



SIR BRANCH 171 April 2019

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

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



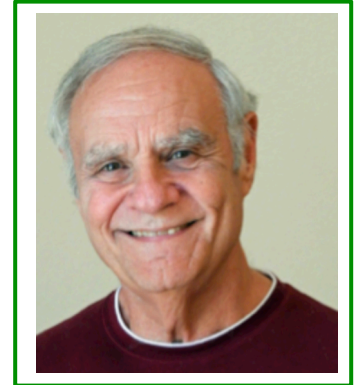
Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 3 Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Hall

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

BIG SIR MESSAGE: BARRY LESKIN

My Fellow SIR 171 Members,

All Sir Branches, including our own Branch #171, share a common challenge, that being the need to have a succession plan for our leadership positions. Our 171 Nominating Committee is currently tasked with reaching out to Branch members to fill Director and Officer positions for 2020 and subsequent years. The members of the committee consist of current Board Member/Assistant Secretary Al Donner and Past Big SIRs Ralph Blumenthal, Tim Freeman and John Haffner. John Haffner will chair the committee. Strong team!!



Recommendations for Director and Board positions for 2020 will be presented to the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) in May for approval. An official election will be held at the August luncheon. During the remainder of March and April the Nominating Committee would like to hear from you. Don't be surprised if you receive a call. If, on the other hand, you'd like to step forward, contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee. I thank you in advance.

I hope most of you were able to attend Budd MacKenzie's presentation at our lunch on March 6th. If you did not, you missed an excellent talk. Budd demonstrated how one committed individual can have a significant impact in a critical area such as public education in Afghanistan. Budd and his group, Trust in Education, have funded schools, provided books and desks, and assisted in many other areas to provide educational opportunities for pre-school through college Afghan students, all the while facing possible Taliban threats.

After more than 20 years Monte Logan will be retiring as Sunshine Chair. Monte has done a stupendous job over the years and we thank him for the focus on this important area. Eric Cho will be taking over this area, likely in June. Eric has a tremendous background and wonderful personality, which should allow him to apply the necessary skills required for this important role.

Ed Benson, our State SIR President, has laid out four actions SIR expects of its members: (1) be a friendly and sociable guy; (2) participate in some of our many activities; (3) volunteer; and (4) bring guests to a meeting. The first two are easy, but the third and fourth ask that each of us step up to the plate to ensure the successful continuity of our Branch. I appreciate what you are all doing for the Branch, but please keep an eye on what you can do to help improve the group.

I look forward to seeing you at the April 3 meeting.

Barry Leskin, Big SIR

LITTLE SIR MESSAGE: RICK FEND

The speaker on April 3 will be **Jennifer Martin**, a partner at Jarratt Martin Law, LLP, an estate planning, mediation and family law firm in Pleasanton.

Jennifer will speak on a fun and interesting review of famous people who died with inadequate estate planning. The topic:

“Estate Planning Fails”

Beneath the glamour is the reality that the same problems that face the rich and famous face everyone. The examples used in the talk will show how failing to properly plan an estate can cause strife between family members, deny money to loved ones, and/or destroy a business that that was so hard to build.

The talk should be entertaining and educational, and allow the audience to see they are not alone in having inadequate estate plans.



*Rick Fend,
Little SIR*

APRIL LUNCHEON

LUNCHEON MENU

Meatloaf; Glazed Carrots; Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Green Salad; Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad; Dessert

APRIL SIR'S BIRTHDAYS

Bill Ausfahl – Larry Beans – Stew Chalem – Eric Cho – Clay Claussen – Karl Droese

Tim Freeman – Peter Hanelt – Richard James – Barry Leskin – Clark Vilas

One of the above members with a birthday in April will win a free lunch if he attends the April meeting. Members whose birth month is in April, and who do not see their name in the above list, should contact 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 Barry Leskin can be reached at baryleskin@gmail.com.

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 of \$25 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. Calls need to be made by 1:00pm the Saturday prior to the meeting. Provide the name of your guest and let us know if he is a first time guest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

SIR DAY AT THE PARK – A's vs. GIANTS – August 25 at 1:00pm

The 2nd Annual SIR Day at the Park will be held at the Oakland Coliseum on Sunday, August 25 at 1:00pm. Box seats in section 106. Ticket cost is \$52 per person. Open to SIR members, spouses, and guests.

Email your intent to Rick Fend - richardfenn@sbcglobal.net

Moneys can be given to Little SIR Rick at the April or May luncheon, or can be mailed:

Rick Fend
4 Thune Ave.
Moraga, CA 94556



Tickets are limited, so don't wait.

SUFI SANCTUARY TOUR – Thursday, April 18 at 2:00pm

The Historical Adventures group has set up a tour of the recently built but little known architectural jewel in our midst; the Sufi Sanctuary, located at 11 White Horse Court, off Boulevard Way in Saranap (between Lafayette and Walnut Creek). It was designed by the renowned architectural firm of Philip Johnson/Alan Ritchie. The design includes marble clad concrete domes surrounded by contemplative gardens. Smaller domes surround a 78' diameter central dome, and are bathed in light from a 20' diameter oculus. Two thirds of the building is subterranean and is covered in a green roof.

Our specially arranged tour begins at 2pm on Thursday, April 18. Please arrive a few minutes early and proceed to the Fountain Court at the front of the building. You will find plenty of parking to your right after entering the property on White Horse Court.

Sign up at the April 3 lunch or contact Jim Kline – 925-376-4173 or jimjuliek@aol.com. Spouses and guests welcome. **Limited to 15 people.**

HISTORICAL TOUR OF MARE ISLAND – Wednesday, May 15 at 10:00am

The Historical Adventures group has set up a tour of Mare Island. The tour will last about 2 1/2 hours and includes the drydocks, flag officers' homes, museum and the chapel with its Tiffany stained glass windows. The cost is \$15. Lunch is an option afterwards.

Guests and spouses are welcome and car pools will be organized. All will meet at Mare Island at 10:00am.

To sign up or for questions contact Ken Fischer -- 925-518-3104 or keninmoraga@gmail.com

OUR SIR 171 CLUB WEBSITE

There was an article in the March newsletter reviewing the club website. In addition to describing how to access the website, and the content, there was a description of the process to follow to access the password-protected Member site. Since we minimize the posting of contact information within the newsletter, unless specifically requested by the posting member, we described a way to retrieve contact information for Officers, Board Members, Committee Chairs, and activity chairs.

Again, if you want to access the Member site, you can get the password as follows:

- Go to the club website -- <http://www.sirinc2.org/branch171/>
- Select the "Members" pop down
- Select "Password Request"

You must continue to access the password-protected Member site for the SIR 171 member roster and for the Organization chart that contains contact information. You may now directly view an Organization Chart (without contact information) from within the "Members" pop down. Choose "Organization". We will also periodically attach the Organization chart to the monthly newsletter, especially when there are changes in the content.

FEATURED PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Ed Keller of Br 174 turned 80 on March 5, so his wife Carolyn arranged a semi-surprise party for him. She put together a generous post-walk treat for all the walkers. All, except Ed, were alerted to it beforehand; Ed only found out when the group drove him home. Then the walkers all joined in to wish him a Happy Birthday and enjoy the treats Carolyn had prepared.

Photo and text submitted by 171 Walking Group Chairman, Al Donner

Please send in a photo that you would like to have considered for inclusion in the Photos of the Month section of the newsletter. These should typically come from one of the SIR activities, but do not need to if there is another picture of a member or members that would be great to share in the newsletter. Send your choice to (sir171-news@comcast.net) by the 10th of each month for consideration. Please include a description of the photo. Cell phones work great, and also simplify emailing the photo.

MARCH MEETING PHOTOS & COMMENTARY – by club photographer Russ Aubry (with intended typos)



Our greeters greet and members politely laugh at their jokes



Stan bags a double gets two guest to attend



My guest saved my life many years ago. So I am paying for his first years dues



How come eye don't get a free lunch ?



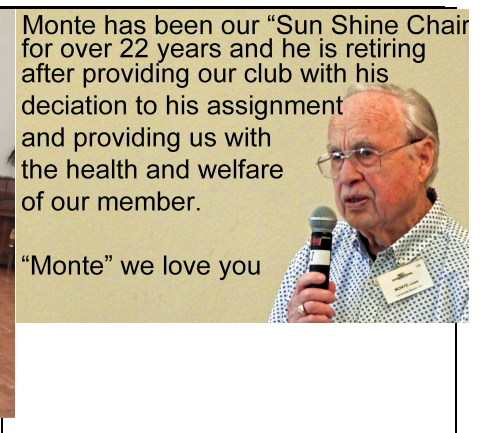
voted table of the month because of their charm and knot for there table manners of eating dessert first



Rich loves poker and bets his new membership in 171 will increase his odds in meeting new friends



a well deserved award to John. 2 years as area Governor and promoting SIR activities 13 months a year



Monte has been our "Sun Shine Chair for over 22 years and he is retiring after providing our club with his deciation to his assignment and providing us with the health and welfare of our member.

"Monte" we love you



Girls are still forced to get married at a young age. Education helps them overcome this problem



Thanks Budd, do you want to help build schools in Afghanistan? Go to Trustinamerica.org

BRANCH REPORTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG

There were 102 attendees at the last meeting, which included 95 members, one speaker, one visitor, and five guests. There was one inductee. There were 38 no-shows and 38 excused sign-outs.

68% of our membership attended, which was below our 70% target. We missed our negotiated minimum number of 110 lunches.

PLEASE CALL THE SIR 171 "HOT LINE" at [925-377-5880](tel:925-377-5880) BEFORE 1:00PM ON THE SATURDAY BEFORE THE MEETING IF YOU WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE MEETING OR IF YOU ARE BRINGING A GUEST. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE WILL SUBJECT THE MISSING MEMBER TO THE \$25 NO SHOW CHARGE. It is not necessary to call the HOT LINE if you have placed your name on the "Absence Notification" sheet at a prior meeting. Leave a message as soon as you can if the absence is due to a medical reason. **Please note: If you are requesting a SIR membership status change, contact Stew Chalem, Membership Chair ([377-0698](tel:377-0698)) rather than calling the SIR 171 HOT LINE.**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: STEW CHALEM JOHN SCHICK

[Please Note:](#) John Schick is handling Membership during Stew Chalem's recovery.

<u>ACTIVE</u>							
Prior Month:	141						
Inductees (see note below)	1	Richard Brosio: Sponsor, Tom Smigielski					
From Inactive:	None						
Deductions	(1)	Fred Schlichting: Deceased					
Total, This Month:	<u>141</u>						
<u>INACTIVE</u>							
Prior Month:	33						
Additions:	0						
Deductions	0						
Total, This Month:	<u>33</u>						
<u>APPLICATIONS AWAITING INDUCTION</u>							
Paul Runge: Sponsor, Tom Lemmer							
Submitted for approval; plans to induct at the April Meeting							
<u>APPLICANT LIST</u>							
Bob Schwab (Former member), Sponsor, Karl Droese							
Karl will be contacting Bob to determine status.							
<u>NOTES</u>							
In Tom Smigielski's absence, due to medical reasons, inductee Brosio was to be introduced by Gene Blanc							

Membership Application Forms are available at the desk at the meetings, or from Stew Chalem (John Schick in Stew Chalem's absence).

ROSTER CORRECTIONS: STEW CHALEM (John Schick)

NOTE: Please contact Stew Chalem (John Schick) 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 status change or to resign). Stew (John Schick) will in turn update the master Roster.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Krompholz

FEBRUARY 2019

Beginning	5,670
Receipts	2,655
Disbursements	(2,618)
Ending	5,707

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

SUNSHINE REPORT: MONTE LOGAN

Branch 171

- **SIR Stew Chalem** is now home after convalescing many days after his surgery. He and his wife Ann are grateful for everyone who kept his spirits up with calls, emails, cards, food, shopping and visiting.
- **SIR Tom Smigielski** is scheduled for open heart surgery in March. We wish him the best in recovery.
- As announced in the March Sunshine Report, **SIR Fred Schlichting** passed away on Feb. 11th. He was a SIR since 2009. There is no planned service. Below is his biography.

Fred was born and raised in Santa Cruz and with the exception of college and 2 years in the Army lived his entire life within 100 miles of here. He graduated from Oregon State in 1961 where he studied psychology and sociology with the intent of become a juvenile probation officer. He was drafted into the Army immediately after graduation and spent two years administering tests at the Armed Forces Induction Center first in Portland and later in Spokane. The juvenile probation career path got side tracked and after discharge from the Army went to work for the Home Insurance Company in San Francisco handling property claims. After four years he accepted a position with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company where he remained for 30 years until his retirement in 1998.

Fred and his wife Phyllis were married 40 years and had one son. They lived in Moraga for 33 years after moving from the Montclair District of Oakland when their son reached school age. Phyllis was born in Oakland and has spent her entire life living within 20 miles.

Fred enjoyed trout fishing, bowling, Wednesday night bocce at the Moraga Commons, and was an active participant in the SIR Pinochle Group. A life long duck hunter and was the immediate past president of the Salinas Land And Cattle Company, which was incorporated in 1929 as a 1,620 acre duck club in the North Grass Lands area located between Gustine and Los Banos.

- Please keep the following SIR's in your thoughts and prayers for rapid healing and good health;
Reg Whittington, Chuck Healy, Jack Flanagan, Gene Bell, Tom Kiele,
Al Simonsen, Tuck Coop, Rich Haddock, & Clay Classen,

Branch 174

- There are several members that have serious injuries or illnesses:
 - Sir Rick Zavatero is recovering from a serious heart condition requiring a stint insertion.
 - Sir Tom Vincent is recovering from gall bladder surgery.
 - Sir Jim Gingrich is slowly recovering from a broken leg suffered in an accident.
 - Sirs Marv Ellenberg and Herb Gordon are both recovering from serious infections understood to be pneumonia.

•••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

No bios this month

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 171 NEWSLETTER: Editor **STAN HOLCENBERG.** The deadline for receipt of Newsletter material by the Editor is the 15th of the month. E-mail to sir171-news@comcast.net is preferred.

Also enjoy reading SIR Happenings, our State Newsletter, and find out about all the fun things that are going on throughout our organization. You can find the most recent edition of SIR Happenings on our SIR State website -- click on the following link, or cut and paste the link into your browser to view -- www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/
Some very interesting articles highlighting news of interest from other SIR branches including several of our branches in Area 2. Send comments and article to jlsabo2@comcast.net or HappeningsEditor@gmail.com

BRANCH ACTIVITIES (BRANCHES 171 & 174)

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

Apple Users Activity	Astronomy
Barbershop Harmony	Bocce Ball
Book Club	Bowling
Bridge – Social	Bridge – ACBL Duplicate
Computers & Technology	Couples Dining Out
Dominos	Fishing
Golf – 18 Holes	Golf – 9 Holer
Historical Adventures	Investment Group
Pinochle	Poker
Stamp Club	Table Pool
Tennis	Travel
Walking – Original Group	Walking – Senior Strollers
Walking – Big Hikers	Wine Tasting

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN: SAM ZORICH (BR. 171)



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)
JOE TRACY (BR. 174)



Meetings are held bi-monthly on the 4th Monday of odd number months from 10:00 a.m. to noon. **Our next meeting will be held on March 25.** The meetings are held in the conference room of the Contra Costa County District 2 Supervisor's Office at 3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, adjacent to the fire station and across from El Charro restaurant. Enter through the left side door at top of steps.

The meetings focus on Apple/Mac computers, iPhones, iPads, and other Apple devices. Meetings include a roundtable on products, applications, rumors, issues, problems, and Q & A. Special discussions will occur after major product announcements and developer conferences.

Novices and advanced users are welcomed. Come and be a part of the group.

ASTRONOMY: (OPEN) Br. 171
GEORGE COBB (Br. 174)
BILL HUNTER (Area 16 - Br. 8)



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)
RICK AVATERO (Br. 174)



The SIRpremes are a barbershop octet, composed of members from both 171 and 174, that sing songs in four-part harmony. By having two people on each part, the problems caused by absences are greatly reduced – obviously. The group’s self-determined purpose has been to periodically add a little variety to the monthly luncheon meetings of Branches 171 and 174.

The group meets every Tuesday at 3:00 pm at Brad Dewey’s. Contact Brad Dewey, Sam Zorich, or Rick Avatero for additional information.

BOCCE BALL: STEVE PATTON Br. 171
ED PROTIVA (Br. 174)



BOCCE PLAY IS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON.
Play will resume in May

When in season, Bocce is played every Tuesday and Friday. The group meets at 10 am, just beyond the bandstand at the Moraga Commons, located at the corner of Moraga Road & St Mary’s Rd (next to the bandstand). The cost is all of \$2; the game is really easy to learn and is great fun, including a lot of good chat. You can be a part of this great group of guys, and can play on either or both days.

The Bocce 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.

BOOK CLUB: BOB KROMPHOLZ (Br 171 co-chair)
AL DESSAYER (Br 171 co-chair)



The group develops a twelve month calendar of agreed upon book selections with each member hosting a book review where we will discuss his book. An attempt is made to vary the selections to include the latest best sellers as well as some classics 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 diversify your reading enjoyment, but also to discuss your comments and ideas with other intelligent, curious, cerebral fellows like yourself.

Book reviews are usually scheduled on the last Wednesday of the month @ 7-8pm. There are currently 12 members of the club. Contact Bob or Al if you are interested in joining.

BOWLING: (OPEN) Br. 171
AREA 2: MIKE CROFF (Area)



Area 2 Tournament and league bowling is held at Clayton Valley Bowl every Wednesday. Be there at 9:30 am. More members are welcome. Call for more information.

BRIDGE -- SOCIAL: JOHN SCHICK (Br. 171)



The group meets 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 John for further information

Over the years attrition has taken its toll, so at this time we are looking for new players. If you have ever played bridge in your life or are still playing, please consider joining us, regardless of what level you play at.

We play for fun and though we may give advice, we never criticize. Some of us play conventions, many play mostly basic bridge. Please contact John Schick if you are interested and we will get you signed up. (see *Organization chart for contact information*).

If transportation is an issue, let us know and, if possible, we can arrange rides. The group meets 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 John for further information.

BRIDGE – ACBL DUPLICATE (OPEN) Br. 171
TOM HENRY (Br. 174 & Area 16)



Area 16 duplicate bridge is held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the American Contract Bridge Center (First Christian Church Fellowship Hall), 3039 Willow Pass Rd, Concord (phone: 925-935-2273). Guests of SIR members are welcomed.

The next ACBL-Duplicate Bridge games will be held on April 2, 2019 and May 7, 2019. Games are played at the Contra Costa Bridge Center; 3039 Willow Pass Road in Concord. Registration begins @ 9:15AM; a lesson with Ravi Bhalla begins @ 9:30AM; play starts at 10:00AM and finishes before 2:00PM. **Reservations are required.** If you wish to play please contact Tom Henry [bridgewiz612@gmail.com]

This activity is fully sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League and, as such, ACBL Master Points will be awarded to the top three pairs

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY: (OPEN) Br. 171
Dick Curry Br. 174
NEIL SCHMIDT (Area - Br 116)



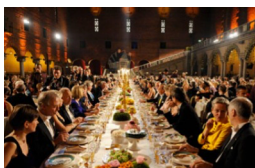
The Area 16 Computer and Technology Group meetings are fun and informative where we discuss applications for computers and technology. At each meeting we have a presentation on a topic covering everything from antivirus programs, ways to back up your data, digital photography, genealogy research, smart phones and many other topics. It's a great way to learn about new technology and to also get answers to your computer questions or problems.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21. The presentation will be "Windows 10 Applications". There will be a discussion of several interesting and useful Windows 10 applications that have been identified by our members or have been presented in some recent Windows 10 tech articles. Many of these applications are free

Presentation notes should be available on the CAT Web page (a2cat.sirinc2.org) several days prior to the meeting. We look forward to seeing you around 9:15 AM, Thursday September 20.. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. See you there.

Information about the group, including current and past presentations, is available on the SIR Area 2 Computes and Technology website -- <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/> Make sure you are on the CAT mailing list by sending an e-mail request to: sir.area2.cat@gmail.com

COUPLES DINING OUT SAM ZORICH (Br. 171)

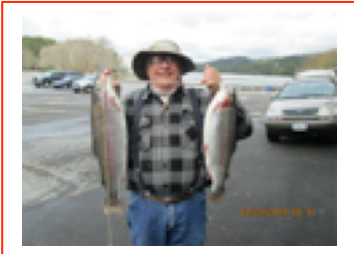


The group dines out every other month at a fine location in the East Bay. A record 12 couples plan to attend the next gathering, which will be on March 20 at Zio Fredo's. Planning for the venue rotates among the various members of the group. Mitch Tarkoff will be putting together the May dinner.

DOMINOES TOM WESTHOFF (BR 171)

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

FISHING: KARL DROESE (Br. 171) HARRY SHERINIAN (Area 16)



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 28th at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, starting at 8:30am. You can order breakfast and have it served in the meeting room.

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 over 100 events scheduled throughout the year, some type of fishing is available almost every week.

March Results: Six members fished San Pablo Reservoir catching many rainbow trout, including three monsters between 7 and 8 1/2 lbs. Other members fished Pyramid Lake NV for cutthroat trout, Folsom Lake for rainbows and the Delta for stripers.

Activities Scheduled for April and May: The ocean salmon and rockfish season will start in mid-April and the forecasts are excellent. We also have scheduled several SF Bay and Delta trips on member boats, and six packs for stripers and sturgeon. Other activities will include trout fishing (shore and boat) at Shadow Cliffs and at San Pablo, Lafayette, and Los Vaqueros Reservoirs; a fish fry at a member's home; a kokanee and trout trip to Collins Lake; Fly fishing at Pyramid Lake NV; a striper trip on the Sacramento River and halibut fishing in the Bay on members boats.

**GOLF – 18 HOLES: GENE BELL (Br. 171)
BILL WADSWORTH (Br. 174)**



Our remaining March is a Fanatics informal outing at The Reserve at Spanos in Stockton on 3/25. The April events include Chardonnay on the 1st, Dublin Ranch on the 8th, Polly Ridge on the 15th, and Blue Rock East on the 29th.

In addition, three Thursday events are scheduled with four other SIR branch golf clubs. They will be held on April 25th, May 16th, and June 27th at Franklin Canyon with a buffet lunch afterward. The cost is \$48 per event and that includes golf, lunch, and prizes. It will feature a 2-man scramble team competition. We may be limited as to the number of teams so partner up and contact Bill

Wadsworth at [925-963-0442](tel:925-963-0442) to put your names on the list.

The SIR 171/174 golf website (www.sirlamorindagolf.com) includes the membership application, a list of current members, the 2017 schedule, the results of prior events, and other pertinent information for members and prospective members.

GOLF – 9 – HOLER: TIM FREEMAN (BR. 171)



For those that don't want to play 18 holes, or want to play a shorter course on occasions, there is a 9 hole group that meets each Friday morning at Diablo Hills Golf Course in Walnut Creek. Tim Freeman coordinates this and sends out a note to all members on his interested party list each week, a few days before the game, to see who is interested in playing. Lunch follows at the Diablo Hills clubhouse. Contact Tim (timfre@comcast.net) if you would like to be added to the interested party list.

HISTORICAL ADVENTURES: JIM KLINE (Br 171 co-chair)
KEN FISCHER (Br 171 co-chair)



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The group focuses on highly popular and educational tours. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Port Chicago National Memorial, Computer History Museum, and Oakland Aviation Museum are some of the sites that have been included in the past.

Please inform Jim or Ken if you have requests or suggestions for additional adventures.

INVESTMENT GROUP: (OPEN) Br. 171
TOM HENRY (Br. 174)
DAVID SUTTON (Br-8)



\$UMS in Retirement meets at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4.

The next meeting will be on [Wednesday, March 27](#), at 8 a.m. The speaker will be Rich Knowles. President of the CCC Grand Jury Association. He will discuss waste, fraud and abuse in localities and how the Grand Jury fights these problems. Poor money management overseas led to unsustainable pension liabilities for local governments.

The following meeting will be on [Wednesday April 24](#) at 8 AM. The speaker will be Russell Watts, the CCC Treasurer. He will speak on the debt crisis in California counties and cities and the difficult political decisions that are going to have to be made.

There has been some talk of having occasional meetings without speakers where we can discuss among ourselves whatever topics are of interest. We can decide the subjects, such as investments, estate planning, etc. Please chime in on this. Would you attend? Suggestions on topics?

The Legends opens at 7 AM. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Ladies are welcome.

[BTW, we ask that everyone donate \\$2 each month to cover expenses.](#) We pay the restaurant \$40 each time in lieu of tips and rent. If everyone pays, we break even with 20 attendees. But not everyone pays and we're going in the hole. Please remember the donation box.

Information about the group, including past and current presentations, is available on the \$UMS website -- <http://a2sums.sirinc2.org/> ___

POKER: OPEN) Br. 171
DICK MEDEL (Br. 174) & **BILL WIEGMANN** (Br. 174)



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.

STAMP and COIN GROUP: **LARRY BEANS** (Br. 171) STAMPS
BRUCE BERMAN (BR 171) COINS



We usually meet on the **Friday following the Branch 171 monthly meeting at 9:30 am**. The group meets at Larry Beans' home at 20 Carr Drive in Moraga. Please call Larry questions and a possible change of meeting schedule.

TABLE POOL: (OPEN) Br. 171
AREA 16: **BILL WEINBERG**



We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet **each Monday 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: (OPEN) (Br. 171)
RALPH THORNICROFT (Br. 174)



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: (OPEN) Br 171
JOE TRACY Br 174)
TOM MOLINARI (Area 16), stmolinari@sbcglobal.net



Trips currently scheduled in 2018-19 and sponsored by our SIRs Area 16 follow:

May 2-13, 2019: 12 Day Cruise and Land Tour. Including a 8-day Mediterranean Cruse aboard the Crystal Serenity sailing from Athens to Rome with a one night pre-cruise stay in Athens and two night stay in Rome. Port stops include Navplion, Santorini, Valletta, Taormina and Sorrento. Cost is \$5350 to \$7595 which includes all beverages restaurants, room service, entertainment, gratuities, fitness center, and enrichment classes. Milt Smith, Br 146, 925-285-2897.

June 1-18, 2019: Machu Picchu & the Galapagos. Small ship adventure to Lima, Cazco, Machu Picchu Quito and 4 night Galapagos Cruise. Cost is \$6,995 including airfare, transfers and taxes, 38 meals, 21 small group activities , 2 local Trip Leaders, gratuities for local guides , drivers, ship crew and luggage porters. Milt Smith, Br 146, 925-285-2897.

Aug 23-Sep3, 2019: 12 Day Land and Sea Scenic Alaska Adventure. 4-day pre-cruise Denali Tour followed by an 8-day cruise from Anchorage to Vancouver on the Crystal Symphony. Ports of call include Seward, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, and Tracy Arms Glacier. Cost of \$5250 to \$6425 now includes everything. Milt Smith, Br 146, 925-285-2897

The quarterly **State SIR Happenings** travel web page at http://www.sirinc.org/new_site/travel.html offers additional SIR travel options. Upcoming tours include a tour of San Antonio Spring Fiesta (Apr 24 – 28), Princess Cruise of Iceland and Norway (Aug 23 – Sept 9), and a Taste of Bordesux (Sept 7 – 22). Be sure to check these tours out!!

WALKING: *There are three walking groups. There is a group for each of us based on our needs and abilities*

WALKING – ORIGINAL GROUP

AL DONNER (Br. 171)

LYLE DECK (Br. 174)



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.

Rain rules now in play. That is, if it is raining on Tuesday mornings when we walk, our default exercise drill is to meet in front of **Nation's** in the Rheem Shopping Center. We walk the full length of the Rheem Center back and forth a couple of times, then coffee in Nation's. The idea is to stay under the ample overhangs of the shopping center and stay dry while we get exercise. Usually we announce it in advance, but changing weather conditions occasionally prevent us from notifying the herd, so if it is raining and we are not at the usual Tuesday meeting place, Rheem is where you will find us.

WALKING -- SENIOR STROLLERS: (OPEN) (Br 171) Al Donner oversees the activity.



Meets **every Wednesday** at 9:15 AM for a casual slower-paced, shorter distance, level-land, sidewalk group of walkers. No plans ahead. Just meet in front of SiSi's at 9:15 every Wednesday morning to walk and then have coffee.

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

WALKING -- BIG HIKERS: **AL DONNER** (Br. 171)



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 (to get the on the Big Hikers notice list. If you want a slower pace, try either the WALKING or the SENIOR STROLLERS group. **BIG HIKER walks are scheduled periodically.**

WINE TASTING: **GENE BELL** (Br. 171)

JON LEUTENEKER (Br. 174)



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

Activity Calendar -- April 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Apple Users Activity	March 25; none in April				
Astronomy	2nd Monday of month				
Barbershop Harmony		Every Tuesday of month			
Bocce Ball	Closed for the season.				
Book Club			Last Wednesday of month		
Bowling			Every Wednesday of month		
Bridge		2nd & 4th Tuesday of month			
Bridge - ACBL Duplicate		April 2 & May 7			
Computers and Technology				March 21 & April 16	
Couples Dining Out	March 20; Following gathering is in May				
Dominoes				Every Thursday of month	
Fishing				4th Thursday of month	
Golf	March 25 Apr 1, 8, 15, & 29				
Golf - 9 Holers					Each Friday
Historical Adventures	April 18 & May 15				
Investment Group			March. 27 & April 24		
Poker			4th Wednesday of month		
Stamp & Coin Club					First Friday after Club Meeting
Table Pool	Every Month of month				
Tennis		Every Tuesday of month		Every Thursday of month	
Travel	No meetings scheduled. Only trips				
Walking - Original Group		Every Tuesday of month			
Walking -- Senior Strollers			Every Wednesday of month		
Walking -- Big Hikers	As scheduled				
Wine Tasting		2nd & 3rd Tuesday of month			