



# SIR HAPPENINGS

SPRING 2014 VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

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

## President Maynard's Column



This March, the State SIR Board met for a special session to discuss activities that our Standing Committee – **Growth and Membership Committee (G&M)** – organized study groups to explore numerous activities so that our Branches can use one or two of those activities to attract new members.

Region Directors have taken this information from the special session and started working with their Area Governors and Big Sirs in implementing new activities.

The Board is focusing on co-ed activities which include dine-outs, different sport activities and many more ideas. This is a positive direction for SIR while it not only increases participation but provides a secondary benefit by bringing in new members through the wives of our members.

We are concerned about our Branches that are either failing or showing the problems of ageing. Our Region Directors, along with the Area Governors, are tracking those troubled Branches. By using the **Survivability Action Team Subcommittee (SAT)** from the G&M Committee, we can provide encouragement and new directions for those Branches that are not healthy.

With my traveling around the state, I enjoy meeting members of the many different Branches that are not only enthusiastic about their Branch but also reflect great pride. I now anticipate upcoming visits to those Branches and presenting HLM certificates to those worthy SIR members.

## Announcing the 2014 Training Schedule

**Derek Southern, SIR Training Committee Chairman**

The Training Committee is responding to feedback from the 2013 incoming Big Sir Training in October of last year and has SIR State Board approval to hold smaller training sessions in 3 different locations to: Minimize travel and make the training more interactive with a focus on a) What a Big Sir needs to know about running his Branch and b) How to identify weaknesses in his Branch and learn some proven techniques to overcome them.

A separate training session will be held for all 2014 and 2015 Area Governors and Regional Directors on Tuesday, September 30, at the Veteran's Hall in Vallejo.

The incoming Big Sir training will be held in Sacramento on October 7th – in Napa on the 9th of October – and on October 14th in San Jose. The locations will be confirmed by email to each 2014 Little Sir. Each Branch is expected to send its incoming Big Sir to the assigned training session. If the incoming Big Sir is unable to make the trip, the incoming Little Sir for 2015 (or a BEC member) should attend in his place.

Incoming Big Sirs are urged to refer to the 2014 SIR Leaders Guide as they need to begin appointing Nominating, Audit, and other committees in August of his year. If you need a copy, go to [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org) and download one from <http://sirinc.org/protected/LeadersGuidesBranch/>. While on that page, you will also find a lot of helpful information for Big Sirs.

Your Training Committee looks forward to some productive and interactive working sessions so that incoming Big Sirs are ready for the challenges and the fun of running their Branch.

Please address any questions and comments to Derek Southern, Chairman of the State Training Committee ([derek.southern@gmail.com](mailto:derek.southern@gmail.com)).

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

## Sirs in the News

*River City Branch 117, Sacramento*

### **An HLM for Picanco**

**Jerry Boulton, Bulletin Editor**

At a Branch luncheon Melvin (Mel) Picanco (right in the photo) was awarded an Honorary Life Membership by State President Richard Dettmer. Also attending for the presentation was Area 3 Governor Dick West and Region Director Jon Moninger.

After joining our Branch in 1994, Mel served for 19 consecutive years in various officer positions. He performed the Treasurer duties from 1994 through 1998, became Little Sir in 1999, and Big Sir in 2000. Mel then returned to his Treasurer duties as well as a Director. He currently is continuing to serve as Branch Treasurer and is active in his roll on the BEC.



*Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn*

### **Dave Dunlap Hole-In-One**

**Don Dill, Region 9 Director/Member Branch 79**

One fine Friday in November of last year, five of us were playing golf at Black Oak and a thrill of a life time occurred! The five-some consisted of Bob Jensen, Bob Berzanski, Dave Dunlap (a new comer to SIR golf), Don Dill, and Reggie Murray. Reggie has become a friend and coach to many SIR golfers as he knows this game with over sixty years of expert playing and professional training. See!... in the US Air Force you can defend our country while playing golf all over the world. Reggie's hottest new SIR Protégé is Dave Dunlap, a struggling 15 Handicapper but beginning last fall, things began to change! Gone were the Shanks and the Yipps and his drive became longer and straighter. Regg's student started kicking our butt!

It was on hole number seven at Black Oak -- 189 yards from the whites -- and all of us except Dave had hit. Dave's swing was relaxed and he "finished high" just like Regg wanted him to! When I saw Dave's ball land just over the trap on the right side of the green and kick towards the flag, I knew it had a chance to go in. Bob Berzanski in a cart rushed ahead to find no ball over the back, and no ball on the green. As we approached the green, Bob Berzanski asked Dave to come to the hole and the thrill of a lifetime occurred for Dave Dunlap...the realization that there in the cup was his ball and he had just hit a hole-in-one.



Now Friday Golf for SIR is meant to be a casual 9 holes of fun and camaraderie and I hope that it will never change, because there is plenty of time for serious golf in our monthly tournaments. But, I think the spirit of Branch 79 is Friday Golf with Harry the Driller, Tony O in his knickers, and countless more just having fun. I have witnessed at least three or four holes-in-one at Black Oak over the last ten years, from Dave Baxter, to Tom Stone and now Dave Dunlap...oh, and there was the time Kenny Newman actually manufactured a hole-in-one for Norman Rothenberg, but that was in Las Vegas...and what goes on in Vegas stays in Vegas.

In the picture, Don Dill is shown presenting a "Feather in the Cap Award" to Dave Dunlap.



# Sirs in the News

*Amador County Branch 96, Jackson*

## **Dick Anderson and Paul Murphy Awarded HLM** **John Stettler, Publicity Chairman**

Area 27 Governor, Jerry Morrow, came by to attend one of our luncheon meetings and awarded a couple of well-deserved Honorary Life Memberships.

The picture on the left shows Dick Anderson with his certificate and Paul Murphy is holding his certificate in the picture on the right.

Both men are in their 80's and they are still very active in our Branch and the community.



*Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto*

## **HLM Awarded to Bill Caldwell** **Don Reed, Bulletin Editor**

Region 8 Director Jerry Strain, on the right in the picture, is shown presenting William "Bill" Caldwell with an Honorary Life Membership Award at our March luncheon meeting. Bill's wife, Betty, did the honor of attaching his HLM pin to his shirt.

Bill retired from the Gallo Winery and joined our Branch in March of 2000. Three years later he became quite active in the Branch starting as Little Sir. Then in 2004, he moved up to Big Sir and the next year became the Area 22 Governor. Bill has also been on the BEC, a backup singer, and currently is our ticket seller.

Congratulations, Bill on this well-deserved honor!



## Sirs in the News

*North Peninsula Branch 91, South San Francisco*

### **A Second Hole-In-One for Marty Mintz**

**Steve LaRosa, Bulletin Editor**

Branch member Marty Mintz made a hole-in-one in March at the Poplar Creek Golf Course. He aced the 158-yard 12th hole, with his Adams Tight Lies 5 wood. There to witness the event were members Paul Ritter, John Rittweger, Dennis Shreve and Bob Sullivan... see the picture of ball in the hole and Marty waving his arms in celebration.

This was Marty's second hole-in-one. His first was two years ago, also during March and also at the Poplar Creek Golf Course, when he holed the 145-yard number 3 hole with his 7 wood.

Marty has been deadly on the par 3's at Poplar Creek during March. Congratulations!



## News from the Branches

*Damian Reynolds Branch 1, San Mateo*

### **Collectibles & Stamp Group**

**Rick Zanardi, Group Chairman**

Branch 1 offers its membership a unique activity. It's a group called the Collectibles and Stamp Group which meets every third Monday in San Mateo.

We often have guest speakers that present "show and tell" topics that include stamps, coins, vinyl records, Lionel and American flyer model trains, still cameras, rare books, and even a collection of condoms... no kidding!



No looking at slides here... each collector brings in examples of his hobby and passes them around for members to look at

and hold. In some cases, it's like holding a piece of history.

The group started off as a stamp collecting group and evolved into showing collectible items as well. In the picture, Roy Hansen shows examples of pioneer and private gold coins minted by individuals and companies outside of the United States Mint, with one of those beautiful coins blown up to a larger size for better viewing. Because so few were minted, the coins pictured here are worth tens of thousands of dollars.





# News from the Branches

*Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento*

## ***This Branch is on the Move!***

**Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor**

Yes, Branch 69 is on the move! As of this May, we have reached our yearly membership goal and have an additional six applications on file. This is a direct result of three important new actions: 1. Appointing a Branch Recruiter, 2. Appointing an Activities Chairman and 3. Getting new members involved in Branch management.

As an example of recruiting PBS Tom Page, who is our new Branch Recruiter, secured a booth at the Sacramento Golf Expo and brought SIR to the attention of local golfers. This has resulted in a nucleus of new, young members, who then went out and recruited their buddies. This kind of thing has snowballed and is one of the reasons why we are growing. (see chart)

Our Activities Chairman, PBS Jim Porterfield, has added something that our Branch has wanted for some time...the inclusion of wives and friends in our Branch activities. His Dinner/Theater Group was an instant success. Every couple of months, the group gets together for a sit-down dinner and then proceeds to prime, reserved seats at a local theater. We have been averaging 30-70 attendees at these events. Due to this success, Jim has added a Lunch & Explore Group.

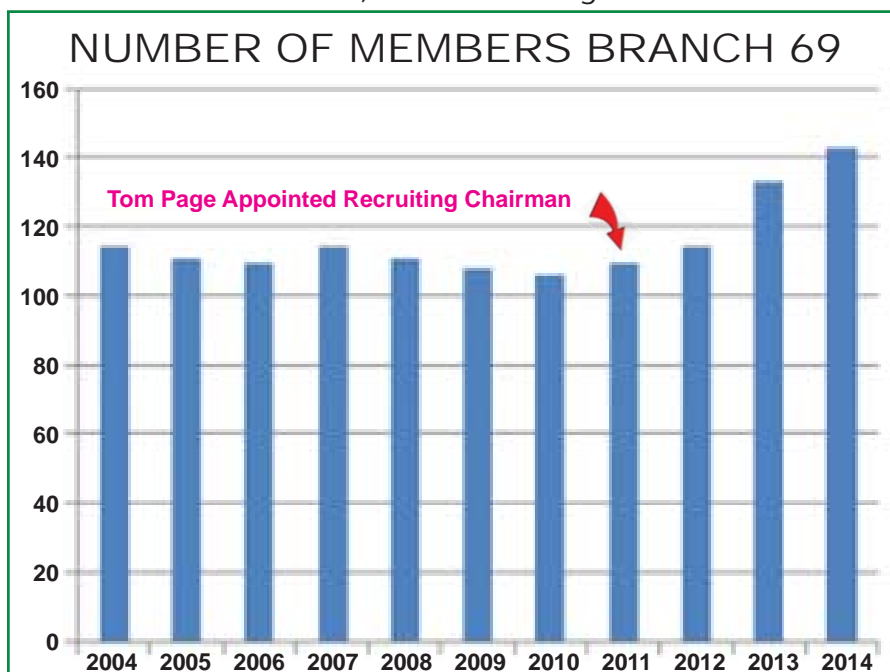
They meet for lunch and then attend a guided tour of one of the myriad of cultural, political, social, and historically significant places and events that most of us have never taken advantage of...like, Underground Sacramento, The Crocker Art Museum, and Apple Hill Ranch (see picture). This activity is averaging 30-60 people per event.

We try to get our new members involved in the Branch right away, usually starting them out as one our 10 luncheon callers. We use our Directors to train our future leaders so they become familiar with the Branch activities and procedures. We select

members who have been in the Branch for 1-3 years as Directors and only one PBS is on the BEC. We also limit the terms on the BEC and this allows us to rotate a minimum of two new members onto the BEC every year.

Because of these actions, our Branch has gone from 108 members to over 140 in a few short years (see chart). Our BEC Officers are young and well trained and the new voices are heard. Currently, only one of our officers is over 61 years of age and all of them have served in a number of key leadership positions in the Branch. By constantly rotating this “new blood” in the different positions, we never have problems looking for experienced volunteers for the important positions. This “new blood” ensures a fresh approach with new ideas and helps promote the continued growth of the Branch.

If your branch is having problems growing or getting volunteers to fill the officer positions, you might give our approach a try.



# News from the Branches

Area 2, Orinda, Walnut Creek, Danville, Moraga

## Gone Fishing

Harry Sherinian, Fishing Coordinator

The Area 2 Fishing Club is made up of a hardy and energetic group of men. We meet once a month to plan our future fishing trips and to discuss the successes and failures of fishing trips that we recently took. At these meetings, we also have guest speakers from all aspects of sport fishing to inform and teach us the various methods of fishing and sportsmen like behavior.

Our group is made up of all types of fisherman. From the hard core fly fisherman to the bait dunker who wants to sit on the side of a lake and watch the beautiful scenery. We have members who fish a couple of times a week to those who fish twice a year. All seem to enjoy the comradely of fellow fishermen and to possibly learn some new fishing technique at our meetings.

About half of our members have boats, so there is always pairing up of non-boat owners with boat owners to go on trips where boats are required to catch fish. We fish the ocean, bay, delta, local lakes and the high sierra. From ice fishing to five day trips to Baja for some great fishing, from Alaska Salmon fishing, to a five day – live on board – fishing trip out of San Diego, there really doesn't seem to be a limit to what we will do. Some of our recent catches are shown in the three pictures: The one on the left has Carl Moyer holding up



a 32 pound Salmon, the picture in the middle shows off Harry's big 8 pound Trout and on the right, Kent Cremolini is showing off his 180 pound Tuna.

There is also a social side to our club. We include the wives at the Summer Bar-B-Que, the Christmas Party, and the Spring Dinner Event. A recent addition to our social



events has been a fish fry at one of our member homes. Of course, all the fish cooked for this event have been caught by our members. It's a group of great guys with a common interest that enjoy each other's company.

The 2014 season will be a challenging one due to the lack of water in many of our lakes in the state. This has not dampened our enthusiasm for fishing but has forced some changes in our usual fishing haunts.

All SIR members and guests are welcome and indeed, are encouraged to participate in our fishing trips as well as attending our monthly meetings. The meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but many of us arrive about 8:00 to have some breakfast, before we get down to business.

For further information, please contact Dick Thomson, Big Fish at 925-944-1760, or Romano Gnusti, Secretary/Treasurer at 925-376-3313 or Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Coordinator at 925-846-7067.





# News from the Branches

*Indian Valley Branch 68, San Rafael*

## **SIR Tennis**

**Ray Hieber, Bulletin Editor**

Several years ago Glen Ohm and Bill Donnelly from Branch 47 began playing tennis weekly at McInnis Park. After a period of time, they grew tired of only beating up on each other and asked other members of Branch 47 to join them in the weekly venture. For a while there were enough members showing up to alleviate the necessity of only beating up on each other. Members would randomly show up and frequently there was again only the two of them.

Soon Glen and Bill opened up the “fun” to all of the local SIR Branches. Currently the weekly gathering of running, grunting, and sweating brings four to ten members together for fun and a workout. The Branches represented are now 47, 68, 122 and 151. The group generally meets weekly at McInnis Park tennis courts on Wednesdays at 9 am. There are four courts at McInnis so there is plenty of room for all to work up a big sweat. If enough show up, regular sets are played. If not, adjustments are made. It’s all in fun. Once the set is over, all is forgiven and all are again friends.

All Sirs are welcome. If you can serve and hit a ground stroke, you can at least play doubles (see picture) and get some exercise... so, come out and join us!



# News from the Branches

**Sonora Branch 136**

## **Rovin' Roosters & Chicks**

**Jim Botto, RV Club Chairman**

Our RV Group held its first outing of 2014 at the Jackson Rancheria RV Park in mid-March. Those attending were, John & Diane Avila, Rick & Betty Bacon, Jim & Linda Botto, Guy & Nancy Hoffman, Jim & Ginny Johnson, Bill & Cathie Lobdell, Ron & Bernie Long, Mo & Letty Molinari, Earl Randall, Ben & Jude Teal, Don & Donna Utt, and in their first outing with our club were, Otto & Kathy Bulich. Both will become members of the Club at our next outing at the Gold Strike RV Park scheduled for April.

In the upper photo several members are playing Bocce. In the lower photo the group is watching the Bocce tournament organized by Mo Molinari and of course, Mo and his partner Jude Teal, won the whole thing. There could have been some bribery going on but it really didn't matter because it was good fun.

One evening some of our group went into Jackson for an Italian dinner at a long time local favorite place, Theresa's Restaurant. The food was served family style and was just great!

We will have another new member, Steve Gaither, joining us for his first outing at Gold Strike giving us



a total of 15 rigs and we are looking forward to at least three more members joining us soon. Bill Guenza just joined SIR in March and will be joining our Club. Also, there were three new members introduced at the last BEC meeting -- Steve Hegel, Michael LaFrance, and Alan Nix -- and we were pleased to see that all of them indicated on their membership applications that they were interested in RV Travel, because we are always looking for new members to join in the fun, and camaraderie.





# Committee Reports

## State Golf Committee

Jerry Strain, Operations Sub-Committee Chairman



For those of you in Sons In Retirement who participate in SIR Golf, we would like to congratulate you for continuing on a healthy and thriving activity. Golf is one of the main activities that help to promote SIR. More and more couples are starting to enjoy the game together.

The beauty of golf is that you can continue to play to a very ripe old age. We have many golfers in their 90's who are not only playing golf but having the thrill of shooting their age, or getting a hole-in-one. It is not just the game, but the beauty of the course and the nature that surrounds the courses. There is nothing like a brisk spring morning on a golf course with your friends enjoying every moment of its beauty.

Your State Golf Committee is doing everything possible to bring you the best courses for tournaments that keep the cost within reach of most all of us. Our recent "Spring Time in Napa" is just one of the examples. Two days of golf on two beautiful courses, just outside the Napa Valley – Chardonnay and Eagle Vines.

This event is so popular and just in its second year that we again had to turn away members. We had 144 men and 36 ladies on the two courses.

Coming up later this year will be the annual Individual Championships. This venue will again be held at the newly re-designed Poppy Hills GC. This is the home of the NCGA and one of our most premier courses in California. Be sure to check with your local Branch to find out how to qualify for this event. Even if you do not qualify, we hold open play on both days for all members of SIR who want to participate. For more information on this and any other SIR State Golf event go to our website, [www.sirstategolf.com](http://www.sirstategolf.com).

## INFOSYS Committee

Dean Steichen, Chairman



What do you know about SIR? I assume you are interested in learning more about SIR and what other SIR Branches and members are doing or you would not be reading SIR HAPPENINGS.

Do you also regularly read your Branch Newsletter; browse your Branch Website; or browse the SIR State Website ([www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org))? Are you active in your Branch?

Would you like more activities and event opportunities? Have you looked into Area or State Activities?

If you want to find out about the wide variety of activities and events available to you as a member of SIR, SIR HAPPENINGS is a good place to start. Of course, your Branch Newsletter and Branch Website are also good places but what about Area and State Activities. You can probably only find out about Area Activities from your Branch Newsletter or Website but State sponsored Activities are best found on the State website. Golf, Travel, Bowling, Ham Radio and Sporting Events are documented on the State website so check them out.

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

**... "Spring Time in Napa" is just one of the examples. Two days of golf on two beautiful courses, just outside the Napa Valley – Chardonnay and Eagle Vines.**

## SIR Factoids

Dwight Sale, Publisher SIR Happenings

Here is some trivia that you might find interesting and I'm calling it: "SIR Factoids."

Did you know that more Branches meet on the 1st Thursday of the month than any other time? It is not surprising then that Thursday is the most popular day but it surprised me that the 2nd week is the most popular week.

So, where does your branch fit in? Check this chart: Number of Branches that meet on these days and weeks.

	DAY					
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Total
1st	3	9	6	15	0	33
W 2nd	7	12	13	13	1	46
E 3rd	6	7	11	11	2	37
E 4th	2	4	7	3	0	16
K Last	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total	18	32	37	44	3	134

# Happenings Travel Bulletin

**July 8-12, 2014**

## **Oregon Shakespeare Festival**

This five day bus tour features two lite comedy productions --Cocoanuts & 2 Men from Verona, and a Cabaret show, Ain't Misbehavin. Also included are tours of Harry & David's Country Store and Kitchens in Medford, Oregon, Lille Belle Farms Chocolate Shop, National Historic Village Town of Jacksonville, and the Blue Ox Millworks in Eureka, California where we will spend one night at the Bear River Casino Resort. We will also make some other interesting stops on the way both going and coming back. The cost is \$1375 PPDO and includes 9 meals, four nights of deluxe accommodations, and all show tickets. Offered by Branch 54 & 32 Travel. Contact Mike Console at 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch at 408-274-2992.

**August 18-25, 2014**

## **Canadian Rockies**

We will be traveling on the world famous Rocky Mountaineer for two days, a sightseeing train that passes through pristine wilderness, inaccessible by any other means. You'll see towering mountain ranges, waterfalls, snow-capped glaciers and big game animals. The train travels only in daylight, so guests don't miss a thing. Renowned for its service and food, the Rocky Mountaineer is an experience of a lifetime. In addition, we will be visiting other scenic sites, such as Vancouver, Jasper, Lake Louise and Banff, staying at deluxe Fairmont Hotels.

Tour includes a number of meals and r/t air. Costs range from \$5265 to \$6150 PPDO. Offered by Branch 114 Travel. Contact Jim Stoner at 408-238-8458 or Larry Martinson at 408-528-0746.



**August 24-September 8, 2014**

## **British Isles**

The British Isles beckon adventurous travelers, with fascinating cultures, awe-inspiring and stunning landscapes. This 12 day cruise on the Ruby Princess includes London, Guernsey, Cork, Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, Orkney, Edinburgh and Paris. The costs range from \$4693 to \$6295 PPDO and includes airfare, transfers, and gratuities. Offered by Branches 45 and 109 Travel. Call Larry Garvin at 530-673-3693.

**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.

**September 19-October 3, 2014**

## **Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage**

This 14 night trip begins in Bergen, Norway with a stay at a Superior First Class Hotel before boarding your working Norwegian coastal vessel designed for comfortable cruising. You will visit 34 ports of call, with 12 orientation walking tours with a Program Manager. The cost of this trip is \$4649 PPDO, which includes accommodations, 35



meals, all transfers and baggage handlings. A post trip to Copenhagen, Denmark is also available. Offered by Branch 146 Travel.

Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.

**September 27-October 12, 2014**

## **Panama Canal Island Princess Cruise**

This cruise begins in San Francisco with several ports of call in Central America and the Panama Canal, ending in Fort Lauderdale. Costs range from \$2870 to \$3495 PPDO depending on accommodations. Offered by Branch 1 Travel. Call Philip Manriquez at 650-871-5009.

**November 22-December 9, 2014**

## **Cruise to Hawaii**

Depart from San Francisco on the Princess Lines for Hawaii where we will visit the four islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island of Hawaii. There will be great side trips available on each of the islands. On the way back, we will stop at Ensenada before returning to San Francisco. Prices range from \$2570 to \$3974 PPDO, depending on room selection. Offered by Area 8 Travel. Contact Emile Lassalle at 510-538-7463.



**November 3-17, 2014**

## **Spain**

Experience the historic and culturally diverse Spain for 13 days. You will travel to Madrid, Segovia, Toledo, Valencia, and Barcelona. The costs range from \$4195 to \$4395 PPDO and includes airfare, accommodations, tours, taxes, gratuities, transfers and many meals. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765 or Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226.





# GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

WHERE THE BAY COMES TO PLAY



Wine Valley Branch 149 was in the winner's circle celebrating Geno's Bambino winning the 2nd race at Golden Gate Fields on March 21, 2014.

Left to right Carol Cox, Jeff Cox, Linda San Filippo, David San Filippo, Jockey Kyle Frey, Terry Williams and Rex Williams.

## 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!

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

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