



SIR BRANCH 171 January 2021

<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, Jan. 6, at 10:00am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Branch 171 Zoom Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, January 6 at 10:00am

We have another excellent speaker lined up !!

BIG SIR MESSAGE: RICK FEND



We've all received those holiday newsletters from friends (and maybe some relatives) expounding on all the wonderful activities, deeds and feats they or what their *darling* children accomplished this past year. They are almost humorous! Well, this blast is NOT going to be one of those. Why not.....cuz we couldn't do anything, sorry to say.

For most of the year gone were our monthly luncheons, bocce ball, Tuesday walking/talking/coffee group, dining out, poker, historical adventures, bridge and dominoes.

What we did accomplish and succeed in during the latter part of 2020 was utilizing Zoom, an excellent method in which to communicate and stay connected while listening to some awesome speakers.

Hopefully 2021 will truly become a NEW YEAR, with fewer of the calamities that plagued us in 2020.

I'd like to thank our Branch Executive Committee, the Speaker Committee and our volunteers that staffed the desks, equipment, and chaired our activities while we were able to meet in person. There will be jobs for you when we are able to meet again.

Thank you for letting me serve you as 2020 Big Sir

Rick Fend, Big SIR

LITTLE SIR REPORT: GRAIG CROSSLEY

Fellow SIRS,

Yes, I know my term as your Big Sir begins in January. However, our trusty scribe has asked me to offer a few remarks in this transitional letter.

This year has been a trying one for all of us. And Big Sir Rick has done a commendable job meeting the challenges facing our organization. I hope to use his example as a guide for my term.

We are a volunteer organization and for us to continue we must find those to step in to help. No one person can do the work. I am thankful to have Stan as the strong support in the background. The Board will continue to provide the necessary organizational support from Secretary and Treasurer through to our speaker selection committee.

I hope each of you are able find something for which to give thanks this holiday season. May you all share good health and a bit of cheer as this year ends. And, 2021 can only be better.

Seasons Greetings,

Graig Crossley, Big SIR 2021



SPEAKER PROGRAM – JANUARY 6, 2021

John Haffner will be hosting the speaker at the January 6 meeting. The Zoom link will be provided in a later communication. The speaker and topic information follow.

The speaker will be **Dr. Michael Baker**, semi-retired general and trauma surgeon who served his country in uniform for 30 years. In his role as a Navy officer, he had experience in operational medicine, combat deployments, medical intelligence, and strategic planning. He retired with the rank of rear admiral.

At our meeting Dr. Baker will speak on the following topic:

“The Future of Warfare”

It is sure to be an excellent program. Don't miss it !!



Dr. Michael Baker received his medical degree from Pennsylvania State University in Hershey, PA. He completed his residency in general surgery at the US Public Health Service Hospital in San Francisco and completed a cardiovascular fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. He is board certified in General Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He has extensive training in laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgery as well as complex surgery for trauma. Dr. Baker is a retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral and served for more than 20 years as Chair of the Department of Surgery at multiple East Bay Medical Centers. He is a respected lecturer with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

2021 Officers and Directors

Welcome to the 2021 Officers and Directors that comprise the BEC:

- Graig Crossley Big Sir
- (open) Little Sir
- Mike Donovan Secretary
- Al Donner Asst. Secretary
- Bob Krompholz Treasurer
- Hal D'Ambrogia Asst. Treasurer

- Ed Drasin Director
- Rick Fend Director (2020 Big Sir)
- Chris Lyne Director
- Tim Freeman Director
- Laszlo Bonnyay Director

Thanks to our outgoing Directors who have served on the Board:

- Eric Cho
- Barry Leskin
- Tom Westhoff

Monthly Board (BEC) Meetings

Incoming Big Sir Graig encourages any that want to see how the Branch is run to participate in the monthly Board Meeting. When we meet at the Serbian Church those meetings had been held at 10:00am on the day of our monthly first-Wednesday-of-the-month meetings. During shelter in place those meetings are still held monthly, typically the day before the Branch Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 5, at 10:00am. It will be a Zoom meeting. Please reply to this email or contact Big Sir Graig if you would like to attend the next meeting and we will provide the Zoom link to you

New Member

A warm welcome to new member, **Sid Meyers**, who was inducted by Stan Holcenberg at the October meeting. Sid's bio is contained in the "Know Your SIR" section of this newsletter.

When we are back together again, please introduce yourself to Sid, welcome him to the group, help him find a seat at a table, and answer any questions he might have.



Featured Photo of the Month

Ranger Russ (aka Sir 171 photographer extraordinaire) has been running Aubry National Park during the pandemic. Has had some socially distant visitors during the day and many critter visits during the evening. Ranger Russ bought a fancy new motion detector critter camera so he could capture some of the night-time activity. Check out some of the action !!



On a typical night Ranger Russ had a family of 7 raccoons visit, then a large bunny and baby, then a fox sniffing where the rabbit had been, then a skunk sniffing around, a large owl in the fish pond, and a large vulture.

Please send in a photo that you would like to have considered for inclusion in the Photos of the Month section of the newsletter. Although there are not formal in-person SIR activities going on at this time, there are likely some photos taken during this covid period that would be fun to share with the members in the monthly newsletter. Send your choice(s) to sir171-news@comcast.net by the 10th of each month for consideration. Please include a description of the photo. Cell phones work great, and also simplify mailing the photo.

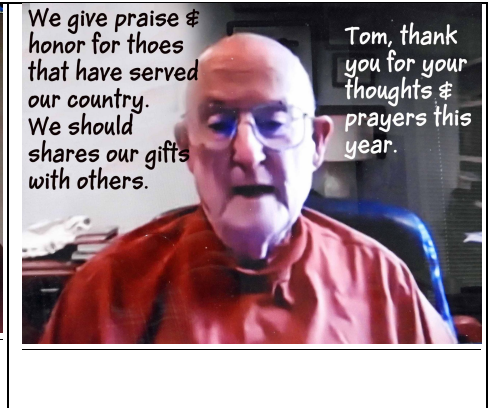
OCTOBER MEETING PHOTOS -- by club photogrpher Russ Aubry (with lots of intended typos)



This is my last meeting, and I and i want to thank my board for all their help this year
And i thank our membership for having the highest % of zoom attendance



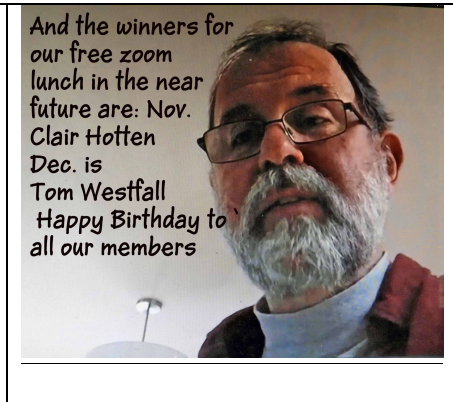
Rick, we look forward to your experience for continuing on our board. You have provided great leadership this year. Thank You



We give praise & honor for thoes that have served our country. We should shares our gifts with others.
Tom, thank you for your thoughts & prayers this year.



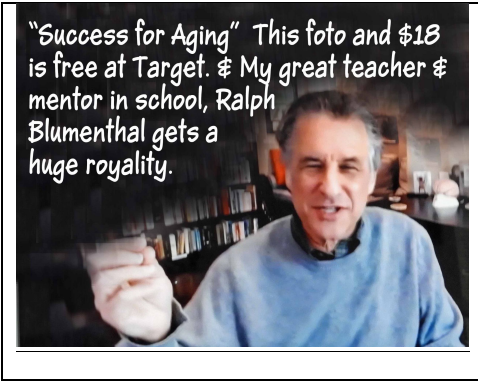
Thank you Rick for your leadership and we look forward to seeing you in your retirement
Your gold watch is in the mail !



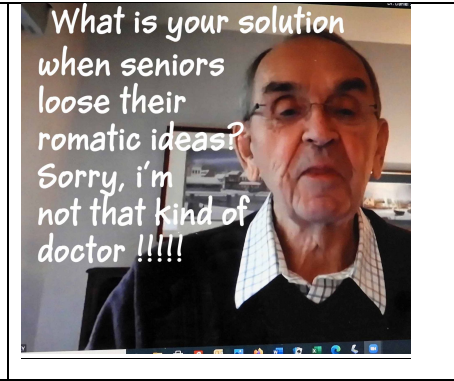
And the winners for our free zoom lunch in the near future are: Nov. Clair Hotten
Dec. is Tom Westfall
Happy Birthday to all our members



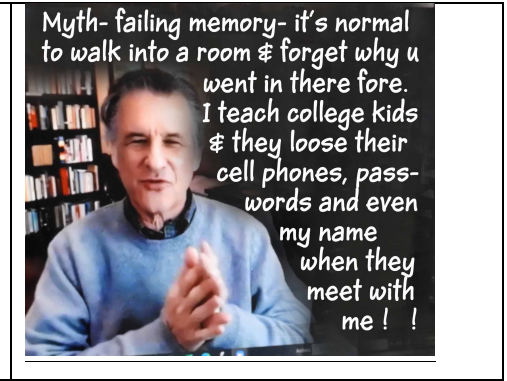
Welcome new member Sid Meyer, poker player & I did not retire to join SIR, but i do like your programs. I look forward to being on broad, I mean being om board.
Sid, We welcome you to our organization where humor is an assest.



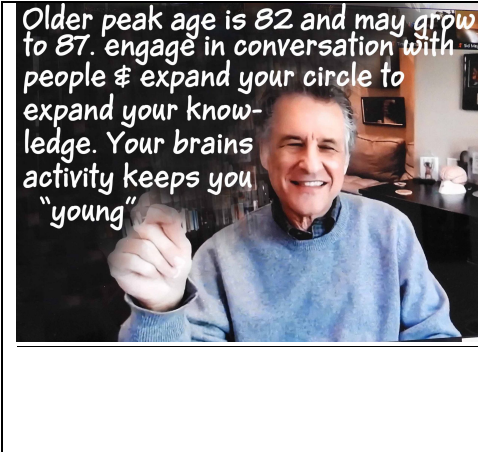
"Success for Aging" This foto and \$18 is free at Target. & My great teacher & mentor in school, Ralph Blumenthal gets a huge royalty.



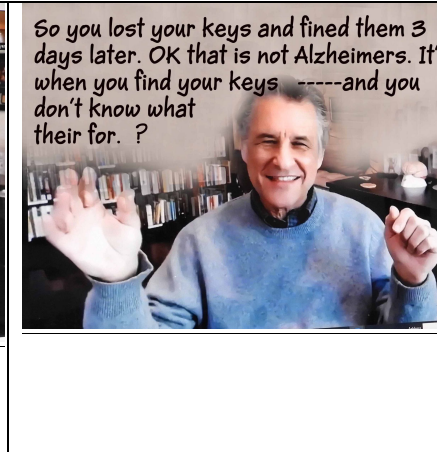
What is your solution when seniors loose their romatic ideas?
Sorry, i'm not that kind of doctor !!!!!



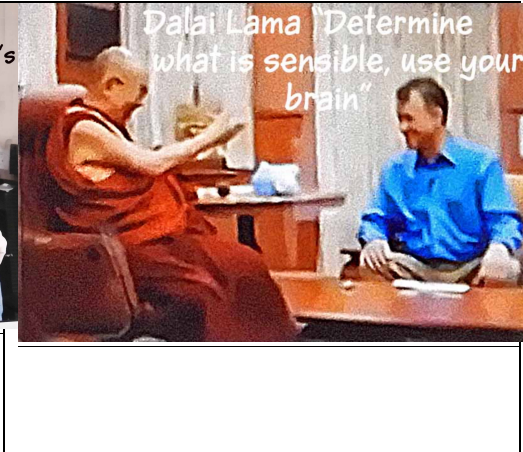
Myth- failing memory- it's normal to walk into a room & forget why u went in there fore.
I teach college kids & they loose their cell phones, pass-words and even my name when they meet with me ! !



Older peak age is 82 and may grow to 87. engage in conversation with people & expand your circle to expand your know-ledge. Your brains activity keeps you "young"



So you lost your keys and fined them 3 days later. OK that is not Alzheimers. It's when you find your keys -----and you don't know what their for. ?



Dalai Lama "Determine what is sensible, use your brain"

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to the November and December birthday winners, Claire Hotten and Tom Westphal. They will receive a free lunch once we return to in-person meetings (TBD).

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

--- Phil Arth --- James Brown --- John Christensen --- Larry Del Santo ---

--- Jim Gibney --- David Humm --- Irwin Javinsky --- Lew Lippard --- Bill Magdoff ---

--- Sev Marsted --- John Reed --- David Wood ---

Please reply to sir171-news@comcast.net if your birthday is in January and you do not see your name on the list

BRANCH REPORTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG

Not a luncheon meeting. No formal report.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: ED DRASIN (Chair)

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>				
Prior Month:	140			
Inductees	0			
Deductions	0			
Total, This Month:	140			
<u>APPROVALS</u>	0			
<u>APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION</u>	1			
<u>APPLICANT LIST</u>	1			

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.

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

OCTOBER 2020

Beginning	4,845
Receipts	0
Disbursements	257
Ending	4,888

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

KNOW YOUR SIRs: RICH BELLOWS

SID MEYERS

Sid was born in Scranton, PA, the same city that President-elect Joe Biden was from. Scranton was known as "The Electric City" since it was where electric lights were introduced and was the first place in the U.S. where streetcars were powered only by electricity.

Sid's family followed his Uncle to the West Coast and moved to Oakland when he was ten years old. He attended Castlemont High in East Oakland, played on baseball little league teams with Frank Robinson and John Brodie, and was a sports beat writer in school.

Sid joined the Army in 1955, later attended SF State, and then was in the stock brokerage business for 60 years. Sid joined Schwabacher & Co. in San Francisco, then was with Sutro & Co. in SF, Berkeley, and Oakland, and then was with RBC (Royal Bank of Canada) after they acquired Sutro. Sid was a Financial Advisor and retired as a Senior VP on January 1, 2020.

Sid is married to Barbara and has two sons and a daughter. He has been in a poker group with a number of SIR 171 members, loves to travel, grow tomatoes, and follows all types of sports. Sid is a long time A's and Raiders season ticket holder.

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). Please write down the salient points of your life (1/2 page).

WELLNESS REPORT: ERIC CHO

Branch 171

Harold Knudson

We are sad to report the passing of **SIR Harold Knudson** on October 23. Harold was inducted into SIR 171 in 2002 and resigned in March 2020. He was 83 years old.

Harold was born and raised in Minnesota, and after walking through snow and sleet each winter he heeded the cry to "Go west young man!" He was one of the first computer geeks at Wells Fargo Bank, where he worked for 30 years, and where he met his wife, Sally.

Harold was into many sports and loved to chase that elusive, little, white ball around with a stick (aka "golf"). He was an avid traveler and was an active member of the local Kiwanis chapter, where he served as President in 2004.

Todd Royster

We are sad to report the passing of **Sir Todd Royster**, who was inducted into Sir 171 in January 2018. He passed away on November 24 and was 83 years old.

Todd was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and his dad was a Marine on Iwo Jima. He attended Henry Ford College and then completed studies at the University of New Mexico. He was later assigned to the Army Security Agency to work alongside the NSA in Germany. After completing his service Todd moved to Hollywood. He thought of a career in the CIA, but got a job as an insurance investigator. Then took a position as District Marketing Manager for an insurance company, which required a transfer to the Bay Area. He moved to Berkeley and later to Orinda. Todd is survived by his wife Nancy.

Branch 174

No reports this month

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 keep our members connected. 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.

BRANCH 171 NEWSLETTER: Editor **STAN HOLCENBERG**. The deadline for receipt of Newsletter material by the Editor is the 15th of the month. E-mail to sir171-news@comcast.net is preferred.

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

BRANCH ACTIVITIES (BRANCHES 171 & 174)

As per communications we all have received from SIR State and SIR 171 Officers, there are no SIR in-person activities at this time. Specifically, the following was in the Nov 9 message from State Sir President Ed Benson – *“It is, therefore, the directive of the SIR Executive Committee, based upon the current California Department of Public Health requirements, that there will be no in-person SIR-sponsored meetings, luncheons, or events of any kind until further direction is received from SIR State Executive leadership.”*

There are some activities that are conducting Zoom meetings (e.g. the Computer & Technology, Apple User Group, and Fishing groups), which are a very effective way to gather, share information, and to enjoy some camaraderie with fellow members.

For activities you have been a part of, whether or not it is an in-person group, why not meet via Zoom to catch up and chat. It is great to see friendly faces and chat. Why not contact the activity chairs and suggest they get something going. Or set up such a meeting yourself !!

ACTIVITY LIST

Apple Users Group	Stan Holcenberg
Astronomy	Tom Farr (174)
Barbershop Harmony	Brad Dewey
Bocce Ball	Steve Patton
Book Club	Bob Krompholz Al Dessayer
Bowling	(open)
Bridge – Social	John Schick
Bridge – ACBL Duplicate	Tom Henry (174)
Computers & Technology	Dick Curry
Couples Dining Out	Sam Zorich
Dominos	Tom Westhoff
Fishing	Karl Droese
Golf – 18 Holes	Gene Bell
Golf – 9 Holer	Tim Freeman
Historical Adventures	Jim Kline Ken Fischer
Investment Group	Tom Henry (174)
Poker	Bill Wiegman (174)
Stamp Club	Larry Beans
Table Pool	Steve Patton
Tennis	Ralph Thornicroft (174)
Travel	Joe Tracy (174)
Walking – Original Group	Al Donner
Walking – Senior Strollers	John Schick
Wine Tasting	Gene Bell