



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

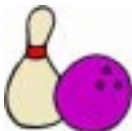
Championship and the Individual State Championship were held in May and June.

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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Would you like to Receive your Copy of the SIR Happenings Newsletter By E-mail?

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Dwight Sale <dwight.sale@comcast.net>

Have Fun and Bring in "One More" in 2004!



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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:

Don MacGregor <DLM@foothill.net>



SIR HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER 2004

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

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

President Jim's Column

Since this will be my last column as SIR President, I want to use this space to first thank the Information Systems Committee Chairman and Past President, **Dwight Sale**, "Happenings" Editor, **Don MacGregor** and "Happenings" Production Manager, **John Skarpelos** who have put in so much time and effort in producing this highly successful Newsletter.

I would be remiss not to also thank all of the Regional Directors, Area Governors and Big Sirs who have given so much of their time on behalf of Sons in Retirement. Though I, too, have served in your positions, I never fully realized how important

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SIRARC

A Well-Kept Secret



About thirty-one years ago some members of Peralta Branch 12 came up with the idea of forming an amateur radio club within SIR. It became our first statewide activity and was shortly followed by golf and bowling. Today, nearly 200 SIR members are licensed radio amateurs and are part of over a million others around the world who enjoy this exciting hobby. The Sons In Retirement Amateur Radio Club... (SIRARC for short)... meets three times a year for a luncheon meeting and has its own newsletter which is published three times a year. Club Secretary, **Richard Shappee**, Mount Diablo Branch 8, says that SIRARC is a close-knit group because communication is our hobby and we are in contact with each other all the time.

Amateur radio has a proud tradition of providing emergency radio communication in time of need. During the 1989 earthquake, for example, amateur radio operators provided radio communications for the Red Cross Shelters and messages for persons separated from their loved ones. On 9/11, they provided thousands of hours of disaster related activities and they have regularly provided communication services to law enforcement and fire fighters. While most SIRARC members are beyond the age where they can be on the front lines, they are still active at their home radio stations in time of need.

SIRARC members enjoy making radio contact with other amateurs around the United States as well as all over the world. Becoming a licensed radio amateur is now easier than ever because it is no longer necessary to learn the Morse code.

SIRARC Chairman, **Darwin Thompson**, Buena Vista Branch 64, suggests that if you want to learn more about SIRARC or amateur radio in general, contact **Bill Moresi**, Pleasant Hill Branch 146, the SIRARC Membership Chairman, by Email at w6zzt@juno.com or phone him at (925) 837-4645.

Have Fun and Bring in "One More" in 2004!

SIR Baseball... Games at A's, Giants and River Cats



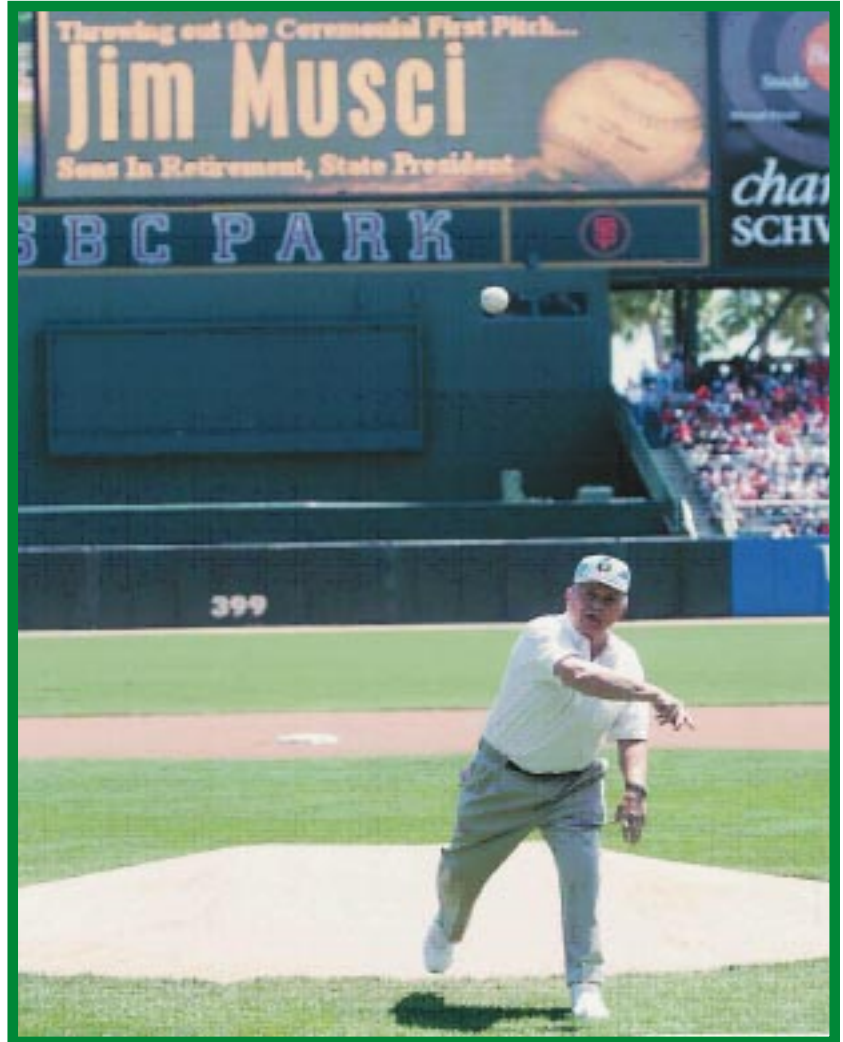
Play Ball

President Jim is shown throwing out a perfect strike on the first pitch at the 27th "SIR Day" at SBC Park in front of 40,000 fans, including about 1000 members of Sons in Retirement.

In June, many of our members turned out for a fun day at Raley Field in Sacramento to watch the River Cats play ball and then in July our members enjoyed games in Oakland and San Francisco. Jim also threw a strike on the first pitch in Sacramento and claims he is now a perfect three for three... two pitches at Raley Field and one at SBC Park... maybe someone should check the ump's eye sight.

At the River Cats game, the announcer read a moving eulogy to our late President, Don Schumacher, and then asked for a moment of silence. At SBC Park we were honored with a huge display on the scoreboard with a nice thank you to Sons in Retirement and later in the game the scoreboard listed all the Branches that had members in attendance.

If you missed a game this year, you missed a good time... make a resolution to attend a game next year and have some fun.



State Golf

Nino Pompillio, Chairman

The Area Team Championship Tournament was held in August at the Reserve Golf Course at Spanos Park in Stockton. The golf course was in excellent condition and the weather was perfect for the 35 teams competing from 24 different areas. The winning team was from Area 2 and was made up of **Ed Myrtle, Glenn Cheetham, Bud Grisanti,** and **Tom Baker**, all members of Branch 8. The tournament also saw a hole-in-one on the fourth hole by **Ken Adriance** from Branch 105. Prizes were awarded to the nine highest finishers and the first place team also received SIR jackets.



The State individual Championship will take place on October 18th at the Coyote Creek Golf Course in San Jose and finally, in November, there will be the two golf cruises to Mexico.

Plans are well under way for another great year of golf with tournaments scheduled for Las Vegas, San Diego, and Reno, and more events are planned.

For more information on the SIR state golf program, be sure to visit the SIR golf website which can be reached on the internet by going to www.sirinc.org. When that page appears, click on activities, then click on golf, and you will have the golf website.

What's the most popular hobby in the country?

Stan Harris, Damien Reynolds Branch 1 Genealogy Chairman

If you guessed gardening, you'd be right, but I'll bet you didn't know that genealogy is a close second... Only gardening has more members. Retirees are now one of the largest users of computers and according to a recent survey, their greatest interests are: Financial Information, Genealogy and Pornography. I don't know the order of your interests... but I know you can find all three when chasing down your roots!

Branch One organized a Genealogy Activity about five years ago. The group is small... usually between 10 and 15 Sirs attending each meeting, allowing plenty of time for member interaction.

One member of Czech ancestry used the Internet to work with the new Czech Republic... Happily, their government assigned a guide and interpreter to him when he and his wife visited the villages of his father and his mother. His success aroused his wife's interest in Genealogy; and she was quite surprised to find out that she was directly related to a passenger on the Mayflower. She has since joined the Mayflower Society.

Another member, of Norwegian background, found connections to his parents' hometowns. He was then able to visit them and learn much more about his family.

Still a third member started working on his forebears, and in checking his mother's records found she had saved all his letters while he was in the Army Air Corps during WWII. This refreshed his memories of military service, which he augmented with pictures. He then printed booklets of over 100 pages for each of his grandchildren. The children were indeed fortunate, for he passed away after completing his project. Be careful - Genealogy is catching! You can Email Stan at: <lifesir@comcast.net>

State Bowling

Bill Cooper, Chairman

Some very exciting bowling took place during the Wine Country Classic in Napa recently. **Roger Ziegenhagel**, of Branch 52, thrilled the bowlers with a perfect game of 300 and certainly deserves to be called Bowler of the Month. Overall, Roger took second place with a 725 series. **Paul Dilley** of Branch 45 won first place and the B Division was won by **Manual Moreno** of Branch 168. In the doubles competition, **Larry McNamara** and **Jerry Shelton** of Branch 105 took the A Division title. **Jim Heck**, of Branch 112, and his wife, Val, won the B Division title. **Larry Dent**, of Branch 65, did a great job coordinating this year's tournament.



If you haven't been bowling in our SIR tournaments, come out and have some fun and make some new friends.

Branch. The tournaments start in April and wind up in September, with the winning Branch receiving a nice plaque on the perpetual trophy. Last year, Branch 109 from Marysville accrued the most points and was crowned the winner. Bullock says this format can be very competitive and exciting, making the tournaments a lot of fun for all the SIR golfers in the area.

Branch Golf News

Area Golf

Burr Bullock, Branch 52

Five years ago, **Sam Kemp**, Branch 63 and **John Wilgus**, Branch 45 came up with the idea of using a "Ryder Cup" format for golf tournaments between the Branches located in their area. Today, the competitors include eight Branches in Chico, Marysville, Paradise and Yuba City. **Burr Bullock**, Branch 52, coordinates the Program and team captains, **Jerry Rose**, from Branch 109 in Marysville, **Chuck Wiles**, from Branch 45 in Yuba City and **Dick Roach** from Branch 110 in Chico ably assist him.

Burr Bullock pulls double duty as the team captain from Paradise. The format is match play where two man teams from each Branch compete against two man teams from another

Hole-In-One Drought Is Over

Dan Frank, Red Bluff Branch 139

After more than three and a half years without a hole-in-one among any of the SIR golfers in Branch 139, **Erwin "Butch" Richert** finally accomplished that highly exciting feat at the Oak Creek Golf Course, in Red Bluff. He managed this rare feat by skillfully driving the ball from the par 3, eighth hole, and mentally guiding the ball onto the green and right into the cup. In addition to his accomplishments on the golf course, Erwin also does a fine job as the Little Sir of Branch 139.

HATS OFF to

SIR Happenings ... plus

Dwight Sale, Don MacGregor
and John Skarpelos !!!



~by **Ray Lang**, Branch 1
Guest Columnist

If you have ever been part of a communications team launching a new publication, you know that it is no small task.

What will you name it? What's the format? The content? Whom do you want to reach? How will you produce it? And most of all will your prospects read it? ... and enjoy it?

Happily, these questions were resolved in highly affirmative fashion by the above-named triumvirate, as you could see in the first SIR Happenings ... AND in the issue you're now reading (you are reading this, aren't you?)

Chairman/Publisher, **Dwight Sale**, served as our State President in 2001 and as Big SIR of Branch 1 in 1996. Executive Editor, **Don MacGregor**, was a Big SIR of Gold Country Branch 37 in 2002 and also served as an Area Governor (and was an Air Force F-86 Sabre Jet pilot in the Korean War ... happy Veterans Day, November 11th!) Production Manager, **John Skarpelos**, also serves as the Editor of The Pathfinder, now in its 29th year as the Bulletin for Pathfinder Branch 59 in Fremont.

Spread the word: Tell your fellow SIR members they can receive SIR Happenings every quarter via Email ... just send your name and Email address to: dwight.sale@comcast.net

... or, you can also pick it up on: the Internet at www.sirinc.org

Either way, enjoy SIR Happenings!

East-West Shrine Game

Want to see some Exciting Football?
See the college all stars play football in the east/west Shrine game on January 15, 2005 at SBC Park in San Francisco. Get to the park by 11:30AM for pregame festivities.



For ticket information call **Mel Augustine**
(510) 524-4952
Or Email melaugustine@edintl.com

State RV Activities

Still Time to Sign Up for the Big State RV Rally

Bob Burton, Secretary/Treasurer

The fourth SIR State RV Rally will be held at the French Camp RV Park & Golf Course in Manteca, from April 24th to the 27th, 2005...

35% of the spaces have already been sold, so, if you want to camp with your buddies, get your application in soon.



There will be lots of fun things to do including golf, fishing, games, tours and trips and a great "happy hour" each night.

Get all the details and an application on the SIR web site at www.sirinc.org. Click on Activities, then click on RV's and you're there.

Or... for more information contact:

Charles (Howie) Fisher, chairman
(925) 634-0490 or by Email
<howfish150@Comcast.net>

or

Robert (Bob) Burton, Secretary/Treasurer
(415) 456-6451 or by Email
<reburton1@juno.com>

A THANK YOU FROM

The HAPPENINGS Publishing Team

We want to let our readers know how very pleased we are with all the compliments we have received, both individually and as you will note, from contributors to this edition of SIR Happenings.

It certainly makes all of our work worthwhile and we want to thank all of you for your support.

Dwight Sale
Don MacGregor
John Skarpelos

News from the Branches

Windsor Branch 176...

Famous Ship Awaits Your Visit

The USS Hornet saw plenty of action in the South Pacific during World War II and later was the primary recovery ship for the Apollo 11 and 12 space missions. This great ship is docked at its final berth in Alameda.

Sir **Dan Corsetti** is a docent aboard the Aircraft Carrier and recently led Branch 176, with many wives and guests, on a tour which took them all over the ship from high up in the Bridge, to far below in the engine rooms. The group was fascinated with the tour and particularly enjoyed spending time in the ship's fine museum.

You can get more information by visiting the USS Hornet website at <http://www.uss-hornet.org/>. If you or your group are interested in taking a tour of the USS Hornet, you can Email Dan at <hopejhc@earthlink.net>.



East Bay Branch 2...

Bocce Ball... Anyone?

Quite a few Branch 2 members can usually be seen on meeting days building up their appetites before each luncheon by getting in a few brisk rounds of Bocce Ball at the Galileo Club in Richmond.



This venerable old Italian Club has meticulously maintained Bocce Ball courts and play can go on, rain or shine, because all the courts are indoors.

Both Bocce Ball and the Branch's Lawn Bowling activity are organized by Sir **Russ Weeks**. For more information you can reach Russ at (510) 524-5689.



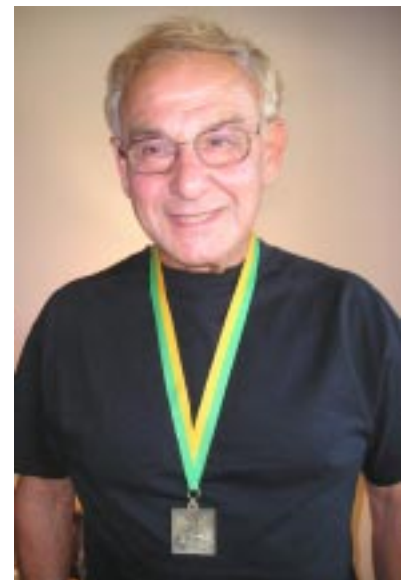
Dick Morton and **Bill Andrew** are shown preparing a delicious barbeque of Tri-tip and Chicken with all the trimmings at the 22nd Ladies Day Picnic for Amador County Branch 96. Program Chairman, **Bill Garrett** organized the event, which included golf chipping and Bocce Ball contests, organized by **Sam Mazzariello**. **Don Powers** and **Bob Martin** were the lucky winners of the Championship Trophy on the Bocce Ball court. Publicity Chairman, **Paul Murphy** reported that it was an outstanding affair and all 150 members and guests that attended had a good time.

Pathfinder Branch 59...

Marathon Runner

Pete Angelides, Branch 59 Historian, ran the 26.2-mile Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon, June 19, 2004 in Anchorage, Alaska. He was a member of the the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training. The program provides training to run or walk a whole or half marathon. Pete raised over \$5000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Of the 3703 runners who registered to compete in the 2004 Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon, 3330 made it to the finish line. Pete finished the event in 7 hours and 32 minutes. He placed 657th with the men running the race.



Pete Angelides wearing his Marathon Medal

News from the Branches



Twain Harte Branch 172...

Don't Miss Hetch Hetchy

John Kinsfather, Big Sir Twain Harte Branch 172

Often in our rush to catch the beauty of the Yosemite Valley, we drive right by Hetch Hetchy, which is named after an historic piece of flora that once covered the valley. Many feel that the Hetch Hetchy Valley once rivaled the Yosemite Valley for its natural beauty and grandeur. However, the folks down the hill needed more water and consequently, much of the beauty is now under a few million yards of water, but visitors can still enjoy the vistas, the grandeur, and the majesty of the terrain and even the dam itself.

The Hiking Group from Twain Harte Branch did just that recently. It was a great day, the falls were spectacular and the profusion of wildflowers was something to see. There are great spots for lunch and one can even work in a little fishing along the way.

The turn-off for Hetch Hetchy is located just prior to the Yosemite Gate and is well marked. Be sure to put Hetch Hetchy on your must do list, just as the Twain Harte Branch does each spring.

Isle City Branch 60...

Branch 60 tries to define Democracy... "The right to be wrong?"

Doug Hayward, Little Sir Branch 60

Branch 60 found the idea of polling members on matters of philosophy can generate a healthy buzz of interest and some lively discussion, as well.

When asked to define democracy nearly a third of the members said "freedom of speech, without fear of reprisal." One offered that he was glad that our elected officials are not assassinated for their political viewpoints. One member even defended Howard Stern's right to speak his "foul-mouthed, obscene mind."

A close second was freedom of choice and action within the limits of the law. One member defined this as "the right to decide for yourself what you want to do with your life and the freedom to pursue that choice."

Several members mentioned freedom of religion... others as equality or put another way, "a square deal for all." One member wrote "the right to be wrong," when asked, "what democracy means to me."

Wine Country Branch 157

News From The Redwoods

Branch 157 held its annual barbeque at Villa Chantecleer, atop Fitch Mountain and more than 150 members and guests enjoyed a wonderful evening among the beautiful Redwoods. Big Sir **Bob O'Neil** said the evening was even more memorable because the usual swarm of Bees forgot to show up.

Last year, the Branch 157 golf team, sometimes called the Healdsburg golf team, won the SIR championship and several members of the team are looking forward to joining the 2004 State Golf Cruise in November... and on a final golf note... Sir **Gordon Nauman** shot a hole-in-one at the Windsor Golf Club and came within one stroke of shooting his age, which he claims is 71.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people who provided material for the second 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:

Editor Don MacGregor <DLM@foothill.net>



News from the Branches

Mission Trail Branch 35...

How to Make a Luncheon Speaker Smile

Bob Berenhardt, Big Sir Branch 35

The singing *Trail Birds* of Mission Trail Branch 35 sing a parody about the speaker's topic at each luncheon and that highly unusual introduction always brings a big smile to the speaker's face.

Branch 35 starts each meeting with gusto, singing God Bless America and then the Trail Birds lead the gathering in music, spirit and fun with a sing-a-long of some oldies and funnies and even some songs with the original lyrics tailored for SIR.

The "Birds," as they are called, came into being when the Branch was chartered back in 1971. Their first leader, the late **Emmett Fitzpatrick**, is said to have copyrighted more than 200 songs, some still sung at Branch luncheons, and started the speaker parodies in 1974. **George Fullmer** has done the parodies since 1987 and the group has performed about 200 of them since then. **Ted Hatrak**, the current leader, trained with Fred Waring and the famous "Pennsylvanians" and over the years, the group has entertained at senior centers, retirement homes and memorial services.



The Birds number 12 to 15 members and hold practice sessions each month with a rehearsal just before each meeting. From the very beginning, the Trail Birds brand of

singing was meant to be just for fun... no auditions are ever held and they do not concentrate on technique. Hatrak says that anyone who has ever sung around a campfire, a fraternity house or in the shower is welcome to sing with the Trail Birds.

Fort Sutter Branch 14...

Chicken Soup for Lunch?

Hal Higgins, Editor Fort Sutter Branch 14

Best selling author, Bud Gardner, recently spoke to Fort Sutter Branch 14, dressed in full costume, looking just like Dr. Samuel Johnson, the great writer and lexicographer of 1700's England. Bud is best known for his book, *Chicken Soup for the Writers Soul*, a great book with the important mission of turning readers onto the value of reading and writing.

Bud Gardner called attention to the alarming problem of rapidly growing illiteracy in this country. The extent of the problem that Bud described, is so severe, that many in the audience at first, found it hard to believe, but by the time he finished his talk, many heads were nodding in agreement.

Bud asked all members of Sons in Retirement to become ambassadors to promote reading for fun, writing for fun and rekindling story telling. All those attending the luncheon were quite moved by his message and many will undoubtedly become ambassadors.



Bud Gardner speaking to Fort Sutter Branch 14

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Can I get a copy of *SIR Happenings* by regular mail?
Tom Sherba, Branch 59

No, SIR Happenings is strictly an electronic publication. You can download it from the SIR website or have it emailed directly to you by contacting <dwight.sale@comcast.net>.

If you don't have a computer, maybe a friend will print out a copy for you.

Dear Editor:

I really enjoyed reading *SIR Happenings* and I wonder how often it will be published?
Emile Lassalle, Branch 26

Our plans are to publish SIR Happenings quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

Dear Editor:

I thought that was a very interesting article on the SR-71. Could you tell me if the plane is still flying and also, where I can get some more information on the SR-71? Thank you.

Doug Hayward, Branch 60

The SR-71 is no longer in service but is on static display at a number of facilities around the country, including Beale AFB, near Marysville. For more information on the aircraft, you might try a search on Google.

Dear John and Dwight:

You don't know how happy I feel to be able to read *SIR Happenings*, our *SIR Newsletter*, which we discussed back in 2002. The obstacles we faced back then obviously were overcome when Don joined the team. The publication reflects your well-known talents and is in an extremely attractive format. I'm glad the idea did not expire with my term of office. Time marches on and I'm glad you were able to put *Happenings* in such a usable and attractive form. I look forward to receiving future issues! Thank you for your hard work in producing a state newsletter.

Irv Craig
Past President, 2002



Dear Editor:

Why does it take so long for the new *Happenings* to appear on the *SIR* State web site?

Burr Bullock, Branch 52

It doesn't take long at all... once the edition is finished it is available on the SIR web site within a few hours. Look for the next edition later this month. By the way, if you would like to receive SIR Happenings by Email, contact Dwight Sale at dwight.sale@comcast.net.

SIR in the News

Wine Country Branch 157

Oldest Sir

Ed Weisner, Secretary of Branch 157, reports that **C.H. "Barney" Barnard** is the oldest *SIR* in the State and is looking forward to his 105th birthday in September. Barney joined Healdsburg Branch 157 in 1991 as an original member. He still keeps in touch with his friends at the Branch from his assisted living residence. Barney was born on September 22, 1899 near Healdsburg and was a farmer during most of his working life. Barney married Faye and they had a son and daughter. We all wish you a very Happy Birthday, Barney!!



Westgate Branch 125...

Men of Honor

World War II veterans and Campbell neighbors for 45 years, 86-year-old **Phil Olavarri** (left) and 81-year-old **Buster Ichikawa** were featured on the front page of *The Campbell Reporter* earlier this year.

Phil recently found out that he and his neighbor, Buster, were fighting World War II together.

While Phil was dropping bombs from his B-17 Flying Fortress behind enemy lines in Italy, Buster was on the ground with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Phil flew 35 combat missions with the 301st Bomber Group.

Would you like to Receive your Copy of the SIR Happenings Newsletter By Email?

If you would like to receive future issues of "SIR Happenings" by Email, please send your name and Email address to:

Dwight Sale <dwight.sale@comcast.net>

President Jim's Column

continued from Page 1

they are to the successful day-to-day operations of Sons in Retirement, until I sat in my present position. So, thank you, for the outstanding support you have given me as President... and please, don't stop now.

I would also like to again express my deepest appreciation to all those branches that invited me to attend their luncheons. As I said in my August letter, it has been, and will always be, the highlight of my abbreviated tenure as President.

This year, I have been very proud to be part of a number of significant changes in the way Sons in Retirement will operate starting next year. Some of these are as follows:

- We are going paperless in a big way, which will allow us to significantly reduce our operating costs and also speed up the process of getting information to and from our membership. Beginning next year, the Manual and Roster, as well as updates, will only be available on the SIR web site but hard copy will still be available for those few that don't have access to the web.
- Many of our Branches are computerizing their monthly bulletins and posting them on the Web. Others are Emailing many of their bulletins to their membership, as well as snail mailing to their non computer members.
- Because of these changes, I strongly recommend that all Big Sirs require their Branch Email Contact to attend all Branch Executive Board Meetings as the Branch Communications Chairman.
- The Growth and Management Committee is working very hard to convert our "Membership Implementation Program" into a Video presentation for use by the branches.

And finally, speaking of membership, recent reports continue to show that we have lost more members than we have taken in, but compared to last year, the flood has now become a small river. Please keep up the great recruiting effort you have demonstrated this year and I also want to encourage all our of Branches to expand your recruiting efforts to men of a different race, color, and religion, as well as to those men that have only retired from full-time employment.

My best regards to all,

Jim

Growth & Management Committee

Ned Banton, Chairman

Editors note:

SIR Happenings is beginning a series of articles to acquaint our members with the SIR administrative functions. The first article in this series tells about the Growth and Management Committee. We hope you find the series interesting as well as informative.

The Growth and Management Committee or "G&M Committee," as it is commonly called, is responsible for reviewing the activities of Sons in Retirement and recommending to the President those things that it believes will improve the performance of the organization. In addition, the President or Board of Directors may assign the committee certain projects. During the past few years, the committee has been asked to focus primarily on programs to help turn-around the declining membership trends.

In an effort to stem the decline in membership, the G&M Committee created the "Membership Development Program" which combined elements of several successful Branch membership programs and is available to all the Branches on the SIR web-site, in both a complete and condensed form. Later on, a program was developed to help the Branches implement the "Membership Development Program." These programs have been successful in many Branches, particularly in Branches where the programs have the strong support of all the Branch Officers and the Executive Committee.

A few other committee endeavors have included, producing a guide for Big Sirs and also one for Area Governors. A checklist of various things to consider was produced to aid officers in making better reports.

Currently, the committee is developing a membership training video to assist Branches with the "Membership Development Program."

We are anxious to offer assistance to any Branch and we welcome your call.

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

Dwight Sale,

Chairman/Publisher

Email: dwright.sale@comcast.net

Send news and questions to:

Don MacGregor,

Executive Editor

Email: DLM@foothill.net

John Skarpelos,

Production Manager

Email: john@mediaart.com

Have Fun and Bring in "One More" in 2004!



SIR HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 2005

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

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

President Jim's Column

A Happy New Year! As I assume the top job in SIR, I'm reminded of our motto: "A Luncheon Club Promoting the Independence and Dignity of Retirement." It is a great expression of what we are but does not fully address how we achieve our independence and dignity. The answer is in the many and varied activities in which we participate.

I've jotted down most of the activities that many Branches participate in on a regular basis. As you read through the list, do any of them interest you or other members of your Branch?

Amateur radio (SIRARC), Barber Shop or Chorus singing, Bocce Ball, Bowling, Bridge, Computer Groups, Digital Photography, Dining, Dominoes, Fishing, Gardening, Genealogy, Golf, Hiking, Horseshoes, Lawn Bowling, Pedro, Ping Pong, Pinochle, RV Groups, Senior Softball, Stamp or Coin Collecting, Stocks/Economic Research, Theatre, Travel and Woodworking are among the many activities in which we participate.

Maybe you can think of more things to do and interest others in becoming involved. Let me know. My Email address is:

jimdonovan111@comcast.net

Have a great year in 2005. Is it just me or did it seem like yesterday that we were worried about the Y2K potential computer disaster as the year 2000 approached?

Remember my theme for this year:

NET 5 in 2005

The goal is for each Branch to net out 5 new members for the year. The formula is simple: New members minus lost people equals NET! Reach out and touch someone and ask them to lunch. That's how to start building our membership.

Jim Donovan

How to Honor an Outstanding Sir -- Make Him an HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

When *you* stop to think about it, *you* probably have a member – or two – who really makes your Branch function.

He may be a Past Big Sir... a Committee/Activity chairman... or someone who works in the background (but very effectively.)

The Honorary Life Member award is for him. It is the highest award a SIR member can receive.

Each Branch is allowed TWO Honorary Life Members.

If the Branch has over 100 active members, they're allowed to have 2% of their total membership (for example, a Branch with 150 members could have three Honorary Life Members.)

The recipient is truly a life member. He doesn't need to attend meetings... and can only leave the Branch by expiring, moving away or resigning.

Secrecy is important until the actual presentation of the award. The responsibility rests with your Branch Officers. The HLM Certificate and Pin should be a surprise - bestowed in front of all the members. Greater appreciation results if his wife (who is in on the surprise) does the actual "pinning."

Our State President feels the award is so prestigious that he enjoys being part of the presentation.

Are *you* ready for an Honorary Life Member? Go to our website – www.sirinc.org – you can download Form 45! On the back of the present form are guidelines to use in selecting a member for this honor. Later this year there are plans to create an Honorary Life Primer.

Look on page 11 and you will see all those that were honored as Honorary Life Members in 2004.

Stan Harris lifesir@comcast.net

Chairman Certificates & HLM Coordinator

Internet Address for Sons in Retirement:

www.sirinc.org

Have Fun and Net 5 in 2005!

Baseball & Basketball

PLAY BALL !!

2005 SIR SPORTS SCHEDULE

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS VS SEATTLE SUPERSONICS

THE ARENA AT OAKLAND, SUNDAY, APRIL 3rd AT 3:00 PM

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS VS ATLANTA BRAVES

SBC PARK, WEDNESDAY, JULY 20th AT 12:35 PM



SIR CONTACT:

Jim Wyatt

843 Overlook Court
San Mateo, Ca 94403
650-345-3494

j.c.wyatt@worldnet.att.net

OAKLAND A's VS ANAHEIM ANGELS

OAKLAND COLLISEUM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11th, AT 12:35 PM



SIR CONTACT:

Bob Lippincott

21305 Kahlert Ave
Castro Valley, Ca 94546
510-538-9291

RIVERCATS VS PORTLAND BEAVERS

RALEY FIELD, TUESDAY, JUNE 28th at 11:35 AM



SIR CONTACT:

Jim Musci

P.O. Box 1139
Weimar, Ca 95736
530-637-5665

jvmecm@auburninternet.com

Your Branch contact will have more information on all these games

COME OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN !!



State Golf

Nino Pompillio, Chairman

As I write this column during the last few days of October, the State Golf Committee is very busy finalizing the many details that are involved in preparing for successful golf tournaments in Mexico. This year it became a bit more complicated, because we are doing it from a luxurious cruise ship and we have over twice the number of golfers involved than usual...add to that, we have had a number of Sirs cancel out of golf and/or the cruise because of illness or injury. To those members, I offer up my sympathies and pray for their speedy recovery and hope that we will see them again at a State Tournament real soon.



On October 18th, we concluded the SIR Individual Championship at the Tournament Golf Course at Coyote Creek in San Jose...we were very lucky, because we played on a beautiful sunny day, between days of heavy rain. The competition was divided into seven flights and the winners were:

FLIGHT	NAME	SCORE	HCP	NET	BRANCH	AREA
1	Melvin Taylor	79	11	68	72	5
2	Joe McGlothern	89	16	73	134	6
3	Jerry Hunter	88	20	68	116	2
4	Lonnie Goodrick	95	23	72	70	30
5	Calvin Lum	95	25	70	106	18
6	John Perl	106	29	77	35	16
7	Ed Metevia	99	32	67	125	5

For the year 2005, we will start with two, one-week tournaments in Las Vegas, starting on March 7th and 14th. We will be staying at the Palace Station Hotel/Casino and playing golf at the Las Vegas National Golf Course and twice at the Painted Desert Golf Course. Entry forms and flyers will be mailed out to each SIR NCGA golfer on or about December 1st, 2004...remember, that next year, Easter comes on March 27th and that affected the dates of our tournaments.

We will follow that with a one-week tournament in San Diego, starting on April 23rd; and two, one-week tournaments in Reno, starting on June 13th and 20th. We are also working on the Solvang tournament for the week of September 11th; the Area Team Championship finals for August 17th; and air/land trips to Mexico in November. As of now, no destination has been finalized; however, we are leaning toward Ixtapa.

For more detailed information regarding the SIR State golf program, please visit the SIR Golf web site, which can be reached on the internet by inputting the following web address: www.sirinc.org. When that page appears, click on Activities, then click on Golf, and you have the Golf web site. Make it a favorite bookmark!

State Bowling

Bill Cooper, Chairman

The California State Bowling Championship tournament will be held in Sacramento on the 30th and 31st of July, 2005. Space for 100 teams totaling 100 bowlers has been reserved for SIR teams. The team event will be held on Sunday, July 31st at 9:00 am and the doubles/singles event on July 30th at 1:00 pm. Please note that because there are 5 bowlers per team, the 5th bowler will not have a partner.



The effort to assemble SIR teams is being coordinated by Branch 73 Big Sir and Assistant Secretary of the State Bowling Committee, **Robert Brown**.

Entry forms are available at most bowling centers. Please send the filled-out forms, along with \$100 per team to:

Robert L. Brown
786 Marlesta Road
Pinole, CA 94564

For further information, you can phone Bob at (510) 724-4436 or Email him at yancan2@aol.com

We would like to welcome Pony Express Branch 69 of Sacramento into the world of sanction bowling. In September, the SIR Branch Bowling League voted to sanction the league under ABC guidelines. We look forward to seeing the bowlers at the upcoming tournaments.

If anyone knows of someone who has bowled a perfect split game... a split every frame for ten frames... please let me know.

State RV Activities

Bob Burton, Secretary / Treasurer

Still Time to Sign Up for the 2005 State RV Rally

The fourth SIR State RV Rally will be held at the French Camp RV Park & Golf Course in Manteca, from April 24th to the 27th, 2005. Seventy-five % (75%) of the spaces have already been sold. There are only 25 spaces left, so if you want to camp with your buddies, get your application in soon. Don't put it off until the last minute. The remaining spaces may disappear before the expiration date of March 31st.



There will be lots of fun things to do including golf, fishing, games, short tours and trips and a great "happy hour" each night.

Get all the details and an application on the SIR web site at www.sirinc.org click on Activities, then click on RV's and you're there.

Or... for more information contact:

Charles (Howie) Fisher, Chairman
(925) 6634-0490 or by Email
howfish150@comcast.net

or

Robert (Bob) Burton, Secretary/Treasurer
(415) 456-6451 or by Email
reburton_1@juno.com

State SIRARC

Darwin Thompson, Chairman

SIRARC members have been busy this year... They have been active on the weekly nets and attending quarterly meetings. Meeting programs in 2004 were "History of Microphones" given by Sir **Richard Shappee**, W5HQJ and "The New Echo Satellite and New Digital Voice Radios" given by Sir **Darwin Thompson**, K6USW.

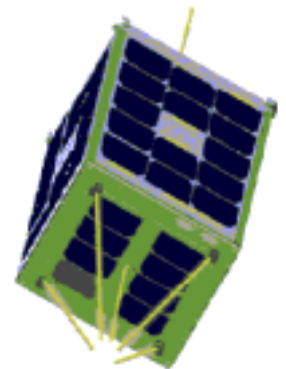
Every fourth weekend of June, Amateur Radio operators hold what is called "Field Day." The American Radio Relay League, known as ARRL, sponsors this national and international event. Local clubs and groups operate in parks and public buildings, introducing people to amateur radio and making contacts all over the world. Many SIRARC members participated with their local Radio Clubs during Field Day this year.

In October, usually on the third weekend, the ARRL supports the locally hosted Amateur Radio convention

called PACIFICON. SIRARC members attended forums on amateur radio and visited with amateur radio vendors at this year's convention. The SIRARC chairman hosted forums focusing on new technology.

SIRARC members are also enjoying operating the New Amateur Radio Satellite called Echo or AO-51 as it passes overhead.

I want to remind everyone that membership in SIRARC is not limited to licensed Amateur Radio Operators. Membership is open to any SIR member that is interested in Short Wave Listening (SWL), Citizen Band Radio (CB), Family Radio (FRS), or Amateur Radio (Ham Radio).



Echo or AO-51



BLAST FROM THE PAST...Wild, Wild Shirts worn by Branch 1 members Circa 1996-98!

Top row (left to right): Aldo Simonetti, Ken Bogel and Al Coffman (Handsomest/Wildest Winners 1996), Dwight Sale.

Row 2: Ralph Keating, Pat O'Rourke, Father Al Heuring, Duke Curotto.

Row 3: Bob Harmon, Jim Wyatt, SIR-enader Len Stabb, Jay Plank...

Row 4: Carl Johnson, Mike Harrington, Ken Rives, Hank Herz, Joe Lewis, Frank Mihalic.

Row 5: Herb Tanner, Bill Williams, Don Neumann, Stan Harris, Woody Woodruff, Bob Lewis.

Photographs and Montage by Ray Lang...August 2004.

News from the Branches

Isle City Branch 60

Lillian Driving School

Lillian Gintz, who runs the Comedy Traffic School, was the guest speaker at Isle City Branch 60 in Alameda. Lillian is seen here making the fellas laugh with her quick six-point driving quiz to the guys aged 70-98.



Mount Diablo Branch 8...

40 Years Young

Bob Solari, Big Sir

As the end of 2004 approaches, so too does the close of the 40th year for the Mount Diablo Branch 8 in Walnut Creek. Since its beginning, the Branch has grown to some 255 members as it continues to increase toward its maximum membership of 260. Folks have plenty of opportunities to participate in this Branch, with 24 viable activity committees. There are so many committees that the Branch currently utilizes an Activity Coordinator, along with an assistant, to keep things going on a straight and narrow path.

Golfing remains one of the most active groups with a weekly tournament at various local golf

Rocklin Branch 98...

Guess Who's Graduating

Dick Ciccarelli, Branch 98 Editor

Branch 98 Secretary, **Bob Fricke**, is shown with Walnut, a female Yellow Lab, who recently graduated with her blind partner from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Bob and his wife, Joan, are involved in a volunteer puppy raising program with Guide Dogs for the Blind and raised Walnut from a puppy. The Fricke's have house-trained Walnut, taught her basic obedience and good manners and socialized her by introducing her to the many sights, sounds, and smells.

Now that Walnut is eighteen months old, Bob and Joan have given her up so she can move on to her formal guide dog training with professional instructors. While they are sad to give up Walnut, they have just received a new puppy named, Sanka, a Yellow Lab, just like Walnut, and will give her the same kind of care and training until she, too, is ready to become a partner for someone in need.



Ode to Walnut

by Bob Ekdahl

The day is coming soon when I must go
And leave this wonderful home
Where I am loved and known
By my loving owners, Bob and Joan
But we shall meet again some day
The time or place I cannot say
I'll be guiding my new companion along the way
My destiny being fulfilled each day.

courses. Branch 8 is also very proud of its member involvement at the Area and State level with members participating as: Area 2 Governor, Area 2 Treasurer, Area 2 Chairs for; Bridge, Fishing, and Golf, and State Golf Treasurer, State Amateur Radio Committee Secretary, and a member on the State Insurance Committee. The Branch is currently blessed with its five very active Honorary Life Members, who participate in a great number of activities, including being the chairs for some.

News from the Branches

Twain Harte Branch 172...

Plenty of Wine for Tasting

Earl Nelson, Branch Treasurer

Last Spring the Branch 172 RV Group headed out to Petaluma on our first outing of the year for some golf and trips to the Wine Country. Wagon Masters for the trip were **Earl and Judy Nelson** and **Harry and Margaret Vacca**. The Viansa Winery (shown in the picture) treated the group to a tour, complete with a private wine tasting and a delicious luncheon on their terrace.

Golf took up the next few days on Petaluma and Napa courses. One of the highlights of the trip was a surprise visit by a Barbershop Quartet to our potluck dinner gathering. Thirty-three attended the safari and all had a wonderful time.



The Villages Branch 114

Want to Find a Missing Child?

Ray Snow, Little Sir

After searching for her abducted daughter for nearly four and a half years until she was finally recovered, Georgia Hilgeman-Hammond, founded the Vanished Children's Alliance... "VCA," as it is now called, is a national, non-profit organization located in San Jose. Now in its third decade of service, it has become one of the largest organizations of its kind in the country with a national, as well as an international network, to aid in the prevention, investigation, location, recovery, and reunification of missing and abducted children.

For over thirty years Executive Director, Georgia Hilgeman-Hammond, has been an important force in the area of child safety and has become a nationally recognized expert in the development and implementation of effective education and prevention programs on the local, state and national levels.

Georgia spoke to an enthusiastic audience at a Branch 114 luncheon and strikes a pose in the picture to the right with Big Sir **Cor Hink** and Little Sir **Ray Snow**.

Mission Trail Branch 35...

Piano Performance a Rousing Success

John Dyer, Branch 35 Bulletin Editor

Scott Kirby played to a near record crowd of about 300 at a Branch 35 luncheon and had his audience applauding and tapping their feet to his classic rag-time music, interspersed with some interesting history and good humor about rag-time music.

Scott began studying music at the age of six and continued formal piano instruction for 17 years. After completing his training at several prestigious schools, Scott began his career in where else... New Orleans. He has made many recordings over the years and has performed in concerts all over the U.S. and Europe.



How could Branch 35 get such an outstanding artist? Well, it wasn't easy... Big Sir **Bob Brenhardt** had heard Scott play at an out-of-town concert and knew right away that he just had to get him to play for a Branch luncheon. He spent the next several months hot on his trail and it finally came down to a matter of cost. Bob found another organization willing to sponsor a concert that same day to cover Scott's fees and travel expenses and a deal was struck.

Bob Bernhardt confided that he had hoped to take Branch 35 to a new level and this concert was one of several ways he has done exactly that.



Photo by Bill Eckert

News from the Branches

Pony Express Branch 69...

Congratulations Bud

Frank Franzago, Little Sir and Branch 69 Editor



For the sixth consecutive year, Sir **Bud Rogers** is the SIR Branch 69 Golf Club Champion. This is especially significant since Bud developed heart problems shortly after taking the trophy last year. After undergoing a quadruple by-pass operation in October 2003, Bud was sidelined from playing golf until the end of February. But,

67-year-old Bud quickly got back to championship form and shot a 72 and a 74 in the Club Championships held in August and September.

Bud has also been the SIR River City Golf Club Champion for the past four years. Bud currently plays to a 6 handicap. Good going Bud.

Vacaville Branch 99...

Golf Phenomenon

Ed Morris, Bulletin Editor

The Branch 99 Golf Club plays every Monday morning At the Green Tree Golf Club in Vacaville - only high winds and heavy rain cancel play a few times a year.

One Club member has a USGA HCP INDEX of 12.8. He was incapacitated during the early part of this year, and could only play twenty-four rounds, but still managed an average gross score of 84.3.

This member is 87 years old but you wouldn't know it to look at him. He must have found his super demeanor and healthy alertness late in life because most people should be pretty worn out by then.

He plays golf two days a week, sometimes more,

Port Stockton Branch 46...

Branch 46 Travel is a lot of fun

Branch 46 Travel Chairman, **Vaughn Pipes** (far left) helps load up 2 buses for their annual outing to Apple Hill and South Lake Tahoe. This was the last trip in an active travel year for Branch 46. Planned trips for 2005 include a 14-day South American cruise in February from Chile to around Cape Horn and then up to Buenos Aires with a side trip to see the spectacular Iguazu Falls. Then, in mid-April, the Branch will tour Japan for 12 days. A trip to see the Lion King in Sacramento is being considered for May. Looks like another fun travel year for Branch 46.



and also participates in other Branch activities. But, it's his skill with what Winston Churchill once described as, "those ill-contrived devices used to knock a little round ball around a cow pasture and into a small hole in the ground," that makes **Fred Schneider** such a phenomenon.

And in other Branch 99 golf news, **John Roberts** won the 2004 Branch 99 golf championship, with a net score of 60. **Ed Winsett** came in 2nd place and **Jim Mayoral** took 3rd. Congratulations to all three!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people who provided material for this 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 byEmailing your Branch news items to:

Editor Don MacGregor <DLM@foothill.net>



News from the Branches

Pleasant Hill Branch 146...

More Singing Talent found in SIR

Jeff Baily, Editor Branch 146

On Memorial Day 2004, Branch 146 SongSir was asked to sing at the Walnut Creek Veterans Memorial Plaza Dedication. This was an honor for the group, which is composed mainly of veterans of the Armed Services... note our red, white and blue uniforms... and we then sang the five Armed Forces songs.

After being entertained on Ladies Day 1995, by a group from a San Mateo Branch called the "SIR-Naiders", it was decided to start our own singing group. One of our members heard our resident tenor, Owen Sullivan, singing on the golf course and suggested he start a group. At first about six men began singing on a weekly basis and developed a repertoire which is constantly expanding.

We started with a piano player, **Dave Obera**, and added a harmonica player, **Jim Helmick**, and a drummer, **Barney Meade**. Finally, two years ago, a retired choir director, **Rod Sharretts**, joined Branch 146 and things really started moving and improving.

We generally meet weekly, between September and June, although there are some occasional breaks.

Our singing is not confined



to our Branch meetings. "Gigs" have included senior residences, the Veterans Hospital in Martinez, and Garden Center Fairs. We were honored to be asked to sing at Branch 19's Christmas party last year. We expect to do about five outside "performances" this year. We also end each meeting with "God Bless America" and sing at various Lady Day functions.

This year, the season started with about 20 members, which is a bit less than 10% of the Branch's membership. Auditions are not required. We gain, and also lose, members from time to time, but the group is steadily growing.

We were delighted to read the article in "SIR Happenings" about Branch 35 and their "SongBirds" Maybe someday we'll all spend a week-end somewhere with each group doing some of the entertainment... a good time would be had by all!!

San Ramon Valley Branch 128...

An Epic Journey

John Hunt, Little Sir (now Big Sir)

The SS Jeremiah O'Brien is one of only two fully operational Liberty Ships left in the world, and is now berthed in San Francisco. The ship was built back in 1943 and was named after the first American to capture a British naval vessel during the Revolutionary War. During World War II, she made numerous voyages to various parts of the world and endured eleven trips across the



English Channel to the beaches of Normandy during the D-Day invasion.

After the war, like so many other ships, she was mothballed at Suisun Bay, but thirty-three years later she was rescued from the scrap yard and brought to San Francisco for restoration.

The O'Brien is shown in the picture leaving San Francisco in 1994 on an epic voyage that took her through the Panama Canal and then across the Atlantic to England and France to participate in the 50th anniversary of the Allied invasion at Normandy.

Chet Robbins, the Public Relations Director of the Memorial, gave an exceptionally good presentation at a Branch 128 luncheon and informed members that the ship is open for tours on most days and there are several San Francisco Bay cruises scheduled each year. For more information, he suggested a visit to the ship's web-site: www.ssjeremiahobrien.org.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I suggest that you ask the readers, who send inquires to the Letters to the Editor Column, to include their email address. I'm sure that there are many Sirs out there who could provide additional information to the writer. As an example, the request for additional information on the SR-71 spy plane. Great publication!!

Ron Kron, Branch 157
f8ukron@aol.com

Good idea...we will include email addresses, starting with this edition.

Dear Editor:

Thank you for Emailing SIR Happenings to me... it came through sharp, clear, colorful, and informative. My hats off to all of those who produced Happenings. I am wondering if it is possible, on the first page under the date in bright red bold letters, you could add the following: the SIR internet address is www.sirinc.org. I know that the address is in Happenings in many places and yet it is not in plain site for all to see. I feel some Sirs find it a new experience to be on-line. Simple is better - just a thought.

Jack Socher, Branch 11 Little Sir
hlojk@nacctel.com

Your suggestion is a good one We felt that it might not fit well in the masthead, and so, you will note that we have placed the reference to the SIR website at the bottom of the first page. There is a wealth of useful information on the SIR web-site and I encourage all members to visit the site regularly. I'm pleased you enjoyed getting Happenings in your email inbox and I urge others to have it sent directly to them by contacting Dwight Sale at

dwight.sale@comcast.com



Dear Editor:

I receive Bulletins from all the branches in our area, and around this time of year, many are asking for someone to volunteer for Little Sir. The first thing I do, when I read this, is to look at the makeup of the Branch Directors. In most cases the Directors are almost all Past Big Sirs. A few years ago, our Branch had this same problem. Our solution was to ask all PBS (except the last Big Sir) to resign from the board. We then selected new Directors who were SIR members for 1 to 4 years (new blood). We told them that at some time they might be called upon to be our Little Sir. We had no problem filling these positions. We then sent the Directors to the State Training session. When we have nominations for new officers, we tell the Nominating Committee to look first at the Directors to fill the Little Sir vacancy. We also limit the PBS's term as Director to a maximum of two years. This allows us to select a new Director each year and have 2-4 years of training for our Little Sir. This has worked out great for our Branch and when we lost our Little Sir in the middle of the year, we had 4 directors ready to step in and assume his duties. This is by far the best idea our Branch has come up with since I've been on the Board.

I would like to hear from other Branches on what they are doing to fill the Little Sir position and other key leadership slots.

Frank Franzago, Secretary and
Bulletin Editor Branch 69
Franque12@MSN.com

Dear Editor:

Our Branch 113 has several members that play horseshoes and we are thinking of starting a horseshoe-pitching group. We would like to hear from Branches with horseshoe pitching groups that could give us some advice on starting such a group in our Branch and maybe later on we could get involved in some friendly competition between Branches and then maybe start a SIR Activity like Bowling.

Bill Harris, 2005 Big Sir Branch 113
wkh@directcon.net

We are always glad to hear that a Branch wants to start a new activity and I hope your letter generates some ideas that will help you get a group started.



SIR in the News

Placer Gold Branch 37...

Bowling Triple Patch

Lou Norton tells Happenings that his Friend **Joe Vetter**, of Branch 37, has bowled in the Wildcat League for 37 years at the Foothill Bowl in Auburn. Recently, Joe bowled a triplicate 124, which gets him a patch from the American Bowling Association. To bowl three games with the same score is quite a feat and very few bowlers accomplish this during their lifetime. To make this accomplishment even more memorable, Joe did this at the age of 87.

Would you like to Receive your Copy of the SIR Happenings Newsletter By Email?

If you would like to receive future issues of "SIR Happenings" by Email, please send your name and Email address to:
Dwight Sale <dwight.sale@comcast.net>

Information Systems Committee (INFOSYS)

Dwight Sale, Chairman



EDITORS NOTE:

This is the second in a series of articles to acquaint our members with some of the SIR Administrative functions. This article tells about the Information Systems Committee and its five sub-committees. We hope our readers find this series interesting, as well as informative.

Good communication is important in any organization and communication within our organization has not always been as effective as we would have liked. Branch information is communicated pretty well within the branch and most of the time the information gets out to the members. On the other hand, information sharing from the State to our 160 Branches, has always been a daunting task so, in 2003 President **Jim Faverman**, gathered up the disparate groups involved in SIR communication and formed INFOSYS, which is composed of a five member standing committee, with five sub-committees.

The following is a brief outline of committee functions:

Website:

Our Webmaster, **Bill Winslow**, continues to improve our website. Sirinc.org is the home page for the general public. Candidates interested in becoming members can communicate directly with the Database Manager, and more than 200 new members, including 80 this year, have done just that. The members section, sirinc.org/sirforms, contains documents of interest to our members, including such items as, forms, the State Roster, the Rule Manual, plus much more.

Database:

The SIR Database currently contains the names of all those who have served as SIR Officers and Committee Chairman since 1974 and all Branch Officers since 1994, as well as Branch Corporate information. Today there are 5647 names in the State Database and the Database Manager is making the program more “user friendly” for the many SIR administrators that find the database quite useful in helping them carry out their responsibilities.

Email:

You may have received this copy of “Happenings” through our email system. Currently there are 1931 email addresses in the database and every Branch is represented.

State Roster:

This very useful document is the responsibility of the Second Assistant Secretary, **Gary Gruber**. Gary inputs the information for each new year, as well as all the updates during the year, into the database which then produces the roster.

State Forms:

This sub-committee was added in 2004, with **Len Stohler** as its Chairman. Len, under the direction of the Rules Committee and the approval of the Executive Committee, produces the forms in both an electronic and hard-copy format. The electronic format is sent to the Webmaster for inclusion in the forms section on the website and the hard-copy version is sent to the Supplies and Printed Forms Chairman for distribution.

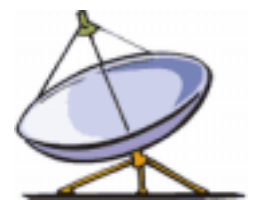
State Newsletter:

“SIR Happenings” is a quarterly publication with the first two editions a huge success. **Don MacGregor** and **John Skarpelos** are doing a superb job of putting all the news together in this great publication. They will be joined by **John Mahafy** in 2005. More and more information is flowing in from the Branches as they become more aware of “Happenings.” It is distributed to all 1931 SIRS with email addresses in our database and we hope more members will ask to have Happenings emailed directly to them.

Doctronics:

This Committee’s vigorous pursuit of “electronic distribution” has resulted in eliminating the costly and time-consuming task of distributing hard copies of the State Rule Manual and State Roster. Instead, both documents are now available on the SIR website and **Gary Gruber** is in charge of publishing and updating all these documents.

INFOSYS’ purpose is to make SIR communications as effective as possible. We are most interested in your comments and suggestions. Every comment gets answered, even the negative ones. Send them to dwight.sale@comcast.net



Honorary Life Memberships Awarded in 2004

Gary A. Allen	Branch 79
Richard M. Anderson	Branch 96
Benjamin L. Arntz	Branch 15
Robert O. Bernhardt	Branch 35
Arnold R. Blumhart	Branch 33
Ray O. Carlson	Branch 93
Robert L. Cloer	Branch 45
Carl L. Dalessio	Branch 25
William D. Dulin	Branch 83
Paul F. Gallagher	Branch 31
Fred A. Gotthardt	Branch 59
Donald G. Gregory	Branch 151
James Gunby	Branch 80
Edward F. Hardin	Branch 60
Maurice T. Hayn	Branch 168
Wallace R Henwood	Branch 141
Ernie Huesby	Branch 62
Ellis D. Jagger	Branch 124
R. E. (Earl) Johnson	Branch 15
Leslie R. Jones	Branch 102
Niels J. Jorgensen	Branch 72
Edmund P. Kammerer	Branch 156
James Kane	Branch 174
Owen A. Kenny	Branch 124
Browner K. Kersey	Branch 104
Herbert J. Kirchner	Branch 31
Louis C. Kirkpatrick	Branch 161
W. H. Bill Lidgard	Branch 33
Joe W. Malek	Branch 79
Robert Marcy	Branch 153
James McCarty	Branch 121
Robert G. McDonald	Branch 174
Paul M Miller	Branch 149
Paul A. Murphy	Branch 96
James V. Musci	State
Edward A Myrtle	Branch 8
Donald H. Neudeck	Branch 102
Charles R. Peacock	State
Nino Pompilio	Branch 34
Harry E. Scott	Branch 23
Earl E. Somers	Branch 25
Hamilton Thompson	Branch 169
James W. Walton	Branch 60
Wallace Wortman	Branch 92

News from the Branches - continued

Isle City Branch 60...

You Ain't Heard Nothing Yet

Doug Hayward, Little Sir (now Big Sir)

A recent luncheon speaker assured Branch 60 members that Baseball's minor leagues are alive and well in America and are the indispensable foundation of the majors and everything that leads to the World Series. Minor league icon, Ray Malgradi, went on to say that these days the bush leagues are thriving in the smaller communities all over the country.

Malgradi, 81, is definitely the man to know because he spent twenty five years in the minors as a player, manager and scout. He played with many different teams, in a lot of different cities, and once, even pitched for a team sponsored by a local bar for \$25 a game.

During his years in the minors, he helped bring along many young players, enough names to fill a book, in fact, he did write a book called, "Extra Innings." In the book he talks about the players he brought along, his close friendship with Stan Musial and many other well known players and managers, and tells lots of other interesting stories.

His appearance at the Branch 60 podium turned into a star-studded event when several other Northern California baseball greats showed up unexpectedly. Veteran Bay Area sportswriter, Win Currier, was there to cover Malgradi's talk and the event so impressed him, that in a lengthy column, he praised Branch 60 for its role as a forum for baseball's roots and described the occasion as in the tradition of "you ain't heard nothing yet."

How to get Happenings on The SIR Web-site

1. Go to sirinc.org
2. Click on "SIR Happenings"
3. This will take you to sirinc.org/sirforms
4. Click on "Happenings" Newsletter is Here
5. Click on the edition you want to see and that edition will open, but you must have Adobe Acrobat installed on your computer
6. You may print out a copy by clicking on the printer icon

**SIR Happenings is published by the
Information Systems Committee.**

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Assistant Production Manager
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Have Fun and Net 5 in 2005!



SIR HAPPENINGS

APRIL 2005

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

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

President Jim's Column

What is the real meaning of SIR? We know it is independence and dignity in retirement. We know we are a social organization that has monthly luncheons and speakers. We know we meet to share stories, tell a few "lies" and otherwise have a good time. We also participate in many activities.

While I searched for another meaning of SIR, I found it via a Branch bulletin. John Hunt, Big Sir of Branch 128, said it all in a recent "Big Sir Speaks" article. John was reflecting upon a dining out experience with fellow SIR members.

John said, "I couldn't but observe how lucky we all are to be SIR members. We belong to a unique organization that can change the lives of many retired men. Our members are cherished, respected and appreciated for their contributions to the community in the past, present and the future. I urge you to share the SIR experience with someone you know and sponsor him for membership. Each of us will benefit because of your effort. I thank you for your membership and participation."

Well said and thank you Sir John.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH DEPT:

SIR is an abbreviation for SONS IN RETIREMENT. You belong to SIR and not SIRS. RETIREMENT as in SONS IN has no "S" at the end of the word. Therefore, I, we, belong to SONS IN RETIREMENT or SIR. A member of SIR is a Sir and not a SIR.

The words "one nation under God," in the Pledge of Allegiance has no comma after "nation" yet we all pause and say "under God." The phrase should not have a pause.

Jim Donovan

Can the 49er's Come Back?

This Sir is Hopeful

Jim Wyatt, Past SIR President and member of Branch 1

I began my career with the 49er's back in 1952 as a supervisor for a group of ushers at the old Kezar stadium when the Niners were starting their 7th season. As the years passed, I was fortunate to receive a number of promotions as a college administrator and at the same time the 49ers were also adding to my responsibilities with their organization. I began thinking about giving up my 49er assignment, but I accepted further promotions with the stipulation that my 49er work would not conflict with my full-time position in education and the 49ers have always



observed that agreement. In 1989, when the 49ers heard that I had retired as the Vice Chancellor of the San Mateo County Community College District, they offered me and I accepted the title of Gameday Operations Coordinator with overall responsibility for ushers, ticket takers, two parking crews, luxury suite personnel, escalator crew, elevator operators, a crew in the press box, and a few other duties that were later added.

While most of us remember the glory years of 1981-1998, the entire experience has been very fulfilling for me. Over the years, my wife and I have been invited to join the team on five overseas preseason game trips and we were present at four of the five Super Bowls. Two years ago Dr. John York, team owner, awarded me a beautifully inscribed game ball in recognition of my over 50 years of service to the organization. I was also fortunate to receive four Super Bowl rings and one Super Bowl watch.

I'm constantly asked about the outlook for the 49ers and here are some of my thoughts, as well as hopes:

Coaching Staff: I believe the changes we have made to the coaching staff are very positive. Everyone speaks highly of Coach Nolan and the assistants that he hired. The addition of Mike Singletary as Linebackers/Assistant Head Coach should be significant both in bringing along the young players and as a role model for all the players.

Continued on page 12

Internet Address for Sons in Retirement:

www.sirinc.org

Have Fun and Net 5 in 2005!

What it takes to be a Successful Branch

Mount Diablo Branch 8

What makes us tick?

Ron Smith, Little Sir

Mount Diablo Branch 8 in Walnut Creek celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2004. That makes it one of the oldest in the state. One would think that after 40 years things would get stale, tired, and routine and the membership begins to BURN OUT. Not so with Branch 8, which has even spawned three other Branches in Area 2. Our Branch continues to maintain a member count between 250 -260 and we have a waiting list.

Why has Branch 8 been so successful and what makes us tick? It's hard to point to any particular item but it is the blending of many things done well. Listed below are what I consider to be the key elements.

MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP. Our branch survives by having an active and involved membership. It takes over 100 volunteers to run our Branch. Our members are willing to step forward and become leaders. Whether accepting the post of Little Sir, serving as an Activity Chair or Co-chair, sitting on the Executive Committee, working on one of the many luncheon groups, or helping with the newsletter, **they are part of the branch leadership.** And for those choosing not to assume a leadership role, they heavily participate in the luncheons and many activities we offer.

LUNCHEONS. Our luncheon programs form one of the key elements for the success of our Branch. We have an excellent venue at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge. The spacious rooms allow multiple pre-lunch activities to take place simultaneously. The environment is conducive to bringing members together and developing interaction.

The agenda follows the usual SIR format, is well organized, and runs smoothly. **But the real plus has been our guest speakers. Hard work on the part of Little Sirs by using the Area 2 Speakers Exchange, combined with the Bay Area location uniqueness, has resulted in outstanding programs over the years. This helps to bring the members back month after month and makes them feel good about bringing a guest to an exciting meeting.**

ACTIVITIES! This one word says it all. No SIR branch can survive without an array of interesting activities that invite participation. In Branch 8 there are too many to write about each one, but the current list includes:

BARBEQUE; BOCCE BALL; BOOK GROUP; BRIDGE (Rubber); BRIDGE (Duplicate); CRIBBAGE; DOMINOES; EXPLORE AND EAT (local touring, sightseeing & lunch); GOLF; WALKING; I.Q. BUNCH (single men's dinner); LET'S DINE OUT (couples dinner group); PINOCHLE; POKER; THEATER FEST (attend local theater production); TRAVEL; HIKING and MOVIE GROUP. These are not just activity names on a sheet. Each has a large number of participants. Some suffer from growing pains; some have to limit attendance; others have expanded from one to two, three or more days a month. There is virtually something going on almost every day of the week and every week of the year.

Area 2 has a number of activities that include participants from other branches. These are all very popular and we promote and have many Branch members who participate in those Area activities such as BOWLING; COMPUTER USERS; FISHING; GOLF, POOL (billiards); SUMS IN RETIREMENT (financial/investments); and TRAVEL.

Many of the above are just for the guys - so we can get away for a few hours to golf, play cards or whatever. But the Branch has a lot of activities that involve the Sir and his spouse or significant other. Those include: BARBEQUE; BOCCE BALL, EXPLORE AND EAT; GOLF; LET'S DINE OUT; THEATER FEST; HEADS UP WALKERS; TRAVEL; MOVIE GROUP. All are extremely well attended. This is important because if the wives are interested in some of the activities that include them, they will encourage the men to stay involved. We all know how that goes.

ACTIVITY COORDINATOR. With all these activities, how do you manage them? Who helps find a new chairman when the current one steps down; who interfaces with the Executive Committee; who makes sure new member interests are passed to activity chairmen; who encourages starting new activities; and who helps members who have new activity ideas? And who sees if they work; gets them off the ground; and provides them with leadership and direction — **The Activity Coordinator. This may be the most important position our Branch has created.**

NEWSLETTER. Membership communications are vital. Without the **HOTLINE** (our newsletter), a key link would be missing between the Executive Committee, Activity Chairmen, and the members. The luncheon accomplishes some communications BUT the primary means to tell our membership what is happening is thru the **HOTLINE**. It includes articles about the branch, next month's speaker, and details on **every** activity - including what was done last month and the plans for the coming month. We constantly remind members to bring guests and they do (an average of 6 per month). The **HOTLINE** is an excellent newsletter and it just keeps getting better. The result is the members look forward to receiving it, reading it cover to cover, and getting involved in the activities. And wives read it to find out about the activities in which they participate.

WEBSITE. This isn't one of the key elements that currently make up a successful branch, but it is the wave of the future. Branch 8 has created the position of Web Master and he is currently working to polish up our site. We recently installed on-line golf sign up capability and the members love it.

SO LET'S SUM IT UP — you need an active SIR area, interested and involved members who are willing to accept a leadership role, a good newsletter for communications, well balanced and interesting luncheon programs with good speakers, and plenty of activities that provide something of interest for everyone with a number of them involving spouses and of course...an activity coordinator to help them along.

Baseball

PLAY BALL !!

2005 SIR SPORTS SCHEDULE

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS VS ATLANTA BRAVES
SBC PARK, WEDNESDAY, JULY 20th AT 12:35 PM



SIR CONTACT:
Jim Wyatt

843 Overlook Court
San Mateo, Ca 94403
650-345-3494

j.c.wyatt@worldnet.att.net

OAKLAND A's VS ANAHEIM ANGELS
OAKLAND COLLISEUM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11th, AT
12:35 PM



SIR CONTACT:
Bob Lippincott

21305 Kahlert Ave
Castro Valley, Ca 94546
510-538-9291

RIVERCATS VS PORTLAND BEAVERS
RALEY FIELD, TUESDAY, JUNE 28th at 11:35 AM



SIR CONTACT:
Jim Musci

P.O. Box 1139
Weimar, Ca 95736
530-637-5665

jvmecm@auburninternet.com

Your Branch contact will have more information
on all these games

COME OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN !!



State RV Activities

Charles "Howie" Fisher, Chairman

The fourth State RV Rally will be held at the French Camp RV Park and Golf Course in Manteca, from April 24th to April 27th, 2005.

We currently have a few too many applicants for the Rally, and so, we are waiting for our previously defined latest application date to figure out if anyone is going to drop out. I believe all who request a space will be accommodated, but there may be some that won't be quite contiguous with the rest of us. A rally committee meeting is scheduled at French Camp for the 31st of March when all the little operational details will get ironed out, and we should get definitive answers to all remaining questions.



There will be many fun things to do during the Rally and I'm sure that everyone will have a great time.

*Looking for some Toe-Tapping fun over the
Memorial Day Weekend?*

*The 32nd Annual Sacramento Jazz Jubilee
is the place to be*

Music as contemporary as today and as classic as a flapper, is what makes the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee such a blast. Many Jazz styles round out a palette that is unrivaled at any jazz festival in the world, but that's only half the story ...the other half is the great party, with all that tasty food and drink.



The Jazz Jubilee runs over the Memorial Day Weekend from May 27th to the 30th. The Director has scheduled a special SIR Day program on Friday, May 27th from 1 PM to 7 PM. Half price tickets are available for that day and discount tickets are also available for the whole event.

Some Branches have tickets, but for those that don't, please phone **Hal Needham** at (916) 315-8526 for more information and tickets.

State Bowling

Bill Cooper, Chairman

We have now completed three successful tournaments and I want to use this column to thank our Tournament Directors and to recognize the winners.

Tournament Director, Larry Dent, of Branch 65 had a real nice turnout for the Sonoma Tournament, held in Napa in February. The tournament event winners were:

A Singles - **James Mederios** - Branch 75 with 773

B Singles - **Don Rentzel** - Branch 43 with 790

A Doubles - **George Palmear** - Branch 68 and **Jess Ajello** - Branch 68 with 1430

B Doubles - **Don Rentzel** - Branch 43 and guest, Cathy Davenport, with 1530

At the Livermore tournament held in February, Bo Wong of Branch 101 was the Tournament Director and reported these results:

A Singles - **Leigh Person** - Branch 45 with 736

B Singles - **Jim Sandridge** - Branch 144 with 698

A Doubles - **Andy Gooden** - Branch 148 and **Ralph Holmes** - Branch 73 with 1349

B Doubles - **Bob Damico** - Branch 161 and guest Terry Damico with 1467

A Division all events - **Don Paulson** - Branch 62 with 1435

B Division all events - **Marvin Hirschel** - Branch 62 with 1439

Stan Nelson of Branch 147 held a St. Patrick's Day event in Petaluma in March. The winners of that tournament were:

A Singles - **Tom Kaya** - Branch 148 with 731

B Singles - **A. Quinitos** - Branch 123 with 742

A Doubles - **Ed Perez** - Branch 73 and **Tom Kaya** - Branch 148 with 1395

B Doubles - **D. Mee** - Branch 168 and **J. Clayton** - Branch 168 with 1436

A Division all events - **Tom Kaya** - Branch 148 with 1499

B Division all events - **A. Quinitos** - Branch 123 with 1425

For more information on State Bowling and the 2005 tournament schedule, please visit the SIR Bowling website by going to

www.sirinc.org.

When that page appears, click on activities, then click on Bowling and you are there. If you haven't been bowling in our tournaments, come out and have a lot of fun and make some new friends.



State SIRARC

SIR Amateur Radio Club

Richard Shappee, Secretary

Members of the Sons In Retirement Amateur Radio Club (SIRARC) enjoy many aspects of their hobby. Some participate in Emergency Services, ready to provide communications for the Red Cross, hospitals and inter-city communications between police departments at times of emergency. Others enjoy talking to fellow hams in foreign countries and adding to the number of countries they have contacted. There are more than 300 countries with amateur radio operators and many amateurs in the United States have contacted all of them. Still others like to construct their own equipment and learn more about the technical side of their hobby. Many amateurs use their radio transmitting privileges to participate in another hobby, flying radio-controlled aircraft.

What do radio amateurs need in order to enjoy their hobby? First of all they need a readily obtained U.S. Government license. Upon receipt of this document, the "ham" operator has an official radio call sign. In the United States the call sign consists of letters, a number and more letters. The number roughly identifies where the amateur is located (if he does not move). For example, all California stations include the numeral "6". My call sign is W5HQJ.



The "W" portion dates back to the early days of government issues of licenses. The "5" indicates that I received my license in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Mississippi, Arkansas or Louisiana. If you live in Hawaii, you will have a prefix of KH6. Other Islands have other unique designations. The last letters in the call sign are assigned in alphabetical order.

In addition to a license, amateurs need a transmitter, a receiver and an antenna. Depending upon how much one wishes to invest, the equipment can be quite inexpensive. As one becomes more involved and active in the amateur world, one may choose to make a substantial investment in equipment. It is up to the individual.

Amateur radio is different from Citizens Band radio (CB) in that licenses are earned, not awarded, and the community of amateurs self-regulates its members to insure that abuses are kept to a minimum. Because the amateur operator is able to transmit with significant power, amateurs are able to talk world wide rather than community wide, as is the case for CB.

If you want to know more about the Sons In Retirement Amateur Radio Club, please contact the SIRARC Secretary, **Richard M. Shappee** at jdco@att.net or by mail at 2955 Corte Miguel, Concord CA 94518.

Hole-in-One Column

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Every golfer's dream is to make a hole-one. It is one of golf's thrilling accomplishments and only a small percentage of all golfers achieve this fete each year and earn admission to one of golf's most exclusive clubs.

In this edition of Happenings we are starting a "Hole-In-One Column" to recognize all those members that achieve this fete.

Please tell us about all those that make a Hole-In-One this year, so, we can honor them in this column ...so far, we know that:



Ken Jones, of Branch 21, had a hole-in-one on the 158 yard 2nd hole, at the Spring Valley course using a 5 iron. He also shot his age (69) that day.

Congratulations to Ken for finally achieving this fete after 50 years of trying.

Mike Mickesh, of Branch 74, made his hole-in-one on the 5th hole at the Los Lagos course ...congratulations, Mike.



Congratulations to another member of Branch 74 ...this time it was **Rich Sullivan** on the 87 yard 7th hole, also at Los Lagos.

Another Branch has seen two members get a hole-one this year ...**Ernie Taylor** and **Joe Lopez** from Branch 99. Ernie got his hole-in-one at the Green Tree Country Club on the 140 yard 10th hole with a 7 iron ...Joe got his on the 146 yard 4th hole with a 5 iron. Congratulations to both of you.

Some Hole-In-One Trivia ...Did you know:

The average age of a Hole-One Golfer:	44
The average handicap of a hole-one-golfer	13
Number of years playing golf	16
Day of the week most holes-in-one occur	Friday
Average par for the aced hole	3
Average yardage of aced hole	150 yards
Club most used in making an ace	7 Iron
State with most aced holes	California

Happenings on the SIR Web-site

1. Go to <http://sirinc.org/>
2. Click on "SIR Happenings"
3. Click on the issue you want to view
5. It will open in Adobe Acrobat Reader where it can be viewed or printed.

State Golf Activities

Nino Pompilio, Chairman

The first tournaments of the year were held in Las Vegas in March and we are getting ready for the San Diego Tournament on April 23rd to the 29th. Normally these tournaments fill up quickly...but not this year. Sign-ups have lagged and the State Golf Committee is at a loss to explain why and needs input from the membership to help it plan future golf events.



To improve our communication with the membership, we have conducted four regional meetings in each of the five Divisions ...Division 3 and 5 were combined in a meeting at San Jose; Division 4 was held in Walnut Creek; Division 1 in Rohnert Park; and Division 2 in Auburn. We invited all the Area Golf Chairmen and Branch Golf Chairmen, along with their assistants to attend their respective meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to brief the attendees on the makeup and function of the State Golf Committee; to review the State Tournaments for 2005; and to explain how to use the SIR State Golf Website as the primary means of communications throughout the year. We also invited feedback from the participants about their concerns and problems and how to make their golf programs more efficient and enjoyable. Also, representatives from NCGA attended and informed the participants about its organization and its interface with SIR Golf.

After a detailed review of two proposals, the Committee voted to accept the proposal from Golden Gate Tours (GGT) for two 8 day-7 night trips, via charter flights to Ixtapa, Mexico on November 3-10 and November 10-17, 2005. Accommodations will be at the Dorado Pacifico Hotel and golf at the Palma Real Golf Course. Details for the Mexico Golf Tournament will be mailed to each SIR/NCGA golfer by Golden Gate Tours at a later date.

For more detailed information regarding the SIR State golf program, please visit the SIR Golf web site, which can be reached on the internet by inputting the following web address: www.sirinc.org. When that page appears, click on Activities, then click on Golf, and you have the Golf web site. Make it a favorite bookmark!

News from the Branches

Rossmoor Branch 81

From Movie Actor to Pilot

...This Sir has enjoyed Quite a Life

Dick Morse, Bulletin Editor

Brad Slaven, who is a member of Rossmoor Branch 81, gave a very interesting talk to his fellow members about his life as an actor and his war experiences.

He began a movie career in 1929 at the age of 6 or 7, as one of the many kids in the "Little Rascals" movies. He played several kids pictures and then one of the big directors at the Hal Roach Studios said of him... "Boy, with all those freckles and that mop of curly hair, he's a regular little "Buster." "...So, Brad was stuck with that nickname for many years. He then graduated to better films with lines of dialogue with such actors as Spencer Tracy, John Wayne, Mickey Rooney, Jane Withers, and Clark Gable.

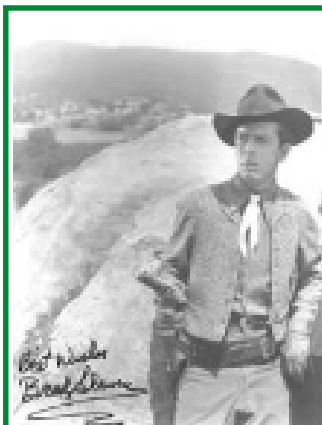
In 1942, Brad joined the Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet. After completing his flight training, he volunteered for fighter pilot school and became a pilot of the great P47 Thunderbolt. He flew this plane during the battle of the Bulge, in 1944 over Germany, dive bombing and strafing

with its eight .50 caliber machine guns. On His 36th mission, Brad was shot down and was a wounded POW in Germany until about May of 1945.

Shortly after returning to the States, Brad went back to movie acting, playing mostly Western bad guys, doing his own horseback riding and stunts. He also played speaking parts in some non-western pictures like the, "Ghost and Mrs. Muir" and "Mother Wore Tights."

The movie business got a little slow in 1950, so, he became a copilot for the old "Western Air Lines" and flew for them for 30 years, the last 10 or 12 as a Captain on the San Francisco-Hawaii run in the Boeing 707 ...with that choice run, you can see why Brad hated to retire when he reached age 60.

Brad is now enjoying 12 years of retired life in Rossmoor and would be willing to talk to other Branches if the time and situation could be arranged. His number is 925-935-5322.



Brad Slaven
as a Western bad guy

Pony Express Branch 69

Back to the Major Leagues

Frank Franzago, Secretary & Bulletin Editor

One of Branch 69's favorite members is Sir Harry Dunlop. Harry retired from Major League Baseball in 2001 and prior to his retirement, was a coach for the Cincinnati Reds. Harry has been a frequent speaker at SIR Luncheons in the Sacramento area and his talk on his 50 years in professional baseball has been extremely well received.

Harry was comfortably retired, playing golf and coaching his grandkids in high school when Jack McKenon, manager of the Florida Marlins, called 71-year-old Harry out of the blue. He was offered a deal he couldn't refuse, to return to coaching and the excitement of working with a bunch of young professional ball players and he readily agreed to join the Marlins as their bench coach.

Harry left the Sacramento area in February to get ready for spring training. We miss you Harry. You added a lot of spark to our Branch ...Good luck and keep in touch.

Murphy's Branch 140

A Pleasant Way to Learn

Ken Edwards, Governor Area 27

The home of Allen Test, Big Sir of Murphy's Branch 140, provided a casual setting for a very informative training session for the incoming officers of Area 27. All the attendees brought brown bag lunches and were served coffee and soft drinks.

Allen's home sits on top of a hill near Angels Camp with at least a 270-degree view of the surrounding area. The Officers found this to be a great setting during one of those perfect days in the Sierra Foothills for enjoying each other's company and the chance to learn a thing or two. No doubt they will want more of the same next year.



News from the Branches

Alta Sierra Branch 124

New Activities

John Benzon, Big SIR

Branch 124 has added to its activities during this fall and winter seasons. The first activity was prompted by some of our members interested in fishing. Thanks to Sir John Bergman, a group became interested in the "Jolly Hookers." This group was formed early in 1979 by the Forty Niner Branch 49 and is open to all SIR members in good standing. Our Alta Sierra Branch is now considering forming a local fishing group for some recreational fishing, as well as maintaining our affiliation with the "Jolly Hookers."

The SIR Grass Valley League Golf Tournaments ended in October and Branch 124 organized some Mini-tournaments for the winter season for the avid cold-weather golfer. We also added a caveat ...you could invite a Non-SIR guest. Good news to report ...this has resulted in three new Branch 124 members and a lot of fun for the local SIR branches that participated.

San Rafael Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22

St Patrick's Day Surprise

Bob Farwell. Bulletin Editor

Little Sir, Stan Ellexson, came through in March with a Saint Patrick's Day surprise for Branch 22. After dining on a traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage, Branch members and their wives were entertained at their regular March Luncheon meeting by the Young Irish Dancers from Healy Dance Studio in San Rafael.

The dancers, dressed in traditional costumes that they produced themselves, ranged in ages from 9 to 14. They performed several Irish dances in both soft and hard shoe style. The program lasted about 30 minutes, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the members.

Isle City Branch 60...

What's up at Oakland International Airport

Doug Hayward, Big Sir

What's up at the Oakland International Airport ...a whole lot, Isle City Branch 60 learned at a recent luncheon. Air cargo is surging at the FedEx Western Region Sort Facility with 100 FedEx flights in and out each day on average. Oakland is now the center for all FedEx air freight west of the Rockies, with 1,600 employees working day and night, hurrying cargo through the sprawling 350,000 square foot facility to and from the aircraft gates and truck docks.

FedEx Strategic Market Manager, Tom Shaddle, told a Branch 60 audience that FedEx has the world's largest all-cargo air fleet. Last year FedEx carried scheduled air freight to more than 210 countries, flying nearly 500,000 miles every 24 hours, while its couriers logged another 2.5 million miles every day, equivalent to 100 trips around the world.



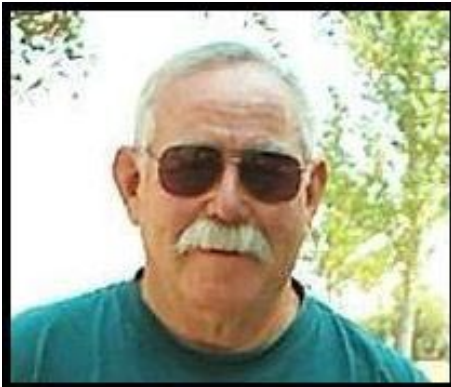
News from the Branches

Lake Tahoe Branch 160

This Sir Always Wanted to Build His Own Airplane

Gary Gruber, High Mountain News Bulletin Editor

Sir Wayne Bonesteel has many interests in life, especially his family, golf, and Sons In Retirement. But ranking right up there with the others is his love of flying. He took ground school and flying lessons back in 1991 at the airport in San Martin, soloed in a 2-place Cessna after about 20 hours of dual instruction, and earned his private license within the year. Over the years, he went in and out of airplane ownership twice, before deciding to try building one at home.



He looked into several home-built types, and settled on the Van's Aircraft 2-place model RV-4. He chose an engine that develops 150 horsepower and enables him to break wind at over 200 miles an hour ... although Sir Wayne claims he is not a speed demon by nature. The new plane is a "tail dragger" (most are tricycle) so Wayne started lessons toward FAA certification in this type of aircraft.

It was a big day in 1997 when the kit arrived and he and his wife Terri said goodbye to their garage for a while. Over the next couple of years he worked on the assembly of the fuselage and wings (separately). Storing the parts during construction was a problem, so tail sections, rudders, ailerons, elevators, flaps and other items were under the beds and leaning against the walls inside the house and on the patio. When two hands weren't enough Terri pitched in, especially as Rosie the Riveter. Wayne admits to making several mistakes that he had to scrap and re-do, such as the time he tripped and stepped on the vertical tail and ruined it.

Eventually it came time to move it all to a hanger at a nearby airport for attaching the wings, installing flight instrumentation and applying the finishing touches. It took



about three years, until mid-2000, to assemble the aircraft from start to finish. After FAA certification, came the most important day of all when it was time to see if this thing would actually fly. Terri stayed on the ground with radio in hand, while Wayne went aloft in the new RV-4. All went well, and he has been flying regularly since. He goes back and forth to his old Bay Area haunts and flight time from the local airport is an hour and fifteen minutes. Terri flies with him sometimes, but little screams can be heard from the rear seat when they hit the thermal bumps in the summertime.

When not logging hours in his pride and joy, Sir Wayne still manages to get in a couple of rounds of golf most weeks and rarely misses a Branch luncheon meeting where he has been a member since 1996. At the January meeting, he was

named the Lake Tahoe Branch Golfer of the Year 2004 based on the cumulative results of the weekly golf tournaments. But right at this minute, he is probably polishing the RV-4 and who can blame him ... it's a beauty!



News from the Branches

Bidwell Branch 110

What a Way to Welcome New Year

Ken Nelson, Assistant Secretary & Roster Editor

Chico's Bidwell Branch 110 started 2005 off at its January 24th meeting setting the tone for a great year for the Branch. Not only did we welcome our 2005 Big Sir, Ken Jensen, but also we had a change of meeting location and a very different and "fabulous" program.

For many years the Branch had been holding its monthly general meeting at Chico's Holiday Inn. With a membership of nearly 280 and attendance at our monthly meeting averaging 220, we barely fit their facilities. Furthermore, the seating configuration would not allow us to have a speaker who used a large-screen presentation. The Holiday Inn food and service were excellent, but any event like Ladies Day, drawing larger numbers, caused us to limit admissions, and we didn't like doing that to our members and guests.

During the fall of 2004 our local Elks Lodge, aka "Manzanita Place," with larger seating capacity, a great sound system, and a newly organized food service, became available and the Board voted to make the change to that meeting place. What a difference!! ...There is ample room in the lobby to check in, pay for lunch, and sign up for activities and travel. The meeting room provides spacious seating, excellent audio-video facilities, good food service, and a dance floor, to boot.

Our first "general" meeting at the new location on January 28th was unique. Big Sir, **Ken Jensen**, arranged for a local 15-piece orchestra, the Fabulous Swing Kings, to play its "big band" music prior to the meeting and also as the meeting "program." The Board had voted not to conduct an official general meeting and to also open the luncheon to invited guests, mostly spouses, resulting in an attendance of 330! The music was great and we got the year off to a grand start.

Our February general meeting had an attendance of 222, and all ran smoothly, so, we are settling into our new meeting place. Sirs visiting Chico on the 4th Monday of the month should plan on joining us.

Amador County Branch 96

Inauguration

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

After administering the Oath of Office, Area 27 Governor Ken Edwards (on the left) congratulates Lee Suess, the 2005 Big Sir of Amador County Branch 96. Suess retired from the San Jose Fire Department as Assistant Chief and joined the Branch in 1999. He makes his home in Jackson Pines with his wife, Joan and has served as Little Sir and on the Board of Directors.



Branch 96 celebrated its 22nd Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance at the new Creekside Banquet Room of Mel's Diner.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people who provided material for this 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:

Editor Don MacGregor <donmac@direcway.com>



News from the Branches

Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22

SIRenaders

Bob Farwell, Bulletin Editor

The SIRenaders are a singing group that was formed in the early years of Branch 22, during the '70s. Originally comprised of 10 singers and 10 band members, they met



at the Holiday Inn (now Four Points Sheraton), and then moved on to Dominic's Restaurant, which is now Sea Food Peddler. At first, they entertained only at SIR functions. In 1974, they started entertaining at various gigs around Marin County, mainly in Convalescent

and Retirement homes, entertaining the residents. They also sing at most of our SIR "Special Events" ...the Annual Picnic at Rouge et Noir Cheese Factory, the Garden Party, Italian Night and the Christmas Party. A particularly exciting event for these intrepid singers is the annual '06 Earthquake Memorial cruise on San Francisco Bay in April.

Some of the earlier leaders of this group were: Sir Charles Salt, Sir Ed Sherman and Sir Al Scott, who at age 97, is still active and helped to put this article together. Co-chairman, Bruce Marggraf, plays the banjo as well as singing, and has great musical knowledge. He's a terrific asset to the group. Joe Beckman sings and plays Accordion and Harmonica. At times, Ray Sommer, Joe Beckman and Al Re form a Harmonica Trio for a little diversion. They have four great piano accompanists: Sarah Steele, Lura Flynn, Scott Merrick and Darrell Parker, who donate much time.

Current members of the group, who range in age from 70 to the 90 are: Al Scott, Ken Black, Henry Franzini, Roy Sommer, Tony Smith, Joe Beckman, Billy Glynn, Bruce Marggraf and Al Re. Bruce and Al share leadership responsibilities.



Fresno Branch 159

Here's How One SIR Started a Computer Group

Roger Deal, Branch 159 Member

When I joined Fresno SIR Branch 159, I thought there would be a computer group to join, but there wasn't, so, I decided I would start one. I talked to the Executive Board, got approval and requested a couple of minutes of 'mike time' at the next luncheon, where I asked interested members to sign up on a list after the meeting. With 10 names on the list, eight of us held our first meeting at my house. As we grew, we changed our meeting to a local library, which has a large meeting room.

We have now been meeting for eight months and have 24 members, with an average attendance of 12. We have a mix of a few highly experienced members, with most being novices that are eager to learn more about what can be done with a computer. We decide on future presentations as a group and get a volunteer to arrange the presentations. I email brief minutes after each meeting, and we often have a short article in our Chanticleer Bulletin on what happened at the last meeting and the topic for the next meeting.



Our Presentations have covered such topics as: Video Editing, Digital Cameras, Photo Editing, Word Processing, Budgeting, and Stock Charting on the web. One thing we don't do is basic PC training... We leave that to Adult Ed, which does it well. However, members do get a lot of help from each other outside the meetings.

So far our computer group has been very successful and we have learned a lot from each other. Nobody knows it all, but as a team we are getting our computers to work better and having more fun. Many of us are amazed at the things we didn't know could be done with a computer. I encourage any of you, when you see an opportunity to start a new activity...whether it be computing, woodworking, gardening or whatever...see if there is any interest, and go for it. It's not hard, and can be very rewarding. The Branch luncheons are great, but small groups are better to get to know one another and developing friendships. Getting people involved is also a good way to retain members.



Letters to the Editor

No mail this month!!

Let us know about what you like and don't like about SIR Happenings



Do you remember this Sir?

John Doe, Former member Branch X

It amuses me to think that the SIR organization spends so much time looking for new members when "I" was there all the time.

Do you remember me?

I'm the one, who, when I joined your Branch, was asked to be a loyal, active, and faithful member, but yet, when I came to every monthly meeting, nobody paid any attention to me.

I tried to be friendly, but

everyone seemed to have his friends to talk to and enjoy lunch with. I sat down among unfamiliar faces, but they did not pay attention to me.

Then one month I was ill, and missed a meeting. The next month no one asked me where I had been. I felt that it did not matter much whether I was in attendance or not. So on the next meeting date, I decided to stay home and watch a television program.

One would say that I am a good person, a good worker and someone who wants to be involved in the Branch's activities.

Do you know who I am? ...I am the member who never came back! (Courtesy of **Joe Whelan**, Past Big Sir, Branch 46, with some editing by Branch Membership Chairman **Joe Hamernik**)

SIR in the News



Stockton Tuleburg Branch 87

Jay Sorensen, Secretary

Senior Sir

Pete Rempel, an Honorary Life Member from Branch 87, recently celebrated his 95th birthday and was presented with a Senior Certificate by Region 3 Director Warren Senegal and Past Big Sir Jay Sorensen. Sir Rempel served as Branch 87 Big Sir in 1986 and he continued to play an active role until an accident several years ago. Congratulations, Pete, and best wishes.

Sonora Branch 136

Making History

Norm Whitsed, Big Sir

Elwood Johnson, 96-years old, was honored for his 19 years of service to Branch 136. He is shown in the picture being presented with a plaque by Dr. **Dusty Rhodes**, Past Big Sir. Elwood has just completed writing the history of Branch 136 and until recently, was the only Secretary the Branch ever had. Elwood's son, **Jim Johnson**, the Big Sir of Twain Harte Branch 172, was on hand to join with many others in honoring Elwood.

Blood Donor

Also in the news at Branch 87 is Little Sir **Ernie Sopp**. Ernie has been a community blood donor for many years and recently, donated his 57th gallon of blood ...folks, that's a "G" as in gallons ...not the usual pints. At a recent Branch luncheon, Ernie celebrated both his 76th birthday and his 55th wedding anniversary with his wife, Jeanette. Ernie says he has many things to be thankful for and so has the community.



Would you like to Receive your Copy of the SIR Happenings Newsletter By Email?

If you would like to receive future issues of "SIR Happenings" by Email, please send your name and Email address to:

Dwight Sale <dwight.sale@comcast.net>

Can the 49er's Come Back?

Continued from page 1

Draft: While we would have preferred not having a 2 win, 14-loss record last year, it does provide us with the # 1 pick in the entire draft and in all subsequent rounds. Assuming we manage these choices wisely, we should be able to acquire some very talented players.

Players: There have been two significant additions to this point. While speaking to Branch 5 in Palo Alto recently, I was asked what position I thought we should concentrate on with the 1st pick in the draft. I answered ...offensive left tackle, because pass protection from that position is vital to the success of any quarterback, so, I was delighted to see that we acquired Jennings, who had been outstanding with Buffalo for many years. I was disappointed when we lost Peterson, our place kicker, to Atlanta because he had been one of our few bright spots last season. That setback was offset by our acquisition of Joe Nedney who, if fully recovered from injury, will prove to be a most capable replacement.

Free Agency: Our losses to this point have been minimal and nothing like what occurred the previous year. I keep hearing about some possible new acquisitions and I am hopeful some of these will come to fruition. We do not have the severe CAP problems of previous years and there is at least the possibility of our becoming active in acquiring free agents that would improve the team.

Injuries: There is no question that we were hard hit by injuries last year. With the return of Newberry to center, and Julian Petersen, Plummer and Webster, healthy, this should help in bringing about a turnaround in our won-loss record.

Administration: In spite of the criticism by the media, I am convinced Dr. York is serious about doing what is necessary to return us to past glories. He has spent huge amounts of money replacing the coaching staff and the Director of Player Personnel. I believe he has all the parties pulling together with the purpose of restoring pride in the organization and achieving success on the field.

I am looking forward to my 54th season with the Niners with renewed enthusiasm and hope. I have set no timeline on how long I will remain in my present capacity. While I recognize that the 49ers may make that determination on their own, I know that I will realize when it is no longer rewarding or that I cannot carry out my duties appropriately. In the meantime, I continue to view my work as an important and a satisfactory way to spend my retirement.



Ode to the Rooster

Of all the creatures on earth, none expresses more independence and dignity, with sureness and aplomb, than the Rooster. The majesty of his



presence is felt in every barnyard and when he crows, he can be heard for miles, not in a fainthearted crow, but with a noise that calls attention to his being.

Our founders chose the Rooster as the official logo to represent the freedom he displays around the barnyard. We have paid our dues to the business world and now is the time for us to strut and crow a little.

We share the dignity of retirement with one another as members of SIR.

Correction

John G. Day, Area One Governor, was awarded an Honorary Life Membership by Branch 142. He received his certificate from Past President Jim Faverman on February 5, 2004.

Editors Note: Sir Day's name was not included in the HLM list published in the last edition of Happenings. We sincerely regret the omission.

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

JULY 2005

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

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

President Jim's Column

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION: One of the most important actions that a Branch can take is to honor those individuals who have contributed a great deal to the health and well being of their Branch. Most Branches seem to be unaware that they have the authority and responsibility to take care of their own members in that regard.

While the highest award, the Honorary Life Membership Award (HLM), is presented by the State President to the honoree, many people do not realize that the work done to qualify an individual begins with the Branch Executive Committee. After they select the person, approvals are obtained from both the Area Governor and the Region Director and sent to the State President for his approval. I can tell you that I truly enjoy presenting these HLM awards to deserving men.

It may surprise you that it is very difficult to qualify for this prestigious award. In fact, we have 13 Branches that do not have even one HLM! That is unfortunate, unless those Branches seriously believe that they have no candidates. I urge them to revisit their situations.

I have noticed that many Branches have different ways of recognizing their members such as Sir Member of the Month, special plaques or certificates of appreciation, gifts, and even free lunches.

The point I'm trying to make is that recognition of member accomplishments begins at the Branch level. There are no restrictions on awards that a Branch might grant. People like to be recognized for their efforts.

The HLM Award is further distinctive in that only the State President or his designated representative may present the highest honor in Sons in Retirement.

Jim

The Day World War II Ended

Hats OFF to all those Sirs who'll be marking the 60th Anniversary of V-J Day

Ray Lang, Guest Columnist, Damian Reynolds Branch 1

If you were a member of our Armed Forces in World War II, you have good reason to celebrate on August 14th—the day back in 1945 that hostilities ceased.

We must have hundreds and hundreds of Sirs in our 168 Branches who served our country honorably and well, including...

Charles "Chuck" Moore on V-J Day was in Sookerating, India, where he had flown more than 100 missions "over The Hump." Post-war he commanded an air base at Bucharest ...where he met and married his wife Marta in 1947. They happily reside in Foster City. Chuck served 24 years, retiring as Colonel, U.S. Air Force.

Jim Wyatt, our SIR State President in 1999, graduated from San Francisco's Polytechnic High in June 1945 ...and quickly volunteered for the Navy. He was first based in San Diego and then at Great Lakes Naval Training Station. And he recalls exactly how long he served ..."11 months and 8 days!"

Dwight Sale, State President in 2001 and Chairman of our State Information Systems Committee, volunteered – as a teenager – for the Army AIR Corps Aviation Cadet Program in 1944. He trained at some famous flight schools: Kelly Field at San Antonio, Mather Field in Sacramento, and Luke Field near Phoenix. But the program came to a halt in 1945. Again a civilian, Dwight then enrolled at Stanford.

Navy pilot **Ned Broyles** won his wings at Pensacola in 1937, when they were still flying tail-dragger biplanes off dirt landing strips. He flew countless missions in the Pacific, retiring as Captain, U. S. Navy, after twenty years of service.

Stan Harris, our State Certificate Chairman, had completed his senior year at Elk Grove High, south of Sacramento, when the Navy ordered him to forego his graduation ceremony ...and report for duty immediately in May, 1945! He was stationed at San Pedro and shortly before V-J Day "invaded" Catalina Island on a training mission.

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Internet Address for Sons in Retirement:

www.sirinc.org

Have Fun and Net 5 in 2005!

Sirs in the News

Robert Ripley Branch 53, Santa Rosa

Murmansk Survivor Celebrates VE Day with Bush and Putin

Bruce Stephen, Big Sir

Earlier this summer, Branch 53 member **Dan Grow** was invited to travel to Moscow, along with President Bush and other dignitaries, as part of the Russian commemoration of the 60th anniversary of VE Day. Dan was honored for his courageous service aboard the U.S.S. Tuscaloosa, a Heavy Cruiser that made four dangerous runs from Iceland to Murmansk, escorting convoys carrying badly needed supplies to the Soviets.

Dan said it was “one helluva of a time” ...Vodka flowed freely at a luncheon in an opulent Kremlin ballroom honoring WW II veterans, including Americans. Dan sat next to Russian Defense Minister, Sergei Ivanov, and only a few tables away from Presidents Bush and Vladimir Putin. During the luncheon, Dan was warmly greeted by President Bush and Dan asked him to deliver a copy of his book, “A Sailor and His Ship” to Putin—Bush promptly did—telling Putin -- “this is for you.”

Dan Grow also marched in the big Red Square parade -- was awarded a Russian medal – and was given a watch by Russian President Putin, which Dan proudly displayed at a recent Branch luncheon meeting.



Dan Grow displaying a picture of his WWII ship the U.S.S. Tuscaloosa

Photo by Christopher Chung, Santa Rosa Press Democrat

Jerry Richmond

Jerry Richmond, Branch 82, Area 23 Governor, and former Region 1 Director, was honored with an Honorary Life Membership Award at the April 12th State Board Meeting held in Vallejo. The citation reads in part, “Jerry’s work for Sons in Retirement over the years has been unselfish and always of the highest quality.” Congratulations, Jerry, on this well-deserved honor!

(Photo courtesy of **Bill Short**, Region 2 Director)



Sir **Russ Baker**, Treasurer of Branch 96, is shown proudly driving his 1947 Cadillac Convertible with Big Sir **Lee Suess** sitting in the front passenger seat; Little Sir **Ron Gibbs** in the right rear seat and Secretary **Keith Creighton** sitting next to him. They were participating in the 124th Annual Italian Picnic and Parade in Sutter Creek, all part of the Public Relations and publicity program for Branch 96, which is on a record breaking membership drive.

State Bowling

Honoring our Seniors

State Bowling

Bill Cooper, Chairman

For those of you who did not make it to the American Bowling Congress (USBC) NATIONAL TOURNAMENT in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, you missed a lot of fun—if you have not been to New Orleans, try to get there on vacation!

Well, the SIR STATE TOURNAMENT was held at N.U. Generation Lanes in Yuba City on May 22-24, 2005. **Sir Dilly**, Branch 45, reports that there were 32 teams, 64 doubles and 121 events in all.

The SIR State Tournament Winners Were:

Doubles 1st place: **Clay Hansen**, Branch 55 and **Bob Sitter** Branch 124 with 1430

All Events 1st place: **Bob Sitter**, Branch 124 with 1405

Team 1st place: Marysville team composed of: **Ron Riggs**, Branch 45...**Jim Nash**, Branch 109...**Lloyd Brooks**, Branch 45...and **Lee Pearson**, Branch 45...with a score of 2760

Some very good bowling was accomplished by **Sir Wayne Beutler** of Branch 45 with 300-244-151 -695 .

Be sure to make the Sir State Bowling meeting in September. When you receive your notice, let Secretary West Email: (sirdragon@earthlink.net) know if you can't make it.

Senior Sir Certificate

Do you have a Senior Sir in your Branch—95 or 100 years young?

The State President, Jim Donovan, has a personal award—The Senior Sir Certificate—that he wants to prepare to honor such members. We need YOUR help to identify these longevity lads, since many branches fail to record member birthdates.

The Certificate will be issued to:

- ★ Members who have hit the 95-year mark.
- ★ Members who have attained 100 years.
- ★ Members who are 101 (or older).

Big Sirs please bring this up at your next Branch meeting, and ask members who qualify to get in touch with you.

Provide Stan Harris with the name and date-of-birth of each of your Senior Members. He will prepare the Senior Sir Certificate and send it to your State Regional Director for framing and presentation by him at a future meeting—all at no cost to your Branch.

To get your Senior Award rolling, write, call or Email:

Stan Harris, Chairman Certificates & HLM Coordinator, 1805 Fernwood Way, Belmont, CA 94002, (650) 592-8979, lifesir@comcast.net.

PLAY BALL !! 2005 SIR SPORTS SCHEDULE



SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS VS ATLANTA BRAVES
SBC PARK,
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20th AT 12:35 PM



OAKLAND A's VS ANAHEIM ANGELS
OAKLAND COLLISEUM,
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11th, AT 12:35 PM

COME OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN !!

THE EDITOR NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people who provided material for this issue of "SIR Happenings."

Please contribute stories and high resolution photos for use in a future issue.

Email your Branch news items to:

Editor Don MacGregor
<donmac@direcway.com>



Would you like to Receive your Copy of the SIR Happenings Newsletter By Email?

If you would like to receive future issues of "SIR Happenings" by Email, please send your name and Email address to:

Dwight Sale <dwight.sale@comcast.net>

State RV Rally

Howie Fisher, Chairman

The State RV Rally took place from April 25th to the 27th even though most of the committee showed up on the 23rd and 60% of the participants arrived on the 24th—I guess people really wanted to be there. The weathermen smiled on us, even though it was breezy in the afternoons, and the skies leaked a little on the last night (unfortunately for the Deer Valley High School Choirs).

Bob Burton, as usual, had all the parking and instructions ready on schedule, and **Jack Strechus** and his troop of assistants were extremely well organized. The hors d'oeuvres arrived on schedule as did State President, **Jim Donovan**, followed a little later by State VP, **Bob Curley**, and State Secretary, **Lang Erickson**, to give us a great send-off to the Rally.



The golfing went well and there were lots of winners. The white elephant sale drew quite a crowd and managed to swap a whole bunch of stuff to the sterling profit of the RV committee. Bingo kept us busy a couple of nights, again much to our amazement and profit. Karaoke was well received and people danced to the music. We had a couple of well-

attended horse races with **Dick Ciccarelli** keeping the dice and the “horses” moving, and **Bob Walton** taught us all how to fly-cast, and incidentally, how to catch the fish.

We had a tremendous breakfast on Wednesday morning, compliments of at least one ex-director and his troops from Turlock, as well as others from Branch 161 and the Marin Rolling Roamers. The host committee did a great job setting up the prizes for all the various events, the Ladies of the Marin Rolling Roamers hosted a well-attended tea, and we slid into the final evening to greet the Deer Valley High School Divine Voices and one of the most fascinating amateur productions of the Finale to West Side Story any of us had ever seen ...a standing ovation lasted for a full five minutes.

And to add to the joy of a successful Rally, we sold approximately 25 of the logo flags at \$30 each and erased most of our initial investment and are still solvent to plan for the next rally, which will most probably be in 2007. And so as some wag once said “thanks for the buggy ride.”

Did you ever wonder how many different activities we have in SIR? We never did until someone asked Happenings that question. We checked around and no one seemed to know. Being of a curious nature, we decided to do some research and we were quite surprised to find out that we have at least 35 different activities going on in the Branches and we’re still counting ...Happenings will let you know when we get the final count and publish the whole list in a future issue.

Speaking of activities, we found an activity in one or two Branches, that we had never heard of before, called, “Pedro.” ...does anybody know what that is?

A profound question: A young man was sitting in class when the professor asked him if he knew what the Roe vs. Wade decision was. He sat quietly, pondering this profound question. Finally, after giving it a lot of thought, he sighed and said, “I think this was the decision George Washington made prior to crossing the Delaware.”

How to survive a heart attack when alone ...this could save your life:

A person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, may have only about ten seconds left before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough and the cough must be repeated about every two seconds without letup until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and the coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood flowing. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain its normal rhythm. In this way, victims can get to a hospital.

Beautiful vs Stupid ...A man said to his wife one day, “I don’t know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful all at the same time.” The wife responded, “Allow me to explain it to you. God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me; God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you!”

If you want to see an example of an excellent **Branch History Report**, just go to: <http://sirbranch125.org/index.html> and then, SIRSDownloads/2004BranchHistory ...don’t miss it ...it’s really great!

And finally, Did you know that we were almost called, League of Aimless Fellows or “LOAF,” for short ...how would you like to have that moniker for an active organization like Sons In Retirement.

State Golf Column

Nino Pompilio, Chairman, State Golf Committee

As I write this column, the State Golf Committee is preparing for two Reno Tournaments. They will be held during the weeks of June 13th and the 20th. We will be staying at the Circus-Circus Hotel/Casino and golfing at the two courses at Red Hawk and the course at Thunder Canyon. We are also in the beginning stages of qualifying for the Individual State Championship and the Area Team Championship.

In late April, we completed the golf tournament held in San Diego. For the first time in many, many years, we had a rain-out on the last day of golf at the Auld course. Due to the rain-out, the Sweeps winners were based on the two days of golf. The buy-in and closest to the pin winners for the last day were "drawn from the hat." The sweeps winners for the men in the A, B, C, and D flights were **John Boccabella, Ted Hammack, Wayne Coronel** and **Bob Leek**. **Ted Hammack** was the Grand Champion. The sweeps winners for the women in the A, B, C, and D flights were **Valerie Heck, Trudy Gentile, Nancy Thush** and **Nancy Gill**. **Nancy Gill** was the Grand Champion. The complete results of this tournament have been posted on the SIR Golf web page.

In early April, my wife and I participated in a nine day, seven night "familiarization" trip to southern China. The objective of the trip was to evaluate different resorts, hotels and golf courses in southern China and Hainan Island, as possible venues for future golf trips for the SIR organization. I have written an extensive trip report regarding our itinerary, experiences, observations and my own personal feelings. However it is much too lengthy to be included in this column. It may be accessed on the internet on the SIR Golf and Travel web page. I strongly recommend that you read the report because it gives a brief glimpse of southern China which is totally different from the tourist places in China, such as the Great Wall, Forbidden City, the Terra Cotta Soldiers, etc.

We are moving forward with our golf tournaments in Ixtapa, Mexico on November 2nd – 9th, and November 9th – 16th. As of today, we are 3/4 full. If you wish to participate, you may call Golden Gate Tours at (800) 874-4345 or by going to their web site at www.ggtours.com and click on "SIR Golf". You may register online.

Entry forms for the tournament in Solvang on September 11th to 15th and the open play at Poppy Hills on November 1st and 2nd have been posted on the SIR Golf web page.

At our last committee meeting in May, we finalized and approved the weeks of March 27th – 31st and April 3rd – 7th for the Las Vegas Tournaments. We will again stay at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino and will be golfing at the two courses (Sun and Snow Mountain) at the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort and the Painted Desert Golf Course. Some consideration was given to extending the tournament week by one day to break up the three days in a row of golfing, but the Committee decided that the membership would not appreciate the extra cost of an additional night's lodging.

For more detailed information regarding the SIR State golf program, please visit the SIR Golf web site, which can be reached on the internet by going to the following web address: www.sirinc.org. When that page appears, click on Activities, then click on Golf, and you have the Golf web site. Make it a favorite bookmark!

Hole-In-One Column

With such outstanding odds against making a hole-in-one, Happenings would like to continue honoring all those SIR golfers that achieve that remarkable feat, so, please send us the names of all those golfers.

Hole-In-One-Honorees:

Mike Murphy, the former Golf Chairman of Branch 1, tells Happenings that **Reno Tognetti** aced the 7th hole in Sunnyvale and the next month **Bill Saavedra** also scored an ace. Mike honored them with appropriate trophies at a Branch luncheon meeting.

Joe Bennett, of Branch 51, had a hole-in-one on the 119 yard 16th hole at the Las Lagos Golf Club using an 8 iron.

John De Felice of Branch 118, made one on the number 3 hole at Willow Park, Castro Valley

Rich Makaiwa of Branch 121, got his hole-in-one on the 6th hole at the Springtown Golf Course

Roy Deffebach, the Big Sir of Branch 51, had a hole-in-one at the Palo Alto Golf Course ...It was on the 128 yard, 14th hole, using an 11 wood.

More Hole-In-One Trivia:

What are the odds for making a hole-in-one?

The estimated odds of acing a hole with any given swing are one in 33,000

What are the most aces made by one golfer?

59 aces

What is the longest hole-in-one?

Believe it or not ...on a 517 yard, par 5 hole

What is the age of the oldest golfer to make a hole-in-one?

101 years old, with a 4 iron on a 108 yard hole

News from the Branches

Country Club Branch 33, Carmichael

Amazing Singing Group

Bob Keldgord, Past Big Sir Branch 33

Sacramento's Country Club Branch 33 is probably unique in that it has, for more than 34 years, sponsored a men's chorus which annually performs before some 7,000 persons at more than 70 venues, including performances at the California State Fair. The group, known as the Country Club Aires, regularly appears before audiences of 288-308 persons at local hotels, community centers, lodges, and restaurants, as well as before groups of 58 or so in area retirement centers. All performances are in the Greater Sacramento Area.

The Aires feature those songs which are longtime favorites -- sometimes with a sentimental flair. Except for July, when the group is on vacation, a new program of songs is presented each month, usually in an hour long format. The performers range in age from 63 to 95! The average age is 78!

The "moving force" behind the organization is Sir **Clyde Kidd**, the Director and in addition to his duties with Branch 33, also directs the choir for a large Sacramento church. The group includes some fifty persons, including seven musicians who play in the Aire's own band, plus an announcer in the person of PBS **Bob Keldgord**, a criminologist, who retired in 1995 as Sacramento's Chief Probation/Parole Officer, and worked as a broadcaster during his undergraduate days at the University of California at Berkeley.

Several members of the choir are featured soloists, and others provide "novelty" numbers ...among them is Sir **John Giles**, who regularly delights audiences as "Professor Johann Stumpf" with his "Stumpf Fiddle". Also frequently featured is Sir **Gary Goodenough** who is blind, but who nevertheless shares his many talents as a musician, vocalist, and composer; his specialty being Country and Western music and he was recently inducted into a Country and Western Hall of fame. Another frequently featured, crowd-pleasing performer is banjoist, Sir **Glenn Lee**, who formerly played professionally in Southern California.

One additional performer that should be mentioned is the poet laureate, Sir **John Sidebotham**, who regularly composes and recites poetry that is appropriate for the particular program. In addition, Sidebotham, regularly designs displays for the group that feature the songs that are performed during the concert.

Director **Clyde Kidd** is assisted in the administration of the organization by PBS, and HLM **Fred Stallcop**, who serves as Business Manager. Sir **Bob Fitzgerald** publishes the group's schedule and roster, and works with Sir **Don Sparks**, in handling the Aire's sound system.

Without exception, the most popular member within the ranks of the performers is an individual who is not a member of SIR. She is **Jean Weathers**, an extraordinarily talented pianist who is the senior member of the band ... Jean has been accompanying the Aires for almost 16 years!

While most of the performers are members of Branch 33, some ten vocalists are members of other SIR Branches in the Greater Sacramento area.



News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Charter Member Honored Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

Of the original 25 Charter Members of Branch 96, seven are still active. One of the most energetic is **Harold E. Rich** of Pine Grove. As Branch Sunshine Chairman, Hal reports monthly about the members who are ill and he has been known to stop by to visit with them. He is certainly qualified for this position since Hal has literally been up the creek and down the trail.

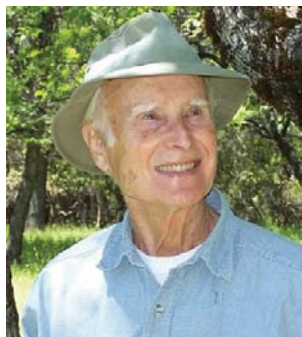
Hal helped establish Branch 96 in 1981 when his friend and neighbor, **Dan Rothenbush**, organized it. The branch was chartered by the state on April 29, 1982 and Hal has seldom missed a meeting and is always available to help out.



As a young sailor, he was stationed on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. On duty that fateful morning, he remembers "the day that will live in infamy" well. When the first bomb struck, Hal recalls, "I could throw a stone from where I was standing and hit one of the Battle Wagons lined up in Battle Ship Row." He will never forget that Sunday morning. Hal retired from the Navy after serving for 20 years.

He lives on the edge of the world. His back door opens onto the wild lands of a deep canyon which contains the Mokelumne river. Near his home over the past 27 years, Hal has built two main trails – The River Trail and the Quail Ridge Trail. These two main arteries split off into 30 other trails, some more difficult to hike than others and many with tremendous views of the Mokelumne River Canyon with its pines, oaks, wild flowers, deer and eagles. Walking down one of the many trails that Hal built, is like exploring another world.

Hal is a picture of health. At age 87, he spends time nearly every day on one of the trails, building and repairing bridges, fixing slide-out areas, enjoying the wild flowers, or taking people on one of his guided tours. For either groups or individuals, he charges nothing and simply likes to show people the wild life. It is also a challenge to keep up with him as he moves swiftly along, naming trees, flowers, or birds.



San Jose Branch 10

40th Anniversary Commendation Gary Pelton, Event Coordinator

San Jose Branch 10 was honored by the San Jose City Council last March for its 40th year anniversary of when it received the SIR charter. The commendation plaque stated "...we thank the Sons in Retirement for its leadership and ongoing contributions to the San Jose community and extend our best wishes for continued success in enriching the lives of our older residents." The commendation was accepted for Branch 10 by Big Sir **Cy Solon** from Mayor **Ron Gonzales** and Councilman **Ken Yeager**, representing the entire City Council.

Earlier in the month the branch had its 40th Anniversary lunch with SIR state President **Jim Donovan** and Area 5 Governor **Dan Reiser** in attendance. A 40th Anniversary banner was hung, an Anniversary cake was presented, pictures were taken, and luncheon music was provided by **Ivan Klitgaard** of South Bay Branch 74.



San Jose Councilman **Ken Yeager** at the podium introduces Mayor **Ron Gonzales** (left) who presented a commendation plaque to Branch 10 Big Sir **Cy Solon**.

Hal has constructed many other trails in the area including one that many people use daily at the Chaw'se Indian Grinding Rocks, which is now a state park. He is a docent at the park's museum and has volunteered there for many years. He also built a trail at the Faith Lutheran Church in Pioneer, where he is a member.

If you would like to explore one of Hal's trails, call him at (209) 223 2056. He will be happy to show you the way. His dedication to the community, his church, and to the natural environment, certainly carries out the theme of the Sons In Retirement: "Promoting the Independence and Dignity of Retirement."

Have Fun and Net 5 in 2005!

News from the Branches

Golden Poppy Branch 50, Carmichael Writer Brings Princess Diana's Message to SIR

When **Susan Maxwell Skinner** recently addressed Branch 50, **Al Walton**, Big Sir of the branch, described the author/speaker's presentation as "one of the most outstanding messages it has been my pleasure to hear."

Maxwell Skinner, who was part of Princess Diana's 1980's press entourage, shared anecdotes of eight years in royal coat tails. Most importantly, here audience learned that Diana inspired the speaker's own community service and why the Princess – almost eight years after her death—



remained a relevant role model to those who share Diana's zeal for bringing light to people's lives. "She thought that feeling unloved was the worst disease. She worked to show affection where it was most needed," said the author, who is now married to a Californian and lives in Carmichael.

"Diana always crusaded for love, despite jealousy from those around her. As the world's most high-profile celebrity, she showed the famous they should use celebrity to aid the downtrodden. After she died, 42 nations signed a treaty against landmines, in tribute to her work for limbless children in war zones. Despite her own fractured youth and unhappy marriage, Diana is proof that with love in her heart—**one woman can make a difference.**"

The speaker also detailed how Diana changed the face of the British monarchy forever. "Through the confidence she gained from being a hands-on mum, Diana prototyped a warmer kind of royalty. Though they railed against her populism, the Royal Family learned much from Diana." Prince Charles now visits AIDS hospices, notes

the royal historian. Princes William and Harry's budding humanitarianism show that 16 years of Diana's tutelage has shaped their lives, for good.

"She was not a saint," conceded Susan. "Diana acknowledged her mistakes. But gossip about a woman's private life should not trivialize her legacy for humanity."

In her 40-minute address, Diana's champion cautioned her audience: "Unkind gossip often contains some fact. But salacious stories are often lavishly embroidered. Diana showed poor judgment in those she trusted and she can't defend herself any more. People can run to the press with any half-truth. And they do."

Not this speaker, who wants her mentor celebrated for a commitment to motherhood and community service. "And mostly, for the fascination and joy she brought to the world," adds Susan. "Remember Diana for that. She changed my life. She inspired my volunteer service (Maxwell Skinner is active in Sacramento). Diana can still motivate people."

The speaker has written three top-selling books on the Princess. The latest is "**Diana, Memory of a Rose.**" If you want to learn more about this author/speaker: Call (916) 481 0334 or visit her website:

www.susanmaxwellskinner.com

Tamalpais Branch 47, San Rafael

Homicide Speaker

Lou Painter, Bulletin Editor

Frank Falzon, a retired San Francisco Police Homicide Inspector, who compiled a remarkable record during his 28 years on the force, recently gave an entertaining talk to our Branch. As an Inspector, he handled some of the City's most notorious cases ...He was the lead Inspector in the Zebra murders, the Zodiac case and was directly responsible for the arrest of Richard Ramirez, "the Night Stalker," and David Carpenter, "the Trailside Killer," as well as Dan White for the murder of George Moscone and Harvey Milk. Falzon was named Policeman of the Year in 1972, and received the Gold Medal of Honor, SFPD's highest award.

Frank's topic was "The Lighter Side of Homicide:" Even so, we expected to hear some pretty macabre incidents; after all, 28 years in Homicide, might be expected to make a person pretty hardened and cynical about human suffering ...but, Frank's anecdotes were about his reactions to situations as a human being. For example, his story of approaching a crime scene in a playground in San Francisco, where he had played baseball, football, and basketball as a youngster. With old reminiscences running through his head, when asked by an officer on the scene how they should handle matters, he tells his partner "You cover right field," and to another "You take left field, while I cover center field." At which point another officer said, "Frank, maybe it's time to consider retirement."

News from the Branches

Sierra Branch 175, Fresno

A Most Rewarding Trip

Les Schmidt, Bulletin Editor

The April tour of Japan was in deed a most rewarding experience for Fresno area SIR members and their guests. The itinerary was the product of travel chairman, **Richard Beers**, who lived in Honshu for a few years during the mid-'50s, and also toured Japan with a familiarization group in 2004.

An island nation of gentle beauty, Japan has large modern cities such as Tokyo and Osaka, and cultural treasures like Kyoto to enhance each visitor's experience. Within its cosmopolitan landscapes, are carefully sculpted Zen gardens, revered temples, and sacred shrines, as well as majestic Mt. Fuji. The timing for the entire trip was perfect ...Springtime weather and a full bloom of the grand assortment of flowering trees were at their best.



The itinerary kept us on the move continuously, but still allowed for touring many, many sites. In addition to the "basic Golden Gate Tour itinerary," Richard added a ferry ride to the Imperial Shrine Island of Miya Jima, which is where the famous and much photographed "floating" Torii Shrine Gate is located.

The next itinerary add-on was the Takarazuka Theatre, home of the world renowned all girl cast of actors, singers, and dancers. We were treated to a musical, "Marrakech," and the Grand Revue, which is best compared to the New York City Music Hall Rockettes ...the show was absolutely spectacular!

Our final add-on was Nikko and Lake Chuzenji. The glories of Nikko are two fold ...it has mountain scenery, with rivers, cascades, waterfalls, lakes and ancient giant trees and it is also the home and final resting place of one of ancient Japan's greatest Shoguns, Tokugawa Ieyasu. The Sacred Nikko Shrine is an outstanding example of the architecture and art of that period.

In addition to good accommodations, traditional Japanese food, a great ride on the famous Nozomi bullet train, traveling at about 200 mph, we were treated to the full exposure of Japanese living with a 3-night stay at two traditional hotels. This experience was most memorable, as many in our group took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the Japanese baths.

Japan is a fascinating mix of ancient temples, sacred shrines, and modern high-rises and our group had a wonderful and rewarding trip.

Isle City Branch 60, Alameda

Busy Private Pilot

Doug Hayward, Big Sir

Jim Hager of Alameda put a positive spin on things in a recent talk to Isle City Branch 60. The former professional photographer said that, because of the resolve that he and his wife, Bonnie, had to help others, it helped softened the blow of her unexpected death six years ago.

When she collapsed at their home from a brainstem blood clot, it was at first devastating for him and their sons ... "But," he said, "Bonnie and I had both signed up long before as organ donors and so it turned into a way for her to help save the lives of other people ...she did not die in vain." Four of her organs were rushed to operating rooms where anxiously waiting patients, all near death, experienced the miracle of a second chance.

The then 60 year old pilot found it "such a positive experience that I decided I had some skills that I could use to help other people." Now he is a volunteer pilot for the Northern California Organ Transplant Network, zooming off whenever needed—often in the middle of the night, since time is of the essence—frequently to small airstrips in communities off the beaten commercial airline track.

It can get pretty exciting, he says, including the night he and co-pilot **Jackie Kirschner** rushed two kidneys to UCLA Medical Center on September 11, 2001. "It was the eeriest night I've ever experienced in my entire flying career," he recalls. They were given a special emergency permit to make the flight and found themselves totally alone—the only civilian or commercial plane, in an otherwise empty sky—everyone else was grounded!

Hager also uses his abilities as a pilot in other volunteer activities—locally and elsewhere—including an impoverished village in Baja California, where he helps young people pursue educational opportunities. In some cases, the emphasis is on studies leading to meaningful careers in aviation. In these endeavors, he uses some of the resources of his family charity, the Hager Hangar Club Foundation. In addition, he serves in an advisory capacity on the scholarship program of the National (Tuskegee) Airmen's Foundation.

News from the Branches

Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont/Newark **The Old West at Swiss Park** **Tony Zeuli, Social Chairman**

This year's sweetheart luncheon's theme was "The Old West" and it certainly looked like the old west when the attendees entered through the swinging saloon doors and were able to check all of the wanted posters of the Branch 59 desperados. Many if not all the Sirs and their partners dressed as gents and gals from the old west to enhance the mood.

The music, performed by The Canyon Band, was outstanding and many people danced the day away. Sir **Frank Campos** once again traveled many miles to get to the sweetheart luncheon and serenade the gathering which was very much appreciated.

Big Sir **Howie Thompson** introduced SIR president Sir **James Donovan** and Area 8 Governor Sir **Bob Lippincott** who wore one of the few black hats in the hall. Donovan presented an Honorary Life Membership to Sir **Louis Bufkin** Branch treasurer during the lunch.

The Old West ladies day party reported that Swiss Park did their usual fine job with a BBQ chicken and Tri-Tip lunch to cap off a fun day for all.



Lou Bufkin and his wife **Beverly** are shown with SIR President **James Donovan** shortly after being awarded the Honorary Life Membership

A Very Active Fishing Group **Bill Kishi, Head Hooker, Branch 33**

The Jolly Hookers is a fishing group that has been in existence since 1979 and now numbers about 100 active members from various branches in the Sacramento area. We meet once a month for a breakfast meeting, where we feature a speaker of interest to fishermen. We also have a monthly derby, as well as, a non-derby outing at least once a month, where we fish the lakes and rivers around the Sacramento area. Other activities include a yearly houseboat outing on Lake Shasta, a Lake Topaz outing—when we encourage our significant other to join us—a trip to Eagle Lake, and even ocean trips off the coast for salmon, halibut, and crabs. We also make an annual fishing trip to Mexico and one to Alaska for the "big ones."



Another fun event is our "Kids Day" when we gather our grand kids and neighborhood youngsters together to enjoy a fishing experience. Some other fun activities are our monthly "Wives-Night-Out" when our ladies join us for a nice dinner ...an auction to raise funds to help meet club expenses ...and a year end Ladies Day when we award our coveted, "Fisherman of The Year Award."

In the final analysis, the reason for our success is our friendship and safely having a lot of fun in the sport we all enjoy so much.

Letters to the Editor



No mail again this month!!

Let us know about what you like and don't like about SIR Happenings

Even if you don't have much to say, but you want to get your name in the Newsletter, just write a letter to the Editor

News from the Branches

Santa Rosa Branch 76

Living Proof that Athletics Knows No Age Boundaries

Until recently, 85 year old, **Earl Smith** thought nothing of jumping on a bicycle for a ride around the Santa Rosa area, pitching horseshoes, and going bowling, playing a round of golf or participating in some other sport. Earlier this year, when Earl gave a talk to his fellow Branch 76 Sirs about his very active life, they learned that athletics knows no age boundaries.

At age 80, Smith competed in the Napa Senior games, walking away with six gold medals in the seven events he entered ...badminton, bowling, softball throwing, golf putting, basketball shooting, and horseshoe pitching (his best sport). He was second in basketball free-throw shooting.

At age 82, Earl claimed another world title in horseshoe pitching at the annual world championships in Bismarck, North Dakota ...it was the second world title for him in the (Elder) Division.

Smith said he is very pleased that so many seniors remain active in various sports. While proud of his many medals, he feels being out there competing is even more important.

Earl Smith enjoyed a long and successful teaching career and said "it has been rewarding to me to have had a part in the successful careers of thousands of students that I taught during my 43 years of teaching."

Editors Note: The information in this story was provided by: **Fred Agee**, Big Sir Branch 76

Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Golden Fraternity

Ron Bianco, Publicity Chairman

When any member of Branch 94 has been married for 50 years or more, he is asked to join the Golden Fraternity. We are the only Branch that we know of, that has such a fraternity. The latest group is shown in the picture being honored at a recent Ladies' Day Luncheon.



Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Very Special Golf Event

Greg Lynch, Bulletin Editor

In 1991, newly elected Big Sir, **Ed Kolstad**, suggested to newly elected Golf Chairman, **Saul Miano**, that a special event—such as a three day, two night golf event—be added to the regular weekly program. After gulping hard and wondering if he could even "cut it" with the regular weekly program, Saul agreed ...provided that **Ed Kolsted** would make the preliminary arrangements, because he already had very definite ideas. The event was initiated in May 1991, with 18 participants, who apparently enjoyed it so much, they "demanded" that it be held again in the fall. And so it was ...in October, the event was repeated and has gone on twice a year for the past 15 years.

The first day of the event has been played at courses such as Manteca Park, Greenhorn Creek, and The Reserve at Spanos Park and La Contenta, with two nights at Forest Meadows condos and homes. Golf on the second day has been at the Forest Meadows Golf Course which is up beyond Murphys, at the foot of the Gold Country. The third day is at a course on the way home such as Castle Oaks, Lockeford Springs, or The Reserve at Spanos Park.

The event also features a dinner at the Murphys Hotel on both nights and two breakfasts at Galvin's Restaurant in Murphys. Also featured, are prizes for everyone, some of which are of the "guffaw" type and guaranteed NOT to improve one's game. But, the most significant part, and the thing that makes it a "I can't wait to go again event," is the fun and camaraderie experienced by all. To bolster that point, this last trip was attended by 34 members of the branch...the largest turnout ever.



News from the Branches

Los Gatos Branch 141

The Jeeterbug Crew: Mission over Iwo Jima

Frank McMillan, Bulletin Editor, Branch 141

John Weller, Branch 141, was the navigator on a B-24 during the latter part of World War II. The story of his plane and its crew is the subject of a PBS documentary, recently aired on KCSM, San Mateo. *"The Jeeterbug Crew : Mission over Iwo Jima "* tells how the plane was forced to land on that tiny island after its #2 engine had been knocked out by anti-aircraft fire during a night bombing mission over Chichi Jima.



As the battle for Iwo raged below, the Jeeterbug's radio operator tried to make contact with troops on the ground, but failed. Suddenly a Black Widow (P-61) fighter appeared, its lights trained on the B-24. After confirming that the bomber was not an enemy aircraft, the pilot gave the Jeeterbug permission to land on the island's unlighted air-strip.

At that moment—a miracle happened—U.S. forces called for a cease-fire until the plane was able to land. "If I can call something beautiful in war, this was it," says Weller. "The fighting actually stopped!" When it resumed...all hell broke loose and the crew had to stay inside the plane until daybreak.

Then came another challenge ...how to rebuild the damaged engine, so, it could be flown back to Saipan, its home base. Fortunately for the crew, Marines were flying injured soldiers to hospitals on other islands, and were somehow able to find a rebuilt engine, which they brought back to Iwo Jima. Once the Jeeterbug's crew had installed it, the plane was ready for takeoff ...two days after the emergency landing.

The Jeeterbug and its crew went on to complete 38 missions before the war ended. According to Weller, the greatest thing about the experience was the bond that developed between the men. "We learned trust and responsibility", he says. "We were responsible for each other's lives."

Several years ago, John Weller had a chance encounter with retired photo-journalist Charles Sullivan, who asked to see some old 8-millimeter film that had been shot by the crew. Sullivan then contacted San Jose State University journalism professor Grace Provenzano, who convinced PBS station KCSM to make the documentary. Recently, six of the remaining members of the Jeeterbug crew, gathered at Santa Clara University to enjoy the premiere of the film—nearly 60 years after their remarkable story took place.

Fresno Branch 159

500 Club

Fresno Branch 159 has a unique advisory group called "The 500 club" ...five hundred is, more or less, the number of years represented by its members. The club is composed of seven Branch 159 Honorary Life Members. It's an informal advisory group to the Big Sir **Bill Cross**. Its mission is to suggest ways to improve the branch and to make SIR more enjoyable for its members. The group meets monthly for lunch and invites the Big Sir and Area Governor ...there is no expense to the branch. The club is the brainchild of Past SIR President, **Irv Craig**, who saw the experience of HLMs as valuable in helping to keep up the high standards of the local branch operation. The Big Sir is free to accept or reject any suggestions of this group. The Branch has adopted several ideas concerning new member indoctrination, including marking the badges of new members, inter-branch coordination of travel, baseball and fishing and a possible change of venue for Ladies Days. Branch 159 has seven HLMs due to having a Past Sir President and a transfer of an HLM from a Sacramento Branch. Members of the group in the photo standing are **Bob Cooper, Frank Smith, Bob Montgomery, Ed Gavigan**, and seated are **Ron Wilson, Irv Craig** and **Frank Hokr**.



There are 2 theories to arguing with a woman
...neither works.

After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion
felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up
until a hunter came along and shot him.

The moral:

When you're full of bull, keep your mouth
shut.

Will Rogers

News from the Branches

North Bay Branch 7, Fairfax

The Event that ended World War II

Kirk Beales, Little Sir

Theodore “Dutch” Van Kirk was the navigator on the famous B-29 Bomber, “The Enola Gay,” on the first atomic bombing mission to Hiroshima and he was recently a guest speaker at a Branch 7 luncheon. He told the audience that



they took off from Tinian on that eventful day on a mission that was to be just over 12 hours. The plane had been stripped down, with no guns, except at the tail and they flew the mission at about 30,000 feet. They encountered no flak, no enemy aircraft and had no real glitches of any kind...navigation was right to the target, they had no visibility restrictions and Dutch said it was probably the most

uneventful mission he'd ever flown...and he had flown a lot of missions during his career.

The bomb they dropped was a gun sight type, in that black powder was used to drive two batches of uranium together to reach critical mass...the only bomb of its type ever used. All others were plutonium implosion-type bombs. After releasing the bomb and executing a hard turn away from the drop zone, they were buffeted by two strong shock waves that initially felt like bursts of flak. Looking back, they could see the mushroom cloud rising above them, but couldn't see anything on the ground because it was obscured by smoke.

Dutch answered the philosophical question—“did we have to drop the bomb?”—by saying that it ended the war; that even though Japan was a defeated country, with its navy and air force all but destroyed, it still had a huge army and an invasion would have cost thousands and thousands of more lives...on both sides. Hiroshima had many military targets that had never been bombed, including a major military headquarters. The Japanese regularly sited military and related manufacturing facilities in their populated areas, so, collateral damage was unavoidable. The cities selected as possible targets --Hiroshima, Nagasaki and others—were chosen because they had never been bombed before, and the U.S. wanted to be sure that whatever damage was caused was clearly attributable to the atomic weapon and not prior bombings. Kyoto had once been on the target list, but was dropped because of its religious and cultural importance.

His talk had the rapt attention of the audience and drew lots of good questions. A Branch 7 member, **Herb Swasey**, was also a member of the 509th, and brought in several easels with photos, along with newspaper reports of the time—a nice supplement to Dutch's talk.

Indian Valley Branch 68, San Rafael

New Members Galore

Ted Cohen, Big Sir

Branch 68 reaches out to the community for new members in quite an effective way. An ad hoc committee, led by Sir Bill Gelardi, has conducted an excellent recruitment campaign, via personal letter, to selected members of our local area.

The most immediate result of the committee's outstanding effort was the April induction of six new members. The May meeting was a repeat performance with the induction of another six stalwarts for a total of 12 new members. An additional four are projected for June. Sir Gelardi and his group have performed in a most extraordinary manner in its efforts to spread the word of the SIR organization. Their efforts are fantastic.



New member induction in April (l to r):

Big Sir **Ted Cohen**, New members **Francis Williams, Ralph Schaber, Walt Lightner, John J. Strain, Isidore “Iggy” Samuels, Thomas Egan** and Past Big Sir **Ray Kelleher**.

What Time Is It ?

On some airfields, the military is on one side of the field and the civilian aircraft use the other side of the field...with the control tower in the middle.

One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, “what time is it?” The tower responded, “who is calling?” The aircraft replied, “what difference does it make?” The tower replied, “it makes a lot of difference”...if it's an American Airlines flight, it is 3 o'clock. If it is an Air Force plane, it is 1500 hours. If it is a navy aircraft, it is 6 bells. If it is an army aircraft, the little hand is on 3 and the big hand is on 12. If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon and 120 minutes to “Happy Hour.”

Editor's note: Thanks to Branch 160

News from the Branches

The Day World War II Ended

continued from Page 1

Tony Perrone qualified for submarine service straight out of high school in Connecticut in 1941. Transferred west to Mare Island Naval Station, he met a girl named Marian. After returning from combat duty in the Pacific, he and Marian were married. Tony enrolled at San Francisco State, later became principal of Cabrillo School, and never went "Back East" (except to visit!).

John Barber, our State Chaplain and Parliamentarian, went directly from ROTC at the University of Wisconsin into the Army following Pearl Harbor. He served in the Selective Service System in the Pentagon and later, at the request of General Omar Bradley, as CEO of the Veterans Administration in Wisconsin. He retired as a Colonel, U.S. Army, in 1970, after 33 years of service to his country.

Editors Comment: **Ray Lang**, the author of this column, saw lots of action during WWII, piloting a B-24 Bomber in the CBI theater of operations (China-Burma-India). Flying 62 missions from June 1944 until July 1945 ...half of those missions were over the "hump," Ray returned to the States via Calcutta, Karachi, Cairo, Casablanca, the Azores, Bermuda, and finally arrived in Miami on August 6th, the day the first "A-bomb" was dropped." He figured that after 30 days of R&R he would probably be sent back into combat in the Pacific ...but, the boys in the Manhattan Project changed all that and he is grateful to Harry Truman for his decision to use the A-Bomb, which ended the war and probably saved his life.

Ray learned to fly in "The Mighty Stearman," as he calls it, and is shown in this recent picture admiring one that has been beautifully restored.



Ray Lang with a Stearman that has been restored at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos.

Photo by Anita Lang

Anniversary Edition

This July edition marks the one-year anniversary of "Sir Happenings."

Our thanks go out to our readers and all those that have contributed pictures and news items.

We hope you have enjoyed reading the publication and we welcome your comments and suggestions to make Happenings even better.

Dwight Sale, Chairman/Publisher
Don MacGregor, Executive Editor
John Skarpelos, Production Manager

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SIR HAPPENINGS

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VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

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

President Jim's Column

How fast this year has gone! This is my last column for "SIR HAPPENINGS."

The year has flown by which always seems to happen when you get older. State Officers, Directors and Governors have all been elected for 2006. President-elect Bob Curley is also busy filling out his committees for next year.

In reading your bulletins, it is clear that the summer months were filled with Branch activities including many picnics. Summer is still vacation time even for us empty nesters even though we are retired.

I would like to thank the Officers, Directors, Governors and the State Committees for their contributions during this year. I especially would like to thank those Branches that invited me to their Luncheons. I particularly enjoyed meeting and presenting the HLM Award honorees. There is a great deal of vitality in our Branches that serve to indicate that Sons in Retirement, Inc. will long endure.

As I write this article, the horror of Hurricane Katrina is still playing out in real life and in the media. It brings home the fact that in this great land of ours, it is possible to have American refugees. Thousands of people have lost everything; their loved ones, their homes and their jobs. How many had flood insurance in New Orleans?

Finally, I've truly enjoyed being your President for 2005. The pace at times is fast with lots of travel involved but it has been fun. I've enjoyed all of the people I've met and look forward to working with a few in the future.

Jim

Las Positas Branch 121, Livermore

Village Square in France named after Sir John Shirley

Saturday, the 14th of May 2005, was a great day in the life of John Shirley, a member of Branch 121, and also in the life of the Alsatian village of Bennwihr, France... 60 years ago, John had the experience of being wounded, being taken prisoner, and escaping all in the space of four hours... 60 years later -- Place John Shirley -- commemorating the liberation of the Village, was dedicated in the presence of numerous regional and local dignitaries ...including the Mayors of Mittelwihr and Bennwihr, the villagers, children, and many guests. It was a marvelous ceremony, with John and the Mayor, unveiling the sign and a brass plaque in the Village Square to much applause...School children even sang a special song for John.

The genesis for the Bennwihr project came after Veterans of the 3rd Infantry Division visited Bennwihr as part of their European tour and



Mayor Fuchs of Bennwihr and John Shirley.

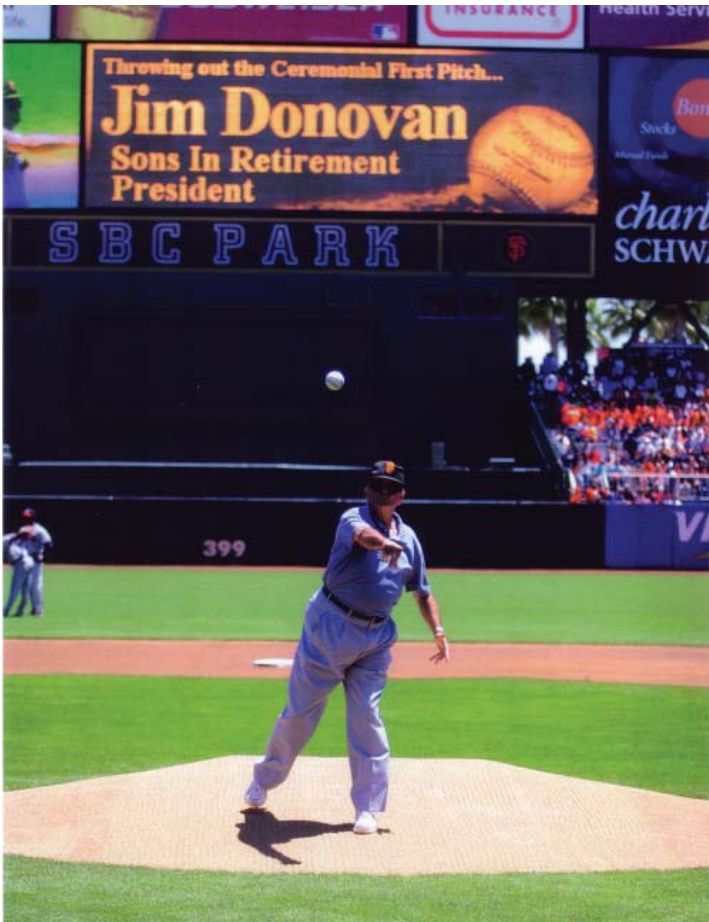
Continued on Page 13

Internet Address for Sons in Retirement:

www.sirinc.org

Have Fun and Net 5 in 2005!

Sirs in the News



President Jim is shown throwing out the first pitch at “SIR Day” at SBC Park.

Hesperian Branch 26, Oakland

Hockey Star

Pictured is Sir **Larry Silvestri**, an active member of Branch 26, since 1986. Larry was quite a hockey player in his day and one of his teams, the Santa Rosa JC Polar Bears, was recently inducted as a unit, into the Santa Rosa JC Hall of Fame. He is one of just three surviving players from that team. Larry is responsible for getting his brother-in-law, Sir **Jim Culleton**, to join Sons in Retirement and Jim later went on to become SIR President in 1996.



Mission Trail Branch 35, Palo Alto

Only Living Charter Member Honored

100 year old Sir **Alec Matthews** was recently honored as the only living charter member of Branch 35. Alec is a Navy veteran, an avid golfer, and a world traveler. He is also a past Golf Chairman of Branch 35 and was active in the program up until he reached 95.

Shown in the picture from left to right are: **Harry Soderstrom, Stan Anderson, Ned Banton**, Region 5 Director — presenting a plaque to **Alec Matthews** — Past Big Sir **John Keyes**, and **Don Wilson** ...these men are all old time golfing friends of Alec.



San Jose Branch 10

Life-Long Musician Honored

Gary Pelton

Earlier this year, 91 year old violin player, Sir **Frank Triena**, who has been a member of Branch 10 for 32 years and a life long musician and teacher, was honored by San Jose State University and the community for his achievements in the arts and humanities. At a large ceremony, Music Professor Emeritus, Brent Heisinger, said of Mister T — as he is fondly called — “He has left a legacy here at San Jose State University.”



After graduating from San Jose State in 1936, Frank taught music and choir at several high schools and went on to become the concertmaster of the San Jose Symphony. Frank also founded the San Jose String Quartet and played with the Civic Light Opera. He also performed for many years with the Santa Clara County Fair Band with many famous entertainers, including Frank Sinatra.

In looking back, Frank fondly remembers playing along side such greats as Jascha Heifitz and Issac Stern under some well-known conductors during the 12 years he played with the San Francisco Symphony.

Bill Cooper, Chairman

Hello Bowlers ...are you aware that in 1942 the ABC Tournament held in Columbus Ohio lasted only two months? The ABC was organized in 1895 and incorporated in 1903 under the Laws of Illinois. The sport has come a long way since then and you don't have to be a super star to bowl in the national tournament. The associations at the national level have become one United States Bowling Association as of January 1, 2005 ...in due course all the state and local associations will be under the USBC. Some local associations have already merged into one organization. It's time for you, as a bowler, to get more involved with the sport of choice — participate in our state and local tournaments — meet new friends — have some fun — and you can also win some money.



We have not decided on the site for the 2006 Sir State tournament, but it will most likely be held in Region #4. In other news, Sir **Paul Dilley** reports that there were about 150 participants in the YUBA Area Tournament in July.

Well, all good things must end ...my term of office will be up in January, 2006. I have enjoyed working with my committee members and my fellow bowling Sirs. Sir **Nat Lord**, of Branch 59, will be replacing me come January.

THE EDITOR NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people who provided material for this issue of "SIR Happenings."

Please contribute stories and high resolution photos for use in a future issue.

Email your Branch news items to:

Editor Don MacGregor
<donmac@direcway.com>



Area 7

Senior Faire

Glen Schimelpfenig, Area 7 Governor

2005 was the second year that the five branches of Area 7 participated in the City of Richmond's "**Senior Information & Health Faire**." The 23rd Annual Faire was an opportunity to provide information to hundreds of faire attendees. Members of East Bay Branch 2, Peralta Branch 12, Buena Vista Branch 64, Alvarado Branch 73 and Potrero Branch 148 alternated manning the SIR Booth during the day-long event. This was a great opportunity for us to inform the general public about SIR and to discuss our variety of events and activities. Flyers and other literature were made available for distribution. A number of new members were solicited — and signed up — including the Faire Master of Ceremonies, who subsequently joined Alvarado Branch 73.



Big Sir **Robert Brown** of Branch 73 on the left with Big Sir **Robert Aiello** of Branch 2 in front of the SIR display

Progress in Aviation:

These days a flight attendant can get an airline pilot pregnant

An old pilot can remember when sex was safe and flying was dangerous.

Mankind has a perfect record in aviation ...we never left one up there.

Would you like to Receive your Copy of the SIR Happenings Newsletter By Email?

If you would like to receive future issues of "SIR Happenings" by Email, please send your name and Email address to:

Dwight Sale <dwight.sale@comcast.net>

Jack Streckfus, Chairman

I thought I might write about what your State RV Chairman is up to between our State Rallies.

My RV club, The Rolling Roamers, is composed of 21 SIR members from Area 6, in Marin County. We meet for lunch once a month and in addition, have "outings" once



a month ...eight months out of the year. We also conduct a picnic in July and an elegant Christmas Party at our favorite restaurant.

The highlight of this year, of course, was our hosting the State RV Rally at Manteca in April ...two

years in the planning, gave us many spirited meetings and we are still reviewing the event to make the next one even better.

Our trips this year have taken us to a number of different locations, but I have to tell about our last trip to the town of "Likely," in Modoc County. It's our longest trip, but has been quite popular with our members. Most stayed from Saturday until Friday and the outing was hosted by our members, Otto and Joyce Littler. Every morning...libation, pastries, barbequed peppered bacon, sausages, and eggs. The highlight of the breakfasts was the "make your own" omelet...this is done by putting your choice of 20 different condiments into a zip lock bag – making sure all the air is out – and then, Otto would boil your bag for exactly 12 minutes. They are so good yours truly had two! Dinners ranged from hot dogs and hamburgers, to a barbequed Sturgeon, to deep fried turkey, to a fabulous Basque Dinner, and a Prime Rib dinner at the golf club -- WOW! -- are we having fun yet?

The bottom line on all of this is the great camaraderie at all of our gatherings ...that's what it's all about. If any other club out there would like to tell of their goings on, feel free to contact me.

The next time you hear a politician talk about a billion dollars, here are some perspectives:

A billion seconds ago, it was 1959

A billion minutes ago, Jesus was alive

A billion hours ago, our ancestors were living in the Stone Age

A billion days ago, no-one walked on two feet

A billion dollars ago, was only 8 hours and 20 minutes, at the rate our government spends it

Roger Spindler, Chairman

Walter Cronkite--George Pataki--Chet Atkins--Curtiss LeMay--Marlon Brando...what do these famous people have in common with our SIR

Radio Club? These men – and many others well known to the public – are all Radio Amateurs. We have several

hundred amateurs in the SIR Amateur Radio Club (SIRARC) who may be less known but who are equally important in times of emergency. We share our ability and equipment in case of earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, and other natural or man-made emergencies. In the disaster going on in New Orleans, radio amateurs will provide emergency communications as well as health and welfare messages. It is traditional for amateurs to set up their equipment in Red Cross shelters and schools to assist in providing relief of all kinds.

SIRARC is alive and well and has just welcomed several new members into the club. New officers have been elected and will be inducted during our October 21st meeting at J.J. North's in Fairfield. We have a social gathering around 11:30 AM and then have lunch at noon ...all are welcome. Our program will likely be put on by **Al Montoya**, WB6IMX, who will give us a slide presentation on his recent SIR trip to Alaska.

If you want to know more about Amateur Radio, please email our Secretary, **Richard Shappee**, at jdco@att.net.



Hole-in-One-Column

Happenings would like to recognize four more SIR golfers that have achieved that remarkable feat of acing a golf hole.

Honorees this Quarter are:

Gaylord Costa, from the West Santa Clara Valley Branch 21, got his hole-in-one on the 155 yard 4th hole at the Spring Valley Golf Course, using a 5 iron.

Roger Murray, of the Mid-Peninsula Branch 51, made his ace on the 5th hole at the Popular Creek Golf Course, using a 5 iron on the 172 yard hole.

Rich Sullivan, a member of South Bay Branch 74, put his shot in the hole at Los Lagos on the 87 yard, 7th hole.

Don Cummings, from Chico Branch 63, also had a hole-in-one, but his Branch would not provide further details.

State Golf

State Golf Column

Nino Pompilio, Chairman

I have just finished hosting the Area Team Championships at the Reserve GC at Spanos Park in Stockton. We had 34 teams participating in this event...some from as far away as Fresno and Yuba City. The weather was comfortable, the course was in excellent condition and the competition was fierce. The winning team of, **L. Pankratz, R. Keyawa, G. Drennan** and **J. Izatt** are from Magalia/Orland in Area 23 and were 8 under par in the team scramble.



In June, we completed two -- one week -- tournaments in Reno and played the two courses at Red Hawk and a new course (to us) at Thunder Valley. Based on inputs from the participants, everyone had a great time ...you can see all the winners on the SIR Golf Website

In September, we will have played our tournament in Solvang and we will have open play at Poppy Hills on November 1st and 2nd -- Our Individual State Finals will also be held at that time. In November, we have also planned two -- one week -- golf tournaments in Ixtapa, a brand new location for us. However, sign-ups have been sluggish, unlike our golf cruise last year. If you wish to participate, call Golden Gate Tours at (800) 874-4345 or go to their website, www.ggtours.com, and click on "SIR

Golf" ...you can register online.

For 2006, we have decided not to have the San Diego Tournament...this decision was based on the low sign-ups we experienced this year for that event. We will have two -- one week -- tournaments in Las Vegas in March and April and we will again have the two -- one week -- tournaments in Reno in mid-June. We have also tentatively scheduled Solvang in September, as well as two -- one week -- tournaments in Mexico in November.

For those of you who are not aware, this is my last year as State Golf Chairman. I have served in that capacity for the last three years and by SIR Rules and Procedures, I am term limited. Our new President Elect -- **Bob Curley** -- will soon appoint a new Chairman. During my term of office, I have tried very hard to be responsive to the needs of our membership; to present them with new opportunities and locations to play tournament golf; and to advance the spirit of the game. During my term of office, I can honestly say that I was happy to serve and enjoyed the duty. I have met -- worked and interfaced -- with many friendly and great people in all facets of my job. I wish to thank them for their help and cooperation for any success I may have had.

For more detailed information regarding the SIR State golf program, please visit the SIR Golf Website, which can be reached on the internet by inputting the following web address: www.sirinc.org When that page appears, click on Activities, then click on Golf, and you have the Golf web site. Make it a favorite bookmark!



Is This a Gimme Putt?

State Officers for 2006



State officers for 2006 were photographed at the August 1st meeting in Vallejo. From left to right Gary Gruber, 2nd Assistant Secretary, Bob Rath, 1st Assistant Secretary, Tom Ross, Vice President, Bob Mannell, Treasurer, Bob Curley, President, Bill Short, Secretary, Mike Berry, Assistant Treasurer.

Baseball News from the Branches

Damien Reynolds Branch 1, San Mateo

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Ray Lang

“Take Me Out to the Ballgame” was a multi-generation event for these Branch One folks, including: Anita Lang, Sir **Joe Lewis** and wife Bea Lewis, Peggy Baikie with ALL SIRS DAY State Chairman Sir **Jim Wyatt**, and a handsome trio of Wyatt offspring ...again left to right: grandson, Brian Wyatt, grandnephew, Kevin Willsher, and granddaughter, Kaity Navarro. Like many other Peninsula fans they took Caltrain, which deposits passengers just a block south of SBC Park. Sir **Ray Lang** was behind the camera.



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Even a long Pitcher's Duel makes for fun day at the Ball Park

Lee Suess, Big Sir

It was a delightful outing for Branch 96 at the River Cats game ...beginning with Bill Andrews chauffeuring a group of us to the game in a deluxe seven passenger van followed by an “all you can eat brunch” at Raley Field ...and then a very competitive 14 inning game, with the River Cats finally winning over the Portland Beavers 3 to 2. We had 12 members attend the game, that saw State SIR President, Jim Donovan, throw out the first pitch.

Pictured left to right are: **Lee Suess**, Big Sir, his wife Joan; **Bill Andrews**, past Big Sir; and **Keith Creighton**, Secretary, with his wife, Gail.



News from the Branches

Delta Branch 66, Stockton

Aviation Pioneer

Ted Hardy, Bulletin Editor

“Clear left -- Clear right” ...were the words heard thousands of times by guest speaker Richard Atherton Bridgeford. Those words continue to echo in his mind as he remembers instructing more than 7,000 students during in his long flying career.

Dick Bridgeford truly is an icon in the history of flying ...proficient in more than 100 different aircraft ...ranging from the Interstate Cadet to the Lear Jet. He has also piloted six different helicopters, five gliders and three seaplanes. He founded the Bridgeford Flying Service in Napa and then operated the flight service at Stockton Metropolitan Airport for more than 20 years.

Bridgeford spoke about chronicling his experiences in a book titled, “Flying the High Life,” which he wrote and dedicated to the thousands of fellow pilots. In the book, he told of one of his more spine-chilling experiences involving an incident at San Francisco International Airport: “Following normal procedures at SFO, I requested clearance to taxi and takeoff on runway 28 Right. Takeoff and climb were normal and I then executed a right turn to my assigned direction of flight to Stockton, as directed by the tower. At 1900 feet — while still climbing — I was suddenly hit hard by a Pacific Southwest Airlines, Boeing 727. The impact was something that

is very difficult to describe ...the PSA aircraft was on my right side and had crashed into my Cessna 182. The noise was tremendous

— frightening — and indescribable! The belly of the PSA aircraft appeared close to my windshield and I experienced a terrible blast of noise and air turbulence from the other aircraft. His belly was right in my windshield and I was in danger of losing control —and then—all of a sudden—he was gone. My propeller and engine were still operating, but lateral control was reduced because my right wing was so heavily damaged and my aileron was also badly mangled, with most of it gone ...so, I only had a few moments to react. I desperately needed to compose myself and negotiate a safe landing back at SFO. The tower told me to land on any runway that I could and I somehow made it in successfully ...I had instantly become famous, for all the wrong reasons.”



He wrapped up his interesting talk by saying “ I could go on and on, but these are just a few of the great experiences I have had as a 91 year old pilot and few people are privileged to view life from so many different perspectives, while truly ...”Living the High Life.”



Little Sir Joe DiCarlo (left) presents a token of appreciation plaque to speaker **Dick Bridgeford**.

Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

Fun Time In Reno

Don Dill, Little Sir

Branch 79 golfers took part in the June State SIR golf outing in Reno. We had a fun-filled, three-day, golf tournament, playing two championship courses at Red Hawk and one very challenging mountain course at Thunder Mountain. Great food and drink -- coupled with true SIR friendship and hospitality — made for a great boys night out. We want to thank the SSGC for hosting this great event ...next year the Sierra Hills Branch hopes to double its participation.

Seen in the picture at the awards banquet are left to right: **Don Dill, Jim Peters, Tony Oliveira, George Maring** and **Andy Arvay**. Tony won \$90 and George walked away with \$270.



News from the Branches

Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Sirs and their Flying Machines

Chuck Roberts, Social Activities Chairman

A small group of us from Branch 125 recently drove over to Moffett Field for a guided tour of their Historical Society Museum. We were guided through the museum by docents and found it most interesting. We saw lots of artifacts from WWII ranging from, aircraft, uniforms, weapons, and much more. There is even a unique scale model of the USS Macon Dirigible on display.

Two Dirigibles — the USS Macon and the USS Akron — were housed in Hanger One during the early 30's and had the mission of patrolling the waters off the West Coast, but unfortunately, both crashed. The Field is named after Admiral William A. Moffett, who perished with 72 others, in the crash of the USS Akron. These rigid airships were replaced by non-rigid blimps, which flew from Moffett until 1947, when P-3 Orion sub-hunters took over their mission.

After our interesting tour of the museum and the gift shop, we went over to the airstrip and were able to climb up into two famous WWII aircraft ...a B-24 and a B-17.

Two of our Sirs were particularly interested in the aircraft. **Bob Stephens**, because he had logged over 1200 hours in a B-24 in the early 1940's and long time Branch 125 member, **Phil Olavarri**, who piloted 35 missions out of Italy during WWII in a B-17. We found that both planes were very confining -- no doubt partly due to our expanding waistlines -- but very interesting to see. We were even offered a flight in either aircraft — for 400 bucks — but declined the offer.

Tours of the museum require a \$2 “voluntary” donation and are conducted Wednesdays through Fridays, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (650) 603-9827



Sir **Jack Feineman**, Sir **Chuck Roberts** and Sir **Bob Stephens** (L to R) in front of a WWII B-17 at Moffett Field, Sunnyvale, CA

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Branch Posts Happenings on their Bulletin Board

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

Sir **George Bengston**, Sir **Lani Dare**, and Sir **Vic Traverso** look over the new Branch 96 Bulletin Board prior to attending the monthly luncheon ...Notices of special interest, travel brochures, intra-club notes and a copy of the latest “**SIR Happenings**” are posted each month.



Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

Branch on the Move

Ed Gilligan, Big Sir

When we think of Branch 79, we think of friendship and a developing attitude of family toward each other. By listening, understanding and compassion for other members, we help to develop the goals of dignity and understanding. Our greeter plays an important part by the way he greets and welcomes each member or guest as they come to lunch. The Sunshine committee, also, plays an important role in the Branch by making contact with those members who are ill and tries to be supportive of members who are in need.

Activities play an important part in the life of the Branch. A new fishing group has been formed under the leadership of **Earl Montgomery**. The group meets for breakfast monthly and has planned several fishing trips for the members. Treasurer **Louis Sigmond** formed a hiking and walking group which will certainly be an incentive to those members who have been told by their doctor or wife to get out and walk. Sir **Roger Lewis** handles the large group of members who golf weekly, and Past Big Sir, **Joe Malek**, hits the bowling pins with his Wednesday bowling group. As with other SIR Branches, there are many members who

Continued on Page 10

Have Fun and Net 5 in 2005!

News from the Branches

Napa Valley Branch 65

Wine Tasting in the Napa Valley

John Harrison, Past Big Sir

Thanks to arrangements made by **John Roche**, the Big SIR of Branch 65, members of the Branch and their wives enjoyed a visit to an art collection, a wine tasting and a picnic—all in the stunning beauty of the hills above the Napa Valley.

With John and Carol as our hosts, we first visited the Hess Collection Winery on Redwood Road. The art collection at the winery is known worldwide and amazed all of our guests—the collection includes paintings, mechanical art, visual displays, and still-form art. There is also a beautifully photographed slide-show depicting the interaction of the seasons on wine making at Hess. The art was not everyone's cup of tea, but it did generate a lot of conversation and comments.

The next stop was at the Chateau Potelle Winery, located even farther up in the hills above the Napa Valley, with wonderful views of the surrounding countryside. Here we tasted five very fine wines, including a desert wine complete with chocolates. We then moved to the picnic area and enjoyed our lunch with another beautiful overview of the Napa Valley—a truly enjoyable day!

There are four branches in the Napa Valley, including Branch 65, with a total membership of some 530 Sirs.



Signs of the Times...

*Chicago Radiator Shop: Best place to take a leak
On a Septic Tank Truck: Yesterday's Meals on
Wheels*

*On a Proctologists Door: To expedite your visit,
please back in*

*On a Plumbers Truck: Don't sleep with a drip...
call a plumber*

*Outside a Muffler Shop: No appointment
Necessary...we hear you coming*

Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

Global Hawk

Jim Petruk, Little Sir

Early morning headlines read: **Pilot Dies, as U.S. Spy Plane Crashes in Southwest Asia** ...Manned aircraft have been used for reconnaissance from the First World War to this day. These reconnaissance missions are generally performed by standard combat aircraft modified to carry cameras, or by light utility aircraft with observers using binoculars to survey the terrain. With the turn of the century, a new type of very sophisticated aircraft called an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) has saved countless lives and is now an important source of reconnaissance.

Lt Colonel Craig Morris — Chief of Wing Plans and Programs at Beale Air Force Base — spoke to a Branch 37 luncheon about the amazing UAV, called the Global Hawk, and its impact on modern warfare. This versatile unmanned aircraft is being used extensively in both Afghanistan and Iraq, providing battlefield commanders with near real-time, high resolution imagery. The Global Hawk can carry out reconnaissance missions at a "loiter altitude" of 65,000 feet — without endangering a pilot — while conducting surveillance over an area the size of Illinois.

In April 2001, the Global Hawk made aviation history, when it completed the first non-stop flight across the Pacific Ocean by an unmanned, jet powered aircraft, flying from Edwards AFB, California, to the Royal Australian AFB, Edinburgh, South Australia.

The Colonel's talk was quite informative and drew many good questions from the audience when he finished speaking.



Meeting new friends ...if you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball

News from the Branches

Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22, San Rafael

A Great Picnic!

Bob Farwell, Bulletin Editor

More than 120 members of Branch 22, and their significant others, enjoyed the 31st annual picnic at the Marin French Cheese Company, located in Petaluma's western rural area. The picnic crew did their usual excellent job of feeding the hungry crowd with steaks — done to order — chicken, potato salad, corn on the cob, green salad, antipasto, garlic bread and dessert. White and red wines and coffee and tea were readily available on the tables.

Live music was provided by master accordionist ...Ed Burdisso; keyboardist ...Doug McKeenan; and guitarist ...Lisa Sanchez. The music was enjoyed by all, while they ate and socialized with friends, both old and new. Picnic co-chairman and master of ceremonies, Sir **Nick Dollwet**, presided over the presenting of prizes, which included bottles of premium wine, and toiletry items. To add to the festivities, Sir **Dick Endy** brought his 1930 Ford for all to ooh and aah over, and reminisce...nearly everyone could remember "back in the old days" when that car was so popular.

Sir **Nick Dollwet**, Sir **Chuck Chiapellone**, and the entire crew out did themselves again this year ...Nice job fellas!



Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

Continued from Page 8

have little knowledge of the computer ...**Harry Bedell** has formed a computer group to teach our members to be confident in using the computer.

Branch 79 has recently joined with the neighboring branches to jointly sponsor travel. A number of exciting trips have been planned including Yosemite, South Pacific Wonders and Branson.

Our newest project is the development of our own Website. Programs have been purchased to develop the site. The interactive website will provide members with up-to-date information regarding activities and general monthly events. It is hoped we will have the site operational in the fall.

San Juan Branch 102, Carmichael

Jackpot in Carson City

Don Wagner, Big Sir

Everyone that went to Carson City on our annual golf trip was a winner and once again we had lots of fun and made some new friends.

There were 60 Golfers and 20 Ladies that joined us. We had Scramble Teams at Geona Lakes on the first day and 7 individuals, in four different flights, on the second day at Silver Oaks. Sir **Joe Virga** coordinated this trip for the 8th year and did a great job with the support of Sir **Stan Spalding**, our Golf Chairman and Sir **Gus Kvick**. We enjoyed three nights of hosted cocktails, buffets, and some great jokes.

The new Carson City Grand Champion was Sir **Lloyd Browning** with a net score of 64 in D Flight. Our Grand Champion received the Carson City "Blue Jacket" which is almost (I said almost) an exact replica of the "Green Jacket" which is presented to the winner of the Masters. That puts him in the same league as Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus. Regardless of who won and who didn't, everyone had a great time!



Sir **Gus Kvick**, Sir **Joe Virga** and Sir **Stan Spalding** (left to right) have been involved with the Carson City Tournaments for 8 years.

Branch 79 members look forward to the monthly luncheons where there is good food and interesting speakers. Menus have been established after the membership has been surveyed for what they want. Little Sir, **Don Dill**, has provided a variety of topics at our luncheons including: the history of the bridges and trails surrounding Auburn, outlook for growth in Placer County, innovations in energy development, and the work of our Sheriff's Department.

All of these areas help to develop an enthusiastic and friendly Branch. Growth of our Branch comes from the members who invite retirees to join them because they are proud of their Branch, their friends, and the SIR organization.

News from the Branches

**Mace Meadow Branch 15, Pioneer
Amador Branch 96, Jackson**

Joint Golf Tournament

Paul Murphy, Branch 96 Publicity Chairman

The Golf Club of Branch 15 and 96 held its 2nd Annual Championship Golf Tournament and thirty-one members of the Golf Club played 18 holes at the Mace Meadows Golf Course. The Club Champion was Sir **Bob Martin** with a low net of 66followed closely by Sir **Don Sandbach** and Sir **Tom LaFavre**, who both netted a 69 and Sir **Bud Francesconi** with a 70.



All four par 3 holes on the Meadows course were utilized in the "Closest to the Pin" contest, with Sir **Dave Martin**, Sir **Ed Maloney**, Sir **Al Clark** and Sir **John Wagner** taking home the trophies. Martin was the closest, measuring out at 19'6" from the hole.

Following the tournament all members and their wives gathered at Bob Martin's home in Surrey Junction for a great BBQ and Awards dinner, complete with music and dancing.

Branch 15 and 96 golfers line up for their picture

Vacaville Branch 99

Fun in Palm Springs

Ed Morris, Bulletin Editor

For a number of years, members of Branch 99 have made an annual spring trip to Palm Springs, staying at Club Trinidad for golf and relaxation. This year there were 12 Sirs, some of whom brought their spouses. As you can see in the picture, a good time was had by all!



From L to R Sir **Dick Babington**, Sir **Al Smith**, Sir **Frank Vigil**, Sir **Lee Kovisto**, Sir **Joe Lopez**, and Sir **Hal Mudgett**



Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor:

What a great issue (July) ...so many wonderful stories from a great group of men. We should all be proud to be associated with such interesting, energetic, patriotic, and talented and yet humble men.

My hat is off to you for pulling everything together and producing such a great newsletter.

Ron Smith, Little Sir, Branch 8
resmith62@aol.com

Thanks, Ron, for those very nice comments.



Dear Editor:

Happenings is an excellent newsletter, but from what I can determine, it is only available over the internet. I estimate that only 10 to 15 percent of our members are on the internet. Do you have any suggestions as to how hard copies can be delivered to each of our branch members, maybe some way that other branches are using?

The cost of making copies of a 10 or 11 page quarterly document for 110 members, or so, and then mailing them is prohibitive for a branch with a treasury short on money, such as ours. Even making enough just to hand out to members attending a luncheon would be very expensive. Do you by chance offer paid subscriptions that can be mailed to members homes?

Any ideas you have on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

Bill Sleeth, Membership Chairman, Branch 76
w.e.sleeth@sbcglobal.net

Early on, we made a policy decision that Happenings would be a totally electronic publication, so, there would be no cost to the SIR treasury ...printing and mailing copies of Happenings would cost the SIR treasury a bundle. Your idea of a paid subscription is an interesting idea, but I don't think it's practical, at least for now.

Your estimate that only 10 to 15% of your members have access to the internet may be on the low side, but many Sirs that are not on the internet have friends print out copies for them ...some Branches print out a few copies and then circulate them during the luncheons and I know there is at least one Branch that displays Happenings on a bulletin board before each luncheon. I'm sure other Branches have come up with some other ways of distributing hard copies to members without computers.

I'm glad you enjoy the publication and I do hope you can figure out a way to read every edition.

Dear [Publisher] Dwight:

IM not happy, the reason is that in May I sent in pictures and wrote an article about Branch #94 having a golden fraternity that is for couples that has been married for 50 years or more in 2005. I wrote a nice article and sent pictures of all the couples. The person from Sir Happenings paper said that he will put it in the July newsletter. Guess what he didn't. I was mad as Hell about it. The only thing I saw in the paper was branches in the north bay, nothing in the south bay. I talked to a few Branches down here, and they said the same. They put nothing in the paper except from your area. I will not send any more to Sir Happenings again. The other branches here said the same.

Ron Bianco, Branch 94
roman3810@earthlink.net

Chairman, State Publicity Advisory Committee

*Ron, apparently you have not read the July edition of Happenings, because your article about the Branch 94 Golden Fraternity did, in fact, appear on Page 11. In addition to your article, there are other articles about South Bay Branches in that same edition. You will notice that on the same page there is an article on Westgate Branch 125 in San Jose. We also included an article from Los Gatos Branch 141 on page 12 and San Jose Branch 10 on page 7. I think that's pretty good representation from the South Bay. We welcome stories from **all** branches. A newsworthy, well written story that makes our job easier will find it easy to get into the newsletter. High resolution, quality photos always complement a good story.*

Dear Editor:

I find SIR Happenings to be very interesting. The readers might find the following interesting: I am a second generation member of SIR. My late father, **Hank Mathews**, was a member of the Fort Sutter Branch 14 back in the 60's & 70's. When I was going through some of his memorabilia a while back, I found a bulletin from 1971. The next meeting was to be Ladies Day in the Martinique Room at the Sacramento Inn and the dinner of steak or chicken was to cost \$4.00. SIR day at Candlestick Park for a Giants baseball game was \$ 7.50, including transportation. A trip to the Oakland Coliseum, for the Ice Follies with Peggy Fleming, was \$8.50 including transportation.

Jim Mathews, Treasurer, Branch 154
jmathews@jps.net

Thanks, Jim ...I wonder how much a gallon of gas cost back then.

News from the Branches

Continued from Page 1

the service commemorating the liberation of the village. At that time, Mayor Fuchs was approached with the idea of placing a sign in Bennwihr that prominently displays the 3rd Division Marne Patch. It was suggested that the village honor the Division or a member of the Division. He very much liked the idea, but wanted to name a place after a living veteran so that the children could touch and hear living history. John has visited Bennwihr numerous times over the years and he so impressed the villagers, with his friendly manner and his very interesting relationship with the village, that the Mayor decided to name the square in front of the fire station -- just below the school -- in John's honor. The Mayor said that it his fervent hope that the children will long remember John, and the event on May 14th, and pass these memories on to their children so that what the American soldiers did for the village 60 years ago will never be forgotten. Both John and the Mayor stressed these thoughts in their respective addresses.

John's visit to Bennwihr lasted two days and while there, he was able to visit many of the places where the liberating action took place and meet many of the Villagers, who were only children at the time, but they still have vivid memories of that time and were able to relate many interesting stories.

At the conclusion of his visit, John said, "It is hard to imagine how they can appreciate their liberation with their village completely destroyed and 20 civilians killed by our fire and another 15 dead from exposure, heart problems, stress, etc. The fact they are grateful for the liberation is a commentary on how much they disliked the German annexation and



Mayor Fuchs of Bennwihr and a French military officer places a wreath on a plaque honoring fallen soldiers while **John Shirley** and another French official assist



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Parade Marshall Sir **John Shirley** leads the parade



SIR HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 2006

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

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

President Bob's Column

I wish each of you the Happiest of New Years. 2006 will be a good year for us all, as was 2005 under the direction of President Jim Donovan. He proved to be an outstanding leader and accomplished most of his goals.

About the only one he did not successfully complete was stopping the outflow of members that we have been experiencing in recent years. Outflow is a constant condition in an organization such as ours, where age begins to catch up with us and illness, or the illness of a loved one, and disability or death, too often take place ...thus, we can expect outflow to be a fact of life.

The best way to overcome outflow is to increase inflow. In the past we have placed the burden of obtaining new members on the Branches. "Net 5 in 05", our Motto this past year, has been directed at the branches. I believe we should, instead, put the monkey on the backs of each member, where it belongs. It's your organization and so, I'm suggesting the motto for 2006 should be "Have Fun, but Bring in One."

So there! You have your assignment. If each member will bring in just one new member this year, we can turn the tables on the outflow and make SIR the vital organization it has been in the past. It can be done ...so let's get busy and do it.

A word about volunteering ...SIR depends on volunteers to conduct nearly every aspect of its affairs. Volunteers do the work, but they also enjoy themselves more than non-participants. They make more friends, both in their Branch and in other Branches, or the State, depending on their job, and they also get to know how and by whom our organization is run. So please step up and volunteer, when you are asked ...I guarantee it will be a good experience.

Bob

Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118, San Mateo

A Bay Area Legend

Harry Dokouzian, Little Sir

Bob St. Clair joined the San Francisco 49ers as a third-round draft selection in 1953. Standing 6 feet 9 inches tall and weighing 263 pounds, St. Clair's mere presence on the football field tended to intimidate opponents. He wasn't just good — he was mean — and hit with such ferocity that he left a trail of broken bones throughout the National Football League. His teammates nicknamed him, "The Geek," because of his flamboyant lifestyle, such as eating all his meat raw.

A hooligan from the City ...St. Clair's early days played out as a tough kid — gang violence and run-ins with the law — and luckily football

captured him before the cops did. He went on to become one of only a few athletes that played high school, college, and professional football in their hometowns. His football days include the famous undefeated and untied season at University of San Francisco, and of course, those fabulous 49er years from 1953 to 1964.

Extremely popular with the fans and teammates, St. Clair served as team captain three years in a row and also won numerous honors, including being named to the All-NFL team several times and playing in five Pro Bowls.

After football, St. Clair settled down to a life in business and politics ...he's been a mayor, a councilman, a lobbyist and marketing and sales executive. Now he has the field at Kezar Stadium to call his own and a jersey retirement that was long overdue and the biggie ...a trip to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Bob gave a terrific talk to Branch 118 in November, telling all about his very interesting career and his new book entitled ..."I'll Take It Raw."



Then and Now



Internet Address for Sons in Retirement:

www.sirinc.org

Have Fun, but Bring in One

Sirs in the News

Snowline Branch 113, Pollock Pines

Sir Honored with Honorary Life Membership

Ron de Pass is shown receiving his Honorary Life Membership award from SIR President, **Jim Donovan**. Over the years, Ron has served in over 17 leadership positions in the SIR organization, including stints as Big Sir, Little Sir, Area Governor, and Regional Director. In his remarks during the presentation, Jim Donovan praised Ron for his many years of service to Sons In Retirement and said he was extremely pleased to present this well deserved award to him.



New Area 27 Governor

Otto Bertel, Branch 136 Bulletin Editor

Our Branch is quite pleased that **Al Limon** — one of our past Big Sirs — will be the incoming Governor of Area 27. There are seven Branches in Area 27, so, Al will have a lot of work cut out for him, with two Branches in Tuolumne County and five in Calaveras County. We want to congratulate Al and wish him good luck in his new position.

New Area 8 Governor

Fred Gotthardt, Branch 59 Assist. Bulletin Editor



Past Big Sir **Tom Sherba** of Pathfinder Branch 59 is taking over Area 8 from **Bob Lippincott** who has served in various functions in SIR for as far back as 1989.

Congratulations to Bob on his retirement and to Tom on his attaining a new office.

In 2005 35 SIR Members Awarded Honorary Life Membership

Name	Branch Issuing Award
Jimmy Beeler	45
Albert R. Bigley	31
August F. Blanchard	9
Raymond Born	175
Louis C. Bufkin	59
Robert L. Clark	49
Robert Clifford	139
Lyle Davis	137
Ron de Pass	State
James Donovan	State
William J. Eckert	114
Harry Emerson	142
Langley Erickson	State
Howard Ferguson	145
Gary R. Gruber	State
Edward P. Harris	80
Jack Jackson	145
Jack L. Lutz	110
Emil M. Magrin	16
Raymond Mueller	145
Edmund R. Rendler	54
Gerald N. Richmond	State
Donald H. Rose	108
Albert Rudman	27
Manuel Sanchez	52
Robert Scott	110
Harry Shirley	95
William T. Short	113
Wayne Slep	7
Robert W. Specht	168
Richard J. Thomson	116
Ross D. Walter	166
Douglas H. Weber, Sr	17
Ivan A. Williams	7
Peter Yerkovich	54

Sirs in the News

Port Stockton Branch 46

Frustrated Inventor

Arden Riess, Member of Branch 46

Warren Holly, a member of Branch 46, thinks he has found a way to improve your golf swing. Born out of his own frustration — with too many hooks and slices — he invented a golf club that leaves a tracing of water droplets on a practice pad that shows how straight or crooked the swing is ...all for processing and immediate correction by the golfer ...or so the theory goes. He has obtained a patent on the product, but feels at age 85, he's too old to manufacture it and instead, would simply like to license the product. While he has received lots of positive feedback from various companies, there have been no takers ...at least so far.



Holly is a retired mechanical engineer and looks at inventing things as a way to stay involved, but it's "mostly for fun," he says. Among his creations are a golf club that helps straighten out a swing, a spring-loaded shaft for teeing up a golf ball, for those that have trouble bending over, and a device shaped like a duck's head for dropping mail in a drive-by mail box, that is just out of reach, "there's an idea that isn't going anywhere," he chuckled.

Editors Note: This is a short summary of an article that appeared in the Stockton Record.

Isle City Branch 60, Alameda

Earthquake Survivor

Doug Hayward, Big Sir

A previously unknown survivor of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake has surfaced in Alameda ...he is **Norman Peters**, a member of Branch 60, who was honored at a Branch luncheon with a "Century Senior Certificate," on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Peters has never chosen to join the handful of living men and women who were actually in the quake and who gather each year for a survivors' anniversary party at Lotta's Fountain in San Francisco ...in his own words, "it just doesn't seem important." Even though he has a birth certificate to prove his claim, he has no plans to be at the ceremony next April.

He was an infant when the historic event happened at 5:12 a.m. on April 18, and very soon afterward his parents moved to Alameda. It was there that they bought a new home on Eagle Avenue with a mortgage from the Park Street office of A.P. Giannini's Bank of Italy—later known as the Bank of America.

Twin Peaks-Portola Branch 25, South San Francisco

Past Big Sir Turned Author

Soon after publishing his first novel ...*"Dia Gratia - By The Grace Of God"* ...**Earl E. Somers'** poems in the book were noticed by the International Society of Poets (ISP) and he was invited to become a member and attend their annual convention last August in Washington DC. Approximately 3,000 poets and guests from all over the world were in attendance to hear the readings by 488



newly elected poets. A panel of renowned poets judged the three days of competition and finally determined the winners in various categories ...awards totaling \$80,000 were shared by the twenty winners and the top finisher was recognized as the Poet of the Year.

Although Earl was not one of the lucky winners, he experienced an unforgettable time exchanging ideas and suggestions with new acquaintances during the workshops. Also, he was allotted space on the convention floor, to sell his book.

Currently, Earl is completing his second novel ...*"Little Jack's Odyssey"* ...which should be available next year. Earl is a Past Big Sir of Branch 25 and also served five years as Area Four Governor. His book can be purchased on-line at barnesandnoble.com and at amazon.com

Peters lived in Alameda until his young adulthood, when he married and relocated to Oakland, although his mother continued to live in the home until her death. Only World War II service in the Navy interrupted his lifelong career with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company at its San Francisco headquarters ...now reconfigured as the elegant San Francisco Ritz Carlton.



State RV Column

Jack Streckfus, State RV Chairman

I want to let you know that the State RV Committee is planning to hold some meetings early in 2006 to formulate plans for a great 2007 State Rally.

In the meantime, my RV club, — The Rolling Roamers — still holds meetings during the fall and winter, but no outings are planned until March. Some of our members venture to the desert for the winter, but most winterize their rigs like I do. For example, I top off my gas tank and cover the tires and AC units and leave all the cabinet doors open. I plug in a 100-watt light bulb, with an aluminum shade for heat, and leave it on 24/7 and to help with moisture, I run a dehumidifier every so often ...also, removing all my tools helps keep them from rusting. I try to faithfully run the engine once a month and check for leaks when it rains. Since I have my rig at home, with full hook-up, my favorite pastime is to watch football, lying on my couch in the rig.

I will keep our members posted on any happenings in the RV sector.

Jack Streckfus jacstrk@pacbell.net



State Bowling

Nat Lord, State Bowling Chairman



State SIRARC

Roger Spindler, State SIRARC Chairman

SIRARC has a young and enthusiastic Board and is looking forward to an active year. Our next meeting will be held, as usual, at J. J. North's in Fairfield on February 18th. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio Communications is welcome, as are wives.

Over the last several years, radio amateurs have enjoyed the opportunity to operate HF by remote control over the Internet, using their computers ...it's fun and provides the unique experience of combining amateur radio, computers, and the internet.

So what's this all about? ...a Ham Radio Remote Controlled HF station is an Internet Remote Base (IRB) HF station, available for use by almost any licensed amateur. An IRB is easy to install and operate and does not require expensive equipment or advanced computer skills. The concept has been in use continuously for several years and literally scores of hams, worldwide, have made hundreds of over seas and local contacts, without the use of radios, antennas, or towers.

Why should you be Interested? ...Among other things, you will have a lot of fun and current, as well as new amateurs, will be able to remain active on the air with just a computer and an Internet connection without all the usual equipment.

One of the questions that usually comes up ..."is it legal?" Having researched this matter extensively with the FCC, the short answer is "yes." Of course, US operators must abide by their own license privileges.

As antenna restrictions become more severe throughout the country, remote-controlled stations like these offer a viable alternative for enjoying Amateur Radio.

Roger Spindler WA6AFT@juno.com

Editors note: Portions of this column are condensed from an article in the QST (ARRL) publication.

THE EDITOR NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people who provided material for this issue of "SIR Happenings."

Please contribute stories and high resolution photos for use in a future issue.

Email your Branch news items to:

Editor Don MacGregor
donmac@direcway.com



State Golf

Dave Betts, State Golf Chairman

On January 1st, I became the new State Golf Committee Chairman by appointment of Bob Curley, the newly elected SIR President. Having served on the Golf Committee for the past three years as Chairman of the South State Division 5, I have met many of our golfers who choose to participate in the State sponsored golf events. I look forward to meeting many more during my term as State Golf Committee Chairman and serving your interests in State sponsored golf programs and events.

The Committee has finalized the tournament locations and dates of the major destinations for 2006 as follows:

LAS VEGAS – March 21-31 and April 3-7
Lodging at Palace Station Hotel and Casino
Golfing at Paiute Golf Resort (Sun and Snow Mountain Courses) and Painted Desert...entry forms were mailed in November.

RENO – June 12-16 and June 19-23
Lodging at Circus-Circus Hotel and Casino
Golfing at Lakeridge, Thunder Canyon and D'Andrea.

SOLVANG – September 10-14
Lodging at Santa Ynez Valley Marriott Hotel
Golfing at River Course at Alisal and Rancho San Marcos.

MEXICO – November 6-13 (Air/Land Trip)
Lodging at Riu Jalisco Hotel in Nueva Vallarta
Golfing at El Tigre Golf Course ...**(Limited to 144 golfers)**

MEXICAN RIVERA – December 1-12...(Cruise)
Transportation and lodging on The DAWN PRINCESS, with stops in Acapulco, Mazatlan, Ixtapa, Puerto Vallarta and Cabo San Lucas
Golfing at Mayan Palace in Acapulco, at El Tigre in Puerto Vallarta and at Raven in Cabo San Lucas ...**(Limited to 144 golfers)**

Eligibility to play golf in State sponsored events requires that you be a member of NCGA through your local SIR Branch Golf Club. If you are not currently a member, please contact your Branch Golf Chairman or Handicap Chairman to become a member ...NCGA Membership, through your local SIR Branch, has many additional benefits.

The State Golf Committee goals for the coming year will be to expand our NCGA membership and to provide programs of interest to a majority of our members at the lowest possible cost.

We plan to conduct the State Championship at Poppy Hills in the first part of November 2006 ...decisions on the location of the Area Team Championship and the annual Division Meetings for Area and Branch Golf Chairmen, are still pending and will be finalized in January.

The tournaments in Ixtapa in November



were quite successful. The Dorado Pacifico Hotel and their entire staff went overboard to make our stay most pleasurable. The State Championships and open play at Poppy Hills in early November were well attended. The weather was a little foggy, but nice ...join us next year, because it's always a pleasure to play there.

For tournament results and more detailed information regarding the SIR State Golf Program, please visit the SIR Website at : www.sirinc.org

Click on Activities and then on Golf.

Dave Betts golferdfb@msn.com

Hole-in-One-Column

Lon Crosson had an ace at Spring Hills during the Aptos Branch 104 weekly golf tournament ...congratulations, Lon!

Congratulations are also in order for **Chris Vigil** of Solano Branch 88, who had a hole-in-one at the Green Tree Tournament in Vacaville ...well done Chris

While playing the Cordova GC, **Gus Henry** – who goes by “oldduffergus” on his emails – hit the perfect 5 iron shot on the 165 yard eighth hole for an ace. Fellow Sir, **Hank Ondler**, said he saw the ball heading straight for the pin before he lost sight of it. This was the second ace for the 79 year old, Gus, and the first one for a Branch 69 member this year ...Good going Gus and congratulations.

Joe Hill aced the seventh hole at Napa Golf Course with a 5 wood from the white markers...it was his first ace. Witnessing the event were **Rob Richards, Hartzel Hill,** and **Hank Olmstead** ...way to go, Joe!!

And finally ...congratulations to **Dick Roach** of Branch 110 for his hole-in-one on the 12th hole at Bidwell.

Golf ...Love It or Hate It

*In my hand I hold a ball ...white and dimpled, rather small
Oh, how bland it does appear ...this harmless looking little sphere
By its size, I could not guess ...the awesome strength it does possess
But since I fell beneath its spell ...I've wandered through the fires of hell
My life has not been quite the same ...since I chose to play this stupid game
It rules my mind for hours on end ...a fortune it has made me spend
It has made me swear and yell and cry ...I hate myself and want to die
It promises a thing called par ...if I can hit, straight and far
To master such a tiny ball ...should not be very hard at all
But my desires the ball refuses ...and does exactly as it chooses
It hooks and slices, dribbles and dies ...and even disappears before my eyes
Often it will take a whim ...to hit a tree or take a swim
With miles of grass on which to land ...it finds a tiny patch of sand
Then has me offering up my soul ...if only it would find the hole
It's made me whimper like a pup and swear that I will give it up
And take a drink to ease my sorrow*

...but the ball knows, I'll be back tomorrow

State Sports

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS VS PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

The Arena in Oakland, Sunday, March 19 at 1:00 PM
Ticket prices are \$34 and \$24.



SIR Contact: **Jim Wyatt**
see info below



SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS VS LOS ANGELES ANGELS

SBC Park Wednesday, June 21st at 12:35 PM
It's the 29th Annual ALL SIR DAY with the Giants at SBC Park. Tickets are available at three price levels:
Lower Box \$34, View Reserved \$20, and Bleachers \$18



SIR Contact: **Jim Wyatt**
843 Overlook Court
San Mateo, CA 94403
650-345-3494
j.c.wyatt@worldnet.att.net

OAKLAND ATHLETICS VS CLEVELAND INDIANS

Oakland Coliseum, Wednesday, May 4th at 12:35 PM
Prices not available at press time



SIR Contact: **Nat Lord**
36035 Cedar Blvd
Newark, CA 94560
510-797-1704

SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS VS FRESNO GRIZZLIES

Raley Field, Wednesday, June 28th at 11:35 AM
Senate Box seats \$17 and Delta Box Seats \$11



SIR Contact: **Jim Donovan**
6501 Harmon Drive
Sacramento, CA 95831
916-391-1854
jimdonovan111@comcast.net



SIR Tid-Bits

Is it just me, or does anyone else find it amazing that our government can track a cow born in Canada almost three years ago, right to the stall where she sleeps in the state of Washington, but they are unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around our country ...maybe we should give them all a cow.

.....

For those of you that may have experienced a problem opening Happenings on the SIR Website here's a tip from **Jack Rhondeau** jrhondeau@comcast.net

- Start Internet Explorer
- On the Tools menu, click Internet Options
- On the Advanced tab, click to select the Use HTTP 1.1 through proxy connections ...check that box
- Click OK

See if that works and please give us your feedback about any problems you experience opening Happenings on the SIR website.

.....

They keep talking about drafting a Constitution for Iraq. Why don't we just give them ours? It was written by a lot of really smart guys and it's worked for over 200 years and we're not using it anymore.

.....

And this comes from 1st Assistant Secretary, **Bob Rath**, who knows a thing or two about driving on wet roads.

A 36 year old female had an accident several weeks ago and totaled her car. It was raining, though not too hard, when her car suddenly began to hydroplane and literally flew through the air. She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence. When she explained to the highway patrolman what had happened, he told her something that every driver should know ...**never drive in the rain with your cruise control on.**

She thought she was being very cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe consistent speed in the rain, but the highway patrolman told her that if the cruise control is on and your car begins to hydroplane, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed and you will have little or no control over the car. The patrolman said he wished a warning could be posted on the driver's side sun-visor in every vehicle.

.....

And last but not least ...George Carlin said it best about Martha Stewart ..."Boy, I felt a lot safer when she was behind bars. The likes of O.J. Simpson and Osama Bin Laden are still walking around; but they take the one woman in America willing to cook, clean, and work in the yard, and haul her ass off to jail."

News from the Branches

Redwood Gateway Branch 100, Petaluma
Petaluma Little Hills Branch 147

Mystery Trip

Steve Nowicki, Travel Chairman, Branch 100

On a recent fall morning, 54 members and guests from Branch 100 and Branch 147 left Petaluma at 8:00 am via motor coach for a Mystery Trip. Our first stop was the Cable Car Barn, Powerhouse and Museum, at 1201 Mason Street in San Francisco. We had a very informative talk and guided tour of the Cable Car Barn and a view of the powerhouse from the observation deck in the museum. Our guide was Anthony Tufo who was very informative about the history and the many things that happened in the early years. In the museum they have the oldest Cable Car in the world on display and a very extensive gift shop, which the ladies took full advantage of ...our women just love to shop.

From there we got back on the coach and headed to pier 39 for a delicious lunch at Swiss Luis Restaurant. We had two choices on the menu: Chicken Marinaro or Red Snapper with caramelized onions ...what treat!!

Again, we got back on the bus and drove to the refurbished Ferry building. We had time to browse in the various shops and markets, and the ladies had another chance to shop.

We then took the Ferry to Larkspur ...our motor coach was there to meet us and deliver us back to our starting point at the Petaluma Fairgrounds at 5:00 pm after a great day.

The Three Shastas Branch 129, Redding

BBQ & Bocce Ball

Ken Carroll, Bocce Ball Chairman

Redding Branch 129 enjoyed a wonderful chicken BBQ at our summer picnic ...150 people enjoyed the BBQ and Bocce Ball tournament. In addition to the Bocce Ball tournament, we had many raffles and great prizes. The day was topped off with delicious strawberry shortcake and whipped cream. Picture shows 3 Branch members showing off their stuff.



Rocklin Branch 98

Gone to the Dogs

Bob Fricke, Little Sir

This summer, we had our best program so far this year. CHP Officer Brad Romero -- assisted by CHP Officer Colin Patrick -- gave a talk and demonstration on the use of K-9 Dogs in Police Work. Officer Romero brought Nikita, a 4 1/2 year old Belgian Malinois imported from Holland, who is cross trained as both a handler-protector and a narcotics "sniffer". Officer Patrick came with Starr, a 4 year old yellow lab, who is a drop-out from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Program and trained to be an explosive detection canine ...and is said to be the best EDC dog in California. They were also accompanied by two Rookies who had just graduated from the CHP Academy ...Officer Lamberto Montamo and his dog, Kilo -- a Belgian Malinois and Officer Jeff Bosnich and his dog, Eros -- a black German Shepard. All four officers and their dogs happened to follow one of our members into the parking lot on the way to the meeting and scared the daylights out of him.

Marijuana, TNT, and gun powder were carefully hidden around the meeting room and the dogs demonstrated their skills by readily finding it ...I was very happy that I had refused to be the "Bad Guy" in the padded suit, after seeing how Nikita attacked Officer Montano.

After the meeting the officers and their dogs posed for this picture, taken by Fred Berryman, our Branch Photographer. The dogs pictured from left to right are: Starr, Nikita, Kilo, and Eros.



The Rooster Means Excellence

Dave Reiser, Area 5 Governor

I was quite fortunate to be able to spend two weeks in a converted castle in Tuscany. Everywhere we traveled, we noticed the rooster proudly displayed ...whether it was a restaurant or a winery...there it was! In Tuscany, it is the sign of excellence ...evidently, they have very good taste.

News from the Branches

Mission Trail Branch 35, Palo Alto

Funny in Farsi

Bob Simon, Little Sir

Branch 35's October speaker charmed her audience from the moment she took the podium ...author of the best-selling book — *Funny in Farsi* — Firoozeh Dumas proved that she could speak with the same humorous facility as she writes. In her talk, she described to a very attentive membership her route to becoming a first-time published author and went on to paint lasting word pictures of her adventures as an immigrant child growing up in that strange place called California.

Her persistence in getting a preview of her book into the hands of potential publishers finally paid off the day she did a very good deed for a local bank customer who had forgotten to take his cash from an ATM machine. Firoozeh found the money, turned it in, and a book agent immediately called to set the wheels in motion for her success as a writer ...of course, there was no real linkage between the two events, just a delightful coincidence that Firoozeh described in terms that brought warm chuckles from her listeners.



As newcomers to the US, Firoozeh and her family had difficulty describing Iran and its location to Americans, who — let's face it — his Middle Eastern country's location didn't work, their explanation became: "You know where China and India are? ...well, Iran is in the neighborhood."

She said her father is a great storyteller — in the Iranian tradition — and she credits him with developing her a gift for narrative that has put her first book on the best-seller lists of both the Los Angeles Times and the San Francisco Chronicle.

Firoozeh is shown in the picture above ...all in all, this was a wonderful experience for both the guest speaker and her listeners.

Feather River Branch 83, Oroville

25th Anniversary Celebration

Bill Dullin, Bulletin Editor & Secretary

Branch 83 celebrated its 25th Anniversary in November. Our Historian displayed twenty-five years of our history in some photo albums and it was great reflecting back over the past 25 years and on how our Branch and Sons in Retirement have changed during that time. We are small in number ...but we know each other by name and we all still enjoy our fellowship.

**North Lake county Branch 168, Lakeport
Mid-Lake Branch 174, Kelseyville**

Annual Joint Picnic

Chuck Clary, Branch 174, Bulletin Editor

Several years ago, two Big Sirs, one from our Branch and another from nearby Branch 168, got together and said ...“let's have a picnic involving both Branches.” The discussion went something like this ...we will include wives, girl friends, and significant others — what ever — you bring this and our Branch will bring that; you do the cooking and we'll do the cleanup and serving ...and so it went. It has worked out just fine for the past three summers and gives everyone a chance to get to know others from another Branch ...just a day for fellowship and fun ...and it has been a lot of fun!

This was the third annual picnic for the two Branches. There are three Branches within a 15 mile radius and we hope to get the third Branch to join in the fun next year.



Would you like to be notified by Email when SIR Happenings Newsletter is posted on the SIR website?

Please send your name and Email address to

Dwight Sale

dwight.sale@comcast.net

News from the Branches

Wine Country Branch 157, Healdsburg

SIR Float

Jack Vallegra, Big Sir

A few months ago, **Ron Kron** and **Joel Wright** came up with the idea of having a SIR Float in the Healdsburg Farmers Day Paradethe parade is twenty-five years old this year and is always held on the Friday of the Memorial Day Weekend. The old saying in Healdsburg is ...“if you aren’t in the Parade, you’re a spectator watching it.”

The SIR Float was Ron Kron’s motor home pulling a trailer. Seen in the picture are **Ed Koziel** and **John Sanzi**, sitting near the Barbeque ...**Lee Gunnerson** practicing his golf swing...and the two fishermen (with real fish) are **Bob Malone** and **Leroy Danhausen**.

The Motor home and trailer were decorated with travel posters, signs listing SIR activities and on each side of the motor home were Branch 157 banners ...the motor home and trailer were literally covered with blue and gold ribbons.

Our Float won a first place trophy and a first place ribbon for Adult Clubs in the Parade. This was the first time our Branch had a float in the Parade and hopefully not our last.

Carlmont Branch 90, San Mateo

A Successful Outing

Fred Gerhauser, Bulletin Editor

The Branch 90 Picnic was held this summer at Flood Park in Menlo Park. We had 76 attendees



who enjoyed a beautiful day of good fellowship, good food, and challenging games. Barbecued New York Steak and

Chicken Breast were the featured dishes. A plethora of delightful side dishes and popular beverages rounded out the meal.

Bingo, darts, and a Frisbee toss provided entertaining diversions for both members and their ladies. A sing-along by the ever-popular “Carlmonteers” gave



everyone a chance to try their voices on traditional melodies. By any measurement, this was a most successful outing.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Thanks for another excellent Happenings newsletter—it all printed out perfectly. I will make every effort to get all 13 pages posted on our bulletin board before our next meeting. There is something in it for all our activity groups to read about, but I especially appreciate stories honoring our Veterans, e.g. the story about John Shirley was terrific! Keep up the great job!



Lee Suess

Big Sir, Amador Branch 96, Jackson
baldeagle@volcano.net

Thanks Lee ...we really appreciate all the support you have given Happenings and we wish more Branches would display the publication on a bulletin board prior to their luncheon meetings, like your Branch does.

Dear Editor:

You and your committee do a wonderful job on each “SIR Happenings.” The colors are terrific, too. Thank you!

Nick Dollwet

Member Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22, San Rafael ...in
“Marvelous Marin County”
Nick.dollwet@sgc-financial.com

Thanks, Nick, and I totally agree that you live in a marvelous county

Dear Editor:

You are doing a great job publishing SIR Happenings. Your efforts are well appreciated. The whole production is first class and I really enjoy the color images.

Marvin Arnold

Area 29 Governor
sugar42@pacbell.net

Thanks, Arnold. Those kind of comments make our job seem even more worthwhile.

Dear Editor:

Just a line to thank you for the really good job you are doing in putting out “Happenings.” As a former editor of my Branch’s Bulletin, I can appreciate what is required. As you might expect, the news from other Branches gives us ideas that we might use in our own Branches. Thanks again for a very informative series of issues.

Don Egan

Treasurer, Rosmoor Branch 81, Walnut Creek
donegan2@comcast.net

I’m glad you caught that, Ron ...one of the purposes of Happenings is to encourage our members to pick up good ideas that they can use in their own Branches.

News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Classic Car Day

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

A special Classic Car Day was part of our Branch 96 November Luncheon in Jackson and sixteen members showed up with their very special vehicles. When Big Sir **Lee Suess** suggested that we have a Classic Car Day, no one knew the Branch had so many members with such superb cars from the past. Much hard work, craftsmanship, and expense went in to the “show room” restoration of these fine automobiles.

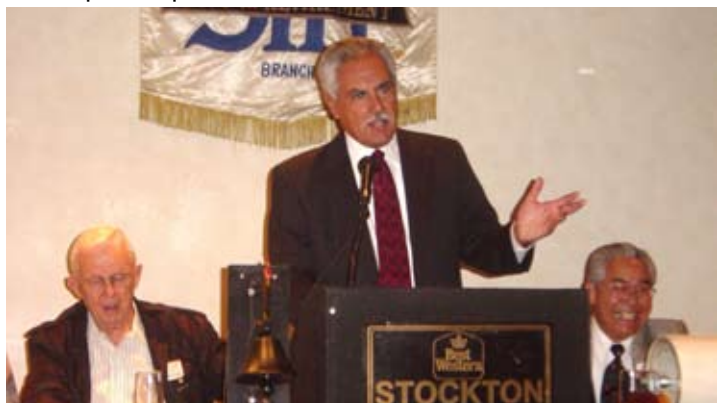
One of the classic cars on display at the luncheon is shown in the picture ...a 1942 Packard Limo. There are only five of them still in existence and the owner of this one is **Bill Admire**, a retired CHP Sergeant, and a member and director of Branch 96. As a sideline, Bill takes people on wine tours of some of the many wineries in our County.



Port Stockton Branch 46

Mayor Speaks

Stockton’s Mayor Edward Chavez is shown speaking before Branch 46 at its September luncheon meeting. It was a most interesting speech, covering the city’s growth and development plans.



News from the State

Confused about how to use SIR — SIR, Inc — SIR's — Sir — Sirs — Sir's — or Sirs'

...many of us are and here are some tips.

SIR stands for **Sons in Retirement** ...if you want to use the corporate title, use **SIR, Inc.** or **Sons In Retirement, Inc.**

Common Mistakes:

- **SIR** is never plural — there is only one Sons In Retirement — **so, never write or say SIRS** when referring to Sons in Retirement
- **SIR** is always capitalized
- There are no periods between the letters
- The possessive of **SIR is SIR's**

Some examples:

- John is a member of **SIR — Not SIRS**
- **SIR's** annual meeting is held in August — possessive

Sir Refers to an individual member of SIR

Some examples:

- **Sir** John Jones is a member of SIR — Singular
- Many **Sirs** attended the SIR luncheon — Plural
- A **Sir's** son attended a SIR luncheon — Singular Possessive
- Some **Sirs'** wives attend SIR picnics — Plural Possessive

If you agree or disagree, or have something to contribute write a letter to Editor Don MacGregor at

donmac@direcway.com

2006 State President Robert Curley



SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

APRIL 2006

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

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

President Bob's Column

I have been surprised at the lack of knowledge of some Big Sirs, as to what is taking place within SIR this year. I can only believe that our communications system is not getting the word out to our leaders and troops as to what is going on. Perhaps I can use this forum to spread the word in a more effective manner.

First, did you know that we have a new State Public Relations Committee? It is chaired by Sir **Carl Raaka** of Branch 8. Sir Carl has developed a package of sample press releases that should help Branch PR Reps get the word to the local press, as to what events of interest have occurred in each Branch. The package of releases is on the SIR web-site. So take a look at them and, more importantly, start to use them. They are a good method for keeping our name in the public's eye and should help you attract new members.

A target for new Branch membership this year should be the Baby Boomers. They are rapidly becoming eligible for SIR membership, so go after this generation. They provide us with younger members, something we need. Invite your sons and sons-in-laws to a meeting. Help them see how we operate and how SIR can help them have fun in retirement.

We also have reduced the size of several state committees, hoping thereby to increase the effectiveness of those committees and help to reduce their travel expenses. We have inaugurated a budget system for the State, and for 2006 have adopted a budget with about \$9,000 less expense than we experienced in 2005. I realize there is a big difference between a budget and actual achievement, but we are anticipating significant reductions.

We are going to vote at the next State Board Meeting on a new method for increasing State revenues thus precluding an increase in per capita assessment to the Branches. An increase is not planned for 2006. (Read my lips).

How many activities does your Branch sponsor? If you don't have at least six, you are not serving your constituents.

So things are happening. Watch this column for further developments.

Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

Good Public Relations

Jim Petruk, Big Sir

Shown in the picture are Big Sir **Jim Petruk**, in the center, and Little Sir **Mike Nickey** from Placer Gold Branch 37 in Auburn. They were guests on Candace Roeder's popular KAH1 "Seniors First" radio program. Seniors First is a non-profit corporation that provides information and assistance to seniors in the greater Placer County area to help seniors locate and access programs and services.

In addition, the organization serves as an advocate for seniors. Some of the options offered by Seniors First are for transportation, care-giving, housing, legal, and accounting assistance.

During the hour program, the three discussed Sons In Retirement and how it enhanced retired men's lives. Included were questions regarding SIR Activities and the monthly luncheon programs. They provided phone numbers, email addresses and information on becoming a SIR member. Emphasis was put on subjects that might appeal to newly retired men, especially Baby Boomers, like these two officers.



In Memoriam

Irvin M. Craig, Past President of SIR

see page 2

Internet Address for Sons in Retirement:

www.sirinc.org

Have Fun, but Bring in One

Sirs in the News

In Memoriam - Irvin M. Craig



Irv Craig passed away on January 27th at the age of 84. He was a founding member of the first SIR Branch in Fresno and went on to become an Area Governor, a Regional Director, and was elected State President in 2002.

He was a graduate of Fresno State College and earned his Master's Degree from the University of Southern California. He became a licensed psychologist and was the county's first school psychologist. He also started the Kings county Mental Health Association and Mental Health Clinic and helped mentally and physically handicapped children for many years.

Irv Craig led quite an active life and among other things, was a teacher, a ham radio operator, a licensed pilot, and loved to play golf and travel. During World War II, he was a member of the Naval Reserve and served on the U.S.S. Argonne in 1941 at Pearl Harbor and later became an officer in the Army Air Corps.

In 1986, Irv retired from the Kings County Schools Administration in Hanford, where he had served as an Assistant Superintendent for 34 years, and moved with his wife to Fresno.



Mid-Peninsula Branch 51

Winning Recruiters

Bob Jenkins, Bulletin Editor

Branch #51 Membership Chairman, **Jack Chalkley**, is shown presenting bottles of champagne to the two winning Recruiters for 2005. On the left is **George Cilker** and in the center is Past Big Sir **Roy Deffebach**, who each brought in four new members during the year.



Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

HLM Award

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Carlton J. "Mac" McCarter, is pictured receiving an "Honorary Life Membership" from SIR President **Bob Curley** at the January luncheon.

Mac has been a member of Branch 103 since 1977 and has served in almost every position in the Branch. He has been Big Sir, Little Sir, a member of the Executive Board, and has held many other positions, as well. He currently is the Travel Chairman for the Branch and also sells meal tickets every month at luncheons.



Sirs in the News

Chabot Branch 6, Castro Valley

Branch Honors Centenarian

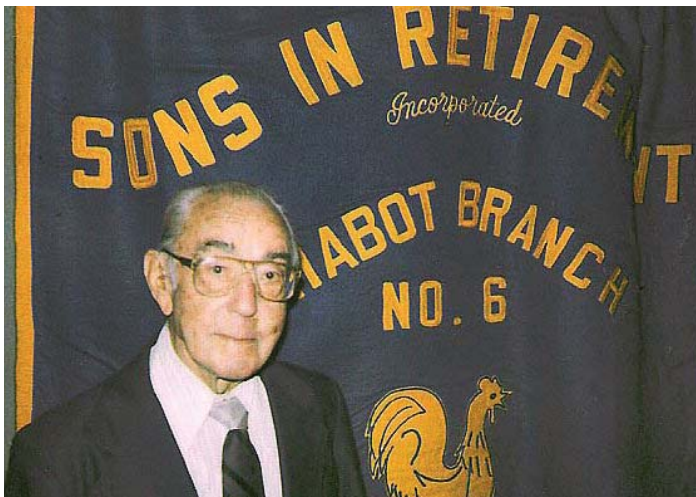
Ken Wright, Big Sir

Centenarian Sir **Leroy Woods**, shown in the picture, was honored at the November Branch luncheon. What makes a 100 year old so special? The answer is that fewer than 2 in 10,000 Americans live to be that age or older.

Leroy still attends our monthly luncheons and has been a Branch 6 member since 1971. He received an Honorary Life Membership award in 1997 and is only the 7th member in the Branch to receive that prestigious award.

Among other things, he has served on the Board of Directors, was Chairman of the Christmas Party Committee for 6 years, Bowling Chairman for 7 years, and the Branch picnic for 3 years.

Happy Birthday, Leroy!!



Editors Note: In this issue of Happenings we begin a regular new column entitled "Computer Tips." The column is written by Fred Skill from the Three Shastas Branch 129, in Redding. Fred has extensive computer skills, is Chairman of the Branch Computer Club and also writes a popular computer column for his Branch Bulletin. We hope our readers enjoy reading his column and pick up a lot of good tips.

You can also catch Fred's wide-ranging "Computer Tips and Tricks" column published monthly on the SIR website, by going to sirinc.org, then forms and documents, you will see his column under User Resources. If anyone has a particular computer problem or question, Fred would like to hear from you at:

fskill@shasta.com

Mission Trail Branch 35, Palo Alto

Sir Honored with Senior Certificate

Bob Simon, Big Sir

Don Wilson turned 95 in February 2006, and his longevity paid off in the form of a Senior Sir Certificate. He is shown in the picture receiving the award from former Branch 35 Big Sir and current Regional Director, **Ned Banton**. In on the fun was **Charlie Temme**, who had received his own Senior Sir Certificate in the fall of 2005.

A personal greeting, from SIR State President Bob Curley to Don Wilson, was also read at the luncheon meeting ...the two men just happened to be former neighbors and friends in Los Altos some years ago.

Well over 200 members of Branch 35 were on hand to share this moment with Don and Charlie.

Happy Birthday, Don!!



COMPUTER TIPS

By: Fred Skill

Want to save some money on finding phone numbers?...we all do and here's how you can: On the internet, go to: www.free411.com or by phone dial: **1-800-free-411** (that's 1-800-373-3411) This is for free phone information either from your phone using 1-800-373-3411 or via the internet with www.free411.com. These allow anyone to get a phone number free anywhere in the United States. Since 411 assistance can cost from \$1.25 to \$2.25, this is a real cost saver...and you can use it on your cell phone too.

State RV Column

Jack Streckfus, State RV Chairman

The State RV Committee has secured a sub-host committee for the State 2007 RV Rally — they are the Roving Roosters RV Club from the San Jose area. The club is just returning from an outing that took them to Puerta Penasco, Mexico and their committee has informed us that upon their return, they would contact me to start the process of arranging for committees to manage the '07 Rally.



The tentative dates for the Rally are April 22nd to the 25th, 2007 at the French Camp Golf and RV Park in Manteca.

Our committee is looking forward to working with the Roving Roosters RV Club, to ensure a highly successful State Rally.

Jack Streckfus jacstrk@pacbell.net

State Bowling

Bill Cooper, Past State Bowling Chairman

If you have not read the SIR 2006 bowling schedule, please do. The State tournament will be held in Stockton from May 22nd to the 25th. Remember, you don't have to bowl in a SIR league to bowl in the tournaments — just be a SIR in good standing and bring your ball.



The Cal State women and men have merged and are now the Cal USBC State Association. Every Bowler, male or female, can participate in the State Championship being held in Bakersfield this year and in Fresno in 2007 ...the USBC Nationals will be held in Reno in 2007.

Here is some good information on lane conditions: Slick oil has the same effect on bowling as ice has on car tires. The ball skids on the slicker area of the lane as a car would on icy roads. Other conditions that effect the balls reaction can be the center lane maintenance program, and the heat and humidity in the bowling center. So make your changes as needed and good bowling.

Bill Cooper bowlercoop@aol.com

State SIRARC

Roger Spindler, State SIRARC Chairman

On February 17th, SIRARC had its first luncheon meeting of the year and at that meeting we were able to fill all the offices without too much prodding. Our meetings are held four times a year and we have found J.J. North's Restaurant in Fairfield to be a great place to hold them. The restaurant has a banquet room, which they reserve for us, and it is perfect for a meeting of this kind. At this first meeting, we had a couple of prospective members, not only for SIR, but also for SIRARC.

In my last column, I mentioned the latest mode of operation on HF bands, using a computer over the internet. This mode of operation requires only a computer and telephone line. Day after day, there are more and more of these stations on the air, and so, there will be fewer and fewer unsightly towers, with various types of antennas hanging on them. I should add, however, that these towers aren't unsightly to those of us in Amateur Radio.

One of the advantages of belonging to an Amateur Radio Club is to get help from fellow members that can climb the towers and do the work that is required to maintain an antenna system. That's particularly important for someone like me, who has pretty much lost the use of my legs.

Just about every city or town has a local Amateur Radio Club and joining a club is the best way for someone to get started in Amateur Radio. The easiest way to find a club is to contact someone in your local government, because most Amateur Radio Clubs are involved in Emergency Services and work with their local city officials. They should have a telephone number for the person to contact.

Roger Spindler WA6AFT@juno.com

THE EDITOR NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people who provided material for this issue of "SIR Happenings."

Please contribute stories and high resolution photos for use in a future issue.

Email your Branch news items to:

Editor Don MacGregor
donmac@direcway.com



State Golf

Dave Betts, State Golf Committee Chairman

It is every golfer's dream to make a hole-in-one and I want to use my column in this edition of Happenings to increase the awareness of all SIR golfers to the **FEATHER-IN-THE-CAP AWARDS**, which have been presented to members of Sons In Retirement since 1988.



From information that I have gathered, the awards originated when **Jack Wood**, a member of Branch 76 and also a wood carver hobbyist, was playing at Bennett Valley in Santa Rosa when one of the men in his foursome made a hole-in-one. At the end of the game, the lucky golfer bought the members of the foursome a beer. Jack had a plain rooster hackle feather in his cap which he took out and presented to his fellow golfer, telling him that he should have a feather in his cap for making a hole-in-one. Jack's comment was "you would have thought that I had given him \$50." Jack went home and designed the Feather-In-The-Cap Pin, which is still awarded today. The following week Jack told his playing partner that he would like to trade him for the rooster hackle feather and the partner resisted until he saw the pin that Jack had made. Between 1988 and May of 2002, Jack made over 500 pins, most of which were presented to members of Sons In Retirement. Jack Wood passed away on December 19, 2003.

The State Golf Committee adopted the Feather-In-The-Cap Award and it was administered by **George Bokanich**, a member of the State Golf Policy Committee for many years, until George left the Committee about 18 months ago. After Jack Wood passed away, George found another wood carver to make the pins. The pins are now made by **Don Dugan**. Presently, the program is administered by **Andy Ferreira**, a member of the State Golf Policy Committee.

The State Golf Committee has expanded the award to include SIR members playing in SIR sponsored events that shoot their age as well as the hole-in-one awards. In 2005, fourteen hole-in-one awards were presented and four awards for Shooting-One's-Age.

To qualify for the awards — Branch, Area or Division Golf Chairmen must complete Form No. 7, which is in the Golf Manual, and mail it to Andy Ferreira as instructed on the form...the form must also be authenticated by two witnesses.

I sincerely appreciate the efforts and dedication of George Bokanich and Andy Ferreira in making this award available to all SIR Golfers.

As reported by Andy Ferreira, during 2005, the SIR golfers listed in the adjacent column have been presented a "**FEATHER-IN-THE-CAP**" award for their golfing achievements.

FEATHER-IN-THE-CAP HOLE-IN-ONE AWARDS:

- **Ernest Neves**, Branch 99, on August 16, 2004 at Green Tree G.C. on Hole #4, 146 yards with a Nine Wood.
- **Winslow Callahan**, Branch 157 on January 13, 2005 at Oakmont (Executive) G.C. on Hole #8, 145 yards with a 6 Iron.
- **Mike Navone**, Branch 49, on November 5, 2004 (State Golf Cruise) at El Tigre G.C., Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico on Hole # 15, 140 yards with a 7 Iron.
- **Donald Camison**, Branch 85, on March 7, 2005 at Pajaro Valley G.C. on Hole #7, 105 yards with a Wedge.
- **Ernest Taylor**, Branch 99 on January 17, 2005 at Green Tree G.C. on Hole #10, 140 yards with a 7 Iron.
- **Joe L. Lopez**, Branch 99 on February 7, 2005 at Green Tree G.C. on Hole #4, 146 yards with a 5 Iron.
- **John DeFelice**, Branch 118, on March 8, 2005 at Willow Park G.C. on Hole #3, 124 yards with an 8 Iron.
- **Donald A. Dill**, Branch 79, on March 14, 2005 at Timber Creek G.C. on Hole # 14, 156 yards with a 6 Iron.
- **Jim Boulton**, Branch 20. on April 11, 2005 at Spring Hill G.C. on Hole # 7, 181 yards with a 3 Wood.
- **Don Cummings**, Branch 110, on May 2, 2005 at Bidwell Park on Hole # 7, 139 yards with a 9 Wood.
- **Stan Rock**, Branch 93, on June 17, 2005 at Silver Oak G.C. on Hole #3, 112 yards with a Sand Wedge.
- **Terry Mason**, Branch 8, on September 6, 2005 at Blue Rock Springs on Hole # 16, 137 yards with a 7 Iron.
- **Dick Roach**, Branch 110, On October 3, 2005 at Bidwell Park on Hole #12, 168 yards with a 6 Iron.
- **Jerry Robertson**, Branch 102, on October 19, 2005 at Bing Maloney on Hole #3, 141 yards with a 7 Iron.

FEATHER-IN-THE-CAP SHOOTING-ONES-AGE AWARDS:

- **Art Ross**. Branch 22, on February 10, 2005 playing at Adobe Creek G.C., at age 87, he had a gross score of 87. The course rating is 68.1.
- **Carl L. D'Alessio**, Branch 25, on April 19, 2005 playing at Bennett Valley G.C., at age 84, he had a gross score of 84. The course rating is 69.4.
- **George Greenfell**, Branch 1, on February 12, 2004 playing at Sunnyvale G.C., at age 81, he had a gross score of 77. The course rating is 68.3.
- **George Greenfell**, Branch 1, on July 28, 2005 playing at Sunnyvale G.C., at age 82, he had a gross score of 78. The course rating is 68.3.

State Baseball

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS VS LOS ANGELES ANGELS

SBC Park Wednesday, June 21st at 12:35 PM
It's the 29th Annual ALL SIR DAY with the Giants at SBC Park. Tickets are available at three price levels.
Lower Box \$34, View Reserved \$20, and Bleachers \$18.



SIR Contact: **Jim Wyatt**
843 Overlook Court
San Mateo, CA 94403
650-345-3494
j.c.wyatt@worldnet.att.net

OAKLAND ATHLETICS VS CLEVELAND INDIANS

Oakland Coliseum, Wednesday, May 4th at 12:35 PM
Field Level (shade) or Plaza Level Infield Tickets \$20.



SIR Contact: **Nat Lord**
36035 Cedar Blvd
Newark, CA 94560
510-797-1704

SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS VS FRESNO GRIZZLIES

Raley Field, Wednesday, June 28th at 11:35 AM
Senate Box seats \$17 and Delta Box Seats \$11



SIR Contact: **Jim Donovan**
6501 Harmon Drive
Sacramento, CA 95831
916-391-1854
jimdonovan111@comcast.net



State Golf

The Gavel is Passed

At the December meeting of the State Golf Committee, **Nino Pompilio** (left) turned over the leadership of the SIR State Golf Committee to **Dave Betts** (right). Nino served three strong years as Chairman, bringing about innovative golfing events such as tournaments at sea — with the 2004 cruise to Mexico — and the very popular Team State Championship.

Dave promised to provide great tournaments and good value at superior courses, so that, all SIR golfers can enjoy our favorite destinations. He expects all of his Committee Members, as well as the Area Golf Chairman, and Branch Chairman, to be accountable to SIR golf by promoting the enjoyment of the game at all levels. He said "Strong Golf Programs, at all levels, will certainly attract new members to SIR."



Hole-in-One

Happenings is pleased to honor three more SIR golfers that have recently achieved that incredible feat of acing a golf hole:

On the first dry day, after A rainy start to this year, Branch 69 Little Sir **Heman Smith** went to the local golf course to play a quick 9 holes. On the fourth hole at Bing Maloney Executive Golf Course, Heman hit the perfect sand wedge that went directly into the hole for a hole-in-one ...what a way to start a new year of golf. Seventy six year old Heman plays golf 3-4 times a week, maintains a handicap of around 13 and has had four aces. He is the Little SIR of Branch 69, a small branch of 112 members in Sacramento, which has 86 golfers who play regularly in the four tournaments that the Branch sponsors each month.

Dennis Rooney, from Branch 155, made a pretty hole-in-one at the Springtime Golf Course. The shot was high, landed two and a half feet in front of the pin, and rolled into the cup. Dennis was so emotional about his ace, that he didn't seem to mind his bar bill.

And **John Davidson**, from Branch 93, had a hole-in-one on number 12 at the Ridge ...congratulations, John!



News from the Branches

North Lake County Branch 168, Lakeport

Christmas Party with Karaoke

Maury Hayn, Big Sir

Branch 168 had a very nice Christmas party and members and guests totaled about 74. All the work – mainly invitations and decorations -- were handled by our Special Activities Chairman, **Larry Powers** and his wife **Audrey**, with lots of help from **Anita Everts**, our Little Sir's wife.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by "Tony", a one-man Karaoke style band, who gave us lots of songs and good dance music throughout the fun evening.

Some of those present are shown in the picture below.



Area Bridge Tournament

Ernie Sherne, Area 2 Bridge Chairman

East Bay Area 2 recently held its first Duplicate Bridge Tournament at the Diablo Country Club, thanks to the sponsorship of Branch 116. Appearing not to be grateful for their hospitality, the combined teams of Branch 8 and 146 edged out Branch 116 and 171 by 50.3% to 49.7%. There were 48 players representing the four Branches and the winning teams in the money out of a total possible 440 points were:

	Branch	Points	Percent
1. Jim Jackson/ Fred Kovar	146	285	64.8%
2. Rich Bamberger/ Ali Aghaiepour	116	280	63.6%
3. Walt Schick/ Gene Bingham	8	266	60.5%
4. Art Donaldson/ Jai Yee	116	263	59.8%

Are there any other Branches or Areas with active bridge groups – either duplicate or rubber bridge – interested in an inter-area tourney? I would be interested in hearing from you by email <ernies32@sbcglobal.net>

Busy bridge players make happy bridge players ...don't you think

Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Lots of Dancing at Christmas Party

Phil Goff, Bulletin Editor

Branch 116 in Walnut Creek had a very successful Christmas party this past December. The party was held at Blakes, a restaurant located at the beautiful Boundary Oak Golf Course, and had a sellout crowd of over 200 attendees. Everyone dressed in their finest attire and enjoyed visiting with friends and eating a Holiday dinner. Shown in the picture are 2006 officers, Little Sir **Floyd Skelton** and Big Sir **Jerry Hunter**.



The group danced to the music of the Diplomats, pictured below, a band that plays a variety of music ranging from Foxtrot, Swing, to Cha-Cha and the dance floor was filled the entire evening.

Event planner, **Bill McCord**, did an outstanding job of arranging this grand affair ...in fact, at our January luncheon meeting, everyone gave Bill a standing ovation for putting together such a successful event. Bill thanked everyone and said he is already at work planning next year's party.



News from the Branches

Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

A Nice Christmas Party

Greg Lynch, Bulletin Editor

The annual Christmas Party was held at the Three Flames Restaurant in San Jose, 190 members and guests enjoyed a tasty meal and entertainment was provided by the Jack Perry Trio for dancing before lunch and the Peninsula Banjo Band played after lunch. Regional Director, **Tom Smith**, conducted the induction ceremony for the 2006 officers. Area Governor, **Dave Rieser**, presented a special award to outgoing Big Sir **Wayne Stewart** and then Wayne presented the Branch's special "Above and Beyond Award," to three branch members: **Ed Metevia, Neil Atchison, and John Feemster**.

The ladies received a flower favor to end the day and a good time was had by all. Our Christmas Party Committee was responsible for putting on this very nice affair and members of the committee are pictured from left to right: **Bob Rung, Chairman, George Watson, Bob Shields, Greg Lynch, Ed Linn, and John Feemster**.



Would you like to be notified by Email when SIR Happenings Newsletter is posted on the SIR website?

Please send your name and Email address to Dwight Sale

dwight.sale@comcast.net

Hooker Oak Branch 84, Chico

84 Hookers

Fred Sherman, Fishing Club Member

Our active Branch 84 fishing club consists of some 10 to 12 fisherman and we are open to go fishing almost anywhere. During salmon season, we fish the Sacramento River vigorously. We also fish Lake Oroville for Coho and the mountain lakes for trout and we are planning to fish at Clear Lake for crappie ...and for whatever else happens to come along. We regularly meet for breakfast on the same day that our Branch has its luncheon.

Last August, eight of us went over to Fort Bragg and that's me, **Fred Sherman**, in the picture.



Lincoln Branch 13, Roseville

Speaker Holds Audience Spellbound

Ralph Madsen, Little Sir

Army Sergeant, Ben Waldron, held a Branch 13 audience spellbound during his luncheon speech in January, talking about his youth during the Depression and of joining the Army in June of 1939. He ended up in the Coast Artillery and was sent to Corregidor Island in the Philippines and there he fought against the Japanese invasion. He was captured in May 1941, along with 12,000 other troops.

He told about his incarceration under the Japanese for the next 3½ years and how he survived various hardships. He hid a diary in the false bottom of a box and chronicled his life as a P.O.W. Had the Japanese found the book, he certainly would have been executed. He was shipped to Japan to work in a factory and the 62-day boat trip was brutal. Life at the factory was gruesome and his weight had dropped from 165 pounds to 97 pounds by the time he was liberated.

He wrote a book entitled "Corregidor: From Paradise to Hell" to document his story. The book earned Best Book of the Year Award in 1989 and 90.

News from the Branches

Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

Branch Puts Roster on a CD

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Branch 69 is a unique branch located in the Sacramento area. Although it has only 110 members, over 80 are on the Internet. This allows for instant communication with the majority of the branch. For example, such items as golf starter lists, schedule changes, travel flyers, and death notices are routinely emailed to branch members. Additionally, the computer tips that are included in our monthly newsletter, have resulted in an extremely computer savvy group.

Normally, the branch produces a bound, 11 page roster in color, that includes a picture of each member. This year, PBS **George Christman** and **Frank Franzago** decided to try something new. Only 50 copies of the roster were printed, but put together a "Branch Information Directory" CD for all the members with a computer. This CD contains a "Read Me First" file of instructions, a welcoming message from the Big Sir, the Branch Roster (in both MS Word and PDF), the branch golf schedule, the area golf schedule, and a monthly calendar of SIR events. Also, a membership application in MS Word is included that can be filled in on the computer. This CD has saved the Branch a great deal of money and effort, and was produced for a total cost of twenty cents per CD versus \$1.55 for the printed and bound version ...other Branches may want to try this same thing.

De Anza Branch 153, Sunnyvale

Branch Honors Members Over 80

Bob Daniels, Treasurer

Shown in the photo below are all the members of Branch 153 who are 80 years old or older, including several members that are over 90.



Dry Diggins Branch 70, Placerville

Swearing In Ceremony

Ben Collins, Bulletin Editor

During a recent Branch 70 luncheon, featuring an interesting talk about the evolution of Highway 50 dating back to 1849, State Secretary **Bill Short** is shown congratulating **Bill George**, after being sworn in as the new Little Sir.



Tamalpais Branch 47, San Rafael

Good Speaker, not Good for Stomach

Chris Lewis, Treasurer

We were glad that we had finished lunch before our distinguished speaker started his presentation ...he was John Conway, a retired FBI agent. While his talk was fascinating, his description of the peculiar habits of famous murderers and serial killers did not do much for the appetite unless you happen to be a vampire. Obviously, John developed a knack for successfully interviewing these criminals and often gaining their friendship. For example, Charles Manson seemed to look upon John as a friend. Although they were all guilty of atrocious crimes, at times they appear relatively normal. Besides Manson, John interviewed Richard Chase, the vampire killer ...Ed Kemper who murdered 13 people ...and Sirhan Sirhan. John's stories held his audience glued to their seats and we thank him for providing us with such an interesting talk.

News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

25th Anniversary

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

Amador Branch 96 recently celebrated its 25th year in Amador County. The group was founded by **Dan Rothenbush** of Pine Grove on August 6, 1981 and with the help of 25 friends, received its charter. Rothenbush went on to become the Big Sir for the first two years.

Past Big Sir **Ken Edwards** was installed as the State Director for Region 3, which includes 25 Branches in Amador County, plus areas of Tuolumne, Placer, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties with almost 4,000 members. This marks the first time a Directorship has come from Branch 96 or for that matter, from this area.



In 1999, with a bulging membership of 300 and many men on the waiting list, Branch 96 sponsored Branch 15 in Pioneer and transferred over a 100 members, along with the necessary funding to get the new Branch underway. Many activities, including golf, are now shared between the two Amador County Branches.

Edwards, is shown during the installation of the new officers elected to serve Branch 96 in 2006 during its 25th anniversary year.

Wine Valley Branch 149, Napa

Roving Rooster Club

Jim Slater, RV Committee Chairman

Earlier this year, twenty six Rigs from the Roving Rooster RV Club arrived in Hemitt for a week of fun in the sun at the Golden Village RV Resort, after braving some pretty strong Santa Ana winds. The hosts and wagon masters for the outing were **Keith and Joan Pieper**.



This RV resort boasts many activities, not the least of which is a Championship Indoor Shuffleboard facility where many of our members enjoyed learning and playing the game.

There are lots of activities available at this park. The golfers were pleased with the great golfing deals in the area and others just enjoyed getting out and seeing the area.

We enjoyed some good food on this outing and one night went to the Palm Springs Follies, followed by a street fair in the evening in front of the Follies Theater. We even had 40's, 50's and 60's music by the Snowbird Orchestra one night and many danced the night away.

The next Roving Rooster outing will be in Columbia. **Gene and Barbara Lyle** and **Al and Sandy Brambrink** are co-wagon masters for this four day trip, which will feature an evenings' entertainment at a theater showcasing the music of Burt Bacharach ...a large number will certainly get on board for this great camping experience.



News from the Branches

Los Gatos Branch 141

What's it Like to be a Park Ranger

Ever wonder what it is like to be a park ranger in a place like Yosemite National park?

Tom "Smitty" Smith — a former Region 7 Director, and Professor Emeritus of Park Management from West Valley College in Saratoga — spent 15 summers as a park ranger in Yosemite National Park where he rode a horse for about 700 miles every summer, patrolling the backcountry of the Park and the area around Tuolumne Meadows.

During three of those summers, he had his family with him in a cabin located 14 miles from the nearest road with no electricity, where everything had to be brought in on the back of a mule. During this time, he patrolled the Wawona backcountry and while he was stationed in Tuolumne Meadows, he patrolled the High Sierra. His wilderness job included a lot of search and rescue and as a horse patrolman in Tuolumne, his job was much the same as the mounted police officer you see in downtown San Francisco or San Jose.

Most people don't realize that Yosemite is a piece of Federal land, and only Federal law applies. Local enforcement agencies and the Highway Patrol do not have jurisdiction within the boundaries of the Park. That makes the Park Ranger a "jack of all trades." You have to be able to protect people from other people — people from themselves and the park — and the park from the people.

Tom has written a book about his experiences titled, "I am Just a Seasonal," and it describes what it is like to be a park ranger in a place like Yosemite. He has also spent considerable time telling his Yosemite story to SIR branches in the South Bay as far away as Watsonville and Hollister. He has very much enjoyed this experience because it has extended his SIR friendships a lot farther and he would like to continue speaking to SIR Branches.

That's Smitty in the picture, just before his horse got very antsy and gave him visions of wiping out some of important dignitaries on that stage.



Vacaville Branch 99

American Flag over Iraq

Thomas "Ed" Morris, Bulletin Editor

I'm very proud of this American Flag ...it was flown on a mission over Iraq last year on June 19, 2005 by my Son-In-Law, MSgt Greir A. Gardner, who is shown in the picture standing next to his AC-130U Gunship.

Greir is stationed at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. Later, he built the nice display box and presented the flag to me.



SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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Letters to the Editor



Editor's Note: Here are some comments that we received about our article in the January edition on the proper use of SIR and Sir:

Thanks for explaining the proper use of "SIR" language. As a recent (one year) member, I appreciate the clarification. I have thoroughly enjoyed my association with SIR.

Jack Ordway, Branch 94

I just read the new 2006 issue of Happenings and found a very good article on page 11, "Confused about how to use SIR." I believe it is an article that would be very worthwhile reprinting in our HOTLINE. It certainly will help clear up the use of SIRS, etc.

Dave Perkins, Branch 8

This is the first issue of this publication that I have reviewed and I have found it to be both interesting and instructive. Moreover, on the subject, as an English minor in college, I agree technically with your comments on the proper usage of the organization name. However, in my three years of membership, I have encountered an almost universal usage of the term "sirs" not only to refer to the group, but even to individual members. For example, our officers will introduce visitors from other Branches as "Sirs" Branch number _____. Overall, you should be complimented for the quality of this publication. I recommend it for all members.

Aloha, **George Black**, Branch 98,

I enjoyed reading Happenings very much. I found it interesting and informative. I found the piece concerning the proper use of the singular and plural of SIR especially interesting. I've always felt good grammar is important. I'm sorry I don't have anything to contribute for your next edition, but maybe next time.

Ray Andrade, Branch 59

A comment from the Editor: Please remember...when referring to the organization, the proper term is SIR and not SIRS. For example, we are members of SIR, not SIRS. When referring to an individual member, use Sir. For example, I am a Sir, when referring to more than one Sir, it is Sirs.

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reviewing the SIR Happenings, especially the restored automobiles. Having owned a 1946-120 and a 1948-110 Packard, I question the 1942 indicated in Happenings (January '06) edition. I would believe this a picture of a 1947 or 1948.

Charlie Maxwell, Branch19 <charliemyrl@astound.net>

*We checked with Paul Murphy, the PR Chairman of Branch 96 and author of the story. Paul said that according to the owner, **Bill Admire**, who is a retired CHP officer and a member of Branch 96, the limo is in fact a 1942-160, 7 passenger touring limousine. The 1942 models are rare due to the civilian production being stopped when the U.S. was attacked at Pearl Harbor in December, 1941. There are only five of this year and model known to still exist. This particular vehicle was purchased at an estate sale in 1965 and restored at that time to its current condition.*

Editor's Note: Shown below are some of the nice comments we have recently received and we want to express our thanks to all who sent them

I did check out the January issue of SIR Happenings and it looks great, especially the story on page 2 about my friend Warren Holly.

Arthur Kinney, Branch 46

Thanks for the superb extract piece on our 100-year old earthquake survivor, Norm Peters.

Doug Hayward, Branch 60

Happenings is fun to read; Keep it coming.

Howard Crom, Branch 1

Really enjoyed reading the January 2006 SIR Happenings, lots of good information, particularly interesting was the scoop on the forthcoming golfing events and the happenings at the various Chapters.

Peter Bailey, Branch 34

Thanks for forwarding SIR Happenings. It's great. I appreciate it.

Gerald Yerby, Branch 37

Hey-what a great job! I thoroughly enjoyed your latest issue.

Ron Johnson, Little Sir, Branch 179

Just a note to thank you for forwarding the new issue SIR Happenings. It looks great and comes through smoothly.

Peter Smith, Branch 32

Thank you for the informative and fun News Letter "Happenings." It is well done-easy to look at as well as read!

Rowland Fellows, Branch 115

I am the Big Sir of Branch 44 and just wanted to drop you a line to say how professional, entertaining and informative your news is. Keep up the good work as we all appreciate it and the work you put into it.

Gerald Mills, Big Sir, Branch 44



SIR HAPPENINGS

JULY 2006

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

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

President Bob's Column

Here is a reminder to all of you about our great SIR 50th anniversary cruise to Hawaii in 2008. The flier each of you received told you all about this wonderful trip. If you didn't get a flier, they are on the SIR website at:

<http://sirinc.org/2008TripBrochure-5-11-06.pdf>

It will be a super cruise, with plenty of time to relax or mix or both, as well as to see the local sights on each of the key islands of our 50th state. Don't forget, you will leave from near your home with bus transportation provided to San Francisco and at the end of the trip, you will be returned to your starting point. The ship leaves from San Francisco and returns to San Francisco — no airport hassles to contend with.

Our ship, the luxurious **Summit**, is one of Celebrity Cruises' outstanding ships. I know you will enjoy the accommodations, the entertainment, the food and the overall atmosphere of Celebrity's fine ship.

We need you to sign up early so that that our travel agency, Golden Gate Tours, can predict with some confidence, the number of passengers that will eventually sign up. Sirs are notoriously late signer uppers, but in this case, please sign up early, even if you have only a desire to go. 1,000 signers by September will convince our travel agency that they will eventually have enough passengers so that they will risk a \$1,000,000 deposit required by the Cruise Line. The travel agency won't take that risk if a minimum of 1000 individuals have not signed up for the cruise and the trip will be cancelled. If you sign up now and later change your mind before September, you may cancel without penalty and get your \$100 deposit back... so sign up today and help us celebrate SIR's 50th anniversary!!

Another reminder for you to visit SIR's fine website at sirinc.org. Everything you ever wanted to know about SIR is there. Come prowling around... you're sure to find things you never knew.

A final word: We have slowed the rate of declining membership, but we haven't stopped it yet, so, HAVE FUN, BUT BRING IN ONE!

Bob

Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

Get Involved for Success

Don Nunn, Branch 146 Member

While we hear that overall membership in Sons In Retirement is declining, our Branch is growing... in fact, our waiting list had recently gotten so large, that we increased our membership by 15%. We feel the main reason for our current success is the large participation in our 24 different activities... weekly golf, 3 different Bridge groups, 3 different Poker groups, 3 different Cooking groups, Billiards, SongSir, Dinner dances, a Theater group, Walking group and Wine Tasting, just to name a few. Due to this involvement, we have 48 committee chairmen and this does not count our Executive Committee members.

When our branch was forming a golf activity, the founders decided to enter all golfers' names into a computer program that sorts the weekly foursomes by chance. This allows a member to play in a different foursome each week. In one month a golfer spends 4 to 5 hours each week with 12 different players... you rapidly become acquainted and involved.

Once yearly, we draw a number to determine random seating for lunch. This again helps members meet and share lunch with fellow members that they might otherwise never know... once again involvement!

We firmly believe that involvement and participation contribute to the success rate of the branch. This carries over to our Officers and Directors as well. As we enter our 18th year, we have had 18 Big Sirs and 18 different Little Sirs. It is exceedingly rare for a director to serve for more than 2 years... again this is participation and involvement!

We would like to suggest to those Branches that are struggling, that they might try our model... lots of fun activities and most of all involvement.

Internet Address for Sons in Retirement:

www.sirinc.org

Have Fun, but Bring in One

Sirs in the News

Snowline Branch 113, Pollock Pines

Marathon Runner

Bill Short, State Secretary (member of Br 113)

Branch Treasurer, **Larry Leibnitz**, retired from PG&E in 1993 after holding several management positions during his 33 year career with the company and joined Branch 113 in 2004.

Larry's life took a turn in 1985, when a younger, long-time runner, inspired him to test his ability in road running. He had never excelled in sports, but soon found he could successfully compete in the sport of running. Larry now competes in road and trail races, ranging in distance from 5K to 50K (31 miles). One of his most challenging runs was the Pikes Peak Ascent, which is a 13 1/2 mile trail run, that climbs from 6,000' to 14,000'.

Although Larry has won many medals in over 200 running events, his goal always was to qualify for the Boston Marathon, the "Holy Grail" of marathons. He did that last December by meeting the qualifying time for his age group... and so, at the age of 65, Larry hit the pavement for the 110th Boston Marathon running a respectable time of 4 hours and 23 minutes. Larry shows that running can be rewarding even at an older age.



Santa Cruz Branch 20

HLM Award

Jack Roberts, Big Sir

The highlight of the April Branch 20 luncheon meeting was the presentation of an Honorary Life Membership to **Mario Esposito** for his many outstanding efforts and contributions to the Santa Cruz Branch.

Mario was born and raised in Santa Cruz and after a stint in the Navy, he returned to settle down and raise a family. During his 29 year career with the County Bank of Santa Cruz, Mario was very active in community affairs and to name just a few of his activities... he was President of the Chamber of Commerce, a founding member of the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz, served on many Boards of Directors, was named "Outstanding Young Man of the Year" and won the Jaycee's "Distinguished Service Award."

Mario has been a SIR member since 1997. In 1999 he served as Big Sir and that year Branch 20 enjoyed the largest membership gain ever with 70 new members initiated. He has also served as a Director and Arrangements Chairman and Program Chairman for four years.

In the picture State President **Bob Curley** (in the center) is shown presenting the HLM Award to **Mario** (on the Left) and joining in the presentation is Big Sir **Jack Roberts**.



In Memoriam – Warren Hilliard

Former State President, **Warren K. Hilliard**, recently passed away at the age of 102... he would have turned 103 this month. He was State President in 1986 and was a member of The Camellia City Branch 3, in Sacramento. Several years ago, Jim Donovan honored Warren with a Century Certificate.

Warren was born on a Farm in Iowa, when at a young age, the family moved to California and settled on a ranch next to the Kings River... for the first few years the ranch lacked electricity and they never did have a telephone. After graduating from Reedley High School, Warren attended UC-Davis and then graduated from the agricultural program at UC-Berkeley in 1926.

Through his education and hands-on experience, he became an agricultural expert and advisor to many ranchers throughout California. He also taught agricultural courses and established agricultural education programs in Brentwood and Modesto. He worked for a number of years as an advisor with the California Farm Bureau in Berkeley and then joined the Federal/State Market News Service of the California Department of Agriculture in Sacramento, where he remained until his retirement in 1970

He led an active life in retirement. During these years he visited many foreign countries and traveled throughout the United States.

Warren was known as a good and honest man, who stood by his beliefs and family. He also had an enviable sense of humor. During his lifetime he witnessed the coming of age of our country through six wars, the intervening prosperity, the Great Depression, and the marvels of science like radio and television.

Sirs in the News

Mount Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek

Award Winning Diver

Ron Smith, Big Sir



Sir **Bob Sherman** is 78 years old and certainly in his golden years by most standards. However, the real gold has come in the form of medals he has won while competing in Masters National Diving Events.

In the 75 – 80 age group at the World Games in July 2005 in Edmonton, Canada, Bob finished 2nd in the 1 meter board, 1st in the 3 meter board, 1st in the 5 and 7½ meter tower.

In the same World Games, he and his 68 year old female partner finished 3rd out of 24 teams in Synchronized Diving. This event was open to all divers age 25 and up – quite a feat!

And then, in May, 2006 at the Masters Indoor National Diving Competition in Dallas, Texas, Bob won 1st Place in three different events in the 75 – 80 age group: 1 meter board, 3 meter board, and 5 and 7½ meter tower.

Bob jokingly attributes some of his success to the fact that he has worn down the competition. “There aren’t that many divers left in the 75-80 age group so it’s easier to get a gold.” He may joke about it, but you have to be in good shape – competitive and focused – when you’re looking down at the water from a 7 meter tower. Then you spring up and out, twist and turn your body and after falling 20 feet, cut the surface of the water like a knife.

Bob started swimming and diving at an early age and in 1961 started the Sherman Swim School in Lafayette, California, which is still operated by his son, Steve... and of course, Bob helps out while keeping in shape.

Bob isn’t hanging up his suit. He is training for the FINA World Masters Diving competition at Stanford University in August. Good Luck, Bob and keep going for the gold!

Vacaville Branch 99

Winners Announced

Ed Morris, Bulletin Editor

Gene Gough, the Branch 99 Golf Chairman, announced that Branch 99 was very successful at the Area 18 qualifier played on May 15th of this year. The Area 18 qualifier is a requirement for entering the SIR State Individual Championship... those who finished 5th or better, are invited to the Area 1. There were 40 entries and 16 Branch 99 golfers qualified! Those who qualified are: 2nd flight—**Kent Carlson** and **Don Grass**. 3rdFlight—**Nick Martin**, **Dick Babington** and **Joe L. Lopez**. 4thFlight—**Ralph Hamilton** and **John Kamerzell**. 5th Flight—**Frank Bottoms**, **Dan Bone**, **Jim Grassman** and Gary Mallory. 6th Flight—**Joe Conrey**, **Ernie Taylor** and **Yukiaki Takeda**. Congratulations to all!

Twin Peaks-Portola Branch 25, South San Francisco

Certificate of Merit

Nick Fesunoff, Bulletin Editor

Carl Holm was born on January 3, 1911 in Halsingborg, Sweden. After coming to this country, he opened his own business in San Francisco in 1939... it was a general appliance company located at 369 Fell Street and was quite well known at the time. He was married for 65 years to Frances, who died in 1999. He has two daughters, Karen and Gale.

Carl joined Sons In Retirement on September 14, 1977 and has served on the Board of Directors of Branch 25. Area 4 Governor **James Adams** is shown presenting a Certificate of Merit to the 95 year old Carl.



Computer Tips

Fred Skill, Branch 129

Here is a tip that is very helpful to those who surf the net. If you find a site that you use often, like a financial investment site that has your stock portfolio, and you go there a lot to check on how your stocks are doing and then you find yourself going to your history down arrow or your favorites/bookmarks to find the site... here is an easier way. Just save it to your desktop as a hot link with an icon. Just click on the little blue ‘e’ to the left of the link address and drag it off to the desktop and there you have it. Now when you want to go to that site just click on the icon and you don’t even have to open your internet explorer. It also works with your broadband connections.

Editor’s note: You can also catch Fred’s wide-ranging “Computer Tips and Tricks” column on the SIR website for more information on using your computer. For questions, contact Fred at: fskill@shasta.com.

State Bowling

Nat Lord, State Bowling Chairman

Editor's Note: We failed to receive a column for this issue so in its place we publish the article and picture below from Branch 94.

Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Stockton Bowling Tournament

Ron Bianco, Member Branch 94

The Branch 94 Bowling Teams participated in the SIR State Bowling Tournament held in Stockton on May 24, 2006. All games were scratch-bowling, meaning no handicaps, and the following is a run-down of our scores:

Team Bowling

Dennis Pitchford	Bowled a 539
Bill Hooper	Bowled a 596
Eddie Fahrmer	Bowled a 450
Ron Bianco	Bowled a 740
Bill Ikerd	Bowled a 525
Tony Medeiros	Bowled a 618
Bill Smith	Bowled a 414
Gene Cox	Bowled a 486

Doubles Bowling

Dennis Pitchford	Bowled a 733
Bill Hooper	Bowled a 606
Eddie Fahrmer	Bowled a 523
Ron Bianco	Bowled a 749
Bill Ikerd	Bowled a 536
Tony Medeiros	Bowled a 554
Bill Smith	Bowled a 417
Gene Cox	Bowled a 715

One of the Branch 94 bowling teams is shown in the picture. **Eddie Fahrmer** (in front) and **Bill Hooper, Ron Bianco,** and **Dennis Pitchford** (l to r in back). You can tell from the smiles, they had a good time at the tournament.



State Public Relations

Carl Raaka, State Public Relations Chairman

Editor's Note: *Happenings* asked our State Public Relations Chairman, Carl Raaka, to comment on the new PR Program, which can be viewed on the SIR website. Carl would welcome your comments and suggestions and you can contact him at: cajera@earthlink.com

The basic objectives of the new SIR Public Relations Program are to increase public awareness of Sons In Retirement and to help recruit new members. The program includes suggestions designed to assist branches in adopting and implementing a PR program of their own and it is now available on the SIR website, with two options available for downloading the program.

After downloading, it is suggested that the documents entitled, "SIR ELECTS" and "WHAT IS SIR?" be copied to a word processor and then stored in a document file. Releases to the media can easily be prepared by using "SIR ELECTS" as a base...likewise, for posting notices in public places where senior men might gather, the "WHAT IS SIR?" document is easily adaptable.

We hope the program will be of assistance to the branches. Look for additional suggestions, examples, and explanations, in the full text on the SIR website.

Carl Raaka cajera@earthlink.com

State RV

Jack Streckfus, State RV Committee Chairman

The SIR State RV Committee and the Sub-Host Committee — The Roving Roosters RV Club of San Jose — are in the process of formulating plans for the 2007 SIR State RV Rally. The dates and location might have to change from the previous announcements, due to a change of ownership at French Camp in Manteca.

The Sir State RV Committee will meet on June 19th in Santa Clara and I will keep everyone updated as to our progress on setting up the '07 State RV Rally.

Jack Streckfus jacstrk@pacbell.net

THE EDITOR CAN USE YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people who provided material for this issue of "SIR Happenings."

Please contribute stories and high resolution photos for use in a future issue.

Email your Branch news items to:

Editor Don MacGregor
donmac@hughes.net



State Golf

Dave Betts, State Golf Committee Chairman

Prior to our Branch 159 luncheon today, I had no idea what this article should be about... but, listening to our speaker Steve Cleveland, the Fresno State Basketball Coach, motivated me to write about the SIR State Golf Committee.

There are twelve members on the committee, each is individualistic in their thinking and comes to the committee from backgrounds as varied as the overall SIR Membership itself. As diverse as it is, this is a dedicated committee that works well together because we genuinely like each other and respect each other's opinions and thinking. All matters are fully aired in our meetings, in order to reach a consensus opinion. Everyone is fully informed on our actions and we intend to keep our golfing membership fully informed as well.

The individual members of the committee work very hard to provide golf outings of interest to a majority of our members. What our members communicate to us is what we will attempt to accomplish, within the limits of our SIR Rules and affordability.

The committee member's work isn't accomplished by just attending four or five committee meetings a year. It continues throughout the year by conducting the various tournaments, seeking new tournament sites, responsible financial reporting, developing and training each other in the use of new systems, and continuing to update and modernize the golf manual. We do this work because we genuinely enjoy the many personal contacts we make and are dedicated to serving our members... that's what Sons In Retirement is all about "Greeting old friends and making new ones".



Hole-In-One Column

The following Holes-in-One were mentioned in recent Branch Bulletins:

Walt Barabash, of Branch 146, wrote that a hole-in-one was made by our own **Bill Cammerer**... good going, Bill! I hope you made a little money after buying the drinks.

Don Dimitratos, from Branch 122, commented: Is there anyone in the Branch that **Bob Steiner** didn't tell about his hole-in-one at Adobe Creek. It was a 97 yard down hill shot over water. A witness told me that Bob pulled the shot, but a strong wind blew the ball into the hole. This was Bob's 4th ace... nice going, Bob.

Bob Westgard, a member of Branch 154, registered a hole-in-one at the Lake Shastina Golf Resort. The ace was witnessed by **Bob Dias** and **Roger Cotton** and was recorded on the 145 yard, par 3, 11th hole... using a 5 iron.

And this, from **Fred Relyea's** Branch 3 Golf Report: For the first time since I have been in golf, one of our members, **Frank Calcagno**, had a hole-in-one at Cavanaugh on the 17th hole. Congratulations, Frank !!

TOURNAMENT PROGRESS:

Las Vegas Tournaments – completed with results on the SIR Website.

Reno Tournaments – sold out and will be completed in June.

Solvang Tournament – September 10 to 14 – Entry Form on Website or available from your Division, Area or Branch Golf Chairmen. There were still openings for about 40 Players as of 6/8/06.

State Scramble Team Championship – Poppy Ridge Golf Club on August 21st. All Area Qualifiers should be completed in June and July.

State Individual Championship – Poppy Hills Golf Club on October 31st plus open play to fill the field and open play on Nov. 1st.

Mexico Air/Land – Puerto Vallarta – El Tigre Golf Course from November 8th to 15th. Airline Seats Sold Out.

Mexican Riviera Cruise – Dawn Princess from December 1st to 12th. Space available plus Golden Gate Tours will take a standby list.

For tournament results and more detailed information regarding the SIR State Golf Program, please visit the SIR Website at www.sirinc.org. Click on Activities and then on Golf.

If you have suggestions for new destinations please let us know...we are researching some at the present time and will continue to do so. We plan to have our 2007 Tournament Schedule finalized prior to year end.

Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22, San Rafael

Feathered Cap Award

Bob Farwell, Bulletin Editor

Shown in the picture is Branch 22's **Art Ross**, all decked out in his "Feathered Cap." Art was given this award by the golfers of Branch 22, as a tribute to his recent achievement... shooting his age! He shot an 88 at Vintners Golf Club, in Napa, on May 10th, and was 88 years old.



This cap was fashioned especially for Art by his "friends" in Branch 22. They felt he deserved it, even though the course was not officially sanctioned for this award. Theoretically, shooting one's age gets easier as you get older... apparently Art is out to prove this theory, because last year, he shot an 87 at the Adobe Creek Golf Course in Petaluma.

News from the Branches

Murphys Branch 140

Fun Bowling League

Dave McCarroll, Bulletin Editor

Many years ago — long before I moved to Murphys, 10 years ago — the Murphys Branch 140 was invited by the Sonora Branch to join them in forming a SIR bowling league. As a result of this invitation, the bowlers from the Murphys Branch have entered 3 to 4 teams per year... this year, we have 3 teams of 4 men each. We also have 3 other members who are bowling on three separate Sonora teams.

The season begins on the 1st Monday of September and ends the first week of May. Each Monday morning, the Murphys teams carpool to Sonora for a fun morning of bowling and camaraderie. The guys from Murphys have made a lot of new friends and look forward to the Monday morning competition.

Each team picks a zany name to add to the fun. For instance, **Drex Oliver, Len Jacques, Don Lloyd** and **Roy Creager** belong to the Drex Wrex (“old wrecks”) team. The Cliff Hangers started out with **Cliff Oates** being on the team and, therefore, the name. Its members are **Larry Gray, David McCarroll, Jim Galla** and **Bob Fitzgerald**. The Relix (meaning “old things”) members are **Larry Guzman, Ray Morris, John Vieira** and **Jim Pickett**. The other Murphys men on Sonora teams are **Larry Reese** (4 Horseman), **Pete Rooney** (Armando’s Army) and **Fred Cooper** (Andy’s Dandys).



The important idea about this bowling league is to get guys off their “posterior” to meet new guys and have fun!

As a member of any SIR bowling league, you may enter competition against other branches from all over. This is truly a lot of fun,

because you have the opportunity to meet guys from SIR branches up and down Northern California.

Think about it — every Monday or whatever day your league meets — your wife can have some peace and quiet and you can make all the noise you want, to encourage your team!

Snowline Branch 113, Pollock Pines

Charter Members

Bill Harris, Area 9 Governor

Snowline Branch 113 still has three of the original charter members that are active in the Branch. Shown in the picture from left to right are: **Walt Pine, Chuck Nollenberger** (charter member), **Ron de Pass, Claude Hanna, Roy Hudson** (charter member), **Bob Rath** (charter member), and **Bill Crews**... not shown are **Lloyd Bowman** and **Ed Merrill**. All the others joined the Branch within the same decade.

Area 16, Los Altos and Palo Alto

Want Some Help with your Mac?

Skip Ross, Branch 35

Mac users are only a small percentage of the overall personal computer population... as such, it’s hard to sustain critical mass in a SIR Area for a Mac users group. Area 16 in Palo Alto and Los Altos has established a Mac **virtual** users group, in an attempt to satisfy the desire of Mac users to seek help on problems, share information about favorite tools and applications, and just generally have a Mac-related good time.

What is a virtual users group?... we use an e-mail group (aka listserv) to communicate with each other. Any member can post a message by sending it to the group’s address and all subscribers receive a copy. When anyone replies to a posted message, the reply goes to all the other members so, this allows on-line discussions. Posting of messages is unmoderated...in other words, any message submitted is posted. We depend on group dynamics to keep the discussions from drifting away from topics of common interest.

The larger a group like this, the better the discussions...so, if you’re a Mac user and think this sounds interesting, please join us. If you’re a PC user, and just want to see how the other half (OK, the other 5%) lives, you’re welcome too... who knows, you may decide to come over from the dark side.

Membership in the group is limited to SIR members and email addresses are not made public, where spammers and scammers can see them. How do I join, you ask?... just send an email to Skip Ross of Branch 35 at: waross-sirmac@closereach.com

Tell me your name, your branch number and the email address you will use to send messages to the group and receive replies and I’ll do the rest.

So far we have 43 members... let’s go for 100 or more!



News from the Branches

Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont-Newark

A Tribute to our Veterans

Don Henry, Past Big Sir

The Branch 59 Ladies Day Sweetheart Luncheon honoring veterans was a big success. Big Sir **Les Addison** opened the program. Sir **Ralph Knight** gave the invocation. Sir **Fred Gotthardt** designed and produced the colorful and distinctive program that was available at each table. Song Leader Sir **Frank Campos** serenaded us with several patriotic songs. Earlier during the Social Hour Bob Marshall provided music for entertainment.



Past Big Sir Don Henry was the only Sir that fit in his Uniform

A survey was made of the Sirs present at the luncheon. The largest group was Navy veterans with 27 members, 22 represented the Army including the National Guard, the Air Force had 18 members present followed by 2 Sirs from the Coast Guard and 1 member from the Merchant Marine. Twenty of the members were civilians or failed to make us aware of their branch of service.

Before the luncheon was served, The Singing Sirs sang the official songs for each of the Military branches.

Door prizes were awarded to the members during the luncheon. The top prize was an Adirondack Chair donated by Governor **Tom Sherba** was won by **Frank and Betty Campos** who elected to donate it back. It was then won by **Gordon and Anne MacLeod**.

Sir **Tony Zeuli**, Social Chairman could not be at the luncheon because he was attending a high school reunion in the flooded North East. However the rest of the committee, **Don Henry**, **Nat Lord** and **Tom Sherba** thank all that came and made the party so much fun.

Miwok Branch 134, San Rafael

20th Anniversary Celebration

Howard Bassett, Branch 134 Member

With excellent support from Sir **Dick Crocker**, the editor of our monthly newsletter — “Tepee Talk” — we began a five month long celebration at our January luncheon.

In the January issue of “Tepee Talk,” an extra page was added that summarized some of the activities during our first five years (1986 — 1990). At our January luncheon, the Big Sirs during that first five year period, were honored and recollections of those years were shared... similarly, we used that same five year interval format for our luncheons from February through April, so that by May, we had honored all 20 of our past Big Sirs with short stories and brief talks about Branch memories of our 20 year history.

Our May luncheon was the official anniversary date, with music by our own barbershop quartet called the Old Town Four and a huge 20th anniversary banner was hung in back of our officers’ table. The active charter members, now numbering only 8, were seated in a special place of recognition... some of these men have served many years in various positions, both at the Branch and State level and were honored with SIR medallions to be hung around their necks. They added to the festivities with many stories about the trials and tribulations during those first few years, including finding an appropriate restaurant for our luncheons. This luncheon was devoted entirely to our 20th anniversary and was a very special day for the Branch.

Branch 59 Singing Sirs (l to r) Sir **Bob Edwards**, Sir **James Ferez**, Sir **John Randall**, Sir **Edgar Guthrie**, Sir **Arnold George**, Sir **Gordon McLeod**, Sir **Robert Ingebretson** and Song Leader Sir **Robert Benya**.



News from the Branches

South Bay Branch 74, San Jose

Enjoyable Ladies Day

Jerry Gustafson, Big Sir

The 112 people at our Ladies Day Luncheon enjoyed some good food and the high school students from Monta Vista High School were very entertaining.

During the luncheon, two new members were installed and the ladies got a kick out of seeing them inducted and at the end, joined in with a rousing "Cock a Doodle Doo." We bought potted plants for the center piece on each table and one of the ladies seated at the table won the plant.... we also gave each Lady a ticket for a prize. One Sir in our branch was given a round of applause, as he and his wife had just celebrated 60 years of marriage, but due to an illness, they were unable to attend.



From all indications, the Ladies Day Luncheon was a success and enjoyed by all and it's nice to share it in

Happenings. That's me in the picture, conducting business.

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Annual Italian Parade

Paul Murphy, PR Chairman

Big Sir **Ron Gibbs**, (Closest to camera), and Little Sir, **Bill Garrett**, are seen waving at the crowd in a 1966 GTC Alfa Romeo, driven by member **Sherdean Swift**, the car's owner. This is the second year that Branch 96 has been invited to participate in the Annual Italian Parade, which celebrated its 130th Anniversary in Sutter Creek.



Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

Need Any Rattlesnakes Removed?

Mike Nickey, Little Sir

There was noticeable apprehension at this Branch 37 luncheon when the speaker walked to the podium carrying two cages of deadly rattlesnakes, with their rattles buzzing.

Len Ramirez was formerly a world-class tennis player, playing against the likes of John McEnroe, when his fascination with snakes caused him to make a drastic career change. In 1985, he and his wife, shown in the picture at right, started the Ramirez Rattlesnake Removal Company in the Santa Cruz Mountains, but later moved to Auburn in the Sierra Foothills, because he said... "that's where there are more Rattlers." Since then, their business has grown and been featured on both local and national TV and in newspaper and magazine articles.



They are on call 24/7 and will do removals anywhere in California, but operate mainly in Northern and Central California. Last year, they responded to about 3,000 calls and captured 1,000 rattlers. Len says snakes are very beneficial to the environment by keeping the rodent population down, and so, he doesn't kill the snakes, but releases them after capture... someone in the audience wanted to know how close to Auburn they are released.

Ramirez has been bitten once on his little finger, causing a three-week stay in the hospital... that finger will always be larger than his other finger. Someone asked about treatments for snake bites.

He recommended caution on using the common treatments most people have read about and said the best treatment for



Photo by Sir Tug Miller

a snake bite is a set of car keys to get to the nearest hospital.

Spring is the biggest season for Rattlesnake removal... he had just come from a call where he caught six rattlesnakes... two in the garage, two next to the house, and two in the house... he told the audience to be sure there is no open space at the bottom of your garage door, because that's how the snakes get in.

Ramirez said he loves what he is doing and has the best job he has ever had... most of the Sirs in the audience would disagree.

News from the Branches

Merced Branch 57, South San Francisco

Lend Me an Ear

Hank Gomez, Secretary

Currently Branch 57 has two singing groups... The SIR-N-AIDERS and The CHANTICLEERS. Singers from each group sometimes practice and perform in a combined chorus, for a bigger sound and a better performance. Most performances are in the afternoon, usually at 2PM. Both groups perform separately or as a combined chorus at: retirement homes, convalescent facilities — usually once or twice a month — and sometimes at the Branch monthly luncheons. At Branch luncheons we usually sing 2 or 3 songs as part of the program.

The reason for the two choruses came about when the Chanticleer Chorus in Branch 13 merged with Branch 57, which had the Sir-N-Aiders. As each group lost members, the obvious solution was to sing together as one group, whenever possible, so, the size of the group varies anywhere from 8 to 14, including the piano player. Programs run from 45 minutes to an hour... that's about 20 to 24 songs and most of them are sing-a-longs with the audience.

It looks as though that from now on the combined Chanticleer/Sir-N-Aider Chorus will be performing under the direction of **Ray Bon, Tony Blaiotta, Larry Monroe, or Hank Gomez**, and like the programs, are sometimes subject to change at the last moment. The picture shows us having a good time at one of our performances. From l to r **Ralph Pico, Larry Monroe, Bob Laursen and Hank Gomez**.



Would you like to be notified by Email when SIR Happenings Newsletter is posted on the SIR website?

Please email your name, branch number and street address to:

Dwight Sale

dwight.sale@comcast.net

Las Positas Branch 121, Livermore

More than just a Hiking Group

Werner Schlapfer, Branch 121 Hiking Chairman

The Livermore branches 101 and 121 have a combined hiking group that meets every Wednesday at 8:30 am in the parking lot of a local shopping center. We decide where we are going hiking that day and then carpool to the trailhead.

Most often our hiking locations are in the East Bay Regional Parks that surround the Livermore-Amador Valley. Our hikes usually take about 2 hours and most of the time includes lots of ups and downs... some times, quite steep. Participation is anywhere from 4 to 10 hikers.

In addition to these weekly hikes, the hiking group organizes a public transportation outing roughly every two months. Spouses and friends are always invited to join these day trips, which sometimes involve some hiking, sometimes not. We normally take BART and other modes of public transportation to get to our destination. These trips are quite popular and we usually have 30 to 40 participants, on one occasion there were 58 of us. These outings usually involve lunch at a nice restaurant — sometimes a real fancy one — like the Garden Court in San Francisco's Palace Hotel. Our most unusual trip was a public transportation journey around the bay, starting with the Altamont Commuter Express from Livermore to Santa Clara — then Caltrain to San Francisco — and after lunch, the Baylink ferry to Vallejo — a bus to the Del Norte BART station in El Cerrito — and BART back to Livermore. Our overall philosophy is to go only where we can take public transportation and to keep things as simple as possible. As the tour guide, I only work out the schedule, make reservations, when necessary, and publicize the upcoming trips by e-mail, as well as in our newsletters.

Everybody enjoys these very informal trips and of course, they are much cheaper than a daytrip with a bus company.

Shown in the photo is **Art Hull, Neal Cavanaugh, Ray Fontaine, and Dale Schauer** (l to r).



Happenings Travel Bulletin

Editors Note: *Happenings is pleased to begin a new section devoted to SIR travel. We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this new feature in Happenings will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs.*

To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on these travel pages was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

August 2006

August 17—27

Switzerland at Liesure (offered by: Area 1 Travel)

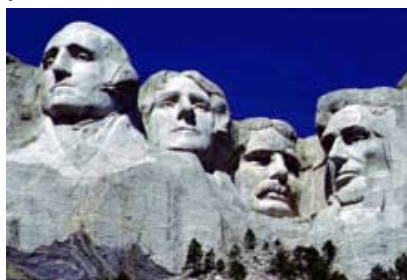
Three fabulous train rides—up, up, up the mountain -- first to Jungfrau (the highest train station in the world). Later the "Mountain Train" from Tasch to Zermatt, and then a final ride on the "Glacier Express." This is a guaranteed to go trip—10 days, 9 nights, \$3526 PPDO. Call **Michael Clark** at (650) 347-0919 for flyers and details.



August 19-27

Yellowstone/Mt Rushmore (Offered by: Area 19 Travel)

Tour includes Salt Lake City, Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Grand Tetons, Devil's Tower, Crazy Horse, Buffalo Bill's Museum, Deadwood, and more. \$1895 PPDO. Includes air, all gratuities and taxes. Call **Ron de Pass** (530) 644-1405 for details.



September 2006

September 1—10

Grand Alaska Land Tour (offered by: Area 1 Travel)

10 day escorted land tour. Roundtrip transportation to SFO Airport. 3 nights Anchorage, 2 nights Valdez, 2 nights Fairbanks, 2 nights Denali—12 meals—Price \$2366 PPDO. Call **George Keeling** at (650) 574-0474 for details.

September 6-15

The Great Cities of Canada (offered by: Area 6 Travel)

Tour Niagara Falls, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec. The tour will include many, many interesting sights and we should see fall colors. Price \$2750 PPDO. Contact **Hank Listman** at (415) 883-0250.

September 13-23

Alaska Inside Passage Cruise (offered by: Area 14 Travel)

Leave from San Francisco for 10 nights on the Regal Princess. Visit Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria. May be able to see the Northern Lights at that time of year. Prices run from \$1355 to \$2105 PPDO. Call **Jerry Wisenor** at (209) 334-5181 for more information and reservations.

September 28-October 13,

Panama Canal Cruise (offered by: Region 1 Travel)

A 16 day cruise on the 3 year old Floating Palace from Los Angeles to Fort Lauderdale. 3 Mexico ports of call, one in Costa Rica, Panama, Aruba, and Jamaica. Prices from \$2850 to \$3549. For more details Call **George Smith** at (530) 342-3133.

October-November 2006

October 7-14

Hawaiian Island Cruise (offered by: Branches 44, 163, & 178)

Roundtrip air from Bakersfield to Honolulu. 7 nights aboard the new "Pride of America," including stops at Hilo, Kona Maui, and Kauai. Prices from \$1,839 to \$2,439 PPDO. Call **Dave Moore** (661) 832-8945 for details.



October 7-13, 2006

Albuquerque Balloon Festival (offered by: Area 7 Travel)

Witness the world's largest Ascension of balloons...800 in all. Trip includes sightseeing in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, NM with visits to National Parks, Monuments, and other historical sites. Cost is \$1739 PPDO. Call **Paul Peters** at (510) 724-8345.



Happenings Travel Bulletin

October 7-18

Mexican Riviera Cruise (offered by: Branch 101 & 121 Travel)

This deluxe, all-inclusive cruise on board the Dawn Princess, leaves from and returns to San Francisco after calling at Mazatlan, Acapulco, Zihuatanejo/Ixtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas. Costs run from \$1290 to \$1760 PPDO. Call **Werner Schlapfer** at (925) 443-8291.

October 16-24

Indian Trails of the Southwest (offered by: Area 1 Travel)

A 9 day historical tour by deluxe bus--6 States, ending in Palm Springs. 2 nights--Durango Colorado and St. George Utah—one night Santa Fe, New Mexico, Winslow, Arizona, and Palm Springs—includes Zion Canyon tram excursion, guided tour of Mesa Verde-Durango to Silverton Train— Sky City. Breakfast daily—3 hosted dinners. Price \$1115 PPDO. For details and a brochure call **Paul Thiebaut** at (650) 345-9375.

October 21-November 4

China's Mighty Yangtze Guilin's Li River (offered by: Area 6 Travel)

China is unlike any place in the world. This tour features China's most visited cities, with magnificent cruises on the Yangtze and Li Rivers. The price is \$3155 PPDO. Includes all transportation, meals, Visas and gratuities. Call **Wally Fenn** at (415) 883-5935 for more details.

October 29-November 9

Mexican Riviera Cruise (offered by: Area 1 Travel)

Eleven nights of cruising on the Dawn Princess leaving San Francisco, with ports of call at: Mazatlan, Acapulco, Ixtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas, and return to San Francisco. Prices start at \$1300. Call **Midge Damonte** at (650) 588-6645 for more details.

December 2006

December 29—January 3, 2007

New Year's at Empress Hotel in Victoria (offered by: Branches 9, 14, & 127 Travel)

Tour includes 5 nights in first class hotels—I night Seattle, 1 night Vancouver, and 3 nights at the Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria. Enjoy a dinner atop the Space Needle in Seattle, a scenic cruise to Victoria, the Butchart Gardens, Victoria city tour, the Royal British Columbia Museum, a New Year's Eve dinner party and much more. Price is \$1590 PPDO. Includes 8 meals and roundtrip air from Sacramento. Call **Tony Praxel** at (916) 285-9656 for more details.

December 30-January 3, 2007

New Year's in Nashville (offered by: Area 7 Travel)



Four nights at the fabulous Opryland Hotel, plus masquerade dinner dance, brunch, dinner cruise, lunch at Wild Horse Saloon, and the Grand Ole Opry. Price \$1335 PPDO...includes air fare, tax, and gratuities. Call **Paul Peters** at (510) 724-8345.

December 30-January 8, 2007

New Year's Eve in Hawaii (offered by: Area 1 and 19 Travel)

Trip includes 2 nights at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani with New Years Eve Party. 7 nights aboard the new ship, "Pride of Hawaii," with four ports of call. Prices start at \$2195 PPDO. Call **Michael Clark** (Area 1) — (650) 347-0919 or **Tim Hall** (Area 19) — (530) 644-4418 for details.

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email **Don MacGregor** at: donmac@hughes.net

Presented by Golden Gate Tours

50th Anniversary Cruise To HAWAII

September 24 - October 10, 2008

Celebrate the anniversary of 50 years of SIRS Travel on board Celebrity's luxurious SUMMIT

San Francisco, California
Hilo, Island of Hawaii's
Honolulu, Island of O'ahu
Nawiliwili, Island of Kauai's
Lahaina, Island of Maui's
Kailua-Kona, Island of Hawaii's
Ensenada, Mexico
San Francisco, California

Round Trip From San Francisco!
Exclusively for the Sons In Retirement's 50th Anniversary!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Nice issue (July 2005). However, many of the pages are not numbered and it would be helpful if so.

Gary DeRosa, Branch 96
lzap135@internet49.com

With the exception of the front page, all the other pages are numbered at the bottom right side of each page. Be sure to adjust your printer so that it is not chopping off the bottom of the page.

Dear Editor:

Having served as an officer in our Branch, I am fully aware that to complain is easy... doing takes effort. In the April Happenings, I noticed something happens when names and pictures are used together. The name is there, but not the position that the person has in the picture. Having two or more in the same photo makes it hard to decide who one is looking at. Since I remember faces better than names, I would be the first to notice this. Otherwise, I find the newsletter to be interesting.

Roy Estep, Branch 49
buckeye@softcom.net

I thought that we had been doing a pretty good job of identifying people in our pictures, but we will certainly keep your comments in mind and be sure that we clearly identify the names with faces.

The following are letters of appreciation and we want to thank all of those that took the time to email SIR Happenings:

Dear Editor:

What an awesome newsletter. A major endeavor successfully published. I know plaudits go to those that submitted material, but kudos for putting it together.

Bob Bennett, Branch 76
Bennett9@aol.com

Dear Editor:

I just reviewed your April '06 edition of the newsletter. Terrific... a very professional publication. Our Branch 175 trip to Japan was included in an earlier edition and the response from other Branches was rewarding. We need 100% readership.

Richard Beers, Branch 175 Travel
Brs2travel@sbcglobal.net

Dear Editor:

I wish to add my comments to the many I have read complimenting you on the quality of SIR Happenings. Not only is the format exceptionally well organized, the information contained therein is of wide interest and well presented. I liked the tip on free phone number information access.

Bob Staib, Past Big Sir, Branch 106
crstaib@prodigy.net

Dear Editor:

Thank you much. Keep up the good work.

Howie Thompson, Branch 59
hethomps@aol.com

Dear Editor:

Happenings is like fine wine... getting better with age.

Paul Murphy, Branch 96
superview@internet49.com

Dear Editor:

A great job, well organized and informative. Thank you. Please ask the Golf Chairman if he has checked out www.onemanscramble.com. It looks like fun.

Dave Redfern, Branch 16
redferndw@rcn.com

Dear Editor:

I really enjoyed the latest issue of SIR Happenings and must commend you and all who participate in bringing it to the SIR community. A job well done!

Gene Plevyak, Branch 125
gplevyak@mcchispeed.net

Dear Editor:

I read every issue of Happenings from cover to cover. It is not only entertaining, but informative.

John Tyrrell, Branch 50
jdyrrell@aol.com



SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER 2006

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4

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

President Bob's Column

One of the joys of being President is attending Branch Luncheon Meetings to award Honorary Life Memberships. Recently, I have been averaging about one a week. At each luncheon the atmosphere was one of joyousness, laughter, and participation ...in fact, it usually took the Big Sirs several minutes to cause the members to stop talking and settle down to the business of the meetings.

Each Branch evidenced the give and take of SIR. The GIVERS gave of themselves and provided the administration, made the arrangements for food, speakers, entertainment, gave reports, made awards, led the pledge, sold tickets, and collected tickets ...in fact, the GIVERS made the meetings possible, even providing the many things that have to be done before the meeting, in order to make it a go.

The TAKERS, on the other hand, sat back and enjoyed the camaraderie, the meal, the speakers, etc, and then outside the meeting, enjoyed Golf, Bowling, Travel, or one of the other 26 or so activities offered to members, without giving anything but their time.

The GIVERS do their thing at every meeting or function ...TAKERS don't do anything but sit back and enjoy themselves. TAKERS can keep on doing their thing indefinitely. GIVERS get tired of doing their thing month after month and, like as not, year after year.

Sons In Retirement wasn't founded on that basis. Our organization depends on ALL members taking turns in running everything, as a means of allowing us to enjoy whatever it is we enjoy without spending an arm and a leg. We can't do without the GIVERS, but we must rotate the responsibilities of doing, among us all. Are you a GIVER or a TAKER? If you're a TAKER, you better think twice and step forward to volunteer to do something. It doesn't have to be a big job and you don't have to wait to be asked. Step up and volunteer to your Big Sir and tell him you want to help in some way — the payback?? — the satisfaction of contributing to the well-being of the whole group.

Enough sermonizing ...don't forget to: **"Have Fun, but bring in ONE New Member."**

Bob

Why Travel with SIR

Guest Columnist

Michael Clark, Branch 1 Travel Chairman

The other day a new Sir asked me: "Why should he and his wife travel with SIR?" A good question and I quickly rattled off the obvious answers ...good value tours ...not necessarily the least expensive trips ...but, a good value for your buck! We try not to have any of those annoying optional items that a lot of tours sell "on the road." We also try to have the majority of meals provided and we usually have every breakfast included.



SIR trips have cordial, compatible traveling companions. Since others on the trip are either Sirs, wives of Sirs or friends of Sirs. We are all fairly similar in age, marital status, interests, physical condition, etc. This cannot be emphasized enough! The better you get along with your fellow travelers, the more you will enjoy the journey.

In Area 1, we have a great variety of trips ...everything from one-day trips to local sites ...to fifteen day "on the road" bus trips ...to river and ocean cruises ...to you name it. There are six other Branches in our Area and each one offers a range of trips to entice members. Some Branches specialize in golf trips. Others go for gambling trips or for plays and musicals. Some like to visit exotic places for sightseeing. Our monthly "Yellow Sheet" summarizes all the trips that are available for the coming year.

We continually get input from our fellow Sirs and they have a say in when and where, the trips will go. I must get two or three emails a week, with suggestions for future trips.

I know there are many other reasons to be a SIR traveler and these are just a few off the top of my head. Make up your own list and email it to me at clarkgoes@aol.com. Thanks!

Editor's Note: For those interested in taking advantage of the many trips offered through Sons In Retirement, you will see a number of those trips listed in the new "Happenings Travel Section" on pages 12 to 14.

Internet Address for Sons in Retirement:

www.sirinc.org

Have Fun, but Bring in One

Sirs in the News

Lincoln Branch 13

Bob Crum Honored with an HLM Chet Winton, Big Sir

Bob Crum, a resident of Sun City Lincoln Hills, was honored this summer with an Honorary Life Membership at a Branch 13 luncheon. **Jim Donovan**, a Past State President, made the presentation.

Bob Crum helped create the newest SIR Branch in Lincoln three years ago, after he moved to Sun City Lincoln Hills from Marin County and he was the first Big Sir of Branch 13. In 2006, he served as a Regional Director, and in 2005, served as an Area Governor. In Marin County, he was Branch 7's Big Sir, Little Sir, and was a Director of the Branch ...he also served as the Bulletin Editor.

In the picture, (left to right) are SIR Area Governor, **Vern Ingersoll**, Past State President, **Jim Donovan**, **Bob Crum** (receiving his Honorary Life Membership), and **Chet Winton**, Branch 13 Big Sir ...in the foreground is the SIR Mascot, crowing his approval.



Editors Note: In the July edition we ran a story on Branch 134's 20th anniversary, but did not have the space to include their beautiful 20th anniversary cake and here it is.

Miwok Branch 134, San Rafael

July 4th Parade

Dick Crocker, Bulletin Editor

Branch 134 member Sir **Bill Totten** was joined by Big Sir **Dan McGreevy** and Little Sir **Fred Holmes** to ride in Bill's vintage, 1962 — 220S Mercedes, as Branch 134's entry in the Novato 4th of July Parade.

Over 1000 observers lined the street to enjoy the bands, floats, marching units, dance groups, animals, military vehicles, and vintage cars.

Bill bought his Mercedes — new — in Stuttgart, Germany for \$3,700. The odometer now shows 260,000 miles, and Bill recently spent \$17,000 renovating the automobile. This is the third Novato 4th of July Parade in which Bill has participated.



Sirs in the News

Lodi Branch 18

Senior Certificate

Ken Edwards, Region 3 Director

A Senior Certificate was awarded to **James "Jack" Drace** by Region 3 Director **Ken Edwards** at a Branch 18 luncheon this past summer. Jack was born in 1911, which makes him 96 years old and 31 years ago he became a member of Branch 18. Jack is a retired local Postmaster and three generations of his family have lived and ranched in the Linden area.



Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

Bill Lorimer Awarded an HLM

Jim Petruk, Big Sir

Bill Lorimer is shown just after receiving his Honorary Life Membership from SIR President, **Bob Curley**. It is relatively easy to be a star performer for a year or even five years, but Bill's dedicated service to SIR spans some eighteen years in positions such as Little Sir, Big Sir, a Director, and three years as Area 33 Governor. Bill was recently appointed to the Branch Executive Committee and also serves as co-chairman of Membership. He has always prided himself on knowing the rules and still keeps his SIR Manual current and is periodically called upon for advice and interpretation of SIR rules.

His self initiative in taking on projects whenever needed and his dedication to Sons In Retirement serves as an example to his fellow volunteers and members. Branch 37 is proud to have Sir Bill Lorimer honored as an Honorary Life Member.



Vacaville, Branch 99

Senior Olympian

Ed Morris, Bulletin Editor

Our Branch Secretary, **Jerry Clark**, is seen smiling in the picture after participating in the Arizona State, Senior Olympics Track and Field meet in March of this year. The event was held at the University of Arizona.

There were 1200 participants divided into two categories...US Masters (athletes 35 and over) and US Track and Field Athletes.

Jerry is a 10 year member of the US Masters Organization and participated in four events: 100 meter, 200 meter, 50 meter and Long Jump.

He placed 3rd in the 100 and 200 meter races. That's quite an accomplishment, Jerry ...congratulations!!

State Golf

Dave Betts, Chairman, State Golf Committee

NCGA Membership has continued to grow during the Spring and Summer ...as of August 1, membership totaled 6,218, another nice improvement over year end numbers. I encourage each golfer to bring in one new golfing member during 2006 and 2007.

The State Golf Committee is looking for ways to get more input from our members, about their desires for tournament venues, dates, formats, etc. We began by asking the participants in our tournaments — starting in September, with the Solvang Tournament — to complete a questionnaire as a first step in this continuing effort and the information gathered will influence the decision making of the Committee. At the Las Vegas Tournament this year, members expressed a desire to have one of the weeks, with a day off, between golf rounds. In our negotiations for tournament dates and golf courses in Las Vegas, we are working to make this happen in 2007.

As an additional effort to more easily communicate with our golfers, the Committee is researching the possibility of launching a separate SIR State Golf Website. If we are successful, everything “we need to know” will be on the website, including but not limited to, the State Golf Manual with all of our forms, tournament entry forms, special announcements, tournament schedules, and more. Our goal is to have the proposed website up and running early in 2007, with the ability to link to the existing sirinc.org website and vice-versa.

Dates for the 2007 Reno Tournaments are June 11th through the 14th and June 18th through the 24th. We will be staying at “Circus Circus Hotel and Casino” and tentatively the golf courses will be Red Hawk, Thunder

Canyon, and DeAndrea. The Las Vegas dates were pending at the time this column was written, but tentatively will be the last two weeks of March 2007 ...check the SIR website for more information.

The finals of the State Scramble Team Championship were completed on August 21st at the NCGA Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore. With 787 golfers participating in 29 Area Qualifiers, we had a full field of 144 golfers, representing 36 teams, in the championship tournament.

The winning team was from Branch 52, in Area 23, and the Champions are pictured left to right during the awards presentation ...**Dave Roberts, Ralph Johnson, Bill Redondo, Bob Fitzgerald**, along with Committee Chairman, **Dave Betts**. Poppy Ridge was in excellent condition and the staff did an outstanding job.



Sirs in the News

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

25 Good Years for Branch 96

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

Amador Branch 96 celebrated its 25th Anniversary on August 3rd at the Annual Ladies Day Picnic, along with the Mace Meadow Branch 15. Over 230 members from the two Branches dug in for a day of Bocce Ball, some other fun games and a great BBQ. Shortly before noon, the group was brought together by Branch 96 Big Sir **Ron Gibbs**. Gibbs gave a short historical review of Branch 96 and then introduced **Ken Edwards**, Region 3 Director, who presented special Certificates of Appreciation to the four Charter Members of Branch 96, for their dedicated service and for setting attendance standards for others to follow. The four Charter Members in the picture from left to right: **Bill Hoffman, Buzz Toles, Glenn Nicks**, and **Chris Hammer**.

Along with twenty other men, the four helped **Dan Rothenbush** of Pine Grove, get the local Branch chartered on August 6, 1981. There are two other Charter Members, but they were unable to attend the festivities.



State RV

OH BOY! ...The State RV Rally Is Coming Up Again!

Bob Burton, Secretary/Treasurer

The 5th State RV Rally will be held from Monday, April 23rd to Thursday, April 25th 2007, at French Camp RV Park & Golf Course, located at 3919 East French Camp Road, in Manteca. Rigs have the option of arriving a day early, on Sunday, April 22nd after 2:00 PM, for an extra charge of \$33.

Attendance is limited to the first 100 RVs that sign up and the deadline for applications is March 31, 2007. The basic cost is \$144, which covers three nights in a site, with full hook-ups ...3 or more persons in a rig will be charged \$30 each. Wednesday's breakfast and dinner for two are also included and coffee will be served on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Supervised pets on a leash are permitted at no charge.



Golf for prizes at the on-site — 18-hole executive course, with carts included — for \$32 per person. Activities for prizes, such as Horse Racing and Bingo, are scheduled. The white elephant event and coffee-can events are also included in the program.

You can obtain additional information on the SIR website at www.sirinc.org ...click on "Activities" and then on "RV-ing" ...or contact either:

Jack Streckfus, Chairman — (415) 453-5310
— jacstrk@pacbell.net

Ralph Butterworth, Sub Chairman — (408) 224-8365
— rdbutter@aol.com

For Applications, check with your Branch Secretary or contact:

Bob Burton, Secretary/Treasurer — (415) 456-6451
— reburton_1@juno.com

Don't miss this fun-filled event !!

THE EDITOR CAN USE YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people who provided material for this issue of "SIR Happenings."

Please contribute stories and high resolution photos for use in a future issue.

Email your Branch news items to:

Editor Don MacGregor
donmac@hughes.net



State Bowling

Nat Lord, State Bowling Chairman

Editor's Note: We failed to receive a column for this issue so in its place we publish the article and picture below from Branch 103 & article from Branch 69.

Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Area 22 Bowling Winners

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Shown in the picture are members of the winning Area 22 Bowling League Team. The winning team members were: **George Klopf, Steve Plant, Sr., Dale McGahan** and **Gary Gilman**. All the members, with the exception of Dale from Branch 144, were from Stanislaus Branch 103. The league has been existence since 1983.



Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

League Sanctioning Pays-Off

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Branch 69 has always had a bowling league that overwhelmingly voted against being sanctioned. Many of the new people who joined the branch — who were bowlers — did not participate in branch bowling because of this. This really hurt getting new branch bowlers to replace those lost by attrition. Last season, PBS **George Christman**, talked to the bowlers and promised them that he would bring in 5 or 6 new bowlers if the league were sanctioned. The bowlers voted with George, which resulted in the league thriving.

We have had a large influx of new blood with more bowlers and more teams participating. The years 2005-2006 have been banner years for our branch bowlers and many new records were set. It was the first time, ever, that the branch had bowlers in a SIR State Tournament. We also had 86 USBC awards that included everything from wristwatches to patches. Our bowlers went to many of the SIR sponsored tournaments and participated in the tournament in Sparks, Nevada. At the end of the season, the bowlers had a pot of over \$2,000 to split, and picked up two new branch members, who were attracted by our bowling program.

Although this is a small league and has stiff competition from other SIR branches, we are extremely competitive and active all year long...even the old-time bowlers — who voted against a sanctioned league — have agreed that this new program is a winner.

Speakers at the SIR State Annual Meeting



2007 Officers



New Officers for 2007 (left to right)
Assistant Secretary Harold 'Hal' Stephens, Secretary William Short, Vice President Arthur Pufford,
President Tom Ross, Treasurer Robert Mannell and Assistant Treasurer Howard Berkman

Past Presidents at the Annual Meeting



Past Presidents (left to right)
Jim Donovan (2005), Jim Wyatt (1999), Dwight Sale (2001) and Mel Augustine (2000)

News from the Branches

The Villages Branch 114, San Jose

This Float Won an Oscar

Lyle Chambers, Big Sir

Branch 114 member and Golf Chairman, **Bob Lindberg**, did a great job of designing and decorating a Fourth of July Parade float, which was based on the 1997 movie, "Titanic." The theme for the 2006 parade in the Villages in San Jose was "Academy Awards." The float won an "Oscar" for Best Visual Effects and was also voted second best float in the parade.

Pictured is Sir **Bob Lindberg** driving the float, while Big Sir **Lyle Chambers** rides with him throwing candy to the kids.



Solving SIR problems over a beer at the Annual Meeting in August.

Windsor Branch 176

In Refereeing, It's a Long Way to the Top

Mike Berry, Little Sir

Our luncheon speaker recently was Russ Hurley, a Sir from Sonoma. Russ has been officiating for 32 years, starting in high school, then college and finally the NFL. His interesting talk was entitled "Developments in NFL Officiating."

Russ discussed qualification

requirements and described the continuous evaluation program that is in place for all the NFL referees. All games are reviewed every week and an official judged to be performing poorly will be put on probation, leading to removal if the problems persist.

He commented on the "instant" nature of decision making, noting that the angle of vision is critical. A watchword for all officials is ... "if you *think* it happened — it didn't," ... "You need to *know* it *did* happen."

One example he gave was about an official who was asked by a coach, "what happened?" The official responded, "I don't know, but I'll find out."...he isn't an official anymore. Another example was the sideline official who signaled that controversial play, in last year's Super Bowl, was a touchdown. He actually ran quite a way onto the field before he raised his arms, signaling a touchdown. The requirement is that he signal the touchdown from his normal side position and enters the field only to identify the actual point of the touchdown ...it was not a touchdown and his signal was actually illegal.

Russ said that while top officials are well compensated, it's a long way from rookie to the top, meaning ...refereeing in the Super Bowl.

His talk was well received, with quite a few questions, and afterwards, members gathered around him for even more questions.



News from the Branches

Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

A Nice Day at the Ballpark

Greg Lynch, Bulletin Editor

Chuck Roberts — the Social Activities Director of Branch 125 -- led 30 Sirs and their families to AT&T Park for the annual "All SIR Day" baseball game. A wonderful day was had by all, even though the Giants lost.

Adding to the festivities ...a SIR Barbershop quartet sang the National Anthem and State President Bob Curley threw out the first ball.

Pictured left to right are: **Chris Roberts, Lorene Hughes, Roger Hughes, Paul Zwolinski, Billie Zwolinski, Roger** and **Candace Danielson**.



Chabot, Branch 6, San Leandro

Ladies (Sweetheart) Day

Ken Wright, Big Sir

In May, Chabot Branch 6 held its 43rd annual Ladies (Sweetheart) Day luncheon. It was a gala event, with prizes for every lady.

Our entertainment began with some old time songs from our Barbershop "Roosters". This was followed by a demonstration of ballroom dancing, performed by Antonio & Alexia Cardenas (see picture). It was very entertaining watching them, as they danced around the tables from one end of the room to the other.

This luncheon is always one of our most popular events of the year and this one was no exception.



Sonora Branch 136

Exquisite Mothers' Day Luncheon

Jerry Stern, Secretary

The 224 members and guests that attended the Branch 136 Mothers' Day Luncheon went home with only thoughts of the excellent food, great music, out of this world camaraderie, and of course, the elegant table settings.

Many of our Branch members and their wives helped with the planning and preparation of this special occasion. Music for dancing was provided by one of our members and what a great job he did!...there were many busy feet on the dance floor, throughout the afternoon. Each lady received a ticket for prizes and again the planning group did a fine job getting great prizes.

Thanks to everyone that helped make this luncheon so successful ...from all the feedback, everyone had a great time.



Carquinez Branch 75, Vallejo

Ladies' Day Luncheon

Charles Clute, Secretary

Branch 75 held its semi-annual Ladies Day Luncheon in June and 58 people attended this very nice affair. The menu consisted of steak, baked potato, salad, and desert. Entertainment was provided by Sir **Gary Stevens**, from Branch 88 in Vallejo. Gary sang lots of familiar tunes from the 30's and 40's and was a big hit. All the table decorations were made by Big Sir, **Frank Palmaymesa** and his lovely wife, Lydia.

Door prizes were donated by members of the Branch and local Jeweler Bill Mares donated a very attractive bracelet that he had designed. The affair was enjoyed by all!!

News from the Branches

Los Gatos Branch 141

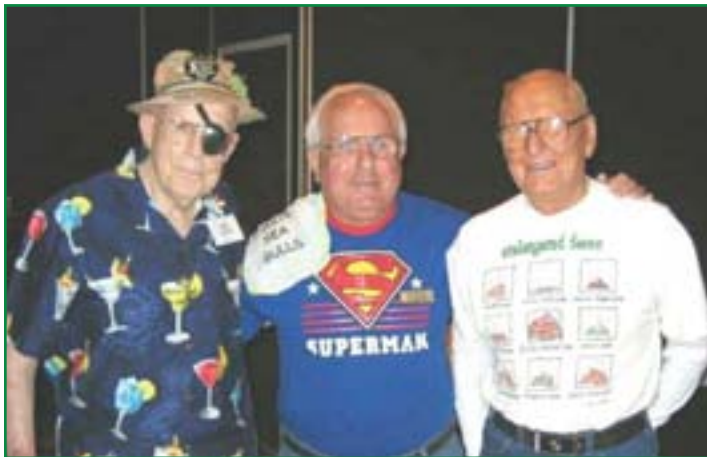
Crazy Shirt Day

Frank McMillan, Bulletin Editor

Every year in June, SIR Branch 141 sponsors an event called Crazy Shirt Day. Branch members are encouraged to forget their inhibitions and come to the monthly meeting wearing a shirt they'd probably be too embarrassed to wear anywhere else. Prizes are awarded for the most colorful and/or bizarre shirts...some of which the contestants create themselves.

This year's contest was won by Area 5 Governor **Gary Pelton**, whose Superman shirt had suffered a seagull attack. Second and third prizes were won by **Bill Nelson** ("Cocktails" shirt) and **Warren Wood** ("Endangered Feces" shirt). Judges were **Ray Dollar** and **Joe Antuzzi**. **Robert Wales** was Chairman of the event.

No one is quite sure when Crazy Shirt Day began — or who started it — but, it provides a once-a-year chance for every member to show he can be a bit more outrageous than the next guy.



Indian Valley Branch 68, Novato

All SIR Day at the Ballpark

Hans Sommer, Bulletin Editor

Novato Branch 68 Sirs are seen in the picture enjoying "ALL SIR DAY" at AT&T Ballpark. Fifteen diehard Giant baseball fans and guests from Branch 68 embarked on a beautiful sunny afternoon to watch their favorite team compete against the Los Angeles Angels in San Francisco. The day was enhanced with exhilarating rides on the special Larkspur ferry to and from the ballpark.

We were blessed with great lower box seats — right behind third base — shielded from the hot sun by the overhang. It turned out that seat location was really important on such a hot sunny day as others seated in the sun were seeking relief in the shade. With the large variety of delicious food items offered at the park, we had no trouble finding what we needed to satisfy our healthy appetites. The musical renditions by the SIR Barbershop Quartet was an added treat.

Although the Giants didn't win the game, it was a very enjoyable event and we look forward to it again next year.



Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

Rooster Tails Fishing

Tug Miller, Fishing Chairman

The Branch 37 Rooster Tails Fishing Club boasts 52 active members, with new members joining regularly. Every month we fish the local foothill lakes for trout and kokanee and also the Delta for strippers and bass, as well as, the Sacramento River for salmon. The 3rd Friday of every month finds 30-40 members gathered for breakfast at Denny's on Auburn Ravine Road, to hear a presentation from a variety of speakers ...fishing guides, speakers from California Department of Fish & Game, manufacturers' reps and writers from such publications as, the *Fish Sniffer* and *Western Outdoor News*.

Twice a year we hold a ladies luncheon — a fish fry in June and another one in September — followed by an awards luncheon in January, when awards are presented to the Rooster Tail members who caught the biggest salmon, bass, trout, sturgeon, etc. during the year.

Shown in the picture is a nice catch by Branch 37 Big Sir **Jim Petruk**.



News from the Branches

Potrero Branch 148, San Pablo

Past Big Sirs

Dick Maxwell, Branch 148

At the end of this year, three El Sobrante Valley neighbors will all become Past Big Sirs of Branch 148. Seen in the picture from left to right are: Past Big Sir, **William Snodgrass** (2005), a retired X-Ray Technician ...Past Big Sir to be **William Kerber** (2006), an Inn Keeper ...and Past Big Sir **Ronald White** (2004), a retired Mortician.



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<http://sirinc.org/sirformspro/sirhappenings.htm>

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Please email your name, branch number and street address to:

Dwight Sale

dwight.sale@comcast.net

Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Tuskegee Airman

Ron Bianco, Branch 94 Member

Captain Leon "Woodie" Spears flew 51 combat missions over Europe during World War II before he was hit by ground-fire on March 24, 1945 and crash-landed in enemy territory in Poland. Nazi soldiers captured him, but five days later Russian troops had taken over the area and he remained with the Russians for several months. After a 2500-mile trip through Russia to the Black Sea port of Odessa, he boarded a French liner with 2000 other allied airmen and was transported back to Italy, where he rejoined his Group and Squadron. He then returned to the states, and was discharged into the reserve forces.

Woody was born in Pueblo, Colorado in 1924, the second child of parents who had originally come from Louisiana. Growing up in Pueblo, he didn't experience any racial bias. He had always dreamed of being a flyer, but his parents knew that the likelihood of a young, colored-lad becoming a flyer was not likely. With war looming, he went to the army recruiter, with his high school buddies who were all white, and asked for an application to become an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps. After a certain amount of cajoling, the recruiter gave him an application and he and his schoolmates filled them out. After a substantial waiting period, he learned that he would be trained at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Most of the instructors at Tuskegee were southern white officers. "They let you know that you were not white and not to expect much respect from them." After about two years of training, he was assigned to the 301st fighter squadron in the 332nd Fighter group, escorting bombers into Germany. Woodie, along with about 996 others, were trained at Tuskegee, but he was one of only 450 black airmen who went into combat.

Years later, he flew again as a reservist in the Korean War, where he flew 17 missions and then was sent home after seeing his brother shot down and killed.

Woodie Spears, now 82, and one of the few surviving original Tuskegee airmen, recently gave quite an interesting talk to Branch 94 about his experiences in two wars.



Happenings Travel Bulletin

December 2006

December 6-10, 2006

Branson Musical Holiday

Travelers will see many Branson shows, including Andy Williams and his annual Christmas show. We will also visit several other interesting places in the Ozarks, with plenty of time for Christmas shopping for locally handcrafted items. We will be staying at the Radisson Hotel in Branson. Price of \$1468 PPDO, includes round-trip air from SFO. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Contact **Paul Hiatt** at (415) 454-2240 for more details.

December 29, 2006—January 3, 2007

New Year's at Empress Hotel in Victoria



Tour includes 5 nights in first class hotels—I night Seattle, 1 night Vancouver, and 3 nights at the Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria. Enjoy a dinner atop the Space Needle in Seattle, a scenic cruise to Victoria, the Butchart

Gardens, Victoria city tour, the Royal British Columbia Museum, a New Year's Eve dinner party and much more. Price is \$1590 PPDO. Includes 8 meals and roundtrip air from Sacramento. Offered by: Branches 9, 14, & 127 Travel. Call **Tony Praxel** at (916) 285-9656.

December 30, 2006—January 8, 2007

New Year's Eve in Hawaii

Trip includes 2 nights at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani with New Years Eve Party. 7 nights aboard the new ship, "Pride of Hawaii," with four ports of call. Prices start at \$2195 PPDO. Call **Michael Clark** at (650) 347-0919 (Area 1 Travel) or **Tim Hall** at (530) 644-4418 (Area 19 Travel)]

December 30 2006—January 3, 2007

New Year's in Nashville

Four nights at the fabulous Opryland Hotel, plus masquerade dinner dance, brunch, dinner cruise, lunch at Wild Horse Saloon, and the Grand Ole Opry. Price \$1335 PPDO includes air fare, tax, and gratuities. offered by: Area 7 Travel. Call **Paul Peters** at (510) 724-8345.



Editors Note: We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this feature in Happenings will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs.

To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on these travel pages was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

March 2007

March 2-12, 2007

Mayan Civilizations

Tour all the interesting places in Guatemala, with a special visit to Copan Honduras. Price includes round-trip air from SFO to Guatemala, breakfast daily, 6 hosted lunches, and 6 hosted dinners. Price is \$2975 PPDO. Offered by Fresno SIR Travel. Call **Richard Beers** at (559) 431-3728.



March 5-16, 2007

Discover the Caribbean

Enjoy 12 days of luxury aboard the *MSC Lirica*, cruising to San Juan, St. Maarten, Grenada, Barbados, Antigua, Tortola, and Cayo Levantado. Prices, ranging from \$1720 to \$2135 PPDO, include round trip air, 11 nights, all meals and entertainment aboard ship. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **George Keeling** at (650) 574-0474.

March 9-19, 2007

Shades of Ireland

Ten days touring Limerick, medieval Castle Banquent, Cliff's of Moher, Galway farm visit, Killarney, Blarney Castle, Waterford Crystal, Dublin, and more. Cost is \$2599 PPDO. Offered by Branches 44, 163, and 178 Travel Call **Dave Moore** at (661) 832-8945.



March 16—April 1, 2007

The Best of Spain & Portugal

A 17 day tour featuring Madrid, Salamanca, Oporto, Lisbon, Seville, Costa del Sol, Mijas, Granada, Valencia, and Barcelona by deluxe motorcoach. Cost is \$3675 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call **Bob Hagler** at (925) 934-7620.



April 2007

April 10—April 18, 2007

The Great Smokies & Blue Grass

Tennessee – North Carolina – Kentucky. Featuring Grand Ole Opry performance, Tour Nashville, Chattanooga Choo-choo, Ride up Lookout Mountain, Biltmore Estates, Gatlinburg, Dollywood, Lexington and Churchill Downs, plus more. \$1995 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call **George Smith** at (530) 342-3133.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

April 2007

April 10-16, 2007

National Cherry Blossom Festival

Reserved seats for the Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington D.C. Also visits to such places as Arlington Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian, and a free day with a tour-mobile ticket. Price of \$1829 PPDO, includes round-trip air from Sacramento and 11 meals. Accommodations are at the Marriott Tyson Corner. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Jerry Wisenor** at (209) 334-5181.



April 16--21, 2007

Branson Musical Getaway

Round trip to Branson, home to numerous musical and comedy venues, from the Fresno Air Terminal. Price is \$1299 PPDO. Offered by Fresno SIR Travel. Contact **Ed Dorn** at (559) 433-0670.

May 2007

May 4—19, 2007

Cruise the Baltic Capitals

Enjoy 12 days on *NCL Norwegian Dream* Cruise Ship. Transit the Kiel Canal, plus visits to St. Petersburg, Berlin, Estonia, Helsinki, Stockholm, and Copenhagen — 7 countries in all. Includes a 2 day, post-cruise, stay in London at the 4-star Kensington Hotel. Prices range from \$2910 to \$3540 PPDO. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call **Henry Puccinelli** at (415) 457-3990.

May 25—June 1 2007

Southern Charm

An 8 day trip through the romantic South, with overnights in Atlanta (2 nights), Charleston (2 nights), Savannah (1 night), Jekyll Island (2 nights) ...all for \$1924 PPDO. Price includes round trip air from SFO, hotels, and transportation. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **George Keeling** at (650) 574-0474.

May 28—June 6, 2007

Canadian Rockies by Rail

Experience 10 days of breathtaking views of the Canadian Rockies, including Vancouver and Victoria. All-aboard the Rocky Mountain Train to Kamloop, Jasper, Alberta, and the Columbia Ice fields. Stay at the famous Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. Price is \$3049 PPDO. Offered by Branches 44, 163, & 178. Call **Dick Werling** at (661) 587-1696.



June 2007

June 21-27, 2007

San Juan Islands Cruise

Fly to Seattle and board the *MV Island Spirit* for a six-night cruise north from Seattle into Canadian waters. See many beautiful sights along the way. Tour Vancouver Island and enjoy free time in Victoria and then head back to Seattle. Cost is \$2779 PPDO. Offered by Area 7 Travel. Call **Paul Peters** at (510) 724-8345.

August 2007

August 9-15, 2007

Cruise the San Juan Islands

Cruise through and around the beautiful Northwest from Seattle to Victoria aboard the *MV Spirit* with only 32 fellow SIR passengers. This newly refurbished ship is more like a yacht than a cruise ship. \$2774 PPDO covers all ...round trip air from SFO, 19 meals, gratuities, and yes, even daily hosted cocktails. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Contact **Michael Clark** at (650) 347-0919.

September 2007

September 10-21, 2007

Switzerland Stay-Put

Unpack once and enjoy 10 nights at the 5 star Alpha Palmer Hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland. Daily guided motorcoach excursions will take you in a new direction everyday. Included in the price of \$3095 PPDO is a hot buffet breakfast every morning, 5 lunches and 5 dinners and round-trip air. Offered by Area 14. Call **Jerry Wisenor** at (209) 334-5181.



September 20-28, 2007

Italian Lakes & Greek Islands

Have fun on a 12 day trip, featuring a 7 night Eastern Mediterranean Cruise. In Italy, visit Milan, Venice, the Lake District, & Bari. In Greece Visit Santorini, Mykonos, Athens, & Corfu. In Croatia see the Walled City of Dubrovnik. Rates starting at \$3659 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call **Bill Howard** at (530) 342-3368 or **George Smith** at (530) 342-3133.



October 2007

October 21—November 6, 2007 Mediterranean Cruise



Cruise the Mediterranean on the *Celebrity Millennium*. The trip includes Venice, Dubrovnik, Athens, Ephesus, Naples, Rome, Florence, Nice, Barcelona, and much more. Prices

range from \$3735 to \$4955 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **David Abrahams** at (925) 447-9386.

50th Anniversary Cruise to

HAWAII

September 24 - October 10, 2008

Presented by Golden Gate Tours

50th Anniversary Cruise To HAWAII

September 24 - October 10, 2008

Celebrate the anniversary of 50 years of SIRS Travel on board *Celebrity's Luxurious SUMMIT*

San Francisco, California
 Hilo, Island of Hawaii's
 Honolulu, Island of Oahu
 Nawiliwili, Island of Kauai
 Lahaina, Island of Maui
 Kailua-Kona, Island of Hawaii
 Ensenada, Mexico
 San Francisco, California

Round Trip From San Francisco!
 Exclusively for the Sons In Retirement's 50th Anniversary!

Get a copy of the brochure at

<http://sirinc.org/2008TripBrochure-5-11-06.pdf>

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the *Happenings Travel Bulletin*, please email

Don MacGregor at: donmac@hughes.net

Dear Editor:

I have just finished reading the July 2006 edition of SIR Happenings and I am really impressed. You guys do a great job, putting out a very professional looking, informative, and useful newsletter. Your hard work is much appreciated.

Jim Johnson, Branch 102
jimmiejohnson@yahoo.com

Dear Editor:

SIR Happenings is EXCELLENT.
Bill Meyer, Big Sir, Branch 28
wmsmca@aol.com

Dear Editor:

I'd like to express my appreciation for the great work you do in giving us the great newsletter. What a great presentation it is! Thanks for the good work.

Gene Kaiser, Branch 76
gkaiser1937@msn.com

Dear Editor:

Terrific issue (July 2006)
Wally Ruch, Branch 144
cwruch@sbcglobal.net

Dear Editor:

Thanks for the July 2005 Happenings article about Harold Rich. "Hal" passed away in June and was our Chaplin and Sunshine Chairman. We posted the article on our Branch bulletin board, in Hal's memory and the family had it placed with other memorabilia at his funeral. Thanks again.

Paul Murphy, Public Relations Chairman, Branch 96
superview@internet49.com



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SIR HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 2007

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

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

President Tom's Column

Guess What? There's another new guy on the block. Relax you only have to hear from me three more times in 2007. Speaking of 2007, may you all enjoy a happy and prosperous New Year in this great organization of retired men, called Sons In Retirement, Inc.

You may wonder why we have so many rules, and you may also wonder why do we have Area Governors, Regional Directors, a State Board, and State Committees? The answers are that we have to comply with the legal requirements of a non-profit public benefit corporation in the State of California, of which there are many. This requires some oversight. We also provide our members with some activities and events to give you something to get involved in.

Some of you may wonder what does the State Organization of SIR do for us at the Branch level? Since this column is limited, I will only tell you a few things we do for our members and Branches:

1. The State SIR files annually with the California Secretary of State and the Attorney General to maintain our non-profit status. The State also pays on behalf of each Branch a \$10 filing fee each year.
2. The State SIR files Income Tax Returns annually on behalf of our Branches with the Internal Revenue Service and the State Board of Equalization.
3. The State SIR conducts three regular State Board Meetings each year, the Annual Meeting on the first Monday of August and numerous State Committee meetings to exchange information, keep our Bylaws and Rules current, and to provide our members with State activities and events.
4. The State SIR, through its Information Systems Committee, provides the members and Branches with a ton of information on the SIR Website, www.sirinc.org, including its quarterly publication of SIR Happenings.
5. State SIR pays around \$68 to \$70 thousand dollars a year in liability insurance premiums. Our corporate status along with our third-party liability insurance is designed to protect our Branch and State Officers in the event we are sued.

All of the foregoing is paid for by the quarterly pro-rata amount assessed each active member by the State SIR. Where else can one obtain the above services for \$4.60 per year?

Tom

Sonora Branch 136

One of Many Christmas Parties Held Throught SIR in December Jerry Stern, Secretary

What a special occasion it was at the Sonora Branch Christmas Dinner Dance. All the men dressed up in their "Sunday Best" and proudly introduced their lovely ladies and did some fancy strutting on the dance floor.

The party was highlighted with terrific food and music, but the most important part of the affair was celebrating the 20th anniversary of Branch 136. SIR President **Bob Curley**

and his wife, Frances were on hand to express his gratitude to a great branch and the strong membership that has held the branch together all these years.

A special plaque was given to each of the 12 Charter Members by the State President, and also to the wife of the Branch 136 founder, **Tony Barassi**. We also bid farewell to our Big Sir, **Norm Whitsed**,

who has been the leader of our Branch for the past two years... thanks Norm, for a great job and volunteering as Big Sir for a two-year term.



Bob Curley addressing Branch 136 with Big Sir Norman Whitsed standing at left and Little Sir Wildon Reich, seated.



Sirs in the News

Lincoln Branch 13

HLM Award

Chet Winton, Big Sir

Daniel Gilmore was honored by President, **Bob Curley**, with an Honorary Life Membership at a Branch 13 luncheon last fall.

Dan has been a SIR member for about 15 years and has served in a number of key positions, including: Big Sir, Little Sir, Area Governor and Regional Director. In one just year as the Big Sir of the Pleasanton Branch, he sponsored 13 new members and now he is the Branch 13 Membership Chairman.

Shown in the picture from left to right are Area 15 Governor **Vern Ingersoll**, Big Sir **Chet Winton**, and **Dan Gilmore** receiving his Honorary Life Membership from President **Bob Curley**.



Rocklin Branch 98

HLM Award

Tom Werth, Chairman HLM Nominating Committee

Earl Wilson, who has been a member of Branch 98 for some 20 years, was recently awarded an Honorary Life Membership. He has served Branch 98 in so many important ways...he is the only member of Branch 98 to have served as Big Sir twice, and he has also served as Little Sir, Director, Travel Chairman, and Greeter. One of his greatest contributions to the Branch has been his willingness to help in any way needed. In short, he is the kind of leader who makes any Branch successful.

Shown in the picture from left to right are Big Sir **Bob Fricke**, Honorary Life Member **Earl Wilson**, Area Governor **Vern Ingersoll**, and Regional Director, **Bob Crum**.



Mission Trail Branch 35, Palo Alto

New HLM Taken for a Ride

Bob Simon, Big Sir

SIR President **Bob Curley** visited Branch 35 last November and presented an Honorary Life Membership Award to longtime Branch Bulletin Editor **Jack Dyer**. Following the luncheon meeting, which was attended by just over 250 members and guests, Jack was given a lift by member **Bill Palmer**, builder of an electric car that is the spitting image of a 1904 "Merry Oldsmobile."

Pictured, left to right, are HLM **George Fullmer**, HLM **Dick Bray**, President **Bob Curley**, HLM **Don Lawson** (partially hidden behind Curley), new HLM **Jack Dyer**, car owner and builder **Bill Palmer**, and HLM **Fenton Foster**.



Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

A Clean Sweep for Bud

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Bud Rogers, the perennial golf champion of Branch 69, did it again. For the eighth consecutive year, Bud won the Branch championship with a gross score 158 for 36 holes. He also won the championship of the River City Golf Club – the combined Sacramento Area SIR NCGA golf group – with a score of 150, and has held that trophy every year since 1999. This year, Bud also won the Branch Putting Championships and was named, "Golfer of the Year."

The 70-year-old Bud plays to a 6.6 handicap and his game is always at its best when he faces serious competition in a major tournament. This year, our branch brought in a new group of Baby Boomers – those born between 1946 and 1964 – and we will be watching closely to see if these "Young Turks" can dethrone the "Old Master."



Sirs in the News

Honorary Life Memberships Awarded In 2006

Name	Branch
Jack E. Adams	BR108
George Allen	BR147
Marvin L. Arnold	BR169
Ronald Bianco	BR094
Edwin W. Bode	BR022
Bernard M. Brenner	BR128
Robert M. Crum	BR013
Art Daly	BR179
John W. Dyer	BR035
Harry Eighteen	BR169
Mario Esposito	BR020
Gerald B Fried	BR128
Raymond R. Ganzer	BR106
Daniel B. Gilmore	BR013
Bill Hammond	BR040
George L. Henderson	BR001
George W. Howe	BR006
Tom Kaya	BR148
E. Houston Keehner	BR009
Keith LeValley	BR082
Homer B. Lind	BR124
William E. Lorimer	BR037
Donald Luft	BR175
Julius C. Manrique	BR144
James McMillen	BR052
Frank Menacho	BR085
Dan Mohn	BR172
Frank Morabito	BR027
Thomas O'Connor	BR178
Louis Pagni	BR006
Donald G. Pedrotti	BR032
Frank S. Pierson	BR144
Donald H. Rose	BR108
James Seybert	BR036
Clarence L. Smith	BR133
William R. Stadler	BR009
Howard Warden	BR143
Earl Wilson	BR098
Otto R. Zimmermann	BR144

Paradise Branch 52

HLM Award

Don Bird, Chairman HLM Award Committee

Last October, **Jim McMillen**, a 22 year dedicated member of Branch 52, was awarded an Honorable Life Membership.

The award was presented by SIR President **Bob Curley**. Also on hand to honor Jim were: Region 1 Director **Eugene Parker** and Area 23 Governor **Jerry Richmond**.

Pictured in the back row are from left to right **Tom Hegenbart**, Branch 52 Big Sir, Area Governor **Jerry Richmond**, and Regional Director **Eugene Parker**, in the front row are new HLM **Jim McMillen** and State President **Bob Curley**.



Valley of the Moon Branch 27, Sonoma

HLM Award

John Wells, Secretary

State President **Robert Curley** recently conferred an Honorary Life Membership on Branch 27 member **Frank Morabito**. Frank earned this high honor for his many years of outstanding service as Little Sir, Big Sir and then as Golf Chairman. Thanks to Frank, Branch 27 has an outstanding golf program of some 15-20 events a year. Most events are held in the Sonoma Area, but also include trips out of the area, from time to time. Frank has personally sponsored more new members for Branch 27 than anyone, by far!

Pictured is **Frank Morabito** being congratulated by State President **Bob Curley** and looking on from left to right are Little Sir **Rat Jasek**, Big Sir **Johnny Long**, and State Vice President Elect **Art Pufford**.



Sirs in the News

The Villages Branch 114, San Jose

Palmer Craig Receives President's Award at age 103

Lyle Chambers, Big Sir

San Jose resident, **Palmer Craig**, was recently honored with the President's Senior Service Award at the age of 103, after having served as a member of Sons In Retirement for an incredible 34 years... his age and years as an active member of SIR, could well be a record for the organization.

Palmer, who celebrated his birthday in January, was a charter member of the Villages Branch 38 and later became a charter member of Branch 114, when it was formed.

He graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in Electrical Engineering and joined the Westinghouse Electric Company, where he designed a radio powered by alternating current, instead of batteries. He moved on to RCA and later joined the Philco Corporation, where he remained for 36 years.

Palmer and his wife were together for almost 60 years when she passed away. He admits to a few concessions considering his age... he no longer drives a car nor a golf cart; he relies on a talking calculator to tell him the time; and he microwaves dinners prepared by his housekeepers.

No matter his age, at 5 foot 10 inches, Palmer Craig is still an impressive figure and an honor to our organization.

Pictured are **Palmer Craig** (center) receiving his President's Senior Service Award from Area 20 Governor **Fred Mollerus** (left) and Big Sir **Lyle Chambers**.



Yosemite Branch 179, Fresno

Pearl Harbor Survivor Joe Bigham, Bulletin Editor

Many members of SIR weren't even born when **Joe Ruggles** joined the Navy in 1931.

Service life was peaceful until December 7, 1941, when Ruggles found himself "right in the middle of things" during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor... "I got an ambulance out and started picking up people and putting them on the lawn," recalls Ruggles, who was a chief pharmacist mate. "The hospital didn't have enough room and the worst part were the burn cases... we tried to ease their pain with shots of morphine."

Ruggles spent 24 years in the Navy – through World War II and Korea – before retiring in 1955. For a long time, he wouldn't talk about the day America entered World War II... "I can talk about it now," he says, but "I didn't want to talk about it for about 15-20 years."

Ruggles joined Sons in Retirement in Walnut Creek, then transferred to Branch 179 in Fresno 2 ½ years ago to be near his daughter. Ruggles was 95 in December and was honored as the branch's oldest member.

Aside from December 7, Ruggles' most traumatic service experience was on Okinawa, two months after the war ended... "We lost 129 ships in a typhoon on October 9, 1945," he says.



Stanislaus Branch 103

President's Award

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Branch 103 was very pleased to have President **Bob Curley** attend one of our monthly luncheons to present the President's Award to two of our members who have reached the age of 95 or above. Shown in the picture are (l to r) **E. H. "Gene" Lee**, the recipient of The President's Award, Big Sir **Carl Elvik**, and State President **Bob Curley**.

The other member, **Oliver Deatch**, was ill and could not attend the meeting, so, **Carl Elvik** and **Bob Curley** went to his home and presented him with his award.



HAPPY
NEW YEAR

State RV

Jack Strefcus, State RV Chairman

Sign Up Now for the State RV Rally

Final plans for the 2007 SIR State RV Rally are progressing well. The Roving Rooster RV Club has scheduled four fun days of activities at the French Camp RV & Golf Park in Manteca, from April 22nd to the 26th. To obtain an application to sign up for the event, you can go on line to sirinc.org, Activities, RV-ing and then click on Sons In Retirement, Inc., State RV Rally. Or, contact:

Bob Burton, Sign-Up Chairman--
Phone 415-456-6451 or Email reburton_1@juno.com

Attendance is limited to the first 100 RVs that sign-up, so, get your application in early!

State Golf

Dave Betts, Chairman, State Golf Committee

Goodbye to the old year/Welcome to the new year: Join us in saying goodbye to a great year for SIR golf and to two long-standing members of the State Golf Committee. **John Gisler** and **Vic Longo**. John has moved to Idaho and Vic has decided that 6 years on the committee is long enough. We wish them both well in their future pursuits and hope to see them both participate in future SIR Golfing events. Many thanks for their past service on the committee.

Help us welcome two new members selected by the new SIR President, effective January 1, 2007: **Gene Drennan** and **Don Andrews**. Gene will replace Vic Longo as our Treasurer and Don will replace John Gisler as a member of the Policy Sub-Committee. Gene and Don attended our December committee meeting and are looking forward to participating in our future endeavors.

SIR golf flourished in 2006: We were pleased with the overall participation last year in our golf events, especially with the interest in Reno, the State Team Scramble Championship, Poppy Hills and the Mexico trips. While neither Las Vegas nor Solvang sold out, both were well-attended and have been scheduled again for 2007. We will continue to pay close attention to the process of announcing the availability of applications for our most popular tournaments, in order to give every SIR an equal opportunity to apply in a timely manner.

2007 State Golf Tournament Schedule: The following events have been approved by the State Board. The application for the two **Las Vegas** weeks in March is already available on the SIR website. Please note that the second week in LV includes an extra day between the 2nd and 3rd rounds of golf (your feedback told us to try this on one of the Vegas weeks). If both Las Vegas weeks go well, we may do it again next year.

The applications for **Reno** will be made available in early March. The dates are set: June 11–15 and June 18–22. The **Scramble Team Championship** will occur on August 21st at **Poppy Ridge** in Livermore. Area qualifiers for this event should take place in June. **Solvang** is scheduled for September 9–13. The **Individual State Championship and Open Play at Poppy Hills** will take place on November 5th and 6th. Area and Division qualifiers for this championship will occur in May and August, respectively.

Mexico dates are tentatively set for October 24–31 and November 7–14. We are receiving proposals from two different sources (Golden Gate Tours and International Leisure Tours); one is bidding on Mazatlan, and the other on Ixtapa and Mazatlan. We may be able to offer both trips to our members. The results of our recent surveys, collected at Poppy Hills, Puerto Vallarta and on the Dawn Princess Cruise will influence the committee decision on the desired location.

Give us feedback: The names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of all SIR State Golf Committee members are on the SIR website at www.sirinc.org (Activities/Golf/State Golf Committee 2007). Please let us know how you think we are doing and give us feedback on any statewide items that concern you.



San Francisco Giants
vs
Washington Nationals



AT&T Park
Thursday, August 9, 2007 12:35 pm

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS
vs
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

The Arena in Oakland, Sunday, April 15 at 1:00 PM
Ticket prices are \$80 and \$24.



SIR Contact: **Jim Wyatt**
843 Overlook Court
San Mateo, CA 94403
650-345-3494

j.c.wyatt@worldnet.att.net

THE EDITOR CAN USE YOUR HELP!!

Thanks to those people who provided material for this issue of "SIR Happenings."

Please contribute stories and high resolution photos for use in a future issue.

Email your Branch news items to:

Editor Don MacGregor
donmac@hughes.net



News from the Branches

Area 2 Bridge

Bridge Tournament

Ernie Sherne, Area 2 Bridge Chairman

In September, the first ever -- Inter-Area, Inter-Branch -- Duplicate Bridge Tournament was held at Diablo Country Club. There were 34 players in all from Walnut Creek Branches 8 and Branch 116 from Area 2 and Pleasanton Branch 34 from area 24. We started with a very good luncheon, followed by 27 boards of bridge.

There were 6 prizes and 7 teams scoring over 50%:

First--64.6%, Branch 34,

Verlan Gabrielson and **Terry Bedell**

Second--59.1%, Branch 8, Area 2 Governor

Harry Hubinger and **Brian Woolf**

Third--58.3%, Branch 116,

Dick Chaffee and **Bob Wolf**

Fourth--57.9%, Branch 8,

Ernie Sherne and **Ray Verante**

Fifth--55.6%, Branch 8,

Bob Cramer and **Tom Hensley**

Sixth--52.8%, Branch 116,

Jack Butler and **Bill Sullivan**

Seventh--51.4% Honorable Mention, Branch 8,

Bud Grisani and **Bob Ingersol**

Normally the tournament duties are shared among the branches. However, this year most of the gurus were out of town, so much scrambling had to be done to put things together. Many thanks are due **Dick Brown** for getting the computer from **Franklin Williams** and designing the scoring spreadsheet; **Brian Woolf** for the cards; **Tom Baker** for the tally sheets; **Ray Verante** for the badges; and **Conrad Robertson** from Branch 116 for advice on Mitchell movement and scoring.

It was a great tournament and thanks to all who participated.

Paradise Branch 52

Headline

Burr Bullock, Golf Chairman



Eight years ago we started a match play format in our area. Participating in the program are the three Chico Branches, the Yuba City Branch, the Marysville Branch, and the three Branches in Paradise. The season starts in April and ends in September and is played at one of the local golf courses that offer the golfers a great lunch and low green fees. The purpose of this program is to meet fellow Sirs and make some new friends.

This program is another way to find new golfers and show them the fun and sportsmanship that Sons In Retirement is all about. In the eight years we have been playing, more than 18 new members have been brought in to membership in the various branches and they in turn have brought in more new members.

Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont/Newark

Cybergeezzer Awards

John Skarpelos, Pathfinder Editor

Fred Gotthardt is the chairman of Branch 59 Computer group, which meets once a month at the Fremont Library. Using a laptop and projector Fred discusses issues related to Email, Web surfing, Windows XP and other issues brought up by members of the group.

At the last meeting of the year five Sirs had perfect attendance in 2006. In the upper photo receiving their perfect attendance awards from left to right are **Bob McCall**, **Arnold Mozzetti**, **Ed Guthrie**, **Carl Nordling** and **Charles Wilkins**. Chairman of the Cybergeezers **Fred Gotthardt** is on the right handing out the awards.

In the lower photo more of the group is seen in attendance.



Rocklin Branch 98

Interested in joining an RV Club?

Dick Ciccarelli, Bulletin Editor

The Branch 98 Roaming Wheels RV Club, has opened its membership to all SIR members regardless of Area or Region. In this way, many Sirs that do not have an RV Activity in their branch can take advantage of the many benefits of belonging to an RV Club. We presently have members or guests from Branches 29, 40, 98, 112, and 143...and a recent inquiry from Branch 78, will very likely add another Branch to our list. Those interested in joining us or for more information, contact Dick Ciccarelli by phone 916-791-5877, or by e-mail at winnie36g@netzero.net

News from the Branches

Hesperian Branch 26, Castro Valley

This Branch Loves to Travel

Emile Lassalle, Travel Chairman

Last Fall, I escorted a group of 19 to Italy. Our tour started in Rome with visits to the Vatican, Sistine Chapel, and the Coliseum... seeing is believing what they built some 2000 years ago. We enjoyed sight-seeing tours in Rome, Florence, Parma, Milan, Venice and Lake Como. We skipped Verona so we could have more time in Venice and that was a good decision. We were up by 6:00 am, had breakfast, traveled all day, and ate Dinner at 8:00 pm. This trip also included members from Branch 72 and Branch 73 and we all had

a great time. Our happy group is pictured next to our tour bus.

In November, 41 one of us went to the El Dorado Casino for the Darren Romeo Show, escorted by **Frank Cerruti**.

This was a magic show and I highly recommend that whenever he's back again...don't miss his show! We were lucky... we had front row seats and we

thoroughly enjoyed his entertaining show.

In December, we are going to the Luncheon-Show at Garbeau's in Sacramento. This trip will be escorted by **Daryl Main**, and he has a full bus of 44 members and guests.



Paradise Branch 52

Honored for Years of Service

Don Bird, Member Branch 52

In November, 13 members of Branch 52 were honored for their many years of membership and service in SIR... their years of active membership span from 26 years to 32 years.

These men were treated to lunch, awarded a certificate of merit, and given a Branch 52 coffee mug. We felt that this was great way to show our appreciation for their many years of active participation.

Pictured left to right in the back row are **Bob Queen, Charles Banchio, Harold Johnson, Ed Roth,** and **Cal Callen**. In the front row are **Don Arney, Don Kuehn, Sol Luna, Jack Regan, Al Lambach,** and **George Moore Sr.** Absent from the picture were **Ted Pollard** and **Paul Johnston**.



Twain Harte Branch 172

Spectacular View

Ed Nissen, Bulletin Editor

The Twain Harte Hiking Group is seen relaxing after climbing to the top of this rock, which is about 9,300 feet in elevation. From this point, they had an unobstructed view of the whole area and could even see Yosemite Half Dome in the background.



News from the Branches

Hooker Oak Branch 84, Chico

Nice Catch

Gerry Mc Laughlin, Fishing Club Chairman

Branch 84 Fishing Club – known as the 84 Hookers – continues to have success catching the all-elusive fish. The 84 Hookers' outings sometimes include weekend camping and fishing at several rivers and lakes, catching a variety of fish... these include, Sacramento River Salmon, Eagle Lake Trout, Lake Oroville Coho, Clear Lake and Indian Valley Reservoir for Crappie. The fifteen members of the 84 Hookers gather at 8:00 am at a local restaurant on the first Thursday of each month to plan trips and to just enjoy talking about fishing.

Pictured is **Bob Puckett**, who caught a very nice German Brown Trout.



Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22, San Rafael

Membership Chairman Honored

Bob Farwell, Bulletin Editor

Big Sir **Stan Ellexson** presented a “special” American flag to Sir **Robert E. Burton** as a token of appreciation from the branch for his 16 years service as Membership Chairman. During his presentation, Ellexson explained that the flag had been flown over our nation’s capitol on July 4th, 2006, making it extraordinary.



Discovery Bay Branch 161

Golf Champion

Dick Donald, Big Sir

Branch 161 and Branch 108 hold a golf tournament each month at one of the local courses, and the year culminates with our “Championship Tournament” in October. Pictured is the new Champion, **Jack Disney** (on the right), receiving his trophy from last year’s champion, **Andy Zwemer**. Jack won with a net score of 65. The tournament is a straight 18-hole handicap tournament, based on each golfer’s NCGA handicap and was held at the Lone Tree golf course.



Prospectors Branch 137, Placerville

Picnic, Picnic, Picnic

Victor Husak, Big Sir

Once again we held our annual picnic at High Hill Ranch, just outside of Placerville...the same spot we have been using for close to 10 years. The picnic grounds are covered with magnificent shade trees, making it an ideal setting for picnic activities.

Our usual caterers provided us with a wonderful menu. Cold drinks and the hard stuff were available at a portable bar... if anyone one went away hungry or thirsty, it was their own fault.

Country and Western music played on a boom-box and the folks that are into that kind of music sang right along with the music.

We had a lot of help from many people including: **Dale** and **Zibby Samuelson**, **Chuck** and **Maryann St. Clair**, **Carl Jaegel**, **Mac MacDonald** and **Elwin Veerkamp**. I want to thank them, as well as all the others that helped make this year’s picnic such a big success!

News from the Branches

Miwok Branch 134, San Rafael

Great Books Discussion Group

Howard Bassett, Chairman

The Branch 134 Great Books Discussion Group started in March 1999, with the support of the Officers – especially Big Sir **Al Crozier** – and the Directors.

From a humble start of six members, the Group has grown and flourished to over 20 members. Some are long time Branch members, some are newly sworn-in members, others are on the waiting list, and three are from other branches.

The program is based on the idea that, by reading from the great books of our civilization, discussing them, sharing insights, and asking questions, one can reach a fuller understanding of these books... there is no teaching, except by the authors of the various fiction and non-fiction selections.

The paperback books we use are short selection anthologies, supplied by the Great Books Foundation, so that all of the members are reading from the same page. It's fun and it exercises the mind, which is most important.



Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Special Golf Event

Sam Miano, Golf Special Events Chairman

Larry Peck, Membership Chairman

Yet another successful Forest Meadows golf event! The first day at the Reserve at Spanos Park was very enjoyable... fine weather, great golf and the evening dinner was terrific. The “two best ball” tournament for that day was won by **Larry Peck, Don Fontes, Bob Norbutas**, with **Chuck Waggoner** as the “blind draw.” Individual leaders for the first day were **Bob Norbutas** with a net 67, followed by **Don Williams** with a 68 and **Lou Bottini** at 70.

The next day started off with a shotgun start at Forest Meadows. The “two best ball” was won by **Ed Metevia, Martin Devries, Bob Norbutas**, with **Jerry Oliver** as the “blind draw.” The individual leaders for the second day were headed by **Tom Davis** with a 55 – the lowest net score ever recorded in the 16 years of this tournament – followed by **Bob Norbutas** at 59, with **Larry Peck** and **Don Fontes** tied for third, each with a net 62.

On the last day, golfers awoke to the sound of pouring rain, but within 15 minutes of our arrival at Lockeford Springs, the rain stopped and the sun shone brightly. The “two best ball” winners were **Bob Norbutas, Jerry Sanders, Don Williams**, with **Tom Dapice** as the “blind draw.” The individual leaders ended in a 3 way tie with **Bob Norbutas, Jerry Sanders** and **Chuck Waggoner** each scoring a net 69.

The grand prize and trophy winner for the three-day event was **Bob Norbutas** with a total net score of 195. A special recognition went to **Tom Davis** for having the total low gross for the event of 237.

We all had a great time, although we missed having **Saul Miano** and **Neal Atchison** with us.



Get archive copies of SIR Happenings at
<http://sirinc.org/sirformspro/sirhappenings.htm>

**Would you like to be notified by Email
when SIR Happenings Newsletter is
posted on the SIR website?**

**Please email your name, branch number and
street address to:**

Dwight Sale
dwight.sale@comcast.net

Happenings Travel Bulletin

March 2007

March 5-16, 2007

Discover the Caribbean

Enjoy 12 days of luxury aboard the *MSC Lirica*, cruising to San Juan, St. Maarten, Grenada, Barbados, Antigua, Tortola, and Cayo Levantado. Prices, ranging from \$1720 to \$2135 PPDO, include round trip air, 11 nights, all meals and entertainment aboard ship. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **George Keeling** at (650) 574-0474.

March 9-19, 2007

Shades of Ireland

Ten days touring Limerick, medieval Castle Banquent, Cliff's of Moher, Galway farm visit, Killarney, Blarney Castle, Waterford Crystal, Dublin, and more. Cost is \$2599 PPDO. Offered by Branches 44, 163, and 178 Travel Call **Dave Moore** at (661) 832-8945.



March 16—April 1, 2007

The Best of Spain & Portugal

A 17 day tour featuring Madrid, Salamanca, Oporto, Lisbon, Seville, Costa del Sol, Mijas, Granada, Valencia, and Barcelona by deluxe motorcoach. Cost is \$3675 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call **Bob Hagler** at (925) 934-7620.



April 2007

April 10—April 18, 2007

The Great Smokies & Blue Grass

Tennessee – North Carolina – Kentucky. Featuring Grand Ole Opry performance, Tour Nashville, Chattanooga Choo-choo, Ride up Lookout Mountain, Biltmore Estates, Gatlinburg, Dollywood, Lexington and Churchill Downs, plus more. \$1995 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call **George Smith** at (530) 342-3133.

April 16--21, 2007

Branson Musical Getaway

Round trip to Branson, home to numerous musical and comedy venues, from the Fresno Air Terminal. Price is \$1299 PPDO. Offered by Fresno SIR Travel. Contact **Ed Dorn** at (559) 433-0670.

Editors Note: *We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this feature in Happenings will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs.*

To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on these travel pages was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

May 2007

May 4—19, 2007

Cruise the Baltic Capitals

Enjoy 12 days on *NCL Norwegian Dream Cruise Ship*. Transit the Kiel Canal, plus visits to St. Petersburg, Berlin, Estonia, Helsinki, Stockholm, and Copenhagen — 7 countries in all. Includes a 2 day, post-cruise, stay in London at the 4-star Kensington Hotel. Prices range from \$2910 to \$3540 PPDO. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call **Henry Puccinelli** at (415) 457-3990.

May 25—June 1 2007

Southern Charm

An 8 day trip through the romantic South, with overnights in Atlanta (2 nights), Charleston (2 nights), Savannah (1 night), Jekyll Island (2 nights) ...all for \$1924 PPDO. Price includes round trip air from SFO, hotels, and transportation. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **George Keeling** at (650) 574-0474.

May 28—June 6, 2007

Canadian Rockies by Rail

Experience 10 days of breathtaking views of the Canadian Rockies, including Vancouver and Victoria. All-aboard the Rocky Mountain Train to Kamloop, Jasper, Alberta, and the Columbia Ice fields. Stay at the famous Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. Price is \$3049 PPDO. Offered by Branches 44, 163, & 178. Call **Dick Werling** at (661) 587-1696.



June 2007

June 8-17, 2007

American Parks Tour

Fly to Salt Lake City and take a motor coach trip through the best parks in Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota and then end up in Denver. Some of the highlights are the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone National Park, Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial, Mt Rushmore, and much more. Price is \$2490 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 and 121 Travel. Call **David Abrahams** at (925) 447-9386.

June 22-30, 2007

Islands of New England

Visit Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Hyannis, Providence and Boston. See Beacon Hill and The Kennedy Compound. Go on a train Ride through Cape Cod, with a lobster dinner. Tour includes 8 days, with 7 hosted breakfasts and 3 dinners. Price is \$2049 PPDO, including round trip air from Sacramento. Offered by Area 33 Travel. Call **Tom Bowen** at 530-889-1710.

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email Don MacGregor at: donmac@hughes.net

Happenings Travel Bulletin

August 2007

August 9-15, 2007

Cruise the San Juan Islands

Cruise through and around the beautiful Northwest from Seattle to Victoria aboard the *MV Spirit* with only 32 fellow SIR passengers. This newly refurbished ship is more like a yacht than a cruise ship. \$2774 PPDO covers all ...round trip air from SFO, 19 meals, gratuities, and yes, even daily hosted cocktails. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Contact **Michael Clark** at (650) 347-0919.

September 2007

September 10-21, 2007 Switzerland Stay-Put

Unpack once and enjoy 10 nights at the 5 star Alpha Palmer Hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland. Daily guided motorcoach excursions will take you in a new direction everyday. Included in the price of \$3095 PPDO is a hot buffet breakfast every morning, 5 lunches and 5 dinners and round-trip air. Offered by Area 14. Call **Jerry Wisenor** at (209) 334-5181.



September 10-20, 2007 The Essence of Ireland

Fly from San Francisco to Dublin, Ireland and then begin your 11 day tour of this beautiful country. Visit Belfast, Derry, Galway, Killarney, and Dublin on a deluxe motor coach and see many interesting sites along the way. Full breakfast daily and 8 hosted dinners. Price is \$3200 PPDO, including round trip air. Offered by Branches 100 and 147 Travel. Call **Steve Nowicki** at (707) 762-6228.



September 20-28, 2007 Italian Lakes & Greek Islands

Have fun on a 12 day trip, featuring a 7 night Eastern Mediterranean Cruise. In Italy, visit Milan, Venice, the Lake District, & Bari. In Greece Visit Santorini, Mykonos, Athens, & Corfu. In Croatia see the Walled City of Dubrovnik. Rates starting at \$3659 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call **Bill Howard** at (530) 342-3368 or **George Smith** at (530) 342-3133.



Sons in Retirement, Inc.
Internet Address:
www.sirinc.org

October 2007

October 21—November 6, 2007

Mediterranean Cruise



Cruise the Mediterranean on the *Celebrity Millennium*. The trip includes Venice, Dubrovnik, Athens, Ephesus, Naples, Rome, Florence, Nice, Barcelona, and much more. Prices range from \$3735 to \$4955 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **David Abrahams** at (925) 447-9386.

October 14-21, 2007 Autumn Music Cities Tour

This tour features Branson, Memphis, & Nashville, with shows and sightseeing at such places as Graceland Estate, Grand Ole Opry, Opryland Hotel and much more. Price is \$2175 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Dan Miller** at (650) 591-3314.

November 2007

November 2-18, 2007 Cruise New York to New Orleans

Cruise from New York on the Norwegian Spirit to such places as: St Thomas, St. Lucia, Barbados, Aruba, Guatemala, Cozumel and then on to New Orleans. Prices range from \$2015 to \$2250 PPDO, including round trip air. Offered by Branches 20, 36, 85, and 104. Call **Tom Cutting** at (831) 438-1386.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CRUISE TO

HAWAII

September 24 - October 10, 2008

Cancelled

We are sorry to report that the 50th Anniversary Cruise to Hawaii has been cancelled. Alternative trips are being considered. Check with your Travel Chairman for details.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The October issue of SIR Happenings was outstanding. I was particularly impressed by President Bob's column on "Givers and Takers." May we have permission to reprint it in our monthly Branch Bulletin?

Colin Wilson, Branch 133
colinw@peoplepc.com

We contacted President, Bob Curley, and he was pleased to authorize your Branch, as well as any other Branch, to publicize his column.

Dear Editor:

Every once in awhile, when checking the death of WW2 veterans, I see that it mentions that he was a member of SIRS. I know that is incorrect, but there is nothing I can do! Even Branch 90 members and Branch 57 members, when I was the Big Sir in 2003, don't understand why the term SIRS isn't correct. I wish that you would advise ALL MEMBERS that the term "SIRS" is incorrect!

Phillip Kurokawa, Past Big Sir of Branch 57 and current member of Branch 90
Pkk231@aol.com

The problem you mention about the improper use of SIR and all of its derivatives, has bothered me – and probably many others – for some time and SIR Happenings has tried to help correct the problem. For example, in our January, 2006 edition on page 11, we ran a column about the proper use of our name and then in the following edition, there was further discussion of the issue in the Letters to the Editor Column. Past SIR President, Jim Donovan, made some comments about it in his front- page column in our April, 2005 edition. Also, Dwight Sale has written a primer entitled, "Primer-Use of SIR" and you, as well as all Sirs, can view it on the SIR website. I have to admit that it seems more natural to say SIRS, instead of SIR, and unfortunately, in my opinion at least, the problem will probably persist.

Dear Editor:

Sorry to say that my webtv does not extract SIR Happenings. It says that it's too much information and nothing even shows up on my screen.

Hank Gomez, Branch 57
hankgomez@webtv.net

I'm sorry to hear about your problem. The SIR Happenings file is a big one and I know other webtv users experience the same problem. Short of upgrading to more powerful equipment, you might ask one of your friends to print a copy for you.

Dear Editor:

Another great edition (October). Congratulations!

Bob Curley, SIR President,
ratutoo@sbcglobal.net

Dear Editor:

Thanks... I saw the article from our Branch 136. You do an excellent job of getting important news to everyone. Keep up the great work.

Jerry Stern, Branch 136 Secretary
jpstern@sbcglobal.net

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed your October "Happenings" very much. It's good to see what's going on in other Branches and gives us ideas that we might incorporate in our own Branch. Since you asked for suggestions...I have one. I am using a dial-up internet connection and as you know, they are as slow as mud. Would it be too much trouble to send a second edition of Happenings without graphics? That would cut the download time immensely. If this edition were transferred to "Word" and sent as an attachment, it would be easy for me to save the file. Again, many thanks for all your hard work. It is much appreciated and helpful to the entire SIR organization...if my request is too much trouble, please disregard.

Dale Snyder, Branch 70
dalesnyder@directcon.net

We sent you a black and white version of Happenings. It is 242 KB in size in comparison to the color version, which is 707 KB in size... however, it is not very appealing. Creating an issue without the pictures would be as much, or more work, than what it takes to create the present format. In trying to use "Word," we ended up with 40 pages and a much larger file. The real answer is to upgrade to DSL, if you are in a location that allows it. This way you wouldn't tie up your regular telephone while you are surfing the web and downloads would take minutes, instead of hours. Alternatively, you will have to ask one of your friends, with a high speed connection, to download and print Happenings for you.

Dear Editor:

SIR Happenings is very interesting.

Charles Wilkins, Branch 59
cnwj@comcast.net



SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

MAY 2007

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

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

President Tom's Column

Let me tell you a couple things that have happened during the first quarter of 2007. The State Board has reduced the pro-rata amount that Branches pay to the State Organization of SIR, starting with the second quarter of this year. Upon the recommendation of our State Treasurer, Bob Mannell from San Jose, the Board reduced the pro-rata from \$1.15 per active member to \$1. That is significant, especially for Branches with memberships in excess of 100 members.

Although it was unfortunate that the original 50th Anniversary Cruise to Hawaii aboard a Celebrity Cruise Line ship was cancelled, it was our fault, because we did not generate the minimum 1,000 fee paid participants by the extended deadline of December 31, 2006. The new 50th Anniversary Cruise with Norwegian Cruise Lines, aboard the Pride of America, promises to be a great trip. Passports will not be required, because this is an American registered ship and it will not be going to a foreign port merely to satisfy the foreign registered ship requirements.

Participants will be picked up at centralized points by bus and transported to Sacramento, Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose on Thursday, April 3, 2008. They will fly to Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii where buses will meet and transport them to the Marriott Resort Beach Hotel. On Friday April 4th, there will be a SIR 50th Anniversary Gala Hawaiian Luau. On Saturday April 5th, buses will transport participants to the Pride of America and their cruise and port stops in the Hawaiian Islands will begin. After touring the Islands, the ship will cruise to San Francisco arriving the morning of Tuesday, April 15th. Buses will transport participants back to the centralized points where they were picked up.

As a bonus for those who paid the initial fees for the Celebrity Cruise, you will be treated to an extra night in Honolulu and you will depart on Wednesday, April 2, 2008. This cruise is guaranteed, so I hope you are able to take advantage of this event. If you need further details, please contact your Branch Travel Chairman.

Tom

Fruitridge Branch 93, Sacramento

Use What You Do Best to Bring in New Members

Bob Bone, Branch 93 Member

Golf is the life-blood of Branch 93 and 150 of our 190 members belong to our NCGA golf club... that's about 80% of our membership. Although we have a variety of activities, we use our golf program as our main recruiting tool.

We are fortunate to have a very active golf committee that takes care of all the operational details, allowing members to just show up and play. We schedule an event at least 35 weeks a year, at some of the best courses in the Sacramento area, often at reduced rates. The club conducts a club championship and stages several team events each season. Branch 93 also arranges or participates in a number of other events such as over-nighters to Nevada, Area 3 events and of course, State golf tournaments.

To take advantage of our strong golf program to bring in new members, we recently designed a tri-fold brochure – based on a Branch 102 model – called, “SIR Branch 93 Golf Program.” The tri-fold contains information such as: our mission statement, a description of our golf program, a brief description of the SIR organization, where we meet and even an application to join SIR. In March, we decided to place the brochure at all the golf courses where we play. While it is too early to determine its effectiveness, we have already picked up three new members. We would be happy to send a copy of the brochure to any Sir that would like to see it and copies are available on the Branch website, www.sir93.org, then click on Membership, or request it from Len Hom at lenhom@surewest.net.



Christmas Parties in the News

San Francisco Branch 4

George Rodriguez, Bulletin Editor

San Francisco Branch 4 held its annual Christmas Luncheon at the Elks Lodge in South San Francisco. The Social Hour was followed by a luncheon at noon. After lunch, we were royally entertained by the "Heart and Soul" choir, under the direction of Mr. Adam Albrecht and they performed pieces from their recent Holiday Concert. The choir has performed at the White House, Carnegie Hall, in Dallas Texas, and sung the National Anthem at the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland A's games, to name just a few venues. After their performance, they led us all in a spirited sing-along of Christmas carols.

We were fortunate to have Past SIR President Dwight Sale and his wife Laura, join us for our luncheon. Dwight also conducted the installation of the new Officers and Directors. All the ladies received a box of See's candies and we also gave away some wine and Poinsettias. It was a wonderful luncheon and a great way to start the holidays.



Peralta Branch 12, San Pablo

George Moore, Past Big Sir

This year Branch 12 held its annual Christmas party at the Richmond Country Club and 43 people attended the nice affair.

Some unusual entertainment was provided by Outgoing Big Sir George Moore. Linda Moore, who collects and plays bells, added to the fun during her performance when she selected some men from the audience to come up and play the bells... these fellows are now known as Ding-A-Lings around the Branch. Some of Linda's bells are over 100 years old and she is shown in the picture with the bells she brought to the party.

Dwight Sale, Past SIR President, inducted the new officers and directors.



Monterey Peninsula Branch 28

Bill Meyer, Past Big Sir

Monterey Branch 28 held its annual Christmas party at the Elks Lodge in beautiful Monterey in a spacious room with an excellent view of Monterey Bay. About 110 members, relatives, spouses and guests attended the party that included lunch, the singing of Christmas Carols, and visits from Santa Claus and his Elves. It also included a two-piece band, "goodies" for all the guests, special gifts for the women, and an outstanding buffet lunch.

Joining in the fun from left to right are newly elected Big Sir Bill Webb and Little Sir Bob Wood.



Mid-Peninsula Branch 51, Los Altos Hills

Lee Parlett, Past Big Sir

We held our annual Christmas party at the Fremont Hills Country Club in Los Altos with a total attendance of 130 including members, ladies, and guests... a wonderful meal of salmon, prime rib or vegetarian was enjoyed by all.

As shown in the picture, we were entertained by a wonderful choral group, the "Main Street Singers" from Los Altos High School. This group has achieved an international reputation and they demonstrated their outstanding abilities in their performance for us.

The party was enjoyed by all with the great food, wonderful entertainment, and camaraderie.



Christmas Parties in the News

Indian Valley Branch 68, San Rafael **Bill Gelardi, Assistant Bulletin Editor**

PBS **Ted Cohen** and his committee put together a festive party at the San Rafael Four Points Sheridan Hotel. The 104 attending – the largest group ever – enjoyed the good food, music, and dancing. There were also five lucky winners of some nice door prizes and each lady took home a beautiful Poinsettia plant.

After Big Sir, **John Boccabella**, turned his reign over to the new Big Sir **Russ Dreosch**, PBS **Bill Favilla** (shown in the picture) swore in the new Officers and Directors ... following that, John Boccabella lead the traditional Past Big Sir Champagne Mug Toast.



Chabot Branch 6, Castro Valley **Ken Wright, Big Sir**

We had a very special event at our Ladies Day Luncheon last December, when **Lou Pagni** and **George Howe** were presented with Honorary Life Membership Awards. On hand to present the HLM awards was State President, **Bob Curley**. Also in attendance were Region 6 Director, **Glen Schimelpfenig**, Area Governor Tom Sherba, and special guest **Bob Lippincott**.

Pictured below, during the presentation, are from left to right: Lorraine Pagni, HLM Lou Pagni, Pat Howe, HLM George Howe, President Bob Curley, and Big Sir **Ken Wright**.



San Ramon Valley Branch 128 **Bill Olmo, Past Big Sir**

San Ramon Valley Branch 128 held its annual Holiday Party at the Diablo Country Club. The affair is a formal or semi-formal dinner dance and was under the sponsorship of **Fred Dorsch**. Chairman **Bob Denison** arranged for the "3 O'Clock Jump" Band, consisting of fourteen pieces and two singers. The three course dinner featured a choice of Filet Mignon, Atlantic Salmon, or Vegetarian Wellington. In attendance were 64 members with spouses and guests bringing the total attendance to 74 couples.

The highlight of the evening was a few songs sung by Sir **Jean-Guy Duport** (shown in the picture), who in his youth before leaving France, sang with Maurice Chevalier. In addition, Big Sir **Bill Olmo** -- known in the Branch as BS Bill -- recognized the three previous Big Sirs, who were in attendance, as well as Little Sir **Bernie Brenner** and his upcoming role as Big Sir.

Many members attended the pre dinner cocktail hour, followed by dinner and three hours of dancing on the spacious Diablo Country Club Dance floor.

Members joined in the Holiday spirit by filling over three barrels of toys, which are donated to needy children by the Diablo Country Club. A special door prize for those who brought toys was a dinner for two at San Ramon's Brass Door. And the winner was Sir **Jean-Guy Duport** and his wife Jeannette... would you believe, Guy drew his own name.



SIR Golf At Its Best

Don Dill, Division 2, Golf chairman

Don Dill, representing the State Golf Committee (on the left in the picture) and Area 9 Chairman, **Lou Cerutti** (on the right) are shown awarding **Bud Rogers**, from the River City Golf Club, with a first place plaque in the "A" flight of the SIR Club Championship at Poppy Hills on November 1st, 2006. Bud shot a gross 76 to qualify and then a 77 to win... with a net score of 68. Congratulations Bud!

Not pictured, but still a winner, was **Tom May** of Branch 102, the 4th flight winner. The presentation was made at a Division 2 meeting in January.

Our Division 2 goal is to increase membership through great golf in 2007.



Windsor Branch 176

Super Senior Certificate

Mike Berry, Big Sir

At a recent Windsor Branch 176 luncheon meeting, Region 10 Director, **Eckart Sellinger**, (who is shown on the right in the picture), presented a Super Senior Certificate to **Dick Thomas**, who was 96 in December 2006.



Tamalpais Branch 47, San Rafael

A Different Kind of War

Roger Pease, Past Big Sir

I was a motion picture photographer in China-Burma-India in WWII and as such, I had some unusual experiences, which I recently shared with my Branch at one of our monthly luncheons. The following is one of these stories:

Kachins are one of many tribal cultures in the remote Northern Shan States of Burma. These people were friendly to Americans from an earlier time when Gordon Seagrave, known as the "Burma Surgeon," worked with them on health concerns and, as a missionary, brought them Christianity. When the war came to them, the Kachins organized "Rangers" to harass the Japanese. Some also worked with the 7000-man Mars Task Force, scouting Japanese positions.

While with Mars, I joined a 15-man squad of Kachins to go on a patrol of a mountainous region to gain information on Japanese positions. This was a two-day mission which included staying overnight in a Kachin village. Toward the end of the day as we entered the village of bamboo



houses -- all on high stilts -- we were greeted enthusiastically by the villagers. An elderly lady came up, grabbed me by the hand, and with a big smile said something which, when translated, was, "I am an American Baptist happy to meet another American

Baptist!" To them all Americans were Baptists.

That evening the Head Man shot a young pig with a flintlock rifle. The pig was immediately butchered for dinner. I was to stay in the Head Man's house of one large room. Dirt was piled in the center to make a base for a wood fire for light and warmth and the smoke sifted up through an opening in the reed roof.

After the dinner, which was very tasty, some of the village people came to visit. Young people gathered around the fire and sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" and other hymns in their language, which gave a strange effect, because one of their words is simply the sound of "nn" and this seemed to leave gaps in the music. Back in the shadows, the old men of the village were quietly smoking opium.

This was truly another world of new friends and for a moment, the war was very far away. In the picture, I'm filming a Kachin celebration after the Japanese had been driven from the area.

Sirs in the News

Santa Lucia Branch 89, Salinas

Remembering Iwo Jima

Excerpts from an article that appeared in "The Salinas Californian" which was provided to Happenings by

Jim Westphal, Area 21 Governor

Not a day goes by that **Adolph Brusa**, an **Honorary Life Member** from Branch 89 in Salinas doesn't think back to 9:05 a.m. on Feb. 19, 1945. "That time...that date...will always be etched in my memory," said Brusa, 84. That's because he was going ashore that morning on Iwo Jima, in one of World War II's most famous battles. He was part of the first wave of Marines to hit the rocky island's shell-pocked - soon to be blood-soaked - black sand beaches. Brusa, a Marine Corps corporal in charge of a mortar squad, was soon a battle casualty. After 24 hours on the island, he'd been wounded by shrapnel in the top of the left foot and in his left arm and rib cage. A piece of flying metal had also split open his lip and chin and clipped off the tip of his nose. "A corpsman bandaged me up," Brusa said and "he'd been hit, too."



A pork chop-shaped island, 2 1/2 miles wide and less than 5 miles long, Iwo Jima was attacked because it was a key point in the Pacific War. For one thing, it was a part of



Japan. "It is the gateway to Japan, and I mean to keep the gate closed," said Lt. General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the Japanese commander. Iwo Jima sat strategically along the path flown by B-29s en route from bases in Saipan to bomb Japan. The bombers had to fly at least 1,000 miles each way, a distance

too great for fighter escorts. Japanese pilots, meanwhile, rose up off the island airstrips to threaten the U.S. planes. Many returning U.S. bombers, crippled by enemy fire or low on fuel, had no choice but to ditch at sea. Once U.S. troops secured Iwo Jima, however, the U.S. planes could land on the island, saving the lives of countless aircrews.

For Brusa and his fellow Marines, invasion day started with a traditional pre-battle breakfast..."steak and eggs," Brusa said. Then the original assault force, of which he was a part, headed for shore. "Go get 'em, you glory hounds," one sailor shouted by way of trying to lighten the mood. The ride to shore was deceptively calm. As the first Marines stepped onto the gritty black volcanic sand, they faced only silence. But..."it wasn't quiet for long," Brusa said. The fighting quickly heated up. The stench of diesel fumes from the tanks mingled with the salty taste of the air and burnt powder left by bursting artillery and mortar rounds. "They (Japanese) had every inch of land zeroed in," Brusa said. "The Japanese mortar shells were falling in a killing pattern.

People were getting hit all around---men yelling...men screaming...shells screaming---you could not believe there was that much sound on Earth," he said.

The Japanese had dug a network of tunnels and had built other heavily fortified emplacements from which they aimed withering fire. "I saw one Japanese soldier jump out of a pillbox with a satchel charge and head for a tank," Brusa said. "He lasted about 10 seconds. "Mostly though, we were firing our weapons at where we thought they might be." By nightfall, Brusa had been bandaged and given morphine, but he was unable to speak and was bleeding heavily. He and other wounded Marines took shelter in the shattered shell of a pillbox. Flares floated down, shedding brilliant white light and casting unnerving shadows. On the morning of Feb. 23, Joe Rosenthal, an Associated Press photographer, climbed Mount Suribachi and snapped World War II's most famous image. "A roar went up all over the island," Brusa said.

Later, aboard ship, a skillful surgeon was able to repair Brusa's chin and lip, though it took three surgeries. His unit was next slated to take part in the invasion of Japan, but then the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the war ended. Brusa served in Japan as part of the occupation forces and was discharged on November 10, 1945.

When his thoughts take their frequent trips back to Iwo Jima, he feels anew the loss of his fellow Marines. Of the 236 who landed in Company C, only 46 walked off the island and when he speaks of that loss, emotion rises quickly in his voice. Thoughts of Iwo Jima also leave him with a persistent yet unanswerable question... "I'm always wondering, how the hell did I ever come out of that ordeal alive?" he said.

Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

HLM Award

Dave Zenk Big Sir 2006

Ron Bianco, from Branch #94, is shown in the picture proudly displaying his Honorary Life Membership Award. Joining in the presentation were left to right **Dave Zenk**, Branch 94 Big Sir -- SIR President **Bob Curley** -- Ron Bianco -- **Dave Reiser**, Region 7 Director -- and **Gary Pelton**, Area 5 Governor.



Sirs in the News

Golfing on the Mexican Riviera

Jerry Strain, Branch 144 Golf Chairman

Area 22 golfers had another great showing at a SIR State Golf tournament. The Mexican Cruise to the Riviera was great! Of the 14 golfers from our area, ten were in the money, either as daily place winners, or as overall winners in their division

Branch 144 winners were: **Tony Salonga**, the "A" flight winner; **Norman Lawrence**, 2nd place in the "B" division; and **Laurie Salvi**, the "D" division winner...and the Tournament Grand Champion, as well.

Branch 143 winners were: **Daniel Downey**, 3rd place in the "D" division, and **Mel Carothers**, 7th place winner in the "C" division.

Branch 103 winners were: **Bob Salaiz**, 7th place in the "A" division, and **Sam Gonzales**, 6th place in the "B" division.

Other daily place winners included: **Jerry Strain, Max Padua, and Gabe Gomez**. Congratulations to all of our winners. We hope to continue to have great showings from Area 22 at the State Sir Golf Tournaments.

Our golfers are shown aboard ship on the Mexican Riviera Cruise.



Indian Valley Branch 68, San Rafael

Golfing Milestone

Hans Sommer, Bulletin Editor

One of the most sought after goals of many amateur golfers is the ability to shoot their age. While it would seem that this should be a more attainable feat as they get older, it does require a steadfast dedication and endurance for the sport, in addition to the required talent. For our very own **Ben Young**, a 26 handicap golfer, this was achieved on his 91st birthday. It happened on October 30, 2006, during a scheduled Branch 68 golf outing at the Indian Valley Golf Course in Novato.

Congratulations Sir Ben!! (Shown in the picture on the right) May you have many more satisfying golfing experiences.

Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Recognizing Noble Sirs

Bruce Henry, Little Sir

During the annual Branch 32 Ladies Day/Christmas Luncheon extravaganza, outgoing Big Sir **Don Schilling** presented "Noble SIR" awards to **Paul Vogel** and **Lee Stayrook**. The "Noble Sir" is a Branch 32 award that recognizes those men who have contributed outstanding service to the branch and is awarded by the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) on an irregular basis.

Paul Vogel is a past Big Sir and has held many committee chairman positions, including producing the very successful Ladies Day Picnic in June. Lee Stayrook is also a past Big Sir and has been a Director and chaired the challenging Nomination Committee for Branch 32. They received their engraved awards before a large gathering of Branch 32 members and guests, including their wives.

In the picture, the new Noble Sirs Lee Stayrook (2nd from the left) and Paul Vogel (3rd from the left) are shown being congratulated by our 2006 Big Sir, Don Schilling (far right) and our 2007 Big Sir, **Ray Renwick** (far left). Sir Paul and Sir Lee are the eighth and ninth members of Branch 32 to receive this prestigious award. Congratulations to both of you!



State Golf

Dave Betts, Chairman, State Golf Committee

The Las Vegas tournaments were completed during April. The first week had a couple of slightly breezy days. However, the second week was considerably windier and colder. We played at Painted Desert for 2 days and at Las Vegas National for 1 day each week. The courses were in great condition and their staffs did a fine job of accommodating both tournaments. Palace Station did their usual fine job of hosting our events. Las Vegas appears to have lost some of its earlier attraction for SIR Golfers. The first week had 78 golfers, 65 men and 13 ladies. The second week had 92 golfers, 76 men and 16 ladies. Check the SIR Website for tournament results.

If you have suggestions to assist in reinvigorating this destination, please email me golferdfb@sbcglobal.net.

While in Las Vegas the hosting committee members reviewed several different golf courses to consider for future events.

The next 2007 destination is Reno, which appears to be our most popular destination. Both weeks were sold out within ten days after the brochures were mailed. The mailing was accomplished using bulk rate postage which resulted in the tournament being sold out before many SIR members received the mailing. Each Post Office in the USPS has its own policy for handling bulk rate mailings and many do not assign it a very high priority. The State Golf Committee will be considering methods to alleviate this problem for future mailings.

Following the Reno tournament is the State Scramble Team Championship on August 20th at Poppy Ridge. The Area Qualifiers for this event should be held in June and will be at various locations within each of the Areas.

The next event is the Fall Classic in Solvang on September 9th thru the 16th. We will be lodging at the Santa Ynez Marriott in Buellton. This is the only event that is not in the scramble format other than the State Individual Championship. We will be playing a four man team, two best ball format at Marshalia Ranch and Alisal River Courses.

November always brings out the best individual qualifiers for the State Individual Championship at Poppy Hills. This tournament is broken up into seven different flights for both the Championship and the Open Play. Seventy golfers will vie for seven individual championships and the balance of the field will be for open play on November 5th. November 6th is all open play for the entire field of 144 Golfers.

Winding up the year will be the tournaments in Ixtapa, Mexico with the first trip from November 9th thru 17th and the second trip November 30th thru December 8th.

We will be lodging at the Dorado Pacifico Hotel and golfing at Palma Real and Marina Ixtapa. We were recently advised by Golden Gate Tours that there were about 40 airplane seats still available for the first trip and about 117 seats available for the second trip. This is a great destination and was picked this year as a result of your preferences as indicated on the survey questionnaires completed and collected at Poppy Hills, Solvang, and Puerto Vallarta and

State RV

Jack Streckfus, Chairman, State RV Committee

About the time Happenings goes to press, we will be wrapping up what I'm sure will be another successful and fun-filled State RV Rally in Manteca. I know that I'll have a lot to talk about after the Rally is over and I will tell you all about what went on, in the next edition of Happenings.

State Baseball

SIR Day with the Sacramento River Cats

Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 11:35am

Raley Field - Opponent: Salt Lake Bees

SIR Contact: **Ken Edwards 209-223-9156**



All SIR Day with the Oakland A's

Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 12:35pm

McAfee Coliseum - Opponent: Cincinnati Reds

SIR Contact: **Nat Lord 210-797-1704**



All SIR Day with the San Francisco Giants

Thursday, August 9, 2007 at 12:35pm

AT&T Park - Opponent: Washington Nationals

SIR Contact: **Jim Wyatt 650-345-3494**



on the Dawn Princess in 2006. If you have misplaced your brochure for this event, contact Golden Gate Tours at (800) 874-4345 and they will happily provide another or assist you with registration.

Last, but not least, the State Golf Committee will be establishing a separate website during the first six months of 2007. This should enable us to keep the membership more quickly and accurately informed of the State Golfing events and activities.

News from the Branches

Sunnyvale Branch 62

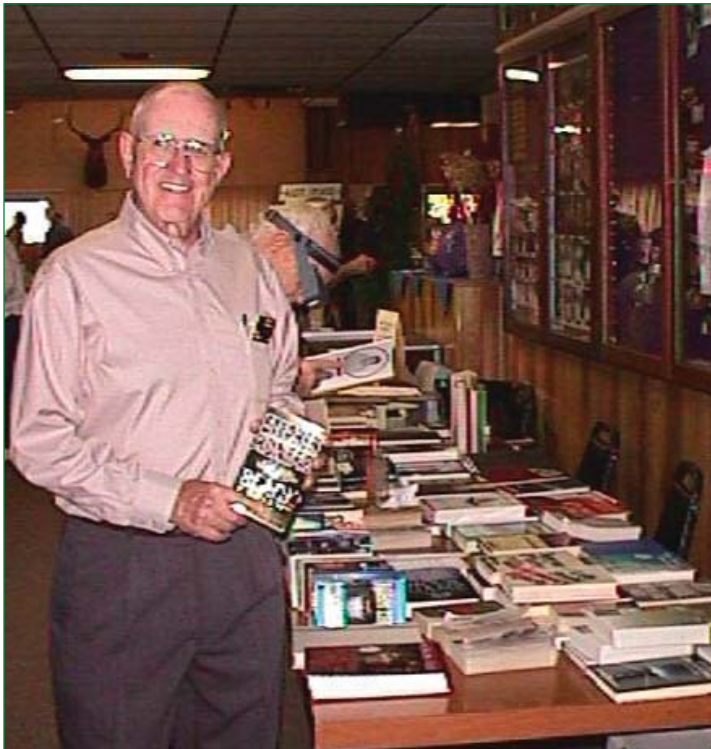
Book Swap

John Brownie, Branch Member

The purpose of our Book Swap program is to make books and other material available to our members at no charge and with no restrictions on how long they can keep them or even the need to return the items at all. I don't know of another Branch that has an activity like this and it has been a huge success for us.

The Sunnyvale Elks Lodge provides three empty tables near the entrance to our luncheon. We use storage boxes to tote the books to our meeting place, where they are displayed on the tables. Our members bring in their used books and we typically have over 200 books on display. We have been giving out 100 or more items at each monthly luncheon. At the end of each meeting, all the books are packed up and stored until our next luncheon. Our program has expanded to magazines, Video Tapes, LP Records, and DVD's... I get at least 40 magazines from my dentist each month and they are only a month old.

John Brownie is shown in the picture guarding his books display at a recent Branch luncheon.



Editors Note:

We are changing the publishing dates for *SIR Happenings* to February, May, August, and November. The original schedule was publishing quarterly on or close to the first of January, April, July, and October. These dates were rather arbitrary when we started and we believe these new dates will help us do a better and timelier job of covering such events as Branch Christmas parties and other activities.

Rocklin Branch 98

Celebrates its Silver Anniversary

Bob Fricke, Event Chairman

25 years ago on April 6, 1982, Rocklin Branch 98 was granted its Charter. The new Branch had its first meeting at the Sunset Whitney Country Club in Rocklin and met there for 24 years and then in 2006, changed venue to the Woodcreek Golf Club in Roseville.

There were 37 original members, three of which -- **Don Palmer**, **Mario Forlini**, and **Earl Chinnock** -- are still active and were acknowledged at the April 10, 2007 Charter Day Celebration. In commemoration of this event, all members received an imprinted letter opener and the guest speaker, Past State President **Jim Donovan**, presented Certificates of Recognition to the three Charter Members.

Shown in the photo from left to right are: Past Big Sir and Event Chairman **Bob Fricke**, Charter Members **Mario Forlini**, **Earl Chinnock**, and **Don Palmer** along with Past State President **Jim Donovan**.



Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

Growing Membership

Vern Krause, Membership Chairman

Region 9 Director **Bob Crum** (on the right) is shown presenting a Membership Award to Big Sir **Mike Nickey**, in recognition of the Branch 37 increase in membership over the past couple of years and exceeding its membership goals.



News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

A Great Bowling Tournament

Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

Branch 96, of Amador County, hosted its largest two day bowling tournament ever, with 22 Branches participating. Tournament Chairman, **Richard Bibby**, from Fiddletown, brought in 118 bowlers that joined the local Branch in the 10th Annual Tournament at the Gold County Lanes in Sutter Creek.

Pins flew as **Larry McNamora**, of Branch 105, picked up the Singles win, with a top single game score of 279 and took home a handsome payout as the Division "A" top lane master. **Terry Salles**, of Branch 29, showed his skills, winning the Division "B" Singles title and top money. In the Division A Doubles, Branch 17, and Branch 15, rolled off as the top team. Team bowlers, **C. Manning** and **J. Ramos**, representing Branch 72, were the Division "B" champs.

The All Events winners were Branch 72's, **Curtis Manning** and **Elmer Stapp**, from Branch 113. Bibby announced that the total awards for the two day event were \$2,243.

Bowling, fishing, golf, RVing, tours, cruises & travel around the world, are just some of the activities available to Branch 96 members.

Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

State SIR Certificate

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Area 22 Governor **Julius Manrique** is shown presenting the State SIR Certificate for past Big Sirs to **Carl Elvik**, the Branch 103 Big Sir in 2006. Pictured left to right are: Julius Manrique, Carl Elvik and incoming Branch 103 Big Sir **Crispin Woelfer**.



Get archive copies of SIR Happenings at

<http://sirinc.org/protected/sirhappenings.htm>

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Installation

Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

Past Big Sir **Ron Gibbs** (on the left), is shown congratulating **Bill Garrett**, at the annual Branch 96 Christmas Party. Bill is assuming the 2007 Big Sir post for Branch 96. This represents the second time Bill has filled that role, having been the Big Sir for Branch 2 in Berkley, prior to his move to Amador County. Bill's past involvement with Sons In Retirement also includes being Chairman of the State Rules Committee.



The SIR website: **sirinc.org** has been updated. You still need a password to get to the State Roster. Sirs should request the new password from the Branch email contact.

Would you like to be notified by Email when SIR Happenings Newsletter is posted on the SIR website?

Please email your name, branch number and street address to:

Dwight Sale

dwight.sale@comcast.net

Happenings Travel Bulletin

June 2007

June 8-17, 2007

American Parks Tour

Fly to Salt Lake City and take a motor coach trip through the best parks in Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota and then end up in Denver. Some of the highlights are the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone National Park, Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial, Mt Rushmore, and much more. Price is \$2490 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 and 121 Travel. Call **David Abrahams** at (925) 447-9386.

June 22-30, 2007

Islands of New England

Visit Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Hyannis, Providence and Boston. See Beacon Hill and The Kennedy Compound. Go on a train Ride through Cape Cod, with a lobster dinner. Tour includes 8 days, with 7 hosted breakfasts and 3 dinners. Price is \$2049 PPDO, including round trip air from Sacramento. Offered by Area 33 Travel. Call **Tom Bowen** at 530-889-1710.

August 2007

August 9-15, 2007

Cruise the San Juan Islands

Cruise through and around the beautiful Northwest from Seattle to Victoria aboard the *MV Spirit* with only 32 fellow SIR passengers. This newly refurbished ship is more like a yacht than a cruise ship. \$2774 PPDO covers all ...round trip air from SFO, 19 meals, gratuities, and yes, even daily hosted cocktails. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Contact **Michael Clark** at (650) 347-0919.

August 26-September 1, 2007

Idaho & Montana, Plus Glacier National Park

This trip features the Big Sky Country. Ride the "Going-to-the-Sun Highway" in Glacier. See historic sights such as Kalipell's Conrad Mansion, Fort Sherman, and museum. Ride the Hell's Canyon Jet Boat and travel the International Serkirk Loop. Price is \$1970 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Dan Miller** at (650) 591-3314.

September 2007

September 5-9, 2007

Windy City Wonders



Enjoy five days exploring the "Windy City." Unpack once. Cruise the Chicago River. Includes air, hotel and bus. Price is \$1654 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Michael Clark** at (650) 347-0919.

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the *Happenings Travel Bulletin*, please email **Don MacGregor** at: donmac@hughes.net

September 13-24, 2007

New England and Beyond

After exploring Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, we head south along the Hudson River Valley to West Point and Hyde Park...then, on to Gettysburg and conclude our tour in and around the historic city of Philadelphia. Cost is \$2995 PPDO. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call **Allen Daily** at (408) 265-8140.

September 27-October 5, 2007

Canyon Country

Tour the Southwestern National Parks, starting in Phoenix. Visit Scottsdale, Arizona, Oak Creek Canyon, Kaibob National Forest, Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Monument Valley, Bryce and Zion Canyon National Parks, and end up in Las Vegas. Price is \$2299 PPDO. Includes air from SFO, transfers, taxes and fees, plus 7 breakfasts and 5 dinners. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call **Paul Hiatt** at (415) 454-2240.



September 28-October 8, 2007

Classic Canada & New England Cruise

Sail between Quebec, Canada and New York City. Package includes: Halifax & Sidney, Nova Scotia-Saint John, New Brunswick – Bar Harbor Maine – Boston, Massachusetts – Newport, Rhode Island - & New York City. Prices range from \$2675 to \$3325 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Lou Romanello** at (650) 369-5893.

September 10-20, 2007

The Essence of Ireland



Fly from San Francisco to Dublin, Ireland and then begin your 11 day tour of this beautiful country. Visit Belfast, Derry, Galway, Killarney, and Dublin on a deluxe motor coach and see many interesting sites along the way. Full breakfast daily and 8 hosted dinners. Price is \$3200 PPDO, including round trip air. Offered by Branches 100 and 147 Travel. Call **Steve Nowicki** at (707) 762-6228.

September 20-28, 2007

Italian Lakes & Greek Islands



Have fun on a 12 day trip, featuring a 7 night Eastern Mediterranean Cruise. In Italy, visit Milan, Venice, the Lake District, & Bari. In Greece Visit Santorini, Mykonos, Athens, & Corfu. In Croatia see the Walled City of Dubrovnik. Rates starting at \$3659 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call **Bill Howard** at (530) 342-3368 or **George Smith** at (530) 342-3133.

Editors Note: We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this feature in *Happenings* will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs.

To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on these travel pages was accurate when this edition of *Happenings* was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

October 2007

October 5 –9, 2007 New York City

Highlights include a city tour featuring Greenwich Village, Empire State Building, Wall Street, Little Italy, Chrysler Building, and a memorable stop at Ground Zero, with lunch at the Tavern on the Green in Central Park. Another tour will include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, lunch in China Town and then a visit to Ellis Island and the "Lady of Liberty." Two Broadway shows are included, plus time for leisure and shopping. Trip includes round trip air with a transfer from Bakersfield to LAX, 4 nights at the Manhattan Sheraton Hotel and 1 breakfast and 2 dinners. Cost is \$2099 PPDO. Offered by Branches 44, 163, and 178. Call **Herb Loken** at (661) 327-7488.



October 6-12, 2007

Land of Enchantment & Albuquerque Balloon Festival

Spend 2 nights in Albuquerque, 1 night in Santa Fe, and 3 nights in Taos. Guided tours include Sandia Peak Tramway Cumbres, and Toltec Scenic Railroad. Price of \$1935 PPDO includes 11 meals. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Jerry Wisenor** at (209) 334-5181.

October 6-17, 2007 The Russian Waterways

A 12 day adventure, cruising from St Petersburg to Moscow. Cost is \$3555 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Contact **Bob Spellman** at (925) 934-8428.

October 9-18, 2007 A Capital Experience

This is a 10 day tour of the Washington D.C. area, including Mt. Vernon, Gettysburg, Williamsburg, and Charlottesville. Also scheduled are trips to Arlington Cemetery, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, a performance at the Ford Theatre, the Library of Congress, Gettysburg, the Amish Country and a cruise on the Potomac to Mount Vernon. The price is \$2860 PPDO, which includes airfare, deluxe motor coach, 5 dinners and two lunches and all activity fees and costs. Offered by Branch 34 Travel. Call **Nino Pompilio** at (925) 846-5190.



October 14-21, 2007 Autumn Music Cities Tour

This tour features Branson, Memphis, & Nashville, with shows and sightseeing at such places as Graceland Estate, Grand Ole Opry, Opryland Hotel and much more. Price is \$2175 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Dan Miller** at (650) 591-3314.

Sons in Retirement, Inc.
Internet Address:
www.sirinc.org

October 21—November 6, 2007

Mediterranean Cruise



Cruise the Mediterranean on the *Celebrity Millennium*. The trip includes Venice, Dubrovnik, Athens, Ephesus, Naples, Rome, Florence, Nice, Barcelona, and much more. Prices range from \$3735 to \$4955 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **David Abrahams** at (925) 447-9386.

November 2007

November 1-10, 2007

Aegean Odyssey-Greece/Greek Islands/Turkey

A 10 day land and sea tour. One night in the 5 Star Georgio Hotel and 4 nights aboard ship. Extensive tours of the famous sites of Athens and a 5 day cruise visiting the Greek Islands, including: Mykonos, Patmos, Rhodes, Heraklion, Santorini and Crete... plus, an optional tour of the ruins of Ephesus. Cost is \$2405 PPDO. Taxes and airport transfer tips included. Breakfast daily. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call **Hank Listman** at (415) 883-0250.

November 16-20, 2007

Branson Holiday Showtime

Fly from San Jose to Springfield to see Yakov Smirnoff, Shoji Tabuchi, Christmas on Broadway, Red Skelton Tribute, Red Hot Blues, Les Brown Band, Andy Williams, Daniel O'Donnell, Festival of Lights and much more. Breakfast and dinner daily. All tips,, transportation, and touring included. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call **Allen Daily** at (408) 265-8240.

December 2007

December 30, 2007-January 3, 2008

Celebrate The New Year in San Antonio, Texas

Spend four nights at the Hilton Paseo del Rio and enjoy a gala New Year's Eve dinner and dancing. Also included are a New Year's Day brunch, a full day of sightseeing, a boat cruise down the river front, a visit to the Alamo, and many other attractions. Cost is \$1410 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Harry Redlick** at (650) 583-3961.



February 2008

February 28-March 9, 2008

Tahiti-Cook Island Cruise

Cruise on the 670 passenger Tahitian Princess. Visit Papeete, Huahine, Rarotonga, Raiatea, Bora Bora, and Moorea. Prices range from \$3390 to \$3640 PPDO. Due to the popularity of this cruise, and limited space in each category, early sign-up is important. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **Werner Schlapher** at (925) 443-8291.



Dear Editor:

I just wanted to "rib" you a little bit for your use of "SIRs" in the January '07 issue of Happenings. In your editors note, regarding travel, you succumbed to the temptation, just as many of us do. Enjoy your work immensely... keep it up!

Bob Farwell, Branch 22 Bulletin Editor
Kerlin71@comcast.net

We want to hear from anyone that points out any errors in SIR Happenings. However, we did not use "SIRS" in the Editors Note that you cited. Instead, we used "Sirs" which refers to members of SIR or Sons In Retirement, Inc. We try our best to get this right. We sometimes err, but this time I think we used the term correctly. Please continue to read the Newsletter and to comment on things we can improve.

Dear Editor:

Great Publication!
 John Sailors, Past Big Sir, Branch 34
johnsailors@comcast.net

Dear Editor:

Super job. You guys are great.
 Hal Fox, Branch 1
mrhalfox@earthlink.net

Thanks fellows for those nice compliments

Dear Editor:

I read it and made copies for our BEC meeting. You did another excellent job and we appreciate all your work and support for SIR. Thanks.
 Jerry Stern, Branch ?
jpstern@sbcglobal.net

We appreciate your making copies of Happenings available to your BEC members and we hope more Branches will do the same.

Dear Editor:

I was glad to see the travel entries in Happenings. The State Newsletter can provide information of available trips, not found in any other source. Keep up the good work.
 John Mahony, Branch 150
Jm2w@sbcglobal.net

Thanks, John. That's the major reason we started the Happenings Travel Bulletin.

Dear Editor:

Great job. It is nice to see what's going on in some of the other Branches and to see our Branch's Great Books photo. Thanks.
 Fred Holmes, Big Sir Branch 134
Fredandjanalee@comcast.net

We are pleased that you enjoyed our story about your Branch. Many Sirs now have the opportunity to see what is going on in some of the other Branches and to adopt some of the good ideas they see in their own Branches.



50TH ANNIVERSARY CRUISE TO

HAWAII

April 3 - 15, 2008

SIR 50th Anniversary Cruise

The Islands of HAWAII

April 3 - 15, 2008

Celebrate the anniversary of 50 years of SIR travel on board the US flagged PRIDE OF AMERICA

Two-night pre-cruise stay in Honolulu
 Honolulu, Island of O'ahu
 Hilo, Island of Hawaii
 Kahului, Island of Maui
 Kailua-Kona, Island of Hawaii
 Nawiliwili, Island of Kauai
 San Francisco, California

Presented by Golden Gate Tours

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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 Editor and Production Manager
 Email: john@mediart.com



SIR HAPPENINGS

AUGUST 2007

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

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

President Tom's Column

Time flies when you are busy and having fun. That is exactly what has been happening to me since becoming the State President at the start of 2007. Actually, the work for the President begins soon after he is elected at the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Corporation. You cannot believe the things that have happened since I became the President and I will not bore you with the details.

Enough about the business end of SIR. I have had a very unique opportunity in that the State President is supposed to present Century SIR Certificates to active members who have turned 100 years old and Honorary Life Memberships to those active members who have made significant contributions to the Branch or State Organization. Not only it is a sincere pleasure to meet these SIR gentlemen, it is also very rewarding and interesting to attend the SIR functions where the presentations are made. From my observations and the many new SIR members that I have met, our Branches and their members are very friendly and sociable, proud of their Branches, and they really appear to be having fun, which is what SIR is all about.

Our membership numbers are still in a declining mode, so, I urge each of you to put forth some extra efforts to spread the word about SIR and be an active recruiter. It is only through your concerted efforts that we will be able to turn this declining trend around. I urge you to take advantage of the numerous activities that are offered through our Branches and State Committees. It is also equally important for you to attend your Branch meetings and support the efforts of those many SIR members who work so hard for us.

Yours in SIR

Tom

San Jose Branch 10

Orchard Valley Branch 54, San Jose

Make it Two to Go

Fred Gardener, Past Big Sir, Branch 10

Two Sirs from San Jose Medaled out recently in the State of California Senior Games Championship in Pasadena California. They are very competitive Lawn Bowlers and enjoy the challenges that the sport presents.

Both are now qualified to compete in the Huntsman World Senior Olympic Games in Saint George, Utah later this year. **Jerry Patrignani** of Orchard Valley branch 54, a novice, and Sir **Gary Pelton** of San Jose branch 10, a veteran Lawn Bowler, play 3 or 4 practice games a week and as many tournaments in the Bay Area as they can, to stay in shape. When questioned about their commitment, both admit that they do it to stay healthy... Gary adds that good health makes him happy and happy is good.

In the photo **Jerry Patrignani** is on the left, with **Gary Pelton** – the Area 5 Governor – on the right.



Ladies Day Parties in the News

Gateway Branch 169, Fresno **Jack Hartman, Big Sir**

We had a great May meeting, with our ladies present, enjoying the fine cuisine, the good fellowship and the nostalgic music of the 50's and 60's.

The Bullard Talent Showcase Show Choir performed for us. The group is made up of 31 sixth through eighth graders from the Fresno Unified Magnet School and is directed by Jane Wagner and Randy Berger. Bullard Talent's nostalgic rendition of the popular music of this period took us back to our high school days. The show's theme was based on music from the 1950's and included a medley of songs including, "At the Hop," "Let's Go to the Hop," and "Rockin' Around the Clock." The Showcase girls did a rendition of "Tammy," while the boys performed Roy Orbison's, "Only the Lonely". After the group's great singing and dancing of "Bye Bye Birdie", we gave them a standing ovation, which they certainly deserved. Bullard Talent responded by performing the classic song from Grease, "We Go Together."

Who would have thought that the music and the personalities that were so popular and loved back then would disappear into the dark mists of history only to be replaced by the loud "noise" that is so popular with the youth of today and performed by such groups with names like, "The Animals," and the "The Grateful Dead," instead of a little more civilized name such as, "The Beach Boys".

Congratulations on a job well done to all of those involved in putting together our wonderful May meeting!



Twin Peaks-Portola Branch 25, South San Francisco **Nick Fesunoff, Bulletin Editor**

Branch members and their ladies enjoyed the annual Twin Peaks - Portola Branch Ladies Day Luncheon in May, at the So. San Francisco Elks Lodge. Sir **Henry Broock**, assisted by Sir **Rich MacDougall** – both smiling at you in the picture at right – performed a wonderful service in organizing the fun affair.

American River Branch 67, Carmichael **Jack Derby, Bulletin Editor**

Branch 67 had a very nice Ladies Day, with 77 people in attendance. The meal included two entrees - Veal Milanese and Chicken Breast Du Vin. There was red and white wine on the tables and cheesecake for dessert. The "Dixie Chicks" provided the entertainment, singing country and western music. In the picture one of the "Dixie Chicks," is seen playing her guitar.



The best part of the event was getting together with the ladies and catching up on their happenings.

Bayshore Silver Anniversary **Branch 118, San Mateo** **John De Felice, Bulletin Editor**

Branch 118 kicked off the summer season with its annual "Spring Fling" in May. Invitations were sent to all our Branch members and their significant others. One hundred or so, music enthusiasts, showed up for the luncheon that featured entertainment by the "Broadway by the Bay" singers. The group performed songs from Showboat and Annie Get Your Gun. Songs like "Make Believe," "Old Man River," "Why Do I Love You," – from Showboat – warmed up the audience while "Anything You Can Do" and "There's No Business like Show Business" finished off a great afternoon for all.



Sirs in the News

Mission Trail Branch 35, Palo Alto

Story of Charles Cook, a B-17 Pilot Edited by Rich Scholz, Member Branch 35

I always wanted to fly, and WWII gave me an opportunity that was far beyond my expectations. As a new B-17 pilot, I arrived in England on my 21st birthday. When I stowed my gear, the previous occupant's belongings were still in my assigned room... two days in a row, the 94th Bomb Group went on raids, with none returning. That day, I confronted the realities of war.

Mission days started at 1:00 AM... then breakfast, mission briefing, takeoff, join formation, bomb about noon, come home, debrief, dinner around 6:00 PM, and finally back to our quarters for sleep. The missions themselves were exciting and sometimes very frightening. Weather was often bad. At times takeoffs and landings were in near zero visibility... some didn't make it! Flak was so dense, we wondered how anyone could survive. One time a burst took off our rudder and stabilizer, missing our tail gunner by six inches. Another time, flak hit our bombardier, blowing him into a bulkhead... his flak suit saved his life. Another time, flak hit our top turret, spraying our flight engineer with shards of Plexiglas... he also survived. Raids included hundreds of fighters – ours and theirs – swarming all over. On a Hamburg raid, we got credit for part of a German fighter. One time over the North Sea, a submarine fired on us, blowing out my windscreen... we completed the mission in minus 57 degree temperature.

We were shot down twice, but the crew was able to get back to England. In one case, a fighter led our limping plane to an abandoned German airfield in France. In spite of very bad weather and some unfilled bomb craters, we were able to land. Later, a C-47 picked us up to return home. On one run, we barely missed ditching in the Channel, when all four engines quit, due to carburetor ice... we got them running just in time. Survival time was a matter of minutes in that icy water.

There were many more experiences, but the foregoing is an idea of what it was like. Overall, my crew and I were very lucky to survive our assigned 35 missions and forged a bond, lasting a lifetime.

Editor's Note: *Charles Cook is a member of Branch 35 and the above story is only a brief synopsis of his story... for the whole story, please go to: www.closereach.com/sir/vetspage2.html You can see other fascinating stories of Branch 35 Veterans by going to the Branch 35 website: sir35.org.*



Mid-Peninsula Branch 51, Los Altos Hills

Dedicated to Perfect Attendance Jack Chalklin, Member Branch 51

Shown in the photo are: **Dan Rubin**, Big Sir of branch 51 (on the left), and **Al Gardener** of branch 5. Al is being congratulated for making up a meeting at Branch 51 in order to maintain his perfect attendance record for 25 years.



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

A Lucky Pilot Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

We recently had quite an interesting speaker by the name of **Frank Fasmer**, a member of the branch, and a former P-47 pilot during World War II shown in the cockpit of his P-47. Frank enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 and completed his flight training at Luke Field in Arizona. He was then sent to England and two months after "D" day, he sailed across the channel on an LST and from there he hitchhiked to Lyon, France, where he joined his P-47 Squadron.



Most of his missions were to find and destroy "Targets of Opportunity." The enemy territory was divided up into grids and each squadron was assigned a grid... any trains, planes, tanks and military equipment that were sighted, were destroyed. The P-47 Thunderbolt—also called the "Jug"—came equipped with eight 50-caliber machine guns, and could carry two 500 pound bombs and four, five-inch HVAR rockets. It was the largest, heaviest, and best-equipped fighter in WWII. It also had a supercharged Pratt & Whitney Double Wasp 2435 HP engine that pushed the Jug to over 470 mph.

During one of Frank's missions, he encountered one of the new German jet fighters -- the Messerschmitt ME262 - head on. They both closed so close and fast, all they could do was give each other the infamous one-finger salutation.

During his tour, Frank flew 100 combat missions, and earned 20 air medals along with the Distinguish Flying Cross. Although several pilots in his squadron were lost in combat, Frank's plane never received a hit. Either the Good Lord was watching over him or he was a pretty good pilot... or maybe a little bit of both!

Frank retired as a Battalion Commander from the LAFD in 1979 and moved to Amador County. He now leads a much calmer life as a Master Gardener.

Sirs in the News

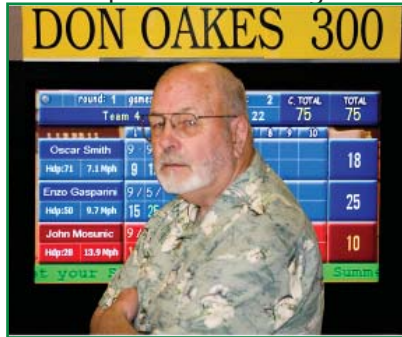
**Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118,
San Mateo**

A 300 Game

Jim Mahon, Little Sir

Don Oakes, a member of Bayshore Silver Anniversary branch 118, has accomplished what every amateur bowler strives for... a 300 game! Don Bowls in a Thursday SIR Bowling League at Bel-Mateo Bowl in San Mateo. On this particular Thursday – after Don bowled his eighth strike in a row – the crowd started to gather. The silence was deafening as Don reached eleven in a row. Everyone held their breath as Don released his final ball. A mighty roar shook the building as the final 10 pins fell. What a glorious moment this was for Don. We all felt a part of his 300 game.

Don bowls in several SIR bowling tournaments each year and in the picture, he is sitting in front of the board honoring his 300 game.



I'm sure his many friends in other branches will be happy, but also, a little envious of his 300 game.

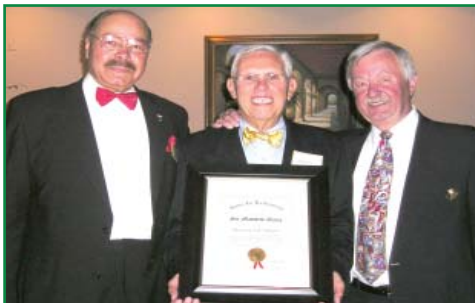
Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Honorary Life Membership

Floyd Skelton, Big Sir

Those Sirs that attended our Spring Dinner Dance saw **Matt Arena** receive an Honorary Life Membership Award from Past State SIR President **Mel Augustine**.

Matt joined Branch 116 in 1992, and served as branch Secretary for 4 years from 1997 through 2000. Matt has always done a superb job for Branch 116. He has been the Assistant Secretary for the past 6 years, and has served in many other capacities over the years to the benefit of our branch. Those tasks have included hanging and taking down our Branch Banner at each monthly luncheon and this year he accepted appointment to the challenging and important position of Sunshine Chairman, and also was appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee.



Shown in the picture (left to right) are Past State President **Mel Augustine**, **Matt Arena** and Big Sir **Floyd Skelton**.

Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont/Newark

Seniors Receive Certificates

John Skarpelos, Newsletter Editor

Branch 59 had eleven members become eligible to receive Senior Certificates over a three month period. Their ages ranged from 90 to 94.

Glen Schimelpfenig, Region 6 Director presented Senior Awards to eight members earlier in the year. Shown in the top picture from left to right are **Tom DeHart, Clarence Dutra, Niels Nielsen, Ed Bingle, Lewis Greene, Ray Andrade, Clyde Voorhees** and **Oliver Knick**.



Forrest Lusher and **John O'Conner** received their Senior Award from Area 8 Governor **Tom Sherba**. In the second picture from left to right is Big Sir **Ted Bresler, Forrest Lusher, John O'Connor** and Governor **Tom Sherba**.



In the lower picture Director Schimelpfenig on the right is presenting the Senior Certificate to **Clark Redeker**.



Sirs in the News

The Villages Branch 114, San Jose

Honoring Senior Members

Bob Stiasny, Big Sir

Six senior members of The Villages Branch 114 received a Special Certificate at a recent luncheon meeting. The State Board provides recognition for its active members who have celebrated a birthday of 90 years or more. At the recent luncheon, the following members were recognized. In the picture from left to right are: **George Peacock**, age 96; retired from Santa Clara Credit Bureau, **Phil Prescott**, age 92; retired from Rockwell International, **Martin Stearns**, age 90; retired from Wayne State University, **Joe Takeda**, age 90; retired from the New York Fuse Rash Motor Company, **Chappie Chapman**, age 94; retired from United Airlines and **Hal Kolberg**, age 92; retired from Stanford Research Institute.



Indian Valley Branch 68, San Rafael

Area Governor Honors Four Sirs

Hans Sommer, Bulletin Editor

Area 6 Governor, **John Crawford**, honored four Branch 68 members with 90 and 95 Year Awards. In the picture from left to right are: Area Governor John Crawford, **Norman Roderick** (90 year award), **Phil Twitchell** (90 year award), **Tom Martindale** (95 Year Award), and Big Sir, **Russ Dreosch. Ben Young** was not present and will receive his 90 year award at a later date.



Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

Two 90th Birthdays

William Fortson, Publicity Chairman



David Fleming is shown in the picture on the left with a certificate recognizing his 90th birthday. Fleming has been a member of Sons In Retirement for over 20 years and has served in a number of official capacities during that time period.

In the picture on the right,



Horace Rigatoni is shown receiving a certificate recognizing his 90th birthday from area Governor **George Christman**. Figaloni has over 20 years of membership in SIR.

Sonoma Valley Branch 41

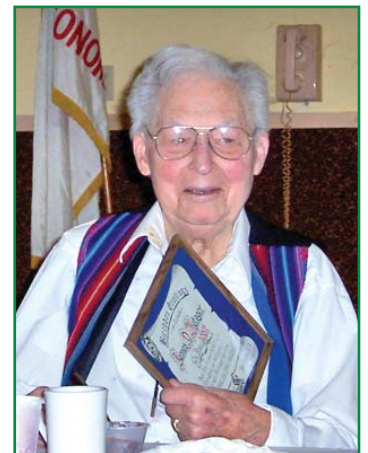
Branch 41 Celebrates a Birthday

Jim Hill, Big Sir

It was a special day for Branch 41 in Sonoma, when **Jim Metzger** celebrated birthday number 100 at the April meeting. **Vince Chirles** acted as master of ceremonies for the party and Jim was presented with a plaque, commemorating the occasion.

Jim grew up on a ranch, but decided – after the depression – to go to college and he received a degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Nebraska. This launched him on a diverse and adventurous career, specializing in irrigation and flood control that eventually took him to assignments on four continents. For a dozen years in the 50's, he worked for USAID in the middle east, primarily Turkey and Jordan.

Jim and his wife moved to Sonoma in 1976 and he is shown in the picture proudly displaying his plaque.

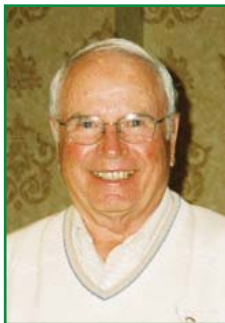


State Golf

Dave Betts, State Golf Chairman

The State Golf Committee Website is up and running. Go to www.sirstategolf.com. Our Webmaster, **Richard Seyler**, has done a magnificent job in getting this accomplished by the end of April. The website will now be the **main communication tool** of the State Golf Committee and will be used to convey information of importance to our golfing members. You will be able to find and/or print tournament Entry Forms, the State Golf Manual and all of its forms, Tournament Results, Awards, Newsletters as well as links to the State SIR Website and Branch Websites. It is quite straightforward and easy to use, so look it up and use it frequently.

Both Reno tournaments were completed in June. Check the website for results. During the second week in Reno, **Bob Steiner**, shown in the picture at the right, got a Hole-In-One on June 21st at Red Hawk Lakes. Both tournaments were well attended and we still did not use up the waiting list. Due to the popularity of the Reno destination, the State Golf Committee will be considering the possibility of three weeks in Reno next year.



The various Areas are currently conducting their Scramble Team Qualifiers for the teams that will participate in the State Scramble Team Championship at Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore on August 20th. We ask that the participating teams please remember that the starting time at Poppy Ridge is 7AM and that check in, will begin at 6AM.

Early in June, there was a slight possibility that the Solvang Fall Classic would have to be cancelled due to lack of participation. **I am pleased to announce that the tournament will not be cancelled and is on schedule for September 9th through the 16th.** If you would like to attend, obtain an Entry Form from our website at www.sirstategolf.com. Complete the form and send it with your check to **John Cooper** at the address shown on the entry form.

Space is still available on the second trip to Ixtapa, Mexico departing on November 30th and December 1st. If you desire to go, please contact **Kris Adams** at Golden Gate Tours at (800) 874-4345. This a great destination and was selected this year as a result of your preferences, as indicated on the survey questionnaires completed and collected at Poppy Hills, Solvang, Puerto Vallarta, and on the Dawn Princess cruise in 2006.

Now that our website is established, please use it to keep up to date on State golfing activities. If you have comments or suggestions for the website, you may contact me at golfer.dfb@sbcglobal.net.

State RV

Jack Streckfus, State RV Chairman



The State RV Rally was held from April 22nd to the 26th at French Camp RV and Golf Resort in Manteca. Eighty-one RV'ers were in attendance and enjoyed a variety of events each day.

Highlights of the festivities were an afternoon tea, which was a special event for the Ladies – a lively Bingo game Monday night, which was well attended – and a golf tournament for both ladies and men, with awards given in many categories. In golf, a fun, new event was added. It was a golf cart race with the driver blindfolded and the passenger giving driving directions and one cart at a time negotiating the course in the shortest time... it created lots of laughs! We also held a white elephant sale that had some lively bidding on a large assortment of "Stuff." The two-day horse race event featured six well trained, "Thoroughbred Horses," who maneuvered the track without incident or accident!

The entertainment held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings was outstanding. It featured a guitar playing folk singer from the area named, Tony Sanchez. Also, the East Union High School entertained us with their award-winning choir. Their performance went over big and a standing "O" was given in appreciation.

SIR President **Tom Ross** congratulated the Roving Rooster RV Club (sub-host) for a job well done. The committee also gives a big "thank you" to all those that attended the event and to those that worked so diligently to make the Rally such a success.

State Bowling

Bill Cooper, State Bowling Chairman

I want to remind all of our bowlers that the State Bowling Committee wants to award a watch to all those SIR members who bowl a 298-300 game or an 800 series during a certified SIR Tournament. If you – or anyone you know – have achieved any of those scores, please notify Assistant Secretary **Robert Brown** by Email at yancan2@aol.com or phone him at 510-724-4436. Please get this information to him as soon as possible.

I have a question: How much do you know about youth bowlers? If you are not involved with the youth bowlers, I urge you to get in touch with your local association and ask what help you can offer in getting more juniors into bowling, because they are the future of this sport. Also, like baseball, track, football, soccer, and other sports, young bowlers can win scholarships.

Be sure to check out the SIR website for the SIR bowling schedule and other up coming pertinent information.

GOOD BOWLING!! It's one sport that has no age, height, weight, or mental requirements to participate... and like the Post Office Mail Carrier, there is no such thing as bad weather.

News from the Branches

Sunnyvale Branch 62

BBQ

John Steele, Big Sir

It seems that our June picnics are getting better and better. This year was no exception, particularly the weather... it was perfect for the picnic... not too hot or cool or windy. The food was excellent, from the perfectly barbecued chicken and pork loin, to the delicious tasting corn. My thanks to the cooks: **Henry Crossfield** and **Claude Keith** for the chicken, **Tom Birley** for the pork loin and **Lee Rogers** for the garlic bread, and **Bob Byers** for the corn and beans.

Many participated to make this day such a success, especially the two outstanding coordinators, Bob Byers and Tom Birley... and, a special thanks go to the many people that helped clean up and leave the park as we found it.



Area 2 Financial Group

\$ums In Retirement

Dave Munson, Chairman

The Area 2 \$ums In Retirement investment discussion group is quite active with a solid following of regular attendees who are interested in learning new investing techniques. Each month, we invite an investment professional – such as a portfolio manager or financial advisor – to speak on a topic related to investing or the economic outlook.

We follow a standard format, starting with a review of market and economic events that have occurred since the last meeting and then, our monthly speaker will make a 45-60 minute presentation on his particular subject.

So far this year, we have had speakers talk to us about the outlook for the US economy in 2007, building and maintaining a focused stock portfolio, exchange traded funds and an investment strategy for the decade ahead. Future speakers will include asset allocation, fixed income investing, and mutual fund investing.

The various speakers are all investment professionals who work and reside in the Bay Area. We are very fortunate that the Bay Area has so many investment professionals, which makes it easy to find someone who will speak to us.

Damian Reynolds Branch 1, San Mateo

Gardening Group

An excerpt from an article that appeared in the **San Francisco Chronicle**

A hungry gopher inspired an informative hands-on session for members of the Branch 1 Garden Group. A rodent had eaten the roots of three rose bushes at one of the member's home, killing the roses. When **Harold Lembright** decided to replace them, he invited other members of the Branch 1 Garden Group to join him in planting the new roses.... see picture.

Lembright founded the Group in 1990 and because so many of the members' wives -- and former members' widows -- are home gardeners, the garden group is open to women. The group now has about 20 members, almost half of them women.

The group meets once a month at a members' home. The agenda varies.

Sometimes they discuss

topics such as soils and fertility, pest and disease control, or garden chores that need to be done in the coming month. At other times there's a guest speaker or a hands-on workshop...the latter might cover techniques such as propagating cuttings, pruning, installing automatic irrigation systems, or landscaping that looks good without needing a lot of attention.

Sometimes the group takes field trips to destinations such as the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park, the Nurserymen's Exchange in Half Moon Bay, the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, Filoli in Woodside, Goldsmith Seeds in Gilroy and other beauty spots in the greater Bay Area.

Harold Lembright tells prospective group members, "our objective is to have a beautiful and self-satisfying garden." "As we grow older, we need to continually modify our gardens so that each year they look better, but require less time to maintain."



News from the Branches

Monterey Peninsula Branch 28

Committees are What Makes This Branch Run... and, Fun

Bill Meyer, Past Big Sir

At our monthly luncheons, members are greeted by the people that hand out the nametags at every luncheon. Shortly thereafter, members or guests are confronted by another duo, (see picture). They make sure everyone pays (except the birthday boys) for their lunch.



During the luncheon, the various committee heads "encourage" members to participate in their activities. These often include **Norm Ottley**, who talks about the Golf Group and **Chuck Poland**, who heads the Travel Committee, telling the luncheon audience about the "first class" outings he has planned... and then, **Charlie Mehlert** frequently provides an interesting overview of some of things a member can learn by joining the Computer Group... like if you want to exchange e-mails and photos with your children and grandchildren, or do the other fun things that can be done with a computer, but feel you are a computer illiterate... and who doesn't occasionally feel that way. Charlie has been the head of the Computer Club for several years and has made it the improved group it is today.

Yes... committees are certainly what make our Branch function well and make it a lot of fun for our members.

Almaden Branch 94, Palo Alto

Growing Branch

Ron Bianco, Member Branch 94

Our interesting guest speaker in June was Honey Meir-Levi, a Board member of the Ronald Mc Donald House in Palo Alto. She told our luncheon audience that there are about 200 Ronald Mc Donald houses around the country and 50 more in foreign countries. The many volunteers work with the 47 families at the Palo Alto facility, 24 hours a day and some of the volunteers have been there for 15 years... two of them, for 20 years.

In other Branch news, Branch 94 has taken in 13 new members so far this year. Our latest new



members are pictured from left to right: **John Minutillo**, **Steve Webb**, **Jack Keys**, and **Lee Laboeuf**.

Brentwood Branch 108

Dining Out Club

Dave Goplen, Big Sir

The Branch 108 Dining Out Club was organized about two years ago by **Don Palmer**, who was Big Sir at the time. The Club is composed of Branch members, their wives, lady friends, or guests and single members are also encouraged to join us, as well.



The club meets at a local restaurant for a no host social hour and then dinner, generally every other month. Prior to the dinner, members are given a selection of three or four entrees, all at the same price. The guests then select their preferences and send them in to the Club Chairman, along with their payment... however, when the club goes Chinese, there are no options because there is such a large variety of dishes.

The growth of our Dining Out Club has been extremely encouraging over the two years of its existence and it is still growing. For example, at one of our first get-togethers, twenty-two people were in attendance and at one of our last dinners, we had 82 people.

The club is fortunate to have several dedicated helpers to keep things running smoothly. They include: Don Palmer's wife, Ann, who designs each sign up and information page and the name badges and at the dinners, she helps sign in the diners. Helping her is **Dave Goplen** and his wife Eva, and **Mike Graziadei**, last year's Little Sir, and his wife, Joyce.

After two successful years, Don Palmer continues as Club Chairman and knows that all those that attend the dinners enjoy getting together for an evening of excellent food and just plain fun. If any Branch is considering forming a Dining Out Club, you will be quite pleased that you did and if you need any help, contact **Don Palmer** at donannp@yahoo.com.

BRANCH 96 GOT "HIT"!

Branch 96 got "hit" and pretty hard too, according to **Paul Murphy**, Publicity Chairman. It seems that between May of 2006 and 2007, the Branch Website got clobbered with 7,675 hits. People are checking out the Branch... "It's our front door", says Murphy, "and we try to keep it up to date and nice to look at, with lots of pictures."

With an average of 689 hits per month, the Branch receives lots of interest. New members have noted that they first became interested in Sons In Retirement by checking out the site. "We are lucky because our Records Officer, **Henry Cardana's** wife Betty, is a Webmaster and donates her time to the Branch. That is one of the nice things about the Branch... someone steps forward when needed."

Editors Note: If you are thinking of setting up a website for your branch you can go to <http://sirbranch.com/> and find out how Bill Winslow, SIR webmaster, can help you set one up.

News from the Branches

Sonora Branch 136

Fishing Club Seeks Bigger Fish

Newt McKenna, Branch Member

Our fishing chairman, **Ray Meng** and his "fishing fool" followers, have had much success wetting their hooks in such places as the Chetka, the Klamath and San Francisco Bay... look at that nice Salmon in the picture held up by Rich Moss, a fishing guide, with our Fishing Chairman Ray Meng, on the right.

All this has urged them on to catch even bigger fish down in Baja California, which is noted for its great fishing. Nineteen of them recently flew to Cabo and then up the coast to Bahia Los Palmas for a five day fishing extravaganza. If any Sir would like to be included in any of our trips, just contact our Fishing Chairman, Ray Meng at 209-533-8410. In addition, any information about future trips is covered in our monthly bulletin which is posted on our web site, sonorasirs.org.



Get archive copies of SIR Happenings at
<http://sirinc.org/protected/sirhappenings.htm>

Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Great Golf

Greg Lynch, Bulletin Editor

The Branch 125 Semi-Annual Golf Trip to the Gold Country in May was held at LaContenta Golf Club, Greenhorn Creek Golf Resort (picture), and Lockeford Springs.

The first day at LaContenta was terrific. We all enjoyed great weather, great golf, and had a terrific time. Dinner that evening was at Murphy's Hotel with good food and wine.

The second day started with breakfast at the Foothill Restaurant followed by golf at Greenhorn Creek Golf Resort. The weather and golf course were spectacular. Everyone agreed that they would like to return to this course. We closed day two by having a great dinner at the Greenhorn Creek Clubhouse.

The third day started with breakfast at the Foothill Restaurant, and we then proceeded to Lockeford Springs for another terrific day of golf!

The three day event grand prize winner was **Bob Norbutas** with a net score of 204... Bob was also the grand prize winner at our October '06 golf event. Congratulations are also in order for **Paul Piligian** with a three day net score of 214, **Jim Smith** at 216, **Steve Jensen** at 219, and **Tom Standifur** at 220.

Larry Peck and **Neal Atchison** expressed their thanks to all who participated in this special golf event.



Sons in Retirement, Inc.

Internet Address:

www.sirinc.org

Happenings Travel Bulletin

September 2007

September 10-20, 2007 **The Essence of Ireland**

Fly from San Francisco to Dublin, Ireland and then begin your 11 day tour of this beautiful country. Visit Belfast, Derry, Galway, Killarney, and Dublin on a deluxe motor coach and see many interesting sites along the way. Full breakfast daily and 8 hosted dinners. Price is \$3200 PPDO, including rt air. Offered by Branches 100 and 147 Travel. Call **Steve Nowicki** at (707) 762-6228.



September 13-24, 2007 **New England and Beyond**

After exploring Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, we head south along the Hudson River Valley to West Point and Hyde Park...then, on to Gettysburg and conclude our tour in and around the historic city of Philadelphia. Cost is \$2995 PPDO. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call **Allen Daily** at (408) 265-8140.

September 20-28, 2007 **Italian Lakes & Greek Islands**

Have fun on a 12 day trip, featuring a 7 night Eastern Mediterranean Cruise. In Italy, visit Milan, Venice, the Lake District, & Bari. In Greece Visit Santorini, Mykonos, Athens, & Corfu. In Croatia see the Walled City of Dubrovnik. Rates starting at \$3659 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call **Bill Howard** at (530) 342-3368 or **George Smith** at (530) 342-3133.



September 27-October 5, 2007 **Canyon Country**

Tour the Southwestern National Parks, starting in Phoenix. Visit Scottsdale, Arizona, Oak Creek Canyon, Kaibob National Forest, Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Monument Valley, Bryce and Zion Canyon National Parks, and end up in Las Vegas. Price is \$2299 PPDO. Includes air from SFO, transfers, taxes and fees, plus 7 breakfasts and 5 dinners. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call **Paul Hiatt** at (415) 454-2240.

September 28-October 8, 2007 **Classic Canada & New England Cruise**

Sail between Quebec, Canada and New York City. Package includes: Halifax & Sidney, Nova Scotia-Saint John, New Brunswick – Bar Harbor Maine – Boston, Massachusetts – Newport, Rhode Island - & New York City. Prices range from \$2675 to \$3325 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Lou Romanello** at (650) 369-5893.

September 30-October 7, 2007 **Canadian Rocky Mountaineer**

See Canada for 8 days and 3 days by rail. Visit Lake Louise, the Ice Fields, Athabasca Glacier and many more sites. Price is \$2475 PPDO. Offered by Branch 26 Travel. Call **Emile Lasalle** at (510) 538-7463.

October 2007

October 5 –9, 2007 **New York City**

Highlights include a city tour featuring Greenwich Village, Empire State Building, Wall Street, Little Italy, Chrysler Building, and a memorable stop at Ground Zero, with lunch at the Tavern on the Green in Central Park. Another tour will include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, lunch in China Town and then a visit to Ellis Island and the "Lady of Liberty." Two Broadway shows are included, plus time for leisure and shopping. Trip includes round trip air with a transfer from Bakersfield to LAX, 4 nights at the Manhattan Sheraton Hotel and 1 breakfast and 2 dinners. Cost is \$2099 PPDO. Offered by Branches 44, 163, and 178. Call **Herb Loken** at (661) 327-7488.

October 6-12, 2007 **Land of Enchantment & Albuquerque Balloon Festival**

Spend 2 nights in Albuquerque, 1 night in Santa Fe, and 3 nights in Taos. Guided tours include Sandia Peak Tramway Cumbres, and Toltec Scenic Railroad. Price of \$1935 PPDO includes 11 meals. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Jerry Wisenor** at (209) 334-5181.

October 9-18, 2007 **A Capital Experience**

This is a 10 day tour of the Washington D.C. area, including Mt. Vernon, Gettysburg, Williamsburg, and Charlottesville. Also scheduled are trips to Arlington Cemetery, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, a performance at the Ford Theatre, the Library of Congress, Gettysburg, the Amish Country and a cruise on the Potomac to Mount Vernon. The price is \$2860 PPDO, which includes airfare, deluxe motor coach, 5 dinners and two lunches and all activity fees and costs. Offered by Branch 34 Travel. Call **Nino Pompilio** at (925) 846-5190.

October 12-22, 2007 **Budapest to Dusseldorf**

5 Star river cruise with stops in Estzergom, Vienna, Melk, Passau, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Miltenberg, Castle Gorges-Koblentz. Price ranges from \$2799 to \$3199 PPDO and includes rt air from LAX. Offered by Branches 44, 163 & 178 Travel. Call **Dave Moore** at (661) 832-8945.

October 14-21, 2007 **Autumn Music Cities Tour**

This tour features Branson, Memphis, & Nashville, with shows and sightseeing at such places as Graceland Estate, Grand Ole Opry, Opryland Hotel and much more. Price is \$2175 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Dan Miller** at (650) 591-3314.

October 21—November 6, 2007 **Mediterranean Cruise**



Cruise the Mediterranean on the *Celebrity Millennium*. The trip includes Venice, Dubrovnik, Athens, Ephesus, Naples, Rome, Florence, Nice, Barcelona, and much more. Prices range from \$3735 to \$4955 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 &

121 Travel. Call **David Abrahams** at (925) 447-9386.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

November 2007

November 1-10, 2007

Aegean Odyssey-Greece/Greek Islands/Turkey

A 10 day land and sea tour. One night in the 5 Star Georgio Hotel and 4 nights aboard ship. Extensive tours of the famous sites of Athens and a 5 day cruise visiting the Greek Islands, including: Mykonos, Patmos, Rhodes, Heraklion, Santorini and Crete... plus, an optional tour of the ruins of Ephesus. Cost is \$2405 PPDO. Taxes and airport transfer tips included. Breakfast daily. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call **Hank Listman** at (415) 883-0250.

November 16-20, 2007

Branson Holiday Showtime

Fly from San Jose to Springfield to see Yakov Smirnoff, Shoji Tabuchi, Christmas on Broadway, Red Skelton Tribute, Red Hot Blues, Les Brown Band, Andy Williams, Daniel O'Donnell, Festival of Lights and much more. Breakfast and dinner daily. All tips, transportation, and touring included. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call **Allen Daily** at (408) 265-8240.

December 2007

December 30, 2007-January 3, 2008

Celebrate The New Year in San Antonio, Texas



Spend four nights at the Hilton Paseo del Rio and enjoy a gala New Year's Eve dinner and dancing. Also included are a New Year's Day brunch, a full day of sightseeing, a boat cruise down the river front, a visit to the Alamo, and many other attractions. Cost is \$1410 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Harry Redlick** at (650) 583-3961. Branch 96 Travel, Call **Lee Suess** at (209) 296-2235

January 2008

January 5-16, 2008

Panama Canal

Cruise the Panama Canal on the Island Princess. Fly from San Francisco to Acapulco and board the ship. Ship stops include: Huatulco, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Cartagena (Columbia), Aruba, and ending in San Juan for an extra day and then fly back to SFO. Prices range from \$2585 to \$3045 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call **Ray Kreiss** at (650) 968-4299.

Editors Note: We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this feature in Happenings will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs.

To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on these travel pages was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

February 2008

February 28-March 9, 2008

Tahiti-Cook Island Cruise

Cruise on the 670 passenger Tahitian Princess. Visit Papeete, Huahine, Rarotonga, Raiatea, Bora Bora, and Moorea. Prices range from \$3390 to \$3640 PPDO. Due to the popularity of this cruise, and limited space in each category, early sign-up is important. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **Werner Schlapfer** at (925) 443-8291.



March 2008

March 26 to April 2, 2008

Discover the French Riviera

Fly from Sacramento to Nice, France. The trip begins in Nice and includes Ventimiglia, Italy, Grasse, St Paul de Vence, Saint Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Cannes, and Monaco. Single hotel stay includes 10 meals. Cost is \$2179 PPDO. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call **Bill Massie** at (530) 342-2784.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CRUISE OF

HAWAII

April 3 - 12, 2008

SIR 50th Anniversary Cruise

The Islands of HAWAII

April 3 - 12, 2008

Celebrate the anniversary of 50 years of SIR travel on board the US flagged PRIDE OF AMERICA

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email **Don MacGregor** at: donmac@hughes.net

News from the Branches

Tamalpais Branch 47, San Rafael

San Quentin--Hell on Earth

Chris Lewis, Branch 47 Member



Our recent speaker was Vernell Crittendon, former senior public information officer for the prison, seen in the picture. Vern gave us a fluid, interesting and very thought-provoking presentation on San Quentin, its history and the current situation of what can only be described as, "this hell on earth". We are really indebted to people like Vern who have dedicated their ca-

reers to this very important, but distasteful area of public service.

It is appalling to realize that there are a total of approximately 176,000 people in prison in California and that the recidivism rate is 76%! The situation seems hopeless... and, at San Quentin in 2006, there were 196 men and 4 women on Death Row. Why do so many people, in increasing numbers, fall into a life of crime? Vern quoted an FBI source that claimed that you could spot the bad ones by the time they reach Third Grade. They come mostly from single family, lower class homes and have problems socializing in First and Second Grades. The problem is how to correct this core societal issue.

One bright spot in this gloomy situation is that in times when our nation is threatened, the inmates show an amazingly patriotic side. During World War II, they made a lot of support material, including the torpedo skirt underneath the Golden Gate Bridge... and, after 9/11, San Quentin raised \$8,000 for the dependents of those killed in the attack.

Vern gave a great presentation and now that he is retired, we hope he will consider becoming a member of Branch 47.

Would you like to be notified by Email when SIR Happenings Newsletter is posted on the SIR website?

Please email your name, branch number and street address to:

Dwight Sale
dwight.sale@comcast.net

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Recruiting Seniors

Paul Murphy, Program & Publicity Chairman

The Senior Center of Amador County recently invited Branch 96 to participate in an Open House designed to acquaint senior citizens about various programs and activities available in the community. **Paul Murphy**, Branch Publicity and Program Chairman and **Gary DeRosa**, Travel Chairman, manned the booth for Branch 96 and are shown left to right in the picture.

State and Branch brochures, travel flyers, as well as general information about various activities, were distributed to prospective members of the community. The Branch plans to continue participation in future opportunities like this to recruit new members.

In addition to the Senior Center, Branch brochures are placed in the various locations around the community including the County, Chambers of Commerce, and Libraries.



SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER 2007

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

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

President Tom's Column

Can you believe it? This is my last column for SIR Happenings since my term as your SIR State President will soon be coming to an end. I made a statement in the last publication (August 2007) that is still holding true: "Time flies when you are busy and having fun." Your State Board of Directors and State Committee Chairmen and Members have all made significant accomplishments for Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its Branches this year. I personally want to extend my thanks for their extra efforts and cooperation. I will not bore you with listing all of these accomplishments, but trust me, when I say they are significant and meaningful.

I have had the honor and pleasure of presenting around 18 Honorary Life Memberships and 4 Century SIR Certificates this year. I also had the honor of addressing the fans to welcome them and throwing out the first (honorary) pitch at SIR Day at the San Francisco Giants, when they played the Washington Nationals on August 9th. All of this presented me with the opportunity to meet a lot of people that I would not have otherwise met. Other associated things that come to mind in performing these functions was seeing and hearing the Big Band of Branch 88(Vallejo), the SIRpremes of Branch 171 (Moraga) and the SIRinaders of Branch 22 (San Rafael).

We have some real talent and some great members in our organization of retired men. Please keep up your efforts in recruiting new members. We really need them as our numbers have dipped below 22,000 this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to serve as your State President for 2007.

Yours in SIR

Tom

Solano Branch 88, Vallejo

A Terrific Big Band

Don Waterbury, Big Sir

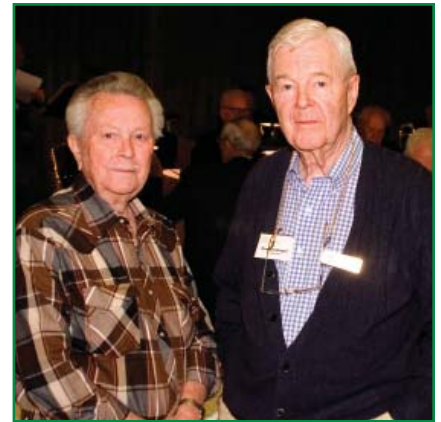
A lot of toes were tapping to the swinging sounds of the Solano Branch 88 Big Band, during the lunch hour, at the August Annual Meeting of Sons In Retirement.

The band was formed about 25 years ago and is composed of retired guys that have played professionally over the years with many of the famous big bands...

in fact, the 91 year old vocalist, Garry Stevens, sang with such bands as Tex Beneke and Charlie Spivak and a 1942 Billboard poll listed him as one of the top four male vocalists in the

country... Frank Sinatra, of course, was in the top spot. One of the trumpet players, 74 year old Bob Summer, sang with the nationally acclaimed, Axidentals, and one of their recordings hit the number two spot on the charts, right behind a Frank Sinatra release. The group still gets together, mainly just for fun, but does an occasional gig or two each year.

At noon on luncheon days, the Big Sir calls the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge, an invocation, and then the members sing God Bless America, accompanied by the Big Band. Next, the members enthusiastically sing a song – along with the band – called, "Sons In Retirement," which was written by the brother of a member and the words are printed on the reverse side of the luncheon ticket. You can view pictures of the band and read the words to the song on the next page. Probably no other SIR Branch has an 18 piece Big Band that plays at every luncheon... it might be worth a trip to Vallejo just to hear them play at one of our Branch luncheons.



SIR Happenings Editor Sir **Don MacGregor** interviewing Big Sir **Don Waterbury** (on the left)

Annual Meeting in the News



2008 State Officers (left to right)

Assistant Treasurer Michael Berry, Treasurer Robert Mannell, Vice President David Reiser, President Arthur Pufford, Secretary William Short, and Assistant Secretary Harold 'Hal' Stevens

And the Band Played on

The Branch 88 Big Band entertained Sirs at the Annual Meeting in August



SIR Solano Branch 88 Song

"We are Sons In Retirement"

We are Sons in Retirement
We are Sons in Retirement
We are Sons in Retirement
Doing the things we want to do.
We have lunch and we go bowling
We play golf and we go touring
Take a bus to the casinos
It's all a part of fellowship.
Bring a friend to share our luncheon
Hear a lecture worth your while
Take your loved ones on a cruise ship
See the sights of our fair land.
Take a plane to the Bahamas
Take a ship to see Alaska
Take a bus to see the Rockies
All the world is our domain.

Words & Music by Sir **Hal Swan**, Branch 50

Annual Meeting Photos in the News



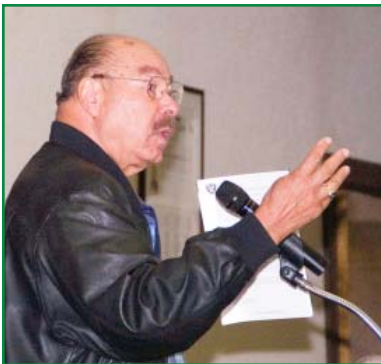
Tom Ross 2007 State President at right speaking to the Annual Meeting.

Art Pufford newly elected 2008 State President at left speaking to the Annual Meeting.



Members of the Growth and Membership Committee spoke at the Annual Meeting. Top to bottom, **Jim Petruk, Bob Crum, Thomas Smith, Carl Raaka** and Chairman **Ken Edwards**.

Past President **Mel Augustine** (2000) discussed how to get tickets for SIR Day at the Oakland Raiders.



Bob Perry and **Eckardt Sellinger** chatting at left during a break in the Annual Meeting.



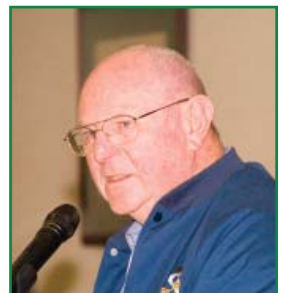
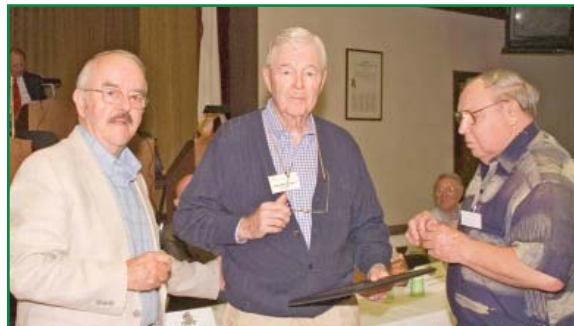
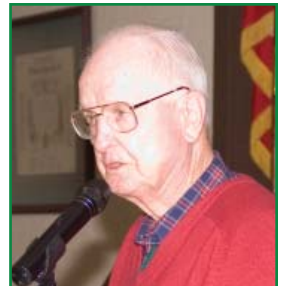
Bob Asselstine and **Al Holzer** chatting at right during a break in the Annual Meeting.



Gary Gruber at left showing form information to a fellow Sir during a break in the Annual Meeting.



President **Tom Ross** presented Honorary Life Membership awards to **Eldon Parr**, SIR State Advisor (at left), **Don MacGregor** (below) and **John Skarpelos** (left below), Editors of SIR Happenings. In the pictures at left and below, **Glen Schimelpfenig** and **Bill Short** are helping Ross to make the awards.



Sirs in the News

Mission Trail Branch 35, Palo Alto

Tin Can Sailor

William Bryson, Member Branch 35

I became a Tin Can Sailor on October 8, 1944 when I swung aboard the *USS Burns*, a Fletcher class destroyer operating with Task Force 38 in the Pacific. Two days later, I received a Japanese “welcome” in the form of an air attack during which a Japanese twin-engine aircraft fell – trailing smoke and flames – into the water near the *Burns*. I had found the ship I had been seeking for over two months, and the Pacific war had found me.

Late in 1944, the Japanese formed a Special Attack Corps of suicide pilots called “kamikazes” or “divine wind.” I witnessed the devastation caused by a single kamikaze attack on a small aircraft carrier during the Lingayen Gulf



invasion of the Philippine Islands. A twin-engine bomber dove into the *USS Ommaney Bay* on the starboard side of the flight deck,

its bombs exploding below the flight deck.

We went alongside the carrier to rescue men trapped on the burning flight deck. My battle station, in the gun director above the bridge, afforded me a close-up view of the rescue operation, the death of a proud ship, and the agony of her crew. *Burns* placed her bow against the carrier’s forward flight deck to rescue three trapped men. Small caliber ammunition in the ready magazines of the carrier started to explode. Suddenly a thunderous explosion shook the *Ommaney Bay*, and showered us with debris.

Fortunately, the large explosions did not injure any of our crew, but the blasts killed two men on a nearby destroyer. Fires spread throughout the ship, turning it into a blazing inferno. After all remaining members of the crew had abandoned ship, the *Burns* sank the *Ommaney Bay* with a single torpedo. The torpedo struck with a tremendous blast, and broke the mortally wounded carrier in half. Pieces of the ship splashed into the water all around us, but fortunately none struck our ship. Within six minutes after impact, we sadly watched *Ommaney Bay* sink beneath the sea.

The *Burns* rescued 158 surviving officers and men of the *Ommaney Bay*. The carrier lost ninety-five men killed and sixty-five wounded in the kamikaze attack.

Editor’s Note: Bill Bryson is a member of Branch 35 and the above story is only a brief synopsis of his story... for the whole story and fascinating stories about other Branch 35 veterans, go to the Branch 35 website: www.closereach.com/sir/

San Francisco Branch 4

Presidential Awardees

Flor Mendoza, Big Sir

Branch 4 is pleased to congratulate its Presidential Awardees. In the picture from left to right are: Region 5 Director “**Buck**” **Kendrick**, **William Sandy**, **Nick Roccas**, **Jackson Steuben**, Big Sir **Flor Mendoza**, **David Krow**, Area 4 Governor **James Adams** and **Frank Stanley**. Not in the picture are **Ed Woodward** and **Berthold Herpe**.

During the meeting, Big Sir Flor Mendoza presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Region 5 Director, “Buck” Kendrick, for being the Guest Speaker during the July 3rd special membership meeting of Branch 4.



Twin Peaks-Portola Branch 25

President's Award

Nick Fesunoff, Bulletin Editor

Centenarian **Peter Citron**, of the Twin Peaks Portola Branch 25, is seen showing off his President’s Award. The next day, the Branch treated Peter and his family to the Sirs Day baseball game at AT&T Park.

Peter, who reached his 100th on the 17th of July, was Big Sir of Branch 44 in 1979 and initiated the Past Big Sir Luncheons. Before his retirement, he was a Vice President at Western Pacific Railroad and a volunteer Fire Captain during World War I.

Standing behind Peter in the picture are (left to right) State President **Tom Ross**, Region 5 Director **Floyd “Buck” Kendrick**, and **James “Jay” Adams**, Area 4 Governor. Seated is Sir **Paul Wallace**, Peter’s close friend and driver.



Sirs in the News

Monterey Peninsula Branch 28

This Sir Helped turn the Tide at the Battle of Midway

Bill Meyer, Branch Member

Our Branch member, **Bill Cullin**, was born in Pittsburgh on November 30, 1917 and shortly thereafter, his family moved to Seattle. After attending the University of Washington, Bill decided to join the Navy and completed flight school in Corpus Christi about the time Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Cullin found himself assigned to a reconnaissance squadron and became involved in the Battle of Midway. Japan's fleet centered around the four large aircraft carriers that had been part of the force that attacked Pearl Harbor. The U.S. Fleet had only two seaworthy aircraft carriers –USS Enterprise and USS Hornet – and a hastily patched together USS Yorktown. Cullin was a member of the squadron that spotted the Japanese fleet

At the end of the battle, all four Japanese carriers were sunk and the U.S. lost the Yorktown. The Battle of Midway was a turning point in the Pacific and was the first major defeat for the Japanese armed forces.

After twenty years of Naval service, Bill embarked on a highly successful business and teaching career, working for several aerospace companies and teaching at several institutes including the War College and USC.

Bill's wife Shelly (pictured with Bill), also had a distinguished professional career. She modestly describes her career as a "Cabaret Singer," but she was more than that... She was an actress and a singer on radio and television, and musical theater and performed with the likes of Carol Channing, Xavier Cugat, and Robert Mitchum.



Miwok Branch 134, San Rafael

Annual BBQ

Dick Crocker, Bulletin Editor

Branch 134 held its annual BBQ in August, at Stafford Lake Park in Novato. The weather was perfect and the location ideal for this popular event. It was attended by 139 members and "significant others." Chairman **John Dubyak**, together with 17 SIR volunteers, served 10-oz. NY sirloin steaks (see picture at right), as well as salad, beans, bread, cake, soft drinks, and beer. Because this activity is put on by members (as opposed to being catered), we are able to realize a significant profit, which is used to help fund our regular expenses.

Even though this has always been one of our best-attended events, John is sending out a questionnaire to all members asking for ways to make it even better.



Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Honorary Life Member

Greg Lynch, Bulletin Editor

Branch 125 is proud to honor **Robert D. Rung** with an Honorary Life Membership. For the past sixteen Years Bob has been the committee chairman responsible for each of the two major events the branch puts on each year... a Barbecue in July and the Christmas Party in December. In addition, he has served as a branch director and was also the luncheon facility coordinator for many years. Because of Bob's close oversight and outstanding management of the BBQ and Christmas Party, they have been financially self-supporting... never requiring support from the branch treasury.

Bob Rung (shown in the picture with his wife Pat) has performed his many duties in a faithful and outstanding manner and it is estimated that over the past sixteen years, Bob has devoted more than 2400 hours of service to the Branch. His efforts have certainly contributed greatly to the well being and enjoyment of the members of Branch 125.



Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

300 Bowler

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Bill Ikerd bowled his first 300 game with the Branch 94 Bowling Group and is shown in the picture proudly holding that magic 300 number. Bill is a 178 average bowler.



Modesto Branch 144

Honorary Life Members

Jared Hawkins, Bulletin Editor

Posing for a picture are the Branch 144 Honorary Life Members. From left to right: **Julius Manrique, Frank**

Pierson, Otto Zimmermann, and past State President **Bob Curley.**



Sirs in the News

Lamorinda Branch 171, Moraga

Honorary Life Members

Bill Sumner, Big Sir

SIR President **Tom Ross** and Area 2 Governor **Harry Hubinger** recently installed two new Honorary Life Members at Lamorinda Branch 171. The new honorees are **Ted Westphal** and **Clay Sealy** and join three other Branch 171 Honorary Life Members.

Ted Westphal and Clay Sealy are shown in the picture holding their new plaques and the others in the picture from left to right are: Area Governor **Harry Hubinger**, SIR President **Tom Ross**, **Ted Westphal**, **Clay Sealy** and Big Sir **Bill Sumner**.



Chabot Branch 6, Castro Valley

Senior Certificates

Ken Wright, Big Sir

I would like to honor five members of our Branch who received Senior Certificates after attaining the age of 90. They are left to right: **Ney Landry**, **Frank Carcot**, **Bud Simmons**, **George Lewis**, and **Norman Franke**.

Congratulations gentlemen and I hope your next award will be the Super Senior Certificate for 95 years young.



The Encinal Branch 177, Sunnyvale

Senior Certificate

Roland Rempel, Big Sir

Melvin Rutz is shown receiving a Senior SIR Certificate for his 90th year award. Mel is a charter member of the branch and has served in elected offices as well as many committee chairs, during his 24 years as a member of Sons In Retirement.

The photo shows from left to right: Big Sir **Roland Rempel** presenting the certificate to **Melvin Rutz** with Area 20 Governor **Fred Mollerus** looking on.



The Villages Branch 114, San Jose

Parade Trophy Winner

J. Graham, Branch Photographer

In the picture, **Bob Lindberg** and wife, Kay, are standing in front of their decorated golf cart, which was entered in The Villages Annual 4th of July Parade. Bob made a copy of the Wehner Mansion, which was located on the original property here in 1889. Bob's entry won the "Best Overall Trophy" for his display.



State Golf

Dave Betts, State Golf Chairman

The State Golf Committee will be undergoing its biggest single year personnel change for as long as I can remember. **John Cooper**, our Operations Sub-committee Chairman for the past 12 years, will be retiring at the end of this year. He has actually served on the committee for 13 years. John's experience, knowledge, and ability will be greatly missed by the rest of the committee. **Wayne Thush**, currently the Division 1 Golf Chairman, will be taking John's place as Chairman of the Operations Sub-committee. **John Crawford** will be replacing Wayne, as Division 1 Chairman. **Don Dill**, Division 2, is stepping down after serving for 2 years and will be replaced by **Don Andrews**. **Dave Scharton**, Division 5, is also leaving after serving 2 years on the committee and will be replaced by **Ron Witort**. **Don Hansen** will be a new member, serving on the Policy Subcommittee.

The 2008 State Tournament schedule is being finalized. We will have one week in Las Vegas... March 31st thru April 4th. Three weeks in Reno, running from June 2nd through June 20th. The State Team Championship will be on August 11th at Poppy Ridge. The State Individual Championship will be at Poppy Hills on November 3rd and 4th.

We are planning 2 Mexico trips next year... Air/Land to Cabo San Lucas on October 18th thru the 25th and a cruise on the Star Princess from November 10th thru 20th. Brochures with all of the details will be mailed very soon.

The FALL CLASSIC, usually held in Solvang in September, has not been finalized at this writing and could possibly be held in a different location. We are considering both Solvang and Palm Springs.

Now that our website is established, please use it to keep up to date on state golfing activities and tournament results. If you have comments or suggestions, contact me at golfer.dfb@sbcglobal.net.

State Baseball

SIR Day at the Giants

State President, **Tom Ross**, is shown addressing the large crowd during the pre-game festivities at AT&T Park. Tom had just thrown out the first ceremonial pitch for what he tells Happenings, was a "perfect strike." In the lower right photo Tom is joined by **Jim Wyatt**, 2007 SIR Giants Chairman.



State Bowling

William "Coop" Cooper, State Bowling Chairman

Hello SIR bowlers. We have the largest participation sport in the free world. If you know someone who does not bowl, take them bowling one weekend. The SIR State Bowling Committee will be presenting the first SIR Honor Score, Award Watch, to **Allan Close** of Branch 73. Allan bowled a 300 game a couple years ago, when we first decided to start the program. Well, we finally got the award program on the road and running. The State Bowling Chairman will present the watch to Allan Close at his November Branch luncheon.

Let's Go Bowling ! Coop

San Juan Branch 102, Carmichael

Golf Outing

Mickey Wagner, Bulletin Editor

Our annual Carson City golf trip was another successful event for Branch 102. The weather couldn't have been better for mid-July in Nevada, and some guys, especially "A" flight, played unbelievable golf.

The team of **Larry Lacert**, **Archie Noriega**, **Jack Cook** and **Bob Baker** won the scramble with a gross score of 64. **Bob Friend**, **Dave Allen** and **Ron Jeffers** won the B, C and D flights with net scores of 64, 65 and 62. Wow! What a day for golfers. **Mike Moore** and **Gunner Haug** each had net scores of 60 in the medal round at Empire Ranch and it required us to resort to a fourth tiebreaker hole before Mike was declared the winner of the coveted "Blue Jacket."

Everyone had a great time. The food was great, the

awards dinner went extremely well and of course, there was some gambling at the Nugget, which even had some one cent machines. However, no one admitted how much they won in case the IRS reads this. Hanging out with fellow Sirs (in the picture) is priceless.



Chuck Shoemaker, our Travel Chairman, and his great crew deserve kudos for making this event so enjoyable for everyone. In fact, the trip was so much fun, another golf outing to Carson City is scheduled for late September.



News from the Branches

Wine Valley Branch 149, Napa

Mystery Trip

Barre Hilton, RV Coordinator

The **Gene Combs'** residence was the setting for the Napa Roving Roosters RV Club's, "Illustrious "Mystery Trip." 16 Rigs, and three additional couples, joined together for a fun celebration of the July 4th Independence Day Holiday.

For some, the outing began with golf at the Yountville Golf Course. Following golf, we gathered for a "bring your own meat and a dish to share" dinner and then came the "Mystery Play," directed by the Hiltons... the characters in the play are shown in the picture. Only about half the audience solved the mystery.



July 4th started with a great breakfast fixed by the head chef, **Joan Combs**, and her committee of helpers. Next came a game of baseball, coached by **Arnold and Betty Nelson**... the men won the game, so the ladies and men are now tied in their on-going series. There was then time for visiting before our BBQ dinner, followed by BUNCO, led by **Tom and Judy Jensen**. "Gene's Card Room" was open and there were some lively Poker Games under the guidance of **Barre Hilton** and **Bill Hester**. Fireworks, at the Yountville Veterans Home, enjoyed by all and then to bed.

On Thursday morning, we all said goodbye and headed off for the short trip back to Napa. Thanks to our hosts, Gene and Joan Combs, for a wonderful two days!

San Jose Branch 10

Flag Ceremony

Mike Nunziata, Branch Member

An extraordinary presentation on the American flag was made at the July Ladies Luncheon of SIR Branch 10. **Don Yeager** – with help from his troopers – started on a plain white palette and assembled the American Flag – piece-by-piece – carefully explaining each element's significance and placement. Then the members saw a Flag emerge in all its glory.

Later a Flag was folded (see picture) with deep reverence and care and a step-by-step explanation of the proper method.

Don Yeager's goal is to make this presentation in all schools and appreciates anyone that could help him with school references. Contact Don at: nunziata@prodigy.net



Mission Branch 32, San Jose

A Nice Day for a Picnic

Bruce Henry, Little Sir

In June, Mission Branch 32 held its annual Ladies Day Picnic. A large group of members, spouses, and guests enjoyed a catered barbecued lunch at the Saratoga Springs Resort in the Santa Cruz Mountains above Saratoga Village (see picture).

As usual, the weather was sunny, but not too hot, and the attendees enjoyed being together in this beautiful setting.

After a social hour and a delicious lunch, everyone enjoyed several lively rounds of Bingo.

The Branch was honored to have Region 7 Director Dave Reisser and his wife Ester and Area 20 Governor Fred Mollerus and his wife Dot, as guests at the picnic.

After the picnic ended, several folks stayed on to enjoy more socializing and the wonderful day.



Mid-Peninsula Branch 51, Los Altos

Summer Picnic

Dan Rubin, Big Sir

The Branch 51 summer picnic was held at the Fremont Hills Country Club in Los Altos Hills last May. We had an eleven piece banjo band, beer (and other drinks) and a great barbecue. The music had some people dancing and many singing along. The barbecue included delicious chicken and mouth watering spicy sausage. The weather cooperated very well, with just a little too much sunshine.

The picnic was organized by **Ed Wright** (shown in the picture) and **John Dusterberry** assisted him. Many thanks to both of you for a wonderful affair!



News from the Branches

American River Branch 67, Carmichael

Fun Bridge

Jack Derby, Bulletin Editor

Branch 67 has a bridge group that meets once a month on the 3rd Wednesday. We play a not too serious game of party bridge. Our leader, **Paul Rader**, calls it fun bridge and we do have fun.

Every one throws in a couple of bucks to provide prize money and sometimes we serve cookies. We meet at Coco's Restaurant in Citrus Heights (in the Sacramento Area) at 9:30 in the morning and we usually have three to five tables (see picture).

We could use a few more players and anyone in the Sacramento area that is interested, should call **Paul Rader** at 916-961-3698 or email **Jack Derby** at:

jackderby@comcast.net.



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Bocce Champs

Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

In addition to a great BBQ, and prizes and games, at the Branch 15 & 96 Annual Ladies Day picnic, is the Bocce Ball Tournament. The tournament is directed by Branch 96 member, **Sam Mazzariello**... affectionately called "Sam Mazza" by his friends.

This year's champs were from Branch 15 and from left to right are: **Butch Fisher**, **Sam Mazza**, and **Mike Sanford**.



Editors Note: If you are thinking of setting up a website for your branch you can go to <http://sirbranch.com/> and find out how Bill Winslow, SIR webmaster, can help you set one up.

Crystal Springs Branch 142, San Mateo

Ancient Game of Bocce is Still Popular

Al Armand, Directory Editor & Don Parrish, Bulletin Editor

Bocce is based on one of the most primitive concepts in sports history, and Branch 142 members have taken to playing the game every Thursday at a local park facility, even though it is no more than rolling a hard ball at an inactive target.

It offers an outlet for our members for recreation, relaxation and to compete and it has become one of our favorite activities. As Bocce became more popular than ever in Branch 142, it was decided to expand the games as an intersectional challenge to other SIR branches.

Even though the game has evolved and changed greatly over the years, the overall goal of trying to toss an object as close to a target as possible, still remains. The game of Bocce made its way from Greece and then to Rome and now to SIR Branch 142 for all to enjoy.

Our Branch started with about twelve players and is now fielding more than 20 players. Our motto is, "First we will finish the game and then we will eat hot dogs and hamburgers."

In the photo **Leo McLaughlin** is ready to roll a Bocce ball down the lane.



Happenings Travel Bulletin

November 2007

November 16-20, 2007
Branson Holiday Showtime

Fly from San Jose to Springfield to see Yakov Smirnoff, Shoji Tabuchi, Christmas on Broadway, Red Skelton Tribute, Red Hot Blues, Les Brown Band, Andy Williams, Daniel O'Donnell, Festival of Lights and much more. Breakfast and dinner daily. All tips, transportation, and touring included. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call **Allen Daily** at (408) 265-8240.

December 2007

December 30, 2007-January 3, 2008

Celebrate The New Year in San Antonio, Texas



Spend four nights at the Hilton Paseo del Rio and enjoy a gala New Year's Eve dinner and dancing. Also included are a New Year's Day brunch, a full day of sightseeing, a boat cruise down the river front, a visit to the Alamo, and many other attractions. Cost is \$1410 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Harry Redlick** at (650) 583-3961. Branch 96 Travel, Call **Lee Suess** at (209) 296-2235.

January 2008

January 5-16, 2008
Panama Canal

Cruise the Panama Canal on the Island Princess. Fly from San Francisco to Acapulco and board the ship. Ship stops include: Huatulco, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Cartagena (Columbia), Aruba, and ending in San Juan for an extra day and then fly back to SFO. Prices range from \$2585 to \$3045 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call **Ray Kreiss** at (650) 968-4299.

February-March 2008

February 28-March 9, 2008
Tahiti-Cook Island Cruise

Cruise on the 670 passenger Tahitian Princess. Visit Papeete, Huahine, Rarotonga, Raiatea, Bora Bora, and Moorea. Prices range from \$3390 to \$3640 PPDO. Due to the popularity of this cruise, and limited space in each category, early sign-up is important. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **Werner Schlapfer** at (925) 443-8291.



March 26 to April 2, 2008
Discover the French Riviera

Fly from Sacramento to Nice, France. The trip begins in Nice and includes Ventimiglia, Italy, Grasse, St Paul de Vence, Saint Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Cannes, and Monaco. Single hotel stay includes 10 meals. Cost is \$2179 PPDO. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call **Bill Massie** at (530) 342-2784.

April 2008

April 11-20, 2008
Romantic Rhine River Cruise

This is a 10 day cruise from Zurick to Amsterdam. It includes a one night stay in Zurick. The towns we will visit are: Strasbourg, France; Heidelberg, Germany; Mainz, Germany; Coblenz, Germany; Cologne, Germany; and Amsterdam, Holland. All shipboard meals included, air transportation from Bay Area to Zurick and return from Amsterdam. Prices range from \$3320-\$4345 PPDO. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call **John Hoffmann** (707) 642-4925.

April 18-29, 2008
Rocky Mountaineer

A Trans-Canada rail adventure from Vancouver to Toronto, with overnights in Kamloops and Banff. Stay at the famous Fairmont Chateau Hotel at Lake Louise, visit Icefields Parkway – with a ride to the Athabasca Glacier – and see Niagara Falls. Cost is \$4039 PPDO. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Pete Lepisto** at (209) 948-2265.

April 23-May 1, 2008
Riverbarging on the Mississippi

The trip runs from New Orleans to Memphis, with large staterooms, including bath. Trip Includes meals, tours, tips, shows, air, and overnights in New Orleans and Memphis. Prices range from \$2825 to \$3025 PPDO. Offered by Area 19 Travel. Call **Ron dePass** at (530) 644-1405.

May 2008

May 3-17, 2008
Cruising the Pacific Northwest

Cruise the Pacific Northwest from San Francisco aboard Royal Caribbean's Serenade of the Seas. 9 ports of call including, Ports-Astoria, Seattle, Victoria, Juneau, Sitka and Prince Rupert. Prices range from \$2170 to \$3300 PPDO. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Jerry Wisenor** at (209) 334-5181.

May 14-22, 2008
Whistler Mountaineer/Rocky Mountaineer

This trip will include a city tour of Vancouver, 3 days aboard the Rocky Mountaineer train from Vancouver to Whistler, Quesnel, and Jasper, 2 nights at Banff National Park and the last night in Calgary. The trip includes 15 hosted meals. Cost is \$3160 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **David Abrahams** at (925) 447-9386.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

June 2008

June 6-19, 2008

Baltic Heritage Cruise

An exciting adventure through the mystical ports of the Baltic Sea aboard the grand and beautiful new CROWN PRINCESS. We fly from San Jose to Copenhagen for a two night stay and a full day tour of Hans Christian Andersen land prior to setting sail for Stockholm, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Gdansk, Oslo and back to Copenhagen for our flight home. Prices range from \$3,990 to \$4,960 PPDO. Offered by Areas 5 & 20. Call **Allen Daily** at (408) 265-8140.

September 2008

September 5-14, 2008

Grand Alaska Land Tour

The Grand Alaska escorted land tour is an experience of a lifetime. See spectacular mountains and valleys; watch wildlife and sea life in their natural habitat and view enormous glaciers. This is the perfect tour for previous cruisers to Alaska. We will travel to Anchorage, Valdez, Fairbanks, and Denali National Park. Trip includes all air transportation, most meals, professional tour manager, round trip transportation to Bay Area airport, and other amenities. Price is \$3090 PPDO. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call **John Hoffmann** at (707) 642-4925.

September 25-October 10, 2008

River Cruise on the Rhine & Danube

A 16 day River Cruise beginning in Budapest, Hungary and finishing in Amsterdam. Our journey will take you to 11 cities in Hungary, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. You'll explore the regal splendor of Budapest, meander along the fabled "Blue Danube" to Vienna, transit the Main-Danube Canal and glide past Germany's castles (during Oktoberfest) to the canals of Holland. All meals, tours and flights are included. Cost is \$4,515 PPDO. Offered by Branch 172 Travel. Call **Earl Nelson** at 209-586-5661.

Editors Note: We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this feature in Happenings will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs.

To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on these travel pages was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

October 2008

October 6-19, 2008

Danube Dream

Glide past fairy-tale castles and medieval villages aboard the river cruise ship, MS Switzerland II, traveling the second longest river in Europe. Take in views of the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, and Hungary. Many shore excursions are included with visits to interesting cities and historic sites. Trip includes r/t air from SFO to Budapest, with return from Prague. Prices range from \$3415 to \$3660 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call **Bob Hagler** at (925) 934-7620.

October 24-November 4, 2008

Cruise the Mexican Riviera

Cruise aboard the Norwegian Sun, roundtrip from San Francisco. Ports of call will be: Mazatlan, Acapulco, Zihuatejo/Xtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas. This trip has real bargain rates, so, it will go fast. Prices range from only \$1035 to \$1580 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Paul Thiebaut** at (925) 345-9375.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CRUISE OF

HAWAII

April 3 - 12, 2008

SIR 50th Anniversary Cruise
The Islands of HAWAII
April 3 - 12, 2008
Celebrate the anniversary of
50 years of SIR travel
on board the US flagged
PRIDE OF AMERICA

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email **Don MacGregor** at: donmac@hughes.net

Dear Editor

I wish to thank the delegates to our Annual Meeting for accepting the recommendations of the State Nominating Committee, chaired by Past President Bob Curley, and electing the entire slate of officers for 2008.

I owe a great big "thank you" to Past President, Jim Donovan, who appointed me to serve on the Rules Committee in 2005. It was my first opportunity to serve on a State Committee and to be able to share my views with other committee members. It was because of the friendship I experienced serving on that committee, that I decided to become a Regional Director and later submitted my application to become State Vice President.

Serving as a Branch Officer, Area Governor, Regional Director and Vice President was not on my agenda when I joined SIR. However, the more I got involved the more fun I found myself having. I encourage each and every one of you to consider getting more involved. If you are already a Branch Officer, volunteer to become an Area Governor. As an Area Governor you are the first person in the chain of command between the Branch and the State. You will have the opportunity to visit other branches and to make more friends... you might even wind up being Vice President. SinSIRly,

Dave Reiser, 2008 Vice President
dereiser@msn.com



Dear Editor:

Thanks... a super job. My compliments.
Hal Fox, Branch 1

Dear Editor:

I just downloaded the new issue of SIR Happenings and find it to be, as usual, a top notch publication. I look forward to every release of a new one.

Tom Bowie, Big Sir, Branch 148

Dear Editor:

Excellent! Very informative.

Alfred Leidy, Big Sir, Branch 67

Dear Editor:

Another exceptional issue of Happenings. Congratulations!

Marvin Arnold, Branch 169

Thanks very much to all for taking the time to email us and we really appreciate all those nice comments.

Dear Editor:

Good job editing the Henry Broock and Rich MacDougall picture in the August edition.

Nick Fesunoff, Bulletin Editor, Branch 25

Thanks, Nick... my associate, John Skarpelos, did that nice editing job of the picture.

Dredgers Branch 112, Rancho Cordova

Like to Fish?

Jim Readnour, Fishing Club Secretary

The Wheels & Reels Fishing Club of Branch 112 focuses on catching trout and kokanee, but we also participate in ocean fishing trips to the Bay Area. We also take trips to Alaska, Canada, and Mexico for a variety of fish. We have a Fisherman of the Year contest with trophies and prizes awarded at our Christmas Luncheon. We also have monthly fishing derbies at a variety of lakes, including Folsom, Comanche, Amador, Berryessa, as well as high country lakes. The winner of the September trout derby, at Ice House, was **Hilmer Felton** (in the picture), **Ralph Schuhriemen** took second place and **John Frantz** came in third.



Members attending outings earn points toward the Fisherman of the Year award and win cash prizes. We also publish "The Backlash," a fishing newsletter, with information (and pictures) on what's going on in the club.

We welcome any Sir to join us at one of our monthly breakfast meetings, held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in Coco's Restaurant on the corner of Madison and Sunrise in Citrus Heights. We always have a speaker to talk about some interesting aspect of fishing and it's a chance to learn a lot about area fishing. We'll look forward to your visit!

If you have any questions, give **Jim Readnour** Club Secretary, a call at (916) 965-8711.

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2008

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

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

President Art's Column

I hope you and your family had a happy holiday. I wish you all a wonderful New Year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President for 2008. It is both an honor and a privilege. "Working Together for Success" is our theme for this year. This requires a two-way communication between us. I anticipate such an exchange of information will be both beneficial and effective in furthering our Organization. I believe that each of us has the ability to make this a memorable year for the SIR Organization.

We continue to face challenges, that is true, but challenges are what make us grow and learn. Membership recruitment has been and always will be the key to SIR success. I know you all have worked diligently in support of increasing membership. I thank you for your leadership. I encourage you to continue with your efforts. We all know that declining membership is not unique to SIR. To achieve any success, we must accelerate working together. We need to hear of your recruiting and retention successes and share them with all of our Branches, so keep the communication lines open between us. We have a long list of interesting activities for our members, so invite a friend for lunch and introduce him to all our opportunities.

Each year we search for volunteers for a number of Branch and State level offices. We all know that SIR depends on volunteers to conduct every aspect of its affairs. Volunteers spend approximately 3 to 4 hours a month to do their work, but they also enjoy spending time with and making more friends. Are you getting all that you should out of SIR? This may be the right time for you to volunteer and to get involved. Your reward will be the satisfaction you will feel, working with and getting to know more members.

July 23, 2008, will be the 50th anniversary of Sons In Retirement. A kick-off luncheon was held in San Mateo on July 23, 1958. A second meeting was held on August 20, 1958, and the eighteen members present adopted the name, Sons In Retirement. Be sure to recognize our anniversary in your monthly luncheon meetings in July. I look forward to working with all of you in 2008.

Art

Country Club Branch 33, Carmichael

What a Terrific Chorus!

Gary Voet, Branch 33 member

Clyde Kidd never met Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, but he certainly understands what the great American poet meant when he wrote: "Music is the universal language of mankind." Kidd is the director of the Country Club Aires, a chorus and "band" sponsored by Sons in Retirement, Carmichael Branch 33. It happens more times than not during the group's 70-plus performances a year



that Kidd -- and the rest of the 50-member ensemble -- experience what Longfellow was talking about.

"We have one place we perform that has a lot of people recovering from strokes," said Kidd, who has been the director for the past seven years of the group's 35-year existence. "They are in wheelchairs, gurneys, and are not very communicative. But, pretty soon you see somebody mouthing the words, or see a foot tapping. When certain songs are played it helps them remember where they were, what they were doing, and who they were with."

"In some cases some of the people we play for have been waiting for an hour or so for our show," said banjo player **Glenn Lee**. "When we come on you'd swear they are asleep...but all of a sudden they smile and their eyes light up. We play music that was popular 50 or 60 years ago and it brings back memories for a lot of them. When you see that joy, that excitement in them, it is a feeling you just can't get over."

The group ranges in age from 62 to 96 and the band

Continued on Page 2

Sirs in the News

Chabot Branch 6, Castro Valley

Senior Certificates

Ken Wright, Big Sir

I would like to honor five members of our Branch who received Senior Certificates after attaining the age of 90. They are left to right: **Ney Landry, Frank Carcot, Bud Simmons, George Lewis, and Norman Franke.**

Congratulations gentlemen and I hope your next award will be the Super Senior Certificate for 95 years young.



Continued from Page 1

What a Terrific Chorus!

consists of banjo, acoustic and electric guitar (the acoustic guitar player is blind), bass, drums (the drummer is 90), harmonica, violin, and piano player. Most have a repertoire of 200-300 songs... which is good, since there is no sheet music handed out by Kidd.

"We have a unique style," admits Kidd. "We use only the lyrics. We refer to our music as "sing-along," patterned after the old Mitch Miller Show. I give a copy of each song to each member and they mark that copy with the way I want the song sung. You don't have to read music -- just mark the copy in your own handwriting with your own code -- learn some of the hand signals I use -- and just sing."

Fred Stallcop manages the business side for the group. Even with the month of July off, the group still manages to schedule 70-plus outings, all ranging from performances at convalescent homes to appearances at the California State Fair. "We are already booked well into December of 2008," said Stallcop. "We usually do one a week but December is about every day."

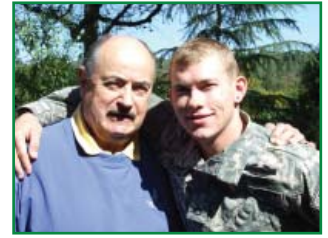


Lake Wildwood Branch 11, Penn Valley

New Patriot

Larry Bailey – Wildwood Independent (abridged)

At a Lake Wildwood Branch luncheon last fall, Big Sir **Bob Welti**, introduced a twenty-year old paratrooper in full combat uniform who was home on a two-week leave from Afghanistan. His introduction of the speaker was personal and quite emotional, because it was his Grandson, PFC **Greggory Gibbs.**



Greggory is with the much heralded, 173rd Airborne Brigade, based an hour or so out of Chokay, Afghanistan in the dangerous southeastern part of the country. His 20-man platoon – at their semi-permanent mountain checkpoint position – has a clear view of neighboring Pakistan and the constant muzzle and mortar blasts of incoming enemy fire aimed at him and his buddies.

His presentation included videos and stills of his experiences and those of his comrades. "We have two main firefights a week that last from 30 minutes to two hours," said Gibbs. "The other five days there is something less intense. In these little firefights, they're checking how we respond," he says. "They analyze our actions to prepare for another main attack days later. To counter them we never repeat the same plan for our command area." His platoon has four Humvees. "When on patrol I'm in the lead vehicle and operate a 50-caliber machine gun." Greggory and his team also do a lot of walking. "Many days we'll do six to eight hours going from 4,000 feet to 6,000 feet or more – up and down – walking an hour and resting five minutes, then trekking again." Foot patrol duties include gathering intelligence, vehicle and home searches, engaging the enemy and interacting in a positive way with Afghans.

At the conclusion of his talk, a questioner asked when he will be returning to Afghanistan. "I'm going home October 8," he said. When asked his definition of "home," he replied, "Afghanistan is home for me and my fellow paratroopers. My comrades are my life. I cry with them ... I bleed with them ... I laugh with them ... we share our triumphs and our fears ... our highs and lows. They are my family ... my best friends. We live together and tomorrow, we may suffer together. Yes, I am looking forward to going home and being with them again." He paused and looked lovingly at Grandfather Bob Welti. "I am very lucky. I have two families - two homes - that I love and that love me."

Sirs in the News

Alvarado Branch 73, San Pablo

Honorary Life Memberships

Bob Perry, Bulletin Editor

We were recently honored to have SIR President, **Tom Ross**, present Honorary Life Memberships to **David Rohrer** and **Jim Sugiyama**, at a Branch 73 luncheon meeting.

Over the past three years, as members entered the Moose Hall for our monthly luncheon meeting, a good natured, Tom Rohrer, was usually the one handing members their badges. Tom joined Branch 73 in 1995, and immediately became active in the affairs of the branch and has remained quite active ever since. From 1996 through 1997, he was the Attendance Chairman. Then in 1998, he became Little Sir and following that, he was the Big Sir. After that, he became one of the Branch Directors and also accepted the job of Badge Chairman.

Over a period of time, Tom Rohrer became familiar with many of the requirements of the SIR Organization, which resulted in his nomination and recent election as Area 7 Governor, but this had one draw back ...he reluctantly had to quit being a Director of Branch 73 when he became an Area Governor, according to SIR rules.



Pictured left to right are: **Tom Ross**, **David Rohrer**, Regional Director **Glen Schimelpfenig**, and Area 7 Governor **Frank Morris**.

Multi-talented and multi-tasking, Shigeki "Jim" Sugiyama, was also recognized with an Honorary Life Membership for his many years of service to Branch 73.

It was back in 1993, that Jim was first invited to a Branch 73 luncheon meeting. He immediately found the group enjoyable and quickly joined up. He later became an Executive Board member, and then Big Sir and served as Bulletin Editor at the same time. He also has been Branch Secretary for several years and filled as Treasurer for a while.

As Bulletin Editor, Jim designed the Bulletin's format that is still being used today. He has been printing the Branch Membership Rosters, the luncheon tickets we use at our luncheon meetings, as well as the tickets for the Ladies Day Luncheons. To round out his many contributions, Jim has been an interesting speaker at

Honorary Life Members Awarded in 2007

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>
Matthew Arena	BR116
Donald H. Bird	BR052
Frank E. Buck	BR089
Allen W. Bullock	BR105
Louis B. Burgelin	BR088
Robert E. Burton	BR022
James C. Davis	BR087
John B. Derby	BR067
Leon D. Graybill	BR122
Bill Kishi	BR033
Dennis P. Kissinger	BR029
James D. Long	BR039
Don MacGregor	SB037
Leroy F. Nagel	BR144
Joe W. Oppelt	BR143
Eldon C. Parr	SB002
John Pitts	BR101
Chuck Poland	BR028
James Rae	BR150
Frank Reetz	BR049
David C. Rohrer	BR073
Robert D. Rung	BR125
Clayton Sealy	BR171
John M. Skarpelos	SB059
Shigeki J. Sugiyama	BR073
Ted Westphal	BR171
Clarence Youngren	BR033

our luncheon meetings on several occasions and is often called on to lead the members in singing "God Bless America" in his baritone voice that rivals those of professional singers.



Pictured left to right are: **Tom Ross**, **Jim Sugiyama**, Regional Director **Glen Schimelpfenig**, and Area 7 Governor **Frank Morris**.

Sirs in the News

Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

A Golfing Branch

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Branch 69 has always been known as Sacramento's "Golf Branch," since it was formed back in 1977 by a group of golfers from Land Park Golf Course. Approximately 85 members out of our total membership of 110, routinely play golf in one of our two 18 hole golf clubs, known as the Branch Golf Club and the Short Course Golf Club.

This year an ace was scored by **Warren Senegal** of the Branch Golf Club and Glenn Case of the Short Course Group, during tournament play.

Our Branch Golf Club Championship is always a big deal and perennial winner, **Bud Rogers**, won the trophy again for the 8th consecutive year ...see the picture below. Bud was also the Champion of the SIR River City Golf Club – a combined SIR area/NCGA club – for the 7th consecutive year, and was named, "Player of the Year".



Tom Costello, our 2008 Big Sir, has the bragging rights of "Short Course Champion."---see the picture below.



State RV

The position of Chairman of the RV Committee is in need of a volunteer for 2008. Sir **Jack Streckfus**, our Chairman for the last several years, is not able to continue in this position. Over the past number of years, RV outings have been very popular. Anyone interested in continuing the enjoyment of this activity for our many RV members should get in touch with **Art Pufford**.

Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

Senior Certificates

Joe Dydynski, Past Big Sir

In the picture from left to right, Area 33 Governor **Jim Petruk** (now Region 9 Director) shown awarding Senior Certificates to **Vince Brusche** – with little SIR **Al Camilleri** standing with the plagues – **Artie Jones**, seated, and **Tom Bucher** looking on.



Also receiving a Senior Certificate at the meeting was **Tom Peterson** shown in the lower picture with **Joe Dydynbski**, past Big Sir and Tom's son.



Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118, San Mateo

90 Year Old Awards

Jim Mahon, Big Sir

Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118 awarded two of its ninety year old members with a plaque acknowledging that milestone. From left to right in the picture are: **Ed Jockers**, Area Governor **John Damonte**, who made the presentation, and **Clarence Devlin**. Congratulations Gentlemen!



Christmas Parties

Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Christmas in San Jose

Dan Roberts, Bulletin Editor

The Branch 32 Ladies Day Christmas Party was the usual successful holiday function. We had a chance to share all the warmth and friendship for each other as we sat around the tables. There were a total of 130 members and guests in attendance. Guests included **Fred Mollerus**, the Area 20 Governor, and **Dave Reiser**, the Region 7 Director. The entertainment was great and put us all in the Holiday mood.

Incoming Big Sir **Bruce Henry** is seen in the picture presenting outgoing Big Sir **Ray Renwick** with a glass decanter engraved with the SIR logo. Ray plans on using it to store his sherry.



The Christmas Party committee consisted of **Don Schilling** Chairman, **Don Pedrotti** Assistant Chairman, and Santa's Helpers **Ray Renwick, Bruce Henry, Bernie Coullahan, Paul Vogel, Jim Sleigh, Jim Bean, Leo Schuck, Terry Worden**, and all the others who do this every year for the members and their own enjoyment.

Murphys Branch 140

Christmas in Murphys

Dave McCarroll, Bulletin Editor

Murphys Mark Twain Branch 140 once again held its annual Christmas Dinner Dance at Ironstone Vineyards, one of the premium wine tasting sites among the 30 or so wineries in this area.

We installed our new officers and also thanked the departing ones. We dined on either chicken or pork, which was excellent ...usually a Sir and his wife order one of each and share the tasting. We danced to the music of the DeLeons, a husband and wife team that is quite popular in the area. They have a rich set of recorded background music for their live vocals.



All and all, it was a very pleasurable evening.

Mission Trail Branch 35, Palo Alto

Christmas in Mountain View

Jack Dyer, Bulletin Editor

Sirs and their wives, as well as special friends, enjoyed the annual holiday party at a new venue in Mountain View this year. The 260 participants brought the big hall alive with conversation at 34 round tables. After a social hour for renewing and extending friendships, everyone was served an excellent dinner. Officers elected for 2008 were briefly recognized after dinner, before the featured entertainment.

The 25 member Main Street Singers of Los Altos High School, which has been a popular entertainment at other Sir functions, is under the direction of their extremely personable Director,



Mark Shaull. The group sang a diverse series of seasonal songs in magnificent multipart harmonies. Choir members stood in peripheral locations around the crowd for some of the songs ...providing "surround sound" for everyone in the room. This select group has found a warm welcome at numerous venues on their tours throughout Europe.

The party was organized by incoming Big Sir **Stan Barkey**, incoming Membership Director **Peter Barba**, and Luncheon host **Dick Knock**.

Mid-Peninsula Branch 51, Los Altos Hills

Christmas in Los Altos Hills

Jim Cummings, Bulletin Editor

Branch 51 held its annual Christmas luncheon on December 6th. Members and spouses enjoyed either prime rib or turkey at the Fremont Swim Club.

Our entertainment was The Main Street Singers

from Los Altos High School. This choral group of High School students has been performing for several years and last year went on tour to Scandinavia.



They had 17 performances, in a 21 day tour, and will be returning to the Continent again this year.

Christmas Parties

Lake County Branch 133, Clearlake

Christmas in Clearlake

Bill Lyon, Bulletin Editor

Branch 133 held its annual Christmas party in December, serving tasty prime rib or chicken dinners. We had a live band for entertainment, which was pretty good.

Just before dinner, **Larry Powers** had a lot of fun giving the oath of office to the new officers, pictured from left to right: **Kerry Jensen, Pete Gumina, Colin Wilson, Russ Sage, Mason Butler, Dick Kistner** and retiring Big Sir **Rudy Vandenbroek**.



Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Christmas in Walnut Creek

Bill McCord, Branch Member

I took on the Ladies Day and Christmas Party functions three years ago. During my years in Public Affairs with Chevron, I had many opportunities to use a wide variety of displays to promote and attract attention among the audiences that we wanted to reach with a message, and SIR parties are no exception.

The old story of conveying the who–where–and when–story–with photos is the simple concept I have always used and it works! ...the six events I have done with timely displays have been instrumental in generating a lot of interest in the Branch. For example, we had over 200 in attendance at our Christmas Party several weeks ago, that included a nice dinner and a band for our members and guests at a reasonable price. Taking pictures of the attendees having fun and including them on the displays (see picture at right) does wonders in generating interest in the events.

Miwok Branch 134, San Rafael

Christmas in San Rafael

Dick Crocker, Bulletin Editor

Branch 134 had a wonderful night of dancing, dining, and socializing at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in San Rafael. The food was good, the band outstanding, and everyone had a great time! ...thanks to Bob Dimond for organizing the entire affair. He was ably assisted by Dick Crocker, who took photographs – John Crawford, who printed up nametags and place cards – and Fred and Janalee Holmes, who provided the flowers, arranged the tables, and checked everybody in.

This event was attended by 126 people, some of whom were former members who had moved away, but regularly return to enjoy this annual gala affair. For the past several years, we have taken photos of each couple next to a Christmas tree in the hotel lobby. They receive a print of this, within a few days, and some have been so pleased with their picture, that they have included copies with their Christmas Cards.

In addition, a standard feature of our Christmas Party is turning over of the reins from the present year's Big Sir **Fred Holmes**, to the incoming Big Sir **Tony Marelich**, shown from left to right in the picture.



State Golf

Dave Betts, State Golf Chairman

The 2008 State Tournament Schedule has been finalized with the dates and locations described in the last issue of SIR Happenings. The Fall Classic will once again be held in Solvang, with golf at Rancho San Marcos and the River Course at Alisal. The dates are September 14th thru the 17th and the hotel will once again be the Santa Ynez Marriott in Buellton.



The Golf Committee is undergoing many personnel changes this year. As previously reported, we are gaining people with some special computer skills, which will aid greatly in modernizing and updating the forms in our State Golf Manual. Our goal is to make most of the forms capable of being completed electronically, either in Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Word.

The State Golf Committee website, that can be found at www.sirstategolf.com, contains a great deal of information that is very useful to all of our golfers. The website is quite user friendly and provides headings for State Golf Committee addresses and contact information—newsletters, which are published four times a year—tournament schedules, for both State events and Division events—State and Division tournament results, awards, and forms—the State Golf Manual—and links to other websites, including the State website, www.sirinc.org, plus many of the local Branch websites.



Another innovation which we are trying this year is using email to send tournament entry forms to all of our golfers who have email addresses, where they receive their monthly GHIN Handicap updates. This was just accomplished for the first time in sending the entry form for the Las Vegas 2008 Tournament. This is an economic measure to save postage. With mailings to over 6,000 golfers – even at the bulk mail rate – this has become very costly. If we are able to save money in this manner, the cost for golfers participating in State Tournaments will be a little more affordable.



Please use our State Golf Committee website to keep up to date on our golfing activities.

State Bowling

William “Coop” Cooper, State Bowling Chairman

Hello fellow bowlers. You asked for information and as a result of the good work accomplished by **Ray Young** and **Del Locke** working with **John Skarpelos**, most of the material you requested is now on the SIR website. You can get there by going to <http://sirinc.org/protected/bowling/>.



We now have tournament results, schedules, the Bowling Committee Manual and much more on the sirinc.org website.

Five honor watches were given out in 2007...they went to:

Gary Gilman	300 game
Alan Close	810 series and 300 game
Wayne Beutler	300 game
Jerry Shelton	300 game
Bill Ikerd	810 series

Congratulations to all of you on a well-deserved honor!

Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Bowling Watch

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Several years ago, the State Bowling Committee adopted a policy of awarding a watch to any bowler who bowled a 300 and/or an 800 or better series in a SIR tournament. Unfortunately, that is as far as the awards program went it until recently, when the committee was reorganized and moved the program forward.

Ray Young, the State Bowling Committee Secretary, had the pleasure of presenting our own, **Gary Gilman**, with his long over due watch. Gary bowled a series of 145-300-202 = 647, at the Diablo Lanes in Concord in 2003. The Committee is aware of only four other awards since 2002.

Ray (on the right) is shown in the picture congratulating Gary on his well-deserved award.



News from the Branches

Hesperian Branch 26, Oakland

Snowy Canadian Trip

Emile Lassalle, Branch Secretary

On this wonderful trip, we traveled for two days on the Red Leaf Train through the Rocky and Cascade Mountains, stopping at night to go to our rooms at mostly 5 star hotels.

At Whistler, we boarded the Whistler Mountaineer for our journey to Vancouver, passing through Fraser Canyon and riding over the Deep Creek Bridge, one of the highest bridges in the world. We were fed so well on the trains, that all we wanted were snacks at night. One of the highlights of this trip was the dinner-show in Banff. It's called, "OH-CANADA" and all the food was served by the entertainers. If you ever go to this area, be sure to book this dinner-show.

The group picture of our members and guests shows our backs are to the Athabasca and Dome Glaciers. It was snowing at the time and from there, we went on to view the awesome Ice Fields. In the picture are: Tour escort **Emile & Rosina Lassalle, Mel & Val Jones, Shelton & Sue Williams, Jim & Shirley Jorgensen, Dave & Marion Kappler, Ken & Judith Costa, Emery & Pat Zajec, Al & Cathy Contier, Phil Work, Jim Wylie, Shirley Krom, Marsh Garcia and Jan Smith.**

We all had one great time and I feel this was one of the best trips we have put on in the past three years!



SIR State Baseball

SIR Day at the **Sacramento River Cats**

vs. the Colorado Sky Sox

May 21 (Wednesday) at 11:30am

for info call **Ken Edwards** (209) 223-9156



SIR Day at the **SF Giants**

vs. the Florida Marlins

August 21 (Thursday) at 12:45pm

for info call **Chuck Roberts** (408) 243-6717



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Visiting a Fish Hatchery

Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

Fourteen members of Branch 96 and their guests had an interesting visit to the American River Nimbus Fish Hatchery at Rancho Cordova near Sacramento. The trip was organized by **Dee Davis** – Fishing Chairman of the Branch Fishing Club – who took the picture of Don Ward, the Fish Hatchery Manager, holding up a 29 pound King Salmon.



Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Fish were Jumping into the Boat

Terry Miller, Branch Member

Back in 2006 and 2007, I was in charge of the Area 2 Fishing Group called "Big Fish." We have about 25 Active members that go on fishing trips, ranging from one to five days. On the trip that I caught the crappies shown in the picture, I was fishing with **Carl Moyer**, from Branch 8. We were in his 14 foot boat up in the Delta at the entrance to Big Break, fishing with a small green crank bait. The crappies were biting so fast that we would just barely get our bait in the water before we had another one on the line. The nice crappies we caught ranged in size from about one to two pounds and I even gave away a couple of strippers that I caught.



Happenings Travel Bulletin

March 2008

March 26 to April 2, 2008
Discover the French Riviera

Fly from Sacramento to Nice, France. The trip begins in Nice and includes Ventimiglia, Italy, Grasse, St Paul de Vence, Saint Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Cannes, and Monaco. Single hotel stay includes 10 meals. Cost is \$2179 PPDO. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call **Bill Massie** at 530-342-2784.

April 2008

50TH ANNIVERSARY CRUISE OF

HAWAII

April 3 - 12, 2008

The 50th Anniversary Cruise to Hawaii

The 50th Anniversary Chartered Cruise to Hawaii is changed to a Non-Chartered Norwegian Cruise Ship "Pride of America." Participants will fly from San Francisco to Honolulu for 2 nights stay at Deluxe Hotel before transferring to the ship and cruising Major Islands for 7 days and arriving back in S. F. April 15. Tour features Transfers to airport, Hotel and Ship. Gala Luau on Land – Cocktail Parties on Ship – Pillow Gifts, etc. Prices start at \$2654 inside stateroom. Call your travel chairman for more information.



April 11-20, 2008

Romantic Rhine River Cruise

This is a 10 day cruise from Zurich to Amsterdam. It includes a one night stay in Zurich. The towns we will visit are: Strasbourg, France; Heidelberg, Germany; Mainz, Germany; Coblenz, Germany; Cologne, Germany; and Amsterdam, Holland. All shipboard meals included, air transportation from Bay Area to Zurich and return from Amsterdam. Prices range from \$3320-\$4345 PPDO. Offered by Area 18 Travel. Call **John Hoffmann** 707-642-4925.

April 18-29, 2008

Rocky Mountaineer

A Trans-Canada rail adventure from Vancouver to Toronto, with overnights in Kamloops and Banff. Stay at the famous Fairmont Chateau Hotel at Lake Louise, visit Icefields Parkway – with a ride to the Athabasca Glacier – and see Niagara Falls. Cost is \$4039 PPDO. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Pete Lepisto** at 209-948-2265.

April 23-May 1, 2008

Riverbarging on the Mississippi

The trip runs from New Orleans to Memphis, with large staterooms, including bath. Trip Includes meals, tours, tips, shows, air, and overnights in New Orleans and Memphis. Prices range from \$2825 to \$3025 PPDO. Offered by Area 19 Travel. Call **Ron dePass** at 530-644-1405.



May 2008

May 3-17, 2008

Cruising the Pacific Northwest

Cruise the Pacific Northwest from San Francisco aboard Royal Caribbean's Serenade of the Seas. 9 ports of call including, Ports-Astoria, Seattle, Victoria, Juneau, Sitka and Prince Rupert. Prices range from \$2170 to \$3300 PPDO. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Jerry Wisenor** at 209-334-5181.

May 14-22, 2008

Whistler Mountaineer/Rocky Mountaineer

This trip will include a city tour of Vancouver. 3 days aboard the Rocky Mountaineer train from Vancouver to Whistler, Quesnel, and Jasper, 2 nights at Banff National Park and the last night in Calgary. The trip includes 15 hosted meals. Cost is \$3160 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **David Abrahams** at 925-447-9386.



May 16-22, 2008

Delta South Cruise

Fly from Sacramento to New Orleans and board the Riverbarge Explorer. Explore the charm of New Orleans... then visit Natchez, St. Francisville, Baton Rouge and return to New Orleans. All inclusive trip. Prices range from \$2845 to \$2998 PPDO. Offered by Branch 143 Travel. Call **Bill Torrens** at 209-667-0244.

June 2008

June 6-19, 2008

Baltic Heritage Cruise

An exciting adventure through the mystical ports of the Baltic Sea aboard the grand and beautiful new CROWN PRINCESS. We fly from San Jose to Copenhagen for a two night stay and a full day tour of Hans Christian Andersen land prior to setting sail for Stockholm, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Gdansk, Oslo and back to Copenhagen for our flight home. Prices range from \$3,990 to \$4,960 PPDO. Offered by Areas 5 & 20. Call **Allen Daily** at 408-265-8140.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

September 2008

September 5-14, 2008 Grand Alaska Land Tour

The Grand Alaska escorted land tour is an experience of a lifetime. See spectacular mountains and valleys; watch wildlife and sea life in their natural habitat and view enormous glaciers. This is the perfect tour for previous cruisers to Alaska. We will travel to Anchorage, Valdez, Fairbanks, and Denali National Park. Trip includes all air transportation, most meals, professional tour manager, round trip transportation to Bay Area airport, and other amenities. Price is \$3090 PPDO. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call **John Hoffmann** at 707-642-4925.



September 13-27, 2008 Grand Tour of Germany

From the Alps to the North Sea, the Black Forest and Rhine Valley, to the once divided Berlin ...discover the varied regions of this European power-house, with an exciting blend of culture, cities, rivers, and Bavarian charm. The trip is extensive, but leisurely paced. Price is \$3660 PPDO. Offered by Branch 96 Travel. Call **Lee Suess** at 209-296-2235.

September 18-27, 2008 A Taste of Northern Italy

A 10 day adventure through Northern Italy. The trip includes: The Lake District, Cinque Terre, and a visit with Leonardo DaVinci's Last Supper. Cost is \$2999 PPDO, including air from SFO and 13 meals. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Michael Clark** at 650-347-0919.

September 25-October 10, 2008 River Cruise on the Rhine & Danube

A 16 day River Cruise beginning in Budapest, Hungary and finishing in Amsterdam. Our journey will take you to 11 cities in Hungary, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. You'll explore the regal splendor of Budapest, meander along the fabled "Blue Danube" to Vienna, transit the Main-Danube Canal and glide past Germany's castles (during Oktoberfest) to the canals of Holland. All meals, tours and flights are included. Cost is \$4,515 PPDO. Offered by Branch 172 Travel. Call **Earl Nelson** at 209-586-5661.



Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email **Don MacGregor** at: donmac95@comcast.net

October 2008

October 6-19, 2008 Danube Dream

Glide past fairy-tale castles and medieval villages aboard the river cruise ship, MS Switzerland II, traveling the second longest river in Europe. Take in views of the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, and Hungary. Many shore excursions are included with visits to interesting cities and historic sites. Trip includes r/t air from SFO to Budapest, with return from Prague. Prices range from \$3415 to \$3660 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call **Bob Hagler** at 925-934-7620.

October 24-November 4, 2008 Cruise the Mexican Riviera

Cruise aboard the Norwegian Sun, roundtrip from San Francisco. Ports of call will be: Mazatlan, Acapulco, Zihuatejo/Xtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas. This trip has real bargain rates, so, it will go fast. Prices range from only \$1035 to \$1580 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Paul Thiebaut** at 925-345-9375.



November 2008

November 4-23 2008 Exotic Cruise to Santiago Chile

A 19 day cruise aboard the Norwegian Sun from San Francisco. Nine ports of call, including: Acapulco, Mexico—Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala—Puntarenas, Costa Rica—Quito (Manta), Ecuador—Lima (Callao), Peru—Arica, Chile—La Serna (Coquimbo), Chile—and Santiago. Prices range from \$3148 to \$3678 PPDO. Offered by Branches 20, 36, 85, and 104 Travel. Call **Tom Cutting** at 831-476-9725.

Editors Note: We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this feature in Happenings will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs.

To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on these travel pages was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

A Job Well Done

Incoming SIR President **Art Pufford** on the right is shown at a recent SIR Board of Directors Meeting after presenting a Gavel and an Honorary Life Membership Award to outgoing SIR President **Tom Ross**, for his service as President in 2007.



One More Christmas Party

Port Stockton Branch 46, Stockton
Christmas in Stockton
Arden Riess, Branch Member

Branch 46 had a wonderful Christmas luncheon, thanks to the wives, friends and members, who did a tremendous job of preparing everything. The luncheon had a wide variety of food and was delicious. Many members don't have the opportunity to see the wives of fellow members very often, so it is always a pleasant feature to have them with us.



Our new Branch officers were installed and we sang many Christmas carols. Every year members are asked to bring a present (see picture), which are given out at the end of the luncheon. It's fun to watch the reaction of the person who won your gift. Poinsettia plants also went home with the person who sat in the lucky-numbered chair.

*Looking for some toe-tapping fun
 over the Memorial Day Weekend?
 The 35th Annual*

Sacramento Jazz Jubilee is the place to be!

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee swings over the Memorial Day weekend from Wednesday, May 26th through Monday, May 31st. The event is a fun party, with some of the best jazz you will ever hear, plus lots of good food and drink.



A variety of discounted tickets are again available to Sirs. For information and tickets, call Jim Fusaro at (916) 428-5719 or email him at jim4jazz@comcast.net. Jim will be glad to send tickets to any Branch on consignment.



"SIR Happenings" has a new distribution system. Instead of notifying each of you directly we are notifying your Branch Email contact when "Happenings" is published and asking him to forward the notification to each of you. We should be able to reach more members because the branches have more up to date Email lists than we do.

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list just mention it to your Branch Email Contact. **Dwight Sale**, Publisher

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

MAY 2008

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

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

President Art's Column

The success of moving to paperless breathes continual life into the Sir Organization. Without this success, it is difficult to imagine what SIR would be like today, if still active. Recently I discussed this with Past President Dwight Sale, Chairman of the INFOSYS committee.

The fundamental principals of SIR have remained unchanged since our founders set them up in July of 1958. How we are organized and how we conduct our business has slowly changed and developed since then but those changes have been eclipsed by the dramatic change in the behind the scenes operations that have occurred in the last 10 to 12 years. We have gone from informing Branches of SIR and corporate requirements using paper to informing members using electronic means like Email and the SIR Website.

We forget the enormous and costly effort it took to print and distribute these documents. Past Governors and Directors will remember the onerous job of personally getting some 90,000 pages into the hands of Branch personnel. Annual printing costs used to be 5 to 6 thousand dollars with a like amount for postage when documents could not be delivered by hand.

The transformation of these operations began in 1997 with Dwight Sale's development of the SIR database. At the same time, Jack Rhondeau founded the State Website, sirinc.org. While the website was for the entertainment of our members and the prestige of SIR it later became the source of all documents.

Past President Jim Faverman, familiar with the Database, suggested that Dwight chair an information system committee and INFOSYS was born.

This group was really the beginning of a SIR information system that was to be used by other SIR officials to perform their duties. INFOSYS has matured into an indispensable tool for SIR.

Past President Dwight Sale, who has guided this INFOSYS effort since 1997 wants to turn over the reigns to someone else at the end of this year.

Art

Big Turnout for Salute to SIR Day at the Races

The 2nd "Salute to SIR Day at the Races" at Golden Gate Fields last January was a big hit! A total of 335 Sirs and guests from fourteen Branches attended the event. Upon arrival each branch was directed to its assigned seating area by a group host, the prime rib buffet was up and running and the first live race started on time at 12:45. Throughout the day, each branch had a race named in its honor and up to six members of each group were brought down to the winners circle for a photo opportunity with the winning jockey of that race. A souvenir photo was then mailed to the Travel Coordinator of each group. At the tail end of the day (no pun intended!), two lucky gentlemen won our raffle prize of two Club Field Level tickets for the upcoming San Francisco Giants season.



Golden Gate Fields' purpose in hosting the Salute to SIR Day at the Races is first and foremost to salute all the Branches in attendance and to assist with the SIR mission of renewing former friendships and providing an opportunity for everyone to make new friends through association with other retirees.

If your branch missed out on this exciting opportunity, please note that we have scheduled our 3rd Salute to SIR event in the fall on Friday, October 10th. The group package for 10 or more adults is \$23pp and includes: valet parking or parking for a bus, admission and reserved seating, the daily racing program, prime rib buffet, with tax & tip for the food servers included, and a race named in honor of each Branch. If you would like more information about this upcoming event, please contact Michael Roberts, of Group Sales at Golden Gate Fields, at 510-559-7380 or email mroberts@goldengatefields.com

Sirs in the News

**Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118
San Mateo**

90 Year Old Certificates

Jim Mahon, Big Sir

Big Sir **Jim Mahon**, is shown on the left in the upper picture, presenting a 90 Year Senior Certificate to **Harvey Fanucci**.



In the lower picture Governor of Area 1, **John Damonte**, on the right, is presenting a 90 year Senior Certificate to **Paul Whitfield**.

In Memoriam – Robert Curley

Former SIR President Bob Curley passed away at his Modesto home on January 25th at the age of 85. Bob was born in San Francisco and was a fourth generation San Franciscan. He was the class president when he graduated from Lowell High School and went on to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in the class of 1945. He served on the USS South Dakota before entering flight school in Pensacola where he became a navy pilot.

In 1953, Bob left the Navy and obtained a masters degree, in Industrial Engineering, from Stanford. He worked in the transport industry for Stanford Research Institute, Consolidated Freightways and as President of Utility Trailer Company. Bob was instrumental in developing the system that moves containers from trucks, to trains, to ships. He returned to SRI where he worked until retiring in 1985.

Bob moved to Modesto in 1990 and enjoyed traveling around the world with his wife Frances. He joined Modesto Branch 144 and later served as the Big Sir and was the State President in 2007. Bob will be remembered by his many friends for his sense of humor, his engaging laugh, his optimism, and his love of gadgetry.

**Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22
San Rafael**

100th Birthday

Bob Farwell, Branch Member

SIR President **Art Pufford** is shown honoring **Alfred Scott** with a plaque on his 100th birthday. Al joined Branch 22 in 1974 and is still quite an active member. He regularly sings with the “SIRenaders” when they entertain the folks in the Marin County retirement and convalescent Communities.



**China Camp Branch 151
Fairfax**

World Class Runner

Eckart Sellinger, Bulletin Editor

China Camp member **Sam Hirabayashi** traveled to the World Masters Athletics Track & Field Championships held last September in Riccione, Italy. Sam competed on Team USA's M80 division's 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams. The 4x100m squad won a Silver Metal in 1:06.12, topping the American record set in 1985. Sam's 4x400m team won a gold medal in 6:41.73, which eclipsed the previous American record also set in 1985. He just missed the medals podium in the M80 1,500m and 10,000m – placing fourth – in both events. Until this meet, Sam really hadn't run a step since July 5, when he strained a hamstring and had been carefully rehabbing and staying off it.



“I was surprised at the number of 80-year-olds that were there,” Sam said, who competes for the Marin County-based Tamalpa Runners club. “It was interesting to see how quick some of these guys are. I was impressed! I've never run a 4x100 relay before, or a 1,500 or a 10,000 ...it was a great experience.”

The World Masters Athletics Championships are the world's biggest international track and field competition. They are reserved for master athletes age 35 and over. The 2007 WMA Championships hosted more than 9,000 athletes from 90 countries.

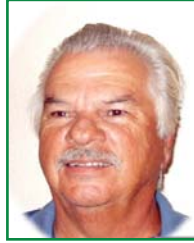
Sirs in the News

Pony Express Branch 69
Sacramento

Amputee Athlete

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

One of our most active and athletic members is **Ross Martin** (shown in the picture). Ross is the Branch jock, even though he is missing his left leg below the knee. After losing his leg in an accident while serving in the US Air Force, Ross was fitted with a high-tech prosthesis that allows him to engage in all sorts of activities. He is an avid golfer, who normally drives the ball down the middle of the fairway over 200 yards and plays to a 15 handicap.



He is a member of the Sacramento Golf Council, where he serves as their web master and media director. He is also the Western Trustee for the National Amputees Golf Association and is involved with handicap golf clinics and tournaments throughout the Western United States. Ross also bowls in the Area 3 and 9 bowling league, spends a lot of time on the computer and somehow finds time for woodworking and gardening. Ross certainly sets an outstanding example and is a real role model for our branch members.

Petaluma Little Hills Branch 147

Senior Certificates

Nino Cerruti, Big Sir

This year's annual branch Christmas was special for two members of the branch, **Herb Louden** and **Bill Zemanek** who received Senior Sir Certificates for their 90th year award.

Herb was a founding member of the branch, serves as the branch chaplain, and has been a branch member for 19 years. Bill has been in the branch since the early 1990s, served as the membership chairman, and has been a member of several branch committees.

The photo shows from left to right: Area 25 Governor **Roy Dorn**, who presented the certificates, to **Herb Louden** and **Bill Zemanek**.



Westgate Branch 125
San Jose

Amazing Shot

Daryl Jones, Bulletin Editor

Most golfers play for years without achieving the ultimate goal...a hole-in-one. Well, **Peter Marrone** did just that when our SIR golf group was playing at the Los Lagos golf course on January 9th. Using a six-iron, Peter aced the 145 yard, 8th hole. Jerry Sanders captured the moment in this photo. Congratulations Peter!



Modesto Branch 144

President's Award

Duane Retzloff, Bulletin Editor

Big Sir **Mike Mensinger** is shown presenting the President's Award to **George Read** (on the left) and **Harry Pierce** (on the right) ...the gal in the picture, holding George's award, is his girl friend and dance partner. George is captain of one of the Branch bowling teams and holds an excellent average. He bowls twice a week and also dances two or three times a week with his partner. Harry Pierce is a past Rotary President, loves barbershop singing, and when asked what is the secret to your long life? He replied, "God told me to stay here until I got it right."



State Golf

Dave Betts, Chairman State Golf Committee

The first 2008 tournament was just completed. Ninety-two SIR members and eighteen lady guests enjoyed playing three challenging golf courses. On the first day of the tournament we played the Angel Park Palms course, then Angel Park Mountain course on the second day and The Legacy Golf course on the last day.

The next State Golf Committee tournaments will be held during the first three weeks of June, with all golfers staying at Circus-Circus Hotel Casino. The courses to be played are Red Hawk, D'Andrea and Lakeridge. At this writing, there were still a couple of spots available during the first week. Both the second and third weeks are sold out with waiting lists.

Following the Reno tournaments, we will have the State Team Championship at Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore on August 11th. The Area Qualifiers for this tournament will be held during June and early July. Put a team together and whip last year's Champions. Get details about the Qualifiers from your Area and Branch Golf Chairmen.

Our Fall Classic will be held in Solvang again this year. We will be staying at the Santa Ynez Marriott in Buellton and golfing at Rancho San Marcos Golf Course and The River Course at Alisal. Check the website for entry forms. This is our only tournament that has a four-man team – two best net ball format; all others are scrambles except the individual Championship at Poppy Hills.

The Area and Division Qualifiers for the Individual Championship will be conducted in May and August respectively and the Championship will be at Poppy Hills in Pebble Beach on November 3rd. Seventy golfers will compete for seven flight championships. In addition we will have open play for 74 golfers on November 3rd and 144 golfers on November 4th. The application and entry forms are on our website.

Our Air/Land trip to Cabo San Lucas in October is booking rather quickly, with flights out of both Sacramento and San Francisco. There is still space available from either Airport. If you have not received an entry form in the mail, please check the website for copies which can be printed and completed for mailing or Faxing to Golden Gate Tours.

The last tournament of the year will be our Mexican Riviera Cruise aboard the Star Princess, departing San Francisco on November 10th and returning on November 20th. If you need entry forms, please check the website. We will be playing golf in Ixtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas.

Please use our State Golf Committee website:

www.sirstategolf.com

to keep up to date on our golfing activities.

State Bowling

William "Coop" Cooper, State Bowling Chairman

Hello SIR bowlers and interested members. We are coming to the end of the bowling season and I hope everyone had a good year. Some upcoming events you may be interested in are: The USBC National Tournament this year is in New Mexico ...next year it will be in Las Vegas. Close to home, we will be having the Senior State Tournament in Fresno, on the last week of October and the month of November 2008.

In case you missed the last edition of Happenings, you can go online and bring up the SIR State bowling schedule, tournament results and our operations manual. If for some reason you can't bowl anymore and want to be involved, become a volunteer with your local association and work with the junior programs. If you are not in a SIR/ Senior League, start by joining one this summer. Come on out and have some fun, as well as making new friends ...SEE YOU ON THE LANES!

State Sports

SIR Day at the Sacramento River Cats vs. the Colorado Sky Sox

May 21 (Wednesday) at 11:30am

for info call **Ken Edwards** (209) 223-9156



SIR Day at the Oakland Athletics vs. the Tampa Bay Rays

August 14 (Thursday) at 12:35pm

for info call **Mel Augustine** (510) 524-4952



SIR Day at the SF Giants vs. the Florida Marlins

August 21 (Thursday) at 12:45pm

for info call **Chuck Roberts** (408) 243-6717



SIR day with the Oakland Raiders at the Coliseum date to be announced in the next issue.

News from the Branches

Area 2, Walnut Creek

Keeping up with Technology

Phil Goff, Co-Chairman,

Computer & Technology Group

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group (called CAT) meets monthly in Walnut Creek. We are a group of active SIR members who want to keep up with the fast changing world of technology. Our membership is growing steadily and we now average more than 60 attendees per meeting (see picture in the lower right hand side of the page).

In the areas of personal computing and technology devices, it seems there is a never-ending list of things to talk about. For the first few years we focused on personal computers and their usage to SIR members.

We talked about various kinds of software, virus protection, and problem solving. However, we began to see that the world of technology includes a lot more than personal computers and decided to expand our venue. Today, we cover everything from how to select a HD Television to buying aftermarket GPS units for automobiles. Typical meetings consist of presentations (usually by members) followed by an open question/answer session. Attendees can get their problems discussed, if not solved.

Digital photography is quite popular and we have a few sessions each year dedicated to topics such as proper use of a digital camera and using Photoshop Elements to organize, edit and present digital photos. Many of our members have old photographs or slides that they would like to restore and digitize, and we have had several sessions showing how to do that.

We've set up a wireless internet connection at our meeting place, so we are able to review internet sites and services in real time.

The website at <http://sir-web.org/computer> contains descriptions of all our presentations and the materials used. All SIR members should feel free to visit the website and download materials that might be of interest to their Branch.

We would like to encourage some cross-area sharing where possible. Many of our presenters have assembled excellent presentations and would be willing to present them to other Branches if they would reciprocate. We're always looking for new topics or presenters.

We try to keep our presentations and discussions at a level that everyone feels welcome. We have attendees who are just getting started in computers, as well as long time computer users. It seems to be a formula that works well because our group is enthusiastic and keeps coming back for more.

Area 22, Modesto

Bowling Tournament

Don Reed, Branch 103 Bulletin Editor

An Area 22 SIR Bowling Tournament was held in Modesto at McHenry Bowl on Friday, March 14, under the directorship of **Jim Pastorelli**, Branch 103, and **Juan Guerrero**, Branch 144.

Gordon Ahart of Branch 103 was the winner in the "A" division singles of the tournament as well as first in "All Events." He bowled scratch games of 246-201 and 243 in singles, with a 780 handicap total. He had a total of 1444 pins to win the "All-Events."

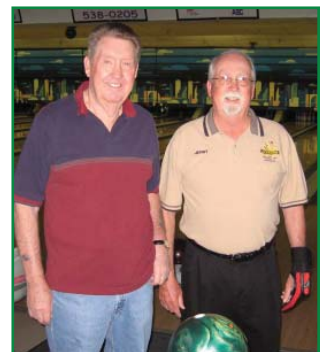
Jim Standridge of Branch 143 was the winner of the "B" division singles and also took third place in "All Events." He won with scratch games of 174-235-192 for a 736 handicap total.

Nance Clement and **Allen White**, both of Branch 143, were winners of the "A" division doubles. They won with a handicap total of 1358 with Allen bowling scratch games of 222-214 and 247.

Fred Sherman and **Jerry Strain**, both of Branch 144 were winners in the "B" division doubles. Fred also placed second in "All Events." They won with a handicap total of 1395 with scratch high games of 202 for Fred and 231 for Jerry.

In the upper picture Jim Standridge (on the left), is winner of "B" Division singles and Gordon Ahart (on the right), is winner of the "A" division singles and "All-Events."

In the lower picture is Fred Sherman (left) and Jerry Strain (right), winners of the "B" Division doubles.



News from the Branches

Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

100 Member Fishing Club

Jim Petruk, Region 9 Director

Last March – well before day light – thirty-one members of the Branch 37 Rooster Tails Fishing Club and three guests gathered at Folsom Lake to prepare for the second Non-Derby-Outing (NDO) of the year. Fourteen fishing boats equipped with VHF marine radios did radio-checks and festooned their boats with official SIR Rooster Tail Club flags. Just as safe-light signaled launch time, laughter and anticipation filled the crisp morning air as the Rooster Tails carefully maneuvered their boats down the ramp onto the lake. Club Chairman Tug Miller radioed NDO Host Jim Petruk for an official count as to who was on the Lake and to be on the look-out for a late arrival. Safety being a paramount concern at all Rooster Tails outings, fishing participants and their guests are required to check-in and check-out when they enter and leave the water for each of the ten NDO's and three Derbies the club will hold this year. Besides providing a means of fishing related chatter, the marine radios offer a margin of safety in the event of an emergency. Each NDO is hosted by a volunteer Rooster Tail club member to coordinate non-boat owners for seats with members owning boats. In addition to monitoring radio conversations, an NDO Host arranges for food, beverages, and collects a small contribution to cover the event costs. By one in the afternoon the entire Folsom fishing flotilla was gathered at the picnic area to eat sections of two

three-foot sub-sandwiches, chips, a brownie dessert, and fruit. Chairman Tug announced some of the details of the next NDO and one of the forthcoming spring Derbies. Camaraderie was at its finest, with jokes, cajoling, fishing advice, and a little bragging about the twenty some rainbows and salmon that were caught that day.

Since 1983, the Rooster Tails Fishing Club has been an activity of Placer Gold Branch 37. For most of the twenty-five years, the Rooster Tails have been entertaining, educating, and enhancing the fishing experience, and membership has seldom exceeded fifty ...this month, the Rooster Tails celebrated the addition of its 100th member. It no longer has a "Big or Little Rod," but this growing activity is now managed by a seven member Steering Committee. A local Denny's had been the meeting site for the past several years, but it became too small and so, the club moved to the Auburn Elk's Lodge last year. On the third Friday of each month, sixty or so Rooster Tails now enjoy a generous breakfast buffet and a fun meeting. Because of the Rooster Tails growth and promotion, quality breakfast speakers now draw a larger attendance.

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club Activity is a success story that provides a rich resource of new members for Branch 37. According to the SIR State Growth statistics from November 2006 through November 2007, Branch 37 *net* membership grew by twenty new members – third highest in the state – the majority of them because of the Rooster Tails Fishing Club Activity.



News from the Branches

Lake County Branch 133, Clearlake

Valentines Day in Clearlake

Bill Lyon, Bulletin Editor

Branch 133 held its Annual Valentines Luncheon at the Elks lodge in Clearlake. A serious accident that snarled traffic on the highway, caused some to be a little late, but that didn't deter the 75 happy, hungry, handsome and gorgeous crowd one bit.

Carnations were given out at the door to our wives or girl friends, along with a box of candy. We listened to songs played by Connie Miller and Bill Barrows.

Those who were brave enough, got up and danced during the luncheon while others sang along with Connie and Bill. For lunch we had Roast Pork and all the trimmings that go with it. Truly it was a splendid afternoon of music, song, food, dancing and good conversation.



Miwok Branch 134, Novato

This Crab Feed had Great Reviews

John Crawford, Area 6 Governor

Miwok Branch 134, of Marin County, held its annual crab feed with great reviews. It was held in the club house at the Marin Valley Mobil Country Club. The success of the dinner is attributed to the great involvement of the members of Branch 134 and their wives. At 7:00 am, on the day of the event, Big Sir **Toni Marelich**, along with Little Sir **Jim Mathews**, arrived at Caito Fisheries in San Francisco, where they purchased 350 pounds of crab.

That evening, at 6:00 pm, the members began arriving. The room was festive with free beer and hor d'oeuvres abundant. The 122 guests arrived with crab on the brain and a bottle of wine in hand ...many guests even brought their own crab picks. At the end of the evening, around 10 O'clock, all the crab had been consumed, and many happy SIR members and their wives went home.

Toni Marelich, as event chairman, pulled off another successful crab feed. Toni was assisted by **Jim Matthews, Ray Piche, KB Glass, Vern Dorr, Dan Sebastian, Rich Loesch, Jerry Lakos, Ron Koenig**, and their wives. A great job was accomplished by all! Participation is what makes Branch 134 the best darn branch in SIR.

Los Gatos Branch 141

Bullet Train to LA Coming Soon

Frank McMillan, Bulletin Editor

San Francisco to Los Angeles by train in two and a half hours! ...that's the prediction of transportation expert Rod Diridon, who spoke to the members of Branch 141 in San Jose, on the future of high-speed rail travel in California.

Diridon is Executive Director of the Mineta Transportation Institute in San Jose and is considered the "father" of modern transit service in Silicon Valley. He has been instrumental in promoting the development of a high-speed rail route between Los Angeles and Sacramento, with extensions to the Bay area and San Diego.

He cited the success of high-speed rail systems in Japan, France and Germany, which have been operated profitably for many years. In California, with its ever-growing population, such a system could relieve congested freeways and offer an alternative to costly air travel.

How soon could high-speed rail travel become a reality in California? By 2018, according to Diridon.



Big Sir Tony Marelich on the left is filling up the plates with Crab which Little Sir Jim Matthews on the right is going to deliver to a hungry crowd.

News from the Branches

Miwok Branch 134, Novato

Honoring Our Independence

Bob Evans, Publicity Chairman

The Branch Great Book Club gave a presentation celebrating the Declaration of Independence, at its July luncheon. Members played the part of six signers (out of the 56) and each read a portion of the Declaration, to the cheers of the luncheon group. The Branch members were: **Al Crozier** (John Hancock)– **Bud Cooney** (John Adams) – **John Crawford** (Thomas Jefferson) – **Bob Hibbs** (Benjamin Franklin) – **Bill Cline** (Gouverneur Morris) and **Ron Koenig** (Edward Rutledge).

Howard Bassett played George Washington and emceed the reading and **Bob Corbett** was the Town Crier and announced the presentation. John Hancock was the first signer and carried a copy of the Declaration around the room for the group to see, pointing out that his signature was at the top, so King George couldn't miss it. Ben Franklin announced that, "we must all hang together or assuredly, we shall all hang separately."



Howard Bassett



Bob Hibbs
Bob Corbett (seated)



Bill Cline
Bob Corbett (seated)



Al Crozier

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

New Member Record

Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

Membership Chairman **Lee Suess** is a busy man these days. He just set a new membership record for Branch 96 by introducing 11 new members at the February luncheon in Jackson. "The applications just keep rolling in," says Lee. He hopes to have another big group next month. "We are getting the word out to retired men in the community that this organization has much to offer."

The Branch has plenty of activities to keep members busy. For example, the golf group has almost 70 members shared with Branch 15, also of Amador County. A very active fishing club makes local trips and is planning on a busy season. The Bowling group is rolling along with another state-wide bowling tournament scheduled and the RV drivers, and their families, have their motors revved up for several trips during the coming year.

Lee, a past Big Sir for the branch, is also an assistant Travel Chairman, speaks fluent German and will be the tour guide for a trip to Germany this fall. He just returned from leading a New Years Eve trip to San Antonio, Texas with 32 members and guests. Trips are also planned for a cruise to Hawaii and a 12 day cruise of the Mexican Riviera escorted by Travel Chairman **Gary DeRosa.**"



Happenings Travel Bulletin

June 2008

June 6-19, 2008

Baltic Heritage Cruise

An exciting adventure through the mystical ports of the Baltic Sea aboard the grand and beautiful new CROWN PRINCESS. We fly from San Jose to Copenhagen for a two night stay and a full day tour of Hans Christian Andersen land prior to setting sail for Stockholm, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Gdansk, Oslo and back to Copenhagen for our flight home. Prices range from \$3,990 to \$4,960 PPDO. Offered by Areas 5 & 20. Call **Allen Daily** at 408-265-8140.

July 2008

July 8-15, 2008

Calgary Stampede

Enjoy the excitement of the Calgary Stampede, one of the greatest outdoor shows on earth. Also, visit other attractions like Lake Louise and the Kootenay Rockies. R/t air, 7 nights and all meals included. Cost is \$2375 PPDO. Offered by Area 33 Travel. Call **Barney Gruber** at 916-663-3537.



August 2008

August 16-24, 2008

Trains of the Colorado Rockies

Nine Day trip with 12 meals. Some of the highlights are: Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park, Georgetown Loop Railroad, Vail, Durango & Silverton Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park, Royal George Railroad, and Pike's Peak Cog Railroad. Cost is \$2199 PPDO. Offered by Branch 117. Call **Tony Praxel** at 916-285-9656.

September 2008

September 5-14, 2008

Grand Alaska Land Tour

The Grand Alaska escorted land tour is an experience of a lifetime. See spectacular mountains and valleys; watch wildlife and sea life in their natural habitat and view enormous glaziers. This is the perfect tour for previous cruisers to Alaska. We will travel to Anchorage, Veldez, Fairbanks, and Denali National Park. Trip includes all air transportation, most meals, professional tour manager, round trip transportation to Bay Area airport, and other amenities. Price is \$3090 PPDO. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call **John Hoffmann** at 707-642-4925.



September 7-11, 2008

The Big Apple

There is no place quite like New York and September is the very best time to see it. Trip includes all transportation, accommodations at the Edison Hotel -- right in the heart of Times Square --two Broadway shows, guided tours, and much more. Cost is \$1848 PPDO. Offered by Branch 143 Travel. Call **Bill Torrens** at 209-667-0244.



September 13-27, 2008

Grand Tour of Germany

From the Alps to the North Sea, the Black Forest and Rhine Valley, to the once divided Berlin ...discover the varied regions of this European power-house, with an exciting blend of culture, cities, rivers, and Bavarian charm. The trip is extensive, but leisurely paced. Price is \$3660 PPDO. Offered by Branch 96 Travel. Call **Lee Suess** at 209-296-2235.

September 18-27, 2008

A Taste of Northern Italy

A 10 day adventure through Northern Italy. The trip includes: The Lake District, Cinque Terre, and a visit with Leonardo DaVinci's Last Supper. Cost is \$2999 PPDO, including air from SFO and 13 meals. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Michael Clark** at 650-347-0919.

September 21-October 2, 2008

Mexican Riviera Cruise

A 12 day round-trip cruise from San Francisco aboard the Norwegian Sun with visits to Mazatlan, Acapulco, Ixtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas. Prices range from \$1260 to \$1682 PPDO. Offered by Area 7 Travel. Call **Paul Peters** at 510-724-8345.

September 25-October 10, 2008

River Cruise on the Rhine & Danube

A 16 day River Cruise beginning in Budapest, Hungary and finishing in Amsterdam. Our journey will take you to 11 cities in Hungary, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. You'll explore the regal splendor of Budapest, meander along the fabled "Blue Danube" to Vienna, transit the Main-Danube Canal and glide past Germany's castles (during Oktoberfest) to the canals of Holland. All meals, tours and flights are included. Cost is \$4,515 PPDO. Offered by Branch 172 Travel. Call **Earl Nelson** at 209-586-5661.



Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email **Don MacGregor** at: donmac95@comcast.net

Happenings Travel Bulletin

October 2008

October 1-6, 2008 Washington D.C.



Visit Arlington National Cemetery, the White House, the Capital, major monuments, cruise the Potomac, and see a performance at the Kennedy Center. Cost is \$2170 PPDO. Offered by Branch 179 Travel. Call **Richard Beers** at 559-431-3728.

October 6-19, 2008 Danube Dream

Glide past fairy-tale castles and medieval villages aboard the river cruise ship, MS Switzerland II, traveling the second longest river in Europe. Take in views of the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, and Hungary. Many shore excursions are included with visits to interesting cities and historic sites. Trip includes r/t air from SFO to Budapest, with return from Prague. Prices range from \$3415 to \$3660 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call **Bob Hagler** at 925-934-7620.

October 24-November 4, 2008 Cruise the Mexican Riviera

Cruise aboard the Norwegian Sun, roundtrip from San Francisco. Ports of call will be: Mazatlan, Acapulco, Zihuatejo/Xtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas. This trip has real bargain rates, so, it will go fast. Prices range from only \$1035 to \$1580 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Paul Thiebaut** at 925-345-9375.



November 2008

November 3-15, 2008 Vietnam & Thailand

A 13 day adventure that will take you to Ho Chi Minh City, the Mekong Delta and Halong Bay in Vietnam and then to sites in Thailand. Price includes r/t air, hotels, breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Cost is \$3885 PPDO. Offered by Branch 146. Call **Bob Spellman** at 925-934-8428.

November 4-23 2008 Exotic Cruise to Santiago Chile

A 19 day cruise aboard the Norwegian Sun from San Francisco. Nine ports of call, including: Acapulco, Mexico—Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala—Puntarenas, Costa Rica—Quito (Manta), Ecuador—Lima (Callao), Peru—Arica, Chile—La Serna (Coquimbo), Chile—and Santiago. Prices range from \$3148 to \$3678 PPDO. Offered by Branches 20, 36, 85, and 104 Travel. Call **Tom Cutting** at 831-476-9725.

December 2008

December 13-22, 2008 Galapagos and More!!

This trip will include the famous Otavalo Market before getting on board the Coral II for 5 days of touring the Archipelago. There will be a full-time naturalist to answer our questions and be our guide. The ship limits passengers to 20 and will be exclusive for SIR on this trip. Prices range from \$4120 to \$4425 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call **Ray Kriess** at 650-968-4299.



December 29, 2008-January 2, 2009 New Years Eve at the Beautiful Gaylord Opryland Resort

One of our most wonderful trips ever, was several years ago, to this magnificent resort. Price includes: all four nights at the resort, four breakfasts, dinner cruise aboard the General Jackson, performance at the Grand Ole Opry, gala New Years Eve party and much more. Cost is \$1765 PPDO. Offered by Branch 143 Travel. Call **Bill Torrens** at 209-667-0244.



January 2009

January 25 - February 10, 2009 Cruise from Australia to New Zealand

Cruise from Australia to New Zealand on board the Diamond Princess. Two-night, pre-cruise stay in Sydney. Some of the ports of call: Melbourne, Fjordland National Park, Dunedin, Christchurch, and Tauranga. Trip Includes r/t air and guided tours of both Sydney and Auckland. Prices range from \$4190 to \$5470 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **Werner Schlapfer** at 925-443-8291.

Editors Note: We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this feature in Happenings will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs.

To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on these travel pages was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

Area 10 Aptos and Santa Cruz

Vying for Bragging Rights

Jack Kemerling, PR Chairman Branch 104

“The red one is closest” – “No, the green one is” – “Okay, measure it!” ...these are the phrases often repeated as Bocce competition heats up between two SIR Branches. Since early last fall, teams from Branch 20 (Santa Cruz) and 104 (Aptos), have been meeting on the first and third Wednesdays at Boccis’ Cellar, where they can play Bocce, and also enjoy good food, a brew, and great camaraderie ...some of the players are shown in the lower picture.

Captains **Sterling Frost** and **Jack Roberts** (Branch 20) and **Tony LoBue** (Branch 104) have their teams vying for bragging rights to the “Fence Post,” a SIR themed trophy where the yearly winners are to be engraved.



Bocce is again growing in popularity in the Santa Cruz area. There are new municipal double courts in Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley. In addition, several mobile home parks have, or are planning on replacing their unused Shuffleboard courts with Bocce courts.



Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the “Happenings” notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue.

Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

Looking for some toe-tapping fun over the Memorial Day Weekend?
The 35th Annual

Sacramento Jazz Jubilee is the place to be!

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee swings over the Memorial Day weekend from Friday, May 23rd through Monday, May 26th. The event is a fun party, with some of the best jazz you will ever hear, plus lots of good food and drink.



A variety of discounted tickets are again



available to Sirs.

For information and tickets, call Jim Fusaro at (916) 428-5719 or email him at jim4jazz@comcast.net. Jim will be glad to send tickets to any Branch on consignment.



SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

AUGUST 2008

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

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

President Art's Column

A reminder: available to all of our Branches is the ability to honor those individuals who have contributed to the best interests of their branch and the SIR organization. It seems that many branches are unaware that they have the means to honor their own members. To arrange for these awards, contact Sir **Otto Zimmermann**, State Awards and Certificates.

While on the subject of awards, let me suggest that when preparing the application for an Honorary Life Membership Award (HLM), that in addition to the Form 45, please include a resume of the contributions the candidate has made to the Branch over the past five years. This greatly helps to expedite the approval and processing of your application. The HLM is further distinctive in that only the President or his designated representative may present the highest honor in Sons In Retirement.

Here is a reminder to all Big Sirs: our Annual Meeting is August 4, 2008, at the Vallejo Elks Lodge. I look forward to greeting all Big Sirs or where necessary, their representative chosen by their Branch Executive Committee. Registration for the Annual Meeting will take place from 9:00 am until 9:55 am in the lobby. Paper name-tags, with a sticky background, will be passed out at the time of registration.

To help keep our State records current, it is very important that all Branches notify Sir **Gary Gruber**, State INFOSYS Committee, when an Honorary Life Member is no longer active. This gives your Branch an opportunity to recommend a new HLM. Also, please notify Sir Gruber of any changes in your meeting place.

As soon as you are notified that your HLM candidate is approved, please contact me, so a date for presentation of the award can be mutually arranged. My calendar for these events fills up very quickly.

I hope all of you are having a good summer, despite the high price of gas and smoke-filled air.

My personal regards,

Art

An Editorial

Baby Boomers Needed! They are Essential if we want a Bright Future for Sons In Retirement

We all know that membership in this great organization has been on the decline for a number of years. One of the reasons for this decline may be that we have not been targeting that vast group of men called "Baby Boomers" for membership in SIR. We would like to feature stories about young retirees and even start a "Boomers" column or a special section in future editions of Happenings. We thought a program that was just initiated by Region 9 Director **Jim Petruk** might be of interest to our readers.



Jim is personally offering a cash reward to his Big Sirs and their Branch to use however they choose, for sending in an interesting story about a Baby Boomer in the Branch. They have twelve Branches in Region 9, with over 1800 members. He is looking for three interesting stories about young members, with the first prize story receiving \$75; the second prize story \$50; and the third prize \$25. The best three young retiree or Baby Boomer stories will be selected by Jim, assisted by the Editor of SIR Happenings, and then they will be published in the state newsletter. This reward offering is for the month of July only, and the money will be paid-out by Jim, on or before the fourth week of August.

You can find out more about Jim's program by contacting him at petrukj@pacbell.net. If you have interesting suggestions on how to get younger fellows to join SIR, let us know.

Sirs in the News

Rocklin Branch 98

A Chef's Chef

Tom Werth, Branch Member

Branch 98 — in conjunction with its annual “Lady’s Day Celebration” — was privileged to honor long time member **Jon Greenwalt** as an Honorary Life Member. Jon has served Branch 98 in many capacities, including Big Sir, but is probably most appreciated for the many years that he and his lovely wife, Doris, have provided the outstanding food for the annual Branch picnic. Jon has been recognized throughout Northern California as the “Chef’s Chef,” and has been honored by his gastronomical peers for his life long contributions to the culinary arts.

Area 15 Governor, **Ronald Ross**, made the presentation to Jon. Region 9 Director **Jim Petruk** is shown in the picture with **Jon Greenwalt**.



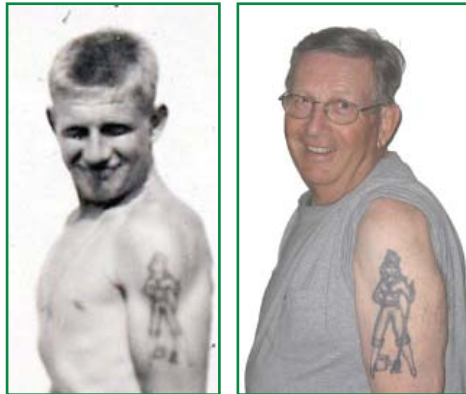
Pony Express Branch 69

Tattoos

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Branch 69 is having a lot of fun with a contest that is running in the Branch Newsletter (“The Mailbag”). Each month we publish a picture of one of the members when he was a young man. Then we pose the question, “Who Is That Kid?” Answers are submitted by filling out an entry blank and depositing it in the “Kid Bucket” at the luncheon. The correct answer receives a bottle of wine. If there is more than one winner, a drawing is held amongst the winning entries. In the next issue of the newsletter, the Kid’s picture — along with a current picture — are shown side by side.

Typical of the pictures is the one shown of our Area Governor **George Christman** proudly showing off his new tattoo in 1950 and how it has aged in 58 years.



Upper Bay Branch 123, Vallejo

Honorary Life Membership

Ed Wright, Big Sir

State President **Art Pufford** attended one of our Branch luncheons to present an Honorary Life Membership certificate to **Jack Krisha**. Jack was also quite surprised when his wife, Joan, came up and presented the distinctive lapel pin to him.

Jack Krisha has been a member of Branch 123 for twenty-two years and has served as the Branch Secretary for the past fourteen years. During his tenure, he was instrumental in bringing computer technology to the operation of the Branch and his extensive knowledge of SIR rules have been of immense help to the Branch. He has often filled in when key people in the Branch are absent and has performed those duties admirably. The Branch is very fortunate to have a person of his caliber.

Area Governor **James Bible** took the picture showing from left to right: President **Art Pufford**, **Jack Krisha** and Big Sir **Ed Wright**.



Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Over Age 90 Honored

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Four members reaching the age of 90 were recently honored with a President’s Award presented by Area 22 Governor **Julius Manrique** (shown standing in the center of the picture). Those receiving the award are from left to right: **Herve DeBlois**, **James Reed**, **Ernie Burgi** and **Larry Grandt**.

James is a former treasurer for the Branch. Larry is an Honorary Life Member, a former Big Sir, and was also the branch newsletter editor. He is still very active in the branch, selling luncheon tickets and greeting members as they enter and does this even though he has suffered from ill health the past few years.



Sirs in the News

Los Gatos Branch 141

HLM awarded

Frank McMillan, Bulletin Editor

Lowell Clark (left foreground) was awarded an Honorary Life Membership at the June luncheon meeting.

Presiding at the ceremony were: Vice President **Dave Reiser** (at the lectern) – flanked by Region 7 Director **Gary Pelton** (on the left) – and Area 5 Governor **Richard Kabanek** (on the right).

Lowell has been a member of Branch 141 since the Branch was chartered and has held the post of Golf Chairman for twenty years. An active participant in many Branch activities, he also served as its Big Sir in 1994.



Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Gold Fraternity

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Branch 94 has a 13 year tradition of honoring members who have been married for 50 years or longer and we call it our “Gold Fraternity.” Three members and their spouses were honored during our Ladies’ Day Luncheon. They are left to right in the picture: **Roger** and **Marva Prow**, **John** and **Hugheen Cabri**, and **Dave** and **Germaine Zink**.



San Benito Branch 131, Hollister

100 Years Young

Phil Freeland, Bulletin Editor

Gene Carbone (seated) is shown accepting the President’s award, which was presented jointly by (L to R) – Region 7 Director **Gary Pelton** – Branch 131 Big Sir **Paul Ambruster** – and State Vice President **Dave Reiser** – in recognition and celebration of Gene’s 100th birthday.

Gene has been a loyal member of Branch 131 for many years and has garnered several awards for attendance during that time. He celebrated his 100th birthday on March 2nd and remains mobile, sharp, and possessed of a wicked sense of humor ...**Happy Birthday**, Gene, with many more to follow!



Sonora Branch 136

Ancient Ones

Newt McKenna, Bulletin Editor

Sonora Branch 136 recently honored its 13 oldest members. The “Senior Sirs,” ranging in age from 90 to 94, were: **Dusty Rhodes**, **Al Cassidy**, **Arnold Berk**, **Newt McKenna**, **Gaylon Smith**, **Otto Bertel**, **Frank Brown**, **John Emerson**, **Sanford Grober**, and **Jim McKay**. **Holly Rice** (99) and **Frank Economou** (97) were honored as “Super Senior Sirs.” The “Century Sir” was 100-year-old, **Elwood Johnson**, who helped form the branch in 1986. Region 27 Director **Norm Whitsed** is shown presenting the “Super Senior” plaque to **Elwood Johnson**. Elwood is certainly amazing for his age ...would you believe his driving license is good until 2011.



State Sports

Indian Valley Branch 68, San Rafael

Bowling Team Champs

Hans Sommer, Bulletin Editor

The Branch 68 bowling team includes **George Pelmear** (168 average), **Hans Sommer** (154 average), **Bob Hiday** (123 average) and newcomer **Charles Salinas** (105 average). In a league of 14 four-man teams, Branch 68 managed to put together some outstanding bowling to capture the Area 6 league championship for the 2007/2008 season.

It was a close competition right to the very end, with contenders from Branches 47 and 134 right on our heels. It was only due to a valiant effort, including four 200+ games by the Branch 68 team in the final playoff competition, that they were able to become the victors.

The most important thing is that the entire 34 week bowling season was great fun for all the bowlers and an incentive to look forward to the next bowling season beginning in the fall.

Shown in the picture is the Branch 68 bowling team consisting of (from left to right) **Bob Hiday**, **Charles Salinas**, **Hans Sommer**, and **George Pelmear**.



State Bowling

William "Coop" Cooper, State Bowling Chairman

The bowling season will be starting up again in September. Be sure and join a team or two and check out the SIR website for all the up-coming SIR tournaments. Come out and meet some of the Sirs that you don't have the chance to see very often.

Well, USBC is doing it again ...they are moving their headquarters to Arlington, Texas. Also, there is a project to build another national stadium in Florida. If this is accomplished, there will then be one on the East Coast and one on the West Coast ...personally, I would like to see a national stadium in Hawaii

The Senior State Tournament will be in Fresno this year. Check your local bowling center for applications or contact Bill Cooper (707-762-3083).

You are never too old to bowl. The oldest I have heard of, just passed away ...he was 105!

KEEP ON BOWLING!!

Coop

State Golf

Dave Betts, Chairman, State Golf Committee

Please visit our State Golf Committee website:

www.sirstategolf.com, for a complete update on all of our tournaments and the many things that are going on in State Golf.

Dave

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Knickers Golf Tournament

Paul Murphy, Program & PR Chairman

It was one of those perfect golf days at the Mace Meadow Golf and Country Club in Amador County, when the Branch 15 & 96 Golf Club held its first annual "Knickers Golf Tournament." **Sam Mazza**, Tournament Director, organized this very successful event with over 32 players participating.

Shown in the picture are the many players that dressed in the latest "Knickers" wear. Left to right **Candy Sanchez**, **Don Paris**, **Howard Blethen**, **Sam Mazza**, **Chi Chi Chavoya**, **Joe Dyke**, **Dave Porter**, **Bill Dufrane**, and **Johnny Medina**.



State Sports

SIR Day at the Oakland Athletics vs. the Tampa Bay Rays

August 14 (Thursday) at 12:35pm

for info call **Mel Augustine** (510) 524-4952



SIR Day at the SF Giants vs. the Florida Marlins

August 21 (Thursday) at 12:45pm

for info call **Chuck Roberts** (408) 243-6717



SIR day with the Oakland Raiders vs. the New York Jets at the Coliseum
October 19 (Sunday) at 1:15pm.

News from the Branches

Mission Branch 32, San Jose

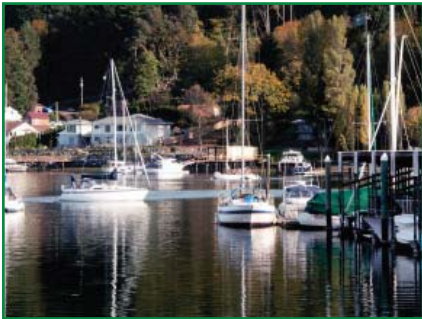
Camera Club

Dan Roberts, Bulletin Editor

The Mission Branch Camera Club was started in April of last year. Its purpose is to have fun and learn something about Digital Photography. The group meets once a month and has gone on two field trips with the winning photos being published in the Branch Newsletter. The best pictures taken by the members are selected and published in the Newsletter ...shown



is an example of the fine work of one of our members taken at Hakone Japanese Gardens. Also shown is a view of Gig Harbor, Washington.



So far, we have had meetings to discuss "Post processing of digital photos" and a session given by one of the members on the "Ken Burns Effect," which is a means of giving still photos the appearance of motion. The next

meeting will be a session on "How to make a Power Point Presentation." The group was also given the responsibility of photographing all the members of Branch 32 for the Membership Roster.

Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

If the Pole Ain't Bending ...you're just Pretending

Jim Petruk, Region 9 Director & Branch Member

Ron Roskauff is shown holding up a load of fish caught on a trip to Lake Oroville with eleven other members of the Branch 37 Rooster Tails Fishing Club. Ron and **John Hess** fished together, catching this nice string of Land-Locked Salmon and his "T" shirt pretty well sums up that lively day of fishing.



Area 2

These Guys Catch Lots of Fish

Terry Miller, Fishing Group Chairman

The Area 2 Fishing Group has been very active, despite the big winds. Fishing for halibut in the bay on a party boat were **Craig Walton, Joe Peterson, Tom Boltz, Harry Sherinian, Terry Miller, Dick Thomson, Pete Gates** and **Carl Moyer**. The first trip was very successful, with 14 halibut and 6 strippers including a hefty 20 pound striper caught by Miller.

We had a very successful return trip to Shadow Cliffs Reservoir catching over 20 feisty trout, followed by a picnic. Attending were **John Hayes, Jack Waddell, Joe Miscione** as well as Sherinian, Walton, Peterson, Moyer and Boltz.

Seven dauntless Sirs went north to Lake Almanor for 3 days of trout trolling. The first two days were sparse, but the third day they landed some nice Rainbows and Browns ...fishing there were **Romano Gnusti, Karl Droese, George Schultse**, in addition to Boltz, Miller, Walton, and Hayes. Walton and Peterson fished the Sacramento River on a rare windless day for 3 strippers.

Paul Dubow and Moyer fished for sturgeon the same day, and Paul caught a big 60 inch sturgeon (see picture) that put up a good fight. Droese and Moyer fished the next day at Shadow Cliffs for quick limits of trout. **Kent Cremolini** fished with a guide in the upper Sacramento River for a lot of strippers weighing up to 26 lbs.

We have an exciting agenda for 2008, with trips to the delta for strippers and sturgeon, fly fishing for trout in various rivers, New Melones for Kokanee, Lake Tahoe for Mackinaw, the Bay for Halibut, a Fishing Group Day at the Races, and an evening social at an Irish Pub should be lots of fun.

All SIR members and guests are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to participate in our fishing trips as well as attend our monthly meetings, which are held at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course ...meetings start at 8:30 am. For further information, please contact **Craig Walton** (Big Fish) at 925-937-4876, or **Terry Miller** (Fish Coordinator) at 925-686-9298, or **Joe Peterson** (Secretary/Treasurer) at 916-777-5363.



News from the Branches

Miwok Branch 134, San Rafael

Shad Fishing

Bill Cline, Fishing Group Chairman

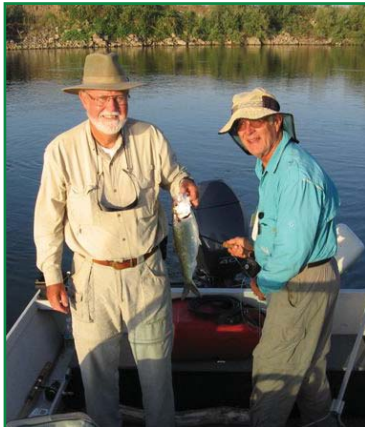
Three anglers from the fly-fishing group – **Brian Stompe**, **Bill Cline** and Big Sir **Fred Holmes** – went fishing for shad on the Sacramento River near Willows in late May. They stayed at a “boat-in” riverside camp that the Stompe family has been using for years. Brian picked us up at the Ord Bend launch, after his family left from spending almost a week on the river, and we stayed three more days. It was a fantastic trip ...the weather was hot – but not blistering hot – the mosquitoes were present – but not oppressive – and the companionship was first class.

The shad had not yet arrived in massive numbers that far up the river, but we caught enough fish to make it a successful fishing trip. I caught six shad, including a big one that might have gone 21 inches. In the picture, I’m holding up my catch and Fred Holmes is standing on the right. Brian probably caught twice that many, and Fred did about as well as I did. As is traditional in fishing, the shad seemed to be arriving just as we were leaving.

One of the highlights was Brian preparing our catch to eat ...shad are not normally considered prime table

fare. Brian prepared shad roe, dredged in flour and fried along with fried eggs for breakfast and it was excellent. He also barbecued a whole shad and once he separated out the bones, it was quite tasty.

All in all, it was an excellent trip and if the fly fishing group comes up with more trips like this, it will be very popular for the more adventurous among us.



Los Gatos Branch 141

Things get Crazy at Branch 141

Frank McMillan, Bulletin Editor

Branch 141 in Los Gatos has a unique tradition called Crazy Shirt Day, which is celebrated annually at the June meeting. As the name implies, Crazy Shirt Day gives every Branch member a chance to wear a shirt that he would most likely not wear anywhere else – and thereby, become a candidate for a prize.

This year’s top winner was **Carl Stalions**, (shown on the left in the photo), whose shirt proclaimed in bold face type: **“Warning! Retiree knows it all and has plenty of time to tell you about it.”** Second place went to **Jim Hill** (on the right) and **Vince Paoli** won third prize (in the middle).

Judges were **Ray Dollar**, **George McCarthy** and **Frank Basuino**.

Area 22

Spring Training

Don Reed, Branch 103 Bulletin Editor

The bus trip to Spring Training in Scottsdale, Arizona started in Modesto early on the morning of March 12 and returned on the evening of the 17th. The tour was really a great one! The group was busy from morning until night, touring the city, visiting the home of Frank Lloyd Wright, baseball games, shows, lunches, a barbecue, dinners, casinos and even a lovely snowfall on the way home ...in fact the trip was so good, that there are plans for scheduling it again next year.

Bill Torrens, Area 22 Travel Chairman and his wife, Esther – as usual – provided the SIR group of 51 people with many hours of pleasure and enjoyment. They had an overnight in Palm Springs, with rest stops at several places along the route. They saw two ballgames: one in Scottsdale Stadium and one in Phoenix Municipal Stadium. **Donna** and **Charlie Fox** are seen in the picture enjoying the game at Scottsdale Stadium where the Giants beat the Arizona Cardinals. The group attended a wonderful dinner show (Hello Dolly) in Meza, took a guided tour of Phoenix, and had an enjoyable dinner at Arizona Opry in Apache Junction ...which is known for its masterful music and food. They took a tour of Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright’s winter home, and now a functioning architect school in Scottsdale.

Leaving the Phoenix area, they traveled through Kingman where they encountered a spring snowstorm before having lunch at the

Cracker Barrel. They stayed over night in Las Vegas at the Golden Nugget Casino and Hotel, where they enjoyed the Fremont Street light show.

Leaving Las Vegas, the group headed home on the Storer bus, with always expert driver, David. In Barstow, a steak barbecue lunch was enjoyed at the Idle Spurs Steak House on old Highway 58 ...**WOW...WHAT A TRIP!**



News from the Branches

LaMorinda Branch 171, Moraga

Setting the Pace

Ted Westphal, Activities Coordinator

Branch 171 is continually increasing membership and adding new activity groups. Our current roster stands at a healthy 276 members, with another 56 “members in waiting.” On average each month, 240 members and guests enjoy a great lunch and fine speakers at the Serbian Orthodox Church in Moraga ...and we’re a very active branch with 20 separate “activity groups,” including two rather unusual new groups, which were organized just this year.

The first of these, a “Model Railroading group,” held its first meeting at Chairman **George McClain’s** home in Lafayette, where George has dedicated a large area in his own backyard to an extensive outdoor G-scale – garden – model railroad. His rolling stock stays out of the elements in a side-yard shed, which connects to the back yard layout and then meanders over live creeks, through model towns, up and over mountainous terrain and trellises—all built and under the control of George—plus, of course, his grandchildren, and now one of our new Branch activity groups.

Just recently, the Model Railroading Group went on a most interesting “behind the scenes” tour of the Redwood Valley Steam Trains located in Berkeley’s Tilden Park. Ellen Thomsen, whose father Erich Thomsen created the popular attraction, was our excellent guide. She leads a dedicated group of steam train enthusiasts who plan, build, and operate everything the public now enjoys. Inside their “round-house” we were fascinated to see their four working steam engines – all of which were built from scratch on site – and to learn how they actually work.

In the photo, the Model Railroading Group is inside Tilden Park’s Steam Trains’ round-house, standing in front of steam engine #7.



Left to right in the photo are: **Don Merson, Al Dessayer, Bob Reidelberger, George McLain** (group leader), **Ellen Thomsen** (tour guide), and **John Schick**.

Our new “Historical Interest Group,” chaired by Sir **Rich Sjoberg**, recently spent two highly informative hours on a private docent-led tour of the historic Mt. View Cemetery at the end of Piedmont Avenue in Oakland. It was a big surprise to most of us to learn that Mt. View was beautifully laid out way back in 1863 by Frederick Olmsted, who also designed New York’s Central Park ...Olmsted’s original cemetery layout remains exactly the same today.

Although only a fraction of the cemetery’s 226 acres were visited, we were led to several impressive monuments and were amazed to learn about the cemetery’s dozens of famous residents including Charles Crocker—one of the “big four” railroad tycoons (in the photo next to the tomb, **Rich Sjoberg**,

the group leader is wearing the straw hat) – Henry J. Kaiser – the Bechtel family – architects, Julia Morgan and Bernard Maybeck – Henry Durant, the founding President of UC – and Francis “Borax” Smith who, among other things, built the Claremont Hotel. There are countless other famous pioneers buried at Mt. View, including more former California Governors than are buried in all other cemeteries combined.

There is no question that Branch 171 is very much alive and well!



Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

Let’s Go Walking

Harry Tutton, Branch Member

In 1998 **John Lewis** and his wife, Flo, founded the “Walkers” group because they enjoyed walking so much and wanted to go walking with SIR friends and their wives. Ten years later, John and Flo are still walking with original members, **Bob** and **Donna Madge, Ralph** and **Charlotte Fowler, Pablo** and **Adelaide Chavez** and a group that now numbers 20 to 25 people for the weekly Friday walk.

While all the walkers are encouraged to suggest where to go on future walks, John and Flo have planned the route for most of the walks over the years. Some of the memorable walks have been to Black Diamond Mines, east of Mount Diablo—inside the Caldecott Tunnel—over the Golden Gate Bridge—to the Berkeley Marina Aquatic Park—across the new Carquinez Bridge (see picture) – on board the USS Hornet – to the Old Borges Ranch – and around Treasure Island.

A typical Friday begins at 9:30 am at a site announced in the Branch 146 Bulletin, with the walk lasting an hour and covering about three miles. After that, the walkers all gather at a convenient coffee shop to relax after the morning outing...on some of the longer walks to distant sites, the group has lunch together.

The key to the success of the “Walkers” group has been including the wives, who are strongly encouraged to come along to enjoy a morning of walking, as well as nurturing friendships that have lasted for years. The group encourages all SIR Branches to start a walking group ...it’s a lot of fun!



Branch Summer Parties

Salinas Branch 56

Picnic in Salinas

Bill Baltezar, Big Sir

Early on the morning of May 20, **Ray Morasca** – former Big Sir of Branch 56 – heads out to Toro Park on Highway 68 to prepare for the May barbeque. Since 1990, Ray and his crew have made this same trek twice a year in order to provide Branch 56 with the best barbeques anywhere.

By 8:30 am the fire is started and soon the grill is covered with steaks and chicken. Salads are being prepared, beans are cooking, and garlic bread waits its turn on the grill in this little bit of heaven, where massive oaks provide shade and wild turkeys sometime join the party. This year we had unwelcome guests in the form of oak worms ...next year we hope they will stay far, far away.

By 11 am members and their wives begin to arrive, bringing with them a great array of homemade pies, cakes and cookies. By now the sun has peaked out from the clouds, so members shed their ski jackets, some dancing to the familiar music of Artie Shaw and Glen Miller playing on the giant speakers ...others visiting with their friends. Standing in front of the SIR welcoming sign are left to right: Picnic Chairman **Ray Morasca**, past



Big Sir **Otis Hollibaugh** –and Big Sir **Bill Baltezar**.

At high noon, the dinner bell sounds and chow-hounds head to the service line for steaks, chicken, beans, salsa, salad, garlic bread and the delicious desserts.

A basket of strawberries is given to each wife who provided a dessert. A “raffle” follows and most members take home a gift of a pie, a cake or a batch of cookies, provided by Ray.

So ends another glorious barbeque with SIR Branch 56. We’ll be back for another one in September.

Chico Branch 63

Ladies’ Day in Chico

Gerald Morelock, Bulletin Editor

Branch 63 had a great Ladies’ Day luncheon with good attendance and entertainment from a wonderful singing group called “CHIC”...the Women’s Quartet and A Cappella Choir from Chico High School. These 4 young ladies performed numerous songs of George Gershwin and many other favorites of Branch members.



Everyone enjoyed the fine filet mignon lunch with all the trimmings. Each lady received a ticket and during the luncheon, ticket numbers were drawn and great prizes were distributed to the winning ladies. All in all, the ladies were treated to a very special and memorable “Ladies Day.”

River City Branch 117, Sacramento

Ladies’ Day in Sacramento

Don Flath, Big Sir

Branch 117 had a great Ladies’ Day Luncheon with approximately 101 in attendance. The meal was Prime Rib along with peas/carrots, salad, pasta and carrot cake for dessert. Our own “Singing Sirs” sang a couple of great Barbershop tunes, followed by 45 minutes of fun entertainment by the “Sisters of Swing.”

One of the highlights of the affair was when the Sisters of Swing invited editor **Al Williams** up on the stage and singing a love song to him, while proceeding to confiscate his wallet, money, keys and possibly his checkbook ...it almost brought the house down.

A great time was had by all and many hung around for quite awhile afterwards, just talking and having a good old time.



Fresno Branch 159

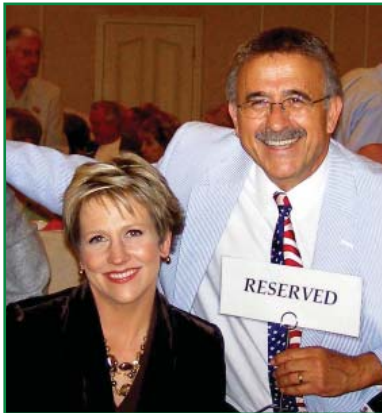
Ladies' Day in Fresno

George Gianopulos, Little Sir

Two hundred and twelve gathered for the annual Ladies' Day Luncheon at Pardini's Restaurant. This event is always a treat for the wives and Branch members.

Big Sir **Reg Rosander** welcomed attendees and thanked the luncheon planning committee for all its efforts in putting on the luncheon. Then after lunch Little Sir **George Gianopulos** introduced the program.

Featured were **Kim Stephens** and **Kopi Sotiropulos**, co-hosts of the popular "Great Day" television program, a daily early morning show seen on the local Fox TV channel. Kim Stephens told the group about her early days in TV, working in various venues around the country ...sometimes news anchor ... sometimes a talk-show host. Sotiropulos is well known in the Fresno area for his former weatherman roll on the evening news ...now he entertains on the morning talk show. His presentation brought lots of laughter and fun. The footage he took during the luncheon was shown the following morning on his "Great Day" program and our members and their wives saw themselves laughing, waving, and shouting the Kopi-Show Epitaph.



The day's program wound up with drawings for prizes and now everyone is looking forward to our next party in December.

In the picture below, Big Sir **Reg Rosander** (L) and Little Sir **George Gianopulos** (R) are shown presenting a plaque to **Kopi Sotiropulos** (in the center) in appreciation of his entertaining performance.



Miwok Branch 134, San Rafael

Traveling Bridge Group

Dick Crocker, Bulletin Editor

Back in 1989, Larry Daniels took the floor at the monthly luncheon and pronounced: "There are other men beside golfers in this Branch and I am asking those who are interested in playing bridge to see me after lunch." Upon phoning those that indicated an interest, he invariably talked with the spouse who said... "we are interested!"

The following January found three tables of bridge assembled for the kickoff. Sirs Bassett, Bream, Daniels, Deadman, Norman, and Scarborough and their spouses were the players. In February they acquired a seventh couple, the Oliviers, to serve as substitutes. It didn't take too long to decide that going away for a few days of bridge was a good idea, so a visit to Asilomar in Pacific Grove started the travels of the Bridge Group and the trips have continued ever since. Nine months of the year play is held in a member's home. In 1991, enroute to Reno, the group elected Al Olivier Chairman of the group. Each year he resigns, but is unanimously reelected ...he claims it is because he is the only one who can add.



The first year only the one trip took place. Since then, the scheduled trips have numbered about three per year. These three-day trips – usually Tuesday through Thursday – begin with happy-hour in the late afternoon, followed by dinner. Normally four tables are involved and Tuesday consists of four rounds of five hands each. Wednesday morning and evening again are four rounds each with sleep, relaxation, or shopping filling Wednesday afternoon. Thursday morning sees the final three rounds played, the scores totaled, prizes distributed, and the bleary-eyed card players heading home.

It did not take long for other bridge players to come out of the woodwork and the result was a second bridge group. In 1991, Don Kirkner, who was a "traveling squad" member of the first group and Don Smith formed "The Younger Group." Smith and Kirkner were joined by Sirs Johnson, DeWolf, Minor, and Presenti and they joined the travelers on a number of their trips.

The group has taken about 53 trips over the last seven years to such places as San Francisco, Healdsburg, Bodega Bay, Reno, and Sonora. It then became somewhat automatic to refer to the bridge group as *The Traveling Bridge Group*.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

September 2008

September 5-14, 2008

Grand Alaska Land Tour

The Grand Alaska escorted land tour is an experience of a lifetime. See spectacular mountains and valleys; watch wildlife and sea life in their natural habitat and view enormous glaciers. This is the perfect tour for previous cruisers to Alaska. We will travel to Anchorage, Valdez, Fairbanks, and Denali National Park. Trip includes all air transportation, most meals, professional tour manager, round trip transportation to Bay Area airport, and other amenities. Price is \$3090 PPDO. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call **John Hoffmann** at 707-642-4925.



September 7-11, 2008

The Big Apple

There is no place quite like New York and September is the very best time to see it. Trip includes all transportation, accommodations at the Edison Hotel -- right in the heart of Times Square --two Broadway shows, guided tours, and much more. Cost is \$1848 PPDO. Offered by Branch 143 Travel. Call **Bill Torrens** at 209-667-0244.



September 13-27, 2008
Grand Tour of Germany

From the Alps to the North Sea, the Black Forest and Rhine Valley, to the once divided Berlin ...discover the varied regions of this European power-house, with an exciting blend of culture, cities, rivers, and Bavarian charm. The trip is extensive, but leisurely paced. Price is \$3660 PPDO. Offered by Branch 96 Travel. Call **Lee Suess** at 209-296-2235.

September 18-27, 2008
A Taste of Northern Italy

A 10 day adventure through Northern Italy. The trip includes: The Lake District, Cinque Terre, and a visit with Leonardo DaVinci's Last Supper. Cost is \$2999 PPDO, including air from SFO and 13 meals. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Michael Clark** at 650-347-0919.

September 21-October 2, 2008
Mexican Riviera Cruise

A 12 day round-trip cruise from San Francisco aboard the Norwegian Sun with visits to Mazatlan, Acapulco, Ixtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas. Prices range from \$1260 to \$1682 PPDO. Offered by Area 7 Travel. Call **Paul Peters** at 510-724-8345.

September 25-October 10, 2008

River Cruise on the Rhine & Danube

A 16 day River Cruise beginning in Budapest, Hungary and finishing in Amsterdam. Our journey will take you to 11 cities in Hungary, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. You'll explore the regal splendor of Budapest, meander along the fabled "Blue Danube" to Vienna, transit the Main-Danube Canal and glide past Germany's castles (during Oktoberfest) to the canals of Holland. All meals, tours and flights are included. Cost is \$4,515 PPDO. Offered by Branch 172 Travel. Call **Earl Nelson** at 209-586-5661.



September 25-October 4, 2008

Mackinac Island, Michigan

A ten-day trip featuring the fabulous Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Tour Chicago, Green Bay, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Mackinac Island, Frankenmuth and Southfield Michigan. Cost is \$2799 PPDO. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call **Bill Massie** at 530-342-2784.

October 2008

October 1-6, 2008

Washington D.C.



Visit Arlington National Cemetery, the White House, the Capital, major monuments, cruise the Potomac, and see a performance at the Kennedy Center. Cost is \$2170 PPDO. Offered by Branch 179 Travel. Call **Richard Beers** at 559- 431-3728.

October 6-19, 2008

Danube Dream

Glide past fairy-tale castles and medieval villages aboard the river cruise ship, MS Switzerland II, traveling the second longest river in Europe. Take in views of the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, and Hungary. Many shore excursions are included with visits to interesting cities and historic sites. Trip includes r/t air from SFO to Budapest, with return from Prague. Prices range from \$3415 to \$3660 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call **Bob Hagler** at 925-934-7620.

October 24-November 4, 2008

Cruise the Mexican Riviera

Cruise aboard the Norwegian Sun, roundtrip from San Francisco. Ports of call will be: Mazatlan, Acapulco, Zihuatejo/Xtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas. This trip has real bargain rates, so, it will go fast. Prices range from only \$1035 to \$1580 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Midge Bamonte** at 650-588-6645.



Happenings Travel Bulletin

October 2008

October 4-13, 2008

Canadian Rockies by Rail

Ten day trip that includes r/t air and 15 meals. Some of the highlights are: Columbia, Vancouver, Victoria, Rocky Mountaineer Train, Kamloops, Jasper, Columbia Ice Fields, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary. Cost is \$3,199 PPDO.

Offered by Branch 14 Travel.

Call **Tom Cordray** at 916-771-7402.

October 6-11, 2008

New Orleans

Trip includes: City tour of New Orleans – walking tour of the French Quarter – full day Plantation tour – lunch at a cooking school – and a free day in New Orleans. Trip includes r/t air from SFO and 5 nights at the Holiday Inn on the edge of the French Quarter. Cost is \$1440 PPDO.

Offered by Area 1 Travel.

Call **Harry Redlick** at 650-583-3961.

November 2008

November 3-15, 2008

Vietnam & Thailand

A 13 day adventure that will take you to Ho Chi Minh City, the Mekong Delta and Halong Bay in Vietnam and then to sites in Thailand. Price includes r/t air, hotels, breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Cost is \$3885 PPDO.

Offered by Branch 146.

Call **Bob Spellman** at 925-934-8428.

November 4-23 2008

Exotic Cruise to Santiago Chile

A 19 day cruise aboard the Norwegian Sun from San Francisco. Nine ports of call, including: Acapulco, Mexico—Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala—Puntarenas, Costa Rica—Quito (Manta), Ecuador—Lima (Callao), Peru—Arica, Chile—La Serna (Coquimbo), Chile—and Santiago. Prices range from \$3148 to \$3678 PPDO. Offered by Branches 20, 36, 85, and 104 Travel. Call **Tom Cutting** at 831-476-9725.

November 10-22, 2008

Egyptian Odyssey

Cruising the magical waters of the Nile for 7 days -- aboard the MS Crown Empress -- is the most enjoyable and relaxing way to experience the many sights and wonders of ancient Egypt. The trip includes four nights at the Grand Hyatt in Cairo, allowing time to see all the main attractions in and around the city. November is considered one of the most favorable months to visit Egypt. Cost is \$4195 PPDO.

Offered by Branch 114 Travel.

Call **Jim Stoner** at 408-238-8458.

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email

Don MacGregor at: donmac95@comcast.net

December 2008

December 13-22, 2008

Galapagos and More!!

This trip will include the famous Otavalo Market before getting on board the Coral II for 5 days of touring the Archipelago. There will be a full-time naturalist to answer our questions and be our guide. The ship limits passengers to 20 and will be exclusive for SIR on this trip. Prices range from \$4120 to

\$4425 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel.

Call **Ray Kriess** at 650-968-4299.



December 29, 2008-January 2, 2009

New Years Eve at the Beautiful Gaylord Opryland Resort

This is a wonderful trip to a magnificent resort in Nashville. Price includes: all four nights at the resort, four breakfasts, dinner cruise aboard the General Jackson, performance at the Grand Ole Opry, gala New Years Eve party and much more. Cost is \$1567 PPDO.

Offered by Branches 45 & 109 Travel.

Call **Larry Garvin** at 530-673-3693



January 2009

January 25 - February 10, 2009

Cruise from Australia to New Zealand

Cruise from Australia to New Zealand on board the Diamond Princess. Two-night, pre-cruise stay in Sydney. Some of the ports of call: Melbourne, Fjordland National Park, Dunedin, Christchurch, and Tauranga. Trip Includes r/t air and guided tours of both Sydney and Auckland. Prices range from \$4190 to \$5470 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **Werner Schlapfer** at 925-443-8291.

March 2009

March 4-12, 2009

Discover Sicily

This 9 day trip includes r/t air, hotel accommodations and 11 meals. Travelers will enjoy a deluxe bus tour and guided tours of Taormina, Mt. Etna Volcano, a local winery tasting tour, Catania, Caltagirone, Pizzaa Amerina, Villa Casale, Siracusa, and an optional tour to Palermo. Cost is \$2643 PPDO. Offered by Area 6 Travel.

Call **Henry Puccinelli** at 415-457-3990.

Come celebrate the SIR 50th Anniversary in Reno, Nevada

Enjoy two nights at the beautiful and luxurious

Grand Sierra Resort & Casino

plus

an exclusive SIR 50th anniversary reception and dinner followed by a performance by world-famous comedian,

Yakov Smirnoff

October 28-30, 2008



GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

WHERE THE BAY COMES TO PLAY

Golden Gate Fields

Presents....

A fall "Salute to SIR" day at the races!!!

When: Friday October 10, 2008
Where: Golden Gate Fields Turf Club

Time: Please arrive @ 11:15 a.m.

Gates open at 11:00 a.m.

Buffet Hours: 11:30-2:30 p.m.

First race: 12:45 p.m.

Cost: \$23.00 per adult (Groups of 10+ required)
Includes: Valet parking (or parking for a bus), admission & reserved seating, daily racing program, buffet meal and a race named in honor of your SIR Branch!

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE FOR A BIG WIN!!!



For More Information Call **Michael Roberts** of Golden Gate Fields @ (510) 559-7380
Or email mroberts@goldengatefields.com

Editors Note: We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this feature in Happenings will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs.

To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on these travel pages was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue.

Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER 2008

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

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

President Art's Column

I especially want to thank the Officers, Directors, Governors, and State Committees for their contributions during the year. Without your input and cooperation my work would have been much more difficult. It was a pleasure to work with all of you.

One of the most pleasant responsibilities of the State President is presenting Honorary Life Memberships and Century Sir Certificate awards. So far in 2008, 22 Honorary Life Memberships and 5 Century Sir Certificates were awarded. I am grateful for the assistance of Sir **David Reiser**, Vice President, Sir **Norman Whitsted**, Area 27 Governor, and Sir **Ronald Ross**, Area 15 Governor, for each presenting awards while I was recovering from pneumonia. Also, I want to express my appreciation to all those branches that invited me to attend their luncheon. Everyone made my visit a very pleasant experience.

This year the Growth and Management Committee was assigned the task of developing guidelines to assist branches in recruiting younger members. Sir **Walter Schick**, our recently appointed Chairman of Publicity, will be responsible for the development of policies and practices to add branches on print and electronic media. The work of both of these Committees is extremely important to the future growth of the Sir Organization. The success of these programs will require the participation of all Sirs.

One special perk of being the President was the thrill of my throwing out the first pitch at the San Francisco Giants game on August 21, 2008. Sir **Charles Roberts** and the San Francisco Office made this day a lasting memory for me. I was given the baseball I had thrown, a color photo of me in front of the pitcher's mound and on the scoreboard throwing the first pitch, a Giants' jersey and baseball cap. How good it is!

As my term comes to an end, I have special memories of the gracious and generous hospitality and splendid cooperation of all SIR members with whom I came in contact. I know the State Organization will be in very capable hands in 2009. I thank you all for the privilege and honor of being your State President and for these most pleasant memories. My best regards to all of you.

Art

Damian Reynolds Branch 1, San Mateo

50th Anniversary Celebration

Bill Short, State Secretary

It was August 13, 2008 ...what a wonderful sunny day for a Branch celebration! The San Mateo Elks Lodge was the setting and over 170 Branch One members – and a few guests – were in attendance to celebrate 50 years of Sons in Retirement and the founding of Branch One. I was asked to attend.

Promptly at 12:00 noon, Big Sir **Bob Asselstine**, gained the attention of the luncheon attendees and brought the meeting of Branch One to order. "This is the 601st meeting of Branch One. Today's meeting begins year number 51 and we are here to celebrate!"

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the singing of The Star Spangled Banner, Big Sir Asselstine thanked the Anniversary Committee – **Stan Angel, Ray Lang, George Riley** and **Floyd Afson**. Lunch was then served.

After the Anniversary Chocolate Cake was eaten, Big Sir Asselstine, introduced Honored Guests, Jerry Hill, a San Mateo County Supervisor and (me) ...Bill Short, State Secretary. Each spoke briefly, thanking and praising the efforts of Branch One and its active members. Congratulatory honors, in the form of framed certificates, were presented to the branch from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and **Bob Asselstine** is shown holding the certificate from the San Mateo City Council. The speaker for the meeting was Dan Rusanowski – the San Jose Sharks radio announcer – who entertained the group with anecdotes and inside stories about the hockey team and it's colorful players

The warmth and friendly atmosphere at this historic 601st meeting was quite impressive. To think that 50 years of SIR friendship and camaraderie had its beginning because Damian Reynolds and three of his retired friends said let's start a fun club.



Continued on Page 12

SIR Annual Meeting



The new officers for 2009 are shown in the photo taken at the Annual Meeting a short time after being elected. From left to right Treasurer **Robert Mannell**, President **David Reiser**, Secretary **Gary Gruber**, Vice President **Floyd 'Buck' Kendrick**, Assistant Treasurer **Michael Berry** and Assistant Secretary **Harold 'Hal' Stephens**.

Meeting Speakers



←
Jim Stedman Area 2 Governor, shown in the photo at left, presented the findings on a study of SIR Membership Losses. Excerpts from his study are published on the next two pages.



←
Jim Petruk Region 9 Director, shown in the photo at left, suggested that "Baby Boomers" should be the target audience for promoting sons in retirement.

→
Bob Edwards Program Chairman of San Jose Branch 32, shown in the photo at right, discussed three key ideas for improving programs. Program Chairmen improve with longevity, advance notice of next three speakers helps recruitment, and meetings with Area and Region Program Chairmen are beneficial.



→
Eckart Sellinger Chairman for Area Governor Training, shown in the photo at right, announced plans for the annual Governor Training session which was to be held in October.



SIR Annual Meeting

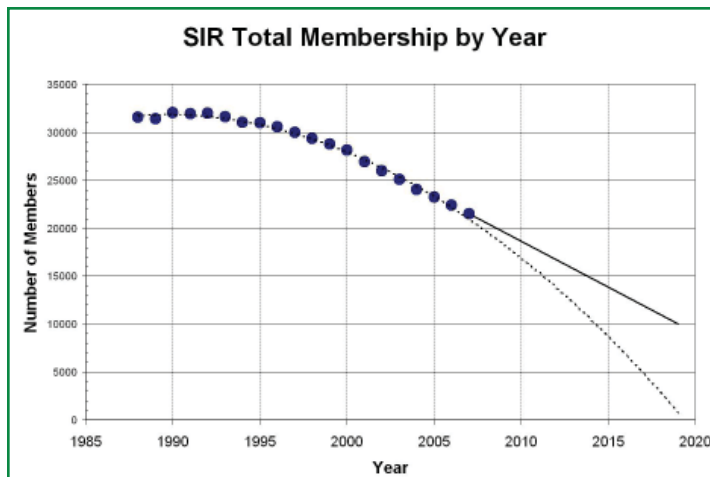
Editor's Note: Jim Stedman, Dick DeVoe and Jeff Baily of Branch 146 (see photo at the end of this article) have done some excellent research on the reasons for the continuing decline in SIR membership. Jim Stedman presented their findings during a talk at the last SIR Annual Meeting. The following are some excerpts from his talk that should be of interest to all of us:

SIR Membership Losses— What we have learned

Jim Stedman

Area 2 Governor - Region 6 Director-elect

If we remain complacent, Sons In Retirement will continue to descend toward extinction in the next decade. In the chart below we have plotted the total membership of SIR over the period 1988-2007. Depending upon how we extrapolate this data we might predict that SIR will not be around in 10 years. We have learned what is causing membership loss and what needs to be done to avoid these dire predictions.



A STUDY OF SIR MEMBERSHIP LOSSES

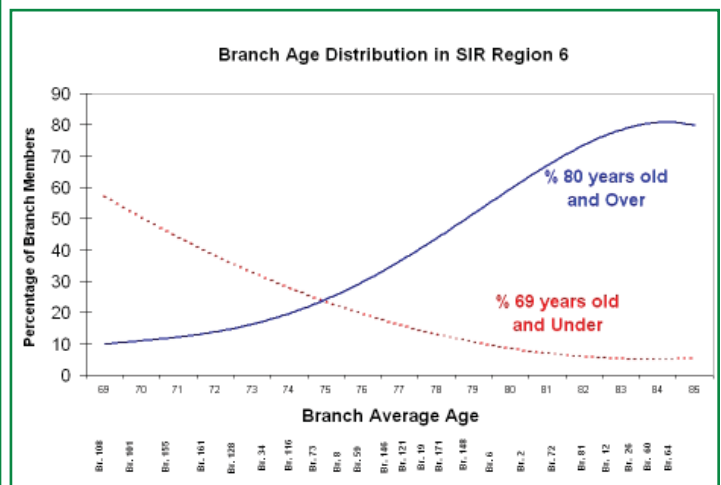
We studied the branch membership records for the 183 SIR branches that received charters. **We found that SIR branches have been losing members for most of its 50 year history.** In the first 34 years this fact was hidden because new members in new and growing branches exceeded members lost by existing branches. In the last 16 years members lost in existing branches have exceeded the new members in new and growing branches. The rate of total SIR membership loss has increased annually. It was 4% in 2007, and the trend is continuing in 2008.

Membership loss is so widespread that 93% of SIR branches now have fewer members than in their peak membership year. Twenty-seven branches have failed – all within the last 15 years—and many more are near failure.

In December 2007, we studied the 23 branches in Region 6. The cause of branch membership loss is best described by the former Big Sir of one of the 23 branches, a typical branch that has lost members. He was asked why his branch had 89 members at the end of 2007 after having a peak of 267 in 1990, and why it has been unable to return to its larger membership size. He answered: **“My branch used to be vigorous with a long waiting list. Leadership did not stress recruitment. Fewer and fewer members were inducted each year. Membership became old, activities diminished, and the branch started losing members.** Some members became dissatisfied for various reasons and left the branch. Branch membership has just continued to get older and lose members. Attempts to stop the losses have been unsuccessful. The advanced average age of the membership is the main reason why enough new members can't be attracted.”

There are three essential lessons to be learned from this typical branch. The **first** is that the leaders of branches that are healthy and can attract new members need to continually and aggressively recruit and induct a good supply of new members and resolve any issues that may result from branch growth. The **second** is that an insufficient supply of new members will result in an increase in branch average age and a decrease in the percentage of younger members. The branch will begin to lose members because it is less attractive to both its existing and potential members. The **third** is that once branch membership gets too old it is nearly impossible for branch leaders to attract new members and branch failure will be the likely result.

The branches in Region 6 vary in branch average age from a low of 69 as shown on the left side of the following chart to a high of 85 on the right side of the chart. This chart demonstrates that the percentage of



SIR Annual Meeting

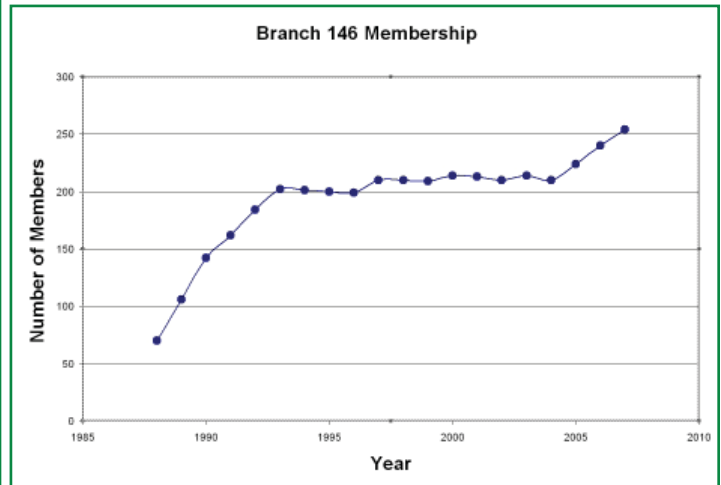
younger members 69 and under decreases and that the percentage of members 80 and over increases as branch average age increases.

There is a correlation between branch average age and membership loss. The 6 branches with the youngest average ages on the left side of the chart have lost an average of about 12% of their membership from their peak membership year. The 6 branches with the oldest average ages on the right side of the chart have lost an average of about 63% of their memberships from their peak membership year. The startling fact is that the branches listed on the right side of the chart were at one time on the left side. The reason for the movement from left to right is that once a branch gets to a “comfortable” size in the minds of its branch leaders, aggressive recruiting is curtailed and then branch average age increases because there aren’t enough new, and often younger, members inducted annually.

It is possible to stop increases in branch average age and prevent membership loss. Branch 146, the Pleasant Hill Branch, is an example. It was chartered in 1988 and grew rapidly to 200 members in 1993 at which time membership was capped and a waiting list started. The membership cap, with one increase to 210, remained until the end of 2005 after being in place for 12 years. During those years inductions were limited to replacement of members lost to attrition. Attrition was low and branch average age increased each year until reaching 76.2 in late 2005. Why? Because not enough new younger members were inducted to offset the annual aging of the existing branch members.

Rather than allowing branch average age to continue increasing and risk losing members, membership policies were changed in late 2005. The branch was allowed to grow to its current size of about 265 members by inducting those on the waiting list and by recruiting new members at the rate of about 10% of branch membership annually. Since the end of 2005 the branch average age has remained constant at 76.2.

The “New Member Relations” Coordinator helps new members integrate into the branch by assisting them in becoming involved in the more than 30 branch activities and events available for members. The “New Activities” Coordinator helps to continually add additional activities and more groups within existing activities. Member retention is high. The



long-term prospects for Branch 146 are bright so long as current recruitment and induction rates and member retention programs are maintained.

New members are the life-blood of any organization. This is especially true of SIR branches because we all join at about age 65 and then get older too quickly. **Our branches get older right along with us if we don't induct new members at the rate of about 10% of branch membership annually**, e.g. 20 new members annually for a branch of 200.

Nearly all new members are recruited by active members. Branch leaders need to continually remind and encourage active members, especially new active members, to bring guests to lunch and sponsor new members. Sponsors of new members need to be publicly congratulated at luncheon meetings. Membership contests with rewards as incentives for sponsoring new members are important.

Branch membership losses can and must be stopped in those branches that are still able to attract a good supply of new members. **Vibrant, growing branches are exciting and fun... declining branches are not!**



Dick DeVoe, Jim Stedman and Jeff Baily (L to R)

Sirs in the News

Twin Peaks-Portola Branch 25, South San Francisco

A Super Senior

Nick Fesunoff, Bulletin Editor

Region Five Director **“Buck” Kendrick** honored Sir **Petar Lucich** with a Super Senior Award at a Branch 25 luncheon in August (see picture). Petar turned 95 this year.

He was born on August 12, 1913 of Serbian parents. He began school knowing only a few words of English, but thanks to understanding teachers, he prevailed. In fact, he graduated as Class President from Mission High School in 1931.

Petar enjoys reminiscing about sports highlights, such as seeing Babe Ruth appear at the Recreation Ballpark and he was present at the prizefight when Max Baer knocked-out his opponent, Frankie Campbell, who died as a result of a powerful right hand punch.

In 1942, Petar was drafted into the Army Air Corps and later on – because of his fluency in the Serbo-Croatian language – he was transferred to San Francisco and assigned to the Yugoslav delegation as a translator at the organizational meeting of the United Nations.



.....
De Anza Branch 153, Sunnyvale

Super Senior

Bob Marcy, Bulletin Editor

Region 7 Director **Gary Pelton** (right) is shown presenting a Super Senior Award to Sir **Bob Waugh**. Bob first joined Branch 62 in October 1976, and then was one of the committee members that organized



Branch 153 in 1988. He became a Charter Member of Branch 153 when the Branch was chartered in August of 1989. Bob is also an Honorary Life Member.

Editors Note: Recently, Region 9 Director Jim Petruk, offered a personal cash reward for the best three Baby Boomer profile stories in his region. The best definition of a Baby Boomer that Happenings could find defines a Baby Boomer as a person who was born during the Post-World War II baby boom between 1946 and late 1953. This makes them 55 to 62 years old in this year of 2008. The contest winners were: First place, Vito Kapeckas, of Branch 37, who won \$75---the second place prize of \$50, went to Jim Quintal from Branch 11---and the third place winner of \$25 was Pete Politi, from Branch 37. SIR Happenings is pleased to publish the winning profile of Vito Kapeckas.

Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

Baby Boomer Profile

Don Walker, Branch 37 Profiler

Baby Boomer, **“Vito” Kapeckas**, entered this world as Vytautas Kapeckas, a full-blooded Lithuanian. His parents immigrated to the U.S. following WW 2, after experiencing occupation by the Nazi’s and then the Russians. Vito still speaks the Lithuanian language. He completed all of his schooling in Lowell, Massachusetts and graduated from the University of Massachusetts as a plastics engineer.



He interviewed with Hewlett Packard and accepted his first position with HP in Sunnyvale. HP then transferred him to Corvallis, Oregon to work on designing the first ink jet printers. Ten years in Oregon was enough for Vito and when an opportunity came to work in Roseville, he transferred there and completed 30+ years with the company.

Vito has the distinction of being the youngest Sir in Branch 37. When asked why he joined Sons In Retirement, he says that the then Big Sir **Mike Mickey** simply talked him into it. He didn’t have the slightest idea what the organization was all about, but came to a luncheon as Mike’s guest anyway. He says that when he was asked to sing “God Bless America” he was embarrassed because he had not sung that song for years and had a hard time remembering the words, but the “golden-throated” song leader, **George Williams**, helped him with that!! Vito says that he really enjoys SIR, and says that it is kind of like belonging to a Fraternity. He also says that he thinks that SIR should do more advertising because he feels that many prospective members – who might want to join – don’t know the organization exists.

Sirs in the News

Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

Good Going Warren

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

At the SIR Annual Meeting in August, Sir **Warren Senegal** (in the picture) was presented with an Honorary Life Member Award by President Art Pufford. Warren has served as Branch Big Sir, Area Governor, Regional Director, Chairman of two State Committees and has served as a special advisor to the State President. Good going, Warren ...the award was certainly well deserved!



Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

A Very Active HLM

Dennis Beverage, Little Sir

Sir **Jimmy Pierce**, the former Big Sir of Branch 79, is shown in the picture receiving an Honorary Life Membership Award and congratulations from current Big Sir **Al Camilleri** (left), and Area 33 Governor **Ken Newman** (right).



Jimmy Pierce has served Branch 79 as Golf Chairman, Membership Coordinator, both Little and Big Sir, as well as a member of the Branch Board of Directors. He also has served on the Branch nominating committee and was instrumental in helping setup the Branch web site. In addition to all that, Jimmy has maintained the membership database and the Branch Roster and is currently the Branch special events photographer.

All in all, Jimmy Pierce has accumulated 15 years of SIR membership and leadership that personifies the SIR Mission Statement.

Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Honored for Long-Time Service

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Sir **Charles "Chuck" Behr**, on the left in the picture, and Sir **Ted Detton**, on the right, were honored by Stanislaus Branch 103 at a July luncheon. They were given framed plaques, honoring them for their long service to the Branch, both as officers of the branch and serving as golf chairmen through the years.

Ted Detton was golf chairman and also a director of the Branch prior to his being stricken with cancer. He gave it a valiant effort and never waived in his will to overcome, but sadly, he passed away in August.

Our Thursday golf tournament was the idea of Golf Chairman Chuck Behr back in January of 1998. The theme was to have fun and to mix with other golfers from our branch as well as two other branches. Chuck's tournament was a stroke type format, but he also mixed in other formats to keep things interesting. Its design was perfect for what it was intended – to get more golfers participating – even if for only nine holes. Even though Chuck is in ill health, the Thursday tournament still takes place every week (year around) with volunteers from Branch 103 and 144.



Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118, San Mateo

90 & Going Strong

Jim Mahon, Big Sir

The latest 90-year old members of Branch 118 were recently honored at a Branch luncheon by Region 5 Director **Buck Kendrick**. On the left, in the picture, is Sir **John Bauer**, in the center is Sir **Jack Mish** and Buck Kendrick is on the right.



State Golf

Dave Betts, Chairman State Golf Committee

As 2008 draws to a close, we are winding up a successful year of golfing. Most of the golf tournaments conducted by the State Golf Committee have been well attended. We have had a few disappointments with several of our fall tournaments. With cancelled flights, fuel surcharges, and add-on baggage charges, the long distance travel events have really suffered.

The Cabo San Lucas trip for October suffered when Alaska Air Lines cancelled their direct flight out of Sacramento causing us to lose 50 passengers because they either could not get on the flight out of San Francisco, or chose to cancel.

The Princess Cruise to the Mexican Riviera in November has only 80 passengers with 34 golfers. The ship is currently sold out with other passengers, so, we can't get any more cabins for those members who have waited to make their decision to participate.

We started the year in Las Vegas with a well-attended tournament and played three courses that were new to our members. We played both of the Angel Park Courses and The Legacy. For 2009, we have contracted with the Suncoast Hotel and Casino and will again play the two courses at Angel Park and in addition, we will also play Aliante. This hotel is located very close to the Angel Park Golf Courses. The dates for Las Vegas will be April 26th through May 1st, 2009. The Suncoast has a very nice website, www.suncoastcasino.com, which you may wish to view for a preview of the hotel. We are only planning one week in Las Vegas this year while trying to rebuild interest for this location.

The three weeks in Reno, at Circus-Circus, were all filled in 2008. We will be considering a three week contract with Circus-Circus for 2009 at our meeting on October 15th. The golf courses being considered are Wolf Run, Arrow Creek, and Lakeridge. Tentative dates are: The first week will be June 1st–5th, 2009, the second week will be June 8th–12th, 2009 and the third week will be June 15th–19th, 2009.

The State Team Championship in August at Poppy Ridge Golf Course was again successful. You may view the winners on the www.sirstategolf.com website.

The Fall Classic at the Santa Ynez Valley Marriott was well attended following a declining interest in 2007 and most likely will be considered as a venue for 2009.

The State Individual Championship is November 3rd and 4th at Poppy Hills. The Open Play portion is filling up pretty well.

To keep up with what is happening with Sir State Golf, please visit our website. In planning for 2009,

State Bowling

William "Coop" Cooper, State Bowling Chairman

Hello bowlers. This will be my last column for SIR Happenings, because in January Sir **Carl Elvik**, will become the next State Bowling Committee Chairman. I will still be on the committee, so if I can help any of you SIR Bowlers feel free to contact me.

If you did not make the tournament in Reno, there was a lot of good bowling. In division 1, there were 98 bowlers. **Art Tourtilot**, Branch 112, had a scratch 686 and in Division 2, **Gary Bennett**, Branch 59, had a scratch 623. Thanks to **David Wells**, Branch 29, some 274 bowlers participated, also 74 ladies bowled.

In leaving you – just remember bowling is like smoking – they both are habit forming, except smoking is bad for your health!



SIR President **Art Pufford** is shown throwing out the first ball on All Sir Day at AT&T Park where Giants played the Florida Marlins in August.

the committee will most likely be considering venues that can be reached by automobile travel. We will try to keep it both interesting and challenging for our membership.

Due to the three-year term limit on Chairmanship of the State Golf Committee, this will be my last article for SIR Happenings. It has been both a pleasure and a challenge to serve in this capacity.

News from the Branches

San Francisco Branch 4

Walking & Learning

Warren Lee, Branch Member

Walking is good for you ...so, learning while walking should be even better! Right? Branch 4 tested that proposition by having a walk last July through San Francisco's Chinatown, led by Sir **Warren Lee** (see picture). Warren is

also a guide with City Guides, which is the largest walking tour organization in San Francisco and has about 200 all volunteer guides. Our group of 18 met



at Portsmouth Square on a beautiful, gorgeous day in the city. It was a great day to walk the area and learn about its people and culture. As we slowly walked through Chinatown's streets and alleys, we paused at some of the interesting places to learn about their background. We went into a Taoist temple, but decided not go into the fortune cookie factory because the free samples would spoil our appetite for lunch.

To summarize, we met at 10:00 ...walked about a dozen blocks ...ate a tasty lunch ...and were finished by 1:00. It was fun, educational, and good exercise. Yes walking and learning go together!

Mission Branch 32, San Jose

A Beautiful Setting for a Picnic

Dan Roberts, Bulletin Editor

Our picnic was held at Saratoga Springs and 73 people attended, including Region 7 Director **Gary**



Pelton and his wife Carolyn, and our area 20 Governor **Fred Mollerus** and his wife Dot.

The food served at the June picnic was barbecued chicken

or Santa Maria Steak with salad, chili, French bread, vanilla dessert cups and beer, wine, and coffee. For entertainment, we played bingo (see picture) and bocce ball. There were also many door prizes and lots of good fellowship!

Mount Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek

Low Cost Wine Finders

Walter Schick, Bulletin Editor

Branch 8 has a serious wine tasting group that searches for good wines under \$15. The frugal "Wine Finders" even use the same glass for all wine tasting, making sure that there is nothing left before the next taste.

The Wine Finders recently found out that a member of Branch 8 owns a winery specializing in estate grown and bottled wines when we were hosted by Sir **Joe Karg** and his wife Judy at their Alamo Winery. Eight Sirs and seven spouses gathered on the Karg's patio to taste eight cabernet sauvignons and indulge in assorted hors d'oeuvres (see picture). The night was beautiful, with a full moon looking down on the festivities.



Highlights of the gathering included Ron and Judy Smith's winning cab. The "best buy" went to incoming Little Sir **Jim Sowell's** selection of Evil Cab from Australia and a Costco selection for only \$8.00 or so. The big loser was Derek and Pauline Southern's Thudernut Cab ...yes, that's right, Thudernut! They got it from friends who are planning to market it in the next couple of years, but our group decided it was a long way from prime time. The evening was highlighted by a tour of the winery, including the production and bottling operation and the wine aging cellars. Winemaker, Joe, has really figured out how to make this a low-cost, low-frills operation ...we understand he's even looking for Sirs with big feet to aid in the crushing operations. The nice evening was also graced by a Hollywood celebrity, Ginny Schick – anyway she sure looked like one wearing her snazzy new sunglasses.

News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Catfishing Champ

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

Branch 96 member Sir **Sam Mazzariello** brought his “Catfishing Rig” (see picture) to the September branch luncheon and demonstrated to the fishing club, and many other members, how to catch catfish. Sam is considered – by many – to be the catfishing champ of this area. When he is not at his home in Jackson, Sam can be found at his summer place on Lake Pardee, one of the many fishing lakes in Amador County.



Sam certainly stands out among the membership of the Branch. He is the Bocce Ball organizer at the annual lady’s day picnics and also plans many of the golf tournaments for the 70-member golf club. Sam is the kind of guy that makes this Branch one of the best!

LaMorinda Branch 171, Moraga

Art Tour

Bill Sumner & Dick Curry, Branch members

In September, 40 members of Branch 171, and spouses, toured the Hearst Art Gallery at St. Mary’s College in Moraga. The Gallery show was all about Carl Sammons’ California Expressionist Landscapes. Sammons (1883-1968) gained fame as a Bay Area landscape painter because of his remarkable color sense and drawing mastery. The exhibit consisted of forty-nine rarely seen paintings and thirty-eight pastels. Most of the works were on loan from Donna Walsh Sumner, the artist’s niece and wife of former Branch 171 Big Sir Bill Sumner. Donna conducted the tour which was well received by all the participants. Shown in the picture discussing the exhibit are, from left to right: Donna Sumner, Leslie Lynch, Stu Knudsen and his wife, Verna.



Miwok Branch 134, San Rafael

Wandering Fisherman

John Crawford, Area 6 Governor

In June, 11 members of Branch 134 gathered at Flaming Gorge, Utah to harass trout and they were quite successful ...25 fish per boat per day was normal. No fish were harmed, so PETA back off! – catch and release was the program for harassment. The 11 fly fishing Sirs were: Sir **Larry Wade**, Sir **Fred Holmes**, Sir **Larry Lack**, Sir **Brian Stompe**, Sir **Alan Dunham**, Sir **Richard Grosser**, Sir **Bill Cline**, Sir **Dave Hopper**, Sir **Tom Telfer**, Sir **Bill Walker**, and Sir **John Crawford** all shown in the picture.

After a week on the Green River, the group moved on to Peekaboo, Idaho, where they wet their flies on Silver Creek, and the Big Hole River. After two days there, the next adventure was the Boise River. After having some exciting adventure on the Boise, the caravan’s next destination was the Owahyee River in Oregon ...here, Sir Brian Stompe has a story to tell. The fish that were caught on the Owahyee were in the 20 inch size ...not many, but big! The wandering fishermen then moved on to the Crooked River near Prineville, Oregon. Unbeknownst to the group, the forest service had shocked the river two days before their arrival. Guess what? ...the fish weren’t biting, because they were convalescing. Their next location was the Fall River, and the last stop was the Williamson River ...good fishing, but poor catching at the last two locations as well.

It was a great time for all! ...If you wish to participate in the fly club, the group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Larry Wade’s abode.



Branch Summer Parties

Sunnyvale Branch 62

Another Great Picnic

Lee Rogers, Bulletin Editor

Our third annual Lady's Day Picnic was held in June at the Ortega Park in Sunnyvale. The weather was ideal – at about 80 degrees – with a light wind from the west.

Fifty-five Sirs and 55 guests attended the nice affair. Lunch was served at about noon, after the pledge to the flag and opening prayer.

The menu was various hors d'oeuvres, followed by barbequed pork loin, chicken, salad, garlic bread, coffee and bottled water. Many chose to bring their own wine for the occasion.

The grand finale was ice cream and there were also cakes and cookies brought by some of the attendees.

The food was great, as well as plentiful, and the fellowship was just super as Sir **Ernie Huesby** and Sir **Henry Crossfield** show in the picture. All and all ...another great picnic!



Snowline Branch 113, Pollock Pines

A Picnic in the Pines

Larry Folts, Bulletin Editor

Big Sir **Larry Leibnitz** is shown standing in the pine forest during the Branch 113 picnic that was attended by close to 100 Sirs and their guests. Everyone enjoyed a great barbecue lunch and there were some terrific prizes that were donated by Branch members and some very generous local merchants.



Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Lot's to do at this Picnic

Daryl Jones, Bulletin Editor

Branch 125 held its annual Barbeque in July. The picnic was preceded by a fun-filled, 9-hole golf tournament that attracted 33 golfers. The picnic itself had 125 people in attendance, including 38 wives and other guests. Games included horseshoes, cribbage, and "Montana Golf." It's not surprising that the highlight of the event was the good food! The menu included tri-tip steak, baked beans, Cole slaw, Italian sausage, French bread, chips, and drinks. A fun day for everyone!

Murphys Branch 140, Murphys

First Friday at the Park

Dave McCarroll, Branch Member

The "Shades of Swing" played to quite an enthusiastic crowd last August in Murphy's Park. I happen to be the only Sir in the musical group, but there were a lot of other Sirs in the crowd, enjoying picnicking and wine as we retirees often do up here in Calaveras County. The organizer of the "First Friday at the Park" is our bandleader, Matt Cullen, who is also our tenor singer. Matt is pictured in the center ...I'm the white haired guy on the left with the violin. On that day, we had the biggest and most receptive crowd we have ever had. After the audience had enjoyed their picnic and wine, they all started dancing to our music from the 40s to the 60s. When it was time for us to finish playing, they pleaded with us not to stop. There must have been 30 couples out there and we just had to go through the first 1/3 of our program again until it was dark.

So what do they say about fun. The money we made was nothing – the experience was priceless!



Happenings Travel Bulletin

December 2008

December 20, 2008-January 3, 2008
New Year's in San Antonio

Trip includes r/t air, 4 nights at the Hilton Hotel, New Year's Eve gala event and numerous sightseeing tours, including a boat cruise down the Paseo del Rio and a tour of the Alamo. The price per person is \$1440 PPDO. Offered by Branch 6 Travel. Call **Lou Pagni** at 510-276-5025.

January - February 2009

January 25-February 10, 2009
Cruise from Australia to New Zealand



Cruise is on board the Diamond Princess, with a pre-cruise stay at Novotel Darling Harbor. Ports of call are: Melbourne, Hobart (Tasmania), Fjordland National Park, Dunedin, Christchurch, Tauranga, and Auckland. Prices

range from \$4190 to \$5470 PPDO including r/t air. Offered by Branches 101 and 121 Travel. Call **Werner Schlapfer** at 925-443-8291.

January 26-30, 2009
New York Theatre Tour

Tour includes r/t air, four nights at the Edison Hotel, dinner at Tavern on the Green and Langhans, plus a full breakfast daily. Also included are three Broadway shows and a 90-minute interactive session with an actor. Cost is \$2565 PPDO. Offered by Branch 146 Travel. Call **Gary Schaub** at 925-938-5454.

February 23-March 5, 2009
Sights & Sounds of South America

A wonderful South American Adventure starting with Buenos Aires where we'll see all the beautiful sights and sounds. Then we fly north to Iguassu Falls, the widest falls in the world. We next fly to Rio de Janeiro and visit all the famous sights. Cost is \$4069 PPDO, including r/t air. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call **Bill Howard** at 530-342-3368.

March 2009

March 4-12, 2009
Discover Sicily

This 9 day trip includes r/t air, hotel accommodations and 11 meals. Travelers will enjoy a deluxe bus tour and guided tours of Taormina, Mt. Etna Volcano, a local winery tasting tour, Catania, Caltagirone, Pizzaa Amerina, Villa Casale, Siracusa, and an optional tour to Palermo. Cost is \$2743 PPDO. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call **Henry Puccinelli** at 415-457-3990.

March 14-22, 2009

Ft Lauderdale to Ft Lauderdale

Visit six different ports, including: Princess Cays, St. Thomas, St Maarten, Grand Turk, and Great Bahama Bank. Prices range from \$1940 to \$2350 PPDO, which covers all costs. Offered by Branch 143 Travel. Call **Bill Torrens** at 209-667-0244.

March 19-24, 2009

Spirit of Washington D.C.



The trip includes the Monuments, World War II Memorial, National Gallery of Art, National Museum of the American Indian and more. This 5-day trip includes 4 breakfasts and 3 dinners. Cost is \$1,799 PPDO. Offered by Branch 44 & 78 Travel. Call **Jerry Mills** at 661-325-5951.

April - May 2009

April 12-26, 2009

Exotic Panama Canal Cruise

Enjoy 14 unforgettable days and nights on the Coral Princess. Some of the stops are: Aruba -- Caratagena, Columbia -- the Panama Canal -- Puntarenas, Costa Rica -- San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua -- Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala -- and Huatulco, Mexico. Prices range from \$2869 to \$3469 PPDO and include r/t air. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Pete Lepisto** at 209-948-2265.

April 14-21, 2009

Savannah & Charleston

Seven nights including Hilton Head, Jekyll Island, Jacksonville, St. Augustine and St. Simon Island. We will be touring the gardens of beautiful southern plantations and much, much more! This will be a Spring Time extravaganza of Azaleas & Dogwoods and each day we will experience the best this beautiful and venerable area has to offer. Price of \$2508 includes r/t air from the Bay Area. Early bookings will receive a savings. Offered by Branch 153 Travel. Call **Ralph Hunt** at 650-967-8467.

May 24-June 3, 2009

Alaska Cruise

Ten night inside passage cruise on the Sea Princess. Ports of call include: Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria B.C. Prices range from \$1456 to \$2373, including r/t air from San Francisco. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call **George Smith** at 530-342-3133.

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email
Don MacGregor at: donmac95@comcast.net

News from the Branches

50th Anniversary Celebration

Continued from Page 1

After the meeting in San Mateo, I drove back to my mountain home in Pollock Pines and began to delve into the SIR Secretary files to find out more about the “early days” of Sons in Retirement. In a document entitled “A Brief History of Sons in Retirement” prepared by H. Gordon Beesley – the SIR President in 1984 – I found a wealth of historical background material on the formation of our organization. SIR Beesley tells of the first real meeting as a club that met at the Clairmar Restaurant in San Mateo on July 23, 1958. At this meeting there was much talk about operations – structure and By-Laws – and the rules and regulations needed for a successful club – there were nine retirees in attendance.

It was not until the next meeting on August 12, 1958, that the founders selected a name for the group. Damian Reynolds read a list of possible names for the club that included the following: “Faithful Old Fellows,” “Young Oldsters” and “Restful Sons.” They agreed on “Sons In Retirement” ...thank goodness they didn’t choose one of the suggestions – “Honey Dew’s.” And so, SIR was baptized.

By December 1958, the group decided to have a news-sheet or bulletin. Damian Reynolds was the designated Editor and Volume 1, No.1 – named, “Yes Sir” – was published – that was in February, 1959.

The wealth of information about the expansion of Branch One that first year included: incorporation on February 11, 1959 and the first roster printed with 108 members listed, including each member’s name, address, phone number and previous business affiliation. In March, the Executive Committee arranged for the first liability insurance coverage.

The Club’s activities during the first year expanded. The first tours and trips were arranged. The first guest speaker was invited to the August 1959 luncheon. The first Holiday party and first opportunity for wives to participate as guests took place in December. Several articles appeared in the “San Mateo Times” and “The San Francisco Chronicle” publicizing SIR. As interest in SIR grew, membership increased to 230 members by the end of December 1959 Sons in Retirement was off and running!!

Congratulations to you, Branch One!! We wish you continued success and more fun times as you begin year number 51 ...“Cock-a-Doodle-Do.”

Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the “Happenings” notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

Bidwell Branch 110, Chico

Wild Shirt Day

Jim Kirks, Big Sir

Branch 110 held another Wild Shirt Day at our August luncheon. There were four anonymous judges that scanned all 194 men present at the luncheon to determine who should receive the \$20 cash prizes.

The winners were, left to right Sir **Skip Reager**, who glowed in the most colorful shirt, Sir **Bob Kirkman**, who sported the most original shirt, Sir



Dennis Wilson, who was attired in the most beautiful shirt, and Sir **Will Stull**, who wore the most unusual/unique shirt. Big Sir **Jim Kirks** can be seen in the background standing at the podium.

Junction City Branch 40, Roseville

A Veterans Poem

Ted Ball, Big Sir

These veterans standing tall
who answered Uncle Sam’s call
to you we owe so much,
for you were beyond nepotism’s touch.
Your religion, position, or parent’s worth
did not give you a special berth.
You sought no deferment request
for you were our nation’s best.
You completed your mission
without any AWOL or indecision.
Whether you are Red or Blue
today, all SIRS salute you.

**SIR Happenings is published by the
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SIR HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2009

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

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

President Dave's Column

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your 2009 president and please accept my best wishes for a happy and a healthy new year. Our slogan for this year is "let's have a good time in 2009"

I find that watching a game show on TV can be relaxing after a busy day. One show that comes to mind is "Deal or No Deal," hosted by Howie Mandel. He often reminds contestants about their lifelines. The more lifelines, the more chances they have of being successful.

If having lifelines determines whether a contestant is successful, it can also be applied to lifelines in our organization. Our lifelines are our members. They are also our officers and committee members both at the state and local level. We are very fortunate that so many members volunteer their services. We cannot thank them enough for what they contribute, not only to our branches, but also to our state organization.

Volunteers continue to be the backbone of SIR. They are the movers and shakers and they make things happen.

We are a unique organization dedicated to making our lives

fun filled and we can always use more lifelines. Please keep in mind that unlike a game show, we have no time limits. It is never too late to become a volunteer. As Howie Mandel would say, "Deal or No Deal"?

Sin-SIR-ly,

Dave



Past President Sir Arthur Pufford (left) presenting the gavel to incoming 2009 President Sir Dave Reiser.

Leadership Action Plan

Buck Kendrick, SIR Vice President

The State Board, meeting in Vallejo on January 20, approved a voluntary Leadership Action Plan (LAP) to address the membership loss crisis. The LAP was approved as a result of extensive research on "branch aging" and its devastating impact on membership within most of our SIR branches.

Branch aging is now recognized to be the root cause of the long-term decline in SIR membership and is a situation which must be addressed at the branch level for survival of SIR, as we have known it. These findings were summarized in the last issue of the "SIR Happenings" and were presented at the training sessions for 2009 Area Governors.

The primary purpose of the LAP effort is to assure that branch leaders understand the membership crisis, recognize the unique effect on their own branch's long term health, and then take the necessary steps to stop or reduce branch aging. Most branches have failed to offset the natural ageing of its members through induction of sufficient numbers of younger members annually. As the mature branch memberships age, the branches begin losing their former energy and vitality. If these attributes diminish over time, the change directly affects many other reasons why the branches become less attractive to potential and existing members.

This "top down" Leadership Action Plan will enhance the long-term survival of currently successful branches and any other branches that are still capable of survival. It will emphasize responsibility and accountability for membership-related issues through all SIR leadership levels – Branch Executive Committees, Big Sirs, Area Governors, Regional Directors, President, and Board of Directors. It also will offer leadership oversight, training and positive suggestions to the branch leaders on how to recruit and retain new, younger members.

A new Leadership Action Committee (LAC), headed by Vice President Buck Kendrick and reporting to the Executive Committee, will implement this plan in the coming weeks. The LAC will be staffed with participating Regional Directors and others who have shown strong

Continued on Page 12

Membership News and Great Ideas that Work

Gary Pelton, Chairman of the Growth & Management Committee, decided to solicit recruiting ideas that work, as originally proposed by Vice President Buck Kendrick. SIR Happenings will publish Branch recruiting ideas in a series of articles called "Great Ideas that Work." We look forward to some fresh ideas ...any and all positive ideas are welcome!

Windsor Branch 176, Santa Rosa

Recruiting With Golf

Phil Anderson, Secretary

In recent months, our major success in recruiting has been through our golf program, which offers weekly tournaments at home and exciting activities away. Members are inviting their friends to join the party and reap the benefits. This has also been true of our bowling, bridge, and travel members. We use all the tools we have to interest our friends and neighbors.

In our golf activity, the pro shop at Windsor has SIR entry forms, and the staff there advises newly arrived, retired golfers, that Sons In Retirement is one of the clubs they can join to get an NCGA handicap. As a result, our club is growing slowly and the average age of our membership is beginning to decline.

Sierra Branch 175, Fresno

Send out News Releases

Bill Winslow, Branch Member

I have had an idea bouncing around in my head for a while now. Many newspapers welcome news releases from almost anywhere ...about almost anything. I suggest we provide news releases to as many newspapers in California as possible ...to include the off-beat – small, wide places in the road – where we have branches ...or near by.

When I worked for an airline years ago, we sent out many news bulletins about practically anything and the papers printed them. I remember one that went out about my transfer from Atlantic City to Philadelphia – who cares – but they printed it anyway and it got Allegheny Airlines in the paper for the world to see. Another time I sent a small story about our computer learning lab here in Fresno and the phone rang for most of the next two days and we filled up the classes, with even a waiting list ...papers welcome these things on a slow news day.

We could talk about such things as "Joe the Plumber's" hole-in-one at a SIR golfing event at Firebaugh, that included wives and mistresses ...or the 300-game that Robert Fine almost got during a SIR bowling tournament at "Bumblescrew, California" ...so what if it's printed on page 23 ...someone will see it and it's good, free advertising!

It would take a little research to find the correct email address for each newspaper. We might have the branches send their news items to a central place in our organization and they would send the news items on to the proper newspapers.

Might be worth a try!

Livermore Branch 101

Green Dot Program

Dick Duffus, Big Sir

Our branch in Livermore does a couple of things to encourage new members:

- Any member that brings in two guests, who then become members, receives a free lunch.
- We have a "green dot" program. Before each meeting, our membership chairman puts a green dot sticker on the badges of two, relatively new members. When the tables are called for lunch, the tables with the green dots are served first. This encourages the older members to meet and greet the new members.

I have received some feedback that our new members still have difficulty meeting and being greeted by the established membership. The "green dot" program is not the entire answer, but we feel it is a small step in the right direction.

The most important item is booking interesting, timely speakers, and in this regard, we have been quite fortunate.

Our membership has remained stable for many years, but we are always looking at other strategies to maintain membership.

Rocklin Branch 98, Rocklin

Here is my Card

Doug Hinchey, Big Sir

Branch 98 in Rocklin, has designed and printed up cards that are easy for our members to carry in such places as the glove box, wallet, or even in their golf bags, ready to be handed out to prospective new members.

The picture shows an example of the card, which we print a thousand at a time and then we give them to our members 2 or 3 at a time.



Reading SIR Happenings over these past few years has prodded our Branch to become more proactive in recruiting new members.

Membership News and Great Ideas that Work

Mission Trail Branch 35, Mountain View

Membership Programs that Work

Stan Barkey, Big Sir (2008)

Bringing in new members should be one of the top priorities of every branch of SIR. In our branch we have several practices that help with this.

We constantly encourage our members to bring guests. Our practice is that when a Sir brings a guest, the sponsor calls in to let us know the name of the guest and pays for the guest's lunch ...when the guest joins the branch, the sponsor receives reimbursement for that lunch. When the guest and sponsor arrive, the guest receives a computer printed name badge similar to the badges of members. We have special tables set aside in the front of the hall for guests and sponsors, so they receive preferred seating. During the meeting, guests are given a special welcome after they have been introduced by the Big Sir. This helps others in the branch, who may already know a guest, to come up after the meeting to welcome him.

Application forms are placed at the guest tables, so it is convenient for them to complete the application following the meeting if they are ready to join. They can also take the application with them and send it to our Membership Director.

The Membership Director has an important role since he is the one who does the follow-up with each guest and keeps him on his "Hot List," until he joins the branch or tells us that he has decided not to join.

New Members and their sponsors are invited to an orientation meeting about an hour prior to the regular luncheon. During this orientation, new members receive their Branch Roster along with a briefing on branch activities. Assistant Membership Director **Arden Anderson** is shown using his laptop and a PowerPoint presentation that helps make this orientation more interesting and enables us to be consistent and thorough. We include a brief history of SIR, along with information about all of our activities. We make this interactive rather than making it a boring lecture.



Sponsors are encouraged to include their new members in their table group and help them build new friendships within the branch. We have learned that getting new members involved in at least one activity, in addition to the monthly luncheon, is the key to retention of members, so we strongly encourage sponsors to help make this happen.

Editors Note: The Branch 35 membership program closely matches the Membership Program Implementation document that is available on the SIRinc website, which was developed by members of Branch 35.

Mount Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek

Happy Members and Recruiting

Glenn Cheetham, Big Sir

Here are some of the ways that we recruit and keep our current members happy that have been quite successful for our Branch:

Hand out a copy of the Newsletter to all the luncheon guests so they can read about the Branch and its activities. We also provide extra copies at luncheons for members to give to friends. Its great inexpensive advertising... written by the people involved.

Identify Activity Chairmen. We all wear nametags at lunch. We added the titles of Activity Chairmen under their names ... i.e. Golf Chairman, Fishing Chairman, etc. This gives recognition to the Chairmen and it identifies the person who, guests and members alike, should talk to about the activities our Branch offers ...in a casual luncheon and social hour setting.

Identify Birthday Boys. We have a drawing each month for a free lunch for one or two of our Birthday Boys. Then we ask all of them to stand and we sing happy birthday. To identify birthdays during the social hour, we put a small, temporary smiling face sticker saying Birthday Boy on the nametag. Other members congratulate them ahead of time...they love it!

Give special certificates of appreciation from the Branch for "behind the scenes" volunteers. We have fellows who work for years without recognition in such things as finding weekly golf marshals. When they "step down" we give a framed certificate in front of the membership or at the Ladies Day Luncheon.

Constantly encourage members to become involved in activities. Remind them to just try it. If they don't like it -- no obligation -- no harm done. .

Encourage new activities and try them out. Tell members to talk to friends about non-offered interests and start their own activities. For example, we have a wine tasters group ...some members then started an "inexpensive" wine group to share and compare bargain wines.

Encourage "couples" activities -- besides travel -- with ladies as guests. We have monthly activities such as our recent "A Day at the Races" (ladies loved the turf club atmosphere) and local tours of historical landmarks followed by lunch at a local restaurant. The ladies love to socialize and to get to know each other as well as feeling involved with their husband's social activities, when they are doing things with their husbands and meeting friends.

You might want to give some of these ideas a try.

Sirs in the News

Aptos-Rio Del Mar Branch 104, Aptos

Exceptional Achievement Award

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

Aptos Branch 104 was privileged to have Vice President **Dave Reiser** and his wife, Esther, attend the Ladies' Day Holiday Luncheon at the Seascapes Golf Course.



Reiser was there to honor **Gary Nickel** with two awards: The first was for his 2008 leadership as Governor of Area 10, which includes the branches in Aptos, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville. The

other was the "President's Exceptional SIR Award," which was presented to Gary in appreciation of his dedication and contribution as Area Governor for a total of five years and for serving as the Big Sir and Bulletin Editor of the Aptos Branch. Pictured is Gary Nickel (left) with Dave Reiser.

De Anza Branch 153, Sunnyvale

Hole-in-One

Aare Onton, Secretary

Tuesday – November 4th, 2008 – was Election Day. For **Tony Ridolfo** it was a winner day as he sank a hole-in-one the week after his 90th birthday. It was his second lifetime hole-in-one.

The occasion was the regular weekly golf tournament of Branch 153 ...this time at the Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino. It was a sunny, crisp, fall day as the members of his foursome at the par 3 – 8th hole watched Tony's ball land on the green, proceed to roll in the direction of the flag, and then disappear.

Dr. Tony (pictured) is a medical doctor who retired from a career as a senior physician at the Lilly Labs for Clinical Research. He was also a professor of medicine at Indiana University Medical School.

Good going, Doc!



Port Stockton Branch 46

Honorary Life Memberships

David McCulloch, Bulletin Editor

Shown in the picture receiving their certificates from President **Art Pufford**, are our two new Honorary Life members ...**Roger Davy** (on the left) and **Arden Riess**.

Roger joined our Branch in 1984, and has been extremely active ever since becoming a member and he has always looked for ways to improve the Branch. In two years he was a Director and then served as Secretary, Little Sir, Big Sir, Auditor and chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Soon after joining our Branch in 1996, Arden began bowling and golfing with his fellow members and went on to become the Branch and Area 14 Golf Chairman. He has also served as Treasurer, Little Sir, Big Sir and a Director. Looking for additional ways to help SIR, Arden served as Area 14 Governor and on the State Rules Committee.



Stanilaus Branch 103, Modesto

Hole-In-One

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Jerry Henderson, after many years of golfing, finally achieved his golfing ideal – his first hole-in-one. Playing at the Muni Golf Course in Modesto, during the weekly 9 holer in October it was on the 126 yard, 8th hole, using a driver.

Jerry is over 80 years old and is a 33.2 handicap golfer. The other three in the foursome were **Augie Capulong, George Heiser** and **Ben Adriano**... all from Stanislaus Branch 103. This was the first hole-in-one for the Muni Group in several years and Jerry received all the money in the 9-hole insurance fund, which now needs to be replenished.

Every Thursday morning – year around, except for holidays – members from Branches 103, 143 and 144 congregate and hold a mini golf tournament. Some days during the winter, there are as few as 16 golfers... other weeks during warmer weather, we have as many as 52 golfers participating.

The format used is for low score using one-half of a player's 18-hole handicap. On the eighth hole we have a contest for players closest to the hole. Some days we have had as few as one player and as high as 10 being on the green, depending on how many golfers participate, determines how many places are paid.



Sirs in the News

Alvarado Branch 73, San Pablo

Honoring an Active Member

Robert Perry, Bulletin Editor

Branch 73 wants to honor one of its very active members who has made a big contribution to our Branch over the years ... his name is **Robert Brown**.

Robert joined our Branch in 1995 and has been Secretary, Big Sir and currently is a Director. As Big Sir, Robert concentrated on recruiting new members introducing new activities to the Branch to entice new members. He has also filled in as Speaker Chairman and has often performed other jobs in the Branch when the key person was temporarily unavailable.



A quasi-workaholic, Robert Brown's plate is full of activities both within SIR and in other organizations – much of which involves bowling – a sport he has enjoyed since 1972. He has been quite active in the Pinole State SIR Bowling Tournament for some twelve years as Co-Chairman and treasurer for the games. Robert is involved in a number of bowling organizations and is also a contributing writer to several bowling publications. The California State Senior Bowling Association honored Robert by placing him in their Hall of Fame.

Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

What it's like to be Active & 90

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Noble Zumwalt is the epitome of an active senior. Although he celebrated his 90th birthday last fall, his age hasn't slowed him down one bit. Blessed with great genes, Noble says that he hasn't been sick a day in his life. The only prescription drug that he takes is a daily dose of high blood pressure medicine. He drives all over the place and continues his great love of bowling ... as an active member of our SIR League, he competes every week and still maintains an average in the high 140's.



Besides bowling, he tends to all the chores around the house. He cuts his own grass and spends a lot of time tending his garden and plants. Luckily wife Frances is an equal match for him in the health department. Noble has his own greenhouse where he grows seeds for both his vegetables and flowers.

The picture shows Noble being presented the Senior Certificate by Regional Director **George Christman**.

Good going Noble! You are truly an inspiration to us "young" dudes. We hope to be around to see you get the "Super Senior" award in a few years.

Honorary Life Members Awarded in 2008

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>
Howard T. Bassett	BR134
Russel H. Biltoft	BR039
Lowell S. Clark	BR141
Dean Clarke	BR175
Richard S. Cobb	BR081
Cameron Cramer	BR040
Daniel A. D'Amico	BR075
Roger A. Davey	BR046
Nick DiMuccio	BR023
Donald Egan	BR081
Roy M. Estep	BR049
Frank Franzago	BR069
Jon Greenwalt	BR098
Herman L. Johnson	BR132
John A. Krishna	BR123
John Merrill	BR129
Thomas R. Newton	BR075
Jim Pierce	BR079
Arthur E. Pufford	PP027
Harvey B. Rhodes	BR136
Carlo J. Ricci	BR100
F. Arden Riess	BR046
Bill Rodman	BR038
Frank Ruddy	BR110
Warren C. Senegal	SB069
Robert W. Simon	BR035
Ben J. Smith	BR116
Jay R. Sorensen	BR087
Leonard R. Stohler	BR139

Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118, San Mateo

Senior Certificate

Jim Mahon, Past Big Sir

Area 1 Governor **John Damonte** (on the left) is shown presenting a Senior Certificate to **Paul Yost**.



State Golf

Gene Drennan, Chairman State Golf Committee

We are in the process of finalizing our golf tournaments for 2009. Leading off will be our first tournament of the year in Las Vegas at the Suncoast Hotel and Casino, with three days of golf at Angel Park's Mountain, Palm courses, and Aliente. This will be our first time staying at the Suncoast and we are looking for a full-field turnout, the dates will be April 27th through May 1st.

Following this, we will be holding our Annual Reno tournaments at the Circus-Circus Hotel. These Tournaments will be held during the first 3 weeks of June. Golf will be played at two new courses – Arrow Creek and Wolf run, with our final day being at our landmark Lakeside Course. This event has grown to be so popular that we have extended it from two weeks to three.

Our next event will be our yearly Team Scramble Championship at Poppy Ridge Golf Course on August 10th in Livermore. During the months of June and July, we will be holding qualifying tournaments at local golf courses to determine the final 32 four-man teams that will be vying for the championship at Poppy Hills.

Our Fall Classic will be held at the Santa Ynez Marriott in Buellton on September 13th through the 16th and we will be golfing again at Ranch San Marcos Golf Course and the River Course at Alisal – the format will be a 4 man, 2 best-ball.

Our next tournament, will be a new event that we are calling the "Fall Classic-Northwest" and will be held at The Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino in Warm Springs, Oregon. We will be playing Golf at the Kah-Nee-Ta's Championship Golf Course for three consecutive days, using 3 different formats. This will be our first trip to Oregon and we are looking forward to a full-house turn out.

The Area and Division Qualifiers for the Individual Championship will be conducted in May and August respectively and the Championship will be held on November 3rd – 70 golfers will be competing in 7 flights, with the winners to receive a Championship, "Blue Jacket." In addition we will have open play for 70 golfers on Nov. 3rd and 144 golfers on Nov. 4th.

Our final Trip will be our ever-popular Mexico trip...this year's destination will be Puerto Vallarta, in November and December. Dates will be finalized soon. We will be staying at the world famous Paradise Village and we will be playing at the well-known El Tigre Golf Course. Entry forms will be available soon and will be found on our website: www.sirstategolf.com.

It is the intention of the Golf Committee to try and put together a comprehensive, and fun filled agenda, of the most popular tournaments to try to rebuild the golfing membership of the SIR organization.

State Bowling

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Chairman

Happy New Year to all!... I would like to remind everyone that SIR is a volunteer organization and so, I would like to thank all of you who have made SIR Bowling so much fun to be a part of.

We have a new Secretary, **Del Locke** – Assistant Secretary, **Jerry Sabo** – and Operations Subcommittee Chairman **Robert York**. Thank you all for filling these positions. The updated Bowling Committee can be found on the SIRinc website.

We had our first State Bowling Committee Meeting on January 5th. Thanks go out to Vice President Buck Kendrick and President Dave Reiser, for attending the meeting.

In our meeting, we submitted the 2009 bowling schedule. Our first tournament is January 23rd and 30th at Sutter Creek. The new schedule can be found on the SIRinc website.

Congratulations to our Paradise Branch – they have been awarded this year's SIR State Bowling Tournament and we want to welcome all SIR bowlers. Please join us at the State Tournament and have some fun, because you are all very competitive.

Thanks again to Region 1 for hosting this year's State Tournament and good luck bowlers!

State Sports

SIR Day at the Golden State Warriors vs. the Phoenix Suns

Price will be \$25/Ticket (regular \$65)
Includes coupon for hot dog - chips -soda
March 15 (Sunday) at 6:00pm
for info call **Mel Augustine** (510) 524-4952

SIR Day at the Sacramento River Cats vs. the Round Rock Express

May 19 (Tuesday) at 11:35am
for info call **Neil Mayo** (916) 965-8316

SIR Day at the SF Giants
vs. the **Pittsburgh Pirates**
July 29 (Wednesday) at 12:45pm
for info call **Chuck Roberts** (408) 243-6717

SIR Day at the Oakland Athletics
vs. the ???
Sometime in August
for more info call **Mel Augustine** (510) 524-4952

News from the Branches

Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

SongSirs

Harry Tutton, Branch Member

Old guys singing old songs ...that's the motto of the SongSirs of Branch 146, who have been singing for over ten years to groups such as the Walnut Creek Senior Club, Mt. Diablo Retired Teachers, Meals on Wheels Christmas show, Martinez Veterans Hospital and many retirement homes. The picture shows the SongSirs dressed up in green to sing some Irish songs for the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church VIP luncheon.

Led by director **Don Nunn** – with **Dave Obera** playing piano and **Barney Meade** on drums – the SongSirs sing good old fashioned songs for each show, as well as closing our Branch luncheons, singing God Bless America.



Remember the old Bob Hope song, "Thanks for the Memories?" SongSirs, Don Nunn, wrote new lyrics that comment on all our SIR activities. The SongSirs sing the following version of "Thanks for the Memories" at the close of every show:

Thanks for the memories, our meetings with guys, it's always a surprise,

We drink our wine and dine so fine and tell each other lies.

Thanks for the memories of speakers and a guest, with singers in a vest,

We've seen them all both short and tall and we've seen all the best.

Big Sir starts off with his gavel, sometimes our best plans do unravel,

We do the race track in our travels, we cruise and such and still do much. ...so...

Thanks for the memories, we garden in the yard, we internet quite hard,

With cribbage and our bridge, we hope we never are off guard.

Thanks for the memories, we've been around awhile, we are the rank and file,

We hope and pray for one more day and end it with a smile.

We play some golf and go hiking, we bowl and we sing to our liking,

We dance and we bocce most striking, as we invest and all the rest. ...so...

Thanks for the memories, of being here today, but now we're on our way,

Our songs are done, we've had some fun and now we want to say,

Awfully glad we met you, you really made our day, we thank you so much.

Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Danube River Cruise

Phil Goff, Branch Member

Branch 116 members joined the Danube River Cruise, which was sponsored by **Bob Hagler** of Branch 8. Bob was able to fill the 104-passenger, MS Switzerland Riverboat, with Area 2 couples and friends. We spent 12 days traveling from Budapest to Prague in mid-October and had surprisingly good weather. All along the Danube, we stopped at small and large cities and walked through Museums, Cathedrals, Abbeys, and more. The chef on the river-boat was outstanding and everyone raved about the meals.

It was a wonderful trip and all aboard brought back pictures of their friends and the beautiful scenery. Shown is a picture of the 5 couples from Branch 116 as we cruised through Austria. For many this was their first experience with river

cruising and everyone wanted to do it again. Many thanks to Hagler and Branch 8, for sponsoring such a successful trip.



Pathfinder Branch 59, Newark

Annual Installation

John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

Branch 59 once again installed its new officers for 2009. From left to right, Area 8 Governor **Tom Sherba** administers the oath to Assistant Secretary **Pete Angelides**, Director **Rob Ingebretson**, Director **Bill Anderson**, Treasurer **Ben Fernandez**, Little Sir **Frank R. Thomas**, Secretary **Jim Ferez**, and Director **Richard Holley**.



News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Grand Tour of Germany

Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

Eighteen members and guests, from Branches 96 and 15, spent 14 days on a grand tour of Germany. **Lee Sues** – the Tours and Membership Director of Branch 96 – organized and led the trip. The picture of the group was taken while on a cruise of the Rhine River ...Sues is in the front row – far right.

The group visited many interesting cities and locations and one of the highlights of the tour was a visit to the world famous annual celebration of the Oktoberfest in Munich.



Bidwell Branch 110, Chico

Salute to Veterans

Jim Kirks, Big Sir

Last fall the Bidwell Branch honored Veterans in a very memorable ceremony led by Big Sir Jim Kirks.

The Chico Armed Forces Career Center posted the colors (see picture), as **Bill Shrum** laid down a cadence. Members of the Branch then displayed the flags of the Branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. **Larry Hildenbrand** presented the National Guard flag, **Hank Miller** represented the Army, **Les Vander**



Velden posted the Navy Flag, the Marine Corps flag was unfurled by **KR Robertson**, **Owen Petersen** stood by the Coast Guard flag, waving the American colors was **Dale Larrabee** and **Bob Ponath** displayed the Air Force colors.

A Veterans "Roll of Honor," was compiled by Big Sir **Jim Kirks**, and **Ray Rolls** designed a page with the names of over 200 Branch members who served in the U. S. Armed Forces. A poem by Connie Petersen entitled "Every Day is Veterans' Day" was printed on the back of the Honor Roll.

This was quite a special event for the Bidwell Branch.

Brentwood Branch 108

Fun Dining

Hoyt Huggins, Bulletin Editor

Past Big Sir **Don Palmer** and his wife Ann started the Dining Out Club in 2005 and we meet several times a year at various local restaurants for great fun and fellowship. Don is the livewire behind the movement, including rounding up prizes, and Ann does all the real work organizing each event. Together this couple insures that everyone has a memorable evening, often including music and other entertainment. Their love of fun is infectious and we always know there's going to be a good time at these events.



Those attending pay their own way and singles and couples alike join in these events. There are no dues or official memberships, the only requirement is membership in Branch 108. We meet early for a no-host social hour and then dinner. When signing up for each event, members choose among three or four entrees all at the same price of \$20 or less per person.

The Dining Out event has become increasingly popular. For example, In June of 2005, 22 people were in attendance at Mimi's. In August, 40 attended at Schooner's Pub and Eatery. Then in October at Prevot's, 55 of us enjoyed a five course dinner. Since then, we consistently have 72 to 75 people in attendance, which incidentally, represents almost half of the branch.

The door prize from a grab bag of assorted prizes accumulated by Don has become the centerpiece attraction at these events. Tickets are not merely called off with indifference, but instead are announced with wit and elegance. Also we draw for a special gift for one of the tables ...at Easter there were stuffed bunnies, and at Thanksgiving, turkeys were given out.

The Dining Out Club has become a very special Branch 108 activity for a night out, good food, a few laughs, and getting to know each other better. The dynamic couple, who lead us in this event, give life to the SIR philosophy of having fun in our retirement.

Branch Holiday Parties

Sonoma Valley Branch 41

Christmas In The Wine Country

Al Gunn, Bulletin Editor

Branch 41 enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party. The lunch was delicious and the wine flowed freely... courtesy of the Cohn Winery.

During lunch, **Richard Riley** -- a fine lyric tenor -- sang various pieces of Christmas music that inspired the diners to join him in singing several numbers.

Following lunch, the group was royally entertained by Scottish music and Irish dancing provided by



our Branch Chaplain – **Jim McElroy** – as well as, John and Heidi Noonan (see picture). John played several familiar Scottish selections and then accompanied his sister's Irish dancing. John, who is only 11 years old, plays like a champion piper and nine year old Heidi, has won many gold medals for her dancing. To wrap up the fun party, Jim McElroy played some nice selections on the pipes.

Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Christmas in Walnut Creek

Floyd Skelton, Bulletin Editor

Branch 116 held its annual Christmas Party this year at the Elks Lodge in Walnut Creek. Outgoing Big Sir **Art Donaldson** and event chairman **Bill McCord**, welcomed over 165 members and guests to this colorful and beautifully decorated holiday event where the happy crowd thoroughly enjoyed good food and drink. After dinner, dancing was provided with the music from the Diplomats.



During the evening, President **Dave Reiser** (left) presented a well-deserved Honorary Life Membership award to **Ben**

Smith (right) for his many contributions to the Las Trampas Branch and other branches as well. Standing in the center is Ben's wife, Sally.

Lake Tahoe Branch 160

Christmas in the Mountains

Larry Coffman, Bulletin Editor

It was during the first big snow storm of the year that Branch 160 held its annual Christmas Banquet and installation of officers and so, unfortunately, some members were unable to attend. As usual Tep's Villa Roma did a superb job in food preparation and presentation. Dave Fabrizio, a local musician, played all the favorites and sang them as well, for listening and dancing.

During the festivities, outgoing Big Sir **Jack Post** received his State Certificate and Past Big Sir pin from PBS **Al Bartley**.

Certificates of appreciation were also presented to **Sig and Lila Heidemann** (on the left in the picture) for their huge efforts in



putting on the golf tournaments over many years and (on the right in the picture) to **Barbara Smith** for her wonderful centerpieces at the dinner tables at our Christmas parties, along with hubby **Jim**, for his long time efforts in putting together the Branch Bowling tournaments.

A great time was had by all!

Murphys Branch 140

Christmas in Murphys

Len Piumarta, Big Sir

In December, Murphys Branch 140 held its annual Christmas dinner dance and installation of officers party. The party was held at the Camps Restaurant at the Greenhorn

Creek Golf and Country Club in Angels Camp. Some seventy members, wives, and guests had a wonderful dinner, and lively time,



dancing to the Renaldi band. In the picture, outgoing Big Sir **Ray Morris** (on the left) is seen handing the beautiful branch rooster to new Big Sir **Len Piumarta**.

Branch Holiday Parties

Indian Valley Branch 68, San Rafael

Christmas in Marin

Bill Gelardi, Assistant Bulletin Editor

PBS Ted Cohen and his committee, put together a wonderful, fun filled, Christmas Party at the Marin Yacht Club. The 78 members and guests attending the party enjoyed the good food, the music by a four-piece band with a vocalist, and of course, the dancing. The highlight of the evening was the installation of new officers, and the PBS champagne toast (see picture).



Camellia City Branch 3, Sacramento

Christmas in the Capital

Al Williams, Bulletin Editor

Sacramento's Camellia City Branch 3 held its Ladies Day – Christmas luncheon at the VFW Hall. We normally hold our monthly luncheons there, but had always opted to hold special events at another venue ...what a nice surprise when we got one of the best meals we have ever had for our wives and guests!

We were privileged to have one of our favorite groups – Sister Swing – for the entertainment. Sister Swing is a women's trio with the Andrews Sisters sound that is so awesome most people would not be able to differentiate when listening to either group's recordings. One of their favorite songs, as well as a favorite of the audience, is to get a man from the audience to come on stage while they sing "Oh Daddy." During the singing, the girls will take almost everything from their "victim's" pockets, going through his wallet, stuffing loose bills into their shoes & dresses, passing his keys around, and treating him like a king. It was no exception this year when Past Big Sir **Bill Holden** was their victim (see picture). I know from past experience how well they do their job and it was certainly the highlight of the fun party.



Alta Sierra Branch 124, Grass Valley

Christmas in the Foothills

Roland Boucher, Bulletin Editor

Branch 124 meets at the Alta Sierra Country Club and members usually attend wearing very casual clothes, but in December they put on a jacket and tie and bring their wives or special friends to the annual Holiday Luncheon to enjoy an outstanding meal, good entertainment, and fine companionship.

Following a social hour that helped people get into the holiday spirit, outgoing Big Sir Bill Drown welcomed everybody and started off the proceedings with the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced various committee chairmen and expressed his gratitude for all the work they had performed to keep the Branch running smoothly during his term in office.

It was then time to eat. The menu choices this year were Chicken Picata or Bacon Wrapped Pork Loin with Belgian Chocolate Mousse for dessert, all very tasty and well prepared!

Following the excellent meal, entertainment was provided by The Bear River Jazz Unlimited Choral Group, an award-winning group from the Bear River



High School in Auburn (see picture). They sang a medley of songs ranging from *Mac the Knife* to *Sonny Boy* and their performance was heartily enjoyed judging by the applause they received.

Area 33 Governor **Ken Newman** was a guest, and after everybody had been fed and entertained, he performed the installation ceremonies for the 2009 officers and directors. Incoming Big Sir **Gene Byrnes** then took over as Master of Ceremonies. He thanked everyone who had helped him organize the event but he himself deserves the most credit for the success of the Holiday Luncheon.

The festivities concluded with a drawing for lots of door prizes, most of which were donated by local merchants. The dining room emptied very slowly as people continued to visit after the proceedings were officially over, confirming that the affair had indeed been a success.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

March 2009

March 4-12, 2009
Discover Sicily

This 9 day trip includes r/t air, hotel accommodations and 11 meals. Travelers will enjoy a deluxe bus and guided tours of Taormina, Mt. Etna Volcano, a local winery tasting, Catania, Caltagirone, Pizzaa Amerina, Villa Casale, Siracusa, and optional tour to Palermo. Cost is \$2743 PPDO. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call **Henry Puccinelli** at 415-457-3990.

March 4-17, 2009:
Princess Cruise to Hawaii

Want to get away on the cheap? Join us for a relaxing trip to Hawaii aboard the beautiful Golden Princess, R/T from Los Angeles. The low price of \$995 PPDO even includes a \$50 credit for onboard purchases of wine and canapés. Offered by Branch 161 Travel. Call **Bob Damico** at 925-634-0465.

March 14-22, 2009
Ft Lauderdale to Ft Lauderdale

Visit six different ports, including: Princess Cays, St. Thomas, St Maarten, Grand Turk, and Great Bahama Bank. Prices range from \$1940 to \$2350 PPDO, which covers all costs. Offered by Branch 143 Travel. Call **Bill Torrens** at 209-667-0244.

March 19-24, 2009
Spirit of Washington D.C.



The trip includes the Monuments, World War II Memorial, National Gallery of Art, National Museum of the American Indian and more. This 5-day trip includes 4 breakfasts and 3 dinners. Cost is \$1,799 PPDO. Offered by Branch 44 & 78 Travel. Call **Jerry Mills** at 661-325-5951.

April 2009

April 12-26, 2009
Exotic Panama Canal Cruise

Enjoy 14 unforgettable days and nights on the Coral Princess. Some of the stops are: Aruba -- Caratagena, Columbia -- the Panama Canal -- Puntarenas, Costa Rica -- San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua -- Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala -- and Huatulco, Mexico. Prices range from \$2869 to \$3469 PPDO and include r/t air. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Pete Lepisto** at 209-948-2265.

April 28 -- May 5, 2009
Savannah & Charleston

Seven nights including Hilton Head, Jekyll Island, Jacksonville, St. Augustine and St. Simon Island. We will be touring the gardens of beautiful southern plantations and much, much more! This will be a Spring Time extravaganza of Azaleas & Dogwoods and each day we will experience the best this beautiful and venerable area has to offer. Price of \$2508 includes r/t air from the Bay Area. Early bookings will receive a savings. Offered by Branch 153 Travel. Call **Ralph Hunt** at 650-967-8467.

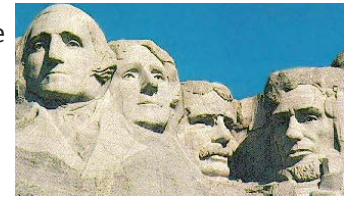
May 2009

May 24-June 3, 2009
Alaska Cruise

Ten night inside passage cruise on the Sea Princess. Ports of call include: Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria B.C. Prices range from \$1456 to \$2373, including r/t air from San Francisco. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call **George Smith** at 530-342-3133.

May 20-June 7, 2009
Great Wild West

This trip will be by bus ...all the way. Some of the stops include: Salt Lake City, including attendance at a rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir -- Yellowstone National Park -- Grand Tetons National Park -- Black Hills tour -- Mt Rushmore -- Crazy Horse Memorial -- Custer State Park -- Devil's Tower -- and more. The trip will be on a new, air-conditioned bus, 13 nights in first class hotels and 12 dinners. Cost is \$2780 PPDO. Offered by Branch 33 Travel. Call **Dale Martin** at 916-359-6121.



May 22-25, 2009
Indianapolis 500

Tour includes r/t air, motor coach transportation while in Indianapolis, hotel stay for 3 nights, breakfasts, box lunches, and dinners, reserved seating for the Festival Parade, and reserved seating at the race track, with a large monitor for race viewing. Cost is \$1852 PPDO. Offered by Area 7 Travel. Call **Paul Peters** at 510-724-8345.

June 2009

June 5-14, 2009
Atlantic Maritimes

This tour includes 9 night accommodations -- a tour of Halifax and Digby -- Nova Scotia -- Moncton -- New Brunswick -- Prince Edward Island -- Charlottetown -- and Braddeck, plus some other tours and stops. The price is \$3495 PPDO. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call **John Hoffmann** at 707-642-4925.

June 21-23 2009
Italian Lakes & Greek Islands

Featuring a 7 night Eastern Mediterranean Cruise. Immerse yourself in the breathtaking scenery of the Italian Lakes Region. Unpack once for a memorable 7 night cruise aboard the Costa Fortuna, round trip out Venice. Explore histories and cultures of three distinctive countries Italy, Greece and Croatia. Visit the most popular Greek islands of Mykonos, Santorini, and Rhodes. Also explore the historic walled city of Dubrovnik. Trip includes 25 meals and r/t air. Prices range from \$4679 to \$5429 PPDO. Offered by Branch 10 Travel. Call **Mike Console** at 408-246-1080.

LETS HAVE A GOOD TIME IN 2009

Leadership Action Plan

Continued from Page 1

interest in the success of the plan.

Branch Assessment Report – In order to establish a baseline for focusing leadership attention, a Branch Assessment Report will be requested from each participating branch. The 23 branches in Region 6 completed their Assessment Reports in 2008, confirming the methodology and the importance of this effort. This report will be used as an initial evaluation of each branch's health for the long term. The Leadership Action Committee will collect the Branch Assessment Reports and provide a Branch Evaluation Summary to each Regional Director, with pertinent data and recommendations.

Branch Membership Action Plan – It is anticipated that branch leaders will review their own Branch Evaluation Summary in collaboration with their Area Governor. From these deliberations, a Branch Membership Action Plan will emerge which addresses membership-related issues unique to its branch. This will no doubt entail regional or area meetings, training sessions, and/or leadership visits to the branches.

Here is a sample Branch Membership Action Plan:

- We will induct (10%) of present active members next year.
- We will establish a monthly guest target projected to allow us to meet our monthly induction target.
- We will offer incentives for bringing in members, with appropriate publicity for award winners. (Examples-quarterly free lunch drawing for latest sponsors, branch payment for guest lunches, Area quarterly award presentation for greatest sponsor performance, annual Region award presentation etc.)
- We will give awards for most prolific sponsors in the branch.
- We will have a contest with teams comprised of current members.
- We will develop recruiting aids and distribute them for use.

A **Branch Quarterly Membership Report** will be completed by all participating branches. This report will not only standardize membership reporting but is important for the branch to review and to show accountability for its membership performance, it is also essential for Regional Directors and Area Governors, who are responsible for improving membership-related issues within their assigned Regions and Areas.

The State Growth & Membership Committee, and its task force committees, is charged with collecting and developing ideas and methods for membership recruiting and growth and in concert with the LAP implementation, will be distributing to all branches proven successes and new ideas for consideration.

Salute to SIR Day at the Races

The next Golden Gate Fields "Salute to SIR" day at the races is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2009.

The price for groups of 10 or more is \$25pp which includes: valet parking or parking for a bus – admission and reserved seating in the Turf Club – daily racing program – prime rib buffet, tax/tip for the food servers included – and a race named in honor of each SIR group in attendance. During this race, up to 6 group members will be invited into our "Winners Circle" to view the race and have a group photo taken with the winning jockey of that race.

High demand for this special offer is expected and any interested branches should contact:



Michael Roberts
Group Sales Manager
Golden Gate Fields
Phone: (510) 559-7380
Fax: (510) 559-7481
mroberts@goldengatefields.com



Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

MAY 2009

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

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

President Dave's Column

One of the pleasures of being the SIR State President is the privilege and honor to present an Honorary Life Membership (HLM) award. As I travel to the branches, there is also a side benefit. I am getting to know first hand the geography of northern California.

During the first three months there were eight HLM presentations. As I write this, we have twelve more that have been approved with scheduled award dates. Two additional applications are on hold waiting for more information.

At the April State Board Meeting, Past President and Certificates Chairman, **Jim Donovan**, gave an explanation of the criteria for becoming an HLM and an explanation of informal guidelines that may be used in determining the qualifications of an HLM candidate. Area Governors and Directors were present and should now be in a better position to evaluate the applications as they are received. If asked, they can share this information with the branches. While these are informal guidelines, they may help a branch with their decision when there is a difficult choice to make between candidates.

We were also told that a few branches have no Honorary Life Members. There are also some branches that are not taking advantage of the two percent rule, which would allow them additional Honorary Life Members. Please keep in mind, that the HLM is not to be treated lightly or awarded merely on the basis of good fellowship. It is to recognize exceptional and extraordinary service.

If my schedule permits, I would enjoy visiting more branches to present the Honorary Life Membership awards and in the process learn more about the geography of Northern California.

Finally, remember the slogan for this year
"Let's have a good time in 2009"

SinSIRly, *Dave*



OK, so now you are Retired...

Walter Schick, State Publicity Chairman

By now every Sir has seen the new SIR brochure. We are men who enjoy our leisure time with new friends and new activities. How many activities does your branch have?

The SIR brochure starts out with 8 activities, which most branches have, and the list continues with 15 more. A choice of activities in addition to Golf, Bowling, Fishing ...will appeal to more guests and increase your own membership satisfaction.

If one of the activities interests a guest, and your Branch does not have it, encourage them to start up the activity. We can help with a description.

A healthy branch plan should have at least one activity for each ten members, in addition to State and Area activities. 100 members = 10 activities. Add an Activity Coordinator or committee to your Branch — ask a Director to help out, and you can try out new activities.

Did you know that we have found 77 activities that one or another branch has started? How many does your branch have? These are now listed on the State website at <http://sirinc.org/protected/publicrelations/> and the easiest to start include couples: Dine Out, Potluck, Wine Tasting, and Book Swap.

Let me know what activities you have that we have missed. **Walter Schick**, State Publicity — I'm in the State Roster.



Membership News and Great Ideas that Work

Recently the Growth & Membership Committee under Chairman, Gary Pelton, conducted a brainstorming session, focusing on good ways to recruit new members. The following are twelve interesting ideas that came out of that session:

1. Visit local spots of Active retired persons such as Senior Centers, Community Centers, local Bocce courts, horseshoe pits, etc. Become involved in some outside activity that you like and talk up SIR.
2. Carry Invite cards and use them.
3. Present a perspective new member a Free Lunch Card with your info on the back.
4. Distribute a few fliers, brochures, and business cards. Don't leave it up to the other guy.
5. Give your sweetie a couple of brochures and cards to hand out to her lady friends. They are usually more sociable than men.
6. Offer an End of Year surprise award to the top branch recruiter such as a perpetual trophy cup or plaque with the winners name and year engraved on it.
7. Talk to branch members who also belong to other organizations and ask them to contact those friends, who have dropped out, about what a unique organization SIR is and invite them to lunch or some SIR event.
8. Tell someone about SIR and then take them to their first SIR meeting. This step is very crucial. It may be the only chance you get.
9. Ask any and all of your recent inductees about their hobbies and ask them to head up their favorite activity, whatever that may be in your branch.
10. Make sure that when you have a Ladies Day event someone should personally present each Lady with something SIR that they can carry home such as Branch Business Cards, the "New" glossy Tri-fold brochures, a news letter, etc. In some cases widows are non-paying guests and should help out. Remember this... women are usually more social than men and they have more contacts.
11. If the new "LAP" program isn't for your branch of less than 100 members, but you still want to continue to bring in new members and keep them, you might do well to re-visit the long standing "Membership Program" found on the SIR website under Documents, then under "Membership Program".
12. The best tool you will always have is still your handshake.

Are We Missing Yet Another Recruiting Opportunity?

Gary Pelton, Region 7 Director

While speaking recently with high ranking officers of several service and charitable groups about their membership decline, the following became apparent.

Sons In Retirement, by charter, is self-supporting and not dependant on outside financial support, as most other groups and organizations are. SIR does not support any outside organizations or groups, no matter how worthy...therefore, the declining economy has very minimal, if any, effect on SIR.

We are in a unique position to ignore the trends and set our own. Many members of non-social groups have become discouraged because they are no longer able to raise the thousands of support dollars as they have in the past and they drop out ...have these men been asked to join sir ...probably not!! ...why not?

Remember this well. SIR does not have any initiation or membership fees, dues, fines, or financial quotas, as most others do. We all know of SIR members in our own branches that are, or have been, a member of fund raising groups. Now would be an excellent time to turn to these failing groups and present our recruiting programs. There certainly is nothing wrong with being a leader rather than a follower ...success usually takes a little work.

The Growth and Membership Committee (G&M) can and will help you... "[just ask.](#)"

.....
Potrero Branch 148, San Pablo

Husbands with Nothing to Do

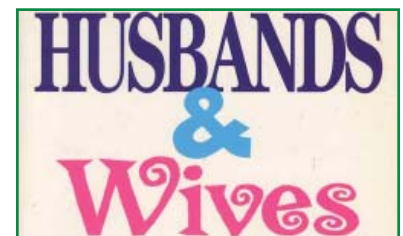
Ben Takeshita, Big Sir

I am the newly elected Big Sir of Branch 148. We have a Ladies Day luncheon twice each year and during our last one, I encouraged the ladies to help us recruit new members.

We have learned that many times the wives hear other wives complaining that their husbands are not getting out after they retire. That's why I

encouraged the ladies to let us know when they hear of such husbands or boyfriends so that they might be encouraged to join our Branch.

So far, we have gotten one new member as a result of this and who knows how many more we can get?



Twin Valley Branch 36, Santa Cruz

Three Keys to Bringing in New Members

Dave Bohrman, Big Sir

I think the keys to maintaining and improving attendance are three fold:

1. Excellent speakers that show up.
2. Excellent food, and a free lunch for visitors on their first visit.
3. Well run, orderly meetings, that are fun and not "slow."



To get prospective new members in the front door, have these three "keys" working so current members will be proud to bring new people.

We all have dozens of contacts that may come if asked by an enthusiastic member. I think newspaper announcements, bulletin board postings, etc. are mostly ineffective. Personal contact, along with reminders and even offers of transportation, are the best.

Aptos-Rio Del Mar Branch 104

Greeting Members

Tony Labue, Big Sir

Recently I received a letter asking for ideas that work to attract new members. As I thought about our Branch, I concluded that it's not just about what we do outside our meetings, but more importantly, what we do at our meetings.



For example, many of our members remember **Jack Kooker**, balancing on his walker while he greeted each of us at the door entrance. His calling out your name made you feel quite special and I believe this kind of thing is a great stimulus and encouragement to attract and maintain membership.

In Memoriam Weston McArter Alt, Sr.



Weston Alt passed away on April 16, 2009 in San Francisco at the age of 94. He was Big Sir in Pony Express Branch 69, Area 9 Governor and State President in 1991.

His legacy includes extensive service in public education, service to his country and to his community. Wes was born and raised in California and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and received his Masters Degree from California State University, Chico.

He dedicated his 43-year professional career in public schools as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent. Wes served his country as a naval officer in WWII and was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries received during the recapture of Guam. Wes enjoyed a long, purposeful life and he will be missed by his friends and family.

He joins his beloved wife Adella Tyler Alt, who passed away in 1998. He leaves three adult children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Insurance Committee



The picture shows our hard-working and very effective Insurance Committee after one of their recent meetings. Left to right are: Members **Roger Borgerson** and **Bob Ingersoll**, President **Dave Reiser**, Chairman **John Thomason** and Vice President **Buck Kendrick**.

Sirs in the News

Santa Cruz Branch 20

Honorary Life Member

Jack Kemmerling, Area 10 Governor

Branch 20 was honored to have President **Dave Reiser** and Region 7 Director **Gary Pelton** in attendance at its February luncheon meeting to honor 92 year old, **Stan Wolfberg** with an Honorary Life Membership award.

Stan has served as the Branch 20 Secretary for 19 consecutive years and has certainly earned the right to be recognized as an

extraordinary and exceptional person. Stan has also been an active recruiter over the years... most recently bringing in three new members in the last month alone.

Also present at the luncheon was Lois, his wife of 66 years. Stan suggests she should also receive an award for all those years together.

Stan is shown (on the right) in the picture receiving the award from Dave Reiser.



Arnold Branch 152

Distinguished Member

Joe Crawford, Big Sir

Bob Kreps was a co-founder of branch 152 in 1989. He was also the first Big Sir. In recognition of that, the board of directors recently passed a resolution designating Bob as a "Distinguished Member." Bob's badge, No 1, is also being retired.

Bob is shown in the picture holding the plaque and a copy of the resolution passed by the board of directors, acknowledging his service to Branch 152.



Twin Peaks-Portola Branch 25, South San Francisco

Super Senior

Nick Fesunoff, Bulletin Editor

Earl Somers, Past Big Sir

At the Branch 25 March luncheon meeting, Region 5 Director **John Mason** (on the left in the picture), honored **Mel Kranke**, age 95, with a Super Senior Award.



Mel is a man of many talents...magician, ventriloquist, photographer, golfer, bowler, travel guide, and world traveler. He saw his first airplane in 1919, and got his first plane ride in 1937 for \$5.00. He was an Eagle Scout and was active in many sports, including teaching swimming at the Red Cross where his training helped him save a woman's life.

Mel joined the US Navy in 1942 and during his naval service he married his sweetheart, Elizabeth. After leaving the Navy, they eventually moved to California. At various times, he was an X-Ray instructor at St. Mary's Hospital and also was a medical photographer for sixteen hospitals and three drug companies. He was seriously into making slides and 16 mm movies and has donated many films of his travels to the U.S. Park Service.

Mel joined Branch 57 in 1983, and became the Big Sir in 1998. He has served as Travel Chairman and he and his wife have guided groups of Sirs to 65 countries. Mel transferred to Branch 25 in 2007. He still bowls every week and plays golf two or three times a week ...an inspiration to all of us "youngsters" in our eighties and early nineties.

Sirs in the News

Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont/Newark

Marymee Promoted

John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

Branch 59 Big Sir **Don Gillis** (left) presented Sunshine Chairman **Dave Marymee** with a certificate proclaiming that he is now a Senior Honorary Life Member.

Dave has been a member of Branch 59 since 1986 and Sunshine Chairman for over 15 years. Honorary Life Members are promoted to Senior status after 10 years.



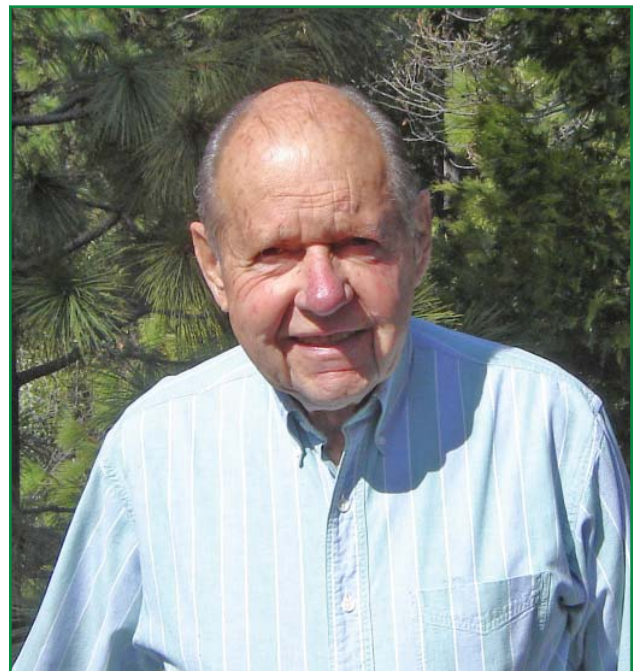
Murphys Branch 140

Senior HLM

Len Piumarta, Big Sir

Bob Jennings was born in Stockton 88 years ago. He first saw his wife in a beauty contest and kept reminding her to smile while on stage. He later met Marge at a party and the rest is history ...they've been married for 65 years! They both attended San Jose State and became teachers in Hollister and Stockton. Bob later became a school administrator and was instrumental in developing the first Stockton Alternative and Technical School. The Jennings have three daughters and three grandchildren and Bob keeps active with skiing, fishing and golf.

Bob was formerly a member of the Stockton Branch, but when he moved to Murphys, there was not a SIR branch there and so he decided to start one. Bob (shown in the picture) continues to be an active member of our Branch, is in charge of the Speakers Committee, acts as our "Honorary Historian," and is always ready to give a helping hand.



Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Senior Honorary Life Member

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Big Sir **Jerry Zoller** (on the left in the picture) is shown presenting **Laurence "Larry" Grandt** with a Senior Honorary Life Member award. That membership title is achieved after a Sir has been an HLM for 10 years.

Larry is in his 25th year as a member of Branch 103. He has held one position or another for 23 of those years ...that is truly exceptional and extraordinary service to Sons In Retirement.

Larry has been a very active Branch member, having served as Bulletin Editor – Secretary – Little Sir – Big Sir – and for the last eight years, has been in charge of luncheon ticket sales, each and every month.



State Golf

Gene Drennan, Chairman State Golf Committee

A little tale about Golf. Two years ago, my bride of 36 years whom I adore with passion and fervor, decided that if she was ever going to partake of a life together, she would need to take up the glorious game of GOLF. Making progress – slow but steady – she recently came to the conclusion that golf is the most frustrating thing that she has ever done, that she was never going to learn the stupid game and she couldn't believe that people, especially mature, grown up and senior adults, could ever play this game, and with that said, she proceeded to tell me how much she LOVED THE GAME!!!!!!

That being said, we can now address our SIR members and their undying love for the game. SIR is made up of retirees both young and elderly. Some had never held a club in their hands until they joined a SIR branch, hoping to meet fellow seniors and see what was happening. Then they met the local golf chairman or a fellow golfer, and were asked the fateful question ...have you ever played golf, and would you like to learn? That was the start of their ongoing quest for the perfect golf day.

SIR golfers come from every age category, every working past, every size, shape, and every ability level, from the beginning golfer to the plus 1 or 2 handicapper, with the beautiful part being, there is room for EVERYONE!!! We have games for the duffers, the not so duffers, the new, the old and everyone in between. THAT IS WHAT SIR IS ALL ABOUT!!!! We take every day in stride, wishing that we could give this game up, but knowing once it is in your soul you are hooked for life.

Approximately one in every four Sirs is a registered member of our NCGA GHIN system, comprising the largest individual group of the NCGA. We are powerful in number, taking golf outings to exotic places, and enjoying a round each week at affordable golf courses in our own home town. At any given day of the week, somewhere in the greater Northern California area, I can almost guarantee there is an ongoing golf event that you can join. If not in your own area, in a different area, division, or on a State level. Some branches will have 50-100 golf outings every year.

We welcome anyone with a love of the game into our midst. Embrace him or her (spouses often join us), and proceed, with enthusiasm, fervor and hope, chasing that little sphere hither and yon, going places that no one has gone before, hoping to get that elusive birdie, eagle or any other flying object. When you meet a fellow golfer, either for the first time, or

State Bowling

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Chairman

I do not have a lot of news, but I will report that our numbers are down for participation. We feel it may be because of the economy. We still have 18 tournaments to bowl this year and while we may not be able to attend them all, lets try for two or three and this may help our numbers for the year.

We have added a new tournament to our schedule this year. This tournament is Sonora at Black Oak Casino. The tournament schedule is available on our sir web site.

Again, welcome all SIR members to our SIR annual state tournament at paradise this year. Lets see which branch is the state champion this year. I personally challenge all SIR leagues to send their winning league champs to participate this year. I know how competitive our bowlers are and I'll see you there.

State Sports



SIR Day at the SF Giants

vs. the **Pittsburgh Pirates**

July 29 (Wednesday) at 12:45 PM

for info call **Chuck Roberts** (408) 243-6717

SIR Day at the Oakland Athletics

vs. the **Texas Rangers**

August 6 (Thursday) at 12:35 PM

for more info call **Mel Augustine** (510) 524-4952



at your local club, municipal course, or just around town, invite him to come and check us out. We golfers do not bite, or not at least until we have yelled FORE!!!

More about our golfers can be found on our website, www.sirstategolf.com.

News from the Branches

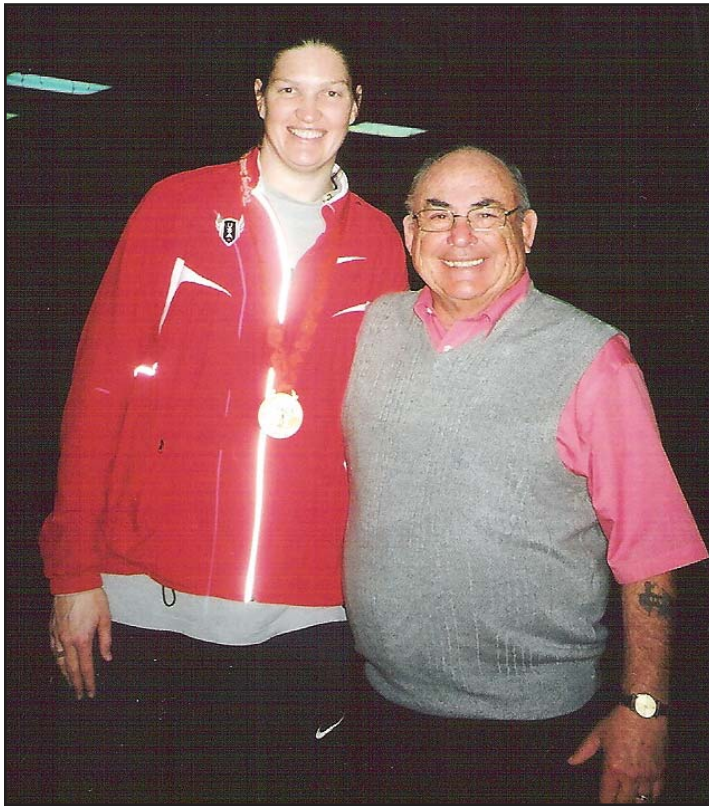
Tokay Branch 145, Lodi

Olympic Gold Medal Winner

Bill Shankles, Big Sir

Branch 145 had as its guest speaker at the February luncheon, **Stephanie Brown Trafton**, the Olympic Gold Medal Winner in Discus Throwing in the 2008 Summer Olympics held in Beijing, China. Stephanie was an outstanding speaker and displayed a very warm and friendly personality.

In the picture, **Bill Shankles** seems a little dwarfed by Stephanie.



Stephanie displaying her gold medal at the 2008 Olympics



Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Bocce on the Rise

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

Last fall as **Jack Vierhus** of Branch 32 walked into Boccis' Cellar in Santa Cruz he asked, "where is the nearest hospital?" when asked if someone was ill, he answered, "no, I just wondered where to send the bodies after we beat the #@*%&! out of your team." The team they were going to beat was Branch 20 of Santa Cruz, who in spite of this verbal battering, did finish victors with three matches to one. On a return match at San Jose in February, Branch 32 thoroughly trounced Santa Cruz (area 10), 4 games to 0. Bruised in body and ego, the boys returned home vowing to rise again.

Two new teams have been recruited and will start regular competition in May. All kidding aside, bocce is one those activities which can help any branch grow. It is easy to learn and easy to play. One player on Branch 20 is 95 and one on branch 104 played leaning on his "walker."

Pictured are Branch 32 and Santa Cruz Area 10 Bocci players.



Bob Edwards

with the Branch 32 "International Trophy," made out of a Heineken Bottle.



News from the Branches

Placer Gold Branch 37 of Auburn

Yesterday & Today

Long before the internet, cell phones, and high-definition TV, a March 1972 story in the Auburn Journal, chronicled an organizational meeting of Placer Gold Branch 37 in Auburn. The first meeting brought 45 prospective members together for lunch at Lou LaBonte's, one of Auburn's oldest restaurants.

The black and white picture below shows a full slate of elected officers at the first regular meeting held the following month at Walker's Restaurant... notice the dressy attire the men were wearing. Most folks probably don't remember that the new Branch was sponsored by the Fort Sutter Branch 14. The news story went on to say that Sons In Retirement, at that time, had 8,300 members and 37 Branches. It told about the founding of Branch 1 by Damian Reynolds

and described what SIR is all about. Branch 37 started right away trying to bring in new members, as a spokesman for the Branch pointed out how someone interested in joining the new Branch could get information and a membership application.

Today, Branch 37 is still very much alive and well with some 200 members. Its activities include probably the largest fishing group in all of SIR with over 100 members, an active golf club, and quite a large poker group. The Branch has prided itself on providing an entertaining monthly luncheon with some really good speakers and great food at the Elk's Lodge... the colored pictures, taken at a recent luncheon meeting, shows a big difference in dress and maybe also the atmosphere.

*Editors Note: Some of the information for this story was provided by Branch member, **Jim Petruk**.*



1972

2009



News from the Branches

Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Certificates of Appreciation

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Branch 94 recently honored several of its members for their outstanding contributions to the Branch. Shown in the picture (left to right) in the bottom row are **Frank Sturniolo**, **Dan Thery**, and **Bill Hooper**. In the back row are **Chuck Loney**, **Andy La Scola**, and **Jim Stonehouse**. They were all presented with a nice Certificate of Appreciation. It was wild shirt day and some of the colorful shirts worn that day can be seen in the picture.



Editors Note: We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this feature in Happenings will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs. (see Page 10)



To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on Page 10, the travel page, was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email
Don MacGregor at: donmac95@comcast.net

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

11th Annual Bowling Tournament

Paul Murphy, Program & Publicity Chairman

Pins flew at the Gold Country Lanes in Sutter Creek when 132 bowlers met for a two-day Sons In Retirement bowling tournament. With a record setting number of members and their guests – representing 29 Branches from Northern and Central California – the tournament was certainly a success, according to **Richard Bibby** who has coordinated the tournament for many years and is a retired fireman from San Jose. Bibby lives in Fiddletown and has been a member of Branch 96 for 16 years. **Robert York** from Branch 123, who lives in Pinole, also helped organize the event.

The men's Division A singles winner was **John Sepulveda**, from Branch 123 in Vallejo, with a total score of 656. The Division B top scorer was **Bill Hines**, from Branch 140 of Murphy's. **Wilson Hunt** and **Harley Colbert**, representing Branch 73 of San Pablo, were the lane masters of the Division A doubles ...and **Mike** and **Debra Silva**, of Branch 136 in Sonora, nailed down the Division B doubles title. Women's singles was championed by **Arleen Williams**, with **Debra Silva** from Branch 136 of Sonora ...the All Events winner. **Alex Rivera**, from Branch 123, was the Men's All Events top bowler.

The 12th Annual SIR tournament – also sponsored by Branch 96 – is already in the planning stage and will held at the Gold Country Lanes in January 2010.

In other Branch news, the March 5th luncheon was designated as "Crazy Hat Day" and many members showed up with some sort of different headgear. This was the 2nd Annual event, after **Lee Suess** the 2005 Big Sir, kicked off the original day. "It was a cold day in the Motherlode Country and wearing a hat seemed appropriate," said Suess.

Seen in the picture (left to right) are Past Big Sir **Art Bertolero**, Big Sir **Manuel Robles**, **Rich Pastorino**, Little Sir **Ed Maloney**, **Jerry Middleton** and **Ted Means**.



News from the Branches

Vacaville Branch 99

Colleen Evich, Pride of Branch 99

Bob Staib, Past Big Sir, Branch 106

Back in 1988, when **Colleen Evich** was asked by the Vacaville Elks Lodge if she would be interested in cooking a monthly luncheon for a new SIR group that was looking for a meeting place, her immediate reply was, "have I got a deal for you!" For 13 years, from 1983 to 1996, Colleen has cooked for three different SIR Branches...one in Oroville and another Branch in Paradise before moving to Vacaville following her husband, Joseph Evich's death in 1996. Joseph was the renowned master chef who owned and operated the famed Table Mountain Tavern in Oroville, a favorite dining spot for the rich and famous...as well as Sirs.

Colleen was a quick study on her husband's culinary skills, and even learned how to repair all the appliances and plumbing. Cooking for her Sirs is what she missed the most after her move. Her Sirs were "her boys" and a great joy in her life back in the California lake country. A long-time member of the Elks Lodge in Oroville, the Elks Lodge became her second home in Vacaville and according to Colleen, "my heart skipped a beat" when I heard that the Sirs were coming to town.

Colleen knows the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. She has a master list of specialties, but every two or three months they're treated to "Colleen's Chicken Fried Steak," which both Sirs and Elks alike, say is worth dying for. With help from the ladies of the Elks' RV club, she makes sure her boys are served quickly and well...several branch members belong to the RV club, and their wives volunteer their services.

Colleen Evich is not only the chief cook for Branch 99, she is also the unofficial mascot and housemother all rolled into one. Colleen is shown in the picture with Big Sir **George Gorohoff** on the left **Jim Bible**, the Area 18 Governor on the right.



Port Stockton Branch 46

Past Big Sirs Get Together

Arden Riess, Branch Member

As the close of each year approaches, the past Big Sirs of Branch 46 always get together for their annual luncheon. Wives and guests are also included in this nice affair. Last fall we met at the Elkhorn Country Club in North Stockton. This custom has been going on for many years and it's a good way to talk over the "good old times," as well as all the new things that are going on. Some of those attending the luncheon are shown in the picture from left to right with the dates when they were the Past Big Sirs **Bob Westwood** (2007), **Matt Gaffney** (2008), **Bob Winterberg** (2005), and **Leonard George** (1993).



JAZZ

**Looking for some toe-tapping fun
over the Memorial Day Weekend?**

The 36th Annual Sacramento Jazz Jubilee is the place to be!

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee swings over the Memorial Day weekend from Friday, May 22nd through Monday, May 25th. The event is a fun party, with some of the best jazz you will ever hear, plus lots of good food and drink.

A variety of discounted tickets are again available to Sirs. For information and tickets, call Jim Fusaro at (916) 428-5719 or email him at

jim4jazz@comcast.net.

Jim will be glad to send tickets to any Branch on consignment.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

July - August 2009

July 13-23, 2009

Alaska & Canada Cruise

Round trip cruise from San Francisco aboard the Sea Princess. 10 nights including ports of call at Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria BC, plus Tracy Arm Fjord scenic cruising. Prices range from \$1840 to \$2965 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Harry Redlick at 650-583-3961.

August 8-23, 2009:

Romantic Rhine & Moselle Rivers

Explore Holland's colorful capital as you cruise through Amsterdam's enchanting canals on this 14 night cruise from Amsterdam to Basel on board Avalon Waterway's brand new ship, the MS Affinity. Trip includes all meals and r/t air. Costs run from \$6270 to \$8669. Offered by Branch 116 Travel. Call Ken Richter at 925-689-6217.

August 15-20, 2009

Yellowstone & Tetons Mountain Majesty



Enjoy the Scenic wonders of Yellowstone and the Grand Teton National Parks. The tour features include: Bream Canyon, a performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, a tour of Salt Lake City and a boat trip on the Snake River. Five nights and 9 meals are provided along with r/t air. Cost is \$1545 PPDO. Offered by Branch 10 Travel. Call Mike Console at 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch at 408-274-2992.

August 22-September 4, 2009

Authentic Ireland

Explore the ancient and contemporary history, culture and scenic wonders of the Emerald Isle. Stops include all the famous places in Ireland and with just 24 travelers, the small group means a more personal experience. R/T air, hotels and 16 meals are among what is included on this trip. Cost is \$4259 PPDO. Offered by Branch 39 Travel. Call Neil Jameson at 831-336-2476.

September 2009

September 1-11, 2009

Cruise Alaska & Canada

This cruise is round trip from San Francisco on board the Sea Princess. Ports of call include Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria BC, plus a visit to the Tracy Arm Fjord. Prices range from \$1735 to \$2785 PPDO. Offered by Branch 113 Travel. Call Russ Salazar at 530-644-3809.

September 11-26, 2009

Castles Along the Rhine & Danube

This is a 16 day cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam. We will depart from San Francisco and board our deluxe river cruise ship in Budapest. We will then travel through Hungary, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands, with 12 shore excursions. Pricing begins at \$4499 PPDO. Offered by Branch 172 Travel. Call Earl Nelson at 209-586-5661.



September 24-October 12, 2009

Highlights of South Africa

On this comprehensive 19 day trip you will discover the cultural and natural wonders of South Africa. The trip will take you to such places as Johannesburg, Kruger National Park, Swaziland, Zululand, Wilderness and Cape Town with some optional side trips available. Cost is \$4195 PPDO and includes r/t air, 17-night hotel stay, 32 meals, and 13 sightseeing tours. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.



October - November 2009

October 23-November 3, 2009

Mexican Riviera Cruise

Experience a 12 day cruise on board Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Sun. Dance the night away, shop for famous Mexican silver, taste some of Mexico's famous Tequilas, play golf at some of Mexico's finest courses, or simply cruise along for the ride along the Gold Coast of Mexico. Golfer and non-golfer prices range from \$1030 TO \$1959. Offered by Branches 45 & 109 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693

October 23 - November 7, 2009

Fall Foliage Cruise

Fall foliage cruise aboard the Crown Princess from Quebec City to Ft. Lauderdale with stops in: Corner Brook, Newfoundland - Sydney & Halifax, Nova Scotia - St John, New Brunswick, and Bar Harbor, Maine - Boston, Massachusetts - New Port, Rhode Island - New York City - Norfolk, Virginia - and Charleston, South Carolina. Prices range from \$ 3740 to \$5080 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call David Abrahams at 925- 447-9386.

October 22-November 8, 2009

Boston to New Orleans

A 16 day luxury cruise aboard Norwegian Cruise Line's Spirit. We leave from Boston with ports of call in Samana, St Thomas Antigua, Barbados, Curaco, Aruba, Santo Thomas De Casitilla, Belize City, Costa Maya, and New Orleans. Prices range from \$2594 to \$2990. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call John Hoffmann at 707-642-4925.

November 4-13, 2009

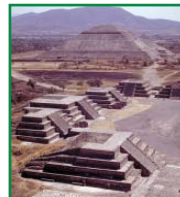
Costa Rica, Eruptions of Beauty

Explore the natural beauty of volcanoes, lush rain forests, and gorgeous beaches. This is an escorted tour with 3 nights each in San Jose, Arenal, and Ocotual Beach, plus much more. Cost is \$2990 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.

November 7-19, 2009

Mexico's Colonial Jewels

During this 12 day trip we will visit 7 UNESCO World Heritage sights including: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pyramids of Teotihuacan, National Folkloric ballet performance, San Miguel de Allende Granaditas Museum, Rafael Coronel Museum, National Museum of Anthropology, Patzcuaro Morelia, and many more sights. Cost is \$2389 PPDO. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Tom Marks at 530-342-1441.



LETS HAVE A GOOD TIME IN 2009

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor:

LETS HAVE A GOOD TIME IN 2009...those are the sage words and motto of our 2009 President, Dave Reiser.

It seems to me that many of our branches are missing two things which add a great deal of fun to our meetings ... these are: the singing of the "SIR Song" and the boisterous "COCK-A-DOODLE" (accompanied by wing actions) used to honor a new member or special achievement.

Words to SIR Song are:

Our friends have seen us growing from child into a man,
They have seen us struggling hard to do the very best we can.
Depressions and adversities, we've overcome them all,
As time goes marching on.

Chorus:(sung with hands waving in air)

As Sons In Retirement we are happy. As Sons In Retirement we are happy.
Sons now retired are always happy and we wish good health to you.
We always pay our taxes and our credit's fairly good.
We eat and drink too much as normal fellows would.
But the strife of work is finished and our cares are almost gone.
As SIRS we're marching on.

The ladies and guest speakers love both the song and Rooster exclamation. Try it! I think it will add to your branches Good Time In 2009.

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

Good idea, Jack! I hope some of our Branches follow your suggestion. Editor

Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

Dear Editor

You probably don't hear from the Members at large on what A GREAT JOB you do regarding the SIR Happenings publications. So here is a note of appreciation from just an "old fart member" saying thanks. In years past (many), I was the webmaster for the local chapter of the American Red Cross and even longer ago, the police department from which I retired. Hey, way back then I had to do it the old fashion way, compiling the site using purely HTML code. While it was a joy, it was laborious. So from one who has been there and done that, I express my total appreciation for your efforts and admire it as a "Class Act" in furtherance of SIR.

Because so many of our members are not computer literate, nor even have a computer (or experience cyber phobia), your success is, I know, slow in coming! But don't give up . . . there are many of us, as you can probably see incrementally, who are beginning to enjoy the benefits that SIR Happenings provides. And, more and more of us, are coming from a background of life that involves PCs. I personally love the "keeping up with what other Branches are doing that works" as well as the cutting edge stuff, like LAP, that are coming down the road. Communication is the essence of success!

So, enjoy a fine wine tonight and know that all you do is appreciated, particularly for all the work that you put into this effort!

SinSIRly (I love that SIR President sign-off),
Rich Dettmer, Area 15 Governor

Rich...you made my day!!...that was very nice of you to take the time to send that email. I would like to add that Dwight Sale and John Skarpelos share equally in any of the success that the newsletter has enjoyed since we started it back in '04. Yes...our readership is not up to what we would like, but we hope as more SIRS acquire computers and more become aware of the publication, we will reach a broader audience.

I will do what you said tonight and when I do have that drink, I will raise my glass in a toast to you. Editor

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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Editor and Production Manager
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SIR HAPPENINGS

AUGUST 2009

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

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

President Dave's Column

By the time you read this we will have had our Annual Meeting and will have elected our 2010 State President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, and Assistant Treasurer. They deserve our thanks for volunteering to lead us.

Now that we have some of our key Officers in place for next year, have you asked yourself what you can do to help our organization? Have you given any thought to becoming an Area Governor? If that position is already filled, how about serving on one of the State Committees? If that does not appeal to you, perhaps you could be active as a Branch, Area or Region Activities Chairman. Have you thought of moving up the ladder? Perhaps some day you can be the one writing this column. It can only happen if you take the first step.

We are always anxious to talk to members who are willing to get involved. I know from my visits to the Branches that we have many capable, knowledgeable men who could be our future leaders. Are you interested in getting involved in Officer training? Are you computer literate? Have you had experience in working with a data base? Do you have experience in public relations or a background in publicity?

These opportunities and many others may be available. You only need to ask. Start with your Area Governor. If he is not able to answer your question, he can forward your request to your Regional Director who will be able to follow up.

Last but not least, please give this some serious thought. If every member could bring in just one new member during the last few months of this year, we could double the size of our membership. We all need to make this a top priority. The life-blood of our organization depends on it.

"LET'S HAVE A GOOD TIME AND INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP IN 2009"

SinSIRly,

Dave



The Future of Sons In Retirement

Jim Stedman, Region 6 Director & Chairman State Training Committee & Member, State Growth and Membership Committee

The future of Sons In Retirement depends upon what we, the current leaders at all levels of SIR, do to assure the long term health and vitality of branches. For the last 20 years SIR membership has been steadily declining. Current membership is at about 20,000 as compared to about 30,000 in 1990. There have been 184 branch charters issued. There are now 150 branches. Seven branches closed within the last year and there are more about to close. There is no end in sight to these declines unless we take assertive action to reverse the trend by continually recruiting and inducting more members.

We know the mechanism of branch failure. While branches are healthy and vital with strong memberships, branch leaders do not emphasize recruitment. Over time new member inductions are not sufficient to replace members lost to attrition. Membership declines. The average age of branch memberships increase because not enough new younger members are inducted to maintain a balance of younger and older members. Participation in activities and events wanes and branches become less desirable to existing and potential members. Branches muddle along for a few years continually losing members until they are no longer viable. Then they close and the retired men in these communities are no longer able to get the benefits of SIR membership.

For several years SIR leaders have developed and implemented plans for increasing membership. Even with these efforts, branch membership losses continue unabated. In an attempt to find additional solutions to the problem, we questioned leaders of currently successful branches as to how they are increasing the memberships of their branches. By learning about their solutions, we can then train ourselves to implement the recruiting elements found to be successful by these leaders.

There are 46 branches that maintained or increased membership in the year ending April 2009 – 31 of these branches increased membership. We asked Big Sirs of these branches to describe two or more of the most important elements of their successful recruitment efforts. Most of these Big Sirs responded, and the following are answers from some of them:

Continued on Page 2

The Future of Sons In Retirement

Continued from Page 1

Glenn Cheetham, Branch 8: The time proven method of all advertising is word of mouth. A happy Sir will recommend to a friend and trust him to tell the truth. Keep the guys happy, get them involved and keep telling them to invite a friend or neighbor to lunch. We have incentives like a free lunch drawing for people who bring guests. With our great bunch of happy guys, we feel that get them in the door and they will want to come back. Introduce guests to membership and make them feel happy.

Pete Politi, Branch 37: Branch 37 has a long history of strong leadership. We have past Big Sirs, going back to 1991, who are still active contributors and participants in our branch's management and activities. This continuity, I believe, has been and is the key to our successes.

The majority of our new members are introduced by active members. Many have interest in and/or have been guests at our fishing, golf, poker and/or travel activities. Some have transferred from other Area 33 SIR Branches because of same. Important to note is: Active members will not invite a potential new member unless they themselves are enjoying their SIR Experience.

I think that our initial attrition is about 10% or 20 lost active members each year. Our goal is to average 2 new active members each month. This should enable us to hold our membership numbers with a good potential for growth. I'm pleased to say that we are on track to-date in 2009.

Ron Marguglio, Branch 128: Growth is the byproduct of an organization whose members enjoy their association and want to share their experience with others. The key to a successful branch is developing a fun atmosphere with a lot of good things to do. I believe the most important element for success is a first class agenda of events and activities. We have a goal to encourage each member to participate in as many activities and events as possible. To accomplish this we have created a new position to proactively focus attention on activities in order to encourage members to try something new. Each month, at the luncheon, specific activities are highlighted.

The key to recruiting is to have involved members who enjoy the comradeship and activities they experience in SIR and want to tell others about our great group.

Mike Vadnais, Branch 160: One thing I do at the end of the meeting is gather the applications and make it a point of calling each new "potential" during the week before the next meeting and thank them for coming and ensure that we have interested them enough to return. We also entice new members by inviting them to a "Free Lunch." I make it a point at every meeting to tell everyone to bring in "your friends and neighbors."

Tim Hall, Branch 113: There have been two approaches towards securing new SIR members that I think have helped Branch 113 grow. First, at every meeting, we stress inviting new potential members to our gatherings. Second, and probably most effective, is recruitment via SIR-sponsored activities.

Bill Shankles, Branch 145: I always conclude my input to our monthly newsletter (The Grapevine) by saying: "See you at the next luncheon meeting and bring a guest." When a member brings a guest, the guest eats **free** the first time.

I try to have guest speakers that speak on subjects that our age group would most likely be interested in and on a variety of subjects.

Many of our members are golfers and we have an

outstanding Golf Chairman. Many of our new members have become members because of our golf program.

Don Mattson, Branch 35: All members are regularly reminded to promote membership in SIR at various activities to which they belong. We get many new members from church groups, bicycling and golf. As our members meet new people, they are encouraged to promote the organization. Our very active golf program, at over 35 courses, is one of the best recruiting aids.

Our town newspaper publishes a senior section and we are regularly mentioned and the paper periodically will write an article about membership in SIR.

As many men nearing retirement age are no longer fully retiring, we are stressing that full retirement is not necessary and that lunch once a month is not hard to plan and activities are available when they are able to participate.

Jim Pekkain, Branch 132: My goal at the first of the year consisted of the membership getting to know each other better & bringing in new members. Basically it involved to just ask a friend to join SIR. If you don't ask, you don't get results. So far it has been successful....as members get older, it is imperative that we bring in new and younger members to keep the branch going.

The above are representative of all responses and show the high level of commitment of these leaders to branch recruitment efforts. New members are being recruited in their branches because these leaders are providing leadership to make it happen. Each leader and each branch is unique, but this leadership commitment to recruitment is basic to all respondents.

Satisfied members urged to recruit their friends and neighbors, is by far the most important recruiting element reported by these branch leaders.

Satisfied members are the result of participation in activities and events that are of interest to them. Some of the branch leaders reported numerous activities. Others reported fewer, but very popular activities, such as golf and bowling. The key ingredient seems to be for branch leaders to emphasize and strongly support activities and urge members to invite their friends who have interests in these activities to join.

If the leaders of these 46 branches, which are located in every one of the ten SIR Regions and vary in size from small to large, can maintain and increase branch membership annually, then most others can as well.

According to the responses of these leaders, the importance of every other element of new member recruitment pales in comparison to:

- 1. Leaders committed to recruitment.**
- 2. Satisfied members who are urged to recruit their friends.**
- 3. Participation by members in activities and events of interest to them.**

These three elements will be the focus of leadership training this year. By continuing with plans previously implemented and by developing and implementing more detailed plans around these three elements, the goal of stabilizing SIR membership becomes more of a reality in the not too distant future. This is pretty exciting stuff. Let's all get behind this effort.

Publicity & Recruiting

Walter Schick, State Publicity Chairman

Looking at the history of SIR, it would appear that most of our branches have failed to share the benefits of SIR membership with other retired men. In the first 40 years, SIR averaged about four new branches per year ...would you believe our last charter for a new branch was given in 2003, until this year, when we now have two provisional Branches. Even if your branch has maintained membership, it has probably not reached out to all of those retirees who could enjoy our activities. The following ideas may be helpful to increase your Branch membership.

The **Leadership Action Plan (LAP)** has had good success in identifying areas of our branches where improvements in member rewards and retention can improve attraction to new recruits. Your Big and Little Sir can self-assess these areas in your own branch ...then you can develop goals and develop an action plan.

SIR Happenings is a source of good ideas from many branches and is published quarterly. You might want to print out additional copies and place them on your luncheon tables or even post a copy on a bulletin board for members to see at each luncheon

Some more ideas on recruiting and retention:

Recruitment using sir cards and SIR brochures

- Are you using SIR Cards for members?
- Are you using SIR Brochures?
- Have any of your members given one to their spouse for her friend's husband?
- Are you joining other branches to place Area Brochure holders in public locations?
- What is your conversion rate of guests to new members?
- Do you have an Area Publicity & Recruitment person?

Activities for members

- Is your branch mainly a single sport branch?
- How many activities do you have?
- How many couples activities?
- Do you have any Area activities?

Membership relations

- Do you use the Membership Program Implementation?
- How many new members are still with you after two years?
- Do you interview your new members for satisfaction and suggestions after six months?

Committee volunteers

- Do you have a job or committee function for each of your BEC Directors?

Self-assessment

- Based on the dozens of replies to the LAP questionnaire, you can now review your own branch efforts in three key areas.
- You can work with your Area Governor to set goals in areas you want to improve.

Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

Explore & Dine

Harry Tutton, Branch Member

Explore and Dine is a popular program in Branch 146 and gives members and their wives a chance to visit an interesting place and then have lunch together. When new members join our branch, they are encouraged to get involved in activities or even start a new activity. Soon after John Pearl (see picture) became a member of Branch 146, he created the Explore and Dine activity and now serves as the chairman.



Some of the places and restaurants that Explore and Dine have visited include: Blackhawk Auto Museum...with lunch at Mexican Restaurant, Tao House...with lunch at The Peasant and the Pear, Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF)...with lunch at The Greenery, Leshar Regional Center for the ARTS...with lunch at Katy's Creek, Shadelands Home...and Mary's Pizza Shack, Asian Art Museum in San Francisco...and Hayes Street Grill, Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco...and Annabelle's Bar and Bistro, Ruth Bancroft Gardens...with lunch at Sweet Affair, Benicia State Capitol...with lunch at Union Hotel, John Muir House with lunch...at Mengia Bene.

John plans an outing about once a month to interesting places around the San Francisco Bay Area and usually about twenty members and wives come along to share an enjoyable day. You might want to create an Explore and Dine activity in your Branch...it's a lot of fun!

Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Gold Country Golf Trip

Daryl Jones, Bulletin Editor

Twenty eight golfers from Branch 125 make a trip to the Gold Country in the Spring and Fall every year.

The most recent trip took place this Spring. As usual, everyone stayed two nights at WorldMark by Wyndom at Greenhorn Creek. On the first day, the group played at Saddle Creek – on the second day they played at Greenhorn Creek – and on the way home they played at Lockforde Springs.

Prizes were given for the first place, four man, two best ball team each day. In addition, the individual with the lowest combined three-day net score was awarded the much coveted Gold Country Golf Championship Trophy. This year's winner was Jim Light, shown in the picture on the right, receiving his award from Larry Peck, Co-Chairman of the event.



The Annual Meeting of Sons In Retirement



State Officers elected for 2010 included (l to r) Hal Stephens, Assistant Secretary, Gary Gruber, Secretary, Karl Ryden, Assistant Treasurer, Michael Berry, Treasurer, Buck Kendrick, President and Robert Mannell, Vice President.



Hank Gomez and Bill McCoy of Branch 25 lead the group in singing the National Anthem.



Publicity Chairman Walter Schick reported on ways to increase membership.



Area 10 Governor Jack Kemmerling leads the group in singing the SIR song with appropriate hands waving in air.



President Dave Reiser chats with Area 8 Governor Tom Sherba during the social hour.



Area 2 Governor Dean Steichen demonstrates how Branches can set up their own websites.



Past State Presidents present included (l to r) Dwight Sale, Jim Donovan, Art Pufford, Tom Ross, Jim Musci and inset Mel Augustine.



State Golf

Gene Drennan, Chairman, State Golf Committee

For almost 30 years, golf and Sons In Retirement have become almost synonymous. With some 20,000 members, of which nearly 6,000 are avid NCGA member-golfers, SIR has provided a venue for a wide variety of golfing skills – ranging from the low handicapper to those with a high handicap – so that all Sirs can continue to play the game they have come to know, and love.

With branches throughout the Northern California area – from Bakersfield to the Oregon border, and Lake Tahoe to the west coast

– dozens upon dozens of Branches have provided their membership with the opportunity to play the game of golf at a most favorable price in weekly events or monthly tournaments.

The State Golf Committee also provides the opportunity to travel to places like Mexico, Las Vegas, Reno and Oregon to take part in State sponsored events. We play some of the finest venues available – through our partnership with the NCGA – and play

places like Poppy Hills, home of the AT&T, and Poppy Ridge in Livermore. Each Branch, Area, and Division also provides opportunities to play hundreds of other fine golf courses.

The SIR monthly luncheon meetings allow brother retirees

the opportunity to share their war stories with other golfers. Golf has allowed our membership to thrive in a fun environment, with still the option to compete among their fellow Sirs.

When men are ready to retire, and enjoy the wonderful game of golf, they certainly should consider becoming a member of Sons In Retirement as an extension of their golden retirement years.

For more information, please visit the SIR website at:

www.sirinc.org, or
go directly to our golf website at
www.sirstategolf.com.

Happy Golfing!!

Gene



State Bowling

Carl Elvick, State Bowling Chairman

I want you to think of this as a continuation of my last article in SIR Happenings about SIR Bowling. We attended the SIR State Bowling Tournament at Paradise and I hope everyone had a great time.

I wish to thank Region 1 for again hosting that tournament. The chairman and directors put together a great tournament.

This tournament has its limitations in that only SIR members may enter the four-man team and doubles event. I personally thanked the owners of Tall Pines Bowl for how clean their establishment was and how courteous they were. I am glad I was able to be there this year.

The winners of the Sir State Bowling Tournament were from Branch 62. The team was made up of **Lee Wriglesworth, Tom Birley, Marvin Hirschel, and Bud Collinson**. They scored a grand total of 2898 as a team. Congratulations Sirs!

Right now we are working on the 15th tournament for this year and we have some very nice tournaments left ...nine in all. I will be at the next five for sure (the Lord willing). I think if our directors will start posting our schedules on the bowling alley bulletin boards this might help with Sir attendance. At this time, our State Bowling Executive Committee feels that attendance is about the same as last year. I hope my fellow SIR members will bring a guest and come and have fun at one of our next tournaments.

I would also like to challenge all Sir leagues this year. My challenge is that your league will vote into your prize fund, the winner's entry to our State SIR Tournament. This will make a very competitive SIR League for 2009-2010.

On August 5, 2009, our State Bowling Committee met in Vallejo for our semi-annual meeting. Our turnout was less than expected, but our meeting was

good for the 35 that attended. The number one thing we are working on is our SIR schedule for 2009-2010. Robert York is working on putting the dates together. If any Tournament Directors need to change dates or help with your tournament, don't wait until the last minute give us a call. Thanks again to all who attended our meeting and your input and ideas are greatly appreciated. Have a great month and I will catch you at the next tournament.

Carl



Sirs in the News

Area 7

Gold Medal Winner Dave Reiser, State President

Recently Gary Pelton, Region 7 Director, ventured to Pasadena to participate in the State of California Senior Olympic Games. In the past, Gary had come home with the silver or bronze medals in Lawn Bowling, but this year was to be different. Gary

went to win and win he did! This year he came home as the 2009 State of California Senior Olympic Games State Champion with a Gold Medal (see picture) in the men's division of the Lawn Bowling venue.

Gary's next step is now the World Senior Olympic Games in Saint George, Utah later this year.



Prospectors Branch 137, Placerville

Senior HLM Ron McCall, Bulletin Editor

Big Sir, **Nick Rotondo** (on the left) is shown presenting **Buzz Winje** with a certificate honoring him as a Senior Honorary Life Member.

Buzz is a charter member of Branch 137, having joined the Branch in 1983, and has served as Big Sir, Little Sir, and Director.



Pathfinder Branch 59, Newark Senior HLM presented to Lyle Kingery John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

Past Big Sir **Lyle (Pat) Kingery** (on the right) was presented with a certificate proclaiming him a Senior Honorary Life Member by Big Sir **Don Gillis**.

Pat has been a member of Branch 59 since he joined in November 1987. He moved up the ranks from Assistant Secretary then Secretary to Little Sir in 1991. He served as Big Sir in 1992. In 1995 he got a computer and learned to use Access software to upgrade the Branch membership database. His database is still in use today.



Amador County Branch 96, Jackson Five Receive Senior Certificates Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

With a total of 455 years of life experiences, five members of Branch 96 received Senior Certificates for having attained their 90th birthday. **Norman Whitsed**, Area 27 Governor from Sonora, presented the awards at the July Luncheon. All the members attending the luncheon honored the five World War II veterans with a standing ovation.

Charlie Cook and **Don Vicini**, natives of Amador County, enlisted in the Army and served together throughout the war. Vicini was awarded a Bronze Star and a Battlefield Commission during the battle of Okinawa. **Ormand "Buzz" Toles** served in the Navy from 1943 until discharged in 1946. He served in the Pacific Theater. Toles joined Branch 96 in 1981 and is a charter member of the Branch.

Bert Clark was assigned to the 82nd Army Airborne Division in 1942, experienced several combat jumps ...including the Sicily and Holland campaigns. He received a Purple Heart and was also awarded the Bronze Star. **Fraser West** retired after 24 years in the USMC. West received a Silver Star and a Purple Heart during the invasion of Guam in 1944.

It was a proud day for Branch 96 honoring the five, 90 year young members, who between them – during World War II – earned a Battlefield Commission, a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts and 64 years in Sons In Retirement.

Shown in the picture from left to right are: Bert Clark, Charlie Cook, Fraser West, Don Vicini and Buzz Toles.



Sirs in the News

Orchard Valley Branch 54, San Jose

President's Awards

Bill DeMatteis, Secretary

Ralph Pfaff, shown in the center of the picture on the left with Area 5 Governor Richard Kabanek on the left and Big Sir Tom Marron on the right. Ralph has been a member since 1980 and currently is Branch 54's Parliamentarian and was the Big Sir in 1985. Ralph is a retired Junior High School Principle. He and his wife, Ruth, have been married for almost 67 years and live in San Jose.

Bob DeLapp, shown on the right in the picture on the right with Area 5 Governor Richard Kabanek. Bob has been a member of our Branch since 1992. He retired as a QA Manager for SRI International. He and his wife, Dorothy have been married for over 67 years.



Junction City Branch 40, Roseville

Latest HLM

Richard Adams, Membership & Attendance chairman

Congratulations are due to our own **Joe Wagner** for being awarded an Honorary Life Membership. Joe was honored by President **Dave Reiser**, who presented the coveted award to Joe at a luncheon meeting this summer. Also present at the luncheon was Area 15 Governor **Richard Dettmer**.

Joe has been a member of Branch 40 since June of 2000, having transferred from Branch 94 in San Jose. He has done an outstanding job as our treasurer and overall, is a very active contributor to Branch 40.

Left to right in the photo is Joe Wagner and SIR President Dave Reiser.



Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

Honorary Life Members

Pete Politi, Big Sir

Our June Ladies' Day Dinner was extra special this year honoring two new Branch 37 Honorary Life Members. **Dave McGuire** and **Jim Maneggie** now join the distinguished ranks of **Don MacGregor**, our State Honorary Life Member, and **Russ Harris**, our Senior Honorary Life Member.

SIR President Sir **Dave Reiser**, and his lovely wife Esther, joined us for this special occasion and award presentation. Our special guests also included our Region 9 Director **Mike Nickey**, and our Area 33 Governor **Hank Iverson**.

Dave McGuire was our Little Sir in 1992, Big Sir in 1993, and has been a Director for five years. He has also served in many committee capacities, most recently on our Social Activities Committee from 2007 to date.

Jim Maneggie was our Little Sir in 2000, and has served as a Director for six years. He was also our Branch Secretary in 2007, Assistant Program Chairman in 2006, and he is currently our Guest Speaker/Program Chairman and has served in that capacity for five years.

Both Dave and Jim are very active Branch 37 participants and supporters and have been major contributors to Branch 37's growth and success.

Seen in the picture (from left to right) are Area 33 Governor Hank Iverson, Dave McGuire, SIR President Dave Reiser, Jim Maneggie, and Region 9 Director Mike Nickey.



Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

Sirs in the News

Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

HLM Honorees

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Sir President **Dave Reiser** is shown presenting an Honorary Life Membership Award to **Sam Walters** during a Branch luncheon, with his wife Olga holding the certificate. Sam has been the Branch Secretary, Little Sir, Big Sir and a Director. He continues to be quite active in the Branch and among other things has been involved in the Ladies Day, Summer and Christmas parties, and is in charge of the 50th anniversary program. In 2001 Sam was named Branch 94's Sir of the Year.

Bud Souza, in the picture on the right, is shown proudly displaying his Senior Honorary Life Membership award, which was presented to him by Big Sir **Bill Chaney**.

In the lower photo **Carl Falk** and **Paul Wiesehahn** are shown with their Senior Awards.



SIR Day at the SF Giants



President Dave Reiser is shown above making the first pitch of the game while at SIR day at the San Francisco Giants.

At left Hank Gomez of Branch 25 along with his sons Gregory, Bob and John are shown singing the National Anthem at the San Francisco Giants SIR Day.

News from the Branches

River City Branch 117, Sacramento

New Walking Group

Guy Brown, Secretary

In February, I asked our BEC to approve a new monthly walking group and they did. The walking group was proposed as a way of increasing the range of our Branch activities for existing, potential and new members. It was also thought it would be a way to help our Sirs stay active and healthy. Recently, we also realized that it was a good way to involve women in more of our Branch activities. Since February, we've had a walk on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Recently we had a walk to Glen Hall Park on the American River to see Riparian habitat, wildlife, birds and of course to get some exercise. Ladies were welcome and all the walkers were encouraged to bring a 16-32 oz of water, a wide-brimmed hat, garbage bag/picker-upper (optional), and even their dogs if they wished, but only if on a leash. The picture shows the five Sirs that came along on the walk...Dale Emerson, George Cox, Guy Brown, Paul Rivard, Ed Trujillo, and Guy's wife, Donna, with his lucky dog, Spike. Dale Emerson was our guide and he knows this very large, diverse area & its many trails & attractions very well and made it quite an interesting outing.



News from the Branches

Sunnyvale Branch 62

Bowling Championship

Lee Rogers, Bulletin Editor

John Shields, Bowling Chairman

The Winter League Championship was determined decisively in the April tournament when the Deans walked away from the other three contending teams with a team handicap series score of 2983.

The Deans – the Phase I winners – consisted of **Armond King, Bob Byers, Jim Long** and were joined by **Bob Buckholz** later in the season.

Second place went to the Generals – the Wild Card team – made up of **George Center, Phil Thomas, Bob Hebson** and **Tom Birley**, with a team handicap series score of 2649.

Third place went to the Emperors – Phase II winners – consisting of **Marv Hirschel, Joe Vivona, Bob Casho** and **Dave Jeong**, with a team handicap series score of 2627.

Ending in fourth place were the Admirals team – Phase III winners – made-up of **Lee Rogers, Bert Tickes** and **Paul Tuttle**, with a team handicap series score of 2622.

Interestingly, the score difference between the 2nd and 4th place teams was only about 1%. Three pins out of three games separated first place from third place ...wow ...very close indeed!



Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

New Fishing Club

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Stanislaus Branch 103 started a fishing club last year with **Murle Webb** being the driving force. Over several months, the club has been on a few fishing expeditions and has a growing membership.

The club meets twice a month now and usually has up to six boats in operation. Members who do not have fishing boats are invited to participate in the outings and share in the expense of operating the boats.



On June 9, the group met near Jamestown for a great breakfast at Wood Creek Cafe. Following that, the members proceeded to New Melones Reservoir for a morning of fishing. The attached pictures show **Bud Ingebretsen** testing his casting luck, while in the other

picture, **Gene Cummings** and **Charles Thurber** were taking their fishing serious in another boat.

Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

PBS Jim's Fabulous Flight

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Jim Carlson grew up in Northern Wisconsin during WWII. He kept a daily log of his hero Richard Ira Bong, who was shooting down Zeros with his P-38 in the Pacific and heard all the stories about how the B-17s and P-51s were dominating the air war in Europe. As soon as he graduated from high school in 1951 ...he joined the Air Force. He made the Air Force his career and after retirement remained an aviation buff.

Recently, he invited his Pastor to go with him on a ride in a B-17.



When they arrived on the ramp, at Mather, they saw the B-17G, "Liberty Bell," in all its wartime splendor. After shelling out the required \$430 each, they met the other 10 passengers, were given a safety briefing, ear plugs, and strapped into aircraft. Jim lucked out and had a bucket seat in the rear of the airplane and could see the ramp and tail wheel through the aft wheel well. After a few tense moments, a couple of pops and a few backfires, the four 1200 horsepower Wright 18 cylinder engines came alive and operated as smooth as a Swiss watch. The takeoff was uneventful and Jim could see the tail wheel coming off the runway at a slow speed. When airborne, Jim was allowed to roam the airplane and visit the stations that the wartime crew of 9 occupied.

After an exciting and uneventful 40 minutes, they returned to Mather. Jim said that this was the most fun he's ever had on a flight, even though he has logged many hours on C-47's (Gooney Birds), C-124's (Old Shaky), C-119's (Flying Boxcars) and C-54's. Jim said that if you ever have a desire to fly in one of these birds, don't pass up the opportunity, as there are only 11 in flying condition in the US...It's a hoot. For a video of Jim's flight click on:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g803dHjRCxQ>.



News from the Branches

Mount Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek

SIR Brochures & Lady Recruiters

Walter Schick, Member Branch 8

In Area 2, our branches have named volunteers to put the new SIR brochure holders at such places as golf desks, barbershops, fitness centers, bowling alleys and senior centers and most importantly ...to keep the holders filled with the brochures! A few brochures are taken every week and we know of at least two new members who were first approached with brochures. One wife has installed a brochure holder in her Curves Fitness Center. Our members are also taking a handful to their church and company retiree meetings. Branch 8, for example, gave out a SIR brochure to eight ladies attending the June Ladies Day Luncheon (see photo) and most of them knew



exactly what they were going to do with them.

Ten couples from the Branch 8 Wine Finders Group tasted wine in the English Garden of the Bybees in Walnut Creek. After plying the ladies with VINO, they promised to do their best to recruit their friends' husbands for one of our SIR luncheons. The new SIR Brochure will remind them of that promise when they get home!

Twain Harte Branch 172, Sonora

Hiking & Rafting

Stu Heller, Bulletin Editor

Twain Harte Branch 172 has quite an active Hiking Group led by Jerry Jensen, who is also one of our Directors. Each month Jerry plans a hike somewhere within an hour's drive of Twain Harte, and usually 15-20 guys show up and spend the day on a six to eight mile round trip hike in the foothills of the Sierras.

In May, however, we rent three rafts and do a float trip down the Lower Stanislaus River, putting in at Knights Ferry just below the old wooden bridge, and taking the rafts out at Orange Blossom bridge, after about three hours and going through one Class 2 rapids. The group is shown in the picture standing along the river next to their rafts.

Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Dino-O-Sirs

Ben Smith, Dining Chairman

The name "Dine-O-Sirs" is derived from the group of carnivorous and herbivorous reptiles that roamed the earth looking for their next good meal.

Our Dine-Out activity is coordinated by a Branch committee, which selects the restaurants and the menus and makes arrangements for members and their wives and friends to meet every other month. Menu's are set and paid in advance. The group meets for a social "re-adjustment hour," on a no host basis, prior to having dinner. Reservations are taken on a first come basis and the activity has proven to be very well received and has drawn sell out attendance. How can you beat getting together with good food, good SIR people and good fun? This is an activity that we would recommend for almost any SIR Branch. If you have any questions feel free to contact me ...Ben Smith, at 925-820-5403.

The picture shows a happy group of Sirs and their guests enjoying dinner at a recent outing.



Happenings Travel Bulletin

October 2009

October 23–November 3, 2009

Mexican Riviera Cruise

Experience a 12 day cruise on board Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Sun. Dance the night away, shop for famous Mexican silver, taste some of Mexico's famous Tequilas, play golf at some of Mexico's finest courses, or simply cruise along for the ride along the Gold Coast of Mexico. Golfer and non-golfer prices range from \$1030 TO \$1959. Offered by Branches 45 & 109 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693

October 23 – November 7, 2009

Fall Foliage Cruise

Fall foliage cruise aboard the Crown Princess from Quebec City to Ft. Lauderdale with stops in: Corner Brook, Newfoundland – Sydney & Halifax, Nova Scotia – St John, New Brunswick, and Bar Harbor, Maine – Boston, Massachusetts – New Port, Rhode Island – New York City – Norfolk, Virginia – and Charleston, South Carolina. Prices range from \$ 3740 to \$5080 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call David Abrahams at 925- 447-9386.

October 22-November 8, 2009

Boston to New Orleans

A 16 day luxury cruise aboard Norwegian Cruise Line's Spirit. We leave from Boston with ports of call in Samana, St Thomas Antiqua, Barbados, Curaco, Aruba, Santo Thomas De Casitilla, Belize City, Costa Maya, and New Orleans. Prices range from \$2594 to \$2990. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call John Hoffmann at 707-642-4925.

November – December 2009

November 4-13, 2009

Costa Rica, Eruptions of Beauty

Explore the natural beauty of volcanoes, lush rain forests, and gorgeous beaches. This is an escorted tour with 3 nights each in San Jose, Arenal, and Ocotol Beach, plus much more. Cost is \$2990 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.

November 7-19, 2009

Mexico's Colonial Jewels

During this 12 day trip we will visit 7 UNESCO World Heritage sights including: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pyramids of Teotihuacan, National Folkloric ballet performance, San Miguel de Allende Granaditas Museum, Rafael Coronel Museum, National Museum of Anthropology, Patzcuaro Morelia, and many more sights. Cost is \$2389 PPDO. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Tom Marks at 530-342-1441.



December 26, 2009-January 3, 2010

New Year's Cruise

A wonderful New Year's cruise aboard the Norwegian Spirit, round trip from New Orleans. 8 nights, including a pre-cruise in New Orleans! Included are several ports of call in the Caribbean and in Cozumel, Mexico. Costs range from \$1,790 to \$2,795 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Harry Redlick at 650-583-3961.



Happy New Year

March – April 2010

March 12-27, 2010

Round Trip Cruise to Hawaii

This is a 15 day cruise...5 days cruising to Hawaii, then 5 days visiting 4 of the islands and then 5 days cruising back to San Diego. Cruising on a Holland America ship is cruising at its finest and this smaller ship, with only 1400 passengers, has everything the larger ships have to offer. Prices range from \$2245 to \$4475. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call Jerry Weisner at 209-334-5181.



March 19-27, 2010

The Magnificent Copper Canyon

This 9 day trip features a private rail car train ride and sightseeing through the Copper Canyon in Mexico. Also a private coach will take us from Phoenix to San Carlos on the Sea of Cortez, with a scenic cruise on the Sea of Cortez, visits to silver mines and visits with the local Mayo Indians. All but 3 meals are included. Cost is \$2312 PPDO. Call Rick Wayne at 925-371-6667.

April 25-May 7, 2010

Discover Croatia

This is truly a wonderful trip featuring the Dalmatian Coast and Slovenia. An unforgettable journey to explore the hidden treasures and wonders of Croatia with medieval castles, tranquil lakes, rolling green hills, and sandy beaches. Trip includes 17 meals in all. Prices range from \$2229 (land only) to \$3899 (land and air) PPDO. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3390 or Paul Hiatt at 415-454-2240.

May – June 2010

May 7-22, 2010

Panama Canal Cruise

Cruise from Florida through the Panama Canal to San Francisco. One night pre-stay in Ft. Lauderdale and then a 15 cruise aboard the Sea Princess, with port stops in: Aruba, Cartagena, Panama, Costa Rico, and Mexico. Prices range from \$2680 to \$3655. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Midge Damont at 650-588-6645.



June 6-16, 2010

A Trip of a Lifetime!...Oberammergau

This "trip of a lifetime" has just been reduced in price. The cost is now \$4300 PPDO. This passion play was first performed in 1634 and is put on during the last year of every decade. The play involves a cast of over 2,000 and celebrates this village in Bavaria, Germany from being spared the worst of the Black Plague. The trip is Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Phil Manriquez at 650-871-5009 for information and a flyer.



LETS HAVE A GOOD TIME IN 2009

SIR Insurance Coverage

John Thomason,
Chairman State Insurance Committee

The SIR Insurance Committee provides the insurance coverage that the Branches and their members need to protect themselves and SIR during the myriad of activities that the Branches sponsor on behalf of their members. The policies that the committee obtains to protect the organization are:

General Liability. This policy insures against claims which may have been caused by SIR activities. This provides protection to the organizations that provides our meeting places for luncheons, picnics, sporting events, etc. This policy enables SIR to provide to these organizations a Certificate of Insurance describing our general liability coverage.

Vehicle Insurance. This coverage is necessary to protect SIR in case a SIR member is negligent when using his own car in a SIR activity and the resulting damage is greater than the member's own vehicle policy limits.

Liquor Liability. If a Branch serves its own liquor, the Branch requires a State liquor license and insurance for liquor caused damages. Our policy provides this coverage and liquor liability is included in the Certificate of Insurance provided to our meeting places.

Fidelity Bond. All officers, directors and members are bonded for dishonest acts.

Moneys and Securities. A loss due to burglary or robbery of monies handled by a Branch Treasurer, Golf or Bowling Tournament Chair and others is covered under this policy.

Foreign Travel. This policy covers SIR travel activities outside the US and Canada.

The SIR claim history has been close to perfect, i.e., only one claim has ever been filed against SIR and that involved a San Francisco Branch activity in 1995, where a member was using his car to transport a SIR choral group and had an injury accident. He was an "assigned risk" and had only \$50,000 in liability coverage, far lower than the coverage of 99% of our members. When the claim was filed, it exceeded the member's coverage and SIR was therefore included as a defendant. Two years later and after much paperwork, the claim was closed at less than the member's coverage and SIR's insurance was not affected... Whew! Thus, SIR has a clean insurance claim record and this is reflected in our low premium cost.

The Committee is a standing committee composed of three members. At this time the Chair is John Thomason, from Branch 92, in Santa Rosa. John is a former Risk Manager for the City of Anaheim and managed the insurance program for the City, Convention Center, Stadium and Electric Utility. The other members are Bob Ingersoll and Roger Borgerson both, from Branch 8, in Walnut Creek. Bob is a former independent broker who finished his career as an employee of a major property and casualty carrier. Roger is a former Claims Manager for a major carrier.



GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

WHERE THE BAY COMES TO PLAY

Golden Gate Fields

Presents....

A fall Sons In Retirement day at the races!!!

When: Friday October 23, 2009

Where: Golden Gate Fields Turf Club

Time: Please arrive @ 11:15 a.m.

Gates open at 11:00 a.m.

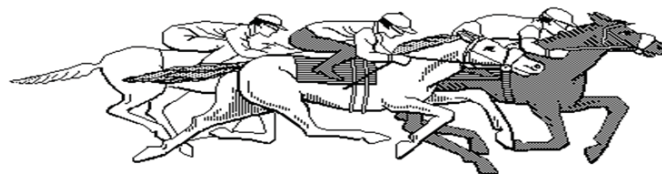
Buffet Hours: 11:30-2:30 p.m.

First race: 12:45 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 per adult (Groups of 10+ required)

Includes: Valet parking (or parking for a bus),
admission & reserved seating, daily racing program,
Prime Rib buffet
and a race named in honor of your SIR Branch.

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE FOR A BIG WIN!!!



For More Information Call Michael Roberts of
Golden Gate Fields @ (510) 559-7380
Or email mroberts@goldengatefields.com

**SIR Happenings is published by the
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SIR HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER 2009

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

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

President Dave's Column

My term of office is nearing its end and I have many fond memories to treasure. It has been an honor and a pleasure to have been able to serve as your President. Some of my most enjoyable experiences have been to visit and present Honorary Life Membership Awards to so many very deserving members. I am told that I have been privileged to present more HLM's than any other President in the history of SIR. This occurred because the HLM rule changes adopted in November 2008 opened the door and I just happened to be at the right place at the right time.

Our State committees and State and Branch officers continue to provide a much needed service for all of us. We could not function without their time consuming dedication. Words are not sufficient to describe the gratitude we owe them.

As I reflect on the past year, I want to thank the State Board for their dedication and cooperation. The following recap of Board actions would not have been possible without their support.

One of the first things we did early on was to recognize that we had many complaints from the Branches about our supplier of badges. With the support of our Executive Committee and the State Board, we engaged a new supplier. The Branches have had nothing but praise for the professional way it is now being handled and for the quality of the badges they produce.

We also instituted the Leadership Action Plan to help the branches better understand the effect of ageing on their branch, what they can do to increase membership and what they can do to stop membership loss. While only 20 percent of the Branches took advantage of the information available, we did plant a seed. I would hope that in the future



Continued on Page 12

Passing the Torch

Dwight Sale, Sir Happenings Publisher

At the State Board meeting on November 11, 2009, we were privileged to observe a ceremony that has been repeated 52 times in SIR history. President **Dave Reiser**, passed the State President's gavel to incoming President **Buck Kendrick**.

President Reiser remarked that it was an honor and pleasure to serve as President. He recounted that some of his most enjoyable experiences were the awarding of a record 58 Honorary Life Memberships to deserving members. He thanked all of those who helped him along the way. He enumerated some important board actions: A new badge supplier that cured a nagging problem we have all had with badges, the Leadership Action Plan, the printing and distribution of a three fold SIR brochure, the presenting of gifts at the annual meeting and a myriad of important administrative matters. He reminded us that two new Branches were formed – Branch 174 was sponsored by 171, and Branch 77 was sponsored by 136 – a bright spot on the membership front.

President Reiser received a well deserved and heartfelt standing ovation for his outstanding record.

Incoming President, Buck Kendrick (you may see his name as Floyd D. Kendrick but he prefers "Buck"), thanked President Reiser and then made a special Past President's Honorary Life Membership Award to President Reiser (on the left in the picture). Buck then remarked that he will carry on the good work done before. His main effort will be on membership. He asked for the continuing support of all members.



Honorary Life Members in the News

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

Two “real” Sons In Retirement were honored recently at a Branch 96 luncheon held in Jackson. It was a surprise presentation for the two men when President Reiser participated in the HLM awards along with their wives, who suddenly appeared to “pin” their husbands.

Ken Edwards has served as a Big Sir, Area 27 Governor, Branch Director, and many other activities.

Bill Garrett has been a member of the State Rules Committee, served as the Big Sir of two branches – 2 and 96 – Branch Director and also chaired many other special events.

In the picture from left to right are: Ken Edwards, President Dave, and Bill Garrett.

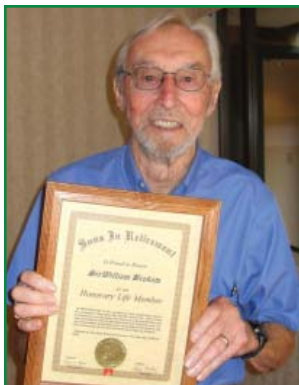


Aptos-Rio Del Mar Branch 104, Aptos

Jack Kemerling, Branch Member

Branch 104 in Aptos was honored to have SIR President, Dave Reiser, in attendance at our July luncheon meeting. Dave attended the luncheon to present **William (Bill) Brocaw** with the prestigious Honorary Life Membership Award, who is shown in the picture.

As our members know, this honor is not awarded for just being a great guy – which he is – but rather for what he contributes to the Branch to make it a success. In his 16 years as a member, Bill has been a longtime Director, Chairman of several committees, plus heading up, or working on, many other projects. Branch 104 members are fortunate and honored to have Bill Brocaw as a fellow Sir.



Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Frank Denny and **Warren William** were recently honored at a Branch 103 luncheon with Honorary Life Membership awards.

Frank is a charter member of Branch 103 and has served in many positions, including Treasurer and as an auditor for many years.

Warren has been a member of the Branch since 1983 and has served in almost every capacity, including Little Sir and Big Sir and other capacities too numerous to mention.

Pictured from left to right are **Frank Denny**, State President **David Reiser**, and **Warren William**.



Also attending the luncheon honoring the two HLM recipients were **Gary Pelton**, Region 7 Director, **Jerry Strain**, Area 22 Golf Chairman, and **Julius Manrique**, Area 22 Governor.

Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Frank Crua, Big Sir

Meet our latest Honorary Life Member...**Floyd Skelton**. Floyd was born and raised in Wichita Kansas, the land of “OZ”. In his early years, he worked in the printing business with his father and this led to a job with the Bayer Corporation which took him to sunny California. Floyd has been and remains an avid “Raider Fan,” but mentioned at the meeting that this was getting harder to do. He is also considered a pretty good wine connoisseur and was once heard to say that “if he was ever poor, at least he could enjoy a good wine.”

Floyd has been a terrific member, having served as Big Sir, Director, Webmaster, Bulletin Editor, to mention just a few of his contributions.

Floyd is shown receiving his Honorary Life Membership Award from State President, Dave Reiser. Standing next to Fred is his wife Mary.



Honorary Life Members in the News

Windsor Branch 176

Branch 176 Go to Guy

Mike Wedemeyer, Big Sir

Congratulations are due to our own **Ken Marshall** for being awarded an Honorary Life Membership. President **Dave Reiser** honored Ken when he presented the coveted award at a Branch luncheon. Also present for the occasion was Area 13 Governor **Don Davis**.

Ken, a member of our Branch for over eight years, has played a key role in the success of our Branch. He was our newsletter Editor before becoming our Little Sir and then our Big Sir and did an outstanding job in all three positions. He has chaired numerous committees including the Picnic and Christmas functions. He has also been a strong supporter of recruitment, including making up and distributing SIR brochures. In Branch 176, Ken is our “go to” guy and is always willing to help.



Pictured left to right are: **Ken Marshall, Dave Reiser, and Mike Wedemeyer.**

News from the Branches

China Camp Branch 151, Fairfax

“Ellis Island” of California

Eckart Sellinger, Bulletin Editor

Sam Ennis, the new travel chairman of China Camp Branch 151, organized his first day trip to the Angel Island Immigration Station. It is only a short ferry ride from Tiburon to this Island in San Francisco Bay, which is often referred to as the “Ellis Island” of California due to its history. Following many years of Spanish control of the island, it served as both a military base and the site of two government facilities – Quarantine and Immigration Stations – for nearly 100 years starting in the mid-1800’s. The Immigration Station structures have recently been refurbished and were a key part of the interesting docent-led tour, after which the picnic facilities were available for lunch.

The group found the visit very educational. They enjoyed the exercise touring the island, and are pictured with San Francisco Bay in the background.



News from the Branches

John Muir Branch 19, Clayton

Polynesian Splendor

Bill Stephenson, Bulletin Editor

Once each year, Wild and Crazy Hawaiian Shirts are dug out of the closets and “Polynesian Splendor” takes place at a Branch 19 luncheon. Finalists are selected by a representative vote on the best shirt at each table. The final winner is then selected by membership applause.

This year the winner was not immediately identified among the nine finalists (see photo), so to meet a deadline, the newsletter editor named the unknown finalist as “Duke” Kahanamoku of Hawaiian surfing fame... the real motive for this was that the editor wanted to see if the members were observant, paying attention and reading the newsletter. However, in the final vote, past Big Sir **Allan Anderson**, (5th from the left in the picture) was this year’s winner. Incidentally, Allan is a two-time winner wearing the same shirt and winning the prize of a free lunch!



Lake Tahoe Branch 160

Wild Shirt Day

Larry Coffman, Bulletin Editor



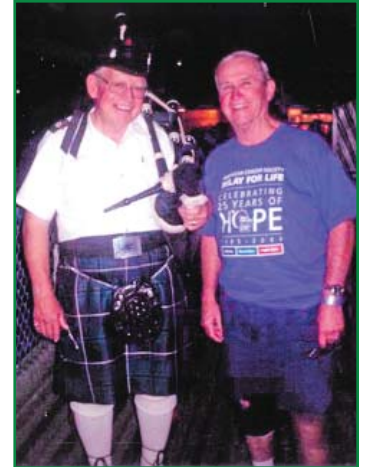
The Wild Shirt Contest turned out to be not exactly too wild, as you will be able to tell from the picture of the winner Treasurer **Don Hanifen**. Everyone will think that we are a bunch of pretty sedate guys if that was the wildest shirt.

Tri-City Branch 106, Fairfield

Bagpiper

Bob Du Sell, Bulletin Editor

It is traditional at every “Relay For Life,” that an all-night walk around the track is lead-off by cancer survivors, their families, and friends following a remembrance ceremony from the grandstand after dusk. **Bob Staib** says that he has been honored to be asked to lead these gallant survivors to start the walkathon both in Vacaville and Fairfield these past few years.



Bob’s lifelong urge to play the bagpipes was not realized until after he retired in 1995, moved to Vacaville from the Midwest, and found a Shriner’s pipe band with an offer of free instruction and a good deal on a used set of pipes. He considers becoming a bagpiper the crowning achievement of his life.

The picture, taken at Vacaville High School’s football stadium, shows Bob Staib in his bagpipe regalia, along with **Tom Harlow** who actively assisted on the event.

Do you wonder what Bob wears under his kilt? Mmmm.

Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Certificates of Appreciation

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Pictured are members of Branch 94 that have been awarded Certificates Of Appreciation for the work they have done for the Branch this year.

In the top row from left to right are: **Jay Bandana, Doug Turner, Dennis Delsenroth, and Dennis Pitchford**. Seated are **Earl Bowers, Andy Rosetta, and Ron Raecker**.



News from the Branches

Pajaro Valley Branch 85, Watsonville

A Great Barbeque

Jack Kemmerling, Area 10 Governor

The setting for Branch 85's annual barbeque was a warm August day with picnic tables set under the trees with great food, great drink and great fellowship ...what could make it better? Why – of course – it was also Ladies Day at this annual event. Greeting everyone were Big Sir **Don DeWald** and his wife Rae, plus Little Sir **John Radov** and his wife Aneita.

Among those who contributed to make this a huge success, were the cooks who grilled the Chicken and Tri-tip to perfection. They are pictured left to right: **Chris Asmussen, Bill Cutting, Rick Anderson, Bill Roberts** and **Van Wilber**.



Sierra Branch 77, Sonora

A New SIR Branch!!

Norm Whitsed, Area 27 Governor

The headline in the Union Democrat Newspaper read:

Sons in Retirement

New Chapter forming to take on Mother Lode overflow

The lengthy story went on to say that the “barnyard” – also known as the Elks Lodge – was overrun with “Roosters,” prompting the formation of the new Sierra Branch 77, which will serve Sonora, Jamestown, Tuolumne, Twain Harte, Angels Camp, Copperopolis and any point in between. This will help to handle the overflow of the current Sonora and Twain Harte Branches.

Roger Milligan, who is the Big Sir of the new branch led the first luncheon meeting, which took place on September 24th at the Sonora Elks Lodge. There was a lot of publicity covering the formation of the new Branch and that has helped to bring in quite a few new members, in addition to those that transferred their memberships ...so, the new Branch is off to a very good start.

In the picture left to right is Area 27 Governor **Norm Whitsed**, Branch 136 Big Sir **Don Nilan**, Branch 172 past Big Sir **Roy Sweeney** and Branch 77 Big Sir **Roger Milligan**.

Photo courtesy of *The Union Democrat*.



Sports: State Football

SIR Day at the Oakland Raiders

vs.the **Baltimore Ravens**

January 3 (Sunday) at 12:15 PM

Tickets \$36 – \$46 – \$56 – \$71



Sports: State Basketball

SIR Day at the Warriors

vs.the **Chicago Bulls**

January 18 (Monday) at 1:00 PM

Tickets \$15 Club 200 Sideline

Tickets \$55 Lower Level



Eating In with Branch 146

Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

Terrific Food

Harry Tutton, Branch Member

The Branch 146 Cooking Group was founded in 1999 and is the original and longest established cooking group in the Branch. Wow, do these guys cook some good food!

Led by Big Sir **Dave Johnson**, the Cooking Group puts on their aprons and meets once a month at the home of a member who prepares a bountiful meal for all to enjoy. The following are some of the recent meals prepared by the members:

- **Dave Johnson** - Spring Salad with Honey Lemon Vinaigrette, Jambalaya with Rice, Carrots Vichy, Frozen Vanilla Yogurt with Blueberries
- **Gene Diana** - Italian Manicotti
- **Dan Hungerford** - Baked ham, Cole Slaw with Pineapple, Potato Au Gratin, Chunky Apple Sauce, Black and White Cheese Cake
- **Charlie Kiser** - Grandma's Tamale Goo
- **Frank Mandic** - Spring Salad, Honeybaked Ham, Norwegian Parsley Potatoes, Glazed Carrot Coins, Holiday Peas, Cheese Cake
- **Barney Meade** - Hawaiian Fruit Bowl, Pork Shoulder cooked 6 hours, Rice, Spinach and Shredded Cabbage, Macaroni Salad, Lime Jello and Tofu Pie
- **Don Nunn** - Fresh Salad Greens, Spiced Pork Chops, Potatoes Au Gratin with Wine, Old Fashioned Fruit Cobbler
- **Bob Spellman** - Shrimp Scampi, Pasta, Greek Salad, Lemon Bars

Wine is part of all the meals and in September, The Cooking Group has a wine bottling session at the home of Bob Spellman, where they bottle over 100 bottles of bulk wine purchased from a Half Moon Bay winery and put a personal label – with the member's name and photo – on each bottle.

The Cooking Group is happy to share good food ideas, and so in 2002, the Group published a cookbook with recipes from members and wives of Branch 146 and sold over 500 copies.

The Cooking Group has been so successful, that other members of the Branch have formed cooking groups with catchy names like "Cooking Too," "Tres Gourmet," and the "LAW (Lunch and Wine) Group." We hope your Branch has a cooking group for a great chance to share good fellowship and good food!

In the picture from left to right are members: **Frank Mandic, Dan Hungerford, Bob Spellman, Charlie Kiser, Dave Johnson, Don Nunn, and Barney Meade.**



Eating Out with Branch 146

Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

A Beautiful Setting

John Pearl, Branch Member

In August, the Explore and Dine group took advantage of San Francisco's Palace Hotel's 100 year anniversary by taking a tour of the hotel and having lunch in the famed Garden Court. The hotel had reopened after the 1906 earthquake and fire in 1909, making 2009 the year it has been open for 100 continuous years.

The tour was conducted by a person who is part of the "City Guide" group that gives tours all over San Francisco. We learned a lot about the hotel and the people who have been involved with it over the years. We also had one of our largest turn-outs for any of our outings.

The beautiful and professional grade photo was taken by our branch photographer **Rich Ahlf**, who joined us with his wife Shirley.



Provided by the Publisher

A young man was sitting in class when the professor asked him if he knew what the Roe vs. Wade decision was. He sat quietly, pondering this profound question. Finally, after giving it a lot of thought, he sighed and said, "I think this was the decision George Washington made prior to crossing the Delaware."

.....
A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day..... 30,000 to a man's 15,000 words. The wife replied, "The reason has to be because a woman has to say everything twice." The husband then turned to his wife and asked, "What?"

Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact. Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

State Golf

Gene Drennan, chairman, State Golf Column

One of the most enjoyable things about golf is the simple act of enjoyment. The enjoyment of the weather, your playing partners, a great shot, a not so great shot, the realization that no matter how bad you play there is ALWAYS ANOTHER DAY!!!!

One of the least enjoyable facets of the game of golf is the breach of etiquette by some of the players that purport to play the game under their rules. Temper tantrums, using four-letter words to express their feelings and the worst of all...the physical destroying of the golf course they are playing.

We as SIR golfers have a responsibility – based upon our senior age – to police ourselves and demonstrate our leadership by conforming to the rules of etiquette at all times on the golf course. We should take pride in showing all around us that we understand, and do all the things we need to do to make the game enjoyable, not only to ourselves, but all the people around us. We buy the finest equipment, take lesson after lesson – to develop the perfect swing – yet, we do not take the time to learn the basic rudiments of on course etiquette. We would never allow our children, when growing up, to use the language we hear on the golf course.

The straightest line to golf greatness is the ability to use the 6 inches between our ears to understand – and daily use – golf etiquette in every round that we play.

I believe – and many champion the idea – that golf can be the most rewarding, challenging, and sometimes frustrating game in the world. Where else can you hit the perfect drive – dead center fairway – followed by the most unbelievable shank ever seen? Why make it worse by then trying to sail your club an additional 50 yards. As a good friend of mine once told me after an errant shot, hey Gene, you hit it there ...How True!!

Let's use our head, enjoy the game, and get rid of the temper so the people who play with us would want to play another round with us. Contrary to what has been said, the name Golf was not chosen because all the other four-letter words were already taken!!!

Hit em straight, far, and most of all, enjoy the game. Laugh a lot and tell your fellow golfers how much you enjoy playing with them ...Ciao

Gene



State Bowling

Carl Elvik, Chairman, State bowling committee

This is going to be a very short message from our Bowling Committee. I want to remind all bowlers that we still have three tournaments left from November to December.

Our State Bowling Committee wants to wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season. We also invite all newly appointed Area Bowling Chairmen, and bowling Directors to our semi-annual meeting in January 2010.



Carl

Sunnyvale Branch 62

State Bowling Tournament

Lee Rogers, Bulletin Editor

At a recent Branch luncheon Carl Elvik, the State Bowling Chairman, presented the first of what will become a perpetual bowling trophy.

The State tournament was held in Paradise on May 19th. The first place winners were Tom Birley, Marvin Hershel, Bud Collinson, and Lee Wriglesworth of Branch 62. Shown (left to right) in the picture is State Bowling Chairman Carl Elvik and holding the trophy Tom Birley, Marvin Hirschel and Bud Collinson.



OK...So What Do We Do Now?

Walter Schick, State Publicity Chairman

Activities! Some Branches have a one-activity focus, and as long as you can golf or bowl, you will enjoy Sons In Retirement ...but, what happens when you can't? What happens to the guest who doesn't golf? We should offer diverse activities to all retired men.

Try one on the list of 75 SIR Activities in these five areas: Sports, Education, Fitness, Social and Couples. A healthy Branch plan aims for at least 10 branch activities. To promote new activities, an Activity Coordinator or Committee is very useful and really necessary.

Image posters to promote Activities can be ordered online from Costco to use at the luncheon sign-in area ...try gluing them on a poster board to add color to your luncheon sign-in area. The couples activity poster – shown below from **Phil Goff** of Branch 116 in



Walnut Creek— has from 40 to 60 at each outing ...ask me for a poster instruction document. It is easy to add couples activities. The full list can be viewed in the Public Relations section on the SIR website: sirinc.org.

Your SIR Membership application has a blank back page. List your activities, including State and Area in the top section for easy check-off of interests. Then list the other 50 potential activities for easy check off ...you'll get some new activities started.

In addition to the common Area activities of Bowling, Pool, Fishing, Computers, and Investments, encourage other branches to list your activities in their newsletters. Other Sirs can attend as visitors until they build up enough men for their own Branch activity. If an activity has two or three men in your Branch that are interested, publicize it to the other branches to form an Area activity ...coins or stamps or bicycling may be candidates.

Yosemite Branch 179, Fresno

Amazing Golfer

Joe Bigham, Bulletin Editor

Both **Darren Adams** and Branch 179 Golf Chairman **Art Daly** had tears in their eyes when Darren accepted his trophy for winning flight 3 in a golf tournament for all the Fresno Branches.

Accurately driving a little round ball down a fairway and putting it into a tiny hole is hard for most golfers, who aren't called "Tiger"...It's even harder for Darren, because he has Parkinson's Disease, which leaves him with sometimes uncontrollable tremors.



"Lots of guys I have played with recently think my putting would be better if I didn't have so many tremors," said Darren, son of former Branch 179 Big Sir Tom Adams, but on the day of the tournament "I was hitting it really well."

Darren explained in an interview how he compensates. "I just try to do a bunch of practice swings before I commit to the shot, but once I commit ...that's it! Sometimes it works out well, like it did that week, and sometimes it doesn't, like it didn't the following week."

Like most golfers, Darren is philosophical about the game of golf: "That's what golf is," he concluded "It's trial and error."

Yosemite Branch 179, Fresno

Recent Honorary Life Member

Joe Bigham, Bulletin Editor

Douglas Hansen (on the left) received his Honorary Life Membership certificate from President **Dave Reiser** at the September Luncheon.



SIR WEBSITE

The SIR website's address is "sirinc.org" and it contains a wealth of information useful to all Sirs. Most SIR forms, the SIR Manual, the State Roster and many other documents of interest are on the website. How should you view the Website? First launch your web browser. Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox are common web browsers.

In the address box type in "sirinc.org" without the quotation marks and press enter. The SIR website Home Page shown at the upper right will appear.

You will see on the Home Page headings like "How To Join" and "Branch Websites." Click on them and see what a good job our Webmaster and his website team have done.

To move from the "Public" Home Page, to the SIR section click on the "SIR Documents" link. You will be prompted to enter User Name (**safety**) and Password (**first**). Note: check the "Remember Password" box.

You are now on the "SIR Documents" page shown at the lower right where you will find a host of interesting documents. A recent view of the Documents page is shown in the image at right. For a test, click on the "Complete list of SIR Forms" link and then click on "Form 20-Branch Personnel" which is the form Branch Secretaries use to report new Branch Officers and changes. It can be filled in on the screen if you want and then printed or just printed as a blank form. It is also available as a Microsoft Word® document. To access some of the SIR forms you need the "Adobe Reader" on your computer. It is free and directions for downloading are on the website.

Another item listed on the "SIR Documents" page is, "State Roster & Branch Locator." These documents contain names and addresses, so to preserve members' privacy you are prompted for a User name and Password to view these documents. Your **Branch Email Contact** has the User name and Password and will gladly give it to you. It is SIR policy to not publish these.

- Select from the many topics offered below -

**WELCOME TO THE SIR MEMBERS PART OF THE SIR WEBSITE.
THIS SECTION IS FOR YOUR USE, KNOWLEDGE AND ENJOYMENT.**

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter SIR Happenings and welcome your comments.
Just click on the SIR Happenings button to see the newsletter.

There are many activities that you can enjoy being part of the SIR organization.
Just click on SIR ACTIVITIES to learn more about Bowling, Golf, Sporting Events, Amateur Radio, RV-ing and Travel.

Most Used

- [How to obtain the things SIR offers](#)
- [2010 Schedule Of SIR State Operations](#) NEW 9/13/09
- [2010 Schedule Of SIR Branch Operations](#) NEW 9/20/09
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Password needed

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- [Free Graphics Editor](#)

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Happenings Travel Bulletin

December 2009

December 26, 2009-January 3, 2010

New Year's Cruise

A wonderful New Year's cruise aboard the Norwegian Spirit, round trip from New Orleans. 8 nights, including a pre-cruise in New Orleans! Included are several ports of call in the Caribbean and in Cozumel, Mexico. Costs range from \$1,790 to \$2,795 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Harry Redlick at 650-583-3961.



February – March 2010

February 17-28, 2010

Eastern Caribbean Voyager

10 day cruise aboard the Ruby Princess (their newest ship), round trip from Ft. Lauderdale. Ports of call include: Princess Cay, Bahamas, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis, Barbados, St. Lucia, and Antigua. Prices, including r/t air, start at \$2147 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call George Smith at: 530-342-3133.



March 10-17, 2010

Cruise the Caribbean

Experience a 7 night cruise aboard the luxurious MS Silver Cloud, of Silversea Cruises. Along the way, visit an exciting array of ports...Bridgetown, Barbados, Castries, St Lucia, St George's, Grenada, Kingstown, St. Vincent, & Grenadines, St John's, Antigua, Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda, and San Juan. Prices start at \$2970 and include r/t air. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.

March 12-27, 2010

Round Trip Cruise to Hawaii

This is a 15 day cruise...5 days cruising to Hawaii, then 5 days visiting 4 of the islands and then 5 days cruising back to San Diego. Cruising on a Holland America ship is cruising at its finest and this smaller ship, with only 1400 passengers, has everything the larger ships have to offer. Prices range from \$2245 to \$4475. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call Jerry Weisner at 209-334-5181.



March 19-27, 2010

The Magnificent Copper Canyon

This 9 day trip features a private rail car train ride and sightseeing through the Copper Canyon in Mexico. Also a private coach will take us from Phoenix to San Carlos on the Sea of Cortez, with a scenic cruise on the Sea of Cortez, visits to silver mines and visits with the local Mayo Indians. All but 3 meals are included. Cost is \$2312 PPDO. Call Rick Wayne at 925-371-6667.

April – June 2010

April 25-May 7, 2010

Discover Croatia

This is truly a wonderful trip featuring the Dalmatian Coast and Slovenia. An unforgettable journey to explore the hidden treasures and wonders of Croatia with medieval castles, tranquil lakes, rolling green hills, and sandy beaches. Trip includes 17 meals in all. Prices range from \$2229 (land only) to \$3899 (land and air) PPDO. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3390 or Paul Hiatt at 415-454-2240.

May 7-22, 2010

Panama Canal Cruise

Cruise from Florida through the Panama Canal to San Francisco. One night pre-stay in Ft. Lauderdale and then a 15 day cruise aboard the Sea Princess, with port stops in: Aruba, Cartagena, Panama, Costa Rico, and Mexico. Prices range from \$2680 to \$3655. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Midge Damont at 650-588-6645.



May 11-21, 2010

Shades of Ireland

Round trip to Dublin. Tour Kilkenny, Blarney Castle, Jaunting Car ride, Ring of Kerry, Kilarney, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, and castle stays. Cost is \$2895 PPDO, including r/t air. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Tom Marks at 530-342-1441.

May 21-June 1, 2010

Italian Lakes and Greek Islands

Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Italian Lakes and visit the most popular of the Greek Islands. Stay 3 days in Stresa on the shores of Lake Maggiore, cruise on the Costa Fortuna for 7 days and visit the ports of Bari, Katakolon, Dubrovnik, Venice, plus the Greek Islands of Santorini, Mykonos and Rhodes. The trip includes 25 meals! Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Paul Hiatt at 415-454-2240 for information and prices.

May 31-June 13, 2010

Paris-Burgundy-Provence

Five nights in Paris...TGV to Dijon...8-day river cruise through Burgundy and Provence. All outside staterooms on the luxurious Grand River Royale. 6 shore excursions with English speaking guides, complementary wine during dinner, enrichment entertainment and lectures onboard. Prices start at \$5520 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.

June 6-16, 2010

A Trip of a Lifetime!...Oberammergau

This "trip of a lifetime" has just been reduced in price. The cost is now \$4300 PPDO. This passion play was first performed in 1634 and is put on during the last year of every decade. The play involves a cast of over 2,000 and celebrates this village in Bavaria, Germany from being spared the worst of the Black Plague. The trip is Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Phil Manriquez at 650-871-5009 for information and a flyer.



Happenings at the State Board Meeting Excerpts from the minutes of the November 2009 State Board Meeting

President Reiser called the November State Board Meeting to order.

Vice President Kendrick made a number of comments and mentioned how pleased and surprised he was when President Reiser presented him with an Honorary Life Membership at a Branch luncheon meeting.

Secretary Gruber gave his report concerning some of the activities he has been engaged in and for the record, reported that we have 151 active Branches, two of which are in provisional status.

Treasurer Mannell went over financial matters in some detail and stated that SIRinc is in sound shape and will probably finish the year in good financial condition.

Rules Committee member Gruber, representing Chairman Tom Smith, presented some proposed rule changes. The rules were approved and will be posted on the SIR Website.

Area Governor Training Chairman Stedman delivered a complete summary of the recent AG Training meeting and said that evaluations of the meetings by the attending Area Governors and Regional Directors were generally very favorable.

Information Systems Chairman Sale emphasized the need to begin encouraging the Branches to elect Branch Secretaries and Branch Treasurers who are "computer literate". He suggested that we start by making suggestions and working toward eventually enacting rules to that effect. Sale explained the new Branch Database, to be made available for Branch use. It is intended to capture all kinds of data about individuals in a Branch and the resultant database can suit the needs of the officers and chairmen from that one source. Several Branches have already shown an interest in this program.

State Certificates Chairman Donovan covered the several types of certificates that have been issued so far this year. He highlighted the 66 Honorary Life Membership Awards that were presented during the year and mentioned that there are 154 HLM awards still available to the Branches.

President Reiser suggested several topics that the 2010 Board might want to consider. To stimulate readership of SIR Happenings, some kind of contest embedded in the newsletter might be helpful. He raised the possibility of a contest related to recruiting new members and suggested that the G & M Committee take a look at the idea. He mentioned that earlier in the year we had a presentation on a Public Relations program. We haven't been able to find a member to head up such an endeavor. Dave feels that the function is important to the organization and expressed his hopes that the position will be filled soon. Dave brought up the 30,000 color brochures that were distributed to the Branches. He believes the brochures were well received and the efforts were worthwhile, and suggested that the incoming Board may want to consider doing it again.

2010 President Kendrick presented President Reiser with an Honorary Life Membership certificate. Buck thanked the officers, committeemen and appointees that have agreed to serve next year. He said, as President, he will put forth his best efforts and solicited ideas from the rest of the leaders in the room for a successful year.

President Reiser adjourned the meeting. The next Board meeting will be in January.

President Dave's Column

Continued from Page 1

more branches will take a serious look at what we have made available to them.

In order to help recruit new members, the State Board authorized the printing of 30,000 tri-fold brochures which have been distributed to the branches. We also printed and gave copies of SIR Happenings to delegates at the annual meeting so they could be on display at Branch meetings.

I would like to thank the members who helped with the arrangements for the annual meeting and I am very pleased that so many branch officers attended. I would also want to thank the Executive Board for approving the welcome gifts given to those attending. It is the first time in the history of sir that we have recognized our delegates in this manner.

While membership continues to be a problem, we did have a couple of bright spots. For the first time in many years, we had two Branches sponsor new Branches. Branch 171 sponsored provisional Branch 174 and branch 136 sponsored provisional Branch 77. They are off to a good start and we expect to be able to issue their charters soon after they complete the probationary period.

I would like to congratulate the 2010 officers elect. I am confident that we have elected men that will do what is best for our organization. Our founders would be proud of what we have accomplished in the past 51 years. I wish each and every one of you the most precious gift ...good health to you and those dearest to you.

Thanks again for the honor of being your 2009 President.

Sinsirly,
Dave

**SIR Happenings is published by the
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Email: john@mediart.com



SIR HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2010

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

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

President Buck's Column

This is my first column in SIR Happenings as President and I want to talk about what I think it will take to solve our very serious membership crisis.

**Our Slogan for 2010 is:
RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN
MEMBERSHIP IN 2010.**

The Mission of Sons In Retirement is to provide leadership at all levels that will result in strong, long term Branch health and vitality by recruiting and inducting enough new members annually to grow the membership level of the Branch and by providing a wide variety of activities of interest to Branch members, to retain their current members.

I want to focus this year on developing strong leadership and goal setting. I think it is going to take new leadership from the Regional Directors, the Area Governors and the Branch Executive Committees to solve the problem. I hope every Sir in a leadership position will read my mission statement carefully and thoughtfully so we can all get on the same page.

The Regional Directors and Area Governors must assume a more intensive role in guiding and supporting the Branch operations and their membership efforts. It means much more face to face interaction with the Branch leaders...to train them and help them become more successful. Leaders at all levels must be familiar with their responsibilities, as outlined in SIR rules, to properly perform their duties and responsibilities.

The objectives of Sons In Retirement come from our charter which was granted by the State of California to achieve the goal of serving the needs of retired men in our communities. I don't think we are meeting this obligation when we let SIR diminish in size and Branch leaders can no longer provide the activities and associations desired by retirees...so, the prime responsibility of leaders is to maintain the health and vitality of the Branches so they will meet the needs of retired men in their community.

The Branch membership crisis demands that we change without delay. We can solve it together by developing and implementing pro-active leadership from the Board of Directors, through the Regional Directors and Area Governors, to the Branch Executive Committees. It will take time and a lot of effort, but if we don't do it, we won't stop the serious decline in membership that has been going on for years.



Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

Branch Honors its WWII Veterans Don Dill, Past Big Sir

Branch 79 honored its remaining 15 WWII Veterans for their contribution to their country during the January luncheon at the Elks Lodge in Auburn. The program was conducted by Big Sir Earl Montgomery – past Big Sir Dennis Beverage – and past Big Sir, Don Dill. The celebration began with the posting of the colors by the Auburn Color Guard, followed by a fifty-minute video highlighting each veteran's contribution to WWII. The film traced each honoree's active duty contribution and how WWII set the path for the rest of their lives. Each honoree contributed to the event by reciting a significant



war experience ...some of which became quite emotional. At the end of the program, Auburn City Council member, Mike Holmes – in his retiree's Captain's uniform – and Big Sir Earl Montgomery presented each

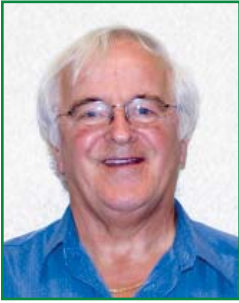
Honoree with a certificate of recognition for their accomplishments. Pictured is Mike Holmes (on the left) and past SIR President Jim Musci, receiving his certificate. Over 150 Sirs attended the affair, which was the largest turnout for a monthly luncheon in recent years.

Don Dill, who researched and produced the program, mentioned that he was astounded at their many accomplishments and said...you sit next to a fellow Sir for many years and don't even really know the guy. I urge all Branches to do the same kind of research and put on a program like this before the "Greatest Generation" is lost.

RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN 2010

Spotlight on SIR Officers

Mike Berry — Treasurer



Mike was the 4th child born into an Irish immigrant family in the United Kingdom. His grandfather and all of his uncles were coal miners and the family lived in what is known as “the Black Country” in the UK, which was mostly coal mining and steel works ...in fact, the Industrial Revolution began there.

After leaving grammar school, Mike signed up as an indentured clerk in order to qualify as the UK equivalent of a Certified Public Account. At that time, it was possible to qualify with a combination of indenture and self-study, but today, University attendance is required. He qualified in 1960, and ten years later became a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, a qualification he still holds today.

Immediately after qualifying, Mike decided to take a position as a computer programmer to see “what these computers can do.” From that time on, until his retirement in 2003, computers were his career although his accounting background came in quite handy in later years when he became the business manager of a computer consulting service.

Mike’s computing career took him all over the world. He became a frequent speaker at International Conferences and was the only speaker at the Australian Business Conference to be asked back for a repeat performance!

Mike married his wife, Jan, in 1962 and they later moved with their two children to Silicon Valley to accept a position with a major computer manufacturer. After Jan retired from banking, they moved to Windsor and in 2003 Mike also retired and joined Sons In Retirement that same year. He has been the Little Sir and Big Sir of the Windsor Branch and is currently the Bowling and Travel Chairman. He also completed two years as Assistant State Treasurer.

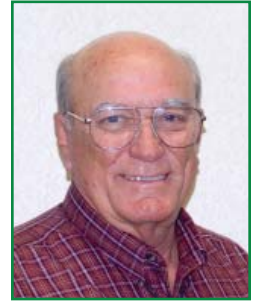
In addition to Sons In Retirement, Mike volunteers for AARP’s free Taxaide, and teaches Traffic School.

According to Mike, he is an avid, but mediocre golfer, and an even more mediocre bowler. He still follows English soccer and is a diehard Sharks fan. Whenever he can find some free time, he also likes to sing and play guitar.

Sons In Retirement is fortunate to have such an experienced and well-qualified Treasurer.



Buck Kendrick — President



Buck Kendrick’s broad experience and accomplishments during his life have certainly prepared him well to be the President of Sons In Retirement.

He was born and raised in Plant City, Florida. In high school, Buck participated in many sports, while receiving numerous awards for his scholastic achievements ...Buck says his only “C” was in typing because his fingers were slow.

After graduating from high school, he moved on to the University of Florida, majoring in electrical engineering and graduated with honors. He also graduated from the ROTC program and received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant.

In 1958, Buck completed Air Force flight training near the top of his class and got his choice of assignment as a fighter pilot. After further training, he was assigned to an all weather defense squadron, flying the F-102 supersonic delta wing aircraft. He flew in the squadron for four years, until he had completed his military obligation and separated from the service as a captain.

After the Air Force, Buck joined a company involved in telemetry tracking equipment, supporting the test ranges at the Cape and Vandenberg. That company was acquired and Buck left to work for Philco Ford’s Western Development Labs in Palo Alto. He stayed with the company through many name changes, but always worked in the satellite communications arena. In the early years he traveled worldwide dealing with various commercial and government customers and retired from Lockheed Martin in 1998 as Director of Integrated Logistics Support.

Buck joined Branch 35 immediately after retirement. Over the years, he has held many leadership positions in SIR ...Branch Membership Chairman, Little Sir, Big Sir, Area Governor, Regional Director, Chairman of the Growth & Membership Committee, State Vice President and in January became our President ...along the way he was awarded a well-deserved Honorary Life Membership by his Branch.

Buck has been married to his college sweetheart for 52 years and they have a large, tight knit, family of 4 children and 13 grandchildren. He has a wide variety of hobbies and interests including being very active in his church, flying his own aircraft, enjoying trips in his large motor home, hunting and fishing and regularly playing golf in the Branch 35 golf program.

All and all...our new President has quite a resume.

Sirs in the News

Fort Sutter Branch 14, Carmichael

Century Senior

George Cooper, Past Big Sir

William F. Manasse seated in the center of the picture is shown receiving the Century Senior Certificate from Area 3 Governor Dick Joyce. On lookers are from left to right: Phillip Car (son-in-law), Stephanie Car (daughter), Area 3 Governor Dick Joyce, and Big Sir George Cooper.

Bill is a retired jewelry store owner for 30 years. He also has been a dance host on cruise ships and traveled the world photographing its wonders.



Pajaro Valley Branch 85, Watsonville

Century SIR Award

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

Ladies Day is always a big event at Branch 85 in Watsonville. The Holiday party in December was no exception. The food and entertainment were, as usual, excellent!

The day was extremely special for one person... longtime member, Dudley Spangler. On November 13, 2009 Dudley celebrated his 100th birthday and is shown



on the right in the picture receiving the President's Century SIR Award from Region 7 Director Gary Pelton. Also on hand for the presentation were Dudley's grandson and great-granddaughter...quite an occasion!

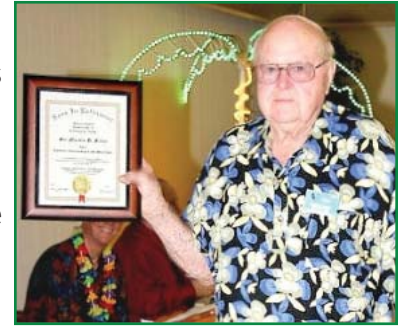
Mount Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek

Festive Affair

Walt Schick, Publicity Chairman

At the October Luncheon, members donned Hawaiian shirts and leis. At this festive meeting two members were honored with Honorary Life Membership awards.

Marvin Kreitz received his Senior Honorary Life Membership award from Big Sir Glenn Cheetham and is shown holding his plaque in the top photo. Marvin joined our branch in 1987 after retiring from Montgomery Ward. He was our Big Sir in 1991 and was awarded an HLM in 1999.



Tom Hensley has been quite active in Branch 8 since 1990, after retiring from the US Forest Service. Tom earned his HLM by serving in many key positions including Assistant Secretary, Membership Chairman, Director, and Big Sir. He has also been the Co-Chair of Fishing, Co-Chair of Pinochle and has served as Co-Editor of the Branch newsletter.

Shown in the picture on the left is President Dave



Reiser presenting the award to Tom. In the lower picture is Tom Hensley and his wife, Carolie with Big Sir Glenn Cheetham in the background.



Sirs in the News

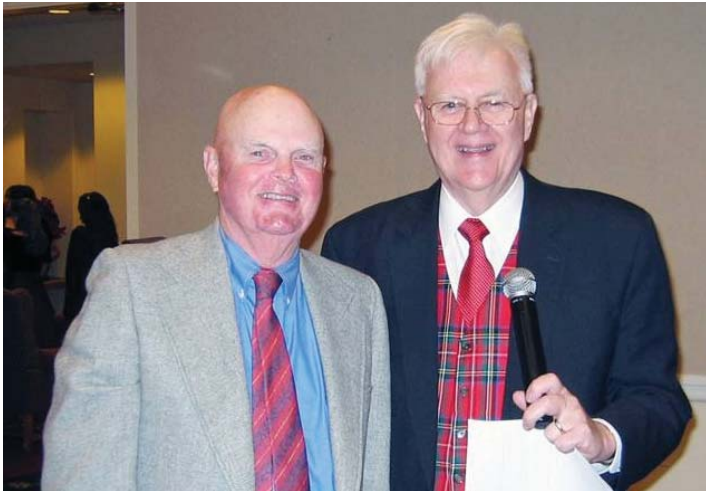
The Villages Branch 114, San Jose

Special Achievement Award

Dick Mach, Bulletin Editor

At the Branch Holiday Party in December, Big Sir Burt Lancaster, on the right in the picture, is shown presenting a Special Achievement Award to Terry Griffin, our Membership Chairman. Griffin earned the award for his innovative and successful efforts at growing Branch 114's membership from 2007 to 2009.

The evening was even more special because of the great entertainment by the renowned Madrigal Singers, from Sunnyvale's Fremont High School.



Sunnyvale Branch 62

John Brownie's Hole-In-One

John McGuire, Branch Member

Tiger Wood's marital adventures became second page news in the San Jose Mercury's Sports Section when the world learned that John Brownie (see picture) shot a Hole-In-One on the second hole at the Spring Valley Golf Course. Looking at the green from the tee-box, we watched John Brownie and Jerry Ammerman searching the rough – ten yards past the green – trying to find John's ball because no one expected it to land in the cup. Fortunately, Jim Hildebrand got tired of watching John and Jerry thrashing through the deep weeds and decided to pitch onto the green. Jim's ball stopped close enough to the hole for him to peer into the cup where he discovered John's ball resting on the bottom. We then saw Jim leap high into the air – which means one heel actually lifted off the ground – followed by John, Jerry, and Van Dietz dancing around the Flag Stick like Zulu Warriors performing fertility rights.



Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Exceptional Service Award

Jim Sleigh, Big Sir

Bob Edwards (in the center) is receiving an Exceptional Service Award for his luncheon information program from Region 7 Director Richard Kabanek (on the left). Branch 32 Big Sir Jim Sleigh is on the right.

Bob is not only the Branch 32 Program Chairman, he has developed an Area-wide information exchange program, bringing together the Program Chairmen from all the other branches in this area, as well as a number of area and regional officers, on a quarterly basis.



Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Outstanding Member

Dave Grant, Bulletin Editor

Ed Metevia (see picture) has been named the Outstanding Member of Branch 125 for 2009. Since receiving his "Above and Beyond Award" in 2005, Ed has continued his very active role in the Branch and has served as Data Base Manager for both the Membership and Merit Data Bases – provided support for the monthly Branch Bulletin – has served for two years as the Computer Club Chairman – has been the Web Master for three years – and also served as alternate photographer. He has also compiled the roster booklet for the last eleven years.

Congratulations, Ed, on a well-deserved honor!



News from the Branches

Monterey Peninsula Branch 28

The 19th Hole

Jim McCammon, Golf Chairman

We wanted to encourage our golfers to stick around a little longer and socialize after playing a round of golf, so at the suggestion of our Big Sir Bill Schramm, we had this sign made. It is 18" x 24" and will be used at the sign-in table at tournaments and also the scoring table at the end of the round. We plan to also use it to decorate the golf table at our luncheon meetings ...we hope it works!!



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Two New Branch Records

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

Two new membership records were set in Branch 96 when Joe Cardana – on the left in the picture – was sponsored by his father, Henry Cardana. Not only is Joe the youngest new member – at age 40 – this is the first time a father has sponsored a son.

Joe is retired from the U.S. Navy. Following his dad, who has been an officer in the Branch for many years, Joe has already volunteered to take on the duties of the Attendance Chairman.



Peach Bowl Branch 45, Yuba City

Slow Trollers

Bill Clark, Fishing Club Treasurer

The fishing club called "The Slow Trollers" draws members from Branch 45 in Yuba City and Branch 109 in Marysville. We presently have 30 active members and meet once a month to socialize and plan fishing activities. Buck Foster is our club President and is shown in the picture holding up the nice 7 pound catfish that he caught on one of our outings to Collins Lake last fall.



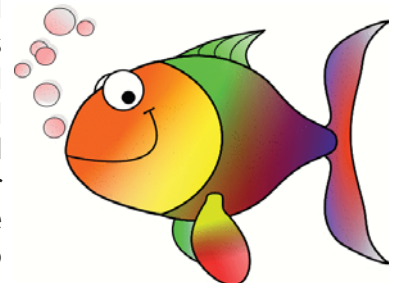
Most of us, as our name suggests, troll the local lakes for trout, kokanee, and coho salmon. This year has been slow for these species. Bob Cagle, our "Fisherman of the Year," has tried to convert us to



black bass fishing and this has been extremely successful, producing lots of bass limits. We also fish the Yuba and Feather Rivers for salmon, stripers, catfish and sturgeon. At times, we go outside the area fishing Lake Tahoe for mackinaw and the ocean for bottom fish, salmon, and albacore.

Slow Trollers held three tournaments last year ...at Bullards Bar, Englebright, and Lake Oroville. Money prizes were awarded for the most fish by weight and also for the biggest fish caught.

This year we were able to have logo hats made which were given to each member of the club. The "Fish Fry Picnic" in August featured fish caught by members and 40 members and guests attended. Bass and Tuna filets were served along with chicken ...for the non-fish-eaters. The wives and others also helped out with delicious homemade salads, desserts, and specialties. As with all of our functions, a good time was had by all.



Honorary Life Members Awarded in 2009

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>
Garrett O. Allison	BR128	Ralph C. Housley	BR049	Wallace G. Richardson	BR049
John A Alseth	BR067	Floyd D. Kendrick	BR035	Richard Richmond	BR146
Joseph L Anderson	BR140	John A. Kinsfather	BR172	Gilbert A. Rodriquez	BR107
Jeff Baily	BR146	Philip O. Laing	BR093	Dick Salander	BR092
Robert Bennett	BR076	Jerome C. Lake	BR132	Bruce R. Saltzman	BR128
Gerald M. Bird	BR169	Dick Lebeau	BR023	John P. Sargent	BR074
William Brokaw	BR104	Herb Loken	BR178	Milton Schwartz	BR118
Edward Eliot Caine	BR041	John Mahaffy	BR001	Richard M. Shappee	BR008
Robert J. Calloway	BR146	James Maneggie	BR037	Charles R. Shoemaker	BR102
Edgar F. Campini	BR023	Kenneth Marshall	BR176	Floyd D. Skelton	BR116
Lyle D. Chambers	BR114	Bob G. McCarroll	BR107	Donald B. Slivka	BR093
Chester F. Conley	BR154	Dave G. McGuire	BR037	Robert W. Smith	BR142
Frank Denny	BR103	John A. Metzger	BR159	William R. Timbers	BR170
Frank D. Donner	BR049	Steve Michalak	BR170	Thomas D. Van Alstine	BR129
Kenneth C. Edson	BR110	Jack M. Miller	BR143	Joseph Wagner	BR040
Kenneth F. Edwards	BR096	William Olmo	BR128	Samuel J. Walters	BR094
Frank Franzago	BR069	Leslie D. Olsen	BR098	James D Westphal	BR089
Thomas A. Fresquez	BR100	John Parkinson	BR143	Leonard A. Whitegon	BR110
William S. Garrett	BR096	Bob J. Perrault	BR113	Allen E. Williams	BR003
Douglas Hansen	BR179	Ralph C. Pfirmman	BR161	Sydney L. Williams	BR026
Robert S Harmon	BR001	Myles L. Pustejovsky	BR063	Warren H. Williams	BR103
Thomas Hensley	BR008	David M. Reiser	PP010	Stanley T. Wolfberg	BR020

SIR Website

SIR Happenings is continuing a series of articles describing some of the useful information that is available on the SIR Website: sirinc.org.

Remember to move from the "Public" Home Page, to the SIR section click on the "SIR Documents" link. You will be prompted to enter User Name (**safety**) and Password (**first**). Note: check the "Remember Password" box.

This takes you to the "SIR DOCUMENTS" page. Near the top of the page is a link to the SIR State newsletter, "SIR Happenings." Select it and you will be taken to a page of links to the current and back issues.

Below the SIR Happenings logo you will find the most used documents.



Most Used

- [How to obtain the things SIR offers](#)
 - [2010 Schedule Of SIR State Operations](#)
 - [2010 Schedule Of SIR Branch Operations](#)
 - [Complete List of SIR Forms](#)
 - [SIR Manual, Checklist and Revisions](#) **NEW 11/10/09**
 - [State Roster and Branch Locator](#) **NEW 1/2/10**
- Password needed**

You then can click on "[Complete List of SIR Forms](#)" this will take you to a page that lists the many forms that are available.

In this issue, we would like to talk about the SIR forms and other supplies that can be ordered or in some cases, forms that can be printed out. Some forms are in PDF format that can be filled in and printed. Some forms are in Microsoft Word format Which can be modified and printed.

Here are some examples of the forms and supplies that are available:

- Membership, attendance and personnel forms.
- Certificate of Appreciation (Form 7) and gold seals (Form 7A).
- Insurance form.
- Expense claim voucher (Form 15).
- Letterhead stationery and rooster logos to copy for your own purposes.
- Rooster hardware (Form 21) -
 - Bolo ties.
 - Lapel pins.
 - Decals.
- Pins for officers (Form 23) -Branch Officers and Past Big Sirs and State Officers.
- and for Honorary Life Members (Form 23A).
- Report forms (Form 28 etc).
- Candidacy forms.
- Travel forms.
- Instructional and promotional documents.
- And many more.

News from the Branches

Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

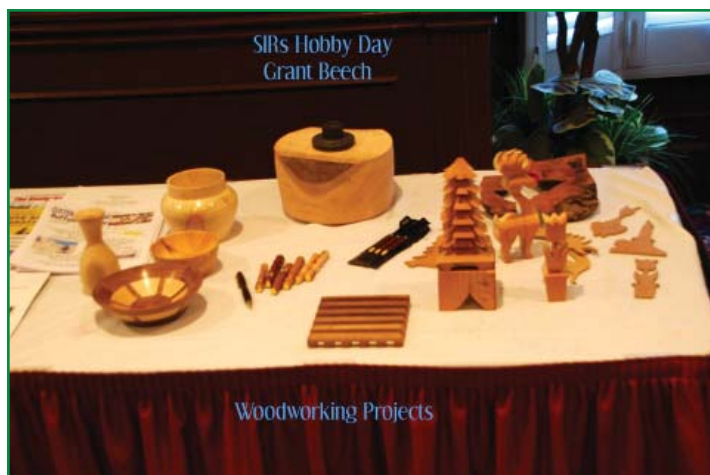
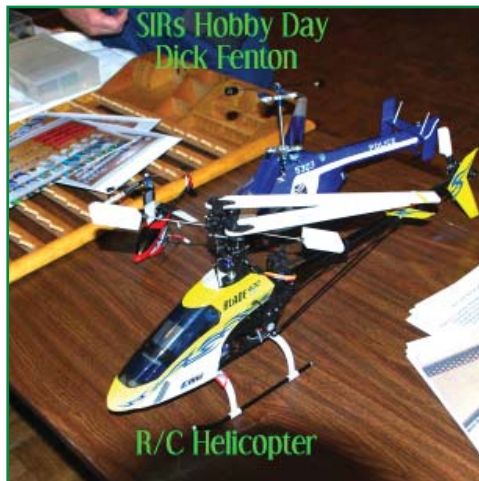
Hobby Fair to Strengthen Membership

Daryl Jones, Bulletin Editor

In a quest to bolster membership and to provide new activities of interest to our current members, Jerry Oliver of Branch 125 in San Jose organized a "Hobby Fair" following the Branch's September meeting. The goal was to provide an opportunity for members to showcase their hobbies in the hopes that other members might become interested. The idea was that new activities for the membership might help us retain current members and attract new members. The following are some of the hobbies that were displayed:

- Radio controlled helicopter (see picture)
- Wooden pens and bowls
- Chronometers & antique pocket watches
- Woodworking projects (see picture)
- Golf club re-gripping
- Sports aircraft & sky diving
- Clock repair
- And many more

Although the Branch has not yet created any new clubs, the hobby fair was a success. All of the Branch members learned a lot about the special interests shown in the exhibits.



Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

Table Pool

Bill Weinberg, Branch Member

The Table Pool activity was started about eight years ago ...initially it was for Branch 146 members only, but some of the other branches showed an interest so, we opened it to any Branch member that wished to play. Many of the first time players made comments like..."I haven't played for 50 years" or "I can't remember the last time that I shot pool." It took a few times for them to get back in the swing of things, but everybody seems to enjoy the games and the competitiveness of the players and after a little practice they become players.

We play twice a month – on the 1st and 3rd Monday – for about two to three hours. We were fortunate to have a facility in our town that has 25 tables, a good lunch kitchen, and it is kept clean and neat ...the price for all this is only \$5.00 for the entire day, which was negotiated when we first started the activity. Each branch that attends has a member that keeps their newsletter editor informed so that each branch knows where and when we meet.

Generally, we have three to four tables of pool at each meeting and depending on how many show up, we play a game called crazy 8 or two man teams of 8 ball ...both can get pretty competitive at times!

I would welcome any questions other members might have and you can E-mail me at billw@astound.net or phone me at 925-682-0962.



From left to right is **Martin Lyle, Jerry Wright** and **Bill Weinberg** getting ready to shoot some pool.

Big Turnout for Salute to SIR Day at the Races

Michael Roberts, the Group Sales Manager for Golden Gate Fields, tells Happenings that the last Salute to SIR Day at the Races was a huge success... "the largest SIR day we have ever had!" 343 Sirs were in attendance that day and 15 Branches were recognized with a named race. A great time was had by all.

We also held a raffle that day and here is the outcome:

- The 3rd place winner was a member of Branch 136 who won free Turf Club passes and a Golden Gate beach towel.
- The second place winner from Branch 6 won free Turf Club passes and a mutual voucher worth \$25.00
- The grand prize went to a member of Branch 151 who won a Turf Club party for four, including valet parking, admission, reserved seating, a daily racing program, and a prime rib buffet lunch, including tax and tip for the servers.

Our next SIR Day at the Races will be on March 26th and you can see a flyer about it in the adjacent column.

Don't miss it!

Sports: State Baseball

SIR Day at the Sacramento Rivercats
vs. the Nashville Sounds
 May 26 (Wednesday) at 11:35 AM
 Tickets \$17



SIR Day at the SF Giants
vs. the Florida Marlins
 July 29 (Thursday) at 12:30 PM
 Ticket Price to be determined



Carl Elvik, Chairman, State bowling Committee

It's a new year and I hope to see most of my friends at one tournament or another during the year. We have lost a few friends this past year and I want to express our condolences to their families. We also have quite a few out with illness and I hope they get well soon.

Our Bowling Committee held its annual meeting in January. We are working on a couple things this year. We have been successful with teleconferencing over the last few months and will continue with that program. Our State Bowling Tournament will be held at Fireside Lanes in Citrus Heights in May and our complete bowling schedule can be found on the SIR website, sirinc.org.

I want to thank all of you that attended our annual meeting and all of you who are on our committees ... your efforts, make my job fun and easy.

Good luck bowling and have fun!

Carl



GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

WHERE THE BAY COMES TO PLAY

Golden Gate Fields

Presents....

A Spring Salute to SIR day at the races!!!

When: Friday March 26, 2010
 Where: Golden Gate Fields Turf Club
 Time: Please arrive @ 11:15 a.m.

Gates open at 11:00 a.m.

Buffet Hours: 11:30-3:00 p.m.

First race: 12:45 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 per adult (Groups of 10+ required)

Includes: Valet parking (or parking for a bus), admission & reserved seating, daily racing program, raffle including free giants tickets as grand prize, tax/ tip for the food servers and a race named in honor of your SIR Branch.

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE FOR A BIG WIN!!!



For More Information Call Michael Roberts of
 Golden Gate Fields @ (510) 559-7380
 Or email mroberts@goldengatefields.com

Happenings Travel Bulletin

March 23-30, 2010

Springtime in Savannah & Charleston

In addition to Savannah and Charleston, we will visit Jekyll Island, St. Simon Island, Jacksonville, and St. Augustine and tour the beautiful Magnolia Gardens. 12 meals, 7 nights, deluxe motor coach touring and r/t air from Sacramento are all included. Cost is \$2695 PPDO. Offered by Branch 96 Travel. Call Lee Sues at 209-296-2235.

April 25-May 7, 2010

Discover Croatia

This is truly a wonderful trip featuring the Dalmatian Coast and Slovenia. An unforgettable journey to explore the hidden treasures and wonders of Croatia with medieval castles, tranquil lakes, rolling green hills, and sandy beaches. Trip includes 17 meals in all. Prices range from \$2229 (land only) to \$3899 (land and air) PPDO. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3390 or Paul Hiatt at 415-454-2240.

May 7-22, 2010

Panama Canal Cruise

Cruise from Florida through the Panama Canal to San Francisco.



One night pre-stay in Ft. Lauderdale and then a 15 day cruise aboard the Sea Princess, with port stops in: Aruba, Cartagena, Panama, Costa Rica, and Mexico. Prices range from \$2680 to \$3655. Offered by Area 1 Travel.

Call Midge Damont at 650-588-6645.

May 11-21, 2010

Shades of Ireland

Round trip to Dublin. Tour Kilkenny, Blarney Castle, Jaunting Car ride, Ring of Kerry, Kilarney, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, and castle stays. Cost is \$2895 PPDO, including r/t air. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Tom Marks at 530-342-1441.

May 21-June 1, 2010

Italian Lakes and Greek Islands

Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Italian Lakes and visit the most popular of the Greek Islands. Stay 3 days in Stresa on the shores of Lake Maggiore, cruise on the Costa Fortuna for 7 days and visit the ports of Bari, Katakolon, Dubrovnik, Venice, plus the Greek Islands of Santorini, Mykonos and Rhodes. The trip includes 25 meals! Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Paul Hiatt at 415-454-2240 for information and prices.

May 31-June 13, 2010

Paris-Burgundy-Provence

Five nights in Paris...TGV to Dijon...8-day river cruise through Burgundy and Provence. All outside staterooms on the luxurious Grand River Royale. 6 shore excursions with English speaking guides, complementary wine during dinner, enrichment entertainment and lectures onboard. Prices start at \$5520 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.

June 6-16, 2010

A Trip of a Lifetime!...Oberammergau

This "trip of a lifetime" has just been reduced in price. The cost is now \$4300 PPDO. This passion play was first performed in 1634 and is put on during the last year of every decade. The play involves a cast of over 2,000 and celebrates this village in Bavaria, Germany from being spared the worst of the Black Plague. The trip is Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Phil Manriquez at 650-871-5009 for information and a flyer.

June 2-9, 2010

New York City

We will be staying at the Belvedere Hotel in the theater district. Stops will include Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, Radio City Music Hall, the Empire State Building, several museums, and at least one Broadway Show. There will also be some free time for shopping or individual sightseeing. The cost is \$2795 PPDO and includes r/t air, hotel and most meals. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765.

September 9-19, 2010

Cruise Alaska's Inside Passage

Embark on a 10-night inside passage cruise aboard the Sea Princess, sailing round trip from San Francisco. Ports of call include: Ketchikan, Juneau, Haines, Tracy Arm Fjord, and Victoria BC. Prices range from \$1385 to \$2425 PPDO. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call Sam Ennis at 415-342-9154.

September 23-31, 2010

Copper Canyon Train

Travel in your private rail car on the only passenger train in Mexico. Cross 37 bridges and 86 tunnels as you make your way through the spectacular Copper Canyon. R/T air, meals, and hotels are all included, Cost is \$1880 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call Bill Howard at 530-342-3368.

September 25-30 2010

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup

A visit to southwest South Dakota that will include stops at the Crazy Horse Monument, Mount Rushmore, Badlands National Park and many other notable places in the area that highlight the romantic "Old West." Unpack only once. R/T air from San Jose and 8 meals are included. Cost is \$1407 PPDO. Offered by Branch 153 Travel. Call Ralph Hunt at 650-967-8467.

September 25-October 2, 2010

Trains Across New England

Autumn in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts is a beautiful time of the year. This 8 day tour includes a number of excursions on local sightseeing trains. We leave from Boston by motor coach with stops at 3 different hotels for 2 nights each. The cost is \$2640 PPDO. Offered by Branch 145 Travel. Call Jerry Wisenor at 209-334-5181.

October 8-23, 2010

The Scotts and the Irish

Take a 16 day tour of Scotland and Ireland. A professional tour director will guide the tour to such places as: Glasgow, Aviemore, Edinburgh, in Scotland and Belfast, Killarney, Dublin, in Ireland and more. Trip includes r/t air from SFO, hotels, 13 breakfasts and 8 dinners. Cost is \$4,212 PPDO. Offered by Branch 46 Travel. Call Pete Lepisto at 209-948-2265.

RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN 2010

Happenings at the State Board Meeting

Excerpts from the minutes of the January 2010 State Board Meeting

President Kendrick conducted the meeting. The key points he made to the Board about the serious membership situation are summarized in his President's column on page 1 of this edition of Happenings.

Vice President & Past Treasurer Mannell covered year end finances. He said we ended up the year with a net reduction in funds of approximately \$3,500 and a cash balance of about \$105,000. He said we're in pretty good financial shape and have some excess funds on hand.

Assistant Secretary Stephens reported that Secretary Gary Gruber is in the hospital having back surgery and he would be recording the minutes. A member of the Board asked that Secretary Gruber be commended on his efficiency, timeliness in keeping the records and the website up to date and that he just does a marvelous job. President Kendrick noted that Secretary Gruber is part of a team lead by Dwight Sale and that the Team is doing a great job.

Treasurer Berry said he is still short a few form 28's before he can file our IRS statement for the year which establishes that SIR is a non-profit organization.

Information Systems Chairman Sale reported that one of our tasks this past year was the Data Base update to assist Branches in keeping their data electronically instead of in a shoe box or a file cabinet. The job has taken a year rather than the two months that was anticipated. A "beta" program will be becoming out soon. It will have a financial program, an attendance program, and other programs.

Publicity Chairman Schick talked about publicity for Sons In Retirement and his work with the LAP last year. He suggested a reward be provided for those who sponsor a certain number of new members. After much discussion, a motion to table the issue and refer it to the Rules Committee was passed.

Bowling Chairman Elvik handed out a schedule of the 23 tournaments that will be held this year which was approved by the Board.

Golf Chairman Drennan said that due to economics, participation in State golf events was down compared to previous years, so a focus on new venues was needed. The Board approved the schedule for 2010. He commented that the golf program does bring in new members.

Past President Mel Augustine reported he is responsible for the A's, Warriors, and Raiders games. He expressed concern about the lack of attendance by SIR members and we need to do a better job of promoting the games. The Board approved the dates for the games.

Insurance Chairman Thomason reported the insurance premium has been lowered for 2010 as compared with the previous year. Travelers Insurance Company has reviewed our risks and lowered the premium slightly. He

noted there is an opening on the Insurance committee for a person that has a background in property management and casualty issues.

Travel Chairman Perry mentioned that last year SIR Branches scheduled 139 travel events – 25 went to foreign destinations – 8 were cruises to Alaska – and the remaining events were local or domestic. He expressed concern over the many Branches that have been remiss in submitting necessary forms required under the SIR Travel Code. He also said that he has been the Chairman for the past ten years and is retiring.

OLD BUSINESS: The Board discussed the effectiveness of the Tri Fold SIR Brochure and whether we should print some more. The response was not too positive...some Branches liked them, some were just ok, and some were just not happy with them. The Board decided to convert the file from PDF to a Word document and send it to contacts in the Branches.

NEW BUSINESS: Treasurer Mike Berry reviewed the mileage reimbursement rate and compared it with the IRS rate and proposed a reduction from fifty cents to forty-five cents a mile. Because of all the work involved in making the changes, the Board decided not to reduce the rate.

Training Committee Chairman Stedman presented a set of charts showing how membership has diminished and how it will continue to decline if the current path is taken. He showed that membership has gone from 32,000 at the peak down to 20,000 currently. He stated that as the Branches get older, they lose the ability to get leadership, activities, etc to the point that they can't recover. In his view the solution is to induct 10% of our membership each year. He offered a resolution for consideration by the Board which outlines the process for membership improvement and the survival of the Branches.

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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Email: dwight.sale@comcast.net

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Executive Editor
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John Skarpelos,
Editor and Production Manager
Email: john@mediart.com



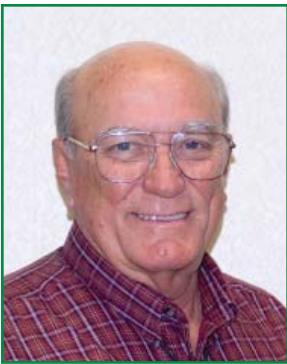
SIR HAPPENINGS

MAY 2010

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

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

President Buck's Challenge



My principal thrust this year is to stabilize the membership level and stop continued losses. My goal is to find the bottom and level off the loss curve, so that we can start to grow membership again. To this end I have been working with the State Board to

emphasize leadership from the State levels to the Branches.

In a volunteer organization like SIR, it is most effective to lead by example and with face to face communications. It is never advisable to be dictatorial or overbearing in dealing with any other Sir in any position relative to your own. It is always best to try to achieve consensus before proceeding with any endeavor, but that said, leaders must step up to personal responsibility for performance of the duties and assignments of any position to which they are assigned or elected.

I feel we must move toward a "Pro-Active" model, offering effective leadership from the State Board through the Regional Directors and Area Governors to the Branch. I want the Directors and Governors to intensify their management oversight and support efforts to the Branches, and be the resource point of contact for the operations of the Branches. This will be somewhat upsetting to some of the more independent minded Branch leaders because the State will be seen as interfering with the Branch's historic mode of operation. Others will welcome the support and leadership guidance. While the

change in leadership culture will not be easy or quickly accomplished, the membership crisis demands that we start the process without delay.

At the April State Board meeting a resolution was passed that sets an annual recruiting goal for each branch of 10% of their membership. This is based upon the well established management principles of setting a goal and then focusing upon it until it is met or exceeded. We know that an arbitrary 10% goal will not stop the losses in all branches, but it was selected to try to stem the loss rate within a year. Without doubt, some adjustments will be needed to customize it for individual Branch situations.

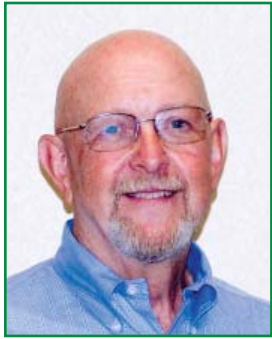
Another part of the change that was introduced at the State Board meeting is to revitalize and expand the leadership training program. The Branch Leadership Guide, that you are familiar with, is being upgraded by the Training Committee under Jim Stedman. It will describe leadership responsibilities for the Regional Directors, Area Governors and Big Sirs. On October 19th we will provide training for all these leaders instead of just the Area Governors as we have in past years. The incoming Area governors and Big Sirs will then provide the training for incoming Branch officers before they take office on January 1st.

Together we can solve this membership crisis by developing and implementing effective leadership by the State Board of Directors, Regional Directors, Area Governors, Big Sirs, and Branch Executive Committees. It will take time and effort, but I believe leadership is the answer to the membership crisis of SIR.

RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN 2010

Spotlight on SIR Officers

Bob Mannell – State Vice President



Our Vice President is the past SIR State Treasurer and his election to that position back in 2005 proved to be a wise choice. At that time, SIR was not in good financial condition and during Bob's four years as Treasurer, expenses were dramatically reduced at the State level – in spite of a declining membership and as a consequence, declining revenues – but today, SIR is in excellent financial shape. Bob says that he is proud to have been part of the team that made it happen.

Bob Mannell was born and raised on a farm in Northeast Kansas. He attended a one-room country school through the eighth grade and when he graduated from eighth grade, there were only three students in the school. After high school, he attended Kansas State University. Bob says that in one of his "less brilliant career moves," he left school to go to work for the Santa Fe Railway in the accounting department in Topeka, Kansas.

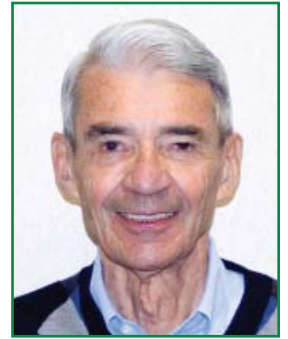
After a couple of career changes, a marriage, and two children, he joined IBM as a computer programmer in Kansas City. After 17 years with IBM, and a divorce, Bob moved to Maryland to work on an installation at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center with ROLM...a telecommunications company that IBM had acquired. The last several years at ROLM were spent as a Product Manager responsible for Global Multimedia Messaging products.

ROLM's corporate headquarters were in Santa Clara and he took a ninety-day temporary assignment there in 1987. Bob liked the climate, the job, found a lady he loved and never left California. He held several corporate staff and management positions in service, sales support, and marketing during his tenure with the company, until his retirement in 2002.

In 2003, his father-in-law introduced him to SIR and he says he was hooked and became the Branch 39 Treasurer the next year. The following year a request went out to all the Branches to find a candidate for Assistant State Treasurer, but as it turned out, what was needed was a State Treasurer. Bob agreed to run and was elected. He served from 2005 through 2009, when he was elected Vice President.

Bob's other interests are golf, gardening, woodworking, and grandkids, but as usual... more interests than time!

Gary Gruber — State Secretary



At a recent State Board meeting a director made the comment that "our State Secretary, Gary Gruber, should be commended on his efficiency and timeliness in keeping the records and the website up to date and that he just does a marvelous job for SIR."

Our hard working Secretary was born and raised in Spokane, Washington in the shadow of Gonzaga University. He attended the Gonzaga prep school, but decided to attend the University of Washington and graduated with a degree in Business Administration. During the Korean War -- in the middle of his college years -- Gary put in a hitch in the Air Force, spending most of his service on an Alaska radar outpost.

After graduating from UW, he was employed by the Shell Oil Company and worked his way up to a supervisor position in the accounting department. Later he was transferred to a data processing operation in Menlo Park, California and then the main data processing center in Houston, where he became a computer programmer and eventually the supervisor of a group of systems analysts. Near the end of his career, he accepted an assignment as computer systems manager at a major chemical plant in Saudi Arabia. His wife, Nancy, accompanied him there, and together, they enjoyed not only life in the kingdom, but also vacations in Middle Eastern, European and Asian countries.

After 35 years with Shell, Gary elected to retire. They sold their home in Houston and moved to South Lake Tahoe in 1990. It wasn't long before he joined Branch 160 where he has served as Big Sir, Little Sir and as a Director on the Executive Committee and has been active in bowling and various chairmanships. In 2003, he was elected Second Assistant State Secretary, but when that office was eliminated, Gary took some of the work he was doing – the SIR Manual, State Roster and SIR Forms – over to the Information Systems Committee where he also helps maintain the SIR Website. He was elected State Secretary in 2009 and 2010.

Gary and Nancy were married 50 years ago and they added four children and seven grandkids to their brood. During their 20 years at Tahoe, they have very much enjoyed life at the lake and their involvement with SIR.

Gary has chosen not to run again for State Secretary, but will continue with his heavy load of responsibilities on the Information Systems Committee.

Sirs in the News

Lake Tahoe Branch 160

Logan Awarded HLM

Larry Coffman, Bulletin Editor

The success of most organizations rests on the strength and devotion of their volunteers. Lake Tahoe Branch 160 is no exception and as is the case with most organizations, there are always a few members that quietly give above and beyond ...over and over again. **Wayne Logan** is one of these rare gifts!

At our March luncheon meeting, Wayne was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his exceptional service to the branch. Wayne became a member of the Lake Tahoe Branch in 1993. Since then, he has served in a variety of capacities including: Little Sir, Big Sir, BEC member, Golf Chairman, Sunshine Chair, and has been a key volunteer in preparing for our annual picnic.

State President **Buck Kendrick** (in the picture on the right) and Area 19 Governor, Bill Short, were both present to recognize Wayne's contributions to SIR and award him an Honorary Life Membership. We were also pleased that Wayne's wife, Dona, was able to be present for this commemorative celebration.

Wayne...we are forever grateful for your service, leadership and, most of all, your friendship. **Job well done, Sir!**



Twin Valley Branch 36, Santa Cruz

Senior HLM Fel DiGeronimo

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

Region 7 Director **Richard Kabanek** was very pleased to present **Fel DiGeronimo** (see picture) with a Senior Honorary Life Membership award.

Over the years, Fel has served Branch 36 very well, having been a charter member and a Big Sir, just to name a few of his many contributions to the Branch.



Peach Bowl Branch 45, Yuba City

Two Honorees - Boyer & Huefner

Rich Dettmer, Region 9 Director

The setting was noon on March 1st at a Branch 45 luncheon. President **Buck Kendrick** was there and Area 15 Governor **Gale Jeffers** and Region 9 Director **Rich Dettmer** were also there. All of this – as well as the fancy name plates for special seating – indicated that “something was up,” and this was definitely the case as two lovely ladies entered. Two honorees with many years of service to Sons In Retirement were there to accept Honorary Life Memberships. They were: **Udo Huefner** and **John Boyer**.

Udo had an inkling (It's hard to keep this a secret from a BEC member), but John (not being a BEC member, but a Committee Chair), was caught completely by surprise. His first clue was when the two wives walked in. Udo Huefner has been a Big Sir, Little Sir, Assistant Treasurer, BEC member and is one who always steps up to the plate to help. He is shown on the far right in the picture with his charming wife, Maria, at his side accepting the award from President **Buck Kendrick**.

John Boyer (next to the President) and still looking somewhat surprised, has served as Big Sir, Little Sir, BEC Member, Attendance Chairman, is the current Golf Chairman, plus so much more, is shown with his charming wife, Carol at his side, accepting the award from President **Kendrick**.

A good meal and a good time were had by all. We are proud of our two new HLMs ...congratulations!



Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the “Happenings” notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

Tamalpais Branch 47, Fairfax

Roger Pease receives HLM

Lou Painter, Bulletin Editor

The members of Branch 47 are very proud of **Roger Pease** who has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership. A member since 1998, Roger has ably served as our Big Sir twice, has been a Director several times and an important, hard-working member on numerous committees, as well as a song leader and door greeter.

With his enthusiasm and constant effort, he has sponsored thirteen new members ...a Branch record!



A perfect gentleman, Roger is always fun to see and be with. This important award has certainly been well earned.

SIR President **Buck Kendrick** on the right in the picture, is shown presenting the HLM award to Roger Pease.

Twain Harte Branch 172, Sonora

Feaster: Exceptional Service Award

Earl Nelson, Big Sir

Dick Feaster is shown on the left in the picture receiving an Exceptional Service Award for his unselfish contributions to the Twain Harte Branch. Presenting the award is Big Sir **Earl Nelson**.

Dick began his involvement in the Branch about seven years ago as the Computer Users' Group Chairman. Following that, he became Membership Chairman, then a Director, and went on to become Little SIR and Big SIR. He didn't sit back and rest on his laurels as he assumed the position of Assistant Secretary for three years.

Throughout all of this, Dick has been an active supporter of many other Branch Activity Groups. Dick, and wife Jan, are relocating to Fairfield and we are certainly going to miss them.

Elk Grove Branch 156

Bulletin Editor Davolt Honored

John Mendonca, Area 14 Governor

Area 14 Governor **John Mendonca** is shown in the picture below on the left, presenting **Doug Davolt**, Branch 156 Bulletin Editor, with a Certificate of Appreciation that reads in part: "For making *The Good Word* the best Branch publication in Area 14." Congratulations, Doug!



News from the Branches

Area 22, Modesto

Bowling Champs

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

The Area 22 Bowling League finished the 2009-2010 USBC sanctioned season with a playoff between the team of (pictured left to right) **Vern Masse**, **Chuck Shoup**, both from Branch 144 and **Emil Pizzirulli**, from Branch 103. Unfortunately, Ben Pacheco, from Branch 103 had to miss the tournament because of heart bypass surgery. They won the championship from a team composed of Russ Jackson, Dominic Genova, Jerry Melvin and Benny Sanchez, all from Branch 103. The winning team won two out of three games for the title at McHenry Bowl in Modesto.



Petaluma Branch 58

This Guy Can Predict Earthquakes

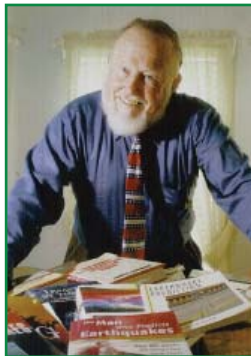
Jack Schipper, Little Sir

Branch 58 recently had quite an interesting speaker who spoke about earthquakes and answered the question: Where have the sea lions of San Francisco's Pier 39 gone? The answer was ...off the coast of Oregon following bait fish that are following warm water currents! A geologist and long time student of earthquakes **James Berkland** (see picture) began to publish his earthquake predictions 21 years ago in his newsletter.

His earthquake predictions have continued to score better than 75%, or three times the chance expectation which is less than 25%.

Since mid-1997 he has maintained a Website (syzygyjob.com) with webmaster Will Fletcher. In his presentation Jim shared information about high tides, full moon phases, and even keeping watch on the missing pet section of newspapers as indicators of upcoming earthquakes. He accurately predicted the World Series Quake and keeps a record of his accuracy in his newsletter.

This was a very interesting program that stimulated many questions and other observations from branch members - we recommend him to shake up your luncheon crowd too.



Ignacio Branch 22, San Rafael

SIRenaders

Bob Farwell & Ray Sommer, SIRenaders

SIRenaders is a singing group that was formed in the early years of Branch 22, back in the 70's. Originally comprised of 10 singers and 10 band members, the group performed only at SIR functions and special events such as the annual picnic and Christmas Party. In 1974, they began entertaining the folks in various convalescent facilities and residents of retirement communities throughout the county. They now visit 33 different facilities each year ...some of them twice!

In addition to their usual Friday gigs entertaining the elderly and shut-ins, the SIRenaders are active participants at Branch luncheons. They help in the opening ceremony by singing an appropriate patriotic song, usually "God Bless America," or "Grand Old Flag." Of course, Birthday announcements wouldn't be complete without "The Birthday Song," and anniversaries are acknowledged with a love song, or sometimes a completely inappropriate ditty, just to see if the members are still awake!

Recruiting has always been difficult. It's amazing how many men, who have good voices, respond when asked if they would be interested in singing with SIRenaders: "I can't sing, you wouldn't want me"...so, to help fill out the group, we have added three ladies, who also have enhanced our sounds.

There have been many different members over the years and we recently lost our leader, Al Re, who was replaced by Bob Farwell. Shown in the picture from left to right are: **Jean Morse** (piano accompanist & singer), **Mike Scafani**, **Jerry Kerby**, **Joe Beckner**, and **Susan Nelson**.



Form 27?

Yes Form 27!



News from the Branches

Mac Meadow Branch 15, Pioneer

10th Anniversary Celebration

Jack Magee, Big Sir

Branch 15 received some nice publicity about our 10th Anniversary in our local newspaper, including this picture of our 10th anniversary celebration.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the celebration, including the wives. There were 105 people in attendance, including about 25 charter members. The Branch was quite pleased to have SIR Vice President **Bob Mannell** and Area Governor **Norman Whitsed** join us on this occasion.

The event was hosted by Big Sir **Jack Magee**, who was assisted by Little Sir **Jim Steenson**. The charter members, who originated the branch in 2000, were honored as well as **Ben Arntz** of Pioneer, who was Big Sir for the first two years of the Branch's existence.

Most of the charter members were members of the Jackson branch. They lived up country and wanted to form a branch closer to where they lived, so they applied for a charter from the State and it was granted.

Branch 15 is a great group of people, and we're always looking for new members, to join in the all the fun we have.



JAZZ

Mt. Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek

Annual Activity Chair Breakfast

Walter Schick, Director

The number of activities in Branch 8 has grown from only five in 1997, to twenty-five in 2005, and to thirty-three in 2009. Eleven of our Activities include Couples and were quite easy to start. Our latest Activity is a Book Exchange which now has over 300 books for borrowing by members.

Annually, at the end of the year, we recognize the efforts of our now 35 Activity Chairmen at a breakfast meeting. This year our speakers were **Dean Steichen**, Area 2 Governor, **Glenn Cheetham**, Big Sir, **Jim Sowell**, Little Sir, **Derek Southern**, Little Sir Elect, **Bill Hunter**, Webmaster, **Walter Schick**, Area Publicity, **Pump Pumphrey**, Bulletin Editor and **Gary Plisco**, Activities Committee Coordinator.

Shown in the picture are just a few of the many who attended the breakfast. They are, left to right: **Don Atwater**, Single Sirs Dine Out; **Rod Spicer**, Rubber Bridge; **Don Bluebag**, Assistant Activities Coordinator; **Dean Steichen**, Area 2 Governor; **Craig Walton**, Fishing; and **Ron Smith**, Explore and Eat.

One of the discussions was about increasing participation by older members and our 2010 BEC will work on this. We also discussed opening branch activities to other branches where space permits.



Looking for some toe-tapping fun over the Memorial Day Weekend?

The 37th Annual

Sacramento Jazz Jubilee is the place to be!

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee swings over the Memorial Day weekend from Friday, May 28th through Monday, May 31st. The event is a fun party, with some of the best jazz you will ever hear, plus lots of good food and drink.

A variety of discounted tickets are again available to Sirs. For information and tickets, call Jim Fusaro at (916) 428-5719 or email him at jim4jazz@comcast.net. Jim will be glad to send tickets to any Branch on consignment.

News from the Branches

Bidwell Branch 110, Chico

Learning to be skilled Craftsmen

Bill Jemison & Bill Gebhardt, Branch Members

Last spring, Bidwell Branch developed some new activities...one of the popular new groups was woodworking. The group began with five participants who agreed to get together once a month and we took turns meeting in the home workshops of various members. Each meeting included sharing projects, stories, ideas, and some problem solving, as well as sharing coffee and snacks.

After a few meetings, it was decided that working together on some projects would be fun and helpful in building new skills for the members. The first group project was making a birdhouse kit that would later be completed with a grandchild or other youngster. One member, Bill Jemison, had previously made birdhouse kits and he agreed to guide other group members in building them. Each member of the group successfully made one or more birdhouse kits to take home and put together at a future date with a youngster. Shown in the picture (next column below right) from left to right are: **Craig Lindquist, Ron Haney, Bill Jemison, Bill Gebhardt, and Don Levinsaler.**

The group decided their next project would be a mission-style library stool. Craig Lindquist, one of the more experienced craftsmen, had already designed and built this beautiful little stool out of red oak (see picture). He made up templates and jigs for some of the more difficult parts. Craig agreed to guide and coach the rest of us in making the stools. Members are building their stools from different woods –i.e., walnut, cherry, or maple, for different looks



The group has now grown to nine members, but we are always ready to welcome newcomers. The mission-style stool is a project that has taken several months to complete. The members with more skills have enjoyed helping those with less experience as they learn to do such things as gluing up the

thicker legs of the stool, and making mortise and tendon joints. We also learned to use special tools to cut and drill squared holes through the wood with matching parts to make tight fitting joints. There was a lot of band saw work and the use of routers and pattern bits for shaping the wooden parts of the stool.

The guys are having so much fun they have decided to meet twice monthly for half a day. Now, as the group approaches completion of the library stool project, we are discussing what to tackle next. Some possibilities include building a pair of custom saw-horses, a trophy case for a local school, a mission-style chair, or whatever? One thing is certain though ...the group is going to have a good time being together and that's what SIR is all about.

Lake Tahoe Branch 160

The Seinfeld of Lake Tahoe

These guys take the word “tired” out of retired. The members of Branch 160 in South Lake Tahoe are likely busier than they were in their working days. For example, at age 95, **Tony Manfredi**, golf's and bowls a 207 on a really good day...“This year it's a 179, but I'd like to get to 200 (average),” he said modestly.

The Branch was started in 1990, when Area Governor **Campbell O'Neill**, from the Placerville Branch ran an ad in the Tahoe Daily Tribune asking retired men to attend an informational meeting. That first luncheon meeting was held at the 89th Street Bar and Grill, with the group moving later meetings to Carrow's Restaurant, then the Timber Cove Lodge and eventually to Tep's Villa Roma. Today, the club boasts more than 100 members.



Responding to the fact that there are no dues and SIR doesn't support any outside causes and is made up of retired men getting together for lunch, bowling, golfing and other active outings, **Gary Gruber** – who is also the State Secretary – joked that “It's like the Seinfeld of South Lake Tahoe ...it's based on nothing.

Dave Cotter, a race director and president of the Tahoe Mountain Milers running club, retired early at age 53. He said many of his former colleagues have passed away... “They had nothing to do,” Cotter said. “They retired and had nothing to occupy their minds and their bodies.” “SIR gets members out of the house.” Surveying the room he said, “I bet you wouldn't find a person in here that's got free time during the week.”

(Excerpted from an article that appeared in the Tahoe Daily Tribune, written by reporter Roseann Keegan)



News from the Branches

Area 6 RV Club, Marin County

Rolling Roamers

Jack Streckfus, Club President

The Rolling Roamers RV Club of Area 6 in Marin County recently enjoyed a 20 day extended trip. We visited Desert Hot Springs, Las Vegas, and Pahrump, Nevada. Highlights of the trip were the Fabulous Follies and the Air Museum in Palm Springs – all the thrills of Las Vegas – the visit to Death Valley National Park – and of course, the afternoon cocktail parties. Ten rigs went on the outing and all made it home safely. Shown in the picture is a very happy group of Rolling Roamers.



Area 5 Garden Club, San Jose

A Lot of Green Thumbs

Jerry Bradley, Garden Club President

The Area 5 Garden Club was started way back in the 1930's as The Men's Garden Club of Santa Clara County and was open to all men in the area. In the 1970's most of the members had joined Sons In Retirement and eventually membership was restricted to Sirs and the club became part of SIR.

Today the Garden Club thrives with members of several SIR Branches, their wives, widows and guests. Luncheon meetings are held each month from September through June. We have a featured speaker at each meeting, except for December, when we have our Christmas party and in June when we have a pot luck picnic.

The men in the picture from left to right are two of our long time members, **Carl Linder** and **Ray Laurent**, both from Branch 74. The Lady in the middle is **Cindy Rasp**, wife of **Jim Rasp**, from Branch 141.



The Club meets in San Jose and if you have an interest in any type of gardening – indoors or outdoors – please consider joining us. For more details, call Jerry Bradley at 408-265-9485 or email at gbradleysj@aol.com.

Area 2 Fishing Club, Contra Costa County

Hardy and Energetic Fishermen

Harry Sherinian, Fishing Coordinator

The Area 2 SIR Fishing Club is made up of a hardy and energetic group of men. We meet once a month to plan our future fishing trips and to discuss the successes and failures of recent fishing trips. Some of the club's successes are shown in the pictures with **Dick Thompson** holding up a huge 9 pound trout and **Harry Sherinian** (below) with a nice Sturgeon. At our meeting, we also have guest speakers from all aspects of sport fishing to inform and teach us the various methods of fishing, as well as sportsmen like behavior.

Our group is made up of all types of fisherman, from the hard core fly fisherman, to the bait dunker who just wants to sit on



the side of a lake and watch the beautiful scenery. We have members who fish a couple of times

a week, to those who fish twice a year, but all seem to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow fishermen and to learn some new fishing techniques.

About half of the members have boats so there is always a pairing up of non-boat owners with boat owners to go on the trips where boats are required to catch fish. We fish the ocean, bay, delta, local lakes and the high sierra. From ice fishing, to five day trips to Baja for some great fishing, from Alaska for Salmon fishing, to a five day – live on board – fishing trip out of San Diego ...all seem to be on our fishing calendar and there just doesn't seem to be a limit to what we will do.

There is also a social side to our club. There are events where we include the wives: the Summer Bar-B-Que, the Christmas Party, the Spring Dinner Event, and of course, our Day at the Races. It's a group of great guys with a common interest that enjoy each other's company.

All SIR members and guests are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to participate in our fishing trips as well as attend our monthly meetings. The meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 AM, but many of us arrive at about 8:00 to have some breakfast before we get down to business. For further information, please contact Karl Droese, Big Fish, at 925-376-0468, or Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Coordinator, at 925-846-7067, or Dick Thomson, Secretary/Treasurer, at 925-944-1760.

State Golf

Slow Play

Gene Drennan, State Golf Committee Chairman

I have been asked, over the years, what is the single most frustrating thing about golf. Having played for 45 of my 70 plus years, I personally feel the most frustrating is ...Ta-DA: **PACE OF PLAY!!!!** Nothing can ruin a great day on the golf course more than a 6 hour round. Waiting on every shot – standing around – getting cold – and losing any sense of rhythm, to me, is the worst of the worst.

How do we cure it? Simple ...stay up with the group in front of you. Most of the responsibility for slow play falls on the shoulders of the golfers themselves. For example, I – for the life of me – cannot understand why a mature individual, driving a Mercedes and playing with a \$2,000 set of sticks will spend 20 minutes, searching for a 50 cent golf ball.

There are so many things that you can do to speed up play, such as ...be ready to hit your next shot. I have seen some golfers taking more practice swings on the golf course, than they do on the driving range and don't declare a social hour on the green, deciding how you are going to hit your 6 inch putt ...GEEEEZ!! We can socialize over a beer later on the 19th hole instead of in the middle of the fairway or on the green.

Please understand, I am not criticizing all golfers... most of them are doing all they can to speed up play. No – I am trying to reach the select few who cause the majority of the delays with their slow play...so, enjoy the game and when you see a slow player at 9:00 in the morning, remind him or her that you would much appreciate their moving right along, because you don't want to be late for your dinner reservations!!!



State Bowling

Honoring Tournament Winners

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Committee chairman

Our State Bowling Committee would like to say thanks to all those who have participated in our tournaments so far this year. There are 17 great outings left and our State Annual Tournament will be held on May 17th, 18th, and 19th. I'm looking forward to earning a spot on the state bowling trophy.

I encourage all bowlers to go on the SIR website and view our bowling stats ...**Del Locke, Jerry Sabo** and **Bob York** are doing a great job of posting them and here are a few of the tournament winners that we want to congratulate:

The winners at Pacific Bowl in Stockton were: A singles: **Ruben Garcia**, Br. 45 – B singles: **John Sepulveda**, Br.123 – A doubles: **Harley Colbert** and **Mike Diaz**, Br.87 – B doubles: **Norman Witten** and **Patricia Witten**, Br. 87 – and all events: **John Sepulveda**, Br. 123.

At Napa Bowl in Sonoma the winners were: A singles: **Pete Peterson**, Br. 73 – B singles: **Ben Abisia**, Br. 123 – A doubles: **Oscar Castillo** and **Alex Rivera**, Br. 123 – B doubles: **Don Henry** and **John Pesek**, Br. 59 – and all events A division: **Frank Aros**, Br. 109 and B division: **Frank Palmer**, Br. 105.

At Granada Bowl in Livermore the winners were: A singles: **Jose Arroya**, Br. 108 – B singles: **Debra Silva**, a guest of Br. 136 – A doubles: **Gary Amantite** and **Wiley Bobo**, Br. 73 – B doubles: **Bill Yray** and **Rosemarie Yray**, Br. 101 – and all events A division: **Pat Fisher** Br. 113 and B division: **Debra Silva**, a guest of Br. 136.

The winners at Boulevard Bowl in Petaluma were: A singles: **Willy Bobo**, Br. 73 – B singles: **Jerry Sabo**, Br. 59 – A doubles: **Oscar Castillo** and **Alex Rivera**, Br. 23 – B doubles: **Bill Hammerman** and **Ernest Feil**, Br.147 – and All Events: **Oscar Castillo**, Br. 123.

Great bowling all of you and we will see you on the lanes!

State Baseball

SIR Day at the Sacramento Rivercats
vs. the **Nashville Sounds**
May 26 (Wednesday) at 11:35 AM
Tickets \$17

SIR Day at the SF Giants
vs. the **Florida Marlins**

July 29 (Thursday) at 12:45 PM
Ticket Prices: Lower Box \$34, View Box \$23, View Reserved \$17, LF Bleachers \$17



Happenings Travel Bulletin

September 9-19, 2010

Cruise Alaska's Inside Passage

Embark on a 10-night inside passage cruise aboard the Sea Princess, sailing round trip from San Francisco. Ports of call include: Ketchikan, Juneau, Haines, Tracy Arm Fjord, and Victoria BC. Prices range from \$1385 to \$2425 PPDO. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call Sam Ennis at 415-342-9154.



September 16-29, 2010

Montreal, Quebec, & Canadian Maritimes

Fly r/t from SFO. Discover Montreal, Quebec City, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia via motor coach and ferry. Dine in old Montreal and then enjoy 2 nights in Quebec City. Feast on lobster during a luncheon cruise at Prince Edward Island and visit quaint fishing villages like Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia. Price is \$3600 PPDO. Offered by Branch 172 Travel. Call Earl Nelson at 209-586-5661.

September 17-30 2010

Mediterranean Enchantment

A ten day cruise on board Holland America's MS Noordam, sailing roundtrip from Civitavecchia (Rome), plus a 2 day stay in Rome. The itinerary includes visits to Livorno, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, Carthage, Trapani, and Naples. Cost is from \$4965 to \$5935 PPDO, including r/t air from SFO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call Jim Lunn at 925-551-3329.

September 23-31, 2010

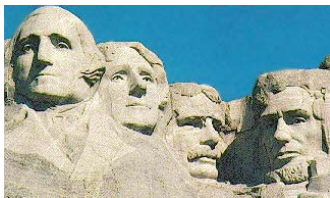
Copper Canyon Train

Travel in your private rail car on the only passenger train in Mexico. Cross 37 bridges and 86 tunnels as you make your way through the spectacular Copper Canyon. R/T air, meals, and hotels are all included, Cost is \$1880 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call Bill Howard at 530-342-3368.

September 25-30 2010

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup

A visit to southwest South Dakota that will include stops at the Crazy Horse Monument, Mount Rushmore, Badlands National Park and many other notable places in the area that highlight the romantic "Old West." Unpack only once. R/T air from San Jose and 8 meals are included. Cost is \$1407 PPDO. Offered by Branch 153 Travel. Call Ralph Hunt at 650-967-8467.



September 25-October 2, 2010

Trains Across New England

Autumn in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts is a beautiful time of the year. This 8 day tour includes a number of excursions on local sightseeing trains. We leave from Boston by motor coach with stops at 3 different hotels for 2 nights each. The cost is \$2640 PPDO. Offered by Branch 145 Travel. Call Jerry Wisenor at 209-334-5181.

September 26 – October 6, 2010

Fall colors of New England & Canada

This will be a 10 day cruise aboard the Holland American Line, MS Eurodam, departing from New York with visits to Newport RI, Boston, Bar Harbor ME, Halifax and Sidney, Nova Scotia and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, including a scenic cruise in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and a cruise of the Sanguenay Fjord. The final destination is Quebec City. Prices range from \$2483 to \$3383 PPDO. Offered by Branch 174 Travel. Call Bob Paden at 925-376-8189.

September 29 – October 9, 2010

Mexican Getaway

We sail from San Francisco aboard the Sea Princess to Catalina Island and then on to Mexico. Spend the day in Puerto Vallarta, then on to Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. On the return trip enjoy a day in San Diego before returning to San Francisco. Prices range from \$1145 to \$1980 PPDO. Offered by Branch 26 Travel. Call Emile Lassalle at 510-538-7463.

October 8–14, 2010

Patriot's Pilgrimage

A 7 day tour featuring New York City, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Washington DC. Fly from Sacramento to NY and see all the famous sites in the "Big Apple." Then to Philadelphia and visit the many historical places in the "City of Brotherly Love," including Gettysburg and the Amish country. Next, on to the nation's capital and tour the numerous historical sites, including a performance at Ford's Theatre and finally, visit Mount Vernon before the flight home. All inclusive cost is \$2565 PPDO. Offered by Branches 45 and 109 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693.

October 8-23, 2010

The Scotts and the Irish

Take a 16 day tour of Scotland and Ireland. A professional tour director will guide the tour to such places as: Glasgow, Aviemore, Edinburgh, in Scotland and Belfast, Killarney, Dublin, in Ireland and more. Trip includes R/T air from SFO, hotels, 13 breakfasts, 8 dinners. Cost is \$4,212 PPDO. Offered by Branch 46 Travel. Call Pete Lepisto at 209-948-2265.

October 19–November 6, 2010

Pure New Zealand

New Zealand is a thrilling microcosm of the natural world ...a land where wild rivers and glaciers flow through rain forests to the sea, pristine lakes and pastoral forests hug volcanic slopes, and snow-capped peaks pierce the sky. Along the way, you will experience the Kiwi spirit of adventure that springs from this mighty landscape. Cost of this all inclusive trip is \$5440 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.

November 10–15, 2010

Branson Holiday

Start with the Truman Library in Independence, Mo. Then see the Johnny Mathis Show, The Osmonds, Twelve Irish Tenors, Yakov Smirnoff, Andy Williams, Shoji Tabuchi, and the Festival of Lights, plus much more. Price is \$2089 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Dan Miller at 650-591-3314.

RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN 2010

Happenings at the State Board Meeting

Excerpts from the minutes of the April 2010 State Board Meeting

President Kendrick called the meeting to order. He reiterated the 2010 Mission Statement and the Slogan and was pleased to see them posted in Branch Bulletins around the state. He noted that Travel Chairman, **Bob Perry** had passed away and **Larry Garvin** has been appointed to the position.

Vice President Robert Mannell put in a plea for help in finding replacements for our leadership. He also discussed mementos for the Annual Meeting.

Assistant Secretary Hal Stephens said he would record the minutes in the absence of Secretary, Gary Gruber. As Chairman of the Badge Committee, he said our awards supplier is providing excellent service. He further stated that all the SI-100's have been filed with the Secretary of State on behalf of the Branches.

Treasurer Mike Berry reported that State funds are down somewhat due to the falling membership, but the treasury is still in very good shape. He said that he was pleased that all the Audit Reports he had received were clean, but he is still missing many reports.

Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden was pleased to say that all 148 Branches had reported with the Form 28.

President Buck Kendrick (See the "Presidents Column" on the front page of this edition for a summary of the comments he made to the Board.) Each of the nine Regional Directors then reported on issues in their Regions.

InfoSys Chairman and Past President Dwight Sale talked about the data base changes, the membership in the database.

State Certificates Chairman and Past President Jim Donovan clarified the procedures for requesting and receiving Senior Certificates and asked that they be sent to him.

State Insurance Chairman John Thomason said that our insurance costs have gone down. He also mentioned a need to recruit additional members to the committee.

Chairmen of the sporting events, Past President Mel Augustine, Chuck Roberts, Neil Mayo and John Levis reported on SIR days at the various sporting events including the Athletics, Raiders, Warriors, Giants, River Cats, and the Fresno team. Flyers will be sent to Branches in the appropriate areas to let members become aware of the events.

Chairman "Smitty" Smith of the Rules Committee proposed a series of rule changes.

Publicity Committee Chairman Walter Schick discussed Branch development saying that we now have a total of at least 75 different Branch activities.

Leadership Strategy Session: President, Buck Kendrick and Training Chairman, Jim Stedman It was announced that the newly elected Big Sirs, Area Governors, and Regional Directors will be invited to a training session on October 19th, and Jim Stedman then covered some changes in the method of training. He also reviewed the new Form 27 and a motion to approve it passed. It was agreed that the President would send a letter to all the Branches explaining its use.

President Buck Kendrick concluded the meeting by saying: "I want all of you to leave this meeting inspired and motivated. I want you to focus on ideas that work and sharing those success stories. We can succeed and..." **Recruit, Vitalize, and Retain Membership in 2010.**"

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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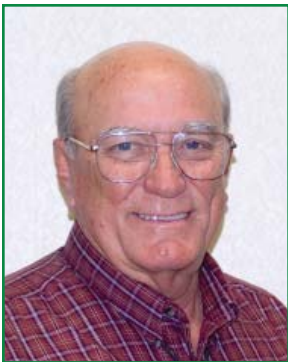


SIR HAPPENINGS

AUGUST 2010 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

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

President Buck's Challenge



I have been very encouraged by many of the branch reactions to the 10% recruitment goal that was set by the Board. Early results from the Form 27 reports and some of the quarterly reports, indicate that the process is working and several branches have already met their recruitment goal for the year, while others are ahead of pace for meeting it. We don't yet have enough information to know if we have leveled off the membership

loss trends, but I have confidence in the results of the "Pro-Active" leadership of our Directors and Governors. I have to note that not all of our branches have willingly agreed to participate and the leadership team has encountered some "push back." It is my goal that all the branches adopt the process and regain their healthy membership levels. Most of the reports from the participating branches praise the process and acknowledge that it really focuses their attention on their membership issues in ways they never had before.

I am pleased to announce that the State RV Activity has been reactivated under the leadership of Committee Co-Chairmen Don Cummings (Branch 7) and Jack Streckfus (Branch 22). They are in the process of staffing their committee and developing plans for future RV activities. I am personally appreciative of their willingness to step up to the challenges and I look forward to joining them on some exciting RV outings.

In a volunteer organization like SIR, there are many functions and activities that are performed by members without formal recognition or appreciation. Many times we do not even know what an individual is contributing until one day that person is no longer able to continue due to illness or changes in their life situation. I just recently became aware of how much Gary Gruber was really doing for SIR, when he announced he was selling his home in South Lake Tahoe and moving to the Houston area to be near one of his daughters. He had backed away from his Secretarial duties earlier in the year due to his serious illness, but he had continued to work from home doing all the "unofficial" tasks that he did in addition. Several people have been recruited to pick up all the

continued on page 2

State RV Committee Reestablished Don Cummings & Jack Streckfus, Co-chairmen

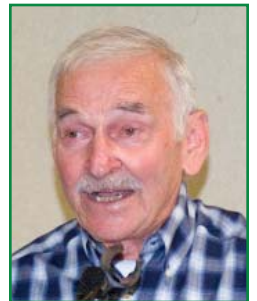
President, Buck Kendrick, has appointed **Don Cummings** (photo) and **Jack Streckfus** as co-chairmen of the State RV Committee. The RV Committee had been inactive for several years.

Both Don and Jack have been active in SIR related and sponsored RV activities. Jack was the State RV Committee Chairman and Don served on the committee. Both are members of the SIR Area 6 Rolling Roamers RV Club. Jack is the current Chairman, while Don is the Wagon Master.

President Kendrick met with Don and Jack and they discussed some of the things they would like to accomplish in the next few years. Some of the things discussed were:

- Establish a list of all of the SIR RV Clubs in the State and create a data base of all SIR members with a recreational vehicle.
- Promote SIR RV Clubs in Branches, Areas and Regions. Assist others in setting up RV clubs and RV club outings. Encourage joint outings among various SIR RV clubs
- Maintain, for SIR RV clubs use, a listing of RV parks that have been used by our SIR clubs along with comments about the facilities and staff.
- Provide to SIR clubs and SIR members, information provided to the SIR State RV Committee regarding special rates or offers made by campgrounds, RV stores, RV service providers, etc.
- Plan an RV get-acquainted mixer where SIR members with RVs can get to know other SIR members.
- Use SIR RV clubs as a recruiting tool for getting new members into SIR.
- Seek information with photos from SIR RV Clubs about their outings, so they can be included in RV informational email bulletins and published in SIR Happenings.

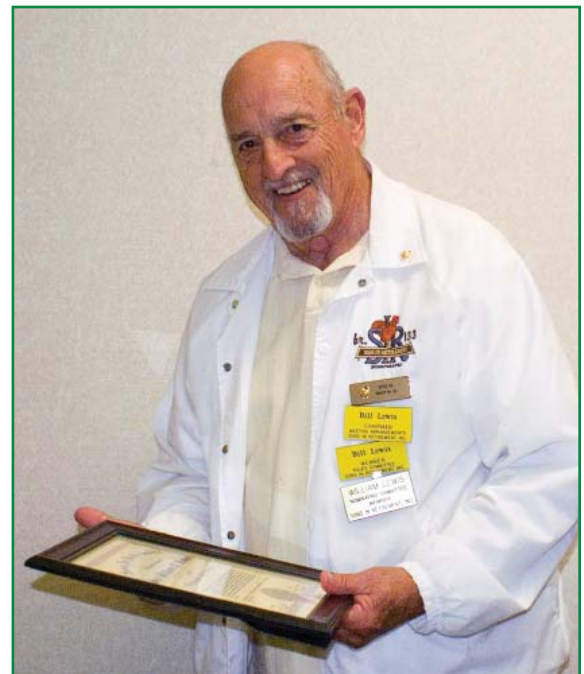
Don and Jack will be working in the coming months to add interested SIR members to the RV Committee. We welcome any and all suggestions and support in making the SIR RV activities a successful part of SIR. The Committee has set up an Email address that can be used to communicate with SIR members. It is: sirstaterv@gmail.com.



The Annual Meeting of Sons In Retirement



SIR State officers for 2011, who were elected at the Annual Meeting early in August, are shown in the above photo. From left to right we have **Jim Stedman**, Vice President, **Bob Mannell**, President, **George Lopez**, Treasurer, **Eckart Sellinger**, Secretary and **Karl Ryden**, Assistant Treasurer. **Charles Moss**, shown in the photo at right was voted in as Assistant Secretary, but was not able to attend the Annual Meeting. A brief Executive Board meeting was convened where they elected Sellinger to complete the 2010 term as Secretary which opened as a result of former Secretary **Gary Gruber** leaving the state.



President Buck's Challenge

continued from page 1

extra things he was doing and William Short, a former State Secretary, stepped up to fill that gap. Gary was awarded an HLM in 2005, so there is no higher honor we can give him, but we all owe him greatly for his many years of service to SIR.

Past President Reiser, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, has come up with a slate of highly qualified candidates for consideration at the August Annual Meeting. I am sure that if elected, they will provide outstanding leadership for the organization for the year to come.

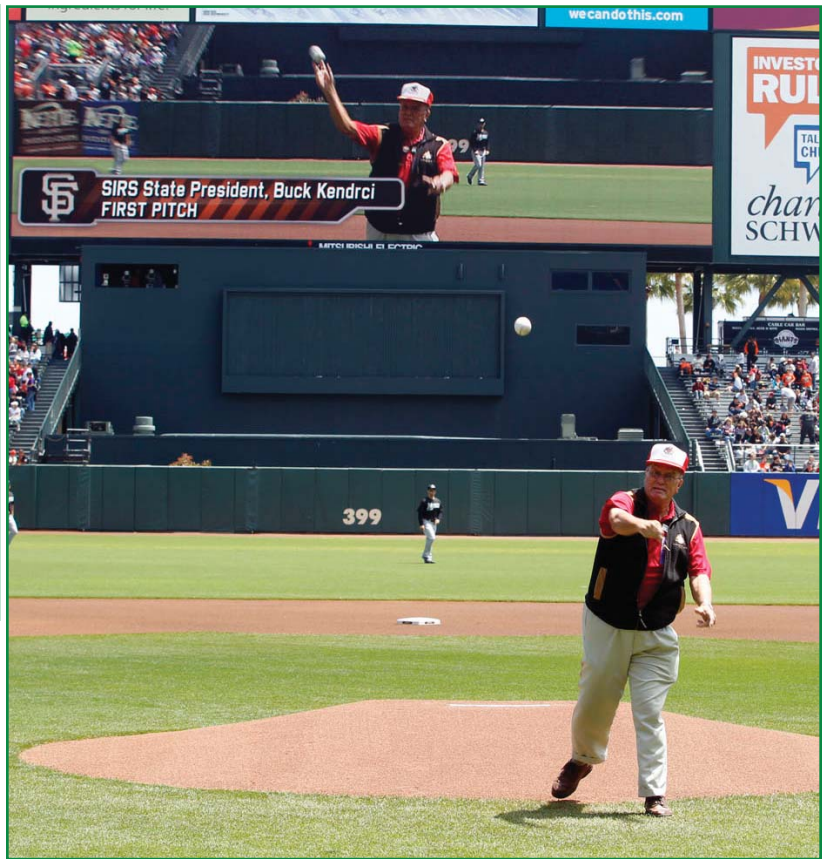
Bill Lewis (in the photo above on the right) was awarded a well deserved Honorary Life Membership by the State Board of Directors, in recognition of the time and effort he has expended in support of Sons In Retirement.

Four Past Presidents present at the Annual Meeting are shown in the upper left photo. Left to right **Dwight Sale**, **Dave Reiser**, **Jim Donovan** and **Art Pufford**.

In the lower left photo **Harry Hubinger**, Growth & Management Committee Chairman discusses several programs designed to increase membership growth.

In the center photo Area Governor **Bob Carlstroem** said that Big Sirs should not be burdened by having to prepare excessive written reports.

Sirs in the News



San Benito Branch 131, Hollister Pelton Wins Gold...Again! Dave Reiser, Past SIR President

This past June, former Region 7 Director **Gary Pelton** (see picture), brought home a Gold Medal from the State of California Senior Olympic Games held in Pasadena. He won the 2010 State Championship in the men's division of Lawn Bowling...if this sounds familiar it is, because this championship is a repeat of his 2009 Gold Medal win.

Now Gary has taken up Bocce Ball and has his sights set on participating in local semi-pro tournaments later this year. It would not surprise me if he excels in his new venture and wins more medals.

Congratulations are also in order to Gary for his continuing efforts to make those around him a little bit safer. He has carried an ERT (Emergency Response Team) certification since June 1964 and this year, he updated the medical part of his certification by passing all the tests that are periodically required. Gary is very pleased to have learned how, why, and when, to use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) paddles to re-start a heart.

In his lifetime, Gary has used his skills to successfully save or maintain life several times. On those occasions he just happened to be in the right place at the right time. He is a great guy to have around not only because of his bustling enthusiasm and genuine friendliness, but also because of his life saving abilities.



In the upper left photo **Hank Gomez** of Branch 25 along with his sons Gregory, Bob and John are shown singing the National Anthem at the San Francisco Giants SIR Day.

The upper right photo shows President **Buck Kendrick** making the first pitch of the game while at SIR day at the San Francisco Giants.



Chuck Roberts, SF Giants Sports Chairman, is shown on the left of the picture above while **Buck Kendrick** addresses all the Sirs attending SIR day at the SF Giants. Buck's wife **Eleanor** is on the right.

Sirs in the News

Prospectors Branch 137, Placerville

Caldwell Honored with an HLM

Ron McCall, Bulletin Editor

Keith Caldwell was presented with an Honorary Life Membership by State President **Buck Kendrick** at the Branch's April luncheon meeting. Keith earned the award for his long service to Branch 137. He has been a member for nearly 18 years and has held several Branch offices including Little Sir, Big Sir, BEC Director and several committee chairmanships. Currently he is the Branch historian and photographer.

Keith is one of those terrific members who is always there to do a job. For example, he helps out at special functions such as the Branch Christmas Party where he orders and delivers the poinsettias, helps in setup and cleanup, and even chauffeurs members who are unable to drive to meetings.

Keith, standing in the center of the picture, was quite surprised by the award and was delighted that his wife, Carol, was present to pin him with his new HLM badge.



Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

Calfee Awarded an HLM

Dave Bean, Bulletin Editor

Branch 37 is very proud of **Dave Calfee** who was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his exceptional service to Branch 37. A member since 1990, Dave has held many positions including: Big Sir, Little Sir, BEC member, and Membership Chairman. Dave is always ready to step up and volunteer or help a fellow Sir.

State Vice President **Bob Mannell** attended our Ladies' Day Dinner and presented Dave with the Honorary Life Membership. In the picture are left to right: Bob Mannell, Dave Calfee, his wife Betty and Big Sir **Hank Tukloff**.



Santa Cruz Branch 20

A real Bargain!

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

When **Carl LaMothe** and **Jack Roberts** were inducted into Branch 20, the Branch received a real bargain. Separately they have been Big Sirs, Little Sirs, BEC members, and chairman of several committees. Big Sir Rich Dean describes them both as "willing to volunteer for anything that needs to be done for the good of the Branch."

The Branch received another bargain at its June Ladies Day Luncheon when Vice President **Bob Mannell** was present (with wife Cheryl) to award the Honorary Life Memberships. Shown in the picture from left to right are: Carl LaMothe, Bob Mannell and Jack Roberts.

Following the presentation, Carl – the "Branch Head Rooster Crower" – led the members in the traditional congratulatory "Cock-A-Doodle-Do," accompanied by wildly waving wings (arms).



Junction City Branch 40, Roseville

Jeffers Honored as an HLM

Richard Adams, Membership & Attendance Chairman

We were recently honored to have SIR President, **Buck Kendrick**, attend our Branch luncheon to present a well earned Honorary Life Membership to **Gale Jeffers**. Also present for this special occasion was Region 9 Director, **Richard Dettmer**

Gale joined Branch 86 (now Branch 40) in 2002, and immediately became very active in the affairs of the branch that include: Secretary, Little Sir, Big Sir, BEC member, Bulletin Editor, and he was recently elected Area 15 Governor. Gale was also involved in arranging the merger of Branch 86 and Branch 40.

In the picture from left to right are: Buck Kendrick, Gale Jeffers and his wife Beverley.

Congratulations, Gale, from all of us in Branch 40!



Sirs in the News

Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont/Newark

Mr. Sunshine Dave Marymee

John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

Mr. Sunshine, Dave Marymee (on the left), was presented with two awards at the last Branch 59 Luncheon.

Area Governor Don Graff was there to present a Senior Honorary Life Member award recognizing his ten years as an HLM, and a Presidential Senior SIR Certificate for attaining the age of 90.



San Ramon Valley Branch 128, San Ramon

Recruiting Awards

Joe Rivello, Big Sir

I was quite pleased to present awards to four of our members for their outstanding recruiting efforts at our May luncheon meeting. Pictured left to with their awards are: Harry Knowles (7 members recruited), Bill Buhl (7), Dick Mervine (8), Joe Cardinale (7) and myself, Joe Rivello.

Thus far this year we have inducted 18 new members towards our goal of 20 members.



Mt. Shasta Branch 154

The Big & Little

Cal Platt, Branch Member

Yes...believe it or not...they are holding the correct signs in the picture.

Big Sir Merle Clure, retired from the Federal Aviation Administration as an Assistant Division Air Traffic Manager of the Western Pacific Region after thirty-five years. Merle is a four year member of the Mt. Shasta Branch and makes his home in Mt. Shasta, with his wife Peggy, and enjoys snow skiing, fishing, kayaking and hiking.

Little Sir Fred Obermiller retired from the College of the Siskiyou in Weed after a 30 year career as a professor of Business and Economics. Fred has been a member for eight years and while not on the golf course, Fred and his wife Beverly enjoy traveling and spending time with their grandchildren.



Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

News from the Branches

Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Caratozzolo Nabs Spring Golf Trophy

Don Schilling, Bulletin Editor

On May 11th, Branch 32 held its Spring Golf Tournament at Deep Cliff Golf Club. This annual event is open to all members of the Branch Golf Club. This year the weather was benign and the scoring was very close. **Jim Caratozzolo** won with a low net score of 6 under par 54 on the Executive Par 60 course. In second place was **Galen Gipson**, one shot back with a 55, and third place was shared by **Mike Price** and **Paul Vogel** with net scores of 56.

Jim Caratozzolo carries a 10 handicap with the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA). He has been a member of the Mission Branch 32 since 2004 and has been an active golfer for years, especially since his retirement and participation in the Branch 32 golf activities.

The Branch 32 Golf Club currently has 18 active members, and has experienced a 20% growth in members over the past year. Under the leadership of Club Chairman Bruce Henry, the Club sponsors a total of 24 golf tournaments each year at the Deep Cliff Golf Course in Sunnyvale. Included are two special events ...the annual Spring and Fall Tournaments, which offer impressive perpetual trophies to the winners.

Pictured is Jim (on the right) receiving the engraved winner's trophy from Golf Chairman Bruce Henry at our May Branch Luncheon. Congratulations, Jim, for your outstanding golf play!



Golden Gate Fields Presents....

A Fall "Salute to SIR" day at the races!!!

When: Friday November 12, 2010

Where: Golden Gate Fields Turf Club

Time: Please arrive @ 11:15 a.m.

Gates open at 11:00 a.m.

Buffet Hours: 11:30-3:00 p.m.

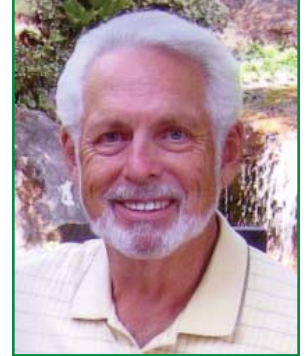
First race: 12:45 p.m.

Windsor Branch 176,

Many Duffers will Appreciate this Golf Story

Thomas Devitt, Golf Chairman
Euell Winton, Bulletin Editor

Mike Wedemeyer, the Windsor Branch 176 Recruitment Chairman and last year's Big Sir, (see picture) has achieved the highest golf handicap possible under the rules of the United States Golf Association! Under Section 3-4 of the USGA Handicap System, the maximum handicap index is 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women. Some of our members suggested that Mike should have a sex-change operation so that his maximum handicap could increase to 40.4 – the women's maximum. Well done Mike!



Area 22 Golf Tournament

Hole-In-One for Al Meza

Don Reed, Branch 103 Bulletin Editor

Area 22 holds a weekly tournament each Thursday -- all year long -- at the Modesto Muni Golf Course...the only time we don't play is on a holiday or if it rains too much. The participants usually run from 16 to over 50 players from Branches 103, 143 and 144 and are officiated by Don Reed of Branch 103.

On Thursday April 1st **Al Meza** was playing in the third foursome with **Rich Laurenz**, **Emilio Perez**, and **Jim Cloward**, all of Branch 103. They watched as Al took out his eight iron and played the 130 yard eighth hole to perfection. Not only did they see the hole-in-one, but the group in front of them watched as the ball rolled into the hole.

The eighth hole is our usual closest to the hole each week and the players keep a close eye on who gets on the green. Depending on the number of golfers, we have a number of places we pay each week.

This outing was started a number of years ago by

another Branch 103 member, **Chuck Behr**, who is no longer able to play with us. But his legacy still hangs on with the signup and payout charts used in the same way he did.

The picture was taken at the Branch 103 luncheon held in April and shows Don Reed presenting Al with a check from the hole-in-one insurance fund for the group. He also presented him with a "Feather in the Cap" award.



Committee Reports

Publicity & Tools Committee

Walter Schick, Committee Chairman



The Publicity & Tools Committee works closely with the Growth and Membership Committee. For Branch Publicity, last year we supported the SIR Cards and Tri-Fold SIR Brochures to help every branch. This year we have provided a SIR Car Sticker to increase local awareness. We are seeking an experienced publicity person to help us develop wide ranging publicity in Northern California.

For Tools, our committee is documenting good practices by all branches, and will announce a new Membership page on the SIR Website for the key function committees of any branch. Please send us your Ideas That Work!

Share Your SIR Experience With New Car Stickers!



Branch 8 gave these out at its June Ladies Day Luncheon, and 70 were taken...some Sirs even came by for extra copies. You can put these on the rear window (lower passenger side) or on your bumpers. The vinyl printing stands up to car washes, and does remove much easier than the old paper versions. You can give one to each new member and they can be placed in the same holders as the Tri-Folds at your luncheon signup table. The State buys in large volume, so these are offered on Form 21 – one hundred for \$45.00.

Share Your SIR Experience with Tri-Fold Brochures!

Due to continued demand from SIR Branches, we have updated the Tri-Fold (see image at right) to make it easy for any Sir to add his contact information. These can now be ordered on Form 21 from Nat Lord, along with your bolo ties and pins.

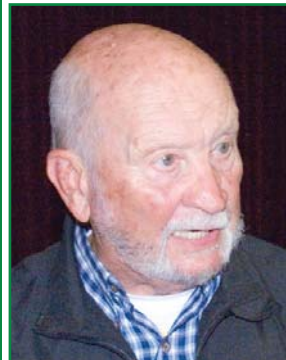
As the State orders in large quantities, we can pass the savings on to you. One hundred Tri-Fold brochures are only \$17.00 and you might want to consider selling them at your luncheons for \$1.00. A couple of suggestions on how to effectively use them ...you might place the brochures in City Senior Clubs and also give one to each Lady at your Ladies' Day Luncheon.

Walt

Growth & Management

Committee...Looking Forward

Harry Hubinger, G&M Committee Chairman



The G & M Committee is working on 5 or 6 programs designed to aid membership growth. I don't want to overload you in our first column, so I will highlight just the hottest three projects:

1. **Wikipedia:** Potential retirees are a lot more computer savvy than us old farts, so we are directing a program toward them through Wikipedia. We have lots

of information, but no one to take ownership as yet. Do I hear a volunteer out there? We will probably follow this with a Facebook Blog – we need to move SIR into the 21st century!

2. **Eastbay Alive Article:** Publicity is good and needed. A four part series is starting in the July edition of "Alive Magazine." In it, our fictional hero Rob, experiences retirement euphoria, gets bored, finds SIR, joins, and lives happily ever after. You can read it online at www.eastbayalive.com. Click on columns or get one at your local newsstand – P.S also read my other article "Stamps in my Passport" in the same magazine.

3. **Speakers Available:** Most SIR members ignore or make light of the State organization...too bad because the State does a lot for the branches. The G&M Committee has put together a brief, humorous, interactive presentation, to be given in conjunction with the Area Governor. So why haven't we been asked to give it? Because no one knows about it...that's why. So give me a call at 925-837-4381 or email me at regribuh@aol.com and we will entertain and inform your Branch.

Thanks for reading this...

Harry

<p>WHAT ARE SOME of the OTHER FUN things we do?</p> <p>We Play Bridge, Pinochle, Poker and Cribbage. We Eat Out.</p> <p>We Have Groups in Astronomy, Backgammon and Dominoes, Investments.</p> <p>We Have Book Swaps, Writing Groups, Cooking, Wine Tasting, Hiking And Walking</p> <p>We Have Programs That Our Members Want</p> <p>We Have Lots of Fun</p> <p>WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE DON'T DO?</p> <p>We Don't Raise Money We Don't Have a Political Agenda We Don't Have a Religious Orientation We Don't Sell Light Bulbs or Anything Else We Don't Have Dues We Don't Have a Problem With Organizations That Do These Things. Its Just That We Don't</p>	<p>WHO ARE WE? We Are Sons in Retirement</p> <p>If you can come to our monthly meetings, you are eligible for membership in SIR. From its inception in 1958, SIR has grown to over 20,000 members.</p> <p>Please Call Us at 1-877-747-9066 or visit http://www.sirinc.org/HowToJoin-N.htm</p> <p>SIR Branch No. _____</p> <p>Luncheon on _____</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p>	<p>OK, so now you are Retired...</p> <p>What to do next?</p> <p>Maybe...</p> <p>You want to join us...</p>
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News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Knickers Golf Tournament

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

After three postponements -- due to weather -- the combined Branch 15 and 96 golf club played their annual Knickers Tournament and it was one of those perfect days! With almost 70 members in the golf club, a large group showed up dressed in knickers (see picture)...including the president, **Ray Lindstrom** and the tournament director, **Sam Mazza**. The play was four-man team best-ball and they spread out all over the beautiful Lone Castle Oaks golf course with a shot-gun start.

The winning team, as well as picking up first place was **Sam Mazza, Mike Riley, Rich Smith** and **Gene Curry** with a net of 53 ...a playoff was needed to determine the top team. Second place went to **John Pulice, Mel Glunt, Bob Martin** and **Darrell Holder**, also with a net of 53. The team of **Howard Blethen, Gene Young, Bob Porto** and **Andy Anderson** took home third place. Closest to the pin for the day was Bob Porto on number 16 when the ball rolled up to 3'11" to the elusive hole. **Mike Evans** picked up the low gross of the tournament with an 83. The first two teams picked up dinner tickets donated by the Jackson Rancheria. Other awards were presented to the rest of the winners.

The very active and popular club plays every Tuesday at Mace Meadow or other courses depending upon the weather and playing conditions. They also schedule an annual golf trip to Carson Valley in July.



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Successful Recruiting

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

In a continuing effort to recruit new members to Branch 96, Lee Suess, Membership Chairman and Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman (left to right behind the table in the picture) set up this booth at a recent Senior Expo that is held annually in the Senior Center of Amador County.

Providing information that is available to SIR members certainly helps in recruiting new Members. Photos are displayed, showing activities of the Branch, helps in the understanding of what is available in SIR. In addition to retired seniors, wives stopped by the booth and picked up literature about Sons In Retirement and Branch 96 for their husbands and each year we pick up a few new members from this kind of information sharing.



Lamorinda Hills Branch 174

Charter Day

Bill Sumner, Big Sir

Lamorinda Hills Branch 174 kicked off its second year on June 16th. The Branch held its first meeting on June 10, 2009 with 109 members. It now has 142 active members and seven members on the inactive list. The initial membership of Branch 174 was made up of Branch 171 members who volunteered, due to meeting space limitations, to establish the new Branch.

The Provisional Branch was chartered on November 27, 2009. A special Charter Day celebration was held on February 10, 2010. President **Buck Kendrick** officially presented the charter to Big Sir **Bill Sumner**. Regional Director **Jim Stedman**, Area Governor **Dean Steichen** and former Branch 171 Big Sir **Jim Gibney** attended the meeting. Jim Gibney presented a gavel to the new Branch, as a gift from the founding Branch.

Most officers and directors of Branch 174 have served both the Provisional Branch and the Chartered Branch. The picture on the left shows the officers (L to R): Assistant Secretary **Neil Huntley**, Treasurer **George McLain**, Big Sir **Bill Sumner**, Little Sir **Bob Mayne** and Secretary **Fred George**...not pictured

is Assistant Treasurer, **Dick Walsh**. The one on the right shows the Directors (L to R): **Bob Hickman**, **Dick Curry**, **Gil Klingman**, **Nick Biondi**, **Gary Howard** and **Ron Bass**.



News from the Branches

Editors Note: Arnolds for Awards is the supplier of SIR badges and according to Hal Stephens, Assistant Secretary and Chairman of the Badge Committee, has been providing excellent service to SIR. The company recently completed 40 years of providing quality awards and we thought our readers would be interested in reading about the company that supplies our badges. Sheri Arnold was kind enough to send us this story.

Arnolds for Awards

Arnolds for Awards is celebrating 40 years in business. The company consists of Mike and Sheri, son Kevin, and daughter Kami, who all work in the business together with a talented graphic artist, and three part time employees. The four are shown left to right in the pictures at the company's 40th anniversary party.



It all started because Mike Arnold – a Placerville barber at the time – was thinking that long hair styles for men were about to cut his very popular barber shop income in half. At that time, he was also the tournament chairman for the local golf and country club and in the process of buying awards, the trophy shop owner told Mike that he was selling his business because of a recent heart attack – it was fate – Mike offered to buy the business, never connecting the relationship of a heart attack and the awards business ...ah, he was so young and naïve!

Having no real money, he went to a “loveable” and rich aunt, who gladly loaned the money at 10% interest. That was just the preamble to their financial prowess. Fifteen years later, they grew out of their rental space and built the biggest log cabin in California on highway 50 to house their shop and other renters ...the Interest rate on the mortgage was a mere 18%!

Mike dove into the business, with no training – just the desire to do the best job possible for his customers, giving them quality awards, on time, and at a fair price. He knew most of the customers on a personal basis and many late nights were spent making sure every Arnold award not only made the recipient proud, but was also a positive reflection on the giver.

They owe their successes partly to their ability to expand with technology, but also because they have been fortunate in having some truly talented employees over the years. They still take pride in their products and service and most importantly, they still believe their customers are proud to give an Arnolds award.

But now the economy threatens to cut their income in half again ...Mike may be cutting hair soon.

Twin Valley Branch 36, Santa Cruz

An Editorial

Jim Seybert, Bulletin Editor

What makes a social group healthy? Why are so many organizations seeing dramatic drops in membership...SIR included? Why is Branch 36 bucking the trend and in fact, seeing a growth of over 20% in the last 18 months.

Many of you know I am also a pastor in a large local church which saw the same trend until it got turned around. What did it take there and what do I think has done it for our branch? It was making people feel they were welcome, important, and purposeful. Under the past leadership of Big Sir Dave Bohrman and our current Big Sir Gary Allyne, I believe our leadership has done just that. We are providing a place where men can feel comfortable, important, and have opportunities for fellowship and fun.

Yes, I am sure that things like excellent food and interesting speakers help, but as I look out over the members at each luncheon laughing and talking and enjoying themselves, I think, this is what it's all about... men being men and sharing that enthusiasm with others. Isn't the SIR motto to have fun? So to each and every member I say “Keep on doing just that!”

Sierra Branch 175, Fresno

Bookworms

Tim Finley, Book Club Chairman

Recently, the Book Club – affectionately known as the “Bookworms” – completed an experiment to change its book review format from a multiple book review, to a single book review format. Years ago, the club used a single book review format, but over time, the members decided to change the format so that each member of the book club would read and review a book of his choice.

However, a couple of months ago, it was suggested the club go back to the single book format for a trial period ...it did and the results were very interesting. The members all agreed to read Mitchner's, “The Covenant,” which is nine-hundred pages of the history of South Africa. Since Mitchner has a fantastic vocabulary and writing style, it was not what most considered an easy read or page turner!

Reading this single book produced a much greater critical review and members had multiple viewpoints with lengthy discussions. Although members have opted to return to the multiple book review format, it was decided to return to this style once or twice a year because it does achieve a greater degree of review.

The Bookworms Club, meets monthly at The Café Java which offers “living room style” surroundings and is very conducive to a free and open exchange of ideas and conversation (see picture). Attendance at our meetings averages about ten members. Tim Finley, who is also a Director and the Branch Photographer, is the “facilitator” of the group.



Gene Drennan, State Golf Committee Chairman

To "Scramble or not to Scramble"...now, that's a real question.

The Scramble venue in the SIR's golfing world is the most popular game amongst all of the different ways golf can be played. The Scramble attained its popularity primarily due to the inevitable aging of SIR players. Many players as they get older, find that playing 18 holes of individual play is just more than they can handle...the answer, then, is to "Scramble." There are many types of Scrambles: 2 man – 4 man – alternating drives, and then Scramble – and there are probably a dozen more that have not even been thought of yet.



Making golf available to all golfers regardless of age, and or declining golf skills, is probably the most important job that we have as SIR leaders, and the Scramble format suits these golfers to the proverbial "TEE."

There are even Scramble Leagues that have weekly tournaments, with 9-15 teams making up of the first 9-15 "A" players and the balance of the players divided up into "B", "C", and "D" players. The teams rotate every week, and players play and meet new players each time. We have many new players joining SIR just because of this format, thereby helping the individual branch to grow.

SIR still offers the individual formats, pairs or team events in addition to the Scramble, but the Scramble is still the choice of the majority of the players. So next time you want to increase your participation, try the "Scramble Method"...either soft or well done, it goes down easy.

Ciao Gene

Big Turnout at SIR Day at Races

Golden Gate Fields had another big turnout for their Salute to SIR Day held on March 26th. In attendance were over 170 Sons in Retirement members representing 6 SIR Branches and a great time was had by all!

As in the past a raffle was held that day and here are the winners:

Nino Pompilio, of SIR Branch 34, won a Golden Gate Fields shirt.

Audrey Whitsed, who was a guest of Branch 77, won a Golden Gate Fields Sweat shirt.

Bruce Saltzman, of Branch 128, won a gift certificate for a Turf Club party of 4 at a later date.

Billie Meister, who was a guest of Branch 8, won 4 Giants Tickets (Club Field Level).

The next Salute to SIR Day is scheduled for Friday, November 12th ...don't miss your chance for a BIG WIN at Golden Gate Fields that day!

For more information contact Michael Roberts Golden Gate Fields 510-559-7380 or email him at mroberts@goldengatefields.com.

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Committee Chairman

Our State Committee would like to congratulate all of you that have supported us this year. We know it takes time and money for you to travel to our tournaments, and we appreciate you and the establishments for having us. We have 12 more tournaments until the end of the year, so pick one or two and we'll see you there.

I would also like to congratulate all that have had birthdays this year and also any of you that are over 90 years young and still bowling ...that's amazing! At our State Bowling Tournament in Citrus Heights last month, **Will Rivera** turned 92. **Bill Barrett** and I bought him a new bowling ball, and I presented it to him at the State Tournament. He is really enjoying it, as you can tell from the picture.



Speaking of the State Tournament, we had a pretty good turnout. We had 43--4 man teams. I wish the best of luck to the team that won in May. Their team name was "Older than Dirt" and their combined age may be that, but they bowled better than the rest of us. Congratulations to Branch 55 and 124 from Grass Valley and Team 27 composed of: **Charlie Babiarz, Clay Hansen, Leo Dengler, and Bob Sitter**. Their total High Handicap Series was 2971...great rolling!

Just a couple more things: The state bowling committee will be meeting on August 3rd in Vallejo. I also want to emphasize that Sirs need to be in good standing with Branch attendance. I also want to point out that if you have made over \$600 in a 12 month period, you need to inform tournament directors. Likewise, it is your responsibility if your tournament average is 15 pins over your book, to inform your directors of tournaments.

Nino Pompilio



Audrey Whitsed



Bruce Saltzman



Billie Meister



Happenings Travel Bulletin

September 9-19, 2010

Cruise Alaska's Inside Passage

Embark on a 10-night inside passage cruise aboard the Sea Princess, sailing round trip from San Francisco. Ports of call include: Ketchikan, Juneau, Haines, Tracy Arm Fjord, and Victoria BC. Prices range from \$1385 to \$2425 PPDO. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call Sam Ennis at 415-342-9154.



September 16-29, 2010

Montreal, Quebec, & Canadian Maritimes

Fly r/t from SFO. Discover Montreal, Quebec City, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia via motor coach and ferry. Dine in old Montreal and then enjoy 2 nights in Quebec City. Feast on lobster during a luncheon cruise at Prince Edward Island and visit quaint fishing villages like Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia. Price is \$3600 PPDO. Offered by Branch 172 Travel. Call Earl Nelson at 209-586-5661.

September 17-30 2010

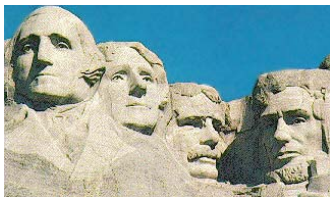
Mediterranean Enchantment

A ten day cruise on board Holland America's MS Noordam, sailing roundtrip from Civitavecchia (Rome), plus a 2 day stay in Rome. The itinerary includes visits to Livorno, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, Carthage, Trapani, and Naples. Cost is from \$4965 to \$5935 PPDO, including r/t air from SFO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call Jim Lunn at 925-551-3329.

September 25-30 2010

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup

A visit to southwest South Dakota that will include stops at the Crazy Horse Monument, Mount Rushmore, Badlands National Park and many other notable places in the area that highlight the romantic "Old West." Unpack only once. R/T air from San Jose and 8 meals are included. Cost is \$1407 PPDO. Offered by Branch 153 Travel. Call Ralph Hunt at 650-967-8467.



September 25-October 2, 2010

Trains Across New England

Autumn in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts is a beautiful time of the year. This 8 day tour includes a number of excursions on local sightseeing trains. We leave from Boston by motor coach with stops at 3 different hotels for 2 nights each. The cost is \$2640 PPDO. Offered by Branch 145 Travel. Call Jerry Wisenor at 209-334-5181.

September 26 – October 6, 2010

Fall colors of New England & Canada

This will be a 10 day cruise aboard the Holland American Line, MS Eurodam, departing from New York with visits to Newport RI, Boston, Bar Harbor ME, Halifax and Sidney, Nova Scotia and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, including a scenic cruise in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and a cruise of the Sanguenay Fjord. The final destination is Quebec City. Prices range from \$2483 to \$3383 PPDO. Offered by Branch 174 Travel. Call Bob Paden at 925-376-8189.

September 29 – October 9, 2010

Mexican Getaway

We sail from San Francisco aboard the Sea Princess to Catalina Island and then on to Mexico. Spend the day in Puerto Vallarta, then on to Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. On the return trip enjoy a day in San Diego before returning to San Francisco. Prices range from \$1145 to \$1980 PPDO. Offered by Branch 26 Travel. Call Emile Lassalle at 510-538-7463.

October 8–14, 2010

Patriot's Pilgrimage

A 7 day tour featuring New York City, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Washington DC. Fly from Sacramento to NY and see all the famous sites in the "Big Apple." Then to Philadelphia and visit the many historical places in the "City of Brotherly Love," including Gettysburg and the Amish country. Next, on to the nation's capital and tour the numerous historical sites, including a performance at Ford's Theatre and finally, visit Mount Vernon before the flight home. All inclusive cost is \$2565 PPDO. Offered by Branches 45 and 109 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693.

October 8-23, 2010

The Scotts and the Irish

Take a 16 day tour of Scotland and Ireland. A professional tour director will guide the tour to such places as: Glasgow, Aviemore, Edinburgh, in Scotland and Belfast, Killarney, Dublin, in Ireland and more. Trip includes R/T air from SFO, hotels, 13 breakfasts, 8 dinners. Cost is \$4,212 PPDO. Offered by Branch 46 Travel. Call Pete Lepisto at 209-948-2265.

October 19–November 6, 2010

Pure New Zealand

New Zealand is a thrilling microcosm of the natural world ...a land where wild rivers and glaciers flow through rain forests to the sea, pristine lakes and pastoral forests hug volcanic slopes, and snow-capped peaks pierce the sky. Along the way, you will experience the Kiwi spirit of adventure that springs from this mighty landscape. Cost of this all inclusive trip is \$5440 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.

November 10–15, 2010

Branson Holiday

Start with the Truman Library in Independence, Mo. Then see the Johnny Mathis Show, The Osmonds, Twelve Irish Tenors, Yakov Smirnoff, Andy Williams, Shoji Tabuchi, and the Festival of Lights, plus much more. Price is \$2089 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Dan Miller at 650-591-3314.

December 30, 2010-January 3, 2011

New Year's at the Empress Hotel in Victoria BC

Unpack only once! Enjoy the elegance of New Year's at the beautiful, ivy-covered, Empress Hotel. Experience High Tea, guided tour of Victoria, and train ride to Chemainus, with its exquisite murals and the beautiful grounds, and holiday lights at Butchard Gardens. Highlighting your visit will be an elegant New Year's Eve party! The cost is \$1695 PPDO. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call John Hoffmann at 707-642-4925.

RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN 2010

Happenings at the State Board Meeting

Excerpts from the minutes of the June 2010 State Board Meeting

President Kendrick, in his introductory comments, was pleased to announce that Branch 35 has taken in 35 new members through May. Speaking for Vice President Mannell, Kendrick indicated that he has come up with a plan for mementos to be given to attendees at the August 2nd Annual Meeting. He then made some comments on items that would be coming up later in the meeting.

Assistant Secretary Hal Stephens reported that he would be processing the final set of Forms SI-100 for the year 2010. He also spoke about the badges that are available from Arnolds for Awards, and stated that the company is going to be recognized in an upcoming issue of SIR Happenings.

Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden, reporting for Treasurer Mike Berry, stated that the State financial reports as of May 31st have been published and distributed. Basically, income is down and expenses are up, except insurance premiums are down.

G & M Member Stedman presented a detailed report on the implementation of the new Form 27 Branch Membership Report. 45% of the Branches have submitted the report and he is pleased with what the reported figures reflect. The instructions for the form will be simplified. He encouraged the Regional Directors to help him secure reports from every Branch.

Regional Directors each gave a report on the goings-on in his Region, mainly emphasizing membership and endeavors to maintain and increase membership counts.

Nominating Committee Chairman Reiser offered the slate of nominees for the 2011 Elected Officers, to be voted on at the August Annual Meeting.

Publicity & Tools Chairman Schick spoke on behalf of Growth and Management Chairman Hubinger and referred the Board to a report prepared by the committee chairman covering some of the projects the committee is working on. He also talked about some of the things his new committee is doing and referred members to the written report he had prepared.

InfoSys Chairman Dwight Sale led a discussion about the growing pains associated with getting Branches to implement the database program.

Travel Chairman Garvin reported that he is experiencing the old problem with Branches not

complying with the Travel Code, especially in the submission of the proper forms to the State Travel Committee.

Training Committee Chairman Stedman outlined his plans for the October 2010 Training Session. Regional Directors, Area Governors and Big Sirs will be required to attend. The Branch Leaders Guide is being expanded to include all three groups and will be renamed "State Leaders Guide."

Rules Committee Chairman Smith presented some proposed rules changes and they were approved.

President Kendrick led a discussion of the mementos to be given out at the Annual Meeting and a motion to approve the cost was passed. Kendrick indicated he wanted to re-activate the RV Committee and covered some of the issues that needed to be addressed. A motion to re-activate the RV Committee was passed. He introduced a proposal to offer a Certificate of Membership to the Branches, available from the SIR Forms Page on the website. He showed a draft of the certificate and after discussion, a motion was passed to approve implementation of the certificate.

In his concluding remarks, President Kendrick said we have much work to do in the second half of the year to reach the 10% membership goal in all the Branches. He said he feels that many Branches are still operating the way they always have, which can lead to failure and encouraged the leadership to help the Branches adopt new ideas that work and also revitalize their activities to improve the health and vitality of the Branches and increase membership.

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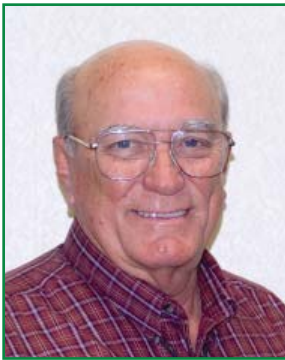


SIR HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER 2010 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4

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

President Buck's Challenge



I continue to be impressed and pleased with the success so many branches are having with recruiting and meeting the 10% Resolution goal for this point in the year. Most of those Branches who are participating have either stopped their membership losses or are breaking even for the year. Some others are

confident they can achieve their recruiting goal for this year, but have begun to realize they need to set their goals higher next year to offset their losses.

While I have a personal sense of accomplishment, I know that the hard work has been done by the many dedicated Branch members who responded to the recruitment challenge the State impressed upon them early this year. I also know that there are some Branch leaders who resented the "extra" work in filling out the reporting forms, since they were free in letting me know that they were not going to comply with the added burden of another useless form. Much of the criticism was that they were already reporting the same information on Form 28. Everyone should note that starting on January 1st a revised Form 28 will no longer require the luncheon attendance information, which will then only be reported on Form 27.

As I have been observing the annual difficulties nearly everyone has in finding volunteers to fill the Branch and State offices, I have begun to focus on what we must do to overcome this seemingly insurmountable problem. It seems to me that we need to emphasize the responsibilities of membership in SIR, over and above the luncheon attendance requirements. Most of us recognize a fiscal responsibility involved in membership and do contribute enough money to allow our branches to

continued on page 2

Monterey Peninsula Branch 28

Relive that Feeling of Accomplishment

Bill Meyer, Branch Member

The men of Branch 28 are Men of Accomplishment. Remember how you felt when:

- You knew the company you worked so hard to build was going to be successful.
- You signed up that critical customer that made a huge difference in the business.
- You helped push back the Germans in World War II.
- You saw the gleam in the young student's eyes when you knew "he got it."

The Accomplishments of the men of Branch 28 go "on and on"...and you remember the sense of positive recognition that you felt at the time.

You CAN RELIVE those feelings of Accomplishments and Recognition. Those feelings can restore "zing" to your life. I experienced those feelings again when I served Branch 28 as Little Sir and then as Big Sir.



I remember the sense of Accomplishment I felt when:

- I met with and convinced the Commandant of the Presidio to speak to Branch 28.
- When the General Manager of the Laguna Seca Race Track said she would speak to the Branch.
- When I saw the members having fun at a Christmas Party and when we slid Chuck Poland into his Santa Claus suit.
- When new members joined the organization.

You can also relive those feelings by volunteering to be Little Sir and Big Sir. You can also help your fellow Branch 28 members continue to enjoy the benefits of a large and thriving Branch.

It's a great opportunity to "Relive That Feeling!!"

President Buck's Challenge

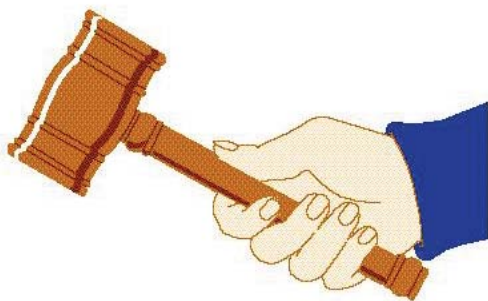
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be at least marginally solvent. Since we joined SIR to have fun, most of us also participate in at least some of the Branch, Area, Region, and State activities, but when it comes to volunteering for the leadership roles that are necessary to run the Branches, Areas, Regions, and State, we are collectively deficient. I think we must stress that it is an individual membership responsibility to step up and share the responsibility for providing organizational leadership. Not to do so means we will lose more Branches and Areas, since without organizational leaders they cannot continue to exist.

Looking forward, I believe we should encourage 2 year terms for the Branch leadership, so that we can benefit from more experienced leaders. I also think we should encourage annual collection of "contributions" to stabilize the Branch finances, and perhaps start calling them "dues" or "assessments" instead of contributions.

My term as your President has been very rewarding and enjoyable, even though it has proven more demanding than I had expected. I want to express my appreciation to the State Officers, Regional Directors and Area Governors who responded to my call for them to be my "Action Team" in transitioning to a more "Pro-Active Leadership" model this year. I also want to thank the unsung heroes of the State organization. These are the many Committee Chairmen who really do all the hard lifting needed to make SIR function, and who never get the applause for what they sacrifice for the benefit of SIR.

I know that I will have some responsibilities as Past President next year, but I will be pleased to turn the "Affairs of State" over to the newly elected team, confident that they are fully capable of their leadership duties and responsibilities. I am looking forward not only to retirement "with full pay and benefits," but also to resumption of my golfing and flying.



South Bay Branch 74, San Jose

Three Peat Ceremony

Dick Bartels, Bulletin Editor

At the September luncheon, Branch 74 experienced a ceremony in which three of its members received a variety of awards:

State President Buck Kendrick, presented an Honorary Life Membership to Don Stacks for his outstanding service to Branch 74 (see picture). Don



has served as Big Sir and has been active in all of the Branch activities.

Region 7 Director SIR Richard K. Kabanck presented Charter Member, Harold Johnson, with a certificate proclaiming him a Super Senior Sir (see picture lower left). Harold is 95 and one of two remaining charter members of Branch 74.

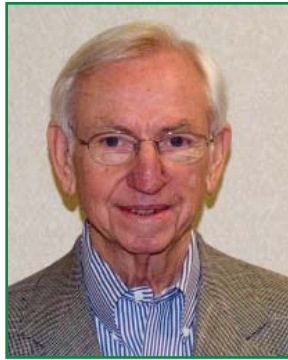
Area Governor Ray Lubow, followed the above two presentations with the President's Award for Doug Bacon, on his 90th birthday (see picture lower right).



Spotlight on SIR Officers

Jim Stedman, State Vice President

Jim was born in a ranch house in a pear orchard near Clear Lake in Northern California, where he grew up and graduated from the local high school.



Immediately after high school he entered apprentice school at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard to become a machinist and shortly thereafter qualified for a U. S. Navy scholarship to attend the University of California where he received a degree

in Civil Engineering with a structural option. After receiving some post graduate training in vibrations and acoustics, Jim served for several years reducing the noise emitted from nuclear submarines.

During his education as a civil engineer, he became very interested in community planning and design and decided to pursue that as career. Jim joined a civil engineering firm in Walnut Creek and later founded his own firm that specialized in land planning, civil engineering design, and land surveying, retiring from the firm in 1992.

Shortly after graduation from Cal, Jim met his wife, Barbara. He feels quite fortunate to have a family of three sons who are all married with families. His most satisfying hobby was sailing and they had great adventures for many years in boats that they sailed in San Francisco Bay and off-shore along the California coast.

In 1993, at the invitation of a long time friend, Jim joined SIR which turned out to be the beginning of his active and satisfying retirement years. He tells Happenings that he has enjoyed all aspects of SIR, especially the friendships made at luncheons, golf, bridge, and the many other opportunities for socializing.

Early on, Jim served for one year as Branch Chaplain and Sunshine Chairman and later as Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Little Sir and Big Sir, and then as an Area Governor and a Regional Director. He currently serves on the State Growth and Membership Committee and as Chairman of the State Training Committee. Jim says that all of his leadership efforts are directed towards helping leaders assure the long term health of branches.

Eckart Sellinger, State Secretary

Our new State Secretary started his career as a Check Sorter Operator in the Berkeley ERMA Center of Bank of America and quickly moved to being a Systems Engineer in application and then technology development. Later he headed up their San Francisco Data Processing operations which included check processing, computer operations, auto and air couriers, and cash vault operations. He later was responsible for all systems, technology, and data processing outside of California including other U. S. sites, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. After 39 years with the bank, Eckart retired.



Upon retiring from the Bank in 1999, he joined the China Camp Branch 151. He has held several positions in the Branch including Little Sir and Big Sir, chairman of several special Branch events, and is currently the editor/publisher of the Branch Bulletin and also is the Branch computer support person. Eckart bowls and plays golf with SIR regularly. He also has been an Area Governor, a Regional Director, and a member and chair of the Training Committee. He is currently a member of the Rules and Nominating Committees.

Eckart was born in Seattle Washington and lived there for seven years before his family moved to San Francisco where he lived in the Mission District for the next 28 years. He has lived in San Rafael for the last 35 years with, Sandra, his wife of 46 years. They have a daughter and two grand children, who live in the Olympic Forest in Northwest Washington State.

Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

Sirs in the News

Orchard Valley Branch 54, San Jose

Barthule Honored with an HLM

Bill De Matteis, Bulletin Editor

President Buck Kendrick, on the left in the picture, is shown awarding Herm Barthule with an Honorary Life Membership. Herm's wife, Cleo, was also there to honor her husband.

Herm has been a member of Branch 54 for 23 years. He was our Big Sir in 1996, has been the Branch Travel Chairman since 1997 – sponsoring 22 tours so far – is the current Branch Chaplin and along the way has brought in 9 new members.

Herm is retired from Novartis Pharmaceuticals. He and his wife make their home in San Jose and have been married for 62 years.



Lake County Branch 133, Hidden Valley Lakes

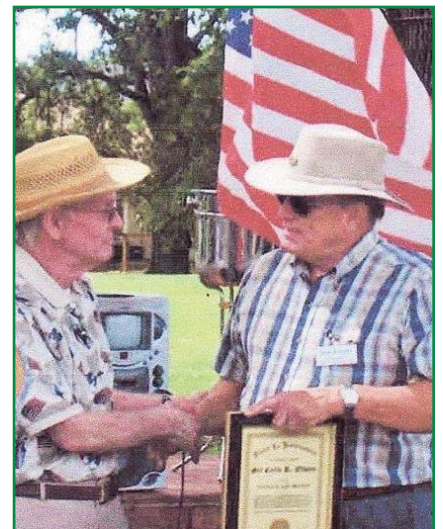
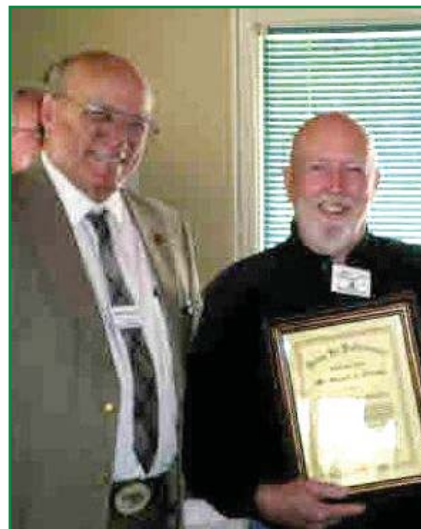
Wilson & Worster Honored

Russ Sage, Big Sir

Branch 133 in Clearlake has had some special events over the years, but 2010 will be a year to be remembered. We had a special guest, State President Buck Kendrick, attend our May meeting and then our September picnic to present two Honorary Life Membership Awards to two very deserving branch members: Jack Worster (in the picture on the left) and Area Governor, Colin Wilson (on the right).

Both Jack and Colin were extremely surprised upon receiving their awards. Colin commented, "I am humbled by the knowledge that my fellow SIR members selected me for such an award." Jack, who is never without words, was practically speechless! Jack's wife, Joan, and Colin's wife, Marian, were both present to pin their deserving husbands. Buck's wife, Eleanor, also attended the picnic shortly after having an operation... what a trooper she is!

Our Branch is grateful to have two Honorary Life Members and honored to have the company of Buck Kendrick on both occasions.



Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

Christman Receives an HLM

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Region 3 Director George Christman, in the center of the picture, is shown receiving the Honorary Life Member

Award from State President Buck Kendrick while his wife, Leota, proudly looks on. Our branch is fortunate to now have three HLM's: George Christman, Frank Franzago, Warren Senegal (State award) and one Senior HLM... Lennie Silva.



George's accomplishments are far too numerous to mention here. For example, when he became Big Sir in 2005, our branch was hurting financially – we couldn't even afford to publish the roster. George initiated the voluntary \$20.00 per year donation. This was a big success and over the years built up a \$3,000 reserve. Under his leadership, our newsletter went on line and by emailing it instead of printing & mailing it, we saved over \$100/month. George also revitalized the Branch Bowling League and convinced the bowlers to be sanctioned. In January 2006, George formed the Branch Short Course Golf Group. This was a boon to many of the senior golfers, new golfers and the shorter hitters and it has been a success since the day it started. George was also in charge of re-doing the roster and we were one of the first branches to include members' pictures. He was also responsible for initiating the Branch Procedures which are now the bible for all BEC members. George's leadership qualities have been noticed by more people than Branch members as evident by his fast rise to Area Governor and now Regional Director.

Good going George. You make your branch extremely proud!

Sirs in the News

Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

90 Years Young

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Jesse Gutierrez celebrated his 90th birthday in August. To add to the celebration Area 9 Governor Neil Mayo presented Jesse with a commemorative plaque at our August meeting, as Big Sir Wayne Plauster looks on in the picture.



Jesse was born in 1920 in El Paso, Texas. With the advent of WWII, Jesse joined the Navy in 1941. He remained in the Navy for seven years, serving on three ships all over the Pacific, including as far north as the Aleutian Islands. Following his Navy stint, Jesse joined the National Guard in

Sacramento. He spent his working career at the Army Depot in Sacramento as an electronics specialist. This job gave him the opportunity to travel to US military bases all over Europe installing communications equipment.

He has been widowed since 2005, but has a huge extended family in the area. In fact, he has four children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. In addition to his family activities, Jesse still plays a little golf and likes to do repair projects around the house.

Petaluma Branch 58

President's Awards

Fred Stoneburner, Bulletin Editor

Branch 58 was recently pleased to honor three members who have reached the honorable age of 90 as Senior Sirs and one member who has obtained the age of 95 with a Super Senior Award.

The four members receiving the President's Senior and Super Senior Awards are from left to right in the picture: William Harrison, who will be 90 this December – Glenn Whitney, who was 92 in July – Pete Matzen, who was 96 in February – and Charles Matteri, who was 90 in May.



Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

President's Awards

Neil Schmidt, Bulletin Editor

In the picture on the left, Regional Director Jim Stedman is shown presenting Senior Awards to (L/R), Warren Westrup and Robert Singleton. In the picture on the right, Mario Beria displays his Super Senior Award which was also presented to him by Jim Stedman.



Lake Tahoe Branch 160

Special Awards

Larry Coffman, Bulletin Editor

During our September luncheon meeting, special awards were given out to three of our members for milestone achievements and we were very pleased to have Area 19 Governor Bill Short and special guest, Ron DePass, in attendance to make the presentations.

In the picture on the left, Al Bartley is shown after receiving a Senior Honorary Life Membership from Area 19 Governor Bill Short. In the middle picture, Bill Short (on the right) is shown presenting the President's award to 90 year old, Robert Bartley. In the other picture, 90 year old Robert Dunn, is holding the President's Award plaque that was presented to him by Bill Short.



News from the Branches

Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

Special Honor for Jim Stedman

Bob Yolland, Honoree Chairman

The Branch 146 Honoree Award is a very special honor. It is our highest Branch award which is given to a select few members that have earned the award for their significant efforts in leadership. It was a pleasure to name Jim Stedman our latest Branch 146 Honoree.

We use a point system where individuals earn points for leadership roles. To be a Branch Honoree an individual needs to have a minimum of 45 points. Normally 3 points are earned as a chairman of an activity – Secretary, Treasurer, Travel and Membership Chairmen earn 5 points -- Little Sir earns 7 and Big Sir 10 – etc. Points are awarded at the conclusion of the year and the following is the information used for Jim's Award.

Jim joined Branch 146 back in 1993. In 1995, he served as Chaplain and Sunshine Chairman. In 2004 Jim became Assistant Secretary, Secretary in 1995, Little Sir in 2006 and Big Sir in 2007. He didn't stop



there... in 2008 Jim went into State Leadership as our Area Governor and then on to become the Regional Director of Region 6 in 2009. Recently, Jim was elected as Vice President of SIR.

We thank Jim for his extensive service to Branch 146 and to the State Organization as well. Big Sir Dennis Hallett (on the left) is shown presenting the plaque to Jim that reads: "Branch Honoree Jim Stedman – For many years of outstanding and dedicated service that you have preformed for Branch 146 Sons in Retirement."

Area 2 Fishing Group

Fish Need to be on Guard

Carl Moyer, Branch 8 Coordinator

A rough ocean and high winds inland had all but stopped our fishing in late June and early July all the way to mid-August. This is certainly the worst year for wind and blown-out fishing any of us old guys can recall. Nonetheless, we persevered! and the following are just a couple of our recent trips: On a rare good day, 10 of us boldly set out on a party boat from Half Moon Bay, and caught early limits of very tasty Rock Cod.

Fishing at lovely Lake Tahoe, Al Brunner, Paul Dubow, Karl Droese, Howard Berkman, Pete Gates and Bob Olson caught 9 good-sized Mackinaw Trout (see picture above).

Carl Moyer also caught a 23 pound salmon right outside the Golden Gate on a party boat (see lower picture).

We will be very busy this fall, if the wind ever dies down, with

– delta fishing for bass, crappie, bluegill, catfish, and sturgeon – trout fishing in mountain lakes and rivers – and party boat trips for salmon, sturgeon, halibut, and stripers. These outings will include those who rarely fish, but would like to try. If you haven't been fishing in a while, but might like to test drive an adventure, come join us.

Our meetings are held at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Meetings start at 8:30 am. For further information, please contact Karl Droese, Big Fish (925-376-0468), Carl Moyer, Branch 8 Coordinator (925-685-5243), or Dick Thomson, Treasurer/Secretary (925-944-1760).



Committee Reports

State RV Committee

Don Cummings, Co-chairman



As the days grow shorter and the nights a little cooler, many RV enthusiasts start thinking about taking their RVs south to find warmer and dryer weather. Some go for a week, while others go for months. Some have favorite places, while others prefer to just roam.

Some travel solo, while others travel as a club...and some RV'ers winterize their rigs and put them away for the season.

The SIR State RV Committee is interested in helping every SIR member with an RV. We want to help branches create RV clubs, and assist clubs in planning their outings. We hope to have state-wide RV mixers and other events. Right now we need your help to get this committee up and running again. The first thing we need are some willing and experienced RV'ers to become Committee members. Our hope is to get members from various regions of the state. With perhaps 12 Committee members, we will have RV representation throughout the SIR community.

I have sent a letter to several SIR Branches that have active RV Clubs asking them if they could provide me with a committee member. Now I am using this column to see if there are other SIR members that would like to join our Committee. If you are interested, please contact me at sirstaterv@gmail.com and we will get back to you.

The next thing the Committee would like to accomplish is to get information on every Sir with an RV. With this information we can see how many RV's we have by Branch, Area, and Region. This information will be helpful in organizing RV clubs, setting up mixers between clubs, and it will provide the Committee with names so we can communicate RV information to our SIR members.

We have had a good response since we gave our report at the SIR State meeting in Vallejo on August 2nd. One Branch asked the question "I attended the recent meeting in Vallejo and came back to share the RV program update with some of our RV people. Someone in our branch tried to start up a program a few years ago and was told that women could not participate and could not be officers...is this still the case?" Our answer was that the RV activity is no different that our picnics or other activities with our wives. I know from experience that our Rolling Roamers RV Club would not survive without the help of wives.

Publicity & Tools Committee

Walt Schick, Chairman



The Leadership Action Plan (LAP) survey in 2009 indicated that vital branches had more to offer guests than just golf, bowling, or fishing. A healthy branch should have a goal of five activities for per 100 members...then add 1 or 2 per year. Several growing Branches have 10 or more activities per 100 members. To see a list of all the 70+ activities that our Branches are currently offering, go to the SIR website: sirinc.org.

The easiest activities to start are those involving couples, such as Dining Out, Wine Tasting, and Bridge and your Branch can share activities with another Branch...for example, Branches 171 and 174 in Moraga share all their activities. You can also consider an Area sharing of activities. Area 1, on the San Francisco Peninsula, invites all Branches to all the activities in the Area.

Area 2 in Walnut Creek found that some activities may have only a few spaces available and others may not have any space. However, to assist Branches in starting a new activity, they welcome visitors on a one time basis, so they can observe how the activity is organized and each Branch publishes a list of activities in their newsletter.

Remember... having a variety of activities is so important to grow your Branch membership!

Murie Webb provided us with information about the Executive Board of Branch 103 in Modesto setting up a Special Event trip in the hopes of getting some interest in starting an RV club. The RV trip will include golf in Morro



Bay and several fun activities that have been arranged. The State RV Committee wishes Murie and Branch 103 great success and we hope to get a good report from Murie.

We would like to hear from SIR Members with RV's telling us what they would like to see us do in the coming years. You can send your suggestions or comments to the State RV Committee:

sirstaterv@gmail.com.

News from the Branches

Hood Mountain Branch 92, Santa Rosa

Green Energy

John Hodge, Branch Member

In October, 25 members from Branch 92 (including 3 wives) traveled by bus up to The Geysers to visit the steam production and power generation facilities of the Northern California Power Agency. The Geysers, located 40 miles north of Santa Rosa, is the largest geothermal facility in the world with two dozen power plants capable of continuously generating about 2 million kilowatts of “green” renewable energy from the underlying naturally occurring steam resource. More than 500 hundred production wells have been drilled to depths ranging from 6 to 11 thousand feet and the steam they produce is transported through a network of surface pipes for delivery to the power plants (see picture). This year marks the 50th anniversary of the commercial development that began in 1960.

After listening to a geologic explanation of why the steam



reservoir exists here (see picture), we learned how the wells are drilled to most effectively intersect the deeply underlying steam-filled fractures to maximize steam production. Next we were told the importance of

injecting water back into the reservoir water – including municipally treated wastewater transported by pipeline from Santa Rosa and Lake County – as a means to effectively create a continuously renewed supply of injection-derived-steam and to significantly extend the life of the power generating facilities.

We all learned a lot, enjoyed a nice clear day and the great views from the ridge tops, and the good fellowship of Branch members on a day away together.



Damian Reynolds Branch 1, San Mateo

Passion Play

Phil Manriquez, Branch 1 Travel

On June 6th, several members of SIR and their guests embarked upon a nine day tour of Germany to include viewing the world famous Passion Play performed once every ten years by inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau (see picture). The play reenacts the agony and crucifixion of Christ and is performed to fulfill a pledge made to God which resulted in



the village being spared from the Black Plague during the 17th century.

Although the play was the main focus, the trip provided many opportunities to view historical and contemporary aspects of Germany. The group arrived in Frankfurt Germany and after exploring the city began preparing for a Rhine River cruise to Remagen and Cologne. The river cruise provided views of castle-crowned hills, terraced vineyards and a host of picturesque towns along the river banks. A highlight was the side trek to view the remains of the Remagan Bridge, which during WWII was captured by American troops thereby fracturing the German army’s western line. The afternoon was spent in Cologne where among other features the group visited the spectacular Gothic cathedral. The group took the train to Berlin for a two day exploration of the city’s restaurants, nightlife, and historical sites such as the restored Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, and the huge Victory Column in Tiergarten Park. Of great interest, was viewing remnants of the Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie, reminders of the time when the city was split into Eastern and Western sectors.

The group departed Berlin on a two-day bus trip to visit Leipzig, Nuremberg, Rothenburg and Munich on the way to Oberammergau. Each city has its own character and provided a diverse experience for our group.

The accommodations in Oberammergau were comfortable and our seats for the play were great. The stage was open with a covering to protect the actors from the weather. The play was performed in German and vividly portrayed the events which culminated in Christ’s death on the cross.

The final days of the trip were spent visiting Lindau, the Black Forest, Heidelberg and finally Frankfurt, for the flight back home.

News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Classic Cars

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

Each year members of Branch 96 of Amador County bring their classic cars and trucks to the May monthly luncheon. Every year more members show up with cars that have been carefully restored and maintained... Cobra's, Mercedes, Porches, Alfa Romeo's, 57 Chevy's and other classic's are parked in front of the meeting hall (see picture) for viewing by the membership.



Pathfinder Branch 59, Newark/Fremont

Cybergeezer Awards

John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

Fred Gotthardt has been Computer Group Chairman for eleven years. This year he decided to retire and turn over the group to a younger fellow. At our last luncheon Fred was presented with a medal recognizing his achievements.

Shown in the photo with Fred are four members who received perfect attendance awards for 2010. From left to right Arnie Mozetti, Ed Guthrie, Fred Gotthardt, John Skarpelos and John Cordeniz.



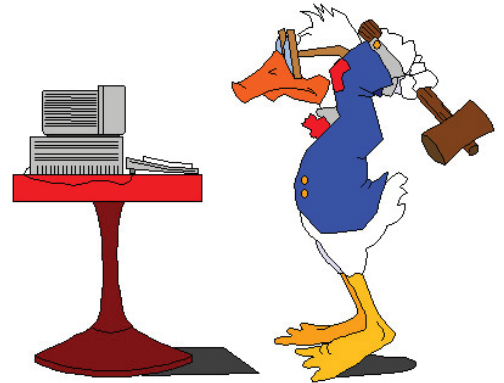
Arnold Branch 152

Recruiting

Mike Ray, Big Sir

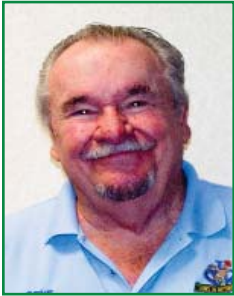
Like many other Branches, Arnold Branch 152 has struggled to recruit new members, as well as retaining our current membership. In order to increase our membership, Publicity Chairman, Joe Crawford, has advertised our luncheons in several local media outlets and Historian, Harry Tittle, worked with a local company to produce a sandwich board, which is prominently displayed at the Arnold Post Office several days in advance of our next luncheon.

Pictured with the sandwich board are Big Sir Mike Ray in the center, flanked by Co-Membership Chairmen Dick Lawlor (on the left) and Norm Friborg (on the right).



State Golf

Gene Drennan, State Golf Committee Chairman



Even though there are still three months to go in 2010, the Golf Committee has been diligently planning the upcoming calendar of Golfing events for 2011 and on into 2012.

Starting off next year will be one of the favorite events in the past called The Fall Classic in Solvang.

However, we are making some changes in our tournament schedule and this event is moving from the fall to the spring and hence forth will be known as the "Spring Fling in Solvang." The dates are April 17th through the 21st and will feature two rounds of golf in a 4 man, 2 best ball format and one scramble event. Following this will be the beginning of the qualifying tournaments for the Team Championship. The Qualifying will be between May 1st through June 30th, with Team results to the Golf Chairman by July 15th. The Team Championship will be held in the first two weeks of August at a site to be determined.

The next event will be our ever popular Reno tournaments, and will feature three weeks instead of the normal two. The first tourney dates will be June 13th-17th, the second will be June 19th-23rd, and

the third will be June 27th-30th. We will be playing different courses on all three weeks and this promises to be one of our best events ever, so PLEASE sign up early. We have promised to send out the flyers prior to February 15th, so everyone should have the information to get signed up on March 1st, 2011. We will then be in the qualifying period for the Individual Championships.

Area qualifying periods will be from July 1st thru the 30th with the Division playoff to be conducted August 16th through September 15th. The finalists will then have their final tournament in Late October at a site to be determined.

Our next tournament will be in the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho area on September 26th to November 1st. We are scheduling this tournament later this year to avoid the iffy weather in May.

Our final outing will be early in 2012 and will be an 8 day, 7 night, stay in Mexico. We will be posting



State Bowling

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Committee Chairman

My thanks to all the Sirs and their guests who have attended our tournaments this year. We still have a few tournaments to complete for the 2010 bowling year. We are working on the 2011 schedule and we will have it posted on our web page after our January meeting.

We have a lot of winners from our past tournaments, some of which can be found on our sirinc.org website. We are still working on the rest and will post them as soon as possible.

We need someone to volunteer as treasurer of the State Bowling Committee, because Jimmy Johnson has asked to be replaced next year. I, as well as the rest of SIR Bowling, wish to thank Jimmy for his hard work and volunteer time. Anybody interested please contact me.

Enjoy your upcoming holidays and keep up your good bowling!



State Sports

At the recent State Board meeting President Buck Kendrick led a discussion based on a recommendation from State Sporting Chairman Mel Augustine that we drop the Oakland A's, the Oakland Raiders, and the Golden State Warriors from the State Sporting Events due to lack of participation. The Board accepted this recommendation.



this information on our website as it becomes available, so check back often on our State Golf website, www.sirstategolf.com.

Remember all of our tournaments are open to all SIR GHIN members through the NCGA, and as this is the start of the renewal period of GHIN, make sure that you get signed up -- renewal or new member -- right away, so you can be ready to take part in our ever popular golf programs.

Have a wonderful year of golf and stay tuned!!!!!!!!!!!!

Happenings Travel Bulletin

January 28-February 7, 2011

Caribbean Cruise

Cruise aboard the luxurious cruise ship, Silver Cloud at a nice discount. The ship holds 298 passengers, with a crew of 212. The cruise leaves from Bridgetown, Barbados with stops in the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Kitts, Gustavia, St. Barts, St. Maarten, and Grand Turk, with the final destination in Ft Lauderdale. Prices include r/t air and range from \$3950 to \$4850 PPDO. Offered by Branch 171 Travel. Call Tom Sponsler at 925-708-6584.

February 12-17, 2001

Yellowstone in Winter

There's more to winter in Yellowstone than geysers. There are over 3,400 square miles of park lands providing panoramas of indescribable beauty. You will travel aboard heated snow coaches, past frozen lakes, icy waterfalls, abundant wildlife, Old Faithful and thousands of other unusual thermal features in Yellowstone's steaming snowscape. Cost is \$1699 PPDO. Offered by Branch 73 Travel. Call Paul Peters at 510-724-8345.

March 4-11, 2011

The Caribbean in Luxury

Enjoy 7 days and nights cruising the Caribbean in luxury aboard the 5-star Cruise ship, Silver Whisper. Ports of call include: Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Barts, St. Johns, St. Martin, Virgin Gorda, and San Juan. Prices include R/T air and range from \$2845 to \$3635. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3990.

April 4-14, 2011

Rhone River Cruise

This cruise through Southern France could be the highlight of your 2011 travel. Prices range from \$4610 to \$5615 PPDO and include all meals and transportation. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Michael Clark at 650-347-0919 for a flyer. Look it over, you will love it!

April 6-12, 2011

Cherry Blossom Festival

Trip includes 6 nights at the Washington DC Marriott Hotel, plus 12 meals. Sight seeing includes the new WW II Memorial, Kennedy Center, Arlington Cemetery, Mt Vernon, Georgetown and reserved seats for the Cherry Blossom parade. Cost is \$2430 PPDO. Offered by Branch 127 Travel. Call Tony Praxel at 916-285-9656.

April 10-16, 2011

Southern Charm

Enjoy the beautiful springtime in the South! Fly to Charleston, S.C. Enjoy sight seeing and touring gardens, plantations, and museums all with a guide from the time we land until our departure. Tour three states: South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, all with lots to see. Price of \$2294 includes R/T air from Sacramento. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Wayne Chapman at 530-343-8086 or 530-519-3522.

May 16-31, 2011

Eastern Mediterranean Cruise:

Fly to Athens and spend 12 days cruising the Eastern Mediterranean on the 670 passenger Pacific Princess. Port visits include: Piraeus (Athens), Patmos & Santori, Greece -- Kusadasi (Ephesus), Turkey -- Haifa (Nazareth/Galilee) & Ashod, Israel -- Port Said (Cairo/Giza) & Alexandria, Egypt -- Sorrento/Capri, Italy -- and return home from Rome. Prices range from \$4990 to \$5930 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Rick Wayne at 925-337-3846.

May 27-June 5, 2011

Heritage of America Tour

The Heritage of America Tour starts in NYC where we'll visit Wall Street, Little Italy, Ground Zero, and other Big Apple attractions. We spend 2 nights in New York, then onto Philadelphia to tour the "Birthplace of a New Nation" and Amish Country. We visit Wheatland, the Federalist home of James Buchanan, journey on to Gettysburg, with a guided tour of the battlefield, and then travel to Shenandoah National Park. We will visit Monticello, the home and gardens of Thomas Jefferson, Colonial Williamsburg, and Washington DC. While in Washington we'll take a spectacular evening twilight tour of the nation's capital. Cost is \$2799 PPDO, which includes R/T air, 15 meals, and all gratuities. Offered by Branch 34 Travel. Call Dick Small at 925-462-1204.

June 13-20, 2011

Trains Across Colorado

An 8 day motor coach tour from Denver, featuring the Durango & Silverton, Cumbres & Toltec, Rio Grande and Pikes Peak scenic railroads. The trip also includes visits to Vail, Mesa Verde National Park, Royal Gorge, U.S. Air Force Academy, and Garden of the Gods. Cost is \$2390 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.

July 11-23, 2011

Denali Explorer Cruise

Fly from San Jose to Anchorage. The trip includes five land nights, with stays in Anchorage, Mt. McKinley Princess Lodge, and Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge. A full day guided natural history tour of the Denali Wilderness is included. Travel from Mt McKinley to Denali and to Whittier is by rail on the Midnight Sun Express, with ultradome windows. Then a seven night cruise on the Diamond Princess from Whittier to Vancouver, featuring unsurpassed views of glaciers and scenic coastlines and one day stops in Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan. Costs range from \$3793 to \$4695 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421.

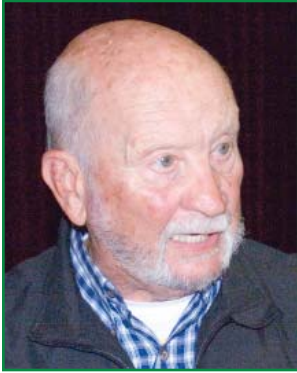
August 1-12, 2011

Grand Scotland & Ireland Tour

This is a 12 day trip with a professional driver and guide. To name just a few of the many interesting things we'll see and do: a ferry from Scotland to Ireland, a scenic cruise on Loch Ness, whiskey tasting and a tour of the Blair Athol Distillery, reserved seats for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, tours of Edinburgh and Belfast and a visit to the Edinburgh Castle and much, much more. Cost is \$3995 PPDO. Offered by Areas 5 & 20 Travel. Call Neil Jameson at 831-336-2476 or Wayne Dawson at 408-972-1054.

California Sons In Retirement (SIR) Part 1

By Harry Hubinger



Editors Note: Harry Hubinger, the Chairman of the Growth & Management Committee, has written a four part series for "Alive" magazine, an East Bay publication. This interesting series tells how Rob, a fictional retiree, joins Sons In Retirement. We thought the series would be of interest to our readers and so we have decided to publish the four part series beginning in this edition and the following three editions.

Rob, our recently-retired fictional hero, is discovering the downsides of not devoting a full day, every day, to his boss and his long-time employer.

Retirement was great at first. He slept in a bit each morning and read the paper before getting dressed. The long "honey-do list" was attacked and admittedly the easier jobs went first. He laid out detailed plans on how to handle the minor remodeling he and his wife had discussed so many times. He found Lowe's and Home Depot less crowded than he was used to on the weekends. He had always loved golf and long walks and now began to investigate how to enjoy them at his leisure. There was even a list of local attractions he'd always meant to visit, and they now appeared within the realm of possibility. He even enjoyed having lunch with his wife whenever she wasn't off to one of her activities. The thought of volunteering flicked in and out as well. Unconsciously he even expected a call or two from his employer or old business associates to ask him to do a little part-time fill-in work to help plug that gigantic hole he must have left at work.

But oh – the six month anniversary was coming up, and things were not as rosy as he had hoped. First and foremost, he was bored. The camaraderie and intellectual stimulation he had had at work was somehow missing. The major in-depth conversations about sports and politics he had enjoyed with fellow workers was now limited to his wife. He knew how she felt about most topics as she did about his opinions. You can go over this just so many times. They had had a great time on that trip to Europe but after three weeks together, he was secretly glad to be home.

The call from his employer and other business associates never came, or if they did he got the feeling that they really didn't care about his opinion any more.

Golf presented its own problem. All the guys he used to play with on the weekends were unavailable during the week, and when he checked about joining them on the weekends he found the foursomes filled. When he wandered down to a local course, he found he either played alone, there was no opening as a retired group filled the course, or he was matched with three others who dialogued among themselves and left him to wander along – sort of left out.

Our hero Rob was bored. Sure he loved his wife, but with the exception of their kids and their house, they had begun to

lead somewhat separate lives. There had to be some answer to this, and it came in a most unexpected way.

One early Tuesday morning, he tossed his golf clubs in the car and headed for the local course. He had breakfasted by himself because his wife and three of her friends were off on an "adventure" in San Francisco, and he was left alone. The yard projects looked too painful to work on for the third day in a row; and besides, he was bored – so off to the course he went.

His heart sank a bit when he saw the parking lot loaded with cars – and well it should have. The pro behind the desk listed the first opening a full two hours away from his arrival time. With nothing else to do he left his name on the list and headed for the putting green to while away the time. Frankly, it was pretty full as well.

Rob's curiosity peaked, and he asked the pro what was going on. "Every Tuesday morning the SIR group takes up ten starting times from us." Rob wandered back out to the putting green and, screwing up his courage, asked one of the other "puttees" what the deal was.

"SIR stands for Sons in Retirement. There are over one hundred and fifty branches with over twenty thousand members in Northern California. There are no dues, it is non-political, there is no religious orientation – the sole purpose is to help retirees, or semi-retirees enjoy themselves. They play golf, go on local trips, play bridge, go fishing, play tennis, go bowling, travel overseas, have classes on computers, etc."

Rob's new-found friend handed him a SIR business card and invited him to this fellow's SIR branch for lunch the following week. Rob was intrigued, but a little bit hesitant. He never thought of himself as a "joiner" other than maybe a service club or two. Well, maybe he'd go home later and think about it all. There had to be a catch somewhere, and he was sure he'd find it.

(In the next edition – Part Two: Rob learns about the SIR organization.)

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

SPRING 2011 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

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

President Bob's Column

This is my first President's column in SIR Happenings and I want to briefly share with you some of the recent successes we have enjoyed, some of the serious problems that still exist in our great organization, and how I think we can solve some of those problems and enjoy this year with even more success.



I have considered a number of slogans for 2011 that would exemplify the pride, direction, and purpose of SIR.

As we have concentrated so heavily on the critical issue of membership loss in the past years, we have sometimes overlooked the original purpose of SIR. That purpose was and is to be an organization that promotes the independence and dignity of retired men by providing an environment of camaraderie and enjoyable activities. So, in 2011, I'm asking you to **"BE A FRIEND, BRING A FRIEND."** Share that camaraderie and those activities that only SIR has to offer with your friends and at the same time, help regain positive growth in membership so we may continue doing the great things that SIR has done for retired men for the past 53 years.

One of our most promising successes in 2010 was significant slowing of membership loss in many branches. Form 27 became a required part of the monthly reporting on January 1, 2011. While I certainly have heard from a few Big Sirs that this is not their favorite monthly activity, it has proven to be a very valuable tool that provides critical membership information that was never captured and used in most branches. Extensive membership information and history is available on the SIR website where you can track our success and, in some branches, our lack of success. We have slowed, but not yet stopped, our overall membership losses. We must continue

New Member Recruitment Success Jim Stedman, Vice President

At its January 2011 meeting the state board of directors learned that new member recruiting efforts have reduced membership losses from nearly 5% in previous years to about 2.5% in 2010.

Branch leaders in 2010 were challenged to recruit new members at the rate of 10% of branch membership. The leaders in 88 branches responded. They exceeded the challenge and recruited at the rate of 13.2%. These branch leaders inducted 1,587 new members.

These Branch leaders report that they have attractive branches with activities and events of interest to their members. They report that modern retirees are joiners once they see opportunities for participating in these activities and events and for socializing with other retired men.

In 2011 we expect all branch leaders to respond to the challenge. Let's keep this positive trend going.

BRING A FRIEND TO LUNCH, SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER

to emphasize the recruiting of new members in all Branches at a pace greater than our average annual attrition rate of 10 to 14% in order to insure long term viability.

One of the continuing problems that SIR faces is the lack of volunteers for leadership positions in SIR. The problem exists at the Branch, Area, Regional, and State levels. I will talk about this in more detail in a future column, but in the interim, please volunteer to use the skills and experience you have gained in your work career to help lead this great organization.

I look forward to 2011 as a year of positive membership trends, greater member participation in leadership roles, more activities available to more members, and a resurgence of Sons In Retirement as "THE" organization for retired men. None of these objectives will be easy, but with everyone contributing we can make 2011 a growth year for SIR.

BE A FRIEND, BRING A FRIEND

Sirs in the News

John Muir Branch 19, Concord

Hole-In-One

Bill Stephenson, Bulletin Editor

Duane Deonigi is shown receiving his hole-in-one award from Big Sir Ed DiBetta (L) and Marvin Terrell (R). Duane not only had a hole-in-one at the SIR State Golf Tournament, but he also won his flight. Certainly, he had quite a day of golf considering he was an alternate from our Branch 19 golf club. I'm not sure how much his bar bill was at Poppy Hills, but I heard he got out of Monterey very fast and early!



Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Don Reed Honored with an HLM

Don Eaton, Big Sir

In the photograph, State President Buck Kendrick is shown presenting Don Reed with a well deserved Honorary Life Membership.

Don Reed retired in 1997 after 45 years in the printing trade. The last 38 years were with *The Modesto Bee*, where he was a computer graphics artist, after starting there as a Linotype operator during the hot metal years at the newspaper.



Don became a member of Branch 103 back in 1997, and right away became quite active in the Branch, serving as Program Chairman in his first year. His next office was on the BEC for a number of years. He then became assistant secretary

and about six years ago became the Branch Newsletter Editor. During his time as Bulletin Editor, Don has taken the newsletter into the electronic age, using e-mail to send out almost 200 monthly editions, which has cut the monthly cost by more than half. Another job he took on was the publication of the Branch Membership Directory.

Don is a long time member of the Area 22 Bowling League and the Area 22 Golf Club and has represented Branch 103 at the SIR Golf Championships at Poppy Hills several times. He also likes to take SIR sponsored trips.

Orchard Valley Branch 54, San Jose

Bob Rohrig Honored with an HLM

Bill DeMatteis, Bulletin Editor

President Buck Kendrick is shown in the picture presenting an Honorary Life Membership to Bob Rohrig. Bob and his wife, Gloria, have been married for 61 years and she was also there to honor her husband for his outstanding service to the Branch.

Bob has been a very active member of Branch 54 since 1988. He was Little Sir in 2010 and has been a director for the past 6 years. He has been the chairman of our Ladies Day functions for many years, has been the attendance chair since 2008, has been a greeter, has sponsored 11 new members and is currently in charge of selling tickets for Casino Day and the July prize drawings.

The Branch has been very fortunate to have enjoyed the benefits of his membership and leadership.



Santa Cruz Branch 20

King for a Day

Ken Jenkins, Bulletin Editor

Branch 20 honored the birthday of its oldest member, Colonel Henry Settle, naming him "King for a Day." Settle



donned a crown (see picture) and velvet cape and held a gold scepter during the January luncheon. President Bob Mannell, Regional Director Richard Kabanek and Area Governor Richard Dean presented Settle with the Presidents Century Certificate and a congratulatory certificate signed by all the Branch members.

After blowing out the ten candles on his birthday cake – one for each decade – Colonel Settle cut it with a ceremonial military sword. He has been a Sir for more than 30 years and retired from the U.S. Army after 39 years having served during World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Settle was given a standing ovation at the end of the program.

Sirs in the News

Mace Meadow Branch 15, Pioneer

Most Senior Member

Jim Steenson, Big Sir

Up Country, Mace Meadow Branch 15 celebrated a significant birthday at our March luncheon for our – by far – most senior member, Bill Hoffman. Bill will be celebrating his 103rd birthday on the 26th of March. In addition to our normal meeting, we had a surprise and impromptu celebration for Bill, including a birthday cake. Rather than cover his cake with 103 candles we had one large candle with “100 Years Young” printed on the side and 3 smaller candles showing his 103 years with us.

In the picture, Bill is in the blue shirt and is surrounded by seven of the Branch charter members from left to right: Ken Wolchow, Pat Ellis, Bill Hoffman (our Birthday boy), George McFetridge, Don Ellington, Ed Reno, Ben Arntz (founding Big Sir), and Bob Burger who formed this branch in 2000 as an offshoot of the Jackson Branch 96 back when Bill was a mere pup of only 93 years of age. Our meeting happened to fall on St. Patrick’s Day which explains some of the members Green/Irish attire.

Bill is amazingly alert at almost 103 and still drives to our meetings although we offered to drive him for this historic birthday celebration. Bill’s age certainly supports our Branch contention that...”no one is too old to be a Sir.”



Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the “Happenings” notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

HLM’s Awarded in 2010

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>
Herman Barthule	BR054
Frank Basuino	BR141
James E Bible	BR099
Don Bollerud	BR084
James O. Boord	BR053
John Boyer	BR045
John R. Brewer	BR170
D. Keith Caldwell	BR137
David W. Calfee	BR037
Ernest Cervantes	BR107
George B. Christman	BR069
William F. Cross	BR159
David D. Dixon	BR121
LeRoy C. Flagor	BR109
Judson E. Goodrich	BR053
Fenwicke W. Holmes	BR090
Loren J. Hov	BR003
Udo Huefner	BR045
Gale E. Jeffers	BR040
Carl LaMothe	BR020
Jack Leonard	BR159
Albert E. Lewis	BR009
William A. Lewis	BR123
Wayne B. Logan	BR160
Robert W. Murphy	BR091
Roger Pease	BR047
Donald E. Reed	BR103
Charles A. Roberts	BR125
Jack A. Roberts	BR020
John Roebuck	BR019
Robert Rohrig	BR054
Gerald L. Schiefferly	BR105
Eckart Sellinger	BR151
Donald I. Severance	BR150
Dwayne Sheets	BR119
Robert W. Smith	BR142
Donald R. Stacks	BR074
Norman D. Whitsed	BR077
Colin K. Wilson	BR133
Roland J. Worster	BR133

News from the Branches

Mount Diablo Branch 8, Concord

Writing Your Life Stories

Roger Sperling, Chairman Writing Your Life Stories Activity

Why do we write stories in our Sons In Retirement writing group? Why do we call this Branch 8 activity “Writing Your Life Stories” and not “...Your Life Story”. Simply because we use a proven method to greatly speed up the daunting process of writing our personal histories to share with our families. We call this, “Writing our biographies...one story at a time.”

Anyone who has tried to sit down to write his life story knows that it is difficult—and getting started is the hardest part of all. Even though we may have the urge to put into writing our personal history we don’t quite know where to start. We might assume we should start at the beginning and put on paper (or a computer screen) a chronological recitation of the facts and dates, the persons and events of our life so far. While some skilled writers may be able to follow that path the rest of us can greatly benefit from another approach. By writing a series of short stories -- over a period of time -- we will accumulate enough recorded memories to tell the story of our life’s journey.

Writing privately may be the loneliest occupation there is. Even professional authors admit to having “blank page fever” when it comes to getting their thoughts written down. Others explain how they need to have a discipline: writing so many



words or pages every day to get the job done. What are we as amateurs to do with this seemingly impossible task? Most importantly we choose to be part of a small group of like-minded men who meet regularly (monthly or more often) to have our memories stimulated about past events in our lives that allow us to write small pieces of our history.

Our concept is simple: by writing short stories—usually one or two pages in 20 or 30 minutes time—we capture a singular event, or describe a person’s effect on our lives, or explain a decision that determined how we arrived at this point in our lives. We use the

experience of trained facilitators to guide us, through the use of examples of good writing by other authors, as well as lists of questions—we call them “triggers”—to stimulate us to remember a key event in our life experience (say in our childhood marriage) or a critical aspect of our personhood (say about our career or health).

One author has suggested that we focus on very small topics to sharpen our writing. She tells that on her desk is a tiny picture frame—only one inch on a side—to remind her daily to frame her stories in the smallest possible way. When we follow that advice we can more succinctly write from memory a meaningful part of our life that we want to tell our family. It is like a patchwork quilt: our short stories are like the small squares of a quilt that get stitched together to present a much bigger picture. Our stories when gathered (“stitched”) together will tell our life story—who we are and how we got to where we are today.

It has been our experience over the last several years that part of the “magic” of the “Writing Your Life Stories” activity derives from small group dynamics. When we meet to write and read aloud our individual stories—those written in the class session and others written at home—we find it mutually supportive. Sharing personal stories (always voluntary) encourages us to bond together as we learn interesting details about other life journeys. And working together as a group and hearing other’s stories, invariably “triggers” new thoughts about something each of us may some day write about.

We are not professional writers but it is a certainty, that when members of our families (spouse, child or friend) are able to read some day what we wrote about ourselves, they will be forever grateful.

Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Golf Champions

Dave Grant, Bulletin Editor

Last December Branch 125 honored its 2010 golf Champions. The club champion was Bob Fraka (see picture). In the other picture Roger Danielson (far right) is shown presenting the awards for the 2010 “Scratch Golf” Club Championship to (L to R), Pat Brennan, Jerry Sanders, Ray Gilcrest, Ken Rose, Henry Melin (runner-up), Bob Fraka (winner), and Lou Bottini. Congratulations to all for a fine performance!



News from the Branches

Gold Nugget Branch 107, Sacramento

A Golfing Branch

Al Williams, Bulletin Editor

Branch 107 is one of the strong golfing branches in Sacramento, with over 80% of the 175 members participating at least occasionally. A typical tournament draws over 50 members on the course...a few have had 65-70 in attendance.

Golfers who participate in at least 10 tournaments during the year qualify for a free dinner at the Christmas Party/Ladies Day/Golf Awards luncheon in December and over 60 members qualified this past year. The Club Champions for 2010 are shown at the luncheon (L to R) Gerald Parrish, flight 1, Jess Hernandez, flight 2, and Jess Herrera, Flight 3.



Branch 107 was also honored to have Gordon Blakeman win first place in Flight 3 at Poppy Hills last October and he is shown receiving his jacket from Don Andrews, a member of the State Golf Committee.



Discovery Bay Branch 161

Patriots Jet Team

Tom Jones, Bulletin Editor

We hear them! We see them! We look to the sky in amazement and see the jets practicing maneuvers over Discovery Bay and the California Delta.

Branch 161 members recently had an opportunity to meet pilots of the Patriots Jet Team who are living their dream. Founder Randy Howell, who is President of Red Star Air Shows and a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, and Dean "Wilbur" Wright, the Patriot's lead pilot, thrilled attendees with a video and stories of their flying experiences.

This is a labor of love and a passion for the volunteer members of the team. It all started when Randy Howell – a United Airlines pilot for 27 years – acquired a Russian MIG fighter plane. Randy connected with Colonel Wright and later acquired a second MIG. Although the MIGs are still around, the team migrated to Czech L-39 fighter planes.

They fly a 4-ship formation and in 2011 will expand to be the only civilian 6-ship formation in the USA. New additions to the flying team are required to fly second seat for a year, to ensure they are fully conversant and comfortable with the nuances of the other pilots. In "training" during 2010, was a member of the Blue Angels.

Following the presentation, Branch 161 members were invited to visit the hangars (see picture) at the nearby Byron airport, where they were able to see the planes first hand and interact with other team members. A visit to the maintenance hangar revealed the extensive work done behind the scenes to prepare newly-acquired planes and maintain the entire fleet.

It was quite a day for our Branch! For those that are interested in learning more about the team, their website can be found at www.patriotsjetteam.com.



Committee Reports

RV Committee Moves Forward

Don Cummings Co-Chairman



The RV Committee continues to increase its membership and is working to better define how it can best serve the interests of the SIR RV community. We are still looking for more members for our committee, especially individuals that currently belong to a SIR sponsored RV club. These people can provide the ideas and advice that the RV Committee needs based on their

personal experiences. If you are interested in helping, let me know at sirstaterv@gmail.com.

We have established some objectives that the committee would like to accomplish. Some of these will take years to finish, while others can be achieved quickly. For example, we would like to assist in creating SIR RV Clubs in Branches, Areas and Regions where there is RV interest, but where no RV clubs now exist. We could provide them with guidelines, support, and suggestions to help them to establish their local RV club.

Another idea that was floated was to have some "Group" RV travel. This could be accomplished in several ways. One way might be to have Pre-programmed SIR RV trips. For example, we might have a 21 day trip that includes time in locations such as Desert areas, Las Vegas, etc. Another might be a 14 day RV trip that starts in La Vegas and visits the National Parks of Zion, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, etc. These SIR Pre-programmed RV trips would be organized by the Committee and each trip would be limited to a small number of rigs. We would have volunteer Trail Bosses to lead each trip. Another way would be to have RV trips arranged for SIR RV by commercial RV travel companies like Tracks to Alaska. This is what the RV committee wants from our SIR members...**ideas!!!**

The State RV Committee will reactivate its Web Page on the SIR State Web Site www.sirinc.org. It is designed so that a current SIR member or a prospective SIR member can obtain information about SIR RV clubs and activities. A user could come to the RV web page and click on "RV Clubs". He would then get a page that will display all of the SIR RV clubs and their locations. He would then click on the RV club he was interested in and he would get an information page describing that RV club. The web site will also have links to RV Parks used by SIR RV clubs and a link to RV parts and repair facilities used by SIR RV members. A link will also be included to our RV Bulletin (Newsletter) that will feature a different SIR RV club in each edition.

The SIR State RV Committee has some very ambitious plans that are intended to promote RV activities in the SIR organization and to assist in promoting SIR membership. To this end we need the help of many people. To those that have already helped, I offer my sincere thanks. To those that can provide help my sincere plea.

Don

Publicity & Tools Committee

Legacy of One

Walt Schick, Chairman



All Branches should look for ways to sustain and grow their membership levels. One way is the Legacy of One.

The Legacy of One encourages each member to bring a guest -- friend, neighbor, new contact, etc. -- with the eventual goal of the individual's membership in a SIR Branch.

"...We have been given a legacy of immeasurable value. As we have accepted the benefits offered via our membership in SIR, now let us accept the responsibilities we owe for this unique opportunity to give something back to the organization that has given us enormous pleasure in our retirement years. Of critical importance is the continuity of this wonderful organization by membership sustainability of our SIR and its BRANCHES.

One of the best ways we can sustain membership is for each of us to sponsor one or more new members as our replacement(s) if, or when, we have to leave SIR. We must accept this legacy..."

Joe Futch of Branch 103 in Modesto says his branch has asked all members to think of this legacy and sponsor a member. Last year they gained 13 new members. Branch 8 in Concord has had a consistent growth pattern and is discussing the legacy with new members at their six-month round table discussion.

Learn more about "The Legacy of One" on the State Website on the Membership & Recruiting Information page.

Walt

JAZZ

Looking for some toe-tapping fun over the Memorial Day Weekend?

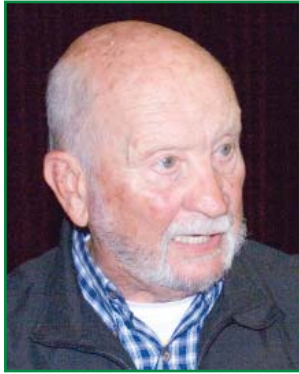
The 38th Annual Sacramento Jazz Jubilee is the place to be!

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee swings over the Memorial Day weekend from Friday, May 27th through Monday, May 30th. The event is a fun party, with some of the best jazz you will ever hear, plus lots of good food and drink.

A variety of discounted tickets are again available to Sirs. For information and tickets, call Jim Fusaro at (916) 428-5719 or email him at jim4jazz@comcast.net. Jim will be glad to send tickets to any Branch on consignment.

Growth & Management Committee

Harry Hubinger, Committee Chairman



One of the G&M Committee's goals for this year is to move the SIR organization into the twenty-first century. How?... by getting onto the "Social Network" space that has become so popular with the generation following ours. While only about one out of ten current Sirs use this social network, within eight to ten years the numbers will reverse. So let's get aboard and start preparing. We have a small sub-committee devoted to this endeavor.

So, what is this "Social Network?" Well, probably the simplest is Wikipedia. It basically is an encyclopedia, and if you search Wikipedia for Sons in Retirement, you will get a brief description and a link to the SIR website. The governors of Wikipedia are restrictive of the material they will accept, but they did allow us a fair amount.

The most useful internet "social network" is Facebook. Let me try to get you there:

Step #1: You need to be a member of Facebook. Not a major problem, as even I could do it. You need to give them your email address and set up a password.

Step #2: Click on "Log In," and it will ask for your password. Enter it, and then click on Log In.

Step #3: A strange collection of people's faces will appear. The people in this group have wanted you as a friend. Use it if you like, but what you really need to do is click on Search and enter Sons in Retirement. Voila! Your rooster symbol will appear. Click on it.

Step #4: You will see that you have four choices.

- Wall: This is a place where anyone can post items of interest and others can respond.
- Info: Can contain information about SIRs.
- Photos: Obvious.
- Discussions: This section lists comments posted by Sirs. It displays the topic only. If you click on the topic you'll get what's being discussed, and you can reply in the "reply" box.

Now back to the home page for a minute. In the lower left corner are two links. One is to our Wikipedia entry. The other will soon be to our web site.

I don't expect a major run on these sites, but I encourage you techies out there to begin using them.

Over the next few years we will begin to test methods of recruiting by using these tools. Believe me, there is a generation out there waiting to climb aboard!

Discovery Bay Branch 161

Pickleball

Bob Lyman, Branch Member

A game of angles and strategies...of position and speed... pickleball is enjoying a huge increase in popularity with seniors and is being played by some Branch 161 members and their spouses.

Pickleball is a fun court sport, played on a badminton-sized court -- less than 1/3rd the size of a tennis court -- with the net lowered to 34 inches at the center. It is played with a perforated plastic ball similar to a whiffle ball and wood or composite paddles about twice the size of ping-pong paddles. It is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. In addition to being fun, the game has developed a reputation for its friendly and social nature.

Play by our Branch is done on an underutilized public tennis court with permanent pickleball lines on the court. Many areas utilize tennis courts with chalk drawn or taped lines.

Along with their own play, our Big Sir Vince Vargas and BEC member Gary Hess, have helped with a clinic at Heritage High School in Brentwood, Calif.

The game was invented 40 years ago in the backyard of former U. S. Representative Joel Pritchard, from Seattle. The Prichard family improvised a game on a badminton court using sawed off rackets and a lightweight perforated plastic ball to replace their damaged badminton equipment... Pritchard's dog, "Pickles," liked to run off with the ball, because it was his and hence, inspired a name for the new game.

During the week of April 11th, the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) will be holding events throughout the



United States to celebrate the sport and introduce it to new players to support International Pickleball Week, Bob Lyman will join with over 300

regional and local USAPA Ambassadors in holding clinics and tournaments to celebrate pickleball at the local level.

The USAPA was created in 2005 to promote the sport. It maintains the official rules, sanctions tournaments, provides player rankings and produces the annual National Pickleball Tournament. It is run by a volunteer board of directors and supported by thousands of dues paying members.

Sir "Pickle Bob" Lyman, – ralyman@mac.com – can be contacted for information on getting A pickleball activity started in your Branch and more information about the USAPA can be found in the media center at www.USAPA.org.

Be a Friend, Bring a Friend

Happenings at the State Board Meeting

Excerpts from the minutes of the January 2011 State Board Meeting

President Bob Mannell in his opening comments indicated there will be continued emphasis on membership, recruitment, and retention this year and on the use of the Monthly Branch Membership Report (Form 27) and the Big SIR Quarterly Membership written report. He also wants to encourage more Branch and Area wide activities to make SIR more attractive to current and new members. Bob said management of SIR is a team effort and not up to just one person, indicating all 16 Board Members have the combined leadership responsibility. He said he encourages and will listen to any ideas the Board members have to offer.

Vice President Jim Stedman indicated his priorities for this year are to support President Bob Mannell, to continue his work as Chairman of the Training Committee, and to continue his effort on recruitment and retention of members.

Secretary Eckart Sellinger asked the Regional Directors to remind their Branches the 2011 Branch Rosters are to be to him by the end of February and have to be paper based – no electronic versions.

Treasurer Gus Lopez commented on the quarterly pro-rata process and requested Branches not seal their payment envelopes so tightly as it makes it very difficult when opening 150 plus taped envelopes each quarter.

Past Treasurer (2010) Mike Berry provided a recap of 2010 referring to the handouts he prepared for the meeting. In summary, he indicated the financial data at the State level shows a continuing decline in Revenue due to fewer members, the recession causing Bank Interest to be lower and fewer members traveling overseas, reducing the Foreign Travel fee income. The loss in revenue is offset by reductions in Insurance expense due to a lower membership.

Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden said he needs the Branch Audit reports by the end of February. He discussed the Form 28 process and the need for Branches to submit them to him by the 10th of the following month.

Area Governor Gary Pelton provided a comprehensive status report on the Area 21 probation indicating success in a very difficult situation.

Nominating Committee Chairman Buck

Kendrick recapped his progress on finding candidates for 2012 State positions. He said it is all of our responsibility to help identify worthy candidates for State jobs and to let him know who to consider.

Information Systems Chairman Dwight Sale said he needs more help with different aspects of the SIR data base and asked for volunteers to contact him. One major objective this year is to finish updating the SIR Database Manual. He also commented on the effort to use the Data Base to help file the Form 100's. He encouraged the Branches to hold elections for 2012 on time and to make sure the Form 20 is filed out as soon as possible.

Rules Committee Chairman Gary Pelton referred to his handout documenting last weeks Rules Committee meeting and proposed rule changes.

Growth & Membership Chairman Harry Hubinger said the committee is focusing on current "Social Networking" Web sites for information and recruiting such as Wikipedia, U-Tube, Face Book, etc.

Publicity & Tools Chairman Walter Schick is in need of an additional member for his committee who has a professional background in "publicity". During his presentation he talked about their continued effort enhancing their SIR website section with proven ways of good practices for Branches to use.

Insurance Chairman John Thomason indicated he will be meeting next month with our broker to renew our insurance effective on March 1st.

Certificates Chairman Jim Donovan recapped 2010 certificate activity as follows: 327 Senior/Super Senior/Century certificates issued...38 Honorary Lifetime Members... and 264 Certificates of Appreciation. He also noted that at this time there are 18 Branches that have no HLM's and there are 36 Branches that have no Senior/Super Senior/Century awards. He emphasized how important member recognition is to our success.

Training/Membership Training Chairman Jim Stedman pointed out that the decline in membership dropped significantly last year due to efforts started in 2008 to lift Branch maximum member limits and introduction of basic leadership methods of setting and measuring goals. The introduction of Form 27 and quarterly Big SIR reporting on membership was also introduced last year. He indicated 88 Branches are reporting using Form 27 and his goal for this year is to get 100% of the Branches reporting on Form 27.

Travel Chairman Larry Garvin said they have finished updating the Travel Agency documents and sent their Travel Newsletter to Branch Travel Chairmen. They intend to post approved travel agencies on the SIR Website soon.

Golf Chairman Gene Drennan presented the 2011 Statewide Golf Schedule for Board approval.

President Bob Mannell presented the 2011 State Bowling Tournament schedule for Board approval. He indicated the Committee is still looking for a tournament location and sponsor for the May 16-18 Annual State Tournament.

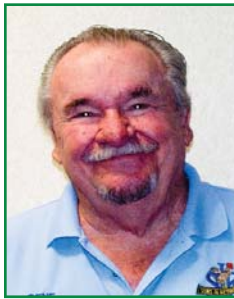
Regional Directors Reports: Each of the Regional Directors gave a report to the Board on the progress they are making in their Regions and also covered some of the challenges and problems they are facing.

President Bob Mannell said in closing the meeting that he is very pleased with the consistency of goals in the Regions such as the 10% Membership goal. He asked we keep in mind that we should do what we do in our jobs for the overall benefit of SIR at all times. He wants to keep the 10% Membership goal for this year and not raise it even though reality is 13%. He thanked everyone for attending and their continued support.

State Golf

For the Love of the Game

Gene Drennan, State Golf Committee Chairman



Golf, as we know it is not a live or die proposition -- heck NO -- it's much more important than that!!!

Having had the privilege of participating in this wonderful sport for the better part of 52 years, I have come to realize what this game means to me, now more than ever. I realize that I can't get as far off the tee as I used to, can't quite see the ball as clear as I did over a 100 or so yards, can't

quite see the "line" on those putts that used to be so clear, but damn, I still love it just as much.

When playing with your fellow man, or the group in front or behind you, doesn't move quite as fast as they used to, but they still want to play with the same burning desire, the same competitiveness, the same love of the game...give them a little extra room in your heart, because in just a few years, you will be saying, and doing the same thing.

We older folks still want to pay our dues, both in cash and in effort that we always did in the past, but now we need to hear some words of encouragement from the younger generation. Maybe it does take me a little longer to walk to the ball, a little longer to figure out in which direction we would like the little white sphere to go and at what distance the club will take it because it seems that over the years they are just making those darn holes a little farther away. That par four that I used to reach easily with a driver and a 5 Iron, now seems to take the driver, a 3 wood and a short chip to get on, but don't worry...I'll get it there.

We still love the great outdoors, the sunshine, the smell of newly mown grass, and the comradeship...oh yes, the comradeship...how great it is. We now realize the best years of our golf are behind us, but we still look forward to being out there every week, trying to make that "career" drive or putt.



We don't ask for much, just to have it realized that we are still important, that the game still means as much to us now as it ever did in the past -- probably more -- because we realize that the number of rounds that we have left in us is no longer infinite, that the day is going to come that I will have to give it up, get ready for the garage sale...but, please don't rush me any more than you have to, because just like you I'm here for only one reason and one reason only and it's just: *"For the Love of the Game" !!!*

State Bowling

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Committee Chairman

Well, bowlers I have been traveling quite a bit this year instead of bowling and in fact, I'm still traveling. I have noticed some good scores from the tournaments already held and I hope your traveling has been easier than mine. Congratulations to all that have participated!

At our January tournament at Pacific Bowl in Stockton, the A Division was won by Ray Soto with a score of 788...Wayne Cartwright won the B Division with 808...the A division doubles winners were Jan and Alan Close with 1297...and the B Division was won by Barbara and Gene Morles with a score of 1333. The All Events was won by Bill Yray with a combined score of 1470.

Our State Tournament will be held at Harvest Park in Brentwood on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday -- May 17, 18, and 19. Good luck, and thank you, Harvest Park Bowl for hosting our Tournament.

SIR Bowlers...I wish you good luck and great bowling!

State Baseball

SIR Day at the Sacramento River Cats

River Cats vs. Colorado Springs Sky Sox

Monday, May 9th, 2011 at 12:05 PM



All SIR Day at the San Francisco Giants

San Francisco Giants vs Pittsburgh Pirates

Wednesday, August 10th, 2011 at 12:45 PM



For more information see the flyer at

<http://sirinc.org/siractivities/SIR-sports.htm>

Happenings Travel Bulletin

June 9-19, 2011

Alaska Cruise

Embark on a 10-night inside passage cruise on board the Princess Cruise Lines' SEA PRINCESS sailing r/t from San Francisco. Ports of call include: Juneau, Glacier Bay, Haines, Ketchikan, and Victoria B.C. Prices range from \$2578 to \$2655 PPDO. Offered by Branch 8 Travel. Call Jim Lund at 925-551-3329.

June 11-23, 2011

Russian Waterways

An upscale, all-inclusive, 11 night luxury cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow on the newest, best equipped riverboat in Russia...AMA's MS Amakatarina. The boat features extra large staterooms, balconies, modern bathrooms and an elevator. This cruise is the best available and includes wine with dinner, gourmet meals, exemplary service and great excursions. Prices range from \$5895 to \$7695 for a suite PPDO. Offered by Areas 5 & 20 Travel. Contact Jim Stoner at 408-238-8458 or Larry Martinson 408-528-0746.

June 13-20, 2011

Trains Across Colorado

An 8 day motor coach tour from Denver, featuring the Durango & Silverton, Cumbres & Toltec, Rio Grande and Pikes Peak scenic railroads. The trip also includes visits to Vail, Mesa Verde National Park, Royal Gorge, U.S. Air Force Academy, and Garden of the Gods. Cost is \$2390 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.



July 11-23, 2011

Denali Explorer Cruise

Fly from San Jose to Anchorage. The trip includes five land nights, with stays in Anchorage, Mt. McKinley Princess Lodge, and Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge. A full day guided natural history tour of the Denali Wilderness is included. Travel from Mt McKinley to Denali and to Whittier is by rail on the Midnight Sun Express, with ultradome windows. Then a seven night cruise on the Diamond Princess from Whittier to Vancouver, featuring unsurpassed views of glaciers and scenic coastlines and one day stops in Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan. Costs range from \$3793 to \$4695 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421.

August 1-12, 2011

Grand Scotland & Ireland Tour

This is a 12 day trip with a professional driver and guide. To name just a few of the many interesting things we'll see and do: a ferry from Scotland to Ireland, a scenic cruise on Loch Ness, whiskey tasting and a tour of the Blair Athol Distillery, reserved seats for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, tours of Edinburgh and Belfast and a visit to the Edinburgh Castle and much, much more. Cost is \$3995 PPDO. Offered by Areas 5 & 20 Travel. Call Neil Jameson at 831-336-2476 or Wayne Dawson at 408-972-1054.

September 12-20, 2011

A Journey down Virginia's Crooked Road

Virginia's Crooked Road is a trail through Southwest Virginia and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Here you will find the roots of American Music that run deep and wide. The region is home to the World's Capital of Old Time Mountain Music. There are eight major music venues: the Blueridge Institute; the Floyd Country Store and County Records; the Rex Theatre and Old Fiddlers Convention; the Blue Ridge Music Center; Carter Family Fold and others. The Crooked Road is rich with talent. Come join us in this exclusive trip. Bring your harmonica and spoons and join in the fun! \$3084 PPDO, includes r/t air, all tours, 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners. The trip is limited to 10 couples. Offered by Branch 34 Travel. Call Richard Small at 925-462-1204.

October 9-22, 2011

Quebec City to Ft Lauderdale

See Canada and New England strut their fall colors. Relax while on board Holland America's MS Eurodam. This is a ship repositioning cruise which are always a good value and the cruise should fill up fast. Prices range from \$3095 PPDO for this 14 day cruise. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Wayne Chapman at 530-343-8086.



November 5-12, 2011

Mexican Riviera Cruise

A short, inexpensive, 8 day cruise and relaxing before the holidays. This cruise is round trip out of San Diego with stops in Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. PPDO prices range from \$1389 (interior), \$1529 (outside window), and \$1619 to \$1799 (balcony). All meals and transportation are included. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765 or Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421.

November 5-18, 2011

Mediterranean Cruise

This could be a once-in-a-lifetime vacation. Visit places you've only read about or seen in movies...such as:

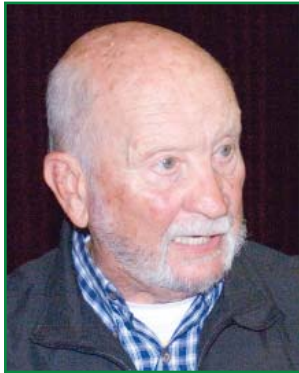


The Coliseum or the Vatican in Rome, the Parthenon in Athens, the city and sights of Jerusalem, the Pyramids of ancient Egypt. This 12 day cruise takes you to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Israel, and Egypt on board the Costa Pacifica as you enjoy the

Mediterranean waters and all the great food on board. Prices start at \$2739 PPDO. Offered by Branch 45 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693.

California Sons In Retirement (SIR) Part 2

By Harry Hubinger



Editors Note: Harry Hubinger, the Chairman of the Growth & Management Committee, has written a four part series for "Alive" magazine, an East Bay publication. This interesting series tells how Rob, a fictional retiree, joins Sons In Retirement. We thought the series would be of interest to our readers and so we have decided to publish the four part series. The following is the second episode in the four-part series.

Rob, our fictional hero, becomes bored after six months of retirement and begins to hunt around for stimulation. He meets a Sons In Retirement group on the golf course and is invited to their next meeting.

Even when he awoke that morning, Rob wasn't sure if he would attend the SIR meeting he had been invited to. Certainly after meeting a few Sirs on the putting green at the golf course and hearing about the organization, he felt like going with the flow. But now, as the time neared he wasn't so sure. He'd looked at the SIR website and couldn't find a reason not to go. He had selected a branch website near to where he lived and liked the list of activities they had available for members. But, even so, he wasn't a joiner and hated to go to meetings where he didn't know anyone.

"Are you going to that thing you talked to me about?" his wife asked.

"Maybe, maybe not. I'm not sure." he replied.

"Well if you don't go you'll need to find something around here for lunch. This is my card day and I won't be around."

That settled it. Another homemade tuna lunch all alone was not what he had in mind.

"Guess I'll go."

When he walked into the big hall and saw over a hundred guys milling around, he hesitated. But before he could turn and run he was grabbed by a couple of guys with "Greeter" badges on. Before he knew it he was part of the melee.

Actually things went quite well for Rob. He didn't mind the opening with the pledge of allegiance, as he had always been a patriotic guy – or the brief prayer. The short business meeting really consisted of a litany of all the activities these guys were involved in. He heard golf which was one of his favorites...poker which he loved, but didn't do anymore... bridge which he would participate in...morning walks... eating out...trips, both local and international...and on and on. Frankly he was floored by the variety and found himself caught up in the possibilities.

The lunch was acceptable and reasonably priced, and the people he sat with seemed likeable. The after-lunch speaker was humorous and short and did educate him on a little bit of local politics.

Someone handed him an application and made a low-key pitch on joining. He was in and out in a couple of hours, and overall it wasn't that bad. Later that afternoon his wife quizzed him on the lunch.

He found himself caught up in the prospects of joining the golf group which played a different local course each week.

"Why not?" he thought. This looked like the ideal situation for him. There was "no pressure," and it had all the activities he loved plus a lot more. He could go to a couple of meetings, see how they golf and other activities went, and then either keep going or quit. Better yet, there was no fee for joining. The only requirement was that he attend at least four or five meetings per year and pay for his lunch.

Rob filled out the application and sent it along.

(In the next edition - Part Three: Rob gets involved and boredom goes out the window.)

SIR Day at the Races

Golden Gate Fields hosted another successful spring Salute to SIR Day at the races on Friday, March 18th and a great time was had by all. In attendance were 8 Branches and 213 Sons in Retirement members and guests. Each SIR Branch attendee enjoyed valet parking, Turf Club admission and reserved seating, a daily racing program, a prime rib buffet luncheon and a race named in honor of their branch.

During the named race, up to 6 guests from each Branch were invited into the winners circle for a photo opportunity with the winning jockey of that race. In addition, Golden Gate Fields held a raffle with the grand prize being a pair of San Francisco Giants tickets going to Judy Hammond (guest of Branch 19) – 2nd prize was a Turf Club party for two going to Patti Faulkner (guest of Branch 106) and the 3rd prize, a Golden Gate Fields ball cap and long sleeved Golden Gate Fields shirt, going to James Ward (member of Branch 106).

Golden Gate Fields will hold another Salute to SIR Day in the fall and we will release the date by mid-June. Thank you to all who came out to join us for our latest Salute to SIR Day.



SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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SIR HAPPENINGS

SUMMER 2011 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

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

President Bob's Column

In my last column, I talked briefly about the difficulty Sons In Retirement has in getting volunteers to fill positions at the Branch, Area, Region, and State levels. I would like to address that problem in this issue of Happenings.



As I read through the monthly Branch bulletins from each Branch, a far too frequently occurring item is the plea for volunteers to step up and fill Branch vacancies. Certainly it is more prevalent this time of year as we nominate and elect our 2012 officers, but I see vacancies in many branches all year long.

One of the most frequently vacant positions at the Branch is the Little Sir. I also note that in many of these Branches, the Little Sir is also the Program Chairman. In visiting Branches this year and also talking to Area Governors, I find that separating those duties produces far better results. The separation allows both men to concentrate on their very different, but equally important duties.

That may be a solution to the many vacancies at a specific position. It does not, however, address the overall issue of lack of volunteers at every level.

I am asking that each Sir remember that SIR is a 100% volunteer organization. Without volunteers there is no Sons In Retirement. If you are reading this, you are probably a Sir and you are a Sir because there is something about the organization that appeals to you. Please consider giving back some of your time and expertise so that you and others may continue to enjoy all the pleasure that Sons In Retirement gives all of us.

What most men who have volunteered have found is that the more you are involved and the more you give the more enjoyment and satisfaction you receive in return.

Please VOLUNTEER to make Sons In Retirement even stronger and healthier today and in the future.

BE A FRIEND – BRING A FRIEND

Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Aluminum Overcast

Dan Roberts, Camera Club Chairman

The picture was taken on a Branch 32 Camera Club special field trip... special, because the flight cost \$439 which is not exactly cheap. The people in the picture are, left to right: Paul Twombly, Dan Roberts, and Jim Sleigh.

The plane, a B-17G – sometimes referred to as the "Aluminum Overcast" back in WW II days – was brought to the West Coast by the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association), which is one of largest pilot organizations in the world. The stop in this area was at the Hayward Airport. I have never flown in a B-17 bomber and it was quite an experience. I got the feeling of what it must have been like to be a young airman in WWII flying missions over enemy territory. To my surprise, the plane didn't seem as roomy as I had expected and was very noisy. Some of us got to sit in the bombardier's seat, the navigator's seat, the top turret gunner's chair, the waist gunner's positions, and to spend time in the cockpit with the pilots. I didn't go further forward than the bomb bay, but was satisfied that I had the good experience of what it is like to fly in a B-17.



BE A FRIEND, BRING A FRIEND

Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22, Fairfax

Paul Hiatt Sir of the Year

Sandy Grieve, Director

Paul Hiatt was the unanimous selection of the Executive Committee for the Branch 22 Sir of the Year award for 2010. As those who know Paul well can testify, he is an unassuming and modest individual who seems to be slightly embarrassed by this well deserved award.



As the long serving Chairman of the Attendance, Guests, and Visitors Committee, Paul plays an essential role, ensuring our Badges are available for each luncheon and making sure that a new badge is a part of every recruit's membership package. This is Paul's most visible contribution, but he also keeps track of our attendance records. Paul also looks after our Domestic Travel Program and backs up our International Travel Czar, Henry Puccinelli.

This brief description of Paul and his official duties just doesn't do justice to the contribution he makes to our Branch. He never shies away from pitching in whenever he can, and always gives a positive response when asked to help out. We on the Branch Executive Committee appreciate everything he does for the Branch and with this award we are commending his example as a model for SIR Membership.

Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

McGuire earns President's Award

Al Matson, Treasurer

Ninety year old Dave McGuire was recently honored with a President's award and is shown with his plaque. Dave has been a fixture in Branch 37 ever since he joined SIR almost twenty years ago. It didn't take him long to become active starting with Little Sir and then Big Sir. He's the kind of guy that is always there when help is needed and among his many contributions, he has been a key figure in the Ladies Day program for many years. Last year, he received a well deserved Honorary Life Membership.



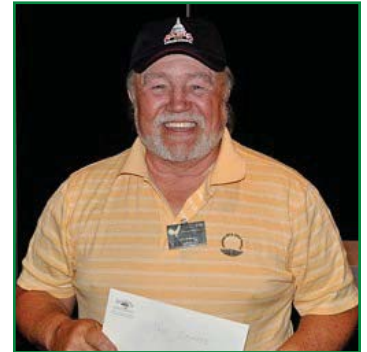
Dave says that belonging to SIR has been a big plus for him during his retirement years.

Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Hole-In-One

Dave Grant, Bulletin Editor

Last spring Jay James made his first ever hole-in-one. Using a six iron, Jay aced the 161 yard – par 3 – 2nd hole at the Spring Valley Golf course in Milpitas.



A proud and smiling Jay James is shown holding the \$50 check he received for his hole-in-one.

Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

Two 95 Birthdays

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Another First for Branch 69... at our May luncheon, we celebrated the 95th birthday of two of our members, Forrest Viglione on the right in the picture and Dave Fleming on the left. Regional Director Maynard Rodland attended the luncheon and is standing in the center of the picture after presenting the Super Senior Certificates.

This was the first time that any Branch member has achieved this milestone since the award has been in effect. Forest and Dave were also the first Branch members to receive the Senior Certificate. Dave has been a Branch member since 1979 and has served as Treasurer and Menu Chairman. Forest joined the branch in 1981. Both are still very active in the Branch.

Congratulations! We hope to be around when you are both presented with the Century award.



Sirs in the News

Lake Tahoe Branch 160

Twentieth Anniversary

Larry Coffman, Bulletin Editor

In April of this year we celebrated our 20th Anniversary as a SIR Branch at a luncheon where our charter members were honored with certificates of appreciation for their service to the Branch.

Standing left to right are: Herb Wheeler, Ken Koegl, and Bob Baker. Sitting left to right are: Barrett Stitt, Ken Miklosy, Bob Peterson and Dom Delcenio. Not pictured were: Al Bartley, Ben Kunibe and Chuck Rozum. Each one of them has been a dedicated member for twenty years and our sincere thanks go out to all of them for their service and dedication to Branch 160.



Lake of the Pines Branch 170, Auburn

Dale Zinck at 90

Richard Hibbs, Bulletin Editor

Dale Zinck (on the right) receives the Senior Sir President's Award from Area Governor Don Gill.



Ladies are Welcome in Many SIR Activities

Walter Schick, Chairman Publicity & Tool Committee

This is the first in a series of articles by the Publicity & Tools Committee suggesting how ladies can be included in many of our Branch activities and the benefits of doing so.

Ladies cannot join SIR and attend luncheons, nor can they administer any activities. However, they do support their retired husbands' interests and well-being. Where space is available, they are welcome as guests in many activities. After enjoying the couples' social interaction, ladies frequently ask their friends if their husbands would be interested in SIR. Let us know if you have a couples' activity to add or if you have questions on how to start one. Here are two examples:

Four or more couples can enjoy wine tasting. Hosts can supply the wine and the costs would be shared. For example, Wine Finders in Branch 8 meets every two months, tasting a varietal wine selection like Sauvignon Blanc. Each couple brings a wine that they like, but the cost must be under \$15. Sometimes a wine under \$5 wins the most votes. Each couple also brings an appetizer. We have had gatherings as large as 12 couples, and the wine was separated into two groups of six bottles. This is a fine social event and the ladies and Sirs really enjoy it.

Any number of Sirs and also ladies can take part in the Branch 8 Heads Up Walking activity. This is also open to Sirs from nearby Branches. As most of the walks are on flat surfaces, like a bike trail, any level of walker can participate. These are one hour hikes, so a fast walker can walk for 30 minutes and then turn around to catch up with more leisurely walkers. After the hike, we usually gather at a coffee house for talk and refreshments.



News from the Branches

Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Area 22 Bowling Champs

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

The Area 22 Bowling League started play in early August last year and wound up in April of this year with team playoffs. The league is comprised of members from three Branches, Stanislaus Branch 103 – Turlock Branch 143 – and Modesto Branch 144.

The season is divided into three 11 week sections and the last two weeks are devoted to playoffs between the three section winners, plus the team with the most wins without winning a section.

Two teams survived the playoffs and then played for the championship. Team 11 consisted of Paul Battisti, Tim Cochran, Wes Rash and Del Davis, all from Branch 103 except for Tim Cochran who is a member of Branch 144. Team 4 was the other competitor and was made up of Curt Varvel, Charlie Fox and Don Reed from Branch 103 and Max Padua from Branch 144. Team 11 handily won the tournament winning all three games.

From left to right in the picture of the winning team are: Del Davis, Wes Rash, Tim Cochran and Paul Battisti. Several weeks prior to the playoffs, Paul Battisti bowled his first 300 game, after bowling for more than 40 years.



Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the “Happenings” notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

China Camp Branch 151, Fairfax

Team Wins Bowling Championship

Eckart Sellinger, Bulletin Editor

Thanks to a great team effort, Branch 151 won the SIR League Championship in a close match against the first half winning team. We tied them in the first half, but lost in a one game roll off, so it was quite fitting after we won the second half, that we meet them again for the Championship.

The League winner was determined by the team with the most pins after three games and it came down to the anchor bowlers in the 3rd game for the decision. After the first game, we were ahead by 5 pins...after the second game, we were behind by 15 pins...and after the 3rd and final game, we won by only 5 pins. You can't have a three game match much closer than that!!

The winning team members pictured L to R are: Ray Schmitt, Don Gregory, Jim Strange, Eckart Sellinger (Captain.), and Sam Ennis.



In Memoriam

I am sorry to report the July 2011 death of Sir Gary Gruber. Gary held many positions in SIR including 2nd Assistant State Secretary from 2003 to 2006 and State Secretary from 2009 to July 2010 when his health forced him to move to be near his family. He also served on INFOSYS Committee as Chairman of various sub-committees and on the Rules committee from 2006 to 2010. In addition to numerous other contributions at the State level, he was also Little and Big Sir, Director, Bulletin Editor, and Webmaster of his Branch at various times from 1998 to 2007. However, no simple list of jobs or titles, no matter how long, can begin to show the contribution that Gary made to SIR.

We have lost a good man and fellow SIR. He will be missed.

Bob Mannell

News from the Branches

South San Francisco Branch 4

SFO Aviation Museum

Wayne Veatch, Travel chairman

Last February, Branch 4 was fortunate to have a very engaging speaker for the luncheon meeting, John Hill, Curator-in-Charge of the Aviation Library and Museum at the SFO Museum. John is responsible for all of those fascinating exhibits within the San Francisco International Airport terminal buildings. Sitting with him at the head table, I found him to be very friendly and very knowledgeable about air transport history, one of my interests. He gave us a fascinating presentation on the history of Pan American World Airways and the first flight in 1935 of the China Clipper flying boat from San Francisco Bay to Hawaii. He explained that a feature of the Museum, in the SFO International Terminal, is a re-creation of the interior of the original 1937 San Francisco Municipal Airport passenger lobby. In that space is a fascinating display celebrating the first flight of the China Clipper.

As a new Travel Chairman, I wanted to arrange some local tours, to supplement the multi-day trips and cruises offered by other Branch Travel Chairmen and those promoted in Sir Happenings. John was more than willing to lead a group of us on a tour of his aviation museum in the International Terminal and we had 18 attendees for the tour. John explained the features and history of the museum and gave us detailed explanations of the exhibits celebrating the history Pan American and those beautiful flying boats. If other branches are interested in a tour, they may contact John directly at john.hill@flysfo.com.

The first photo below is John addressing our group, showing the architecture of the room and some of the exhibits in the background. The second is a detail of their excellent model of the Clipper.



Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22, Fairfax

Silver Seas Cruise

Bill Wilhelm, Director

If you happen to see 8 SIR members with smiles on their still slightly tanned faces (see picture), it's because they just returned from a fantastic seven day Caribbean cruise aboard the all suite Silver Seas "Whisper." I think if you ask any one of them they will all agree that this was the best cruise they have ever experienced.

The weather was perfect... a low of 74 degrees to a high of 88 degrees, beautiful warm clear blue ocean water, and white sandy beaches, but it was the cruise line itself that made this such an outstanding vacation. Service was above and beyond what we have experienced aboard any other ships and even included a personal butler.

Yes, the price might have seemed high to begin with, but at the end of the cruise, we all agreed that because everything was included – air fare – tips – in room bar – wine – and top of the line bar beverages, it was no more expensive than any other cruise we have taken.

Thanks to Henry Puccinelli for arranging such a wonderful cruise vacation.



Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Perfect Attendance

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Shown in the picture are the 13 members of Branch 94 that were honored for having perfect attendance last year. That's something we all should shoot for!



News from the Branches

Mount Diablo Branch 8, Concord/Walnut Creek

What to do when Parking is a Problem?

Derek Southern, Membership Secretary

What does a branch do when the number of parking spaces at their luncheon venue is insufficient for its membership?

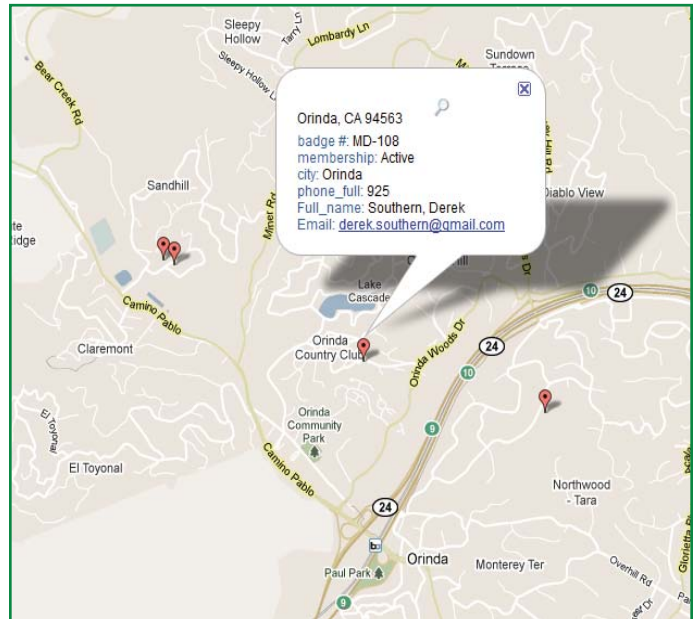
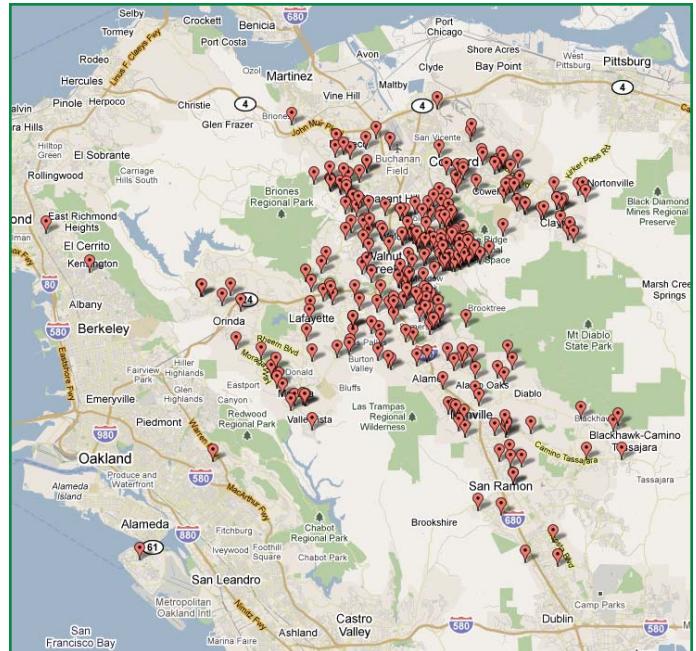
This has been a recurring problem for Branch 8 at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge where local street parking was limited to 2 hours. Sharing rides with other members helped, but this became more difficult to arrange for new members and applicants. As Membership Secretary, I looked for a way to map member's addresses so we could see exactly where our members lived thus organizing rides could be simplified.

The mapping process could be done manually, but with 270 members (back in 2007), it would be a major problem to maintain the map. However, a software program for converting addresses to geographic coordinates was available and that solved the problem, until the company went out of business in 2008!

More recently, mapping has been made simpler, and now using a site – www.batchgeo.com – it is easy to create free maps showing where members live, or where branches are located. The maps are created as Google map pages, which means you can easily zoom in to the street level, and in some cases you can actually see an image of the house and the streets in the neighborhood. The error rate is now improved. In my early maps about 10% of the icons were not as close to the real address as one would hope.

The upper Map at the right shows the location of all our Branch members. The lower Map is an example of where four members live relatively close to each other and could easily share rides. Additional information can be included, so when an icon is clicked it displays some roster information as shown in the lower Map - personal sensitive information has been hidden in this example.

Since January 2011, Branch 8 meets at the Concord Hilton in Concord... no parking problems now, but members can still use the maps to find a rideshare partner.



Mission Trail Branch 35, Mountain View

Charged up "Merry" Oldsmobile

Bob Simon, Past Big Sir

Richard Lowenthal, left, who spoke to Branch 35 in May about charging stations for electric cars, chats with his "earliest adopter" Sir Bill Palmer, right, while Sir Milt Wehrman looks on. Bill and his son built the replica of a 1904 "Merry" Oldsmobile in 1967. The original was a very early version of an electric car.

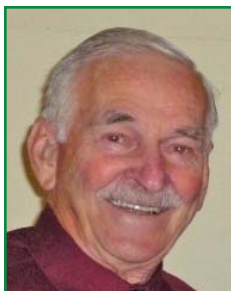


Committee Reports

State RV Committee

Don Cummings, Co-Chairman

The RV Committee held its first meeting on May 18th in San Rafael. All but three of the committee members were able to attend. Shown from left to right in the picture are: Jon Moninger, Area 3 Governor – Co-Chairmen, Don Cummings and Jack Streckfus – Ernie Bonelli from the Roving Roosters RV Club of San Jose – Buck Kendrick, Past SIR President – Jim Stedman, SIR Vice President – Keith Pieper from the Roving Roosters of Napa Valley – and Bill Raudio of the Rolling Roamers of Marin/Sonoma. Unable to attend were members, Mark Purdy of the Roving Roosters of Napa Valley, Ray Serafin of the Discovery Bay RV Club and Region 9 Director Richard Dettmer.



Committee plans include expanding the committee's membership, assisting SIR Branches, Areas, and Regions, in establishing RV clubs and opportunities for Sirs with RVs to participate in RV activities with existing RV clubs. The Committee also wants to survey each Region to find out how many Sirs have RVs. Another priority has been updating the SIR RV Website – www.rv.sirinc2.org – and to get every current RV Club listed on the website. Sharing information on planned RV outings and activities with other branches provides an opportunity for members with an RV – but, with no RV club in their Branch or Area – to join an existing club's outing and to join that club. For example, the Rolling Roamers of Marin/Sonoma send their schedule to the Bulletin Editors of all the Branches in their Region 10. We encourage Big Sirs to survey their membership and if

they have members with RVs who would like to join a SIR sponsored RV club or receive RV information, have them contact us. The RV Committee is still seeking the assistance of all of the established SIR RV clubs. Please contact us at sirstaterv@gmail.com.



Publicity & Tools Committee

Local Newspaper Publicity

Walt Schick, Chairman

Newspapers have limited space for announcements, but Branch 146 has found that including the speaker for the next luncheon gets them in the paper every month. A recent newspaper clipping is shown below, which includes the luncheon cost and contact information.



MEETINGS

■ **SIR 146 Monthly Luncheon**
– 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. June 9.
Featuring Gennifer Mountain, accompanied by Phil Trapp. Mountain is the fall-prevention program manager with Senior Outreach Services offered by Meals on Wheels, a private nonprofit agency. Trapp is a certified fitness instructor and volunteer for the Senior Fitness Circuit Program in Contra Costa County. Men who are semi- or fully retired are encouraged to attend, meet the members and learn more about the benefits of belonging to SIR. The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak, 3800 Valley Vista Road, Walnut Creek. \$24. 925-933-7998, www.sir146.com.

Newspapers have different editors for different sections, and Branch 146 uses these contacts:

- By looking in the paper, calling the paper, or using their website, we are able to identify the appropriate personnel to contact for submitting our event information.
- For our monthly luncheons, we've learned that we have a better chance of getting publicized if we focus on the speaker, because newspapers are reluctant to publicize general promotional information. That's why, in the coming months, we will attempt to have a media journalist attend our luncheons (or perhaps one of our activities) in an effort to get an article focused on SIR.

Branch 8, in Concord, recently outgrew the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge and moved to the Concord Hilton Hotel for their monthly luncheon. This is on a well travelled street, and Rotary International also meets there. A local sign maker produced both signs (see picture) and a two piece support pipe. Our luncheon contract with Hilton included their installation of the sign.



News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

One-Eye Golf Tournament

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

It was a real “eye opener” for the Branch 15 and 96 Golf Club members as they swung their clubs at the little white ball with one eye covered with a patch. Sam Mazza was the chairman of the One-Eye tournament played at Castle Oaks in honor of member Gene Young who permanently wears an eye-patch. “It sure gave us a great appreciation for the problems Gene faces every day, especially on the links,” said Club President Ray Lindstrom.

Winners of the two-man best-ball tournament were: Dwight Foyel and Ray Lindstrom, with the low net of 59. In a very close second place were Howard Blethen and Stan Rasmussen with a score of 60...and rolling up in third place were Steve Curl and John Binnall who won a playoff with two other teams with nets of 62. Nearly dropping it in the hole and winning closest to the Pin at 1’-10” was Sam Mazza.

Pictured wearing eye patches are L to R: Ray Lindstrom, Club President...Sam Mazza, Tournament Chairman... Henry Cardana, Handicap Chairman & Treasurer...and Gene Young, the Honoree.” Lindstrom said, “It was a fun day and made for many laughs, which at our age, is the most important thing.”



Bidwell Branch 110, Chico

A Scientific Fishing Group

Bob Weckerle, Chief of Piscatology

The Branch 110 Piscatology – i.e. “the science of fishing” – Group is a bunch of guys who love the out-of-doors, each other’s company and the thrill of getting a “Fish On!” To meet these needs we share breakfast once a month and use email often, to plan both single boat outings to Lake Oroville for Bass, and larger group trips to mountain lakes for Rainbows, Browns and Brookies.

We like Lassen and Plumas counties and we often stay in member’s cabins or at campgrounds. In the two or three nights we’re out with the guys, lots of jokes and lies are exchanged ...what else would you expect from fishermen? Our wives love to get us out of the house, so we try to keep them happy.

We’ve been at this for seven years and new members are still joining. The trick is to keep in balance our present total of nine boat owners with other SIR members who like to fish. Members tend to pair up on their own once they get to know each other at our breakfasts. We’re lucky because Chico has lots of nearby areas to fish.

In the upper photo Les Vandervelden and Don Pustejovsky seem very relaxed while fishing in a beautiful setting below Mt. Lassen on Lake Almanor. In the lower photo Gary Kretz and Bob Martin with an Eagle Lake trout.

We enjoy sharing our love of fishing with all SIR members, and encourage new members to join us to find out what our group is all about.



Be a Friend, Bring a Friend

Happenings at the State Board Meeting *Excerpts from the minutes of the June 2011 Meeting*

Remarks from State Officers:

President Bob Mannell in his opening remarks said that on his recent visits to many branches he has been pleased to see they have slowed membership losses and many branches are now showing gains in membership.

Vice President Jim Stedman said in his visits to different committees, in his ex-officio role, he has noticed that the committees are all dedicated and working hard.

Secretary Eckart Sellinger noted the gathering of Rosters from the 145 branches was laborious as over half of the branches did not meet the March 1st deadline and required a lot of follow-up communication.

Assistant Secretary Charles Moss reported all branch forms SI-100 (reporting for Corporations to the State) are being processed and the State has made it easier by allowing electronic filing and paying by credit card.

Treasurer Adolph (Gus) Lopez said the Department of Treasury is just now sending missing Form 990 notices for 2008 tax year to the branches and asked that the Branches send them to him and not take any independent action.

Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden indicated there are still some Branches that routinely do not complete the all the information on the Form 28 and he needs each line to be completed. Another continuing problem is to get all the branches to submit the form by the 10th of the following month.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee Chairman Buck Kendrick was not able to attend so committee member, Dean Steichen, gave his report. He said the committee recommends the following for the 2012 Officers: President, Jim Stedman...Vice President, Richard Dettmer...Secretary, Eckart Sellinger... Assistant Secretary, Charles Moss...Treasurer, Michael Berry... Assistant Treasurer, Jim Long. The Board approved the slate.

Certificates Chairman Jim Donovan proposed listing the recipients of the Senior, Super Senior, and Century Presidential Certificates in the State Roster Website and received agreement to do so.

Publicity and Tools Chairman Walter Schick discussed how to implement and use the Area Contact and Activities roster concept.

Bowling Chairman Carl Elvik recapped the Bowling Statewide meeting held in January and said they have a major effort underway to update their Bowling Manual but are having trouble finding resources to do it. He indicated there are still 11 State Tournaments scheduled for this year and that Branch 62 recently won the State tournament held in Brentwood.

Training Chairman Jim Stedman indicated the State Training Session is scheduled for October 18th and all 2012 Big Sir's, Area Governors, and Regional Directors are expected to attend.

Membership: Vice President Jim Stedman discussed a Form 27 Membership Report for the four month period ending April 30th. He discussed several items covered in the report including there are 18,769 SIR members in 145 active branches, a loss of 122 members since last December 31st and 934 new members over the same period. He said all of the Branches are working very hard at recruiting.

Insurance Chairman John Thomason said that SIR Inc will not conform to the Moose Lodge insurance requirements and so the few branches meeting at Moose locations will have to find another meeting place. John announced that he will be stepping down as Insurance Chairman after next year.

Travel Chairman Larry Garvin said they are getting close to finalizing the SIR 55th Anniversary Event for next year.

New Business:

Growth & Management Committee: President Bob Mannell announced that Harry Hubinger has resigned as Chairman and asked for suggestions on someone to replace Harry.

Old Business:

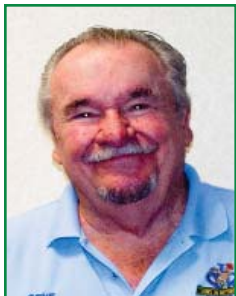
California State Fair Booth: Ralph Lingus led a discussion about SIR having a booth at this year's State Fair in Sacramento, if there is enough time to apply and if not, next year.

Regional Director Reports: The balance of the meeting was taken up by reports from the Directors on activities in their Regions with emphasis on membership retention and growth.

Concluding Remarks: President Bob Mannell said he thought this was an excellent meeting with good discussions on all topics and thanked everyone for their participation.

State Golf

Gene Drennan, State Golf Committee Chairman



"The UNSUNG HERO'S"

It's a slightly overcast day, and the itinerant golfer – snug in his bed – surveys the dismal sky and decides that maybe this is a good day to sleep in. The Golf Tournament that he had signed up for is the last thing of concern, but for the guys that have spent countless hours preparing for this day, another snag has hit the equation...how do I replace that player – at the last minute – with someone that is available, who has a handicap close enough, and not to disrupt the careful mixing of handicaps ...DARN!!! Another well planned event now has the beginnings of another headache.

Unknown to the average golfer, there is a group of guys that spend countless hours – unpaid of course – setting up tournaments with myriad golf courses, planning the type of event that will draw the most players – thereby making the golf courses happier – and fulfilling the request of the average golfer to please don't make me play with JOE again as he is too slow. In the SIR organization, the Golf program is the largest single activity that we have to offer...numbering over 5,000 NCGA GHIN club members and untold 100's more non-affiliated members.

Working with these golfers, golf course operators, and a host of other part time and full time vendors, are a host of volunteers. These people known as Branch, Area, Division, and State Chairman and Assistants, are the people that make your round of 18 holes as enjoyable as humanely possible. These people – who put countless hours in the planning, preparation and supervising of the event – don't ask for a lot and the best way to recognize them for their efforts on your behalf is to follow through on the commitments that you make to show up on time and play the game.

That said...I do want to point out that the vast majority of golfers DO show up on time and are ready to play, follow thru on their promises, and help make those "unsung heroes" appreciate what they do for you. Let's take a moment and let those guys – and sometimes gals – know how much you appreciate their efforts on your behalf – **Thanks to all of you for the fine work that you do for me!!**

Gene

State Bowling

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Committee Chairman

Just a few quick comments from SIR Bowling. Our biannual meeting is on August 2nd the first Tuesday of the month. I hope to see most of the Directors, Area Chairman, and Bowling Chairman at that meeting.

I want to congratulate the Branch 62 bowling team from Sunnyvale. This is the second team championship for them in three years. I'm standing on the left in the picture with the winning team members (L to R): Bob Hebson, Marvin Hirschel, Bud Collinson and Lee Wigglesworth, who had a score 2935...great bowling Sirs!!

SIR Bowling needs nominations for committee members. I understand volunteering is hard on all of us, but we all need to pitch in so that we can continue having tournaments and the SIR bowling program.

Carl



State Baseball

All SIR Day at the San Francisco Giants

San Francisco Giants vs Pittsburgh Pirates

Wednesday, August 10th, 2011 at 12:45 PM



For more information see the flyer at

<http://sirinc.org/siractivities/SIR-sports.htm>

Happenings Travel Bulletin

September 12-20, 2011

A Journey down Virginia's Crooked Road

Virginia's Crooked Road is a trail through Southwest Virginia and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Here you will find the roots of American Music that run deep and wide. The region is home to the World's Capital of Old Time Mountain Music. There are eight major music venues: the Blueridge Institute; the Floyd Country Store and County Records; the Rex Theatre and Old Fiddlers Convention; the Blue Ridge Music Center; Carter Family Fold and others. The Crooked Road is rich with talent. Come join us in this exclusive trip. Bring your harmonica and spoons and join in the fun! \$3084 PPDO, includes r/t air, all tours, 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners. The trip is limited to 10 couples. Offered by Branch 34 Travel. Call Richard Small at 925-462-1204.

September 16-26, 2011

West Coast Swing

Fly to Seattle for dinner atop the Space Needle. After a 2 night stay, take the train to British Columbia. Stay 2 nights each at Kelowna, Whistler, and Vancouver. Attractions include several Olympic sites, a mountain tram ride, scenic touring, and Whistler Mountaineer train. The trip concludes with a 2 night cruise on the Coral Princess to San Francisco. Prices vary from \$2980 to \$3220 PPDO. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call Allen Daily at 408-265-8140.

September 24-29 2011

Custer State Park

Five nights ...unpack only once! Visit Crazy Horse Memorial – Mount Rushmore – Buffalo Roundup – 1880 Steam Train Ride – Explore Historic Deadwood – Visit Badlands National Park – and much more. Deluxe motor coach, 8 meals, and r/t air. Cost is \$1493 PPDO. Offered by Branch 73 Travel. Call Paul Peters at 510-724-8345.

October 5-11, 2011

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta



This is a 6 day trip with 2 nights in Albuquerque viewing balloon events in the morning and evening – 2 nights in Santa Fe with a full day of exploring – and 2 nights in Taos including an all day trip on an old narrow-gage railroad. Price including r/t air is \$2590 PPDO. Offered by Branch 145 Travel.

Call Jerry Wisenor at 209-334-5181.

October 9-28, 2011

Exploring New Zealand

Twenty day escorted tour of New Zealand's North and South Islands, with an optional post tour to Fiji. Highlights are... Auckland, Bay of Islands, Rotorua, Wellington, Christchurch, Franz Joseph Glacier Region, Queenstown and more. Cost is \$5329 PPDO. Offered by Branch 38 Travel. Call Bill Rodman at 408-274-4521.

October 9-22, 2011

Quebec City to Ft Lauderdale

See Canada and New England strut their fall colors. Relax while on board Holland America's MS Eurodam. This is a ship repositioning cruise which are always a good value and the cruise should fill up fast. Prices range from \$3095 PPDO for this 14 day cruise. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Wayne Chapman at 530-343-8086.



October 16-22, 2011

Southern Charm

Experience true southern hospitality and charm in Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. Highlights include visits to Charleston, Boon Hall Plantation, Beaufort, Savannah, Jekyll Island, St Simons Island, and St Augustine. Price is \$2269 PPDO. Offered by Branch 32 Travel. Call John Pletsch at 408-274-2992.

November 5-12, 2011

Mexican Riviera Cruise

A short, inexpensive, 8 day cruise and relaxing before the holidays. This cruise is round trip out of San Diego with stops in Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. PPDO prices range from \$1389 (interior), \$1529 (outside window), and \$1619 to \$1799 (balcony). All meals and transportation are included. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765 or Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421.

November 5-18, 2011

Mediterranean Cruise

This could be a once-in-a-lifetime vacation. Visit places you've only read about or seen in movies...such as:



The Coliseum or the Vatican in Rome, the Parthenon in Athens, the city and sights of Jerusalem, the Pyramids of ancient Egypt. This 12 day cruise takes you to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Israel, and Egypt on board the Costa Pacifica as you enjoy the

Mediterranean waters and all the great food on board. Prices start at \$2739 PPDO. Offered by Branch 45 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693.

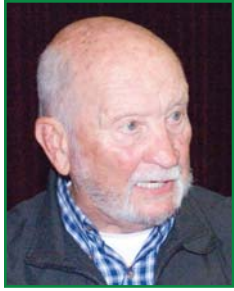
November 29-December 4, 2011

Memphis & Nashville

Six days and 5 nights of non-stop fun! Visit the recently cleaned and modernized Grand Ole Opry – tour Elvis Presley's Graceland – visit the Rock n' Soul Museum – and much, much more. Cost includes r/t air and is only \$1965 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Michael Clark at 650-347-0919 or Phil Manriquez at 650-871-5009.

California Sons In Retirement (SIR) Part 3

By Harry Hubinger



Editors Note: Harry Hubinger, the former Chairman of the Growth & Membership Committee, has written a four part series for "Alive" magazine, an East Bay publication. This interesting series tells how Rob, a fictional retiree, joins Sons In Retirement. We thought the series would be of interest to our readers and so we have decided to publish the four part series. The following is the third episode in the four part series.

Update: When we last met our retired hero, Rob, he had just returned from his first-ever SIR meeting.

Rob's mind was a bit muddled. The meeting had been OK. The guys he met had all been friendly and helpful. The lunch itself was about a six on Rob's scale of zero to ten. The meeting was precise, and the boss at the head table, who apparently held the title of Big Sir, had kept things moving – a trait Rob appreciated. He had enjoyed the speaker. Once again, the presentation had been about the right length – not too long – but entertaining enough to keep his interest. One of the officers had given him an application blank with only a mild amount of perceived pressure.

So, considering all this, what stood in Rob's way of filling out the application and signing on? In short, he missed a younger crowd. It was a step for Rob to admit he fit into the group. He needed a little push, and how was he to get it?

Well, when he left the meeting he had been given a monthly newsletter. As he paged through it he began to find himself leaning toward joining. Then a bright idea came to him. He looked at the newsletter and found the guy in charge of golf. He recognized that he would like some of the other activities as well. It would be fun to get back to bridge, maybe a little poker, and the idea of an exploratory walk with the group appealed – but the true test for Rob would be golf.

He called the person listed as chairman of golf and lied just a bit by telling him that he was joining the branch and would love to meet some of the men for a game of golf. The chair told Rob how to log onto the branch golf web site and how to register to find the upcoming events. Then he said, "Rob, because you're new, I will put you with a group of men with about your skill level until you are properly registered."

Well, the golf match did it for Rob. He arrived about a half hour before his tee time. The three other guys he was to play with greeted him. He didn't

have to hassle with tee times, and the other players were great. (By the way, he beat two of them which helped.) And, the price was under what he paid on the weekends. The three men all loved golf, talked up their SIR branch, and were loose and easy to be with.

It didn't take Rob long to fill in his application and send it along. After all, they were scheduled to play again next week. He might just check out the walking group. That one didn't even require a sign-up sheet.

SIR Day at the Races

Golden Gate Fields

Consider bringing your Sons in Retirement group out to the seventh Golden Gate Fields "Salute to SIR Day at the Races" scheduled for Friday, October 21st.

Currently being offered is a special discounted Turf Club group rate of \$27p/p for SIR groups of 12 or more. This is a fantastic opportunity for networking with SIR groups from all over while enjoying a tasty Prime Rib buffet.

The Turf Club package will include: Valet parking (or parking for a bus), admission and reserved seating, daily racing program, prime rib buffet, tax/tip for the food servers and a race named in honor of your group. Up to four 4 members will be invited to our winners circle to meet the winning jockey of that race and have a souvenir photo taken with him or her.



A high demand is anticipated for this special offer so please let us know if you are interested ASAP. We look forward to seeing your SIR group in October.

Michael Roberts, Group Sales Manager
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SIR HAPPENINGS

FALL 2011

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

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

President Bob's Column

As we approach the end of 2011, I would like to take this opportunity to review what we tried to accomplish this year and note our successes and talk briefly about an area where we were not quite so successful.



In my first Happenings column this year, I asked you to *Be A Friend - Bring A Friend* to help SIR grow and prosper. Many of you responded and the number of guests and, ultimately, new members has increased significantly over the previous years.

Another significant improvement in membership is the result of many, but not all, Big

Sirs and their BECs capturing and using the information in the Form 27 to improve their Branch. That has given each Big Sir a valuable tool to help manage Branch growth and when used, has been extremely successful.

Another very positive and important trend this year has been the overall increase in activities available to our members. Many branches have started new activities on their own, while some have combined with other branches to sponsor joint activities that neither would be able to support independently. It is this working together among Branches that will allow us to continue to offer more and more varied activities to our members and allow us to increase the interest of potential new members.

Exactly how well have we done with membership this year? We have inducted 1627 new members through end of September. That is an annual rate of 11.4% of our membership statewide. We lost 2203 members in that same time period. The net loss of 576 members is somewhat misleading due to the fact that we have asked Branches to clean up their rosters and remove members that were, in some cases, incorrectly shown as active members for years. By making the rosters more accurately reflect the true active member count, it will be easier to assess the true membership picture in the future, but it also had a negative short-term effect for this year. In addition, 212 of the members lost were in Branches that closed this year.

Central Marin Branch 122, Fairfax

DeLeon Honored with an HLM Irv Golden, Big Sir

On October 20th our Branch celebrated the awarding of an Honorary Life Membership to long time member, Ray DeLeon. Shown from left to right in the picture are President, Bob Mannel presenting the award, accompanied by Region 10 Director Don Davis, HLM recipient Ray DeLeon, and Area 6 Governor Jim Flippo.

In accepting the award Ray talked about his many wonderful years with SIR as Little Sir, Big Sir, and Area Governor. His final remarks were addressed to a group of "young," new members of Branch 122, challenging them to build our branch with more members just like themselves.



The one area that has been a bit of a disappointment is the lack of participation in the leadership roles throughout SIR. I still see and hear about unmanned vacancies at the Branch, Area, and Regional levels this year and on into 2012. I again ask all of you to consider sharing your experience and expertise to help SIR remain a healthy and vital organization. Without volunteers, there is no SIR.

We have done some of the difficult things that were necessary for our future and I believe that the remainder of this year and on into 2012 will reward our efforts and SIR is fully capable of showing true growth in the next one or two years. It is due to the efforts of all of you who have worked hard to make that happen. Thank you and keep up the good work.

BE A FRIEND - BRING A FRIEND

Sirs in the News

Mount Diablo Branch 8, Concord/Walnut Creek

Our Oldest Member

Derek Southern, Big Sir

Nick Aviani is the oldest member of Branch 8. He was the Big Sir in 1974 and was honored with an HLM in 1995. He recently celebrated his 95th birthday, but because health problems make it difficult for him to walk, he hasn't been a regular attendee at our luncheons this year.

Therefore I visited him at his home in Orinda and presented the Super Senior Certificate to him... see picture.

He told me how, in his early days as a Sir, members wore coats and ties to luncheons, and that their biggest problems were the quality of the food, the service, and parking. He chuckled as he said this... some things never seem to change!



De Anza Branch 153, Sunnyvale

100th Birthday

Bob Marcy, Bulletin Editor

President Bob Mannell is shown presenting a Century Certificate to Bob Waugh at the August luncheon. Bob reached his 100th birthday on July 30th.

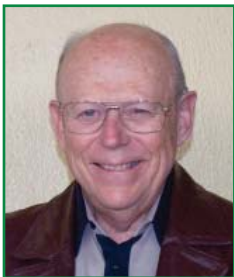
Back in 1986 Bob was instrumental in forming Branch 153 and later on, he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his exceptional and extraordinary service to the Branch.



Spotlight on State Officers

Rich Dettmer - Vice President Elect

Our Vice President elect is a very active individual both in SIR and in civic activities. He currently is in his second year as Region 9 Director and also serves on the Training, G&M, and RV State Committees. Two years ago he was Area 15 Governor and prior to that served as Big Sir and Little Sir of Peach Bowl Branch 45. Throughout the years he has been an active member of his Branch serving on the BEC and other committees. Even now, in addition to his State positions, he keeps active in



Branch 45 by maintaining the Branch Roster and the Form 27.

Rich graduated from the University of San Francisco and the Cal State masters program, majoring in public administration. He also graduated from the FBI Academy. He retired from the Hayward Police Department after 38 years in law enforcement, having served in just about every position from policeman to Chief of Police.

He has been an active member in a number of organizations and to name a just few: Rotary President – Yuba City Personnel Board President – American Legion member – American Red Cross Disaster Chairman and he also is an Army veteran.

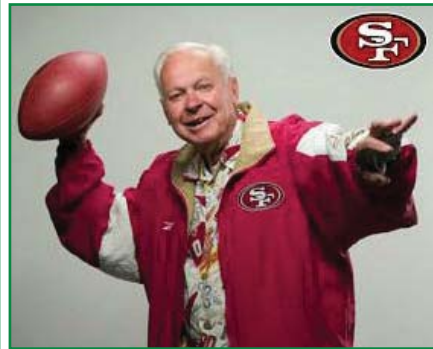
Rich is married to his wife, Jill, and they have two children and three grandchildren and have lived in Yuba City for the past 12 years. He likes fishing, target shooting, gardening, and RVing.

Quite a resume for our VP Elect!

Miwok Branch 134, Novato

Our Very Loyal 49er Fan

Dick Crocker, Bulletin Editor



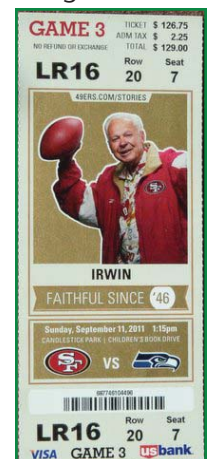
Season ticket holders were treated to Irwin Herlihy's photo on their opening day tickets on Sunday, September 11th (see ticket picture below). Irwin started going to 49er games in 1946 and this ticket honors his attending 600

consecutive home games! Last Year he was recognized as "Fan of the Game" and interviews with him can be seen on the 49er website:

<http://foreverfaithful.49ers.com/#/fans/card/2>

Irwin has noticed a "slight" increase in ticket prices during his time ...from \$2.50 at Kezar Stadium to the current \$129, but at least he now gets choice seats. Irwin has programs from all the games he has attended, which -- according to the 49er organization -- is a more complete collection than they have.

Since he didn't miss a game when he lived in Sacramento for five years, he expects his record will continue even if they move to Santa Clara.



Sirs in the News

Mount Diablo Branch 8, Concord/Walnut Creek

Slow Golfers find New Member

Derek Southern, Big Sir

Hal Sampson learned about SIR slowly! He played golf at Boundary Oak in Walnut Creek, and was always behind a bunch of old guys who played very carefully... but SLOWLY! When he asked about the group, he learned they were Sirs so he decided to join them, perhaps to speed up their game!

He joined Branch 8 at the young age of 85, and at the October luncheon Hal was awarded a Senior Certificate by Area 2 Governor Ron Smith, recognizing his 90th birthday. At that same meeting, Hal sponsored his son, Bob, for membership... how often does that occur? In the picture from left to right are: son Bob Sampson, Hal Sampson, and Area Governor Ron Smith.

Hal is a native Californian, and since retirement has visited 47 countries with his wife Helen. On his numerous trips, he has played golf on 170 different golf courses in 14 countries. His most vivid memory comes from a South African trip when he watched a cheetah stalk, chase, and kill an impala... luckily for us, our luncheons are more predictable and gentle affairs!

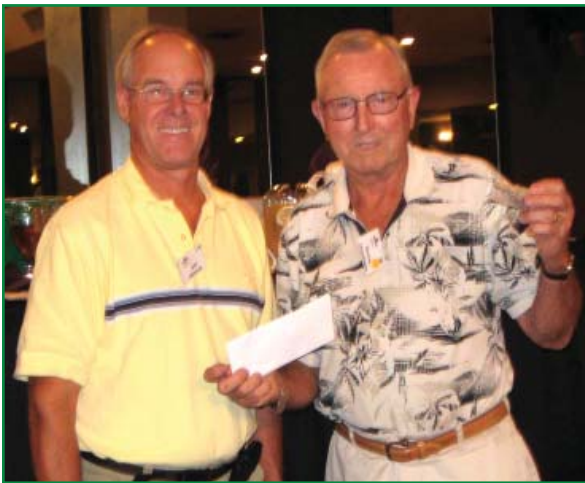


Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Feather in the Cap Award

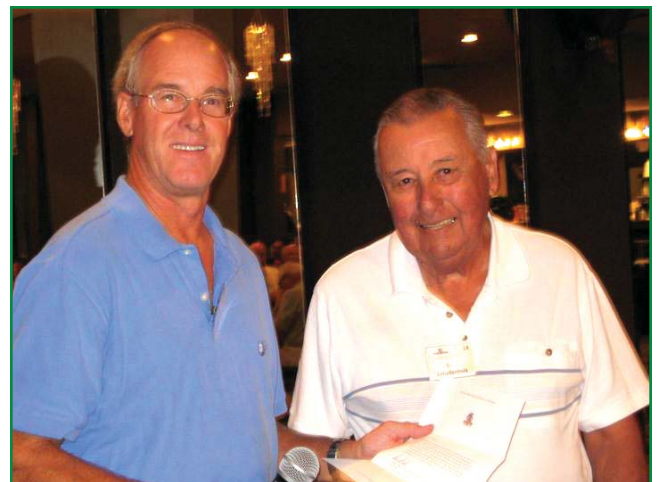
Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

During the August luncheon, Ken Leuenhagen was awarded a "Feather in the Cap." In the picture on the left, wearing an Aloha shirt, Ken is shown receiving the award from Golf Chairman Bob Manning. Ken shot a score of 74 at age 75, which he accomplished at the Dryden Golf Course in Modesto.



Lon Loudermilk, age 82, shot a 77 at the Creekside Golf Course in Modesto. He was presented his "Feather in the Cap" at the September luncheon by Golf Chairman Bob Manning, who is wearing a blue shirt in the picture on the right.

Only 10 of these awards were presented last year out of the 5,100 SIR golfers statewide... quite an accomplishment for one Branch to have two within one year.



Editor's Note: Happenings asked Don Dill to explain this award program. Don is the Area 33 Governor and also administers the Feather in the Cap program.

The Feather In the Cap Award was adopted back in 2003 and has been growing ever since. The State Golf Committee presents to any Sir -- who has a hole-in-one or shoots his age -- a very attractive pin to wear with pride on his cap. There are some 5,000 SIR golfers and we will issue about 35 such awards this year ...approximately 20 for holes-in-one and 10 for a golfer shooting his age. It is one of the many things the State Golf Committee does for SIR golfers and I have the great pleasure of personalizing each and every Pin. It personifies the goals of SIR by promoting dignity and independence in retirement. The game of golf itself promotes a healthy active life style and the Feather in the Cap Award makes us Proud to be a Sir. I urge every SIR golfer to visit www.sirstategolf.org and learn more about the SIR golf program. Dow Dill

In Memoriam - Russell Agnew

Russell Agnew, the 1989 SIR State President, passed away on October 17, 2011 at age 97. He was a charter member of Branch 89 in Salinas from 1983 to his death. He served as Big Sir of Branch 89, Area Governor of Areas 10 and 21, Chairman of the Rules Committee, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, State Vice President, and State President, as well as many other roles at both the Branch and State level. Sir Russ will be sorely missed by all of SIR.

Our condolences go out to his family. The family will hold private services for him. Thank you, Russ, for all you have done and may you rest in peace.

Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Three Honored as Sirs of the Year Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Three of our members were honored as Sirs of the Year and are pictured left to right: Neil Keever, Harry Billings, and Ernie Bode.



Sierra Branch 175, Fresno

Six Presidential Awards

Jerry Long, Bulletin Editor

Six Branch 175 members received Senior Certificates at the June luncheon for having reached 90 years of age. Pictured from left to right are: Big Sir Ron McClain with Senior Certificate recipients – Jim Quinn, Bud Rayburn, Frank Hunting, Bob Shahbazian, J.L. Morrison, Mike Tozlian – and on the far right is Little Sir Marin Vallejo.



Sierra Branch 175, Fresno

Winslow awarded HLM

Gerald Long, Bulletin Editor

Past President Dwight Sale (left in picture) presented Sir Bill Winslow, long time member of Branch 175, with the Honorary Life Member award given by the State Board of Directors.

The State Board of Directors awarded this HLM to Bill for his "...tireless and skillful efforts in initiating and developing the SIR Website as well as offering service to all branches to start their Website."



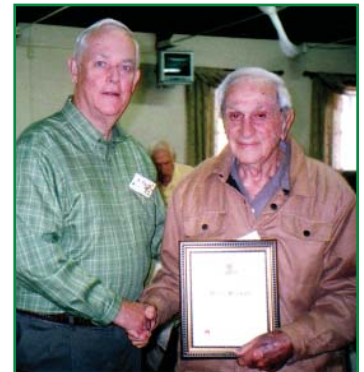
Twin Valley Branch 36, Santa Cruz

Stekoll Honored at 90

Gary Allyne, Big Sir

Big Sir Gary Allyne is shown on the left in the picture presenting a Super Senior Award to Matt Stekoll during a monthly luncheon in Santa Cruz.

Matt is the oldest member in Branch 36. He still walks nine-hole golf with us several times a month at the Valley



News from the Branches

Lamorinda Branch 171, Moraga

Lamorinda Hills Branch 174, Moraga

The SIRpremes Barbershop Chorus

Clay Sealy SIRpremes member

The SIRpremes – a takeoff on Diana Ross and the Supremes in case you haven't already guessed– is an activity, just like Golf and Bridge, of Branches 171 & 174. We are a Barbershop Chorus which means that all of the songs we sing are sung in the four part harmony of barbershop style... lead, tenor, baritone and bass. Several members, including our leader and organizer, have been singing in Barbershop Quartets and Choruses for many years and are the core of the group.

When invited, we sing songs at our SIR meetings relevant to events or occasions occurring that month... such as, patriotic songs for July and Christmas songs for the December Ladies Day Luncheon. On one special occasion, we were able to massage a title slightly and sing "In the Good Old Sumnertime" to Big Sir Bill Sumner – he has been floating around on a cloud ever since.

Several other typical performances with pictures and brief descriptions are depicted below:

Obviously we all enjoy singing, but we also enjoy each other as well and have developed a great camaraderie. Our



This picture was taken immediately following our singing of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" to our waitresses. Our leader is obviously very upset as he is not getting any of the kisses being delivered behind him... tough luck, Brad.

rehearsals often run the gamut from telling stories or jokes, offering advice on home remodeling, talking about vacation trips and a myriad of other topics too numerous to detail here, and oh yes...to rehearsing a song or two.

Whatever we are doing must work as our Branches keep inviting us back to sing again. However, any success that we have had has to be credited to our Leader -- Director and Spark Plug! -- Brad Dewey. He enjoys directing and believes in getting it right, yet has the patience of a Saint, especially with those of us who could be classified as neophytes. He has a good ear for music and knows and can sing

every part of the harmony, so if a sour note is heard, he is all over it...but with a smile. His enthusiasm is contagious and we all admire and look up to him and always look forward to the next rehearsal.

Our bottom line is that we enjoy ourselves and laugh a lot and laughter is good medicine at any age. Now if Brad's wife, Carol, will just keep turning out those great cookies!



This was "Shine on Harvest Moon" in August which was a real crowd pleaser. Can you smell the new mown hay?



This photo shows us singing "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" in honor of St Patrick's Day. We all had a bit of the "Irish" in us that day!



This picture was taken during singing of "Frosty the Snowman" at our Ladies Day Luncheon last December. One of our group, dressed in a "Snowman" suit, moved amongst the tables during the song to add a nice touch.

The Annual Meeting of Sons In Retirement



SIR State officers for 2012, who were elected at the Annual Meeting early in August, are shown in the above photo. From left to right we have Charles Moss, Assistant Secretary, Jim Stedman, President, Rich Dettmer, Vice President, Eckart Sellinger, Secretary, Mike Berry, Treasurer and Jim Long, Asstant Treasurer.



President Bob Mannell addresses the members at the Annual Meeting.



Area 8 Governor Don Graff on the right along with Big Sir Hugh Twomey (in the center) is shown at the SIR Annual Meeting this year. On the left is Branch 26 Big Sir Daryl Main.



Area 19 Governor Robert Staib raises a question at the Annual Meeting.



SIR Happenings Editor Don MacGregor (on the left) interviews Past President Buck Kendrick.



Branch 144 Big Sir Jerry Strain (on the right) is having a discussion with State Vice President Jim Stedman.

News from the Branches

Area 2

A Fishing Club on the Go

Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator

All Sirs are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to participate in our fishing trips as well as our monthly meetings. Our meetings are held at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course in Concord at 8:30 am. At most of our meetings we have a speaker from within the professional fishing community, but sometimes our own members speak about their recent fishing adventures.



The club has been quite active with members fishing in such places as Alaska, the Columbia River in Oregon, Lake Tahoe, several of our local lakes, the Delta and of course the Bay, where Harry Sherinian caught this nice 20 pound Halibut.

On a beautiful Sunday in August, the fishing club held it's annual BBQ. We all gathered at Bill Landers' home and enjoyed a day of food, drink, and fellowship. We brought our wives along to make the day even more pleasant. We all gorged ourselves on ribs, chicken, and brisket with all the trimmings. We just had

a great time!

We will be very busy this fall with: delta fishing for bass, catfish, and sturgeon, party boat trips for kokanee, trout, sturgeon, rock fish, salmon, and halibut. These outings will include those who rarely fish, but would like to try. If you haven't been fishing in a while and would like to test drive an adventure, come join us. We will match you up with a buddy with a boat -- if you don't have one -- and teach you whatever you need to know to catch some fish. Always remember that old fisherman adage... *"the worst day of fishing is better than the best day at work."*

Lamorinda Branch 171, Moraga

Lamorinda Hills Branch 174, Moraga

Branches Rejoin for a BBQ

Ron Smith, Area 2 Governor

Branches 171 and 174 of Moraga that previously had been one Branch reunited for a joint BBQ for their August meeting at St. Mary's College. Besides great food – and lots of it – we had sunny weather and camaraderie among friends, both old and new.

The affair included an interesting program put on at the Soda Center by the President Emeritus of the College... Brother Mel Anderson. The pictures at the right show the elaborate buffet line and members attending the program in the college Soda Center. The entire event was very successful and enjoyed by all!

Area 2

Walnut Festival

Walter Schick, Branch 8 Member

Area 2 sponsored a booth (see picture) at the Walnut Festival in Walnut Creek. The new SIR banner is quite visible in the picture and helps increase SIR name recognition.

Trifold Brochures were given away while Sirs from different Branches handed out their Branch Cards. Root Beer Barrels were given to anyone who stopped. All Sirs wore their SIR caps, and at least one Sir was outside the booth to talk to passersby.



Area 16

Bicycling an Enjoyable, Healthy Activity

Jerry Butler, Biking Chairman

Bicycling has been a monthly activity since 2003 for the five Area 16 Branches located in Mountain View, Redwood City, and San Mateo. It was started by a few members of branch 35 who biked regularly on the many bike routes in the area and who thought it would be something other SIR members would enjoy as well.

The bicycling group is made up of every one that shows up for the ride, including wives and guests (see picture). Usually there are about 15 riders for an outing. The rides are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month and the ride description and directions to the trailhead are published in advance in the Branch newsletters. In addition, an email announcement is sent to those who want to be on the email list.

We are fortunate to have an abundance of biking trails in our area. We have designed eight different rides that vary in length from 14 to 20 miles. The terrain for each of the rides is mostly flat and almost entirely on designated bicycle/pedestrian paved paths, with almost no street riding. Most any bike can be used, including road, mountain, and hybrid bikes. Most of the rides are located near San Francisco Bay so there is wonderful scenery to enjoy as we pedal along the wetlands and various paths.

Safety is a priority. Helmets are required and rides are cancelled should there be rain or other unfavorable weather conditions. Stops are made periodically to keep the group together and ensure the ride tempo is agreeable for everyone.

The highlight of each ride is about halfway along the way, when a luncheon stop is made at a golf course clubhouse or restaurant. This provides time for rest and for everyone to get better acquainted and share mutual interests. Bicycling is a great way to get exercise while enjoying new and exciting sights that will pleasantly surprise you.



San Francisco Branch 4

Glee Club

George Rodriquez, Bulletin Editor

Our Glee Club started with just a trio and we now have the Trio, plus singers. The group is shown performing in the picture and is composed of from L to R: George Rodriguez (Guitar, Banjo, and Singer) -- Dan O'Leary (Irish Tenor) -- Greg Pantages (Bass Baritone and a former Opera Singer) -- Joe Jacinto (Keyboard) -- and Jack Major (Electric Bass).

We do sing-a-longs and instrumentals and have performed for the Ladies Day Luncheons, Christmas Luncheons, and some of the regular Branch luncheons. Our objective is to have fun ...and we certainly do!

Music is wonderful and lifts the spirits, so when we play, we invite anyone who would like to sing... to join us.



John Muir Branch 19, Concord

Beautiful New Bocce Courts

Bill Stephenson, Bulletin Editor

Last year Branch 19 didn't have a Bocce activity, but when the City of Concord built four new bocce courts at Baldwin Park this year, a questionnaire went out to our membership as to their interest in Bocce.

The response varied, but ten members indicated an interest in playing and signed up. Now, we already have two very active teams playing on the wonderful, new Baldwin Park courts (see picture) and thoroughly enjoying the game.

Bocce is a very social activity. Participants not only get to know their fellow Sirs on a more personal level, but they also become acquainted with the members of the opposing teams, providing an opportunity to bring in more members.

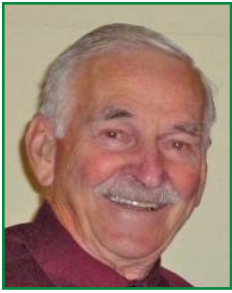
The game of bocce not only builds skill in becoming a better player, but also expands a person's ability to meet many new and interesting individuals... all while having lots of fun!



Committee Reports

State RV Committee

Don Cummings, Co-Chairman



Many of us around the age of 75 remember the song "Enjoy Yourself." The words went like this:
Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think.
Enjoy yourself, while you're still in the pink.
The years go by quicker than a wink.
Enjoy yourself; enjoy yourself, it's later than you think.
You work and work for years and years, you're always on the go.
You never take a minute off, your too busy making dough.
Next year for sure, you'll see the world, you'll really get around.
But how far can you travel when your six feet underground?



But how far can you travel when your six feet underground?

I think we need to bring this old song back to remind all of those potential members that SIR has many fantastic activities that they can enjoy. These activities include golf, bowling, fishing, and of course recreational vehicles (RV) and dozens of other fun and exciting activities. We know there are men retiring from the work force every day. How can we in SIR attract these new retirees to join us and our activities? One very important way is to let them know what is available and let them try us out. Let's get our message out to these potential members at the places where these activities take place... such as golf courses, bowling

alleys, bait shops, and RV parks and dealers. A simple flyer on a bulletin board or handout material can be effective in attracting people to our SIR activities.

One of the most frustrating things that Co-Chairman Jack Streckfus and I have experienced in trying to reactivate the State RV Committee is the attitude of many of the SIR Branches that have RV activities... they "don't want to join us." They say they are happy with their activities as they are. I would hope that every Big Sir, Area Governor, and Regional Director with a SIR sponsored RV activity will contact the State RV Committee and provide us with some information and support. How can the RV Committee provide information on RV activities when the Branches with these activities fail to provide us with this information? One of the first actions of the RV Committee was to establish a State RV Website where members and prospective members can view information on SIR RV activities throughout the state. To date we only have five clubs listed on our website and two of those did not send us the information... it was gleaned from their Bulletins.

SIR RV clubs are local and sponsored by a SIR Branch to provide RV activities to their Branch and other Branch members. The State RV Committee does not interfere with their outings or activities... but we do want to have information about them and their activities so we can share it with other members in the SIR family. Please Share with us photos and information so we can publish them in our RV Bulletin. Visit our Website by clicking the RV Icon at www.sirinc.org and contact us by email at: sirstaterv@gmail.com.

If you own an RV, join one of our SIR RV groups and "Enjoy yourself!"

Don

State Bowling Committee

Carl Elvik, Chairman



I hope everyone has had fun this year...2011 is coming to a close and we still have a couple of tournaments left.

This is my last year as your State Bowling Committee Chairman and I want all of you to know that I appreciate the help you have given me. I also want to thank all of you for the work you have done for the State Bowling Committee, not just during this year, but in years past, as well. I think Sir Bowling is doing OK, according to our Treasurer anyway.

Our new State Bowling Committee Chairman will be Del Locke -- our Secretary will be Jerry Sabo -- and our Treasurer will be Ray Young. I think all of us should thank these gentlemen for volunteering their time. The entire State Committee can be found on our SIR website under Bowling.

Again, many thanks and remember Bowling is just a game... and enjoy it!



Carl

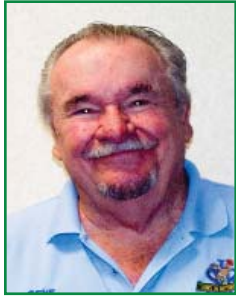
Committee Reports

State Golf Committee

Gene Drennan, Chairman

“The Last Hurrah”

It doesn't seem possible that three years have gone by since I assumed the role of your Golf Chairman. I have enjoyed serving you, and I hope that in some small way you have enjoyed -- or at least tolerated -- my writing efforts.



This year has been a real mixed bag of great, to not so great tournaments put on by your State Golf Committee. From our opening in Las Vegas, to our closing in Monterey -- just 3 days past -- we have endeavored to bring to the golfing community, tournaments that you could not only enjoy, but be financially sound.

For the most part we feel good that we have successfully accomplished these goals. We have visited many old and trusted golf sites such as Las Vegas, Reno, Solvang, Corning, and the beautiful Monterey Peninsula, and next years' Golf Committee is hard at work putting together the 2012 slate for your enjoyment.

I know that, as is with the rest of the good old US of A, it has not been the financial years that we would have liked to have, and it has affected the turnout of golfers more than we anticipated.

Hopefully, next year and the ensuing years will be better and many of our old friends that couldn't make it this year will return.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow committee members for their dedication and hard work...to all of the golfing community that have supported our efforts...and to all of you that have not participated in the past, but hopefully you will take another look at our offerings for 2012, and join up with the hundreds of Golfers who have.

To sum up... I hearken to the old philosophy: “Golf is not a life or death experience”... it's much more important than that!!!! CIAO.....

Gene

Growth & Membership Committee

Walter Schick, Chairman

I would like to remind all Sirs to replenish their SIR cards when they run out. Also don't forget to handout the TriFold Brochures to friends and also to your wives for their lady friends, who may want their retired husbands out of the house from time to time ...note the picture below on the left.



poster is printed at 10x14 inches at Costco and mounted on a 10x15 inch foam board. To hold it up, a slot is made in a primed 2x4, 10 inches long, which is simpler than a tripod. These, and a supply of TriFolds, SIR Car Stickers, and Sir calling cards all fit in a document case from a Container Store... see photo at right:

A set of holders and poster in the carrying case can be ordered from Walt Schick for \$45 including shipping. Please order the TriFolds, Stickers, and Cards separately.



An easy way to remind members to pick up some of these is to place them near the beginning of the luncheon registration table. One branch places them on a cocktail table

and another places them on the front end of the table itself. The small sign reminds members to pick up some for their use.

The brochure and card holders come from TAP Plastics or an office supply store. The



Walt

Happenings Travel Bulletin

January 21-27, 2012

Florida Keys Adventure

Enjoy a prime time visit to Miami, Key Largo, the Florida Keys and four nights in Key West. In Miami we'll take a city tour and a short air boat ride in the Everglades National Park. Then in Key Largo we'll cruise in a glass bottom boat through the largest living coral reef off our coasts. In Key West we'll stay at the Crowne Plaza La Concha in the heart of town on historic Duval Street. Key West features a host of interesting things to see and do. Cost is \$3380 PPDO which includes r/t air from SFO and 13 meals. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Contact Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765 or Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421.

February 22-March 1, 2012

The Wonders of Costa Rica

Experience the lush forests, magnificent waterfalls, rumbling volcanoes, endless coastlines, and diverse ecosystems in a place that preserves its delicate ecology for all to enjoy along with some of the most spectacular scenery you will ever experience. Trip includes r/t air, 18 meals, deluxe motor coach, hotels, and a professional naturalist tour director. Cost is \$2579 PPDO. Offered by Branch 32 Travel. Contact Mike Console at 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch at 408-274-2992.

April 9-26, 2012

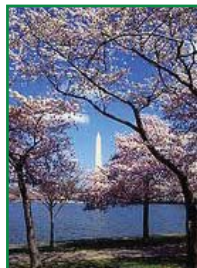
Hong Kong to Tibet via the World's Highest Railway

Fly from San Francisco to Hong Kong. Visit Hong Kong, Shanghai, Yichang, and take a four day Yangtze River cruise. Then fly to Lhasa for three days of touring and ride the luxury Tibet Express train to Xi'ning and then on to Beijing for two days before returning to SFO. Cost is \$5191 PPDO and includes r/t air, meals, accommodations, etc. Offered by Branch 35 Travel. Contact Neil Jameson at 831-336-2476 or Wayne Dawson at 408-972-1054.

April 11-16, 2012

National Cherry Blossom Festival

Celebrate the beauty of spring in Washington D.C. as the nation celebrates the festival's 100th anniversary. The tour includes reserved seating at the Cherry Blossom Parade, tram tour of Arlington, many national memorials, Kennedy Center, Smithsonian, Mt Vernon, and a Potomac River Cruise. Cost is \$2170 PPDO. Offered by Branch 32 Travel. Contact John Pletsch at 408-274-2992.



April 13-28, 2012

Hawaiian Cruise

Cruise round trip from San Francisco to the beautiful Hawaiian Islands on the Star Princess. Stops include Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui, and Ensenada. Prices range from \$2090 to \$2990 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Contact David Abrahams at 925-447-9386.

May 19-June 3, 2012

Romance of the Rhine and Mosel

Cruise aboard a private Grand Circle river ship starting in Basel, Switzerland and ending in Antwerp, Belgium. The ship will make stops at Strasbourg, Speyer, Baden-Baden, Boppard, Koblenz, Cochem, Bernkastel, Trier, Bonn, Nijmegen, Kinderdijk, and Antwerp. Prices range from \$3895 to \$5295 PPDO. Pre and post trips are also available. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Contact Ken Richter at 925-689-6217.



June 6-12, 2012

Canyon Country Experience

Spend seven days exploring the best National Parks of the Southwest and immersed in Native American Culture. Tour highlights include: Las Vegas, Grand Canyon National Park, Navajo Culture Monument, Valley Arches National Park, Colorado River jet boat ride, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capital Reef National Park, Scenic Highway 12, Bryce Canyon National Park, and Zion National Park. All inclusive trip is priced at \$2040 PPDO. Offered by Branch 73 Travel. Contact Paul Peters at 510-724-8345.

June 7-20, 2012

European Cruise

Cruise aboard the Avalon Tranquility. Visit such places as: Prague, Budapest, Vienna, and Nuremburg. All meals and nightly entertainment, including shore tours. Round trip air from SFO. All inclusive cost is \$5150 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Contact Harry Redlick at 650-583-3961.

June 15-23, 2012

Harbor-Hopping in New England

Spend two nights in Boston followed by a six night harbor-hopping cruise on the American Star. Ports of call include Providence, New Port, Bristol, New Bedford, Fall River and the storied islands of Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and Block Island. Prices range from \$4408 to \$5268 PPDO, including r/t air. Offered by Branch 153 Travel. Contact Ralph Hunt at 650-967-8467 or Alan Patmore at 408-867-4197.

September 1-14, 2012

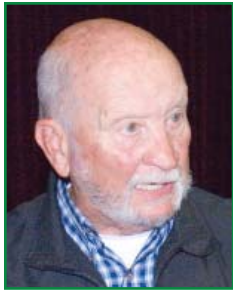
Paris, Rhone River, and Provence

Fly from San Francisco to Marseille. Cruise the Rhone River for eight days on the luxurious (5 Star rated) ship, the River Royale. Take the TGV (Bullet Train) to Paris and stay in a luxury hotel near the Eiffel Tower for five nights and enjoy guided tours of Paris and Versailles. Prices range from \$6995 to \$7915 PPDO, including r/t air. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Contact Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421 or Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765.



California Sons In Retirement (SIR) Part 4

By Harry Hubinger



Editor's Note: Harry Hubinger, the former Chairman of the Growth & Membership Committee, has written a four part series for "Alive" magazine, an East Bay publication. This interesting series tells how Rob, a fictional retiree, joins Sons In Retirement. We thought the series would be of interest to our readers and so we decided to publish the four part series. The following is

the fourth and last episode.

Update: The enjoyable path of our fictional hero, Rob, continues as he "reposts" himself after retiring from full-time business activities and discovers SIR.

Well, it has been over two and a half years now since Rob packed his belongings at work and headed home. In some respects it's hard to believe. He still remembers, talks about it, and even occasionally hears from some of the old gang. But, the freedom he now enjoys more than overcomes his desire to return to work.

One of the major contributions to his retirement enjoyment has been the membership in SIR. Admittedly, he approached joining with a bit of trepidation, but that is now long gone. He plays golf with the Branch almost weekly and has gone on several week-long outings put on by the State organization. He's back to playing cards several times a month as well. His wife has joined him and other SIR couples on morning walks and day-long exploratory trips to local venues. Although they have not gone on any of the international trips as yet, the possibility of their joining the travelers remains strong.

Best of all, Rob, has made a number of new friends. Similar to work, he found some guys he identified with and a few with which he had nothing in common. Here he was allowed to choose and soon became quite close to a number of the men. He sits with them at lunch and often stays for a drink with them after golf.

But now Rob was faced with a new dilemma... one that required some thought. He was asked, by the nominating committee, to become an officer in his Branch.

Rob had joined SIR purely for selfish reasons. He had been lonesome and at loose ends, and the organization had remedied that. The fact that there were about twenty thousand SIR members and one hundred and twenty plus branches in northern California was of minor interest to him. He focused on his own Branch of about one hundred and twenty members and didn't bother about the details.

But now Rob began to feel a little guilty about his early selfish reasons. He had received a great deal of pleasure from SIR; and being the kind of person he was, he realized he needed to return the favor and give something back... and, becoming an officer in his Branch might solve that need.

He had often wondered early on how SIR could do so much without membership fees. How could they put on so many events at a reasonable price? Then he learned there

were no paid employees or positions. All of this work was being done by volunteers, and now he was being asked to give back a little of what he had been given. Frankly, it seemed more than fair to him.

As you've probably guessed, Rob became an officer, and well, the rest is history. I'll leave it to you to finish the story.

Fresno Branch 159

Newspaper Stories for Recruiting

Allan Baxter, Big Sir

Roger Deal, Membership Chairman

We asked our local newspaper to do a story on our Branch and they sent out a reporter to one of our luncheons and ended up doing a nice story with pictures that has had excellent results for our Branch.

After the article appeared, the response was fast and furious... within hours, the emails and phone calls started. The responders were serious and looking for something like SIR has to offer. Nine of our guests at the next luncheon meeting came because of the article and all nine have been inducted as members... one of them even brought a guest on the day he was inducted.

We actively use the Tri-fold Brochure in our recruiting efforts. In addition, our Branch golf group is extremely active and contributes a sizeable number of new members each year. In the first ten months of this year, we have brought in 44 new members, well over our goal of 27 for the year. We formerly had a membership limit of 275 members before starting a waiting list, but now we have eliminated a waiting list. We are, however, approaching the limit of the number the Ramada Inn can accommodate for our luncheons, but we have found ways to work around that... any way, that's a nice problem to have.

The Fresno Bee has been very cooperative and we hope they will do a follow-on story sometime next year.

Editor's Note: To read the complete newspaper article and three other articles about SIR Branches, go to Branch & Area Ideas & Tools on the sirinc.org website.

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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