



SIR BRANCH 171

November 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, Nov. 6
Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Hall

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

The annual SIR Branch 171/174 LADIES DAY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

will be held on Wednesday, December 18

**The sign-up form is on the last page of this newsletter and also attached
to this newsletter mailing. SIGN UP SOON**



**In honor of Veteran's Day, which is on November 11,
wear those old uniforms to the November 6 meeting
-- if they fit !!! --**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The first meeting of 2020 will NOT be on Wednesday, January 1

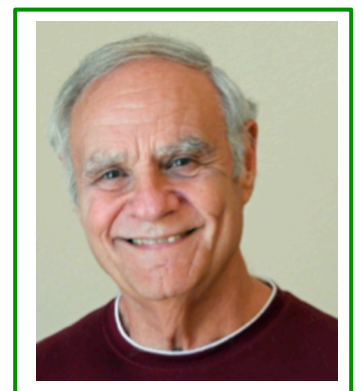
The meeting will be held the following Thursday, January 8

Same time and place where we have all our meetings

BIG SIR MESSAGE: BARRY LESKIN

My Fellow SIR 171 members,

The November 6 meeting will be my last Branch 171 luncheon meeting as Big SIR. Our December 18 gathering will be the Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon. Our current Little Sir, Rick Fend, will become Big Sir for 2020, and Graig Crossley will become our new Little Sir. It has been my pleasure to serve you as Big SIR for two years, and our BEC has been outstanding in supporting me in carrying out the Branch responsibilities.



We will have a new caterer in 2020 for the monthly luncheon meetings - the same caterer as currently provides lunch to Branch 174. Thanks to Tim Freeman and others who worked to make this change. One key factor, aside from great food and service, is we will have a lower guarantee for luncheon attendance. It will become less likely we have to draw on our financial reserves to cover attendance that falls below a guarantee. Our Treasurer, Bob Krompholz, will share the financial situation and the BEC decisions made relative to 2020 at the November meeting.

Rich Bellows has offered to coordinate a new group that will provide rides to lunch for members who are unable to provide their own transportation. We hope to kick off this group in early 2020. Read about the group in the Announcements section of the newsletter. Thank you Rich.

The Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon is approaching. The December 18 gathering will again be held at the Saint Mary's Soda Center, and the Devil Mountain Chorus will entertain us. More information is available in the Announcements section of the newsletter. SIGN UP SOON !!

Our November lunch speaker will be Ray Nassief, VP at John Muir Hospital. Read about Ray and the talk in the Little SIR message.

Our greeters at the November 6 meeting will be Ralph Blumenthal and Monte Logan. See you there.

Barry Leskin, Big SIR

LITTLE SIR MESSAGE: RICK FEND

November 6 Program

The speaker at the November 6 meeting will be **Ray Nassief**, Senior Vice President, Operations at John Muir Health.

Mr. Nasief will speak on the history of John Muir Hospital, will provide some current information, and will discuss some recent achievements.



*Rick Fend,
Little SIR*

Mr. Nasief's experience as a healthcare leader spans over four decades, including positions at John Muir Health (*2007 to the present*), Kaiser Permanente, California Pacific Medical Center, and Children's Hospital in Los Angeles.

Some recent accomplishments include:

- Stewarding the operations-led implementation of EPIC, a fully-integrated Electronic Health Record (EHR) and Revenue Cycle system
- Spearheading the occupancy of the \$612 million expansion of the John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek (JMMCWC).
- Occupancy of the new Hoffman Tower on the Concord Campus
- Streamlining operations and leading multiple change management activities

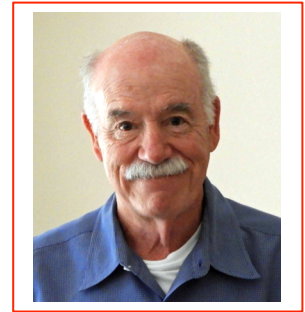
Mr. Nasief has administrative responsible for Facilities Management and Ancillary Services, and is the Liaison to Facilities Development, Safety and Emergency Management, and New Building/Transition Planning for three Medical Centers and the Corporate Offices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

New Member

A warm welcome to new member, Collin Crawford, who was inducted by Big SIR Barry. Collin is a local guy, having been raised in Walnut Creek. He has two children and been married 32 years. Collin's bio is contained in the "Know Your SIR" section of this newsletter

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



Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon

The annual Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon will be held at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center on Wednesday, December 18. Luncheon details and the signup form are contained on the last page of this newsletter and also as an attachment to this newsletter mailing. Sign up for a table for 8 to sit with your buddies. Or sign up for any number of seats at a table. Also, there will be a singles table this year.

Ed Beatson is the Branch 171 contact for questions and for sign-ups. Give your signup form and checks to Ed at the November 6 meeting or mail to him as per the address on the form. Please note there is a request for parking passes on the form.

New Ride Share Program

Rich Bellows has offered to coordinate a new practice for providing rides to lunch for members who are unable to provide their own transportation. We hope to initiate this practice by early next year. Please contact Rich if you have interest in using the luncheon ride program or especially if you can assist others by driving them. Contact Rich by email at rich.bellows@gmail.com or by phone or text to 970 219-9254.

SIRpremes sing Lida Rose at the September Meeting

Copy the following link into your browser to check out the movie of the group's performance -- <https://youtu.be/HMTYU4ZBT8g>. Thank you Russ for the videography.

Join the Newsletter Team

The Newsletter Editor (Stan Holcenberg) will be out of the country most of the December and will not be able to get a comprehensive January newsletter out in a timely manner. Please let Stan know (sir171-news@comcast.net) if you can assist that month and also if you are interested in joining the Newsletter committee. A great way to know what is going on in the club. A step by step guide and training will be provided. If you have word processing skills, you qualify. Thanks in advance.

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



Now this is how you make a SIR feel welcomed & greeted



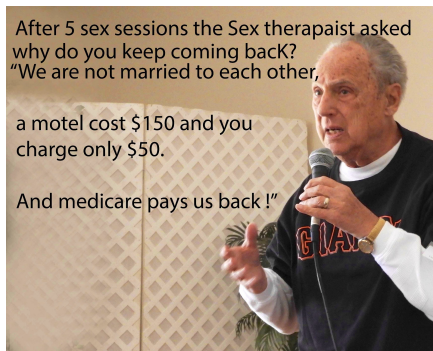
You would think there discussing Cal. Mississippi 28 20 win? No, it's the A's play offs



Yes, i'm eating my choc. cake now, and i'm planning on having seconds.



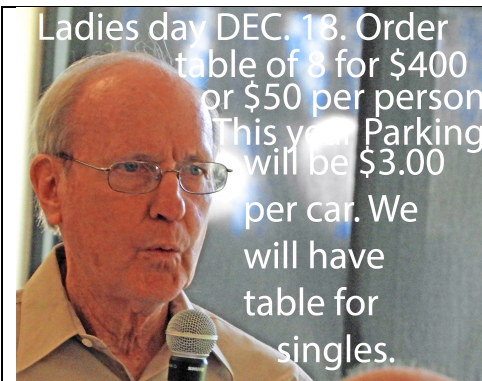
3
Yes John
You are one of three Area Governors, and we are pleased to have your represent us



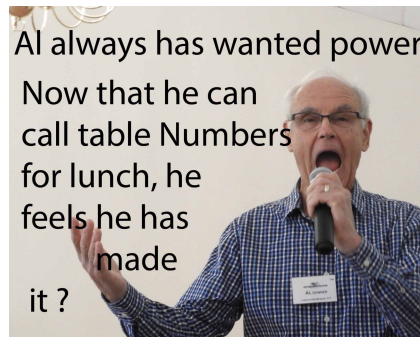
After 5 sex sessions the Sex therapist asked why do you keep coming back? "We are not married to each other, a motel cost \$150 and you charge only \$50. And medicare pays us back!"



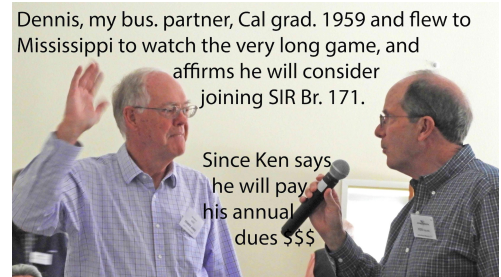
It pays to sit at the head table and bribe the speaker. Why? Lew wins the free lunch for his membership # and Sam because he was born this month about ## years ago.



Ladies day DEC. 18. Order table of 8 for \$400 or \$50 per person This year. Parking will be \$3.00 per car. We will have table for singles.



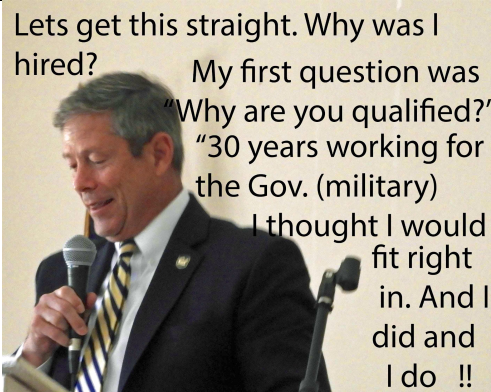
Al always has wanted power Now that he can call table Numbers for lunch, he feels he has made it ?



Dennis, my bus. partner, Cal grad. 1959 and flew to Mississippi to watch the very long game, and affirms he will consider joining SIR Br. 171. Since Ken says he will pay his annual dues \$\$\$



I'm pleased to induct my pharmacist neighbor into SIR171. Colin upgraded his two kids to 2 yellow laveradors. No future student loans See me for the blue pill @



Lets get this straight. Why was I hired? My first question was "Why are you qualified?" "30 years working for the Gov. (military) I thought I would fit right in. And I did and I do !!



Thanks for a great presentation. So, give me a big "Stanford Smile"

Featured Photos of the Month



The Walking group had a great walk on a warm day, but with plenty of shade, to their proverbial waterfall (no water) on the Lamorinda Trail. It was 3 miles out-and-back before they retired to SiSi's for coffee. *Photo submitted by Walking Group Chair Al Donner.*



Visit to the Central Sanitary Water Treatment Facility. Impressive operation!! *Photo submitted by Historical Adventures Co-Chair Ken Fisher*

We welcome photos from all groups. Send to sir171-news@comcast.net by the 10th of the month.

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

LUNCHEON MENU

Roasted Whole Turkeys/Breasts; Mashed Potatoes; Stuffing; Gravy; Fresh Roasted Vegetables
Green Salad; Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad; Dessert

NOVEMBER SIRS BIRTHDAYS

MARTY AUFHAUSER – BRUCE BERMAN – GARY BORROLI – GRANK COMPRELLI – RICK FEND

CLAIR HOTTEN – GARY LANSMAN – LAD LYNCH – DICK MORRISON – JOHN MOULTON

TOM PETERSON – SMIGS SMIGIELSKI – LARRY THOMPSON – RICHARD VANCE

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

BRANCH REPORTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG

There were 98 attendees at the last meeting, which included 95 members, the speaker, a visitor, and a guest. There were 12 no-shows, 27 excused sign-outs, and 12 AR members that did not attend. There was one inductee. Member attendance, including AR members, was 65%. Member attendance, excluding AR members, was 71%

Members, if not on AR (Attendance Relief) status, need to call the SIR 171 hotline at 925-377-5880 before 1:00pm on the Saturday before the meeting if they will not be attending the meeting or will be 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: "Attendance Relief" (AR) status members need not call to be excused for lunch attendance. However, should an AR status member desire to or is able to occasionally attend a monthly lunch, he must call in to the branch hot line the Saturday preceding the lunch.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: ED DRASIN (Chair) JOHN SCHICK (Assistant Chair)

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>							
Prior Month:	145						
Inductees	1	Collin Crawford #82					
Deductions	0						
Total, This Month:	<u>146</u>						
<u>APPROVALS TODAY</u>							
		Collin Crawford #82, sponsor Barry Leskin #104					
<u>APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION</u>							
		None					
<u>APPLICANT LIST</u>							
		None					
NOTES: There is no longer an Inactive Status or Roster							
All members are shown under "Membership" and are in Attendance Relief (AR) status							
The number of members in AR status is 12							

Membership Application Forms are available at the desk at the meetings, from Ed Drasin, or on the Club website (<http://www.sirinc2.org/branch171/>). For the website, select "Application: from within the "Members" selection"

ROSTER CORRECTIONS: John Schick.

NOTE: Please contact 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). John Schick will in turn update the Master Roster.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob KROMPHOLZ

Sept 2019

Beginning	4,469
Receipts	2,965
Disbursements	(2,660)
Ending	4,774

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

WELLNESS REPORT: ERIC CHO

Branch 171

- SIR Jim Drennan passed away on September 12. Jim joined Branch 171 in 2008 and became inactive in February 2017 due to medical issues. Jim was 90. A notice was sent to all members on October 1 with obituary and funeral information.
- SIR Darwin Marable passed away on October 2 at the age of 82. Darwin joined Branch 171 in 2013 and went inactive in 2016. He was most recently in AR status with our branch. A notice was sent to all members on October 20 with obituary and funeral information.

Eric wishes and hope that everyone stays healthy!

Eric reminds us that Wellness is staying active, both physically and socially.

Branch 174

No reports this month

••• 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.

*** Please contact Eric Cho by e-mail or phone if you are aware of a passing, injury, or illness of a member.

KNOW YOUR SIRs

Collin Crawford

At age 69 Collin Crawford retired from 45 years as a pharmacist. His education included three years at DVC and then on to the University of Colorado for another three years of pharmacy school.

Collin's working career consisted of 24 years at an independent pharmacy, then moving to Safeway pharmacy, and then a short stint at Walmart pharmacy before he decided to call it quits and retire for good.

Collin has been married to Nancy for 33 years (as of 10/10/19). She is a realtor and is still working, and plans to keep going, but maybe at a little slower pace.

Collin and Nancy have two children: David, who is 29 and in chiropractic school on the East coast, and Chelsea, who is 26 and has just graduated with a Masters and lives in Sacramento. They are very proud of both of them and glad they don't have to lend too much financial support!

The last two members of the family are the dogs, two yellow labs, Goose and Rusty. They (mostly Nancy) have been involved with Guide Dogs for the Blind, and have raised several successful dogs that have gone on to help the blind. They still keep in touch with the owners.

As far as interests, Collin enjoys traveling, golf and dining out. His goals are to keep healthy and to see more of America and as much of the world as possible.

Some day they hope to have grandchildren.

Know Your SIR is edited by Rich Bellows. Rich captures bios from new members and they are published in a future newsletter. If you have been a member for awhile, did not have your bio published, and wish to have it published, please contact Rich. Please write down the salient points of your life (1/2 page).

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 prefer.

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: STAN HOLCENBERG (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. The September meeting held today focused on the recent iPhone, iPad, and other announcements, as well as planning tips for the release of the Catalina OSX system. **The next meeting will be held on November 18.**

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)



PLEASE NOTE: The last day of Bocce for the year will be October 29 with a gathering at Campo De Bocce in Livermore. Games will begin again in the spring of 2020.

During the 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.



In preparation for 2020.....
For those of you that don’t know what this shot is, it is called a Casino

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 CROPF (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)
MIKE COX (representing Br. 174)



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 Contra Costa Bridge Center, 3039 Willow Pass Rd, Concord. Guests of SIR members are welcomed. **The next gathering will be on October 1**. Registration is at 9:15am; lesson at 9:30am; game at 10:00am and finishes by 2:00pm.

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 the group discusses applications for computers and technology. At each meeting there is 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.

Meetings of the Area 16 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475

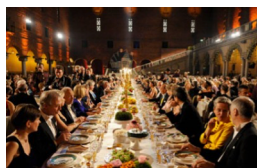
Creekside Drive.

The October meeting was cancelled at the last moment due to an Elks Lodge scheduling mistake. Thus, the next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, November 21, will include the talk that was scheduled for October 17. The presentation topic will be on "Organizing Your Photos" by Neil Schmidt. What do you do with all your photos? Most of us have a large collection of old slides and prints and, with today's smartphones, we now have a massive collection of new digital images. Neil will explore several different techniques for managing your entire photo collection.

Members usually arrive around 9:15 to enjoy coffee and a chat with friends and new acquaintances before the presentation. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, the group tries to offer something for everyone. They ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and pastries.

Information about the group, including current and past presentations, is available on the SIR Area 2 Computers 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. Planning for the venue rotates among the various members of the group.

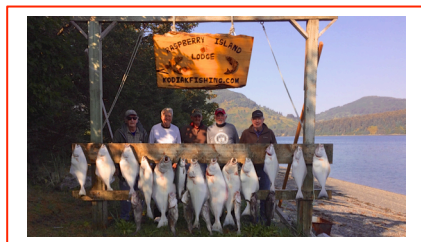
The next gathering will be on **November 20** at Jack's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. Mitch Tarkoff will host the event.

Contact Sam if you are interested in joining 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, November 21st** 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.

October Results: Our semiannual trip to Almanor and Eagle Lakes resulted in near limits at Eagle but wind prevented the fishermen from getting on the water at Almanor. The group enjoyed the usual good food, nice accommodations and camaraderie. Our annual trolling trip to Pyramid Lake NV produced plenty of action catching Lahontan cutthroat trout. Elsewhere, some fished the Delta for sturgeon and stripers while others caught rockfish, cabezone and ling cod out the gate. One member traveled to Pinecrest Lake for limits of trout and to the Klamath for salmon.

Activities Scheduled for November and December: A trip out the Gate for crabs and rockfish; several outings on the delta for sturgeon, stripers and black bass; trips to local lakes for trout; a fish fry at a members home; our annual planning meeting; and our annual Holiday dinner.

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



Our 2 man team championship tournament is moving along and hopefully will be finished before the rains hit! Our events in November include **Lone Tree in Antioch on 11/4** and **Rancho Solano in Fairfield on 11/18**. As always come out and join the fun. Check out our website at www.sirlamorindagolf.com or contact Bill Wadsworth at 1wadsy@gmail.com.

Immediately following the Branch 174 luncheon on November 12th, the golf group will hold its annual meeting in the bar area. For 2020, our nominating committee has put forth a slate of Ed McBride as Chair, Steve Behnke as Vice Chair, Ron Leiker as Handicap Chair, and Bill Wadsworth as Treasurer. Golf members please plan to attend as others may decide to put their names in the hopper for these prestigious positions and your vote will be important!

The SIR 171/174 golf website 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)**



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 next on [Wednesday, November 20, at 8 AM](#) (rather than the 4th Wednesday of the month, due to Thanksgiving) at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4. The presenter will be the group's own Jamsheed Gandhi, who will give an income tax update. [There will be no meeting in December.](#)

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

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.

If you regularly have breakfast at Legends, ask the cashier for a Legends card. Once you're signed up, you get \$5 off your bill every time you get up to \$100.

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
DON MERSON (BR 174)**



[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

June 6, 2020, Grand Baltic Sea Voyage—Small Ship Adventure by Overseas Adventure Travel. Ports of call include This upcoming great trip to the Baltic departs June 6, 2020 and we have 9 Sirs signed up already, but there is still room for more if you act soon. 14 days from \$8,255 includes international airfare from Sacramento. 14 days from \$6,695 without international airfare. Single Supplement: \$1,395. Trip extensions available to Copenhagen and/or Stockholm from \$1,295 each. Please mention code GO-23630 when booking. Reservations & Information call 1-800-955-1925 www.oattravel.com/crb2020. For details contact Milt Smith (Br. 146) (925) 285-2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com.

September 14-26, 2020 Imperia Splendors and OBERAMMERGAU. Tour includes home pickup, round trip airfare, professional tour manager, 19 meals, 11 nights first-class hotel, land transportation via private deluxe coach, admission to all activities indicated. Tour highlights: Munich welcome dinner, visit the famous Hofbrauhaus, Prague guided sightseeing, Hradcany Castle, Bratislava the capital of Slovakia, Budapest guided sightseeing, Danube cruise, Salzburg guided walking tour and special dinner at St. Peter Stiftskeller restaurant, Oberammergau Passion Play. Cost \$6,267 includes estimated airfare. Larry Yarberry (Br. 8) 925 890-9245 l.yarberry42@comcast.net



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:

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

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