



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.



Sirs in the News

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

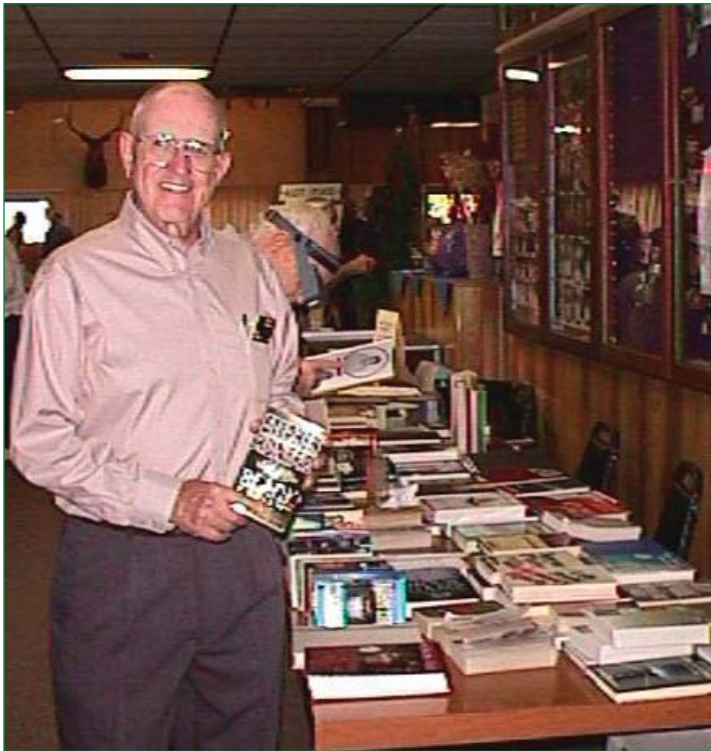
Book Swap

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

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