



SIR BRANCH 171 May 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, **May 1** Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Hall

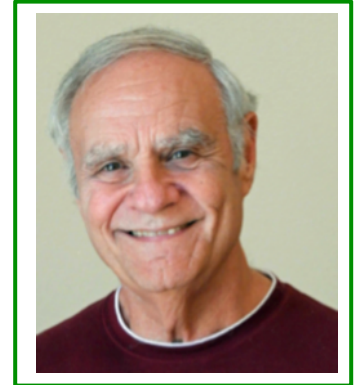
1700 School St., Moraga
Social time begins at 11
Meeting begins at 11:30

BIG SIR MESSAGE: BARRY LESKIN

My Fellow SIR 171 Members,

As we continue to promote SIR to outsiders, our greatest source of new members comes from existing members. A special thanks to those members that have invited guests to our luncheon meetings. We had 8 guests the past three months. Keep up the invites.

John Haffner, Chairman of our Nominating Committee, and his team are seeking successor candidates for key BEC positions. Many areas have been filled, but our biggest need is for a Little SIR to replace our current Little SIR Rick Fend, who becomes Big SIR next January. We also need to fill all Director positions. Contact John Haffner, Rick Fend, or me discuss your interest in filling one of the roles that are so vital to the future of our Branch.



We completed a brief survey at our April luncheon. The survey is similar to one that has been conducted at other branches. I thank the 56 members that completed the survey. Some key findings (*note: some questions were not answered by all, thus not 100% for each question*):

- 40% would like more co-ed activities; 21% would not want more.
- 34% have been volunteers for Branch positions; 50% have not.
- 34% have sponsored new members the last 2 years; 29% have not.
- 90% indicated they read our Branch 171 Newsletter.
- No strong preference for changing Branch size: 40% want size at 100-150 members; 29% would like size 150-200 members; 8% would like size to be 200+
- In response to "what you most like about SIR" - 60% like the camaraderie, social interaction and people relationships.

The Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon will again be held at Saint Mary's. A team from Branches 171 and 174 considered alternatives, but Saint Mary's is our best choice at this time.

The State Board has updated and simplified the SIR Manual. To learn more about SIR take a look at <http://sirinc.org>. Select "Member Information" and then "Key Documents" and "SIR Manual" to drill down deeper.

The State Board will be awarding a "Best Branch Award" in each Area, with cash awards to the winners. Criteria will include membership changes and year to year performance. It starts with a Branch Self-assessment by the BEC and ends with an assumed great job by all of us. Let's go for it!

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

Barry Leskin, Big SIR

LITTLE SIR MESSAGE: RICK FEND

May 1 Program

Last month we picked up some excellent points on estate planning. This month we will focus on protecting those assets that we need now and that will end up in our trusts. The topic:

“Identity Theft and Cyber Crime”

The speaker will be **Todd Barney**, Senior Advisor Consultant for Oppenheimer Funds, Inc.

Todd will discuss cover the following areas:

- How big is the problem?
- Case studies on various types of identity theft.
- Simple steps to protect yourself and your loved ones



*Rick Fend,
Little SIR*

MAY LUNCHEON

LUNCHEON MENU

Pork Tomales; Green Salad; Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad; Dessert

MAY SIRS BIRTHDAYS

***Rich Carmel – Bill Cooper – James Coy – Rich Kehoe
Ken Nakashima – Fred Patton – Rich Tietz***

One of the above members with a birthday in May will win a free lunch if he attends the May meeting. Members whose birth month is in May, 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 barryleskin@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

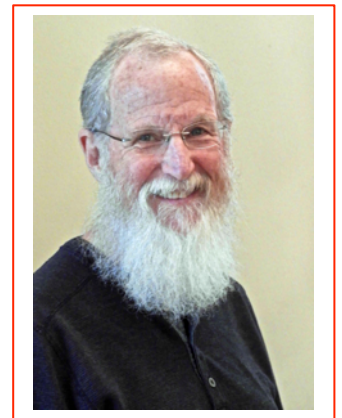
SIRPREMES in ACTION

Missed the last meeting? Or can't get too much of the SIRpremes? Then take a listen to their performance of "Heart of my Heart" that was performed at the last meeting. And, as videographer Russ Aubry indicated, the talented young men of SIR Br. 171 are singing to their ladies, but the only trouble is the room is filled with 100+ men. Select the following link, or cut-and-paste it into your browser -- <https://youtu.be/WiyOo7-dRuU>

NEW MEMBER RICH BELLOWS

A warm welcome to Rich Bellows, who was inducted at the April meeting by Larry Beans. Rich recently moved from Fort Collins, Colorado, lives in Orinda, and has joined the local Kiwanis Club.

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



BOARD & LEADERSHIP POSITIONS NEEDED

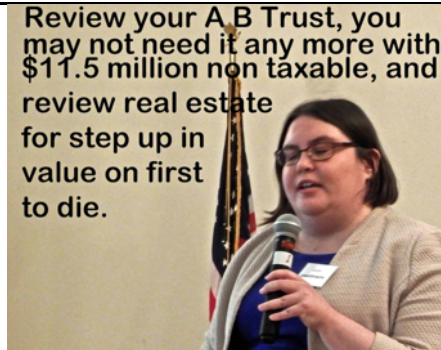
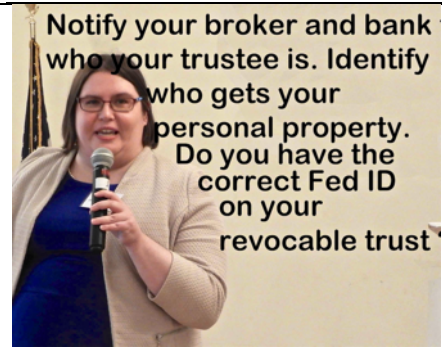
Volunteers wanted/needed for Board and Leadership positions. The Branch cannot succeed without succession planning or interested men stepping up to fill vacancies on the BEC and/or leadership roles. Heck, it's not that difficult. Contact Big SIR Barry, Little SIR Rick, or anyone on the Branch Executive Committee if you would like to serve as a Director, future Little SIR, or other office.

SIR DAY AT THE PARK – A's vs. GIANTS

The 2nd Annual SIR Day at the Park is scheduled for Sunday, August 25 at the Oakland Coliseum.

Tickets are going fast. If you are planning on attending the game, and haven't contacted Little SIR Rick Fend, or sent the money to him yet, bring your check for \$52 a ticket to the May meeting.

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



FEATURED PHOTO OF THE MONTH



SIR DAY AT THE RACES

SIRs in the Winners Circle

Left to right:

- George Adranly --
- Winning jockey 6th Race --
- Sev Marsted --
- Ken Fischer --

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.

BRANCH REPORTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG

There were 103 attendees at the last meeting, which included 98 members, one speaker, and four guests (including one returned guest). There was one inductee. There were 13 no-shows and 30 excused sign-outs.

70% of our membership attended, which was just at our 70% target.

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.

ACTIVE

Prior Month:	140
Inductees	1 Rich Bellows (#34), Sponsor, Larry Beans (#183)
From Inactive:	None
Deductions	None
Total, This Month:	<u>141</u>

INACTIVE

Prior Month:	33
Additions:	0
Deductions	None
Total, This Month:	<u>33</u>

APPLICATIONS AWAITING INDUCTION

Paul Runge, Sponsor Tom Lemmer (#95)

APPLICANT LIST

Bob Schwab (Former member), Sponsor, Karl Droese (#108)
. Pending further discussion

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)

<p>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.</p>

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Krompholz

March 2019

Beginning	5,707
Receipts	2,424
Disbursements	(2,502)
Ending	5,629

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

SUNSHINE REPORT: MONTE LOGAN

Branch 171

- It is sad to report the passing of **SIR Rich Sjoberg**. Rich's service was at LOPC on Friday, April 12th. Rich joined SIR in 2000 and was co-chairman of the Historical Adventures for several years. He enjoyed playing bridge at SIR. Rich was in Inactive status due to poor health.
- **SIR Stewart Chalem** is recovering from his cancer operation. He is up and walking.
- **SIR Chuck Healy** is recovering from surgery of the spine. He is at Manor Care, Walnut Creek. His wife requests no visitors at the present time.
- **SIR Tom Smigielski** is home recovering from successful open heart surgery.
- **SIR Bill Cooper** suffered an injury and is unable to walk. He is at Manor Care, Walnut Creek.
- **SIR Lew Edwards** suffered a medical emergency from an auto accident in Southern California. He is now home and has recovered.
- Please keep the following SIR's in your thoughts and prayers for rapid healing and good health: Reg Whittington, Gene Bell, Tom Keele, Al Simonsen, and Jack Flanagan

Branch 174

No illnesses reported

•••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 in May, but due to the holiday will likely be re-scheduled from May 27. Date information will be provided in the next newsletter.** 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 SEASON OPENS
TUESDAY, MAY 7
10:00 AT THE COMMONS**

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 game will be held on 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 of the SIR Area 16 Computer and Technology Group will be **Thursday, April 18th** at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge (1475 Creekside Dr., WC) starting at 9:30 am. SIR from all branches and their guests, including spouses, are welcome and invited to attend. Plan to come a little early and for coffee, goodies and to chat.

The presentation topic for the April meeting will be "**So You Have a New Computer - What's Next?**" by Frank May. Frank will be discussing subjects such as: "Do you really need a new computer?", "Where is your data?" and "How to migrate your existing apps and email". He will also present an example task list for getting your new machine ready.

Presentation notes should be available on the CAT Web page (<https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/>) 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 -- <https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/> 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 turnout attended the last dinner, which was at Zio Fraedo. The next dinner will be arranged by Laszlo Bonnyay at the Moraga Country Club. The date in May will to be announced. Planning for the venue rotates among the various members of the group.

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, May 23rd 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.

April Results: Trout fishing at local reservoirs was very productive . Several members fished for sturgeon on the Delta with a couple of nice ones caught. Trips to the Bay and Delta produced many stripers.

Activities Scheduled for May and June: We have scheduled several SF Bay and Delta trips on member boats, and six packs for halibut, 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; Fly fishing at Pyramid Lake NV and a 4 day trip to Lake Almanor.

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



The SIR Lamorinda Golf Club 2019 championship will be open for playing matches starting May 13th. On May 8th a drawing will be held to fill the brackets with those who have signed up. It will be held at 10:45am in the bar area prior to Branch 174's luncheon. Everyone is invited to observe two Branch 171 golfers, Steve Wright and Tuck Coop, manage the draw. Ron Leiker of Branch 174 will provide close oversight to ensure that those golfers in 171 do not get preferential treatment. If you desire to sign up, please do so by contacting Steve Wright (sirgolf94570@yahoo.com) no later than May 7th. An entry fee of \$10 must be paid prior to the tournament start date.

Our outings in May include Hiddenbrooke in Vallejo on May 13th and Callippe Preserve in Pleasanton on May 20th. Join us as the weather is getting nicer all the time!

The SIR 171/174 golf website (www.sirlamorindagolf.com) includes the membership application, a list of current members, the 2019 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)



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 include 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 call Ken Fischer 925-518-3104 or email keninmoraga@gmail.com

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)



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\$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 following meeting will be on [Wednesday April 24](#) at 8 AM. The presentation will be by Kyle Shealer of QST Capital. Kyle is the chief investment officer of the firm. He last spoke to us in September 2017. QST Capital specializes in looking for shifts in intermediate [24-36 month]

trends in the market.

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 2019 and sponsored by our SIRs Area 16 follow:

May 2-13, 2019: 12 Day Cruise and Land Tour. Including a 8-day Mediterranean Cruise 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/Travel.pdf> offers additional SIR travel options. There are upcoming tours to:

April 24-28, 2019	San Antonio Spring Fiesta:
July 25 – Aug 3, 2019	Alpine Swiss Villages
Aug 23 – Sept 9, 2019	Princess Cruise Iceland and Norway on the Pacific Princes
September 7-22 2019	Taste of Biordeaux

Be sure to check these tours out !!

Contact Tom Molinari to add trips to the list (*contact information is contained in the link above*).

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 still 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 -- May 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Apple Users Activity	None in April May 27 (tentative)				
Astronomy	2nd Monday of month				
Barbershop Harmony		Every Tuesday of month			
Bocce Ball		Each Tuesday			Each Friday (begins May 10)
Book Club			Last Wednesday of month		
Bowling			Every Wednesday of month		
Bridge		2nd & 4th Tuesday of month			
Bridge - ACBL Duplicate		7-May			
Computers and Technology				18-Apr	
Couples Dining Out	Date in May TBD				
Dominoes				Every Thursday of month	
Fishing				4th Thursday of month	
Golf	May 13 & 20				
Golf - 9 Holvers					Each Friday
Historical Adventures	15-May				
Investment Group			4th Wednesday of month		
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. See newsletter section				
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			