



SIR HAPPENINGS

MAY 2009

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

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

President Dave's Column

One of the pleasures of being the SIR State President is the privilege and honor to present an Honorary Life Membership (HLM) award. As I travel to the branches, there is also a side benefit. I am getting to know first hand the geography of northern California.

During the first three months there were eight HLM presentations. As I write this, we have twelve more that have been approved with scheduled award dates. Two additional applications are on hold waiting for more information.

At the April State Board Meeting, Past President and Certificates Chairman, **Jim Donovan**, gave an explanation of the criteria for becoming an HLM and an explanation of informal guidelines that may be used in determining the qualifications of an HLM candidate. Area Governors and Directors were present and should now be in a better position to evaluate the applications as they are received. If asked, they can share this information with the branches. While these are informal guidelines, they may help a branch with their decision when there is a difficult choice to make between candidates.

We were also told that a few branches have no Honorary Life Members. There are also some branches that are not taking advantage of the two percent rule, which would allow them additional Honorary Life Members. Please keep in mind, that the HLM is not to be treated lightly or awarded merely on the basis of good fellowship. It is to recognize exceptional and extraordinary service.

If my schedule permits, I would enjoy visiting more branches to present the Honorary Life Membership awards and in the process learn more about the geography of Northern California.

Finally, remember the slogan for this year
"Let's have a good time in 2009"

SinSIRly, *Dave*



OK, so now you are Retired...

Walter Schick, State Publicity Chairman

By now every Sir has seen the new SIR brochure. We are men who enjoy our leisure time with new friends and new activities. How many activities does your branch have?

The SIR brochure starts out with 8 activities, which most branches have, and the list continues with 15 more. A choice of activities in addition to Golf, Bowling, Fishing ...will appeal to more guests and increase your own membership satisfaction.

If one of the activities interests a guest, and your Branch does not have it, encourage them to start up the activity. We can help with a description.

A healthy branch plan should have at least one activity for each ten members, in addition to State and Area activities. 100 members = 10 activities. Add an Activity Coordinator or committee to your Branch — ask a Director to help out, and you can try out new activities.

Did you know that we have found 77 activities that one or another branch has started? How many does your branch have? These are now listed on the State website at <http://sirinc.org/protected/publicrelations/> and the easiest to start include couples: Dine Out, Potluck, Wine Tasting, and Book Swap.

Let me know what activities you have that we have missed. **Walter Schick**, State Publicity — I'm in the State Roster.



Membership News and Great Ideas that Work

Recently the Growth & Membership Committee under Chairman, Gary Pelton, conducted a brainstorming session, focusing on good ways to recruit new members. The following are twelve interesting ideas that came out of that session:

1. Visit local spots of Active retired persons such as Senior Centers, Community Centers, local Bocce courts, horseshoe pits, etc. Become involved in some outside activity that you like and talk up SIR.
2. Carry Invite cards and use them.
3. Present a perspective new member a Free Lunch Card with your info on the back.
4. Distribute a few fliers, brochures, and business cards. Don't leave it up to the other guy.
5. Give your sweetie a couple of brochures and cards to hand out to her lady friends. They are usually more sociable than men.
6. Offer an End of Year surprise award to the top branch recruiter such as a perpetual trophy cup or plaque with the winners name and year engraved on it.
7. Talk to branch members who also belong to other organizations and ask them to contact those friends, who have dropped out, about what a unique organization SIR is and invite them to lunch or some SIR event.
8. Tell someone about SIR and then take them to their first SIR meeting. This step is very crucial. It may be the only chance you get.
9. Ask any and all of your recent inductees about their hobbies and ask them to head up their favorite activity, whatever that may be in your branch.
10. Make sure that when you have a Ladies Day event someone should personally present each Lady with something SIR that they can carry home such as Branch Business Cards, the "New" glossy Tri-fold brochures, a news letter, etc. In some cases widows are non-paying guests and should help out. Remember this... women are usually more social than men and they have more contacts.
11. If the new "LAP" program isn't for your branch of less than 100 members, but you still want to continue to bring in new members and keep them, you might do well to re-visit the long standing "Membership Program" found on the SIR website under Documents, then under "Membership Program".
12. The best tool you will always have is still your handshake.

Are We Missing Yet Another Recruiting Opportunity?

Gary Pelton, Region 7 Director

While speaking recently with high ranking officers of several service and charitable groups about their membership decline, the following became apparent.

Sons In Retirement, by charter, is self-supporting and not dependant on outside financial support, as most other groups and organizations are. SIR does not support any outside organizations or groups, no matter how worthy...therefore, the declining economy has very minimal, if any, effect on SIR.

We are in a unique position to ignore the trends and set our own. Many members of non-social groups have become discouraged because they are no longer able to raise the thousands of support dollars as they have in the past and they drop out ...have these men been asked to join sir ...probably not!! ...why not?

Remember this well. SIR does not have any initiation or membership fees, dues, fines, or financial quotas, as most others do. We all know of SIR members in our own branches that are, or have been, a member of fund raising groups. Now would be an excellent time to turn to these failing groups and present our recruiting programs. There certainly is nothing wrong with being a leader rather than a follower ...success usually takes a little work.

The Growth and Membership Committee (G&M) can and will help you... "[just ask.](#)"

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Potrero Branch 148, San Pablo

Husbands with Nothing to Do

Ben Takeshita, Big Sir

I am the newly elected Big Sir of Branch 148. We have a Ladies Day luncheon twice each year and during our last one, I encouraged the ladies to help us recruit new members.

We have learned that many times the wives hear other wives complaining that their husbands are not getting out after they retire. That's why I

encouraged the ladies to let us know when they hear of such husbands or boyfriends so that they might be encouraged to join our Branch.

So far, we have gotten one new member as a result of this and who knows how many more we can get?



Twin Valley Branch 36, Santa Cruz

Three Keys to Bringing in New Members

Dave Bohrman, Big Sir

I think the keys to maintaining and improving attendance are three fold:

1. Excellent speakers that show up.
2. Excellent food, and a free lunch for visitors on their first visit.
3. Well run, orderly meetings, that are fun and not "slow."

To get prospective new members in the front door, have these three "keys" working so current members will be proud to bring new people. We all have dozens of contacts that may come if asked by an enthusiastic member. I think newspaper announcements, bulletin board postings, etc. are mostly ineffective. Personal contact, along with reminders and even offers of transportation, are the best.



Aptos-Rio Del Mar Branch 104

Greeting Members

Tony Labue, Big Sir

Recently I received a letter asking for ideas that work to attract new members. As I thought about our Branch, I concluded that it's not just about what we do outside our meetings, but more importantly, what we do at our meetings.

For example, many of our members remember **Jack Kooker**, balancing on his walker while he greeted each of us at the door entrance. His calling out your name made you feel quite special and I believe this kind of thing is a great stimulus and encouragement to attract and maintain membership.



In Memoriam Weston McArter Alt, Sr.



Weston Alt passed away on April 16, 2009 in San Francisco at the age of 94. He was Big Sir in Pony Express Branch 69, Area 9 Governor and State President in 1991.

His legacy includes extensive service in public education, service to his country and to his community. Wes was born and raised in California and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and received his Masters Degree from California State University, Chico.

He dedicated his 43-year professional career in public schools as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent. Wes served his country as a naval officer in WWII and was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries received during the recapture of Guam. Wes enjoyed a long, purposeful life and he will be missed by his friends and family.

He joins his beloved wife Adella Tyler Alt, who passed away in 1998. He leaves three adult children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Insurance Committee



The picture shows our hard-working and very effective Insurance Committee after one of their recent meetings. Left to right are: Members **Roger Borgerson** and **Bob Ingersoll**, President **Dave Reiser**, Chairman **John Thomason** and Vice President **Buck Kendrick**.

Sirs in the News

Santa Cruz Branch 20

Honorary Life Member

Jack Kemmerling, Area 10 Governor

Branch 20 was honored to have President **Dave Reiser** and Region 7 Director **Gary Pelton** in attendance at its February luncheon meeting to honor 92 year old, **Stan Wolfberg** with an Honorary Life Membership award.

Stan has served as the Branch 20 Secretary for 19 consecutive years and has certainly earned the right to be recognized as an

extraordinary and exceptional person. Stan has also been an active recruiter over the years... most recently bringing in three new members in the last month alone.

Also present at the luncheon was Lois, his wife of 66 years. Stan suggests she should also receive an award for all those years together.

Stan is shown (on the right) in the picture receiving the award from Dave Reiser.



Arnold Branch 152

Distinguished Member

Joe Crawford, Big Sir

Bob Kreps was a co-founder of branch 152 in 1989. He was also the first Big Sir. In recognition of that, the board of directors recently passed a resolution designating Bob as a "Distinguished Member." Bob's badge, No 1, is also being retired.

Bob is shown in the picture holding the plaque and a copy of the resolution passed by the board of directors, acknowledging his service to Branch 152.



Twin Peaks-Portola Branch 25, South San Francisco

Super Senior

Nick Fesunoff, Bulletin Editor

Earl Somers, Past Big Sir

At the Branch 25 March luncheon meeting, Region 5 Director **John Mason** (on the left in the picture), honored **Mel Kranke**, age 95, with a Super Senior Award.



Mel is a man of many talents...magician, ventriloquist, photographer, golfer, bowler, travel guide, and world traveler. He saw his first airplane in 1919, and got his first plane ride in 1937 for \$5.00. He was an Eagle Scout and was active in many sports, including teaching swimming at the Red Cross where his training helped him save a woman's life.

Mel joined the US Navy in 1942 and during his naval service he married his sweetheart, Elizabeth. After leaving the Navy, they eventually moved to California. At various times, he was an X-Ray instructor at St. Mary's Hospital and also was a medical photographer for sixteen hospitals and three drug companies. He was seriously into making slides and 16 mm movies and has donated many films of his travels to the U.S. Park Service.

Mel joined Branch 57 in 1983, and became the Big Sir in 1998. He has served as Travel Chairman and he and his wife have guided groups of Sirs to 65 countries. Mel transferred to Branch 25 in 2007. He still bowls every week and plays golf two or three times a week ...an inspiration to all of us "youngsters" in our eighties and early nineties.

Sirs in the News

Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont/Newark

Marymee Promoted

John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

Branch 59 Big Sir **Don Gillis** (left) presented Sunshine Chairman **Dave Marymee** with a certificate proclaiming that he is now a Senior Honorary Life Member.

Dave has been a member of Branch 59 since 1986 and Sunshine Chairman for over 15 years. Honorary Life Members are promoted to Senior status after 10 years.



Murphys Branch 140

Senior HLM

Len Piumarta, Big Sir

Bob Jennings was born in Stockton 88 years ago. He first saw his wife in a beauty contest and kept reminding her to smile while on stage. He later met Marge at a party and the rest is history ...they've been married for 65 years! They both attended San Jose State and became teachers in Hollister and Stockton. Bob later became a school administrator and was instrumental in developing the first Stockton Alternative and Technical School. The Jennings have three daughters and three grandchildren and Bob keeps active with skiing, fishing and golf.

Bob was formerly a member of the Stockton Branch, but when he moved to Murphys, there was not a SIR branch there and so he decided to start one. Bob (shown in the picture) continues to be an active member of our Branch, is in charge of the Speakers Committee, acts as our "Honorary Historian," and is always ready to give a helping hand.



Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

Senior Honorary Life Member

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Big Sir **Jerry Zoller** (on the left in the picture) is shown presenting **Laurence "Larry" Grandt** with a Senior Honorary Life Member award. That membership title is achieved after a Sir has been an HLM for 10 years.

Larry is in his 25th year as a member of Branch 103. He has held one position or another for 23 of those years ...that is truly exceptional and extraordinary service to Sons In Retirement.

Larry has been a very active Branch member, having served as Bulletin Editor – Secretary – Little Sir – Big Sir – and for the last eight years, has been in charge of luncheon ticket sales, each and every month.



State Golf

Gene Drennan, Chairman State Golf Committee

A little tale about Golf. Two years ago, my bride of 36 years whom I adore with passion and fervor, decided that if she was ever going to partake of a life together, she would need to take up the glorious game of GOLF. Making progress – slow but steady – she recently came to the conclusion that golf is the most frustrating thing that she has ever done, that she was never going to learn the stupid game and she couldn't believe that people, especially mature, grown up and senior adults, could ever play this game, and with that said, she proceeded to tell me how much she LOVED THE GAME!!!!!!

That being said, we can now address our SIR members and their undying love for the game. SIR is made up of retirees both young and elderly. Some had never held a club in their hands until they joined a SIR branch, hoping to meet fellow seniors and see what was happening. Then they met the local golf chairman or a fellow golfer, and were asked the fateful question ...have you ever played golf, and would you like to learn? That was the start of their ongoing quest for the perfect golf day.

SIR golfers come from every age category, every working past, every size, shape, and every ability level, from the beginning golfer to the plus 1 or 2 handicapper, with the beautiful part being, there is room for EVERYONE!!! We have games for the duffers, the not so duffers, the new, the old and everyone in between. THAT IS WHAT SIR IS ALL ABOUT!!!! We take every day in stride, wishing that we could give this game up, but knowing once it is in your soul you are hooked for life.

Approximately one in every four Sirs is a registered member of our NCGA GHIN system, comprising the largest individual group of the NCGA. We are powerful in number, taking golf outings to exotic places, and enjoying a round each week at affordable golf courses in our own home town. At any given day of the week, somewhere in the greater Northern California area, I can almost guarantee there is an ongoing golf event that you can join. If not in your own area, in a different area, division, or on a State level. Some branches will have 50-100 golf outings every year.

We welcome anyone with a love of the game into our midst. Embrace him or her (spouses often join us), and proceed, with enthusiasm, fervor and hope, chasing that little sphere hither and yon, going places that no one has gone before, hoping to get that elusive birdie, eagle or any other flying object. When you meet a fellow golfer, either for the first time, or

State Bowling

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Chairman

I do not have a lot of news, but I will report that our numbers are down for participation. We feel it may be because of the economy. We still have 18 tournaments to bowl this year and while we may not be able to attend them all, lets try for two or three and this may help our numbers for the year.

We have added a new tournament to our schedule this year. This tournament is Sonora at Black Oak Casino. The tournament schedule is available on our sir web site.

Again, welcome all SIR members to our SIR annual state tournament at paradise this year. Lets see which branch is the state champion this year. I personally challenge all SIR leagues to send their winning league champs to participate this year. I know how competitive our bowlers are and I'll see you there.

State Sports



SIR Day at the SF Giants

vs. the **Pittsburgh Pirates**
July 29 (Wednesday) at 12:45 PM
for info call **Chuck Roberts** (408) 243-6717

SIR Day at the Oakland Athletics

vs. the **Texas Rangers**
August 6 (Thursday) at 12:35 PM
for more info call **Mel Augustine** (510) 524-4952



at your local club, municipal course, or just around town, invite him to come and check us out. We golfers do not bite, or not at least until we have yelled FORE!!!

More about our golfers can be found on our website, www.sirstategolf.com.

News from the Branches

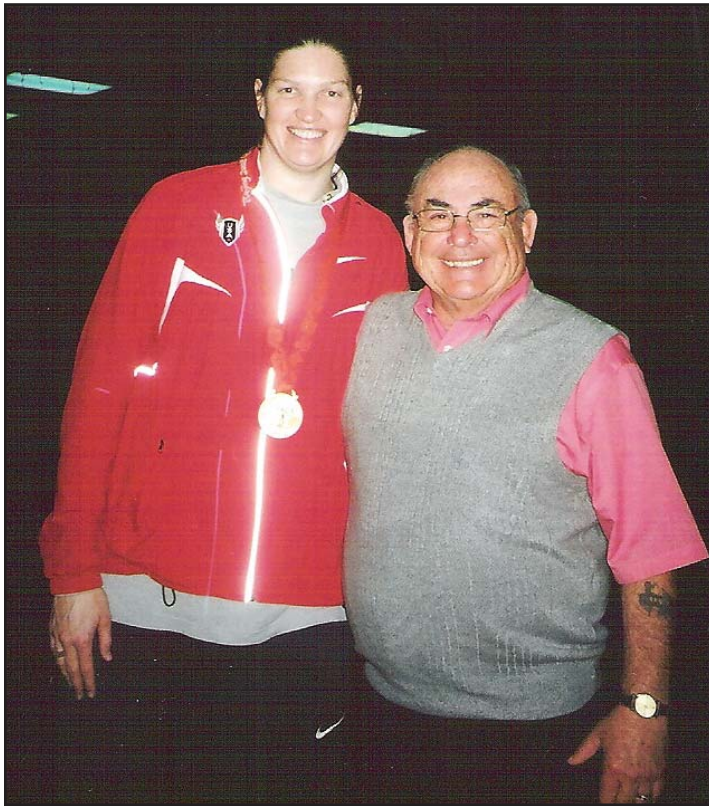
Tokay Branch 145, Lodi

Olympic Gold Medal Winner

Bill Shankles, Big Sir

Branch 145 had as its guest speaker at the February luncheon, **Stephanie Brown Trafton**, the Olympic Gold Medal Winner in Discus Throwing in the 2008 Summer Olympics held in Beijing, China. Stephanie was an outstanding speaker and displayed a very warm and friendly personality.

In the picture, **Bill Shankles** seems a little dwarfed by Stephanie.



Stephanie displaying her gold medal at the 2008 Olympics



Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Bocce on the Rise

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

Last fall as **Jack Vierhus** of Branch 32 walked into Boccis' Cellar in Santa Cruz he asked, "where is the nearest hospital?" when asked if someone was ill, he answered, "no, I just wondered where to send the bodies after we beat the #@*%&! out of your team." The team they were going to beat was Branch 20 of Santa Cruz, who in spite of this verbal battering, did finish victors with three matches to one. On a return match at San Jose in February, Branch 32 thoroughly trounced Santa Cruz (area 10), 4 games to 0. Bruised in body and ego, the boys returned home vowing to rise again.

Two new teams have been recruited and will start regular competition in May. All kidding aside, bocce is one those activities which can help any branch grow. It is easy to learn and easy to play. One player on Branch 20 is 95 and one on branch 104 played leaning on his "walker."

Pictured are Branch 32 and Santa Cruz Area 10 Bocci players.



Bob Edwards

with the Branch 32 "International Trophy," made out of a Heineken Bottle.



News from the Branches

Placer Gold Branch 37 of Auburn

Yesterday & Today

Long before the internet, cell phones, and high-definition TV, a March 1972 story in the Auburn Journal, chronicled an organizational meeting of Placer Gold Branch 37 in Auburn. The first meeting brought 45 prospective members together for lunch at Lou LaBonte's, one of Auburn's oldest restaurants.

The black and white picture below shows a full slate of elected officers at the first regular meeting held the following month at Walker's Restaurant... notice the dressy attire the men were wearing. Most folks probably don't remember that the new Branch was sponsored by the Fort Sutter Branch 14. The news story went on to say that Sons In Retirement, at that time, had 8,300 members and 37 Branches. It told about the founding of Branch 1 by Damian Reynolds

and described what SIR is all about. Branch 37 started right away trying to bring in new members, as a spokesman for the Branch pointed out how someone interested in joining the new Branch could get information and a membership application.

Today, Branch 37 is still very much alive and well with some 200 members. Its activities include probably the largest fishing group in all of SIR with over 100 members, an active golf club, and quite a large poker group. The Branch has prided itself on providing an entertaining monthly luncheon with some really good speakers and great food at the Elk's Lodge... the colored pictures, taken at a recent luncheon meeting, shows a big difference in dress and maybe also the atmosphere.

*Editors Note: Some of the information for this story was provided by Branch member, **Jim Petruk**.*



1972

2009



News from the Branches

Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Certificates of Appreciation

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Branch 94 recently honored several of its members for their outstanding contributions to the Branch. Shown in the picture (left to right) in the bottom row are **Frank Sturniolo**, **Dan Thery**, and **Bill Hooper**. In the back row are **Chuck Loney**, **Andy La Scola**, and **Jim Stonehouse**. They were all presented with a nice Certificate of Appreciation. It was wild shirt day and some of the colorful shirts worn that day can be seen in the picture.



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. (see Page 10)



To the best of our knowledge, the information shown on Page 10, the travel page, was accurate when this edition of Happenings was published, but there is always the possibility that some trips may be cancelled or sold out.

Travel Chairmen

If you would like to have a trip listed in the Happenings Travel Bulletin, please email

Don MacGregor at: donmac95@comcast.net

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

11th Annual Bowling Tournament

Paul Murphy, Program & Publicity Chairman

Pins flew at the Gold Country Lanes in Sutter Creek when 132 bowlers met for a two-day Sons In Retirement bowling tournament. With a record setting number of members and their guests – representing 29 Branches from Northern and Central California – the tournament was certainly a success, according to **Richard Bibby** who has coordinated the tournament for many years and is a retired fireman from San Jose. Bibby lives in Fiddletown and has been a member of Branch 96 for 16 years. **Robert York** from Branch 123, who lives in Pinole, also helped organize the event.

The men's Division A singles winner was **John Sepulveda**, from Branch 123 in Vallejo, with a total score of 656. The Division B top scorer was **Bill Hines**, from Branch 140 of Murphy's. **Wilson Hunt** and **Harley Colbert**, representing Branch 73 of San Pablo, were the lane masters of the Division A doubles ...and **Mike** and **Debra Silva**, of Branch 136 in Sonora, nailed down the Division B doubles title. Women's singles was championed by **Arleen Williams**, with **Debra Silva** from Branch 136 of Sonora ...the All Events winner. **Alex Rivera**, from Branch 123, was the Men's All Events top bowler.

The 12th Annual SIR tournament – also sponsored by Branch 96 – is already in the planning stage and will held at the Gold Country Lanes in January 2010.

In other Branch news, the March 5th luncheon was designated as "Crazy Hat Day" and many members showed up with some sort of different headgear. This was the 2nd Annual event, after **Lee Suess** the 2005 Big Sir, kicked off the original day. "It was a cold day in the Motherlode Country and wearing a hat seemed appropriate," said Suess.

Seen in the picture (left to right) are Past Big Sir **Art Bertolero**, Big Sir **Manuel Robles**, **Rich Pastorino**, Little Sir **Ed Maloney**, **Jerry Middleton** and **Ted Means**.



News from the Branches

Vacaville Branch 99

Colleen Evich, Pride of Branch 99 **Bob Staib, Past Big Sir, Branch 106**

Back in 1988, when **Colleen Evich** was asked by the Vacaville Elks Lodge if she would be interested in cooking a monthly luncheon for a new SIR group that was looking for a meeting place, her immediate reply was, "have I got a deal for you!" For 13 years, from 1983 to 1996, Colleen has cooked for three different SIR Branches...one in Oroville and another Branch in Paradise before moving to Vacaville following her husband, Joseph Evich's death in 1996. Joseph was the renowned master chef who owned and operated the famed Table Mountain Tavern in Oroville, a favorite dining spot for the rich and famous...as well as Sirs.

Colleen was a quick study on her husband's culinary skills, and even learned how to repair all the appliances and plumbing. Cooking for her Sirs is what she missed the most after her move. Her Sirs were "her boys" and a great joy in her life back in the California lake country. A long-time member of the Elks Lodge in Oroville, the Elks Lodge became her second home in Vacaville and according to Colleen, "my heart skipped a beat" when I heard that the Sirs were coming to town.

Colleen knows the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. She has a master list of specialties, but every two or three months they're treated to "Colleen's Chicken Fried Steak," which both Sirs and Elks alike, say is worth dying for. With help from the ladies of the Elks' RV club, she makes sure her boys are served quickly and well...several branch members belong to the RV club, and their wives volunteer their services.

Colleen Evich is not only the chief cook for Branch 99, she is also the unofficial mascot and housemother all rolled into one. Colleen is shown in the picture with Big Sir **George Gorohoff** on the left **Jim Bible**, the Area 18 Governor on the right.



Port Stockton Branch 46

Past Big Sirs Get Together **Arden Riess, Branch Member**

As the close of each year approaches, the past Big Sirs of Branch 46 always get together for their annual luncheon. Wives and guests are also included in this nice affair. Last fall we met at the Elkhorn Country Club in North Stockton. This custom has been going on for many years and it's a good way to talk over the "good old times," as well as all the new things that are going on. Some of those attending the luncheon are shown in the picture from left to right with the dates when they were the Past Big Sirs **Bob Westwood** (2007), **Matt Gaffney** (2008), **Bob Winterberg** (2005), and **Leonard George** (1993).



JAZZ

*Looking for some toe-tapping fun
over the Memorial Day Weekend?*

The 36th Annual Sacramento Jazz Jubilee is the place to be!

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee swings over the Memorial Day weekend from Friday, May 22nd through Monday, May 25th. 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.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

July - August 2009

July 13-23, 2009

Alaska & Canada Cruise

Round trip cruise from San Francisco aboard the Sea Princess. 10 nights including ports of call at Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria BC, plus Tracy Arm Fjord scenic cruising. Prices range from \$1840 to \$2965 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Harry Redlick at 650-583-3961.

August 8-23, 2009:

Romantic Rhine & Moselle Rivers

Explore Holland's colorful capital as you cruise through Amsterdam's enchanting canals on this 14 night cruise from Amsterdam to Basel on board Avalon Waterway's brand new ship, the MS Affinity. Trip includes all meals and r/t air. Costs run from \$6270 to \$8669. Offered by Branch 116 Travel. Call Ken Richter at 925-689-6217.

August 15-20, 2009

Yellowstone & Tetons Mountain Majesty



Enjoy the Scenic wonders of Yellowstone and the Grand Teton National Parks. The tour features include: Bream Canyon, a performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, a tour of Salt Lake City and a boat trip on the Snake River. Five nights and 9 meals are provided along with r/t air. Cost is \$1545 PPDO. Offered by Branch 10 Travel. Call Mike Console at 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch at 408-274-2992.

August 22-September 4, 2009

Authentic Ireland

Explore the ancient and contemporary history, culture and scenic wonders of the Emerald Isle. Stops include all the famous places in Ireland and with just 24 travelers, the small group means a more personal experience. R/T air, hotels and 16 meals are among what is included on this trip. Cost is \$4259 PPDO. Offered by Branch 39 Travel. Call Neil Jameson at 831-336-2476.

September 2009

September 1-11, 2009

Cruise Alaska & Canada

This cruise is round trip from San Francisco on board the Sea Princess. Ports of call include Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria BC, plus a visit to the Tracy Arm Fjord. Prices range from \$1735 to \$2785 PPDO. Offered by Branch 113 Travel. Call Russ Salazar at 530-644-3809.

September 11-26, 2009

Castles Along the Rhine & Danube

This is a 16 day cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam. We will depart from San Francisco and board our deluxe river cruise ship in Budapest. We will then travel through Hungary, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands, with 12 shore excursions. Pricing begins at \$4499 PPDO. Offered by Branch 172 Travel. Call Earl Nelson at 209-586-5661.



September 24-October 12, 2009

Highlights of South Africa

On this comprehensive 19 day trip you will discover the cultural and natural wonders of South Africa. The trip will take you to such places as Johannesburg, Kruger National Park, Swaziland, Zululand, Wilderness and Cape Town with some optional side trips available. Cost is \$4195 PPDO and includes r/t air, 17-night hotel stay, 32 meals, and 13 sightseeing tours. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.



October - November 2009

October 23-November 3, 2009

Mexican Riviera Cruise

Experience a 12 day cruise on board Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Sun. Dance the night away, shop for famous Mexican silver, taste some of Mexico's famous Tequilas, play golf at some of Mexico's finest courses, or simply cruise along for the ride along the Gold Coast of Mexico. Golfer and non-golfer prices range from \$1030 TO \$1959. Offered by Branches 45 & 109 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693

October 23 - November 7, 2009

Fall Foliage Cruise

Fall foliage cruise aboard the Crown Princess from Quebec City to Ft. Lauderdale with stops in: Corner Brook, Newfoundland - Sydney & Halifax, Nova Scotia - St John, New Brunswick, and Bar Harbor, Maine - Boston, Massachusetts - New Port, Rhode Island - New York City - Norfolk, Virginia - and Charleston, South Carolina. Prices range from \$ 3740 to \$5080 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call David Abrahams at 925- 447-9386.

October 22-November 8, 2009

Boston to New Orleans

A 16 day luxury cruise aboard Norwegian Cruise Line's Spirit. We leave from Boston with ports of call in Samana, St Thomas Antigua, Barbados, Curaco, Aruba, Santo Thomas De Casitilla, Belize City, Costa Maya, and New Orleans. Prices range from \$2594 to \$2990. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call John Hoffmann at 707-642-4925.

November 4-13, 2009

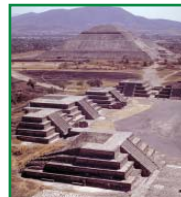
Costa Rica, Eruptions of Beauty

Explore the natural beauty of volcanoes, lush rain forests, and gorgeous beaches. This is an escorted tour with 3 nights each in San Jose, Arenal, and Ocotual Beach, plus much more. Cost is \$2990 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.

November 7-19, 2009

Mexico's Colonial Jewels

During this 12 day trip we will visit 7 UNESCO World Heritage sights including: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pyramids of Teotihuacan, National Folkloric ballet performance, San Miguel de Allende Granaditas Museum, Rafael Coronel Museum, National Museum of Anthropology, Patzcuaro Morelia, and many more sights. Cost is \$2389 PPDO. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Tom Marks at 530-342-1441.



LETS HAVE A GOOD TIME IN 2009

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor:

LETS HAVE A GOOD TIME IN 2009...those are the sage words and motto of our 2009 President, Dave Reiser.

It seems to me that many of our branches are missing two things which add a great deal of fun to our meetings ... these are: the singing of the "SIR Song" and the boisterous "COCK-A-DOODLE" (accompanied by wing actions) used to honor a new member or special achievement.

Words to SIR Song are:

Our friends have seen us growing from child into a man,
They have seen us struggling hard to do the very best we can.
Depressions and adversities, we've overcome them all,
As time goes marching on.

Chorus:(sung with hands waving in air)

As Sons In Retirement we are happy. As Sons In Retirement we are happy.
Sons now retired are always happy and we wish good health to you.
We always pay our taxes and our credit's fairly good.
We eat and drink too much as normal fellows would.
But the strife of work is finished and our cares are almost gone.
As SIRS we're marching on.

The ladies and guest speakers love both the song and Rooster exclamation. Try it! I think it will add to your branches Good Time In 2009.

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

Good idea, Jack! I hope some of our Branches follow your suggestion. Editor

Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every February, May, August and November you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

Dear Editor

You probably don't hear from the Members at large on what A GREAT JOB you do regarding the SIR Happenings publications. So here is a note of appreciation from just an "old fart member" saying thanks. In years past (many), I was the webmaster for the local chapter of the American Red Cross and even longer ago, the police department from which I retired. Hey, way back then I had to do it the old fashion way, compiling the site using purely HTML code. While it was a joy, it was laborious. So from one who has been there and done that, I express my total appreciation for your efforts and admire it as a "Class Act" in furtherance of SIR.

Because so many of our members are not computer literate, nor even have a computer (or experience cyber phobia), your success is, I know, slow in coming! But don't give up . . . there are many of us, as you can probably see incrementally, who are beginning to enjoy the benefits that SIR Happenings provides. And, more and more of us, are coming from a background of life that involves PCs. I personally love the "keeping up with what other Branches are doing that works" as well as the cutting edge stuff, like LAP, that are coming down the road. Communication is the essence of success!

So, enjoy a fine wine tonight and know that all you do is appreciated, particularly for all the work that you put into this effort!

SinSIRly (I love that SIR President sign-off),
Rich Dettmer, Area 15 Governor

Rich...you made my day!!...that was very nice of you to take the time to send that email. I would like to add that Dwight Sale and John Skarpelos share equally in any of the success that the newsletter has enjoyed since we started it back in '04. Yes...our readership is not up to what we would like, but we hope as more SIRS acquire computers and more become aware of the publication, we will reach a broader audience.

I will do what you said tonight and when I do have that drink, I will raise my glass in a toast to you. Editor

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

Dwight Sale,
Chairman/Publisher
Email: dwight.sale@comcast.net

Send news and questions to:
Don MacGregor,
Executive Editor
Email: donmac95@comcast.net

John Skarpelos,
Editor and Production Manager
Email: john@mediart.com