



SIR BRANCH 171

December 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, December 1 at 10:00am

BIG SIR MESSAGE: STEVE PATTON

Hello Fellow Sirs,

Thanks to the Speaker Committee for bringing us this month's great guest speaker, Dave Newhouse, retired Bay Area newsman. Dave has published many books and one of them is on Slip Madigan of my old alma mater, Saint Mary's College. He will discuss Slip and other sports figures at our meeting.



As of this writing, this week is the SIRS Leadership Conference II. I've been attending the informative sessions and one stands out, primarily targeted at the branch membership. It asks the question, "What can I do", and revolves around the necessity of recruitment for the survival of the branch. I'll play the short video "Doing My Part", at the December meeting, and include it here for those who aren't able to attend. <https://bit.ly/MembershipRecruiting>. Please take the time to look at this informative video hosted by our prior State SIR President Ed Benson.

The other topic of interest are the discussions with Branch 174 around a merger. Our Branch Executive Committee has approved moving forward with those discussions. Our committee is meeting with theirs on Friday the 19th and I will certainly report the progress to the membership at the December meeting. The executive committees of both branches have identified this as an opportunity we should all embrace.

Please enjoy and stay safe over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Steve

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

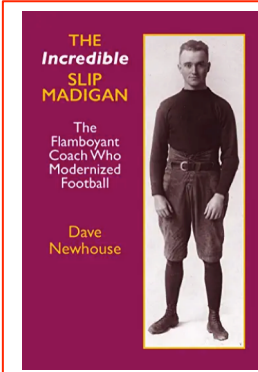
Mark your calendars now! Zoom link will be sent in a subsequent email.

Our speaker will be Dave Newhouse, retired journalist and sportswriter who worked for 47 years with the Oakland Tribune

Dave has written 11 books, which cover a variety of sports figures and teams – including the 49ers (*the Million Dollar Backfield*), the Yankees (*their dynasty in the late 40's and early 50's*) a couple of Raider greats (*Jim Otto and Jim Plunkett*) and Saint Mary's College (*"The incredible Slip Madigan: The Flamboyant coach who Modernized football"*).

Regarding Slip Madigan -- He played under Knute Rockne at Notre Dame, coached the Saint Mary's football team to powerhouse status in the 20s and 30s, and also did a stint as head coach of the Saint Mary's basketball football teams.

Dave will touch on some of these sports areas and others in his talk titled **"A Passion for Writing ... a Career Best"**.



BIRTHDAY DRAWING

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

--- GENE BLANC --- JOHN BURGESS --- DAVID CRONIN --- BERT ENSTROM --- HERB LONG ---

--- ROMESH LOOMBA --- DICK MACY – CLAY SEALY --- TOM WESTHOFF ---

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)

MEMBERSHIP				
Prior Month:	136			
Inductees	0			
Deductions	0			
Total, This Month:	136			
APPROVALS TODAY				
	0			
APPLICANTS AWAITING INDUCTION				
	0			
APPLICANT LIST				
	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

October 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 174 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 IN THE PROCESS OF RE-OPENING

- Bridge
- Poker

ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT YET OPEN NOR MEETING VIA ZOOM

- Astronomy
- Barbershop Harmony
- Bowling
- Couples Dining Out
- Dominos
- Historical Adventures
- Pinochle
- 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 ended with a gathering of the players on October 29 at the Canyon Brewery. The **season will re-open again in May 2022** 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) – kdroeese@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, December 16**, 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.

November Report: A slower than normal month - but a few did get out, catching rockfish in the ocean; black bass, striped bass, and catfish in the Delta; and trout in the foothills. Highlights included a 6 plus pound Brown trout and a 5 plus pound Rainbow at New Melones Reservoir. Crab season continues to be delayed and restricted due to an abundance of whales in the area. Local lakes are receiving trout plants so there should be excellent early season fishing next year. The club is looking forward to our annual Christmas party in December.

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

2021 is rapidly coming to a close with 2022 on the horizon.

Here is the plan going forward: Bill Wadsworth will stay on as Treasurer; Steve Behnke will stay on as Vice Chairman; Joe Freedman will assume the duties of the Handicap Chairman; Ed McBride will stay on as Chairman for one more year.

Special thanks to Ron Leiker for the outstanding job as the Handicap chair and to Gordon Steele for organizing the Golf Championship.

20 tournaments are scheduled for next year -- the finalized schedule is not yet available. 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 an 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 in the process of re-opening:

- **BRIDGE**
- **POKER**

There is an objective to open both Bridge and Poker in January. There are some actions to be completed for that to occur. The target is Bridge on Tuesday, January 11 and Poker on Wednesday, January 19.

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 in September and included a discussion of the just-announced iPhone 13 and other new products. The next meeting will be 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. There are also new Apple service options to discuss.

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

Please monitor the Computer and Technology site for information on the next meeting -- <https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/>

The meetings are currently conducted via Zoom. 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 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/astronomy/> for other links and articles of astronomical interest.

Activity Calendar -- December 2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Apple Users Activity	6-Dec				
Astronomy	Activity is on hold				
Barbershop Harmony	Activity is on hold				
Bocce Ball	Season reopening May 2021				
Book Club			Last Wednesday of month		
Bowling	Activity is on hold				
Bridge	Activity is in process of reopening -- target date January 11, 2021				
Bridge - ACBL Duplicate	Activity is on hold				
Computers and Technology				TBD	
Couples Dining Out	Activity is on hold				
Dominoes	Activity is on hold				
Fishing				16-Dec	
Golf	TBD				
Golf - 9 Holvers					Each Friday
Historical Adventures	Activity is on hold				
Investment Group			8-Dec		
Poker	Activity is in process of reopening -- target date January 19, 2021				
Stamp & Coin Club	Activity is on hold				
Table Pool	Every Monday at noon				
Tennis	Activity is on hold				
Travel	No meetings scheduled. Only trips.				
Walking - Original Group		Each week			
Walking -- Senior Strollers			Each week		
Walking -- Big Hikers					Each Friday
Wine Tasting	Activity is on hold				