



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

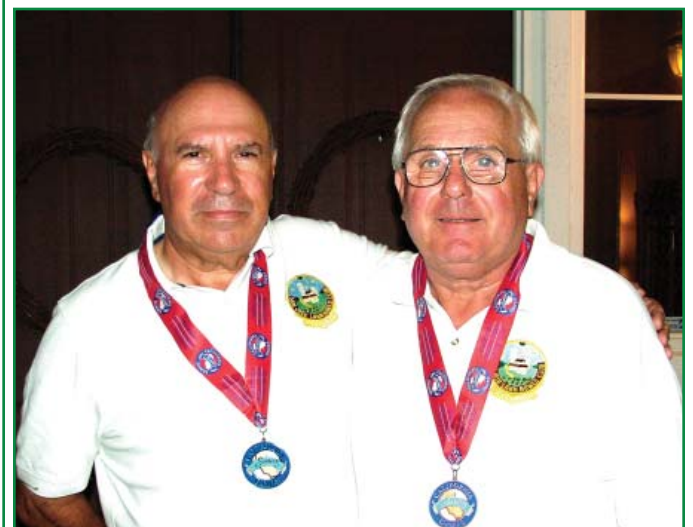
Make it Two to Go

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

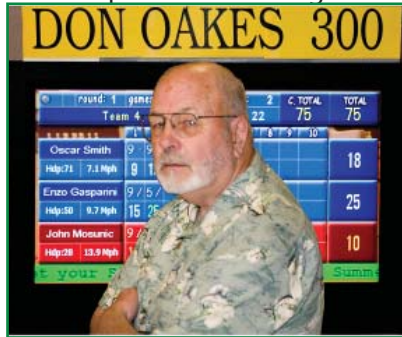
Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118, San Mateo

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.

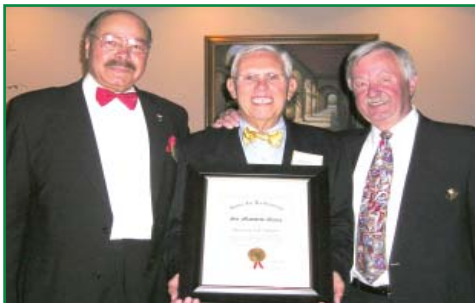
Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

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

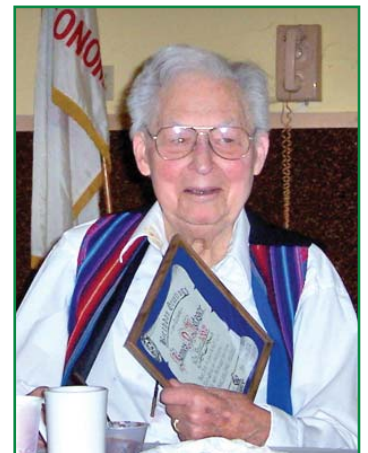
Branch 41 Celebrates a Birthday

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.

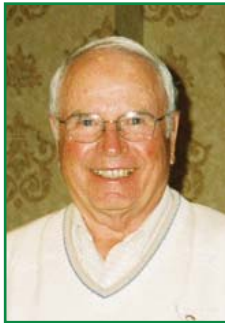


State Golf

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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