

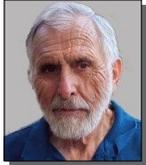


SIR Branch 116 Trampas Topics Newsletter January 2021

Next Meeting via Zoom on
Jan. 18th at 12:00 Noon

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Men Enjoying Active Retirement

Message from Sam



Happy New Year and welcome to 2021.

I hope all of our members and their families are doing well. As we start the New Year, let us be thankful that we left behind a year truly turned upside down by the pandemic and a tumultuous national election. 2020 has been a frustrating and difficult year for all us, but there is hope in the horizon with the approval of at least two vaccines for COVID 19 last month.

I want to acknowledge the astute leadership of Michael Barrington as our Big SIR and the BEC as they charted us through some very difficult times last year. Michael and the BEC had to make some hard choices, but our branch has survived and we were able to continue some of our activities remotely.

I want to thank also outgoing BEC Secretary Fred Schafer and Directors David Harris and Jerry Hicks for their service to our branch. I also want to welcome new additions to the BEC: Assistant Secretary Alan Pope and new Directors Kevin Donahue, Darrell McClaughry.

As I start to lead our branch as Big SIR, 2021 promises to be another challenging year. The pandemic is still with us, but we must move on and adapt. COVID forced many changes in our lives like Zoom meetings, telemedicine, walking with masks, remote learning, and elbow bumps. We have learned that we are capable of more than we know we could do.

At our age, change does not come easily. It can be disruptive and most often difficult, but we must embrace it to be successful and survive as an organization.

I know our members are frustrated not being able to see their friends. But until we are able to resume our activities in person, we have no alternative but to communicate remotely. To that end, starting in January we will be undertaking three initiatives:

1. A "phone tree" program: organized by Member Relations Committee: designated members will be calling other SIRS for fellowship.
2. "Table Captains" Zoom meetings: Following the lead of David Harris who started weekly Zoom meeting with his "MCHarkin Table", Little SIR Fred Wachowicz is arranging for other "table captains" to setup

(continued on Page 4)



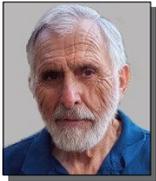
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Please email or call any BEC member if you have any questions/news regarding branch activities or members

2021 SIR Branch 116 Officers



Big SIR
Sam
Beret



Little SIR
Fred
Wachowicz



Treasurer
Alan
Fitzgerald



Asst. Treas.
Al
Satake



Secretary
Paul
Ramacciotti



Asst. Sec.
Alan
Pope



Member. Sec.
Phil
Goff

2021 SIR Branch 116 Directors



Michael
Barrington



Gary
Boswell



Roger
Craig



Kevin
Donahue



Al
Farbman



Darrell
McClaughry

2021 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	TBD
• Book Exchange	John Fraser	Dick Kauffman
• Bridge	Jon Dickson	Bob Wolf
• Computer & Tech.	Neil Schmidt	Phil Goff
• Dine-O-SIR	Alex Lutkus	Marty Katz
• 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	David Harris	Harry Oberle
• Golf—Lessons	Jerry Zampino	
• Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
• Parties	Marty Katz	
• Pickleball	Ed Solomon	Gary Bonfiglio
• Poker	Lou Sandor	
• Saturday Tours	Greg Hughes	
• \$ums in Retirement	Ben Smith	
• Travel	TBD	
• Wine-O-SIR	Lou Meylan	

2021 Support Chairmen

RAMP Department Heads:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| • Recruitment | Don Schroeder |
| • Activities | Mike Ward |
| • Member Relations | Tom O'Brien/Roger Craig |
| • Publicity | Allan Farbman |

Branch Support Chairmen:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Audit Committee | Ron Armijo |
| • Nominating Committee | Michael Barrington |
| • Sunshine Committee | Matt Arena |
| • Computer Support | Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff |
| • Webmaster | Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff |
| • Newsletter Editor | Neil Schmidt |
| • New Member Orientation | Dave Williams |
| • Membership Roster Prep | George Pryhuber |

Diversity Support Team

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| • Team Leader | Fred Wachowicz |
| • Team Member | Sam Beret |
| • Team Member | Terry Sherman |
| • Team Member | Al Satake |
| • Team Member | Jerry Hicks |
| • Team Member | Jim McCormick |
| • Team Advisor | Lee Moy |

Luncheon Support Team:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Attendance | Mike Scheneider |
| • Audio Visual | Neil Schmidt |
| • Chaplain Committee | Terry Sherman |
| • Greeters Committee | Terry Grummitt |
| • Raffle Committee | Ben Bryce |
| • Storytellers Committee | Mac McLoughlin/F. Schafer |

Speakers Committee

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| • Team Member | Fred Wachowicz |
| • Team Member | Jeff Johnson |
| • Team Member | Allan Farbman |
| • Team Member | Paul Freitas |
| • Team Member | Roger Craig |

**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

Monthly Activities Calendar

January 2021

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
					1 	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Computer & Tech (9:30 via Zoom)	15	16
17	18 <u>SIR Br.116</u> <u>Meeting</u> (12:00 via Zoom)	19	20	21 Book Group 2 (11:00 via Zoom)	22	23
24	25 Book Group 1 (10:15 via Zoom)	26	27	28 Fishing Group (8:30 via Zoom)	29	30





Br. 116 Treasurer's Report

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

December 19, 2020

	Dec. 2020	2020 YTD
Contributions	\$	\$ 22,307.14
Disbursements	\$ (20.17)	\$ (20,605.23)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ (20.17)	\$ 1,701.91
August Cash Balance		\$ 11,547.73
Outstanding Checks		\$ 0.00
Bank Acct Balance		\$ 11,547.73

End of Year Treasurer Report

The Branch Financials are in very good shape this year. We are projected to end the year with a balance in our Bank Account of approximately Eleven Thousand Dollars. In preparing the Budget for 2021 while looking into a future that no one can predict with certainty, the BEC has decided to forego the Annual Contribution for 2021. We have eliminated or reduced as much of the Branch Expenses as possible. The State SIR Leadership has eliminated the first quarter 2021 assessment for the Branches and those savings are reflected in the new budget.

Hopefully we can get back to business as usual sometime in 2021.

Alan Fitzgerald
Treasurer

January Birthdays

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ken Binning | 9. Andy Myhr |
| 2. Dick Conger | 10. Jim Nickels |
| 3. Neil Desmond | 11. George Pryhuber |
| 4. Tom Eller | 12. Lou Sandor |
| 5. Jack Fucik | 13. Dick Savage |
| 6. Bill Ginter | 14. Dennis Snarr |
| 7. "T" Legler | 15. Dick Socolich |
| 8. John Maerzke | |

"Message from Sam"

(continuation from Page 1)

Zoom meetings periodically so that fellow SIRS who used to sit together stay in touch.

- "Zoom Breakout Rooms" – we will continue with Zoom "breakout rooms" based on activities during our monthly virtual lunches.

Other changes are also on the way such as recruitment effort to broaden our membership, expanded travel opportunities and others but I will leave them to next month's Trampas Topics. You have my pledge that I will do everything I can to keep our branch to stay together and connected until we are able to resume our activities.

Stay safe, and stay in touch. Please give me or Fred Wachowicz a call and/or email with any ideas, comments or concerns.

Sam Beret
Big SIR



Membership

Phil Goff
(philgoff@yahoo.com)

SIR 116 January Membership Status

- Total Current Membership is 204
- Neil Fruman Resigned (moved out of area)

SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site
branch116.org

Branch 116 Golf
branch116golf.org

Branch 116 Shopping Cart
sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site

Area 16 Computer and Technology
sirinc2.org/a16cat/

SIR Happenings State Newsletter
sirinc.org/newsletters/



Meeting Speaker

Little SIR Fred Wachowicz

(fredwach@pacbell.net)

Welcome to 2021! I'm sure that we are all hoping that the virus has a very bad year while we are able to get past the pandemic and enjoy a very good year in 2021!

I am very happy to serve as your Little SIR this year and I will do everything possible along with Sam and the entire Branch Leadership Team to weather the storm and navigate our ship into the calmer waters of normal SIR Branch operations.

Along that line our Branch Speakers Committee has lined up some **Great Speakers** for our monthly meeting to include: Climbing Mt Everest, Travel in the Pandemic and After, the Calif Wine Industry, US Cyber Command and Command and Control in the Field, US Forest Management/Fire Prevention, and De La Salle Football among others.

You may also be aware that our Branch has formed a **Diversity Support Team** to consider how we might ensure that we reach out to all those in our local community who may be interested in SIR membership and the friendship opportunities that we provide.

Our Activities Chairman and Travel Planning Team are using this period of time to **Revamp Our Travel Activity Venue** to include a monthly ARM CHAIR TRAVEL Meeting, Full Day Travel Excursions, Weekend Travel Trips, and 1-2-week Travel Trips across North American and other International locations.

Our Party Chairman is organizing a **Grand Outdoor Event** when we celebrate the demise of covid to include the best outdoor menu you have ever seen accompanied by the best collection of Beverages to mark the occasion.

Welcome to our **Birthday Guys** for January 2021 (see page 4). They are our leaders and shakers for ushering us into a great new year!

We'll announce the winner for a free lunch or maybe a gift card at our Monthly Zoom Meeting.

Lastly look for our **Annual Online Survey** in January to ensure that we hear your interests, concerns, and ideas for Branch Improvement.

Saddle up for 2021. We promise **Fun, Friendship, Activities, and Normality for 2021.**

January 2021

Luncheon Speaker

Climbing Everest

ED WEBSTER (age 64), born in 1956 in Boston, grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts and obtained a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Colorado College in 1978. Married, with an 18-year old daughter, he lives in Harpswell, Maine. A veteran of seven Himalayan expeditions, Ed is one of America's best-known rock climbers and Himalayan mountaineers. He has achieved several world-famous climbs, most notably his first ascent of a new route up Mt. Everest's remote, highly-dangerous Kangshung East Face in Tibet as part of an international 4-man team in 1988. Ed's expedition climbed Everest without oxygen bottles, radios, or even any Sherpa assistance, an ascent hailed as among the most audacious mountaineering feats of all time.

Ed's writing and photographs have, additionally, been published worldwide in over fifty magazine articles, in Alpinist, Climbing Magazine, Rock & Ice Magazine, Popular Mechanics, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times Sunday Magazine, among others. His five books include all three editions of his definitive guidebook, Rock Climbs in the White Mountains of New Hampshire; Climbing in the Magic Islands to the Lofoten Islands of Arctic Norway; and his best-selling autobiography (5 Stars on Amazon) titled, Snow in the Kingdom, My Storm Years on Everest.

However his real claim to fame is that he is one of just three mountaineers cited in the board game, Trivial Pursuit. The other two are Mt. Everest's first ascentionists, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.



Activity Chair

Mike Ward

(michael.ward64@comcast.net)

I would like to thank Fred Wachowicz for asking me to serve as the Support Chairman for the ACTIVITIES coordination role.

Another thanks to Sam Beret for accepting Fred's recommendation for me to serve in this capacity.

Since COVID 19 is still running rampant in the Bay Area and all activities have been put on hold, I have been spending time in planning virtual travel events. (Monthly Armchair Travel Zoom Meetings / Video's)

Fred and I have met with Michael, at Alamo Travel, to discuss the SIRs on hold Activity situation and planning virtual travel activities. I plan to have another meeting with Alamo Travel the first week in January.

If you and your wife or significant other have a interest in domestic or international travel, please give me a call at (510)734-9863 or email me at:

(Michael.ward64@comcast.net so that I can put your name on the travel list. (domestic or international).

We all need to be ready to resume the various SIRS activities once the Covid-19 hold is lifted.

MORE NEWS;

Updated the 2020 Activity Chairman listing. Very minor changes, except for the Carson City Golf activity.

Tim Hubbard is stepping down as chairman and Dave Harris will be the new chairman. Harry Oberle will remain as the assistant chairman.

Attended the December 10th Diversity Support Team meeting and contributed five (5) additional action steps to be considered by the team. Will attend the next meeting which will be held on January 14.

Attended the December 21st breakout session for travel. Discussed the Armchair travel concept and received some good feedback. Only 6 Sir members

attended. Hope to increase the attendance at our next meeting, which will be held in January.

Currently working on revising the Annual Activity Survey. The survey should be out in January. Please take some time to complete and return the survey on time. It is very important that we receive a completed survey from each active SIR member.

I would like to wish each SIR member and their family a very Happy and a Healthy 2021.

Please make sure you and your family members Mask Up, Social Distance, and follow the State of California and Contra Costa County Rules and Regulations to help fight against the spread of Covid.



January Brain Teasers

1. How long is a rope that is 2 yards shorter than another rope that is three times the length of the first rope?
2. How much mud (measured in liters) is there in a rectangular hole 2 meters wide, 3 meters long, and 3 meters deep?
3. One mother gave 25 books to her daughter and another mother gave her daughter 8 books. However, between both daughters they only increased their collection by 25 books. How can this be?
4. Emily is taller than Ann and shorter than Dolores. Who is the tallest of the three?
5. Rose is now as old as Joan was six years ago. Who is older?

Answers are on the next page...



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 Big Fish, Ron Lew 925-550-4166 and Harry Sherinian, 925-846-7067, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator . Next meeting will be through ZOOM on **Thursday, January 28th, at 8:30am.**

Because our activity happens outdoors, we have been able to pursue our passion, observing all the COVID limitations. However, we no longer have SIR sponsored in person events. Many of our members have been out on the big water after crabs and rockfish. Many more crabs than rockfish. Tom Kostik, Ron Lew, Harry Sherinian, Stan Wong, Phil Scimonelli, and Brion Beetz all fished for stripers, catching a few, but it was slow. We normally fish our local lakes for trout this time of year, but between Covid, the cold, and low water, we have opted for staying home. Carl Moyer, Brion Beetz, Ken Bellinder, and Rich Fiscina fished for sturgeon. Ken caught one!!!

BRAIN TEASER ANSWERS

1. If the length of the rope + 2 yards = 3 times the length of the rope, then the rope is 1 yard long.
2. No mud at all, because a hole can only contain air.
3. There are only three people, a daughter, her mother, and her grandmother. The mother received 25 books from the grandmother and then gave 8 to her daughter.
4. Dolores is taller than Emily, who is taller than Ann.
5. Joan is 6 years older than Rose.

How did you do?

Some things to ponder.....

Here are 12 things to consider as we get closer to closing the door on one of the most horrible years of our lifetime.

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
3. 2019 and prior: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house & told my cat. We laughed a lot.
6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home!
9. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
10. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
12. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask & ask for money.

And on that note I am wishing everyone a MUCH BETTER New Year!

(Submitted by Jim Saavedra)



Br. 116 Book Group 1

Rich Black

(blackrw41@comcast.net)

Book Group #1 met as a Zoom Breakout Room on Monday December 21 with much good humor but no sustentative discussion. It is a long-standing tradition of Book Group #1 not to have a book discussion in December.

Book Group #1 will next meet on **January 25, 2021** to discuss "The Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follett. It's 900 pages but then what else have we got to do in these times? 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



Br. 116 Book Group 2

Book Group 2 met by videoconference on Thursday, December 17, to discuss "Buried in the Sky", by Peter Zuckerman and Amanda Padoan. This real-life story was told from the unique perspective of the sherpas who guided the multi-national mountaineers who climbed K2 in 2008. After reading the story, the group's consensus was to wonder why anybody would risk their lives to go through the treacherous journey up the most difficult mountain in the world. It is a story well-told to its sad ending. The group gave the book an overall rating of 4.3 out of 5.

The next Book Club 2 meeting will be on Thursday, January 21 at 11 am by videoconference using the Zoom app. The group will discuss, ""City of Thieves" by David Benioff. "City of Thieves" is a work of historical fiction set during the Nazi siege

of Leningrad during WWII. It tells the story of Lev Beniov who is arrested for looting, and in exchange for his life, he sets out on a journey to secure a dozen eggs in a city cut off from all supplies and suffering from deprivation. Book Club 2 will also be reading the following novels going forward: February-"Manhunt" by James L. Swanson, and March - "The Paris Architect" by Charles Belfoure. Book Club 2 is also considering reading "1876" by Gore Vidal and "Let the Peacock Sing" by our own Michael Barrington. We welcome anyone who is interested to join our discussion.



Computer & Technology

Neil Schmidt

(SIR.Area2.CAT@gmail.com)

The next Zoom SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group meeting will be **Thursday, January 21st starting at 9:30.**

The January presentation topic will be "Photo Editing on Your PC & Mac - Basics to Advanced". Photo editing via smartphones has greatly improved in the last few years but so has PC & Mac photo editing software. There are a wealth of new features now available, often using AI techniques, that can help you make detailed photo adjustments. Neil Schmidt will talk about two excellent editing programs available and demonstrate some simple as well as some advanced methods to improve your photos.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list by sending an email to SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.



Breakout Rooms

On Monday, December 21 Branch 116 had a lunch-time "Social" Breakout Room only meeting with no speaker where members were able to join individual breakout rooms to meet, greet and chat freely with their friends.

The Breakout Rooms were:

- Book Group 1
- Chevron Tables
- Gourmet Table
- Travel
- A's Table
- Book Group 2
- Fishing
- Golf
- Wine
- Tahoe Table

51 members attended this special meeting and the breakout room concept was enjoyed by many. The Branch Executive Committee (BEC) will be evaluating how to proceed with future breakout room meetings. Please provide your feedback and/or recommendations to one of our BEC members (see page 2) or attend the next BEC Zoom meeting on the morning of Monday, January 18th.



Although all SIR physical activities are currently shutdown, some of our members are still playing golf on their own.

Here is Don Schroeder with tough water shot at Rancho Solano a couple weeks ago and I heard that he actually got the ball out of the water.



Sunshine Report

Matt Arena

(marena@astound.net)

With the passing of 2020 only good can come of 2021.

Since most of us qualify by age for the vaccine we will be safer in the new year.

For anyone who was missed by Sunshine we offer our apologies but most of all we hope for those who are medically challenged please know that you are in our thoughts .

May you and your loved ones enjoy a healthy and rich return to your retirement .

Wishing each one of you a Happy New Year.

MAY THE ROAD RISE TO MEET YOU
MAY THE WIND BE AT YOUR BACK
MAY THE SUN SHINE UPON YOUR FACE.
MAY THE RAIN FALL SOFT UPON YOUR
FIELDS

IRISH BLESSING

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



SIR HAPPENINGS

Always checkout the SIR Happenings State Newsletter at:

sirinc.org/sirhappenings

It contains some interesting SIR reading material.



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.