



SIR Branch 116  
**Trampas Topics**  
 Newsletter  
 May 2020

**Next Meeting:** No scheduled lunch meetings until further notice due to COVID-95.

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Men Enjoying Active Retirement

**Message from Michael**



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What challenging and stressful times we live in!

I have learned about the 'incubation period' and having worked on a poultry farm it conjures up hazy memories of thousands of eggs in machines and day-old chicks. And 'flattening the curve'? Somehow, I always associate this with

Weight Watchers or an advertisement for Spandex. I am also feeling a sense of achievement since I can pronounce 'betacoronavirus' even when I am having a senior moment and can't actually remember what it means.

There are times I can't remember the day or date, and do weekends matter anymore? Yesterday I found myself staring vacantly at a re-run of Sesame Street, clutching my putter to my chest while gently caressing the blade. And I have it on excellent authority that I wake up several times a night shouting 'hole in one' and 'Oh my gosh, a total shank!'

But we are SIRs and have our fellowship and friendships and are trying to stay connected. We are reaching out to each other; we are holding some virtual activities with Book Groups, Wine Group etc. and having meetings with table captains. We have tried to call each one of you, just to 'check in' and say 'Hi'.

If anyone is doing something interesting during this 'shelter in place,' (new hobby, finding long lost photos, painting, playing an instrument or scaring the neighbors with your singing) or want to simply imagine yourself doing something useful, then please write about it briefly and we will publish it in Trampas Topics.

Finally, we rely on you to inform us and provide input for our Sunshine Report. If you hear of any member who is sick or might need help, please let Matt Arena or myself know.

Stay well and be safe.

Blessings to you all.

*Michael*

**NOTE:**

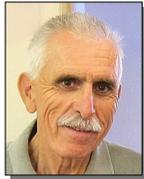
All SIR activities have been cancelled until further notice due to COVID-95. Virtual meetings such as Zoom meetings are ok; however, participants are to stay in their homes with only family members.

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)

	April 2020	2020 YTD
Contributions	\$ 220.00	\$ 16,538.85
Disbursements	\$ (365.75)	\$ (14,963.92)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ (145.75)	\$ 1,574.93
Apr. 25 Cash Balance		\$ 11,420.75
Outstanding Checks		\$ 750.00
Bank Acct. Balance		\$ 12,170.75



### Sunshine Report

Matt Arena  
(marena@astound.net)

SIR James Carden passed suddenly on April 20, 2020. Though James was a relatively new member he was enjoying the walking group AMIABLE AMBLERS. He was introduced to this enjoyable activity by John Riordan. We are hoping to hear from his wife to express our condolences. I am sure she is dealing with grief and arrangement for her husband.

**NOTE:** Fellow SIRs: Due to the lack of personal contact I would appreciate you letting me know if you are aware of any members who may be hospitalized or are ill at home. As usual i will contact these members and bring you news of their situation. Thanks for your help.

In Memoriam  
**James A. Carden**  
November 9, 1944 – March 20, 2020

### May Birthdays

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

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Doug Aalders  | 12. Greg Hughes       |
| 2. Ron Banducci  | 13. George Kohut      |
| 3. Ed Barney     | 14. Al Lundmark       |
| 4. Ben Bryce     | 15. Darrell McClaghry |
| 5. Larry Cannon  | 16. John Riordan      |
| 6. Al Farbman    | 17. Robbie Robinson   |
| 7. Jim Flessner  | 18. Tony Rohrs        |
| 8. Rudy Gebert   | 19. Paul Russell      |
| 9. Chuck Gilliam | 20. Chick Walsh       |
| 10. Jerry Hicks  | 21. Mike Yale         |
| 11. Bob Huck     | 22. Al Zavattero      |



### Membership

Phil Goff  
(philgoff@yahoo.com)

#### SIR 116 March Membership Status

Total Current Membership is 205

- Jame Carden Passed away on 3/20/2020

### Coronavirus Blues

By Roger Craig

Here I sit confined to home  
no place to go, no place to roam.  
I never felt I would have to face  
the challenges set by shelter in place

I know my wife loves me on this I would bet  
then why have I hidden the cutlery set ?  
Confronted with her daily mood  
I insist she's the first to taste my food.

I do the SIRS zooms just to survive  
and for you to confirm that I'm still alive.

Roger  
(SIR Br. 116 Director)



## Br. 116 Book Group 1

Rich Black

(blackrw41@comcast.net)

Book Group #1 will meet next on Monday, May 4 to discuss "Strangers in their Own Land" by Arlie Hochschild. 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 and at that time.**

The group last met on April 6, 2020 to discuss "13 Hours in Benghazi" by Mitchell Zuckoff with the Annex Security Team. John Riordan recommended the book and Richard Black led the discussion with Jerry Christopherson, Garrett Girvan, Mac McLoughlin, Pail Freitas, Mike Schneider, Nick Bowles, Jim Flessner, Dick Kauffman and Steve Bort.

The group appreciated that account was the combat experience of Global Response Staff contractors as they fought, ultimately unsuccessfully, to save the life of Ambassador Chris Stevens and his support staff. It was not a part of the subsequent partisan debate on the role of the State Department and Secretary of State Clinton. Book Group #1 learned much about the operations of the Global Response Staff in the very hostile environment which claimed one of their own in addition to the Ambassador and two of his support staff. The group gave the book 4 stars.



Book Group 1 Zoom Meeting on April 6



## Br. 116 Book Group 2

Alan Pope

(pope451@gmail.com)

The next Book Club 2 meeting will be on **Thursday, April 30**, at 11 am either by Zoom videoconference. The group will discuss "The Splendid and the Vile" by Erik Larson. This is a nonfiction account of Winston Churchill's first year as prime minister during the German Blitz, May 10, 1940 to May 10, 1941. We have room for more book club

Contact me for information on participating in the future Book Group 2 Zoom meetings.



## Computer & Technology

Neil Schmidt

(SIR.Area2.CAT@gmail.com)

The SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology group had it's first Zoom meeting on April 16th and fifty-five SIR attended.

The next virtual meeting via Zoom will be on Thursday, May 21 at 9:30 AM. The presentation topic for the meeting will be "Algorithms & Machine Learning" by Dean Steichen. There has been lots of discussion in the news about automatic decisions made by companies based on their algorithms and machine learning methods. Dean will help explain what this means and how it is being used.

In order to attend this Zoom meeting, individuals will need to be on the SIR Area 16 Computer & Tech email list to receive the necessary Zoom meeting web-link. **If you want to attend the next meeting, but are not already on CAT email list, send an email request to: [sirarea2cat@gmail.com](mailto:sirarea2cat@gmail.com)**



A way to stay connected with your friends



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



Well guys, just as last month it looks like most of our activities remain on the shelf with the next check point at the end of May.

Zoom Operations are in use across BOOK Clubs I and II, Lunch Table Groups, BEC Meetings, Computer Technology, and even a wine tasting or two.

Neil Schmidt has prepared a great guide for the use of Zoom which all of our activity leaders have a copy of any many members probably have it on hand as well.

Keep your eyes open for e-mail notes from our activity leaders setting up a Zoom Meeting to keep in touch with activity members when possible.

One of the activities that we were beginning to look at before the shutdown was an initiative to expand various travel events that might include 1 day Bay Area Events, Weekend Calif Travel Events, and Nationwide Multi-Day Travel Events. Preliminary work has been done by Don Murray, Greg Hughes, Mike Ward, and Fred Wachowicz and we are setting up a Travel Planning Group to put together a workable action plan for our Branch's consideration.

We need a few more good men and well versed Travel Guys to help us out and we can get this planning activity under way via Zoom now. We should be able to come up with some great travel ideas by the time that American life re-opens.

### SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site  
[branch116.org](http://branch116.org)

Branch 116 Golf  
[branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)

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

SIR Happenings State Newsletter  
[sirinc.org/sirhappenings](http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings)

State SIR Web Site  
[sirinc.org/](http://sirinc.org/)



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

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

Our luncheon speaker line-up is being reviewed and adjusted by the Speaker Committee. We had to cancel the speakers for March and April meetings.

To have on-line speaker presentations is under active consideration. BEC has endorsed the idea for May 18, 2020. If we can confirm with the speaker and technical details are lined out, it will be a presentation via Zoom video platform. The topic, speaker and details will be announced later.

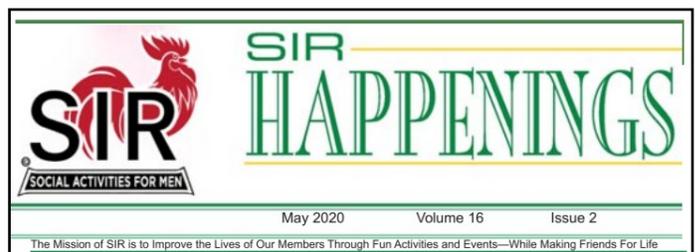
Although our SIR 116 luncheons are suspended due to shelter-in-place, we are continuing with our tradition of celebrating member birthdays. Here are SIRs with March birthdays:

SIR **John Story** was the birthday-raffle winner for March.

SIR **Duane Spencer** was the birthday-raffle winner April.

SIR **Toy Rohrs** is the birthday raffle winner for May.

Congratulations to them and they can claim free lunch vouchers when we start meeting in person again.



Checkout the May 2020 SIR Happenings State Newsletter at:

[sirinc.org/sirhappenings](http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings)

It contains some interesting SIR reading material.



**BEC Meeting Via Zoom on April 20th**

### SIR Br. 116 Zoom Training Class

There will be a Zoom training class offered by Neil Schmidt on **Wednesday, May 6th at 2:00 PM**. The class will show how to use this popular virtual meeting application for leading SIR activities and connecting with friends and relatives.

Zoom is easy and fun to use.

If you are interested in attending this class, send a join request to: [npschmidt2@gmail.com](mailto:npschmidt2@gmail.com)



**SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology Meeting via Zoom on April 16th**



**Michael Barrington's Stay at Home Activity (Backyard golf practice)**



**Neil Schmidt's Stay at Home Activity (Hiking in the Open Space with dog WaanJai)**



**Marty & Carolyn Katz's Stay at Home Activity**

### What is your Stay at Home Activity?

Send photos to: [trampastopics@gmail.com](mailto:trampastopics@gmail.com)



**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.

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### **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.

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### **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.