



Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA

New Website: [www.sir17.org](http://www.sir17.org)

THE **REDWOOD BARK** NEWSLETTER

For **Sep. 2020**

Meetings are at **LEGENDS** in the Bennett Valley Golf Course, 3328 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

## All members are invited to attend our next SIR Meeting on Sep. 17, using Zoom...

A link and password will be made available from **BIG Sir George Traverso** to you before the meeting.

### September 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting Schedule via **Zoom!**

**Social Hour:** 11:00 am Please check in about 5 minutes early to be ready to avoid the last minute rush.

**Speaker:** None at this time.

**Lunch:** 12:00 noon plus/minus as you are on your own, fix whatever you desire.

### September 17<sup>th</sup> Lunch Menu

Fix your own sandwiches--at home!

**Beverages:** Your choice...

### **BIG Sir George Traverso's Message**

[geosan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net) 528-6987

*"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country."*

(by Charles E. Weller, a typing instructor)



Way back in high school this sentence was used as a practice routine in my typing class. We typed competitive drills to see how quickly and accurately the above statement was typed by all in our class. This message from my typing drill is so important in today's world.

Today, we should add a few more words (such as "and women") to make it politically correct in these inclusive times with our gender-conscience society. Science comes to the forefront to discover and implement a cure to combat and conquer this pandemic. Society, in collaboration with science, needs all good men and women to come to the aid of their country. This challenge extends to all the countries of the world because humanity is truly one, for this pandemic knows no boundaries, language, or gender. We are presently in the jaws of an elusive and deadly beast. World-wide laboratories are in a fierce battle with this lethal

*(continued on page 2)*

### **Little Sir Gary Bondi's Message**

[gbondi@sonic.net](mailto:gbondi@sonic.net) 539-2445



Greetings fellow SIR members! I must start with an apology for this article, or at least for the lack of content. As some of you may or may not know, I am currently being treated for some cancer and undergoing multiple chemo treatments They do take a lot out of me and my "creative" energy suffers from the lack of it. Not that I had much to begin with, so it did not take much! That said, this article is short, but, from the heart. I truly do miss our "old times" and think of all my past get-togethers and activities with all of you. I know this is a temporary setback and cannot wait to get back in the saddle again, fulfill my duties as Little Sir, but most of all to see all your smiling faces. We are sure truly a special group and are fortunate to have the friendship, fellowship and support of each other in this crazy time of 2020! All I can say, at this point, is keep the faith and look forward to when we can all look back on all this, share our experiences and find some humor in it all. In the meantime, until we can gather again, good health to all and as they say in Italian, "Sempre Avanti," always forward!

**SIR Luther Burbank Branch 17 is in Area 10 of Region 3.  
The following is a list of your 2020 Officers and Directors.**

OFFICERS:	EMAIL:	PHONE:	DIRECTORS:
<b>Big Sir:</b> George Traverso . . . . .	<a href="mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net">geosan@sbcglobal.net</a> . . . . .	707-528-6987	Gordon Boulton
<b>Little Sir:</b> Gary Bondi . . . . .	<a href="mailto:gbondi@sonic.net">gbondi@sonic.net</a> . . . . .	707-539-2445	Rich de Lambert
<b>Secretary:</b> Kurt Wehrmeister . . . . .	<a href="mailto:kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com">kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com</a>	630-461-2715	Ken Johnson
<b>Asset. Secretary:</b> Jim Gurke . . . . .	<a href="mailto:1jgurke@gmail.com">1jgurke@gmail.com</a> . . . . .	707-303-0989	Chris Nolen
<b>Treasurer:</b> Glenn Seime . . . . .	<a href="mailto:gseime@sbcglobal.net">gseime@sbcglobal.net</a> . . . . .	707-537-5360	Paul Willihnganz
<b>Asset. Treasurer:</b> Al Petrie . . . . .	<a href="mailto:alpetrie7@aol.com">alpetrie7@aol.com</a> . . . . .	707-545-7208	Elias Zegarra
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Jim Fenstermaker .	<a href="mailto:sirsbrn17@gmail.com">sirsbrn17@gmail.com</a> . . . . .	707-548-3346	
			<b>WEBMASTERS:</b>
<b>STATE PRESIDENT</b> Ed Benson	<b>AREA 10 GOVERNOR</b> Robert Reuther	<b>REGION 3 DIRECTOR</b> Dennis Pangburn	Dennis Mangan Jim Fenstermaker

**BIG Sir George Traverso's Message** (continued)

monster by attempting to discover a cure to bring it under control.

It is my understanding that COVID-19 affects us on two fronts: our health stamina and our economic stamina. I refer to the prevailing situation as the aspiration for "stamina." Stamina is defined as strength, vigor, vitality and endurance. When I think of "stamina" I imagine a runner in a race with eyes on a goal. At present, we are in a race to find a cure for this pandemic, BUT we as a society must trust science and do the simple things that we are all familiar with: wash hands, wear a mask and keep six feet apart. Simple, but difficult for some. I must admit that wearing a mask in public is a little disheartening. Wearing the face covering challenges me to not give up courage and hope just as an athlete sees the finish line at the end of the race and celebrate the accomplishment. The deadly toll on the health aspect of this plague does not need to be discussed. The economic side on this pandemic is truly devastating to our social well-being. Record high unemployment and the health attack on our young and old make a recipe for destroying optimism and extinguishing hope for many citizens. My feeling is that this "destruction" advances without boundaries and this sickness advances worldwide without discrimination or concern.

So, in conclusion, the call that was summoned as a typing exercise so many years ago is a command for the world to battle today's plague. All good men and women rise to the occasion and defeat this scourge whether we are scientists discovering a vaccine or regular citizens using common sense.

**Coffee Time--again!**

In the fall of 2019 we held several "Coffee Time" gatherings at Legends. Then came the holidays followed by the coronavirus problems and things just dissolved.



Rich de Lambert believes now is the time to bring it back to life again, but since we can not meet in person we sure can meet on Zoom, which we have been doing for our BEC and General "Luncheon" meetings.

Rich is proposing to hold an informal Zoom gathering each Wednesday morning at 10:00 am, starting on September 9th. It is FREE as you bring your own coffee to the table along with whatever treats you desire. Dress is as casual as you desire but pants are required!

This is designed to still be able to get to know each other while we can not meet in person. There are no set agendas, no speakers nor any special subjects, just friendly talk and swapping stories of what has been happening.

For more information contact Rich de Lambert at [richdelambert@gmail.com](mailto:richdelambert@gmail.com) or call him at 545-3490.

To obtain the meeting number and password to join the Zoom fun session contact Big Sir George Traverso at [geosan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net)

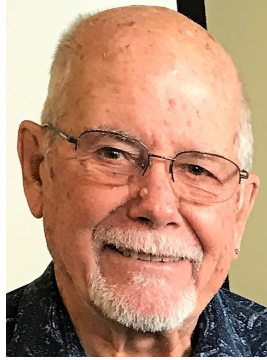
There have been rumors floating around that Rich will provide and deliver a free pastry to each member that tunes in on the 9th. How he plans to accomplish this is unknown, that is why it is possibly "just a rumor."

Looking forward to see a large turnout!

## SIR Branch 17, Member Profile:

### Badge #167 Ken Johnson

Becoming a Boy Scout was a breakthrough point in Ken's childhood and a guiding force for the man he was to become. Having lost his mom and dad early in life, Ken was raised in South Bend, Indiana by his great aunt and uncle, loving but quiet older adults. Ken's life changed dramatically when he met Carson Buck, a devoted scout leader and wonderful mentor, who helped him discover a happier, more "normal" life in high school. He joined the gymnastics team and learned to work hard, trust others and most of all believe in himself.



Out of high school and out of money, Ken enlisted in the Air Force language skills program. About this time, the Air Force came out with a notice saying they were short of pilots. Ken was good at math and drawing, and passed the test to get into pilot training school in 1953. Ken discovered a natural talent for flying and became a pilot doing air rescue surveillance on the Island of Guam, flying a SB-29 with a rescue boat strapped underneath. He used his scouting leadership skills there to organize the first group of Air Scouts in 1955. In the Air Force Ken got exposed to many cultures, expanded his inner self, and found a world bigger than South Bend.

After Guam, Ken continued a "comfortable career" in the Air Force, flying KC-97 Stratofreighters. These huge planes were used for in-flight refueling and were instrumental in providing the Strategic Air Command an intercontinental presence. (Ken spoke of these planes as our guest speaker last year.) Ken was respected for his knowledge and skills despite only having a high school degree. As Ken says, "things just went well for me in the Air Force."

Yet, being a pilot in the Air Force kept him away from home for long periods of time. Ken had seven children and a wife who needed him, and he decided to retire from the military and spend more time with his family. Ken became a teacher, and being good with his hands, started a remodeling company in Grand Forks, ND. Seven years later, he moved to a construction job in Minneapolis and then got into selling ShopSmith multipurpose woodworking tools. Ken enjoyed demonstrating the tools in front of people and had over \$1 million in sales. The job however required Ken to travel and once again he found himself away from home. To reduce travel, he then managed a ShopSmith store for a few years and demonstrated products for 3M Corporation.

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*(continued at top to right)*

## Member Profiles: *(continued)*

All the years of traveling and being away from home ultimately took its toll. "You can't make up for lost time and love. You can try to make amends and choose to spend time with family, but sometimes that just is not enough to save a broken marriage." After the divorce, Ken spent the next 11 years in Minnesota, joined social groups and became an avid outdoorsman.

While visiting his sister in San Jose, Ken's daughter-in-law introduced him to her retired school principal, Dayle. They went out on a date and Ken found her attractive, intelligent and adventuresome. She was a person who was open to world travel and took a year off of her teaching position and traveled around the world by herself! They married a few years later and, after spending some time in San Jose CA and Medford Oregon, arrived in Santa Rosa in 2014.

Ken met Sir Romie Schneider who brought him to a SIR17 meeting, saying "this club will expand your relationships, give you opportunities to enjoy a variety of activities, and enhance your life!" Ken participates in photography, woodworking, gardening, a past cyclist, and loves spending time out of doors. He now serves as an active Director on our Branch Executive Committee.

Ken says it's important to have people we can talk to, who are not easily offended, and have good perspectives on life. He especially likes people who have points of view that are different from his. His advice for us: "Listen with an open mind and heart, and try to not be judgmental. We are a human mosaic!" A Boy Scout strives to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Ken continues to embody scouting as a member of SIR17.

*(Article by Dennis Mangan)*

## List of the **September Birthdays**

Stan Borges	Ron Clark	Tom Johnson
Mike Rogalski	Fred Rose	Ted Scapeccia
Marv Schouweiler	John Summerville	
	Bob Vidalin	

**We will celebrate all birthdays whenever we are back to our regular meetings again, but when that will be is???**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

A special Thank You to members Gordon Boultee and others for helping me by spotting all my errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling and any other boo-boos I have made before the final edition goes to press and you see it.

Jim, the Editor

## 2021 BEC Officers & Directors

In the General meeting by Zoom of last Thursday, August 20th, it was voted on and accepted the following Officers and Directors for next year:

Big Sir	Gary Bondi
Little Sir	Gordon Boulton
Treasurer	Al Petrie
Asst. Treasurer	John Gnam
Secretary	Kurt Wehrmeister
Asst. Secretary	Jim Gurke
Directors:	
Rich de Lambert,	Tom Lubas
Ken Johnson	Chris Nolen
Paul Willihnganz	Elias Zegarra

## Our Future Meetings, via Zoom less the lunch!

The 2020 **regular meetings** for now will be held on our usual dates of the third Thursday of each month, starting at 11:00 am.

**Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17,**

The **BEC meetings** will be held on the first Thursday of each month, starting at 10:00 am.

**Sep 3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3,**

All members are invited to attend all of the meetings. If you are not sure how to join a Zoom meeting, please contact Big SIR George Traverso at [geosan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geosan@sbcglobal.net) or call 707-528-6987

## ACTIVITIES:

Since the health department has placed restrictions on gatherings we have been unable to get together for our meetings and most of the following of our activities have been on **HOLD**, until we receive new instructions.

**Bocce, Bowling, Boys' Night Out,  
Bridge, Camera Club  
Couples' Night Out, Free Comedy,  
Picnic, Poker Fest, Travel Golf,  
Wine, Beer and Spirits**

All just waiting to restart again soon--hopefully!

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## GLOBAL FORUM:

(Article by Marvin Mai)



Even though our "in person" meetings have been canceled we have held five "virtual" meetings via Zoom.

Although we have not developed a cure for COVID-19, we've alleviated a little of the quarantine boredom. We briefly explored what the "new normal" will look like and these Zoom meetings seem to be working quite well. Please give us a try!



The list of crises in 2020 has in some ways reached biblical proportions: a global pandemic, massive social justice protests and spiking cyber attacks, not to mention the arrival of murder hornets and locust swarms.

Complicated crises like these are testing the oversight skills of government officials from the small village to the national capitals with a set of difficult issues and serious risks. How well prepared a governing agency is to handle a crisis is critical to managing the overall risk to the health and security of its people and borders.

The reality about crisis prevention is that everyone knows they need to prepare, but too often they do not. Even those with a crisis plan fail to update them to meet new threats—putting their organizations and population at increased risk of significant damage. We will try to continue to keep up to date on the events on the world stage and how they are impacting our overall national health and security.

Stay well and safe and hopefully we will be able to do couples night out before 2021.

If you'd like to be included in the next Zoom meeting on **Fridays, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** for the Global Forum meeting, then contact Marvin at [maimarvin57@gmail.com](mailto:maimarvin57@gmail.com) or give him a call at 545-2224. He needs to know who is going to attend so he can send you an email with the "link" and any others instructions.

Below is the schedule of dates for SIR Branch 17 Zoom Global Forum discussions slated for every **2 weeks** until the end of 2020.

Time: **10:00 AM** Pacific Time.

Sep 4,	Sep 18,	
Oct 2,	Oct 16,	Oct 30,
Nov 13,	Nov 27,	Dec 11,

**GOLF:***(Article by Roy Thuestad)*

Blue skies  
Smiling at me,



Nothing but blue  
skies

Do I see... 

Come join us  
for a fun day of golf.

The place to be is the Bennett Valley  
Golf Course - The time to be there is  
Monday mornings starting at 8:30.  
*Hope to see you all out there.*

Until next time, Good Golfing,  
Roy Thuestad  
707-975-4406  
[roymond@comcast.net](mailto:roymond@comcast.net)

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**The Poem of the month for September****September***By Dulcetheart*

**September September**  
summer is over  
the days and nights  
are getting ever so colder  
school bells are ringing  
the wasps have stopped stinging  
**September September**  
autumn is coming  
the leaves will fall  
soon will follow  
**October November**  
but for now  
we are stuck in  
**September September**

**Joke of the Month**

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was and I said, "fried chicken."

She said I wasn't funny but she couldn't have been right because everyone else laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much. I do too, especially chicken, pork and beef.

Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened and he laughed too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class, my teacher asked me what my favorite LIVE animal was. I told her it was a chicken. She then asked me why, so I told her that was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed, told me not to do that, again.

I just don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am. Today, my teacher changed the subject and asked me to tell her what famous person I admired the most. I told her, "Colonel Sanders!"

Guess where I am now, again...

**Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am is the BEC Meeting on Zoom.  
Below are instructions on how to get on and check things out.**


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## How to Install Zoom software and Join a Zoom meeting:

### INSTALL

To use Zoom, you'll first need to install the Zoom "Client" software on your computer.

- Go to your web browser (e.g., Safari, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, etc.) and enter: <https://zoom.us/signup>.
- Enter the information requested (birthdate, email address, & click on Sign Up.)
- Zoom will send you an email to that address. Open the email & click the Activate button.
- Enter your name and make up a personal password.

That's it! You're done ... explore the website if desired and when done, SIGN OUT by clicking on image in the upper right corner. 



HINT: If you want to make it even easier to use Zoom, download and use the Zoom App on your computer, laptop, or tablet.

Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id546505307>


PC: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=us.zoom.videomeetings>

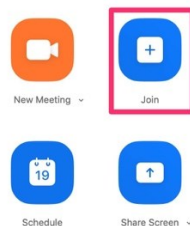
### JOIN A ZOOM MEETING

If you have been sent an invitation, simply click on the link in the email (or copy and paste it into your browser). Allow the page to open "zoom.us" Enter the Meeting Password (not your personal password) if needed.

Alternatively, if you just know the Meeting ID number, enter <https://zoom.us/join> in your browser.

- Enter your email address, your password and click Sign In to go to the Zoom website.
- In the upper Right Corner, click on JOIN A MEETING.
- On the next page, enter the Meeting ID number.
- Enter a Password (if needed)

If you have the Zoom App, click on the app icon , go to the top of the page and click on the Home icon, and then click the blue Join icon.



That should do it! Have fun... see you soon!

Dennis Mangan, SIR Branch 17. July 25, 2020

## The Truth About Wildfires

It may seem as if wildfires have multiplied in recent years, but that is not the case. Since 2000, there have been on average 72,400 fires annually, according to the United States Forest Service (*For all of the US*) Last year saw 49,786 fires. In 2018, there were 55,911.

The real problem is the intensity of the blazes. In 2015, for the first time, fires burned more than ten million acres nationwide. It happened again in 2017. In California, eight of the states's 20 worst wildfires have occurred in the past ten years. The 2018 Camp Fire, which claimed 85 lives in Northern California and was the deadliest in a century.

Combating these large-scale fires prove to be more challenging than ever this year. To help teams of firefighter access a blaze quickly, they often live together in "fire Camps." But health officials fear that with the COVID-19 virus, that kind of communal living is too dangerous.

The worst wildfire in terms of lives lost was in the 1871 Peshtigo Fire in Wisconsin, in which at least 1,200 people died. Never heard of it? Perhaps that is because it was overshadowed by another terrible blaze that happened the same night: the Great Chicago Fire.

Humans still on the average, cause more than four out of five wildfires, through carelessly tossed cigarettes, poorly extinguished campfires and arson. Another major sparker of wildfires is lightning. According to the Natural History Museum of Utah, lightning strikes the earth more than 100,000 times a day. Anywhere from ten to twenty percent of those strike cause fires. (*We certainly know about this first hand here in the Bay Area of Calif.*)

One of the most bizarre human-sourced wildfires occurred in Arizona's Coronado National Forest, in 2017. It was not a camping bonfire that got out of control: it was a gender-reveal party, CNN reported. A man shot a rifle at a target laced with an explosive substance called Tannerite. The explosion was rigged to produce the appropriately colored cloud of smoke: pink or blue. Instead, it touched off a fire that ultimately burned 47,000 acres of forest.

One of the many challenges of dealing with wildfires is that they can over-take even a very fast human. According to *National Geographic*, the fires can travel up to 14 miles per hour, or about one mile every four minutes. (*The speed had to have been faster than the above in the 2017 Tubbs Fire with the high winds that were behind it.*)

Unlike people, wildfires move uphill much more quickly than downhill. Fire needs air to burn, and a steep hill allows more air to come from below the blaze than from above it, which in turn encourages the fire to climb.

If a wildfire gets large enough, it can actually affect the local weather. Researchers who studied the July 2014 El Portal Fire in Yosemite National Park learned that the wildfire created updrafts and eddies that changed the wind patterns more than a mile away. The blaze also caused the formation of dense clouds called pyrocumulus clouds.

Beetles of the genus *Melanophila* are actually attracted to fires--they are sometimes called fire chasers. They prefer to lay their eggs in freshly burned (or still smoldering) wood, according to the American Museum of Natural History. It turns out their eggs are safer from predators in a just-burned landscape. (*Article reprinted in part from Reader's Digest*)

## Holidays and Actions in September

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Labor Day.** Is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed in 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Patriot Day.** On December 18, 2001, Congress approved naming **September 11** "Patriot Day" to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. In 2009, Congress named **September 11** a National Day of Service and Remembrance. On September 11, 2001, at 8:45 a.m. on a clear Tuesday morning, an American Airlines Boeing 767 loaded with 20,000 gallons of jet fuel crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City.

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Grandparents Day.** In 1978, the United States Congress passed legislation proclaiming the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day. A presidential proclamation was signed by President Jimmy Carter and thus began the observation of this special holiday.

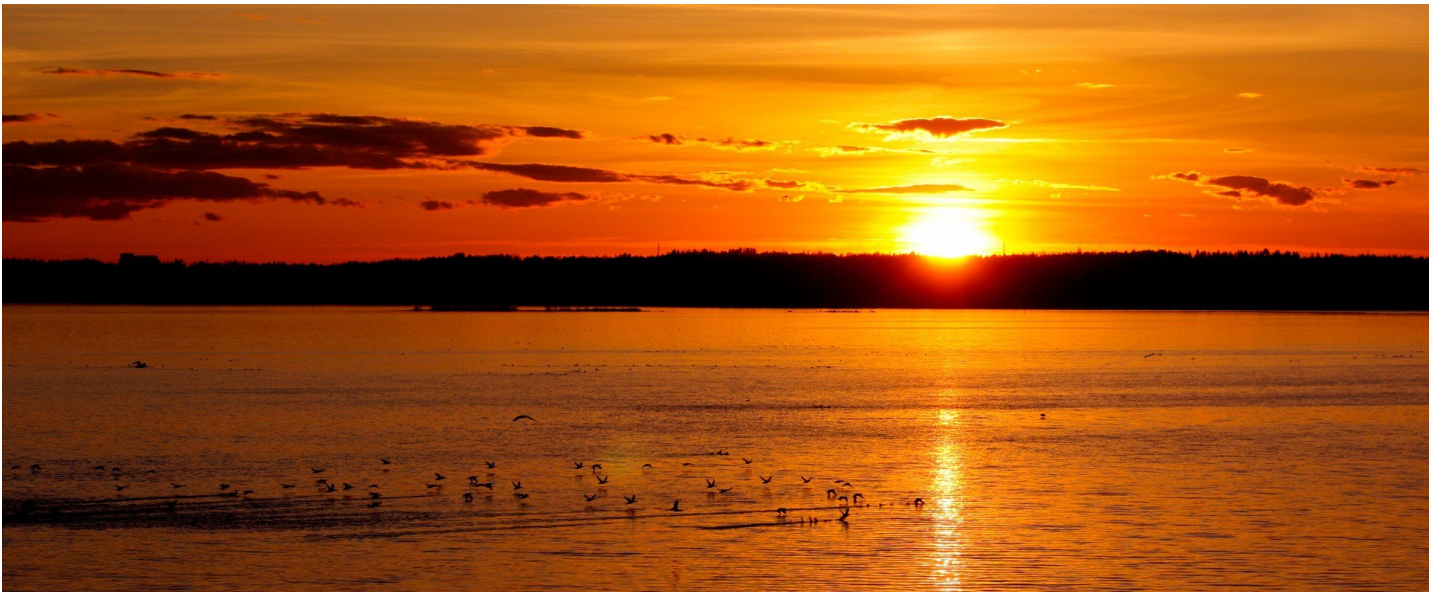
**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> First day of autumn.** Arrives at 9:31 A.M. EDT. The equinox occurs at the same moment worldwide. The word "equinox" comes from Latin *aequus*, meaning "equal," and *nox*, "night." On the equinox, day and night are roughly equal in length. After the autumnal equinox, the Sun begins to rise later and nightfall comes sooner. This ends with the December solstice, when days start to grow longer and nights shorter.

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### NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by, SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guest who desire to participate. SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., 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.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Address Correction Requested

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SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR MEN



Post-  
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