, turkey, potatoes, and of course, Carol's famous orange salad filled the table, ensuring there was something for everyone's taste. For dessert, guests were treated to an assortment of cakes, cookies, candies, and the Riel family's favorite — chocolate!



The party spread throughout the house, with the kitchen, family, and game rooms all buzzing with conversation, laughter, and good cheer. The back patio area also became a popular spot for family members to mingle, making the most of the beautiful winter weather.

After the delicious meal, the excitement continued with two White Elephant gift exchanges. Bob Gillingham masterfully oversaw both the adult and children's versions, ensuring everyone adhered to the rules and had their turn. The adults were allowed two steals per gift, while the kids had a single steal per gift. Both exchanges were a hit, with everyone leaving with something they would enjoy and treasure.





Once the gifts had been exchanged, the festivities continued with more conversations and laughter as the children played in the game room, creating lasting memories with their cousins. As the day came to a close, everyone left with full bellies and happy hearts, grateful for another unforgettable Riel Bowl Celebration.

A huge thank you to Listy and Bob for being such gracious hosts year after year, ensuring that the Riel family has a special place to come together during the holidays. The tradition of the Riel Bowl continues to grow stronger, and we look forward to the next one!





3rd Annual Riel Golf Tournament



By Brett Sorem



With 2024 being quite a crazy year, the Riel family does what it does best, gathers together at the end of the year for the infamous Riel Bowl at the Gillinghams and collectively complain about the possibility of Jeff winning another Riel Fantasy Football Superbowl. Oh wait, this is the golf article, my bad.

Five hours prior, 16 of the most impressive athletes from the Riel Family competed in a rigorous 18-hole scramble at the Sycuan Golf Resort on the Oaks Course. The usual suspects all participated from the Boomer Bogies while the Baby Bogies lost Kevin Riel but welcomed back Michael Mehan who famously had to drop out last year favoring his daughter's birthday over family competition.



The Boomer Birdy's were eager to reclaim their trophy and admittedly the Baby Bogies were nervous. David, Chris, Jason & Matt started off well and birdied a hole but eventually bogied a couple only to birdy on Nine to make it back to an even score.

Michael, Lyle Allen, Nathan and myself played golf cart golf almost the entire round. We usually all hit decent shots, or all shanked with a couple saves from each of us throughout the round. The nerves kicked in when we learned that Margaret got closest to the pin on the front 9 with a shot that bounced off the pin and dropped 5'6" from the hole, earning their team an extra -1.

After 9 we knew their foursome including Big Al and Lyle and Birdy were hovering around +1 but figured Bob Listy, Carol and Ed were under par. Mike and I decided to have a Man to Man meeting down by a tree and talk strategy. I cannot divulge what our conversation was, but our halftime game plan was vital on the back Nine. A couple birds started flowing in our direction...as well as the beer...and we were feeling good.



The last hole, a par 3, proved to be nearly a decisive W for the Baby's as we picked up 1 closest to the pin, thanks to Chris Riel, with their group also making Birdy. Our group luckily had 1 ball, stroked by myself, (always wanted to write those words) that was knocked in for par. If Chris or I would have shanked our two shots, and both got bogies. that would have been a 5-point swing (loss of closest to pin, Birdy to Bogie, Par to Bogie, gain of closest to pin with Ed's ball.) which would have made the final average scores +1 to +2 with the win still going to the Baby Bogies by a much narrower margin.

At the end of the day the Baby Birdy groups finished -2 and even while the Boomers finished +2 and +4. That secured the Baby Bogies defending champs with a final average score of -1 to +3. Both teams fought hard, and ultimately both had a great time.



We all retreated back to the Gillinghams and talked about the tournament, this year's results and next year's possibilities. My hope is with the addition of Kevin back in the squad plus possible additions ranging from Scott, Kevin Mullholand, and some of the ladies (need to find a babysitter so Carinda can play :) We can get more of the cousins out for the event, thus more of the family enjoying the sport that Frank and Edith loved so much.

2025 started out hot (I live in LA so I can say that) so hopefully the 2025, 4th Riel Golf Tournament will be hot closing out the end of the year.

God Bless You Children (a message from Edith) Note: *Some photos may not be totally accurate!*



January 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|----------|--|---|
| | | | 1 Grandma Edith's Birthday (100) New Years Day | 2 | 3 Remember Bruce Day (8)  | 4 Riley & Zeke's 10th Birthday |
| 5 | 6 Lauren B's 41st Birthday | 7 | 8 Ryker's 1st Birthday | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Megan's 41st Birthday | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Remember Francie Day (7) MLK Day  | 21 Lawson's 8th Birthday | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Chavva's 44th Birthday | 27 Ronan's 1st Birthday | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

February 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Scott & Krissy's 5th Ann. | 10 Michael's 44th & Brett's 42nd Birthdays | 11 | 12 | 13 David & Bethany's 5th Ann. & Addelyn's 8th Birthday | 14 Dave's 44th Birthday Valentines Day | 15 Greyson's 10th Birthday |
| 16 | 17 President's Day | 18 Bob & Karla's 42nd Ann. | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Brett & Carinda's 5th Ann. |
| 23 Avery R's 3rd Birthday | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |

Newport Beach Staycation 2024



By Listy Gillingham



November might not always be a safe time to travel but we lucked out with beautiful weather and a great mini vacation with three different groups of friends. We started our week with Birdy and Lyle which included one full day for golfing and hanging around. We decided to play Costa Mesa Country Club which is a very reasonably priced public course in the area. The only downside was that we played on a Saturday, which proved to be a very slow round of golf, but it was fun, nevertheless.



Sunday, we spent playing tourist by meeting up with our friends Holly and Rex with the Halls on Balboa Island for shopping, a walk around the island, and lunch.

Balboa island is a tiny little island in Newport Beach that has a nice downtown (two blocks long) and cute cottages (some pretty big) decorated for the holiday season. There is a working ferry boat that will take 3 cars at a time to the island if you want to experience ferry travel, but we chose to park off the island and walk over the bridge.

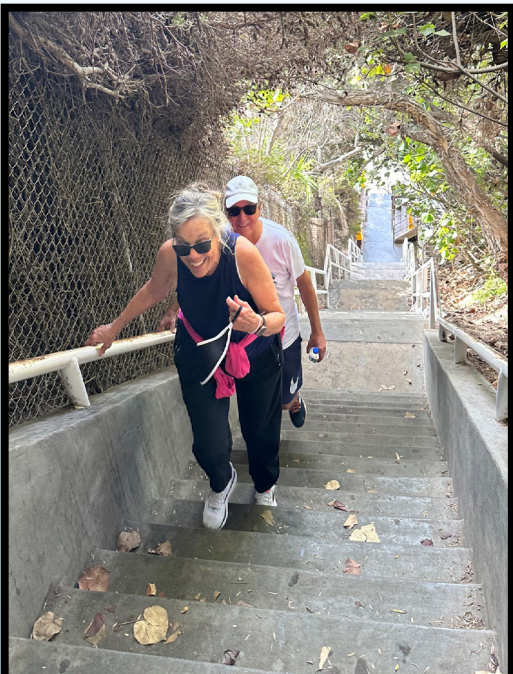
For people who love desserts, there is a store that is famous for their frozen bananas that are covered in chocolate and other toppings. We didn't venture there this time, but we have had it before, and they are delicious.

We bid farewell to the Halls and invited the Pantons to be our next guests in our two-bedroom villa (thank goodness we had laundry machines to help with each transition).



We got back to the resort and decided to walk around the facility so Rex and Holly could get a sense of the area we were staying in. We stopped to play some mini golf and table shuffleboard, and finished our walk just as the sun was setting. The Marriott had a musician playing music by the pool, which made for a fun dance party! After that, we put Bob and Rex to work to barbecue our dinner.

The next day we headed to the famous 1,000 Step Beach in Laguna Beach. Not sure why they call it that as you only descend about 220 steps, but once you get down to the beach, you see several staircases from private fancy homes that could add up to 1,000 if you were able to climb them all. Apparently, this is a popular spot for surfing, as the waves here grow large and offer up a bit of a challenge, but they weren't too bad when we were there. After that, the Pantons headed home and we waited for our next set of visitors, The Farkas duo.





They drove up for two nights and we got a second round of golf with them, returning to Costa Mesa Country Club and enjoying a much quicker round because it was a Tuesday! Again, we did the sunset walking tour with them and enjoyed adding a corn hole match to our adventures. The weather continued to impress us as we finished a cool but sunny day sitting on the deck with happy hour drinks and good friends.

We spent Weds. and Thursday alone at the resort as Doug had to go back to work. Wednesday was a Laguna Beach shopping trip where we checked out all the holiday decorations and shops.

Thursday was another golfing date at Dove Canyon which is a sister course to Steele Canyon giving us a break on the course fees due to our membership. After that, we went out for a late lunch and dined by the pool with the live music playing, tapas for noshing, a sunset for viewing, and dancing for two. A great way to finish our cruise date staycation.

Lyle Hall Retires from The Board of Directors of the American Fire Sprinkler Association



Region 1 Director Lyle Hall is retiring from the board this year. He is president and co-owner of Western Fire Protection in Poway, CA. has been in the fire sprinkler industry for 45 years, the last 29 years at Western Fire. Prior to that, he was a helicopter-based wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service. He has a degree in fire science with continuing education at the University of California San Diego.

Hall was recognized by AFSA Chair Linda Biernacki during the AFSA43 General Session. "Over many years of friendship with Lyle, I can say being the one to present this very deserving recognition to him meant the world to me. It is an honor to call him a friend and mentor," said Biernacki. "Lyle has been an advocate for the fire sprinkler industry with his incredible knowledge and input with the apprenticeship competition. His apprentices have been in the top seven multiple times at the apprenticeship competitions, and I thank him for his dedication. Lyle and Birdy have both been great supporters of the Board and our association. Thank you for your service to AFSA."



Hall started in the fire sprinkler industry as an apprentice pipefitter and worked his way into design, project management, sales and eventually, management. His past accomplishments include serving as a past director on the San Diego Fire Protection Association board; past chair of the San Diego Chapter of AFSA; past chair of the California American Fire Sprinkler Association-Unilateral Apprenticeship Committee; and past chair of the California Fire Training Alliance. Hall currently serves on the California American Fire Sprinkler Association-Unilateral Apprenticeship Committee and was the Chair of the AFSA Apprenticeship & Education Subcommittee to develop its ITM program. He also serves on the board of directors for AFSA's San Diego Chapter.

"I have known Lyle for more than 45 years, we were fitters and designers in the same office, literally! We were young once, if anyone could believe that!" says AFSA President Bob Caputo, CFPS. "Sadly, Lyle has decided that his contributions as a member of AFSA's Board of Directors have run their course, and it's time to pass the baton. Lyle is one of the most supportive people I know, and he's been a positive influence and industry friend for many years. His impact on the AFSA nationally and his contribution of time and support of San Diego Chapter and CAFSA have been generous and beneficial to our industry. While I am sad to see Lyle rotate off the Board, we know his decision is selfless and made in the best interest of this association, and I look forward to his continued involvement in our committees."



WEEK 15 (Quarter Finals)

WEEK 16 (Semi Finals)

WEEK 17 (Championship)



Krispy Kreme Donuts

Brett Sorem 9-5-0 #4 Seed



Smash Burger and Fries

Bob Riel 9-5-0 #1 Seed



Buffalo Hot Wings

Jeff Benesch 9-5-0 #5 Seed



Buffalo Hot Wings

Jeff Benesch 9-5-0 #5 Seed



Buffalo Hot Wings

Jeff Benesch 9-5-0 #5 Seed



AZ Devils

Alan Sorem 9-5-0 #2 Seed



Life's a breece

Jason Benesch 9-5-0 #3 Seed



The Gordita Supreme's

Lyle Hall 8-6-0 #6 Seed



The Gordita Supreme's

Lyle Hall 8-6-0 #6 Seed



The Gordita Supreme's

Lyle Hall 8-6-0 #6 Seed



The Gordita Supreme's

Lyle Hall 8-6-0 #6 Seed

2024 Riel Bowl Championship Bracket

RIEL BOWL XIII WINNER

By Brett Sorem

With a rematch of last year's Superbowl, The Gordita Supreme, coached by Lyle Allen, absolutely cooked Buffalo Wild Wings in a spicy Super Bowl showdown. While Jeff was bringing the heat throughout the playoffs, beating out Krispy Kreme and Smash Burger Fries with the toughest route to the glory game, Lyle Allen reigned Supreme this year preventing Jeff from an unprecedented repeat.

Smash Burger and Fries, blindly drafted and led by Bob, came in 3rd place this year defeating another senior asleep at the wheel, Big Al. That just shows how horrible the rest of us cousins really are at this. Very sad.

Krispy Kreme ended up edging out the 4 other teams who all tied for 1st place regular season standing because of his league leading points scored. And equally unimpressive was Dusty coming back from one of his worst seasons yet going 3-3 in the Loser bracket to be crowned victorious among the rest of the cousins who quit looking at their lineups by then.

All in all, it was a weird fantasy season in general which provided for a neck and neck race to the end. Commish Sorem has plans for a league shakeup next season to keep it interesting. Till then, all I can say is, LFGSD!!!! FTD!!!!



Celebrating Coral Riel's 5th Birthday: A Five-Day Fiesta Full of Joy and Sunshine

A very special milestone was reached recently as our little Coral Riel turned five years old. In true Coral style, the celebrations stretched across five days, a fitting tribute to her vibrant personality and her larger-than-life presence. It's no surprise that this joyous occasion was marked with lots of love, laughter, and, of course, plenty of sass!

Coral is known for being fierce and affectionate, a combination that makes her the life of the party wherever she goes. Whether she's cracking jokes, telling stories, or simply flashing that radiant smile, Coral has a way of drawing everyone into her world. Her energy is contagious, and to be loved by Coral is to be surrounded by sunshine and fire. Her hugs are the best, and she has a special knack for filling the room with happiness wherever she steps.

As a little Sagittarius, Coral is adventurous and free-spirited, with a heart as big as her laugh. It's no wonder she wanted to celebrate her "Bird-day" in the most Coral way possible! The theme was a playful twist on her love for animals, featuring birdwatching in the backyard and chicken wings to delight the taste buds. No birthday would be complete without a sweet indulgence, and Coral's chocolate cake was the perfect finishing touch, made all the more delicious by the company of loved ones who gathered to celebrate her.

The backyard buzzed with excitement as Coral and her favorite people shared in the magic of her special day. There were laughs, stories, and moments that will be cherished for years to come. Through it all, Coral was the shining star—her laughter filling the air, her enthusiasm infectious, and her love unwavering.



As Coral blows out her birthday candles and embarks on another year of adventure, one thing is clear: she amazes us every single day. We can't wait to see where this year takes our fierce, fun, and fabulous little Sagittarius. Happy 5th Bird-day, Coral—you truly are a gift to this world!

A photograph of a man and a woman posing together against a dramatic, cloudy sky. The man, on the left, has a beard and glasses, wears a white t-shirt, and has his arm raised. The woman, on the right, has blonde curly hair and is smiling, wearing a colorful patterned top. They appear to be outdoors, possibly on a hill or mountain.