



SIR HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2010

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

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

President Buck's Column

This is my first column in SIR Happenings as President and I want to talk about what I think it will take to solve our very serious membership crisis.

**Our Slogan for 2010 is:
RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN
MEMBERSHIP IN 2010.**

The Mission of Sons In Retirement is to provide leadership at all levels that will result in strong, long term Branch health and vitality by recruiting and inducting enough new members annually to grow the membership level of the Branch and by providing a wide variety of activities of interest to Branch members, to retain their current members.

I want to focus this year on developing strong leadership and goal setting. I think it is going to take new leadership from the Regional Directors, the Area Governors and the Branch Executive Committees to solve the problem. I hope every Sir in a leadership position will read my mission statement carefully and thoughtfully so we can all get on the same page.

The Regional Directors and Area Governors must assume a more intensive role in guiding and supporting the Branch operations and their membership efforts. It means much more face to face interaction with the Branch leaders...to train them and help them become more successful. Leaders at all levels must be familiar with their responsibilities, as outlined in SIR rules, to properly perform their duties and responsibilities.

The objectives of Sons In Retirement come from our charter which was granted by the State of California to achieve the goal of serving the needs of retired men in our communities. I don't think we are meeting this obligation when we let SIR diminish in size and Branch leaders can no longer provide the activities and associations desired by retirees...so, the prime responsibility of leaders is to maintain the health and vitality of the Branches so they will meet the needs of retired men in their community.

The Branch membership crisis demands that we change without delay. We can solve it together by developing and implementing pro-active leadership from the Board of Directors, through the Regional Directors and Area Governors, to the Branch Executive Committees. It will take time and a lot of effort, but if we don't do it, we won't stop the serious decline in membership that has been going on for years.



Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

Branch Honors its WWII Veterans Don Dill, Past Big Sir

Branch 79 honored its remaining 15 WWII Veterans for their contribution to their country during the January luncheon at the Elks Lodge in Auburn. The program was conducted by Big Sir Earl Montgomery – past Big Sir Dennis Beverage – and past Big Sir, Don Dill. The celebration began with the posting of the colors by the Auburn Color Guard, followed by a fifty-minute video highlighting each veteran's contribution to WWII. The film traced each honoree's active duty contribution and how WWII set the path for the rest of their lives. Each honoree contributed to the event by reciting a significant



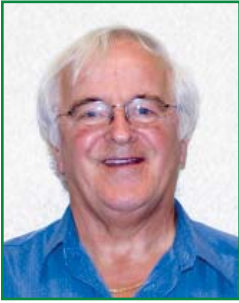
war experience ...some of which became quite emotional. At the end of the program, Auburn City Council member, Mike Holmes – in his retiree's Captain's uniform – and Big Sir Earl Montgomery presented each

Honoree with a certificate of recognition for their accomplishments. Pictured is Mike Holmes (on the left) and past SIR President Jim Musci, receiving his certificate. Over 150 Sirs attended the affair, which was the largest turnout for a monthly luncheon in recent years.

Don Dill, who researched and produced the program, mentioned that he was astounded at their many accomplishments and said...you sit next to a fellow Sir for many years and don't even really know the guy. I urge all Branches to do the same kind of research and put on a program like this before the "Greatest Generation" is lost.

Spotlight on SIR Officers

Mike Berry — Treasurer



Mike was the 4th child born into an Irish immigrant family in the United Kingdom. His grandfather and all of his uncles were coal miners and the family lived in what is known as “the Black Country” in the UK, which was mostly coal mining and steel works ...in fact, the Industrial Revolution began there.

After leaving grammar school, Mike signed up as an indentured clerk in order to qualify as the UK equivalent of a Certified Public Account. At that time, it was possible to qualify with a combination of indenture and self-study, but today, University attendance is required. He qualified in 1960, and ten years later became a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, a qualification he still holds today.

Immediately after qualifying, Mike decided to take a position as a computer programmer to see “what these computers can do.” From that time on, until his retirement in 2003, computers were his career although his accounting background came in quite handy in later years when he became the business manager of a computer consulting service.

Mike’s computing career took him all over the world. He became a frequent speaker at International Conferences and was the only speaker at the Australian Business Conference to be asked back for a repeat performance!

Mike married his wife, Jan, in 1962 and they later moved with their two children to Silicon Valley to accept a position with a major computer manufacturer. After Jan retired from banking, they moved to Windsor and in 2003 Mike also retired and joined Sons In Retirement that same year. He has been the Little Sir and Big Sir of the Windsor Branch and is currently the Bowling and Travel Chairman. He also completed two years as Assistant State Treasurer.

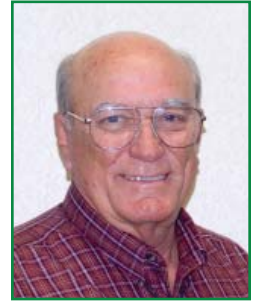
In addition to Sons In Retirement, Mike volunteers for AARP’s free Taxaide, and teaches Traffic School.

According to Mike, he is an avid, but mediocre golfer, and an even more mediocre bowler. He still follows English soccer and is a diehard Sharks fan. Whenever he can find some free time, he also likes to sing and play guitar.

Sons In Retirement is fortunate to have such an experienced and well-qualified Treasurer.



Buck Kendrick — President



Buck Kendrick’s broad experience and accomplishments during his life have certainly prepared him well to be the President of Sons In Retirement.

He was born and raised in Plant City, Florida. In high school, Buck participated in many sports, while receiving numerous awards for his scholastic achievements ...Buck says his only “C” was in typing because his fingers were slow.

After graduating from high school, he moved on to the University of Florida, majoring in electrical engineering and graduated with honors. He also graduated from the ROTC program and received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant.

In 1958, Buck completed Air Force flight training near the top of his class and got his choice of assignment as a fighter pilot. After further training, he was assigned to an all weather defense squadron, flying the F-102 supersonic delta wing aircraft. He flew in the squadron for four years, until he had completed his military obligation and separated from the service as a captain.

After the Air Force, Buck joined a company involved in telemetry tracking equipment, supporting the test ranges at the Cape and Vandenberg. That company was acquired and Buck left to work for Philco Ford’s Western Development Labs in Palo Alto. He stayed with the company through many name changes, but always worked in the satellite communications arena. In the early years he traveled worldwide dealing with various commercial and government customers and retired from Lockheed Martin in 1998 as Director of Integrated Logistics Support.

Buck joined Branch 35 immediately after retirement. Over the years, he has held many leadership positions in SIR ...Branch Membership Chairman, Little Sir, Big Sir, Area Governor, Regional Director, Chairman of the Growth & Membership Committee, State Vice President and in January became our President ...along the way he was awarded a well-deserved Honorary Life Membership by his Branch.

Buck has been married to his college sweetheart for 52 years and they have a large, tight knit, family of 4 children and 13 grandchildren. He has a wide variety of hobbies and interests including being very active in his church, flying his own aircraft, enjoying trips in his large motor home, hunting and fishing and regularly playing golf in the Branch 35 golf program.

All and all...our new President has quite a resume.

Sirs in the News

Fort Sutter Branch 14, Carmichael

Century Senior

George Cooper, Past Big Sir

William F. Manasse seated in the center of the picture is shown receiving the Century Senior Certificate from Area 3 Governor Dick Joyce. On lookers are from left to right: Phillip Car (son-in-law), Stephanie Car (daughter), Area 3 Governor Dick Joyce, and Big Sir George Cooper.

Bill is a retired jewelry store owner for 30 years. He also has been a dance host on cruise ships and traveled the world photographing its wonders.



Pajaro Valley Branch 85, Watsonville

Century SIR Award

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

Ladies Day is always a big event at Branch 85 in Watsonville. The Holiday party in December was no exception. The food and entertainment were, as usual, excellent!

The day was extremely special for one person... longtime member, Dudley Spangler. On November 13, 2009 Dudley celebrated his 100th birthday and is shown



on the right in the picture receiving the President's Century SIR Award from Region 7 Director Gary Pelton. Also on hand for the presentation were Dudley's grandson and great-

granddaughter...quite an occasion!

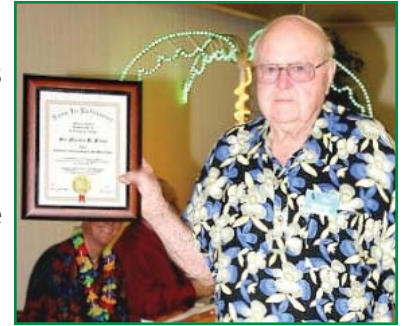
Mount Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek

Festive Affair

Walt Schick, Publicity Chairman

At the October Luncheon, members donned Hawaiian shirts and leis. At this festive meeting two members were honored with Honorary Life Membership awards.

Marvin Kreitz received his Senior Honorary Life Membership award from Big Sir Glenn Cheetham and is shown holding his plaque in the top photo. Marvin joined our branch in 1987 after retiring from Montgomery Ward. He was our Big Sir in 1991 and was awarded an HLM in 1999.



Tom Hensley has been quite active in Branch 8 since 1990, after retiring from the US Forest Service. Tom earned his HLM by serving in many key positions including Assistant Secretary, Membership Chairman, Director, and Big Sir. He has also been the Co-Chair of Fishing, Co-Chair of Pinochle and has served as Co-Editor of the Branch newsletter.

Shown in the picture on the left is President Dave



Reiser presenting the award to Tom. In the lower picture is Tom Hensley and his wife, Carolie with Big Sir Glenn Cheetham in the background.



Sirs in the News

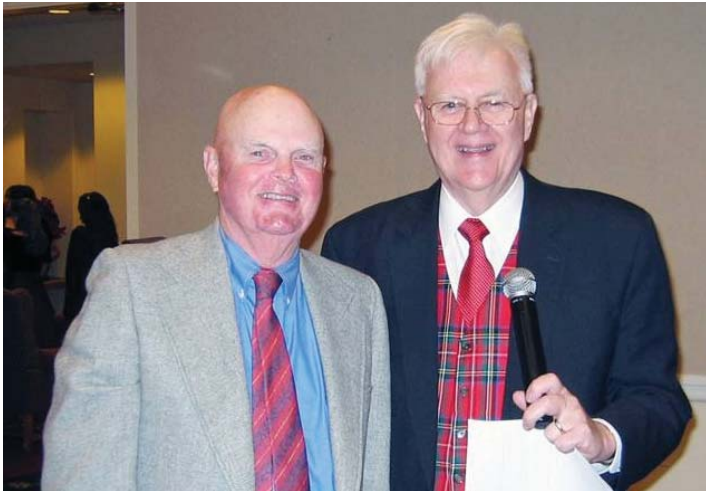
The Villages Branch 114, San Jose

Special Achievement Award

Dick Mach, Bulletin Editor

At the Branch Holiday Party in December, Big Sir Burt Lancaster, on the right in the picture, is shown presenting a Special Achievement Award to Terry Griffin, our Membership Chairman. Griffin earned the award for his innovative and successful efforts at growing Branch 114's membership from 2007 to 2009.

The evening was even more special because of the great entertainment by the renowned Madrigal Singers, from Sunnyvale's Fremont High School.



Sunnyvale Branch 62

John Brownie's Hole-In-One

John McGuire, Branch Member

Tiger Wood's marital adventures became second page news in the San Jose Mercury's Sports Section when the world learned that John Brownie (see picture) shot a Hole-In-One on the second hole at the Spring Valley Golf Course. Looking at the green from the tee-box, we watched John Brownie and Jerry Ammerman searching the rough – ten yards past the green – trying to find John's ball because no one expected it to land in the cup. Fortunately, Jim Hildebrand got tired of watching John and Jerry thrashing through the deep weeds and decided to pitch onto the green. Jim's ball stopped close enough to the hole for him to peer into the cup where he discovered John's ball resting on the bottom. We then saw Jim leap high into the air – which means one heel actually lifted off the ground – followed by John, Jerry, and Van Dietz dancing around the Flag Stick like Zulu Warriors performing fertility rights.



Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Exceptional Service Award

Jim Sleigh, Big Sir

Bob Edwards (in the center) is receiving an Exceptional Service Award for his luncheon information program from Region 7 Director Richard Kabanek (on the left). Branch 32 Big Sir Jim Sleigh is on the right.

Bob is not only the Branch 32 Program Chairman, he has developed an Area-wide information exchange program, bringing together the Program Chairmen from all the other branches in this area, as well as a number of area and regional officers, on a quarterly basis.



Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

Outstanding Member

Dave Grant, Bulletin Editor

Ed Metevia (see picture) has been named the Outstanding Member of Branch 125 for 2009. Since receiving his "Above and Beyond Award" in 2005, Ed has continued his very active role in the Branch and has served as Data Base Manager for both the Membership and Merit Data Bases – provided support for the monthly Branch Bulletin – has served for two years as the Computer Club Chairman – has been the Web Master for three years – and also served as alternate photographer. He has also compiled the roster booklet for the last eleven years.

Congratulations, Ed, on a well-deserved honor!



News from the Branches

Monterey Peninsula Branch 28

The 19th Hole

Jim McCammon, Golf Chairman

We wanted to encourage our golfers to stick around a little longer and socialize after playing a round of golf, so at the suggestion of our Big Sir Bill Schramm, we had this sign made. It is 18" x 24" and will be used at the sign-in table at tournaments and also the scoring table at the end of the round. We plan to also use it to decorate the golf table at our luncheon meetings ...we hope it works!!



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Two New Branch Records

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

Two new membership records were set in Branch 96 when Joe Cardana – on the left in the picture – was sponsored by his father, Henry Cardana. Not only is Joe the youngest new member – at age 40 – this is the first time a father has sponsored a son.

Joe is retired from the U.S. Navy. Following his dad, who has been an officer in the Branch for many years, Joe has already volunteered to take on the duties of the Attendance Chairman.



Peach Bowl Branch 45, Yuba City

Slow Trollers

Bill Clark, Fishing Club Treasurer

The fishing club called "The Slow Trollers" draws members from Branch 45 in Yuba City and Branch 109 in Marysville. We presently have 30 active members and meet once a month to socialize and plan fishing activities. Buck Foster is our club President and is shown in the picture holding up the nice 7 pound catfish that he caught on one of our outings to Collins Lake last fall.



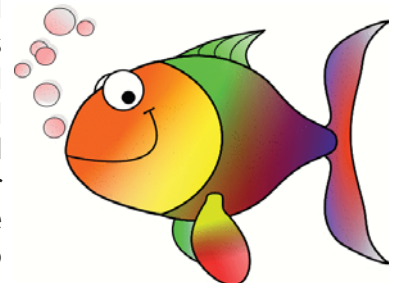
Most of us, as our name suggests, troll the local lakes for trout, kokanee, and coho salmon. This year has been slow for these species. Bob Cagle, our "Fisherman of the Year," has tried to convert us to



black bass fishing and this has been extremely successful, producing lots of bass limits. We also fish the Yuba and Feather Rivers for salmon, stripers, catfish and sturgeon. At times, we go outside the area fishing Lake Tahoe for mackinaw and the ocean for bottom fish, salmon, and albacore.

Slow Trollers held three tournaments last year ...at Bullards Bar, Englebright, and Lake Oroville. Money prizes were awarded for the most fish by weight and also for the biggest fish caught.

This year we were able to have logo hats made which were given to each member of the club. The "Fish Fry Picnic" in August featured fish caught by members and 40 members and guests attended. Bass and Tuna filets were served along with chicken ...for the non-fish-eaters. The wives and others also helped out with delicious homemade salads, desserts, and specialties. As with all of our functions, a good time was had by all.



Honorary Life Members Awarded in 2009

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>
Garrett O. Allison	BR128	Ralph C. Housley	BR049	Wallace G. Richardson	BR049
John A Alseth	BR067	Floyd D. Kendrick	BR035	Richard Richmond	BR146
Joseph L Anderson	BR140	John A. Kinsfather	BR172	Gilbert A. Rodriquez	BR107
Jeff Baily	BR146	Philip O. Laing	BR093	Dick Salander	BR092
Robert Bennett	BR076	Jerome C. Lake	BR132	Bruce R. Saltzman	BR128
Gerald M. Bird	BR169	Dick Lebeau	BR023	John P. Sargent	BR074
William Brokaw	BR104	Herb Loken	BR178	Milton Schwartz	BR118
Edward Eliot Caine	BR041	John Mahaffy	BR001	Richard M. Shappee	BR008
Robert J. Calloway	BR146	James Maneggie	BR037	Charles R. Shoemaker	BR102
Edgar F. Campini	BR023	Kenneth Marshall	BR176	Floyd D. Skelton	BR116
Lyle D. Chambers	BR114	Bob G. McCarroll	BR107	Donald B. Slivka	BR093
Chester F. Conley	BR154	Dave G. McGuire	BR037	Robert W. Smith	BR142
Frank Denny	BR103	John A. Metzger	BR159	William R. Timbers	BR170
Frank D. Donner	BR049	Steve Michalak	BR170	Thomas D. Van Alstine	BR129
Kenneth C. Edson	BR110	Jack M. Miller	BR143	Joseph Wagner	BR040
Kenneth F. Edwards	BR096	William Olmo	BR128	Samuel J. Walters	BR094
Frank Franzago	BR069	Leslie D. Olsen	BR098	James D Westphal	BR089
Thomas A. Fresquez	BR100	John Parkinson	BR143	Leonard A. Whitegon	BR110
William S. Garrett	BR096	Bob J. Perrault	BR113	Allen E. Williams	BR003
Douglas Hansen	BR179	Ralph C. Pfirmman	BR161	Sydney L. Williams	BR026
Robert S Harmon	BR001	Myles L. Pustejovsky	BR063	Warren H. Williams	BR103
Thomas Hensley	BR008	David M. Reiser	PP010	Stanley T. Wolfberg	BR020

SIR Website

SIR Happenings is continuing a series of articles describing some of the useful information that is available on the SIR Website: sirinc.org.

Remember to move from the "Public" Home Page, to the SIR section click on the "SIR Documents" link. You will be prompted to enter User Name (**safety**) and Password (**first**). Note: check the "Remember Password" box.

This takes you to the "SIR DOCUMENTS" page. Near the top of the page is a link to the SIR State newsletter, "SIR Happenings." Select it and you will be taken to a page of links to the current and back issues.

Below the SIR Happenings logo you will find the most used documents.



Most Used

- [How to obtain the things SIR offers](#)
 - [2010 Schedule Of SIR State Operations](#)
 - [2010 Schedule Of SIR Branch Operations](#)
 - [Complete List of SIR Forms](#)
 - [SIR Manual, Checklist and Revisions](#) **NEW 11/10/09**
 - [State Roster and Branch Locator](#) **NEW 1/2/10**
- Password needed**

You then can click on "[Complete List of SIR Forms](#)" this will take you to a page that lists the many forms that are available.

In this issue, we would like to talk about the SIR forms and other supplies that can be ordered or in some cases, forms that can be printed out. Some forms are in PDF format that can be filled in and printed. Some forms are in Microsoft Word format Which can be modified and printed.

Here are some examples of the forms and supplies that are available:

- Membership, attendance and personnel forms.
- Certificate of Appreciation (Form 7) and gold seals (Form 7A).
- Insurance form.
- Expense claim voucher (Form 15).
- Letterhead stationery and rooster logos to copy for your own purposes.
- Rooster hardware (Form 21) -
 - Bolo ties.
 - Lapel pins.
 - Decals.
- Pins for officers (Form 23) -Branch Officers and Past Big Sirs and State Officers.
- and for Honorary Life Members (Form 23A).
- Report forms (Form 28 etc).
- Candidacy forms.
- Travel forms.
- Instructional and promotional documents.
- And many more.

News from the Branches

Westgate Branch 125, San Jose

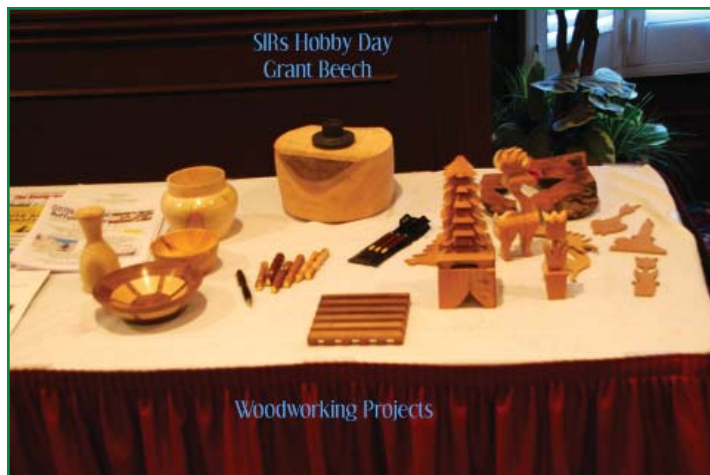
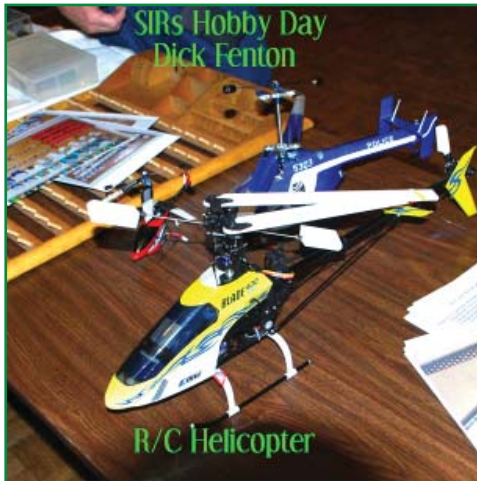
Hobby Fair to Strengthen Membership

Daryl Jones, Bulletin Editor

In a quest to bolster membership and to provide new activities of interest to our current members, Jerry Oliver of Branch 125 in San Jose organized a "Hobby Fair" following the Branch's September meeting. The goal was to provide an opportunity for members to showcase their hobbies in the hopes that other members might become interested. The idea was that new activities for the membership might help us retain current members and attract new members. The following are some of the hobbies that were displayed:

- Radio controlled helicopter (see picture)
- Wooden pens and bowls
- Chronometers & antique pocket watches
- Woodworking projects (see picture)
- Golf club re-gripping
- Sports aircraft & sky diving
- Clock repair
- And many more

Although the Branch has not yet created any new clubs, the hobby fair was a success. All of the Branch members learned a lot about the special interests shown in the exhibits.



Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

Table Pool

Bill Weinberg, Branch Member

The Table Pool activity was started about eight years ago ...initially it was for Branch 146 members only, but some of the other branches showed an interest so, we opened it to any Branch member that wished to play. Many of the first time players made comments like..."I haven't played for 50 years" or "I can't remember the last time that I shot pool." It took a few times for them to get back in the swing of things, but everybody seems to enjoy the games and the competitiveness of the players and after a little practice they become players.

We play twice a month – on the 1st and 3rd Monday – for about two to three hours. We were fortunate to have a facility in our town that has 25 tables, a good lunch kitchen, and it is kept clean and neat ...the price for all this is only \$5.00 for the entire day, which was negotiated when we first started the activity. Each branch that attends has a member that keeps their newsletter editor informed so that each branch knows where and when we meet.

Generally, we have three to four tables of pool at each meeting and depending on how many show up, we play a game called crazy 8 or two man teams of 8 ball ...both can get pretty competitive at times!

I would welcome any questions other members might have and you can E-mail me at billw@astound.net or phone me at 925-682-0962.



From left to right is **Martin Lyle, Jerry Wright** and **Bill Weinberg** getting ready to shoot some pool.

Big Turnout for Salute to SIR Day at the Races

Michael Roberts, the Group Sales Manager for Golden Gate Fields, tells Happenings that the last Salute to SIR Day at the Races was a huge success... "the largest SIR day we have ever had!" 343 Sirs were in attendance that day and 15 Branches were recognized with a named race. A great time was had by all.

We also held a raffle that day and here is the outcome:

- The 3rd place winner was a member of Branch 136 who won free Turf Club passes and a Golden Gate beach towel.
- The second place winner from Branch 6 won free Turf Club passes and a mutual voucher worth \$25.00
- The grand prize went to a member of Branch 151 who won a Turf Club party for four, including valet parking, admission, reserved seating, a daily racing program, and a prime rib buffet lunch, including tax and tip for the servers.

Our next SIR Day at the Races will be on March 26th and you can see a flyer about it in the adjacent column.

Don't miss it!

Sports: State Baseball

SIR Day at the Sacramento Rivercats
 vs. the **Nashville Sounds**
 May 26 (Wednesday) at 11:35 AM
 Tickets \$17



SIR Day at the SF Giants
 vs. the **Florida Marlins**
 July 29 (Thursday) at 12:30 PM
 Ticket Price to be determined



Carl Elvik, Chairman, State bowling Committee

It's a new year and I hope to see most of my friends at one tournament or another during the year. We have lost a few friends this past year and I want to express our condolences to their families. We also have quite a few out with illness and I hope they get well soon.

Our Bowling Committee held its annual meeting in January. We are working on a couple things this year. We have been successful with teleconferencing over the last few months and will continue with that program. Our State Bowling Tournament will be held at Fireside Lanes in Citrus Heights in May and our complete bowling schedule can be found on the SIR website, sirinc.org.

I want to thank all of you that attended our annual meeting and all of you who are on our committees ... your efforts, make my job fun and easy.

Good luck bowling and have fun!

Carl



GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

WHERE THE BAY COMES TO PLAY

Golden Gate Fields

Presents....

A Spring Salute to SIR day at the races!!!

When: Friday March 26, 2010
 Where: Golden Gate Fields Turf Club
 Time: Please arrive @ 11:15 a.m.
 Gates open at 11:00 a.m.
 Buffet Hours: 11:30-3:00 p.m.
 First race: 12:45 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 per adult (Groups of 10+ required)

Includes: Valet parking (or parking for a bus), admission & reserved seating, daily racing program, raffle including free giants tickets as grand prize, tax/ tip for the food servers and a race named in honor of your SIR Branch.

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE FOR A BIG WIN!!!



For More Information Call Michael Roberts of
 Golden Gate Fields @ (510) 559-7380
 Or email mroberts@goldengatefields.com

Happenings Travel Bulletin

March 23-30, 2010

Springtime in Savannah & Charleston

In addition to Savannah and Charleston, we will visit Jekyll Island, St. Simon Island, Jacksonville, and St. Augustine and tour the beautiful Magnolia Gardens. 12 meals, 7 nights, deluxe motor coach touring and r/t air from Sacramento are all included. Cost is \$2695 PPDO. Offered by Branch 96 Travel. Call Lee Suess at 209-296-2235.

April 25-May 7, 2010

Discover Croatia

This is truly a wonderful trip featuring the Dalmatian Coast and Slovenia. An unforgettable journey to explore the hidden treasures and wonders of Croatia with medieval castles, tranquil lakes, rolling green hills, and sandy beaches. Trip includes 17 meals in all. Prices range from \$2229 (land only) to \$3899 (land and air) PPDO. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3390 or Paul Hiatt at 415-454-2240.

May 7-22, 2010

Panama Canal Cruise

Cruise from Florida through the Panama Canal to San Francisco.



One night pre-stay in Ft. Lauderdale and then a 15 day cruise aboard the Sea Princess, with port stops in: Aruba, Cartagena, Panama, Costa Rica, and Mexico. Prices range from \$2680 to \$3655. Offered by Area 1 Travel.

Call Midge Damont at 650-588-6645.

May 11-21, 2010

Shades of Ireland

Round trip to Dublin. Tour Kilkenny, Blarney Castle, Jaunting Car ride, Ring of Kerry, Kilarney, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, and castle stays. Cost is \$2895 PPDO, including r/t air. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Tom Marks at 530-342-1441.

May 21-June 1, 2010

Italian Lakes and Greek Islands

Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Italian Lakes and visit the most popular of the Greek Islands. Stay 3 days in Stresa on the shores of Lake Maggiore, cruise on the Costa Fortuna for 7 days and visit the ports of Bari, Katakolon, Dubrovnik, Venice, plus the Greek Islands of Santorini, Mykonos and Rhodes. The trip includes 25 meals! Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Paul Hiatt at 415-454-2240 for information and prices.

May 31-June 13, 2010

Paris-Burgundy-Provence

Five nights in Paris...TGV to Dijon...8-day river cruise through Burgundy and Provence. All outside staterooms on the luxurious Grand River Royale. 6 shore excursions with English speaking guides, complementary wine during dinner, enrichment entertainment and lectures onboard. Prices start at \$5520 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.

June 6-16, 2010

A Trip of a Lifetime!...Oberammergau

This "trip of a lifetime" has just been reduced in price. The cost is now \$4300 PPDO. This passion play was first performed in 1634 and is put on during the last year of every decade. The play involves a cast of over 2,000 and celebrates this village in Bavaria, Germany from being spared the worst of the Black Plague. The trip is Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Phil Manriquez at 650-871-5009 for information and a flyer.

June 2-9, 2010

New York City

We will be staying at the Belvedere Hotel in the theater district. Stops will include Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, Radio City Music Hall, the Empire State Building, several museums, and at least one Broadway Show. There will also be some free time for shopping or individual sightseeing. The cost is \$2795 PPDO and includes r/t air, hotel and most meals. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765.

September 9-19, 2010

Cruise Alaska's Inside Passage

Embark on a 10-night inside passage cruise aboard the Sea Princess, sailing round trip from San Francisco. Ports of call include: Ketchikan, Juneau, Haines, Tracy Arm Fjord, and Victoria BC. Prices range from \$1385 to \$2425 PPDO. Offered by Area 6 Travel. Call Sam Ennis at 415-342-9154.

September 23-31, 2010

Copper Canyon Train

Travel in your private rail car on the only passenger train in Mexico. Cross 37 bridges and 86 tunnels as you make your way through the spectacular Copper Canyon. R/T air, meals, and hotels are all included, Cost is \$1880 PPDO. Offered by Branch 63 Travel. Call Bill Howard at 530-342-3368.

September 25-30 2010

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup

A visit to southwest South Dakota that will include stops at the Crazy Horse Monument, Mount Rushmore, Badlands National Park and many other notable places in the area that highlight the romantic "Old West." Unpack only once. R/T air from San Jose and 8 meals are included. Cost is \$1407 PPDO. Offered by Branch 153 Travel. Call Ralph Hunt at 650-967-8467.

September 25-October 2, 2010

Trains Across New England

Autumn in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts is a beautiful time of the year. This 8 day tour includes a number of excursions on local sightseeing trains. We leave from Boston by motor coach with stops at 3 different hotels for 2 nights each. The cost is \$2640 PPDO. Offered by Branch 145 Travel. Call Jerry Wisenor at 209-334-5181.

October 8-23, 2010

The Scotts and the Irish

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RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN 2010

Happenings at the State Board Meeting

Excerpts from the minutes of the January 2010 State Board Meeting

President Kendrick conducted the meeting. The key points he made to the Board about the serious membership situation are summarized in his President's column on page 1 of this edition of Happenings.

Vice President & Past Treasurer Mannell covered year end finances. He said we ended up the year with a net reduction in funds of approximately \$3,500 and a cash balance of about \$105,000. He said we're in pretty good financial shape and have some excess funds on hand.

Assistant Secretary Stephens reported that Secretary Gary Gruber is in the hospital having back surgery and he would be recording the minutes. A member of the Board asked that Secretary Gruber be commended on his efficiency, timeliness in keeping the records and the website up to date and that he just does a marvelous job. President Kendrick noted that Secretary Gruber is part of a team lead by Dwight Sale and that the Team is doing a great job.

Treasurer Berry said he is still short a few form 28's before he can file our IRS statement for the year which establishes that SIR is a non-profit organization.

Information Systems Chairman Sale reported that one of our tasks this past year was the Data Base update to assist Branches in keeping their data electronically instead of in a shoe box or a file cabinet. The job has taken a year rather than the two months that was anticipated. A "beta" program will be becoming out soon. It will have a financial program, an attendance program, and other programs.

Publicity Chairman Schick talked about publicity for Sons In Retirement and his work with the LAP last year. He suggested a reward be provided for those who sponsor a certain number of new members. After much discussion, a motion to table the issue and refer it to the Rules Committee was passed.

Bowling Chairman Elvik handed out a schedule of the 23 tournaments that will be held this year which was approved by the Board.

Golf Chairman Drennan said that due to economics, participation in State golf events was down compared to previous years, so a focus on new venues was needed. The Board approved the schedule for 2010. He commented that the golf program does bring in new members.

Past President Mel Augustine reported he is responsible for the A's, Warriors, and Raiders games. He expressed concern about the lack of attendance by SIR members and we need to do a better job of promoting the games. The Board approved the dates for the games.

Insurance Chairman Thomason reported the insurance premium has been lowered for 2010 as compared with the previous year. Travelers Insurance Company has reviewed our risks and lowered the premium slightly. He

noted there is an opening on the Insurance committee for a person that has a background in property management and casualty issues.

Travel Chairman Perry mentioned that last year SIR Branches scheduled 139 travel events – 25 went to foreign destinations – 8 were cruises to Alaska – and the remaining events were local or domestic. He expressed concern over the many Branches that have been remiss in submitting necessary forms required under the SIR Travel Code. He also said that he has been the Chairman for the past ten years and is retiring.

OLD BUSINESS: The Board discussed the effectiveness of the Tri Fold SIR Brochure and whether we should print some more. The response was not too positive...some Branches liked them, some were just ok, and some were just not happy with them. The Board decided to convert the file from PDF to a Word document and send it to contacts in the Branches.

NEW BUSINESS: Treasurer Mike Berry reviewed the mileage reimbursement rate and compared it with the IRS rate and proposed a reduction from fifty cents to forty-five cents a mile. Because of all the work involved in making the changes, the Board decided not to reduce the rate.

Training Committee Chairman Stedman presented a set of charts showing how membership has diminished and how it will continue to decline if the current path is taken. He showed that membership has gone from 32,000 at the peak down to 20,000 currently. He stated that as the Branches get older, they lose the ability to get leadership, activities, etc to the point that they can't recover. In his view the solution is to induct 10% of our membership each year. He offered a resolution for consideration by the Board which outlines the process for membership improvement and the survival of the Branches.

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