



SIR HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2008

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

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

President Art's Column

I hope you and your family had a happy holiday. I wish you all a wonderful New Year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President for 2008. It is both an honor and a privilege. "Working Together for Success" is our theme for this year. This requires a two-way communication between us. I anticipate such an exchange of information will be both beneficial and effective in furthering our Organization. I believe that each of us has the ability to make this a memorable year for the SIR Organization.

We continue to face challenges, that is true, but challenges are what make us grow and learn. Membership recruitment has been and always will be the key to SIR success. I know you all have worked diligently in support of increasing membership. I thank you for your leadership. I encourage you to continue with your efforts. We all know that declining membership is not unique to SIR. To achieve any success, we must accelerate working together. We need to hear of your recruiting and retention successes and share them with all of our Branches, so keep the communication lines open between us. We have a long list of interesting activities for our members, so invite a friend for lunch and introduce him to all our opportunities.

Each year we search for volunteers for a number of Branch and State level offices. We all know that SIR depends on volunteers to conduct every aspect of its affairs. Volunteers spend approximately 3 to 4 hours a month to do their work, but they also enjoy spending time with and making more friends. Are you getting all that you should out of SIR? This may be the right time for you to volunteer and to get involved. Your reward will be the satisfaction you will feel, working with and getting to know more members.

July 23, 2008, will be the 50th anniversary of Sons In Retirement. A kick-off luncheon was held in San Mateo on July 23, 1958. A second meeting was held on August 20, 1958, and the eighteen members present adopted the name, Sons In Retirement. Be sure to recognize our anniversary in your monthly luncheon meetings in July. I look forward to working with all of you in 2008.

Art

Country Club Branch 33, Carmichael

What a Terrific Chorus!

Gary Voet, Branch 33 member

Clyde Kidd never met Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, but he certainly understands what the great American poet meant when he wrote: "Music is the universal language of mankind." Kidd is the director of the Country Club Aires, a chorus and "band" sponsored by Sons in Retirement, Carmichael Branch 33. It happens more times than not during the group's 70-plus performances a year



that Kidd -- and the rest of the 50-member ensemble -- experience what Longfellow was talking about.

"We have one place we perform that has a lot of people recovering from strokes," said Kidd, who has been the director for the past seven years of the group's 35-year existence. "They are in wheelchairs, gurneys, and are not very communicative. But, pretty soon you see somebody mouthing the words, or see a foot tapping. When certain songs are played it helps them remember where they were, what they were doing, and who they were with."

"In some cases some of the people we play for have been waiting for an hour or so for our show," said banjo player **Glenn Lee**. "When we come on you'd swear they are asleep...but all of a sudden they smile and their eyes light up. We play music that was popular 50 or 60 years ago and it brings back memories for a lot of them. When you see that joy, that excitement in them, it is a feeling you just can't get over."

The group ranges in age from 62 to 96 and the band

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Sirs in the News

Chabot Branch 6, Castro Valley

Senior Certificates

Ken Wright, Big Sir

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

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



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What a Terrific Chorus!

consists of banjo, acoustic and electric guitar (the acoustic guitar player is blind), bass, drums (the drummer is 90), harmonica, violin, and piano player. Most have a repertoire of 200-300 songs... which is good, since there is no sheet music handed out by Kidd.

"We have a unique style," admits Kidd. "We use only the lyrics. We refer to our music as "sing-along," patterned after the old Mitch Miller Show. I give a copy of each song to each member and they mark that copy with the way I want the song sung. You don't have to read music -- just mark the copy in your own handwriting with your own code -- learn some of the hand signals I use -- and just sing."

Fred Stallcop manages the business side for the group. Even with the month of July off, the group still manages to schedule 70-plus outings, all ranging from performances at convalescent homes to appearances at the California State Fair. "We are already booked well into December of 2008," said Stallcop. "We usually do one a week but December is about every day."

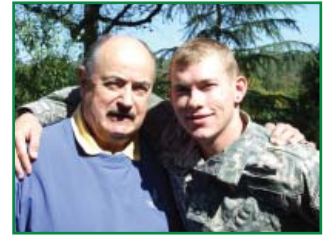


Lake Wildwood Branch 11, Penn Valley

New Patriot

Larry Bailey – Wildwood Independent (abridged)

At a Lake Wildwood Branch luncheon last fall, Big Sir **Bob Welti**, introduced a twenty-year old paratrooper in full combat uniform who was home on a two-week leave from Afghanistan. His introduction of the speaker was personal and quite emotional, because it was his Grandson, PFC **Greggory Gibbs.**



Greggory is with the much heralded, 173rd Airborne Brigade, based an hour or so out of Chokay, Afghanistan in the dangerous southeastern part of the country. His 20-man platoon – at their semi-permanent mountain checkpoint position – has a clear view of neighboring Pakistan and the constant muzzle and mortar blasts of incoming enemy fire aimed at him and his buddies.

His presentation included videos and stills of his experiences and those of his comrades. "We have two main firefights a week that last from 30 minutes to two hours," said Gibbs. "The other five days there is something less intense. In these little firefights, they're checking how we respond," he says. "They analyze our actions to prepare for another main attack days later. To counter them we never repeat the same plan for our command area." His platoon has four Humvees. "When on patrol I'm in the lead vehicle and operate a 50-caliber machine gun." Greggory and his team also do a lot of walking. "Many days we'll do six to eight hours going from 4,000 feet to 6,000 feet or more – up and down – walking an hour and resting five minutes, then trekking again." Foot patrol duties include gathering intelligence, vehicle and home searches, engaging the enemy and interacting in a positive way with Afghans.

At the conclusion of his talk, a questioner asked when he will be returning to Afghanistan. "I'm going home October 8," he said. When asked his definition of "home," he replied, "Afghanistan is home for me and my fellow paratroopers. My comrades are my life. I cry with them ... I bleed with them ... I laugh with them ... we share our triumphs and our fears ... our highs and lows. They are my family ... my best friends. We live together and tomorrow, we may suffer together. Yes, I am looking forward to going home and being with them again." He paused and looked lovingly at Grandfather Bob Welti. "I am very lucky. I have two families - two homes - that I love and that love me."

Sirs in the News

Alvarado Branch 73, San Pablo

Honorary Life Memberships

Bob Perry, Bulletin Editor

We were recently honored to have SIR President, **Tom Ross**, present Honorary Life Memberships to **David Rohrer** and **Jim Sugiyama**, at a Branch 73 luncheon meeting.

Over the past three years, as members entered the Moose Hall for our monthly luncheon meeting, a good natured, Tom Rohrer, was usually the one handing members their badges. Tom joined Branch 73 in 1995, and immediately became active in the affairs of the branch and has remained quite active ever since. From 1996 through 1997, he was the Attendance Chairman. Then in 1998, he became Little Sir and following that, he was the Big Sir. After that, he became one of the Branch Directors and also accepted the job of Badge Chairman.

Over a period of time, Tom Rohrer became familiar with many of the requirements of the SIR Organization, which resulted in his nomination and recent election as Area 7 Governor, but this had one draw back ...he reluctantly had to quit being a Director of Branch 73 when he became an Area Governor, according to SIR rules.



Pictured left to right are: **Tom Ross**, **David Rohrer**, Regional Director **Glen Schimelpfenig**, and Area 7 Governor **Frank Morris**.

Multi-talented and multi-tasking, Shigeki "Jim" Sugiyama, was also recognized with an Honorary Life Membership for his many years of service to Branch 73.

It was back in 1993, that Jim was first invited to a Branch 73 luncheon meeting. He immediately found the group enjoyable and quickly joined up. He later became an Executive Board member, and then Big Sir and served as Bulletin Editor at the same time. He also has been Branch Secretary for several years and filled as Treasurer for a while.

As Bulletin Editor, Jim designed the Bulletin's format that is still being used today. He has been printing the Branch Membership Rosters, the luncheon tickets we use at our luncheon meetings, as well as the tickets for the Ladies Day Luncheons. To round out his many contributions, Jim has been an interesting speaker at

Honorary Life Members Awarded in 2007

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>
Matthew Arena	BR116
Donald H. Bird	BR052
Frank E. Buck	BR089
Allen W. Bullock	BR105
Louis B. Burgelin	BR088
Robert E. Burton	BR022
James C. Davis	BR087
John B. Derby	BR067
Leon D. Graybill	BR122
Bill Kishi	BR033
Dennis P. Kissinger	BR029
James D. Long	BR039
Don MacGregor	SB037
Leroy F. Nagel	BR144
Joe W. Oppelt	BR143
Eldon C. Parr	SB002
John Pitts	BR101
Chuck Poland	BR028
James Rae	BR150
Frank Reetz	BR049
David C. Rohrer	BR073
Robert D. Rung	BR125
Clayton Sealy	BR171
John M. Skarpelos	SB059
Shigeki J. Sugiyama	BR073
Ted Westphal	BR171
Clarence Youngren	BR033

our luncheon meetings on several occasions and is often called on to lead the members in singing "God Bless America" in his baritone voice that rivals those of professional singers.



Pictured left to right are: **Tom Ross**, **Jim Sugiyama**, Regional Director **Glen Schimelpfenig**, and Area 7 Governor **Frank Morris**.

Sirs in the News

Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

A Golfing Branch

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Branch 69 has always been known as Sacramento's "Golf Branch," since it was formed back in 1977 by a group of golfers from Land Park Golf Course. Approximately 85 members out of our total membership of 110, routinely play golf in one of our two 18 hole golf clubs, known as the Branch Golf Club and the Short Course Golf Club.

This year an ace was scored by **Warren Senegal** of the Branch Golf Club and Glenn Case of the Short Course Group, during tournament play.

Our Branch Golf Club Championship is always a big deal and perennial winner, **Bud Rogers**, won the trophy again for the 8th consecutive year ...see the picture below. Bud was also the Champion of the SIR River City Golf Club – a combined SIR area/NCGA club – for the 7th consecutive year, and was named, "Player of the Year".



Tom Costello, our 2008 Big Sir, has the bragging rights of "Short Course Champion."---see the picture below.



State RV

The position of Chairman of the RV Committee is in need of a volunteer for 2008. Sir **Jack Streckfus**, our Chairman for the last several years, is not able to continue in this position. Over the past number of years, RV outings have been very popular. Anyone interested in continuing the enjoyment of this activity for our many RV members should get in touch with **Art Pufford**.

Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

Senior Certificates

Joe Dydynski, Past Big Sir

In the picture from left to right, Area 33 Governor **Jim Petruk** (now Region 9 Director) shown awarding Senior Certificates to **Vince Brusche** – with little SIR **Al Camilleri** standing with the plagues – **Artie Jones**, seated, and **Tom Bucher** looking on.



Also receiving a Senior Certificate at the meeting was **Tom Peterson** shown in the lower picture with **Joe Dydynski**, past Big Sir and Tom's son.



Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118, San Mateo

90 Year Old Awards

Jim Mahon, Big Sir

Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118 awarded two of its ninety year old members with a plaque acknowledging that milestone. From left to right in the picture are: **Ed Jockers**, Area Governor **John Damonte**, who made the presentation, and **Clarence Devlin**. Congratulations Gentlemen!



Christmas Parties

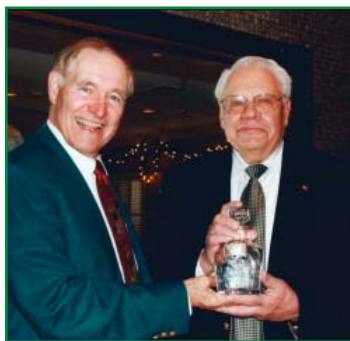
Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Christmas in San Jose

Dan Roberts, Bulletin Editor

The Branch 32 Ladies Day Christmas Party was the usual successful holiday function. We had a chance to share all the warmth and friendship for each other as we sat around the tables. There were a total of 130 members and guests in attendance. Guests included **Fred Mollerus**, the Area 20 Governor, and **Dave Reiser**, the Region 7 Director. The entertainment was great and put us all in the Holiday mood.

Incoming Big Sir **Bruce Henry** is seen in the picture presenting outgoing Big Sir **Ray Renwick** with a glass decanter engraved with the SIR logo. Ray plans on using it to store his sherry.



The Christmas Party committee consisted of **Don Schilling** Chairman, **Don Pedrotti** Assistant Chairman, and Santa's Helpers **Ray Renwick, Bruce Henry, Bernie Coullahan, Paul Vogel, Jim Sleigh, Jim Bean, Leo Schuck, Terry Worden**, and all the others who do this every year for the members and their own enjoyment.

Murphys Branch 140

Christmas in Murphys

Dave McCarroll, Bulletin Editor

Murphys Mark Twain Branch 140 once again held its annual Christmas Dinner Dance at Ironstone Vineyards, one of the premium wine tasting sites among the 30 or so wineries in this area.

We installed our new officers and also thanked the departing ones. We dined on either chicken or pork, which was excellent ...usually a Sir and his wife order one of each and share the tasting. We danced to the music of the DeLeons, a husband and wife team that is quite popular in the area. They have a rich set of recorded background music for their live vocals.



All and all, it was a very pleasurable evening.

Mission Trail Branch 35, Palo Alto

Christmas in Mountain View

Jack Dyer, Bulletin Editor

Sirs and their wives, as well as special friends, enjoyed the annual holiday party at a new venue in Mountain View this year. The 260 participants brought the big hall alive with conversation at 34 round tables. After a social hour for renewing and extending friendships, everyone was served an excellent dinner. Officers elected for 2008 were briefly recognized after dinner, before the featured entertainment.

The 25 member Main Street Singers of Los Altos High School, which has been a popular entertainment at other Sir functions, is under the direction of their extremely personable Director,



Mark Shaull. The group sang a diverse series of seasonal songs in magnificent multipart harmonies. Choir members stood in peripheral locations around the crowd for some of the songs ...providing "surround sound" for everyone in the room. This select group has found a warm welcome at numerous venues on their tours throughout Europe.

The party was organized by incoming Big Sir **Stan Barkey**, incoming Membership Director **Peter Barba**, and Luncheon host **Dick Knock**.

Mid-Peninsula Branch 51, Los Altos Hills

Christmas in Los Altos Hills

Jim Cummings, Bulletin Editor

Branch 51 held its annual Christmas luncheon on December 6th. Members and spouses enjoyed either prime rib or turkey at the Fremont Swim Club.

Our entertainment was The Main Street Singers from Los Altos High School. This choral group of High School students has been performing for several years and last year went on tour to Scandinavia. They had 17 performances, in a 21 day tour, and will be returning to the Continent again this year.



Christmas Parties

Lake County Branch 133, Clearlake

Christmas in Clearlake

Bill Lyon, Bulletin Editor

Branch 133 held its annual Christmas party in December, serving tasty prime rib or chicken dinners. We had a live band for entertainment, which was pretty good.

Just before dinner, **Larry Powers** had a lot of fun giving the oath of office to the new officers, pictured from left to right: **Kerry Jensen, Pete Gumina, Colin Wilson, Russ Sage, Mason Butler, Dick Kistner** and retiring Big Sir **Rudy Vandenbroek**.



Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Christmas in Walnut Creek

Bill McCord, Branch Member

I took on the Ladies Day and Christmas Party functions three years ago. During my years in Public Affairs with Chevron, I had many opportunities to use a wide variety of displays to promote and attract attention among the audiences that we wanted to reach with a message, and SIR parties are no exception.

The old story of conveying the who–where–and when–story–with photos is the simple concept I have always used and it works! ...the six events I have done with timely displays have been instrumental in generating a lot of interest in the Branch. For example, we had over 200 in attendance at our Christmas Party several weeks ago, that included a nice dinner and a band for our members and guests at a reasonable price. Taking pictures of the attendees having fun and including them on the displays (see picture at right) does wonders in generating interest in the events.

Miwok Branch 134, San Rafael

Christmas in San Rafael

Dick Crocker, Bulletin Editor

Branch 134 had a wonderful night of dancing, dining, and socializing at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in San Rafael. The food was good, the band outstanding, and everyone had a great time! ...thanks to Bob Dimond for organizing the entire affair. He was ably assisted by Dick Crocker, who took photographs – John Crawford, who printed up nametags and place cards – and Fred and Janalee Holmes, who provided the flowers, arranged the tables, and checked everybody in.

This event was attended by 126 people, some of whom were former members who had moved away, but regularly return to enjoy this annual gala affair. For the past several years, we have taken photos of each couple next to a Christmas tree in the hotel lobby. They receive a print of this, within a few days, and some have been so pleased with their picture, that they have included copies with their Christmas Cards.

In addition, a standard feature of our Christmas Party is turning over of the reins from the present year's Big Sir **Fred Holmes**, to the incoming Big Sir **Tony Marelich**, shown from left to right in the picture.



State Golf

Dave Betts, State Golf Chairman

The 2008 State Tournament Schedule has been finalized with the dates and locations described in the last issue of SIR Happenings. The Fall Classic will once again be held in Solvang, with golf at Rancho San Marcos and the River Course at Alisal. The dates are September 14th thru the 17th and the hotel will once again be the Santa Ynez Marriott in Buellton.



The Golf Committee is undergoing many personnel changes this year. As previously reported, we are gaining people with some special computer skills, which will aid greatly in modernizing and updating the forms in our State Golf Manual. Our goal is to make most of the forms capable of being completed electronically, either in Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Word.

The State Golf Committee website, that can be found at www.sirstategolf.com, contains a great deal of information that is very useful to all of our golfers. The website is quite user friendly and provides headings for State Golf Committee addresses and contact information—newsletters, which are published four times a year—tournament schedules, for both State events and Division events—State and Division tournament results, awards, and forms—the State Golf Manual—and links to other websites, including the State website, www.sirinc.org, plus many of the local Branch websites.



Another innovation which we are trying this year is using email to send tournament entry forms to all of our golfers who have email addresses, where they receive their monthly GHIN Handicap updates. This was just accomplished for the first time in sending the entry form for the Las Vegas 2008 Tournament. This is an economic measure to save postage. With mailings to over 6,000 golfers – even at the bulk mail rate – this has become very costly. If we are able to save money in this manner, the cost for golfers participating in State Tournaments will be a little more affordable.



Please use our State Golf Committee website to keep up to date on our golfing activities.

State Bowling

William “Coop” Cooper, State Bowling Chairman

Hello fellow bowlers. You asked for information and as a result of the good work accomplished by **Ray Young** and **Del Locke** working with **John Skarpelos**, most of the material you requested is now on the SIR website. You can get there by going to <http://sirinc.org/protected/bowling/>.



We now have tournament results, schedules, the Bowling Committee Manual and much more on the sirinc.org website.

Five honor watches were given out in 2007...they went to:

Gary Gilman	300 game
Alan Close	810 series and 300 game
Wayne Beutler	300 game
Jerry Shelton	300 game
Bill Ikerd	810 series

Congratulations to all of you on a well-deserved honor!

Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Bowling Watch

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Several years ago, the State Bowling Committee adopted a policy of awarding a watch to any bowler who bowled a 300 and/or an 800 or better series in a SIR tournament. Unfortunately, that is as far as the awards program went it until recently, when the committee was reorganized and moved the program forward.

Ray Young, the State Bowling Committee Secretary, had the pleasure of presenting our own, **Gary Gilman**, with his long over due watch. Gary bowled a series of 145-300-202 = 647, at the Diablo Lanes in Concord in 2003. The Committee is aware of only four other awards since 2002.

Ray (on the right) is shown in the picture congratulating Gary on his well-deserved award.



News from the Branches

Hesperian Branch 26, Oakland

Snowy Canadian Trip

Emile Lassalle, Branch Secretary

On this wonderful trip, we traveled for two days on the Red Leaf Train through the Rocky and Cascade Mountains, stopping at night to go to our rooms at mostly 5 star hotels.

At Whistler, we boarded the Whistler Mountaineer for our journey to Vancouver, passing through Fraser Canyon and riding over the Deep Creek Bridge, one of the highest bridges in the world. We were fed so well on the trains, that all we wanted were snacks at night. One of the highlights of this trip was the dinner-show in Banff. It's called, "OH-CANADA" and all the food was served by the entertainers. If you ever go to this area, be sure to book this dinner-show.

The group picture of our members and guests shows our backs are to the Athabasca and Dome Glaciers. It was snowing at the time and from there, we went on to view the awesome Ice Fields. In the picture are: Tour escort **Emile & Rosina Lassalle, Mel & Val Jones, Shelton & Sue Williams, Jim & Shirley Jorgensen, Dave & Marion Kappler, Ken & Judith Costa, Emery & Pat Zajec, Al & Cathy Contier, Phil Work, Jim Wylie, Shirley Krom, Marsh Garcia and Jan Smith.**

We all had one great time and I feel this was one of the best trips we have put on in the past three years!



SIR State Baseball

SIR Day at the **Sacramento River Cats**
vs. the **Colorado Sky Sox**



May 21 (Wednesday) at 11:30am
for info call **Ken Edwards** (209) 223-9156

SIR Day at the **SF Giants**
vs. the **Florida Marlins**



August 21 (Thursday) at 12:45pm
for info call **Chuck Roberts** (408) 243-6717

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Visiting a Fish Hatchery

Paul Murphy, Publicity & Program Chairman

Fourteen members of Branch 96 and their guests had an interesting visit to the American River Nimbus Fish Hatchery at Rancho Cordova near Sacramento. The trip was organized by **Dee Davis** – Fishing Chairman of the Branch Fishing Club – who took the picture of Don Ward, the Fish Hatchery Manager, holding up a 29 pound King Salmon.



Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Fish were Jumping into the Boat

Terry Miller, Branch Member

Back in 2006 and 2007, I was in charge of the Area 2 Fishing Group called "Big Fish." We have about 25 Active members that go on fishing trips, ranging from one to five days. On the trip that I caught the crappies shown in the picture, I was fishing with **Carl Moyer**, from Branch 8. We were in his 14 foot boat up in the Delta at the entrance to Big Break, fishing with a small green crank bait. The crappies were biting so fast that we would just barely get our bait in the water before we had another one on the line. The nice crappies we caught ranged in size from about one to two pounds and I even gave away a couple of strippers that I caught.



Happenings Travel Bulletin

March 2008

March 26 to April 2, 2008
Discover the French Riviera

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

April 2008

50TH ANNIVERSARY CRUISE OF

HAWAII

April 3 - 12, 2008

The 50th Anniversary Cruise to Hawaii

The 50th Anniversary Chartered Cruise to Hawaii is changed to a Non-Chartered Norwegian Cruise Ship "Pride of America." Participants will fly from San Francisco to Honolulu for 2 nights stay at Deluxe Hotel before transferring to the ship and cruising Major Islands for 7 days and arriving back in S. F. April 15. Tour features Transfers to airport, Hotel and Ship. Gala Luau on Land – Cocktail Parties on Ship – Pillow Gifts, etc. Prices start at \$2654 inside stateroom. Call your travel chairman for more information.



April 11-20, 2008

Romantic Rhine River Cruise

This is a 10 day cruise from Zurich to Amsterdam. It includes a one night stay in Zurich. The towns we will visit are: Strasbourg, France; Heidelberg, Germany; Mainz, Germany; Coblenz, Germany; Cologne, Germany; and Amsterdam, Holland. All shipboard meals included, air transportation from Bay Area to Zurich and return from Amsterdam. Prices range from \$3320-\$4345 PPDO. Offered by Area 18 Travel. Call **John Hoffmann** 707-642-4925.

April 18-29, 2008

Rocky Mountaineer

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

April 23-May 1, 2008

Riverbarging on the Mississippi

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



May 2008

May 3-17, 2008

Cruising the Pacific Northwest

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

May 14-22, 2008

Whistler Mountaineer/Rocky Mountaineer

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



May 16-22, 2008

Delta South Cruise

Fly from Sacramento to New Orleans and board the Riverbarge Explorer. Explore the charm of New Orleans... then visit Natchez, St. Francisville, Baton Rouge and return to New Orleans. All inclusive trip. Prices range from \$2845 to \$2998 PPDO. Offered by Branch 143 Travel. Call **Bill Torrens** at 209-667-0244.

June 2008

June 6-19, 2008

Baltic Heritage Cruise

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

Happenings Travel Bulletin

September 2008

September 5-14, 2008 Grand Alaska Land Tour

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



September 13-27, 2008 Grand Tour of Germany

From the Alps to the North Sea, the Black Forest and Rhine Valley, to the once divided Berlin ...discover the varied regions of this European power-house, with an exciting blend of culture, cities, rivers, and Bavarian charm. The trip is extensive, but leisurely paced. Price is \$3660 PPDO. Offered by Branch 96 Travel. Call **Lee Suess** at 209-296-2235.

September 18-27, 2008 A Taste of Northern Italy

A 10 day adventure through Northern Italy. The trip includes: The Lake District, Cinque Terre, and a visit with Leonardo DaVinci's Last Supper. Cost is \$2999 PPDO, including air from SFO and 13 meals. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call **Michael Clark** at 650-347-0919.

September 25-October 10, 2008 River Cruise on the Rhine & Danube

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



Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email **Don MacGregor** at: donmac95@comcast.net

October 2008

October 6-19, 2008 Danube Dream

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

October 24-November 4, 2008 Cruise the Mexican Riviera

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



November 2008

November 4-23 2008 Exotic Cruise to Santiago Chile

A 19 day cruise aboard the Norwegian Sun from San Francisco. Nine ports of call, including: Acapulco, Mexico—Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala—Puntarenas, Costa Rica—Quito (Manta), Ecuador—Lima (Callao), Peru—Arica, Chile—La Serna (Coquimbo), Chile—and Santiago. Prices range from \$3148 to \$3678 PPDO. Offered by Branches 20, 36, 85, and 104 Travel. Call **Tom Cutting** at 831-476-9725.

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

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

A Job Well Done

Incoming SIR President **Art Pufford** on the right is shown at a recent SIR Board of Directors Meeting after presenting a Gavel and an Honorary Life Membership Award to outgoing SIR President **Tom Ross**, for his service as President in 2007.



Looking for some toe-tapping fun over the Memorial Day Weekend? The 35th Annual

Sacramento Jazz Jubilee is the place to be!

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee swings over the Memorial Day weekend from Wednesday, May 26th through Monday, May 31st. The event is a fun party, with some of the best jazz you will ever hear, plus lots of good food and drink.



A variety of discounted tickets are again available to Sirs. For information and tickets, call Jim Fusaro at (916) 428-5719 or email him at jim4jazz@comcast.net. Jim will be glad to send tickets to any Branch on consignment.



“SIR Happenings” has a new distribution system. Instead of notifying each of you directly we are notifying your Branch Email contact when “Happenings” is published and asking him to forward the notification to each of you. We should be able to reach more members because the branches have more up to date Email lists than we do.

If you want to get on the “Happenings” notification list just mention it to your Branch Email Contact. **Dwight Sale**, Publisher

One More Christmas Party

Port Stockton Branch 46, Stockton
Christmas in Stockton
Arden Riess, Branch Member

Branch 46 had a wonderful Christmas luncheon, thanks to the wives, friends and members, who did a tremendous job of preparing everything. The luncheon had a wide variety of food and was delicious. Many members don't have the opportunity to see the wives of fellow members very often, so it is always a pleasant feature to have them with us.



Our new Branch officers were installed and we sang many Christmas carols. Every year members are asked to bring a present (see picture), which are given out at the end of the luncheon. It's fun to watch the reaction of the person who won your gift. Poinsettia plants also went home with the person who sat in the lucky-numbered chair.

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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