

SENIOR TIMES

**“ OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR MEMBERS THROUGH
FUN ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS WHILE MAKING FRIENDS FOR LIFE”
AUGUST 2020 Newsletter - Turlock Branch 143**

BIG SIR SAYS...

By Greg Back



Hello fellow SIRS. As I write this Stanislaus County is experiencing a large spike in new COVID-19 cases. I know it is getting old, but please be careful out there, maintain social distancing, limit your exposure, wear face coverings when you must go out in public and religiously wash your hands or use lots of hand sanitizer. Stay safe and stay healthy for when we can all get back together again.

While staying quarantined at home, I read an interesting scientific research paper that stated that 1 dog year does NOT actually equal 7 human years. The paper concluded that the only thing that actually equals 7 human years is 2020©.

It may not seem like it now, but we will eventually get through this current COVID-19 madness and

get back to something resembling normalcy. To that end, your BEC has established a working committee to plan how we can safely restart our monthly in person meetings when conditions allow. It will not be business as usual at first and there will be restrictions on what we can do, so stay tuned for more information as the committee develops the plan.

We are electing our branch officers for 2021 this month. See elsewhere in the newsletter for the full slate of officers proposed and endorsed by your BEC. The slate of officers will also be sent via separate email. Please plan to attend this month's Zoom video meeting and cast your votes. Watch

(Continued on page 5)

STATE SIR HAPPENINGS

Here is the link:

<https://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>

Just click on the link or put into your web browser and it will take you to it... once on the SIR Happenings page, click on HAPPENINGS August 2020, this will open up the Newsletter...Maximize the pages and then scroll down... Unless you have a lot of paper and colored ink, I suggest you just read it and not print it out...

Here are some of the interesting topics you can read:

1. Insurance update... we were able to renew our Liability Insurance which is a big deal... Learn more.
2. I'm Doing My Part- a new program to recognize our members for what they do for their fellow members and SIRs.
3. The New State SIR Store... we can now order a lot of different items with the SIR logo to promote SIR.
4. www. WeAreSIR.com- learn about the new Web site for promoting new members.
5. Restarting SIR... more information.
6. Notes from the State President- Ed Benson always inspirational and informative!!

And much, much more.... Enjoy!!

NOTICE:
**ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH
OF AUGUST HAVE BEEN
CANCELED
EXCEPT RC CLUB Meeting first
Tuesday in August**

**DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER IS:
SEPTEMBER 1-2 and 3**



SIR TRAVEL

BILL STIRES
TRAVEL CHAIRMAN



Cancelled Laguna Arts Festival Pageant of the Masters in Southern California
July 26-29, 2020 - Rescheduled For July 25-28, 2021 with more information to come.

Top of Switzerland, Austria, Germany with Oberammergau and the Passion Play is postponed until August 27 – September 7, 2022. More details to come in future.

Due to cancelled trips and postponements we are looking at some future trips:
Great Smoky Mountains in Fall of 2021. Holland Tulip Festival in May 2022.

14 Night Adriatic and Aegean Medley Cruise Aboard The Newest Princess Ship, the Enchanted Princess

★ **NOTICE: AIRFARE INCLUDED ON THIS TRIP!!!** ★
(Round Trip SFO to Rome and Barcelona to SFO)

APRIL 22 - MAY 9, 2021

**Including One Pre-Cruise Night in Rome
and One Post-Cruise Night in Barcelona**

Price: Balcony Stateroom \$6,398 per person Double - Including Airfare!

Mini-Suite Stateroom \$6,950 per person Double - Including Airfare!

\$1,050 per person deposit to reserve your booking, final payment due January 15, 2021

New Princess Premier Package:

**FREE DRINKS, WI-FI, and
GRATUITIES PER PERSON**

RSVP: Bill Stires

544-2684 - cell: 988-5445

Princess Plus Options are Subject to Change Without Notice. These prepaid options are a significant savings from what you will pay onboard at the conclusion of your cruise. A valid passport thru November 2021 required for the trip./

**Ports of Call: ITALY: Rome, Naples, GREECE: Athens, Heraklion, Mykonos, Santorini,
TURKEY: Kusadasi, Istanbul, MONTENEGRO: Kotor, SICILY: Messina, SPAIN: Barcelona**



Tour Features:

- Transfers from Modesto/Turlock roundtrip to Airport.
 - 15 day cruise aboard the Enchanted Princess.
 - One night hotel stay in Rome and one night stay in Barcelona Including all transfers from airport to cruise ship in Rome and hotel to airport in Barcelona.
 - All taxes including port taxes
- Ship is filling up fast don't delay and get in your deposit to hold your spot.**

BEC MINUTES

BRANCH 143 - SIR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ZOOM MEETING JULY 17, 2020

Call to Order/Welcome @ 10:05 a.m. by Big Sir Greg Back.

Attendance Officers:

Big Sir Greg Back, Little Sir Rock Libby, Secretary Ken Edwards, Treasure Leonard Zumstein, Assistant treasure Mike Sakaguchi

Directors: Gary Toombs, Larry Hughes, Bob Holly, Ken Kajioka, Kevin Byrne, Fred Courter

Committee Representatives: Kevin Byrne, Membership, Bill Stires, Travel, Ken Kajioka, RV, Mark Taylor, Nominating, Gary Toombs, Activities.

Guests: Rick Kindle, Regional Director

Secretary's Report: By Rock Libby for Ken Edwards, June 2020 – Approved Greg Back 1st Bob Holly, 2nd Bill Stires, approval unanimous.

Treasures Report: By Leonard Zumstein

\$210 Deposited
\$325 June state assessment fee paid
\$2605.69 checking
\$375 Cash on hand
\$2,9080.69. - Balance total

Motion to approve 1st Bob Holly, 2nd Mike Sakaguchi, approval unanimous.

Membership Report: By Kevin Byrnes:

Membership Report July 15, 2020 - Zoom

Meeting:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Absences	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excused	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guest	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaker	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visiting SIRs	0

One applicant approved Feb.2020 will be installed when we resume meeting.

- Charles (Sandy) Newsome Badge #240

We dropped no one in July and no one resigned.

One recently dropped member paid his dues and is eligible for reinstatement. Need a vote.

- Gary Potter - Badge #222

One member returned to membership.

Membership increased by 1 to 127.

Motion to approved membership report and reinstate Gary Potter as member.

1st Bob Holly 2nd Bill Stires. Approval unanimous.

Nominating Committee report:

Mark Taylor

SIR 143 2021 Slate of Officers (SEE PAGE 6) presented by nominating chair Mark Taylor

Discussion: no comments presented.

Motion to approve list as presented and to present to general Membership 1st Bob Holly, 2nd Bill Stires, and motion passed

Activity Reports:

RC flying group by Greg Back, This group has been reinstated.

Bocce Ball by Gary Toombs, Gary Toombs will inquire with Tom Bundy to make plans for reinstatement of activity.

RV by Ken Kajioka, Pismo trip is still on at this time but not as a SIRS sanctioned activity. Individuals wanting to go must make their own reservations. If anyone has questions please contact Ken Kajioka @ 209 602-8351

Travel by Bill Stires, information on flight cost have been obtained and will be announced later for Adriatic/Aegean Cruise in news letter.

Note: Bill was asked and agreed to submit start up request to BEC for all upcoming travel.

Old business: Board Operations by Greg Back

Motion to Nominate Richard Provost as area Governor by Rick Kindle 1st Greg Back, 2nd Rock Libby, motion passed unanimous.

Distribution of member's directories:

127 members, 42 picked up directories, 33 were mailed out by Rick Kindle, and we have approximately 50 left. Motion: to mail out remainder to members. 1st Mark Taylor, 2nd Rock Libby. Motion passed unanimous.

New Business:

Motion: to reimburse Rick Kindle for cost for mailing out newsletters. Total cost \$124.00

Big Sir Greg Back approved 1st Larry Hughes 2nd Bill Stires. Motion passed unanimous. Treasure agrees to send check via mail to Rick Knidle.

Discussion on Restart: Big Sir Greg Back, suggests committee be formed to restart lunch meetings, interested individuals please contact Greg Back.

No further new items.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:48 am by Big Sir Greg Back



RV TRAVEL

Ken Kajioka
trail boss



Look for RV TRAVEL next months Senior Times

Pismo trip is still on at this time but not as a SIRS sanctioned activity. Individuals wanting to go must make their own reservations. If anyone has questions please contact Ken Kajioka @ 209 602-8351

SIRs Personalized Hats, Shirts and Jackets

Show your pride in SIRs, wear a hat, shirt, vest or jacket.. We have some hats and shirts in stock and will have them at our the next meeting, or call Rick Kindle at 209-652-8608 to pick these up... Vests and Jackets are special order, so we need your size. Also, if you want a different color for hats and shirts, these also need to be ordered.. if you have a special shirt you want embroidered, Russel Steeley can do this for \$10... Call him at 209-922-8832 to arrange drop off... he is right here in Denair on Eastgate Drive.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



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(Continued from page 1, Big Sir Says

for the invitation with the link to join the Zoom meeting in your email.

We have filled almost all of the committee chair positions for next year, with just 2 exceptions. We are still looking for volunteers to fill the Membership and Recruiting Chairmen positions. The Membership Chairman is responsible to keeping our meeting attendance, reporting that attendance to State SIR and receiving new member applications. The Recruiting Chairman is responsible for community outreach to attract new members. If you would like to step up and help your SIR Branch please let me know and I can provide more details.

We have a very interesting program for our Zoom meeting this month and you don't want to miss it. We will be showing a talk by USAF Major (retired) Brian Shul sharing his inspirational life story, his adventures flying the SR71 Blackbird and his beautiful photography. Major Shul is an outstanding speaker and his stories are both entertaining and inspirational. Please check your email for the invitation and link to join our August Zoom meeting. This is a great program and I really hope you can join us.

That's it for this month and I hope to see all of you on Zoom.

NEW PROGRAM:

The program for this month is a video of an inspirational talk given by Brian Shul, Major USAF (retired), Vietnam fighter pilot, SR71 spy plane pilot and aviation/nature photographer. You really don't want to miss this one. Watch for the Zoom meeting invitation and link in your email inbox.

Biography

Born in Quantico, VA in 1948, Brian graduated East Carolina University in 1970 with a degree in History and Anthropology. Flying close air support missions in Viet Nam, he flew 212 missions before his aircraft was shot down. Severely burned in the crash he was given little chance of survival. He spent one year in hospitals, endured 15 reconstructive surgeries and after countless hours of physical therapy, Brian surprised his doctors and returned to flying jets. In addition, he flew the A-7D, and was in the first A-10 squadron, becoming an airshow demonstration pilot. Brian also taught at the Air Force's TOPGUN School and culmi-

nated his Air Force career with selection to fly the world's premier spy plane, the SR-71. This was a remarkable accomplishment considering that it required an astronaut physical to qualify for the plane that routinely flew above 95% of the earth's atmosphere. Only 93 Air Force pilots in history ever flew the SR-71, still the fastest plane ever built. Brian flew the Blackbird for 4 years and was the pilot who provided key photos of Libyan terrorist camps to President Reagan during the Libyan Crisis in 1986 when he became the only SR-71 pilot ever to fly 3 missions in 3 consecutive days.

Brian retired from the Air Force in 1990, and pursued his writing interests. He wrote a book about flying the SR-71 and illustrated it with his own photography. It earned him the Aviation Book of the Year honors from the Smithsonian. He has written four other aviation books, for which he did all the flying, writing, and photography. He is the only man in America to have flown extensively with both the Air Force Thunderbirds and Navy Blue Angels in the making of those books. His Sled Driver book on the SR-71 is today the single most popular book on that plane worldwide.

Brian's remarkable comeback story has inspired audiences nationwide. He is a recipient of the National Spirit of Freedom Award, the prestigious Silver Eagle Award, and last summer was inducted into the Air Force Legends Hall of Fame. He finished his flying career with 5000 hours, having flown the T-28A/B/C, AT-28D, A-7D, A-10, F-5B, F-100, F-15, and SR-71. Brian is the owner of Gallery One in Marysville, California where his nationally acclaimed nature photography is on display.



Brian Shul, Major USAF (retired), Vietnam fighter pilot, SR71 spy plane pilot and aviation/nature photographer.

SIR 143 - 2021 Slate of Officers

**SIR 143 2021 Slate of Officers presented
by nominating chair Mark Taylor**

OFFICERS

Big Sir - Rock Libby
Little Sir - Roy Klevmyr
Secretary - Ken Edwards
Assistant secretary - Larry Date
Treasurer - Leonard Zumstein
Assistant treasurer - Mike Sakaguchi
Directors - Kevin Byrne, Gary Toombs, Bob Holly,
Larry Hughes, Ken Kajioka, Fred Courter

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership - Open
Assistant Membership - Ted Thorne
Sunshine - Ted Thorne
Recruiting - Open
Golf - Joe Adams
Assistant Golf - Ray Walker
Travel - Bill Stires
Bowling - Tony Ferro
Bocce Ball - Tom Bundy
RV - Ken Kajioka

Dine In/Out - Gary Toombs
RC Flying - Larry Date/Greg Back
Activities - Gary Toombs
Program - Gary Potter
Roster/Mailing - Larry Hughes
Newsletter Editor/Photographer - Fred Courter
Webmaster - Larry Hughes
Hall Set Up - Earl Hamilton
Chaplain - Earl Hamilton
Nominating - Greg Back
Technology - Greg Back

Description of open positions:

Membership

Keeps track of member attendance at monthly meetings
Receive Membership applications for new members
Form 27 report monthly to state
Maintains list of members

Recruiting

Community outreach to recruit first time guests and turn guests into applicants and eventually, members.

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST



Lance Anderson, Steve Arakelian, Homer Beckler, Ken Kajioka, Doug Brinkley, Baba Benyamin, Daniel Dias, Ron Fair, Edward Darrah, Lonnie Sloan, Wesley Jacobs, Bob Knapp, Tom Lindquist, Fred Courter, Carl Grubb, Jim Lackey, Russ Winton, Byron Blomenkamp, Curt Green, Dan Courtney, Paul Lytle, Tracy Sunde, Ted Thorn

Happy Anniversary



Anniversaries in August

Brad Bates, Abe Roberts, Al Kosters, Carlos Marchbank, Ted Thorn, Walfred Spycher, James Jensen, Greg Miranda, David Brown, Walter Farrar, Ben Dorsett, Roger Kirkes, Art Pargament, Art Fantazia, Bill Preuss, John Robnik, George Soles

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TURLOCK BRANCH NO. 143 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN OFFICERS FOR 2020

Big Sir	Greg Back	585-6862
Little Sir	Rock Libby	634-6508
Secretary	Larry Date	632-7287
Assistant Secretary.....	Ken Edwards	620-9532
Treasurer.....	Leonard Zumstein	634-8878
Assistant Treasurer.....	Mike Sakaguchi	602-5740
Membership.....	Kevin Bryne	648-2373
Assistant Membership.....	Ted Thorne	874-2249
Recruiting.....	OPEN	
Bowling	Tony Ferro	634-8377
Travel	Bill Stires	544-2684
Roster/Mailing.....	Brad Sleeper	620-2620
Golf.....	Joe Adams	632-8197
Assistant Golf	Ray Walker	606-9889
Sunshine	Ted Thorn	535-8696
Newsletter Editor/Photographer	Fred Courter	226-1173
Bocce Ball	Tom Bundy	668-5163
Program	Gary Potter	667-8516
Assistant Program	OPEN	
Catering/Hall Set-Up	Earl Hamilton	606-4525
Chaplain	Earl Hamilton	606-4525
Wagon Master.....	Ken Kajioaka	602-8351
Trail Boss.....	OPEN	
Dine-In ~ Dine-Out.....	Gary Toombs	604-8406
Nominating Committee Chair	Mark Taylor	620-6013
Directors	Gary Toombs, Ken Edwards, Bob Holly, Larry Hughes, Ken Kajioaka, Fred Courter	

STATE OFFICERS

State President: Ed Benson - 925-943-7011
Regional Director: Rick Kindle - 652-8608
Area 18 Governor: Richard Provost 209-222-1910