

## Climbing Mt. Everest with SIR (Sons in Retirement)



A View of the Kangshung, East Face of Mt. Everest.

Wish you were there? Or were you one of the lucky ones who attended the Las Trampas Branch # 116 SIR (Sons in Retirement) monthly meeting that featured Mr. Ed Webster presenting his most thrilling adventure of Climbing Mt. Everest--WITHOUT OXYGEN!!

Seventy-eight members of our SIR Branch # 116 participated in our first members meeting of the 2021 year via Zoom. We started the meeting with a half hour of social get-togethers in "break-out rooms" that members can choose to join. The break-out rooms are designated with different interests a member may have such as travel, book group, wine, golf, etc. It was a lot of fun to talk and catch up with others in small groups. This new feature of our virtual meetings is a really great way to socialize; the next best thing to being there in person.

One of the great things about using Zoom, is that we are not tied to only getting guest speakers that can travel to Walnut Creek's Boundary Oak venue. Rather, we are getting fantastic speakers who live in other parts of the US. As an example, in June, we hosted Michael Bishop, a really great speaker from Washington, DC. where he provided an exceptional presentation about Winston Churchill.

Our January meeting began with our incoming Big SIR (President) Sam Beret, providing a few welcoming remarks and announcements with assistance from Fred Wachowicz, the new Little SIR (Vice President). Once that concluded, we introduced our guest speaker and moved on from there.

Ed Webster, a mountaineer extraordinaire who lives in Maine, was our guest speaker. In addition to his exciting description of his challenging climb of Mt. Everest, he also had

magnificent photos that he was able to share with us that brought us all a better appreciation of the majesty of Mt. Everest and what he and his four-person climbing team endured climbing over 27,000 ft. without oxygen bottles, fixed ropes, radios or Sherpa assistance; an ascent hailed at the time as a most audacious mountaineering feat!



Ed Webster inside the **Jaws of Doom Crevasse**, Neverest Buttress first ascent, 1988.  
Mt. Everest Kangshung East Face, Tibet.

We were all held spell-bound for well over 40 minutes and were also able to get answers to some of our questions ---very similar to our in-person meetings. A completely rewarding experience for all of us!!

So, the message to all is that *there is a true benefit to be engaged with our Las Trampas branch # 116 of SIR!!* Our goal is to foster friendships and offer events and activities throughout the year that keep us active and engaged.

**If you are interested in learning more about who and what we are and perhaps become a member of our SIR Las Trampas Branch # 116, please visit our website at [www.branch116.org](http://www.branch116.org) and Click "Contact Us" and then you can either: (a) call us at the listed telephone # (925) 322 1160, or (b) click on the 2<sup>nd</sup> "Contact Us" button; either way, leave a message and someone will get back to you.**

**Our next branch # 116 meeting will be held via Zoom on February 15, with a social hour beginning at 11:25.** Our featured speaker will be a US Army Major General speaking on Cybersecurity.

*Best to all for the New Year!!*

**SIR Las Trampas Branch #116**