



The Pathfinder

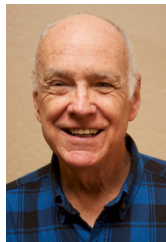
Forty-Sixth Year

March 2021

Bulletin No. 3

All Close contact MEETINGS-Cancelled until further notice

Musings of Big Sir Larry Jett



Sons In Retirement has seen 63 years of growth since its inception in 1958 but arguably none of those years have caused our group of intrepid age-collectors as much concern and trouble as 2020 has (20/20: which should have provided *perfect vision*), but this was hardly the case. Who among us can affirm that IMMUNE IN JUNE will be real? imagined? close but short of cigars? correct for cv-19 but crowded by cv-20? It would seem that anytime Big Media shares some hopeful news it follows it up shortly with less hopeful news. SIGH!

Modest change of venue here.....112 years ago a bunch of men decided that there was too much pessimism in the U.S. and that a case could be made that our community and national psyche could be lifted and strengthened by an effort to promote a collective spirit of optimism. You know that a glass can be either half full or half empty. Personally, I don't care which it is, as either way, there is still sufficient room for more wine. I have been a member of The Optimist Club for 49 years (similar to Rotary, Kiwanis in purpose and plan) The first and last sentences in "The Optimist Creed" are: "Promise Yourself: To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind": and "To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble". Good advice, still, into the 103rd year after it was written.

Branch #59 has about 153 members with approximately 139 +/- owning a computing device capable of Zoom. Little Sir Bob Marshall is very good at gathering interesting speakers. Two previous chats were on the tri-cities economic forecast for 2021, and a brilliant preview on self-driving cars. March 17th will spot-light how DNA testing and genealogy address each other. Average Zoom participation hovers around 25% and there is much to be learned as well as seeing some of your friend's faces once again. If you are uncertain how the scheme works, many of the BEC members would be very happy to assist you in the process.

Larry Jett, Big Sir larrywjett@gmail.com 510 794 7911

Anyone that is interest in joining the BEC meeting on Wednesday, March 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.

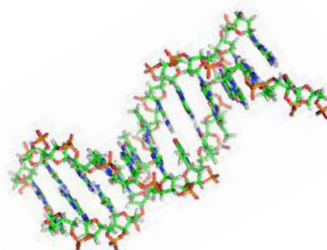
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/955020906>
Meeting ID: 955 020 906

March Guest Speaker Meridith White



"I was born and raised in Eureka CA, the true Northern California. I moved to the Bay area in 1988 with my five kids. I've always loved the Life Sciences. I completed my Biology degree at Cal State Hayward in 1989 and my Masters in Biology at CSU East Bay in 2013. The Bay Area is known in the US as Biotech Bay because of all the Biotech Companies in the area. I have worked in Biotech for over 30 years. It's been fascinating and the technology is constantly changing. We have just celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first DNA Sequencing of the entire Human Genome!

Like many people, I am interested in my ancestry and where my family came from. DNA sequencing has brought science into the field of genealogy. With DNA we can now determine our ancestry and where we came from. I'm going to give a simple explanation on how this is done and talk about some family history. Some hidden and unknown family stories that were discovered and some family myths that were passed down generations that were debunked all because of DNA sequencing!"



SIR Branch 59 BEC Minutes, February 17, 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 Big Sir Larry Jett at 11:36am. All BEC members were present.

The January 20, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer, Larry Lardie presented his report. The balance of the general fund on Feb 17 was \$3,627.40. Only expenses this month were for printing.

Membership; Rob reported our current membership stands at 153. Rob is staying in touch with 3 gentlemen who have been through orientation and 3 others on the verge of orientation. He will speak with each and invite to become official members during our March meeting.

Attendance; Ed Guthrie reported attendance has been between 15 and 30 during our zoom meetings. Starting today we will take an accurate count of zoom meeting participants.

SIR Outdoor Activities are Re-Opened. In Late January the CA department of Public Health lifted the regional stay at home order across California. Following this announcement the SIR State Board announced the conditional re-opening of SIR Outdoor Activities. Be it resolved, that SIR sponsored Golf, Wednesday Walkers, Bocce Ball and Corn Hole are henceforth approved by Sir Branch 59 provided: (a) Such activities are not prohibited by an applicable order of the CA Department of Public Health or County or Municipal Health Department, and (b) All activities are conducted under written protocols in a strict compliance with all applicable State and Locally mandated mask, hand sanitizing, distance requirements, and any other pertinent Health Related Requirements. Motion made by Jim Ulam, seconded by Larry Lardie and unanimously approved by the BEC.

Jerry Halligan and Larry Lardie met recently to discuss activities. They don't expect to begin Bocce Ball again until we meet at the Elk's Lodge. Harvey McAninch has been researching when bowling might re-open. He is hoping a tournament in August may still be held.

Library; Jim Ploor has retired as Librarian Chairman. Richard Holley and Rick Henry will chair this committee together.

Database; Hugh Twomey updates all our database changes. Having current phone numbers, email addresses and other pertinent info is important. Please reach out to Hugh with any changes that need to be made.

Email from SIR State; Jerry Sabo remarked that Email from SIR State is now being sent through Constant Contact, an email marketing company. He warned that if you were to unsubscribe from Constant Contact at the bottom of an email, you would not receive any more emails from SIR State.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31pm.

Dave Nelsen, Secretary



March Birthdays



Robert Benya
Age 90



Nathaniel Lord
Age 86



Howard Thompson
Age 85

Richard Lightholder
Age 83



Gary Bennett
Age 82



Edward Nelson
Age 81



John Prior
Age 81

Gil Peters
Age 80



Richard Bowers
Age 79

Donald Lessard
Age 74

Faz Binesh
Age 63



Can't Put a Name to a Face?

Visit our branch website at
www.sirbranch59.org

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



Sir Sammy Lum
Birthday
Chairman





Cyber Geezers usually meet on the Tuesday following our monthly SIR Luncheon. Our next meeting will be held on March 23rd. 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

At our February meeting we had a guest presenter, Alan Baker that gave us a very informative session about Cyber Security. In case you missed the meeting, Alan will be our Branch 59 speaker for April.

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.

Staying Safe on the Internet

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/>



Fraud Watch Team

AARP

Alan Baker

Branch 59 Golf Is Back

By unanimous agreement of the Branch 59 BEC, golf as a SIR activity is officially open effective February 23rd, 2021.

Though SIR, and prospective SIR, golfers have been meeting informally every Tuesday for months, none of the play was ever sanctioned by the SIR state organization. Now that we have the blessings of the SIR state hierarchy, we must continue with coronavirus safety protocols as established by local, county and state governmental bodies. Our local golf courses have all been maintaining safe protocols and all golfers are required to strictly adhere to those protocols.

What will change with the granting of Branch 59 approval to open golf as an activity? **Nothing!** We will continue to play golf every Tuesday, weather permitting, and sometimes on Thursdays as well. Our "home" course is Spring Valley in the Milpitas hills, with occasional forays to other courses in Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo and Contra Costa counties.

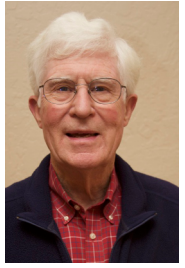
Golf chairman, Jim Ulam, with the kind assistance of Larry Lardie, Dave Shideler and Gary Bennett will get tee times, email SIR golfers times and dates and request "first-come-first-served" sign-ups and assign pairings. Due to the pandemic and closing of some golf courses, getting tee times has become difficult and the courses that remain open are very crowded throughout the week. Most courses have strict rules on getting tee times, for instance Spring Valley has insisted that we call in 10 days in advance of requested tee times and will allow only two tee times to be booked per call. This has required Jim and Larry (previously Dave) to get up by 6:30 am on Saturday to call in to get tee times for the second following Tuesday! Because we are competing with so many others for coveted tee times we cannot always get the tee times we want, nor contiguous tee times so we can all play as a group.

Gone, too, are our after golf get-togethers for lunch or drinks or fellowship or discussing our games or SIR or current events. While it is "bare bones" compared to the "way it used to be" at least we are able to get outdoors for exercise and camaraderie while on the course.

Any SIR golfer who would like to join us should contact Jim Ulam or Larry Lardie to get put on our email list.



I'm a relatively new member to SIRS since I joined in 2019. I grew up in Los Altos and attended public schools and graduated from UC Berkeley in 1976 with a degree in Civil Engineering. I spent 43 years working in the construction industry in Utah, Washington, Wyoming and California. One of my working highlights was my involvement in the building of a nuclear power plant at Hanford in Washington state. I also spent a good deal of my career as an estimator/salesman securing hard bid work for a local subcontractor. My last job assignment was as a lumber purchasing agent at Pine Cone Lumber Company in Sunnyvale. I decided to retire at age 65 on June 30, 2019 to begin a life of travel and being involved in the growth of our 3 grandchildren. In 2019 we went on a road trip to Wyoming to visit family, a trip to Normandy to witness the 75th anniversary of D-Day and a trip to Hawaii for fun.



Then the Pandemic hit!

We began to spend all our time at home during the lockdown like everyone else. Fortunately, I had a cabin in Markleeville, CA (near South Lake Tahoe) and visited 1 week a month for a change of scenery. The cabin is just a few miles from Nevada, and I was able to visit a more relaxed atmosphere. I had to wear a mask indoors and had to make an appointment for a haircut, Etc. Most businesses were open, and you were able to gamble and eat indoors long before being allowed to do the same in California. There is also a hot springs pool (Grover Hot Springs) just outside of town that is open daily with an appointment. Once this Pandemic is under control, I look forward to returning to our monthly meetings at the Elks Club.

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



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
Sammy Lum,
Assistant Editor
lumsam@sbcglobal.net*

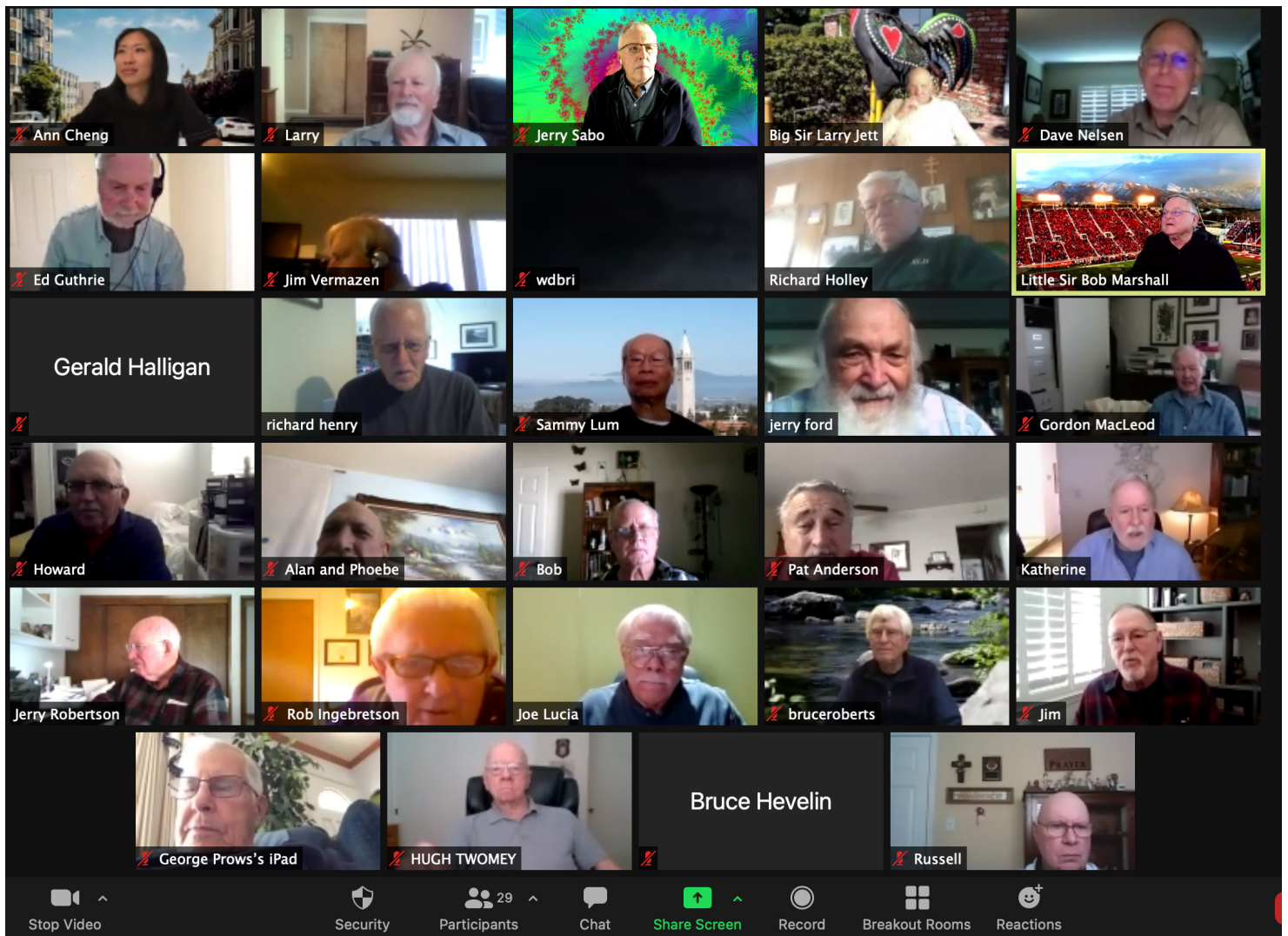
You can get your Pathfinder

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

Comments, photos for site etc. email to:

sirbranch59@gmail.com





At our February Branch 59 SIR meeting, we were honored to have guest speaker Ann Cheng. Ann gave a great presentation and a lot of information about "Self Driving Cars". You can still catch her presentation if you go to our web link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sl/gwxm8aal6c4femx/AnneCheng.mp4?dl=0>



OKAVANGO DELTA

The Okavango Delta was the second safari location of our Ultimate Africa tour.

We flew onto a small airstrip near the Banoka Camp. Even though we were a part of an Overseas Adventure called Ultimate Africa, most of the lodges where we stayed were a part of Wilderness Safari. This camp had a special attraction which was referred to as a “loo with a view”. I have never visited a “loo” quite like this one. At Banoka Camp we were greeted by the usual semblance of wonderful hosts, and our guides were Paul and HP. The game reserve here was a private one so we were able to go off road more than in any other camp. One of the first things that we learned was that Paul was a real practical joker with a wonderful sense of humor. I will only say that much, because I don’t want to undermine the spreading of his “wisdom” to anyone that will meet him in the future.

Okavango Delta is formed from the heavy rainfall of Angola that flood the delta region in Botswana, and the recedes. The high water mark is usually reached in the period from June to August according to Wikipedia. This coincides with Botswana’s dry season—the delta waters swell up, and animals are attracted to the region to get water. We arrived in August, and the animal population was high—lots of animals.



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. Part 2. <https://jsabo.info/okavango-delta/>

PATHFINDER BRANCH 59

Jerry Sabo, Editor & Publisher
36647 Montecito Dr./Fremont, CA
94536-2615

<jlsabo3@comcast.net>

Return Service Requested

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

March 2021

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND ASSISTANTS

ACTIVITIES

Larry Lardie/Jerry Halligan
Co-Chairmen

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

Open - Chairman

CYBER GEEZERS

Jerry Sabo - Chairman

DATABASE

Hugh Twomey - Manager
Jerry Sabo - Assistant

GOLF

Larry Lardie/Jim Ulam
Co-Chairmen

LIBRARIAN

Richard Holley/Rick Henry
Co-Chairmen

MEMBERSHIP

Rob Ingebretson - Chairman
Carl Nordling - Assistant

NOMINATING

Richard Henry - Chairman
Arnold George - Assistant

PATHFINDER

Editor - Jerry Sabo
Assistant - Sammy Lum

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bruce Roberts

POKER

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

PUBLICITY

Sammy Lum - Chairman
Jim Ulam - Assistant

RECRUITMENT

Jim Ulam - Chairman
Alan Weiner - Assistant

ROLLIE REFEREE

Dino Mostardi - Head Ref

SOCIAL

Rob Ingebretson - Chairman

SONG LEADER

Bob Benya - Chairman

SPEAKER RECRUITMENT

Bob Marshall

SPORTS

Bill Leake - Chairman
Nat Lord - Assistant

SUNSHINE

Art Winkley - Chairman

WEBSITE

Sirbranch59.org

Sammy Lum - Webmaster

PAST BIG Sirs

STATE OFFICERS

STATE PRESIDENT
Stuart Williams

VICE-PRESIDENT
Rick Kindle

STATE SECRETARY
Ronald Flegal

STATE TREASURER
Roy Hodgkinson

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*

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.