

# The Pathfinder

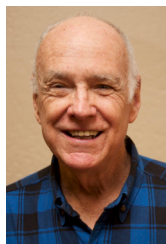
**Forty-Sixth Year**

**February 2021**

**Bulletin No. 2**

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

## **Musings of Big Sir Larry Jett**



It has been 59 years since Big Sir Larry Jett's last SIR Lunch wielding the controlling gavel. This in Novato, CA and Larry Jett was my father. Assuming he would be amused that 59 years later, (irony?) his son is out rummaging through artifacts left behind to see if he left me a SIR gavel to help keep the rowdy gents of #59 in order... we will talk about our shared experiences, Dad, but hope it takes awhile.

Our established A/V team, well versed in utilizing lunch electronic techniques, has adopted Zoom technology as well. With 155 members, I'm guessing we have a lot less to do than before the rising tide of trouble that started last spring. Suggesting a virtual meet is far better than none at all. Very few of us lack a computer but only 1/6th of us turned it on for the Zoom meeting on the 20th.

It is not that I have much surplus money to invest but the speaker had a lot to say from his role as consultant to Fremont Bank that left me more optimistic for the next few years. Still don't have any idea what 'bit-coin' is but the speaker gave it some credibility.

As I approach my 81st year, and continuing to acquire the computer skills required to be CEO of Branch #59, the keystrokes help to keep the mind nimble. A single email to your Big Sir will get you directed to one of many of us that would be pleased to see your smiling face in real time in the gallery for our next zoom meeting. It is really easy.

Little Sir Bob Marshall hints that February may be driverless cars and March may be Genealogy 101. Marshall has been deeply involved in dozens of areas in the Tri-cities and knows where to find speakers of high interest. The other 5/6ths of you may want to listen in.

Larry Jett, Big Sir LarryW Jett@gmail.com

## **February Guest Speaker**



We will be having an enlightening presentation on driverless cars from our February speaker, Ms. Ann H. Cheng.

Ann Cheng is a Global Supply Manager in the self-driving car industry. She comes from an engineering background and previously worked as an engineer. More recently, she spent almost six years at an automotive manufacturer, exploring and investing in new technologies that will change the automotive and mobility landscape before taking the leap to join a self-driving car startup.



***Anyone that is interest in joining the BEC meeting on Wednesday, February 17 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, January 20, 2020

### Branch 59 Officers

#### Big Sir

Larry Jett  
510-794-7911

#### Little Sir

Bob Marshall  
(310) 502-7295

#### Secretary

David Nelsen  
(510) 673-5042

#### Asst. Secretary

Rob Ingebretson  
(510) 657-7828

#### Treasurer

Larry Lardie  
510) 579-5934

#### Asst. Treasurer

James Vermazen  
(563) 920-6908

#### Directors

Jerry Halligan  
Richard Henry  
Sammy Lum  
Dave Shideler  
Hugh Twomey

#### RAMP

Jim Ulam-Recruitment  
Larry Lardie/Jerry Halligan-  
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



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

The meeting was called to order by our new Big Sir Larry Jett at 11:32am. All BEC members were present.

The December 16, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Our new treasurer, Larry Lardie presented his report. The balance of the general fund on Jan 16 was \$3,677.40. This includes a deposit of \$571 collected from golf group participants.

The 2020 Branch Audit Report was completed by Carl Nordling and submitted on January 9, 2021.

Our new Little Sir, Bob Marshall, will announce those members with birthdays this month and introduce today's presenter at the start of our regular meeting. He asked whether information about the presenter or birthdays need be discussed during the BEC meeting. We all felt that would not be necessary as this info is included in the Pathfinder each month.

Membership; Rob reported our current membership 155. There are six "members in waiting" who had not completed the new member process prior to the shut-down. The Pathfinder is being sent to them each month. He spoke of the importance of Form 20; Branch Administrative Personnel, Form 27; Branch Membership and Form 28; Branch Monthly Cash Report.

Rick Henry is now the Nominating Committee Chair. He will be meeting with the prior Chairman, John Pesek, to discuss particulars about the committee.

Activities Chair. This seat has been open for a while. Jerry Halligan and Larry Lardie both offered to assist with or co-chair this position. They will meet together to discuss a plan.

Attendance; Hugh suggested we keep track and report our meeting attendance in the minutes each month.

Big Sir, Larry Jett asked that we keep up with emails from State SIR and each other. Also look at Annual SIR Schedule of Branch Operations so we send Forms and reports in on a timely basis. Commented that SIR is a 501c organization and unable to make donations. Our 1st quarter assessment has been excused, but no others.

Golf; Larry Lardie reports members are meeting for golf on a personal basis, not as a SIR organized group. All State and local protocols are being followed.

Sammy asked, regarding activities, how are we protected in case something happens? Suggests we discuss our limitations in participating in any activity at each meeting. New, approved activities must be included in our minutes.

Rick Henry spoke of the Fire Side Chat by Stu Williams, SIR President. It was a great presentation with lots of good information and questions answered. The subtitle "Immune by June" indicates the hope that SIR will be in full swing again in that time frame.

Larry Jett commented on his long journey becoming Big Sir. Following prior Big Sirs with great talent, including his father, he is grateful to them all. He thanked the BEC members for all our support and wished us all good health and that we return to normal meetings again soon.

Signature authority on our bank account; Instead of closing the old and opening a new account as first suggested by the bank, signature authorities were simply changed on our old account. Larry Lardie, James Vermazen and Bob Marshall now hold that authority.

**Continued Page 5**



# February Birthdays



**Forrest Lusher**  
Age 104



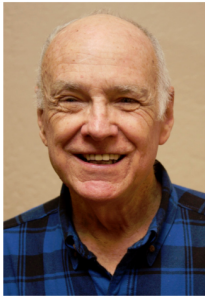
**Walt Caeton**  
Age 89



**Sal Lamagna**  
Age 86



**George Prows**  
Age 86



**Larry Jett**  
Age 81



**Alan Weiner**  
Age 78



**Bruce Roberts**  
Age 77



**Ronald Hamro**  
Age 76



**Stephen Francis**  
75



**Sir Sammy Lum**  
Birthday  
Chairman



Cyber Geezers usually meet on the Tuesday following our monthly SIR Luncheon. Our next meeting will be held on February 23<sup>rd</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 pm. Login information is given below.

## Cyber Geezer Meeting

Our January meeting included a Screenflow software presentation. Using Screenflow the functions of right and left mouse buttons was again demonstrated. Spreadsheet software including MS Excel, Libre Office Calc, and Apple Numbers were used to create a “times table” chart. The session included simple formulas, fill down, paste special including transpose. The same concepts were demonstrated using the Excel, Calc, and Numbers software.

Jerry is hoping that members will submit questions regarding technology: such as Smart TVs, WiFi, home networks, computer usage, iPhone or iPad usage. We will be able to develop Screenflow videos for presentation or for your use. The next Screenflow session will involve more spreadsheet software such as and perhaps some alternatives to Zoom.

Please send requests to Jerry at [jlsabo3@comcast.net](mailto:jlsabo3@comcast.net).



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](http://sirinc.org) website  
<https://sirinc.org/zoom/>



## 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

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

**SIR HAPPENINGS**

*Deadline for submitting articles is April 15th. You can find past issues on our website:*  
<https://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)

**You can get your Pathfinder**

<https://sirbranch59.org/newsletters-2021/>

Comments, photos for site etc. email to:  
[sirbranch59@gmail.com](mailto:sirbranch59@gmail.com)



Bud Pearson

Like many of you, at 86 years old I can look back on all the ways of making a living that I've tried and wonder what I've learned? There was one fairly short job when I was 22 that's lodged in the recesses of my mind, the images of which I will take to the grave.

Lots of jobs came after it. There was the multinational corporation. I consider the "big company" to be an educational experience. In this case I spent almost 20 years with the Communication Division of Motorola. I must have been a slow learner!

Then I got the "I'd like to try it myself itch". With another associate of Motorola we formed a manufactures rep company. Silicon Valley was ripe for the types of products we represented. It was a good life until one of our principles made me an offer I couldn't refuse.

Somewhere along the line I also went to work for a startup electronics company. It was fun while it lasted.

### 1956 My Favorite

I had a friend that worked at Scripps Institution of Oceanography who had taught me to SCUBA dive. He knew that I had done some work in electronics. He called one day and told me that his department needed another Electronics Technician (a dead profession). They were working under a Department of Defense contract to provide certain Oceanographic research. Other than that he couldn't tell me what or where. It was classified. Without him saying it, after our conversation it was apparent it was going to be in what was then called "The Pacific Proving Grounds," Bikini and Enewetak islands in the south Pacific. To make a long story short I spent May, June and July of 1956 witnessing the explosion of 7 or 8 (bad memory) thermonuclear devices. I spent about 2 years at Scripps, but, I'll never forget those 3 month in 1956. What did I learn? I learned that if governments start throwing those things around, I want to be at Ground Zero for the first one!



### **BEC Minutes from Pg 2**

Henry Brown joined our BEC meeting and had a comment to share with us. He feels we should use the term Merry Christmas rather than a generic term like Happy Holidays, as was written in the December Pathfinder. Rob shared his thought, as a teacher, that Happy Holidays may be more politically correct and more inclusive.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26pm.

Dave Nelsen, Secretary

Bob Boike passed away in his sleep at home January 12, 2021. Bob was married to Lee for 66 years. They had a daughter and two sons. Lee said due to the pandemic a memorial will be delayed.



## Roster Updates

There will not be a new Branch 59 Roster booklet this year. Please add this page to your 2020 Booklet.

Lyle Kingery	Died 02/21/2020	James Green	Resigned 10/27/2020
Robert Boike	Died 01/12/2021	Fred Barker	Resigned 10/21/2020
Carlie Houseworth	Died 08/06/2020		
Joseph Jenó	Died 08/04/2020		
Donald Thatcher	Died 09/09/2020		
Tom Sherba	Died 04/22/2020		
Melvin Nunes	Died 01/08/2020		

### Status Changes

Fred Taliaferro	37791 Blacow Road	Fremont	94536-7019	510-796-4618	SAD123@COMCAST.NET
John Ockes	4141 Deep Creek Road	Fremont	94555-2075	510-494-9127	AOCKES@COMCAST.NET
Rowland McNeil	40759 Creston Street	Fremont	94538-3233	510-490-6114	ROWLANDMCNEIL@GMAIL.COM
Forrest Lusher	1070 Plymouth Avenue	Fremont	94539-4639	510-656-4477	67FDL1@GMAIL.COM
Robert Compton	41700 Blossom Drive	Fremont	94539-4739	510-656-5397	LABSNPALS837@GMAIL.COM
Peter Angelides	2860 Country Drive	Fremont	94536	510-673-7133	PANGELIDES2@SBCGLOBAL.NET

### New Members 2020

Charles Gebhardt	3671 Sutton Loop	Fremont	94536-5139	1-510-693-3189	CGEBHARDT@COMCAST.NET
Charles Ferguson	15 Kootenai Ct	Fremont	94539-6806	1-510-209-6704	CEFERGUSON2@YAHOO.COM
Katsumi Osumi	3026 Seymour Place	Fremont	94555-1454	1-510-744-9030	KATSUMI.OSUMI@GMAIL.COM



Charles Gebhardt



Charles Ferguson



Katsumi Osumi

### Members Previously not included in the Roster (Photos not available)

John Mikel	6672 Rochelle Ave	Newark	94560-1647	510-579-3629	BEARJFM@GMAIL.COM
Stefan Jennings	46579 Roadrunner Rd	Fremont	94539-6981	510-651-1072	SJENN12@AOL.COM

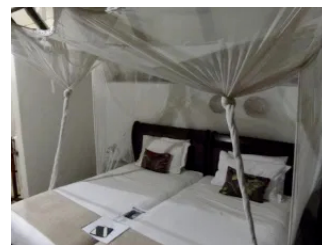
## African Safari (Chobe, Botswana)--Travelogue by Jerry Sabo



The Safari began when we flew from O.R. Tambo Airport in South Africa to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. We met our guide Sandrah, and drove to Chobe, Botswana. We saw animals along the way to the lodge, and of course that is what the trip was about. Sandrah was our Overseas Adventure Travel guide for the entire trip, but at each camp that we visited there was an awesome staff. T-Boss was the director at our Chobe camp and our Safari guides were Six and Genius. Of the 13 travelers in our group 12 were from California and only Carol was from Missouri. That group size was really good, and as we went on Safari, the group split up with different guides and seating arrangements between our two Toyota 4-Wheel drive vehicles. Arrival at each camp was always an experience.

When we arrived at Chobe, there was a large group of staff members that greeted us with song, dance, and always a cool washcloth. The Lodge area is where we ate, gathered and enjoyed a large variety of drinks—non-alcoholic, to beer, wine, and

mixed drinks. A running tab was kept with drink prices generally ranging from \$2 to \$4. We were always given a briefing that included an escort to our cabin, a tour of the cabin. The cabins were generally the same. Most all of them had spectacular views. The bed at Chobe was netted for mosquitos, but we really had no insect problem. There was always a Deet type of spray for the body and another spray that could be used for any visible insects—again not a problem. At each camp we were able to have our clothes washed with the exception of “smalls”(underwear that had to be hand washed by us, but detergent was available). There was no additional costs anywhere except for drinks or staff created souvenirs that were usually available. Each cabin had a separate shower and toilet area, but a clean restroom was at each of the lodge areas also. One problem with being on Safari was that there is no time or place for exercise. For example, after dinner we were escorted to our cabin by a guide. We could not leave the cabins during night hours.



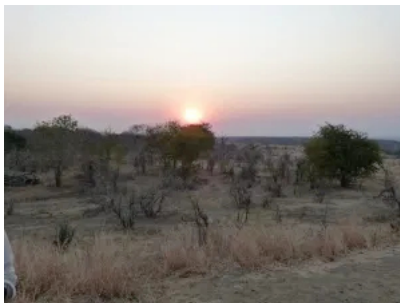
Chobe National Park was probably the best place to see wildlife. Each morning we roughly ate an early breakfast (maybe 5:30 or 6:00 am) and then got into our vehicles. Before entering the park we got out of our vehicle and stomped our feet in a solution that stopped the spread of hoof and mouth disease, and the vehicle also ran through a tank of the solution, and then we entered the park. The guides went into the entry station with our passports and the permits they held. In the park we had to stay on the roads, which were usually very sandy and full of ruts. The variety of game that we saw was amazing. During our second or third day at Chobe we witnessed an event that is seldom seen by anyone. We happened to spot a pack of lions that was about 50 yards off the trail we were on, and suddenly a young elephant came out of the bush about 100 yards from the lions. Most of us in our group quickly realized that the elephant was alone, and that the lions would surely notice the situation. The rest happened quickly. We move our vehicle to a spot about 30 yards away from where the lions intercepted the elephant. I took a lot of photos and some video footage of the event, but our group didn't want to stick around to the eventual end. The elephant actually got up three different times over a period of about 45 minutes. A member of the second vehicle group videoed the entire event.

Each day was very similar: we stopped the vehicles after about two hours, took a necessity stop behind a rock or a bush, had refreshments and snacks, drove around for another couple of hours and returned to the lodge where we were greeted with a cool washcloth. Lunch was ready and always a great lunch with all the trimmings, and then an hour or three for a nap or time to read. No internet, no phones, no TV—just a lot of pleasant company and time to mingle with the staff.



The afternoon outing covered new territory in the park and was always highlighted by a “Sundowner”. The Sundowner was similar to the morning necessity stop, but the refreshments included cocktails for some (this time at no cost), special snacks, and a great time to visit and watch the sun go down. Next we

headed back to the lodge and usually a great meal: always with a special soup, home made bread/rolls, a salad, main dish such as steak, chicken, lasagne, or whatever you might expect to be served in a fine restaurant—dessert too. A lot like being on a cruise ship! Plenty of great food prepared by a chef that always came out to announce the meal.



After dinner, usually at about 9 pm we were escorted by armed staff back to our cabins. If anyone wanted to stay in the lodge, the escorts would be available.

We had a fun outing to a basket weaving shop where we were shown how to make baskets. We next made a stop at the local tavern for refreshments.

We stayed at each camp for three nights. Next stop was at a nearby airport where we boarded two small planes in Kasane and headed off to the Banoka Camp in Maun, Botswana on the Okavanga Delta.



**Editors Note: When I don't always get photos or other news from Branch 59 Members, but I have to insert something. Hope that an adventure from 3-4 years ago will be of interest. Slide show are available on my web site.**

<https://jsabo.info/africa/chobe-botswana/>



## PATHFINDER BRANCH 59

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<jlsabo3@comcast.net>

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**FIRST  
CLASS  
POSTAGE**

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

**February 2021**

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND ASSISTANTS

#### ACTIVITIES

Larry Lardie/Jerry Halligan  
Co-Chairmen

James Ploor - Assistant

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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

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Ron Brutvan - Assistant

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#### CHAPLAINS

Howard Thompson

Ted Bresler

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Sterling Strickland - Assistant

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Jim Ulam - Chairman

#### COUPLES WINE TASTING

Joe Stanley - Chairman

#### CYBER GEEZERS

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Hugh Twomey - Manager

Jerry Sabo - Assistant

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Larry Lardie - Chairman

#### LIBRARIAN

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Carl Nordling - Assistant

OPEN- Assistant

#### NOMINATING

Richard Henry - Chairman

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Assistant - Sammy Lum

#### PHOTOGRAPHER

Bruce Roberts

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Larry Jett - Co-Chair

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Dino Mostardi - Head Ref

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Bob Benya - Chairman

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Bob Marshall

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Bill Leake - Chairman

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#### SUNSHINE

Art Winkley - Chairman

#### WEBSITE

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

Sammy Lum - Webmaster

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Rick Kindle

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Ronald Flegal

#### STATE TREASURER

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#### Chief Administrator

Dwight Sale

#### 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\*

1999 Art Lampert\*

2000 Harry Heyen\*

### PAST BIG Sirs

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.