



SIR BRANCH 171 February 2020

<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, **February 5** Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Hall

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

BIG SIR MESSAGE: RICK FEND

Hello all,

One of the key ingredients to a successful Branch is new members. Your Branch Executive Committee has set goals for increasing our membership to stay healthy and have an engaging organization. With that said, please consider bringing a guest to a luncheon or to a SIR activity. Did you know that as an extra incentive the guest lunch cost is only \$15? Also, when he is inducted both you and he get a FREE lunch.



The second ingredient to a successful Branch is activities. We have many to choose from and if you haven't participated in a particular activity.....try it, you might like it!

Also, thanks to all of the Department Heads, Activity Chairs and Support Chairs who have willingly agreed to support our Branch again this year with the generosity of their time. We are always looking for and need additional help to run the organization. Please do not wait to be asked: YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU!

As info, the SIR member bios are now online at our website thanks to the efforts of Rich Bellows (Know your Sir Chair) and Tom Lemmer (webmaster). More info on that in the Announcement Section.

I'd like to give a special shout out to two of our SIR friends:

Prior Big SIR and former Director, Tim Freeman, who was instrumental in getting our new caterer and is also Chair of the newly formed Speaker Committee, which btw is committed to do their best to keep the speakers entertaining and informational. Plus, Tim does the microphone setup and is on the Recruiting Committee.

Secondly, Ed Beatson. For the last two years Ed has tirelessly worked with Br 174 to bring us the Holiday Luncheon. An event that has never disappointed. Ed is looking for someone to replace him for 2020. Please consider the job.

Senior Citizen Joke

When I went out to lunch the other day, I noticed an elderly man, much like many of us in SIR, sitting on a park bench sobbing his eyes out.

I stopped and asked him what was wrong.

He said, "I have a 32-year-old wife at home. She rubs my back every morning, makes me a great breakfast with pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit and freshly ground coffee."

I said, "Well, then why are you crying? "

He said, "She makes me homemade soup for lunch and my favorite brownies, cleans the house and then watches sports TV with me for the rest of the afternoon."

I said, "Well, why are you crying? "

He said, "For dinner she makes me a gourmet meal with wine and my favorite dessert and then we make love until the wee hours."

I said, "Well, why in the world would you be crying?"

He said, "I can't remember where I live! "

This is obviously a fairy tale...what women would want to watch Sports with us every afternoon.

WHAT IS NOT A FAIRY TALE IS THAT IF YOU FORGET TO SIGN OUT OR ARE A NO-SHOW AT OUR MONTHLY LUNCHEON....YOU'LL BE BILLED THE \$25 LUNCH FEE. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WE HAVE, ON AVERAGE, ABOUT 8 NO-SHOWS PER MONTH.

Rick Fend, Big SIR

LITTLE SIR REPORT: GRAIG CROSSLEY

Tim Freeman, Chair of the Speaker Committee, will be hosting the speaker at the February 5 meeting. The speaker and topic information follow.



February 5 Program

The speaker at the February 5 meeting will be **Gregory Crouch**, a writer who specializes in adventurous and historic subjects. The topic:

"The Bonanza King".

In his presentation, author Gregory Crouch will discuss local legend John Mackay, who got his start in the United States as a destitute Irish immigrant brought here when he was 9 years old.

It will follow him through New York City's Five Points slum, to the mayhem of the California Gold Rush, to the dangerous mines of the Comstock Lode beneath Virginia City, the battling with California capitalists who'd monopolized the lode, and then the striking of the Big Bonanza.

His wealth from the Comstock Lode drove wild stock market frenzies and launched he and his wife on a meteoric social career. When John Mackay died in 1902, with a personal fortune equivalent to about \$50 billion modern dollars, front page obituaries all over Europe and the United States hailed him as one of the most admired Americans of the age.

Gregory Crouch is the author of many books, including the book he will discuss -- "*The Bonanza King: John Mackay and the Battle Over the Greatest Riches in the American West.*" Others include WWII flight and Patagonia mountaineering. He has also published stories in many publications, including The Atlantic, National Geographic, Smithsonian, and Time, and has been a reviewer of many books in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and other publications. A West Point graduate and he currently lives in Walnut Creek.

Graig Crossley, Little SIR

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MENU

Chicken Cacciatore served with Buttered Egg Noodles and Seasoned Vegetables
Fresh Fruit; Chef's Choice Salad; Dinner Rolls with Butter
Desert Lemon Cake; Lemonade; Decaf Coffee

FEBRUARY SIRS BIRTHDAYS

GENE BELL – COLIN CRAWFORD – ED DRASIN – DAN FLOWER

WAYNE HAHN – JIM HARDY – PAUL OXLEY – FRANKI TIPPETT

ALAN TRAENKNER – BOB TRAYNOR – FRANCIS WONG

One of the above members with a birthday in February will win a free lunch if he attends the February meeting. Members whose birth month is in February, 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 Rick Fend can be reached at rickfend@yahoo.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 Races – March 27



Many of us attended the SIR Day at the Races last year. Feedback -- a fantastic event !!

Golden Gate Fields has set up another SIR day for us this year. Here is the event and signup information:

Who: SIR Members, Spouses, and Guests

What: Horse Races and Prime Rib Buffet

When: Friday, March 27, 2020

Where: Golden Gate Fields, Berkeley

Gates Open: 11:00am

Buffet Hours: 12:00pm – 3:30pm

First Race: 12:45pm

Cost: \$41 per adult

Includes: Parking, admission & reserved seating, daily racing program, Prime Rib Buffet and tax & tip for the food servers

Signing up: Bring your check for \$41 per person to either the February 5 or the March 6 meetings or send to:

Jim Kline
27 Fieldbrook Place
Moraga, CA 94556

Make check payable to “Pacific Racing Association”

Deadline for receiving checks is March 9.

Tickets will be mailed to you approximately one week prior the race day.

Jim will be at the February 5 and March 5 meetings for checks and questions.

SIR Bios

The bios are now online in the member area of the website. Thanks to “Know Your SIR” chair Rich Bellows and “Webmaster” Tom Lemmer for the excellent job consolidating the bios, standardizing the presentation of them, adding photos to them, and posting them. There are now more than one hundred SIR 171 bios on the website.

As in the past, we will still post the bios for new members in the monthly newsletter. Those are an excellent way for all members to get to know the new members. Posting all the member bios is a great way for each member to get to know the current members even better.

The member area of the website is password protected. If you have forgotten how to access the member area, here are the instructions for viewing the Know Your SIR members bios:

- Logon to the SIR 171 website – enter www.sirinc2.org/branch171/
- Hover cursor over the “Members” popdown and select “Member Site”
- Enter password
- Three documents are currently available in this area – the Know Your SIR bios, the Member roster with contact information, and the club Organization Chart. Select “Know Your SIR” to view the bios.

If you do not have your password, or have mis-placed it, here are the instructions to get it:

- Logon to the SIR 171 website – enter www.sirinc2.org/branch171/
- Hover cursor over the “Members” popdown and select “Password Request”
- Complete the form with your name and email address and select “submit”
- You will receive a message within a day or so with the password to access the member area of the site.

Most of these bios were written many years ago and some could use some updating. If you haven’t had a chance to do that, and would like to, please pull your bio from the website, update it, and send to Rich Bellows – rich.bellows@gmail.com . Also, please contact Rich if your bio is not on the site.

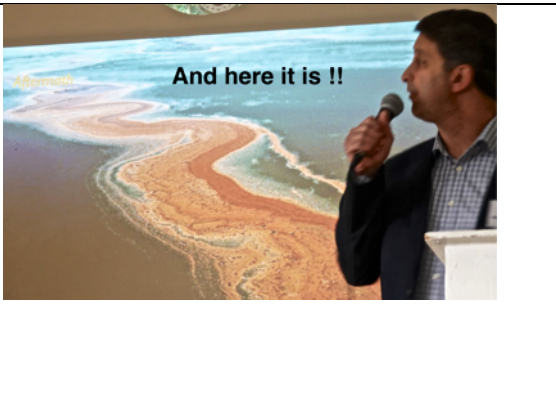
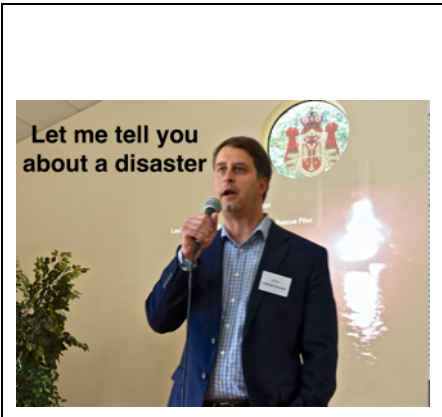
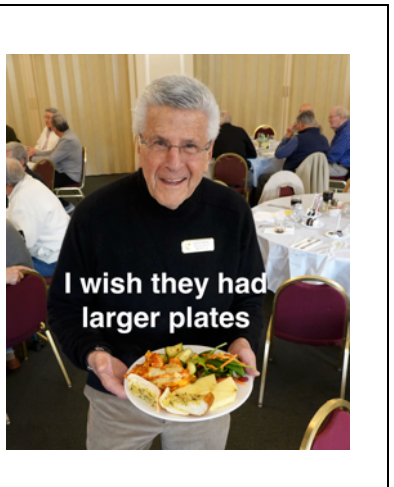
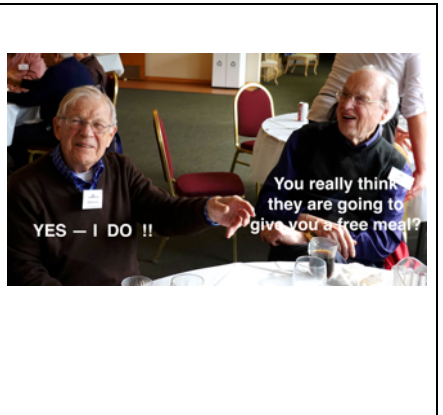
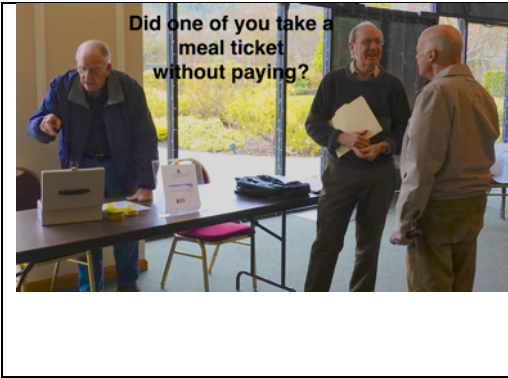
New Member

A warm welcome to new member, Romesh Loomba, who was inducted by Ken Fischer at the January meeting. Romesh transferred from another local SIR branch. He was raised in India, has been married to Nancy for 40 years, and has two children. Romesh’s bio is contained in the “Know Your SIR” section of this newsletter.

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



JANUARY MEETING PHOTOS



BRANCH REPORTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG

There were 100 attendees at the last meeting, which included 97 members, the speaker, a visitor, and a guest. There were 9 no-shows, 26 excused sign-outs, and 11 AR members that did not attend. There was one inductee. Member attendance, including AR members, was 68%. Member attendance, excluding AR members, was 73%

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)

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>					
Prior Month:	143				
Inductees	1				
Deductions	0				
Total, This Month:	<u>144</u>				
<u>APPROVALS TODAY</u>	1	Romesh Loomba			
<u>APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION</u>					
	0				
<u>APPLICANT LIST</u>					
	None				
NOTES:	Total number of members in AR category is 10.				

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

DECEMBER 2019

Beginning	4,543
Receipts	439
Disbursements	(20)
Ending	4,962

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

WELLNESS REPORT: ERIC CHO

Branch 171

Sadly I report the passing of Jerry Compton on Dec. 27. Jerry was born in Dallas, raised in Oklahoma City, and lived in Los Angeles before moving to the Bay Area in 1963. Jerry was inducted into SIR 171 in September 2016.

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

Romesh Loomba

Romesh Loomba retired last year (2019) as a senior technology manager of data base design for a major financial institution after 50 years of service in the technology arena.

Romesh is originally from India and came to the US when he was 17 to complete his degree in electrical engineering and quantitative methods. He met his wife Nancy and they married, and this year are celebrating 40 years of marriage. Romesh and Nancy have two children, a son recently married and working in tech in San Francisco and a daughter working as a creative strategist and comedian in Los Angeles.

Romesh turned 70 this year and as a birthday celebration just completed a cruise around the coast of South America, starting in Rio de Janeiro, rounding Cape Horn and ending in Santiago.



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: *(OPEN)*



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 next meeting will be held on Monday, January 27.](#)

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 Bocce group does not meet during the winter. [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 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)
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. 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)



Creekside Drive.

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

Our next meeting will be held on February 20. Our presentation topic for the February meeting will be "Editing Photos With Your Mobile Devices" by Derek Southern. Derek will show you how to edit your own pictures on your smart phone. By using just a few simple sliders you can quickly make your pictures look incredibly better, you will wow and impress your friends. He will demonstrate a free app (for Android and Apple phones) called SNAPSEED. He will also mention the free version of Adobe's Lightroom for smart phones. Your phone may include a photo editor, but you'll see that Snapseed offers many more capabilities while being simple to use. Load Snapseed onto your smart phone and edit your own images, as you watch Derek's live, onscreen presentation

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 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)

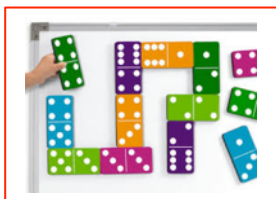


The group dines out every other month at a fine location in the East Bay. Planning for the venue rotates among the various members of the group.

Tom Westhoff will be the host for the event in March. No details at this time.

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. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 23 at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, starting at 8:30 am. 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.

January Results: The winter trout season at our local lakes is off to a slow start so members focused on stripers, sturgeon, and flounder, catching several in the delta. Three members went out the Gate on a party boat and returned with limits of crabs but very few sanddabs. Several members attended the Sportsmen's Expo in Sacramento.

Activities Scheduled for February and March: Several sturgeon/striper trips on member boats to various locations on the Delta and Sacramento River. several trout fishing trips to San Pablo, Lafayette, and Contra Loma reservoirs and to Shadow Cliffs; Striper fishing at Pt. Pinole Pier; the Fred Hall Sportfishing show; our annual shopping trip to Fishermen's Warehouse and Bass Pro Shop with lunch at Black Bear Diner and our annual Fishing Group auction.

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



We've started off our 2020 season in good form and have avoided the rains so far. February's Monday sanctioned events include [Franklin Canyon on February 3](#), [Paradise Valley in Fairfield on February 10](#) and [Chardonnay in Napa on February 24](#). We welcome new members of all skill levels.

Check out our schedule and other information on our club at our website www.sirlamorindagolf.com. Don't forget that Steve Wright (sirgolf94570@yahoo.com) organizes informal outings on some "off" Mondays, Wendell Pleis (pleiswg@comcast.net) has an active Thursday group each week at either Franklin Canyon or Diablo Creek, and Tim Freeman (timfre@comcast.net) heads up a Friday morning 9-hole group at the Diablo Hills course in Walnut Creek. Lots of opportunities to get together to enjoy each other's company plus to share the exhilaration of good/lucky shots and the frustration of those "occasional" bad ones.

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.

There will be a [tour to the county wide recycling plant in Pittsburg for February 26th in the morning](#). If you are interested in what happens to that cardboard and all those bottles, this is your chance. Contact Ken (keninmoraga@gmail.com) for additional information or to sign-up.

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 the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4. [Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 26, at 8 a.m.](#) The speaker for the February meeting had not yet been provided at the time of posting of this Newsletter.

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

Activity Calendar -- February 2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Apple Users Activity	Jan. 27				
Astronomy	2nd Monday of month				
Barbershop Harmony		Every Tuesday of month			
Bocce Ball	2020 Season begins in May				
Book Club			Last Wednesday of month		
Bowling			Every Wednesday of month		
Bridge		2nd & 4th Tuesday of month			
Bridge - ACBL Duplicate		First Tuesday of month			
Computers and Technology				Feb. 20	
Couples Dining Out	March -- date TBD				
Dominoes				Every Thursday of month	
Fishing				Jan 23	
Golf	Feb. 3, 10, & 24				
Golf - 9 Holers					Each Friday
Historical Adventures	Feb. 26				
Investment Group			Feb. 26		
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			