



SIR HAPPENINGS

SUMMER 2013 VOLUME 10 ISSUE 3

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

President Rich's Column



Hello again. We all find ourselves well immersed in our Branch, Area, Region, State SIR and Committee activities by this time of year. We are still struggling with maintaining membership. Many Branches are meeting and exceeding the established goals and it shows in their

statistics. Some are realizing the need to go beyond State Goals and use their Branch's attrition rate just to keep even. However, even using the 10% induction goal will find it serves to revitalize your membership ...as we are seeing. Of course luncheon attendance (with the healthy associated noise) and activities are good indicators of branch success. Unfortunately, some Branches continue to decline and fail and this is of great concern.

Our outreach program, Survivability Action Team (SAT), has been very active visiting Branches and Areas assisting Branches in making a turn-around where survivability is an issue; SAT, an advisory team under the State Growth and Membership Committee has received accolades from many Branches and leaders for their help. For those of you that have not had contact yet, rest assured that they are there to offer help, not take over your Branch. Embrace them openly when contacted. You will not regret that.

We have just concluded our SIR Corporate Annual Meeting. I was very pleased with the turnout for this meeting as well as the input received and the passion displayed. Gentlemen ...you care and it shows and that is so important. For those that missed the required meeting, an opportunity for input was missed and I would encourage your Branches to plan ahead financially for attending next year's meeting.

Of great importance was the election of SIR corporate Officers for 2014. The slate of officers as proposed by the State SIR Nominating Committee was

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Bidwell Branch 110, Chico

Game on: Mexican Dominoes Ray Rolls, Bulletin Editor

It doesn't take a great deal of skill or experience and it's also a lot of fun. That's why once a month members of our Branch get together at a local restaurant for lunch and play Mexican Train Dominoes after lunch for about three hours. Little Sir Craig Lindquist, said there are sometimes as many as 18 to 20 that drop by to play Dominoes. Lacy Stalnake remarked that he has played Dominoes nearly all his life and recalled that his father belonged to a group who played from morning to evening...so I've always played Dominoes, he said.

Most likely, dominoes originated from the early Chinese Tile Games in the 12th and 13th centuries. Dominoes in its present form was first recorded in 14th century China and to have reached western civilization through the Mediterranean trading nations in the 1700's. The game's popularity spread through the rest of Europe in the 18th century. The Mexican Train Game was developed by a California couple in 1994.

We always invite wives and the widows of former members to play, said Lindquist. More than half of those playing Dominos are usually women. It's a lot of fun, it's easy going, and it gets us out of the house, said Lindquist's wife, Bonnie. Martha Haney always accompanies her husband, Ron Haney. We come every month, she said. While it's a game that requires counting, it's not that difficult so there's lots of bantering going on during the games.

Pictured, Bill Gebhardt is contemplating his next move during one of our Mexican Dominoes games. Any Sir that is interested in playing can call Fergie Ferguson at 342-6459 or stop by the Red Lobster Restaurant in Chico around noon on the second Thursday of every month.



BRING IN A GUEST - WE NEED NEW MEMBERS

Continued from Page 1

elected into office effective January 1, 2014. You have selected a fine group of leaders for the up and coming year and with your support SIR can accomplish great things.

Of great importance was the election of SIR corporate Officers for 2014. The slate of officers as proposed by the State SIR Nominating Committee was elected into office effective January 1, 2014:

Maynard Rodland, President
Bobbie Hairston, Vice President
Richard DeVoe, Reelected as State Secretary
Michael Berry, Reelected as State Treasurer
Ronald Flagel, Reelected as Assistant Secretary
Karl Ryden, Assistant Treasurer

You have selected a fine group of leaders for the up and coming year and with your support SIR can accomplish great things.

A number of SIR Rules and Corporate Bylaws were changed upon vote of the members of the corporation, two of which should be of special interest to all Branches.

The first deals with the permissibility of Branches to now impose dues on members in lieu of having to rely on voluntary donations or patently illegal opportunity drawings, raffles, etc. or seeking a State License to do so, legally. The impact of this change in bylaws and rule is that now the Branch may decide on relying on donations or imposing dues or any combination of the two in order to sustain its administrative costs. This power is returned to the Branch level and would be decided by each BEC which is answerable to the Branch membership.

The second change in a bylaw that should be of interest to the membership is the establishment of another Corporate Standing Committee entitled State Budget Oversight Committee. The committee would be responsible for tying the budget administration currently handled very well by the State Treasurer to existing, future SIR Goals with available and anticipated expenses and revenue. Of critical importance would be the reduction in State expenses in view of diminishing revenue to avoid, where possible, further Branch assessment increases while maintaining important SIR State core activities. When SIR membership stabilizes or even starts to grow and revenue increases, there would be a focus on reducing State assessments as well.

Both of these changes will better allow both the State and the Branches to address the "here, now" (the Gestalt, if you will) and future in our modern day

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION FOR PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE *Second Quarter 2013*

It is my pleasure to announce the selection of ten Branches and their Big Sir, one in each Region that has been selected to receive an award for Pursuit of Excellence in SIR for the second quarter of 2013. They were selected based upon input from their Regional Directors for having performed at the highest level among their Branches in the Region. They will be presented with a State Certificate of Award by their Regional Directors. Congratulations to the following Recipient Big Sir and their Branches:

Delbert Siemsen, Branch 84, Region 1
Russell C. Salazar, Branch 113, Region 2
Larry Bertuccelli, Branch 172, Region 3
Frank Sanchez, Branch 65, Region 4
****Kenneth M. Reed, Branch 4, Region 5***
Arthur H. Vogl, Branch 116, Region 6
Rene' A. Padilla, Branch 32, Region 7
Howard F. Zinn, Branch 159, Region 8
Dennis Dempsey Branch 45, Region 9
Brian K. Stompe, Branch 134, Region 10

*Note: Also the recipient of the first quarter Branch Award.

I thank each of them and their membership for putting forth their best efforts in keeping Sons in Retirement a dynamic, relevant and strong organization.

Rich Dettmer, President

organization of SIR and specifically places reflexivity, opportunity and responsibility where it should rest.

All changes will be explained to you by your Regional Directors and Area Governors soon.

Just one last note; for the first time ever two State Committees, the G&M and the Training Committees have joined forces to put on the incoming Big Sir (BS), Area Governor (AG) and Regional Directors (RD) training in October. The RD's and AG's will be trained separately from the BS's; it should be an excellent session. I encourage all the above incoming officers to attend this training so as not to be behind the curve throughout their tenure.

Truly gentlemen, it is an honor as well as humbling, to work with such a great group of leaders as well as members at the State and Branch level.

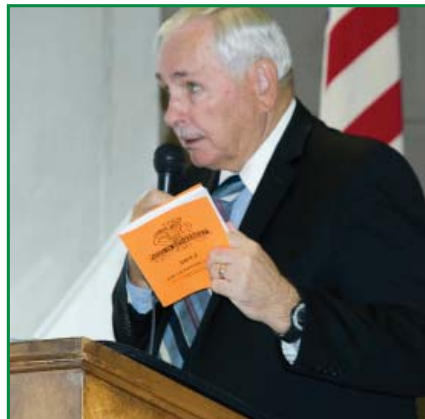
News from the Annual Meeting



New officers for 2014 are shown above from left to right Secretary Dick DeVoe, Vice President Bobbie Hairston, President Maynard Rodland, Treasurer Mike Berry and Assistant Treasurer Karl Ryden. Inset is Assistant Secretary Ron Flagel who was unable to attend the annual meeting.



Branch 2 Big Sir Doug Kyle (left) is shown advising Branch 59 Little Sir Rob Ingebretson, representing Big Sir Skip Mugford.



Vice President Maynard Rodland discussing his plans for the October training session.



President Richard Dettmer presided over the annual meeting.



Growth and Membership Committee Chairman Jerry Milano reports to the annual meeting.



Regional Director Ed Dorn (left) with Regional Director Gale Jeffers at the head table.



Rules Committee Chairman Larry Powers taking a vote on new rules.

Sirs in the News

Blu Yonder Branch 127, Carmichael

Iaconis receives HLM

Forrest Wright, Bulletin Editor

Edward Iaconis of Branch 127 was awarded an Honorary Life Membership at the Branch summer picnic.

The award was presented by State President Rich Dettmer (on the right in the picture), who stated that Ed was recommended for this high award based on his service to the Branch for over 19 years, serving as both Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer. During this time, he brought the Branch into financial viability and has worked diligently to maintain that stability.

In addition to serving as the Branch financial officer, Ed has also served as our Golf Committee Chairman and determines the handicap for all the SIR golfers in the area.



Mount Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek

French Award to Sir Dan Franklin

Derek Southern, Webmaster

Branch 8 member Dan Franklin was 16 when he joined the Navy in 1942. He was 17 on D-Day, when his landing craft was charged with delivering soldiers and ammo to bloody Omaha Beach.

“It’s a short beach,” said Franklin, 86. “The Germans were shooting down. We got the munitions off the boat, but 12 guys were just mowed down. How we escaped, God only knows.”

Before the morning was over, that ship was shot out from under Franklin and his four crewmates. Another landing craft picked them up. It hit a mine, killing eight of the 10 men aboard. Franklin was blasted out of the boat and onto a temporary dock. He spent the night sleeping on a third landing anchored to Allied flotilla boats that had been intentionally sunk to create an artificial breakwater.

More than 68 years after his heroism helped liberate France from the Nazi occupation, Franklin was honored with the Legion of Honor Medal in a Memorial Day ceremony at the Presidio in San Francisco. This award was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 and is considered to be France’s highest honor and it has been awarded to many surviving American veterans for their heroism on D-Day.

Franklin – who was accompanied at the ceremony by his wife, Marilyn and several children and grandchildren – said that he didn’t feel especially meritorious at the time. “I felt like a survivor,” he said. “Especially after that second boat blew up. Guys I knew got mowed down, and I’m standing there without a scratch. That kind of gave me the feeling that, if it’s meant to be ...it’s meant to be.”



In the picture, Dan Franklin is shown holding a case filled with medals that he received during his time in the service, when he was a 17 year old aboard a landing craft headed into Omaha Beach during the morning of D-Day. The latest award is shown to the right.

Editor’s Note: Photo and story excerpts are from the Contra Costa Times.



Sirs in the News

Damian Reynolds Branch 1, San Mateo

A Joyous Occasion

Fred Gerhauser, Branch Member

The theme of the July luncheon meeting was the recognition of our Honorary Life Members. Ken Reeves and Bob Harmon were unable to join us due to previous travel plans. However, HLM's Jim Wyatt, Dwight Sale, Bill Schinagl, and George Henderson entered the room as they were individually introduced, applauded, and took their place in front of the head table.

And then the fun began: After a drum roll and fanfare, State President Rich Dettmer appeared escorting a lady on his arm, who turned out to be Elsa, the wife of our newest HLM, Philip Manriquez! After a very surprised Phil greeted his wife, our President read the framed proclamation to all, and presented it to Phil. Then Elsa attached the HLM pin to his lapel.

Phil's contributions to Branch One have been numerous. Among other things, Phil has been both Little Sir and Big Sir and currently is Travel Chairman.

In the front row of the picture from left to right are: George Kranen – Region 5 Director, Elsa Manriquez, Philip Manriquez – HLM recipient, and Rich Dettmer – SIR President.

In the back row from L to R are: George Henderson – 2006 HLM, William Schinagl – Past Big Sir and 2002 HLM, Dwight Sale – Past Big Sir, Past SIR President, and 2000 HLM, and James C Wyatt - Past Big Sir, Past SIR President, and 1997 HLM.

It was indeed, a truly a joyous occasion!



East Bay Branch 2, Richmond

Still Driving at 100

Alan Blavins, Bulletin Editor

Richard Swarts, after a 26-year career in the Navy, opted for the more settled world of real estate, and in due course, a century passed and Richard celebrated his 100th birthday in June. SIR President Rich Dettmer was there to honor Richard and it was a rare treat for us all to be able to share our congratulations.

In the picture Big Sir Doug Kyle is shown congratulating Richard. Can you believe it? ...the very next day, Richard was off to the DMV to renew his driver's license for another five years.



News from the Branches

Miwok Branch 134, Novato

Branch 134 Bicycling Group

“Biker Bob” Forsyth, Biking Group Chairman

Branch 134, based in Marin County, started a Biking Group in 2010. Open to any SIR bikers – including family or friends – the Group meets twice monthly for Wednesday morning rides in the Novato or northern county area. The outings are usually 6 to 10 miles in length, on pavement with bike lanes or packed trails and we avoid steep hills, heavy traffic or uneven riding surfaces.

Marin County offers a variety of pleasant and scenic biking routes, including bridges, tunnels, levees, meadows and even vineyards ...and a coffee shop is often available near the finish point.

Upcoming rides, with meeting time and place, are announced by email and are also described in the Miwok Branch Newsletter “Tepee Talk.” Anyone wishing further information may contact Bob Forsyth at (415) 883-6285 or FOOGIE5@COMCAST.NET. We usually have a turnout of 5 to 6 bikers, and there’s always room for a few more.

The bikers in the picture are from left to right: Jim Rolka – Budd Van Winkle – Joginder Anand – Dick Wolgamott – Bill Long – and Bob Forsyth. All are from Branch 134.



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Recognizing the Anniversary of D-Day

John Stettler, Branch Member

On June 6, 1944, the invasion of Normandy (D-Day) found over 150,000 allied troops landing on 5 heavily fortified beaches along a 50 mile stretch of France’s Normandy region coast. On June 6th, Branch 96 honored three of their own who were involved in that action.

Frank Fasner joined the Army, then took his training in California and Arizona and ended up flying the P-47 Thunderbolt. He served in England and flew 100 missions over enemy territory and was decorated for his service. Frank is the one sitting in the middle of the picture.

Bill Garrett, on the left, was a tail gunner on the B-17 “Flying Fortress” and saw action during 32 missions over Belgium and Germany. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

Art Bertolero, who is pictured on the right, landed on Utah beach on D-Day where there were 2,600 casualties. He saw further service with Military Police units in charge of prisoners.

During the recognition program, each member spoke about his recollections and shared some tales and poignant moments of their service experience. In addition, all veterans of WWII were acknowledged and thanked for their service to their country.



News from the Branches

Indian Valley Branch 68, San Rafael

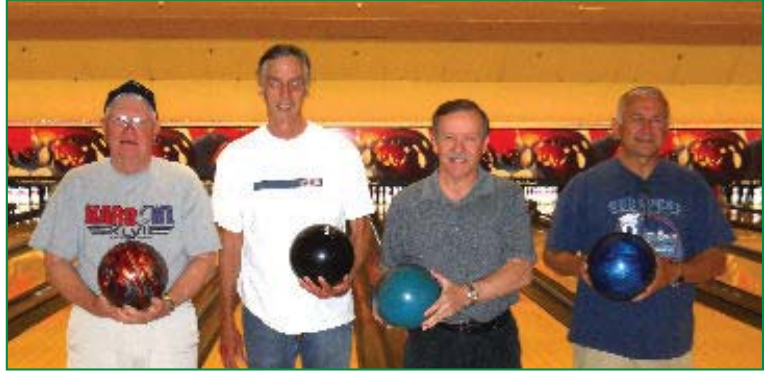
Area 6 Bowling Champions

Hans Sommer, Bulletin Editor

The JoJoRobi team from Branch 68 was the champion of the Area 6 Bowling League for the 2012/2013 season. League play was at Country Club Bowl in San Rafael and was split into two halves ...the first half ending in January and the second half in July. The championship team of JoJoRobi ended up in first place at the end of the first half, which made them eligible to participate in a roll-off with the winning team of the second half.

Veteran member and team captain Roger Burstrem led the charge. The other team members – Joe Grasso, John Noren and Jim Phelan – were newcomers to the team and improved their bowling skills during the season. They provided the extra strength to win the roll-off and league championship.

Team members shown in the photo are from left to right are: Jim Phelan, John Noren, Roger Burstrem and Joe Grasso. They were honored at the SIR Bowling Awards Luncheon in July and had their names engraved on the Bowling Champions Plaque, which is prominently displayed at the Country Club Bowl.



San Francisco Branch 4

Chinatown Walk

Ken Reed, Little Sir

George Rodriguez, Bulletin Editor

In July, members of Branch 4 were treated to a unique walk through San Francisco's Chinatown. Two of our Branch members, Bob Bowen and Kristian Nergaard, are certified San Francisco City Guides who regularly lead guided walking tours of city landmarks and neighborhoods. They met us in the north-west corner of Chinatown's Portsmouth Square, and from there, they took us on a 90-minute walk through some of the very colorful alleys, streets, and temples in one of the oldest and most unique Chinatowns in North America. Our two guides took



turns sharing lots of intriguing history, tales, and anecdotes about Chinatown and the 16 of us were thoroughly entertained.

Following our walk we went to lunch at a local Dim Sum restaurant called City View. It's a favorite restaurant among Chinatown guides, and proved to be an excellent choice to end such a delightful experience.

The upper photo shows the attentive group inside the Ma Tsu Temple in Chinatown's Beckett Alley. The lower photo shows the group in Portsmouth Square at the start of the tour.

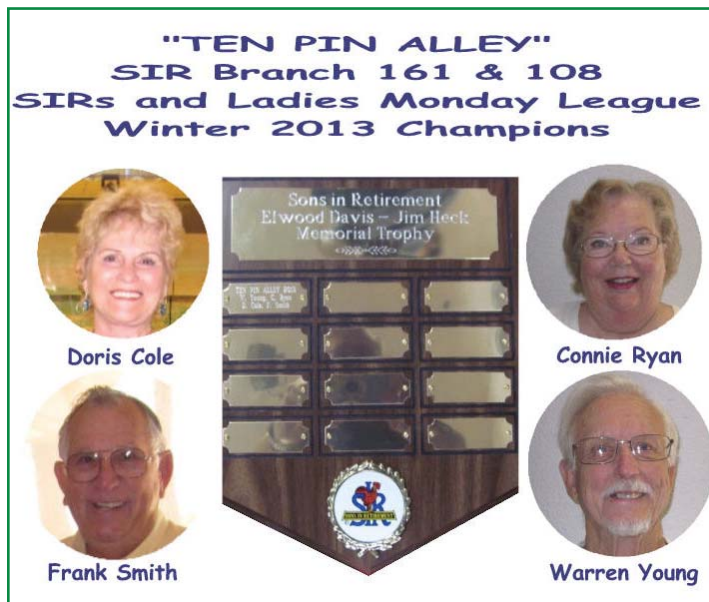
News from the Branches

Discovery Bay Branch 161

A Competitive Bowling League

Tom Jones, Bulletin Editor

The last week in May saw the completion of 35 weeks of competitive bowling in the Monday Morning SIR's Bowling League, held at Harvest Park Bowl in Brentwood. The League has bowled there since 1995, when the bowling center opened. The league includes Branches 161 and 108, and usually has 22 – 26 teams during the winter season and 16 – 18 teams in the summer league. Some of the members in the league have bowled there continually since 1995. Warren Young is one of those, and he is the captain of "Ten Pin Alley" that won the 2012 – 2013 winter season play-off between his team and the first half winners, "Split Happens." By winning the 2013 winter season they qualified to be the very first recipients of the *Elwood Davis – Jim Heck Perpetual Trophy* honoring two very courageous past bowlers ...see the picture.



Warren's teammates include Connie Ryan, Doris Cole and Big Sir Frank Smith. Warren achieved 11 strikes in a row in June of 2012 with a series of 648. His current average is 182 with a constant 180+ over the years. Connie has also bowled in the league since 2000, with a current book average of 124 and a high of 133 in 2002. Doris has a current average of 150 with a high of 155 in 2003 and has also bowled in the league since 2001. Frank, our Big Sir, has a 2013 average of 169, and had a high average of 191 in 2005. As you can see, there is great interest and longevity in this league, and new members join us every year.

Sonora Branch 136

RV Club

Bill Lobdell, RV Club Chairman

Jim Botto, Assistant RV Club Chairman

We all had a wonderful time at the Betabel RV Park in San Juan Bautista. The outing was hosted by Bill and Cathie Lobdell, Ron and Bernie Long, and Don and Donna Utt. All arrived safely but Rick and Betty Bacon had a slight problem with their RV. They lost their sun awning on the drive down. They left it on the side of the road and retrieved it on the trip home.

As usual we overdo it: Eat too much, drink too much, and gossip too much but it is so much fun. There are many things to do in and around the Gilroy area such as: Outlet shopping, Wings of History Air Museum in San Martin, the Pinnacles National Monument, Moss Landing to Phil's for lunch (the fish and chips were fantastic), all the ladies went shopping at the Gilroy Factory Mall and the men stayed back to tell stories, trying to outdo each other.

Some drove over to Monterey's Cannery Row and visited the many shops. In the picture, Jim and Linda Butto stopped by a candy store and were trying to decide what to buy from that huge assortment of candy.

The next outing will be a mini caravan trip to Eugene, Oregon, and is scheduled for September. If anyone with an RV would like to join us, please contact Bill Lobdell at BILLLOBDELL@WILDBLUE.NET. We are always looking for new RV members to join in the fun.



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

Committee Reports

State Golf

Don Andrews, Chairman

Don Dill, Chairman, Golf Operations

What's Up in SIR Golf?



Don Andrews



Don Dill

By the time this edition of SIR Happenings is in print, the year will be more than half gone so let's talk about what's still available for us all to enjoy:

The Fall Classic: September 15th through the 18th in the beautiful Santa Inez Valley at two of mid-California's favorite courses...Alisal River Course and Rancho San Marcos. You'll stay at the Marriot in Buellton and enjoy three great days of golf, two days of 4-man Best Ball Teams and one day of Scramble. While one spouse is golfing, the other can be shopping or lunching in Solvang. This is a Guest Event Tournament so you, as a SIR NCGA member, can invite guests with valid NCGA numbers to join you in Solvang. See the application on the SIR Stategolf.com website for rules and pairings. There is no better place this September to be golfing than in the

Santa Inez Valley with hosts, Dave Betts, Bill Ikerd and Jerry Strain. For questions: Call Dave at 559-434-1468.

Individual State Championship: October 21st and 22nd at **The Party by the Bay**, Monterey at the Laguna Seca G.C. – a Jones Sr & Jones Jr. designed course – with two days of golf. What better place to party with your SIR fiends than Carmel by the Sea! Here's the program:



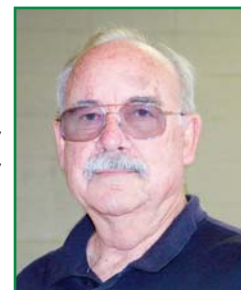
- Day 1 – Monday, October 21st – 70 positions held for the SIR Division qualifiers (compt by SSGC) and a \$20 voluntary buy-in for championship players, prize money plus Jackets.
- Day 1 – Monday, October 21st – 70 positions open to all SIR NCGA members, over \$1K in prize money for the open players on day1.
- Day 2 – Tuesday, October 22nd – 140 open positions open to all SIR NCGA members... could be over \$2K in prize money, depending on the field.
- Women welcome on day 1 at Monterey Pines and day 2 at Laguna Seca pending space. Valid GHIN number required.

Come on down to the Party by the Bay and enjoy the great golf, great food and wine, and most importantly enjoy it with you SIR friends. For questions call: 530-885-6943.

Don & Don

State Bowling

Del Locke, Chairman



We held the Sir State Bowling Tournament in May hosted by Tournament Manager, Tom Birley and his committee from Branch 62 in Sunnyvale. 80 SIR bowlers participated, making up 20 teams in two divisions: 10 teams in "A" Division for the higher combined average and 10 teams in the "B" Division for the lower average. The "B" Division winners were from Chabot Branch 6 in Castro Valley and again this year, the "A" Division was won by Alvarado Branch 73 from San Pablo.

The Branch 6 team members shown in the upper picture are from L/R: Jim Milton, Chuck Pereira, Lew Heffron and Rich Bowers. In the lower picture are Branch 73 members: Alan Close, John Walker, Wilson Hunt and Dennis Jergenson. Congratulations to all!

The Bowling Committee met in early August to set the 2014 tournament schedule and conduct other business related to SIR Bowling. We are just a little way past the half-way mark in the 2013 schedule with good participation at all the tournaments. I would like to see more bowlers at our remaining tournaments. It's lots of fun and you get a chance to meet and compete against other Sirs who enjoy bowling. The biggest SIR Tournament of the year is held in mid-August in Reno at the USBC National Bowling Stadium. You can find information on this tournament and other tournaments on our Bowling web page on the SIR website. Bowling Committee Secretary, Jerry Sabo, does a great job of keeping the SIR Bowling Tournament data and information up to date.

If you think your Branch would be interested in hosting a tournament, you can contact any of the Bowling Committee members for information on how to get onto our tournament schedule.





GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

WHERE THE BAY COMES TO PLAY

Golden Gate Fields

Presents....

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

When: Friday October 18, 2013

Where: Golden Gate Fields Turf Club

Time: Please arrive @ 11:15 a.m.

Gates open at 11:00 a.m.

Buffet Hours: 11:30-3:00 p.m.

First race: 12:45 p.m.

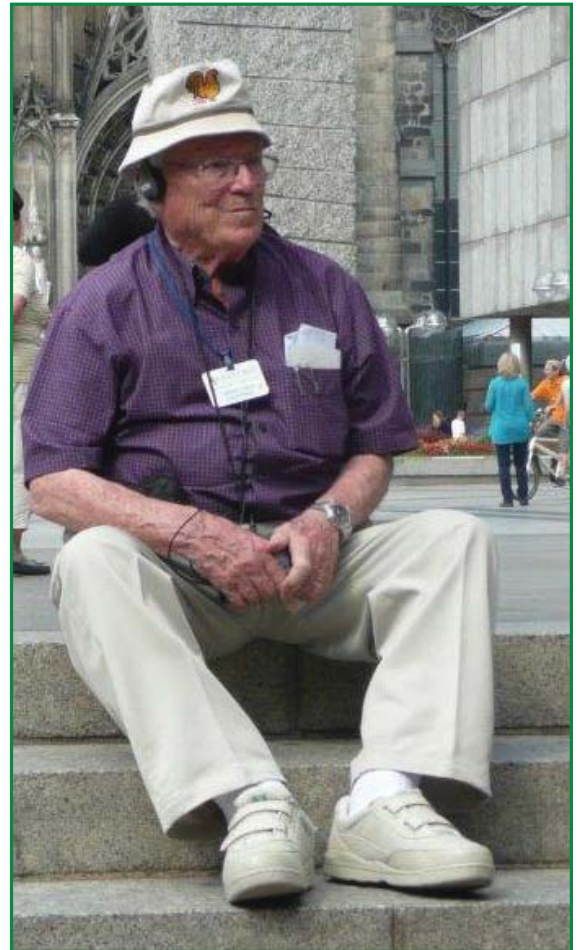
Cost: \$29.00 per adult (Groups of 12+ required)

Includes: Valet parking (or parking for a bus), admission & reserved seating, daily racing program, Turf Club buffet, tax/tip for the food servers. The first 21 groups to book will receive a named race in honor of their Branch!

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE FOR A BIG WIN!!!



For more information please call Michael Roberts of Golden Gate Fields @ (510) 559-7380
Or email mroberts@goldengatefields.com



Past President Dwight Sale rests while he enjoys the afternoon in Cologne Germany.



Branch 116 thanks Dan and Andrea Green for organizing our special walk on August 23, 2013. Participants are pictured from right to left: Joel White, Dan Green, David Geary, Bobbie Schoenfield, Lytton DeSilva, Susan White, Audrey DeSilva, Andrea Green, Anna Freitas, Paul Freitas, Norman Schoenfield, Mary Alice Donaldson, Art Donaldson, and Colleen Geary.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

October 5-12, 2013

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

This is the most photographed event in the world...but our trip doesn't end there. We will also visit Santa Fe, Taos, the wonders of Carlsbad, travel through the Sacramento Mountains to Ruidoso (Billy the Kid Country), then to Albuquerque by way of White sands & "Valley of Fire" Lava Flow. We will visit Acoma, Indian Pueblo for a tour of the Mesa Top Fortress and ride the world's longest aerial tram to the top of Sandia Peak. Cost is \$2695. Offered by Branch 98 Travel. Call Sam Kemp at 916-781-0822.



October 15-26, 2013

Cruise Canada & New England

This 12 day trip begins and ends in San Francisco. The first day is a flight from San Francisco to New York with an evening and the next morning in New York City. Then we board the Emerald Princess for a 10 night cruise up the New England coast and into Canada. Ports of call are Newport, Boston, Bar Harbor, Saint John, Halifax, Sydney, Charlottetown and Quebec City. Prices range from \$2985 to \$3890 PPDO depending on cabin selection. Offered by Branch 141 Travel. Call Brian Serpa at 408-227-7658 or Rollo Parsons at 408-268-5245.

October 18-23, 2013

Branson... Autumn in the Ozarks

Autumn is the perfect time to visit Branson... the hills are awash in red and gold, the temperature is cool, and the shows are HOT! Some of the tour highlights include: Five nights at the beautiful Radisson Hotel (unpack only once!), 12 meals, the Tim Conway Comedy Show, Yakov Smirnoff Show, Incredible Acrobats of China, Dolly Parton Dixie Stampede Dinner Show, a guided area sightseeing tour, and either the Great Passion Play or Pine Mountain Jamboree. Cost is \$1899 PPDO. Offered by Branch 73 Travel. Call Paul Peters at 510-724-8345.

November 13-25, 2013

Provence to Paris

This is an 8-day (7-night) cruise on the Rhone River (Broudoux Valley) to Macon. We will travel by bus to Paris for three days where we will enjoy tours of the city and Versailles. Prices range from \$4510 to \$5210 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226.

December 6-14, 2013

Christmastime on the Seine

This river cruise includes 8days/7/nights on the Grand Circle Lines MS Bizet whose capacity is only 60 outside cabins. Among the attractions our travelers will visit are Christmas markets in 3 French towns and then spend 4 days in Paris. All meals, excursions and r/t air are included. The price is \$2810 PPDO. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3990.

January 9-22, 2014

Cuba

See and hear the music, culture and the roots of the Cuban revolution. This a people to people program that visits Santiago de Cuba, a cultural melting pot of Afro-Cuban traditions, as well as Baracoa an unspoiled gem on the coast. The Cuban capital will also be included. The cost of \$5295 PPDO, includes R/T airfare, all accommodations, 28 meals, private motor coach, and an English speaking guide. Offered by Branch 171 Travel. Call Russ Aubry, at 510-644-2692 for more information.

May 13-29, 2014

Hidden Gems of the Dalmation Coast & Greece

This is a 16 day Cruise aboard a privately owned Grand Circle small ship with a maximum of 50 passengers. Ports of Call will include Zagreb, Split, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Butrint, Albania, Corfu, Delphi and Athens. Prices range from

approximately \$4595 to \$6170 PPDO, depending on accommodations and airfare. Trip also includes 37 meals, 12 exclusive tours with personal headsets, home hosted dinner, and resident



Grand Circle Program Director. Offered by Branch 146 Travel. Contact Ken Richter at 925-689-6217.

September 5-12, 2014

Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, & Cape Cod

Tour the Rhode Island mansions and gardens, visit the Korean War Museum, and enjoy a high speed catamaran ride to Martha's Vineyard and so much more. Cost is \$2676 PPDO. Offered by Branch 125 Travel. Call Dick Kohl at 408-268-0428 or Bill Kurtz at 408-268-8830.

November 3-17, 2014

Spain

During this 13 day trip, we plan to experience the historic and cultural diversity of Spain. We arrive first in Madrid for 5 nights, with a city tour and day trips to Segovia and Toledo. Then we proceed to Valencia with a stop at Cuenca. From Valencia, we have scheduled day trips to Manises and Lake Albufera. Next, it's on to Barcelona with a city tour and day trips to the Llado Museum, Montserrat, and Codornia Winery. The cost is \$4195 PPDO. The price includes all air fare, accommodations, tours, all breakfasts, and some other meals. There is also available an optional pre-trip to Basque Country (Bilbao and San Sebastian) and an optional post-trip to Malaga. Each optional trip is for 4 nights and costs \$795. This trip is offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765.

INFOSYS Committee

Dean Steichen, Chairman, INFOSYS Committee



You know that SIR sponsors lots of events and activities. But do you know about the State and Area SIR sponsored events and activities?

A quick look at the State SIR Website (www.sirinc.org) shows icon links for quite a few. There is golf, travel, bowling, RV'ing, ham radio and sports events to name a few.

You, of course, can find out about the State SIR activities and events by clicking on the Activities Icons on the State SIR Website (www.sirinc.org).

In addition to the State SIR activities, many SIR Areas have activities as well. I am aware of computers and technology, fishing, investing, area golf, bridge and others.

You can get information about Area SIR activities and events by browsing the websites of your Branch and other Branches in your area. To find the links to Branch websites, just click on the [Branch Websites](#) button on the State SIR Website (www.sirinc.org) and then click on any Branch you wish to investigate.

Another good source for area activities is your Branch newsletter. Frequently, Branch newsletters contain information about activities in other Branches and in your area.

The information is available. A good place to start is the State SIR Website (www.sirinc.org).

If you are interested in helping to keep this information current and meaningful, contact Dean Steichen, SIR INFOSYS Chairman, DJSTEICH@COMCAST.NET.

Dean

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

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!

Hey Computer Guy

Frank Franzago, Branch 69 Bulletin Editor

Just an idea: Are you bugged by security questions (I don't mean passwords)? I sure am. Recently, I was cut off from access to one of my financial accounts for entering a wrong security question answer 3 times. They asked me the color of my first car. I thought of my '36 Ford when I was 16 that I had sprayed with 30 coats of hand-rubbed lacquer. Of course I knew the color was bronze, a popular color in the late 40's. But bronze was rejected. I then tried Bronze and that too was rejected. I then tried Bronz to be rejected for the 3rd time. I was then cut off from access to that account until I contacted the account manager. I then did a massive search to find out what I had put down when I had set up the security questions and "color of first car" was not even listed. I was telling this to a friend and he had an easy solution to this problem. He answers all security questions with the same answer ...his first name. So when I'm asked, what color was my first car, my answer will be Franque, my mothers maiden name ...Franque, my first dog ...Franque. I know it may sound kind of dumb, but I can't wait to give it a try.

Send your computer questions or tips to: Hey Computer Guy, at FRANQUE12@SUREWEST.COM.



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