



# SIR HAPPENINGS

SUMMER 2011 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

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

## President Bob's Column

In my last column, I talked briefly about the difficulty Sons In Retirement has in getting volunteers to fill positions at the Branch, Area, Region, and State levels. I would like to address that problem in this issue of Happenings.



As I read through the monthly Branch bulletins from each Branch, a far too frequently occurring item is the plea for volunteers to step up and fill Branch vacancies. Certainly it is more prevalent this time of year as we nominate and elect our 2012 officers, but I see vacancies in many branches all year long.

One of the most frequently vacant positions at the Branch is the Little Sir. I also note that in many of these Branches, the Little Sir is also the Program Chairman. In visiting Branches this year and also talking to Area Governors, I find that separating those duties produces far better results. The separation allows both men to concentrate on their very different, but equally important duties.

That may be a solution to the many vacancies at a specific position. It does not, however, address the overall issue of lack of volunteers at every level.

I am asking that each Sir remember that SIR is a 100% volunteer organization. Without volunteers there is no Sons In Retirement. If you are reading this, you are probably a Sir and you are a Sir because there is something about the organization that appeals to you. Please consider giving back some of your time and expertise so that you and others may continue to enjoy all the pleasure that Sons In Retirement gives all of us.

What most men who have volunteered have found is that the more you are involved and the more you give the more enjoyment and satisfaction you receive in return.

Please VOLUNTEER to make Sons In Retirement even stronger and healthier today and in the future.

BE A FRIEND – BRING A FRIEND

## Mission Branch 32, San Jose

### Aluminum Overcast

#### Dan Roberts, Camera Club Chairman

The picture was taken on a Branch 32 Camera Club special field trip... special, because the flight cost \$439 which is not exactly cheap. The people in the picture are, left to right: Paul Twombly, Dan Roberts, and Jim Sleigh.

The plane, a B-17G – sometimes referred to as the "Aluminum Overcast" back in WW II days – was brought to the West Coast by the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association), which is one of largest pilot organizations in the world. The stop in this area was at the Hayward Airport. I have never flown in a B-17 bomber and it was quite an experience. I got the feeling of what it must have been like to be a young airman in WWII flying missions over enemy territory. To my surprise, the plane didn't seem as roomy as I had expected and was very noisy. Some of us got to sit in the bombardier's seat, the navigator's seat, the top turret gunner's chair, the waist gunner's positions, and to spend time in the cockpit with the pilots. I didn't go further forward than the bomb bay, but was satisfied that I had the good experience of what it is like to fly in a B-17.



BE A FRIEND, BRING A FRIEND

**Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22, Fairfax**

## **Paul Hiatt Sir of the Year**

**Sandy Grieve, Director**

Paul Hiatt was the unanimous selection of the Executive Committee for the Branch 22 Sir of the Year award for 2010. As those who know Paul well can testify, he is an unassuming and modest individual who seems to be slightly embarrassed by this well deserved award.



As the long serving Chairman of the Attendance, Guests, and Visitors Committee, Paul plays an essential role, ensuring our Badges are available for each luncheon and making sure that a new badge is a part of every recruit's membership package. This is Paul's most visible contribution, but he also keeps track of our attendance records. Paul also looks after our Domestic Travel Program and backs up our International Travel Czar, Henry Puccinelli.

This brief description of Paul and his official duties just doesn't do justice to the contribution he makes to our Branch. He never shies away from pitching in whenever he can, and always gives a positive response when asked to help out. We on the Branch Executive Committee appreciate everything he does for the Branch and with this award we are commending his example as a model for SIR Membership.

**Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn**

## **McGuire earns President's Award**

**Al Matson, Treasurer**

Ninety year old Dave McGuire was recently honored with a President's award and is shown with his plaque. Dave has been a fixture in Branch 37 ever since he joined SIR almost twenty years ago. It didn't take him long to become active starting with Little Sir and then Big Sir. He's the kind of guy that is always there when help is needed and among his many contributions, he has been a key figure in the Ladies Day program for many years. Last year, he received a well deserved Honorary Life Membership.



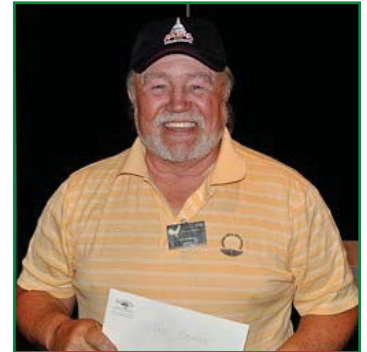
Dave says that belonging to SIR has been a big plus for him during his retirement years.

**Westgate Branch 125, San Jose**

## **Hole-In-One**

**Dave Grant, Bulletin Editor**

Last spring Jay James made his first ever hole-in-one. Using a six iron, Jay aced the 161 yard – par 3 – 2nd hole at the Spring Valley Golf course in Milpitas.



A proud and smiling Jay James is shown holding the \$50 check he received for his hole-in-one.

**Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento**

## **Two 95 Birthdays**

**Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor**

**Another First for Branch 69...** at our May luncheon, we celebrated the 95th birthday of two of our members, Forrest Viglione on the right in the picture and Dave Fleming on the left. Regional Director Maynard Rodland attended the luncheon and is standing in the center of the picture after presenting the Super Senior Certificates.

This was the first time that any Branch member has achieved this milestone since the award has been in effect. Forest and Dave were also the first Branch members to receive the Senior Certificate. Dave has been a Branch member since 1979 and has served as Treasurer and Menu Chairman. Forest joined the branch in 1981. Both are still very active in the Branch.

Congratulations! We hope to be around when you are both presented with the Century award.





# Sirs in the News

## Lake Tahoe Branch 160

### Twentieth Anniversary

Larry Coffman, Bulletin Editor

In April of this year we celebrated our 20th Anniversary as a SIR Branch at a luncheon where our charter members were honored with certificates of appreciation for their service to the Branch.

Standing left to right are: Herb Wheeler, Ken Koegl, and Bob Baker. Sitting left to right are: Barrett Stitt, Ken Miklosy, Bob Peterson and Dom Delcenio. Not pictured were: Al Bartley, Ben Kunibe and Chuck Rozum. Each one of them has been a dedicated member for twenty years and our sincere thanks go out to all of them for their service and dedication to Branch 160.



## Lake of the Pines Branch 170, Auburn

### Dale Zinck at 90

Richard Hibbs, Bulletin Editor

Dale Zinck (on the right) receives the Senior Sir President's Award from Area Governor Don Gill.



## Ladies are Welcome in Many SIR Activities

Walter Schick, Chairman Publicity & Tool Committee

This is the first in a series of articles by the Publicity & Tools Committee suggesting how ladies can be included in many of our Branch activities and the benefits of doing so.

Ladies cannot join SIR and attend luncheons, nor can they administer any activities. However, they do support their retired husbands' interests and well-being. Where space is available, they are welcome as guests in many activities. After enjoying the couples' social interaction, ladies frequently ask their friends if their husbands would be interested in SIR. Let us know if you have a couples' activity to add or if you have questions on how to start one. Here are two examples:

Four or more couples can enjoy wine tasting. Hosts can supply the wine and the costs would be shared. For example, Wine Finders in Branch 8 meets every two months, tasting a varietal wine selection like Sauvignon Blanc. Each couple brings a wine that they like, but the cost must be under \$15. Sometimes a wine under \$5 wins the most votes. Each couple also brings an appetizer. We have had gatherings as large as 12 couples, and the wine was separated into two groups of six bottles. This is a fine social event and the ladies and Sirs really enjoy it.

Any number of Sirs and also ladies can take part in the Branch 8 Heads Up Walking activity. This is also open to Sirs from nearby Branches. As most of the walks are on flat surfaces, like a bike trail, any level of walker can participate. These are one hour hikes, so a fast walker can walk for 30 minutes and then turn around to catch up with more leisurely walkers. After the hike, we usually gather at a coffee house for talk and refreshments.



# News from the Branches

**Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto**

## **Area 22 Bowling Champs**

**Don Reed, Bulletin Editor**

The Area 22 Bowling League started play in early August last year and wound up in April of this year with team playoffs. The league is comprised of members from three Branches, Stanislaus Branch 103 – Turlock Branch 143 – and Modesto Branch 144.

The season is divided into three 11 week sections and the last two weeks are devoted to playoffs between the three section winners, plus the team with the most wins without winning a section.

Two teams survived the playoffs and then played for the championship. Team 11 consisted of Paul Battisti, Tim Cochran, Wes Rash and Del Davis, all from Branch 103 except for Tim Cochran who is a member of Branch 144. Team 4 was the other competitor and was made up of Curt Varvel, Charlie Fox and Don Reed from Branch 103 and Max Padua from Branch 144. Team 11 handily won the tournament winning all three games.

From left to right in the picture of the winning team are: Del Davis, Wes Rash, Tim Cochran and Paul Battisti. Several weeks prior to the playoffs, Paul Battisti bowled his first 300 game, after bowling for more than 40 years.



**China Camp Branch 151, Fairfax**

## **Team Wins Bowling Championship**

**Eckart Sellinger, Bulletin Editor**

Thanks to a great team effort, Branch 151 won the SIR League Championship in a close match against the first half winning team. We tied them in the first half, but lost in a one game roll off, so it was quite fitting after we won the second half, that we meet them again for the Championship.

The League winner was determined by the team with the most pins after three games and it came down to the anchor bowlers in the 3rd game for the decision. After the first game, we were ahead by 5 pins...after the second game, we were behind by 15 pins...and after the 3rd and final game, we won by only 5 pins. You can't have a three game match much closer than that!!

The winning team members pictured L to R are: Ray Schmitt, Don Gregory, Jim Strange, Eckart Sellinger (Captain.), and Sam Ennis.



## **In Memoriam**

I am sorry to report the July 2011 death of Sir Gary Gruber. Gary held many positions in SIR including 2nd Assistant State Secretary from 2003 to 2006 and State Secretary from 2009 to July 2010 when his health forced him to move to be near his family. He also served on INFOSYS Committee as Chairman of various sub-committees and on the Rules committee from 2006 to 2010. In addition to numerous other contributions at the State level, he was also Little and Big Sir, Director, Bulletin Editor, and Webmaster of his Branch at various times from 1998 to 2007. However, no simple list of jobs or titles, no matter how long, can begin to show the contribution that Gary made to SIR.

We have lost a good man and fellow SIR. He will be missed.

*Bob Mannell*

## **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

## South San Francisco Branch 4

### SFO Aviation Museum

Wayne Veatch, Travel chairman

Last February, Branch 4 was fortunate to have a very engaging speaker for the luncheon meeting, John Hill, Curator-in-Charge of the Aviation Library and Museum at the SFO Museum. John is responsible for all of those fascinating exhibits within the San Francisco International Airport terminal buildings. Sitting with him at the head table, I found him to be very friendly and very knowledgeable about air transport history, one of my interests. He gave us a fascinating presentation on the history of Pan American World Airways and the first flight in 1935 of the China Clipper flying boat from San Francisco Bay to Hawaii. He explained that a feature of the Museum, in the SFO International Terminal, is a re-creation of the interior of the original 1937 San Francisco Municipal Airport passenger lobby. In that space is a fascinating display celebrating the first flight of the China Clipper.

As a new Travel Chairman, I wanted to arrange some local tours, to supplement the multi-day trips and cruises offered by other Branch Travel Chairmen and those promoted in Sir Happenings. John was more than willing to lead a group of us on a tour of his aviation museum in the International Terminal and we had 18 attendees for the tour. John explained the features and history of the museum and gave us detailed explanations of the exhibits celebrating the history Pan American and those beautiful flying boats. If other branches are interested in a tour, they may contact John directly at [john.hill@flysfo.com](mailto:john.hill@flysfo.com).

The first photo below is John addressing our group, showing the architecture of the room and some of the exhibits in the background. The second is a detail of their excellent model of the Clipper.



## Ignacio Pacheco Branch 22, Fairfax

### Silver Seas Cruise

Bill Wilhelm, Director

If you happen to see 8 SIR members with smiles on their still slightly tanned faces (see picture), it's because they just returned from a fantastic seven day Caribbean cruise aboard the all suite Silver Seas "Whisper." I think if you ask any one of them they will all agree that this was the best cruise they have ever experienced.

The weather was perfect... a low of 74 degrees to a high of 88 degrees, beautiful warm clear blue ocean water, and white sandy beaches, but it was the cruise line itself that made this such an outstanding vacation. Service was above and beyond what we have experienced aboard any other ships and even included a personal butler.

Yes, the price might have seemed high to begin with, but at the end of the cruise, we all agreed that because everything was included – air fare – tips – in room bar – wine – and top of the line bar beverages, it was no more expensive than any other cruise we have taken.

Thanks to Henry Puccinelli for arranging such a wonderful cruise vacation.



## Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

### Perfect Attendance

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

Shown in the picture are the 13 members of Branch 94 that were honored for having perfect attendance last year. That's something we all should shoot for!



# News from the Branches

## Mount Diablo Branch 8, Concord/Walnut Creek

### What to do when Parking is a Problem?

Derek Southern, Membership Secretary

What does a branch do when the number of parking spaces at their luncheon venue is insufficient for its membership?

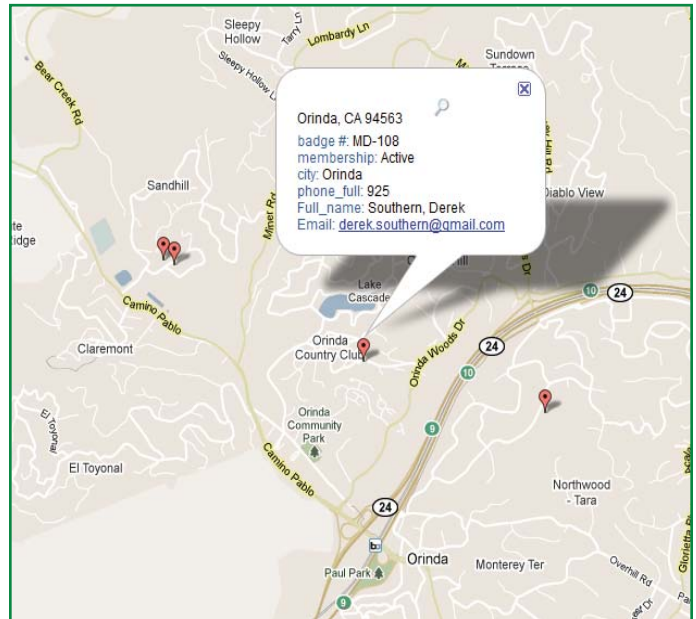
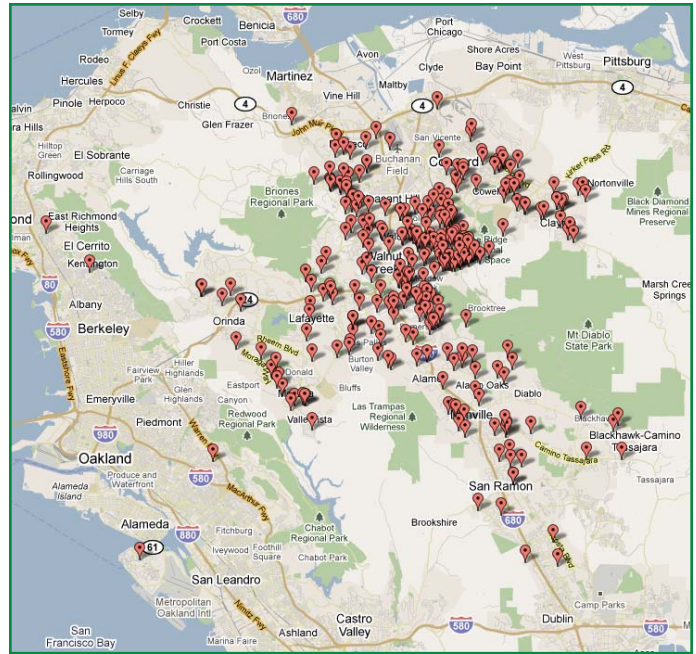
This has been a recurring problem for Branch 8 at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge where local street parking was limited to 2 hours. Sharing rides with other members helped, but this became more difficult to arrange for new members and applicants. As Membership Secretary, I looked for a way to map member's addresses so we could see exactly where our members lived thus organizing rides could be simplified.

The mapping process could be done manually, but with 270 members (back in 2007), it would be a major problem to maintain the map. However, a software program for converting addresses to geographic coordinates was available and that solved the problem, until the company went out of business in 2008!

More recently, mapping has been made simpler, and now using a site – [www.batchgeo.com](http://www.batchgeo.com) – it is easy to create free maps showing where members live, or where branches are located. The maps are created as Google map pages, which means you can easily zoom in to the street level, and in some cases you can actually see an image of the house and the streets in the neighborhood. The error rate is now improved. In my early maps about 10% of the icons were not as close to the real address as one would hope.

The upper Map at the right shows the location of all our Branch members. The lower Map is an example of where four members live relatively close to each other and could easily share rides. Additional information can be included, so when an icon is clicked it displays some roster information as shown in the lower Map - personal sensitive information has been hidden in this example.

Since January 2011, Branch 8 meets at the Concord Hilton in Concord... no parking problems now, but members can still use the maps to find a rideshare partner.



## Mission Trail Branch 35, Mountain View

### Charged up "Merry" Oldsmobile

Bob Simon, Past Big Sir

Richard Lowenthal, left, who spoke to Branch 35 in May about charging stations for electric cars, chats with his "earliest adopter" Sir Bill Palmer, right, while Sir Milt Wehrman looks on. Bill and his son built the replica of a 1904 "Merry" Oldsmobile in 1967. The original was a very early version of an electric car.



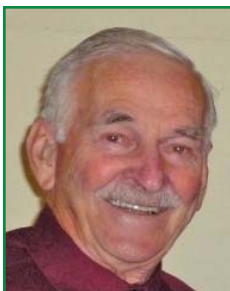


# Committee Reports

## State RV Committee

Don Cummings, Co-Chairman

The RV Committee held its first meeting on May 18th in San Rafael. All but three of the committee members were able to attend. Shown from left to right in the picture are: Jon Moninger, Area 3 Governor – Co-Chairmen, Don Cummings and Jack Strectfus – Ernie Bonelli from the Roving Roosters RV Club of San Jose – Buck Kendrick, Past SIR President – Jim Stedman, SIR Vice President – Keith Pieper from the Roving Roosters of Napa Valley – and Bill Raudio of the Rolling Roamers of Marin/Sonoma. Unable to attend were members, Mark Purdy of the Roving Roosters of Napa Valley, Ray Serafin of the Discovery Bay RV Club and Region 9 Director Richard Dettmer.



Committee plans include expanding the committee's membership, assisting SIR Branches, Areas, and Regions, in establishing RV clubs and opportunities for Sirs with RVs to participate in RV activities with existing RV clubs. The Committee also wants to survey each Region to find out how many Sirs have RVs. Another priority has been updating the SIR RV Website – [www.rv.sirinc2.org](http://www.rv.sirinc2.org) – and to get every current RV Club listed on the website. Sharing information on planned RV outings and activities with other branches provides an opportunity for members with an RV – but, with no RV club in their Branch or Area – to join an existing club's outing and to join that club. For example, the Rolling Roamers of Marin/Sonoma send their schedule to the Bulletin Editors of all the Branches in their Region 10. We encourage Big Sirs to survey their membership and if

they have members with RVs who would like to join a SIR sponsored RV club or receive RV information, have them contact us. The RV Committee is still seeking the assistance of all of the established SIR RV clubs. Please contact us at [sirstaterv@gmail.com](mailto:sirstaterv@gmail.com).



## Publicity & Tools Committee

Local Newspaper Publicity

Walt Schick, Chairman

Newspapers have limited space for announcements, but Branch 146 has found that including the speaker for the next luncheon gets them in the paper every month. A recent newspaper clipping is shown below, which includes the luncheon cost and contact information.



### MEETINGS

■ **SIR 146 Monthly Luncheon**  
– 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. June 9.  
Featuring Gennifer Mountain, accompanied by Phil Trapp. Mountain is the fall-prevention program manager with Senior Outreach Services offered by Meals on Wheels, a private nonprofit agency. Trapp is a certified fitness instructor and volunteer for the Senior Fitness Circuit Program in Contra Costa County. Men who are semi- or fully retired are encouraged to attend, meet the members and learn more about the benefits of belonging to SIR. The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak, 3800 Valley Vista Road, Walnut Creek. \$24. 925-933-7998, [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com).

Newspapers have different editors for different sections, and Branch 146 uses these contacts:

- By looking in the paper, calling the paper, or using their website, we are able to identify the appropriate personnel to contact for submitting our event information.
- For our monthly luncheons, we've learned that we have a better chance of getting publicized if we focus on the speaker, because newspapers are reluctant to publicize general promotional information. That's why, in the coming months, we will attempt to have a media journalist attend our luncheons (or perhaps one of our activities) in an effort to get an article focused on SIR.

Branch 8, in Concord, recently outgrew the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge and moved to the Concord Hilton Hotel for their monthly luncheon. This is on a well travelled street, and Rotary International also meets there. A local sign maker produced both signs (see picture) and a two piece support pipe. Our luncheon contract with Hilton included their installation of the sign.





# News from the Branches

*Amador Branch 96, Jackson*

## **One-Eye Golf Tournament**

**Paul Murphy, Publicity Chairman**

It was a real “eye opener” for the Branch 15 and 96 Golf Club members as they swung their clubs at the little white ball with one eye covered with a patch. Sam Mazza was the chairman of the One-Eye tournament played at Castle Oaks in honor of member Gene Young who permanently wears an eye-patch. “It sure gave us a great appreciation for the problems Gene faces every day, especially on the links,” said Club President Ray Lindstrom.

Winners of the two-man best-ball tournament were: Dwight Foyel and Ray Lindstrom, with the low net of 59. In a very close second place were Howard Blethen and Stan Rasmussen with a score of 60...and rolling up in third place were Steve Curl and John Binnall who won a playoff with two other teams with nets of 62. Nearly dropping it in the hole and winning closest to the Pin at 1’-10” was Sam Mazza.

Pictured wearing eye patches are L to R: Ray Lindstrom, Club President...Sam Mazza, Tournament Chairman... Henry Cardana, Handicap Chairman & Treasurer...and Gene Young, the Honoree.” Lindstrom said, “It was a fun day and made for many laughs, which at our age, is the most important thing.”



*Bidwell Branch 110, Chico*

## **A Scientific Fishing Group**

**Bob Weckerle, Chief of Piscatology**

The Branch 110 Piscatology – i.e. “the science of fishing” – Group is a bunch of guys who love the out-of-doors, each other’s company and the thrill of getting a “Fish On!” To meet these needs we share breakfast once a month and use email often, to plan both single boat outings to Lake Oroville for Bass, and larger group trips to mountain lakes for Rainbows, Browns and Brookies.

We like Lassen and Plumas counties and we often stay in member’s cabins or at campgrounds. In the two or three nights we’re out with the guys, lots of jokes and lies are exchanged ...what else would you expect from fishermen? Our wives love to get us out of the house, so we try to keep them happy.

We’ve been at this for seven years and new members are still joining. The trick is to keep in balance our present total of nine boat owners with other SIR members who like to fish. Members tend to pair up on their own once they get to know each other at our breakfasts. We’re lucky because Chico has lots of nearby areas to fish.

In the upper photo Les Vandervelden and Don Pustejovsky seem very relaxed while fishing in a beautiful setting below Mt. Lassen on Lake Almanor. In the lower photo Gary Kretz and Bob Martin with an Eagle Lake trout.

We enjoy sharing our love of fishing with all SIR members, and encourage new members to join us to find out what our group is all about.





# Be a Friend, Bring a Friend

## *Happenings at the State Board Meeting* *Excerpts from the minutes of the June 2011 Meeting*

### Remarks from State Officers:

**President Bob Mannell** in his opening remarks said that on his recent visits to many branches he has been pleased to see they have slowed membership losses and many branches are now showing gains in membership.

**Vice President Jim Stedman** said in his visits to different committees, in his ex-officio role, he has noticed that the committees are all dedicated and working hard.

**Secretary Eckart Sellinger** noted the gathering of Rosters from the 145 branches was laborious as over half of the branches did not meet the March 1st deadline and required a lot of follow-up communication.

**Assistant Secretary Charles Moss** reported all branch forms SI-100 (reporting for Corporations to the State) are being processed and the State has made it easier by allowing electronic filing and paying by credit card.

**Treasurer Adolph (Gus) Lopez** said the Department of Treasury is just now sending missing Form 990 notices for 2008 tax year to the branches and asked that the Branches send them to him and not take any independent action.

**Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden** indicated there are still some Branches that routinely do not complete the all the information on the Form 28 and he needs each line to be completed. Another continuing problem is to get all the branches to submit the form by the 10th of the following month.

### Committee Reports:

**Nominating Committee Chairman Buck Kendrick** was not able to attend so committee member, Dean Steichen, gave his report. He said the committee recommends the following for the 2012 Officers: President, Jim Stedman...Vice President, Richard Dettmer...Secretary, Eckart Sellinger... Assistant Secretary, Charles Moss...Treasurer, Michael Berry... Assistant Treasurer, Jim Long. The Board approved the slate.

**Certificates Chairman Jim Donovan** proposed listing the recipients of the Senior, Super Senior, and Century Presidential Certificates in the State Roster Website and received agreement to do so.

**Publicity and Tools Chairman Walter Schick** discussed how to implement and use the Area Contact and Activities roster concept.

**Bowling Chairman Carl Elvik** recapped the Bowling Statewide meeting held in January and said they have a major effort underway to update their Bowling Manual but are having trouble finding resources to do it. He indicated there are still 11 State Tournaments scheduled for this year and that Branch 62 recently won the State tournament held in Brentwood.

**Training Chairman Jim Stedman** indicated the State Training Session is scheduled for October 18th and all 2012 Big Sir's, Area Governors, and Regional Directors are expected to attend.

**Membership: Vice President Jim Stedman** discussed a Form 27 Membership Report for the four month period ending April 30th. He discussed several items covered in the report including there are 18,769 SIR members in 145 active branches, a loss of 122 members since last December 31st and 934 new members over the same period. He said all of the Branches are working very hard at recruiting.

**Insurance Chairman John Thomason** said that SIR Inc will not conform to the Moose Lodge insurance requirements and so the few branches meeting at Moose locations will have to find another meeting place. John announced that he will be stepping down as Insurance Chairman after next year.

**Travel Chairman Larry Garvin** said they are getting close to finalizing the SIR 55th Anniversary Event for next year.

### New Business:

**Growth & Management Committee:** President Bob Mannell announced that Harry Hubinger has resigned as Chairman and asked for suggestions on someone to replace Harry.

### Old Business:

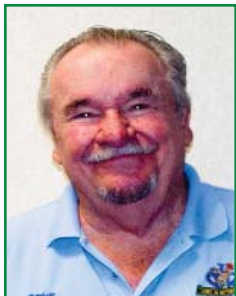
**California State Fair Booth:** Ralph Lingus led a discussion about SIR having a booth at this year's State Fair in Sacramento, if there is enough time to apply and if not, next year.

**Regional Director Reports:** The balance of the meeting was taken up by reports from the Directors on activities in their Regions with emphasis on membership retention and growth.

**Concluding Remarks:** President Bob Mannell said he thought this was an excellent meeting with good discussions on all topics and thanked everyone for their participation.

## State Golf

Gene Drennan, State Golf Committee Chairman



### "The UNSUNG HERO'S"

It's a slightly overcast day, and the itinerant golfer – snug in his bed – surveys the dismal sky and decides that maybe this is a good day to sleep in. The Golf Tournament that he had signed up for is the last thing of concern, but for the guys that have spent countless hours preparing for this day, another snag has hit the equation...how do I replace that player – at the last minute – with someone that is available, who has a handicap close enough, and not to disrupt the careful mixing of handicaps ...DARN!!! Another well planned event now has the beginnings of another headache.

Unknown to the average golfer, there is a group of guys that spend countless hours – unpaid of course – setting up tournaments with myriad golf courses, planning the type of event that will draw the most players – thereby making the golf courses happier – and fulfilling the request of the average golfer to please don't make me play with JOE again as he is too slow. In the SIR organization, the Golf program is the largest single activity that we have to offer...numbering over 5,000 NCGA GHIN club members and untold 100's more non-affiliated members.

Working with these golfers, golf course operators, and a host of other part time and full time vendors, are a host of volunteers. These people known as Branch, Area, Division, and State Chairman and Assistants, are the people that make your round of 18 holes as enjoyable as humanely possible. These people – who put countless hours in the planning, preparation and supervising of the event – don't ask for a lot and the best way to recognize them for their efforts on your behalf is to follow through on the commitments that you make to show up on time and play the game.

That said...I do want to point out that the vast majority of golfers DO show up on time and are ready to play, follow thru on their promises, and help make those "unsung heroes" appreciate what they do for you. Let's take a moment and let those guys – and sometimes gals – know how much you appreciate their efforts on your behalf – **Thanks to all of you for the fine work that you do for me!!**

*Gene*

## State Bowling

Carl Elvik, State Bowling Committee Chairman

Just a few quick comments from SIR Bowling. Our biannual meeting is on August 2nd the first Tuesday of the month. I hope to see most of the Directors, Area Chairman, and Bowling Chairman at that meeting.

I want to congratulate the Branch 62 bowling team from Sunnyvale. This is the second team championship for them in three years. I'm standing on the left in the picture with the winning team members (L to R): Bob Hebson, Marvin Hirschel, Bud Collinson and Lee Wigglesworth, who had a score 2935...great bowling Sirs!!

SIR Bowling needs nominations for committee members. I understand volunteering is hard on all of us, but we all need to pitch in so that we can continue having tournaments and the SIR bowling program.

*Carl*



## State Baseball

All SIR Day at the San Francisco Giants

San Francisco Giants vs Pittsburgh Pirates

Wednesday, August 10th, 2011 at 12:45 PM



For more information see the flyer at

<http://sirinc.org/siractivities/SIR-sports.htm>



# Happenings Travel Bulletin

**September 12-20, 2011**

## **A Journey down Virginia's Crooked Road**

Virginia's Crooked Road is a trail through Southwest Virginia and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Here you will find the roots of American Music that run deep and wide. The region is home to the World's Capital of Old Time Mountain Music. There are eight major music venues: the Blueridge Institute; the Floyd Country Store and County Records; the Rex Theatre and Old Fiddlers Convention; the Blue Ridge Music Center; Carter Family Fold and others. The Crooked Road is rich with talent. Come join us in this exclusive trip. Bring your harmonica and spoons and join in the fun! \$3084 PPDO, includes r/t air, all tours, 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners. The trip is limited to 10 couples. Offered by Branch 34 Travel. Call Richard Small at 925-462-1204.

**September 16-26, 2011**

## **West Coast Swing**

Fly to Seattle for dinner atop the Space Needle. After a 2 night stay, take the train to British Columbia. Stay 2 nights each at Kelowna, Whistler, and Vancouver. Attractions include several Olympic sites, a mountain tram ride, scenic touring, and Whistler Mountaineer train. The trip concludes with a 2 night cruise on the Coral Princess to San Francisco. Prices vary from \$2980 to \$3220 PPDO. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call Allen Daily at 408-265-8140.

**September 24-29 2011**

## **Custer State Park**

Five nights ...unpack only once! Visit Crazy Horse Memorial – Mount Rushmore – Buffalo Roundup – 1880 Steam Train Ride – Explore Historic Deadwood – Visit Badlands National Park – and much more. Deluxe motor coach, 8 meals, and r/t air. Cost is \$1493 PPDO. Offered by Branch 73 Travel. Call Paul Peters at 510-724-8345.

**October 5-11, 2011**

## **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta**



This is a 6 day trip with 2 nights in Albuquerque viewing balloon events in the morning and evening – 2 nights in Santa Fe with a full day of exploring – and 2 nights in Taos including an all day trip on an old narrow-gage railroad. Price including r/t air is \$2590 PPDO. Offered by Branch 145 Travel.

Call Jerry Wisenor at 209-334-5181.

**October 9-28, 2011**

## **Exploring New Zealand**

Twenty day escorted tour of New Zealand's North and South Islands, with an optional post tour to Fiji. Highlights are... Auckland, Bay of Islands, Rotorua, Wellington, Christchurch, Franz Joseph Glacier Region, Queenstown and more. Cost is \$5329 PPDO. Offered by Branch 38 Travel. Call Bill Rodman at 408-274-4521.

**October 9-22, 2011**

## **Quebec City to Ft Lauderdale**

See Canada and New England strut their fall colors. Relax while on board Holland America's MS Eurodam. This is a ship repositioning cruise which are always a good value and the cruise should fill up fast. Prices range from \$3095 PPDO for this 14 day cruise. Offered by Branch 110 Travel. Call Wayne Chapman at 530-343-8086.



**October 16-22, 2011**

## **Southern Charm**

Experience true southern hospitality and charm in Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. Highlights include visits to Charleston, Boon Hall Plantation, Beaufort, Savannah, Jekyll Island, St Simons Island, and St Augustine. Price is \$2269 PPDO. Offered by Branch 32 Travel. Call John Pletsch at 408-274-2992.

**November 5-12, 2011**

## **Mexican Riviera Cruise**

A short, inexpensive, 8 day cruise and relaxing before the holidays. This cruise is round trip out of San Diego with stops in Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. PPDO prices range from \$1389 (interior), \$1529 (outside window), and \$1619 to \$1799 (balcony). All meals and transportation are included. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765 or Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421.

**November 5-18, 2011**

## **Mediterranean Cruise**

This could be a once-in-a-lifetime vacation. Visit places you've only read about or seen in movies...such as:



The Coliseum or the Vatican in Rome, the Parthenon in Athens, the city and sights of Jerusalem, the Pyramids of ancient Egypt. This 12 day cruise takes you to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Israel, and Egypt on board the Costa Pacifica as you enjoy the

Mediterranean waters and all the great food on board. Prices start at \$2739 PPDO. Offered by Branch 45 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693.

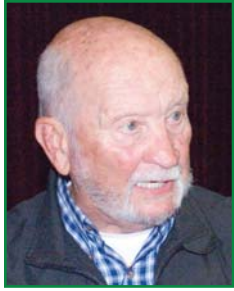
**November 29-December 4, 2011**

## **Memphis & Nashville**

Six days and 5 nights of non-stop fun! Visit the recently cleaned and modernized Grand Ole Opry – tour Elvis Presley's Graceland – visit the Rock n' Soul Museum – and much, much more. Cost includes r/t air and is only \$1965 PPDO. Offered by Area 1 Travel. Call Michael Clark at 650-347-0919 or Phil Manriquez at 650-871-5009.

# California Sons In Retirement (SIR) Part 3

By Harry Hubinger



*Editors Note: Harry Hubinger, the former Chairman of the Growth & Membership 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. The following is the third episode in the four part series.*

Update: When we last met our retired hero, Rob, he had just returned from his first-ever SIR meeting.

Rob's mind was a bit muddled. The meeting had been OK. The guys he met had all been friendly and helpful. The lunch itself was about a six on Rob's scale of zero to ten. The meeting was precise, and the boss at the head table, who apparently held the title of Big Sir, had kept things moving – a trait Rob appreciated. He had enjoyed the speaker. Once again, the presentation had been about the right length – not too long – but entertaining enough to keep his interest. One of the officers had given him an application blank with only a mild amount of perceived pressure.

So, considering all this, what stood in Rob's way of filling out the application and signing on? In short, he missed a younger crowd. It was a step for Rob to admit he fit into the group. He needed a little push, and how was he to get it?

Well, when he left the meeting he had been given a monthly newsletter. As he paged through it he began to find himself leaning toward joining. Then a bright idea came to him. He looked at the newsletter and found the guy in charge of golf. He recognized that he would like some of the other activities as well. It would be fun to get back to bridge, maybe a little poker, and the idea of an exploratory walk with the group appealed – but the true test for Rob would be golf.

He called the person listed as chairman of golf and lied just a bit by telling him that he was joining the branch and would love to meet some of the men for a game of golf. The chair told Rob how to log onto the branch golf web site and how to register to find the upcoming events. Then he said, "Rob, because you're new, I will put you with a group of men with about your skill level until you are properly registered."

Well, the golf match did it for Rob. He arrived about a half hour before his tee time. The three other guys he was to play with greeted him. He didn't

have to hassle with tee times, and the other players were great. (By the way, he beat two of them which helped.) And, the price was under what he paid on the weekends. The three men all loved golf, talked up their SIR branch, and were loose and easy to be with.

It didn't take Rob long to fill in his application and send it along. After all, they were scheduled to play again next week. He might just check out the walking group. That one didn't even require a sign-up sheet.

## SIR Day at the Races

### Golden Gate Fields

Consider bringing your Sons in Retirement group out to the seventh Golden Gate Fields "Salute to SIR Day at the Races" scheduled for Friday, October 21st.

Currently being offered is a special discounted Turf Club group rate of \$27p/p for SIR groups of 12 or more. This is a fantastic opportunity for networking with SIR groups from all over while enjoying a tasty Prime Rib buffet.

The Turf Club package will include: Valet parking (or parking for a bus), admission and reserved seating, daily racing program, prime rib buffet, tax/tip for the food servers and a race named in honor of your group. Up to four 4 members will be invited to our winners circle to meet the winning jockey of that race and have a souvenir photo taken with him or her.



A high demand is anticipated for this special offer so please let us know if you are interested ASAP. We look forward to seeing your SIR group in October.

Michael Roberts, Group Sales Manager  
Golden Gate Fields – Berkeley CA  
510-559-7380

[mroberts@goldengatefields.com](mailto:mroberts@goldengatefields.com)

### SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

Dwight Sale,  
Chairman/Publisher  
Email: [dwight.sale@comcast.net](mailto:dwight.sale@comcast.net)

Send news and questions to:  
Don MacGregor,  
Executive Editor  
Email: [donmac@wavecable.com](mailto:donmac@wavecable.com)

John Skarpelos,  
Editor and Production Manager  
Email: [john@mediaart.com](mailto:john@mediaart.com)