



SIR BRANCH 171

March 2017

<http://branch171.sirinc2.org/>

A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation for Retired Men Devoted to the
Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement



Our next meeting will be Wednesday, **March 1** Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Hall

1700 School St., Moraga
Social time begins at 11
Meeting begins at 11:30

BIG SIR MESSAGE: RALPH BLUMENTHAL, ralphblu@comcast.net 925-254-6935

If you weren't there, you missed a great February Luncheon. Dr. John Karachewski, Veteran geologist and photographer extraordinaire, gave an extremely informative, absorbing talk complete with some really beautiful slides. You could tell everyone was interested by the many questions that were put to Dr. Karachewski after his talk. A very big thank you to Little Sir, **Barry Leskin** who is doing such a great job lining up speakers this year.



And while we are doing some thanking, what would we do without **Russ Aubry** and **John Schick**? Russ Aubry --- month in, month out comes up with those fabulous pictures of club members he has taken. Russ makes us all look good! (and younger too!). As for John Schick --- I am sure you will all agree that he is an outstanding representative of our club! Besides serving as Secretary for our club and Board Meetings for many years, John is the fellow we can always rely on for any answers to club questions. As a matter of fact, John knows everything and anything about Chapter 171 -- and what he doesn't know, he will find out! One more thank you goes to **Frank Grannis**, The Piano Man. Frank has been playing that piano for years -- "Happy Birthdays" "God Bless Americas" --- Frank is always there always ready to play for us. We are lucky to have him!

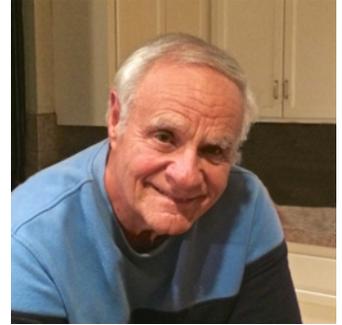
I thank you all for filling out those surveys we placed on your tables last month. Believe me, they will help a lot! And I also thank our go-to guy, Mr. Reliable, **Tom Marnane**, for volunteering to tabulate the surveys. Our main goal for these surveys is simply to learn which activities members are interested in, and also to find out if any of you might be considering participating in some sort of leadership role. I sure hope so.

Also, thank you to **Sam Zorich** for assuming the role of Activity Chairman. A very important responsibility within our club, and we have the right man in the right place! The role is primarily as a cheerleader --- identifying and getting new activities going, ensuring those activities are known and communicated to our members, and helping to get them off the ground. The Activity Chairman also helps to ensure each of our activities has a leader. Sam is the man !!

I will see you all on March 1. Barry has another sterling speaker lined up. The fruits will be fresh, the vegetables cooked just right, and it will be another time to shoot the breeze with your chums (but no talk about PSA's, BP's or MRI's please...quiet politics is ok!)

Ralph Blumenthal, Big SIR

The speaker at the March 1 meeting will be Jim King, Chairman and founder of J.P. King Advisors, who will present a topic certainly very relevant to all of us:



“How to Optimize Happiness and Financial Security in Retirement”

Jim has spoken many times at \$ums, the Investment activity for SIR Area 2, and has been very well received each time. His talk at our March 1 meeting will include:

- 1) Three Keys ("P's") to Happiness: **P**eople, **P**leasure and **P**urpose.
- 2) Financial Security: How much is enough? Where does it come from? The myth of More.
- 3) Trade offs: How to get maximum joy from every dollar spent.
- 4) Mistakes to avoid.
- 5) A Portfolio Life.

Jim King

J.P. King Advisors is a registered investment advisory firm located in Walnut Creek. Prior to founding the firm in 1981, Jim received his Bachelor and Masters Degrees from Stanford University (1969 and 1977) and Certified Financial Planner credential from the College for Financial Planning (1984). He has been an instructor and guest lecturer in the Graduate Program in Financial Planning at Golden Gate University.

Prior to forming J.P. King Advisors, Jim was a Peace Corps volunteer, worked for Equitec Securities Company, and was a management consultant and bank officer. Jim has been quoted in numerous publications, has appeared on radio and TV, and has been named by Worth Magazine as one of the best financial advisors in America.

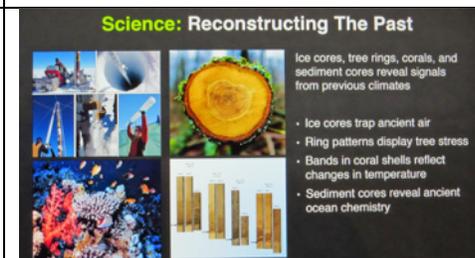
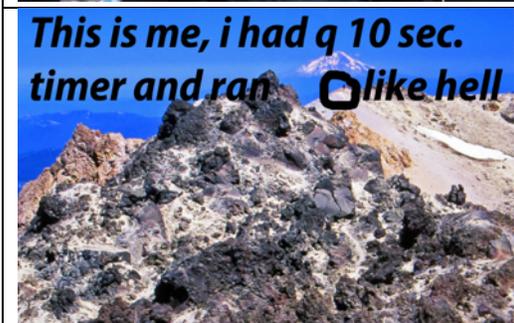
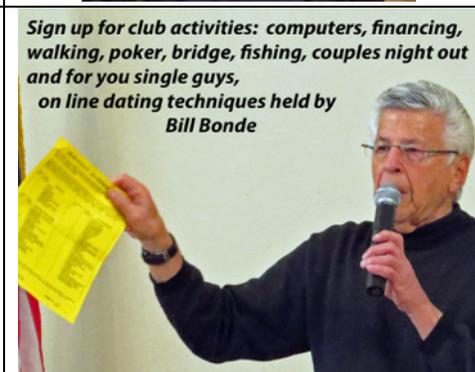
Our April 5 Meeting

It is always good to know what is coming so we have time to invite a guest (*a potential new member*) to our meeting. Thus, here is a bit about our April 5 speaker and topic to help with your planning.

The speaker will be Ted Clement, Executive Director of Save Mount Diablo. Ted will discuss the long term efforts to preserve Mount Diablo as more than 70,000 of its acres are now in private hands. With expected population growth during the next decade there is a risk that the property will become so valuable it could be sold for residential housing.

Bring a friend, neighbor, or acquaintance to the March 1 or April 5 meeting !!

Barry Leskin, Little SIR



ANNOUNCEMENTS

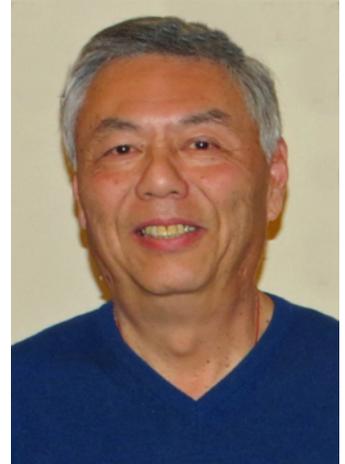
Member Rosters

The 2017 Member Roster were provided at the last meeting. If you did not pick up your copy at the February luncheon, printed copies will be available at the March luncheon by the entrance table. If you do not have a copy, and cannot make the meeting, or should you desire an e-copy (Word format), contact Stan Holcenberg (sholcenb@comcast.net) or John Schick (jschick@att.net).

New Member

A warm welcome to the Eric Cho, who was inducted into the January meeting by Ken Nakashima. Ken met Eric while walking in the neighborhood, asked Eric to join the SIR Walking Group, and the rest is history. Eric's bio is available in the "Know Your SIR's" section of this month's newsletter.

Please introduce yourself to Eric, welcome him to the group, help him find a seat at a table, and answer any questions he might have.



Missed Meetings

A reminder that you need to call the SIR 171 hotline, 925-377-5880, prior to 1:00pm the Saturday prior to a meeting (unless you have filled in an entry on the "Absence Notification" sheet at a prior meeting) if you will be unable to attend or if you are bringing a guest. If you do not let us know of an absence, the club may be liable for your luncheon fee. Thus, if you do not leave a timely message, you may be subject to a \$20 no show charge. If your absence is for a medical reason, please leave a message as soon as you can.

Thank you for abiding by this policy so we do not have extra and un-necessary expenditure. Please note that this policy is always contained in the monthly newsletter in the Branch Attendance Report.

MARCH LUNCHEON

MARCH LUNCHEON MENU

Corned beef; cabbage with carrots; potatoes OBrien
Green salad; seasonal fresh fruit salad; dessert

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO SIRs

❖ Laszlo Bonnyay ❖ Brad Dewey ❖ Ray Horton ❖ Harold Knudson ❖ Steve Wright ❖

A very short list of names this month!! Increase the odds dramatically for each of these members to win a free lunch.

One of the above members with a birthday in March will win a free lunch if he attends the March meeting. Members whose birth month is in March, and who do not see their name in the above list, should call the Big SIR prior to the meeting to ensure that their names are included in the drawing. **NOTE:** Members 90 years of age or more will receive a free lunch on their birth month each year, but they must notify the Big SIR prior to the meeting. Big SIR Ralph Blementhal can be reached at ralphblu@comcast.net or 925-254-6935.

GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

\$15 Luncheon fee for first time guest

The first time a guest attends a meeting the lunch fee is \$15. The regular luncheon fee will be charged for subsequent visits as a guest.

If you are inviting a guest don't forget to call the hotline at 925-377-5880. Provide the name of your guest and let us know if he is a first time guest.

BRANCH REPORTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG franciscpwong@gmail.com 376-0967

There were 117 members at the January meeting, including two guests, the speaker, and one inactive member who came by to say hello. There were 113 members in attendance, representing 72% of our membership. There were 36 sign-outs, but unfortunately 7 no-shows.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE SIR REQUIREMENT TO ATTEND SIX LUNCHEONS OF THE LAST TWELVE.

ALSO, **PLEASE CALL THE HOTLINE WHEN YOU CAN'T MAKE A MEETING.** Your call must be made before the 1pm deadline the Saturday prior to the meeting as otherwise you may be subject to the \$20 no show charge. Leave messages as soon as you can if the absence is due to a medical reason.

Members need to call the SIR 171 "HOT LINE" at 925-377-5880 before 1pm on the Saturday before the meeting if they are not going to attend the meeting (unless they filled-in the "Absence Notification" sheet at a prior meeting), or if they are bringing a guest. Please note: If you are requesting a SIR membership status change, contact Larry Thompson, Temporary 2017 Membership Chair (925-631-9528) rather than calling the SIR 171 HOT LINE.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: LARRY THOMPSON larryandginger@comcast.net 631-9528

TOM LENZ thomaslenz8288@comcast.net 278-1717

JOHN SCHICK jschick@att.net 376-9412

CHANGES:

Active

1. Jim Drennan # 156 has gone inactive for medical reasons
2. Ray Lundgren # 55 has gone inactive for medical reasons
3. George Puterbaugh # 45 resigned for health reasons
4. Clay Sealy # 172 has returned to active status

Inactive

1. Jim Drennan added to inactive list
2. Ray Lundgren added to inactive list
3. Clay Sealy returned to active status

INDUCTIONS

1. Eric Cho # 28 Sponsor Ken Nakashima # 122

ACTIVE ROSTER: = 156

INACTIVE ROSTER: = 39

APPLICATIONS APPROVED AWAITING INDUCTION

1. Eric Cho Sponsor Ken Nakashima # 122

APPLICANT LIST = 0

Membership Application Forms are always available at the desk at the meetings, or from Larry Thompson.

ROSTER CORRECTIONS: LARRY THOMPSON 631-9528 larryandginger@comcast.net - None!

NOTE: Please contact Larry Thompson whenever your personal information changes (i.e. email address, home address, and/or phone number) or whenever you wish a membership status change (i.e. to request inactive status or to resign). Larry will in turn update the master Roster and advise the Newsletter staff.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Krompholz krompholz@comcast.net 528-9937

Please contact Bob Krompholz if you would like to receive the latest financial report.

SUNSHINE REPORT: MONTE LOGAN MonteGryFx@aol.com 376-0264

Branch 171

It is sad to report the passing of former **SIR Warren Engstrom** on Jan. 23rd. He joined our SIR's group in 1997 and became inactive in 2014 due to poor health. There has been no announcement of a funeral service. Warren's bio from Contra Costa Times is included.

Warren L. Engstrom -- April 22, 1925 ~ January 23, 2017

Warren passed away peacefully on January 23 2017 in Redding CA. A native of Oakland, he was a [World War II](#) combat veteran and a graduate of UC Berkeley. A former financial planner, he was active in the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, Moraga SIRS, Orinda Hiking Club, and was past president of the Moraga Historical Society and the Veterans Hospital Christmas Committee. Warren also constructed dozens of bluebird houses around the Moraga area and fledged over two thousand bluebirds.

He was the loving husband of Shirley, who preceded him in 2012. He is survived by two sons, a daughter, and two grandchildren. Any donations may be made to a [charity of choice](#).

Let us keep the following SIRs in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

- * **SIR Brad Dewey** - Barbershop Harmony Director
- * **SIR Ted Westphal** - Hist. Adv. & Vets Coordinator
- * **SIR Charles Kezerian**
- * **SIR Will Tissue**
- * **SIR Stew Chalem** - Executive Committee Director

Branch 174

Good news. No serious illnesses reported.

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•••Please try to contact SIR's with illnesses to offer your support and encouragement and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. A friendly call is welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you are aware of an ill SIR, please let Monte Logan know by e-mail or phone.

KNOW YOUR SIRs

Eric Cho

Eric was born in Hong Kong to parents who worked for the British Government and immigrated with them to the United States as a teenager. He went to high school in San Francisco, graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA degree and subsequently attended California State University Sacramento for his Master's. Eric was a licensed therapist and medical social worker who worked with Hospice patients, gang kids, Asian immigrants and homebound elderly and ones with dementia. He also assisted in adoption and public guardian/conservatorship cases. He was an instructor/trainer for UC Davis and gave workshops on Aging and Mental Health. He retired as a Division Manager for the Contra Costa County Aging and Adult programs.

Eric and his wife, Kit, have been married for thirty-five years and been Moraga residents for over twenty years. They have two grown daughters, both now out of the house. He loves gardening especially bonsai, Chinese brush painting, hiking and travel. He's organized and led several tours for groups of friends to China and Taiwan as well as travelled by himself or with family to Europe and other parts of Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Jim Hardy

Jim was born in Pendleton, Oregon and grew up in a Navy family traveling around the United States, Guam, and Hawaii to different military posts until he graduated from high school in Coronado, California, where his father eventually retired. He has one brother and two sisters and is the oldest. He graduated from San Diego State College with a degree in Fine Arts in 1968. He was drafted into the army and did two tours in Vietnam as a combat artist and photographer for the Department of the Army. After discharge, Jim attended the San Francisco Art Institute on the GI Bill and earned a Masters in Fine Arts in 1975.

Realizing that he had to get a real job, he learned to weld at John O'Connell Trade School, San Francisco, and then spent the ensuing 40 years in the steel industry. In August 2015, Jim retired from the Golden Gate Bridge where he had been employed as a seismic retrofit steel inspector since 2000. Prior to that he worked in the San Francisco shipyards as a welder in the Boilermaker's Union and later for the Pile Drivers Union doing earthquake retrofitting of buildings, bridges and highways. His wife, Melissa, always asked Jim, "Why can't you find a nicer group of guys to be with other than those Iron-heads you always hang out with?" Jim believes he has now that he's joined SIRs.

Jim and Melissa live in Martinez with their two dogs and two cats. They have one son, Spencer, who attends the University of San Francisco. They have always looked forward to retiring in Orinda or Moraga and still hope to do so. Jim says longevity might be in his genes since both parents lived well into their nineties. In retirement, Jim has taken up his art work again, enjoys reading and looks forward to playing golf and attending luncheons with his SIR friends. He'll eventually take up other activities.

Know Your SIR is edited by Dave Humm dmh2@silcon.com 376-5895. We would like to have all of our members, who wish to do so, be included in this directory. Please write down the salient points of your life (1/2 page) and provide it to Dave (via e-mail if possible). It will then be written up in a future newsletter. Dave has copies of all past "Know Your SIR" reports. Access to them is available via e-mail; or a hard copy can be had for the cost of printing.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES (BRANCHES 171 & 174)

ACTIVITY LIST (items in blue are informational; items in red have updated information)

Apple Users Activity	Astronomy
Barbershop Harmony	Big Hikers
Bocce Ball	Book Club
Bowling	Bridge
Computers and Technology	Couples Dining Out
Dominoes	Fishing
Golf	Historical Adventures
Investment Group	Pinochle
Poker	Stamp Club
Senior Strollers	Table Pool
Tennis	Travel
Walking	Wine Tasting

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN: **SAM ZORICH** (BR. 171) sam.zorich@gmail.com 376-7799



The Activity Chairman's role is to keep in close contact with each of the chairmen of the branch activities in order to understand what they are doing and how things are going, to determine if they are planning any special activities that they want to communicate to the rest of the Branch, and to determine if there is anything special that requires assistance. Also, the Chair keeps in communication with the other branches in the area to determine if there are additional activity announcements that should be made to our branch.

The Chair is always looking for suggestions for additional activities (e.g. Chess, Cooking, Current Events Discussions, etc etc), and is the focal point to communicate with if you would like to chair any of the open activity groups.

APPLE USERS ACTIVITY: **DICK MACY** (Br. 171) m.hobie@comcast.net 376-1180
JOE TRACY (BR. 174) jotracy@comcast.net 954-7801



The meetings focus on Apple/Mac computers, iPads, & iPhones. Each meeting includes a discussion of recent Apple/Mac announcements and releases; a roundtable discussion of applications, general rumors, issues, and problems members may be having; and a few formal topics.

The next meetings are scheduled for February 27 and March 27 .

Meetings are held in the conference room at the CC County Supervisor office at 3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, on the **fourth Monday of each month at 10:00 AM to noon**. The location is the fire station building across the street from El Charro restaurant. Enter left side door at top of steps. Novices and advanced users are welcomed. Come and be a part of the group.

ASTRONOMY: **GEORGE COBB** (Br. 174) gecblue@aol.com 200-7749
BILL HUNTER (Br. 8) 254=6281



We meet the **second Monday of each month** in the Tilden Room at the Concord Hilton Hotel on Diamond Boulevard. Our meetings commence at 1:30. Please join us for an entertaining meeting. All are welcome. Call or e-mail George (GECBlue@aol.com) for details and further information.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY: **BRAD DEWEY** (Br. 171) ebdewey@att.net 376-3349
RON LEIKER (Br. 174) leikerinda@comcast.net 376-3884



The SIRpremes are basically a barbershop octet. We sing songs in four-part harmony. By having two people on each part, the problems caused by absences are greatly reduced – obviously. **We meet just about every Tuesday for one hour.** We take a few minutes to discuss the affairs of the world, and then get down to business, working on one or two songs, finishing by partaking of some delicious cookies, freshly baked by Brad's wife, Carol. Our self-determined purpose has been to add a little variety to the monthly luncheon meetings of Branches 171 and 174, plus the Christmas luncheon with our ladies. Our only other singouts have been for the Moraga Movers and at Sam Zorich's birthday party.

BIG HIKERS: AL DONNER (Br. 171) aajdonner@gmail.com 376-1594



One of three SIRS walking groups, the Big Hikers aims to engage SIRS who want some longer and stronger routes than our two around-town walking groups. The "**Big Hikers**" offer opportunities to do some hikes more than 3 miles in length and sometimes do a little more elevation. They can be further afield, Mt. Diablo or other regional parks, such as Vasco Caves. The Big Hikers operate on a varied schedule, trying to do a couple hikes each month. They go to interesting places as the spirit moves us. Contact Al Donner (aajdonner@gmail.com) to get the on the Big Hikers notice list.

If you want a slower pace, try either the WALKING or the SENIOR STROLLERS group.

BOCCE BALL: *Open* (Br. 171)
ED PROTIVA (Br. 174) edprotiva1@comcast.net 254-1631



Bocce Ball seasn is over for the year!

We plan to commence play in early May. You can be a part of this great group of guys.

HOWEVER, we are in need of a 171 coordinator for our Bocce Ball activity group. Please contact Sam Zorich (sam.zorich@gmail.com or 376-7799) if you can take over this very important co-chairman role with 174 coordinator Ed Protiva.

The Bocce Ball games are played at the Moraga Commons Park located at the corner of Moraga Road & St Mary's Rd, next to the bandstand, in the Town of Moraga. The game consists of 4 players on each court, creating 2 teams of 2 members each. Each team has one player at each end of the court. It is quite easy to learn.

When in season, Bocce is played every Tuesday and Friday at 10 am. The cost is all of \$2 each day. You can play on either or both days.

BOOK CLUB: **BOB KROMPHOLTZ** (Br 171 chair) krompholz@comcast.net 528-9937
AL DESSAYER (Br 171 co-chair) dessayer@pacbell.net 376-7430



The goal has developed an agreed upon list of books which club members will discuss at future monthly meetings. An attempt will be made to vary the selections to include the latest best sellers as well as some classics, bacon fiction and non fiction.

Each member selects a book he has read or would like to read and suggests it to other members, who will then read the book and be ready for discussion at subsequent meetings. This is a great way not only to continue your reading enjoyment but also to discuss your comments and ideas with intelligent, curious, cerebral fellows like yourself

There are currently 12 members of the club. Contact Bob or Al if you are interested in joining.

BOWLING - AREA 2: LLOYD WEST (Br. 19) 228-9037



Area 2 Tournament bowling is held at Diablo Lanes in Concord on the **4th Thursday of each month**. Be there at 9:30 am. League Bowling is also available every Wednesday at 10 am. There is also open bowling on Tuesdays at 10 am for practice. More members are welcome. Call for more information.

BRIDGE: GREG TCHERKOYAN (Br. 171) gresta2@sbcglobal.net 838-0361
STEWART KNUDSEN (Br. 174) svknudsen619@aol.com 376-4919



We meet at the Moraga Hacienda on the **second and fourth Tuesdays of each month**. Please arrive by 9:50 am. Play starts promptly at **10:00 am**. Bring \$5 and a bag lunch. Call Greg or Stu for further information.

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY: DEREK SOUTHERN (Br. 8) Derek.southern@gmail.com 253-1646
NEIL SCHMIDT (Br 116; Area 2 CAT Chairman) np_schmidt@pacbell.net



No meeting information at this time for March. Check <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/> for updated information.

Please join us for a fun and informative meetings to discuss applications for Computers and Technology. We meet on the third Thursday of each month (no meetings in June and December) at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge and have free coffee and cookies at the meeting. We normally ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the hall rental and miscellaneous costs but periodically waive the request.

We are a volunteer organization with no connection to any commercial products or services. At each meeting we have a presentation on a topic regarding computer or consumer technology usage. We cover everything from antivirus programs, ways to back up your data, digital photography, genealogy research, smart phones and many other topics. It's a great way to meet new friends and learn something to enrich your life.

No reservation is necessary so just show up. You'll be glad you came.

COUPLES DINING OUT SAM ZORICH sam.zorich@gmail.com 376-7799



Karl and Anne Droese are arranging the March 22nd dinner. Restaurant to be determined.

The group dines out every other month at a fine location in the East Bay. Planning for the venue rotates among the various members of the group.

DOMINOES TOM WESTHOFF (BR 171) 376-2609 westhoff40@comcast.net



The SIR 171 Domino group meets every Thursday at Moraga Royale from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Contact Tom for further information.

FISHING: KARL DROESE (Br. 171) kdroese@comcast.net 376-0468 PAUL DUBAW (Area 2)



All SIR members and guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. **Next meeting will be Thursday, March 23**, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, starting at 8:30am.

Whether you fly fish, spin fish, troll or bait fish there will be events of interest. If you are new to fishing or are interested in trying a different type of fishing we have experienced and knowledgeable members happy to share their expertise, and even their equipment. With nearly 100 events scheduled throughout the year, some type of fishing is available almost every week.

February results: Not many ventured out in the miserable weather and debris covered Delta and Bay. With the exception of two legal sturgeon and a few undersized strippers those who did make the effort were skunked.

Activities scheduled for March and April: Several sturgeon/striper trips to the Delta. Several Trout outings to Shadow Cliffs, San Pablo, Los Vaqueros and Lake McSwain.
A three day trip to Pyramid Lake NV.

For more information call Karl Droese at 376-0468.

GOLF – 18 HOLES: **GENE BELL** (Br. 171) gdbell1@comcast.net 284-1786
BILL WADSWORTH (Br. 174) wadsy1@aol.com 925-963-0442



There is a new golf website. The link is www.sirlamorindagolf.com. The website includes the membership application, a list of current members, the 2017 schedule, the results of 2016 events, and other pertinent information for members and prospective members.

HISTORICAL ADVENTURES: *(Open)*



The highly interesting Historical Adventure tours activity needs a new chairman. Ted Westphal ran this activity for many years and did a fabulous job identifying and coordination trips in the Bay Area. **Please contact our Activity Chair, Sam Zorich** (sam.zorich@gmail.com 376-7799) **if you would like to chair this activity.**

INVESTMENT GROUP: **TOM HENRY** (Br. 174) tomhenry925@icloud.com 254-5724
DAVID SUTTON (Br-8) davesutn@comcast.net 686-0158



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\$ums, the investment activity of SIR Area 2, meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The time is 8:00AM to 9:30PM. The location is in the Legends Restaurant at the Diablo Creek Country Club on Port Chicago Highway 1/4 mile North of Highway 4. The Legends opens at 7 AM. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

Feb. 22, 2017

Our speaker will be John Hutchinson of Stifel and Co. Stifel's Equity Research Group is a recognized leader with a deep and broad spectrum of coverage. Their award-winning analysts are thought leaders, many with hands-on experience in their respective industries, offering objective, in-depth analysis and timely, actionable research ideas.

No meeting has been announced at this time for March. Contact Tom Henry (tomh925@icloud.com 254-5724) for information.

PINOCHLE: **BILL KORN** (Br. 171) blairkorn@comcast.net 376-1643



The Sirs pinochle game is held **every Wednesday morning at 9:30** at the Moraga Royale on the corner of Country Club Drive and Moraga Road. We play in a comfortable private room and many of us stay there for a delightful lunch, at a very minimal cost. The Wednesday game is moved back to Tuesday on the Sirs meeting day. We hope you can attend as we have a good time. If you don't know pinochle we will teach you, as it is not difficult. We hope to see some new players in the near future.

POKER: **DICK MEDEL** (Br. 174) 376-5568 & **BILL WIEGMANN** (Br. 174) bigwieg@comcast.net 376-6088



Our low-stakes poker group meets the **fourth Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 4:30pm**. We meet at various locations. To join us please contact Dick or Bill for information.

SENIOR STROLLERS: **JIM COUNTRYMAN** jcountry@comcast.net 631-1766



Meets every **Wednesday** at 9 AM for an easy walk of less than a mile around/near the Moraga Center, generally with a stop for coffee at some point along the way. Contact Jim to get on the mailing list the starting point (which varies).

If you want a longer walk, try the WALKING group. For an even longer walk, with some elevation, try the BIG HIKERS group.

STAMP GROUP: LARRY BEANS (Br. 171) larrybeans@comcast.net 376-7306



We meet on the Friday following Branch 171 lunch meeting at 9:30 am. The group meets at Larry Beans' home at 20 Carr Drive in Moraga. Please call Larry for more information, or if you would like to attend.

TABLE POOL: AREA #2: **BILL WEINBERG** 682-0962



We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet on the **1st & 3rd Mondays at 11:30 am** at Masse's – 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5.00 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All SIRs are welcome.

TENNIS: **JIM COUNTRYMAN** (Br. 171) jcountry@comcast.net 631-1766
RALPH THORNICROFT (Br. 174) grtincal@aol.com 376-8140



The Tennis Group plays at St. Mary's College **every Tuesday and Thursday. Times vary between 8:00am and 8:30am, depending on the weather.** Players are at varying skill levels, mostly around the 3.0 range. Members' wives are invited to join us, so let them know they are welcome. Call Jim or Ralph for information.

TRAVEL: BOB SPELLMAN (Area 2 Chmn.) bobnjo@astound.net 934-8428



There are many trips scheduled at this time for 2017:

- March 6 – 12. Spring training and Southwest Adventure
- May 10 – 25. 100th Anniversary of JFK on Cape Cod
- June 11 – 17. Southern Charm
- June 17 – 25. The Colorado Rockies
- June 19 – 25. Yellowstone Wildlife Safari
- July 3 – 15. Alaska and Yukon Land & Sea
- July 20 – Aug 5. Ring of Kerry and Princess Cruise
- Aug. 14 – 22. U.S. & Canadian National Parks
- Aug. 14 – 18. Ashland, Shakespeare Festival
- Sept. 7 – 20. Prague, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria
- Sept. 9 – 16. Atlantic Isles Cruise
- Sept. 10-23. Southern Italy & Sicily
- Sept. 28 – Oct. 6. Norman Rockwell New England
- Nov. 9 – 20. Florida's Sunshine Trail

Check the SIR Area 2 website for the details, cost, and contact information for these trips. Cut and paste the following link into your internet browser -- <http://www.area2.sirinc2.org/Travel.pdf>



WALKING: **AL DONNER** (Br. 171) aajdonner@gmail.com 376-1594
LYLE DECK (Br. 174) lgdeck@aol.com 254-3829

If you feel left out of something good, come join the group. Just show up across from the Serbian Church by 9 am any Tuesday and you are good to go. No initiation fees, hazing or other sophomoric rituals, just walking and talking and coffee after. The group walks for about three miles.

And if you want a slower pace, try the SENIOR STROLLERS group. If you want to try a faster pace, try the BIG HIKERS group.

WINE TASTING: GENE BELL (Br. 171) gdbell1@comcast.net 284-1786
JON LEUTENEKER (Br. 174) jonleuteneker@comcast.net 376-7035



There are now two wine tasting groups. Both are couples events and normally held in-home starting about 7:00 p.m. with a cost per person averaging about \$15. Jon Leuteneker is chairman of the group that meets on the **second Tuesday of each month** - this group has a full roster. Gene Bell is chairman of the group that meets on the **third Tuesday of each month** - membership in this group may still open.

SIR ORGANIZATION 2017 (02/20/2017)

STATE PRESIDENT
REGION 6 DIRECTOR
AREA 2 GOVERNOR

JERRY STRAIN
ED BENSON
BILL HOLLY

SIR Inc. Website: <http://www.ririnc.org>
Area 2 Website: <http://area2.sirinc2.org/>
Branch 171 Website: <http://branch171.sirinc2.org>

BRANCH 171

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

BIG SIR	RALPH BLUMENTHAL	254-6935
LITTLE SIR	BARRY LESKIN	254-5500
SECRETARY	MIKE DONOVAN	376-0387
ASST. SEC.	AL DONNER	376-1474
TREASURER	BOB KROMPHOLZ	528-9937
ASST. TREAS.	HAL D'AMBROGIA	284-1723

DIRECTORS

STEW CHALEM	377-0698
TIM FREEMAN	283-5945
STAN HOLCENBERG	283-5466
TOM MARNANE	376-6312
JOHN SCHICK	376-9412
JIM SCALA	283-2753
MITCH TARKOFF	254-7359

PAST BIG SIRs

1994 BILL TEUSCHEL	1995 DAN REGO
1996 JOHN DAHL	1997 RAY HORTON
1998 ELLIS LANGLEY	1999 CHARLIE DINES
2000 JIM SWEENEY	2001 CLAY SEALY
2002 DENNIS BROSSART	2003 BILL MUESER
2004 GENE BELL	2005 TOM KELLY
2006 DAN FLOWER	2007 BILL SUMNER
2008 FRED GEORGE	2009 JIM GIBNEY
2010 DICK MACY	2011 PHIL ARTH
2012 KARL DROESE	2013 JOHN HAFFNER
2014 SAM ZORICH	2015 TIM FREEMAN
2016 TOM MARNANE	

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

RAY HORTON CLAY SEALY TED WESTPHAL

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ATTENDANCE & BADGES	FRANCIS WONG	376-0967
	KEN NAKASHIMA	376-0421
AUDIO/VISUAL	TIM FREEMAN	283-5945
	STAN HOLCENBERG	283-5466
BAR MGMT	(OPEN)	
BRANCH AUDIT	BOB MEADOWCRAFT	631-0194
	KEN FISCHER	518-3104
CHAPLAIN	TOM MARNANE	376-6312
GREETER	TOM LENZ	278-1717
HISTORIAN	(OPEN)	
KNOW YOUR SIR	DAVE HUMM	376-5895
LADIES DAY	JOHN HAFFNER	376-9064
MEMBERSHIP & INDUCTIONS	LARRY THOMPSON (temporary)	631-9528
	TOM LENZ	278-1717
	JOHN SCHICK	376-9412
NEWSLETTER	STAN HOLCENBERG	283-5466
NOMINATIONS	JOHN HAFFNER	376-9064
	SAM ZORICH	377-7799
	PHIL ARTH	376-3784
PHOTOGRAPHER	RUSS AUBRY	510-644-2692
PIANIST	FRANK GRANNIS	284-2724
PUBLICITY	TOM LENZ	278-1717
RECRUITING	AL DONNER	376-1594
	TIM FREEMAN	283-5945
	BARRY LESKIN	254-5500
	MITCH TARKOFF	254-7359
SUNSHINE	MONTE LOGAN	376-0264
WEBMASTER	GARY BORELLI (opening)	376-6151

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN – Branch 171: SAM ZORICH 376-7799

ACTIVITY

BRANCH 171 COORDINATOR

BRANCH 174 COORDINATOR

AREA 2 CHAIRMAN

APPLE USERS	DICK MACY 376-1180	JOE TRACY 954-7801	
ASTRONOMY	OPEN	GEORGE COBB 200-7749	BILL HUNTER 254-6281
BARBER SHOP HARMONY	BRAD DEWEY 376-3349	RON LEIKER 376-2845	
BOCCE BALL	OPEN	ED PROTIVA 254-1631	
BOOK CLUB	BOB KROMPHOLZ / AL DESSAYER 528-9937 / 376-7430		
BOWLING	OPEN		LLOYD WEST 228-9037
BRIDGE	GREG TCHERKOYAN 838-0361	STU KNUDSEN 376-4919	ROD SPICER 935-5306
COUPLES DINING OUT	SAM ZORICH 376-7799		
COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY	OPEN	DICK CURRY 376-5541	DEREK SOUTHERN 253-1646
DOMINOES	TOM WESTHOFF 276-2609		NEIL SCHMIDT
FISHING	KARL DROESE 376-0468		PAUL DUBOW
GOLF – 18 HOLES	GENE BELL 284-1786	BILL WADSWORTH 963-0442	RAY WEISZ 240-0425
HIST. ADV. & VETS	OPEN		
INVESTMENT	OPEN	TOM HENRY 254-5724	DAVID SUTTON 686-0158
PINOCLE	BILL KORN 376-1643		
POKER	OPEN	DICK MEDEL/BILL WIEGMAN 376-5568/376-6088	
SENIOR STROLLERS	JIM COUNTRYMAN 631-1766		
STAMPS	LARRY BEANS 376-7306		
TABLE POOL	OPEN	RALPH THORNICROFT 376-8140	BILL WEINBERG 682-0962
TENNIS	JIM COUNTRYMAN 631-1766		BOB SPELLMAN 934-8428
TRAVEL	OPEN		
WALKERS & BIG HIKERS	AL DONNER 376-1594	LYLE DECK 254-3829	
WINE TASTING	GENE BELL 284-1786	JON LEUTENEKER 376-7035	

BOLD – INDICATES ACTIVITY CHAIRMAN