



SIR BRANCH 171

November 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, November 3 at 10:00am

BIG SIR MESSAGE: STEVE PATTON

Hello Fellow Sirs,

Well, the end of bocce season is here. The courts are soaked with the first rains of Autumn and our end-of-season luncheon at the Canyon Brewery is upon us.

Activities had a great year, after a rocky start, and got many of us back out and have some fun. Thinking about it, even without the in-person luncheons, through activities I was finally able to get together regularly with friends from both branches. The same with re-joining the table pool group. My hope is that many of you were able to take advantage of the many activities and fun times as well.



I encourage those who chair indoor activities, who haven't already done so, to consider re-opening with the change of the season. FYI, I'll be looking for a domino game shortly!

With all the uncertainty, there will unfortunately not be a Holiday Luncheon this year. We're still getting all the pieces in place to start meeting in person and to do it safely. We will let you know as things progress.

As announced at last month's branch ZOOM meeting, the BEC has appointed a steering committee to look further into a possible merger with Branch 174. We've assembled a punch-list of issues to discuss with the team from 174 and I hope to have news of more progress by the November branch meeting. I hope you are all as excited as I am about the possibility re-uniting the branches!

Steve

SPEAKER PROGRAM – Wednesday, November 3 at 10:00am

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

We are very fortunate to have the speaker from our September 2020 meeting with us again. That will be **Dr. Michael Barrington**, past Big SIR of Walnut Creek Branch 116, and our incoming SIR Area Governor. Last year Michael gave an extremely interesting and well-received talk on the period of his life when he was a missionary in Nigeria and covered in his book "*The Bishop Wears No Drawers.*"

This time the subject is the French Resistance and covered in his new book "*Let the Peacock Sing*", a captivating and unrequited love story set against the historical, action-packed background of the French Resistance in 1942. The talk will focus on historical content and actual background, and, as with his prior talk, will be supported by wonderful visuals.



BIRTHDAY DRAWING

The drawing at the November 3 Branch meeting will be for November birthdays. The following members have their birthday in November and are eligible to win a free luncheon at a date TBD. Attendance is required at the November meeting to win the free luncheon.

--- Marty Aufhauser – Bruce Berman – Gary Borrelli – Frank Comprelli – Rick Fend ---

--- Clair Hotten – Gary Lansman – Lad Lyndh – Dick Morrison --- John Moulton ---

--- Tom Peterson – Thomas (Smigs) Smigielski – Larry Thompson – Richard Vance ---

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

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	
Prior Month:	137
Inductees	0
Deductions	1
Total, This Month:	136
<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 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

SEPTEMBER 2021

Beginning Balance	\$3,906
Receipts	0
Disbursements	0
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 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
- Dominos
- Historical Adventures
- Pinochle
- Poker
- Stamp & Coin 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 season ends with a **gathering of the players on October 29** at the Canyon Brewery. The **season will re-open again in May 2021** after the Moraga Bocce Club restores the courts.

In season the games are played every Tuesday and Friday at 10 am, just beyond the bandstand at the Moraga Commons. 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.

Contact 171 Bocce Chair Steve Patton (steven_patton@hotmail.com) to be added to the 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

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. **Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 18th** 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.

October Report: Wind and drought conditions continue to impact the local lakes. The fall striper run is on in the Delta and those who ventured out were rewarded with catches of stripers and black bass. Others caught salmon, steelhead, and trout on guided fly fishing trips on the Sacramento. Two members caught trout at Lake Almanor. Another caught trout and smallmouth bass at Pinecrest lake. One member caught rockfish in the ocean and a 10lb catfish at San Pablo Reservoir. Twenty members attended our Fall fish fry at a member's home.

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

(1) **Steve Roath** won the Club Championship this year.

(2) The Ironman of the Year Trophy was presented to **Fred George**. This is given to person who plays often, is pleasant to be around, and is a good and giving citizen.

(3) The Thursday Franklin group has its own tournament and awards a Snoopy trophy. The winner for this year's trophy was **Gordon Steele**, who defeated **Chuck Coburn** for the trophy. The Snoopy Trophy was created four years ago by Wendall Plies, who created the awesome trophy, hand tooled entirely from wood, in the likeness of Snoopy. It was created to be awarded annually to the winner of the double elimination annual tournament.

The first year it was won by Lyle Deck. Chuck Coburn won it the following year and then again in 2020. The weekly foursome of Madel, Wilson, Schreiber and Coburn began playing at Boundary Oaks in the 90s. This group has since grown to 4 foursomes over the last 25 years or so and now plays at Franklin Canyon golf course on Thursdays. It was originally named the Schreiber Memorial Trophy after Sir Jim Schreiber, one of the organizers who kept the group together in recent years but who passed shortly after it was created.

(4) There is another informal group headed by Steve Wright, 377-5844, that plays on the off-Mondays. Many individuals play with all three groups

There are three events scheduled in November. They are: [Monarch Bay on November 1](#), [Paradise Valley on November 15](#), and [Tilden Park on November 29](#). Send an email to Bill Wadsworth (1wadsy@gmail.com) or Ron Leiker (roneleiker@gmail.com) to be on the mailing list.

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 will be a ongoing activity during the winter month. 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. It is a weekly event. Contact Steve Behnke (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
JOE TRACY (BR. 174) – jotracy@comcast.net**

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

The last meeting was held on September 20 and included a discussion of the just-announced iPhone 13 and other new products. The next meeting will get back to their first Monday of every even numbered month format. It will be held on **Monday, December 6, at 10:00am**. It will include a discussion of the recently announced new MacBooks, which include new sizes and Apple's own M1 Pro and M1 Max chips.

The meetings are facilitated gatherings 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. Contact Stan for the Zoom meeting ID and password.

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

The next SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology meeting will be on **November 18th at 9:30 AM** via Zoom. The discussion topic, led by Alan Baker, will be "**Two-Factor Authentication: Beyond Text Messages**".

When security matters, two-factor authentication is used as a second layer of protection. Text messages are usually used, but recent breaches of cell phone carriers have shown that this is not the most secure approach. There are better alternatives. These alternatives include authenticator applications and hardware keys. An authenticator app generates a unique 6-digit code every 30 seconds and a hardware key can be plugged into your computer's USB port.

In this presentation will include a discussion of a range of two-factor authentication methods and demonstrate an authenticator app and hardware key. If security is important to you, plan to attend **November 18th** meeting.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list by sending an email to SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.

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 group will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their **Wednesday, October 27 Zoom meeting at 1:30 PM**. The speaker will be John Lau, CFP®, CPA, M.S. (Tax) Managing Director LFS Wealth Advisors, presenting 'Critical Year End Tax Planning for the Mass Affluent.' The second hour will be devoted to "Finding good Dividend Paying stocks".

The group will also meet with Branch 128 for the November/December meeting on **December 8 at 1:30** to avoid conflict with the holidays. Michael Young, Elder Law Attorney, will be the presenter. He covers such things as:

- Dementia Planning
- Nursing Home issues
- Considerations for Widow and Widowers
- Multi-generation Planning and Inherited IRAs (do's and don'ts) and IRA Legacy Trusts
- Charitable Trusts and Charitable Giving
- Impacts of Tax Proposals

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