



## SIR BRANCH 171 July 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, July 29 at 10:00am**

**It will be a Zoom Virtual Meeting**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**We will be having a Branch 171 Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 29 at 10:00am**

**Details provided in the Little SIR message on page 2  
and in the Branch Virtual Meeting article on page 3**

#### **BIG SIR MESSAGE: RICK FEND**

As I write this note I look at the calendar and see that we are completing month four of sheltering in place, wearing masks, keeping away from crowds and in particular indoor crowds, and washing our hands all the time. It will be great when these are all part of the past, but I will probably want to continue washing my hands.

Please note as per the announcement above that we are planning a Zoom virtual meeting on July 29. Some other Branch's have had them and have been quite successful. The meeting will provide a chance to "see" a lot of the guys, get an update on what is going on in SIR, and in particular our branch, and listen to the excellent sports columnist we have lined up for our program. I encourage you to attend. What else do you gotta do? I will also have a special door prize for some lucky individual.

Hope you are all doing well. Although a lot of what we are doing is pretty common across the board, I am sure there are some unique things you are doing and would be nice to share with other members. Why not send those to our newsletter editor ([sir171-news@comcast.net](mailto:sir171-news@comcast.net)) for consideration to include in our next branch newsletter. Also, I encourage Activity Chairs to provide feedback to publish in the next newsletter – the status of re-opening, informal "non-SIR" sanctioned get-togethers or communication, or anything else they might want to share.

*A Happy Birthday to our July Birthday boys – Russ Aubry, Rich Brosio, Bob Burnett, Jorge Escobar, Jim Fulford, Steve Kinsey, Todd Royster, Robert Sornsen, Reg Whittington, Gary Yancey. Attend the Zoom meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> for a chance to win a free lunch, redeemable at a future date when we are all together again.*

Elections are coming up for the 2021 Officers and Directors. We need to fill the Little SIR position and would like two additional Board Directors. Please reply to me ([rickfend@yahoo.com](mailto:rickfend@yahoo.com)) if you are available for either of those positions or are interested in any other Officer position. It's never too late to step up, even though elections are upon us. We have vacancies to fill.



We have all received a note from our State SIR President, Ed Benson, touting Zoom and also recommending other things we should do. Lots of good ideas in there. Let me pull from a few of those items and add some thoughts. I want to encourage you to do your part to keep the camaraderie and vitality of our club going during this challenging time, and to help ensure we are all socially active:

- Most tables at our luncheons have a leader. I would like to ask each leader to contact each member of their table to see how things are going, just to keep in touch, and for them to have a focal point back into SIR.
- How about the same for each Activity Chair. In addition, discuss possible ways to keep the activity going during this challenging period.
- For both our table leaders and Activity chairs, how about a periodic Zoom meeting to “see” one another and to have the type of friendly interactions you have had at our luncheons and during your activity get-togethers.

Some activities are beginning to open up and there is a State process for opening up activities on a Branch basis. This does not work at this time for all activities, but it does for some. A set of instructions and a sample form was sent to each of the Activity Chair to start the process and then the BEC has to approve each reopening with a time lag built in after approval. The State wants to go at this slowly and not have any detrimental hiccups. Talk or write to your Activity Chair if you'd like to hear more or to push him to submit the paperwork.

In closing, be safe, be active and call, text, Facetime or Zoom with your friends.

*Rick Fend, Big SIR*

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#### **LITTLE SIR REPORT: GRAIG CROSSLEY**

Fellow SIR members. It is that time of year on our SIR calendar that we identify who will step up to the plate to become the Little SIR and succeed the following year to the Big SIR position. Please, consider stepping forward to help continue our SIR Branch 171 group !



Speaking of stepping up to the plate, we have an excellent program lined up for our July 29 zoom meeting. The speaker will be Dieter Kurtenbach, very popular local sports columnist. My kind of guy -- [\*"Dieter Kurtenbach analyzes the amazing and roasts the absurd in the world of sports for the Bay Area News Group."\*](#)

Stan Holcenberg, member of the Speaker Committee, will be hosting our speaker. See Stan's article on the next page about the virtual Zoom meeting.

*Graig Crossley, Little SIR*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS**

### **Branch Virtual Meeting – July 29 at 10:00am**

We are excited about the upcoming Branch Meeting. We have not had an in-person gathering since March and we are confident our July 29 virtual zoom meeting will be a winner !!

**Get a sports fix.** A highlight of the gathering is a program that includes the very popular local sports columnist Dieter Kurtenbach. A number of members have communicated that they read his columns and they are great. Some have also heard him on a sports talk show and he does a great job. Very entertaining and informative insights that penetrate so well to get to the key and salient points.

The talk comes at the same time that the NBA basketball season is set to resume and the MLB baseball system is set to begin. What better time to get back into the sports scene than to attend this meeting and have a chance to glean insights and opinions from one of the best.

Some of his excellent articles the past few months include breaking down the 49ers and their Super Bowl loss, professional sports fear more than Covid19, Yasiel Puig is what the Giants need, who should the Warriors draft, there are a billion reasons why sports won't shut down again, and on and on. Gather up your questions and topics for the meeting.

We will take questions during the gathering. You can also send some topics in advance to [sir171-news@comcast.net](mailto:sir171-news@comcast.net).

Information about the use of Zoom will be in a separate mailing early next week. That mailing will also include how you access and log into the July 29 meeting.

### **Zoom 101**

Most of you probably have used zoom over the past few months to keep in touch with loved ones and friends, and thus are somewhat familiar with Zoom. If so, or if not, here are some things you will need to know:

1. Zoom Meeting Access
  - Know how to sign into the July 29 Zoom meeting.
  - You can access by video, but it is also available by audio.
2. Participation in the Zoom meeting
  - Speaker vs. gallery mode
  - Raising the blue hand
  - Submitting a chat
  - Muting and unmuting yourself

Stan will be sending out a separate email early next week with information on the above points. He will also provide the login information you will need to access the July 29 meeting, including the link for Zoom video access and information for audio access.

## **Elections 2021 – Club Officers and Directors**

The following slate has been provided by our nominating committee, and approved by the BEC, to lead the club in 2021:

- **OFFICERS**

- Big SIR                      Graig Crossley              2020 Little SIR
- Little SIR                      *(open)*
- Secretary                      Mike Donovan              *incumbant*
- Asst. Secretary              Al Donner                      *incumbant*
- Treasurer                      Bob Krompholz              *incumbant*
- Asst. Treasurer              Hal D’Ambrogia              *incumbant*

- **DIRECTORS**

- Laszlo Bonnyay    *incumbant*
- Ed Drason    *incumbant*
- Chris Lyne    *incumbant*
- Rick Fend    *2020 Big SIR*

Each Officer and Director will serve for a one-year term. We will vote on this slate at the July 29 meeting. Voting will be by the Zoom “blue hand” process.

Additional nominations for the BEC may be submitted to Big SIR Rick before the meeting ([rickfend@yahoo.com](mailto:rickfend@yahoo.com)) or can be taken from the floor at the meeting. All nominees from the floor must signify their agreement to accept the office if elected. Contested positions, if any, will be by a secret ballot process after the meeting.

## **Activities**

As Big SIR Rick mentioned in his message, there is a State process for opening up activities on a Branch basis. There are some 171 activities that have opened and others are in the process of opening. In addition, where it fits, activity groups are meeting via Zoom. Please see the Activities section of this newsletter for Activity information for details.



## BRANCH REPORTS

### ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG

No luncheon meeting last month, therefore no report.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT: ED DRASIN (Chair)

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	
Prior Month:	142
Inductees	0
Deductions	1      Tuck Coop #101 moved out of area.
<b>Total, This Month:</b>	<b><u>141</u></b>
<u>APPROVALS TODAY</u>	
	0
<u>APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION</u>	
	0
<u>APPLICANT LIST</u>	
	None
<b>NOTES:</b>	<b>Total number of members in AR category is 11.</b>

Membership Application Forms are available 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

May 2020

Beginning	5,029
Receipts	90
Disbursements	0
Ending	5,119

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

## **KNOW YOUR SIRs: RICH BELLOWS**

No new bios this month.

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**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 ([rich.bellows@gmail.com](mailto:rich.bellows@gmail.com)). Please write down the salient points of your life (1/2 page).

## **WELLNESS REPORT: ERIC CHO**

### **Branch 171 (Eric Cho)**

Hoping all SIR 171 members are doing ok while Shelter in Place has not been lifted yet! Although our local county is gradually opening up, please continue to be aware of social distancing and frequent hand washing.

- **SIR Larry Swindell** passed away on June 22.

Larry joined SIR in 2007 and resigned for health reasons in 2018. He was a member of both 171 and 174, was very active in the bridge group, and was a speaker at our meetings on occasions. One program revolved on his knowledge of the film industry and his personal involvement with some of the stars.

Larry was a journalist for over 45 years, taught composition and literature at five universities, and published a number of biographies on Hollywood celebrities. So well known in the Local Community as a member of SIR, the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley, Lamorinda Movers, and as a member of the Moraga Park Commission and Moraga Historical Society. He was inducted both into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame and the Classic Film Hall of Fame in Moraga, and is remembered for his unbelievable facilitation of monthly classic movies at the Rheem Theater.

Larry knew everything on baseball, the movies, and history. He could not be stumped. A treasure for the local community and a wonderful man. A very talented and versatile (yet humble) man. An excellent article about Larry was in the recent Lamorinda Weekly and can be accessed via the following link — <https://bit.ly/2CfGjY>

- I have some additional sad news to pass along. One of our BEC members, Recruitment Chair and Walking Group Chair, **SIR Al Donner**, lost his daughter and unborn grandson due to complications during her pregnancy. Please provide your prayers to Al and his family and give them strength during the difficult grieving process. Thank you!

### **Branch 174 (Mark Mahoney)**

- **SIR Ken Branch** passed away on June 24. Ken joined SIR Branch 174 in November 2013 and resigned in July 2019 due to declining health. Ken had served as a Deputy District Attorney for Contra Costa County and later as a litigator and trial counsel for Campbell, Van Voorhis & Bybee, a real estate development firm located in Walnut Creek.

**SIR Bill Mueser** has been having serious problems with blood flow to one of his feet. Bill is a former Big SIR and an original member of the unauthorized Thursday SIRS Golf Group.

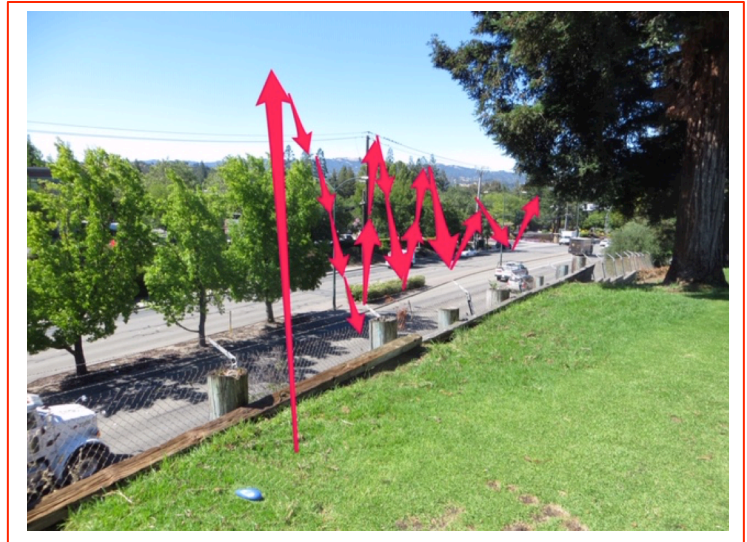
••• Please try to contact SIR's with illnesses to offer your support and encouragement and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. A friendly call is welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated.

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

## Photos of the Month

This month there are two excellent photos provided by Tim Freeman, Chair of the 9-Holer Golf Group. Both were taken at the Diablo Hills golf course on the “notorious” par 3 hole #4.

The first is an “almost-hole-in-one” by our Area Governor, Bruce Persons. The second is a mock-up of shot on the same hole, portraying the ball bouncing many times to get across Ygnacio Valley Blvd. The impressive part of the shot – went about 300 yards with a 9 iron. The golfer’s name is with-held from this article.



## BRANCH ACTIVITIES (BRANCHES 171 & 174)

### ACTIVITY LIST

Apple Users Group  
Barbershop Harmony  
Book Club  
Bridge – Social  
Computers & Technology  
Dominos  
Golf – 18 Holes  
Historical Adventures  
Pinochle  
Stamp Club  
Tennis  
Walking – Original Group  
Walking – Big Hikers

Astronomy  
Bocce Ball  
Bowling  
Bridge – ACBL Duplicate  
Couples Dining Out  
Fishing  
Golf – 9 Holer  
Investment Group  
Poker  
Table Pool  
Travel  
Walking – Senior Strollers  
Wine Tasting

There is a formal process SIR leadership has put in place for the re-opening of activities.

1. Some activities have re-opened
2. Some activities are meeting via Zoom
3. Some activity re-openings are in process
4. Some activities have not yet initiated the paperwork to get the formal approvals, many because there is no practical way for the group to meet at this time

If you are a member of an activity that has not yet re-opened in some form, please contact your Activity Chair with suggestions and encouragement or for a way for the group to meet.

Those activities that fall into categories 1 - 3 above are included in the following portion of the newsletter.

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## **1. ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE FORMALLY RE-OPENED**

**FISHING:** KARL DROESE (Br. 171) RON LEW (Area 16)



The SIR Area 16 Fishing Group activity was approved at the SIR State level since the fishing members are from numerous branches. The permission was granted subject to certain COVID-19 restrictions. Members have already reported successful catches of salmon, halibut, lingcod and rockfish in the ocean, trout in the lakes, striped and black bass in the Delta, and shad on the Yuba River. The group is not yet conducting their monthly fishing group meetings. Contact Karl if you would like information regarding the fishing calendar, signups, or the group.

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**GOLF :** GENE BELL (Br. 171) ED McBRIDE (Br. 174)



Bill Wadsworth of Branch 174 developed a plan for re-opening that was approved by SIR management. The Branch 171 BEC approved that plan and thus both 171 and 174 members may participate in both the 18 hole and 9 hole group. There are events scheduled for July and beyond. Please refer to the schedule and other information on the golf group at their website [www.sirlamorindagolf.com](http://www.sirlamorindagolf.com) Don't forget that Tim Freeman ([timfre@comcast.net](mailto:timfre@comcast.net)) heads up a Friday morning 9-hole group at the Diablo Hills course in Walnut Creek.

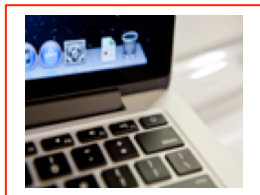
The SIR 171/174 golf website includes the membership application, a list of current members, and other pertinent information for members and prospective members.

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## 2. ACTIVITIES THAT ARE MEETING VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETINGS

### APPLE USERS GROUP: STAN HOLCENBERG (Br. 171) JOE TRACY (Br. 174)



A Zoom meeting will be held on Monday, **June 27, at 10:00am.**

The Zoom weblink for this meeting is below:

<https://bit.ly/38TEcPF>

Meeting ID: 851 5289 6956

Password: 150868

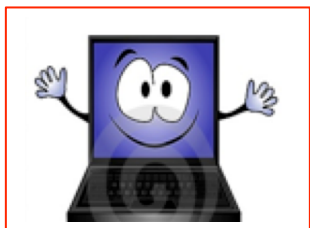
This month the group will focus on the product announcements and other topics discussed at the June 22 Apple World Wide Developer's Conference (WWDC20).

Additional topics include: Sharing information and perspective on new Apple toys; Rumors and buying decisions; Tips; Applications; Issues; General roundtable

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

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### COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY - AREA 16: NEIL SCHMIDT (Branch 116) ; DICK CURRY (Br. 174) 376-5541



The July SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology Meeting will meet on Thursday, July 16th at 9:30. The Zoom "doors" will open at 9:15 AM so come a little early to chat with other members.

The July presenter will be Evan Corstorphine, founder and President of Portable CIO, a local IT Design Implementation, management and support company. Evan has made presentations to the group in the past on topics such as Computer Security, Amazon Alexa products, Internet-based backups using iDrive, etc. His presentations have always been very interesting and enjoyed by our members. It has been a couple years since he has visited us so we have invited him back to give us the latest updates on a variety of computer related topics.

The Zoom weblink for this meeting is below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87989042367>

Meeting ID: 879 8904 2367

Password: 639951

For future notifications individuals should sign-up for the CAT mailing list. Send an e-mail request to: [sir.area2.cat@gmail.com](mailto:sir.area2.cat@gmail.com) A few days before the meeting you will receive a Zoom weblink that is needed to connect.

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



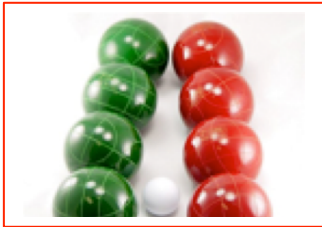
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The Investment Group, \$UMS in Retirement, has been conducting Zoom meetings, the most recent one was on June 24. Information about the group, including past and current presentations, is available on the \$UMS website -- <http://a2sums.sirinc2.org/>

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### **3. ACTIVITY RE-OPENINGS THAT ARE IN PROCESS**

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



The Chairs are monitoring the Moraga Parks and Recreation website. Until they have an update from Moraga Parks and Recreation that they're clear to play, and then there is a plan for the refresh of the courts from the Moraga Bocce Club, they are in a holding pattern. The 171 BEC will need to approve the plan.

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**TABLE POOL:** **STEVE PATTON** Br. 171  
AREA 16: **BILL WEINBERG**



Awaiting the lifting of the County Health Department's ban on billiards. We are coordinating with another SIR branch and with the venue to determine when and how we will be able to return to that activity. The 171 BEC will need to approve the plan.