



SIR BRANCH 171 February 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, Feb. 3, at 10:00am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Branch 171 Zoom Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, February 3 at 10:00am

We have another excellent speaker program lined up !!

BIG SIR MESSAGE: GRAIG CROSSLEY

Hello Fellow Sirs,

I trust this message finds you healthy and active. Many of last year's challenges continue into the new year. I anticipate an increase of small group activities in the coming months. Our regular monthly lunches are still much further into the year.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the activities that have gotten us as individuals through the last 10 months. For me it was my trees. Some of us in the club have bonsai trees. Most of mine are merely trees in pots, but they require constant care. They are a constant in my life. A hobby of several decades. It started with me collecting acorns when as scoutmaster I was on overnight outings. And just grew. I worked mostly with seeds or seedlings because then I didn't want to kill a tree that someone had spent years / decades nurturing.

I would like to share interests from other members over the next months. Have a good rest of the month and see you February 3, for our next general 'Zoom' meeting.

Graig Crossley, Big SIR 2021



LITTLE SIR REPORT: aka SPEAKER PROGRAM

Your name could be here. Just contact a member of the BEC !!

Yes, we are awaiting someone to step up to the Little SIR plate and give the club a boost as we hopefully begin to get back to our regular regimen later in the year.

Regarding speakers --- The Club Meetings Committee, headed by Tim Freeman, has been hard at work identifying and lining up Programs and speakers for our monthly meetings. And wasn't Dr. Michael Baker's talk on "The Future of Warfare" fabulous last month? Fantastic feedback from so many of you.

SPEAKER PROGRAM – FEBRUARY 3 – 10:00am

Interested in how we can all create a cleaner and healthier Contra Costa for the future?

Interested in what you, your family, and friends can do NOW to create a better environment?

Interested to know how the Town of Moraga has embraced a “Sustainable Moraga Challenge” to focus on this arena?

We hope that you do.

Make sure you attend our Branch 171 meeting on February 3rd to find out what is going on locally in this very important arena. The program topic will be:

“Sustainable Contra Costa”

We encourage you to invite your spouse or significant other to attend. Also, consider inviting a prospective member guest.

Zoom link for the Feb. 3 10:00am meeting --

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84331198201>

[Sustainable Contra Costa](#) (Sustainable CoCo) is a local nonprofit organization that works to promote sustainable living practices with innovative programs and community outreach.

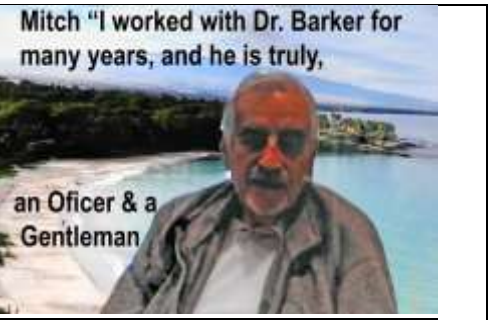
Karen Rosenberg, Director of Sustainable Contra Costa's youth team, will share how the team educates fellow youth on how to live a more sustainable lifestyle and encourage cleaner living in our communities.

Colleen Noland, Community Organizer, will share a free online platform called the [Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge](#).

The Challenge allows households to measure their carbon footprint and take sustainable actions with others. By taking the Challenge, we can save money, water, and energy in the home, while also fighting climate change!



JANUARY MEETING PHOTOS -- by club photographer Russ Aubry (*with lots of intended typos*)



Featured Photo of the Month



Rick Fend may not be our Big SIR anymore, but his humor is still with us.

Photo submitted by Rick.

Can't figure out which person is Rick, however.

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.

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to the January co-winners, Jim Reed & Jim Gibney. They will receive a free lunch once we return to in-person meetings (TBD).

The following members have their birthday in February and are eligible to win a free luncheon at a date TBD. You must attend the February 3 meeting to be eligible.

--- Gene Bell – Colin Crawford – Ed Drasin – Dan Flower – Wayne Hahn –

--- Jim Hardy – Paul Oley – Trank Tippett – Alan Gtraenkner – Bob Traynor – Francis Wong --

Please reply to sir171-news@comcast.net if your birthday is in Febreuary 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	1	Sid Meyers	
Deductions	1	Todd Royster	
Total, This Month:	140		
<u>APPROVALS THIS MONTH</u>			
	0		
<u>APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION</u>			
	0		
<u>APPLICANT LIST</u>			
	0		
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

DECEMBER 2020

Beginning Balance	\$4,588
Receipts	0
Disbursements	(75)
Ending	\$4,513

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

KNOW YOUR SIRs: RICH BELLOWS

No new bios this month

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

There are no reports this month

Branch 174

There are 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. However, the re-opening of some activities was a major subject at the recent SIR Leadership Summit and was discussed by SIR State President Stu Williams at the Fireside Chat on January 9.

Some activity groups are meeting via Zoom at this time. For those that are not, and especially for those that you have been a participant, meeting via Zoom is a great way to catch up and chat. Why not contact the Activity Chairs and suggest they get something going. Or set up a meeting yourself !! The Activity Chair contact information is on the SIR 171 Organization Chart.

The following activities are conducting Zoom meetings. Contact the Chair to receive the Zoom meeting link and to be included on their distribution list.

Apple User Group -- Stan Holcenberg (171) – sholcenb@icloud.com

Meets the first Monday of every other month. The next Zoom meeting is on Monday, Feb. 1, at 10:00. The Zoom meeting link will be shared with members approximately one week prior to the meeting.

This is a facilitated meeting with the members discussing: Recent product announcements; Information and perspective on new Apple product acquisitions; Rumors, buying decisions, tips, applications, and Issues in a roundtable format.

Novices and advanced users are welcomed. Come and be a part of the group. Please contact Stan to be added the Apple User Group distribution list.

Computers & Technology – Neal Schmidt (Area 16) – np_schmidt@pacbell.net

Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month (except June & December) and are currently held via the Zoom platform. The next meeting of the SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology Group will be on Thursday, February 18 at 9:30am. The Zoom "doors" open at 9:15 AM so members come a little early to chat with other members.

The February 18 presentation will be "Do-It-Yourself ("DYI") Home Security Systems". Most security devices are now wireless and easy to install. As a result, there are now several DYI security systems available that can be customized for your house, ordered online and self-installed. The presentation will discuss various security system options and some of the top rated DYI systems.

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

Fishing – Karl Droese (171) – kdroese@comcast.net

There are currently no SIR sponsored in-person outings of the Fishing Group.

Please note that the group will be holding a Zoom meeting on Thursday, February 25, beginning at 8:30am. Please check with Karl for information on the group and for the meeting ID and password.

Investment Group (\$Sums in Retirement) – Tom Henry (174) – tomh925@icloud.com

\$UMS has been meeting via Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm. This month the group will be participating again with Branch 128 (San Ramon). At this meeting the group will discuss what the "experts" are recommending as investments for 2021 including specific stocks, Sectors, ETFs, and Mutual Funds.

In the round robin, each attendee will be asked to "recommend" at least one specific stock, Sector, ETF, or Mutual Fund to be tracked by the Investment Group during 2021. At the April, July, and October the group will report on the performance of these "recommendations".