



## SIR BRANCH 171

October 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, October 7 at 10:00am**

**It will be a Zoom Virtual Meeting**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

**Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 10:00am**

**We have another excellent speaker lined up !!**

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

I hope those of you that have attended the recent Zoom membership meetings have found them entertaining and worth the 90 minutes or so to watch and listen in. We've had 60 attendees at both those meetings, but can we get more of you to the meetings?

Maybe you are Zoom technology challenged? Maybe you have no interest in the speakers? Maybe you are looking for something else out of the meetings? Maybe you are losing interest in the whole concept of SIR during this COVID situation? Who knows.....you might have even been traveling to Europe, but I doubt it. ***How about replying to this newsletter with your comments on SIR and the meetings.***



This next month, Oct 7, we have Supervisor Candace Anderson. She is an excellent speaker with engaging topics. Check out the details in the Little SIR report.

A giant shout out to the committee that is locating our speakers this year, headed by Tim Freeman, and includes Ralph Blumenthal, Stan Holcenberg, and Barry Leskin. Thank you, gentlemen. ***The group can always use some good ideas for speakers, so please contact any member of the team with your suggestions.***

I attended the State SIR meeting (not in Napa as originally planned) but via Zoom. Among other State business they shared some of the statistics from the July survey you all were emailed. 45% of you responded. I just received the stats on the Branch level and would like to share a few of the highlights:

- What makes SIR membership of interest to you? #1 was the luncheons. #2 was the variety of activities. Our hope is that the Zoom meetings are somewhat filling the gap for #1 and that we can continue to open more activities to address #2.
- Rate the activities according to how frequently you participate. Cards and Computers scored highest, followed by Dining Out, Bocce and then Golf. *I'm surprised Walking didn't make the list.*
- How do you rate your SIR experience? 77% - very enjoyable; 17% - OK; 3% - Love it; 3% - take it or leave it.

- Are you familiar with the SIR four expectations of its members? Yes - 32%; No - 30%; Not sure - 38%. *FYI, the four expectations are -- (1) be a friendly and sociable guy; (2) participate in our activities, luncheons and events; (3) volunteer when asked; (4) bring guests to perpetuate our Branch.*

Additionally, the guest question was followed with - "are you willing to devote effort to increase SIR membership?" 42% indicated Yes, 22% indicated No, and 46% indicated I'm not sure.

With that I bid you a good day.....but I'm not sure?

*Rick Fend, Big SIR*

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**LITTLE SIR REPORT: GRAIG CROSSLEY**

Here is the Zoom information you will need to enter the Oct. 7 meeting:

Video and audio access -- use the following link  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84378553515>

Audio only access  
 Phone #: 1-669-900- 6833  
 Meeting ID: 843 7855 3515



No passcode is needed in either case.

**October 7 Program**

The speaker will be Contra Costa County District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen, who will provide an **update on important issues facing Contra Costa County**, including:

- The County's response to COVID-19
- Preparation for Wildfires, Power Outages, and Other Emergencies
- Maintaining the integrity of the upcoming election with Vote by Mail Ballots
- The Importance of the 2020 Census
- The fiscal Outlook of the County and its Pension Liability

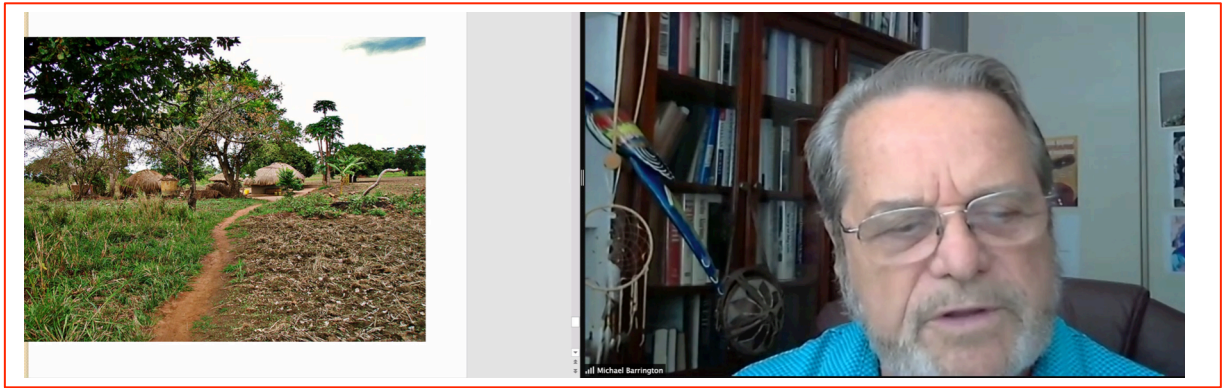


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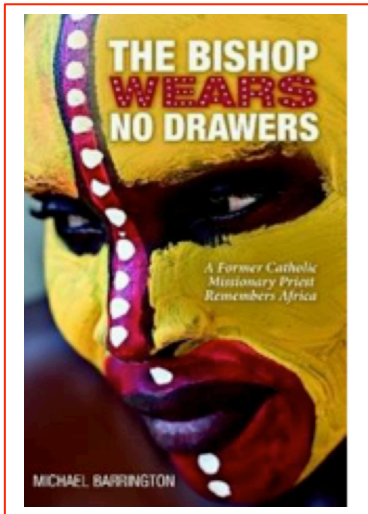
Candace was first elected to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in June 2012. In June 2016 and March 2020 she ran unopposed and was re-elected to four-year terms. She plans to run again in 2024.

Previously Candace was on the Danville Town Council from 2003 through June 2012, serving two terms as Mayor. In her role as County Supervisor Candace currently sits on 29 local and regional boards and commissions addressing planning and land use, transportation, pensions, mental health, healthcare, reuse, and recycling, economic development and public safety. She is an attorney licensed to practice law in California.

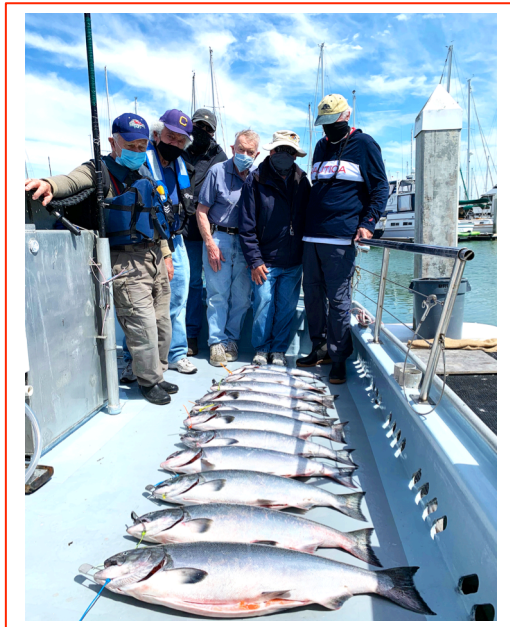
## FEATURED PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Dr. Michael Barrington discusses his experiences as a Missionary Priest in Nigeria for 10 years.



John Schick shares an artifact from Africa, very similar to one that the speaker displayed



Karl Droese (third from left) and five other members of the Area 16 Fishing Group with limits on salmon at Sundance.

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

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Congratulations to the August and September birthday award winners, Jim Kline and Monte Logan. Each of them will receive a free lunch once we return to in-person meetings (TBD).

The following members have their birthday in October and are eligible to win a free luncheon at a date TBD:

George Adranly --- Dennis Brossart – Grag Crossley – Hal D’Ambrosia

Mike Donovan – Ken Fischer – Al Foley – Stan Holcenbeg

Chris Lyne – Jerry Meyers – Herb Montgomery – Sam Zorich

Please reply to [sir171-news@comcast.net](mailto:sir171-news@comcast.net) if your birthday is in October and you do not see your name on the list

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## **BRANCH REPORTS**

### **ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG**

Not a luncheon meeting. No formal report.

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### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT: ED DRASIN (Chair)**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Prior Month:</b>	<b>141</b>	
<b>Inductees</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Deductions</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Ed Zuber passed away.</b>

**Total, This Month:**    **140**

#### **APPROVALS TODAY**

**0**

#### **APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION**

**0**

#### **APPLICANT LIST**

**None**

**NOTES:**                    **Total number of members in AR category is 11.**

**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.

<p><b>NOTE:</b> 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.</p>
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## **TREASURER'S REPORT: BOB KROMPHOLZ**

### **AUGUST 2020**

Beginning	4,870
Receipts	0
Disbursements	249
Ending	4,870

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

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## **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).

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## **WELLNESS REPORT: ERIC CHO**

### **Branch 171**

**SIR Ed Zuber** -- We are saddened to report the passing of SIR Ed Zuber on August 12, 2020. Ed was born in June 1941 and grew up in Los Angeles. He was inducted into Br. 171 in 2009 and remained on the active member list until his passing. Ed's career was spent with the Liberty Mutual Company, rising to become the company's Western Regional Director. He was an avid baseball fan and was a founder of the Moraga Baseball Association

Ed's obituary was in the East Bay Times and is available via the following link -- <http://bit.ly/SIREdZuber>

**SIR Bob Frazer** -- We are saddened to report the passing of SIR Bob Frazer on August 26, 2020. Bob was born in Fort Morgan, Colorado in August 1933 and was inducted into Br. 171 in 1999. In September 2018 he transferred to the Rossmoor Branch. Bob had a long career with IBM and was active in golf, tennis, skiing, and skiing.

Bob's obituary was reported in SFGate and is available via the following link -- <http://bit.ly/SIRBobFrazer>

### **Branch 174**

No reports this month

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In shelter in place time, social isolation can affect our wellness if we cannot physically hang out with our friends. The SIR general meetings through zoom are an effective tool to get our members connected. However, not all members participate in the zoom meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Dick Curry of 174 and Stan Holcenberg of 171 to continue to publish our newsletters to keep members connected and informed. Please stay healthy and positive, everyone!

Please try to contact SIR's with illnesses to offer your support and encouragement and keep them in your 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 major illness or passing of a member.

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**BRANCH 171 NEWSLETTER:** Editor **STAN HOLCENBERG**. The deadline for receipt of Newsletter material by the Editor is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. E-mail to [sir171-news@comcast.net](mailto:sir171-news@comcast.net) is preferred.

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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 (August 2020) -- click on the following link, or cut and paste the link into your browser to view -- <https://sirinc.org/uploads/newsletters/Happenings2020August.pdf> Some very interesting articles highlighting news of interest from other SIR branches. CHECK WHAT OTHER BRANCHES ARE DOING. SEE SOMETHING YOU LIKE? Let your Activities Chairman know about it and we if we can adopt something similar for our Branch. Send comments and article to [HappeningsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:HappeningsEditor@gmail.com)

## **BRANCH ACTIVITIES (BRANCHES 171 & 174)**

### **ACTIVITY LIST**

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

**ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN: DAVID ZEIMER (BR. 171)**



The Activity Chairman's role is to support the various chairmen of our branch activities, provide liaison with those chairmen and the Branch Executive Committee, and to assist in organizing new activities of interest to our branch members. The Chair is the focal point to communicate with if you would like to chair any of the open activity groups.

There is a formal process SIR leadership has put in place for the re-opening of activities. Each of our activities fall into one or more of the following four categories:

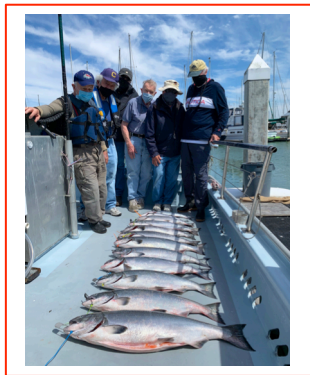
1. Some activities have re-opened and meeting in-person and/or on Zoom
2. Some activities have not formally re-opened, but are meeting via Zoom
3. Some activity re-openings are in process (may include activities in category 2 above)
4. Some activities are not meeting via Zoom and have not yet initiated the paperwork to get the formal approvals, many because there is no practical way for the group to meet at this time. However, Zoom is a good way to keep in touch with other members of the group.

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 & 2 are included in the following portion of the newsletter.

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

**FISHING:** KARL DROESE (Br. 171) RON LEW (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 ZOOM meeting is scheduled for [Thursday, October 22](#), starting at 8:30 am.

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.

**September results:** A dozen members booked rockfish/lingcod trips on a party boat (limited to half the normal load of passengers in order to comply with COVID distance requirements) and brought back limits including a lingcod weighing nearly 50 lbs. Others fished for halibut and salmon in member boats. Four members were successful catching striped and black bass in the Delta.

**Activities Scheduled for October and November:** As the salmon season winds down our ocean fishermen are focusing on rock fish with several trips outside the Gate on member boats and party boats. Some are looking forward to the opening of the crab season in November. The salmon are now on their way up the rivers to spawn and the fall run of striped bass has started. Other activities include shark/potluck trips in member boats on the Bay; a pier fishing potluck; trout and catfish fishing on San Pablo Reservoir and trout fishing at Shadow Cliffs; a BBQ (conditions permitting); a guided trip on Lake Almanor and Eagle Lake (conditions permitting) and fly fishing, spin fishing and trolling at Pyramid Lake NV for cutthroat trout (conditions permitting).

If you would like to join our club or would be interested in going to an event with us, call Karl Droese (cell) 925-788-0769

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



The 18 holer group will play at Los Positas in Livermore on October 12 and at Boundary Oaks in Walnut Creek on October 26. Please refer to the schedule and other information on the golf group at their website [www.sirlamorindagolf.com](http://www.sirlamorindagolf.com) 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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**9-HOLE GOLF – TIM FREEMAN (Br. 171)**



For those that don't wish to play 18 holes, or want to play a shorter course on occasion, 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. Please contact Tim ([timfre@comcast.net](mailto:timfre@comcast.net)) for outing details and if you would like to be added to the interested party list.

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**WALKERS – ORIGINAL GROUP AI DONNER (BR. 171) STEVE BEHNKE (BR. 174)**



The Branch 171 group has not formally re-opened at this time. Branch 174 has formally re-opened and Branch 171 members may join that group on walks as guests. The 174 group meets every Tuesday at 9:00 am. An email is sent to all interested members and guests that provides information regarding the trail that is to be hiked and the location of the starting point. Everyone drives individually to the trailhead as carpooling is not permitted. Please contact Steve Behnke ([stevebehnke@me.com](mailto:stevebehnke@me.com)) for additional information and to have your name included on their email contact list.

Please note that there is also Big Hikers Walking group to engage SIR members who want longer and more strenuous routes than the other walking groups. This activity has not re-opened at present.

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**WALKING -- SENIOR STROLLERS: JOHN SCHICK (Br. 171)**



The Senior Strollers Walking Group has been approved by the BEC for re-opening. It is a joint 171/174 activity and is chaired by John Schick, Branch 171.

At present, the activity is on hold, pending the improvement of the air quality and the attitude of individuals with respect to COVID-19 precautions. We hope that these issues will eventually be resolved and walking will be resumed soon.

We do encourage members of both branches to express their interest in joining us at that time and to contact John for details ([jschick@att.net](mailto:jschick@att.net)) and to be included on the contact list.

Senior Strollers walks are intended for those who still want to continue the exercise and companionship of group walking, but desire a shorter and less strenuous walk than offered by the regular walking activity. The group had been meeting on Wednesdays.

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

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



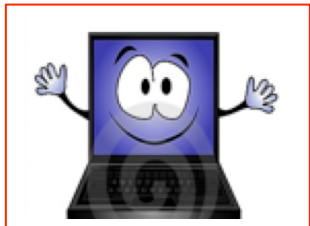
The next meeting will be on [Monday, September 28, at 10:00am](#). It will be a Zoom meeting. The Zoom meeting link will be shared with members approximately one week before the meeting.

This is a facilitated meeting with the members discussing recent announcements; members sharing information and perspective on new Apple toys; and a discussion and general roundtable on rumors, buying decisions, tips, applications, and Issues.

Novices and advanced users are welcomed. Come and be a part of the group. Please contact Stan Holcenberg at [sholcenb@comcast.net](mailto:sholcenb@comcast.net) to be added the Apple User Group distribution list.

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



Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month and are currently held via the Zoom platform. The next meeting of the SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology Group will be on [Thursday, October 15](#). Please see the group's website (<https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/>) for information on the meeting topic.

The meetings begin at 9:30am. The Zoom "doors" open at 9:15 AM so members come a little early to chat with other members. A few days before the meeting the members receive a Zoom weblink that is needed to connect.

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](mailto:sir.area2.cat@gmail.com)

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



The Investment Group, \$UMS in Retirement, has been conducting Zoom meetings. They met on June 24 and then joined the San Ramon Br. 128 group in a meeting on September 23. There are no upcoming meetings scheduled.

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

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