



# 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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**  
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### 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](mailto: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.

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## 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.



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## 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](mailto: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.



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*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.



# 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cnwj@comcast.net)



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