

A Non-Profit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement



ROOSTER TALES

**Next meeting - Thursday March 2nd – 2017 – Oakhurst Country Club
If you can't attend, call the hotline 925-338-1996**



Big SIR Message

Hi Branch 19. We are heading into the Spring season. During the first two months of this year we inducted seven new members. Please take some time at our next luncheon to reach out and welcome them.

Congratulations are in order for SIR George Vogt. The BEC named George our Branch SIR of the Year for 2016. He received our perpetual Rooster plaque at the February luncheon. George has been a key contributor to our branch as a volunteer and recruiter.

Thanks to SIR Ken Kuhn for developing an upgraded orientation process for our new members. He met with our four inductees in February for our first round of training with nice results. If any other new members would like to engage in this process please see Ken at our next meeting.

Our luncheons and activities are all managed by volunteers to serve the needs of our membership. The BEC is very interested in any ideas you may have for new activities or improvements to existing ones. Please let us know what you think. Consider volunteering to put your ideas into practice.

Let's step up our efforts for bringing guests to our March and April lunch meetings. It is a great time of year to show off our Branch as we move into the warm weather. I look forward to seeing you at our March get together.

Jack Barnaba
Big Sir

The Program for March



Tom Barnidge Journalist

Tom Barnidge was a journalist for more than 46 years since beginning his career as a sports writer and columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He served as managing editor of the Sporting News, a national weekly magazine, and executive editor of the National Football League's Publishing Division before joining the Contra Costa Times as sports editor in 2004. He left sports journalism 7 years ago (June 2009) to fill the newspaper's need for a metro columnist. He wrote a commentary on local and regional events, which covered a wide assortment of topics including city council races, law enforcement, the Contra Costa Fire District, medical marijuana, Bart labor negotiations and animal control. He amassed over 900 articles before he ended his career to retirement. Sir Tom is also a welcome and productive member of our Wednesday Sir Bowling league and enjoys interacting with our Branch 19 members.

IN MEMORIAM – SIR GEORGE LORENTZEN



On February 3rd we lost Sir George Lorentzen, a proud member of Branch19 since March of 1989. George was a distinguished Navy veteran who retired from the Mt. Diablo Unified School District. Sir Lorentzen was a long time bowler and participated until his pulmonary condition finally wouldn't allow him to continue. George also attended the luncheons religiously up until last month. God Speed Sir George!

March Menu

*Caesar Salad
 Corned Beef and Cabbage
 Blackened Catfish with Dijon Cream Sauce
 Chef's choice Vegetarian plate
 Chocolate cake*

Menus for all 2017 Luncheons can be found on the SIR19.org site on the "Home" page

March Birthdays



March Birthdays

*Jerry Burton, Arnold Cota, John Crawford, John Dorsett
 Paul Ferry, Bill Hockenson, Don Lambert, Tom Lathrop
 Dean Lucas, Mike McKay, Mike Schmidt, George Vogt
 Dwayne Williams, John Wolfe, Ray Yates*

**Financial Statement
 Branch 19 Statistics**

Treasurer Report
 January 31, 2017

Account Balances

Petty Cash	\$ 250.00
General Account	
Unencumbered	\$4,327.31
Excursion Fund	67.31
Holiday fund	14.55
Picnic Fund	<u>165.49</u>
Total General Account	<u>\$4,574.66</u>

Custodial Accounts

Bowling	\$ 674.88
Golf	<u>3,509.40</u>
Total Custodial	<u>\$4,184.28</u>

Total Funds \$9,008.94

Darryl Diamond
 Branch 19 Treasurer

Our Focus

Our most important concern is you.
 We want to hear from you.
 Your impressions and feedback will help us improve your SIR experience.
 branch19newsletter@gmail.com

Hiking Group



For future exotic hiking adventures, contact

Tom Lathrop 689-8981 lathrop689@aol.com
 George Vogt 672-3703 cvogtgo@att.net

The Bocce Report

Bocce season begins for Branch 19 teams on Wednesday May 10th and Thursday May 11th. We're counting down the days and anxious to get the bocce ball rolling again. All games are held at Baldwin Park in Concord directly across the street from the Concord Senior Center. Games usually begin at 6:30 p.m. Come on down and cheer us on!

John Fernando
 Bocce Chairman

Branch 19 Activities

Branch 19 Leadership

Big Sir: Jack Barnaba
 Little Sir: John Carl Sr.
 Secretary: Richard Peterson
 Asst. Secretary: Dwayne Williams
 Treasurer: Darryl Diamond
 Asst. Treasurers: Barry Silberman, Ken Kuhn
 Activities Chair: Bernie Theobald (Director)
 Bocce Capo: John Fernando (Director)
 Golf Chairman: Jerry Burton (Director)
 Sunshine Chair: George Vogt
 Attendance Chair: Ron Cashion (Director)
 Speaker committee: John Wolfe (Director)
 Bowling: John Dorsett, Mike Kropf
 Chaplin: George Vogt
 Hiking: Tom Lathrop, George Vogt
 Day Trips: Ted Dobbs
 Nomination Committee: Ken Peterson, John Fernando, Ron Cashion
 Newsletter Editor: Ken Kuhn
 Membership Chair: Ken Peterson
 Public Relations: Bernie Theobald
 Roster Chairman: Ken Peterson (Director)
 Recruitment Chair: Art Owens
 RAMP Chairman: John Carl Sr.
 Wine Tasting: Don Weimann
 Webmaster: Mike Mills

SIR Branch 19 Bowling News



Well, here we are almost half way into the second half of our season. The Silver Foxes have a 5 1/2 game lead. Their team of Jack Jagoda, Tina Kaufmann, Rick Small and Gary Kaufmann are a tough JM113bunch to beat. I want to remind our league bowlers that there is no league bowling Wed Mar 22 due to the Sirs bowling tournament at Diablo Bowl. I expect a good group of us will attend. Stay safe and dry. Have a nice day.

Sir Mike Kropf

John Dorsett 925.827.2852 jddorsett@astound.net
 Mike Kropf 925.689.1453 mdkropf@astound.net

Interested in a Particular Activity?

SIR offers numerous activities that are easily available to the members. If you are interested in joining a group that is not offered in your Branch activity list, start one and share the activity with other interested members. The Branches of Area 2 have approximately 70 active groups participating in a wide variety of activities.

If you need info regarding an activity, how to find one, or how to start one, contact Bernie Theobald.

Bernie Theobald Activity Chairman
351-3672 bjt47@comcast.net

The Pickleball Report



SIR PICKLEBALL!!!!

SIR#19 PICKLEBALL OPEN PLAY continues every Thursday morning from 10am to Noon at Concord's new Willow Pass Pickleball Courts. This winter's weather has been challenging at times but if it's not raining the courts are always open.

Come on out and enjoy the fun and friendship of this exciting new paddle sport! It's "easier on the bones" than tennis. The court surface is smaller than a tennis court using a wiffle ball like pickleball.

Learning pickleball is a natural transition for former or current tennis players. Ping pong players can also adapt quickly to the game. Court time is FREE. Rackets are available to borrow if you need one -- also at no charge.

Even though most of us are still beginners, the more experienced players on the courts are always welcoming, inclusive, friendly, and gladly offer up some patient helpful coaching pointers for us Newbees.

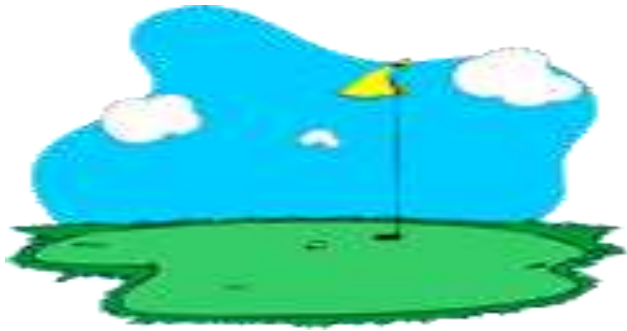
Why don't you plan to join us if you can! Bring your wife or significant other as pickleball is a great couples sport.

You can also register for FREE on the Meet Up smart phone app and let everyone know you're coming!

SIR BernieT

Any questions? Call Bernie Theobald at: [925-351-3672](tel:925-351-3672) or send email to: bjt47@comcast.net

Branch 19 Golf Information



Nine Hole Golf Group
 Every Monday at approximately 9am,
 alternating at the following courses,
Buchanan and Diablo Hills.

Contact: **Steve McMurdo**
smcmurdo@att.net
 Phone 687-6271

**The 18 Hole Golf Group
 March Schedule**

Weather permitting we will be playing:

- March 7 – Lone Tree 9:30
- March 14 – Brentwood 9:30
- March 21 – Delta View 9:30
- March 28 – Black Rock Springs 9:30

We will be starting Match Play in March if you would like to participate please sent a check for \$25.00 made out to Sir Branch 19 Golf to Tom Lathrop at 4504 Shellflower Ct. Concord 94518. Matches will be played at Lone Tree when both players are available or any other Course on our schedule if both players agree.

Jerry Burton, Golf Chairman
ajgolf24@gmail.com

Dine Around and Wine Tasting

Meets on the third Thursday of every month.

As of now, there will be **NO March Activities**. Coordinator Don Weimann is having minor surgery requiring several weeks recovery.

La Veranda restaurant in Clayton has four course wine dinners most months on the last Monday of the month. There is none scheduled now for March, but this may change. If so, emails will be sent out suggesting a combined meal for both Dine Around and Wine Tasting.



Let's just keep looking for Pyramids – at our next meeting of **DATE - Discussing Ancient Technology & Engineering** – on Wednesday, **March 8, 2017** at Clayton Valley Bowl, Conference Room, at 1:30 P.M. following the SIR Bowling League; we'll see what all the hub-bub is about in of all places the Antarctic. Since that piece of real estate has been covered in as much as two miles' thickness of ice for hundreds of thousands of years, some say even millions, how could our distant ancestors have designed and erected such marvelous structures, of all places, under the ice? We will view an episode of Ancient Aliens entitled '**PYRAMIDS OF ANTARCTICA**' and see what everyone is saying about those supposed Pyramids and why was the Fuhrer so interested in Antarctica and then why did the United States send a whole Navy flotilla with planes and armed men, to go explore what, and what happened? If these supposed structures were built before the Antarctic continent froze over, they must truly be very, very ancient technology and engineering.

Come and join us for a lively and fun discussion on why Nazi Germany and then the United States were so interested in Antarctica and are there really pyramids under the ice. You might get some of your questions answered, if you join us at our meeting, Wednesday, March 9, at 1:30 pm, as we preview an episode from our Ancient Aliens Library, Season 9, entitled '**Pyramids of Antarctica**'. You'll all have a chance to contribute to the discussion, following the video. See you there, and don't forget to bring along an open mind!



About Monthly Attendance

Please call the Hotline Number if you cannot attend. (925) 338-1996

Call on or before five (5) days in advance of the monthly luncheon if you cannot attend.

That means call by Saturday at the latest.

Lunches are ordered for all members who have not called. If you don't show we still have to pay for your meal and you will be charged.

So, if you can't attend, call. **(925) 338-1996.**

Membership Attendance is required by the By Laws:

Rule 100: A member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings without notifying the committee chair person (or calling the Hotline) giving valid reason or who attends less than six (6) meetings within the last twelve (12) months, shall be notified by the prescribed form, of termination of his membership. December Ladies Day is exempted.

Lucky Badge number is somewhere in this issue. Look for JM followed by your badge number. Call the hotline before the luncheon if you find your number and your lunch will be free.

**The Calendar
Computers & Technology
Thursday March 16th**

**Sums in Retirement
Wednesday, March 22nd**

**Area 2 Fishing Group
Thursday, March 23rd**

Golf
Mondays (Nine Hole) and Tuesdays (18 Hole) (See above)

Dining Out
Nothing scheduled for March

Wine Tasting
Nothing scheduled for March

Outings

SIR 19..... We have had some rain. A lot of rain!! Unfortunately we had to postpone our much anticipated Barbary SF walk. Now we need to re schedule and maybe secure a few more walkers!!!

Let's wait for everything to dry out a bit. From feedback I have received from all of you a few changes I recommend:

1. Arrive at the meeting point at 10am and walk starts at 10:30am. This moves us a bit further away from all the BART commuters.
2. Dates Monday or Thursday?
3. How about these dates in March? 13th Monday, 16th Thursday, 20th Monday, 27th Monday, and 30th Thursday.

Send me an email with your preferences -- not promising anything -- Ted_Dobbs@hotmail.com

Thank you all, Ted

Area 2 Activities for March



The Area 2 Computer & Technology Group

*March 16, 9:30am – Walnut Creek Elks Club
 1475 Creekside Dr. Walnut Creek*
How to Set up a Home Router and WiFi
<http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/>

Howard Walter, a new Branch 8 member will be speaking about “How to Setup a Home Router and WiFi.” If you’re planning, or even thinking about modifying a home WiFi system, you won’t want to miss Howard’s presentation.

Check the CAT Web page about a week before the next meeting to download a copy of the presentations: <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org> .

Arrive early to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Area 2 Fishing Group

The Legends
 Diablo Creek G.C.
 Meets on the 4th Thurs
Thursday March 23
8:30 am
 4050 Port Chicago Highway in
 Concord.



Tom Kostik wins the best award this month. He got only a few small stripers while fishing for them on several occasions: BUT, he caught two keeper sturgeon, one was 48 inches, about 45 lbs., on light striper gear. Paul Dubow, our big fish, went to Hawaii to fish on a party boat and caught some tasty blue snappers. We had a good turnout for our annual visit to the Sportsman’s Expo in Sacramento. The rest of us, for the most part, sat with our noses pressed against the window watching the rain. The few who got out for sturgeon or trout got nothing. It will be several weeks after, if ever, the rain stops before our local lakes clear up. So, the trout and sturgeon fishing that make our winters has been a bust. Very sad!

All SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings.

Contacts: Paul Dubow (415-495-6504) Carl Moyer (925-685-5243)

Area 2 Investments / Wealth Management

The Area 2 Sums Investment Group

Next meeting **March 22**

Legends – Diablo Creek G.C.

4050 Port Chicago Highway

Breakfast available at 7am.



Want to learn more about investing? Want to meet experts in the field? Want answers to your financial questions? Come join the **Sums in Retirement**.

Our next meeting is Wed Mar 22 at 8 AM at the Legends Restaurant in the Diablo Creek Country Club - Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord. <http://www.a2sums.sirinc2.org>

The Legends opens at 7 AM. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

Chair: Tom Henry (Br-174) 925-284-5724 tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-Chair: David Sutton (Br-8) 925-686-0158, davesutn@yahoo.com

SIR Area 2 Travel Opportunities 2017

Mar 6-12, 2017: Spring Training and Southwest Adventure. Fly to Phoenix and enjoy 2 spring training games and visit the Desert Botanical Gardens and Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West. Day 4: Travel from Scottsdale to Sedona and tour Sedona and the Grand Canyon area. Tour includes home pick up and RT airport transfers, professional guide, 6 nights' accommodations, admission fees, baggage handling for one suitcase and all taxes. Cost \$2495 Brian Serpa, Br.141, 408-227-7658 or Rollo Parsons, 408-268-5245.

May 10-25, 2017: 100th Birthday of JFK on Cape Cod. Tour highlights include JFK Presidential Library, tour of Hyannis, JFK Museum, Hyannis Harbor cruise, Cape Cod Maritime Museum, Whale watching cruise and tour of Nantucket. Cost \$2,395.00 includes RT airfare, deluxe motor coach, 8 meals, tours and 5 night accommodations. John Pletsch Br.32, San Jose, 408-274-2992 or Mike Console, 408-246-1080.

June 11-17, 2017: Southern Charm. A 7 day trip to the south visiting Charleston, South Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, Jekyll Island, St. Simons Island, and St Augustine. Cost of \$2,989 includes 9 meals and 3 dinners, Cancellation Waiver insurance, RT airfare, all taxes, fees and hotel transfers. Bill Britton, Br 101/121 925-443-9913

June 17-25, 2017: The Colorado Rockies. 9 day escorted tour including Denver, Rocky Mt. Natl Park, Grand Junction, Arches Natl Park, Canyonlands Natl Park, Colorado Natl Monument, Durango & Silverton Narrow gauge railway, Garden of the Gods, Mesa Verde Natl Park, Pikes Peak Cog Railway. Cost \$3,159. Including air taxes & fees RT air, hotel transfers, and gratuities. Bill Rodman, San Jose, Br.38, 408-274-4521 or Alan Patmore, 408-867-4197.

June 19-25, 2017: Yellowstone Wildlife Safari. 7 day land trip to Yellowstone Park with over sixty species of mammals, untamed landscapes, and geothermal features. You will visit West Yellowstone, Old Faithful, Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, Yellowstone Wildlife Safari, Grand Teton National Park, Salt Lake City, and Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Tour cost is \$2,795 which includes Professional Guide, Hotel Accommodations, Meals, RT air, transportation on the tour, all taxes and gratuities. Tom Duncanson Br 20, 831-662-8605.

July 3-15, 2017: Alaska Yukon Land & Sea. 7 night land tour of upper Alaska and Yukon Territory followed by a 4 night cruise through the Inside Passage on Holland America M/S Nieuw Amsterdam. Tour features include Anchorage, Domed Rail Cars, Tundra Tour to Denali, Fairbanks, Klondike Spirit Paddle –wheeler Cruise, Dawson City Cruise includes Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan and Vancouver. Cost range from \$5,150 to \$5,895. Mike Console, Br. 54, San Jose, 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch, 408-274-2992.

July 20-Aug 5, 2017: Ring of Kerry Land Tour & Princess Cruise. 4 day land tour of Ireland and 12 days Princess cruise around the British Isles visiting 10 ports, including France. Trip includes beverage package worth \$6,76.20 if you sign up by Aug 20 for a balcony or mini suite. Prices range from \$4,999 to \$6,299 not including airfare. Tom Molinari, Br 147, Petaluma, 707-762-1880. Sold out. Standby only.

Aug 14-22, 2014: US & Canadian National Parks. Explore 7 spectacular including Glacier National Park, Banff National Park, Kootenay National Park, Waterton National Park. You'll also visit Lake Louise, Emerald Lake, Silverado Silver Mine, and Spokane. Cost of \$3,250 includes RT Air, Tour Transportation, Lodging, Meals, Taxes and Gratuities. Tom Duncanson, Br.20, 831-662-8605.

Aug 14-18, 2017: Ashland, Shakespeare Festival. 5 day tour featuring the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Jacksonville Belle Fiore Winery, Harry & David's Dinner Cabaret Show, Country Village, and Kitchens of Harry and David before returning to Ashland for a visit to the Oregon Cabaret Theatre. Cost of \$1,450 includes

Deluxe Motor coach, 4 nights lodging, 9 meals, 3 performances and Tips. Bill Rodman, Br 38, San Jose, 408-274-4521.

Sep 6-19, 2017: Atlantic Isles Cruise. This 13 day luxury cruise aboard the Crystal Symphony begins and ends in Lisbon, Portugal, with several exotic ports of call in the Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands, and Morocco. Crystal distinguishes itself from other cruise lines by offering the very best in service, food, entertainment and cultural programs. All beverages are included. Prices start at \$8,095 and include deluxe stateroom, \$250 shipboard credit, RT Air, all gratuities, port charges and transfers in SF. Larry Martinson, Br. 114, San Jose, 408-238-0746 or Jim Stoner, 408-238-8458.

Sep7-20, 2017: Prague, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. This itinerary offers sights that will delight your senses. Highlights include: Prague, Rothenburg, Munich, Salzburg, Hitler's Eagles Nest , Oberammergau, Kleine Scheidegg, Black Forest, Rudesheim, and the Rhine River Cruise. The deluxe tour includes RTAir, most meals, accommodations, tour manager, admission to all activities, luggage handling, and all taxes. Cost \$5,495 including air. Lee Suess, Br 96, Jackson, 209-296-2235.

Sep 10-23, 2017: Southern Italy & Sicily. A 14 day trip touring Palermo, Monreale, Agrigento, Valley of the Temples, Giardini, Naxos, Taormina, Catania, Matera, Alberobello, Amalfi Coast, Sorrento and Pompeii. The cost of \$4,849 pp includes Cancellation Insurance, RT airfare, all taxes, fees and surcharges. Bill Britton, Br 101/121, 925-443-9913

Sep 28-Oct 6, 2017: Norman Rockwell New England. Tour the backroads of the Berkshire and Adirondack Mountains as you admire the fall foliage and visit the life memories of Norman Rockwell. The tour includes Boston City Tour then ferry cross Lake Champlain to Burlington VT and into the Green Mountains. Then cross the Connecticut River in New Hampshire into the coastal town of York Beach, Maine. Price is \$3,385, John Pletsch, Br 32, San Jose, 408-274-2992 or Mike Console, 408-246-1080 or Tom Duncanson Br. 20, 831-662-8605.

Nov 9-20, 2017: Florida's Sunshine Trail. This 12day trip spotlights Florida's top attractions including Orlando, St Augustine, Cocoa Beach, Kennedy Space Center, West Palm Beach, Key West and Miami. Air Boat experience through the Everglades, Naples, and Fort Myers. Cost \$4,250, Mike Console, Br32, San Jose, 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch, 408-274-2992.

Send your brief trip information to Bob Spellman at bobnjo@astound.net by the 25th of the month. Only trips of at least 4 days or more in length will be listed