



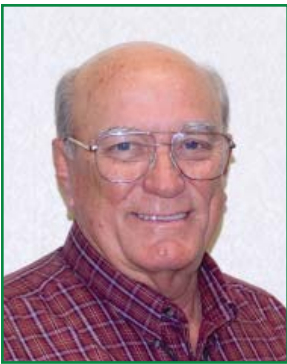
SIR HAPPENINGS

MAY 2010

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

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

President Buck's Challenge



My principal thrust this year is to stabilize the membership level and stop continued losses. My goal is to find the bottom and level off the loss curve, so that we can start to grow membership again. To this end I have been working with the State Board to

emphasize leadership from the State levels to the Branches.

In a volunteer organization like SIR, it is most effective to lead by example and with face to face communications. It is never advisable to be dictatorial or overbearing in dealing with any other Sir in any position relative to your own. It is always best to try to achieve consensus before proceeding with any endeavor, but that said, leaders must step up to personal responsibility for performance of the duties and assignments of any position to which they are assigned or elected.

I feel we must move toward a "Pro-Active" model, offering effective leadership from the State Board through the Regional Directors and Area Governors to the Branch. I want the Directors and Governors to intensify their management oversight and support efforts to the Branches, and be the resource point of contact for the operations of the Branches. This will be somewhat upsetting to some of the more independent minded Branch leaders because the State will be seen as interfering with the Branch's historic mode of operation. Others will welcome the support and leadership guidance. While the

change in leadership culture will not be easy or quickly accomplished, the membership crisis demands that we start the process without delay.

At the April State Board meeting a resolution was passed that sets an annual recruiting goal for each branch of 10% of their membership. This is based upon the well established management principles of setting a goal and then focusing upon it until it is met or exceeded. We know that an arbitrary 10% goal will not stop the losses in all branches, but it was selected to try to stem the loss rate within a year. Without doubt, some adjustments will be needed to customize it for individual Branch situations.

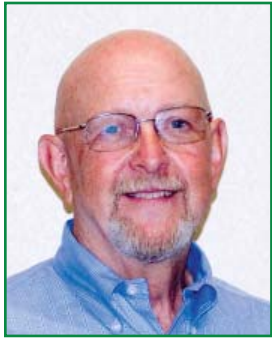
Another part of the change that was introduced at the State Board meeting is to revitalize and expand the leadership training program. The Branch Leadership Guide, that you are familiar with, is being upgraded by the Training Committee under Jim Stedman. It will describe leadership responsibilities for the Regional Directors, Area Governors and Big Sirs. On October 19th we will provide training for all these leaders instead of just the Area Governors as we have in past years. The incoming Area governors and Big Sirs will then provide the training for incoming Branch officers before they take office on January 1st.

Together we can solve this membership crisis by developing and implementing effective leadership by the State Board of Directors, Regional Directors, Area Governors, Big Sirs, and Branch Executive Committees. It will take time and effort, but I believe leadership is the answer to the membership crisis of SIR.

RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN 2010

Spotlight on SIR Officers

Bob Mannell – State Vice President



Our Vice President is the past SIR State Treasurer and his election to that position back in 2005 proved to be a wise choice. At that time, SIR was not in good financial condition and during Bob's four years as Treasurer, expenses were dramatically reduced at the State level – in spite of a declining membership and as a consequence, declining revenues – but today, SIR is in excellent financial shape. Bob says that he is proud to have been part of the team that made it happen.

Bob Mannell was born and raised on a farm in Northeast Kansas. He attended a one-room country school through the eighth grade and when he graduated from eighth grade, there were only three students in the school. After high school, he attended Kansas State University. Bob says that in one of his "less brilliant career moves," he left school to go to work for the Santa Fe Railway in the accounting department in Topeka, Kansas.

After a couple of career changes, a marriage, and two children, he joined IBM as a computer programmer in Kansas City. After 17 years with IBM, and a divorce, Bob moved to Maryland to work on an installation at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center with ROLM...a telecommunications company that IBM had acquired. The last several years at ROLM were spent as a Product Manager responsible for Global Multimedia Messaging products.

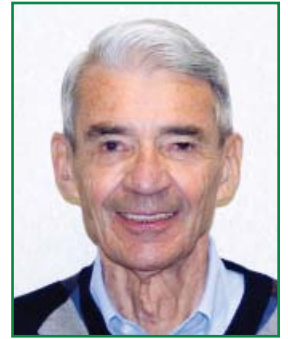
ROLM's corporate headquarters were in Santa Clara and he took a ninety-day temporary assignment there in 1987. Bob liked the climate, the job, found a lady he loved and never left California. He held several corporate staff and management positions in service, sales support, and marketing during his tenure with the company, until his retirement in 2002.

In 2003, his father-in-law introduced him to SIR and he says he was hooked and became the Branch 39 Treasurer the next year. The following year a request went out to all the Branches to find a candidate for Assistant State Treasurer, but as it turned out, what was needed was a State Treasurer. Bob agreed to run and was elected. He served from 2005 through 2009, when he was elected Vice President.

Bob's other interests are golf, gardening, woodworking, and grandkids, but as usual... more interests than time!

Gary Gruber — State Secretary

At a recent State Board meeting a director made the comment that "our State Secretary, Gary Gruber, should be commended on his efficiency and timeliness in keeping the records and the website up to date and that he just does a marvelous job for SIR."



Our hard working Secretary was born and raised in Spokane, Washington in the shadow of Gonzaga University. He attended the Gonzaga prep school, but decided to attend the University of Washington and graduated with a degree in Business Administration. During the Korean War -- in the middle of his college years -- Gary put in a hitch in the Air Force, spending most of his service on an Alaska radar outpost.

After graduating from UW, he was employed by the Shell Oil Company and worked his way up to a supervisor position in the accounting department. Later he was transferred to a data processing operation in Menlo Park, California and then the main data processing center in Houston, where he became a computer programmer and eventually the supervisor of a group of systems analysts. Near the end of his career, he accepted an assignment as computer systems manager at a major chemical plant in Saudi Arabia. His wife, Nancy, accompanied him there, and together, they enjoyed not only life in the kingdom, but also vacations in Middle Eastern, European and Asian countries.

After 35 years with Shell, Gary elected to retire. They sold their home in Houston and moved to South Lake Tahoe in 1990. It wasn't long before he joined Branch 160 where he has served as Big Sir, Little Sir and as a Director on the Executive Committee and has been active in bowling and various chairmanships. In 2003, he was elected Second Assistant State Secretary, but when that office was eliminated, Gary took some of the work he was doing – the SIR Manual, State Roster and SIR Forms – over to the Information Systems Committee where he also helps maintain the SIR Website. He was elected State Secretary in 2009 and 2010.

Gary and Nancy were married 50 years ago and they added four children and seven grandkids to their brood. During their 20 years at Tahoe, they have very much enjoyed life at the lake and their involvement with SIR.

Gary has chosen not to run again for State Secretary, but will continue with his heavy load of responsibilities on the Information Systems Committee.

Sirs in the News

Lake Tahoe Branch 160

Logan Awarded HLM

Larry Coffman, Bulletin Editor

The success of most organizations rests on the strength and devotion of their volunteers. Lake Tahoe Branch 160 is no exception and as is the case with most organizations, there are always a few members that quietly give above and beyond ...over and over again. **Wayne Logan** is one of these rare gifts!

At our March luncheon meeting, Wayne was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his exceptional service to the branch. Wayne became a member of the Lake Tahoe Branch in 1993. Since then, he has served in a variety of capacities including: Little Sir, Big Sir, BEC member, Golf Chairman, Sunshine Chair, and has been a key volunteer in preparing for our annual picnic.

State President **Buck Kendrick** (in the picture on the right) and Area 19 Governor, Bill Short, were both present to recognize Wayne's contributions to SIR and award him an Honorary Life Membership. We were also pleased that Wayne's wife, Dona, was able to be present for this commemorative celebration.

Wayne...we are forever grateful for your service, leadership and, most of all, your friendship. **Job well done, Sir!**



Twin Valley Branch 36, Santa Cruz

Senior HLM Fel DiGeronimo

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

Region 7 Director **Richard Kabanek** was very pleased to present **Fel DiGeronimo** (see picture) with a Senior Honorary Life Membership award.

Over the years, Fel has served Branch 36 very well, having been a charter member and a Big Sir, just to name a few of his many contributions to the Branch.



Peach Bowl Branch 45, Yuba City

Two Honorees - Boyer & Huefner

Rich Dettmer, Region 9 Director

The setting was noon on March 1st at a Branch 45 luncheon. President **Buck Kendrick** was there and Area 15 Governor **Gale Jeffers** and Region 9 Director **Rich Dettmer** were also there. All of this – as well as the fancy name plates for special seating – indicated that “something was up,” and this was definitely the case as two lovely ladies entered. Two honorees with many years of service to Sons In Retirement were there to accept Honorary Life Memberships. They were: **Udo Huefner** and **John Boyer**.

Udo had an inkling (It's hard to keep this a secret from a BEC member), but John (not being a BEC member, but a Committee Chair), was caught completely by surprise. His first clue was when the two wives walked in. Udo Huefner has been a Big Sir, Little Sir, Assistant Treasurer, BEC member and is one who always steps up to the plate to help. He is shown on the far right in the picture with his charming wife, Maria, at his side accepting the award from President Buck Kendrick.

John Boyer (next to the President) and still looking somewhat surprised, has served as Big Sir, Little Sir, BEC Member, Attendance Chairman, is the current Golf Chairman, plus so much more, is shown with his charming wife, Carol at his side, accepting the award from President Kendrick.

A good meal and a good time were had by all. We are proud of our two new HLMs ...congratulations!



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

Tamalpais Branch 47, Fairfax

Roger Pease receives HLM

Lou Painter, Bulletin Editor

The members of Branch 47 are very proud of **Roger Pease** who has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership. A member since 1998, Roger has ably served as our Big Sir twice, has been a Director several times and an important, hard-working member on numerous committees, as well as a song leader and door greeter.

With his enthusiasm and constant effort, he has sponsored thirteen new members ...a Branch record!



A perfect gentleman, Roger is always fun to see and be with. This important award has certainly been well earned.

SIR President **Buck Kendrick** on the right in the picture, is shown presenting the HLM award to Roger Pease.

Twain Harte Branch 172, Sonora

Feaster: Exceptional Service Award

Earl Nelson, Big Sir

Dick Feaster is shown on the left in the picture receiving an Exceptional Service Award for his unselfish contributions to the Twain Harte Branch. Presenting the award is Big Sir **Earl Nelson**.

Dick began his involvement in the Branch about seven years ago as the Computer Users' Group Chairman. Following that, he became Membership Chairman, then a Director, and went on to become Little SIR and Big SIR. He didn't sit back and rest on his laurels as he assumed the position of Assistant Secretary for three years.

Throughout all of this, Dick has been an active supporter of many other Branch Activity Groups. Dick, and wife Jan, are relocating to Fairfield and we are certainly going to miss them.

Elk Grove Branch 156

Bulletin Editor Davolt Honored

John Mendonca, Area 14 Governor

Area 14 Governor **John Mendonca** is shown in the picture below on the left, presenting **Doug Davolt**, Branch 156 Bulletin Editor, with a Certificate of Appreciation that reads in part: "For making *The Good Word* the best Branch publication in Area 14." Congratulations, Doug!



News from the Branches

Area 22, Modesto

Bowling Champs

Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

The Area 22 Bowling League finished the 2009-2010 USBC sanctioned season with a playoff between the team of (pictured left to right) **Vern Masse**, **Chuck Shoup**, both from Branch 144 and **Emil Pizzirulli**, from Branch 103. Unfortunately, Ben Pacheco, from Branch 103 had to miss the tournament because of heart bypass surgery. They won the championship from a team composed of Russ Jackson, Dominic Genova, Jerry Melvin and Benny Sanchez, all from Branch 103. The winning team won two out of three games for the title at McHenry Bowl in Modesto.



Petaluma Branch 58

This Guy Can Predict Earthquakes

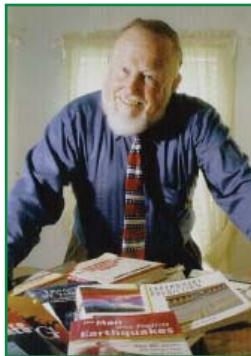
Jack Schipper, Little Sir

Branch 58 recently had quite an interesting speaker who spoke about earthquakes and answered the question: Where have the sea lions of San Francisco's Pier 39 gone? The answer was ...off the coast of Oregon following bait fish that are following warm water currents! A geologist and long time student of earthquakes **James Berkland** (see picture) began to publish his earthquake predictions 21 years ago in his newsletter.

His earthquake predictions have continued to score better than 75%, or three times the chance expectation which is less than 25%.

Since mid-1997 he has maintained a Website (syzygyjob.com) with webmaster Will Fletcher. In his presentation Jim shared information about high tides, full moon phases, and even keeping watch on the missing pet section of newspapers as indicators of upcoming earthquakes. He accurately predicted the World Series Quake and keeps a record of his accuracy in his newsletter.

This was a very interesting program that stimulated many questions and other observations from branch members - we recommend him to shake up your luncheon crowd too.



Ignacio Branch 22, San Rafael

SIRenaders

Bob Farwell & Ray Sommer, SIRenaders

SIRenaders is a singing group that was formed in the early years of Branch 22, back in the 70's. Originally comprised of 10 singers and 10 band members, the group performed only at SIR functions and special events such as the annual picnic and Christmas Party. In 1974, they began entertaining the folks in various convalescent facilities and residents of retirement communities throughout the county. They now visit 33 different facilities each year ...some of them twice!

In addition to their usual Friday gigs entertaining the elderly and shut-ins, the SIRenaders are active participants at Branch luncheons. They help in the opening ceremony by singing an appropriate patriotic song, usually "God Bless America," or "Grand Old Flag." Of course, Birthday announcements wouldn't be complete without "The Birthday Song," and anniversaries are acknowledged with a love song, or sometimes a completely inappropriate ditty, just to see if the members are still awake!

Recruiting has always been difficult. It's amazing how many men, who have good voices, respond when asked if they would be interested in singing with SIRenaders: "I can't sing, you wouldn't want me"...so, to help fill out the group, we have added three ladies, who also have enhanced our sounds.

There have been many different members over the years and we recently lost our leader, Al Re, who was replaced by Bob Farwell. Shown in the picture from left to right are: **Jean Morse** (piano accompanist & singer), **Mike Scafani**, **Jerry Kerby**, **Joe Beckner**, and **Susan Nelson**.



Form 27?

Yes Form 27!



News from the Branches

Mac Meadow Branch 15, Pioneer

10th Anniversary Celebration

Jack Magee, Big Sir

Branch 15 received some nice publicity about our 10th Anniversary in our local newspaper, including this picture of our 10th anniversary celebration.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the celebration, including the wives. There were 105 people in attendance, including about 25 charter members. The Branch was quite pleased to have SIR Vice President **Bob Mannell** and Area Governor **Norman Whitsed** join us on this occasion.

The event was hosted by Big Sir **Jack Magee**, who was assisted by Little Sir **Jim Steenson**. The charter members, who originated the branch in 2000, were honored as well as **Ben Arntz** of Pioneer, who was Big Sir for the first two years of the Branch's existence.

Most of the charter members were members of the Jackson branch. They lived up country and wanted to form a branch closer to where they lived, so they applied for a charter from the State and it was granted.

Branch 15 is a great group of people, and we're always looking for new members, to join in the all the fun we have.



JAZZ

Mt. Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek

Annual Activity Chair Breakfast

Walter Schick, Director

The number of activities in Branch 8 has grown from only five in 1997, to twenty-five in 2005, and to thirty-three in 2009. Eleven of our Activities include Couples and were quite easy to start. Our latest Activity is a Book Exchange which now has over 300 books for borrowing by members.

Annually, at the end of the year, we recognize the efforts of our now 35 Activity Chairmen at a breakfast meeting. This year our speakers were **Dean Steichen**, Area 2 Governor, **Glenn Cheetham**, Big Sir, **Jim Sowell**, Little Sir, **Derek Southern**, Little Sir Elect, **Bill Hunter**, Webmaster, **Walter Schick**, Area Publicity, **Pump Pumphrey**, Bulletin Editor and **Gary Plisco**, Activities Committee Coordinator.

Shown in the picture are just a few of the many who attended the breakfast. They are, left to right: **Don Atwater**, Single Sirs Dine Out; **Rod Spicer**, Rubber Bridge; **Don Bluebag**, Assistant Activities Coordinator; **Dean Steichen**, Area 2 Governor; **Craig Walton**, Fishing; and **Ron Smith**, Explore and Eat.

One of the discussions was about increasing participation by older members and our 2010 BEC will work on this. We also discussed opening branch activities to other branches where space permits.



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

The 37th Annual

Sacramento Jazz Jubilee is the place to be!

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee swings over the Memorial Day weekend from Friday, May 28th 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.

News from the Branches

Bidwell Branch 110, Chico

Learning to be skilled Craftsmen

Bill Jemison & Bill Gebhardt, Branch Members

Last spring, Bidwell Branch developed some new activities...one of the popular new groups was woodworking. The group began with five participants who agreed to get together once a month and we took turns meeting in the home workshops of various members. Each meeting included sharing projects, stories, ideas, and some problem solving, as well as sharing coffee and snacks.

After a few meetings, it was decided that working together on some projects would be fun and helpful in building new skills for the members. The first group project was making a birdhouse kit that would later be completed with a grandchild or other youngster. One member, Bill Jemison, had previously made birdhouse kits and he agreed to guide other group members in building them. Each member of the group successfully made one or more birdhouse kits to take home and put together at a future date with a youngster. Shown in the picture (next column below right) from left to right are: **Craig Lindquist, Ron Haney, Bill Jemison, Bill Gebhardt, and Don Levinsaler.**

The group decided their next project would be a mission-style library stool. Craig Lindquist, one of the more experienced craftsmen, had already designed and built this beautiful little stool out of red oak (see picture). He made up templates and jigs for some of the more difficult parts. Craig agreed to guide and coach the rest of us in making the stools. Members are building their stools from different woods –i.e., walnut, cherry, or maple, for different looks



The group has now grown to nine members, but we are always ready to welcome newcomers. The mission-style stool is a project that has taken several months to complete. The members with more skills have enjoyed helping those with less experience as they learn to do such things as gluing up the

thicker legs of the stool, and making mortise and tendon joints. We also learned to use special tools to cut and drill squared holes through the wood with matching parts to make tight fitting joints. There was a lot of band saw work and the use of routers and pattern bits for shaping the wooden parts of the stool.

The guys are having so much fun they have decided to meet twice monthly for half a day. Now, as the group approaches completion of the library stool project, we are discussing what to tackle next. Some possibilities include building a pair of custom saw-horses, a trophy case for a local school, a mission-style chair, or whatever? One thing is certain though ...the group is going to have a good time being together and that's what SIR is all about.

Lake Tahoe Branch 160

The Seinfeld of Lake Tahoe

These guys take the word “tired” out of retired. The members of Branch 160 in South Lake Tahoe are likely busier than they were in their working days. For example, at age 95, **Tony Manfredi**, golf's and bowls a 207 on a really good day...“This year it's a 179, but I'd like to get to 200 (average),” he said modestly.

The Branch was started in 1990, when Area Governor **Campbell O'Neill**, from the Placerville Branch ran an ad in the Tahoe Daily Tribune asking retired men to attend an informational meeting. That first luncheon meeting was held at the 89th Street Bar and Grill, with the group moving later meetings to Carrow's Restaurant, then the Timber Cove Lodge and eventually to Tep's Villa Roma. Today, the club boasts more than 100 members.



Responding to the fact that there are no dues and SIR doesn't support any outside causes and is made up of retired men getting together for lunch, bowling, golfing and other active outings, **Gary Gruber** – who is also the State Secretary – joked that “It's like the Seinfeld of South Lake Tahoe ...it's based on nothing.

Dave Cotter, a race director and president of the Tahoe Mountain Milers running club, retired early at age 53. He said many of his former colleagues have passed away... “They had nothing to do,” Cotter said. “They retired and had nothing to occupy their minds and their bodies.” “SIR gets members out of the house.” Surveying the room he said, “I bet you wouldn't find a person in here that's got free time during the week.”

(Excerpted from an article that appeared in the Tahoe Daily Tribune, written by reporter Roseann Keegan)



News from the Branches

Area 6 RV Club, Marin County

Rolling Roamers

Jack Streckfus, Club President

The Rolling Roamers RV Club of Area 6 in Marin County recently enjoyed a 20 day extended trip. We visited Desert Hot Springs, Las Vegas, and Pahrump, Nevada. Highlights of the trip were the Fabulous Follies and the Air Museum in Palm Springs – all the thrills of Las Vegas – the visit to Death Valley National Park – and of course, the afternoon cocktail parties. Ten rigs went on the outing and all made it home safely. Shown in the picture is a very happy group of Rolling Roamers.



Area 5 Garden Club, San Jose

A Lot of Green Thumbs

Jerry Bradley, Garden Club President

The Area 5 Garden Club was started way back in the 1930's as The Men's Garden Club of Santa Clara County and was open to all men in the area. In the 1970's most of the members had joined Sons In Retirement and eventually membership was restricted to Sirs and the club became part of SIR.

Today the Garden Club thrives with members of several SIR Branches, their wives, widows and guests. Luncheon meetings are held each month from September through June. We have a featured speaker at each meeting, except for December, when we have our Christmas party and in June when we have a pot luck picnic.

The men in the picture from left to right are two of our long time members, **Carl Linder** and **Ray Laurent**, both from Branch 74. The Lady in the middle is **Cindy Rasp**, wife of **Jim Rasp**, from Branch 141.



The Club meets in San Jose and if you have an interest in any type of gardening – indoors or outdoors – please consider joining us. For more details, call Jerry Bradley at 408-265-9485 or email at gbradleysj@aol.com.

Area 2 Fishing Club, Contra Costa County

Hardy and Energetic Fishermen

Harry Sherinian, Fishing Coordinator

The Area 2 SIR Fishing Club is made up of a hardy and energetic group of men. We meet once a month to plan our future fishing trips and to discuss the successes and failures of recent fishing trips. Some of the club's successes are shown in the pictures with **Dick Thompson** holding up a huge 9 pound trout and **Harry Sherinian** (below) with a nice Sturgeon. At our meeting, we also have guest speakers from all aspects of sport fishing to inform and teach us the various methods of fishing, as well as sportsmen like behavior.

Our group is made up of all types of fisherman, from the hard core fly fisherman, to the bait dunker who just wants to sit on



the side of a lake and watch the beautiful scenery. We have members who fish a couple of times

a week, to those who fish twice a year, but all seem to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow fishermen and to learn some new fishing techniques.

About half of the members have boats so there is always a pairing up of non-boat owners with boat owners to go on the trips where boats are required to catch fish. We fish the ocean, bay, delta, local lakes and the high sierra. From ice fishing, to five day trips to Baja for some great fishing, from Alaska for Salmon fishing, to a five day – live on board – fishing trip out of San Diego ...all seem to be on our fishing calendar and there just doesn't seem to be a limit to what we will do.

There is also a social side to our club. There are events where we include the wives: the Summer Bar-B-Que, the Christmas Party, the Spring Dinner Event, and of course, our Day at the Races. It's a group of great guys with a common interest that enjoy each other's company.

All SIR members and guests are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to participate in our fishing trips as well as attend our monthly meetings. The meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 AM, but many of us arrive at about 8:00 to have some breakfast before we get down to business. For further information, please contact Karl Droese, Big Fish, at 925-376-0468, or Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Coordinator, at 925-846-7067, or Dick Thomson, Secretary/Treasurer, at 925-944-1760.

State Golf

Slow Play

Gene Drennan, State Golf Committee Chairman

I have been asked, over the years, what is the single most frustrating thing about golf. Having played for 45 of my 70 plus years, I personally feel the most frustrating is ...Ta-DA: **PACE OF PLAY!!!!** Nothing can ruin a great day on the golf course more than a 6 hour round. Waiting on every shot – standing around – getting cold – and losing any sense of rhythm, to me, is the worst of the worst.

How do we cure it? Simple ...stay up with the group in front of you. Most of the responsibility for slow play falls on the shoulders of the golfers themselves. For example, I – for the life of me – cannot understand why a mature individual, driving a Mercedes and playing with a \$2,000 set of sticks will spend 20 minutes, searching for a 50 cent golf ball.

There are so many things that you can do to speed up play, such as ...be ready to hit your next shot. I have seen some golfers taking more practice swings on the golf course, than they do on the driving range and don't declare a social hour on the green, deciding how you are going to hit your 6 inch putt ...GEEEEZ!! We can socialize over a beer later on the 19th hole instead of in the middle of the fairway or on the green.

Please understand, I am not criticizing all golfers... most of them are doing all they can to speed up play. No – I am trying to reach the select few who cause the majority of the delays with their slow play...so, enjoy the game and when you see a slow player at 9:00 in the morning, remind him or her that you would much appreciate their moving right along, because you don't want to be late for your dinner reservations!!!



State Bowling

Honoring Tournament Winners

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Committee chairman

Our State Bowling Committee would like to say thanks to all those who have participated in our tournaments so far this year. There are 17 great outings left and our State Annual Tournament will be held on May 17th, 18th, and 19th. I'm looking forward to earning a spot on the state bowling trophy.

I encourage all bowlers to go on the SIR website and view our bowling stats ...**Del Locke, Jerry Sabo** and **Bob York** are doing a great job of posting them and here are a few of the tournament winners that we want to congratulate:

The winners at Pacific Bowl in Stockton were: A singles: **Ruben Garcia**, Br. 45 – B singles: **John Sepulveda**, Br.123 – A doubles: **Harley Colbert** and **Mike Diaz**, Br.87 – B doubles: **Norman Witten** and **Patricia Witten**, Br. 87 – and all events: **John Sepulveda**, Br. 123.

At Napa Bowl in Sonoma the winners were: A singles: **Pete Peterson**, Br. 73 – B singles: **Ben Abisia**, Br. 123 – A doubles: **Oscar Castillo** and **Alex Rivera**, Br. 123 – B doubles: **Don Henry** and **John Pesek**, Br. 59 – and all events A division: **Frank Aros**, Br. 109 and B division: **Frank Palmer**, Br. 105.

At Granada Bowl in Livermore the winners were: A singles: **Jose Arroya**, Br. 108 – B singles: **Debra Silva**, a guest of Br. 136 – A doubles: **Gary Amantite** and **Wiley Bobo**, Br. 73 – B doubles: **Bill Yray** and **Rosemarie Yray**, Br. 101 – and all events A division: **Pat Fisher** Br. 113 and B division: **Debra Silva**, a guest of Br. 136.

The winners at Boulevard Bowl in Petaluma were: A singles: **Willy Bobo**, Br. 73 – B singles: **Jerry Sabo**, Br. 59 – A doubles: **Oscar Castillo** and **Alex Rivera**, Br. 23 – B doubles: **Bill Hammerman** and **Ernest Feil**, Br.147 – and All Events: **Oscar Castillo**, Br. 123.

Great bowling all of you and we will see you on the lanes!

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 12:45 PM
Ticket Prices: Lower Box \$34, View Box \$23, View Reserved \$17, LF Bleachers \$17



Happenings Travel Bulletin

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 16-29, 2010

Montreal, Quebec, & Canadian Maritimes

Fly r/t from SFO. Discover Montreal, Quebec City, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia via motor coach and ferry. Dine in old Montreal and then enjoy 2 nights in Quebec City. Feast on lobster during a luncheon cruise at Prince Edward Island and visit quaint fishing villages like Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia. Price is \$3600 PPDO. Offered by Branch 172 Travel. Call Earl Nelson at 209-586-5661.

September 17-30 2010

Mediterranean Enchantment

A ten day cruise on board Holland America's MS Noordam, sailing roundtrip from Civitavecchia (Rome), plus a 2 day stay in Rome. The itinerary includes visits to Livorno, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, Carthage, Trapani, and Naples. Cost is from \$4965 to \$5935 PPDO, including r/t air from SFO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call Jim Lunn at 925-551-3329.

September 23-31, 2010

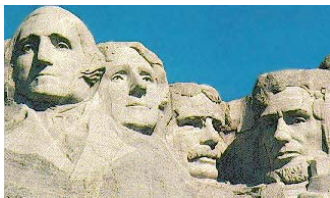
Copper Canyon Train

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.

September 26 – October 6, 2010

Fall colors of New England & Canada

This will be a 10 day cruise aboard the Holland American Line, MS Eurodam, departing from New York with visits to Newport RI, Boston, Bar Harbor ME, Halifax and Sidney, Nova Scotia and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, including a scenic cruise in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and a cruise of the Sanguenay Fjord. The final destination is Quebec City. Prices range from \$2483 to \$3383 PPDO. Offered by Branch 174 Travel. Call Bob Paden at 925-376-8189.

September 29 – October 9, 2010

Mexican Getaway

We sail from San Francisco aboard the Sea Princess to Catalina Island and then on to Mexico. Spend the day in Puerto Vallarta, then on to Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. On the return trip enjoy a day in San Diego before returning to San Francisco. Prices range from \$1145 to \$1980 PPDO. Offered by Branch 26 Travel. Call Emile Lassalle at 510-538-7463.

October 8–14, 2010

Patriot's Pilgrimage

A 7 day tour featuring New York City, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Washington DC. Fly from Sacramento to NY and see all the famous sites in the "Big Apple." Then to Philadelphia and visit the many historical places in the "City of Brotherly Love," including Gettysburg and the Amish country. Next, on to the nation's capital and tour the numerous historical sites, including a performance at Ford's Theatre and finally, visit Mount Vernon before the flight home. All inclusive cost is \$2565 PPDO. Offered by Branches 45 and 109 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693.

October 8-23, 2010

The Scotts and the Irish

Take a 16 day tour of Scotland and Ireland. A professional tour director will guide the tour to such places as: Glasgow, Aviemore, Edinburgh, in Scotland and Belfast, Killarney, Dublin, in Ireland and more. Trip includes R/T air from SFO, hotels, 13 breakfasts, 8 dinners. Cost is \$4,212 PPDO. Offered by Branch 46 Travel. Call Pete Lepisto at 209-948-2265.

October 19–November 6, 2010

Pure New Zealand

New Zealand is a thrilling microcosm of the natural world ...a land where wild rivers and glaciers flow through rain forests to the sea, pristine lakes and pastoral forests hug volcanic slopes, and snow-capped peaks pierce the sky. Along the way, you will experience the Kiwi spirit of adventure that springs from this mighty landscape. Cost of this all inclusive trip is \$5440 PPDO. Offered by Area 2 Travel. Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.

November 10–15, 2010

Branson Holiday

Start with the Truman Library in Independence, Mo. Then see the Johnny Mathis Show, The Osmonds, Twelve Irish Tenors, Yakov Smirnoff, Andy Williams, Shoji Tabuchi, and the Festival of Lights, plus much more. Price is \$2089 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Dan Miller at 650-591-3314.

RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN 2010

Happenings at the State Board Meeting

Excerpts from the minutes of the April 2010 State Board Meeting

President Kendrick called the meeting to order. He reiterated the 2010 Mission Statement and the Slogan and was pleased to see them posted in Branch Bulletins around the state. He noted that Travel Chairman, **Bob Perry** had passed away and **Larry Garvin** has been appointed to the position.

Vice President Robert Mannell put in a plea for help in finding replacements for our leadership. He also discussed mementos for the Annual Meeting.

Assistant Secretary Hal Stephens said he would record the minutes in the absence of Secretary, Gary Gruber. As Chairman of the Badge Committee, he said our awards supplier is providing excellent service. He further stated that all the SI-100's have been filed with the Secretary of State on behalf of the Branches.

Treasurer Mike Berry reported that State funds are down somewhat due to the falling membership, but the treasury is still in very good shape. He said that he was pleased that all the Audit Reports he had received were clean, but he is still missing many reports.

Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden was pleased to say that all 148 Branches had reported with the Form 28.

President Buck Kendrick (See the "Presidents Column" on the front page of this edition for a summary of the comments he made to the Board.) Each of the nine Regional Directors then reported on issues in their Regions.

InfoSys Chairman and Past President Dwight Sale talked about the data base changes, the membership in the database.

State Certificates Chairman and Past President Jim Donovan clarified the procedures for requesting and receiving Senior Certificates and asked that they be sent to him.

State Insurance Chairman John Thomason said that our insurance costs have gone down. He also mentioned a need to recruit additional members to the committee.

Chairmen of the sporting events, Past President Mel Augustine, Chuck Roberts, Neil Mayo and John Levis reported on SIR days at the various sporting events including the Athletics, Raiders, Warriors, Giants, River Cats, and the Fresno team. Flyers will be sent to Branches in the appropriate areas to let members become aware of the events.

Chairman "Smitty" Smith of the Rules Committee proposed a series of rule changes.

Publicity Committee Chairman Walter Schick discussed Branch development saying that we now have a total of at least 75 different Branch activities.

Leadership Strategy Session: President, Buck Kendrick and Training Chairman, Jim Stedman It was announced that the newly elected Big Sirs, Area Governors, and Regional Directors will be invited to a training session on October 19th, and Jim Stedman then covered some changes in the method of training. He also reviewed the new Form 27 and a motion to approve it passed. It was agreed that the President would send a letter to all the Branches explaining its use.

President Buck Kendrick concluded the meeting by saying: "I want all of you to leave this meeting inspired and motivated. I want you to focus on ideas that work and sharing those success stories. We can succeed and..." **Recruit, Vitalize, and Retain Membership in 2010."**

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