



SIR BRANCH 171 May 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, May 5, at 10:00am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Branch 171 Zoom Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, May 5 at 10:00am

BIG SIR MESSAGE: GRAIG CROSSLEY

Hello Fellow Sirs.

I hope this message finds you in good health.

We are over a year now without an in person meeting. I want you to know that the BEC is discussing when and how that might happen and we will keep you apprised. Please let me know (stumps@crossley.zone) if you have suggestions or comments on re-opening.

Our planning includes following the State and County guidelines and protocols for meeting in person. Having vaccines is very important and I was extremely pleased at the very positive response on that topic by a show of hands at our last Branch meeting. Thank you.

We will be conducting elections at our August meeting for the 2022 Officer and Director team. The BEC will build a slate at our July meeting. **It is not too soon to consider stepping up to the plate to serve help our Branch as we get into a post-Covid operation.** Please strongly consider a position on the team. Contact me (stumps@crossley.zone) or our Nominations Chair Rick Fend (rickfend@yahoo.com) with your interest in any position. In particular the following are vital to the strength and successful continuity of our club:

- Little SIR. This is an elected position. The Little SIR heads the speaker committee and is in-waiting to become the Big SIR the following year.
- Branch Secretary. This is an elected position. Our current Secretary, Mike Donovan, will be leaving this role at the end of the year.
- Recruiting Chairman. This is an assigned position. Very important as we focus on growing our membership. Vital to our future.

Just recently I was accused of getting 'older' for having more frequently expressing a concern for the 'health and safety' of others over our continuing COVID concerns. I will continue to express my concern because we are the prime target for this virus. So please, even with the shots, continue safe practices. The shots are not 100%.

Thank you and stay healthy.

Graig Crossley, 2021 Big SIR



SPEAKER PROGRAM – Wednesday, May 5 at 10:00

Mark your calendars – Zoom link will be sent in a subsequent email.

We are extremely fortunate to have the very popular and extremely entertaining **Spencer Christian** speak to us again. He spoke to our group in 2016 and gave a wonderful talk about his background, some celebrity interviews, the weather business, and had a few jokes.

At the upcoming meeting he will share some life and career stories and will focus on another hugely important chapter of his life to reveal. He will review a book/memoir that was published 3 years ago, which describes in vivid detail his 30-year gambling addiction. He will explain how he got hooked, how he maintained his demanding career and a healthy family life while struggling with his addiction, and how he recovered. The topic:

“You Bet Your Life -- How I Survived Jim Crow Racism, Hurricane Chasing, and Gambling.”

This is the name of his book. It is available on Amazon and on Barnes and Noble, so you may want to get the book beforehand.

Spencer Christian is an Emmy Award-winning reporter best known for his thirteen years on Good Morning America where he covered the national weather reports in addition to traveling throughout the United States and abroad reporting on a wide range of topics. Since January 1999 he has been the weather forecaster on San Francisco’s ABC7 News team.

His career has spanned 50 years and he always has stories to share about his most memorable assignments and the fascinating people he’s met and interviewed. He’s interviewed six Presidents; the most prominent figures in sports, world affairs, and the arts; and ordinary people who have done extraordinary things. He also emceed Former President Jimmy Carter’s 75th and 95th birthday celebrations. And he has suited up to play spring training ball with the Yankees and Mets and played basketball against the Globetrotters at Madison Square Garden.



BIRTHDAY DRAWING AT MAY MEETING

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

The following members have their birthday in May and are eligible to win a free luncheon at a date TBD. You must attend the May 5 meeting to be eligible.

--- Richard Carmel --- Bill Cooper --- Al Gertmenian ---

--- Rich Kehoe --- Ken Nakashima --- Fred Patton --- Rich Tietz ---

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

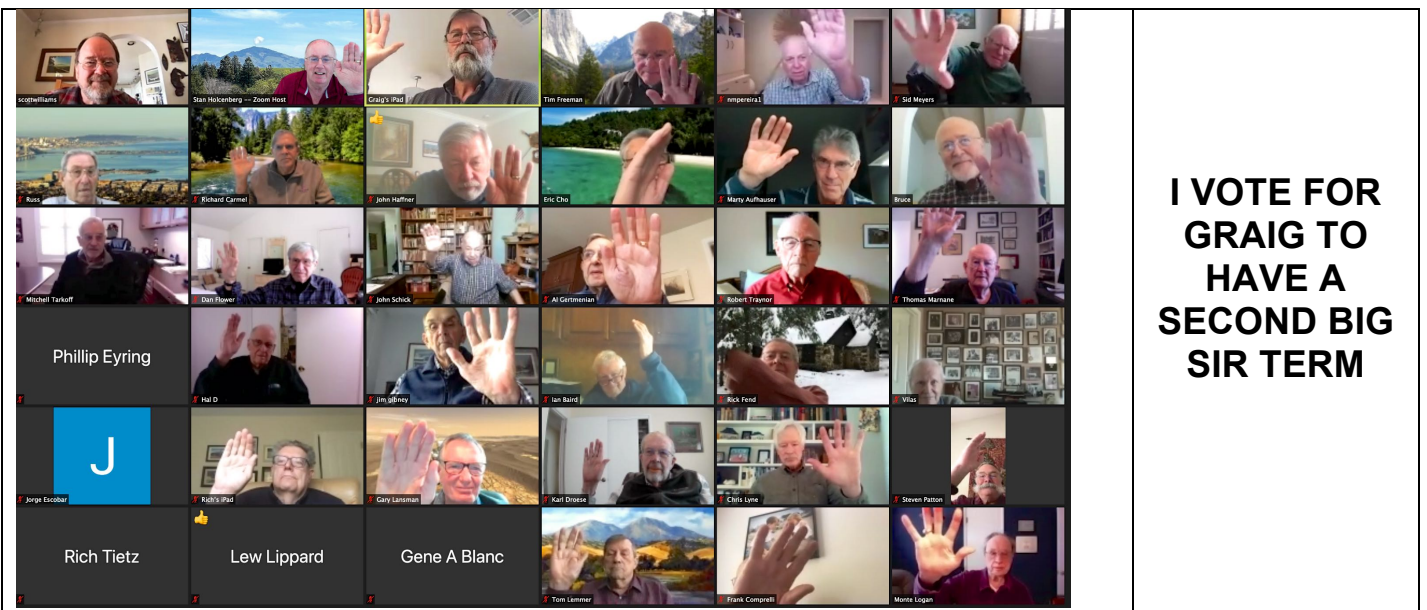
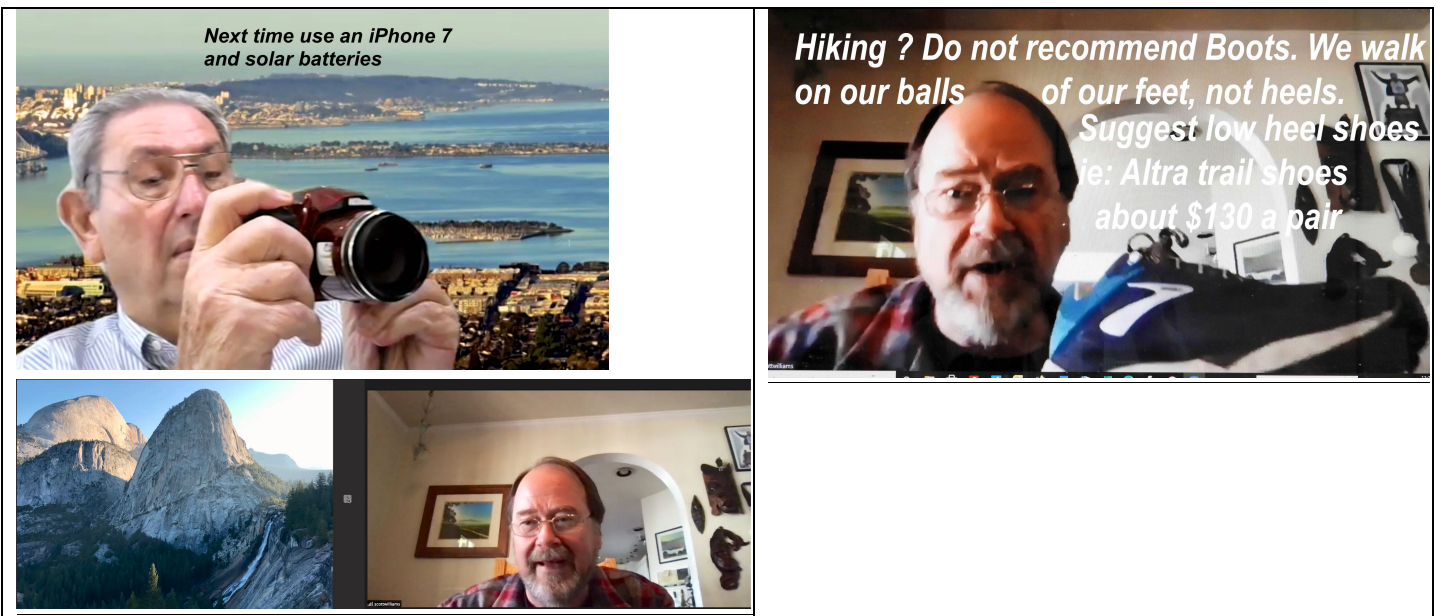
PHOTO of the Month



Mike Donovan's
"almost eagle" on
the first hole at
Diablo Hills

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.

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



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	1 Charlie Kezerian #105, deceased
Total, This Month:	139
<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

MARCH 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

There are no reports this month. Good wishes that everyone stays healthy.

Branch 174 (MARK MAHONEY)

We are sad to report the passing of **Nick Biondi**. Nick joined SIR Branch 171 in April of 2007. He transferred to Branch 174 when it formed and was a charter member. Nick transferred to Inactive status in June 2014. Nick's son, Matt is a (eight time) gold medal Olympic swimming champion. Nick leaves behind his wife, Lucille, and two children among others.

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 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, golf, and fishing were approved earlier. Bocce was approved by the BEC at the April 7 Board meeting.

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, May 27**, 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 baitfish, 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: Karl Droese, Ken Fischer, and 4 other SIR fishing club members fished the Delta for several striped bass. The Spring run is on and stripers are spread throughout the Delta while the sturgeon and black bass bite has also improved. The halibut season is off to a good start in the Bay and continues to improve weekly. The rockfish and lingcod seasons commenced on April 1 and party boats have been averaging rockfish limits (10) plus a lingcod per rod. Members are enthusiastically waiting for the salmon season which is tentatively scheduled to open on June 26.

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 just started their quest for a Club Champion. It is double elimination match play. 18 players are participating. There has been a strong interest in the tournaments.

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.

BOCCE: **STEVE PATTON** (BR. 171) -- steven_patton@hotmail.com
ED PROTIVA (BR. 174) -- edprotiva1@comcast.net

BOCCE PLAY HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR RE-OPENING
Target start date is July 15

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 STROLLERS: **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. HOWEVER, the next meeting will be on the third Monday in June – **Monday, June 21 at 10:00**. The date has been moved from June 7 (first Monday of every other month) in order to discuss what transpires at the June 7 - 11 Apple World Wide Developer's Conference (WWDC21). 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**.

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 next Zoom SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group meeting will be **Thursday, May 20th starting at 9:30 AM.***

The guest speaker on May 20th will be Chuck Joyce from Branch 8. Chuck was an editor in San Francisco television. He started his career as a film editor at KRON (then, a NBC affiliate). He ended his career 43 years later as a digital video editor at KGO (owned by ABC and Disney).

Chuck will introduce you to a creative production tool called “Chroma Key”. Your tv weather man stands in front of a blue or green screen. Then, electronically, the technical crew can place ANYTHING behind him. Voila! Now you can set up a green screen in your home and use these images in your own productions.

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 May 20 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

The group will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their **Wednesday, April 28, Zoom meeting at 1:30 PM.**

The topic is Fixed Income Investing. Zoom instructions will be sent out later to those on the email list. Contact Dave Sutton to be included.

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

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/astronomy/> for other links and articles of astronomical interest.