



SIR BRANCH 171 September 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, **September 1**, at 10:00am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Branch 171 Zoom Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, September 1 at 10:00am

ACTING BIG SIR MESSAGE: STEVE PATTON

Hello Fellow Sirs,

I'm writing this from self-quarantine, having just returned from being tested for COVID. I'm vaccinated, as most all of us are now, I wear a mask when required to do so, and wash my hands or use sanitizer frequently, yet here I am.

It's a jarring reminder of the state of our lives today. I, along with everyone else, want to (and in my case DO) get out and enjoy the things we were deprived of during the past 18 months, but that appears to be the weakest link in the chain now. If for any reason you're feeling a little off, stay home. This thing spreads more easily now and, as before, may not display any symptoms right away.



Our September meeting will thus be via ZOOM. We'll reassess on a month-by-month basis, but proceed cautiously, as the health of the membership may literally be at risk.

Thanks for approving the slate of officers and Directors for 2022. We had a member step up for the Assistant Treasurer (thanks Rich Carmel !) and I'm still canvassing for the posts of Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Little Sir. Let us get those officer posts filled! I'm also looking for someone to take over the branch newsletter (relieve another long-term volunteer!). We don't have a Recruiting Chairman, even though the average of the branch just passed 82. These are the positions that will contribute much to the health of our branch.

We continue to re-assess activities that can re-open as a Sir activity. Table Pool re-opened this past month. Social Bridge may re-open soon. If your activity is ready to go, get the ball rolling by providing a plan that follows the current county guidelines and present to the BEC for approval. And chairs need to ensure participants sign or have signed a waiver and show or have shown proof of vaccination when attending the activity. Contact Activity Chair David Zeimer (dzeimer12@gmail.com) for guidance.

Step up and be safe!

Steve Patton
Acting Big SIR - Branch 171

SPEAKER PROGRAM – Wednesday, September 1 at 10:00am

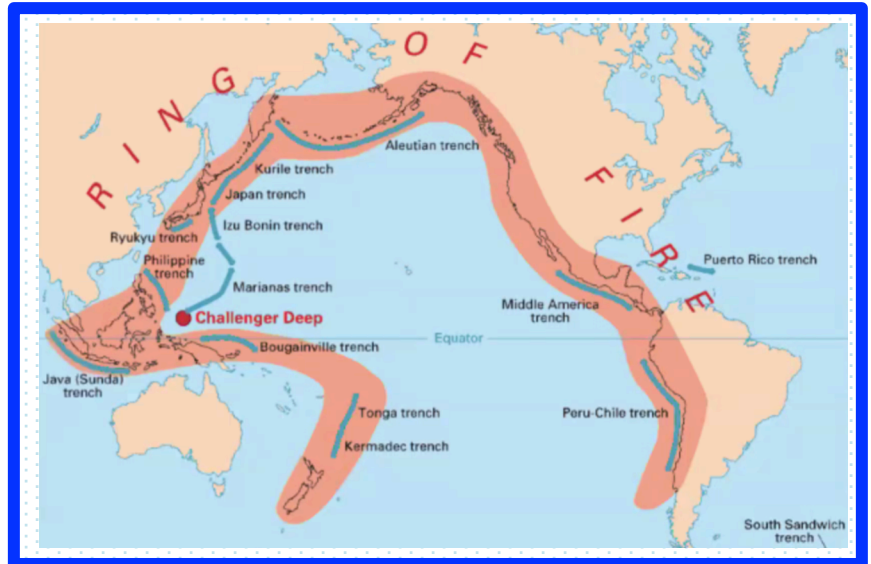
Mark your calendars now! [Zoom link will be sent in a subsequent email.](#)

Heard of the Ring of Fire? No, not the Johnny Cash version. How about all those volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and hot spots that circumvent the perimeter of the Pacific? In fact, the majority of the Earth's volcanoes and earthquakes take place along this Ring of Fire, also called the Circum-Pacific Belt.

Join us at our next meeting on September 1 at 10:00 for a tour of the perimeter of the Pacific and learn more about this international sensation!

The topic:
“The Ring of Fire”

The speaker:
Dr. James O’Brien



The “Ring of Fire” presentation will provide a brief review of the most significant volcanic belt on the planet, girdling the Pacific Ocean along a 25,000-mile belt.

Dr. O’Brien will review the history of this global structure and its discovery by geoscientists starting in the 19th century, and will take us on a circum-Pacific tour of some of the major volcanoes and faults that make up this awesome geologic feature.

Dr. James (“Jim”) O’Brien earned his undergraduate degree in Geology from Amherst College in 1973 and then headed west to Stanford for his PhD, awarded in 1980, studying a 33 million year volcanic throat in New Mexico.

He then turned his attention to mineralization related to late-stage magmas, going to work for Chevron Resources in Colorado. He spent 35 years at Chevron in minerals, research, oil & gas exploration and development, evolution of business processes and organizational structure, project management, learning and development (aka business school in the company), and environmental project management.

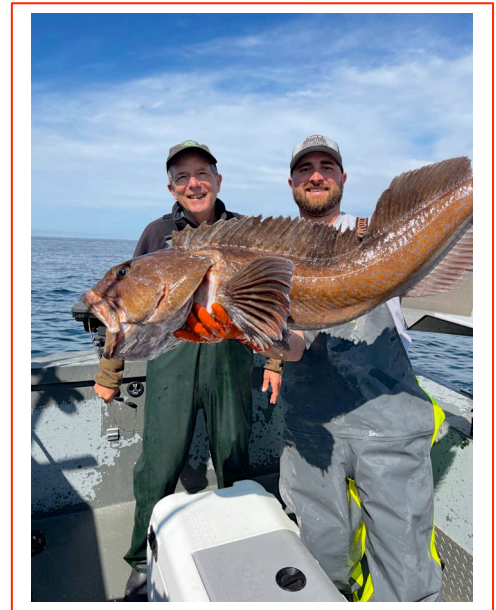
He retired in 2015 and is now involved in a number of non-profits including Program Director for the Northern Geological Society, President of the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club, and Board Member and Operating Committee member for the Moraga Garden Farms.

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

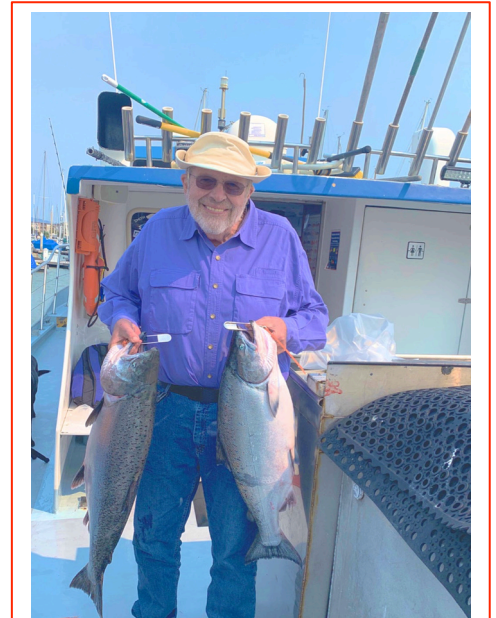
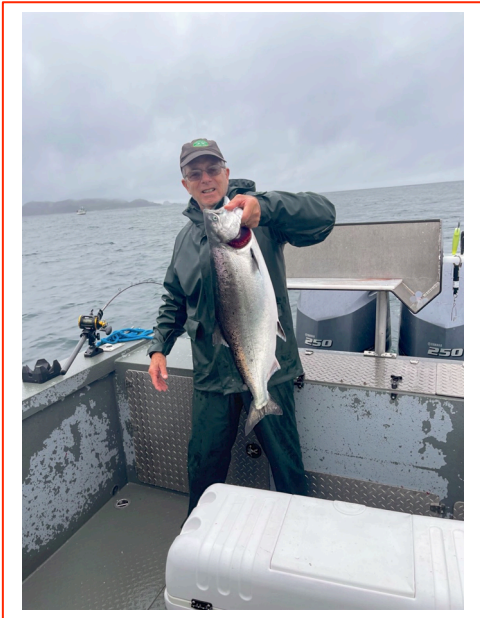


**THIS IS BIG
TIME
FISHING !!**

**KEN
FISCHER
WITH A
HALIBUT, A
LING COD,
AND A
SALMON AT
PELICAN,
ALASKA**



**KARL
DROESE
WITH
SALMON
CAUGHT
OUTSIDE
THE GATE
NEAR
DUXBURY
REEF**



BIRTHDAY DRAWING

The drawing at the September 1 Branch meeting will be for September birthdays. The following members have their birthday in September and are eligible to win a free luncheon at a date TBD. Attendance is required at the September meeting to win the free luncheon.

--- Ed Beatson – Ralph Blumenthal – Mike Brodsky – David Byrens – Michael Chinn ---

--- Robert Church – Al Donner – Ken Haley – Chuck Healy ---

--- George Henrich – Bob Krompholz – Monte Logan – Frank Mori – Rich Sauve – Sal Zammitti ---

Please reply to sir171-news@comcast.net if your birthday is in September 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)

MEMBERSHIP	
Prior Month:	137
Inductees	0
Deductions	0
Total, This Month:	137
APPROVALS TODAY	
	0
APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION	
	0
APPLICANT LIST	
	0
NOTES:	AR category members - 10

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

JULY 2021

Beginning Balance	\$4,224
Receipts	0
Disbursements	(318)
Ending	\$3,906

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 pleased to report that there are no known health issues this month relative to Branch 171 members.

Branch 174 (MARK MAHONEY)

We are pleased to report that there are no known health issues this month relative to Branch 171 members.

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 (May 2021) -- click on the following link, or cut and paste the link into your browser to view -- <https://sirinc.org/newsletters/> 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)

Activities are not re-opened as a SIR activity until a plan has been provided to and approved by the BEC. The plan requires a discussion of how the activity will adhere to current county guidelines and a discussion of relevant safety and health considerations.

Once the activity has been approved to re-open, there are required protocols for participation in the Sir activity. They are the following:

- All participants in an activity must sign a waiver form to hold harmless SIR.
- Each activity chairman must “see” the participant’s Covid vaccine card to see that the member has been vaccinated. To be clear, the chairman will not take or make a copy of the vaccine card. He only has to see it.

Members of Br. 171 may participate in approved activities chaired by Br. 174, subject to following the required safety protocols, signing a waiver, and providing proof of vaccination.

ACTIVITIES THAT ARE OPEN:

- Bocce Ball
- Book Club
- Fishing.
- Golf -- both 18 and 9 holes
- Table Pool
- Walking Groups -- the regular Tuesday group, the Senior Group, and the Friday Long Hike Group

ACTIVITIES THAT ARE CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM:

- Apple Users Group
- Computers & Technology Group
- Investment Group

ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT YET OPEN NOR MEETING VIA ZOOM

- Astronomy
- Barbershop Harmony
- Bowling
- Bridge – Duplicate and Social
- Couples Dining Out
- Historical Adventures
- Pinochle
- Poker
- Stamp Club
- Tennis
- Wine tasting

If your activity plans to re-open, please contact David Zeimer, Branch 171 Activity Chairman -- Dzeimer12@gmail.com

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). The Sir 174 Activity Chair is Tom Farr (ruskfarr@pacbell.net).

The following activities are open:

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

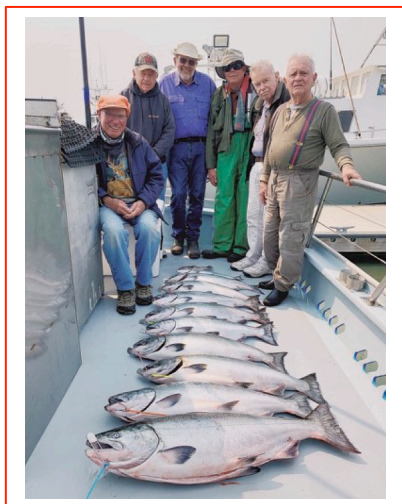
BOOK CLUB – BOB KROMPHOLZ (Br. 171) – rakrompholz@gmail.com

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

FISHING – KARL DROESE (Br.171) – kdroese@comcast.net 925-376-0468
RON LEW (AREA)



All SIR members and guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in fishing trips and attend the monthly meetings. The **next meeting will be Thursday, September 23**, 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 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.

August Report: Ken Fischer had an excellent trip to Pelican, Alaska catching halibut, lingcod, and salmon. Karl Droese and 5 others fished outside the Gate near Duxbury Reef and came home with 11 good-sized salmon weighing up to 33 lbs. Eight others scored equally well to 32 lbs on a couple of similar trips. Rockfish outings netted limits of rockfish and some lingcod for several members. A couple of members fished the Delta for stripers, sturgeon, and black bass. Notwithstanding a few good trips - wind, rough seas, fire, drought, low water levels, and COVID have made this the worst fishing season in years. The most recent bad news is the loss of Quail Lodge on Lake Almanor in the Dixie fire. This lodge has been a favorite of the SIR fishing group for several years, hosting annual Spring and Fall outings.

Coming up: A potluck Bay trip for sharks; Steelhead and trout fishing on the Klamath; striper/sturgeon outings in the Delta and possibly, a 6 to 8 day long-range trip out of San Diego.

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 Golf Championship is down to the two finalists, Gary Irwin and Steve Roath. This has been a fun and competitive tournament enjoyed by many.

Outings in September include: Chabot on Sept. and Rancho Solano on Sept. 20.

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.

TABLE POOL: STEVE PATTON (BR. 171)
BILL WEINBERG (AREA)

Table Pool was approved to re-open at the recent 171 BEC meeting. The group meets at Massès Sports and Bar Grill in Walnut Creek every **Monday at NOON**. The cost remains the same as it has been in years past; \$5.00 for as long as the participants want to play.

Participants are asked to park in the lot on the south side of the bushes that separates the "vacant" lot from Massès parking next to the building.

WALKING – ORIGINAL GROUP: OPEN (Br. 171)
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 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 SiSi'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

**LONG HIKERS: OPEN (171)
STEVE BEHNKE (Br. 174) stevebehnke@icloud.com**

This activity was established to engage SIRs who want a walking route longer and stronger than the other two walking groups. It offers opportunities for hikes more than 3 miles in length and, perhaps, with a little more elevation. The group is considering offering perhaps one hike per month. Please contact Steve for more information

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
JOE TRACY (BR. 174) – jotracy@comcast.net**

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 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.

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

The SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology Group 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.

The September meeting topic is not available as of this writing. Check the SIR Area 2 Computer and Technology website (<https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/>) and/or make sure you are on the CAT mailing list by sending an e-mail request to: sir.area2.cat@gmail.com in order to find out the topic.

Regardless, you should subscribe to the CAT mailing list (<https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/>) to receive information about upcoming meetings, the speaker programs, and other pertinent information. A few days before each meeting the members will 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/>.

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

The next meeting will be on [Wednesday, August 25](#) with Branch 128 via zoom. Zoom instructions will be sent out later to those on the email list. Contact Dave Sutton to be included on their distribution list if you're not already.

The group will review the results of a survey that asks members to indicate:

- What Insurance do they **and their Spouses** have? [Medicare, Medigap, RX, Dental, Vision, Long Term Healthcare, Property, Auto, Earthquake, Flood, Personal Liability, Home Warranty, and Life]
- What companies do they do business with?
- About how much are they spending per month and per year on this insurance.
- Do they use AARP, Costco, USAA, Alumni Affiliations, Amex or any other organization to reduce your expenditures?

The objective of the meeting is to draw attention to the fact that after Taxes and Housing, Insurance may be one of the largest fixed expenditures a retired couple might have...and by exchanging information among the group, perhaps some savings can result for some of them.

The group will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their [Wednesday, September 22, Zoom](#) meeting at 1:30 PM. The topic will be announced. Zoom instructions will be sent out later to those on the email list.

OTHER ACTIVITY NEWS

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