Big SIR Greg Says

Happy Fourth of July!!! As we enter the hottest part of the year I hope everyone is staying cool and comfortable. Unfortunately, the usual Fourth of July parades and festivities have been cancelled this year

due to the current upswing in COVID-19 cases in Stanislaus County, so we will have to our own celebrations. But I am sure that if we are all diligent in following the health guidelines we can get past this current upswing in cases and get things back to normal again. As if COVID-19 wasn’t enough, we now have to watch out for the new COVID-15. Those 15 pounds we gained while in lockdown at home are going to be tough to take back off. Your BEC is closely monitoring the state and county

health guidelines to determine when we can safely restart our activities and lunch meetings. The RC Flying group has been approved to restart, but other activities are still under consideration. The BEC is also looking at how and when to safely restart our lunch meetings. We want our members to remain safe, so lunch meetings will not resume until we can comply with State, County and Denair Community Center guidelines. We don’t know what this will look like yet, but I envision masks except while eating, additional spacing between tables, only 4 seated per table, lots of hand sanitizer and no self-service food buffet line, etc. Based on the current COVID-19 situation, it may be several more months before we can safely restart. When we do restart our meetings, I would like to begin a transportation committee to provide rides to anyone who would like to come to a meeting or activity but is unable to drive themselves. If you would like to help and are able to provide transportation for a fellow SIR, please let me know. We have been using Zoom to hold our meetings over video for the last several months. It has been working very well

technically, but our attendance has been hit and miss. Our May meeting had 26 members joining our video meeting, but June had only 10. I hope we can do better this month. It is not quite the same as meeting in person, but we have a great time and it works amazingly well for visiting and chit chat before we start the formal meeting. Please consider joining us this month and visit with your old friends. If you

have not used Zoom before, don’t worry, it is very easy to join an online video meeting. There are tutorials on the State SIR website, please check them out. A meeting invitation will be sent via email that will contain instructions and the link to join the meeting. Joining the meeting is very easy:

a) Click on the link from your PC, smartphone or tablet.

b) When prompted, download the Zoom app (it should only take a short time and is only required the

first time you use Zoom).

c) If prompted, enter the password.

d) Make sure you have allowed Zoom permission to use your microphone and camera.

e) Join the meeting.

Independence Day, the Fourth of July, is an important day in our nation’s history. Here are some fun facts about this great national holiday.

1. The Declaration of Independence wasn't signed on July 4 (or in July at all). Only John Hancock actually

signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The remainder signed on August 2.

2. The first Independence Day celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. This was also the day that the Declaration of Independence was first read in public after people were summoned by the ringing of the Liberty Bell.

3. Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national bird but was overruled by John Adams and

Thomas Jefferson, who recommended the bald eagle.

4. Every 4th of July the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped (not actually rung) thirteen times in honor of the original thirteen colonies.

5. Eating salmon on the Fourth of July is a tradition in New England.

6. Massachusetts was the first state to recognize the Fourth of July.

7. The oldest annual Fourth of July celebration is held in Bristol, Rhode Island.

8. The shortest Fourth of July parade is in Aptos, California.

9. There are around 15,000 Independence Day fireworks celebrations every year.

10. Americans eat an estimated 150 million hot dogs on the Fourth of July. If laid end to end, that would

stretch from Los Angeles to New York and back 5 times.

11. Americans spent $6.7 billion on food last year to

celebrate the Fourth of July.

12. Three presidents have died (Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Monroe), and one was born

(Calvin Coolidge), on the Fourth of July.

That’s it for this month. Stay safe and I hope we will be

able to get back together soon.