



# SIR BRANCH 171

## October 2021

<http://branch171.sirinc2.org/>

A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement



### Branch 171 Zoom Virtual Meeting

### Wednesday, October 6th at 10:00am

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

Hello Fellow Sirs,

I'm writing from an ocean view patio in Santa Barbara. This was the consolation prize for postponing an England trip for the third time. Great seafood restaurants are open, sailboats are bobbing back and forth in the channel and walks on the pier and beach are still as enjoyable as before. We can get out and enjoy travel and other activities, just be careful.



With the approval of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) we've signed an agreement with the Serbian Church to, once again, hold luncheons! I look forward to seeing everyone soon. We will re-assess after the upcoming Oct. 6 zoom branch meeting. Our meetings won't be without precautions, of course, but we'll be able to enjoy each others' company in-person again. More to follow.

Last month I reported on the 'health' of the branch. I discussed the rising age of the membership and lack of recruiting. We also continue to see low response numbers to surveys and turnout for ZOOM meetings. The BEC has reviewed those metrics and we are discussing possibilities to bring stability to the membership. I look forward to sharing more soon!

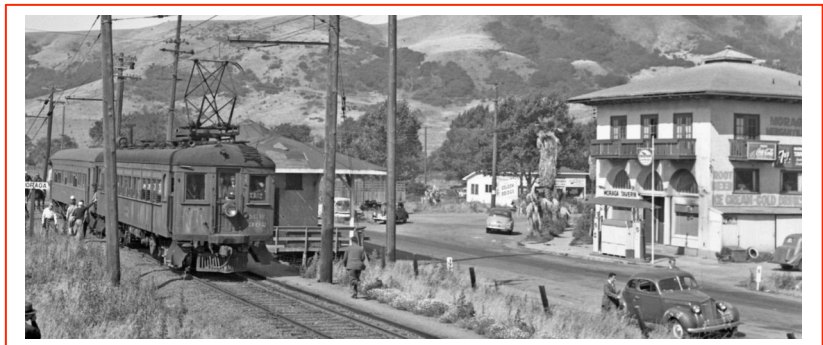
*Steve*

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

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

The speaker will be Stuart Swiedler, who will present a talk entitled "[The Evolution of Interurban Rail Travel in the Bay Area.](#)"

Dr. Swiedler, a physician-scientist by training, created the East Bay Hills Project in 2009, providing presentations and an on-line resource, [Eastbayhillsproject.org](http://Eastbayhillsproject.org) that uses aerial photographs and images taken by railroad fans to document the history of the East Bay and its connections to the Greater Bay Area and Central Valley in the 20th century.



**Sacramento Northern Railroad at the Moraga Barn, circa 1950**

The presentation will provide a general overview of the competition in the private sector to expand interurban rail transportation opportunities using electric trains in the Bay Area in the early 20th century, to the eventual transition to governmental agencies to provide what exists today.

## **BIRTHDAY DRAWING**

The drawing at the October 6 Branch meeting will be for October birthdays. The following members have their birthday in October and are eligible to win a free luncheon at a date TBD. Attendance is required at the October meeting to win the free luncheon.

--- GEORGE ADRANLY – DENNIS BROSSART – GRAIG CROSSLY – HAL D'AMBOGIA ---

--- MIKE DONOVAN – KEN FISCHER – AL FOLEY – STAN HOLCENBERG ---

--- CHRIS LYNE – JERRY MEYERS – HERB MONTGOMERY ---

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

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## **BRANCH REPORTS**

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

Not a luncheon meeting. No formal report.

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

<b><u>MEMBERSHIP</u></b>	
Prior Month:	137
Inductees	0
Deductions	1
<b>Total, This Month:</b>	<b>136</b>
<b><u>APPROVALS TODAY</u></b>	
	0
<b><u>APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION</u></b>	
	0
<b><u>APPLICANT LIST</u></b>	
	0
<b>NOTES:</b>	Total number of members in AR category is 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.

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### **TREASURER'S REPORT: BOB KROMPHOLZ**

#### **AUGUST 2021**

Beginning Balance	\$3,906
Receipts	0
Disbursements	0
Ending	\$3,906

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**

We are sad to report the passing of **John Christensen** on September 18. John was a long-time member, one of six joining in 1997, making him tied for 4th longest member. He was still on the active roster. We recall he would give SIR Bill Cooper a ride from Rossmoor, after Bill moved to Byron Park. There is no information available regarding a service.

We are sad to report the passing of **Milt Bruzzone** on September 8. Milt joined in June 2015 and resigned in September 2018 due to illness. Services were held on September 18. Here is a link to Milt's obituary -- <https://bit.ly/MiltonBruzzoneObituary>

We are advised that **Steve Wright** is resting comfortably at home after knee surgery.

**Branch 174** (MARK MAHONEY)

**Bill Mueser** is still in the hospital battling pneumonia. He is in good spirits but will remain hospitalized for awhile

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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.

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](mailto:HappeningsEditor@gmail.com)

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

Activities are re-opened as a SIR sponsored activity when 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 (members and guests) must sign a waiver form to hold harmless SIR.
- Each activity chairman must “see” the participant’s Covid vaccine card to verify that the member has been vaccinated. To be clear, the chairman will not take or make a copy of the vaccine card. He will view it.

Members of Br. 171 may participate in approved activities chaired by Br. 174, subject to following the branch’s required safety protocols.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:dzeimer12@gmail.com)). The Sir 174 Activity Chair is Tom Farr ([ruskfarr@pacbell.net](mailto:ruskfarr@pacbell.net)).

### ***The following activities are open:***

**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

**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)

**FISHING – KARL DROESE** ( Br.171) – [kdroese@comcast.net](mailto: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. **Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 28**, 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.

**September Report:** Eighteen members chartered the Sea Wolf and came back with a boatload of rock cod and lingcod. Four members went on a multi-day trip out of San Diego and returned with Yellow fin tuna over a hundred pounds as well as several yellowtail. Although the season is winding down, several members caught nice-sized salmon up to 35 lbs from private and party boats. Drought conditions have slowed fishing at our local lakes and in the Delta while ocean and Bay fishing remain excellent.

**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)

Competition toward the club championship, truly enjoyed by our membership, still continued. The two finalists are Gary Irwin and Steve Roath. This has been a fun and competitive tournament enjoyed by many. The Snoopy trophy will be awarded to the club champion.

Events in October include: [San Ramon on October 4](#) and [Las Positas Golf Course in Livermore on October 18](#). Sign up for emailings by emailing [1wadsy@gmail.com](mailto:1wadsy@gmail.com) or [roneleiker@gmail.com](mailto:roneleiker@gmail.com).

A group of Sir members informally play on Thursdays at Franklin Canyon. For more information, please call Don Kavanagh at 254-5906. There is another informal group headed by Steve Wright, 377-5844, that plays on the off-Mondays. Many individuals play all three groups.

**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.

**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](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 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](mailto:jschick@att.net)

**LONG HIKERS:** OPEN (171)  
STEVE BEHNKE (Br. 174) [stevebehnke@icloud.com](mailto: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. It is a weekly event. Contact Steve Behnke ([stevebehnke@icloud.com](mailto:stevebehnke@icloud.com)) to get on the mailing list for time and place.

***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)  
JOE TRACY (BR. 174) – [jotracy@comcast.net](mailto:jotracy@comcast.net)

The group continues having Zoom meetings rather than in-person meetings. The Zoom share screen venue is an excellent vehicle for the discussions and for sharing. Novices and advanced users are welcomed. Come and be a part of the group.

Although meetings had typically been held bi-monthly on the 1st Monday of even number months, the last meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 20 in order to incorporate a discussion of the just-announced iPhone 13 and other new products. The next meeting will be on [Monday, December 6 at 10:00am](#). Each meeting includes a facilitated discussion with members on recent announcements; sharing information and perspective on new Apple acquisitions; and a general roundtable discussion on rumors and buying decisions, tips, applications, and Issues.

Please contact Stan Holcenberg at [sholcenb@comcast.net](mailto:sholcenb@comcast.net) to be added to the Apple User Group distribution list and to ensure you are informed of future meeting dates. The zoom meeting link is sent out about one week before the meeting.

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

There will not be a SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group Zoom meeting in October. The [next CAT meeting will be on Thursday, November 18th](#). The November presentation by Alan Baker will be ***"Two-Factor Authentication: Beyond Text Messages."***

Make sure you are on the CAT mailing list ([sir.area2.cat@gmail.com](mailto:sir.area2.cat@gmail.com)) to find out 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](mailto:tomh925@icloud.com)  
**DAVE SUTTON** (Br. 8) -- [davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

The group will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their [Wednesday, October 27 Zoom meeting at 1:30 PM](#). The topic will be announced. Zoom instructions will be sent out later to those on the email list.

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