## Message from Michael



It just does not seem possible that summer is almost behind us! The year is speeding along and it's amazing to think that we have been locked down for six months, that our regular lives have been stood on their head. But we are fortunate that we have a strong and committed BEC that continues to work diligently within tremendous restrictions to try and keep us 'active.'

I attended the first SIR State Annual Meeting last week via ZOOM and it was impressive to see how it was put together. Unfortunately there is very little to report. Much of the time was spent with humdrum business, revision and approval of Bylaws, annual budget etc. The one highlight was in the "Town Hall" section where a company representative was brought in to present a possible Marketing Plan for SIR using social media. The State SIR has little funding for any marketing and this might be one affordable way to go. More on this later.

Other item of interest: Reaching out to SIR singles is particularly important during this pandemic lockdown.

An uncomfortable issue for some people is being raised all over the State and I feel that we too should look into it. Most branches typically do not reflect the changing nature and composition of society in their membership and yet our future depends on our outreach. We need to look at how we can change the current demographics and develop a broad-based recruitment plan. I will be bringing this up for discussion at the next BEC.

The BEC takes place at 8:30 AM on the Monday morning of the monthly SIR 'Lunch' meeting (09/21). You are all welcome to attend. If you are interested please let Neil Schmidt know and he will send you the Zoom link.
Blessings to you all and stay safe.

## Michael



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Please email or call any BEC member if you have any questions/news regarding branch activities or members


## 2020 SIR Branch 116 Directors



Gary Boswell


Roger
Craig


Al
Farbman

## 2020 Activity Chairmen

Activity

- Bocce
- Book Group 1
- Book Group 2
- Book Exchange
- Bridge
- Computer \& Tech
- Dine-O-SIR
- Duplicate Bridge
- Fishing
- Golf-18 Hole
- Golf-9 Hole
- Golf - Carmel
- Golf - Carson City
- Mexican Train
- Parties
- Pickleball
- Poker
- Saturday Tours
- \$ums in Retirement
- Travel
- Wine-O-SIR


## A Thank You to all Br. 116 SIR Who Volunteer to be Leaders

| Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| Apple User Group | Dick Macy (Br.171) | $376-1180$ |
| Astronomy | Bill Hunter (Br.8) | $947-6947$ |
| Bowling | Dan Weller (Br. 8) | $935-5510$ |
| Digital Photo. | Bill Phelon (Br.8) | $254-8338$ |
| Pocket Pool | Jerry White (Br.8) | $944-9068$ |
| Tennis | Ralph Thornicraft (174) | $376-8140$ |

Asst. Chairman
Chairman John Riordan Joel White Jim Seven Rich Black Alan Pope John Fraser Jon Dickson Neil Schmidt Alex Lutkus Conrad Robertson Harry Sherinian Bernie Wroblewski
Dick Chaffee
Jim Barstow
Tim Hubbard Richard Madden Marty Katz Ed Solomon Lou Sandor
Greg Hughes
Ben Smith
TBD
Lou Meylan
Steve Bort
Dick Kauffman Bob Wolf Phil Goff
Team Members Tom Henry Terry Miller
Jim Johnson
D. Mclaughry JJ, Harris, Eller Oberle, Harris Alex Lutkus

Page 2


David Harris


Fred Wachowicz


Jerry Hicks

## 2020 Support Chairmen

RAMP Department Heads:

- Recruitment
- Activities
- Member Relations
- Publicity

Support Chairmen:

- Audit Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Sunshine Committee

Luncheon Support:

- Attendance
- Audio Visual
- Chaplain Committee
- Greeters Committee
- Raffle Committee
- Speakers Committee
- Storytellers Committee
- Cash Collection

Recruitment Committee

- Recruiting
- Guest Packet
- Guest Follow-up
- Guest Statistics
- Sponsor Program
- New Member Orientation
- New Member Packet


## Membership

- Member Relations
- Membership Secretary
- Membership Roster
- Awards/Recognition

Publicity

- Publicity
- Newsletter Editor
- Internal Communications

Don Schroeder
Fred Wachowicz
Tom O'Brien
Jim McCormick
Ron Armijo
Jerry Hicks
Matt Arena
Mike Scheneider
Neil Schmidt
Terry Sherman
Terry Grummitt
Ben Bryce
Sam Beret/ Al Farbman
Mac Mcloughlin
Ron Banducci

Don Schroeder
Don Schroeder
Don Schroeder
Phil Goff
Don Schroeder
Dave Williams
Phil Goff
Tom O'Brien
Phil Goff
George Pryhuber
Michael Barrington
Jim McCormick
Neil Schmidt
Michael Barrington

September 2020


|  | Br. <br>  <br> Alan Fitzgerald, Treasurer <br> (galan.fitzgerald@gmail.com) |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| August 26, 2020 |  |  |  |
|  | August-2020 | 2020 YTD |  |
| Contributions | 752.67 | $\$$ | $17,391.47$ |
| Disbursements | $\$$ | $(39.95)$ | $\$$ |
| Net (gain/(loss)) | $\$$ | $712.362 .62)$ |  |
|  |  | $\$$ | $2,028.85$ |
| August Cash Balance |  |  |  |
| Outstanding Checks | $\$$ | $11,874.67$ |  |


| Sin | Membership <br> Phil Goff <br> (philgoff@yahoo.com) |
| :---: | :---: |
| SIR 116 August Membership Status |  |
| Total Current Membership is 206 |  |



## Sunshine Report <br> Matt Arena <br> (marena@astound.net)

SIR Jim Nachtweih will celebrate his 90th birthday on September 18. HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Jim is off his Hurricane and on to a standard cane for balance and is doing well.

CORRECTION: Last month I reported that 25 members on ZOOM enjoyed our luncheon speaker. The number of members should have been closer to a hundred. Our Webmaster helped with this correction.

Stay well.


SOCIAL ACTVVITISS FOR MEN
Always checkout the SIR Happenings State Newsletter at:

## sirinc.org/sirhappenings

It contains some interesting SIR reading material.

## September Birthdays

When you see these members, wish them a Happy Birthday!

1. Rich Black
2. Mike Corker
3. Tony deGrassi
4. Chris Doan
5. Jim Dugan
6. Alan Fitzgerald
7. Warren Garrison
8. Allen Leschot
9. Hank McDermott
10. Terry Miller
11. Jim Nachtweih
12. Leo Vardas
13. Carlos Xavier


## Pickleball

Ed Solomon (edsolomon@gmail.com)

Our Pickleball group is back to playing every Friday, now from 8:00 to 9:30 am, at Heather Farm Tennis Center.

Until further notice we are only allowed to play "skinny" singles which is less running around on the court.

## Trampas Topics Submissions



We need your contributions and suggestions for Trampas Topics. Please send photos, news items, SIR activities, and Letters to the Editor:

Neil Schmidt, Trampas Topics Editor trampastopics@gmail.com


> | Wine-O-SIR |
| :---: |
| Lou Meylan |
| (loumeylan@hotmail.com) |

The Wine-O-SIR are on an indefinite hold until the virus ends.



## Meeting Speaker

Little SIR Sam Beret
(snb49@Outlook.com)
I hope all of our members and their families are doing well.

On Monday September 21, 2020, we will have a "virtual lunch" meeting via Zoom. Gregory Crouch will be our luncheon speaker. Gregory is an author who specializes in adventurous and historic subjects. Most recently, he is the author of The Bonanza King: John Mackay and the Battle Over the Greatest Riches in the American West (Scribner, 2018).

Crouch is also the author of the true-life World War II flying adventure China's Wings (Bantam, 2012) and the mountaineering memoir Enduring Patagonia (Random House, 2001).

A regular book critic, Crouch has reviewed more than 30 books for the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, the New York Times Book Review, and NPR Books, among others. He is a member of the National Book Critics Circle.

In 1988, Gregory Crouch graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he studied military history. He completed U.S. Army Airborne and Ranger schools and led two infantry platoons. He left the Army to pursue other interests, most notably in rock and ice climbing and high-stakes international mountaineering. He developed a particular obsession with the storm-swept peaks of Patagonia and made seven expeditions to those remote mountains, where he made a number of world-class first ascents.

Along the way, he became a writer. Crouch's entire career has been built from following his intellectual and adventurous interests to their absolute conclusions.

This will be a presentation via Zoom video platform and Zoom meeting details will be announced later.

Although our SIR 116 luncheons are suspended
due to shelter-in-place, we are continuing with our tradition of celebrating member birthdays. The birthday-raffle winner will be announced at our September meeting.

Congratulations to all of our previous winners and they can claim their free lunch vouchers when we start meeting in person again.


# 6 0 4 <br> Amiable Amblers <br> John Riordan \& Joel White <br> (jriordan730@gmail.com) 

August was a month for canal walks. On August 14 we walked the Contra Costa Canal Trail north from Larkey Park and on August 28 we walked the Contra Costa Canal Trail east from Heather Farm.

The September 11 walk will begin at $8: 15$ in the Osage Station Park north parking lot off Brookside Drive in Danville. We will walk south along the Iron Horse Trail.

The September 25 walk will begin at 8:15 in the Moraga Commons parking lot off St Mary's Road. We will walk north on the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.
John Riordan will lead both walks. RSVP to him at jriordan730@gmail.com . Call his cell phone 925-391 -5749 if you are running late.
These walks are for individuals or couples, as spouses and significant others are encouraged to participate. The significant other/spouse is also invited to participate even when the member is unable to. Also, members and or spouses are invited to join the post-walk convocation even if they are unable to participate in a particular walk. SIR members, including those from other branches, wishing to join this mellow group or to be added to the email contact list should contact John Riordan at jriordan730@gmail.com or 925-284-3394.

## SIR Web Addresses

## SIR 116 Web Site <br> branch116.org

Branch 116 Golf branch116golf.org

Computer and Technology
https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/
SIR Happenings State Newsletter sirinc.org/sirhappenings
SIR Fishing Group
Harry Sherinian
(h.sherinian@comcast.net)

All SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are Ron Lew (Big Fish) 925-550-4166 or Harry Sherinian, (Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator,) 925-846-7067. Next meeting will be through ZOOM on Thursday September 24, at 8:30am.

Because our activity happens outdoors, we have been able to pursue our passion, observing all the COVID limitations. We have been fishing on party boats with half loads and increased prices. Many of us, too numerous to name, caught lots of salmon and halibut. Bob Stein, Brion Beetz, Carl Moyer, Gordon Linebaugh, and Stan Wong, got rockfish on the big water. Harry Sherinian, Mike Corker, and Tom Kostik fished the delta for black bass in their boats, keeping distances, etc. Ron Lew also fished the delta, caught fish and blackberries. He and friends also battled and lost a big bluefin tuna when those behemoths wandered close to us.
On a very positive note, I am pleased to announce that even without nose to nose meetings, (we are doing Zoom meetings) we have added eight new members to our group. It's always great to see new members in our fishing group.

## BRAIN TEASERS

1. How many times can you subtract 6 from 30?
2. Find two positive numbers that have a onedigit answer when multiplied and a two-digit answer when added.
3. The ages of a father and a son add up to 55 . The Father's age is the son's age reversed. How old are they?
4. How much do 10 pieces of candy cost if one thousand pieces cost $\$ 10$ ?

How well did you do? (Answers on Page 9)

## Walking Tours <br> Greg Hughes <br> (greghughes505@gmail.com)

In our 2020 Walking Tour plan we were originally scheduled to do Downtown Walnut Creek in September, and the Tracy based Amazon Fulfillment Center in October. Unfortunately, BOTH TOUR PROVIDERS CANCELLED THEIR TOURS. We will not be able to reschedule our tours until the Tour Providers return to normal production. We are evaluating other tours having "outside venues" and "short driving distances." Another way to do this is to seek out tours with facilities that are still open for business. Unfortunately, it is difficult to plan for a Walking Tour when we are unsure of the future COVID 19 environment. If we successfully identify a logical Walking Tour venue, we will announce the details in next month's newsletter.

As always, please feel free to send your questions and Walking Tour suggestions to Greg (greghughes505@gmail.com).


## Bridge <br> Jon Dickson (still26@sbcglobal.net)

Diablo Country Club was contacted last week and they are still closed to all. They have promised to contact us as soon as they are opening and we can start again to play bridge, have lunch there, on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. I am sue they are as anxious to have us there as we are to resume playing bridge.

As soon as they give us a positive word, you will receive an announcement.

## Duplicate Bridge

With the unknown about the availability of the bridge site and the continued use of face masks, the duplicate group has decided to wait until at least the first week of October before reconvening. We will reassess the situation at that time and make a determination as to when to restart

Activity Chair<br>Fred Wachowicz \& Mike Ward (fredwach@pacbell.net)

Looks like the numbers are beginning to come down for Covid but not enough yet to support major County Guideline reductions for social activity.

For Activity leaders you may be able to find activity venues online or where social distancing can be maintained in smaller groups so let me know if you think that this is possible. Mike Ward has information on various online applications.

Pickle, Golf (18 hole and 9 hole), Fishing, Book Clubs 1 and 2, Amiable Amblers, and Saturday Walking Tours are back in operation along with a bit of online Bridge as well.

A Continuing Caveat to all, please continue to observe both all of our County and State Covad requirements as well as our own car-pooling restrictions

As we approach 2021, we will be conducting our annual survey to expand our activities and query our membership on your concerns and thoughts about restarting activities and leaving Covid behind.

Along this line we have been in contact with Branch 146 and Branch 8 Activity Leaders to talk about the possibility of sharing various activities between branches.

For those on our Travel Committee, apologies again for not getting us back together yet given vacations etc. Please expect a zoom call for sure early next week to continue with our plans to update our Branch 116 Travel Venue to include 1-day excursions, weekend travel on the West Coast, US National and Canadian Travel, and International Travel. Don Murray has updated SIR Area International Travel Information available at this point for members interested in this venue.

As reported last month, given the interest in holding a Grand Celebration Luncheon similar to the Spring Fling when Covid retires into the past. We are working on this possibility.


## Br. 116 Book Group 1

Rich Black
(blackrw41@comcast.net)
Book Group \#1 will meet next on Monday, October 5 at 10:15 am, to discuss "The Radetzky March" by Joseph Roth. It is the custom of Book Group \#1 to meet at 10:15 am at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, in Orinda but in all probability this meeting will again be conducted on the Zoom on-line platform on that date at that time. The Convener will notify members ahead of time if an in-person meeting consistent with BEC guidelines can be conducted. Prospective new members should contact Richard Black at Blackrw41@comcast.net

Book Group \#1 will not meet on September 28 because of Yom Kippur.

The August meeting discussed "Facebook: The Inside Story" by Steven Levy. Mike Schneider recommended the book and Richard Black led the discussion with Jerry Christopherson, Mac McLoughlin, Pail Freitas, Jim Flessner, Joel White, Richard White, Art Donaldson, John Kopchik, John Reardon, Bob Wolf, Richard Rossland and Steve Bort.

Facebook is a dominant media outlet for our world with over 2 billion users, 1 billion of whom consult it every day. Most of the SIRs present are not among the one 1 billion. SIRs were impressed with creativity and audacity behind the growth of Mark Zuckerberg's company and appalled at the lapses in oversight and basic integrity. Criticisms of the book were its length and cascade of personalities, and yet most readers learned a great deal about this force in our contemporary world and awarded the book 4.1 stars.

## Want a Free \$25 Lunch ? Sponsor a New Member!



## Br. 116 Book Group 2

Alan Pope
(pope451@gmail.com
Book Group 2 met by teleconference on Thursday, August 20, to discuss "Empires of the Sky" by Alexander Rose. The group had a good discussion about this true story of airships (zeppelins), airplanes and the competition to rule the skies. The book begins with balloons and traces the rise of airships, primarily developed Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, and later, the rise of airplanes, first by the Wright brothers, and later by Juan Trippe, who developed airplane travel around the world with a new airlines company, Pan American Airlines. It is a "sweeping narrative" ending with the explosion of the Hindenburg on May 6, 1937. While the group believed that the story could have been told in a shorter version, the group gave "Empires of the Sky" an overall rating of 3.5 out of 5 .
The next Book Club 2 meeting will be on Thursday, September 17, at 11 am by videoconference using the Zoom app. The group will discuss, "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles. After "A Gentleman in Moscow", Book Club 2 will discuss "An Army at Dawn", by Rick Atkinson, which is about the war in North Africa in 1942 and 1943.

## GETTING OLDER

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.
"Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"
"Yes, I'm afraid so." the doctor told her.
There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'?"


# Computer \& Technology 

Neil Schmidt
(SIR.Area2.CAT@gmail.com)
he next SIR Area 16 Computer \& Technology (CAT) Group meeting, via Zoom, will be Thursday, September 17th starting at 9:30 AM. (The Zoom "Doors" open at 9:15 AM so come a little early to chat with friends.)

In September the Computer \& Technology group is going to start a multi part series on "Television Entertainment" led by Phil Goff and Neil Schmidt. The first part of the series, starting in September, will review "Internet Streaming, Smart TV's and Streaming Devices". In later months: streaming sites available, how to find good programming and favorite sites/programs, as contributed by members, will be discussed.

There is a tremendous amount of television programming available beyond your standard cable or satellite service. Numerous interesting documentaries, Academy Award movies, classic movies, TV series, etc. are available via Internet streaming. In addition, some of these services are free.

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


## Using Credit Cards for "Pay-in-Advance" Golf Events

Our Branch is transitioning toward using credit payments for SIR activities, including "away" golf outings. We are working on a modification to our Branch web page which will include an option for signing up and paying for golf outings by credit card. It will be a "Shopping Cart" approach, much like those used for typical on-line purchases. Details are in the process of being developed and a trial period will be forthcoming. Once the Branch and golf web pages have been set up, an e-mail will be sent to the golf e-mail list to explain the process.


## BRAINTEASER ANSWERS

1. Only once, because the second time you will be subtracting from 24 instead of 30 .
2. 1 and 9
3. The father is 41 and the son is 14 .
4. 10 cents

# SIR Branch 116 Golf <br> By Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman <br> (bbwroblewski@comcast.net) 

## Boundary Oak Golf is Back

Our Branch has been reinstated for Monday golf at Boundary Oak beginning Monday, September 14. Boundary Oak sign ups for Mondays, September 14, October 5, October 12 are available on our golf web page or through our golf hotline. Play at Boundary Oak is still subject to the Covid-19 restrictions which are published on our golf web page.



Nine Hole Info
Dick Chaffee, 9-Hole Chairman (rwchaffee@sbcglobal.net)

The SIR Branch 116 Nine Hole Golf Club plays every Wednesday morning. First tee time is 10:00am. Golfers of all levels are welcome. All events are scored on a handicapped basis. An NCGA index is not required. You may use your NCGA index if you have one. If not, we will compute an index for you based on your SIR 9 hole scores. To sign up for an event, please call the SIR Branch 116 Golf Club Hot Line, 925-906-5355. State that you want to sign up for the 9 hole event on (give the date). Or, if you receive our 9 hole golf email announcements, reply to the e-mail.

## Latest SIR 116 Golf Info Available on Our Golf Web Site

The Golf Website is: branch116golf.org
Please bookmark it in your "Favorites" list of websites to access information on the following:

- 2018 Golf Schedule: Dates, times, and courses as well as detailed information on costs, payment information, deadlines, and special event facts.

18-Hole Pairings: Shows captains, teams, starting times \& handicaps for next event.

- 18-Hole Leaders and Results: Shows results from recent events and leaders in each group.
- Paid-In-Advance Sign-Ups: Shows checks that have been received for the next 3-4 pre-paid outings.


## 18-Hole Pay In Advance Deadlines

| Event Date |  |  | Location |  | Deadline |  | ount |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| September 22 |  |  | San Ramon |  | Sept. 16 | \$24 | , \$36 Ride |
| September 29 |  |  | Paradise Valley |  | Sept. 17 |  | 45 |
| October 20 |  |  | Hiddenbrooke |  | Oct. 19 |  | 35 |
| October 26 |  |  | Brentwood |  | Jan. 13 |  | 35 |
| Send checks made out to SIR Branch 116 Golf, PO Box 683, Lafayette, CA 94549-0683 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| September 9-Hole Schedule |  |  |  | September 18-Hole Schedule |  |  |  |
| Date | Time | Location | Organizer | Date | Time | Location | Organizer |
| Wed. 02 | 10:00 | Pleasanton GC | Marty Katz | Mon. 14 | 9:35 | Boundary Oak | Jim Barstow |
| Wed. 09 | 10:00 | Diablo Hills | D.McClaughry | Tue.. 22 | 9:30 | San Ramon | Jim Barstow |
| Wed. 16 | 10:00 | Buchanan Fields | Dick Chaffee | Mon. 28 | 10:03 | Paradise Valley | Jim Barstow |
| Wed. 23 | 10:00 | TBD | TBD |  |  |  |  |
| Web. 30 | 10:00 | Special event | TBD |  |  |  |  |
| Page 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## FRRSC CLASS MALL

RETURN TO: Neil Schmidt
2231 San Miguel Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5805

# Sons In Retirement: A non profit Organization for Men Enjoying Active Retirement 

## Rules of Attendance \& Membership for SIR Branch 116

RULE 100. A member shall be notified in writing and/or telephone by his Branch of the pending termination of his membership should he be responsible for any of the following:

- Miss three (3) consecutive regular luncheon meetings without having been excused by contacting the designated Branch Attendance person prior to the meeting date.
- Did not attend one-half of the regular luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period. NOTE: Excused meetings cannot be included to achieve the minimum attendance.
- All legitimate alternatives to termination shall be explored. The member's response may suggest an alternative to termination such as inactive status.

RULE 101. Certification of attendance by a member at another Branch meeting will be considered as a credit to his attendance record. Individual Branches may limit the number of make-ups during a 12-month period.

## Non Responsibility Declaration

RULE 345: All activities arranged for or by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

## Checks for Trips

Trips of 2 days and 1 night or less may be made payable to the Branch conducting the trip. Trips in excess of 1 night must be made payable to the travel agency involved.

