

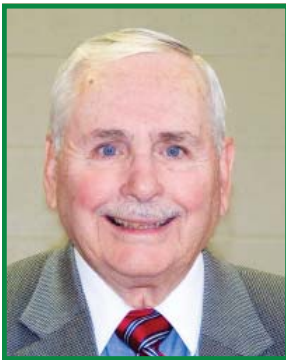


# SIR HAPPENINGS

SUMMER 2014 VOLUME 11 ISSUE 3

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

## President Maynard's Column



Here we are half way through my 2014 year as President of SIRinc. I have been busy traveling to numerous Branches in order to present HLM's to well-deserving members. I have found that there are many similarities between Branches; however, each Branch has its own individual differences related to their location or their Branch needs. All of which has

led to expanding my knowledge of the workings of our Branches.

We have just finished the 2014 Annual SIRinc Corporation meeting on August 4th. I enjoyed being able to meet so many Big Sirs from around the state, as I cannot get to all the Branches this year. I am truly pleased to see the selection of very experienced, dedicated Sirs elected by the membership. I know the State Board will continue striving to improve our organization by using all of our new members; our standing committees, who work hard developing activities to enrich and excite members and potential members, and the dedicated Regional Directors, who are in contact with their respective Branches.

When I started out the year, I put forth to the State Board the need to stress improved communication between the Branches, through the Area Governors and Regional Directors, and in addition, there needs to be more emphasis on co-ed activities. The special Board meeting provided our Regional Directors with numerous activities that could be presented to the AG's and their respective Branches. I have been pleased with the reports which indicated improved direction by those Branches that were experiencing slow progress.

There are still Branches that need the improvement of increased membership, and while the State Board has the SAT committee that can provide excellent help for those that are in need, those in need have not been motivated to ask for help.

## Growth & Membership Committee Jerry Milano, Chairman



Since the name of the committee properly identifies WHAT Growth and Membership does, the purpose of this article is to describe HOW G&M tries to accomplish its mission. There are five principal activities of the committee: Publicity, Training, Emergency Branch Assistance, Branch Research and Special Projects. The first three are accomplished by subcommittees of G&M.

Publicity is handled by the Advertising and Publicity Subcommittee chaired by Walter Schick. The subcommittee also staffs the SIR Inc. hotline 1-877-747-9066 and email inquiries about Sons In Retirement to our corporate website: [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org).

The Training Subcommittee is chaired by Derek Southern. Since the Big Sir in each Branch changes every year and the Area Governors and Regional Directors also change very frequently, training the volunteer leadership on their responsibilities to the organization is an ongoing activity. In an attempt to improve the quality of the Big Sir training, the subcommittee has decided to break it into three multi-regional sections. This change should allow more interaction and reduce the travel for the participants. The training for AGs and RDs will be separated from the Big Sir training (day and location) to permit the trainers to focus their message for each audience.

Emergency Branch Assistance is the bailiwick of the Survivability Action Team (SAT) headed by Dick DeVoe. When a Branch has trouble recruiting leadership for succession or continuous membership loss that threatens the viability of the Branch, SAT is available to assist the Branch Executive Committee with diagnosis and potential cures for the problems at hand.

Branch Research is the responsibility of the entire Growth & Membership Committee which consists of the three subcommittee chairs; Bobbie Hairston, the SIR Inc.

**Continued on Page 9**

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

# Sirs in the News

Discovery Bay Branch 161

## Three Time Olympian

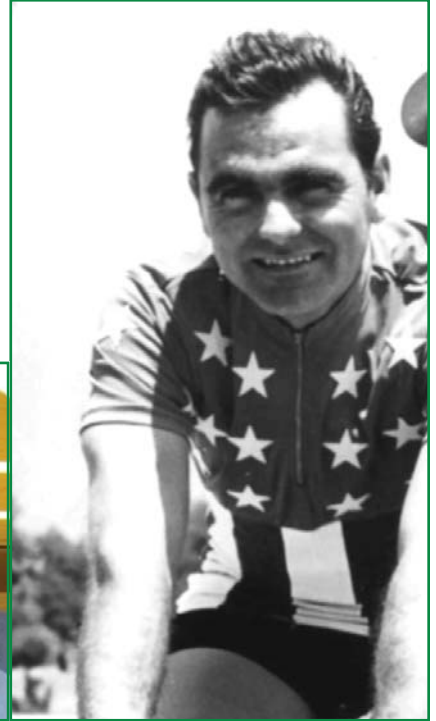
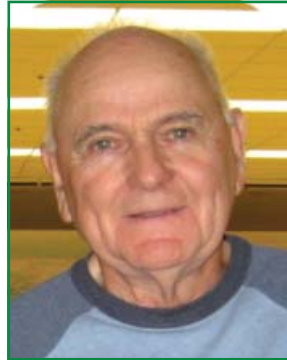
Bob Damico, HLM & Branch Member

Tom Jones, Bulletin Editor

Most of his fellow Branch 161 members know that Sir Jack Disney excels in golf and bowling. But few knew that, in his younger years, he was a bicycle racer and a speed ice skater. The two pictures show Jack in his younger years and now.

Jack began his bicycle racing career in 1953 and won his first five consecutive National Amateur Championships in 1954. Jack won the National Senior Sprint Championships in 1966 and again in 1968, and was the Silver Medalist at the National Senior Sprint Championships in 1973. He was a member of the US Olympic Team in 1956, 1964 and 1968. He also won a Silver Medal in the 1959 Pan Am Games. In recognition of these accomplishments, Jack was inducted into the United States Bicycling Hall of Fame in 1988.

Proving his athletic versatility, Jack also made two Olympic squads in speed skating, making him both an Olympian and a Hall of Famer!



Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont/Newark

## Awards Galore

John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

Several members were recognized during the last few months. In the photo at right, Fred Gotthardt receives his Senior HLM award from Area Governor Jim Ferez (left) and Big Sir Rob Ingebretson (right).

In the lower left photo Area Governor Jim Ferez (left) congratulates Sir Charles Wilkins after presenting him with the SIR Presiden's Award for reaching the age of 90.

In the lower right photo Big Sir Rob Ingebretson is shown awarding Sir Wayne Adams with a Certificate of Appreciation for the ten years of service as Branch 59 Librarian.



# Sirs in the News

*Contra Costa Branch 146, Walnut Creek*

## **Hole-In-One Scored at SIR State Golf Tournament**

**Bill Wilhelm, SIR Golf Committee, Division One Chairman**

Sir Jim Baldridge of Branch 146 scored a hole-in-one at the Wolf Run Golf Course. Jim used a 3 wood to score his ace on the 145 yard, 14th hole. In the photo Sir Bill Wilhelm (right) is shown congratulating Jim on his achievement.

Everyone enjoyed their stay at the Atlantis Hotel starting with a cocktail party, the slot tournament and ending with our awards banquet. The ladies enjoyed the spa, voted one of the top 10 hotel spas in the country. The weatherman was on his best behavior with temperatures in the 70's and 80's with no wind!!!!

Check out our tournament for June of 2015 on the website at [sirstategolf.com](http://sirstategolf.com).



*Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto*

## **Feather in the Cap Award**

**Don Reed, Bulletin Editor**

Branch 103's Golf Chairman, Sir Claude McMillen on the right in the picture, is shown presenting Sir Barry Meisman with a "Feather in the Cap" award for his hole-in-one at Stevenson Ranch. He made the shot with an 8 iron on the 7th hole.

Barry has been a member of Branch 103 since July 2000. He is retired from Stanislaus County and is now the Handicap Chairman for Area 22. He is a great asset to the golf club and does a fine job of keeping the handicaps, posting the tournament starting positions, and then posting the results for each flight and closest to the hole.

## **State Bowling Committee**

**Del Locke, Chairman**

The SIR State Bowling Committee has just held its August meeting and among other things finalized the 2015 SIR State Bowling Tournament schedule... it will soon be on the Sir Bowling website. The Committee is also filling the management roles on the Committee. Our Secretary for 2015 is Ray Buttavoli and the Assistant Secretary is Jerry Sabo. We will be looking to fill the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer spots as well as the Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman. By State Rule 554, my tenure as Committee Chairman is up as of December 2014. I have had a really interesting 3 years as Chairman and now it's time for someone else to "Drive the Bus."

Behind the scenes, the Committee has developed and published revised Committee Ground Rules, By Laws and Tournament Managers Guidelines. These documents should help all involved get a clearer idea of what the committee and its members should be doing. All of these documents are available on the Bowling website.

Now – on to some fun stuff. We may be getting older, but we are as good as we ever were. The Bowling Committee has an award for any Sir who bowls an award score in a SIR Tournament. These scores are 298, 299, 300 or an 800 series. Here are some of the Sirs who have earned an award:

Dave Rossi, Branch 136, a 300 game, Bruce Peterson, also from Branch 136, an 808 series, Steven Szasz, from Branch 87, a 300 game, Jay Izatt, from Branch 52, a 298 game and David Bruegeman, from Branch 113, a 299 game

Some of these Sirs have received their award from the Bowling Committee and others will get their awards shortly.

The SIR State Tournament was held in Yuba City in May hosted by Sir Ray Buttavoli and his tournament committee. The tournament winners were:

- The "A" Division – for the 3rd year in a row – San Pablo Branch 73. Members of the team were John Walker, John Donkonics, Wilson Hunt, and Dennis Jergenson.
- The "B" Division winners were a mix of Branches... Branch 59 in Fremont and Branch 6 in Castro Valley. Members were Jerry Sabo and Don Henry from Branch 59 and Rich Bowers and Lew Heffron from Branch 6.

The SIR State Tournament for 2015 is scheduled to be held at the Black Oak Resort and Casino in Tuolumne, hosted by Sonora Branch 136. Look for more details on the SIR Bowling web site.



## News from the Annual Meeting



New State officers for 2015 are (left to right) Secretary Derek Southern, Assistant Secretary Ron Flagel, Vice President Don Dill, President Bob Hairston, Treasurer Karl Ryden and Assistant Treasurer Harold D'Ambrogia.



President Rodland presented the President's Exceptional Service Award to Past President Dwight Sale, in recognition of his extraordinary work and contributions to SIR. Dwight has volunteered essentially fulltime for years in administrative support of the organization. He currently is State Advisor, Parliamentarian, and Publisher of the "SIR Happenings" State Newsletter. As a member of the INFOSYS Committee, he chairs each of the Database, E-Mail, and State Roster Subcommittees; and is a member of the SIR Manual and SIR Forms Subcommittees. The participants enthusiastically applauded Dwight for his accomplishments and great dedication to SIR.



President Elect Bobbie Hairston is shown presenting a SIR jacket to Region 10 Director Jim Filippo (right).



Area Governors and Big Sirs attending the Annual Meeting.

*Bidwell Branch 110, Chico*

## **Branch 110's Active Fishing Group**

Bill Jemison, Bulletin Editor

***Cross the bridge***

***Climb down to the stream***

***Cast your fly***

***Try not to be seen***

***In summer we move about***

***Looking for those special trout.***

***Seasoned fishermen seldom tout***

***Where they pulled the good ones out***

Fishing group leader Bob Weckerle enjoys writing poems (like the one above) about fishing for the SIR 110 Roosters Tale.

SIR Branch 110 of Chico, California has an active fishing group. They call it "Piscatology" and they get together often to practice their sport. A group of 15 to 18 guys meet for breakfast monthly at the Cozy Diner in Chico. They dream up great fishing trips and tell stories of all the big fish they have caught on past outings.

This summer the group has taken some fun trips to catch the big ones. This year's fishing trips have included monthly three-day trips to some beautiful Northern California lakes. In April the group went to Davis Lake; in May they fished at Lake Almanor; Eagle Lake was their destination in June; in July they went to Antelope Lake and Bucks Lake is their outing for August.

In the picture, Fishing Group Chairman Sir Bob Weckerle, is netting his catch and Sir Rich Matt is helping out.

Many of the group members have boats and/or cabins that they share with group members for their mountain lake adventures.



*Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento*

## **Lunch & Explore Group at Spy Plane Base**

Jim Porterfield, Activities Chairman

Members and guests of our Lunch & Explore Group enjoyed a 6 hour tour, including lunch, at Beale Air Force Base. We were picked up from the base public parking lot by the base tour bus and two well informed tour guides escorted us through several points of interest around this massive base. Our first stop was the military dog training facility which contained everything needed to handle, train, and care for these wonderful dogs. We watched demonstrations of how these highly trained dogs attack a threatening subject and we were told how the dogs are trained to find explosives.

Other stops included a WW2 period German POW solitary confinement prison, a static display of some historic military aircraft which included the SR-71, the fastest military aircraft (see picture) and the D-21 unmanned aerial reconnaissance vehicle.

We were shown how U2 pilots function in their \$250,000 flying suites. We also learned everything from how they relieve themselves at 60,000 feet to how they eat from what looks like a tooth paste tube and a straw.

The high point of the day was our last stop which was on the tarmac where we got to be up close and personal with a group of military training jets. While we were there, we watched U2's take off and land, watched the stunning F-22 Raptors take off and shoot straight up into the sky and we saw, from a distance, some RQ4 Global Hawks on the ground. It was one of the best Lunch & Explore Group outings we've done so far.



# News from the Branches

## Petaluma Branch 58

### *Good time Racing*

Joe Augustin, Treasurer & Web Master

The photo shows members of Branch 58 at Golden Gate Fields for a day at the races in May. Unfortunately, our horse "PASSIONVIL" did not win but everyone had a good time at the race track.



## Peach Bowl Branch 45, Yuba City

### *New Co-Ed Activity*

Rich Dettmer, Past SIR President

This January, in keeping with the SIR President's desire to encourage co-ed activities in the Branches, Branch 45 started a "Dining Out" activity. We are a Branch of 286 retired men who enjoy the camaraderie of our luncheons but also healthy participation in Golf, Bowling, Fishing, Computer, Bocce, and Travel activities. Each activity enjoys solid participation. We wondered just how popular a "Dining Out" activity would be in view of competition from the other activities. We live in a rather rural area and as such, the number of restaurants available are fewer than some urban areas that other Branches enjoy. Wow, we were soon to find out!!

Without too much to do, about 12 Sirs signed up for this Activity. A survey was taken to establish the best days of the weeks, weeks of the month, and desired frequency of the events. Everyone was pretty much open as to the days of the week and interested in doing it monthly. It was decided that each Sir would take a month and serve as "host" establishing the venue and making reservations, etc. Our first outing was held at the local "Dancing Tomatoes" restaurant. I was happy to see that 14 Sirs and wives or significant others made the outing. The noise level was high, much as it is at our monthly luncheons, showing that everyone was having a blast. But this was just the beginning.

Our next outing was at "Cool Hand Luke's" and we saw our attendance jump to 22. The food was great and fun was had by all Sirs, wives and friends. In June, we met at the "Dragon Inn" with attendance jumping to 26. More SIR Members had joined our group as well. In July, we saw 30 members and guests attend our Dining Out dinner at the "Ranch Steak House" with all having a great time and enjoying the food. The picture was taken at our last outing.

It is quite apparent that this activity has become a huge success for the Branch and demonstrates the need to involve wives and lady friends of SIR Members. Our only problem now – which we are working on – is how to accommodate the ever increasing membership vis-à-vis the venue capability of handling more guests...but, I think that's a good problem, not a bad one.

I will leave you with this thought. Branch 45 has enjoyed an average of over 70% attendance at the luncheon meetings, which is about 200 in number in attendance. Our attendance at our Dining Out Activity is 30 (15 Sirs and 15 Guests). That's about 7.5% of our Branch attendance and that is just so far. If you are looking for an activity to consider that is co-ed, do consider this or similar for your Branch. I think you will find the effort well worth it. If you don't believe me, ask your wife!



# News from the Branches

## Fort Sutter Branch 14, Carmichael

### **The Old Barn/Tree House/Wood Shop**

**Don Langley, Branch Member**

I knew the minute I saw the old house and barn on three acres in the middle of Carmichael, that it was perfect for a single father raising two daughters. The barn was perfect for horses and became the center of activities for years. All too soon the girls grew up and moved on with their lives and I was done with horses. We rented the property and I also moved on with my current wife, Ann.

When Ann and I retired, we moved back, but we wanted to sell most of the property. We made an attempt to subdivide the property into 5 lots. After 4 1/2 years and over \$80,000, the Carmichael Council denied the project, stating they wanted to keep Carmichael semi-rural. We were devastated. The economy had crashed and we were stuck with a lot of maintenance on the property that seemed useless.

I brooded for about a year and then remembered, "If they serve you lemons, make lemonade." As a boy I always wanted a tree house/man cave. Instead of tearing down the barn, I took out the stalls and made one large workshop. About that time my neighbor Orley talked me into joining SIR.

I was uncomfortable at first, but soon made some great friends. Three of the members were forming a wood working group and bingo! I joined them. My shop became a wood shop and a real man cave. Most of the guys work out of their garages and I have the only big shop, 1,700 square feet. When we meet at my shop, we can do many projects at once. Because of the recession, tools were dirt cheap on Craig's List and I was able to stock my shop with unbelievable tools for a small price. I love to share my man cave/shop. Some members spend more time there than I do. Our group has 7 members currently, with experience ranging from beginners (like me) to some really talented people. Anyone is welcome to join us at any level...we're there for fun and friendship. You can see in the picture some of the things we have made and most of what we make is given to friends or charity.

Thanks to Sons in Retirement, my old barn is a wonderful "man cave in the trees" and useful again!



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## Mount Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek

### **Hiking in the Redwoods**

**Derek Southern, SIR Training Chairman & Branch 8 member**

I was leading an easy hike in the Redwood Regional Park (Oakland) with a group of Branch 8 members when we met a group of Sirs from Branches 171 and 174 in Moraga. We exchanged greetings and posed for this picture in the shade of the beautiful Redwoods.



## News from the Branches

Lake Tahoe Branch 160

### *An Invitation to Bowl in One of the Most Beautiful Places on Earth*

Tim Hall, Branch Tournament Manager

Bobby Silvius, Branch Bowling Chairman

The picture shows that Lake Tahoe is indeed one of the most beautiful places on Earth, but the picture is missing something vital...it is missing you and your bowling friends!

Imagine crisp fall nights with a hint of wood smoke in the air and the shimmering gold of aspen groves preparing for winter. The summer tourists are gone, the skiers have not yet arrived, and the kids are back in school. This is the time of year to

come to South Lake Tahoe and play in the annual Branch 160 Bowling Tournament at Tahoe Bowl!...and, there is also plenty of Nevada-style entertainment playing just down the street.

The tournament includes both singles and doubles, and is scheduled for Friday, September 19th and Saturday, September 20th. Squad times are 10:30 am and 1:30 pm each day. The 16 lanes at Tahoe Bowl are in great shape and their staff is determined to make us welcome by offering a bottomless cup of coffee and an across-the-board 20% discount on all food items from their 11th Frame restaurant. SIR wives and friends will also help keep bowlers happy with plenty of homemade goodies. Last year, the bowlers who participated, had a great time at this tournament, gained weight, and many posted impressive scores!

Applications and further information can be found on the bowling section of the SIRinc.org website. We hope to see you at Tahoe Bowl this September!



## Committee Reports

### *Branch Closings—Taking the Easy Way Out*

Dick DeVoe, Chairman Survivability Action Team (SAT)

The Nominating slate of new Branch Officers for the coming year is one of the most important responsibilities of a Branch's leadership. Yet every year, during July and August, there are Branches that have not completed this important task and therefore, put their Branches at great risk of closure within a few months.

Last year, the Survivability Action Team (SAT) worked with the BEC's of several Branches to help save them from closing. Before that, many Branches closed over the years because their Branch leadership took the "easy way out" by closing, rather than taking the necessary – and admittedly sometimes difficult task – of filling their officer positions prior to the New Year.

Whenever a Branch closes – for whatever reason – the BEC leaders are always the ones directly responsible because they didn't do what they should have done to keep the Branch viable. The SIR Manual is very clear- "The Branch Executive Committee shall direct the exercise of all corporate powers of the Branch and the conduct of all its activities and affairs." The Branch officers can blame the Nominating Committee, and even the members themselves, for not completing the officer slate but the bottom line is, the BEC is charged with the ultimate responsibility.

And who suffers when a Branch closes? The members themselves – of course – all of whom had the reasonable expectation that its Branch leaders would do whatever was necessary for the Branch to exist long term. It should be pointed out that these closures aren't just Branches with 50 or less members. There are Branches with well over 100 members at serious risk of failure because the leaders have let their members down.

In mid-July as this article is being written, there are Branches, **once again**, that have placed themselves in serious risk by failing to complete their Nominating Slates. Yet the SIR Schedule of Branch Operations in the SIR Leaders Guide allows over 9 months for every Branch to complete the slate selection process.

If your Branch currently does not have key positions selected in its slate of officers for the coming year, the SAT is available to assist in fulfilling that leadership responsibility. Please feel free to contact me, Dick DeVoe, at 925-932-5546 or [dicknchristy@comcast.net](mailto:dicknchristy@comcast.net).





# Committee Reports

## INFOSYS Committee

Dean Steichen, Chairman



By now your Branch has elected Officers for 2015 and they have begun their preparation for assuming their new roles. These leaders need member help and cooperation to make things run smoothly. Help is also available from State Officers, like your Area Governor and Regional Director as well as from the SIR Leaders Guide pamphlet and other

documents.

I would like to remind members, Branch Officers and State Officers that INFOSYS is here to help. The State Website, [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org), provides valuable information about SIR and a link to Members Information. The Members Information page links to a wide array of documents, examples and ideas to assist members, but most directly, Branch Officers and State Officers. The Members Information page (linked from the [www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org) main page) is where you will find this treasure trove of materials. I encourage you to spend some time browsing these two webpages ([sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org) and the Members Information page). I am sure you will find a lot of interesting and useful information there.

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).

## State Golf Committee

Don Andrews, Chairman, State Golf Committee

This is a busy time for State Golf and fall is just around the corner. I for one, will be looking forward to some cooler weather! Here are some of our upcoming events:

### TEAM SCRAMBLE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

August 11, 2014 is the Team Scramble Championship being held at Rancho Solano Golf Course, located in Fairfield California. The field will have 144 golfers for a total of 36 teams. All will be competing for the State title.

### INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Also at this time, the divisions are holding the qualifying tournament for Individual Championships.

The Individual Championship will be held at the newly redesigned Poppy Hills Golf Course on the Monterey Peninsula, on October 27th and 28th. Open play is available for both days. The 27th is filling up fast. If you would like to play during open play on the 27th or the 28th, contact the Tournament Host, Operations Chairman Jerry Strain. You can find his contact information (address/phone number/email) on the State Golf Website at [www.sirstategolf.com](http://www.sirstategolf.com).



### FALL CLASSIC.

A reminder that in September the State Golf Committee will be putting on the Fall Classic! It is being held in Solvang, California. The dates are September 14th to the 18th. It is a member / guest event in the beautiful Santa Inez Valley. Please check out the State Golf website for details!!

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## Growth & Management Committee Report

*Continued from Page 1*

Vice President; Jerry Strain, the Region 8 Director and Jerry Milano, the Committee Chair. Three contributing members resigned from the committee this year. The principal committee research supports the Ten-Seventy Branch Goals Program introduced by former SIR President, Jim Stedman in 2010. The program tracks data on membership and Branch Luncheon attendance for the 134 SIR Branches throughout Northern California. Research is based on a theory that a Branch recruiting ten percent or more new members each year AND maintaining regular monthly luncheon attendance of at least seventy percent of its current membership will, over time, establish a solid core of members who will nurture and sustain the Branch. Others have suggested that Branches need to recruit at least as many members as they lost the prior year and that member activities are at least as important as popular luncheons to maintaining healthy Branches.

Finally, G&M is required to handle stand-by assignments from the SIR Board of Directors. Last year G&M took on the responsibility of organizing a special training class for the Area Governors and Regional Directors after the Training Committee advised that it was under resourced to train all the Big Sirs and the RDs and AGs. The resulting training class led to the restructuring of the committees this year so that Training became a subcommittee of Growth & Membership. This year the Board asked G&M to organize a day-long strategic planning meeting in March. That special meeting resulted in President Maynard Rodland requiring Regional Director special goal setting and reporting on progress at each subsequent SIR Board Meeting.

I hope this short article is helpful to the membership in understanding how the Growth & membership committee attempts to fulfill its mandate to grow the SIR organization and its membership so that more men can enjoy a healthy and active retirement by making new friends and enjoying the fellowship.

# Happenings Travel Bulletin

**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.

## **September 12-30, 2014 The Essence of China**

This is a 19 day tour of China featuring Beijing, Zhengzhou, Xi'an, Chengdu, Guilin and Shanghai. The trip features include R/T air, motor coach, 4 star hotels, meals, national guide and local English speaking guides, and Chinese visas. Price is \$5890 PPDO. Offered by Branch 8 Travel. Call Dick Schally at 925-260-5534.

## **February 4-9, 2015 Panama Canal Cruise**

This 16 day luxury cruise aboard the Island Princess, starts in Los Angeles and ends in Ft. Lauderdale. It will highlight the 100 year anniversary of the canal and the completion of the canal's third lane that accommodates the large ships of our time. Trip cost includes home pick up to the San Jose Airport and return from Ft. Lauderdale, so no driving is required. Ports include Cabo San Lucas, San Juan del Sur in Nicaragua, Puntarenas in Costa Rica, Cartagena and Aruba. Costs range from \$3270 to \$4080 PPDO depending on cabin selection. Offered by Branch 141 Travel. Call either Rollo Parsons at 408-268-5245 or Brian Serpa at 408-227-7658.

## **March 9-25, 2015 Azaleas, Plantations and Cajuns**

This is a 7 day trip in Cajun country. The trip includes home pick up, r/t air, 3 nights at the Drury Inn in Baton Rouge and 3 nights at the Royal Sonesta in New Orleans with 13 meals included. The tours include museums, antebellum homes, plantations & gardens and even a gator farm. The price is \$2630 PPDO. Offered by Branches 34 & 54 Travel. Call either John Pletsch at 408-274-2992 or Mike Console at 408-246-1080.

## **April 6-12, 2015 National Cherry Blossom Festival & Historic Virginia Tour**

This 6 day trip includes special premium reserved seating for the National Cherry Blossom Parade, visits to Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown Settlement, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery and many more great historical attractions. The price is \$2760 PPDO. Offered by Branch 21 Travel. Call either Ron Berube at 408-829-5588 or Dick Kohl at 408-268-0428.



# 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 17, 2014**

**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: \$33.00 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 call Michael Roberts of Golden Gate Fields @ (510) 559-7380 Or email [mroberts@goldengatefields.com](mailto:mroberts@goldengatefields.com)

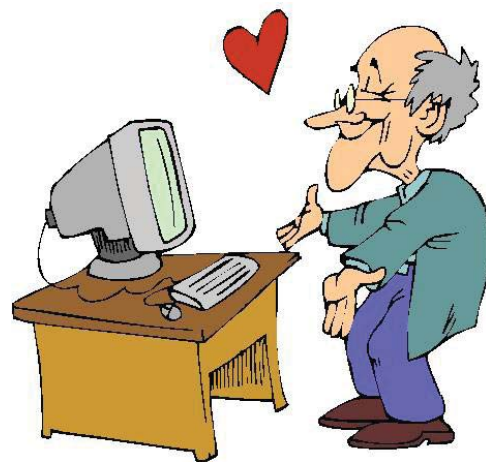
## Computers

### Hey Computer Guy

Frank Franzago, Branch 69 Bulletin Editor

#### Crap Cleaner Really Works!

The other day I experienced a problem on my computer. I opened an email of a speech and had no sound. I checked out the leads to my speaker, changed speakers and plugged my speakers into a different computer. Everything worked OK except no sound on my computer. I then Googled: "No sound using Internet Explorer." They gave me a bunch of things to check in IE Tools and Internet Options, but nothing brought back the sound. Finally, I decided to clean off the computer to see if that would help. I opened Crap Cleaner and ran a scan and removed a bunch of junk. Then I ran a scan of the registry and repaired the errors that were found. And guess what?... I got my sound back. Never isolated the problem, but I am not going to argue with success. So file this tip away: If your computer is acting weird, run Crap Cleaner.



Send your computer problems, tips, and questions to: Hey Computer Guy at [franque12@surewest.net](mailto:franque12@surewest.net).

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Happy Reading!

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