



SIR BRANCH 171

April 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, **April 7**, at 10:00am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Branch 171 Zoom Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, April 7 at 10:00am

Great program – Take a Virtual Hike !!

BIG SIR MESSAGE: GRAIG CROSSLEY

Hello Fellow Sirs,

It's been a year plus since entering the Covid-19 experience. There is, as they say, light at the end of this tunnel. June appears to be the Sirs immunity target ("Immune by June"). I'm sure many of us have already received our first shot if not received both.



I will call for a show of 'hands' during our April 7 general meeting to see how many of us have the vaccinations. If you will not be joining us on April 7, please send an email to sir171-news@comcast.net with your shot status. Once we reach a critical mass and appropriate Health Dept. go ahead, we will start the process to schedule in person monthly meetings.

And congratulations to our newest BEC Directors, Steve Patton and David Zeimer, who were unanimously approved at the last BEC meeting and then at the General Membership meeting. Also, Fishing was approved for re-opening at the BEC meeting.

Stay healthy and well,

Graig Crossley, 2021 Big SIR

SPEAKER PROGRAM – April 7 at 10:00

Mark your calendars – here is the Zoom link -- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89912006935>

Our speaker will be **Scott Williams**, world-class international hiker, who will share his knowledge and experiences from hiking scenic trails around the world.

Scott has the distinction of completing the "*Triple Crown*" of trail hikes, including the Pacific Crest (2,650 miles), Continental Divide (3,100 miles) and Appalachian (2,200 miles).

In his talk Scott will share hiking experiences on the Pacific Crest Trail, the Israeli National Trail, as well as hiking in Madagascar and New Zealand. He will also offer some practical tips for hiking in the Bay Area.

Join us for some wonderful visuals and a virtual hiking experience from the comfort of your home.



BIRTHDAY DRAWING AT APRIL MEETING

Congratulations to Steve Patton, our March winner. Steve will receive a free lunch once we return to in-person meetings (TBD).

The following members have their birthday in April and are eligible to win a free luncheon at a date TBD. You must attend the April 7 meeting to be eligible.

--- Bill Ausfahl --- Larry Beans --- Rich Bellows --- Eric Cho --- Clay Claassen ---

--- Jim Countryman --- Karl Droese --- Tim Freeman --- Peter Hanelt ---

--- Richard James --- Barry Leskin --- Rob Olsen --- Clark Vilas ---

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

PHOTOS of the Month



Our Current Leader



Our leader from a LONG LONG time ago !



YOUR Board in Action



**March Meeting Speaker –
Geoffrey Woglom, Professor
Emeritus
Amherst College**

“Coronavirus Economics”

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> | |
| | 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

FEBRUARY 2021

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Beginning Balance | \$4,513 |
| Receipts | 0 |
| Disbursements | 44 |
| Ending | \$4,469 |

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

We are sad to report the passing of **SIR Charlie Kezerian** on February 21. Charlie joined SIR 171 in 2001 and was an active member at the time of his passing at the age of 94. Services were private.

The obituary from the Lamorinda Weekly is available via the following link -- <http://bit.ly/CharlieKezerian>

Branch 174 (MARK MAHONEY)

There are no reports this month

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.*”

Walking and golf were approved earlier. Fishing was approved by the BEC at the March 3 Board meeting. Other outdoor activities will be discussed at the next BEC meeting on April 7.

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 Chairman

The branch Activity Chairman is a focal point for the Branch activity-related matters. The Branch 171 Activity Chairman 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:

FISHING – KARL DROESE (Br.171) – kdroeese@comcast.net 925-376-0468
Ron Lew (Area 16)



All SIR members and guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in fishing trips and attend the monthly meetings. Depending on COVID protocols, our next meeting will be [Thursday, April 22](#), either by Zoom conference call or at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, 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.

Activities: The Fishing Group is resuming fishing activities according to protocols approved by Branch BECs. Members have been catching nice sized trout at San Pablo Reservoir; the Spring run of striped bass has started with most of the fishing being done on the San Joaquin side of the Delta; sturgeon are spread throughout the Delta and black bass fishing is turning on; Halibut have returned to San Francisco bay and members are already scheduling trips. Prospects are good for another successful year.

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.

From 174 Golf Chair Ed McBride – The group played at Metropolitan in Oakland Monday, March 16. 18 showed up. It was the worst conditions 174 golf chair Ed McBride has ever played in. Howling and cold winds. Many realized that they could not hit into the wind and used irons to punch the ball forward! Balls on the greens often were blown by the wind. Half the golfers had scores north of 100. It was an adventure!

Remaining plan for March includes *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 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.

BOOK CLUB – BOB KROMPHOLZ (Br. 171) – rakrompholz@gmail.com

The SIR Branch 171 book club is in its fifth year. The group has reviewed one book selection each month. Each member recommends a book he has read and enjoyed and it is added to the selection list and scheduled for a month the group will meet and review the book. The host who recommended it leads the review discussions. The group tends to enjoy historical non-fiction, but is open to a wide variety of books.

The past year's reviews have been done remotely using Zoom, but the group is looking forward to meeting again in person at the host's home. The book reviews are scheduled on the [last Wednesday evening of the month at 7- 8pm](#).

There are currently nine active members and would like to add another two or three new members. If you are interested in joining the group please call Bob Krompholz at 925-528-9937 or email rakrompholz@gmail.com

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY – NEAL SCHMIDT (Area 16) – np_schmidt@pacbell.net

The SIR Area 16 [Computer & Technology Group](#) will not be having a meeting in March because they have had difficulty finding volunteers to lead discussions.

A person does not need to be an expert on a subject to be a presenter. They just have to do some research and report their findings to the group. If you are willing to volunteer presenter, send an email to: SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com

When meeting those meetings are on the third Thursday of each month (except June & December) and are currently held via the Zoom platform. The meetings are 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

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

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

There will be a guest speaker from LPL Financial Services who will demonstrate Riskalyze and how it can be used in evaluating and compiling or recomposing portfolio components. He will also discuss: The makeup of Model Portfolios based on Risk Tolerance and Investing Objectives -- what is the difference between strategic, tactical, balanced, alternative INVESTING -- what is meant by very aggressive, aggressive, growth, growth with income, moderately conservative, conservative

Doug Beck will discuss a Vanguard Model. John Noll will comment on Ken Fisher's approach. Fidelity's models will also be examined.

Contact Dave Sutton if you wish to be added to the email list and to receive the Zoom links for the meetings.

[April 28 at 1:30](#)

The group will again join Branch 128 (San Ramon) for their 4th Wed, April 28, Zoom meeting at 1:30 PM. Topic to be announced.

OTHER ACTIVITY NEWS

ASTRONOMY **TOM FARR** (Br. 174) 283-1561 ruskfarr@pacbell.net,
Larry Lange, Co-Chairman rllange@comcast.net.

Due to the current health situation, the group is unable to have their Astronomy activity meeting in person. See Larry Lange's Astronomy comments in Branch's 8 monthly newsletter. In addition, please check out the Astronomy member link at <https://www.sirbr8.com/astrometry/> for other links and articles of astronomical interest.