



## SIR BRANCH 171

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Branch 171 Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 7 at 10:00am**

### **ACTING BIG SIR MESSAGE: STEVE PATTON**

Hello Fellow Sirs,

As I wrote in a recent email, we are looking for feedback from each of you so we can effectively plan our re-opening to in-person Branch meetings. We are currently negotiating with our venue and caterer to resume those in-person meetings and I thank those of you that have already replied to the survey.

If you have not submitted your survey feedback yet, the survey is included on the cover email to this newsletter mailing and should take you know more than a couple of minutes to complete. Then reply to the email address on this newsletter mailing ([sir171-news@comcast.net](mailto:sir171-news@comcast.net)). Thank you so much !!



**MORE IMPORTANTLY**, the livelihood of our branch DEPENDS on its leaders. **We need active participation as we emerge from the 'pandemic environment'**. We need fresh ideas on how we head back toward 'normal' and beyond to strengthen and improve our Branch. And we need to fill our BEC for 2022.

PLEASE consider stepping up to fill the BEC vacancies our long hiatus has produced. We are scheduled to conduct elections at our August meeting for the 2022 Officer and Director team. The BEC is scheduled build a slate at our July meeting on July 9. Please contact me ([steven\\_patton@hotmail.com](mailto:steven_patton@hotmail.com)) or Rick Fend ([rickfend@yahoo.com](mailto:rickfend@yahoo.com)) and let us know your interest in a BEC position. Also, let us know how you can help our Branch.

We are specifically looking for a Little SIR, Secretary, Asst. Secretary, and Asst. Treasurer. There will also be Director slots open as well. These positions don't require a significant time expenditure but filling them is ABSOLUTELY vital for the continued operation and future of our Branch. There are committees that require a refresh as well. More on that later.

**Steve Patton**  
**Acting Big SIR - Branch 171**

## **SPEAKER PROGRAM – Wednesday, July 7, at 10:00am**

**Mark your calendars now!** [Zoom link will be sent in a subsequent email.](#)

We will have a presentation on the Flying Tigers at the July 7 meeting. The speaker will be Moraga resident **Leslie Pfeifer**, who served three years as a Flying Tiger flight attendant and made over 75 trips to Vietnam during the war.

### **The Speaker Program – “The History of the Flying Tigers”**



The Flying Tigers were American fighter squadrons formed to defend the Republic of China against Japan during World War II. Leslie will speak on the history of the Flying Tigers and her experiences as a Vietnam War flight attendant on military charters taking troops to and from Vietnam in the 1960s.

Leslie is a Moraga resident. Here is an article about her that appeared in the March 31, 2021 issue of the Lamorinda Weekly -- <https://bit.ly/Sir-FlyingTiger>

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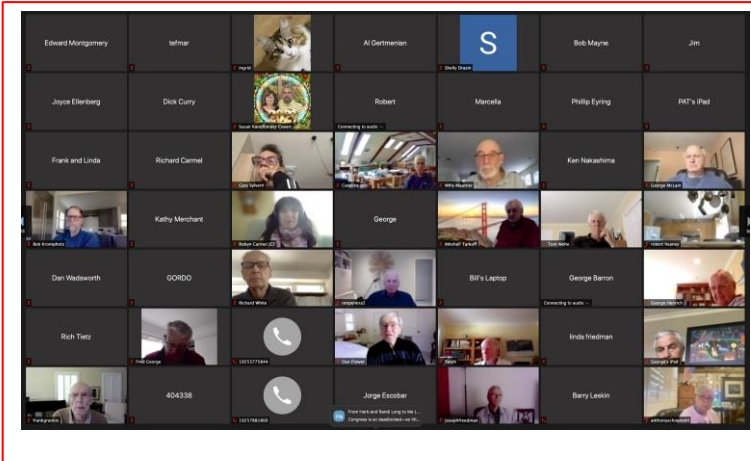
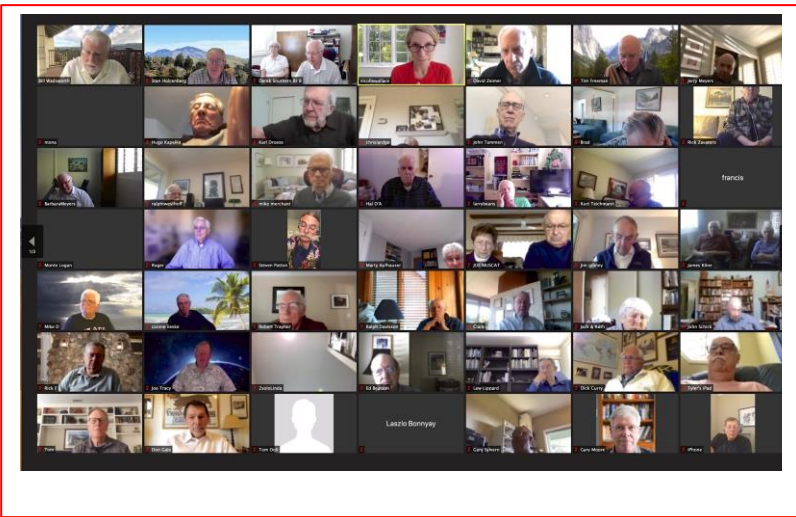
**JUNE PROGRAM:** We had an excellent turnout for our June meeting with Branch 174. Our guest speaker was MSNBC anchor Nicolle Wallace. Nicolle described her path from growing up in Orinda and graduating from Miramonte, to working for President George W. Bush and candidate John McCain, and then transitioning to the media side of politics.

We have had excellent feedback on the program and many requests for the video of the presentation. If you missed the program, and would like to see the video program, please send a request to [sir171-news@comcast.net](mailto:sir171-news@comcast.net)

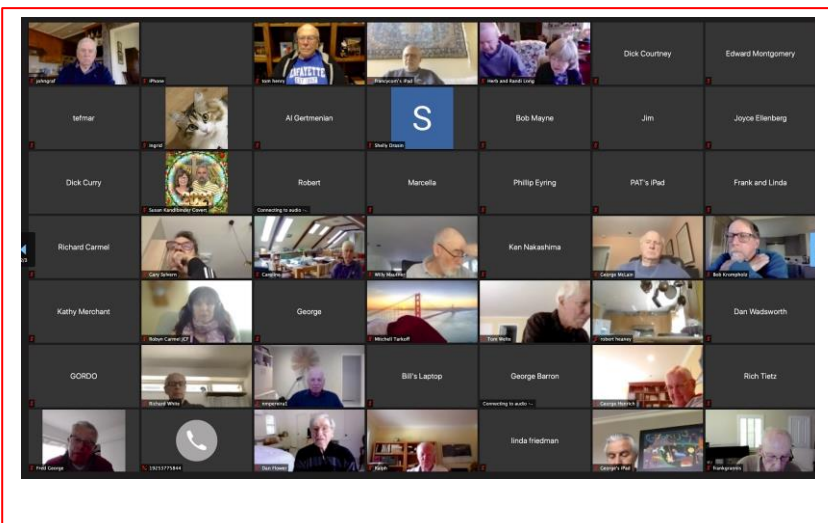
# JUNE MEETING PHOTOS



- Clockwise:
- Bill Wadsworth -- Br 174 Big SIR and meeting host
  - Stan Holcenberg – Br. 171 Program Meeting member
  - Nicolle Wallace – speaker
  - Derek Southern – SIR Zoom Chairman



**A GREAT TURNOUT  
OVER 100 ATTENDEES !!**



## **BIRTHDAY DRAWING**

There will be a drawing this month for both the June and July birthdays. The following members have their birthday in June and July and are eligible to win a free luncheon at a date TBD. You must attend the July meeting to be eligible.

June Birthdays:

- George Barron – Jerry Borrmann – Lew Edwards – Jack Flanagan –
- Dan Friedman – Bill Hughes – Bill Korn – Tom Lenz –
- Sid Meyers – Mack Riddle – Mike Rijavec – Tom Roberts –

July Birthdays:

- Russ Aubry – Rich Brosio – Bob Burnett – Jorge Escobar – Jim Fulford --
- Steeve Kinsey – Robert Sornsen – Reg Whittington – Gary Yancey --

Please reply to [sir171-news@comcast.net](mailto:sir171-news@comcast.net) if your birthday is in June or July and you do not see your name on the list.

## **BRANCH REPORTS**

### **ATTENDANCE REPORT: FRANCIS WONG**

Not a luncheon meeting. No formal report.

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### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT: ED DRASIN (Chair)**

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
Prior Month:	138
Inductees	0
Deductions	1 Larry Del Santo #88, deceased.
<b>Total, This Month:</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>APPROVALS</b>	
	0
<b>APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION</b>	
	0
<b>APPLICANT LIST</b>	
	0
<b>NOTES:</b>	<b>Total number of members in AR category is 10.</b>

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.

<p><b>NOTE:</b> 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.</p>
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## **TREASURER'S REPORT: BOB KROMPHOLZ**

### **MAY 2021**

Beginning Balance	\$4,469
Receipts	0
Disbursements	245
Ending	\$4,224

Please contact Bob if you would like additional details.

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## **KNOW YOUR SIRs: RICH BELLOWS**

***No new bios this month***

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***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](mailto:rich.bellows@gmail.com)). Please write down the salient points of your life (1/2 page).

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## **WELLNESS REPORT: ERIC CHO**

### **Branch 171**

It is sad to report the passing of **Sir Larry Del Santo**, who joined Branch 171 in June 2014. Larry's service will be held on Monday, June 28, at St. Ignatius Church in San Francisco (650 Parker Ave.) at 11:00 am with reception to follow. Larry's SIR biography, written in 2014, was sent to all members and can also be found in the "Know Your SIR" folder in the Member Site on the SIR 171 website.

### **Branch 174** (MARK MAHONEY)

There are no reports this month.

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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.

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**BRANCH 171 NEWSLETTER:** Editor **STAN HOLCENBERG**. The deadline for receipt of Newsletter material by the Editor is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. E-mail to [sir171-news@comcast.net](mailto:sir171-news@comcast.net) is preferred.

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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](mailto:HappeningsEditor@gmail.com)

## **BRANCH ACTIVITIES (BRANCHES 171 & 174)**

A number of our outdoor activities have been opened as per prior BEC approval of Covid protocols. These include Bocce, Fishing, Golf (18 Holer and 9 Holer), and Walking (Original and Senior Strollers). The approved Covid protocols need to be followed.

Other indoor activities are on hold. Some activity groups are meeting via Zoom.

The current SIR Reopening Protocol: With verification of being fully vaccinated and a signed waiver no mask is required for either indoor or outdoor participation in SIR activities.

If you have not done so, you will be asked to sign a waiver, and show your proof of vaccination card, when you participate in a SIR activity. This will be recorded and will then apply to other SIR activities.

See the individual activity reports below for the latest news on activities.

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### **Branch 171 Activity Chairman**

The branch Activity Chairman is a focal point for Branch activity-related matters. Those responsibilities include supporting the various chairmen of our branch activities, providing liaison with these chairmen and the Branch Executive Committee, and assisting in organizing new activities of interest to our Branch members. The Branch 171 Activity Chairman is **DAVID ZEIMER** ([dzeimer12@gmail.com](mailto:dzeimer12@gmail.com)). The Sir 174 Activity Chair is Tom Farr ([ruskfarr@pacbell.net](mailto:ruskfarr@pacbell.net)).

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### **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:**

**BOCCE:** STEVE PATTON (BR. 171) -- [steven\\_patton@hotmail.com](mailto:steven_patton@hotmail.com)  
ED PROTIVA (BR. 174) -- [edprotiva1@comcast.net](mailto:edprotiva1@comcast.net)

**Bocce is played every Tuesday and Friday. The group meets at 10 am**, just beyond the bandstand at the Moraga Commons, located at the corner of Moraga Road & St Mary's Rd (next to the bandstand). The cost is all of \$2; the game is really easy to learn and is great fun, including a lot of good chat. You can be a part of this great group of guys, and can play on either or both days.

The Bocce game consists of 4 players on each court, creating 2 teams of 2 members each. Each team has one player at each end of the court. It is quite easy to learn

**FISHING – KARL DROESE ( Br.171) – [kdroeese@comcast.net](mailto: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, July 22**, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, starting at 8:30 am. You can order breakfast and have it served in the meeting room.

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.

Fishing Report: Trout fishing at our local lakes is ending due to the warm water but several members were still able to catch a few nice-sized trout at San Pablo Reservoir this past month. Karl Droese and five other SIRs traveled to Don Pedro Lake where they caught a nice mix of rainbows and Kokanee (landlocked sockeye salmon). Other members caught trout and bass at Lakes Berryessa, Comanche, and Pinecrest. Six SIRs caught a mixture of halibut and striped bass from a party boat in the bay. Others caught rockfish from a private boat outside the Gate. Striped bass fishing in the Delta remains fair with successful catches for several members plus a bonus sturgeon.

Coming up: Our annual auction of member donated equipment will be held during our July meeting with lots of bargains. On our July fishing calendar, we have scheduled several salmon, halibut, striped bass, and rockfish trips in the Bay and ocean as well as a couple of black bass trips to the Delta. Also scheduled are pier fishing, a shark/potluck trip, and a 3-day outing for kokanee at Stampede Reservoir near Lake Tahoe.

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

Sirs Golf is up and running again! There is a great combination of members from Branch 171 and Branch 174. Br. 174 chair Ed McBride reports that the Club Championship continues and that there has been great participation regarding this event. **Outings in July include the following: July 5 (Monarch Bay in San Leandro); July 19 (Blue Rock Springs West in Vallejo).**

Sign up for emailings by emailing [1wadsy@gmail.com](mailto:1wadsy@gmail.com) or [roneleiker@gmail.com](mailto:roneleiker@gmail.com).

**GOLF – 9 – HOLER: TIM FREEMAN (BR. 171) – [timfre@comcast.net](mailto: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: OPEN (Br. 171)  
STEVE BEHNKE (Br. 174) [stevebehnke@icloud.com](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](mailto:jschick@att.net)

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***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](mailto:sholcenb@icloud.com)**

The group will continue having Zoom meetings rather than in-person meetings. The Zoom share screen venue is an excellent vehicle for the discussions and for sharing.

Although meetings are typically held bi-monthly on the 1st Monday of even number months, due to scheduling reasons the **next meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Monday, September 13.**

Each meeting is a facilitated meeting with members discussing recent announcements; sharing information and perspective on new Apple toys; and a general roundtable discussion on rumors and buying decisions, tips, applications, and Issues.

Novices and advanced users are welcomed. Come and be a part of the group.

Please contact Stan Holcenberg at [sholcenb@comcast.net](mailto:sholcenb@comcast.net) to be added to the Apple User Group distribution list. The Zoom meeting link will be shared with members approximately one week before the meeting.



**BOOK CLUB – BOB KROMPHOLZ** (Br. 171) – [rakrompholz@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rakrompholz@gmail.com)

**COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY – NEAL SCHMIDT** (Area 16) – [np\\_schmidt@pacbell.net](mailto:np_schmidt@pacbell.net)

**The SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology Group will not be meeting in July** because the group continues to have difficulty finding volunteers to lead a discussion. 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, send an email to: [SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com](mailto:SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com).

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Meetings are typically held 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](mailto:sir.area2.cat@gmail.com)

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

The group met on Wednesday, June 23. . The planned agenda included a discussion of market responses to the re-opening from Covid and reaction to Biden Initiatives.

**The next Zoom meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wed in July – the 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM.** Contact Dave Sutton with suggestions about the agenda.

Zoom instructions will be sent out later to those on the email list. Contact Dave Sutton to be included if you're not already.

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**OTHER ACTIVITY NEWS**

**ASTRONOMY** **TOM FARR** (Br. 174) 283-1561 [ruskfarr@pacbell.net](mailto:ruskfarr@pacbell.net),  
Larry Lange, Co-Chairman [rllange@comcast.net](mailto: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/astromy/> for other links and articles of astronomical interest.