



SIR HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER 2007

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

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

President Tom's Column

Can you believe it? This is my last column for SIR Happenings since my term as your SIR State President will soon be coming to an end. I made a statement in the last publication (August 2007) that is still holding true: "Time flies when you are busy and having fun." Your State Board of Directors and State Committee Chairmen and Members have all made significant accomplishments for Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its Branches this year. I personally want to extend my thanks for their extra efforts and cooperation. I will not bore you with listing all of these accomplishments, but trust me, when I say they are significant and meaningful.

I have had the honor and pleasure of presenting around 18 Honorary Life Memberships and 4 Century SIR Certificates this year. I also had the honor of addressing the fans to welcome them and throwing out the first (honorary) pitch at SIR Day at the San Francisco Giants, when they played the Washington Nationals on August 9th. All of this presented me with the opportunity to meet a lot of people that I would not have otherwise met. Other associated things that come to mind in performing these functions was seeing and hearing the Big Band of Branch 88(Vallejo), the SIRpremes of Branch 171 (Moraga) and the SIRinaders of Branch 22 (San Rafael).

We have some real talent and some great members in our organization of retired men. Please keep up your efforts in recruiting new members. We really need them as our numbers have dipped below 22,000 this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to serve as your State President for 2007.

Yours in SIR

Tom

Solano Branch 88, Vallejo

A Terrific Big Band

Don Waterbury, Big Sir

A lot of toes were tapping to the swinging sounds of the Solano Branch 88 Big Band, during the lunch hour, at the August Annual Meeting of Sons In Retirement.

The band was formed about 25 years ago and is composed of retired guys that have played professionally over the years with many of the famous big bands... in fact, the 91 year old

vocalist, Garry Stevens, sang with such bands as Tex Beneke and Charlie Spivak and a 1942 Billboard poll listed him as one of the top four male vocalists in the

country... Frank Sinatra, of course, was in the top spot. One of the trumpet players, 74 year old Bob Summer, sang with the nationally acclaimed, Axidentals, and one of their recordings hit the number two spot on the charts, right behind a Frank Sinatra release. The group still gets together, mainly just for fun, but does an occasional gig or two each year.

At noon on luncheon days, the Big Sir calls the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge, an invocation, and then the members sing God Bless America, accompanied by the Big Band. Next, the members enthusiastically sing a song – along with the band – called, "Sons In Retirement," which was written by the brother of a member and the words are printed on the reverse side of the luncheon ticket. You can view pictures of the band and read the words to the song on the next page. Probably no other SIR Branch has an 18 piece Big Band that plays at every luncheon... it might be worth a trip to Vallejo just to hear them play at one of our Branch luncheons.



SIR Happenings Editor Sir **Don MacGregor** interviewing Big Sir **Don Waterbury** (on the left)

Annual Meeting in the News



2008 State Officers (left to right)

Assistant Treasurer Michael Berry, Treasurer Robert Mannell, Vice President David Reiser, President Arthur Pufford, Secretary William Short, and Assistant Secretary Harold 'Hal' Stevens

And the Band Played on

The Branch 88 Big Band entertained Sirs at the Annual Meeting in August



SIR Solano Branch 88 Song

"We are Sons In Retirement"

We are Sons in Retirement
We are Sons in Retirement
We are Sons in Retirement
Doing the things we want to do.
We have lunch and we go bowling
We play golf and we go touring
Take a bus to the casinos
It's all a part of fellowship.
Bring a friend to share our luncheon
Hear a lecture worth your while
Take your loved ones on a cruise ship
See the sights of our fair land.
Take a plane to the Bahamas
Take a ship to see Alaska
Take a bus to see the Rockies
All the world is our domain.

Words & Music by Sir **Hal Swan**, Branch 50

Annual Meeting Photos in the News



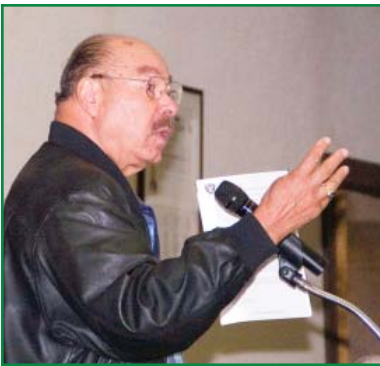
Tom Ross 2007 State President at right speaking to the Annual Meeting.

Art Pufford newly elected 2008 State President at left speaking to the Annual Meeting.



Members of the Growth and Membership Committee spoke at the Annual Meeting. Top to bottom, **Jim Petruk, Bob Crum, Thomas Smith, Carl Raaka** and Chairman **Ken Edwards**.

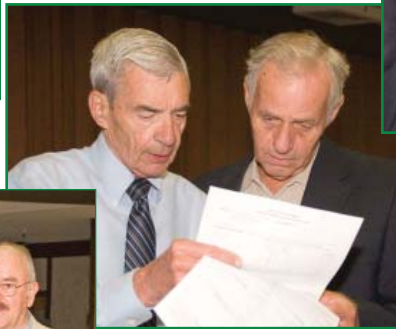
Past President **Mel Augustine** (2000) discussed how to get tickets for SIR Day at the Oakland Raiders.



Bob Perry and **Eckardt Sellinger** chatting at left during a break in the Annual Meeting.



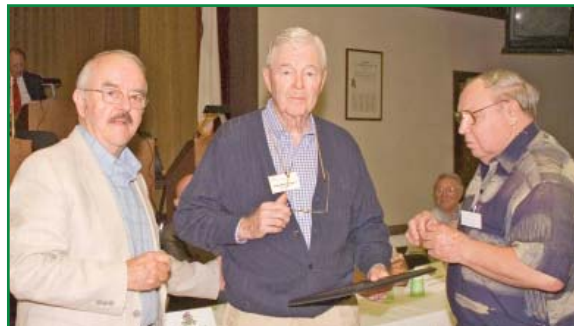
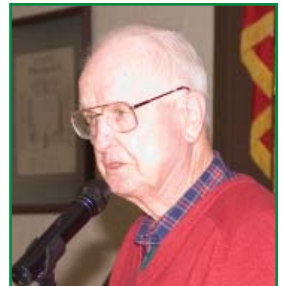
Bob Asselstine and **Al Holzer** chatting at right during a break in the Annual Meeting.



Gary Gruber at left showing form information to a fellow Sir during a break in the Annual Meeting.



President **Tom Ross** presented Honorary Life Membership awards to **Eldon Parr**, SIR State Advisor (at left), **Don MacGregor** (below) and **John Skarpelos** (left below), Editors of SIR Happenings. In the pictures at left and below, **Glen Schimelpfenig** and **Bill Short** are helping Ross to make the awards.



Sirs in the News

Mission Trail Branch 35, Palo Alto

Tin Can Sailor

William Bryson, Member Branch 35

I became a Tin Can Sailor on October 8, 1944 when I swung aboard the *USS Burns*, a Fletcher class destroyer operating with Task Force 38 in the Pacific. Two days later, I received a Japanese “welcome” in the form of an air attack during which a Japanese twin-engine aircraft fell – trailing smoke and flames – into the water near the *Burns*. I had found the ship I had been seeking for over two months, and the Pacific war had found me.

Late in 1944, the Japanese formed a Special Attack Corps of suicide pilots called “kamikazes” or “divine wind.” I witnessed the devastation caused by a single kamikaze attack on a small aircraft carrier during the Lingayen Gulf



invasion of the Philippine Islands. A twin-engine bomber dove into the *USS Ommaney Bay* on the starboard side of the flight deck,

its bombs exploding below the flight deck.

We went alongside the carrier to rescue men trapped on the burning flight deck. My battle station, in the gun director above the bridge, afforded me a close-up view of the rescue operation, the death of a proud ship, and the agony of her crew. *Burns* placed her bow against the carrier’s forward flight deck to rescue three trapped men. Small caliber ammunition in the ready magazines of the carrier started to explode. Suddenly a thunderous explosion shook the *Ommaney Bay*, and showered us with debris.

Fortunately, the large explosions did not injure any of our crew, but the blasts killed two men on a nearby destroyer. Fires spread throughout the ship, turning it into a blazing inferno. After all remaining members of the crew had abandoned ship, the *Burns* sank the *Ommaney Bay* with a single torpedo. The torpedo struck with a tremendous blast, and broke the mortally wounded carrier in half. Pieces of the ship splashed into the water all around us, but fortunately none struck our ship. Within six minutes after impact, we sadly watched *Ommaney Bay* sink beneath the sea.

The *Burns* rescued 158 surviving officers and men of the *Ommaney Bay*. The carrier lost ninety-five men killed and sixty-five wounded in the kamikaze attack.

Editor’s Note: Bill Bryson is a member of Branch 35 and the above story is only a brief synopsis of his story... for the whole story and fascinating stories about other Branch 35 veterans, go to the Branch 35 website: www.closereach.com/sir/

San Francisco Branch 4

Presidential Awardees

Flor Mendoza, Big Sir

Branch 4 is pleased to congratulate its Presidential Awardees. In the picture from left to right are: Region 5 Director “**Buck**” **Kendrick**, **William Sandy**, **Nick Roccas**, **Jackson Steuben**, Big Sir **Flor Mendoza**, **David Krow**, Area 4 Governor **James Adams** and **Frank Stanley**. Not in the picture are **Ed Woodward** and **Berthold Herpe**.

During the meeting, Big Sir Flor Mendoza presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Region 5 Director, “Buck” Kendrick, for being the Guest Speaker during the July 3rd special membership meeting of Branch 4.



Twin Peaks-Portola Branch 25

President's Award

Nick Fesunoff, Bulletin Editor

Centenarian **Peter Citron**, of the Twin Peaks Portola Branch 25, is seen showing off his President’s Award. The next day, the Branch treated Peter and his family to the Sirs Day baseball game at AT&T Park.

Peter, who reached his 100th on the 17th of July, was Big Sir of Branch 44 in 1979 and initiated the Past Big Sir Luncheons. Before his retirement, he was a Vice President at Western Pacific Railroad and a volunteer Fire Captain during World War I.

Standing behind Peter in the picture are (left to right) State President **Tom Ross**, Region 5 Director **Floyd “Buck” Kendrick**, and **James “Jay” Adams**, Area 4 Governor. Seated is Sir **Paul Wallace**, Peter’s close friend and driver.



Sirs in the News

Monterey Peninsula Branch 28

This Sir Helped turn the Tide at the Battle of Midway

Bill Meyer, Branch Member

Our Branch member, **Bill Cullin**, was born in Pittsburgh on November 30, 1917 and shortly thereafter, his family moved to Seattle. After attending the University of Washington, Bill decided to join the Navy and completed flight school in Corpus Christi about the time Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Cullin found himself assigned to a reconnaissance squadron and became involved in the Battle of Midway. Japan's fleet centered around the four large aircraft carriers that had been part of the force that attacked Pearl Harbor. The U.S. Fleet had only two seaworthy aircraft carriers –USS Enterprise and USS Hornet – and a hastily patched together USS Yorktown. Cullin was a member of the squadron that spotted the Japanese fleet

At the end of the battle, all four Japanese carriers were sunk and the U.S. lost the Yorktown. The Battle of Midway was a turning point in the Pacific and was the first major defeat for the Japanese armed forces.

After twenty years of Naval service, Bill embarked on a highly successful business and teaching career, working for several aerospace companies and teaching at several institutes including the War College and USC.

Bill's wife Shelly (pictured with Bill), also had a distinguished professional career. She modestly describes her career as a "Cabaret Singer," but she was more than that... She was an actress and a singer on radio and television, and musical theater and performed with the likes of Carol Channing, Xavier Cugat, and Robert Mitchum.



Miwok Branch 134, San Rafael

Annual BBQ

Dick Crocker, Bulletin Editor

Branch 134 held its annual BBQ in August, at Stafford Lake Park in Novato. The weather was perfect and the location ideal for this popular event. It was attended by 139 members and "significant others." Chairman **John Dubyak**, together with 17 SIR volunteers, served 10-oz. NY sirloin steaks (see picture at right), as well as salad, beans, bread, cake, soft drinks, and beer. Because this activity is put on by members (as opposed to being catered), we are able to realize a significant profit, which is used to help fund our regular expenses.

Even though this has always been one of our best-attended events, John is sending out a questionnaire to all members asking for ways to make it even better.



Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Honorary Life Member

Greg Lynch, Bulletin Editor

Branch 125 is proud to honor **Robert D. Rung** with an Honorary Life Membership. For the past sixteen Years Bob has been the committee chairman responsible for each of the two major events the branch puts on each year... a Barbecue in July and the Christmas Party in December. In addition, he has served as a branch director and was also the luncheon facility coordinator for many years. Because of Bob's close oversight and outstanding management of the BBQ and Christmas Party, they have been financially self-supporting... never requiring support from the branch treasury.

Bob Rung (shown in the picture with his wife Pat) has performed his many duties in a faithful and outstanding manner and it is estimated that over the past sixteen years, Bob has devoted more than 2400 hours of service to the Branch. His efforts have certainly contributed greatly to the well being and enjoyment of the members of Branch 125.



Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

300 Bowler

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Bill Ikerd bowled his first 300 game with the Branch 94 Bowling Group and is shown in the picture proudly holding that magic 300 number. Bill is a 178 average bowler.



Modesto Branch 144

Honorary Life Members

Jared Hawkins, Bulletin Editor

Posing for a picture are the Branch 144 Honorary Life Members. From left to right: **Julius Manrique, Frank**

Pierson, Otto Zimmermann, and past State President **Bob Curley.**



Sirs in the News

Lamorinda Branch 171, Moraga

Honorary Life Members

Bill Sumner, Big Sir

SIR President **Tom Ross** and Area 2 Governor **Harry Hubinger** recently installed two new Honorary Life Members at Lamorinda Branch 171. The new honorees are **Ted Westphal** and **Clay Sealy** and join three other Branch 171 Honorary Life Members.

Ted Westphal and Clay Sealy are shown in the picture holding their new plaques and the others in the picture from left to right are: Area Governor **Harry Hubinger**, SIR President **Tom Ross**, **Ted Westphal**, **Clay Sealy** and Big Sir **Bill Sumner**.



Chabot Branch 6, Castro Valley

Senior Certificates

Ken Wright, Big Sir

I would like to honor five members of our Branch who received Senior Certificates after attaining the age of 90. They are left to right: **Ney Landry**, **Frank Carcot**, **Bud Simmons**, **George Lewis**, and **Norman Franke**.

Congratulations gentlemen and I hope your next award will be the Super Senior Certificate for 95 years young.



The Encinal Branch 177, Sunnyvale

Senior Certificate

Roland Rempel, Big Sir

Melvin Rutz is shown receiving a Senior SIR Certificate for his 90th year award. Mel is a charter member of the branch and has served in elected offices as well as many committee chairs, during his 24 years as a member of Sons In Retirement.

The photo shows from left to right: Big Sir **Roland Rempel** presenting the certificate to **Melvin Rutz** with Area 20 Governor **Fred Mollerus** looking on.



The Villages Branch 114, San Jose

Parade Trophy Winner

J. Graham, Branch Photographer

In the picture, **Bob Lindberg** and wife, Kay, are standing in front of their decorated golf cart, which was entered in The Villages Annual 4th of July Parade. Bob made a copy of the Wehner Mansion, which was located on the original property here in 1889. Bob's entry won the "Best Overall Trophy" for his display.



State Golf

Dave Betts, State Golf Chairman

The State Golf Committee will be undergoing its biggest single year personnel change for as long as I can remember. **John Cooper**, our Operations Sub-committee Chairman for the past 12 years, will be retiring at the end of this year. He has actually served on the committee for 13 years. John's experience, knowledge, and ability will be greatly missed by the rest of the committee. **Wayne Thush**, currently the Division 1 Golf Chairman, will be taking John's place as Chairman of the Operations Sub-committee. **John Crawford** will be replacing Wayne, as Division 1 Chairman. **Don Dill**, Division 2, is stepping down after serving for 2 years and will be replaced by **Don Andrews**. **Dave Scharton**, Division 5, is also leaving after serving 2 years on the committee and will be replaced by **Ron Witort**. **Don Hansen** will be a new member, serving on the Policy Subcommittee.

The 2008 State Tournament schedule is being finalized. We will have one week in Las Vegas... March 31st thru April 4th. Three weeks in Reno, running from June 2nd through June 20th. The State Team Championship will be on August 11th at Poppy Ridge. The State Individual Championship will be at Poppy Hills on November 3rd and 4th.

We are planning 2 Mexico trips next year... Air/Land to Cabo San Lucas on October 18th thru the 25th and a cruise on the Star Princess from November 10th thru 20th. Brochures with all of the details will be mailed very soon.

The FALL CLASSIC, usually held in Solvang in September, has not been finalized at this writing and could possibly be held in a different location. We are considering both Solvang and Palm Springs.

Now that our website is established, please use it to keep up to date on state golfing activities and tournament results. If you have comments or suggestions, contact me at golfer.dfb@sbcglobal.net.

State Baseball

SIR Day at the Giants

State President, **Tom Ross**, is shown addressing the large crowd during the pre-game festivities at AT&T Park. Tom had just thrown out the first ceremonial pitch for what he tells Happenings, was a "perfect strike." In the lower right photo Tom is joined by **Jim Wyatt**, 2007 SIR Giants Chairman.



State Bowling

William "Coop" Cooper, State Bowling Chairman

Hello SIR bowlers. We have the largest participation sport in the free world. If you know someone who does not bowl, take them bowling one weekend. The SIR State Bowling Committee will be presenting the first SIR Honor Score, Award Watch, to **Allan Close** of Branch 73. Allan bowled a 300 game a couple years ago, when we first decided to start the program. Well, we finally got the award program on the road and running. The State Bowling Chairman will present the watch to Allan Close at his November Branch luncheon.

Let's Go Bowling ! Coop

San Juan Branch 102, Carmichael

Golf Outing

Mickey Wagner, Bulletin Editor

Our annual Carson City golf trip was another successful event for Branch 102. The weather couldn't have been better for mid-July in Nevada, and some guys, especially "A" flight, played unbelievable golf.

The team of **Larry Lacert**, **Archie Noriega**, **Jack Cook** and **Bob Baker** won the scramble with a gross score of 64. **Bob Friend**, **Dave Allen** and **Ron Jeffers** won the B, C and D flights with net scores of 64, 65 and 62. Wow! What a day for golfers. **Mike Moore** and **Gunner Haug** each had net scores of 60 in the medal round at Empire Ranch and it required us to resort to a fourth tiebreaker hole before Mike was declared the winner of the coveted "Blue Jacket."

Everyone had a great time. The food was great, the

awards dinner went extremely well and of course, there was some gambling at the Nugget, which even had some one cent machines. However, no one admitted how much they won in case the IRS reads this. Hanging out with fellow Sirs (in the picture) is priceless.



Chuck Shoemaker, our Travel Chairman, and his great crew deserve kudos for making this event so enjoyable for everyone. In fact, the trip was so much fun, another golf outing to Carson City is scheduled for late September.



News from the Branches

Wine Valley Branch 149, Napa

Mystery Trip

Barre Hilton, RV Coordinator

The **Gene Combs'** residence was the setting for the Napa Roving Roosters RV Club's, "Illustrious "Mystery Trip." 16 Rigs, and three additional couples, joined together for a fun celebration of the July 4th Independence Day Holiday.

For some, the outing began with golf at the Yountville Golf Course. Following golf, we gathered for a "bring your own meat and a dish to share" dinner and then came the "Mystery Play," directed by the Hiltons... the characters in the play are shown in the picture. Only about half the audience solved the mystery.



July 4th started with a great breakfast fixed by the head chef, **Joan Combs**, and her committee of helpers. Next came a game of baseball, coached by **Arnold and Betty Nelson**... the men won the game, so the ladies and men are now tied in their on-going series. There was then time for visiting before our BBQ dinner, followed by BUNCO, led by **Tom and Judy Jensen**. "Gene's Card Room" was open and there were some lively Poker Games under the guidance of **Barre Hilton** and **Bill Hester**. Fireworks, at the Yountville Veterans Home, enjoyed by all and then to bed.

On Thursday morning, we all said goodbye and headed off for the short trip back to Napa. Thanks to our hosts, Gene and Joan Combs, for a wonderful two days!

San Jose Branch 10

Flag Ceremony

Mike Nunziata, Branch Member

An extraordinary presentation on the American flag was made at the July Ladies Luncheon of SIR Branch 10. **Don Yeager** – with help from his troopers – started on a plain white palette and assembled the American Flag – piece-by-piece – carefully explaining each element's significance and placement. Then the members saw a Flag emerge in all its glory.

Later a Flag was folded (see picture) with deep reverence and care and a step-by-step explanation of the proper method.

Don Yeager's goal is to make this presentation in all schools and appreciates anyone that could help him with school references. Contact Don at: nunziata@prodigy.net



Mission Branch 32, San Jose

A Nice Day for a Picnic

Bruce Henry, Little Sir

In June, Mission Branch 32 held its annual Ladies Day Picnic. A large group of members, spouses, and guests enjoyed a catered barbecued lunch at the Saratoga Springs Resort in the Santa Cruz Mountains above Saratoga Village (see picture).

As usual, the weather was sunny, but not too hot, and the attendees enjoyed being together in this beautiful setting.

After a social hour and a delicious lunch, everyone enjoyed several lively rounds of Bingo.

The Branch was honored to have Region 7 Director Dave Reisser and his wife Ester and Area 20 Governor Fred Mollerus and his wife Dot, as guests at the picnic.

After the picnic ended, several folks stayed on to enjoy more socializing and the wonderful day.



Mid-Peninsula Branch 51, Los Altos

Summer Picnic

Dan Rubin, Big Sir

The Branch 51 summer picnic was held at the Fremont Hills Country Club in Los Altos Hills last May. We had an eleven piece banjo band, beer (and other drinks) and a great barbecue. The music had some people dancing and many singing along. The barbecue included delicious chicken and mouth watering spicy sausage. The weather cooperated very well, with just a little too much sunshine.

The picnic was organized by **Ed Wright** (shown in the picture) and **John Dusterberry** assisted him. Many thanks to both of you for a wonderful affair!



News from the Branches

American River Branch 67, Carmichael

Fun Bridge

Jack Derby, Bulletin Editor

Branch 67 has a bridge group that meets once a month on the 3rd Wednesday. We play a not too serious game of party bridge. Our leader, **Paul Rader**, calls it fun bridge and we do have fun.

Every one throws in a couple of bucks to provide prize money and sometimes we serve cookies. We meet at Coco's Restaurant in Citrus Heights (in the Sacramento Area) at 9:30 in the morning and we usually have three to five tables (see picture).

We could use a few more players and anyone in the Sacramento area that is interested, should call **Paul Rader** at 916-961-3698 or email **Jack Derby** at:

jackderby@comcast.net.



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Bocce Champs

Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

In addition to a great BBQ, and prizes and games, at the Branch 15 & 96 Annual Ladies Day picnic, is the Bocce Ball Tournament. The tournament is directed by Branch 96 member, **Sam Mazzariello**... affectionately called "Sam Mazza" by his friends.

This year's champs were from Branch 15 and from left to right are: **Butch Fisher, Sam Mazza, and Mike Sanford.**



Editors Note: If you are thinking of setting up a website for your branch you can go to <http://sirbranch.com/> and find out how Bill Winslow, SIR webmaster, can help you set one up.

Crystal Springs Branch 142, San Mateo

Ancient Game of Bocce is Still Popular

Al Armand, Directory Editor & Don Parrish, Bulletin Editor

Bocce is based on one of the most primitive concepts in sports history, and Branch 142 members have taken to playing the game every Thursday at a local park facility, even though it is no more than rolling a hard ball at an inactive target.

It offers an outlet for our members for recreation, relaxation and to compete and it has become one of our favorite activities. As Bocce became more popular than ever in Branch 142, it was decided to expand the games as an intersectional challenge to other SIR branches.

Even though the game has evolved and changed greatly over the years, the overall goal of trying to toss an object as close to a target as possible, still remains. The game of Bocce made its way from Greece and then to Rome and now to SIR Branch 142 for all to enjoy.

Our Branch started with about twelve players and is now fielding more than 20 players. Our motto is, "First we will finish the game and then we will eat hot dogs and hamburgers."

In the photo **Leo McLaughlin** is ready to roll a Bocce ball down the lane.



Happenings Travel Bulletin

November 2007

November 16-20, 2007
Branson Holiday Showtime

Fly from San Jose to Springfield to see Yakov Smirnoff, Shoji Tabuchi, Christmas on Broadway, Red Skelton Tribute, Red Hot Blues, Les Brown Band, Andy Williams, Daniel O'Donnell, Festival of Lights and much more. Breakfast and dinner daily. All tips, transportation, and touring included. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call **Allen Daily** at (408) 265-8240.

December 2007

December 30, 2007-January 3, 2008

Celebrate The New Year in San Antonio, Texas



Spend four nights at the Hilton Paseo del Rio and enjoy a gala New Year's Eve dinner and dancing. Also included are a New Year's Day brunch, a full day of sightseeing, a boat cruise down the river front, a visit to the Alamo, and many other attractions. Cost is \$1410 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Harry Redlick** at (650) 583-3961. Branch 96 Travel, Call **Lee Suess** at (209) 296-2235.

January 2008

January 5-16, 2008
Panama Canal

Cruise the Panama Canal on the Island Princess. Fly from San Francisco to Acapulco and board the ship. Ship stops include: Huatulco, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Cartagena (Columbia), Aruba, and ending in San Juan for an extra day and then fly back to SFO. Prices range from \$2585 to \$3045 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call **Ray Kreiss** at (650) 968-4299.

February-March 2008

February 28-March 9, 2008
Tahiti-Cook Island Cruise

Cruise on the 670 passenger Tahitian Princess. Visit Papeete, Huahine, Rarotonga, Raiatea, Bora Bora, and Moorea. Prices range from \$3390 to \$3640 PPDO. Due to the popularity of this cruise, and limited space in each category, early sign-up is important. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **Werner Schlapfer** at (925) 443-8291.



March 26 to April 2, 2008
Discover the French Riviera

Fly from Sacramento to Nice, France. The trip begins in Nice and includes Ventimiglia, Italy, Grasse, St Paul de Vence, Saint Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Cannes, and Monaco. Single hotel stay includes 10 meals. Cost is \$2179 PPDO. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call **Bill Massie** at (530) 342-2784.

April 2008

April 11-20, 2008
Romantic Rhine River Cruise

This is a 10 day cruise from Zurick to Amsterdam. It includes a one night stay in Zurick. The towns we will visit are: Strasbourg, France; Heidelberg, Germany; Mainz, Germany; Coblenz, Germany; Cologne, Germany; and Amsterdam, Holland. All shipboard meals included, air transportation from Bay Area to Zurick and return from Amsterdam. Prices range from \$3320-\$4345 PPDO. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call **John Hoffmann** (707) 642-4925.

April 18-29, 2008
Rocky Mountaineer

A Trans-Canada rail adventure from Vancouver to Toronto, with overnights in Kamloops and Banff. Stay at the famous Fairmont Chateau Hotel at Lake Louise, visit Icefields Parkway – with a ride to the Athabasca Glacier – and see Niagara Falls. Cost is \$4039 PPDO. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Pete Lepisto** at (209) 948-2265.

April 23-May 1, 2008
Riverbarging on the Mississippi

The trip runs from New Orleans to Memphis, with large staterooms, including bath. Trip Includes meals, tours, tips, shows, air, and overnights in New Orleans and Memphis. Prices range from \$2825 to \$3025 PPDO. Offered by Area 19 Travel. Call **Ron dePass** at (530) 644-1405.

May 2008

May 3-17, 2008
Cruising the Pacific Northwest

Cruise the Pacific Northwest from San Francisco aboard Royal Caribbean's Serenade of the Seas. 9 ports of call including, Ports-Astoria, Seattle, Victoria, Juneau, Sitka and Prince Rupert. Prices range from \$2170 to \$3300 PPDO. Offered by Area 14 Travel. Call **Jerry Wisenor** at (209) 334-5181.

May 14-22, 2008
Whistler Mountaineer/Rocky Mountaineer

This trip will include a city tour of Vancouver, 3 days aboard the Rocky Mountaineer train from Vancouver to Whistler, Quesnel, and Jasper, 2 nights at Banff National Park and the last night in Calgary. The trip includes 15 hosted meals. Cost is \$3160 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call **David Abrahams** at (925) 447-9386.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

June 2008

June 6-19, 2008

Baltic Heritage Cruise

An exciting adventure through the mystical ports of the Baltic Sea aboard the grand and beautiful new CROWN PRINCESS. We fly from San Jose to Copenhagen for a two night stay and a full day tour of Hans Christian Andersen land prior to setting sail for Stockholm, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Gdansk, Oslo and back to Copenhagen for our flight home. Prices range from \$3,990 to \$4,960 PPDO. Offered by Areas 5 & 20. Call **Allen Daily** at (408) 265-8140.

September 2008

September 5-14, 2008

Grand Alaska Land Tour

The Grand Alaska escorted land tour is an experience of a lifetime. See spectacular mountains and valleys; watch wildlife and sea life in their natural habitat and view enormous glaciers. This is the perfect tour for previous cruisers to Alaska. We will travel to Anchorage, Valdez, Fairbanks, and Denali National Park. Trip includes all air transportation, most meals, professional tour manager, round trip transportation to Bay Area airport, and other amenities. Price is \$3090 PPDO. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call **John Hoffmann** at (707) 642-4925.

September 25-October 10, 2008

River Cruise on the Rhine & Danube

A 16 day River Cruise beginning in Budapest, Hungary and finishing in Amsterdam. Our journey will take you to 11 cities in Hungary, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. You'll explore the regal splendor of Budapest, meander along the fabled "Blue Danube" to Vienna, transit the Main-Danube Canal and glide past Germany's castles (during Oktoberfest) to the canals of Holland. All meals, tours and flights are included. Cost is \$4,515 PPDO. Offered by Branch 172 Travel. Call **Earl Nelson** at 209-586-5661.

Editors Note: We hope to make Sirs aware of the many travel opportunities being offered by the various travel programs operating throughout Sons In Retirement and to give all of our Sirs the opportunity to take advantage of these trips. We hope this feature in Happenings will encourage our members to do more traveling with their fellow Sirs.

To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on these travel pages was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

October 2008

October 6-19, 2008

Danube Dream

Glide past fairy-tale castles and medieval villages aboard the river cruise ship, MS Switzerland II, traveling the second longest river in Europe. Take in views of the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, and Hungary. Many shore excursions are included with visits to interesting cities and historic sites. Trip includes r/t air from SFO to Budapest, with return from Prague. Prices range from \$3415 to \$3660 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call **Bob Hagler** at (925) 934-7620.

October 24-November 4, 2008

Cruise the Mexican Riviera

Cruise aboard the Norwegian Sun, roundtrip from San Francisco. Ports of call will be: Mazatlan, Acapulco, Zihuatejo/Xtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas. This trip has real bargain rates, so, it will go fast. Prices range from only \$1035 to \$1580 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Paul Thiebaut** at (925) 345-9375.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CRUISE OF

HAWAII

April 3 - 12, 2008

SIR 50th Anniversary Cruise
The Islands of HAWAII
April 3 - 12, 2008
Celebrate the anniversary of
50 years of SIR travel
on board the US flagged
PRIDE OF AMERICA

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email **Don MacGregor** at: donmac@hughes.net

Dear Editor

I wish to thank the delegates to our Annual Meeting for accepting the recommendations of the State Nominating Committee, chaired by Past President Bob Curley, and electing the entire slate of officers for 2008.

I owe a great big "thank you" to Past President, Jim Donovan, who appointed me to serve on the Rules Committee in 2005. It was my first opportunity to serve on a State Committee and to be able to share my views with other committee members. It was because of the friendship I experienced serving on that committee, that I decided to become a Regional Director and later submitted my application to become State Vice President.

Serving as a Branch Officer, Area Governor, Regional Director and Vice President was not on my agenda when I joined SIR. However, the more I got involved the more fun I found myself having. I encourage each and every one of you to consider getting more involved. If you are already a Branch Officer, volunteer to become an Area Governor. As an Area Governor you are the first person in the chain of command between the Branch and the State. You will have the opportunity to visit other branches and to make more friends... you might even wind up being Vice President. SinSIRly,

Dave Reiser, 2008 Vice President
dereiser@msn.com



Dear Editor:

Thanks... a super job. My compliments.
Hal Fox, Branch 1

Dear Editor:

I just downloaded the new issue of SIR Happenings and find it to be, as usual, a top notch publication. I look forward to every release of a new one.

Tom Bowie, Big Sir, Branch 148

Dear Editor:

Excellent! Very informative.

Alfred Leidy, Big Sir, Branch 67

Dear Editor:

Another exceptional issue of Happenings. Congratulations!

Marvin Arnold, Branch 169

Thanks very much to all for taking the time to email us and we really appreciate all those nice comments.

Dear Editor:

Good job editing the Henry Broock and Rich MacDougall picture in the August edition.

Nick Fesunoff, Bulletin Editor, Branch 25

Thanks, Nick... my associate, John Skarpelos, did that nice editing job of the picture.

Dredgers Branch 112, Rancho Cordova

Like to Fish?

Jim Readnour, Fishing Club Secretary

The Wheels & Reels Fishing Club of Branch 112 focuses on catching trout and kokanee, but we also participate in ocean fishing trips to the Bay Area. We also take trips to Alaska, Canada, and Mexico for a variety of fish. We have a Fisherman of the Year contest with trophies and prizes awarded at our Christmas Luncheon. We also have monthly fishing derbies at a variety of lakes, including Folsom, Comanche, Amador, Berryessa, as well as high country lakes. The winner of the September trout derby, at Ice House, was **Hilmer Felton** (in the picture), **Ralph Schuhriemen** took second place and **John Frantz** came in third.



Members attending outings earn points toward the Fisherman of the Year award and win cash prizes. We also publish "The Backlash," a fishing newsletter, with information (and pictures) on what's going on in the club.

We welcome any Sir to join us at one of our monthly breakfast meetings, held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in Coco's Restaurant on the corner of Madison and Sunrise in Citrus Heights. We always have a speaker to talk about some interesting aspect of fishing and it's a chance to learn a lot about area fishing. We'll look forward to your visit!

If you have any questions, give **Jim Readnour** Club Secretary, a call at (916) 965-8711.

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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