



Branch 35 web site: www.sirinc2.org/branch35/

May 2020

– NEXT MEETING –

3rd Wednesday, May 20, 2020
Business 12:30pm, Program 1:00pm
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
 Zoom instructions will be sent via
 email before the meeting.

PROGRAM

Speaker: Carl Guardino, CEO Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Topic: "Past Changes and Future Challenges"

Our May speaker will be making his presentation using the Zoom Webinar technology. You will receive complete instructions on how to join the meeting online.



It is only fitting that our first online SIR meeting using technology developed right here in Silicon Valley should feature Carl Guardino, one of Silicon Valley's most distinguished business and community leaders. The Silicon Valley Leadership Group was started by David Packard and brings together leaders of over 350 companies to address matters of public policy in the valley, California and the world. For 23 years, Guardino has served as CEO

of this influential business group, providing leadership through a very dynamic period of development. This summer, he will be moving on to new challenges.

Known throughout the region as a consensus builder, Guardino has championed a number of successful ballot measures, especially in the areas of transportation and housing. As a housing advocate, he co-created the Housing Trust Silicon Valley, which has helped 30,000 people afford homes in high-cost Silicon Valley by raising more than \$250 million in voluntary contributions.

Guardino was born and raised in San Jose and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from San Jose State University, where he is a Distinguished Alumnus. In their spare time, he and his wife compete in marathons, triathlons and duathlons.

We have invited Carl to reflect on the major changes he has seen during this time and to talk about the challenges he sees in the future.

Watch for announcements about how to connect to this presentation.

The Big Sir Says . . .
ZOOM



I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and healthy in this very strange shelter-in-place time. Jean and I walk the dog and work in our yard and garden, but that's about all we do outside the home. **The way we socialize now is virtually over the internet using ZOOM.** Given the many responses to my last branch-wide email many of you are socializing that way, too.

You've told me of Monday morning golf gatherings (not at the golf course but in the kitchen with coffee at the computer), sharing the week's events on Friday over drinks (not at the pub but in the den in front of the computer), and nationwide family gatherings (not around the "radio" like when I was a kid but in front of the computer). Read about these and others inside.

Branch 35 has gone virtual, too! Your Branch Executive Committee has held two board meetings virtually (in front of the computer) with 16 members interacting. The Book Club has met to discuss books virtually. Even athletic activities like Bocce Ball, Hiking and some golf foursomes now meet virtually. By the way, my daughter's family prepare and eat dinner (in front of the computer) sharing socially with friends miles away. The world is different today and I believe will never totally return to the way it was before the pandemic.

Our next luncheon meeting is scheduled for 12:30 pm on May 20th – virtually. You bring the food, drink and computer/mobile device and we'll set it up using Zoom and bring the guest speaker and your friends. We're hoping to continue broadcasting our luncheon meetings into the future, even when we can again meet face-to-face. Later this month, I will be sending you instructions on how to use Zoom and an invitation/registration form to join our meeting. We are hoping you try the easy to use Zoom to socialize with family, friends and associates before then.

Please let me know how you are holding up (or not) during this pandemic. Also, if you have suggestions on how we can support you better, concerns about this new approach or just want to know more, call or eMail me.

Andy
650-906-3474 (mobile)
adanver@ix.netcom.com

MAY 2020 ROSTER

Active Members: 333 Net Monthly Change: -6

NEW MEMBERS

**THERE WAS NO MEETING IN APRIL,
THUS NO NEW MEMBERS**

In Memoriam Walter Fleisher

MAY ANNIVERSARIES: 10+ YEARS

John Richardson	18	Andy Danver	10
Bill Young	17	Lou Ercoli	10
Jack Joos	16	Al Holzman	10
Bill Hall	15	Jerry Ososkie	10
John Rinehart	11	Dick Wolden	10

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Larry Baugher	Joe Gruber	Hank Pastorelli
Roman Beyer	Edward Halk	Roger Potash
Bob Brenner	Bill Hall	Bob Roy
Rich DeVaul	Peter Iovan	Marvin Schwartz
Fred Emmenegger	Klaus Jaeger	Augie Smith
Bob Fisher	Bob King	Bob Sutis
Jacques Fossourier	Ron Lau	Peter Thurston
Bob Garten	Richard McGrath	Larry Wright
John Goldsborough	Curt Neumann	Dan Zemanek

PHONE CHANGES

Phone number names on the Membership Database have been changed from "Primary, Other and Work" to "Mobile, Home and Emergency contact". Please log in to your Profile and make corrections.

TRAVEL

LARRY GARDNER 650-776-1970
larry_gardner@xanda.com

SEE THE MAY TRAVEL BULLETIN ON THE WEBSITE

ONCE THE SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER IS REMOVED, THE FOLLOWING CAN GET GOING AGAIN.

TENNIS

SYD JACOBSEN 408-738-3233
sljacob@att.net

Every Monday and Thursday, starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Rinconada Park Courts – Located on Hopkins Avenue, off Newell near Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. We play a relaxed doubles spin in open format. Sirs and non-Sirs alike are welcome.

BRIDGE

MARK LEVI 650-305-9132
mlevi@comcast.net

The Bridge group flourishes, playing on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon of the month. If you enjoy bridge and want to get back in the game, please contact us and join us for a session.

BIKING

JIM LUNT 408-252-6804
jamesdlunt@yahoo.com

2nd Thursday of each month, 11:00 AM

Wives and guests welcome Rain cancels ride; Helmet mandatory
If SIR is allowing activities by May 14, 2020 then the SIR ride for May is the Brisbane Bayshore Trail ride. If SIR is not allowing activities then the ride is canceled.

BRISBANE BAYSHORE TRAIL

The Ride: We will ride the flat Bay Trail along San Francisco Bay for about 7.5 miles going south starting from the parking lot next to the empty former Walmart Tower building in Brisbane, and ending at South Airport Blvd. (next to SFO) where we will have lunch at A SANDWICH SHOP then ride back for a total of about 15 miles.

Driving Directions: Take 101 north past SFO to Sierra Pt. Parkway (2nd exit past the Oyster Point Blvd. exit). At the first intersection, stop, and turn right, then, immediately stop at the next intersection and turn left, which is Marina Blvd., going left. Follow Marina Blvd. around a big curve and just past the former Walmart Tower building (looks like a big ship) on the left side, turn left into a large public parking lot with a short boulevard entrance. We will meet there.

If you plan to ride or have questions please contact Jim Lunt, as per above, or Gordon Tong
(408) 242 0557 gordy6850@gmail.com

HIKING

DELL SMITH 650-968-5006
dellnmolly@sbcglobal.net

There will be no SIR hike in May.

Our first SIR Hikers Coffee on Zoom meeting today, April 22nd, was a great success with 14 participants and a lively discussion about hiking options during this period of social distancing.

- We agreed to continue our Hikers Coffee Zoom meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month.
- **Please join us for our next Coffee on May 27, 2020 at 10:00 am - 11 am.**
- Please save and use the following scheduled Zoom meeting information for all future meetings:

Join Zoom Meeting - Click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84771246495?pwd=dVg1MGhhR3B4M01KeWg2RXJ4MFhsZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 7124 6495

Password: 016390

Dial In on Phone: +1 669 900 9128

Your Zoom Host, Peter Thurston

BOCCE BALL

NORM PASS – SCHEDULE/
CANCELLATIONS 408-737-7639;
normpass@sbcglobal.net

FRED SCHWALBACH – PLAYER
DEVELOPMENT 408-257-9713;
fpschwalbach@aol.com
JOHN RICHARDSON - SUPPORT
650-996-7787; jlr@rcgc.com

Bocce Ball play has been suspended until further notice. However, virtual weekly group connections ("Sir Bocce Ball Coffee") for those who have been part of the Bocce activity or are interested are now happening through Zoom. This has been established and hosted by Peter Thurston. The meeting is opened each Friday morning at 10:45 am and begins at 11:00 am, lasting for one hour. Subjects covered are up to the participants and could include what we are currently doing and some humorous things we have seen happening. Our second gathering will take place on Friday May 1. Should you wish to participate, Peter can give you the Link, Meeting ID and Password. There is also a video he can provide that helps in using Zoom.

Member Profile

RON NAKAMOTO 408-440-2330
ron.nakamoto@yahoo.com

This monthly article highlights one of our branch members. We hope that you enjoy knowing a little more about your fellow members and the interesting life they have had. If you have someone you would like to nominate or if you would like to help author an article, please email ron.nakamoto@yahoo.com.

RONALD PAUL (RON) REIS



On May 4, 1970 John Paul Filo, a student at Kent State University and part-time news photographer captured Mary Ann Vecchio crying out and kneeling over a fatally wounded Jeffrey Miller. This single image memorialized the anguish and horror that was the Vietnam war. Filo's photo was printed on the front page of the New York Times and he went on to win a Pulitzer Prize for this moment in history. Sandra Scheuer, walking between classes was one of four students killed as the Ohio National Guard opened fired on the protesting students. I was there and she was one of my

students. The University, the faculty and the students were never the same after that tragedy. I am Ron Reis and this is my story.

First, a spoiler alert: this is not going to be a "rags to riches" or "destitute guy saves the world" story. Rather, I begin my tale by simply stating early in life I realized that I had won the parent lottery. Born in San Francisco but raised in Atherton, mostly by my grandmother, I was a neighbor of Shirley Temple Black (yes, the childhood movie star) and certainly was a privileged child.

My parents wanted me to have fun and to play tennis as a kid, so I played tennis ... nearly every day! My father owned a successful moving and storage company in San Francisco and was an outstanding golfer. My mother grew up as a child prodigy, a Hungarian born pianist who knew little about motherhood, but wowed crowds with her Mozart and Debussy. There was likely some genetic influence here: she was the great, great granddaughter of the composer, Felix Mendelssohn. (Editor's note: Jakob Felix Mendelssohn was a 19th century, German composer pianist, organist and conductor of many known works to include his organ melody "Wedding March" regularly played at many weddings.) My mother enjoyed a long life and recently passed away at the ripe age of 98. Lucky for me as I am probably blessed with her longevity genes.

Before he instructed at Stanford, I was fortunate enough to take tennis lessons from Dick Gould, the renowned ex-head coach and current Stanford Director of Tennis. Through his encouragement and tutelage, I became a ranked Northern California Tennis player as a young teenager. In my Junior year of high school, I cut my journalism class to play a second-round match in a state tournament against a lanky, then little-known Freshman from UCLA. This black tennis athlete ended up changing the sport world and yes, he was none other than Arthur Ashe and of course, he easily beat me in straight sets. After high school, I was recruited by Coach Jim Verdieck to attend the University of Redlands in Southern California, where I was basically a tennis geek and German major. Our renowned tennis coach insured his team was in shape by scheduling one league opponent in the morning and another team in the afternoon, yes singles and doubles, then singles and doubles again on the same day! My greatest memory was traveling to Stanford my Junior year and winning one of the deciding matches to clinch a 5-4 victory over my first instructor, Dick Gould – not bad for a school of 1,200 students! One summer I represented the Northern California Tennis Association at a clay court tournament in Vancouver, Canada. They must have been hard up for television airtime that day since our double's final was covered live by the Canadian Wide World of Sports.

Both my youngest brother and father were mild stutterers. I became so

interested in their disability that I began an in-depth study my junior year and completed my master's degree at Redlands in speech pathology. As many of you recall, in the late 60's Uncle Sam was drafting most eligible males to fight in the Vietnam War. In the throes of my study, I opted to remain a student with a student deferment from the draft. In 1969 I was awarded a Teaching Fellowship to attend Kent State University in Ohio, at that time proclaimed to be "the largest unknown university in the U.S." Sadly, that proclamation soon changed on May 4, 1970. To this day, due to the trauma I witnessed, I have difficulty discussing the campus shooting. While the school remained shut down, the faculty carried on and completed the academic year by teaching some courses via local TV, which helped the seniors complete their courses and graduate. Kent State allowed me to continue to teach and join their faculty and finish my doctorate in speech pathology in 1973. My PhD dissertation was on the influence of the voice on stuttering. A key finding was that speaking louder and whispering both create more fluency. These results have been used as a springboard for others to view the larynx as a contributing factor to stuttering.

To celebrate my new doctoral degree, I planned to join my parents in Chicago, where my father, then Chairman of Allied Van Lines, was attending a conference. I was very proud when they ticketed me as "Dr. Ronald Reis". That was a mistake. A passenger had collapsed somewhere in the airport and soon I heard "Dr. Ronald Reis, Dr. Reis, please report to ...". Chagrined, I remember turning to the airline representative and saying, "Unless she's dying of stuttering, I'm afraid I'm not going to be able to assist." Needless, to say they found a MD.

I remained in northeastern Ohio as Chief of Speech Pathology & Audiology at Hillside Hospital, where I ran a department responsible for treating brain injured children and adults with speech and hearing disorders. One of my outpatients who lost his larynx due to cancer, showed up at my office with a bodyguard. I taught him esophageal speech until he was intelligible to others. Later I found out that he had recently been released from prison as Jimmy Hoffa's personal getaway driver.

I met Barbara Jacola, a beautiful and brilliant Italian blonde, at Hillside. She was the hospital's new Marketing and PR Director. As a savvy, single guy and Department head no less, I asked her out. On our first date, I tried to impress her by taking her out to an authentic Hungarian restaurant. Her first impression, to be diplomatic, was not exactly positive as I discovered the restaurant took only cash for which I had very little of at the moment. She ended up paying the bill. But despite the slow start, we hit it off, fell in love, and eloped to Vermont. We have been happily married for some 44 years.

That same year, I accepted a position with the University of Denver, where I taught courses in communication disorders, started a private practice, and did further research in the field of stuttering. The Colorado mountains are beautiful, but the winters were always snowy and cold. After a decade away from California, I was eager to return home and in 1986 made a career change to collaborate with my father and two brothers to join DataSafe, the family's business started in 1946 by my father and a business partner. (Editor's note: DataSafe was a pioneer in the records management industry. Headquartered in South San Francisco, DataSafe offers off-site secure, cost-efficient records storage and retrieval service. The family owned business continues to provide its services to over 1,500 local businesses from five facilities in Northern CA. Clients understand that their critical information is accessible, day or night, and stored safely in earthquake and fire safe facilities.) I retired in 2010 after 24 years, once serving as President of our international trade association. DataSafe, now in its third generation of family, is currently headed by my nephew, Rob Reis.

Barb and I have three children and are fortunate to live in West Menlo Park (Sharon Heights, known for its "newlyweds or nearly dead"). Our daughter, Kristen Klari, who took my Hungarian grandmother's name, came to us 15 years ago with the pronouncement that she wanted to become an artist. Like most parents who identify artist with the adjective "starving", we tried to discourage her from such a fate. Klari, fortunately didn't listen to her parents. With a studio in San Francisco and a gallerist in London, she

exhibits her contemporary art around the world, including at Microsoft Research in Cambridge, UK and a host of other facilities in Paris, Brussels, Shanghai, New York City, and at Stanford University Medical Center Hoover Pavilion. Much of our travel begins or ends at one of her solo shows. She has provided us with a grandson (now age 4) and granddaughter (10 months) so we can be found in San Francisco babysitting most weekends. Our oldest son, Peter, produces art exclusively for the cyber currency industry, indeed a real niche. He often uses cut up credit cards and foreign currency as media and has sold his art worldwide. Our youngest son, Michael was a beer geek, and a few years ago was recognized as one of Zagat Bay Area's "30 under 30" in the food and beverage industry. Last year he and his wife, Olivia, opened Redfield Cider Bar & Bottle Shop on College Ave. in Oakland, which is doing very well! We are blessed that all our family lives in the area.

When not playing golf or tennis or serving on a local, non-profit board, Barb and I are usually on a walk in SF most weekends or on international travel (just returned from the Middle East). We also spend time at the Cantor and Anderson museums at Stanford, where Barb is a docent/educator. Life is good!!!



"Puttin' on the Ritz New Year's Eve 2019"

Ron's advice to all: "With the anxieties and challenges of decision making and problem solving I define a successful day if I've made a friend or family member smile or, better yet, LAUGH! And I love bringing my friends into the SIR Br 35 family and will continue to actively recruit new members."

BOWLING

BOB TAGGART 650-321-2654
cbtaggart@earthlink.net
DOUG ANDERSON 415-407-4000
marktinti@aol.com Prizes: Alan Gaudie

Every Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., at Homestead Lanes, Homestead & Stelling, in Cupertino.

Bowling is postponed until we receive word from SIR and the Homestead Lanes reopen.

If you are interested in joining, call Bob or Doug. Cost is \$15 each week.

Coffee with the Boys

During our "shelter in place" time, Zoom has become a sort of social lifeline for many of us. I have set up a recurring weekly time for Coffee with the Boys on Zoom to stay in touch with several of my SIR friends. We just check in like we would if we were car-pooling to a golf outing or having a cup of coffee at Starbucks. We share projects we are working on around the house, books we are reading, movies we are watching or opinions we want to share. All it takes is one of us to sign on to Zoom and schedule the meeting. Invitations are sent to anyone you want to invite. Included in the invitation is a link. When it is time to join the meeting, participants just click on the link and they are connected to the meeting. This can be done through a computer or smartphone. If the call is less than 40 minutes, it is free. Try it and stay in touch with your fellow Sirs.

Stan Barkey, Little Sir

PICNIC

The 2020 SIR Picnic is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15 at Blackberry Farms. The current plan is to continue with the planning and organizational efforts unless and until we are advised that the event must be postponed. The Picnic is 2 months away, so it is very likely that it will be a "GO". Circumstances that would change our plans could be one of the following:

1. State SIR banning such events (due to insurance/liability concerns)
2. Government shutdown regulations (possible limitations on size of groups)
3. Branch 35 concerns about members health and welfare, due to an active virus situation

Our Timeline for the event is as follows. We will continually monitor the virus situation and the restrictions on group meetings. If at any time, we learn that the July 15 date will not be possible, we will postpone the event and notify members.

1. May 20-BEC Meeting--review situation and if the Picnic is a "GO", authorize publicity and registration process.
2. June Trail Tips will have the flyer and registration materials.
3. June 17 BEC Meeting--Final decision on Picnic.
4. July Trail Tips--Reprint Registration information and Flyer.
5. July 14--Deadline for sign up.

DINING IN

ALAN GAUDIE 650-964-6510
alangaudie@yahoo.com

Dining In Group 3 came up with the idea of a virtual happy hour using our new-to-us service - **Zoom** - to get together and enjoy some wine and conversation at the appointed time.





JOE CIONI, GOLF CHAIRMAN
516-448-6721, jacioni@yahoo.com

Not having any Branch 35 results to share, this month's golf column features an amazing record and a few golf jokes.

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

Patrick Wills Shoots the Round of the Century

On June 22, 2015 a Northern Virginia golfer shot what many are calling the greatest round of golf ever. Fifty-nine-year-old **Patrick Wills**, of Woodbridge, Virginia, carded a 14-under-par 57, including **three holes-in-one** in an amateur tournament round at Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton, Virginia. The former Marine's incredible round came during the Summer Solstice tournament at the course, which measured 6,386 yards, and two of Wills' aces came **on par fours**.

Wills, who is a plus-4 handicap, was golfing with his sons Charlie and Christopher, and Air Force Maj. Matt Ghormley. After his son told him his tee shot on the 289-yard par-four seventh dropped in the hole, "My heart jumped in a little bit of disbelief," said Wills.

Blue	435	351	439	170	508	478	306	223	532	3442	345	149	401	405	212	587	185	466	558	3299	6749			
White	419	344	423	148	486	447	289	209	502	3267	334	141	374	386	187	576	174	437	510	3119	6386			
PGT WILLS	3	3	4	4	4	3	2	3	4	29	2	3	4	3	1	4	3	4	5	28	57			
+/-																								
Hdcp	M	9	7	11	3	9	17	5	1	5	13	15	7	3		14	18	6	12	10	4	16	2	8
	W	7			9	15	1	5			17	3						12	10	16	2	6	4	
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Tot	Hdcp	Net	
Par	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	5	36	4	3	4	4	3	5	3	4	5	35	71			
+/-																								
Gold	413	335	403	150	474	418	278	194	491	3136	311	134	338	355	176	547	158	383	483	2885	6021			
Red	351	269	274	109	404	364	258	145	372	2548	279	119	237	332	98	493	125	342	441	2466	5014			
Date:	6/22/2015	Score: Matthew J. Ghormley																						
Attest:	Patrick Wills																							

When he aced the 334-yard par-four 10th hole, Wills "was shocked, numb, in disbelief." And, when his five iron on the par-three, 187-yard 14th plunked-in, "It is one of those surreal experiences — everything was moving in slow motion and I was trying to take it all in."

"I was shocked," said Laurel Hill PGA Director Gene Orrico, who verified the score card. "Patrick has been around a long time, he is an honorable man and well-respected," Orrico told the BBC.

In 47 years of golfing, Wills had 22 holes-in-one to his credit before his three-ace round.

He told Yahoo Sports that he understands the skepticism about his achievement. "People are allowed to believe what they want to believe — I fought for that freedom," Wills said. "But I know what I shot, my playing partners know what I shot, and the people at the tournament do as well."

FROM THE JOKE BOOK

Good News

An avid golfer goes to see a fortuneteller to enquire if there are any golf courses in heaven. "I have good news and bad news," she tells the golfer. "What's the good news?" asks the golfer "The good news sir is that the courses in heaven are spectacular, without doubt better than anything you have ever seen on earth." "What's the bad news then?" he asks. "You have a tee time at 8:30 tomorrow morning."

Fundamentals

After a particularly poor round, a golfer spotted a lake as he walked despondently up the 18th. He looked at his caddie and said, "I've played so badly all day, I think I'm going to drown myself in that lake." The caddie, quick as a flash, replied, "I'm not sure you could keep your head down that long."

Local Knowledge

One fine day, John and Don are out golfing when John slices his ball into a deep and wooded ravine. He grabs his 7-iron and proceeds down the embankment into the ravine in search of his ball. The brush is quite thick, but he searches diligently and suddenly he spots something shiny. As he gets closer, he realizes that the shiny object is in fact a 7-iron in the hands of a skeleton lying near an old golf ball. John excitedly calls out to his golfing partner: "Hey Don, come here. I've got some real trouble down here."

Don comes running over to the edge of the ravine and calls out: "What's the matter, John? Is everything okay?"

John shouts back in a nervous voice, "Throw me my 8-iron! Apparently you can't get out of here with a seven."

Divine Guidance

A priest is playing a round of golf and arrives at the 15th hole, a 160-yard par three with a lake in front of the green. It has always been the padre's nemesis, no matter how well or how poorly he is playing.

The priest tees up his ball, gets ready to hit and, at the last minute, looks toward the heavens and says, "God, I have been a good and decent man. Please, just this once, let me hit a shot which will carry the lake and get onto the green."

As he is about to swing, a loud, deep voice booms from the heavens and says, "Use a new ball, they go farther."

The preacher steps back, thinks about the heavenly advice and goes to his bag and gets a brand-new ball. He takes his stance and once again the heavenly voice booms, "Take a practice swing first."

The preacher is now awestruck by the heavenly advice, so he steps back from the ball and takes a practice swing.

As he takes his stance and gets ready to hit, the heavenly voice booms, "Use the old ball!"

Branch 35 – 2019 Golf Banquet & Award Ceremony Michael's Shoreline – February 7, 2020



Outstanding Service Award

Tom Taboada, in Absentia



Branch 35 Annual Awards (Left to Right in Photo)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Andy Danver | - Most Improved & |
| | - Low Net Champion; |
| Phil VanderWerf | - Four Ball Match Play Champion & |
| | - Ironman |
| Jay Jonekait | - Match Play Champion; |
| Rich McGrath | - Club Champion; |
| Joe Cioni | - 4 Ball Match Play Champion & |
| | - Branch 35 Golfer of the Year |

Other State-Wide Awards

Holes in One - JayJonekait & Tim O'Meara;

Shooting their Age - Don Mattson and Joe Cioni

(Photo Right)



Photos by Jean Danver

The sum of it all 04/15/20 7:01 AM Gabriel Ibarra

I have never: Cleaned, washed, pruned, planted and painted so much

All in the confines of my yard and house.

I now know my neighborhood, like never before.

The Jones, with their quaint cottage,

Old Man Rogers, his place no more,

The Stantons, what a mess,

The mystery corner house, shrubbery and plants abound.

Complete with wrought iron and warning signs.

It's the middle of the month,

I

wish it would hurry along.

At its conclusion, nobody is sure,

If there will still be confusion.

We hope for the best, but it all comes down to the tests.

There are bright spots, I see babies in strollers,

People and dogs alike

Giving the courtesy of six feet and more

Its the hand waves I look for.

Long lines at the grocery store

Less cars on the road, not seen since the 1980's

Not enough PPE's, cleaning supplies, and most importantly TP.

Oh its a rough life, like my hands, they have taken a beating

Keeping gloves and lotion close at hand.

My inbox of emails are full of,

Sign here, give money, who is on top in the elections

Don't buy this until Monday or Wednesday.

This moment in time, is like no other

Like the song, "Lean on Me" I am, I surely am.

Hot showers and nutritious food comfort me,

In the corner I find

a book once read

Pictures and papers, collected through the years

Bring new meaning to Love and Hope.

How do I manage stress?

Having daily calls to siblings, talking to friends and neighbors

And the latest thing for me are Zoom Meetings.

Ms E, delivers food, Mr. R looks our for us.

But what counts the most

Is: "Looking for the Silver Lining"

Limiting my news cycle to 1/2 hour at most,

Listening to my fav music, an increase of comedy shows,

Now I have time to use the BBQ, smell the flowers on our citrus tree,

Gazing at the Super Moon

Oh and I almost forgot,

I spotted three humming birds, yes three.

Again, the worst and best times,

With time standing still-

I can gain a better perspective

On staying mentally strong,

Pictures categorized and projects finished and done.

When this is all over we will have a good beginning to

Leap with our best foot forward

Ready

To seize and savor the moment

For now: the smell of the roses

Seeing the sunset till dusk.

The racquet, weights and bowling ball
I had to put away.

We are not going back

To the rat race

But joining the human race.

We can celebrate with much admiration

To all the first responders

Our hearts go out to you.

Saving lives 24/7

Were in for

A new way of life

Of this I am sure.

Its hard not getting political

But there it is

We can't escape it.

I only have one vote

And I am not going to waste it.

So listen up

And Read.

On a positive note

Its been a full day

I'll see what tomorrow's opportunities

Come my way.

One Day More

<https://youtu.be/DwlnT3Wxrl>

SIR Book Club - Our Meeting via Zoom

Every month our book club reads a selection we have previously chosen. And normally we have a meeting at a member's home to discuss that book. Since we could not meet in person in April (and possibly for some months to come), we decided to hold our meeting via Zoom. We have 12 members, and usually somewhere between 9 and 11 members actually participate in any given month. So to get started we had a trial run using Zoom with 2 of our members. That worked well, but we were limited by the 40 minutes maximum without a paid subscription. The member who had initiated the idea signed up so that is no longer a problem.

Also, we addressed questions about the "safety" and privacy of using this technology. Fairly recent enhancements allow the meeting host to specifically permit only those invited to join in on a "one-by-one" basis. Apparently there are other recent security enhancements which were added due to the high utilization of the technology by young and old alike.

The last issue was making sure everyone with the appropriate technology knew how to log in. Options include desktop and laptop computers which have a camera and microphone. Smart phones will also work. So anyone with one of those options can participate. Even those without those options can call in using a phone number which is provided when the meeting is set up and the email invitation is sent out by the host.

For those who have never used this technology, there's a very short learning curve and a couple of our members were able to help a couple other members learn how to use it. It's not hard.

So prior to the meeting everyone knew we were going to do this and were sent an invitation to join in at the date / time specified. At

the time of the meeting everyone used the invitation information which includes a link to download the Zoom program (in case someone had not done so already), a meeting code to enter, and finally a password. Once the call starts and members have entered the above information, the meeting host (who set up the meeting by entering everyone's email address) lets everyone in one at a time.

Each person on the call will generally enable both the video and audio so we can all see and hear each other. Once the host starts the meeting, he can run it pretty much the same as an in-person meeting. However, there needs to be some order to the process since talking over each other doesn't work well (worse than in real meetings). A request to speak can easily be accomplished by the use of available symbols such as a raised hand which can be selected from the attendee's screen. The meeting leader can then call on others upon request.

So our first meeting went well and I believe was enjoyed by everyone. We all took turns giving our thoughts on the book we read. And I suspect that we felt like we were all sharing and enjoying the gathering. I encourage other groups to try this out and reach out to others that have used it for help and suggestions.

Jerry

Jerry Belden

A Lesson in Economics

"It is a slow day in the small Saskatchewan town of Pumphandle, and streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody is living on credit. A tourist visiting the area drives through town, stops at the motel, and lays a \$100 bill on the desk saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night. As soon as he walks upstairs, the motel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher. The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to retire his debt to the pig farmer. The pig farmer takes the \$100 and heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the Co-op. The guy at the Co-op takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit. The hooker rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill with the hotel owner. The hotel proprietor then places the \$100 back on the counter so the traveler will not suspect anything. At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill and leaves. No one produced anything. No one earned anything... However, the whole town is now out of debt and now looks to the future with a lot more optimism."

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how a Stimulus package works.

Larry Wray, Former SIR Branch 35 Treasurer

