



SIR HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER 2010 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4

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

President Buck's Challenge



I continue to be impressed and pleased with the success so many branches are having with recruiting and meeting the 10% Resolution goal for this point in the year. Most of those Branches who are participating have either stopped their membership losses or are breaking even for the year. Some others are

confident they can achieve their recruiting goal for this year, but have begun to realize they need to set their goals higher next year to offset their losses.

While I have a personal sense of accomplishment, I know that the hard work has been done by the many dedicated Branch members who responded to the recruitment challenge the State impressed upon them early this year. I also know that there are some Branch leaders who resented the "extra" work in filling out the reporting forms, since they were free in letting me know that they were not going to comply with the added burden of another useless form. Much of the criticism was that they were already reporting the same information on Form 28. Everyone should note that starting on January 1st a revised Form 28 will no longer require the luncheon attendance information, which will then only be reported on Form 27.

As I have been observing the annual difficulties nearly everyone has in finding volunteers to fill the Branch and State offices, I have begun to focus on what we must do to overcome this seemingly insurmountable problem. It seems to me that we need to emphasize the responsibilities of membership in SIR, over and above the luncheon attendance requirements. Most of us recognize a fiscal responsibility involved in membership and do contribute enough money to allow our branches to

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Monterey Peninsula Branch 28

Relive that Feeling of Accomplishment

Bill Meyer, Branch Member

The men of Branch 28 are Men of Accomplishment. Remember how you felt when:

- You knew the company you worked so hard to build was going to be successful.
- You signed up that critical customer that made a huge difference in the business.
- You helped push back the Germans in World War II.
- You saw the gleam in the young student's eyes when you knew "he got it."

The Accomplishments of the men of Branch 28 go "on and on"...and you remember the sense of positive recognition that you felt at the time.

You CAN RELIVE those feelings of Accomplishments and Recognition. Those feelings can restore "zing" to your life. I experienced those feelings again when I served Branch 28 as Little Sir and then as Big Sir.



I remember the sense of Accomplishment I felt when:

- I met with and convinced the Commandant of the Presidio to speak to Branch 28.
- When the General Manager of the Laguna Seca Race Track said she would speak to the Branch.
- When I saw the members having fun at a Christmas Party and when we slid Chuck Poland into his Santa Claus suit.
- When new members joined the organization.

You can also relive those feelings by volunteering to be Little Sir and Big Sir. You can also help your fellow Branch 28 members continue to enjoy the benefits of a large and thriving Branch.

It's a great opportunity to "Relive That Feeling!!"

President Buck's Challenge

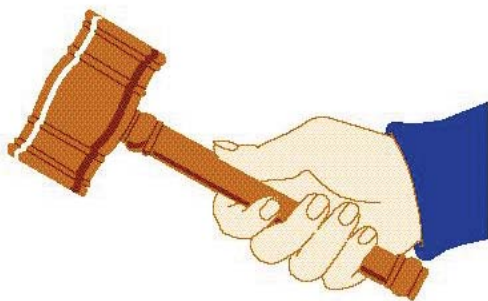
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be at least marginally solvent. Since we joined SIR to have fun, most of us also participate in at least some of the Branch, Area, Region, and State activities, but when it comes to volunteering for the leadership roles that are necessary to run the Branches, Areas, Regions, and State, we are collectively deficient. I think we must stress that it is an individual membership responsibility to step up and share the responsibility for providing organizational leadership. Not to do so means we will lose more Branches and Areas, since without organizational leaders they cannot continue to exist.

Looking forward, I believe we should encourage 2 year terms for the Branch leadership, so that we can benefit from more experienced leaders. I also think we should encourage annual collection of "contributions" to stabilize the Branch finances, and perhaps start calling them "dues" or "assessments" instead of contributions.

My term as your President has been very rewarding and enjoyable, even though it has proven more demanding than I had expected. I want to express my appreciation to the State Officers, Regional Directors and Area Governors who responded to my call for them to be my "Action Team" in transitioning to a more "Pro-Active Leadership" model this year. I also want to thank the unsung heroes of the State organization. These are the many Committee Chairmen who really do all the hard lifting needed to make SIR function, and who never get the applause for what they sacrifice for the benefit of SIR.

I know that I will have some responsibilities as Past President next year, but I will be pleased to turn the "Affairs of State" over to the newly elected team, confident that they are fully capable of their leadership duties and responsibilities. I am looking forward not only to retirement "with full pay and benefits," but also to resumption of my golfing and flying.



South Bay Branch 74, San Jose

Three Peat Ceremony

Dick Bartels, Bulletin Editor

At the September luncheon, Branch 74 experienced a ceremony in which three of its members received a variety of awards:

State President Buck Kendrick, presented an Honorary Life Membership to Don Stacks for his outstanding service to Branch 74 (see picture). Don



has served as Big Sir and has been active in all of the Branch activities.

Region 7 Director SIR Richard K. Kabanck presented Charter Member, Harold Johnson, with a certificate proclaiming him a Super Senior Sir (see picture lower left). Harold is 95 and one of two remaining charter members of Branch 74.

Area Governor Ray Lubow, followed the above two presentations with the President's Award for Doug Bacon, on his 90th birthday (see picture lower right).



Spotlight on SIR Officers

Jim Stedman, State Vice President

Jim was born in a ranch house in a pear orchard near Clear Lake in Northern California, where he grew up and graduated from the local high school.



Immediately after high school he entered apprentice school at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard to become a machinist and shortly thereafter qualified for a U. S. Navy scholarship to attend the University of California where he received a degree

in Civil Engineering with a structural option. After receiving some post graduate training in vibrations and acoustics, Jim served for several years reducing the noise emitted from nuclear submarines.

During his education as a civil engineer, he became very interested in community planning and design and decided to pursue that as career. Jim joined a civil engineering firm in Walnut Creek and later founded his own firm that specialized in land planning, civil engineering design, and land surveying, retiring from the firm in 1992.

Shortly after graduation from Cal, Jim met his wife, Barbara. He feels quite fortunate to have a family of three sons who are all married with families. His most satisfying hobby was sailing and they had great adventures for many years in boats that they sailed in San Francisco Bay and off-shore along the California coast.

In 1993, at the invitation of a long time friend, Jim joined SIR which turned out to be the beginning of his active and satisfying retirement years. He tells Happenings that he has enjoyed all aspects of SIR, especially the friendships made at luncheons, golf, bridge, and the many other opportunities for socializing.

Early on, Jim served for one year as Branch Chaplain and Sunshine Chairman and later as Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Little Sir and Big Sir, and then as an Area Governor and a Regional Director. He currently serves on the State Growth and Membership Committee and as Chairman of the State Training Committee. Jim says that all of his leadership efforts are directed towards helping leaders assure the long term health of branches.

Eckart Sellinger, State Secretary

Our new State Secretary started his career as a Check Sorter Operator in the Berkeley ERMA Center of Bank of America and quickly moved to being a Systems Engineer in application and then technology development. Later he headed up their San Francisco Data Processing operations which included check processing, computer operations, auto and air couriers, and cash vault operations. He later was responsible for all systems, technology, and data processing outside of California including other U. S. sites, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. After 39 years with the bank, Eckart retired.



Upon retiring from the Bank in 1999, he joined the China Camp Branch 151. He has held several positions in the Branch including Little Sir and Big Sir, chairman of several special Branch events, and is currently the editor/publisher of the Branch Bulletin and also is the Branch computer support person. Eckart bowls and plays golf with SIR regularly. He also has been an Area Governor, a Regional Director, and a member and chair of the Training Committee. He is currently a member of the Rules and Nominating Committees.

Eckart was born in Seattle Washington and lived there for seven years before his family moved to San Francisco where he lived in the Mission District for the next 28 years. He has lived in San Rafael for the last 35 years with, Sandra, his wife of 46 years. They have a daughter and two grand children, who live in the Olympic Forest in Northwest Washington State.

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

Sirs in the News

Orchard Valley Branch 54, San Jose

Barthule Honored with an HLM

Bill De Matteis, Bulletin Editor

President Buck Kendrick, on the left in the picture, is shown awarding Herm Barthule with an Honorary Life Membership. Herm's wife, Cleo, was also there to honor her husband.

Herm has been a member of Branch 54 for 23 years. He was our Big Sir in 1996, has been the Branch Travel Chairman since 1997 – sponsoring 22 tours so far – is the current Branch Chaplin and along the way has brought in 9 new members.

Herm is retired from Novartis Pharmaceuticals. He and his wife make their home in San Jose and have been married for 62 years.



Lake County Branch 133, Hidden Valley Lakes

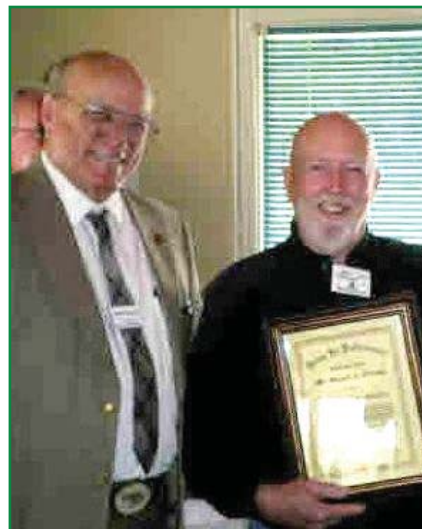
Wilson & Worster Honored

Russ Sage, Big Sir

Branch 133 in Clearlake has had some special events over the years, but 2010 will be a year to be remembered. We had a special guest, State President Buck Kendrick, attend our May meeting and then our September picnic to present two Honorary Life Membership Awards to two very deserving branch members: Jack Worster (in the picture on the left) and Area Governor, Colin Wilson (on the right).

Both Jack and Colin were extremely surprised upon receiving their awards. Colin commented, "I am humbled by the knowledge that my fellow SIR members selected me for such an award." Jack, who is never without words, was practically speechless! Jack's wife, Joan, and Colin's wife, Marian, were both present to pin their deserving husbands. Buck's wife, Eleanor, also attended the picnic shortly after having an operation... what a trooper she is!

Our Branch is grateful to have two Honorary Life Members and honored to have the company of Buck Kendrick on both occasions.



Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

Christman Receives an HLM

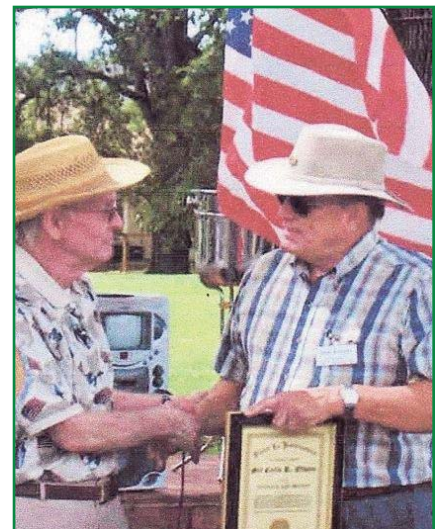
Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Region 3 Director George Christman, in the center of the picture, is shown receiving the Honorary Life Member

Award from State President Buck Kendrick while his wife, Leota, proudly looks on. Our branch is fortunate to now have three HLM's: George Christman, Frank Franzago, Warren Senegal (State award) and one Senior HLM... Lennie Silva.

George's accomplishments are far too numerous to mention here. For example, when he became Big Sir in 2005, our branch was hurting financially – we couldn't even afford to publish the roster. George initiated the voluntary \$20.00 per year donation. This was a big success and over the years built up a \$3,000 reserve. Under his leadership, our newsletter went on line and by emailing it instead of printing & mailing it, we saved over \$100/month. George also revitalized the Branch Bowling League and convinced the bowlers to be sanctioned. In January 2006, George formed the Branch Short Course Golf Group. This was a boon to many of the senior golfers, new golfers and the shorter hitters and it has been a success since the day it started. George was also in charge of re-doing the roster and we were one of the first branches to include members' pictures. He was also responsible for initiating the Branch Procedures which are now the bible for all BEC members. George's leadership qualities have been noticed by more people than Branch members as evident by his fast rise to Area Governor and now Regional Director.

Good going George. You make your branch extremely proud!



Sirs in the News

Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

90 Years Young

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Jesse Gutierrez celebrated his 90th birthday in August. To add to the celebration Area 9 Governor Neil Mayo presented Jesse with a commemorative plaque at our August meeting, as Big Sir Wayne Plauster looks on in the picture.



Jesse was born in 1920 in El Paso, Texas. With the advent of WWII, Jesse joined the Navy in 1941. He remained in the Navy for seven years, serving on three ships all over the Pacific, including as far north as the Aleutian Islands. Following his Navy stint, Jesse joined the National Guard in

Sacramento. He spent his working career at the Army Depot in Sacramento as an electronics specialist. This job gave him the opportunity to travel to US military bases all over Europe installing communications equipment.

He has been widowed since 2005, but has a huge extended family in the area. In fact, he has four children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. In addition to his family activities, Jesse still plays a little golf and likes to do repair projects around the house.

Petaluma Branch 58

President's Awards

Fred Stoneburner, Bulletin Editor

Branch 58 was recently pleased to honor three members who have reached the honorable age of 90 as Senior Sirs and one member who has obtained the age of 95 with a Super Senior Award.

The four members receiving the President's Senior and Super Senior Awards are from left to right in the picture: William Harrison, who will be 90 this December – Glenn Whitney, who was 92 in July – Pete Matzen, who was 96 in February – and Charles Matteri, who was 90 in May.



Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

President's Awards

Neil Schmidt, Bulletin Editor

In the picture on the left, Regional Director Jim Stedman is shown presenting Senior Awards to (L/R), Warren Westrup and Robert Singleton. In the picture on the right, Mario Beria displays his Super Senior Award which was also presented to him by Jim Stedman.



Lake Tahoe Branch 160

Special Awards

Larry Coffman, Bulletin Editor

During our September luncheon meeting, special awards were given out to three of our members for milestone achievements and we were very pleased to have Area 19 Governor Bill Short and special guest, Ron DePass, in attendance to make the presentations.

In the picture on the left, Al Bartley is shown after receiving a Senior Honorary Life Membership from Area 19 Governor Bill Short.

In the middle picture, Bill Short (on the right) is shown presenting the President's award to 90 year old, Robert Bartley. In the other picture, 90 year old Robert Dunn, is holding the President's Award plaque that was presented to him by Bill Short.



News from the Branches

Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

Special Honor for Jim Stedman

Bob Yolland, Honoree Chairman

The Branch 146 Honoree Award is a very special honor. It is our highest Branch award which is given to a select few members that have earned the award for their significant efforts in leadership. It was a pleasure to name Jim Stedman our latest Branch 146 Honoree.

We use a point system where individuals earn points for leadership roles. To be a Branch Honoree an individual needs to have a minimum of 45 points. Normally 3 points are earned as a chairman of an activity – Secretary, Treasurer, Travel and Membership Chairmen earn 5 points -- Little Sir earns 7 and Big Sir 10 – etc. Points are awarded at the conclusion of the year and the following is the information used for Jim's Award.

Jim joined Branch 146 back in 1993. In 1995, he served as Chaplain and Sunshine Chairman. In 2004 Jim became Assistant Secretary, Secretary in 1995, Little Sir in 2006 and Big Sir in 2007. He didn't stop



there... in 2008 Jim went into State Leadership as our Area Governor and then on to become the Regional Director of Region 6 in 2009. Recently, Jim was elected as Vice President of SIR.

We thank Jim for his extensive service to Branch 146 and to the State Organization as well. Big Sir Dennis Hallett (on the left) is shown presenting the plaque to Jim that reads: "Branch Honoree Jim Stedman – For many years of outstanding and dedicated service that you have preformed for Branch 146 Sons in Retirement."

Area 2 Fishing Group

Fish Need to be on Guard

Carl Moyer, Branch 8 Coordinator

A rough ocean and high winds inland had all but stopped our fishing in late June and early July all the way to mid-August. This is certainly the worst year for wind and blown-out fishing any of us old guys can recall. Nonetheless, we persevered! and the following are just a couple of our recent trips: On a rare good

day, 10 of us boldly set out on a party boat from Half Moon Bay, and caught early limits of very tasty Rock Cod.

Fishing

at lovely Lake Tahoe, Al Brunner, Paul Dubow, Karl Droese, Howard Berkman, Pete Gates and Bob Olson caught 9 good-sized Mackinaw Trout (see picture above).

Carl Moyer also caught a 23 pound salmon right outside the Golden Gate on a party boat (see lower picture).

We will be very busy this fall, if the wind ever dies down, with

– delta fishing for bass, crappie, bluegill, catfish, and sturgeon – trout fishing in mountain lakes and rivers – and party boat trips for salmon, sturgeon, halibut, and stripers. These outings will include those who rarely fish, but would like to try. If you haven't been fishing in a while, but might like to test drive an adventure, come join us.

Our meetings are held at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Meetings start at 8:30 am. For further information, please contact Karl Droese, Big Fish (925-376-0468), Carl Moyer, Branch 8 Coordinator (925-685-5243), or Dick Thomson, Treasurer/Secretary (925-944-1760).



Committee Reports

State RV Committee

Don Cummings, Co-chairman



As the days grow shorter and the nights a little cooler, many RV enthusiasts start thinking about taking their RVs south to find warmer and dryer weather. Some go for a week, while others go for months. Some have favorite places, while others prefer to just roam.

Some travel solo, while others travel as a club...and some RV'ers winterize their rigs and put them away for the season.

The SIR State RV Committee is interested in helping every SIR member with an RV. We want to help branches create RV clubs, and assist clubs in planning their outings. We hope to have state-wide RV mixers and other events. Right now we need your help to get this committee up and running again. The first thing we need are some willing and experienced RV'ers to become Committee members. Our hope is to get members from various regions of the state. With perhaps 12 Committee members, we will have RV representation throughout the SIR community.

I have sent a letter to several SIR Branches that have active RV Clubs asking them if they could provide me with a committee member. Now I am using this column to see if there are other SIR members that would like to join our Committee. If you are interested, please contact me at sirstaterv@gmail.com and we will get back to you.

The next thing the Committee would like to accomplish is to get information on every Sir with an RV. With this information we can see how many RV's we have by Branch, Area, and Region. This information will be helpful in organizing RV clubs, setting up mixers between clubs, and it will provide the Committee with names so we can communicate RV information to our SIR members.

We have had a good response since we gave our report at the SIR State meeting in Vallejo on August 2nd. One Branch asked the question "I attended the recent meeting in Vallejo and came back to share the RV program update with some of our RV people. Someone in our branch tried to start up a program a few years ago and was told that women could not participate and could not be officers...is this still the case?" Our answer was that the RV activity is no different that our picnics or other activities with our wives. I know from experience that our Rolling Roamers RV Club would not survive without the help of wives.

Publicity & Tools Committee

Walt Schick, Chairman



The Leadership Action Plan (LAP) survey in 2009 indicated that vital branches had more to offer guests than just golf, bowling, or fishing. A healthy branch should have a goal of five activities for per 100 members...then add 1 or 2 per year. Several growing Branches have 10 or more activities per 100 members. To see a list of all the 70+ activities that our Branches are currently offering, go to the SIR website: sirinc.org.

The easiest activities to start are those involving couples, such as Dining Out, Wine Tasting, and Bridge and your Branch can share activities with another Branch...for example, Branches 171 and 174 in Moraga share all their activities. You can also consider an Area sharing of activities. Area 1, on the San Francisco Peninsula, invites all Branches to all the activities in the Area.

Area 2 in Walnut Creek found that some activities may have only a few spaces available and others may not have any space. However, to assist Branches in starting a new activity, they welcome visitors on a one time basis, so they can observe how the activity is organized and each Branch publishes a list of activities in their newsletter.

Remember... having a variety of activities is so important to grow your Branch membership!

Murie Webb provided us with information about the Executive Board of Branch 103 in Modesto setting up a Special Event trip in the hopes of getting some interest in starting an RV club. The RV trip will include golf in Morro



Bay and several fun activities that have been arranged. The State RV Committee wishes Murie and Branch 103 great success and we hope to get a good report from Murie.

We would like to hear from SIR Members with RV's telling us what they would like to see us do in the coming years. You can send your suggestions or comments to the State RV Committee:

sirstaterv@gmail.com.

News from the Branches

Hood Mountain Branch 92, Santa Rosa

Green Energy

John Hodge, Branch Member

In October, 25 members from Branch 92 (including 3 wives) traveled by bus up to The Geysers to visit the steam production and power generation facilities of the Northern California Power Agency. The Geysers, located 40 miles north of Santa Rosa, is the largest geothermal facility in the world with two dozen power plants capable of continuously generating about 2 million kilowatts of “green” renewable energy from the underlying naturally occurring steam resource. More than 500 hundred production wells have been drilled to depths ranging from 6 to 11 thousand feet and the steam they produce is transported through a network of surface pipes for delivery to the power plants (see picture). This year marks the 50th anniversary of the commercial development that began in 1960.

After listening to a geologic explanation of why the steam



reservoir exists here (see picture), we learned how the wells are drilled to most effectively intersect the deeply underlying steam-filled fractures to maximize steam production. Next we were told the importance of

injecting water back into the reservoir water – including municipally treated wastewater transported by pipeline from Santa Rosa and Lake County – as a means to effectively create a continuously renewed supply of injection-derived-steam and to significantly extend the life of the power generating facilities.

We all learned a lot, enjoyed a nice clear day and the great views from the ridge tops, and the good fellowship of Branch members on a day away together.



Damian Reynolds Branch 1, San Mateo

Passion Play

Phil Manriquez, Branch 1 Travel

On June 6th, several members of SIR and their guests embarked upon a nine day tour of Germany to include viewing the world famous Passion Play performed once every ten years by inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau (see picture). The play reenacts the agony and crucifixion of Christ and is performed to fulfill a pledge made to God which resulted in



the village being spared from the Black Plague during the 17th century.

Although the play was the main focus, the trip provided many opportunities to view historical and contemporary aspects of Germany. The group arrived in Frankfurt Germany and after exploring the city began preparing for a Rhine River cruise to Remagen and Cologne. The river cruise provided views of castle-crowned hills, terraced vineyards and a host of picturesque towns along the river banks. A highlight was the side trek to view the remains of the Remagan Bridge, which during WWII was captured by American troops thereby fracturing the German army’s western line. The afternoon was spent in Cologne where among other features the group visited the spectacular Gothic cathedral. The group took the train to Berlin for a two day exploration of the city’s restaurants, nightlife, and historical sites such as the restored Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, and the huge Victory Column in Tiergarten Park. Of great interest, was viewing remnants of the Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie, reminders of the time when the city was split into Eastern and Western sectors.

The group departed Berlin on a two-day bus trip to visit Leipzig, Nuremberg, Rothenburg and Munich on the way to Oberammergau. Each city has its own character and provided a diverse experience for our group.

The accommodations in Oberammergau were comfortable and our seats for the play were great. The stage was open with a covering to protect the actors from the weather. The play was performed in German and vividly portrayed the events which culminated in Christ’s death on the cross.

The final days of the trip were spent visiting Lindau, the Black Forest, Heidelberg and finally Frankfurt, for the flight back home.

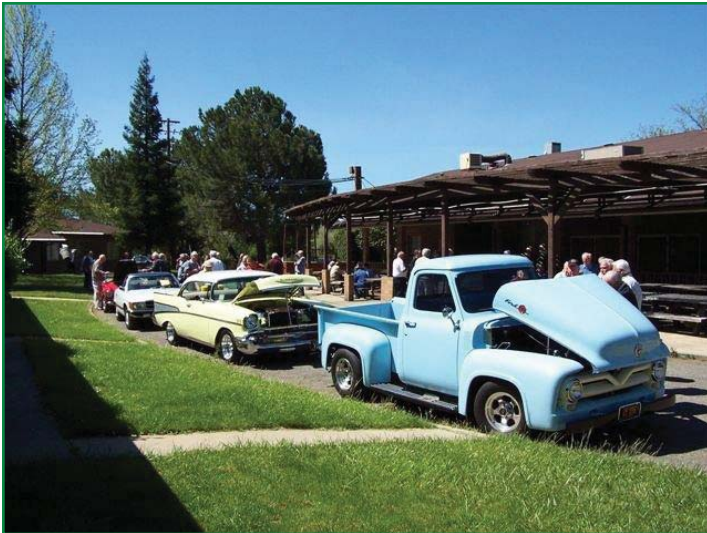
News from the Branches

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Classic Cars

Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman

Each year members of Branch 96 of Amador County bring their classic cars and trucks to the May monthly luncheon. Every year more members show up with cars that have been carefully restored and maintained... Cobra's, Mercedes, Porches, Alfa Romeo's, 57 Chevy's and other classic's are parked in front of the meeting hall (see picture) for viewing by the membership.



Pathfinder Branch 59, Newark/Fremont

Cybergeezer Awards

John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

Fred Gotthardt has been Computer Group Chairman for eleven years. This year he decided to retire and turn over the group to a younger fellow. At our last luncheon Fred was presented with a medal recognizing his achievements.

Shown in the photo with Fred are four members who received perfect attendance awards for 2010. From left to right Arnie Mozetti, Ed Guthrie, Fred Gotthardt, John Skarpelos and John Cordeniz.



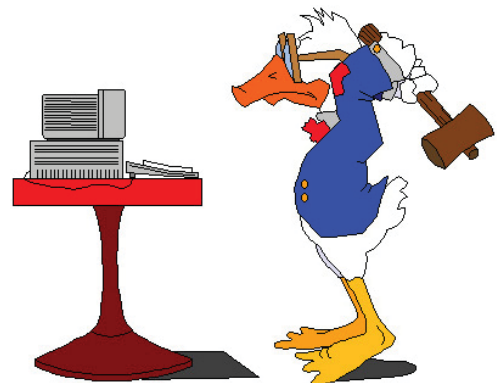
Arnold Branch 152

Recruiting

Mike Ray, Big Sir

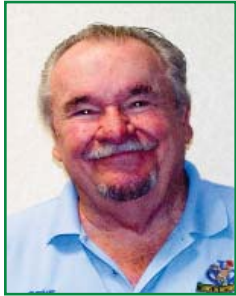
Like many other Branches, Arnold Branch 152 has struggled to recruit new members, as well as retaining our current membership. In order to increase our membership, Publicity Chairman, Joe Crawford, has advertised our luncheons in several local media outlets and Historian, Harry Tittle, worked with a local company to produce a sandwich board, which is prominently displayed at the Arnold Post Office several days in advance of our next luncheon.

Pictured with the sandwich board are Big Sir Mike Ray in the center, flanked by Co-Membership Chairmen Dick Lawlor (on the left) and Norm Friborg (on the right).



State Golf

Gene Drennan, State Golf Committee Chairman



Even though there are still three months to go in 2010, the Golf Committee has been diligently planning the upcoming calendar of Golfing events for 2011 and on into 2012.

Starting off next year will be one of the favorite events in the past called The Fall Classic in Solvang.

However, we are making some changes in our tournament schedule and this event is moving from the fall to the spring and hence forth will be known as the "Spring Fling in Solvang." The dates are April 17th through the 21st and will feature two rounds of golf in a 4 man, 2 best ball format and one scramble event. Following this will be the beginning of the qualifying tournaments for the Team Championship. The Qualifying will be between May 1st through June 30th, with Team results to the Golf Chairman by July 15th. The Team Championship will be held in the first two weeks of August at a site to be determined.

The next event will be our ever popular Reno tournaments, and will feature three weeks instead of the normal two. The first tourney dates will be June 13th-17th, the second will be June 19th-23rd, and

the third will be June 27th-30th. We will be playing different courses on all three weeks and this promises to be one of our best events ever, so PLEASE sign up early. We have promised to send out the flyers prior to February 15th, so everyone should have the information to get signed up on March 1st, 2011. We will then be in the qualifying period for the Individual Championships.



Area qualifying periods will be from July 1st thru the 30th with the Division playoff to be conducted August 16th through September 15th. The finalists will then have their final tournament in Late October at a site to be determined.

Our next tournament will be in the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho area on September 26th to November 1st. We are scheduling this tournament later this year to avoid the iffy weather in May.

Our final outing will be early in 2012 and will be an 8 day, 7 night, stay in Mexico. We will be posting

State Bowling

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Committee Chairman

My thanks to all the Sirs and their guests who have attended our tournaments this year. We still have a few tournaments to complete for the 2010 bowling year. We are working on the 2011 schedule and we will have it posted on our web page after our January meeting.

We have a lot of winners from our past tournaments, some of which can be found on our sirinc.org website. We are still working on the rest and will post them as soon as possible.

We need someone to volunteer as treasurer of the State Bowling Committee, because Jimmy Johnson has asked to be replaced next year. I, as well as the rest of SIR Bowling, wish to thank Jimmy for his hard work and volunteer time. Anybody interested please contact me.

Enjoy your upcoming holidays and keep up your good bowling!



State Sports

At the recent State Board meeting President Buck Kendrick led a discussion based on a recommendation from State Sporting Chairman Mel Augustine that we drop the Oakland A's, the Oakland Raiders, and the Golden State Warriors from the State Sporting Events due to lack of participation. The Board accepted this recommendation.



this information on our website as it becomes available, so check back often on our State Golf website, www.sirstategolf.com.

Remember all of our tournaments are open to all SIR GHIN members through the NCGA, and as this is the start of the renewal period of GHIN, make sure that you get signed up -- renewal or new member -- right away, so you can be ready to take part in our ever popular golf programs.

Have a wonderful year of golf and stay tuned!!!!!!!!!!!!

Happenings Travel Bulletin

January 28-February 7, 2011

Caribbean Cruise

Cruise aboard the luxurious cruise ship, Silver Cloud at a nice discount. The ship holds 298 passengers, with a crew of 212. The cruise leaves from Bridgetown, Barbados with stops in the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Kitts, Gustavia, St. Barts, St. Maarten, and Grand Turk, with the final destination in Ft Lauderdale. Prices include r/t air and range from \$3950 to \$4850 PPDO. Offered by Branch 171 Travel. Call Tom Sponsler at 925-708-6584.

February 12-17, 2001

Yellowstone in Winter

There's more to winter in Yellowstone than geysers. There are over 3,400 square miles of park lands providing panoramas of indescribable beauty. You will travel aboard heated snow coaches, past frozen lakes, icy waterfalls, abundant wildlife, Old Faithful and thousands of other unusual thermal features in Yellowstone's steaming snowscape. Cost is \$1699 PPDO. Offered by Branch 73 Travel. Call Paul Peters at 510-724-8345.

March 4-11, 2011

The Caribbean in Luxury

Enjoy 7 days and nights cruising the Caribbean in luxury aboard the 5-star Cruise ship, Silver Whisper. Ports of call include: Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Barts, St. Johns, St. Martin, Virgin Gorda, and San Juan. Prices include R/T air and range from \$2845 to \$3635. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3990.

April 4-14, 2011

Rhone River Cruise

This cruise through Southern France could be the highlight of your 2011 travel. Prices range from \$4610 to \$5615 PPDO and include all meals and transportation. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Michael Clark at 650-347-0919 for a flyer. Look it over, you will love it!

April 6-12, 2011

Cherry Blossom Festival

Trip includes 6 nights at the Washington DC Marriott Hotel, plus 12 meals. Sight seeing includes the new WW II Memorial, Kennedy Center, Arlington Cemetery, Mt Vernon, Georgetown and reserved seats for the Cherry Blossom parade. Cost is \$2430 PPDO. Offered by Branch 127 Travel. Call Tony Praxel at 916-285-9656.

April 10-16, 2011

Southern Charm

Enjoy the beautiful springtime in the South! Fly to Charleston, S.C. Enjoy sight seeing and touring gardens, plantations, and museums all with a guide from the time we land until our departure. Tour three states: South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, all with lots to see. Price of \$2294 includes R/T air from Sacramento. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Wayne Chapman at 530-343-8086 or 530-519-3522.

May 16-31, 2011

Eastern Mediterranean Cruise:

Fly to Athens and spend 12 days cruising the Eastern Mediterranean on the 670 passenger Pacific Princess. Port visits include: Piraeus (Athens), Patmos & Santori, Greece -- Kusadasi (Ephesus), Turkey -- Haifa (Nazareth/Galilee) & Ashod, Israel -- Port Said (Cairo/Giza) & Alexandria, Egypt -- Sorrento/Capri, Italy -- and return home from Rome. Prices range from \$4990 to \$5930 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Rick Wayne at 925-337-3846.

May 27-June 5, 2011

Heritage of America Tour

The Heritage of America Tour starts in NYC where we'll visit Wall Street, Little Italy, Ground Zero, and other Big Apple attractions. We spend 2 nights in New York, then onto Philadelphia to tour the "Birthplace of a New Nation" and Amish Country. We visit Wheatland, the Federalist home of James Buchanan, journey on to Gettysburg, with a guided tour of the battlefield, and then travel to Shenandoah National Park. We will visit Monticello, the home and gardens of Thomas Jefferson, Colonial Williamsburg, and Washington DC. While in Washington we'll take a spectacular evening twilight tour of the nation's capital. Cost is \$2799 PPDO, which includes R/T air, 15 meals, and all gratuities. Offered by Branch 34 Travel. Call Dick Small at 925-462-1204.

June 13-20, 2011

Trains Across Colorado

An 8 day motor coach tour from Denver, featuring the Durango & Silverton, Cumbres & Toltec, Rio Grande and Pikes Peak scenic railroads. The trip also includes visits to Vail, Mesa Verde National Park, Royal Gorge, U.S. Air Force Academy, and Garden of the Gods. Cost is \$2390 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 & 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlapfer at 925-443-8291.

July 11-23, 2011

Denali Explorer Cruise

Fly from San Jose to Anchorage. The trip includes five land nights, with stays in Anchorage, Mt. McKinley Princess Lodge, and Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge. A full day guided natural history tour of the Denali Wilderness is included. Travel from Mt McKinley to Denali and to Whittier is by rail on the Midnight Sun Express, with ultradome windows. Then a seven night cruise on the Diamond Princess from Whittier to Vancouver, featuring unsurpassed views of glaciers and scenic coastlines and one day stops in Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan. Costs range from \$3793 to \$4695 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421.

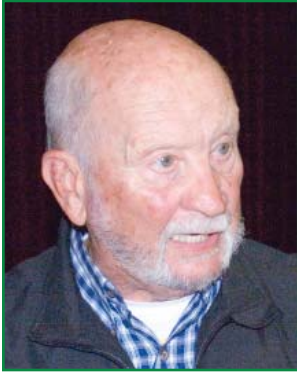
August 1-12, 2011

Grand Scotland & Ireland Tour

This is a 12 day trip with a professional driver and guide. To name just a few of the many interesting things we'll see and do: a ferry from Scotland to Ireland, a scenic cruise on Loch Ness, whiskey tasting and a tour of the Blair Athol Distillery, reserved seats for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, tours of Edinburgh and Belfast and a visit to the Edinburgh Castle and much, much more. Cost is \$3995 PPDO. Offered by Areas 5 & 20 Travel. Call Neil Jameson at 831-336-2476 or Wayne Dawson at 408-972-1054.

California Sons In Retirement (SIR) Part 1

By Harry Hubinger



Editors Note: Harry Hubinger, the Chairman of the Growth & Management Committee, has written a four part series for "Alive" magazine, an East Bay publication. This interesting series tells how Rob, a fictional retiree, joins Sons In Retirement. We thought the series would be of interest to our readers and so we have decided to publish the four part series beginning in this edition and the following three editions.

Rob, our recently-retired fictional hero, is discovering the downsides of not devoting a full day, every day, to his boss and his long-time employer.

Retirement was great at first. He slept in a bit each morning and read the paper before getting dressed. The long "honey-do list" was attacked and admittedly the easier jobs went first. He laid out detailed plans on how to handle the minor remodeling he and his wife had discussed so many times. He found Lowe's and Home Depot less crowded than he was used to on the weekends. He had always loved golf and long walks and now began to investigate how to enjoy them at his leisure. There was even a list of local attractions he'd always meant to visit, and they now appeared within the realm of possibility. He even enjoyed having lunch with his wife whenever she wasn't off to one of her activities. The thought of volunteering flicked in and out as well. Unconsciously he even expected a call or two from his employer or old business associates to ask him to do a little part-time fill-in work to help plug that gigantic hole he must have left at work.

But oh – the six month anniversary was coming up, and things were not as rosy as he had hoped. First and foremost, he was bored. The camaraderie and intellectual stimulation he had had at work was somehow missing. The major in-depth conversations about sports and politics he had enjoyed with fellow workers was now limited to his wife. He knew how she felt about most topics as she did about his opinions. You can go over this just so many times. They had had a great time on that trip to Europe but after three weeks together, he was secretly glad to be home.

The call from his employer and other business associates never came, or if they did he got the feeling that they really didn't care about his opinion any more.

Golf presented its own problem. All the guys he used to play with on the weekends were unavailable during the week, and when he checked about joining them on the weekends he found the foursomes filled. When he wandered down to a local course, he found he either played alone, there was no opening as a retired group filled the course, or he was matched with three others who dialogued among themselves and left him to wander along – sort of left out.

Our hero Rob was bored. Sure he loved his wife, but with the exception of their kids and their house, they had begun to

lead somewhat separate lives. There had to be some answer to this, and it came in a most unexpected way.

One early Tuesday morning, he tossed his golf clubs in the car and headed for the local course. He had breakfasted by himself because his wife and three of her friends were off on an "adventure" in San Francisco, and he was left alone. The yard projects looked too painful to work on for the third day in a row; and besides, he was bored – so off to the course he went.

His heart sank a bit when he saw the parking lot loaded with cars – and well it should have. The pro behind the desk listed the first opening a full two hours away from his arrival time. With nothing else to do he left his name on the list and headed for the putting green to while away the time. Frankly, it was pretty full as well.

Rob's curiosity peaked, and he asked the pro what was going on. "Every Tuesday morning the SIR group takes up ten starting times from us." Rob wandered back out to the putting green and, screwing up his courage, asked one of the other "puttees" what the deal was.

"SIR stands for Sons in Retirement. There are over one hundred and fifty branches with over twenty thousand members in Northern California. There are no dues, it is non-political, there is no religious orientation – the sole purpose is to help retirees, or semi-retirees enjoy themselves. They play golf, go on local trips, play bridge, go fishing, play tennis, go bowling, travel overseas, have classes on computers, etc."

Rob's new-found friend handed him a SIR business card and invited him to this fellow's SIR branch for lunch the following week. Rob was intrigued, but a little bit hesitant. He never thought of himself as a "joiner" other than maybe a service club or two. Well, maybe he'd go home later and think about it all. There had to be a catch somewhere, and he was sure he'd find it.

(In the next edition – Part Two: Rob learns about the SIR organization.)

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