



SIR Branch 116 Trampas Topics Newsletter June 2020

Next Meeting: Zoom
Speaker Meeting on June
15th at 12:00 PM

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Men Enjoying Active Retirement

Message from Michael



Another month of lock down and another month of not being able to do what the SIR organization is uniquely designed to do....help us enjoy each other's' company through a smorgasbord of activities. These are trying times for all of us and many of you have written to me asking 'when will we be able to get back to some degree of normalcy?' The answer of course is that nobody knows the answer to that question. Added to the frustration is that once things do move more in that direction, the SIR Organization requires that a 'start up' plan be developed for each activity where there is physical proximity and submitted to the BEC for approval. These plans are currently in process. After review and approval there is a wait period for another 30 days before the activity can take place. Given those restrictions, it is highly unlikely that our Branch 'physical' activities, including golf, will not take place before the end of June and possibly into July.

All I can do is ask for your patience, we are all in this together.

The BEC in an extended form continues to meet frequently virtually via ZOOM and I am so impressed with the members commitment and dedication. We are blessed to have such strong leaders in Branch 116.

Last week we had our first Monthly Monday Meeting via Zoom and more than 80 members were on-line. That was impressive and we had a wonderfully entertaining speaker. However, it also shows that about 145 of you missed out on an opportunity to meet old friends and acquaintances as well as getting the most up to date SIR information. I encourage all of you to give it a try. If you want to but are afraid of Zoom or believe with some people that technology is just for your grandchildren, then please give me a call or be brave and send me an email, let's talk. Neil Schmidt is our resident nerd, techy and computer Guru, and I know that he would also be delighted to walk you through the Zoom process. Please give it a shot we would love to see your smiling faces. Our next meeting will be on Monday June 15th.

Be well, be safe,

Blessings,

Michael



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NOTE:

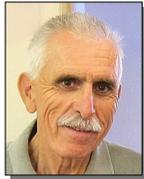
All SIR activities have been cancelled until further notice due to COVID-95. Virtual meetings such as Zoom meetings are ok; however, participants are to stay in their homes with only family members.

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

2020 SIR Branch 116 Officers



Big SIR
Michael
Barrington



Little SIR
Sam
Beret



Treasurer
Alan
Fitzgerald



Asst.Treas.
Al
Satake



Secretary
Fred
Schafer



Assist.Sec.
Paul
Ramacciotti



Member.Sec.
Phil
Goff

2020 SIR Branch 116 Directors



Gary
Boswell



Roger
Craig



Al
Farbman



David
Harris



Fred Wa-
chowicz



Jerry
Hicks

2020 Activity Chairmen

Activity	Chairman	Asst. Chairman
• Amiable Amblers	John Riordan	Joel White
• Bocce	Jim Seven	
• Book Group 1	Rich Black	Steve Bort
• Book Group 2	Alan Pope	
• Book Exchange	John Fraser	Dick Kauffman
• Bridge	Jon Dickson	Bob Wolf
• Computer & Tech.	Neil Schmidt	Phil Goff
• Dine-O-SIR	Alex Lutkus	Team Members
• Duplicate Bridge	Conrad Robertson	Tom Henry
• Fishing	Harry Sherinian	Terry Miller
• Golf-18 Hole	Bernie Wroblewski	Jim Johnson
• Golf-9 Hole	Dick Chaffee	D. McLaughry
• Golf - Carmel	Jim Barstow	JJ, Harris, Eller
• Golf - Carson City	Tim Hubbard	Oberle, Harris
• Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
• Parties	Marty Katz	
• Pickleball	Ed Solomon	
• Poker	Lou Sandor	
• Saturday Tours	Greg Hughes	
• \$ums in Retirement	Ben Smith	
• Travel	TBD	
• Wine-O-SIR	Lou Meylan	

2020 Support Chairmen

RAMP Department Heads:

- Recruitment Don Schroeder
- Activities Fred Wachowicz
- Member Relations Tom O'Brien
- Publicity Jim McCormick

Support Chairmen:

- Audit Committee Ron Armijo
- Nominating Committee Jerry Hicks
- Sunshine Committee Matt Arena

Luncheon Support:

- Attendance Mike Schneider
- Audio Visual Neil Schmidt
- Chaplain Committee Terry Sherman
- Greeters Committee Terry Grummitt
- Raffle Committee Ben Bryce
- Speakers Committee Sam Beret/ Al Farbman
- Storytellers Committee Mac Mcloughlin
- Cash Collection Ron Banducci

Recruitment Committee

- Recruiting Don Schroeder
- Guest Packet Don Schroeder
- Guest Follow-up Don Schroeder
- Guest Statistics Phil Goff
- Sponsor Program Don Schroeder
- New Member Orientation Dave Williams
- New Member Packet Phil Goff

Membership

- Member Relations Tom O'Brien
- Membership Secretary Phil Goff
- Membership Roster George Pryhuber
- Awards/Recognition Michael Barrington

Publicity

- Publicity Jim McCormick
- Newsletter Editor Neil Schmidt
- Internal Communications Michael Barrington

**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



Br. 116 Treasurer's Report

Alan Fitzgerald, Treasurer
(galan.fitzgerald@gmail.com)

Other than feeling like I am in prison I have been able to look after the Branches' financial business and attend the BEC Zoom meetings. I use Bank of America's Online Application to view the monthly statements to reconcile the account. I also have been making deposits of the Annual Contribution checks from home using the Bank Online App. All but 17 members have made their contributions so far this year.

Using the internet, I have distributed the appropriate financial reports to the BEC, Board members and the SIR State Treasurer.

Previous Cash Balance	\$ 11,440.75
Net Gain	\$ 40.00
May 23 Cash Balance	\$ 11,480.75
Outstanding Checks	\$ (750.00)
Bank Acct. Balance	\$ 12,230.75



Membership

Phil Goff
(philgoff@yahoo.com)

SIR 116 March Membership Status

Total Current Membership is 205



Carmel Golf Outing

Jim Barstow
(jbarstow@aol.com)

The 2020 Carmel Golf Outing has been **Cancelled**.

Hopefully we can have this incredible event next year.



June Birthdays

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

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Matt Arena | 12. Charlie McInnis |
| 2. Andy Benz | 13. Dirk Meyer |
| 3. Sam Beret | 14. Lou Meylan |
| 4. Dick Bergamini | 15. Don Schroeder |
| 5. Dave Carlson | 16. Jim Seven |
| 6. Rog Craig | 17. Harry Sherinian |
| 7. Kevin Donahue | 18. Dave Tullus |
| 8. Phil Goff | 19. Fred Wachowicz |
| 9. Jerry Kaplan | 20. Mike Ward |
| 10. Alex Lutkus | 21. Jai Yee |
| 11. Bill McCallum | |



Sunshine Report

Matt Arena
(marena@astound.net)

SIR Werner Fend passed at the age of 98. Werner was the founder of the golf program for the Branch as well as the Carson City golf tournament. I learned that his son Rick is the BIG SIR in the Moraga branch. His dad loved to tell stories of the happenings in Carson City to all that would listen.

PAST BIG SIR Robbie Robinson celebrated his 80th this past month while at home. Give him a call which he will truly appreciate. He tells me he is doing fine.

PAST BIG SIR Jerry Hicks has returned from his stay in John Muir Medical Center following his stroke. He is home and enjoying his garden. He has made amazing progress and is looking forward to a complete recovery.

The very existence of libraries afford the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man. T.S.Eliot

In Memoriam

Werner Fend

March 9, 1922 - March 31, 2020



Br. 116 Book Group 1

Rich Black

(blackrw41@comcast.net)

Book Group #1 will meet next on **Monday, June 1 (via Zoom)** to discuss "Funny, You Don't Look Autistic" by Michael McCreary. 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. Prospective new members should contact Richard Black at Blackrw41@comcast.net

The group last met on May 4, 2020 to discuss "Strangers in Their Own Land" by Arlie Hochschild. Nick Bowles recommended the book and Richard Black led the discussion with Jerry Christopherson, Garrett Girvan, Mac McLoughlin, Pail Freitas, Mike Schneider, Jim Flessner, Dick Kauffman, Joe Cain, Joel White, Tim Tinnes, Richard Rossland, John Kopchik and Steve Bort.

The group learned a lot about the oil and chemical industries in Louisiana as well as the values, beliefs and experiences of Tea Party members in that part of our Nation. There was an unusually wide variation in the scores (from 1.25 to 5.0) awarded the book, with the average being 3.5 stars.



Br. 116 Book Group 2

Alan Pope

(pope451@gmail.com)

Book Group 2 met on Thursday, May 21, to discuss "The Accidental President" - "Harry S. Truman and Four Months that Changed the World." by A.J. Baime. This true story of Harry Truman's first 4 months of his presidency was interesting and fascinating in its details of that time period. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best, everyone in the group rated the book a 5.

The next Book Club 2 meeting will be on **Thursday, June 18, at 11 am** by videoconference using the Zoom app. The group will discuss "'Beethoven's Tenth" by Richard Kluger.



Computer & Technology

Neil Schmidt

(SIR.Area2.CAT@gmail.com)

The SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group normally does not meet in June. But this year, during these trying times, there will be an informal Zoom get-together on **Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 9:30 AM.**

There will not be a presentation topic for the June meeting but instead it will be open discussion between members about various computers and technology subjects. Members will be encouraged to introduce their technology problems (and solutions), favorite applications, new interesting products, etc. As usual, there will be several technical experts in "attendance" to answer most questions.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT mailing list. A few days before the meeting, the Zoom weblink that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list. If you are not on the CAT mailing list (or don't know if you are) send an email request to: SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com

SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site
branch116.org

Branch 116 Golf
branch116golf.org

Computer and Technology
<https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/>

SIR Happenings State Newsletter
sirinc.org/sirhappenings

State SIR Web Site
sirinc.org/



Activity Chair
Fred Wachowicz & Mike Ward
 (fredwach@pacbell.net)



Activity Restart Process

As Coronavirus conditions improve we will need to determine whether we can restart an Activity and what the health and safety measures will be for each activity. **Once the Activity Leader determines that it will be possible to restart the activity** given the then current health and safety guidelines, the process would be as follows:

- a. The Activity Leader needs to complete a recommendation form for Branch Activity Restart
 - i. Include any health and safety requirements published for the activity
 - ii. Include any recommended SIR Branch requirements or steps for health and safety
- b. Forward the recommendation to Fred Wachowicz and Mike Ward, Activity Coordination Chairmen
 - i. The Activity Coordination Chairmen may add additional appropriate health and safety steps to the recommendation
 - ii. The Activity Chairmen will consolidate recommendations for the restart of multiple activities (in a given time period) and forward the recommendations to the BEC for approval
- c. The BEC will consider the recommendations for approval and **upon approval the activity can be scheduled to start in 30 days from the date of approval** (a SIR State Organization requirement)
- d. When the activity restarts the Activity Leader can then distribute the recommendation sheet to member participants such that they are informed of the health and safety requirements for the activity



Meeting Speaker
Little SIR Sam Beret
 (snb49@Outlook.com)

I hope all of our members and their families are doing well.

Our **June 15**, we will have a “virtual lunch” meeting via Zoom. Michael F Bishop, Director of the National Churchill Society will be luncheon speaker. He is also the Director of the National Churchill Library and Center located on the campus of the George Washington University.

A California native, Bishop was educated at the University of California, Berkeley; The George Washington University; and Georgetown University. He has extensive political experience, having served on Capitol Hill during the Clinton years and later in the White House during the administration of President George W. Bush. His reviews and articles on Churchill, the Great War, Lincoln, and other subjects regularly appear in the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, National Review, and elsewhere.

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. Al Lundmark was the May birthday-raffle winner.

Congratulations to Al and he can claim his free lunch voucher when we start meeting in person again.



Call Initiative

The SIR Branch 116 "Call Initiative Crew" has completed its second round of calls. The intent is to let "all" members know SIRS was alive and well. The response has been gratifying as callers relate stories of appreciation by our members.

Subsequently our efforts were supported with table captain zoom meetings (see below) and calls made by committee chairs to their members. Branch 116 is indeed "alive and well" under the excellent direction of Big Sir Michael Barrington. Subsequent calls will be made at the discretion of our callers. The reward has been the knowledge that Branch 116 members are in fact "All in this together".

Call Initiative Crew:

Roger Craig (leader)

Norm Alberts

Sam Beret

Roger Craig

Alan Fitzgerald

Marty Katz

Jim McCormick

George Pryhuber

Michael Barrington

Gary Boswell

Allan Farbman

John Hughes

Richard Madden

Alan Pope

Fred Schafer

Zoom Table Initiative

In addition to the Call Initiative, luncheon table captains are also trying to setup Zoom meetings with their respective tables.

Dave Harris reported that he has held 6 virtual meetings with his Chevron group. Each meeting has had 15-18 attendees. (Those "oilers" are pretty slick.)



Always checkout the SIR Happenings State Newsletter at:

sirinc.org/sirhappenings

It contains some interesting SIR reading material.



Neil Schmidt's "Stay at Home" (almost) activity, i.e., Lotus Car Road Trip along Redwood Rd near Moraga

What is your "Stay at Home" Activity?

Send photos to: trampastopics@gmail.com

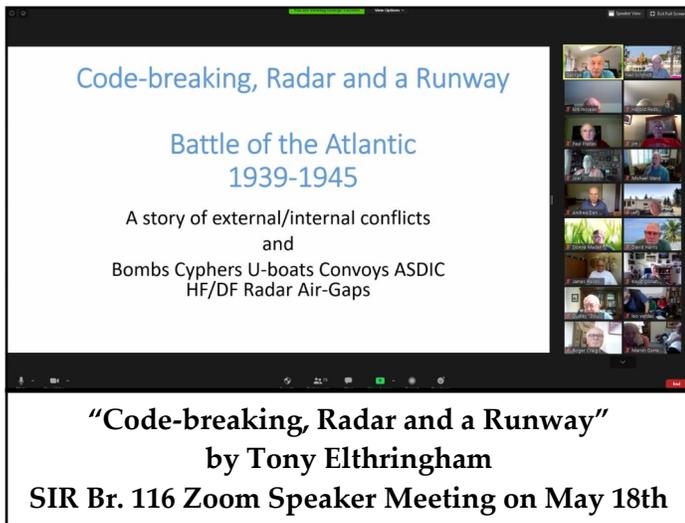
Some of the most annoying things that golfers do on the course

(from Golf Magazine)

- Taking many practice swings ... only to top the ball 10 feet
- Talking too much
- Always on the phone
- Standing over the ball forever
- Walking slowly
- Looking at putts from every angle
- Talking when people are getting ready to hit
- Saying "I think that's OB" after a shot when it's clearly OB
- Not fixing your pitch marks properly
- Waiting for the green to clear on a par 4 when they have no chance of driving it
- Looking for your ball 50 yards ahead of where it actually is
- 'Miraculously' finding your ball every time
- Outdriving you on every hole
- Not watching your partner's ball
- Fishing for golf balls
- Caring too much about yardages

Note: This is only a list of 16 annoying things. Golf Magazine actually listed 34 things.

SIR Branch 116 and Zoom



SIR Branch 116 activities currently being held via Zoom:

- Book Group 1
- Book Group 2
- Wine-O-SIR
- Computer & Technology
- BEC Meetings
- Speaker Meetings
- Table Group Meetings

Other activities under consideration for future Zoom meetings:

- Mexican Train
- Bridge
- Poker

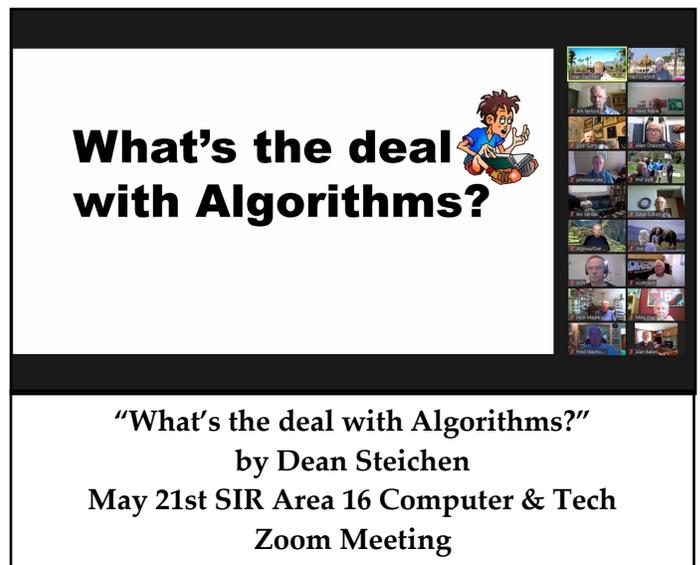
Where were you?

Eighty members attended the May 18th SIR Br. 116 Zoom Speaker Meeting. That's only 40% of our members. Since no one was travelling these days, what was the reason 125 members sat home and opted to not attend?

Zoom meetings are easily available to anyone with a computer or mobile device (If you are reading this newsletter electronically, you have a device that can be used to attend a meeting). A Zoom meeting weblink is emailed to every member a few days before the meeting and all you have to do is select the weblink contained in the email at the designated date/time and your attending the meeting. You don't have to register for or load a Zoom application prior to attending. **Just select the weblink and your in – It's that easy.**

Our Speakers Committee, lead by Sam Beret and Al Farbman are doing an excellent job of finding interesting speakers and it's probably going to be a long time before we are able to get together as a group for lunch. In the meantime, we are going to continue having Zoom Speaker Meetings.

The next meeting will be on June 15th starting at Noon . Come early at 11:45 AM to chat with fellow members and then listen to a great speaker.



The Zoom logo, consisting of the word "zoom" in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font.

A way to stay connected with your friends



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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.