



SIR HAPPENINGS

FALL 2012

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 4

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

President Jim's Column



Many good things happened in 2012. I first want to acknowledge the contributions made by SIR Branch members. Most members attended luncheon meetings regularly and participated in Branch activities. Friendships

developed and camaraderie was enhanced. This is what SIR is all about.

Those who chose to participate in leadership roles contributed greatly to the improvement of Branches. They are the ones who provided informative, entertaining luncheons and activities of interest to members. They did so well that satisfied Branch members invited their friends to join in large numbers. In 60% of SIR Branches, members recruited new members at the average rate of about 15% of Branch membership, well in excess of the 10% goal. As a result, the health and long term prospects of these Branches are significantly enhanced.

In closing, please remember that it is the participation by Branch members that energizes our Branches. Please take full advantage of your SIR membership, be a participant, invite your friends to join and enjoy retirement more.

Pleasant Hill Branch 146, Walnut Creek

Blue Angels over San Francisco Bay Bob Spellman, Travel Chairman

On October 6th members from our Branch as well as Branches 116, 171, and 19 enjoyed a wonderful clear day on San Francisco Bay aboard the San Francisco Belle which is the largest private yacht on the West Coast. We were treated to an outstanding hot buffet lunch (see picture at right) with free flowing Champagne and live entertainment.

After lunch, we all adjourned to the outside decks of the Belle to watch the Blue Angels (see pictures below) perform their fantastic aerial maneuvers right over our heads. They are simply amazing! We were also treated to a great performance by a Stunt Plane doing gravity defying stunts and a variety of other large and small planes flying all around us.

As we were leaving our viewing location to head home, many of the America's Cup Boats were passing by us on their way to start their big race. They are truly different looking.

All and all, it was a very exciting day on the Bay.



BRING IN A GUEST - WE NEED NEW MEMBERS

Sirs in the News

Mt Hamilton Branch 38, San Jose

Naftzger Awarded an HLM

Joe Henry, Big Sir

Richard Naftzger is shown on the left in the picture receiving an Honorary Life Membership award from President Jim Stedman. Richard has been quite active in our Branch ever since joining in 1998. He was the Little Sir in 2009 and the Big Sir in 2010. Richard has also been our Branch Secretary, Roster Chairman, E-Mail Chairman, and currently is a Director on the BEC.



Aptos-Rio Del Mar Branch 104

HLM for Gary Nickel

Jack Kemerling, Director

With his wife, Joy, present at the June Ladies Day Luncheon, Gary Nickel was awarded the prestigious Honorary Life Membership by Big Sir Ken Boyd, standing on the left in the picture. Gary has served the Branch as Big Sir, Little Sir, long-time Bulletin Editor and continues as a Director. He has also worked on and chaired many Branch Committees and in addition, was the Area 10 Governor for four years....well deserved Gary!



Peach Bowl Branch 45, Yuba City

Brock Smith Honored with HLM

Dieter Rex, Big Sir

Brock Smith has been an active member of Branch 45 since 2001. During that time he has been the Treasurer and Door Prizes Chairman for the past eight years. He has recruited several new members and does all the coordination with our caterer to ensure that adequate food is available for each of our luncheons. Working with the local High School Arts Department, Brock has arranged for a short skit during our luncheon for the past four years. He is also a member of our Computer Club, where he has served as treasurer the past two years.

The picture shows Brock Smith being honored with an Honorary Life Membership and left to right are: Vice President Rich Dettmer, President Jim Stedman, Brock Smith and his wife, Connie.



Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Senior Certificate

Ron Bianco, Branch Member

In the picture, Area Governor Richard Bischoff on the right, is shown honoring Al Franzino with a Senior Certificate. Al is 90 years old and has been an active Branch member since 1987.



Sirs in the News

Snowline Branch 113, Pollock Pines

Bill Reed Honored at Picnic

Russ Salazar, Big Sir

In a surprise presentation at our annual picnic, Bill Reed was awarded the much coveted Honorary Life Membership. It all started several months ago when a nominating committee comprised of the three current HLM's – Ron dePass, Bob Perrault, and Bob Rath – unanimously chose Bill Reed as their HLM nominee. After it was approved, the annual picnic was chosen as the best time and place to present the award.

Bill was selected based on his many years of tireless effort on behalf of Branch 113. He has held numerous positions over the years including Treasurer, Big Sir, Director and Chairman of several Branch functions.

In the picture from left to right, Big SIR Russ Salazar, Area 19 Governor David Cotter, HLM Bill Reed, Region 2 Director Ralph Lingis and State President Jim Stedman are all admiring Reed's Honorary Life Certificate.



Crystal Springs Branch 142, San Mateo

Chang Awarded an HLM

Bernie Olson, Assistant Bulletin Editor

President Jim Stedman (L) and Big Sir Jay Narayan (R) are shown presenting Bob Chang with an Honorary Life Membership certificate at our September Branch luncheon.

Bob is a 17 year member and has served in numerous offices and committees during his membership. These include: Big Sir, Little Sir, Director, Assistant Treasurer, Golf Committee Chairman and Hall of Fame member.



Congratulations, Bob, on your well-deserved honor!

Modesto Branch 144

HLM Strain has Done it All

Duane Retzloff, Bulletin Editor

President Jim Stedman is shown presenting an Honorary Life Membership certificate to Jerry Strain standing in middle of the picture with his wife, Merlyne.

Jerry has done quite a lot to earn this award. He has been Little Sir, Big Sir, Area 22 Golf Chairman and has served on the State Golf Committee. As Big Sir, he initiated changes that made our Branch better, more financially stable, with a healthy increase in membership during his tenure. Besides that, Jerry is a good entertainer – always ready with a good joke – and he can sing pretty darn well too, particularly when we entertained at Ladies Day. And in addition to all of that, Jerry is well liked and respected by all of his fellow Sirs in Branch 144.



Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn

President's Award for Meade

Al Matson, Treasurer & Assistant Bulletin Editor

Big Sir Henry "Tuk" Tukloff, on the right in the picture, is shown presenting the President's Award to long-time Branch 37 member Bob Meade. Bob planned to spend his 90th birthday in Hawaii and so Tuk wore an Aloha shirt in honor of the trip.



Sirs in the News

Sierra Branch 175, Fresno

His Passion is Old Cars

Jerry Long, Bulletin Editor

Bud Pope's been in the automotive business since he was 8 years old when he started dusting tires and sweeping floors for 25 cents a day for his dad at the Pope Tire Company in Fresno.

His love of old cars started when he bought a car for his dad out of The Harrah's Collection in about 1983 which was a 1911 Scripps Booth and 14 years later he finished restoring it. For the past 25 years, he's taken an active role in the Central California Horseless Carriage Club of America (HCC) where he's been the local chapter president for several years. Bud plans tours for the group going to dozens of destinations travelling at an average speed of only 35 mph. Bud's favorite car is his 1913 Pope Hartford – see picture – which is a big car capable of cruising at 55 mph.

His good friend, George Weber, brought Bud into SIR because of their mutual interest in old cars and George also needed a partner for golf. Bud and wife, Grace, were married in 1956 and also enjoy skiing and collecting beer steins.



**BRING IN A GUEST
WE NEED NEW MEMBERS**

Area 6, Marin County

A Throw Back in Time

Jim Filippo, Area 6 Governor

In August we had our inaugural Area 6 sojourn to Bishop's Ranch, an Episcopal retreat and conference center in Healdsburg. Twenty three attended from Branches 22, 47 and 68... see picture. Our activities included a guided tour around the facility, which provided a history about Bishop's Ranch and the Dry



Creek region. We then broke into separate groups to either shop in Healdsburg, wine taste at nearby wineries, play bocce, or just relax and take in the view. We had appetizers before dinner and enjoyed some wines from the Dry Creek area.

Bishop's Ranch has about 340 acres located on a hill overlooking the Russian River, Mt. Saint Helena and vast



fields of grape vines. It was so tranquil and peaceful that none of us wanted to leave. The perfect weather and great wines were not lost on us!

We enjoyed the locally grown food prepared by Bishop's Ranch staff and spent the night in the old Ranch House... see picture. This is a throwback to a time when life was simpler and less pretentious.

We would like to make this an ongoing annual Area 6 or possibly even a Region 10 event.

News from the 2012 Annual Meeting



SIR State Officers for 2013 were elected at the Annual Meeting in August. Shown in the above photo (left to right) James Long, Assistant Treasurer, Ronald Flagel, Assistant Secretary, Richard DeVoe, Secretary, Maynard Rodland, Vice President and Richard Dettmer, President. Treasurer Mike Berry inset at right was not able to attend the Annual Meeting.



Angelo Coero, Big Sir of Luthur Burbank Branch 17 in Santa Rosa with 100 members started by asking if each Big Sir would agree to bring in just one new member this year it would add 146 new members to our organization.



Steve Coffman, Big Sir of Auburn Branch 79 with about 180 members discussed what makes a healthy branch that's attractive to current and new members.



Jim Burk, Big Sir of Walnut Creek Branch 146 with 270 members, indicated the key to a successful branch is recruiting.

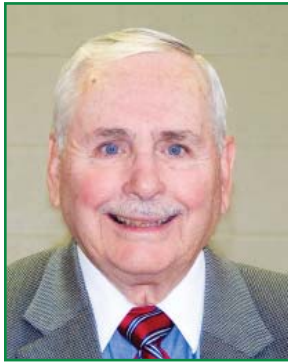


Dean Steichen, Chairman of the INFOSYS Committee as well as being Region 6 Director is shown encouraging all members to read *SIR Happenings*, the State Newsletter.



Spotlight on State Officers

Maynard Rodland – Vice President



Vice President elect Maynard “Rod” Rodland, grew up in Petaluma, where he graduated from high school and then attended Santa Rosa Jr. College, graduating in 1956 after serving during the Korean War. He met his wife, Claudia, at college and they were married in 1955. After 57 years, they now have four children, 12 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren!

In 1956, they moved to Sacramento to attend Sacramento State, where Rod graduated in 1958, getting his teaching credentials the following year and starting a 34 year career of teaching and coaching.

Rod retired from teaching in 1992 and became a golf marshal for the City of Sacramento... this is when he became aware of Sons In Retirement.

In 2004, he joined Branch 93 basically to play golf. As time went on, he began to become interested in the administration and operation side of SIR. In 2009, he became Little Sir, and then the next year, the Big Sir. It was during the initiation ceremony for Little Sir that he met Area 3 Governor Dick Joyce who informed Rod that after one more year he was going to step out of the AG position. Rod applied for the position and was selected as the Area Governor.

While serving as Area Governor, Region 3 Director Neil Mayo passed away. Then-President, Bob Mannell, called and asked if he would be willing to become the Regional Director. Rod agreed and holds that position today.

Earlier this year, Rod was encouraged to submit an application for Vice President... he did and was elected as the 2013 Vice President at the SIR Annual meeting in August.

Mission Branch 32, San Jose

Hawaiian Shirt Day

René Padilla, Little Sir

It was warm, sunny day – just like Hawaii – when members of Branch 32 started to arrive for the monthly luncheon. Faces were smiling and the mood was lively, as each Sir was given their usual greeting and badge... but this day was different, because today, all the members wore their favorite Hawaiian shirts and were greeted with colorful Hawaiian lei's.

As the room filled and the members mingled with one another, you could feel a sense of excitement. Everyone was taking in each other's colorful attire and hearing the critiques like... “oh, look at that one over there” or “whoa, that one's very cool!” or my favorite... “hey! your shirt looks like a marijuana plant.” The buzz, the chatter, the laughing, and of course, the background Hawaiian music, all mixed together wonderfully to create an atmosphere of friendship and camaraderie... see picture.

It turned into a terrific luncheon. New officers and directors were elected – acrobatic dancers entertained us with a fantastic demonstration that made us feel like we were watching Dancing with the Stars – and our guest speaker captivated the audience.

From my perspective, and based on all of the positive feedback that I have received, I'd say that this month's luncheon was a huge success and I hope it can be repeated next year!

Dick DeVoe – State Secretary



Our new State Secretary elect will be stepping into just one more leadership position out of the many he has held since joining Sons In Retirement about 20 years ago. Some of his many contributions to SIR are: Serving as a Big Sir, Little Sir, Director and Chairman of several Branch Committees. He is currently Branch Secretary and participates in quite a number of Branch activities. At the State level, Dick has been on the G&M Committee where he advocated for studying several important membership issues. He has also been chairman of the State Rules Committee, State Parliamentarian and State Chaplin.

Dick grew up on Long Island and later became an Okie – but not from Muskogee as the song goes – and moved to Bartlesville Oklahoma where his father worked for Phillips Petroleum. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in math and a minor in chemistry and then served in the military for two years as a missile control officer. Following his military service, Dick worked 30 years for Chevron in a variety of positions on both coasts and in Europe.

Dick has been married to Christy for 49 years and they have three kids and four grandchildren all within a 30 minute drive.



News from the Branches

San Francisco Branch 4

Visit to Famed Presidio Cemetery

Paul Rosenberg, Branch Treasurer

In August, members and guests of our Branch visited the San Francisco National Cemetery in the Presidio of San Francisco. This cemetery was the first national cemetery established on the West Coast and marked the development of national cemeteries extending beyond the battlefields of the Civil War.

The many graves and monument in the nine acre cemetery include a wide range of historical figures and events that shaped our nation's history. To give just a few examples: The grave of an African-American soldier who was one of four African-American soldiers awarded the Medal of Honor in the Spanish American War – an impressive Boxer Hostilities monument – a memorial dedicated to soldiers killed by the worker's union in the 1893 Pullman strike – the grave of a soldier earning two Medals of Honor while bravely fighting the Indians in the West – the Obelisk Monument to Four Soldiers (see picture) – the grave of the pilot who crashed during the first transcontinental air race in 1919 – and the grave of a woman who was a Union spy in the Civil War.



The extensive tour was lead by Docent Galen Dillman. All agreed that his presentation was remarkable for the insights he offered into American history through the stories of heroes and of ordinary people serving our nation.

I prepared a 26 page story from my notes and some further research about all the graves and monuments that the group visited. The many interesting photographs in the story were captured by Master Photographer Bert Dormann.

In the group picture from left to right are: Paul Rosenberg, Mel Lipscomb, Joan Rinde, Lloyd Rinde, Ranger Jim McCoy, Marcy McCoy, Bill Gipe, Docent Galen Dillman, Bud Sandkulla, Wayne Veatch, Shirley Lipscomb, Ken Reed, Jack Major, and George Fennech. For those that are interested in seeing my complete pictorial report, please click on <http://www.tinyurl.com/branch4tour> or visit the [Branch 4 website](#) and click on SIR Branch 4 Visit to the San Francisco National Cemetery.



Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

Now that's Recruiting

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Branch 69 is a small Branch of about 110 members located in the Sacramento Area. For years we have been trying to keep our head above water, recruiting just enough new members to make up for attrition. This year started out looking good with three new members recruited by April.

Big Sir Jim Porterfield, recently appointed PBS Tom Page (see picture) as our new Recruitment and Public Relations Chairman. Tom started off like a whirlwind. He made arrangements with Haggin Oaks Golf Course management to secure a booth at their annual Golf Expo. For three days straight, Tom personally manned the booth from opening to closing, assisted by other Branch volunteers. They talked about Sons In Retirement to hundreds of potential members. He invited many of them to our luncheon and referred others to branches in their area. Tom also posted flyers, ran recruiting articles in our newsletter, and pushed recruiting at every luncheon.



The results he achieved were phenomenal. In 4 short months, Tom was instrumental in recruiting 17 new members. This far exceeds our Branch goal of 11 for the year. The new members are bringing in their friends and from the turnout of guests at our luncheons, we expect this trend to continue.

Tom is already working on next year's recruiting with an even bigger and better display booth at the 2013 Golf Expo. Good going Tom!

Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Summer Fun

John Settler, Publicity Chairman

Over 100 Sirs and their wives recently enjoyed the annual Ladies Day picnic at the Italian Society grounds in Jackson. Every summer the members invite the women to come with them for an old fashioned picnic in the park.

The crowd this year enjoyed a barbeque lunch, a bocce ball tournament (see picture), and plenty of good fellowship. The weather cooperated with a relatively mild August day. With a wine and beer bar available, a great picnic barbeque, and plenty of things to do, it was another memorable event.



News from the Branches

Discovery Bay Branch 161

19th Annual Boat Cruise

Tom Jones, Bulletin Editor

The California Delta community of Discovery Bay is home to two particular enthusiasts.

Golfers: We have a championship golf course/country club also right in our backyard.

Boaters: We have over 1000 miles of Delta waterways and boaters can have their boats docked right in their backyard.

So back in 1993, Al DiGiusto conceived the idea of a SIR event that would introduce the non-boating Sirs and their wives to the world of boating on the Delta. The idea was simple – get the Sirs with boats to invite the non-boaters to ride with them on a cruise to one of the many Delta waterfront restaurants for lunch.

Al coordinated this very successful annual event for 12 years until his passing in 2005. The event continues in his honor as the “Al DiGiusto Memorial Boat Cruise/Lunch.” Al’s widow, Angie, is always in attendance, along with many of Al’s buddies and many new members.

This annual event is held in July of each year, and has between 60-80 participants. Typically 10-12 boats provide the rides to a waterfront restaurant for lunch and fellowship, followed by a sightseeing cruise on the Delta... see picture collage.

Since 2006, this event has been hosted by Bob Damico, Al’s neighbor and good friend. Al was Bob’s sponsor when he joined Branch 161 in 2001. Bob plans to continue this annual event for as long as he is able – in honor of and in memory of – his good friend Al DiGiusto.



San Ramon Branch 128

Can't Find the Bike You are Looking for... Do What this Sir Did

Jerald Cerri, Branch Member

Can't find the bike you're looking for in the local shops? You could always do what Howard Stoddard did... look on line. After a lot of Internet searching, he found what he was looking for: a 1994 Colnago Master in excellent condition, for sale on e-Bay (see picture).

Bikes like this are still available new, but at prices that put them out of reach for all but hardcore enthusiasts. This bike was particularly reasonable because the owner was selling it without wheels, gears, and saddle, which he wanted to keep for a new bike he was building.

While the bike was in transit from the Netherlands, Howard was busy on Craigslist and e-Bay rounding up the parts he needed. Then – after “quite a few hours” of assembling and adjusting – the completed bike went on its first serious ride with the SIR group in July. It performed perfectly!

Howard comments...“It’s a great riding bike, but I don’t recommend this approach if you’re in a hurry to get on the road or not into working on bicycles. There are plenty of complete bikes – new or used – available on line. Fortunately for me, I had my old bike to ride while I worked on the new one.”



Committee Reports

State Golf Committee

Bob Mannell, Chairman



As the year comes to a close, I would like to briefly recap what happened in SIR State Golf in 2012 and give you a preview of what is planned for 2013.

We started the 2012 state golf tournaments in Las Vegas on April 23 -25 with a small turnout. We will make a venue change as a result which I will cover later when I preview the 2013 schedule. Next up were two fun weeks in Reno on June 11 and June 18. We had a much better response for both of those weeks but you will also see some major changes for Reno in 2013.

The State Team championship was held at beautiful Shadow Lakes Golf Course in Brentwood on August 13 with a full field of 144 qualifiers from a field of 760 entrants. Congratulations to the winning team of Jim Hunnicutt, Robert Chaney, Richard Lewis, and William Boxell! We will move the team championship to yet another great course in 2013.

The Fall Fling at Solvang was held on September 12 – 15 at two great courses in the Santa Ynez valley. We will return there for 2013. The last tournament of the year is the Individual Championship to be held on October 22, with open play on October 22 and 23, well after this is written. I wish all participants the best of luck on the challenging, but fair [Laguna Seca Golf Ranch](#) in Monterey.



Several changes are planned for SIR State Tournaments in 2013. The complete 2013 schedule is available on the SIR Golf Website, <http://www.sirstategolf.com>. The first major change is a move from Las Vegas to Phoenix to play and stay at the [Wigwam Resort](#) in April. The Wigwam has three courses on the property and will provide us with an opportunity to enjoy all the amenities of a world class resort.

The other major change to our schedule is in Reno in June where we will stay both weeks at the Atlantis Resort instead of Circus Circus, and will play at least one new course, [Somerset Country Club](#). The Team Championship will be held at [Stevinson Ranch](#) in Stevenson, CA in August. The Fall Fling will return to Solvang in September and the 2013 Individual Championship will be held again at Laguna Seca since Poppy Hills will still be under construction.

Your State Golf committee has worked very hard to listen to our golfers and improve the events and venues as you have indicated in your communication with us. We hope to see more of you participating and enjoying yourselves with us in 2013.

I will not be the Golf Committee Chairman in 2013, so I

INFOSYS Committee

Dean Steichen, Chairman



Have you ever wondered how SIR got started or where other Branches are located? What about our logo, the Rooster? Or which Branches have websites? The SIR website (www.sirinc.org) has the answers!

The SIR main webpage has buttons and icons which provide links to a wealth of information about SIR and about popular activities like golfing, fishing, travel, computers, and lots of others. These links (i.e. buttons and icons) lead to the details about State and Branch sponsored activities.

Of course, the **Member's Information** button is the entry to a lot more information valuable to SIR members and SIR Leaders at all levels. The **Member's Information** webpage is full of links and buttons. It has buttons for the SIR Leaders Guide, SIR Forms, and the SIR Manual, as well as links to just about everything we know about SIR. If you want to know about State Reports like the Treasurer's Report or State Board Meetings, look for them on the **Member's Information** webpage.

Have you ever wanted a SIR Polo shirt, cap or mug? Well, there are buttons for ordering SIR Logo Apparel and even SIR Banners. Organizational Information, Training Information, Operations Guides and Recruiting, Travel and even some Computer Information can be found there also.

So you see the SIR website is where to learn about SIR. If you have a question about SIR, go to the SIR website.

If you are interested in helping to keep this information current and meaningful, contact Dean Steichen, SIR INFOSYS Chairman, djsteich@comcast.net.

Dean

would like to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of SIR golfers for their participation, comments, kudos, and, yes, even the criticism of our efforts. I ask you to stay involved and enjoy as many events as you can in 2013.



Last, but certainly not least, I want to acknowledge the tremendous effort the other members of the committee have put forth this year to make 2012 and beyond, great years for SIR Golf and SIR golfers. Please take time to say thanks to these men who work so hard to make SIR golf an enjoyable experience for all of us.

Hit 'em long and straight,

Bob

Committee Reports

Growth & Membership Column

Walt Schick, Chairman

Involve your New Members

New Members have fresh ideas of what they want in SIR. Use their interests and ideas as soon as they become members. Here are some areas that can work in your Branch:



Activities Committee

As different activities would appeal to more guests, form an Activities Committee to try out different ideas and ask your new members (and those from the past year) to meet somewhere for coffee and form a list of possible Branch and also Area activities.

Include couples activities as they are easy to start. Let's Dine In could have maybe 7 couples, and rotate from house to house. When you get a waiting list, form a second group on a different night. Wine Tasting is easy to start—up to 6 couples each bring a type of wine and an appetizer. Again, rotate from house to house. Form additional groups as your waiting list grows.

Have the new members bring some paperback books to start a monthly Book Exchange at your luncheons. Have a new member get portable file boxes to keep the books in, and get a couple of other new members to store the books between luncheons. You can exchange CD's, DVD's, VHS, etc.

Recruitment Committee

New Members can be added to your recruitment committee. Maybe for six months, they could check the brochure holder at your city Senior Citizens center. The Tri-Fold SIR Brochure may be taken at the rate of 20-30 copies per month. Assign one of your new member golfers to keep the brochure holder at your home course filled. Ask your new members if their wives have friends who want to get their husbands out of the house for SIR activities.

Greeters

A few new members, along with a seasoned Sir, can be assigned each month to greet Sirs as they come to a luncheon. The other new members can be encouraged to seek out other "red dot" badges that indicate a new member. What is their background and interests? After all, SIR exists to make new friends and acquaintances.

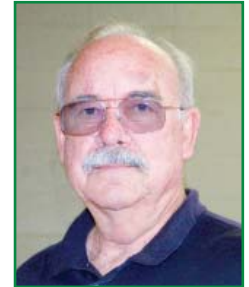
Publicity & Image

What skills do new members bring? Anyone have contacts at the local paper? Can they support a table at a Farmer's Market? Or Street Fair?

What other ideas do you have for involving your new members' energy and innovation?

State Bowling Committee

Del Locke, Chairman



The State Bowling Committee held its August meeting where we mostly finalized the SIR Bowling Tournament schedule for 2013. We have just a few details left to work out and then we will publish the schedule on the SIR Bowling website.

The Bowling Committee Secretary, Jerry Sabo, has done a wonderful job of running the website where bowlers can get the annual SIR tournament schedule, tournament entry forms, tournament results and most everything else related to the SIR Bowling activity.

A new tournament for this year was held September 21 & 22 in South Shore Lake Tahoe hosted by Branch 160. Due to the efforts of Al Akins and his tournament committee, it was one of the best tournaments I have attended. Branch 160 did a great job for their first tournament! For those who didn't get to Lake Tahoe this year, you missed a wonderful tournament with home baked treats in the morning and donated door prizes from local businesses in the South Shore area. I would encourage all SIR bowlers to put this tournament on their schedule for next year.

The Committee will hold its next meeting in January to finalize the 2013 schedule. We have only a few scheduled tournaments left in 2012 – Modesto and Concord – and then it will be time to start planning for 2013.

Alvarado Branch 73, El Sobrante

Bowling Champs

Bob Perry, Bulletin Editor

The State Bowling Committee awarded a bowling trophy to the four member team of John Walker, Alan Close, and John Donkonics from Branch 73 and Dennis Jergenson from Branch 123. The team won first place in the "A" Division Team Event against 20 other SIR teams. The event was part of the State Bowling Tournament which was played at the Pinole Valley Lanes in Pinole last May.



The trophy was delivered to the winning team at a Branch 73 luncheon by Del Locke, State Bowling Committee Chairman. Pictured holding the trophy is John Walker on the left and Dennis Jergenson on the right. Also pictured is John Walker taking the trophy home on his motorcycle. He didn't know that he would be chosen to care for the trophy this year but he managed to get it home safely balanced on his bike.



Happenings Travel Bulletin

December 30, 2012—January 3, 2013 New Year's in Nashville

Four nights at the fabulous Opryland Hotel. Trip highlights include: Gala New Years Eve dinner dance on the General Jackson Riverboat; Franklin Plantations tour; Studio B & Country Music Hall of Fame; and a tour of the "Hermitage," Andrew Jackson's home. Trip includes six meals and r/t air. Cost ranges from \$1675 to \$1820 PPDO. Offered by Branch 73 Travel. Call Paul Peters at 510-724-8345.

January 14-27, 2013 Tahitian Breeze

Start with a 2-night stay at the luxurious Intercontinental Hotel in Papeete. After two days of exploring the boundless beauty of this French Polynesian city, we will board the luxurious Marina, one of the newest Oceana Cruise Line ships, for an 11 day cruise exploring many islands before returning to Papeete. Oceana Cruises offers the finest cuisine at sea at no additional cost. Prices start at \$5850 PPDO. Offered by Branch 114 Travel. Call Larry Martinson at 408-528-0746 or Jim Stoner at 408-238-8458.

February 6-21, 2013 Panama Canal

Fly to Fort Lauderdale and board the Coral Princess for a 14 night cruise through the Caribbean with calls at Aruba, and Cartagena before a full day transit through the Panama Canal. Stops also include Nicaragua and Cabo San Lucas before arrival in Los Angeles and a flight up to San Jose. Prices run from \$3220 to \$4555 PPDO. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call Allen Daily at 408-265-8140 or Don House at 408-268-1703.

March 15-30, 2013 Romance on the Rhine & Mosel

Riverboat Cruise from Brussels, Belgium to Switzerland aboard the M/S Harmony. Cost is \$3545 PPDO including r/t air (\$2295 without airfare). All fees, taxes, meals, and wine with dinner are included. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3990.

March 31- April 10, 2013 Mexican Riviera Cruise

Eleven days on board the Grand Princess starting and ending in San Francisco. Ports of call include: Catalina Island, Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas, and San Diego. Prices range from \$1470 to \$1898 PPDO. Offered by Branch 141 Travel. Call either Rollo Parson at 408-268-5245 or Brian Serpa at 408-227-7658.

April 10-25, 2013 Hawaiian Island Cruise

This 15 day cruise aboard the Grand Princess starts in San Francisco and stops in Honolulu, Kauai, Lahaina, Hilo and Ensenada. Prices range from \$2490 to \$3880 PPDO. Offered by Branch 38 Travel. Call Bill Rodman at 408-274-4521.

April 14-22, 2013 Tulip Time Cruise

Discover the beauty & history of the Dutch and Belgium waterways in springtime. Cruise ports include: Amsterdam, Arnhem, Antwerp, Bruges, Middelburg and Rotterdam. Prices range from \$3225 to \$5080 PPDO and include airfare, complimentary beverages, and many guided tours. Offered by Branch 8 Travel. Call Jim Lunn at 925-551-3329.

June 1-9, 2013 Memphis to New Orleans on the American Queen

This is a 7 night cruise down the Mississippi with a pre-cruise stay in Memphis and an optional 2 day stay in New Orleans. The cruise includes r/t air, all meals on board, wine or beer with dinner, daily lectures, nightly entertainment, and shore tours. Prices range from \$3658 to \$6486 PPDO, depending on accommodations. Offered by Branch 146 Travel. Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.

July 10-28, 2012 Baltic Cruise: London to St. Petersburg

Fly to London and board the Crown Princess for a 14 day Cruise with stops at Oslo, Gothenburg, Tallinn, St Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Brussels. Prices range from \$3950 to \$5445 PPDO, not including air fare which is not yet available. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan at 408-241-4421.

August 10-17, 2012 Colorado Gold Mines & Ghost Towns

Experience places in Colorado few people get to see. It's off the highways and byways and into the wilderness. The tour includes round trip home pickup, 7 night hotel stay, and admissions to all attractions. Prices range from \$2085 to \$2475 PPDO. Offered by Branches 153 and 125 Travel. Call Ralph Hunt at 650-967-8467 or Alan Patmore 408-867-4197.

August 28- September 7, 2013 SIR 55th Anniversary Alaska Cruise



Save this date for a celebration! Sons In Retirement will be celebrating its 55th anniversary with a 10 day round-trip cruise from San Francisco to Alaska on the Princess Cruise Line. Prices range from \$1579

to \$3300 depending on accommodations. This should be a great opportunity to spend time with fellow members while enjoying the wonderful scenery that Alaska offers. There are already 100 cabins reserved. The cost includes: Gratuities on the ship, Ship Board Credit, Cocktail Party, Hospitality Suite, Transportation to and from the Pier, Wine and Gifts, and an Alaska Salmon Bake Excursion. If you need flyers or more information contact Sonoma Travel at 707-763-1545.

Hey Computer Guy

Frank Franzago, Branch 69 Bulletin Editor

Some tips on sending emails:

When you forward an e-mail, DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top)... that's right, DELETE them. Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever it is you know how to do. It only takes a second. You MUST click the "Forward" button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. If you don't click on "Forward" first, you won't be able to edit the message at all.

Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or Cc: fields for adding e-mail addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the e-mail addresses. If you don't see your BCC: option, click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC. When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say "Undisclosed Recipients in the "TO:" field of the people who receive it.

ALWAYS hit your Forward button from the actual e-mail you are reading. Ever get those e-mails that you have to open 10 pages to read the one page with the information on it? By forwarding from the actual page you wish someone to view; you stop them from having to open many e-mails just to see what you sent.

When you receive a personal e-mail (not a forward or group mailing), please hit reply and let the sender know you received it.

Another tip that I learned from the computer seminar on my Alaska cruise:

It is a waste of money to buy Norton, Macafee or any other anti-virus program. The Windows Security Essentials that is installed on Windows 7 and can be down loaded free for other windows systems, does a better job and allows your computer to run faster. I replaced the Kapersky that I was using on my lap-top with Windows Essentials and it runs noticeably faster.

Send your computer questions, problems or tips to: Hey Computer Guy, Franque12@surewest.net

Editor's Note: This is the second column in a new series of computer tips that are taken from a regular feature in the Branch 69 Bulletin and are written by the Frank Franzago. We hope you find these tips helpful and Frank would be pleased to hear from anyone with computer problems or tips.

Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact.

Every Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Dwight Sale, Publisher

It Seems Such a Shame!!

Dear Editor:

It seems such a shame to me that less than half of our Branch members have the opportunity to read SIR Happenings. I'm wondering if our Branch is alone in this.



Only about half of our members are able to receive SIR Happenings and our Branch Bulletin via email because they don't have computers. However, unlike Happenings which is totally electronic, the other half of our members receive our Bulletin via U.S. mail. I suppose this 50/50 split may be because about half of our members are 80 or older.

These are just some thoughts that I wanted to share with you in the event you have heard of any other Branches with a similar situation and what they did or are doing about it... once again, it seems such a shame.

Jerry Long
Branch 175 Bulletin Editor

Hi Jerry

The easy answer to the problem you described would be to mail SIR Happenings to every Sir but that would be totally cost prohibitive and also, when we started the newsletter about eight years ago, we promised the Board of Directors that the newsletter would not cost the organization any money... and it hasn't.

Your letter gives me the opportunity to again ask all the Branches to help those Sirs that do not have access to a computer to read SIR Happenings by doing some simple things such as: placing copies of the newsletter on the luncheon tables – or posting them on a bulletin board at their monthly luncheons – and by asking Sirs to print copies and share them with their friends that don't have computers. I would also like to encourage those Sirs that do have computers to take a few moments to read Happenings when each quarterly edition is published on the SIR website.

In short, there is no easy answer to our readership problem but I do think there is hope because as time moves on, more and more Sirs will have access to computers and that will increase our readership.

It was good to hear from you, Jerry and thanks for sharing your concerns about our readership.

Don

SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

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