

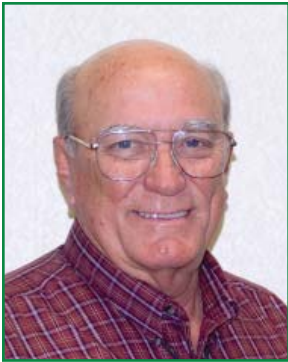


SIR HAPPENINGS

AUGUST 2010 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

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

President Buck's Challenge



I have been very encouraged by many of the branch reactions to the 10% recruitment goal that was set by the Board. Early results from the Form 27 reports and some of the quarterly reports, indicate that the process is working and several branches have already met their recruitment goal for the year, while others are ahead of pace for meeting it. We don't yet have enough information to know if we have leveled off the membership

loss trends, but I have confidence in the results of the "Pro-Active" leadership of our Directors and Governors. I have to note that not all of our branches have willingly agreed to participate and the leadership team has encountered some "push back." It is my goal that all the branches adopt the process and regain their healthy membership levels. Most of the reports from the participating branches praise the process and acknowledge that it really focuses their attention on their membership issues in ways they never had before.

I am pleased to announce that the State RV Activity has been reactivated under the leadership of Committee Co-Chairmen Don Cummings (Branch 7) and Jack Streckfus (Branch 22). They are in the process of staffing their committee and developing plans for future RV activities. I am personally appreciative of their willingness to step up to the challenges and I look forward to joining them on some exciting RV outings.

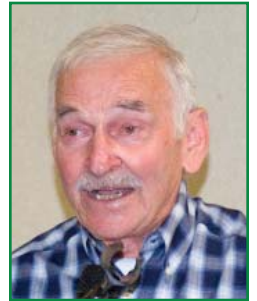
In a volunteer organization like SIR, there are many functions and activities that are performed by members without formal recognition or appreciation. Many times we do not even know what an individual is contributing until one day that person is no longer able to continue due to illness or changes in their life situation. I just recently became aware of how much Gary Gruber was really doing for SIR, when he announced he was selling his home in South Lake Tahoe and moving to the Houston area to be near one of his daughters. He had backed away from his Secretarial duties earlier in the year due to his serious illness, but he had continued to work from home doing all the "unofficial" tasks that he did in addition. Several people have been recruited to pick up all the

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State RV Committee Reestablished Don Cummings & Jack Streckfus, Co-chairmen

President, Buck Kendrick, has appointed **Don Cummings** (photo) and **Jack Streckfus** as co-chairmen of the State RV Committee. The RV Committee had been inactive for several years.

Both Don and Jack have been active in SIR related and sponsored RV activities. Jack was the State RV Committee Chairman and Don served on the committee. Both are members of the SIR Area 6 Rolling Roamers RV Club. Jack is the current Chairman, while Don is the Wagon Master.



President Kendrick met with Don and Jack and they discussed some of the things they would like to accomplish in the next few years. Some of the things discussed were:

- Establish a list of all of the SIR RV Clubs in the State and create a data base of all SIR members with a recreational vehicle.
- Promote SIR RV Clubs in Branches, Areas and Regions. Assist others in setting up RV clubs and RV club outings. Encourage joint outings among various SIR RV clubs
- Maintain, for SIR RV clubs use, a listing of RV parks that have been used by our SIR clubs along with comments about the facilities and staff.
- Provide to SIR clubs and SIR members, information provided to the SIR State RV Committee regarding special rates or offers made by campgrounds, RV stores, RV service providers, etc.
- Plan an RV get-acquainted mixer where SIR members with RVs can get to know other SIR members.
- Use SIR RV clubs as a recruiting tool for getting new members into SIR.
- Seek information with photos from SIR RV Clubs about their outings, so they can be included in RV informational email bulletins and published in SIR Happenings.

Don and Jack will be working in the coming months to add interested SIR members to the RV Committee. We welcome any and all suggestions and support in making the SIR RV activities a successful part of SIR. The Committee has set up an Email address that can be used to communicate with SIR members. It is: sirstaterv@gmail.com.

RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN 2010

The Annual Meeting of Sons In Retirement



SIR State officers for 2011, who were elected at the Annual Meeting early in August, are shown in the above photo. From left to right we have **Jim Stedman**, Vice President, **Bob Mannell**, President, **George Lopez**, Treasurer, **Eckart Sellinger**, Secretary and **Karl Ryden**, Assistant Treasurer. **Charles Moss**, shown in the photo at right was voted in as Assistant Secretary, but was not able to attend the Annual Meeting. A brief Executive Board meeting was convened where they elected Sellinger to complete the 2010 term as Secretary which opened as a result of former Secretary **Gary Gruber** leaving the state.



President Buck's Challenge

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extra things he was doing and William Short, a former State Secretary, stepped up to fill that gap. Gary was awarded an HLM in 2005, so there is no higher honor we can give him, but we all owe him greatly for his many years of service to SIR.

Past President Reiser, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, has come up with a slate of highly qualified candidates for consideration at the August Annual Meeting. I am sure that if elected, they will provide outstanding leadership for the organization for the year to come.

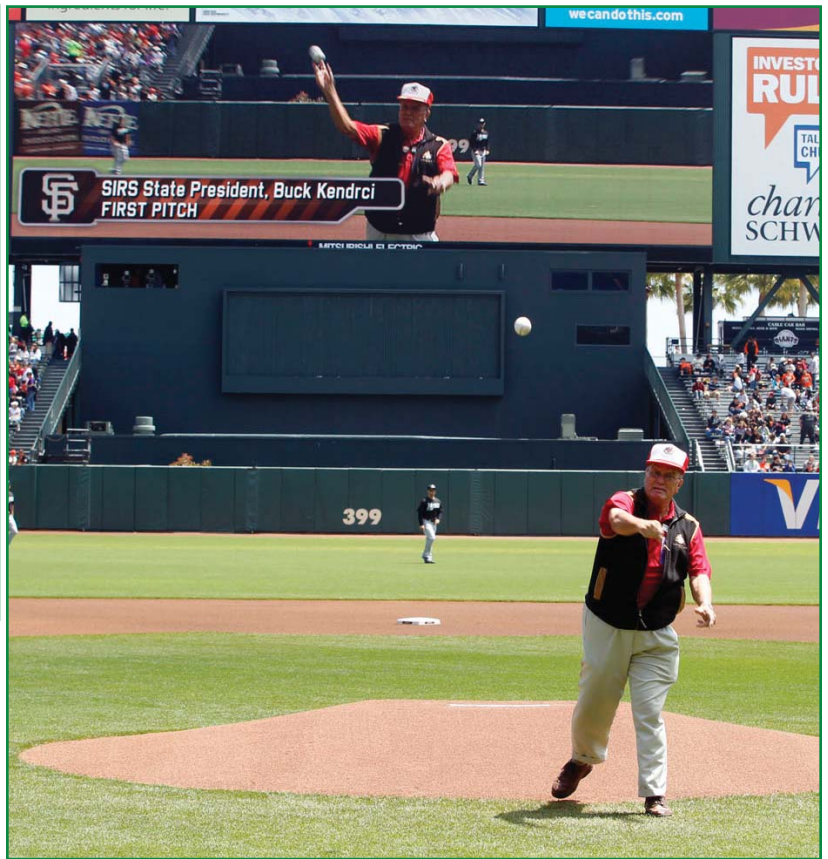
Bill Lewis (in the photo above on the right) was awarded a well deserved Honorary Life Membership by the State Board of Directors, in recognition of the time and effort he has expended in support of Sons In Retirement.

Four Past Presidents present at the Annual Meeting are shown in the upper left photo. Left to right **Dwight Sale**, **Dave Reiser**, **Jim Donovan** and **Art Pufford**.

In the lower left photo **Harry Hubinger**, Growth & Management Committee Chairman discusses several programs designed to increase membership growth.

In the center photo Area Governor **Bob Carlstroem** said that Big Sirs should not be burdened by having to prepare excessive written reports.

Sirs in the News



San Benito Branch 131, Hollister Pelton Wins Gold...Again! Dave Reiser, Past SIR President

This past June, former Region 7 Director **Gary Pelton** (see picture), brought home a Gold Medal from the State of California Senior Olympic Games held in Pasadena. He won the 2010 State Championship in the men's division of Lawn Bowling...if this sounds familiar it is, because this championship is a repeat of his 2009 Gold Medal win.

Now Gary has taken up Bocce Ball and has his sights set on participating in local semi-pro tournaments later this year. It would not surprise me if he excels in his new venture and wins more medals.

Congratulations are also in order to Gary for his continuing efforts to make those around him a little bit safer. He has carried an ERT (Emergency Response Team) certification since June 1964 and this year, he updated the medical part of his certification by passing all the tests that are periodically required. Gary is very pleased to have learned how, why, and when, to use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) paddles to re-start a heart.

In his lifetime, Gary has used his skills to successfully save or maintain life several times. On those occasions he just happened to be in the right place at the right time. He is a great guy to have around not only because of his bustling enthusiasm and genuine friendliness, but also because of his life saving abilities.



In the upper left photo **Hank Gomez** of Branch 25 along with his sons Gregory, Bob and John are shown singing the National Anthem at the San Francisco Giants SIR Day.

The upper right photo shows President **Buck Kendrick** making the first pitch of the game while at SIR day at the San Francisco Giants.



Chuck Roberts, SF Giants Sports Chairman, is shown on the left of the picture above while **Buck Kendrick** addresses all the Sirs attending SIR day at the SF Giants. Buck's wife **Eleanor** is on the right.

Sirs in the News

Prospectors Branch 137, Placerville

Caldwell Honored with an HLM

Ron McCall, Bulletin Editor

Keith Caldwell was presented with an Honorary Life Membership by State President **Buck Kendrick** at the Branch's April luncheon meeting. Keith earned the award for his long service to Branch 137. He has been a member for nearly 18 years and has held several Branch offices including Little Sir, Big Sir, BEC Director and several committee chairmanships. Currently he is the Branch historian and photographer.

Keith is one of those terrific members who is always there to do a job. For example, he helps out at special functions such as the Branch Christmas Party where he orders and delivers the poinsettias, helps in setup and cleanup, and even chauffeurs members who are unable to drive to meetings.

Keith, standing in the center of the picture, was quite surprised by the award and was delighted that his wife, Carol, was present to pin him with his new HLM badge.



Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

Calfee Awarded an HLM

Dave Bean, Bulletin Editor

Branch 37 is very proud of **Dave Calfee** who was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his exceptional service to Branch 37. A member since 1990, Dave has held many positions including: Big Sir, Little Sir, BEC member, and Membership Chairman. Dave is always ready to step up and volunteer or help a fellow Sir.

State Vice President **Bob Mannell** attended our Ladies' Day Dinner and presented Dave with the Honorary Life Membership. In the picture are left to right: Bob Mannell, Dave Calfee, his wife Betty and Big Sir **Hank Tukloff**.



Santa Cruz Branch 20

A real Bargain!

Jack Kemerling, Area 10 Governor

When **Carl LaMothe** and **Jack Roberts** were inducted into Branch 20, the Branch received a real bargain. Separately they have been Big Sirs, Little Sirs, BEC members, and chairman of several committees. Big Sir Rich Dean describes them both as "willing to volunteer for anything that needs to be done for the good of the Branch."

The Branch received another bargain at its June Ladies Day Luncheon when Vice President **Bob Mannell** was present (with wife Cheryl) to award the Honorary Life Memberships. Shown in the picture from left to right are: Carl LaMothe, Bob Mannell and Jack Roberts.

Following the presentation, Carl – the "Branch Head Rooster Crower" – led the members in the traditional congratulatory "Cock-A-Doodle-Do," accompanied by wildly waving wings (arms).



Junction City Branch 40, Roseville

Jeffers Honored as an HLM

Richard Adams, Membership & Attendance Chairman

We were recently honored to have SIR President, **Buck Kendrick**, attend our Branch luncheon to present a well earned Honorary Life Membership to **Gale Jeffers**. Also present for this special occasion was Region 9 Director, **Richard Dettmer**

Gale joined Branch 86 (now Branch 40) in 2002, and immediately became very active in the affairs of the branch that include: Secretary, Little Sir, Big Sir, BEC member, Bulletin Editor, and he was recently elected Area 15 Governor. Gale was also involved in arranging the merger of Branch 86 and Branch 40.

In the picture from left to right are: Buck Kendrick, Gale Jeffers and his wife Beverley.

Congratulations, Gale, from all of us in Branch 40!



Sirs in the News

Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont/Newark

Mr. Sunshine Dave Marymee

John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

Mr. Sunshine, **Dave Marymee** (on the left), was presented with two awards at the last Branch 59 Luncheon.

Area Governor **Don Graff** was there to present a Senior Honorary Life Member award recognizing his ten years as an HLM, and a Presidential Senior SIR Certificate for attaining the age of 90.



San Ramon Valley Branch 128, San Ramon

Recruiting Awards

Joe Rivello, Big Sir

I was quite pleased to present awards to four of our members for their outstanding recruiting efforts at our May luncheon meeting. Pictured left to with their awards are: **Harry Knowles** (7 members recruited), **Bill Buhl** (7), **Dick Mervine** (8), **Joe Cardinale** (7) and myself, **Joe Rivello**.

Thus far this year we have inducted 18 new members towards our goal of 20 members.



Mt. Shasta Branch 154

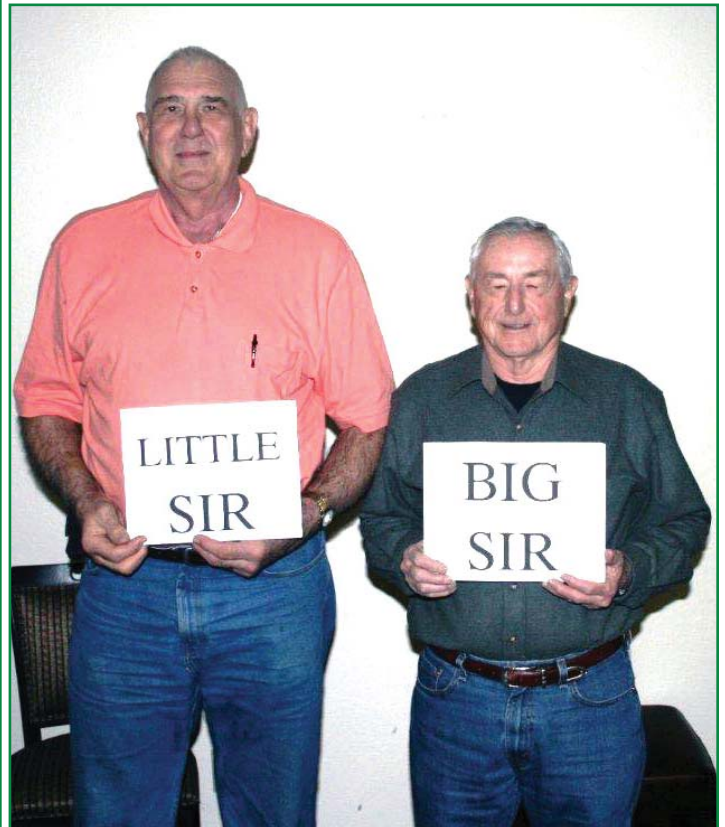
The Big & Little

Cal Platt, Branch Member

Yes...believe it or not...they are holding the correct signs in the picture.

Big Sir **Merle Clure**, retired from the Federal Aviation Administration as an Assistant Division Air Traffic Manager of the Western Pacific Region after thirty-five years. Merle is a four year member of the Mt. Shasta Branch and makes his home in Mt. Shasta, with his wife Peggy, and enjoys snow skiing, fishing, kayaking and hiking.

Little Sir **Fred Obermiller** retired from the College of the Siskiyou in Weed after a 30 year career as a professor of Business and Economics. Fred has been a member for eight years and while not on the golf course, Fred and his wife Beverly enjoy traveling and spending time with their grandchildren.



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

News from the Branches

Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Caratozzolo Nabs Spring Golf Trophy

Don Schilling, Bulletin Editor

On May 11th, Branch 32 held its Spring Golf Tournament at Deep Cliff Golf Club. This annual event is open to all members of the Branch Golf Club. This year the weather was benign and the scoring was very close. **Jim Caratozzolo** won with a low net score of 6 under par 54 on the Executive Par 60 course. In second place was **Galen Gipson**, one shot back with a 55, and third place was shared by **Mike Price** and **Paul Vogel** with net scores of 56.

Jim Caratozzolo carries a 10 handicap with the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA). He has been a member of the Mission Branch 32 since 2004 and has been an active golfer for years, especially since his retirement and participation in the Branch 32 golf activities.

The Branch 32 Golf Club currently has 18 active members, and has experienced a 20% growth in members over the past year. Under the leadership of Club Chairman Bruce Henry, the Club sponsors a total of 24 golf tournaments each year at the Deep Cliff Golf Course in Sunnyvale. Included are two special events ...the annual Spring and Fall Tournaments, which offer impressive perpetual trophies to the winners.

Pictured is Jim (on the right) receiving the engraved winner's trophy from Golf Chairman Bruce Henry at our May Branch Luncheon. Congratulations, Jim, for your outstanding golf play!



Golden Gate Fields Presents....

A Fall "Salute to SIR" day at the races!!!

When: Friday November 12, 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.

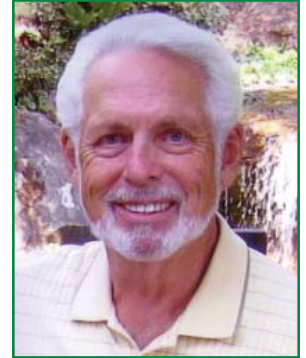
First race: 12:45 p.m.

Windsor Branch 176,

Many Duffers will Appreciate this Golf Story

Thomas Devitt, Golf Chairman
Euell Winton, Bulletin Editor

Mike Wedemeyer, the Windsor Branch 176 Recruitment Chairman and last year's Big Sir, (see picture) has achieved the highest golf handicap possible under the rules of the United States Golf Association! Under Section 3-4 of the USGA Handicap System, the maximum handicap index is 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women. Some of our members suggested that Mike should have a sex-change operation so that his maximum handicap could increase to 40.4 – the women's maximum. Well done Mike!



Area 22 Golf Tournament

Hole-In-One for Al Meza

Don Reed, Branch 103 Bulletin Editor

Area 22 holds a weekly tournament each Thursday -- all year long -- at the Modesto Muni Golf Course...the only time we don't play is on a holiday or if it rains too much. The participants usually run from 16 to over 50 players from Branches 103, 143 and 144 and are officiated by Don Reed of Branch 103.

On Thursday April 1st **Al Meza** was playing in the third foursome with **Rich Laurenz**, **Emilio Perez**, and **Jim Cloward**, all of Branch 103. They watched as Al took out his eight iron and played the 130 yard eighth hole to perfection. Not only did they see the hole-in-one, but the group in front of them watched as the ball rolled into the hole.

The eighth hole is our usual closest to the hole each week and the players keep a close eye on who gets on the green. Depending on the number of golfers, we have a number of places we pay each week.

This outing was started a number of years ago by

another Branch 103 member, **Chuck Behr**, who is no longer able to play with us. But his legacy still hangs on with the signup and payout charts used in the same way he did.

The picture was taken at the Branch 103 luncheon held in April and shows Don Reed presenting Al with a check from the hole-in-one insurance fund for the group. He also presented him with a "Feather in the Cap" award.



Committee Reports

Publicity & Tools Committee

Walter Schick, Committee Chairman



The Publicity & Tools Committee works closely with the Growth and Membership Committee. For Branch Publicity, last year we supported the SIR Cards and Tri-Fold SIR Brochures to help every branch. This year we have provided a SIR Car Sticker to increase local awareness. We are seeking an experienced publicity person to help us develop wide ranging publicity in Northern California.

For Tools, our committee is documenting good practices by all branches, and will announce a new Membership page on the SIR Website for the key function committees of any branch. Please send us your Ideas That Work!

Share Your SIR Experience With New Car Stickers!



Branch 8 gave these out at its June Ladies Day Luncheon, and 70 were taken...some Sirs even came by for extra copies. You can put these on the rear window (lower passenger side) or on your bumpers. The vinyl printing stands up to car washes, and does remove much easier than the old paper versions. You can give one to each new member and they can be placed in the same holders as the Tri-Folds at your luncheon signup table. The State buys in large volume, so these are offered on Form 21 – one hundred for \$45.00.

Share Your SIR Experience with Tri-Fold Brochures!

Due to continued demand from SIR Branches, we have updated the Tri-Fold (see image at right) to make it easy for any Sir to add his contact information. These can now be ordered on Form 21 from Nat Lord, along with your bolo ties and pins.

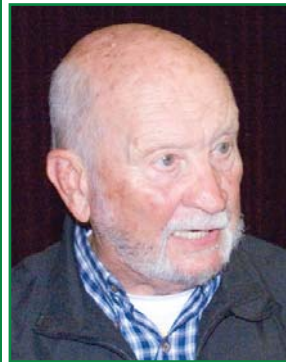
As the State orders in large quantities, we can pass the savings on to you. One hundred Tri-Fold brochures are only \$17.00 and you might want to consider selling them at your luncheons for \$1.00. A couple of suggestions on how to effectively use them ...you might place the brochures in City Senior Clubs and also give one to each Lady at your Ladies' Day Luncheon.

Walt

Growth & Management

Committee...Looking Forward

Harry Hubinger, G&M Committee Chairman



The G & M Committee is working on 5 or 6 programs designed to aid membership growth. I don't want to overload you in our first column, so I will highlight just the hottest three projects:

1. **Wikipedia:** Potential retirees are a lot more computer savvy than us old farts, so we are directing a program toward them through Wikipedia. We have lots of information, but no one to take ownership as yet. Do I hear a volunteer out there? We will probably follow this with a Facebook Blog – we need to move SIR into the 21st century!

2. **Eastbay Alive Article:** Publicity is good and needed. A four part series is starting in the July edition of "Alive Magazine." In it, our fictional hero Rob, experiences retirement euphoria, gets bored, finds SIR, joins, and lives happily ever after. You can read it online at www.eastbayalive.com. Click on columns or get one at your local newsstand – P.S also read my other article "Stamps in my Passport" in the same magazine.

3. **Speakers Available:** Most SIR members ignore or make light of the State organization...too bad because the State does a lot for the branches. The G&M Committee has put together a brief, humorous, interactive presentation, to be given in conjunction with the Area Governor. So why haven't we been asked to give it? Because no one knows about it...that's why. So give me a call at 925-837-4381 or email me at regnibuh@aol.com and we will entertain and inform your Branch.

Thanks for reading this...

Harry

<p>WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OTHER FUN things we do?</p> <p>We Play Bridge, Pinochle, Poker and Cribbage. We Eat Out.</p> <p>We Have Groups in Astronomy, Backgammon and Dominoes, Investments.</p> <p>We Have Book Swaps, Writing Groups, Cooking, Wine Tasting, Hiking And Walking</p> <p>We Have Programs That Our Members Want</p> <p>We Have Lots of Fun</p>	<p>WHO ARE WE? We Are Sons in Retirement</p> <p>If you can come to our monthly meetings, you are eligible for membership in SIR. From its inception in 1958, SIR has grown to over 20,000 members.</p> <p>Please Call Us at 1-877-747-9066 or visit http://www.sirinc.org/HowToJoin-N.htm</p>	
<p>WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE DON'T DO?</p> <p>We Don't Raise Money We Don't Have a Political Agenda We Don't Have a Religious Orientation We Don't Sell Light Bulbs or Anything Else We Don't Have Dues We Don't Have a Problem With Organizations That Do These Things. Its Just That We Don't</p>	<p>SIR Branch No. _____</p> <p>Luncheon on _____</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p>	<p>OK, so now you are Retired...</p> <p>What to do next?</p> <p>Maybe...</p> <p><i>You want to join us...</i></p>

News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Knickers Golf Tournament

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

After three postponements -- due to weather -- the combined Branch 15 and 96 golf club played their annual Knickers Tournament and it was one of those perfect days! With almost 70 members in the golf club, a large group showed up dressed in knickers (see picture)...including the president, **Ray Lindstrom** and the tournament director, **Sam Mazza**. The play was four-man team best-ball and they spread out all over the beautiful Lone Castle Oaks golf course with a shot-gun start.

The winning team, as well as picking up first place was **Sam Mazza, Mike Riley, Rich Smith** and **Gene Curry** with a net of 53 ...a playoff was needed to determine the top team. Second place went to **John Pulice, Mel Glunt, Bob Martin** and **Darrell Holder**, also with a net of 53. The team of **Howard Blethen, Gene Young, Bob Porto** and **Andy Anderson** took home third place. Closest to the pin for the day was Bob Porto on number 16 when the ball rolled up to 3'11" to the elusive hole. **Mike Evans** picked up the low gross of the tournament with an 83. The first two teams picked up dinner tickets donated by the Jackson Rancheria. Other awards were presented to the rest of the winners.

The very active and popular club plays every Tuesday at Mace Meadow or other courses depending upon the weather and playing conditions. They also schedule an annual golf trip to Carson Valley in July.



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Successful Recruiting

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

In a continuing effort to recruit new members to Branch 96, Lee Suess, Membership Chairman and Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman (left to right behind the table in the picture) set up this booth at a recent Senior Expo that is held annually in the Senior Center of Amador County.

Providing information that is available to SIR members certainly helps in recruiting new Members. Photos are displayed, showing activities of the Branch, helps in the understanding of what is available in SIR. In addition to retired seniors, wives stopped by the booth and picked up literature about Sons In Retirement and Branch 96 for their husbands and each year we pick up a few new members from this kind of information sharing.



Lamorinda Hills Branch 174

Charter Day

Bill Sumner, Big Sir

Lamorinda Hills Branch 174 kicked off its second year on June 16th. The Branch held its first meeting on June 10, 2009 with 109 members. It now has 142 active members and seven members on the inactive list. The initial membership of Branch 174 was made up of Branch 171 members who volunteered, due to meeting space limitations, to establish the new Branch.

The Provisional Branch was chartered on November 27, 2009. A special Charter Day celebration was held on February 10, 2010. President **Buck Kendrick** officially presented the charter to Big Sir **Bill Sumner**. Regional Director **Jim Stedman**, Area Governor **Dean Steichen** and former Branch 171 Big Sir **Jim Gibney** attended the meeting. Jim Gibney presented a gavel to the new Branch, as a gift from the founding Branch.

Most officers and directors of Branch 174 have served both the Provisional Branch and the Chartered Branch. The picture on the left shows the officers (L to R): Assistant Secretary **Neil Huntley**, Treasurer **George McLain**, Big Sir **Bill Sumner**, Little Sir **Bob Mayne** and Secretary **Fred George**...not pictured

is Assistant Treasurer, **Dick Walsh**. The one on the right shows the Directors (L to R): **Bob Hickman**, **Dick Curry**, **Gil Klingman**, **Nick Biondi**, **Gary Howard** and **Ron Bass**.



News from the Branches

Editors Note: Arnolds for Awards is the supplier of SIR badges and according to Hal Stephens, Assistant Secretary and Chairman of the Badge Committee, has been providing excellent service to SIR. The company recently completed 40 years of providing quality awards and we thought our readers would be interested in reading about the company that supplies our badges. Sheri Arnold was kind enough to send us this story.

Arnolds for Awards

Arnolds for Awards is celebrating 40 years in business. The company consists of Mike and Sheri, son Kevin, and daughter Kami, who all work in the business together with a talented graphic artist, and three part time employees. The four are shown left to right in the pictures at the company's 40th anniversary party.



It all started because Mike Arnold – a Placerville barber at the time – was thinking that long hair styles for men were about to cut his very popular barber shop income in half. At that time, he was also the tournament chairman for the local golf and country club and in the process of buying awards, the trophy shop owner told Mike that he was selling his business because of a recent heart attack – it was fate – Mike offered to buy the business, never connecting the relationship of a heart attack and the awards business ...ah, he was so young and naïve!

Having no real money, he went to a “loveable” and rich aunt, who gladly loaned the money at 10% interest. That was just the preamble to their financial prowess. Fifteen years later, they grew out of their rental space and built the biggest log cabin in California on highway 50 to house their shop and other renters ...the Interest rate on the mortgage was a mere 18%!

Mike dove into the business, with no training – just the desire to do the best job possible for his customers, giving them quality awards, on time, and at a fair price. He knew most of the customers on a personal basis and many late nights were spent making sure every Arnold award not only made the recipient proud, but was also a positive reflection on the giver.

They owe their successes partly to their ability to expand with technology, but also because they have been fortunate in having some truly talented employees over the years. They still take pride in their products and service and most importantly, they still believe their customers are proud to give an Arnolds award.

But now the economy threatens to cut their income in half again ...Mike may be cutting hair soon.

Twin Valley Branch 36, Santa Cruz

An Editorial

Jim Seybert, Bulletin Editor

What makes a social group healthy? Why are so many organizations seeing dramatic drops in membership...SIR included? Why is Branch 36 bucking the trend and in fact, seeing a growth of over 20% in the last 18 months.

Many of you know I am also a pastor in a large local church which saw the same trend until it got turned around. What did it take there and what do I think has done it for our branch? It was making people feel they were welcome, important, and purposeful. Under the past leadership of Big Sir Dave Bohrman and our current Big Sir Gary Allyne, I believe our leadership has done just that. We are providing a place where men can feel comfortable, important, and have opportunities for fellowship and fun.

Yes, I am sure that things like excellent food and interesting speakers help, but as I look out over the members at each luncheon laughing and talking and enjoying themselves, I think, this is what it's all about... men being men and sharing that enthusiasm with others. Isn't the SIR motto to have fun? So to each and every member I say “Keep on doing just that!”

Sierra Branch 175, Fresno

Bookworms

Tim Finley, Book Club Chairman

Recently, the Book Club – affectionately known as the “Bookworms” – completed an experiment to change its book review format from a multiple book review, to a single book review format. Years ago, the club used a single book review format, but over time, the members decided to change the format so that each member of the book club would read and review a book of his choice.

However, a couple of months ago, it was suggested the club go back to the single book format for a trial period ...it did and the results were very interesting. The members all agreed to read Mitchner's, “The Covenant,” which is nine-hundred pages of the history of South Africa. Since Mitchner has a fantastic vocabulary and writing style, it was not what most considered an easy read or page turner!

Reading this single book produced a much greater critical review and members had multiple viewpoints with lengthy discussions. Although members have opted to return to the multiple book review format, it was decided to return to this style once or twice a year because it does achieve a greater degree of review.

The Bookworms Club, meets monthly at The Café Java which offers “living room style” surroundings and is very conducive to a free and open exchange of ideas and conversation (see picture). Attendance at our meetings averages about ten members. Tim Finley, who is also a Director and the Branch Photographer, is the “facilitator” of the group.



Gene Drennan, State Golf Committee Chairman

To "Scramble or not to Scramble"...now, that's a real question.

The Scramble venue in the SIR's golfing world is the most popular game amongst all of the different ways golf can be played. The Scramble attained its popularity primarily due to the inevitable aging of SIR players. Many players as they get older, find that playing 18 holes of individual play is just more than they can handle...the answer, then, is to "Scramble." There are many types of Scrambles: 2 man – 4 man – alternating drives, and then Scramble – and there are probably a dozen more that have not even been thought of yet.

Making golf available to all golfers regardless of age, and or declining golf skills, is probably the most important job that we have as SIR leaders, and the Scramble format suits these golfers to the proverbial "TEE."

There are even Scramble Leagues that have weekly tournaments, with 9-15 teams making up of the first 9-15 "A" players and the balance of the players divided up into "B", "C", and "D" players. The teams rotate every week, and players play and meet new players each time. We have many new players joining SIR just because of this format, thereby helping the individual branch to grow.

SIR still offers the individual formats, pairs or team events in addition to the Scramble, but the Scramble is still the choice of the majority of the players. So next time you want to increase your participation, try the "Scramble Method"...either soft or well done, it goes down easy.

Ciao Gene



Carl Elvik, State Bowling Committee Chairman

Our State Committee would like to congratulate all of you that have supported us this year. We know it takes time and money for you to travel to our tournaments, and we appreciate you and the establishments for having us. We have 12 more tournaments until the end of the year, so pick one or two and we'll see you there.

I would also like to congratulate all that have had birthdays this year and also any of you that are over 90 years young and still bowling ...that's amazing! At our State Bowling Tournament in Citrus Heights last month, **Will Rivera** turned 92. **Bill Barrett** and I bought him a new bowling ball, and I presented it to him at the State Tournament. He is really enjoying it, as you can tell from the picture.

Speaking of the State Tournament, we had a pretty good turnout. We had 43--4 man teams. I wish the best of luck to the team

that won in May. Their team name was "Older than Dirt" and their combined age may be that, but they bowled better than the rest of us. Congratulations to Branch 55 and 124 from Grass Valley and Team 27 composed of: **Charlie Babiarz, Clay Hansen, Leo Dengler, and Bob Sitter**. Their total High Handicap Series was 2971...great rolling!

Just a couple more things: The state bowling committee will be meeting on August 3rd in Vallejo. I also want to emphasize that Sirs need to be in good standing with Branch attendance. I also want to point out that if you have made over \$600 in a 12 month period, you need to inform tournament directors. Likewise, it is your responsibility if your tournament average is 15 pins over your book, to inform your directors of tournaments.



Big Turnout at SIR Day at Races

Golden Gate Fields had another big turnout for their Salute to SIR Day held on March 26th. In attendance were over 170 Sons in Retirement members representing 6 SIR Branches and a great time was had by all!

As in the past a raffle was held that day and here are the winners:

Nino Pompilio, of SIR Branch 34, won a Golden Gate Fields shirt.

Audrey Whitsed, who was a guest of Branch 77, won a Golden Gate Fields Sweat shirt.

Bruce Saltzman, of Branch 128, won a gift certificate for a Turf Club party of 4 at a later date.

Billie Meister, who was a guest of Branch 8, won 4 Giants Tickets (Club Field Level).

The next Salute to SIR Day is scheduled for Friday, November 12th ...don't miss your chance for a BIG WIN at Golden Gate Fields that day!

For more information contact Michael Roberts Golden Gate Fields 510-559-7380 or email him at mroberts@goldengatefields.com.

Nino Pompilio



Audrey Whitsed



Bruce Saltzman



Billie Meister



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

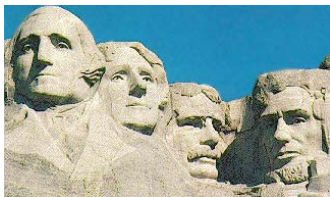
Mediterranean Enchantment

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 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.

December 30, 2010-January 3, 2011

New Year's at the Empress Hotel in Victoria BC

Unpack only once! Enjoy the elegance of New Year's at the beautiful, ivy-covered, Empress Hotel. Experience High Tea, guided tour of Victoria, and train ride to Chemainus, with its exquisite murals and the beautiful grounds, and holiday lights at Butchard Gardens. Highlighting your visit will be an elegant New Year's Eve party! The cost is \$1695 PPDO. Offered by Branch 88 Travel. Call John Hoffmann at 707-642-4925.

RECRUIT, VITALIZE, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN 2010

Happenings at the State Board Meeting

Excerpts from the minutes of the June 2010 State Board Meeting

President Kendrick, in his introductory comments, was pleased to announce that Branch 35 has taken in 35 new members through May. Speaking for Vice President Mannell, Kendrick indicated that he has come up with a plan for mementos to be given to attendees at the August 2nd Annual Meeting. He then made some comments on items that would be coming up later in the meeting.

Assistant Secretary Hal Stephens reported that he would be processing the final set of Forms SI-100 for the year 2010. He also spoke about the badges that are available from Arnolds for Awards, and stated that the company is going to be recognized in an upcoming issue of SIR Happenings.

Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden, reporting for Treasurer Mike Berry, stated that the State financial reports as of May 31st have been published and distributed. Basically, income is down and expenses are up, except insurance premiums are down.

G & M Member Stedman presented a detailed report on the implementation of the new Form 27 Branch Membership Report. 45% of the Branches have submitted the report and he is pleased with what the reported figures reflect. The instructions for the form will be simplified. He encouraged the Regional Directors to help him secure reports from every Branch.

Regional Directors each gave a report on the goings-on in his Region, mainly emphasizing membership and endeavors to maintain and increase membership counts.

Nominating Committee Chairman Reiser offered the slate of nominees for the 2011 Elected Officers, to be voted on at the August Annual Meeting.

Publicity & Tools Chairman Schick spoke on behalf of Growth and Management Chairman Hubinger and referred the Board to a report prepared by the committee chairman covering some of the projects the committee is working on. He also talked about some of the things his new committee is doing and referred members to the written report he had prepared.

InfoSys Chairman Dwight Sale led a discussion about the growing pains associated with getting Branches to implement the database program.

Travel Chairman Garvin reported that he is experiencing the old problem with Branches not

complying with the Travel Code, especially in the submission of the proper forms to the State Travel Committee.

Training Committee Chairman Stedman outlined his plans for the October 2010 Training Session. Regional Directors, Area Governors and Big Sirs will be required to attend. The Branch Leaders Guide is being expanded to include all three groups and will be renamed "State Leaders Guide."

Rules Committee Chairman Smith presented some proposed rules changes and they were approved.

President Kendrick led a discussion of the mementos to be given out at the Annual Meeting and a motion to approve the cost was passed. Kendrick indicated he wanted to re-activate the RV Committee and covered some of the issues that needed to be addressed. A motion to re-activate the RV Committee was passed. He introduced a proposal to offer a Certificate of Membership to the Branches, available from the SIR Forms Page on the website. He showed a draft of the certificate and after discussion, a motion was passed to approve implementation of the certificate.

In his concluding remarks, President Kendrick said we have much work to do in the second half of the year to reach the 10% membership goal in all the Branches. He said he feels that many Branches are still operating the way they always have, which can lead to failure and encouraged the leadership to help the Branches adopt new ideas that work and also revitalize their activities to improve the health and vitality of the Branches and increase membership.

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