



SIR BRANCH 171

March 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, March 3, at 10:00am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Branch 171 Zoom Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, March 3 at 10:00am

A timely and excellent speaker program !!

BIG SIR MESSAGE: GRAIG CROSSLEY

Hello Fellow Sir Members,

I hope this message finds you in good health and good spirits.

Hopefully you have already started to protect yourselves by getting at least the first COVID-19 shot. The Sir organization recently sent out a survey relating to vaccinations. Please take the time to respond.



Of interest to many members is the organization's apparent loosening related to outdoor activities. Golf and walking were approved by your Board at the last BEC meeting and State Sir has waived the 30-day waiting requirement. So, go for it.

The next BEC meeting will cover other outdoor activities, for which I anticipate approval. State Sir does ask that *"all activities are conducted under written protocols in a strict compliance with all applicable State and Locally mandated mask, hand sanitizing, distancing requirements, and any other pertinent Health Related Requirements."*

Please stay healthy and remember what has kept you 'together' during this last year. Share some of your interests by replying to this newsletter mailing. I would like to include some in the next newsletter.

Don't miss the next Branch meeting on March 3. An excellent speaker and a very timely and relevant topic – *"Coronavirus Economics"* – a member of the Club Meetings Committee has heard the talk and indicates "it is not to me missed."

Graig Crossley, Big SIR 2021

SPEAKER PROGRAM – MARCH 3

The speaker will be Jon Haveman, Executive Director of the National Economic Education Delegation (NEED). The program will be:

“COVID-19: Economic Implications and Policy Response”

Topics include:

- What is the current state of “the economy”?
- What is the policy response in the U.S. to the pandemic?
- What have been the effects of the policy?
- What are the risks to recovery?
- Is progress equitable?

The Zoom link for the March 3 meeting at 10:00am --

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82727571497>

Jon Haveman is a noted California economist, where he has been practicing since 2001. He has a reputation for providing audiences with economic information that is readily useful in their work and private lives.

Prior to starting the National Economic Education Delegation (NEED), Jon was a principal at Marin Economic Consulting, a founding principal at Beacon Economics and the Director of the Economy Program at the Public Policy Institute of California. He has been a Senior Economist with the President's Council of Economic Advisers, an Economist with the Federal Trade Commission, and held a faculty position in the Business School at Purdue University.

Dr. Haveman is an expert on economic policy issues and speaks regularly at events across California. His more than 400 talks have covered a wide range of policy topics as well as addressing the state of the U.S., California, and Bay Area economies.

Dr. Haveman holds a Ph.D and Master of Science in Economics from The University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Wisconsin.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

UCSF Sir Survey

Barry Leskin, 2018 Big Sir, initiated a partnership with the University of California San Francisco that focused on improving the “Experience of Aging.” The partnership included a presentation to our membership in January 2018, subsequent meetings with members of the Sir State Leadership team, and a survey of Sir members to further understand the factors that relate to the health of senior men.

In September 2020 we were requested to participate in a second survey, this time with a Covid focus and other elements. The results of that survey, including a video link to a presentation of the results, are contained on page 14 of the February Edition of the “Sir Happenings” newsletter. Here is a link to that document -- <http://bit.ly/SirHappenings-Feb2021>

Sustainable Contra Costa

We had an excellent presentation at our February 3 Branch Meeting on Sustainable Contra Costa (www.sustainablecoco.org), an organization that focuses on ways we can improve our lives while saving money and helping to fight climate change. Two Challenges offer ways to do this:

- [Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge](http://www.cleanercontracosta.org) (www.cleanercontracosta.org) — Anyone in the County can create a household account, measure their household carbon footprint, and help the environment by saving resources in the home! Use this site if you want to form a team with friends.
- [Sustainable Moraga Challenge](http://www.cleanersontracosta.org/moraga) (www.cleanersontracosta.org/moraga) — This is part of the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge allows residents in Moraga to see the impact they are having together as a Town. Sign up to be part of this program supported by the Town of Moraga.

SIR Member Roster

Each year John Schick creates a Sir 171 member roster with contact information. There are two ways to obtain the roster:

- Request a copy from John Schick -- jschick@att.net
- Download it from the password-protected member area of the website. We have provided this capability in the past, but if you need an access refresher, here it is:
 - Access the Sir 171 website – www.sirinc2.org/branch171/
 - Select “Members” from the top bar and then select “Member Site”
 - Enter the access password and select “enter”
 - Select “SIR 171 Roster”
 - Download or Print via the icons at the upper right
 - **NOTE:** If you have forgotten the password, select “Password Request” from the “Members” popdown and submit your request. You typically will get a reply within 24 hours.

Take a look at the SIR website if you haven't browsed it recently. Webmaster Tom Lemmer has done an outstanding job creating it and keeping it current. Send the link (www.sirinc2.org/branch171/) to some prospective members so they can find out what we are all about.

While you are in the member area of the website, take a look at the other documents that are there, including the "Know Your SIR" bios provided by most of our members when they joined 171.

Featured Photo, Joke, or Posting of the Month



Another excellent item submitted by previous Big SIR Rick Fend.

Please send in a photo, joke, or other posting that you would like to have considered for inclusion in this 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 if it is a photo. Cell phones work great, and also simplify mailing the photo.

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to the February winner, Ed Drasin. He will receive a free lunch once we return to in-person meetings (TBD).

The following members have their birthday in March and are eligible to win a free luncheon at a date TBD. A short list for this month, so great chance to win that lunch. You must attend the March 3 meeting to be eligible.

--- Laszlo Bonnyay – Brad Dewey – Steve Patton – Steve Wright – David Zeimer --

Please reply to sir171-news@comcast.net if your birthday is in March 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:	<u>140</u>
<u>APPROVALS TODAY</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

JANUARY 2021

Beginning Balance	\$4,513
Receipts	0
Disbursements	0
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 (MARK MAHONEY)

SIR Jack Helm passed away on January 22, 2021. He was 88 years old and was born on Christmas Day, 1933 in Oakland, CA. He was inducted into SIR in March 2015 and resigned his membership in October of last year due to failing health. His wife, Julie, predeceased him by just 8 weeks. Jack received a MBA from UC Berkeley's Haas Business School and worked in various information technology and finance positions, retiring from PG&E as a Corporate Financial Manager in 1987.

From Eric -- I hope by this time most of our members would have received at least the first dose of your Covid vaccine shot and perhaps some had both shots already. From some reading, and the nurse who gave me my shot, my understanding is that there may be more of a reaction from the second shot. Being hydrated right before and right after getting the shot as well as exercising the arm that received the shot may make the side effect a little less severe. I am sharing this information just as a resource but not as a medical advice. Wishing all our members to continue to stay healthy and positive!

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 (February 2021) -- click on the following link, or cut and paste the link into your browser to view -- <http://bit.ly/SirHappenings-Feb2021> 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 recent SIR State guidelines, outdoor activities may open if approved by the Branch BEC and the group follows the necessary SIR Covid protocols – *“all activities are conducted under written protocols in a strict compliance with all applicable State and Locally mandated mask, hand sanitizing, distancing requirements, and any other pertinent Health Related Requirements.”*

Two outdoor activities, Golf and Walking, were approved by the Sir 171 BEC at the Feb. 3 Board meeting. Other outdoor activities will be discussed at the next BEC meeting on March 3.

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 such a meeting yourself !!

Branch 171 Activity Chair

The branch Activity Chair is a focal point for the Branch activity-related matters. The Branch 171 Activity Chair is **DAVID ZEIMER** (dzeimer12@gmail.com). The Sir 174 Activity Chair is Tom Farr (ruskfarr@pacbell.net).

Branch 171 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

Wine Tasting

Astronomy

Bocce Ball

Bowling

Bridge – ACBL Duplicate

Couples Dining Out

Fishing (also meeting via Zoom)

Golf – 9 Holer

Investment Group

Poker

Table Pool

Travel

Walking – Senior Strollers

Activities in **Green** have been approved by the BEC for re-opening. Approved Covid protocols need to be followed.

Activities in **Orange** are available for re-opening; BEC approval required.

Activities in **Blue** are meeting via Zoom.

The following outdoor activities have been approved for re-opening:

GOLF – 18 HOLES: **GENE BELL** (Br. 171) gdbell1@comcast.net
ED MC BRIDE (Br. 174) edwardmcbride@aol.com

Sirs Golf is up and running again! There is a great combination of members from Branch 171 and Branch 174. The group has 24 tournaments scheduled for this year.

The group played their first tournament on Monday February 15 at Paradise Valley in Fairfield. The golf Gods were looking down on the group and the rain stopped so they had an enjoyable day. The group enjoyed being with each other after being quarantined due to the virus.

Plans for March include *Chardonnay on March 1st, Metropolitan on March 15th, and Callippe on March 29th.* Sign up for emailings by emailing 1wadsy@gmail.com or roneleiker@gmail.com.

GOLF – 9 – HOLER: **TIM FREEMAN** (BR. 171) – timfre@comcast.net

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. Contact Tim if you would like to be added to the interested party list.

WALKING – ORIGINAL GROUP: **AL DONNER** (Br. 171) aajdonner@gmail.com
STEVE BEHNKE (Br. 174) stevebehnke@icloud.com

Branch 174 is currently taking the lead on this activity, which usually is a Tuesday morning walk. Branch 171 members are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Contact Steve Behnke or Al Donner for information on participating in the walks and also to get on the mailing list that includes a weekly notice of the upcoming Tuesday walk.

WALKING – SENIOR SROLLERS: **JOHN SCHICK** (Br. 171) jschick@att.net

The Br. 171 and 174 Strollers Walking Group welcomes new members for whom the regular walking group agenda has become a bit strenuous. Their walks are limited to about one-half mile (one mile optional) on a flat, paved surface, at a leisurely pace geared to the ability and limitations of the participants. The strolls give the group the opportunity to get exercise, get some fresh air, and to socialize, yet while continuing to observe all the prescribed COVID precautions.

The group meets on Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m. in front of Si-Si's coffee shop on Country Club Drive in Moraga. If you are interested, please call John Schick, 925-376-9412 or contact at jschick@att.net

The following activity has filed a request for re-opening and will be discussed at the March 3 BEC meeting. We anticipate the other outdoors activities will be also be discussed at the meeting.

FISHING – KARL DROESE (Br.171) – kdroeese@comcast.net

Conditioned on Branch BEC approval, and subject to specified COVID 19 protocols, the Area 16 fishing group plans to resume fishing activities in March, The group will continue to hold their monthly meetings by Zoom. The next scheduled meeting is [Thursday, March 25th at 8:30 a.m.](#)

Please invoke the following link or cut and paste into your Internet browser to attend the Zoom meeting: –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75904874920?pwd=Y1E4V2ptWm9BY3dBNEhPR1JxQUVWQT09>

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 (Br. 171) – sholcenb@icloud.com

Meets the first Monday of every other month. The next Zoom meeting is on [Monday, April 5, at 10:00](#). 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; Sharing Information and perspective on new Apple product acquisitions; Conducting a roundtable covering rumors, buying decisions, tips, applications, and Issues.

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, March 18 at 9:30am](#). The Zoom "doors" open at 9:15 AM so members come a little early to chat with other members.

Ensure you have subscribed to the CAT mailing list (see next paragraph) to receive information about the March 18 meeting, the speaker programs, and other pertinent information.

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 Computer 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 (Br.171) – kdroese@comcast.net

The next meeting will be on [Thursday, March 25, at 8:30am](#). Please invoke the following link or cut and paste into your Internet browser to attend the Zoom meeting: –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75904874920?pwd=Y1E4V2ptWm9BY3dBNEhPR1JxQUVWQT09>

INVESTMENT GROUP (\$Sums in Retirement) – **TOM HENRY** (Br.174) – tomh925@icloud.com **DAVE SUTTON** (Br. 8) -- davesutn@comcast.net

[February 24 at 1:30.](#)

At this meeting SIR members will share their screen and show how they interact with various Web sites to either educate themselves or to make selections for investing.

Sites may include: Schwab; Fidelity; Preferred Stocks; IBD; CEF Connect; VectorVest

CONTACT DAVE FOR ZOOM LINK

[March 24 at 1:30.](#)

The group will again join Branch 128 (San Ramon). The discussion will be about the make up of Model Portfolios based on Risk Tolerance and Investing Objectives (external speaker being considered).

Contact Dave Sutton if you wish to be added to the email list.

OTHER ACTIVITY NEWS

ASTRONOMY

Due to the current health situation, the group is unable to have their Astronomy activity meeting in person. Thus, some information is provided in the interim for all those Astronomy persons out there:

The following information was provided by **TOM FARR**, Branch 174 Astronomy Activity Chair, and includes what Astronomy Magazine listed for its top ten space stories of 2020. They are:

1. Missions to Mars
2. Astronomers spy phosphine on Venus.
3. The Milky Way does the wave
4. First midsize black hole detected
5. A triple comet surprise
6. Crew Dragon ferries astronauts, a first
7. Solar science enters a golden age
8. Betelgeuse blows its nose in our direction
9. Mars and Venus are geologically active
10. Earliest galaxy group found

The first one, Missions to Mars, had a major milestone last week. The United Arab Emirates orbiter al-Amal (meaning “Hope”), China’s Tianwen-1 (meaning “Heavenly Questions”), and NASA’s Perseverance all completed their flights that originated last summer.

Check the member link at <https://www.sirbr8.com/astronomy/> for links and articles of astronomical interest.