



# FORT SUTTER NEWS

## BRANCH 14



### 2021 OFFICERS

Big Sir: Len Ohlendorf  
 Little Sir: Tom Tompkins  
 Secretary: Bob Jackson  
 Ass't: Rob Bottel  
 Treasurer: Dick Lewis  
 Ass't: Bill Boxell

### DIRECTORS:

Dennis Scovill	Al Russo	Ken Krueger
Robert Henning	Milo Tubbs	Chris Barker

### STATE OFFICERS

Area 3 Governor: Kevin Mahoney  
 Regional Director, Region 3: Davis Gonzales  
 State President: Stu Williams

### ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

Attendance: Hal Higgins  
 Ass't: Ken Krueger  
 Badge Custodian: Dick Jackson  
 Ass't: open  
 Bucket Brigade: Joe Freitas  
 Ass't: Jim Poindexter  
 Chaplain: Dick Lewis  
 Golf: Dick Lewis  
 Greeters: Randy Rozanski  
 Ass't: open  
 Membership, Administration: Hal Higgins  
 New Membership Recruitment: Hal Snow  
 Ass't: Dennis Scovill and Len Ohlendorf  
 Programs: Tom Tompkins  
 Photo Group: Tommy Silver  
 Ass't: open  
 Photographer: Joe Freitas  
 Sunshine: Robert Henning  
 Telephone Tree: Tom Tompkins  
 Ass't: John Evers, Gary Julian, and James Cauley  
 Tour Director: Hal Snow  
 Winemaker: Ken Krueger  
 Woodwork: Dan Franke

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING-11:00	WE MEET THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH	At Stock Ranch Road Retirement Community
ZOOM 2nd THURSDAY OF MONTH	State website: <a href="http://www.sirinc.org">www.sirinc.org</a>	7418 Stock Ranch Rd
	Sirs 14 website: : <a href="http://branch14.com">http://branch14.com</a>	Citrus Heights

## BRANCH 14 ZOOM MEETING ON FEBRUARY 25, 2021 11:00

This is the February 2021 bulletin



### BIG SIR-LEN OHLENDORF (916) 803-1650

As I write this article we just finished our monthly Zoom General Membership meeting. The meeting was informative, fast paced and we had a great guest speaker, the Police Chief of Citrus Heights, Ronald Lawrence. His presentation was on today's policing. There was much interest by our members and the question and answer period went on for about 20 minutes.

I hope all of you are getting through this storm relatively unscathed. We lost power for a period of time, a section of fence is down, a few trees are bent but nothing serious. This too shall pass. It made me think of some more serious storms in Northern California history. Some of you may remember the levee breaks and Arden floods of January 1997. Heavy rain broke 20 levees along the Cosumnes River, flooding 33,000 acres of crop land and 84 residences near the town of Wilton, requiring rescues by boat and helicopter.

While there seems to be no end to this Covid pandemic, there is some light. Some of us have received our first Covid-19 vaccine shot. I was a grateful recipient of a shot last week from the VA. Medical professionals are working tirelessly to serve our communities.

More good news on the SIRs front. The SIR State Board has announced the conditional Re-Opening of SIR Golf, provided the Branches get approval from their own Branch Executive Board and include the SIR State resolution and protocol. Look for Branch 14 BEC approval next week.

I will end this article with some suggestions for personal goals for 2021. Exercise more, even light to moderate activity is great for your heart and circulation. Eat well, the more color on your plate, the healthier you're eating. Spread Kindness, wave to strangers in your neighborhood. Welcome change, life is hard and with it comes change. Forgive others, we all make mistakes.

Yours sincerely,  
Len Ohlendorf Big Sir



LITTLE SIR-TOM TOMPKINS (916) 961-3670

Greetings from your Little Sir

If you missed our Zoom meeting today January 28<sup>th</sup>, you missed a great meeting. Our speaker was Ronald Lawrence Chief of Police for Citrus Heights. His topic was interesting, and the members had lots of questions for him. For our February meeting we are playing Zoom Bingo. Be sure not to miss that meeting, it should be a lot of fun and a learning experience, for me anyway.

Congratulations to Dennis Scovill, our January birthday wine winner.

It appears that this China Virus situation may be starting to open a bit. We shall see what happens. Our golf group has gotten permission to play golf again providing they observe the virus rules. That is great news. Hopefully, this is the beginning of getting back to normalcy.

Have you checked out the SIRSINC.org website? There is some great information about SIRS and ideas for improving and maintaining a branch. Communication between members is essential for a branch to survive and prosper. Call a member of our branch just to reach out and see how they are doing. If you find a member who is ill, please let Robert Henning know as he is our Sunshine person .

Please mark your calendar for February 25<sup>th</sup>, our next SIRS meeting. Also, our March speaker is Richard Duffy, Richard is an insurance fraud investigator. Should be an interesting talk.

Until next time, stay safe and well.

Tom Tompkins  
Little SIR Branch # 14

## No changes in your 2021 Roster





**Vaccine Phase III Clinical trials**

Currently there are two vaccines available for use in vaccination and approved in the US under something the FDA calls “emergency use authorization” (EUA). One vaccine is from the pharmaceutical partner companies Pfizer and BioNtech. Pfizer is a US corporation and BioNtech is a German company. The second is from Moderna, also a US corporation. The EUA is based on the impressive results from a Vaccine Phase III double blind randomized trial of a mRNA vaccine versus placebo. mRNA is an abbreviation for “messenger RNA” and RNA is ribonucleic acid and is related to DNA. These vaccines are “biologics” and unlike Polio vaccine, not made from weakened virus. Also note that “mRNA” is not “new”. mRNA was discovered in 1961, over 60 years ago and has been tested in medical areas other than vaccines.

The impressive results are that the Pfizer/BioNtech vaccine was found to have a better than 90.0% “vaccine relative efficacy” (VRE), and Moderna a 94.5% VRE. By comparison Measles has a 97% effectiveness. Statistically, the vaccines have nearly identical effectiveness. The vaccines have unique super cold refrigeration requirements. The Pfizer vaccine must be stored at -94F and Moderna stored at -4F.

The Pfizer trial enrolled and randomized 43,538, volunteers and randomized to either placebo or vaccine. The better than 90% efficacy is based on 170 cases of COVID-19, of which 162 cases of COVID-19 were observed in the placebo group versus 8 cases in the BNT162b2 group. The Moderna trial enrolled 196 cases, 185 occurred in the placebo group and only 11 in those who were vaccinated.

What is a Phase III double blind randomized trial? A Phase III double blind randomized trial is a “gold standard” and provides a definitive YES or NO answer that a vaccine is effective. Double blind means that during the trial, neither the sponsor (Pfizer/BioNTech) employees, investigators nor the volunteers knew whether they got Vaccine or placebo. At any time, the treating physician can request “unblinding” if needed to protect the safety and well-being of the volunteer. When the trial is complete everyone involved, volunteers nor investigators will be provided with the identity of the vaccine they received. Note the trials are “on going” to evaluate for long term effects. Both trials are officially complete in about 2023. What is randomized? At the time of the visit to the clinical, each volunteer is provided with an Informed consent document. Note that informed consent arose out of horrors of involuntary human experiments during world war II. Given a signed informed consent the sponsor (Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna) provides a computer generated “coin toss”. Based on the computer coin toss, each volunteer is randomized to either vaccine or placebo. The blinding and the randomization provide a guarantee that the results of the trial are not affected by biases, or preferences of physicians or volunteers favoring either the vaccine over placebo.

**BIRTHDAY BOYS AND WINE WINNERS IN JANUARY 2021**



**THOM PRYOR**



**DENNIS SCOVILL**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS IN BRANCH 14**

BIRTHDAY	LAST	FIRST	NU
2/16/33	LEWIS	Richard E.	342
2/6/34	FARNSWORTH	Thomas G.	91
2/5/43	JULIAN	Gary F	76

**BRANCH 14-DATE JOINED SIR–FEBRUARY**

DATE JOINED SIRS	LAST	FIRST	NU
2/27/03	MANN	Howard L.	134
2/22/07	FREITAS	Joseph M.	74
2/26/09	JOHANSEN	Ray	220
2/27/20	PRINZBACH	Lawrence	10



**ATTENDANCE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEES**

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN (ADMINISTRATION) Hal Higgins-863-6771**

55 Members, January 1, 2021

NO CHANGE

55 Members, February 1, 2021

18 members and Ron Lawrence, Chief, Citrus Heights Police Department, attended the Zoom meeting on January 28, 2021



**SUNSHINE REPORT –ROBERT HENNING -722-0417**

Dick Lewis's wife, Vi Lewis, is home with home care. Dick Jackson is home from the hospital after having Covid-19 and is doing well and on oxygen. Jim Poindexter is at home with end stage cancer, not doing well and his daughter is taking care of him.





**Branch 14 Photo Contest - 2021**

- Tom Silver, Coordinator

The release of Covid vaccines greatly improves the chances for holding a Branch 14 photo contest this year. When physical meetings can resume is still unclear, so we will have to rely on electronic communication for a while.

That being the case, it would be helpful to know how many members and/or members’ spouses, plan to participate in the contest. If you are planning to enter the contest, please let me know right away. There may be times when I have update to send to members of the photo group without spamming the entire branch membership. It will also help me plan the logistics of the contest. I would also like to know who might want to take over the photo contest this year and the future. Please contact me by email, so that I have a written record and correct email addresses. And take pictures!

If you would like to assist in the tallying of votes, which also provides additional transparency to the proceedings, please let me know at [TandBSilver@aol.com](mailto:TandBSilver@aol.com).



**WINEMAKERS –CHAIRMAN: KEN KRUEGER (916) 751-0568.**

In mid-January, as a result of the Zoomed Sir’s Training course on “Insurance,” we learned that some of the wine making activities that the Branch 14 Wine Makers group has been engaged in, such as distillation, are not insurable, and therefore cannot be sanctioned as a SIRs-approved activity. In view of this finding, and following discussion, the founding members of the Winemakers have decided to continue the project but as a “private” matter and not as a SIRs activity. Despite this situation, we will still welcome any and all members of Branch 14 who want to make wine and spirits to join us. Beyond that, January has been a low-key month. After missing a week due to a storm-related power outage at the Barn, we only managed to transform some all-grain, and grapefruit based white lightening into small batches of high-octane *Amarretto*, *Lemon Cello* and *Kahlua* – all of which were judged to be “Yummy” by a competent panel comprised of Al’s wife Blair. Be safe out there, wear your masks, wash your hands and sign up to get your Covid vaccinations.



**WOODWORKERS -CHAIRMAN-DAN FRANKE 239-5888**



Wow, what a storm. I hope you weren’t like several of us in Carmichael going without power for 30 or so hours. Not a lot of woodworking happens when you don’t have electricity. Looking at the bright side, there are a lot of trees down all over town and if you work with wood this is an opportunity for free wood. Grab your chain saw and offer to help if you can take some wood. If you have a lathe, cut some rounds of this wet wood and turn roughed bowl blanks. Put them aside for a year to dry and you will have free materials for making wonderful bowls.

Don continues to work on the addition to the barn. The wood storage room at the back of the barn continues to take shape. Don spent two weeks shaping a large oak beam that will span the opening into the wood room. He could have done it so many other ways that would have been easier....but not near as beautiful and unique. This wood room will be able to store a large amount of wood out of the weather when completed.

Get your Covid vaccine as soon as you can and one day we will be able to restart our monthly woodworkers meetings. Until then, continue working in your own shops and send me pictures of your projects to include in my articles.

Roughed out

Bowl blanks



## **DECLARATIONS**

NON RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION - All activities arranged for or by, or sponsored 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. (Rule 345).

Checks, money orders or credit cards for Travel for one day or less (no overnight), where a bus/busses is/are used as the primary means of transportation, may be made payable to the Branch sponsoring the event. All other checks, money orders or credit cards for travel must be made payable to the travel agency (Rule 420 and 421).

Members are obligated to attend all regular luncheon meetings unless prevented by illness or absence from the Branch locale (Rule 60). REQUIRED ATTENDANCE~A member shall be required to attend one-half of the regular Branch monthly luncheon meetings within the previous twelve consecutive month period unless the Branch BEC has approved a different attendance requirement(s).

A member shall be notified in writing, e-mail, and/or telephone by his Branch if he is in violation of the Attendance Rule 100 and is subject to the termination of his Branch membership. See Rule 107. (Revised 6/7/18) (Revised 4/10/18) (Revised 10/30/18)

### **MEETING DATES IN 2021**

January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24,  
July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 18, and December 16

**Fort Sutter Branch 14**

**Hal Higgins**

**7324 Villa Del Sol Ln**

**Citrus Heights, CA 95621**