



# The Pathfinder

**Forty-Fifth Year**

**December 2020**

**Bulletin No. 11**

**All Close contact MEETINGS-Cancelled until further notice**

## Big Sir Richard's Corner



Hello branch 59:

My message to all of our members and partners as we continue facing the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is that we keep strong active and healthy. The latest guidance on November 9<sup>th</sup> coming from our SIR State President is that there will be no in person

SIR – sponsored meetings, luncheons, of any kind until further directions received from SIR State Executive leadership.

Now with that ugly topic behind us let's get on with some positive information. Our branch 59 BEC zoom meetings have been going very well and followed up with our guest speaker for the month. We had the honor of having Major General Garrett Yee as our guest speaker for the month. He talked about growing up in Fremont and his interest in following in the footsteps of his family military tradition. Garrett has done real well with the United States Army in serving and protecting our country. Our Wednesday walking group headed up by SIR Halligan has us all in step with conversation and a great form of exercise. Our weekly turn out has been 8-12 walkers. Be on the look out for Jerry's weekly email on location and time of our Wednesday morning walks. Mask up....Come out and join us!

Gentlemen our zoom meetings are very important and the life line to stay connected. Our next zoom meeting will be Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> when Jim Ulam will install the new officers for 2021. Let's have a great turn out as we close out the year 2020. I wish the best of holidays to all!

Richard Henry, Big Sir

## December Guest Speaker



**Dr. Ronald Adamson** is an

Internationally recognized technical expert in performance of zirconium alloys as a component in nuclear reactors.

Received GE's International Power Systems Award (for outstanding individual achievement)

Received ANS Mishima Award (for nuclear materials research)

Received ASTM / Kroll Institute Kroll Medal (for zirconium alloy research and development)

Received ASTM B10 H.R.(Russ) Ogden Award (for technical advancement of reactive metals)

Received ASTM best paper Award (Symposium on Zirconium in the Nuclear industry)

Received ASTM best paper Award (Symposium on Zirconium in the Nuclear industry)

Editor, ASTM's Zirconium Production and Technology: The Kroll Medal

Published over 100 peer-reviewed technical papers on technology of zirconium alloys.

Granted seventeen U.S. patents on materials and components used in nuclear reactors.

Chairman, ASTM Kroll Medal Award Committee.

Contributed two chapters in the book Materials Aging and Degradation in Light Water Reactors.

Conducted Summer School on Nuclear Materials, Halden Reactor Project.

Guest lecturer, UC Berkeley, Nuclear Engineering

**Note:** Dr. Adamson was our guest speaker in August, and the Branch 59 members that came to that Zoom meeting requested another appearance. Ron has graciously accepted and has worked up some new material for us.

***Anyone that is interest in joining the BEC meeting on Wednesday, December 16 is welcome. The BEC meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. The regular meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. and we will have a speaker.***

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/955020906>**

**Meeting ID: 955 020 906**

# SIR Branch 59 BEC Minutes, November 18, 2020



Our meeting was held on the ZOOM platform, hosted by Jerry Sabo.

The meeting was called to order by Big Sir Rick Henry at 11:30am. All BEC members were present except Arnold George.

The October 21, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

The treasurers report was approved as presented. The balance of the general fund on Nov 18 was \$2,951.40. Our expenses this month included \$280 for our assessment to the State Board for 4th quarter of 2020. SIR State 2021 President Elect Jim Johnson recently announced the Sir State Executive Committee has acted to suspend collection of the 2021 first quarter Branch Assessments. This will be a \$271.25 savings in January 2021 for Branch 59.

Hugh Twomey submitted a first pass of the 2021 budget. This will be a very dynamic process as we don't know when we will be able to meet for a luncheon nor how many members will choose to attend when we do.

Larry Lardie will be our treasurer in 2021. He and Hugh will meet soon to discuss this transition.

Signature authorities on our bank accounts will need to change. There may be an advantage to closing the current account and opening a new one. The transfer of funds would happen in January.

Little Sir, Larry Jett; We are celebrating 9 birthdays today. Larry will call their names at the beginning of our general meeting. Larry also spoke about the installation of our 2021 officers in December.

John Pesek; During our December general meeting we will install our 2021 officers. Big Sir will be Larry Jett, Little Sir will be Bob Marshall, Secretary Dave Nelsen, Asst. Secretary Rob Ingebretson, Treasurer Larry Lardie, Asst. Treasurer James Vermazen and Directors; Hugh Twomey, Sammy Lum, Jerry Halligan, Jim Ulam, Rick Henry and Dave Shideler. Jim Ulam offered to conduct the installation. Several committee positions need leadership: Social chairman, Activities chairman and Librarian.

Big Sir Rick Henry: Asks that we keep up to date with Sir activities by reading emails from State org and visiting web site. Due to corona virus and our insurance carrier, absolutely no in person meetings may be held until further notice. If Sir members gather for activities, it must be made clear that these are personal meetings and not Sir activities.

Rick has been in touch with the Elks Lodge. They are not open or holding activities, but anxious to start again and for us to resume our luncheons as soon as possible.

Jim Ulam, Recruitment; No activity due to no meetings, although has spoken with potential new members he has met recently.

Sammy, Publicity; No calls though ad in Tri-City-Voice since pandemic began. General thought is that the ad is still worth keeping as a presence. Some branches have Facebook pages. May be another good way to advertise.

Rob Ingebretson shared his appreciation of Rick Henry leading our branch from mid 2019 through 2020. This year has been challenging to say the least and Rick has been a solid leader throughout. Rick in turn thanked the entire Branch Executive Committee for our involvement and commitment through this unprecedented time.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36pm.

Dave Nelsen, Secretary

## Branch 59 Officers

### Big Sir

Richard Henry  
510-487-7817

### Little Sir

Larry Jett  
510-794-7911

### Secretary

David Nelsen  
(510) 673-5042

### Asst. Secretary

Rob Ingebretson  
(510) 657-7828

### Treasurer

Hugh Twomey  
(510) 796-5559

### Asst. Treasurer

Arnold George  
(510) 797-9524

### Directors

Bill Briscoe  
Jerry Halligan  
Larry Lardie  
Sammy Lum  
Bob Marshall  
John Pesek

### RAMP

Jim Ulam-Recruitment  
Larry Lardie- Activities  
Rob Ingebretson-Membership  
Sammy Lum-Publicity

### Branch 59

#### Meets at Fremont Elks

38991 Farwell Drive,  
Fremont CA on the 3rd

Wednesday of each

month

9:30 AM

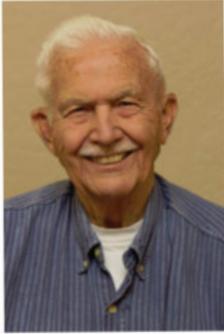
#### Executive Board Meeting

11AM Social Hour

12 Noon Lunch



# December Birthdays



**Bud Spalding**  
Age 88



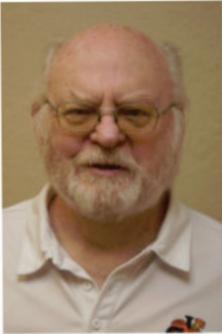
**Edgar Guthrie**  
Age 85



**James Draughan**  
Age 84



**Julian Vega**  
Age 84



**Carl Nordling**  
Age 81



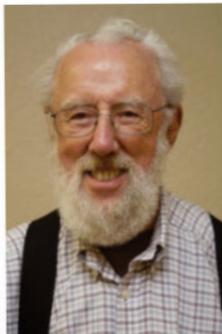
**Fred Taliaferro**  
Age 81



**William Bauhofer**  
Age 80



**Frank Cordorva**  
Age 80



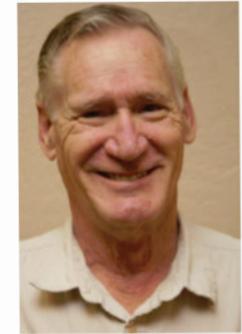
**John Williams**  
Age 79



**Russell Blowers**  
Age 77



**George Perry**  
Age 76



**Joseph Stanley**  
Age 75



**James Ulam**  
Age 75



**Katsumi Osumi**  
Age 74



**David Shideler**  
Age 74



**Sir Sammy Lum**  
Birthday  
Chairman



Cyber Geezers usually meet on the Tuesday following our monthly SIR Luncheon. Our next meeting will be held on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will again include Seniors of the Greater Niles Village, and any Sir Member wanting to join us. The meeting will begin at 1:00. Jerry will likely be out of town until mid-January so Sir Sammy Lum will conduct the meeting via Zoom. Login information is given below.

## Cyber Geezer Meeting

Our November meeting was a question and answer session, but included more Zoom tools to use and a demonstration of Screenflow software. Using Screenflow the functions of right and left mouse buttons were demonstrate. That software is used for many of the instructional YouTube videos involving a computer screen and the inset of other items such as a video camera.

Since Sammy will be in charge of the December meeting, please send questions to him prior to the December meeting. Hopefully there will be other Cyber Geezer members that will be available to help out with the meeting.

Jerry is hoping that members will submit questions regarding computer usage, iPhone or iPad usage. We will be able to develop Screenflow videos for presentation or for your use. Please send requests to Jerry at [jlsabo3@comcast.net](mailto:jlsabo3@comcast.net).

### **Bowling Did Not Open in November**

*Most everyone knows that our former home at Cloverleaf Bowl no longer exists as a bowling alley. The Earl Anthony center did re-open on November 4<sup>th</sup>, but is now closed again. If you are a potential bowler give Bowling Chairman Harvey McAninch a call at 510-441-3803 or call Victor at 510-557-2687 for more information. (At the present time bowling technically a non-SIR sponsored event because of the COVID-19 activity restrictions.)—Female friends of a Sir are welcome.*

**Join the next Zoom Cyber Geezer Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/96358532596>

**Meeting ID: 963 5853 2596**

**Lots of Zoom information on the sirinc.org website**  
<https://sirinc.org/zoom/>



*SIR Happenings is published 4 time a year—the next issue will be published for February 2021.*



*Deadline for submitting articles is January 15th. You can find past issues on our website:*  
[sirbranch59.org](http://sirbranch59.org)

*Send news and questions to:*

*Jerry Sabo,  
 Executive Editor  
[jlsabo3@comcast.net](mailto:jlsabo3@comcast.net)  
 Sammy Lum,  
 Assistant Editor  
[lumsam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lumsam@sbcglobal.net)*

### **Can't Put a Name to a Face?**

**Visit our branch website at**  
[www.sirbranch59.org](http://www.sirbranch59.org)

**Click on the Member Gallery tab on the website and then enter the password: SIR59**

### **You can get your Pathfinder at:**

<http://sirbranch59.org>  
 Comments, photos for site etc. email to:  
[sirbranch59@gmail.com](mailto:sirbranch59@gmail.com)



## Philosophy and Carpentry – Jim Cunningham – I'm SIRious



My favorite thing about visiting my cousins Jackie, Fay, Leland and Sonny was making up scary ghost stories on the porch just before bedtime. Afterwards my brother Johnny and I slept at the foot of the bed or on a pallet on the floor. But wow, we loved it all.

Born January 1943 into my family living in Selma, Alabama, with my grandparents. At age two we moved to Montgomery, where my father worked as route deliveryman for Colonial Bakery. We moved into public housing, “the projects”, where the rent was \$20.00 a month for a two-bedroom apartment. In the projects we made lifelong friends, playing hide and seek, Cowboys and Indians, flying kites and playing softball in the fields.

We walked four blocks to school and six blocks to West End Baptist Church. On Sundays our mom gave us a dime for the offering and sent us off. Walking past the drug store with comic book racks, an open fruit stand with gum ball machines, a bait shop where we always stopped to see the minnows for sale and finally past the Dairy Queen, sometimes our dimes didn't make it to church. After church, my mom gave us money for bus fare and the movies. We rode the bus to town and chose between the three theatres. After the movie we would walk to the taxi stand and wait for my dad to pick us up and take us home. My dad now drove a taxi, an old Chevy and later a Checker.

When I was 13, my mom went to work at the lunch counter at The Montgomery Fair, a local department store. With the increased income my parents bought a house in southern Montgomery. We had to change schools in the middle of the school year, a real culture shock for me and Johnny; now we went to school with strangers.

For Christmas in 1956 Santa Claus brought us bicycles. We were amazed and delighted to ride them to school instead of making that long walk. The Air Force base bussed the kids of servicemen to our school. Among them was John Duchendorf (John Denver), who was in my 8<sup>th</sup> grade math class. I remember the teacher but not him so much. Just another kid among hundreds.

We took the city bus to high school. I worked after school at the Piggly Wiggly as a produce boy. I didn't get the tips the bag boys got, but I didn't have to stay after hours and mop the store like they did. The high school counsellor got me a job after school as an apprentice auto mechanic. In my senior year a local contractor hired me as a draftsman.

Our mom bought us a new suit every year using her employee discount at Montgomery Fair. The waist and length were always sewn at the store by the store seamstress, a lady named Rosa Parks. We had already seen the horror visited on the freedom riders at the Greyhound Bus Station and now saw the effects of the bus boycott in Montgomery.

After high school I enrolled in a trade school in Atlanta for drafting. All the students lived together in a boarding house. We worked during the day and went to school at night. I graduated in 7 months but rather than accept a job working for Boeing Aircraft, I decided to join the Army.

After taking a battery of tests, the Army took me aside and told me to forgo a promised school as surveyor in the Corps of Engineers for a role in the Army Security Agency with 7 months of school at Fort Devens, Massachusetts and 9 weeks school in Fort Meade, Maryland before going to Germany for 2 years. John Kennedy made his “Ich bein ein Berliner” speech when I was stationed in Germany at Herzo Base near Nuremberg. I was at my workstation when I heard on the Armed Forces Network that he had been shot.

My California military friends talked me into coming west for the education. U.C. Berkeley had a five-year degree in Architecture that I wanted to pursue, so I went back to Alabama for a short visit with my folks, bought an old Ford station wagon and drove to California with my new wife. I had married 6 months before I got out of the service in Versailles, France to an American independent I had dated in High School.

We rented a three-story walk up on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland. I found a drafting job near the Kaiser building and enrolled in Merritt College in Oakland. At lunch I walked to a parking garage and witnessed the marches from Berkeley to the Oakland Army recruiter protesting the Vietnam War. The Black Panthers were meeting and forming at that time in the Merritt College lunchroom.

We we rented a house in east Oakland where David and Jeanie were born in Oakland's Providence Hospital. My company went broke and I found a new drafting job in Newark at Kaiser Designed Facilities. They manufactured portable school buildings next door to Peterbilt Motors. Using my G.I. bill, I was able to buy a new house in Newark. I transferred my education to Ohlone College and changed my major to Philosophy. I was lucky to have Fr. Joseph Steinke as a professor. He had spent 17 years as a Jesuit monk in a monastery in Kentucky with Thomas Merton. I took every course offered in **Philosophy** and loved it; it better fit my interests. Now to be an architect you need to be a math genius and an artist. I was not an artist but a craftsman who found higher math extremely boring and difficult. Newark was also a good fit for the family and soon two more children, Wendy and Mark, were born.

While working at Kaiser, I applied for and got a General Contractors License. I started building decks on weekends. When Kaiser closed their plant, I joined the **Carpenter's** Union and worked out of the hall for two years, still building decks on the side. Then I went 100% on my own and began to learn the business as a remodelling contractor. The actual work was easy compared to the running a company with employees and "ten thousand unforgiving government regulations" while still making a profit. I ran the company for 40 years, working all over the bay area. I focused on room additions and kitchen & bath remodelling. In that time, I built four full size homes and did a little commercial remodelling, but my passion was kitchens.

When we divorced, I moved to Union City into a house I rented from a friend. Two of my children came with me. About this time Katie moved into a house with her sister who lived across the street from me. Her sister introduced us and about a year later we married. I bought my old house from my ex-wife. Katie and I moved in and I remodelled the kitchen and master bath to make the old house a home for Katie. Katie brought two children into our marriage. Katie retired from the electronics manufacturing business where she was a QA manager. She decided to take classes at ROP in bookkeeping to help me in my business. She helped make the last ten years of my business very successful.

In choosing a church, I suggested the Presbyterian Church in Newark, but Katie fell in love with St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont. Katie and I have been retired for about 10 years. I keep busy with gardening, cooking, volunteer work at St. James' and SIRS. I put together a church gardening & cookbook using the congregation's favorite recipes. Our six children and ten grandchildren and one great granddaughter keep us busy and young at heart.

James T. Cunningham November 2020



Our guest speaker from November--A Fremont native.

More Wednesday Walker Photos Taken by Bruce Roberts.



Interest in SIR Apparel? Check out the Pro Shop at <https://sir.go.customprintcenter.com/>

<jlsabo3@comcast.net>

Return Service Requested

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

**December 2020**

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND ASSISTANTS

#### ACTIVITIES

Larry Lardie- Chairman  
James Floor - Assistant

#### ATTENDANCE

Ed Guthrie - Chairman  
Bill Leake- Assistant  
Bill Pruner-Assistant  
John Williams - Assistant  
Bruce Hevelin - Assistant

#### AUDIO-VISUAL

Carl Nordling - Audio  
Sammy Lum/Jerry Sabo - Video

#### AUDIT

Carl Nordling - Chairman  
Ron Brutvan - Assistant

#### BIRTHDAYS

Sammy Lum - Chairman  
Art Winkley - Assistant

#### BOWLING

Harvey McAninch - Chairman

#### BRIDGE

Arnold George-Chairman

#### CAPS & EMBLEMS

Nat Lord - Chairman

#### CHAPLAINS

Howard Thompson  
Ted Bresler

#### CIRCULATION

Bill Briscoe - Chairman  
Sterling Strickland - Assistant

#### COUPLES DINING OUT

Jim Ulam - Chairman

#### COUPLES WINE TASTING

Joe Stanley- Chairman

#### CYBER GEEZERS

Jerry Sabo - Chairman

#### DATABASE

Hugh Twomey - Manager  
Jerry Sabo - Assistant

#### GOLF

Larry Lardie - Chairman

#### LIBRARIAN

James Floor - Chairman  
Richard Holley - Assistant

#### MEMBERSHIP

Rob Ingebretson - Chairman  
Carl Nordling - Assistant  
**OPEN**- Assistant

#### NOMINATING

John Pesek - Chairman  
Arnold George Assistant

#### PATHFINDER

Editor - Jerry Sabo  
Assistant - Sammy Lum

#### PHOTOGRAPHER

Bruce Roberts

#### POKER

Bob Marshall - Co-Chair  
Larry Jett - Co-Chair

#### ROLLIE REFEREE

Dino Mostardi - Head Ref

#### SOCIAL

**OPEN**- Chairman

#### SONG LEADER

Bob Benya - Chairman

#### SPEAKER RECRUITMENT

Carlie Houseworth

#### SPORTS

Bill Leake - Chairman  
Nat Lord - Assistant

#### SUNSHINE

Art Winkley - Chairman

#### WEBSITE

[Sirbranch59.org](http://Sirbranch59.org)

Sammy Lum - Webmaster

### STATE OFFICERS

#### 2ND TERM STATE PRESIDENT

Ed Benson

#### PRESIDENT ELECT

Jim Johnson

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

Stuart Williams

#### STATE SECRETARY

Ronald Flegal

#### STATE TREASURER

Roy Hodgkinson

#### DIRECTOR, REGION 5

Bill Holly

#### GOVERNOR, AREA 15

John Haffner

#### SENIOR HONORARY LIFE

MEMBERS

Nat Lord

#### HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Hugh Twomey

Arthur Winkley

Rob Ingebretson

1976 Peter Clark\*

1977 Karl Heine\*

1978 Harry Cooper\*

1979 Kenneth Foster\*

1980 Larry Varblow\*

1981 Guido Milano\*

1982 Alex Fulton\*

1983 Stephen Epler\*

1984 George Herman\*

1985 Ray Crosby\*

1986 Loran Coburn\*

1987 Robert Davis\*

1988 Robert Klindt\*

1989 Martin Annen\*

1990 Lee Updegraff\*

1991 Fred W. Fretter\*

1992 Lyle Kingery\*

1993 LeRoy J. King\*

1994 George Hubach\*

1995 Clyde Killion\*

1996 Bill Schwan\*

1997 Nat Lord

1998 John Buchanan\*

### PAST BIG SIRS

1999 Art Lampert\*

2000 Harry Heyen\*

2001 Bob Beam

2002 Rollin Cunningham\*

2003 Don Henry

2004 Tom Sherba\*

2005 Howard Thompson

2006 Les Addison

2007 Ted Bresler

2008 Richard Holley

2009 Don Gillis\*

2010 Frank R. Thomas

2011 Hugh Twomey

2012 James Ferenz\*

2013 Skip Mugford\*

2014 Rob Ingebretson

2015 Skip Mugford\*

2016 Jim Ulam

2017 Jim Ulam

2018 Harvey McAninch

2019 Harvey McAninch

2019 Richard Henry

2020 Richard Henry

\*(deceased)

**PATHFINDER DEADLINE**  
Copy deadline for the next issue of the Pathfinder  
will be Wednesday, a week after the regularly  
scheduled Monthly Luncheon Meeting.