



SIR HAPPENINGS

JULY 2004

ISSUE 1

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement

***Editors Note:** Sons in Retirement kicks off a newsletter this month, featuring news of the branches. Plans are to publish the newsletter quarterly, covering a wide-range of interesting happenings from all the branches that we hope will interest and entertain our members. We welcome your comments.*

President Jim's Column

Saddened by the loss of Donald Schumacher, who helped initiate this publication, I am very pleased to help launch our new SIR-Wide Newsletter. As I said in my first President's Letter, "SIR Happenings" is not designed to disseminate administrative matters, but instead, to give our members the chance to boast about all the fun things that are going on in your Branch. I hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity.

One of my goals is to make the President more available to our members. With that in mind, I would like to use future columns to respond to any and all of the concerns or questions you may have about our organization.

"SIR Happenings," cannot and will not, continue publication without your support in supplying your Branch's happenings and supporting photos. From the many Branch Bulletins that I receive, I know there are plenty of interesting happenings out there, so, how about sharing some of those articles for other Branches to enjoy.

Jim

Sled Driver Pilot Wows Branch 37 Luncheon Audience

Walt Lee, Bulletin Editor, Branch 37

Gold Country Branch 37 landed author and famous Sled Driver, SR- 71 Black Bird Pilot, Brian Schul, as a guest luncheon speaker. Brian revealed to his audience the secret world of the spy pilot and what it was like to fly the fastest and highest flying aircraft in the world at speeds faster than a bullet at 80,000 feet over hostile territory.

Among the stories he told occurred near Los Angeles International Airport. Brian said he will always remember a certain radio exchange that occurred one day as Walter (my back-seater) and I were screaming across southern California 13 miles high. We were monitoring various radio transmissions from other aircraft as we entered Los Angeles airspace. Though they didn't control us, they did monitor our movement across their scope. I heard a Cessna ask for a reading of its Ground Speed...90 knots, the Center replied. Moments later a Twin Beach requested the same...120 knots, replied the center. We obviously weren't the only ones proud of our ground speed that day because almost instantly and F-18 Navy Pilot smugly transmitted..."Ah, Center, Dusty 52 requests ground speed read-out. There was a slight pause, then the response..."525 knots ground speed, Dusty". Another silent pause.

As I was thinking to myself how ripe a situation this was, I heard a familiar click of a radio transmission coming from my back-seater. It was at that precise moment I realized Walter and I had become a real crew, for we both were thinking in unison. "Center, Aspen 20... you got a ground speed read-out for us?" There was a longer than normal pause. "Aspen, I show 1,742 knots." No further inquiries were heard on that frequency.

In Memoriam – Donald Schumacher



Donald O. Schumacher passed away Wednesday night, April 21, 2004. He was born in San Francisco on September 11, 1925. Don leaves his wife, Betty and two sons, Eric and Don and daughter Dana.

One of Don's major interests of his semi-retired life has been Sons in Retirement. Progressing through various offices in SIR, he became the statewide president in 2004. His main goal for SIR was to stimulate new memberships in what he believed to be a wonderful organization for men. He received an Honorary Life Membership award in 1998. His other main interest was the Comanche Riders Association.

He graduated from San Francisco's Lowell High School, and then attended the University of California, Berkeley, graduating with a BS Degree in Business. During WWII he served with General Patton's 3rd Army as a tank driver in Europe.

His business experience included sales as a stock and insurance broker and brokerage manager. He and his family moved to Chico in 1973, where he became a farmer raising plums.

Activities

State Golf

Nino Pompilio, Chairman

I'm pleased to introduce our SIR Golf program in this first issue of "Happenings."

Our annual qualifying tournaments for the Area Team

Championship and the Individual State Championship were held in May and June.

The State Team Championship Finals will be held on the Reserve Golf Course, at Spanos Park in Stockton on August 18th and the State Individual Championship, on the Coyote Creek Golf Course In San Jose on October 18th.

We still have a few openings for the two golf cruises to Mexico on November 1st and November 11th. See our ad on the last page if you are interested.

SIR website, sirinc.org, has lots more information about our golf program. Just click "Activities" then "Golf" and you will find out about upcoming golf tournaments, winners, golf trips, an interesting golf newsletter as well as other interesting items about SIR golfing.

I invite all golfers to get involved in the SIR Golf program... it has much to offer golfers and is a lot of fun.



State Bowling

Bill Cooper, Chairman

April saw Sir **Al Zeppa** of Branch 146 holding his tournament at the newly remodeled Diablo Lanes in Concord.

The turnout was great, the Chinese buffet was delicious and the 251 bowlers participated with their usual enthusiasm.

Enjoying it the most were Sir **Andy Schiettaker** of Branch 168 who won 1st place in the "B" division and Sir **Murray Cole** of Branch 161 who won 1st place in the "A" division.

Our Sir State Bowling Tournament was held at the Fireside Lanes in Sacramento on May 24th, 25th, and 26th. Winners of the doubles tournament were Sir **Clint Gunderson** of Branch 11 and Sir **Bob Sitter** of Branch 124. The winning team from Livermore Branch 101 was Sir **Bo Wong**, Sir **Sam Cancellia**, Sir **Bob Ashton** and Sir **Ray Sotto**. Sir **Larry McNamara** of Branch 105 bowled a high game of 279, with a 787 series. Sir **Vern Hettinger** of Branch 112, who arranged this outstanding event, reported giving out two \$50 Savings Bonds during the tournament.

Bowling is a fun sport and SIR Bowlers are a great bunch... come join us and meet some very nice people.

Oh! Boy! It's the 2005 Sir State RV Rally!

The Fourth SIR State RV Rally will be held from April 24 to April 27, 2005 at



French Camp RV Park and Golf Course in Manteca, CA.

Attendance is limited to the first 100 RVs. Application deadline is March 31, 2005.

The package price is \$135 which covers three nights in a site with full hook-ups, morning coffee, breakfast, and dinner for two (extra persons in the rig will be an additional \$30 per person) Golf for prizes at the on-site 18 hole executive course, with carts included are \$30 per person.

Fly-casting competition, games and activities for prizes, white elephant sale, tours and possible trips and displays will be at hand. Supervised pets on leash are permitted.

For more information call:

Howie Fisher at (925) 634-0490,
E-mail: <howfish150@comcast.net>
or

Bob Burton at (415) 456-6451,
E-mail: <reburton1@juno.com>.

State Travel

Bob Perry, Chairman

SIR has several statewide activities that are very popular with its members. Each year arrangements are made for various SIR groups to attend sporting events. The following events are currently scheduled or planned:

Baseball

San Francisco Giants vs. San Diego Padres

July 22, 2004, start time 12:35 PM

Seat prices: \$16/\$19/\$32

SIR contact representative: **Jim Wyatt** (650) 345-3494

Oakland A's vs. Seattle Mariners

July 28, 2004, start time 12:35 PM Seat prices: \$12

SIR representative: **Bob Lippincott** (510) 538-9291

Sacramento River Cats vs. Tacoma Mariners

June 29, 2004, start time 11:35 AM

Seat prices \$9/\$13/\$15

SIR representative: **Jim Musci** (530) 637-5665



Basketball

Golden State Warriors

Date will be set when schedule is available.

SIR representative: **Jim Wyatt** (650) 345-3494

Football

East vs. West Shrine Game

Date and price will be listed when available.

SIR representative: **Mel Augustine**, (510) 524-4952

Note: Transportation to and from any of these events is the responsibility of each individual. Some SIR Branch or Area Travel Chairmen charter a bus for transporting their Branch or Area participants to and from these events. Contact your local Travel Chairmen for further information and availability and cost of bus transportation.



News from the Branches

Lincoln Branch 13...

Zero to 144 Members In Six Months

Branch 13 started just six months ago, and over that period of time, has grown like a weed to around 144 members and more are coming in every month. The Branch is located in a Sun City retirement community in Lincoln, which is near Sacramento. Recently the Branch moved its meeting place to the Elks Lodge, in the neighboring community of Roseville to improve the cuisine.

The Sun City community will ultimately have a total of 6,400 homes and that means continued growth for Branch 13. Little Sir, **Ron Ross**, thinks the Branch could grow to around 200 members and then probably level off. Sun City offers all kinds of activities for retirees but many of them are full and so, the SIR golf and bridge activities are very popular with the members. The Branch also has an active travel program. Ron said one of the things that has helped all of the Branches in the area is that the Little Sirs get together to decide on the best speakers and as a result, all of the Branches are getting very good luncheon speakers.

Isle City Branch 60...

Who's Counting?



Photo by Doug Hayward

Model-maker **John Cavaz** (right) of Harbor Bay Isle brought this huge DC-3 model plane work-in-progress to illustrate his talk last week to Isle City Branch 60. Little Sir **Doug Hayward** helps suspend the 1/13-scale model, with a wingspan of over 5 feet. So detailed is this latest effort by the retired restaurateur that it will have almost 10,000 simulated rivets. Radio-controlled and equipped with hefty gas engines, the model can fly.....unfortunately, the emblematic SIR rooster behind it can't.

Pony Express Branch 69...

Hole-In-One After Surgery

Sir **Frank Franzago**, Branch 69's avid golfer, found himself sidelined from golf for most of 2003. A pinched-nerve in his lower back ruined his graceful and fluid swing. Frank, anxious to return to the links, selected August to have two lower discs fused. It took six months of recovery before his doctor (possibly a non-golfer) finally cleared him for golf. Frank was back on the course playing for the first time in 8 months with a couple of his SIR buddies, Guess what! Frank scored a hole-in-one on the 15th hole! Frank reported that this was his third ace but this time "I was hurting so bad that I was forced to swing easy." Besides being one of Branch 69's premier golfers Frank is the Branch Secretary and Bulletin Editor.

Sierra Hills Branch 79...

Hole-in-one on the wrong hole

Every Friday morning, SIR golfers get together to play nine holes at the picturesque, Black Oak Golf Course, located in the foothills near Auburn.

Now picture this... The 4th hole is a par three water hole and teeing off one Friday morning was **Dave Baxter** of Branch 79. Dave is a left hander and pulled his shot way, way right... over the water, over the parking area, over the exit road, and over the trees around the 9th green.

Meanwhile on the ninth green, four golfers were in the midst of putting out when out of nowhere Dave's ball came over the trees and landed right on the green. As they stood there dumfounded, the ball rolled across the green and right into the cup, for a hole-in-one.

If you don't believe this highly unusual happening, ask our Prez, **Jim Musci**, who was there. Incidentally, poor Dave is still getting ribbed about his wild shot.

Hooker Oak Branch 84



Photo courtesy of Fred Sherman, Rooster's Crow Editor

Big Sir, Foghorn T Leghorn (**Chuck Hodel**) greets member, **Manny Salcido**, at April Fools Day Luncheon.

Reprinted from the Friday, April 16, 2004

San Francisco Chronicle

To SIR with love: Club for retirees a work in progress

Dave Murphy, Chronicle Staff Writer

When Dwight Eisenhower was president of the 48 United States and the San Francisco Giants were settling in for their first summer in Seals Stadium, a retired engineer named Damian Reynolds got together for lunch with three other retirees at the Clarimar restaurant in San Mateo.

Eisenhower and Reynolds are long gone, of course, as are the restaurant and the stadium. But just as the Giants have grown in popularity throughout Northern California over the decades, so has the legacy of the lunch.

When they got together on June 23, 1958, Reynolds suggested to friends Lorenz Hansen, Claus Hink and Wallace Plummer that they form a club for retired men like themselves, gathering once a month not for some grand purpose, but for a little camaraderie. The next lunch had nine men, then 18. Now their casual club is a nonprofit organization with 170 branches and about 27,000 members from Fresno to the Oregon border.

And although one early member suggested calling the group the League Of Aimless Fellows, they decided on Sons In Retirement — figuring that SIR was a heck of a lot better acronym than LOAF.

Even though men-only clubs have become almost extinct, demographics suggest that SIR will thrive. People in the large Baby Boom generation are starting to retire or at least cut back their hours, making them eligible for membership. There is no age limit; members simply can't hold full-time jobs.

"We run from the 40s to 100," said Bob Lillo, the president — officially called the Big Sir — of the original branch, named after Reynolds. SIR has seven branches in San Mateo County and 18 in Santa Clara County (11 in San Jose alone). Lillo said Santa Clara County is drawing even younger retirees from the erstwhile high-tech boom.

Many people look forward to retirement but then get bored with it, settling into unhealthy patterns of isolation and inactivity, said Lillo, a Hillsborough resident who worked as an orthopedic surgeon for 33 years before retiring in 1992.

"I've known many an individual who retired and six months later was dead," Lillo said. "They just lost their interest."

Lillo said the socializing helps people develop relationships and stay mentally sharp. "There's an old rule of medicine that I learned at Johns Hopkins during my training there: You use it or you lose it."

Although obviously there are exceptions, Lillo said that men don't tend to socialize as much away from work as women do, so the threat of feeling isolated after retirement is greater for them.

"They're really married to a second woman," he said, "and that's their career."

Inactivity and isolation have hardly been problems for Jim Wyatt of San Mateo, who wrapped up a 38-year career in

education in 1989, spending the final six years as vice chancellor of the San Mateo County Community College District. Wyatt still works part time as the game day operations coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers, supervising about 450 employees, including ushers and ticket takers.

When he was an administrator at Skyline College in San Bruno — he was president there from 1977 through 1983 — Wyatt was in the Daly City Rotary Club, which at the time was for men only. He argued against having such a restriction in a service club, but doesn't mind it in SIR because the club is not designed for business networking or public service.

"It's kind of nice to meet just with men," Wyatt said. "In Rotary or Kiwanis or Lions, you represent a certain kind of business or opportunity. If you didn't allow women in, they didn't get that opportunity."

SIR members have no dues or initiation fee. They simply pay for their own lunches, and many donate a couple of bucks a month to help with the club's expenses.

Lillo said that wives do get involved in his branch's gardening group, and are invited to SIR's various travel events, which range from seeing "The Lion King" in San Francisco to cruising China's Yangtze River. Some luncheon speakers have been women, including state Sen. Jackie Speier.

He said that besides its all-male membership, what separates SIR from many senior centers is that so many people stay involved for years in some of the club's activities, such as golfing, studying stocks and researching genealogy.

"There is a greater continuity of friendship," Lillo said. "We have fellows in the computer group who have been in it for 20 years."

But Wyatt said there's no pressure to be involved in a bunch of activities. "It's kind of low key. You can make of it what you want."

He hadn't even heard of SIR until he had left his career in education, and just joined because he wanted to play more golf. But he ended up getting more involved, becoming the organization's state president in 1999.

"It's been a wonderful outlet," said Wyatt, who has particularly appreciated the camaraderie in recent months; his wife of 52 years, Trudy, passed away in November. "I've made a number of new friends."

Golf was also the lure for San Mateo resident Mike Murphy, 66, who retired last year as an insurance attorney. The Damian Reynolds branch has weekly golf outings, and some members are still golfing into their 90s.

A few months after Murphy joined, the Golf Committee chairman stepped down, so he took over.

Murphy said that before he retired, he sometimes wondered if he would find enough activities to avoid being bored. But now he has caught himself saying, "I don't have time. I'm retired. I'm too busy."

Editors Note: Ray Lang of Damian Reynolds Branch 1 worked for over a year to get an article about SIR in the San Francisco Chronicle and recently, was successful. While the article is designed to introduce Sons in Retirement to retired men who are not members, we thought that our members would enjoy reading this fine article.

Dear Editor:

The Schumacher family and I deeply appreciate the many sympathy notes we have received from a number of SIR Branches and from so many individual Sirs. I wanted to let SIR members know how much this has meant to our whole family. Thank you so much,

Betty Schumacher



Pony Express Branch 69...

Gambler Wins Big

Recently, Sir **Steve Romovich**, a member of Sacramento's Branch 69, visited the Jackson Rancheria Casino. Playing his favorite game "LET it Ride," Steve hit an inside to a Royal Flush. His \$15 bet won him \$35,000...good going, Steve and we promise not to tell the IRS.



Well Deserved Honor

Sir **Young Stewart**, a member of Branch 117, was recently awarded the "President's Exceptional Service Award" at a monthly Branch luncheon. This prestigious award is given to members who have made an outstanding contribution to Sons in Retirement. Stewart was honored for his tireless efforts in directing a Speaker's Bureau for more than five years on behalf of twenty-two Branches.

Late President **Don Schumacher** approved the award and Vice President **Jim Musci** presented the award certificate saying to Stewart, "...your dedication and professionalism during this past five years has made a lasting contribution toward the growth and betterment of Sons in Retirement in this region. All the Little Sirs of the twenty two Branches who were helped by your efforts in obtaining high quality guest speakers salute you."

Also attending the luncheon to honor Sir Young were Region 3 Director, **Jim Donovan**, Area 3 Governor, **Rock Sorgman**, and Area 9 Governor, **Warren Senegal**.

SIR – a Primer on its use

Use the word SIR incorrectly and you may make a gay rights organization angry

by Sir Dwight Sale

When I first became involved with Sons In Retirement administration as Branch Secretary, I was never quite sure how to refer to either my fellow members or the organization in my written documents. I have not been able to find a good "guide" for this but have found little snippets of information here and there and will put them all together for your information.

"SIR" stands for "Sons In Retirement, Incorporated." Note that there are no periods. S.I.R. stands for a gay rights group in San Francisco and they do not want to be confused with us.

SIR can never be plural as there is only one "Sons In Retirement, Incorporated" even though "Sons" is plural. That is why we write "Sir" when referring to a member and not SIR as it makes no sense, in my opinion, to say he is a "Sons In Retirement, Incorporated."

The possessive would be: "I gave the SIR's Manual to John."

A single member reference is the most difficult for me. "John is a member of SIR" seems OK to me but "John is a SIR" meaning "John is a Sons In Retirement" is very awkward (probably because of the plural "Sons"). I suggest we say "John is a Sir." What this means is that "a member of SIR" is a "Sir."

A group of members would be: "Many Sirs gave their SIR's manuals to their Big Sirs."

"Sir" is also used as a courtesy title and serves to recognize the individual as a member of SIR. As an example: "Sir Dwight Sale wrote this Primer"

Combined: "SIR's activities include outings with many Branches of SIR having picnics to which Sirs' wives attend. At one picnic a Sir's brother came as a guest. Sir Dwight Sale furnished this information"

If you agree with this "Primer," great. If you don't agree, then let me know your suggestions/ideas. This "Primer" has no official sanction and I promise to never bring it up as a rule change.

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people that provided material for the first issue of "SIR Happenings." If you want to see your Branch in print or, better yet, if you want to see you or your friends names in print, send us newsworthy articles and we will do the rest.

To put out an interesting Newsletter that chronicles all the fun things that are going on in SIR Branches all over northern California, we need your support. Please help "SIR Happenings" be a success by emailing your Branch news items to:

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