



# SIR HAPPENINGS

WINTER 2015 VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

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

## President Bob's Column

### Taking SIR Back to the Future



In the movie "Back to the Future," the actors went back in time to ensure their future. I believe we as an organization need to do that also.

We need to look back to see why at one time our membership was over 30,000 and we were opening new Branches on a regular basis and consistently bringing in new members.

We need to look back at when the SIR manual was on paper and passed to the incoming BEC and read by them. Put the manual on the desktop of your laptop, your tablet or your phone. How else would we know about restrictive rules and bylaws? And we need to know the rules and follow them.

We need to look to the future of our organization by growing our replacements. Our future is in the members of the BEC's. Our future is bringing on Directors who will be Membership Chairs or Publicity Chairs, Assistant Treasurers who will become Treasurers and Assistant Secretaries who become Secretaries. We need to grow our Little Sir into a Big Sir.

Our future is not in placeholder Area Governors, who only stay for a year. Our Area Governors are the gruff sergeants and chiefs who work with their Branches directly and use their experience to make their Branches better. Big Sirs elect Area Governors ...give us your best.

Our future is in the strength of our Regional Directors, our State Committees and Executive Board. We have some of the best and brightest leaders and I am proud to serve with them.

Our future is in the members who bring guests to experience the fellowship of a SIR luncheon meeting and evolve from a guest to a member. Guests have been the key to our success in the past. I know we can be successful again.

We need to look back to our strengths and continue on into the future. Our biggest strength is in our belief in the fellowship and relationship and friendship of men.

I am so excited about this coming year. I see good things coming. To tag a line whose origin I do not recall, "Our future's so bright, I had to wear shades."

### Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

#### Goodbye Old Friend

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

One of the attendees at our monthly luncheons will no longer be attending. Froomin, Mark Steffen's service dog in training (see picture), has graduated from two years of basic training under Mark. He will be moving into advanced training at Canine Companions for Independence national headquarters in Santa Rosa California. He will be in a highly structured advance training program for 6 to 9 months. Upon successful completion, Froomin will enter team training where he will be matched with an adult or child with a disability at no cost to the recipient.



**Froomin**

Although for most of us this would be a sad occasion, it is not for Mark. He gets a lot of satisfaction knowing his dog is doing exactly what he trained him for and will soon be supplying necessary assistance and love to the new owner.

This was the seventeenth dog trained by Mark, who pays all the cost of raising them from the puppy stage until they graduate and move on to advanced training. Froomin started coming to our luncheon meetings at the same time Mark joined as a member. Mark has been the guest speaker at our Branch and most other Branches in the area and of course, Froomin was the star of the demonstration when Mark put him through his paces. Froomin was a great showman and presented the epitome of a well-trained service dog.

Many of us will be missing Froomin when he is not under his usual spot at table #1. But, Mark already has his next dog, Rex, who will be introduced at our next Luncheon.

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

# Sirs in the News

*Cool 49er's Branch 138, Auburn*

## **Cunningham Earns an HLM**

**Don Dill, Vice President**

Claude Cunningham received his Honorary Life Membership award at a January Branch 138 luncheon. In the picture, Vice President Don Dill is shown presenting the HLM award to Claude. Claude's wife, Ann, presented Claude with his HLM pin.

Vice President Don Dill has known Claude for about 14 years and was honored to make this presentation. Claude has been a pillar of leadership for his Branch since 1992 and he has held many key positions including Big Sir and Branch Treasurer.

Don informed the membership that meeting and befriending a fellow Sir of Claude Cunningham's character and depth is what being a Sir is all about. I urge all Branches to make the Claude Cunningham's of SIR their "Friends for Life."



*China Camp/Indian Valley Branch 68, San Rafael*

## **Phelan Awarded HLM**

**Eckart Sellinger, Bulletin Editor**

Jim Phelan has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership for his leadership as Big Sir for two years, when no one would step up and take that position. He kept the Branch operating successfully during difficult times. He showed very good judgment and exhibited care for his fellow Sirs and their welfare.

Jim always stays positive no matter what the challenge is, whether it's in the BEC, at our luncheons or at the Bocce Court or Bowling Alley. Jim has also held several other key positions in the Branch and the leaders of our Branch routinely depend on him for his opinion and experience. These characteristics also reach outside the Branch, as our Area Governor uses Jim as a resource.

In the picture Region 10 Director Jim Filippo (on the left) is shown presenting Jim with his well-deserved Honorary Life Membership at the January luncheon meeting.



## **Rodland Receives HLM**

In the photo at left, President Bob Hairston (right) is shown presenting an Honorary Life Membership to Maynard Rodland for his service as SIR President in 2014.



# Sirs in the News

## Sonora Branch 136

### An Amazing Bowler

Dale Decker, Bulletin Editor

Last Spring, Dave Rossi (see picture) bowled a perfect 300 game in the SIR Fall League. Now this is not an easy feat! This is a perfect score, so you have to bowl a strike in every one of your turns over ten frames. All this while also alternating between the left and the right lanes for each frame ...the odds of doing this are roughly 1 in 11,500.

Dave Rossi started bowling in the SIR League in the fall of 2012 after moving to this area from the Peninsula. In the first league he bowled at Black Oak and on the first day of bowling he bowled a 300. He has had other bowling accomplishments over the years, such as: Four 300 games at Black Oak; three in the Bay Area; an 800 series in our Annual Association Tournament last year; and one previously in the Bay Area. Other accomplishments include two 11-in-a-row strikes at Black Oak and two in the Bay Area (one a 299 game).

Way to go, Dave!!



## Chabot Branch 6, Castro Valley

## Pathfinder Branch 59, Newark/Fremont

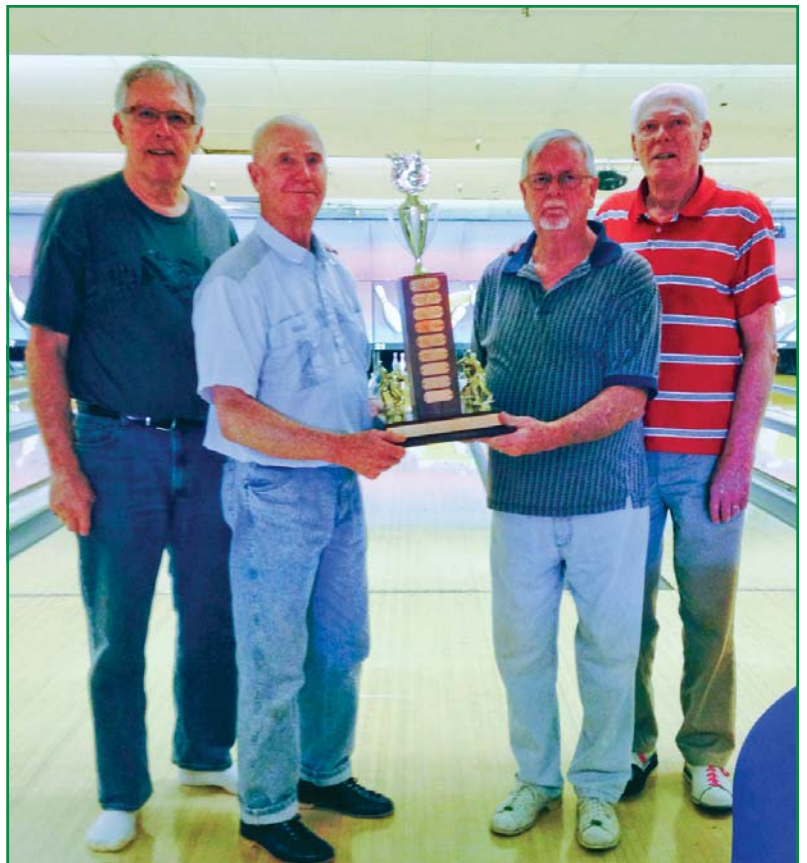
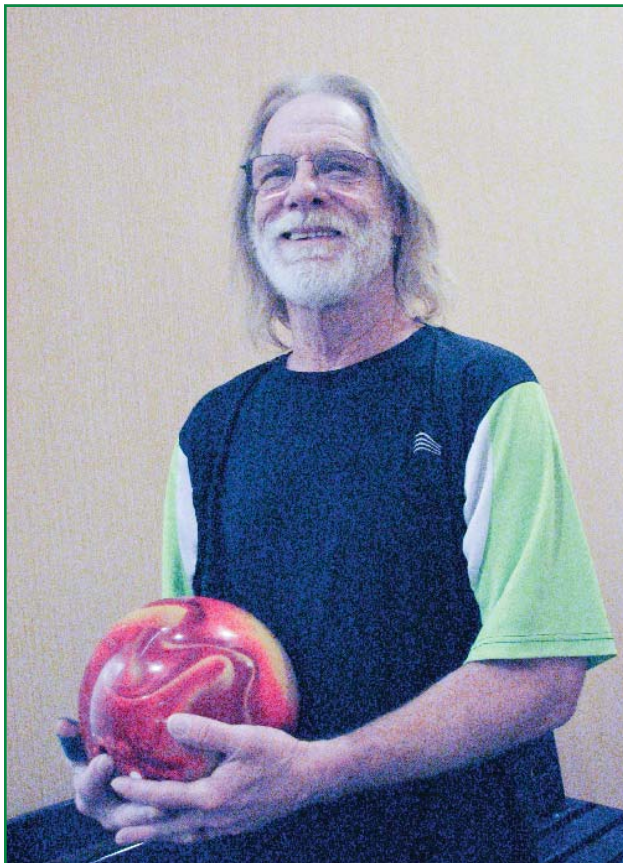
### Bowling Winners

#### Jerry Sabo, Bowling Chairman Branch 59

Branch 6 and Branch 59 joined forces to win the trophy shown below at the State Bowling Tournament held in Yuba City last year. The Branch 6/Branch 59 combined bowling team had a very good day. For starters, Don Henry and Jerry Sabo took top honors in doubles, and then they teamed up with Rich Bowers and Lew Heffron from Branch 6. The foursome won the State Division B Tournament –hence the trophy displayed in the photo.

Last year Branch 6 had a team composed of Lew Heffron, Rich Bowers, Chuck Pereira and Jim Minton. The four of them won the “traveling” trophy. Branch 6 will get back the trophy for a part of this year. Chuck passed away recently and we honored him at a recent “In-House” tournament

In the photo (left to right) Jerry Sabo and Don Henry from Branch 59, Rich Bowers, Lew Heffron from Branch 6.



# News from the Branches

Lamorinda Branch 171, Moraga

## Stamp Collecting Activity

John Schick, Stamp Club Member

Though waning somewhat in interest, especially among younger people, the hobby of stamp collecting is still very popular. Branch 171 has a small, yet very active stamp collecting activity.

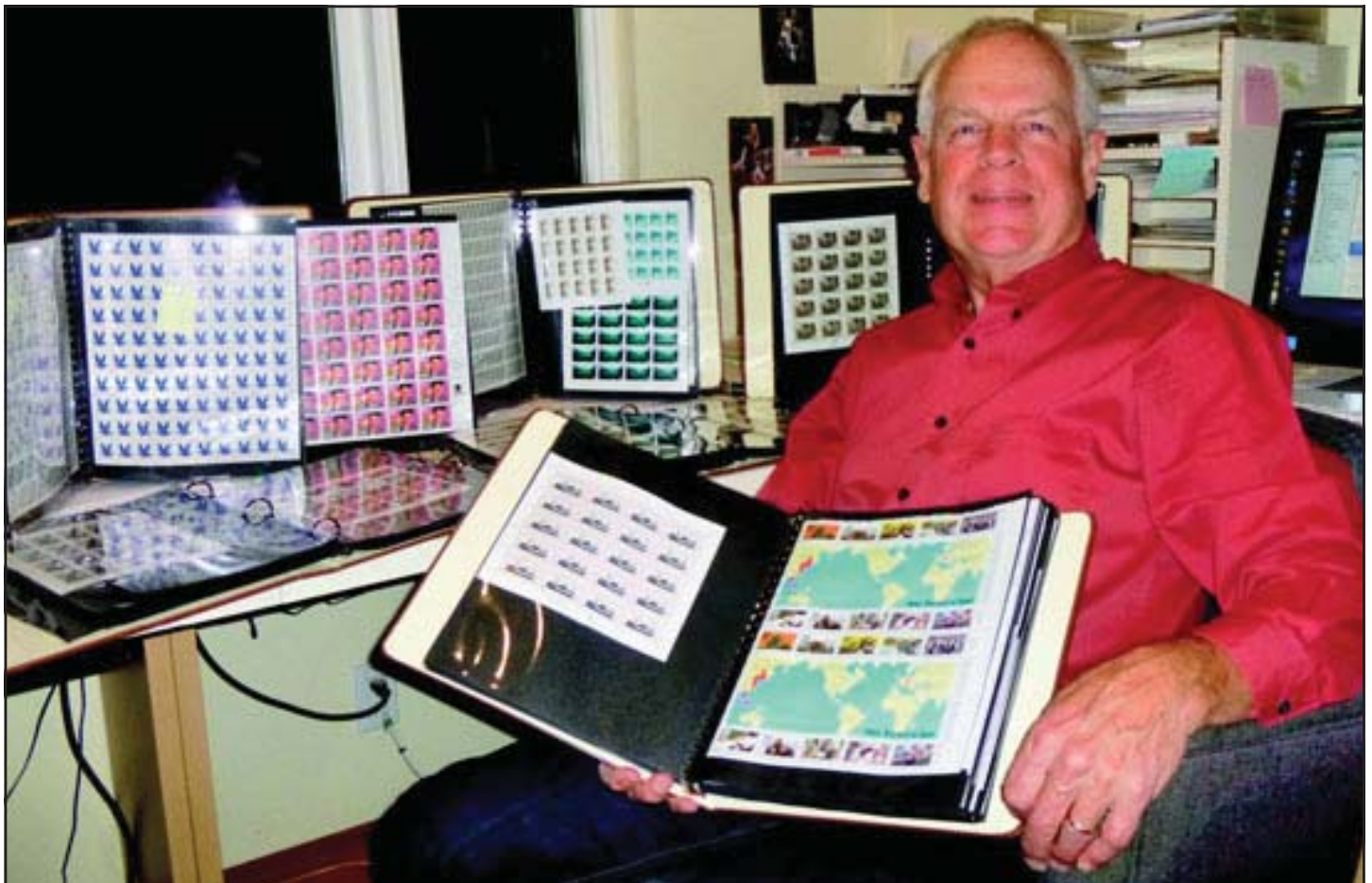
Our Stamp Group is chaired by stamp expert, Larry Beans, who until recently, had maintained an extensive collection covering the world. Before he passed away, a friend of Larry's, had asked him to dispose of his stamp collection for benefit of his family and Larry is shown in the picture with just some of the many stamps in that collection.

With about ten active members, including some from other nearby branches, we meet once a month where we share, trade, buy, and sell between us stamps to "fill out" our individual collections. We also receive collections from various sources such as estates, Branch members, and others who are not collectors themselves but have inherited collections from their parents or relatives. We help dispose of these collections

either by negotiating with a local stamp dealer and/or by making the stamps available for purchase by our activity members, thereby returning some value to the former owners or their families.

We do encourage more SIR members, who might have some stamp collections laying around, to get involved in this fascinating and educational hobby, either by joining an existing stamp collectors activity in their area or by starting up a stamp collectors activity

within their Branch and we would be happy to assist in getting such an activity started.



# News from the Branches

**Wine Valley Branch 149, Napa**

## **Hikers and Trippers**

**Pete Smith, Hiking Leader**

For several years Branch 149 had a Hiking Group among its many activities. For the last seven years, it was ably led by longtime member Marv Rothman. Last year, Marv turned the reins over to new member Pete Smith. At the same time, we renamed the group – “Hikers and Trippers” – to reflect on other outings that don’t involve hiking. Last year we hiked places such as: The Carquinez Bridge from Vallejo to Crocket, the Tenseness Trail in Marin, and the Benicia Bridge from Benicia to Martinez. One of our no hiking trips was to the San Francisco Maritime Park to view historic ships...we did this via the Vallejo Ferry and a ride on the antique F Line trolleys.



In January, we are returning to San Francisco to tour the WW11 Liberty ship, USS Jeremiah O’Brien. Meanwhile, we have established a regular 7:30 Monday morning walk around Napa’s beautiful Alston Park (see picture) where we often see colorful balloons landing. We follow this with breakfast at the Red Hen Cantina, one of Napa’s landmark restaurants. Future trips will include the California Auto Museum and Black Diamond Mines in Antioch and a hike at Point Reyes. All of our events are open to spouses and friends...a great way to attract new members!

**Fort Sutter Branch 14, Carmichael**

## **How Our Woodworkers Work**

**Don Langley, Woodworkers Chairman**

Several years ago it was suggested that Branch 14 start a wood working club. Since starting the group, we have lost two of the five founding members, but we have survived and grown to eleven current members. We meet once a month at a shop of one of the members, who supplies snacks and coffee and picks our agenda.

During the winter we meet at my shop (see picture) because it is warmed by my potbelly stove. During these months, members without shops take

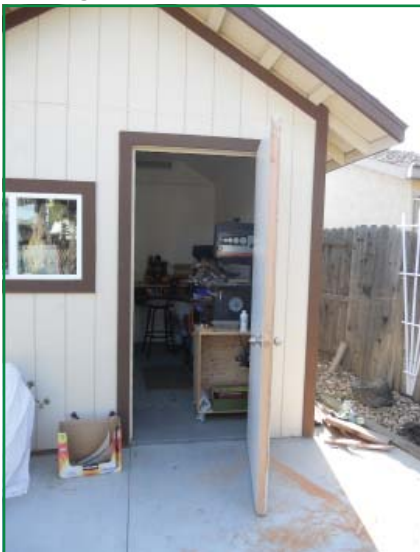


turns providing the snacks and picking the agenda.

We usually start with coffee and snacks, tell stories and show and tell what we have been doing during the month. We then move to the agenda, if there is one, or tell more stories or work on our own projects.

Items from our projects are made for charity, auctions, or gifts for family or friends. Our projects include such items as toaster tongs, cutting boards, wine stoppers, fountain pens, bird houses, door stops, pepper mills and Tonga drums. As a group we did build a 10’ x 12’ shop in the back yard of one of our members (see picture). We also do small projects or repairs on request.

Everyone is welcome to join us at all skill levels, from novice to expert. As of yet, none of us claim to be experts. If interested in joining us, contact Don Langley at (916) 955-5532. We always have a great time. Once strangers a few years ago, we have become good friends.



# News from the Branches

Luther Burbank Branch 17, Santa Rosa

## Couples Night Out

Jim Jones, Chairman, Couples Night Out

Jim Fenstermaker, Branch Secretary & Bulletin Editor

Our Couples Night Out is a monthly event which is intended to bring SIR couples together for an evening of enjoyment and dining at a local restaurant which is noted for its experience, cuisine and affordability. Our club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at a restaurant of choice. This month we will be dining at the Ca'Bianca Ristorante Italiano, in Santa Rosa. The husband and wife team of Marco Diana & Karin Hoehne have passionately restored the historic Marshall House back to its once proud glory and it is a true labor of love. The former home contains elegant dining rooms, beautiful shaded patios, subtly painted frescoes, crystal chandeliers, delicately carved moldings that adorn the ceilings, and lush gardens that just add a bit more charm to the impressive property (see the picture).



Ca'Bianca's cuisine is a blend from multiple regions of Italy...from Milano in the north, to Sicilia in the south. The delicious array of tantalizing dishes include house-made pasta and bread, perfectly cooked steaks, seafood classics, creative antipasti, garden fresh salads, and of course, rich desserts. Ca'Bianca is a treasure of warmth and charm in the heart of Santa Rosa.

Established in 1996, the Ca'Bianca Ristorante Italiano proudly boasts its founding principles of fresh local ingredients, top cooking techniques and a very appreciative list of clientele. For those Sirs in the area who wish to join us on our next fun outing at the Ca'Bianca Ristorante Italiano, please contact me, Jim Jones, at either [j\\_rjones@att.net](mailto:j_rjones@att.net) or 707-539-2027. Seating may be limited, so first come first served. Don't be left out of another great get together of good food, good wine and good friends. Hope to see you there!

## WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY GO

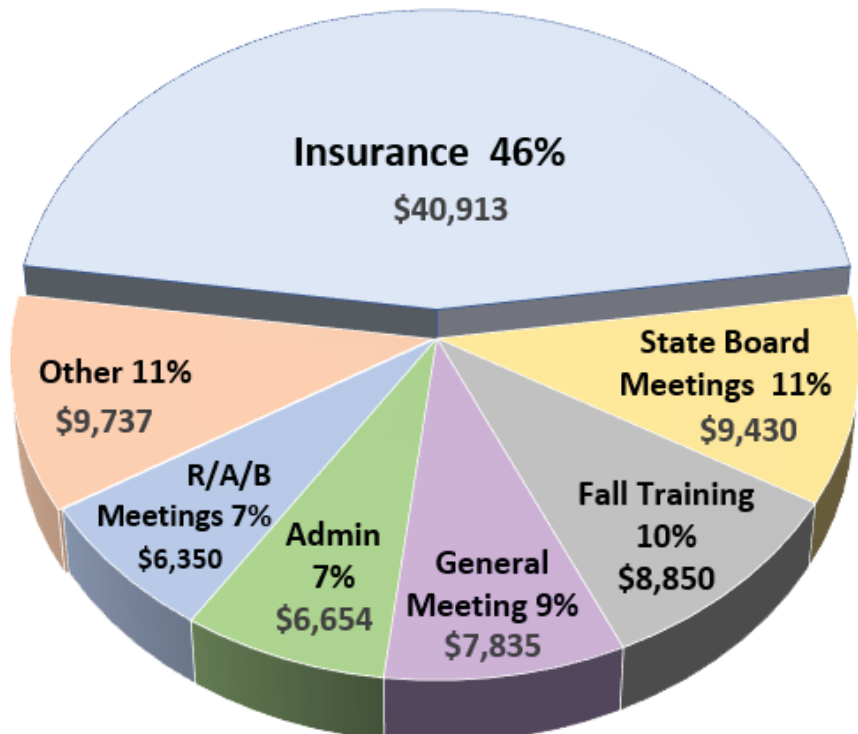
### 2015 SIR Budget

Derek Southern, State Secretary

During the 2014 Big SIR Training and the General Meeting, members asked questions about the finances of SIRInc. The graphic shows the breakdown of the 2015 budget as approved by the Board. More complete details about the budget and a comparison with that for 2014 can be found as Appendix C (page 34) in the minutes of the January 13, 2015 Board Meeting. The budget is reviewed periodically by the Budget Oversight Committee lead by Vice President Don Dill.

The minutes also include the Treasurer's report as well as the Auditor's report. Please go to <http://sirinc.org/protected/statemeetings/> to read this important information.

### SIRInc Expense Budget 2015



# SIR Ladies and Couples Activities

**Editor's Note:** *Involving more women in SIR activities not only makes the SIR Experience more fun but it also contributes to the vitality of our organization. Walt Schick, a key member of the Growth & Membership Committee, has compiled the following testimonials from some ladies that talk about their experiences participating in SIR activities. We hope our readers will find these testimonials interesting and will perhaps encourage their Branches to include more women in their activities.*

SIR has been very important to my husband, and I agree that it is a unique and advantageous group for retired men. Before retirement, I enjoyed the twice yearly ladies luncheons and various trips and other activities. However, about two years ago an active SIR member formed a Couples Golf Group. At first, we were a small group of only three couples who began playing once a month and enjoy lunch afterwards. But now, our group has grown to eighteen couples. We play monthly, and we also have an annual potluck dinner. We also enjoy SIR golf trips where the ladies either play with other ladies or in a couple's tournament. Not only have we made really good friends, but we also are physically and mentally challenged with our "prize of the month" contest! We "SIR Ladies" are very pleased to be included in the SIR Couples Golf Group! **Margaret B**



When my husband joined SIR, it not only gave him a whole new circle of friends and activities, it gave me the same. We, as a couple, have met so many new great people. There are also so many activities for couples such as dine in (pot luck), dine out, golf, day trips, and wine tasting to name just a few. Sons In Retirement has added greatly to both of our retirements. **Karen C**

By the time my husband retired, our neighbors had moved to other cities. His tennis foursome fell apart as one had arthritis and another passed away. When he joined Sons In Retirement, he made new friends in bridge, poker, and golf and became one of the Editors of the Branch Newsletter. His Branch

has many couples' activities and I met new girlfriends and joined them socially in such activities as wine tasting, dining in and dining out. Now a dozen of the ladies meet for lunch once a month. SIR has kept my husband and me active--retirement activities without having to move into a retirement community! **Ginny S**

I have a very vibrant social life because of SIR. I worked all my adult life and all my friends were from my work, with a few long-time friends. When I retired at a fairly young age, I didn't have any friends that lived nearby nor did my husband. When he joined SIR, all of a sudden our social life bloomed. There are many couples' activities and through those we became very friendly with quite a few couples. Some of the wives have formed various groups - social bridge and a once a month luncheon at someone's home or at a restaurant are two examples. Some of us have also traveled together. We also socialize with SIR couples outside of SIR activities. To quote my husband, "SIR has changed our lives." **Donna B**



# News from the Branches

*Spirit of 76 Branch 76, Santa Rosa*

## Trip to the Geysers

John Andrews, Bulletin Editor

Mark Wieszczyk, Branch Member

Last fall twenty-six Branch 76 members and friends (see picture) took a trip to the Geysers. We started out meeting in Geyserville, where a bus transported us on a 50-minute drive through the Mayacamas Mountains and the picturesque scenery above Geyserville. The Geysers area is comprised of naturally occurring steam field reservoirs below the earth's surface that are being harnessed by Calpine and others to make clean, green, renewable energy for homes and businesses across Northern California... the other picture shows an example of the area.

The Geysers, comprising 45 square miles along the Sonoma and Lake County border, is the largest complex of geothermal power plants in the world. The Geysers have 19 operating power plants with a net generating capacity of about 725 megawatts of electricity – enough to power 725,000 homes, or a city the size of San Francisco.

On the trip we toured an actual power plant run on geothermal steam that comes from wells with an average a depth of 8,500 feet. We also were able to visit a well pad, a fish ladder, and some naturally occurring fumaroles. Fumaroles are natural occurring holes in the ground that vent steam

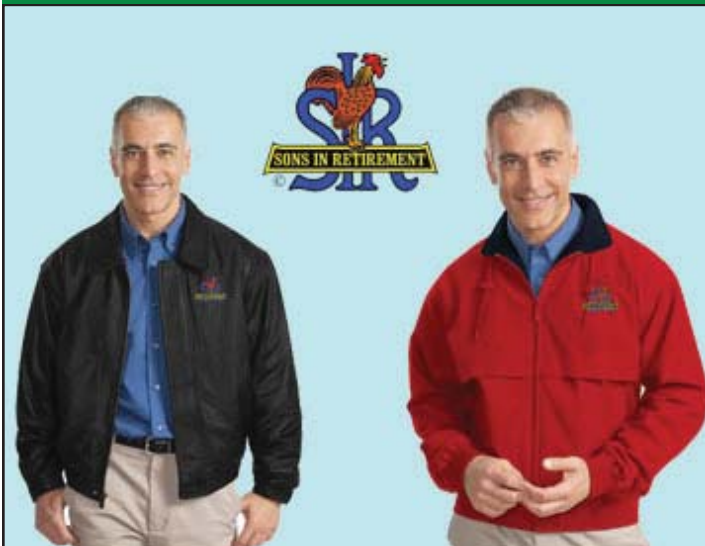
vapor continuously into the air. After the tour, Branch 76 members enjoyed a wonderful lunch served at the Geyserville Grill, formerly the Hoffman House. Everyone was impressed with the food selection and service.

The tour, with the exception of lunch, was free and provided by Calpine. If you are interested in a tour of the Geysers, check with Calpine for their tour schedule and visitors center



## What the Well-Dressed Sirs are Wearing

You can order these items and more on the SIR Website





## State Bowling

**Del Locke, State Bowling Committee Chairman**



The SIR State Bowling Committee just held its semi-annual meeting in February. Several members volunteered to fill vacancies on the committee. Our new Committee Treasurer is Joe Young from Pollock Pines and the Assistant Treasurer is Dick Braden of Livermore. Also filling spots on the committee are Russ Salazar, from Pollock Pines, who is now the Committee Vice Chairman and Curtis Manning, from Brentwood, as the Policy Advisor to the committee. I want to thank the Sirs who stepped up to fill these vacancies for 2015. The State Bowling Committee, as all committees and boards within SIR, does not run itself. SIR is a total volunteer organization and without these Sirs stepping in to fill roles on the committee, it puts the burden on others who are already filling a different role. I do want to thank our outgoing Committee Treasurer, Ray Young, who for the last 3 years did an excellent job for the committee and the SIR organization.

In January I attended the State Board meeting, where the 2015 SIR Tournament Bowling schedule was presented and approved. The approved schedule can be found on our SIR Bowling website. All documents pertaining to the Bowling Committee activities, as well as tournament schedules, tournament announcements, and entry forms, and results can be found on our Bowling website. If you have any problems getting to these documents, there is a link to our web master, Dan Weller, who can fix you right up.

We are now two tournaments into 2015 – Stockton and Napa – with the third tournament next week in Livermore. Attendance is down a little from last year, so I urge you to find a partner and get out and bowl in some of our tournaments. It's lots of fun and you will meet new Sirs who are there to have a good time with their fellow Sirs. Start planning now for the State Tournament being held in Sonora, at the Black Oak Casino, in May. It's a great facility!



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## INFOSYS Committee

**Dean Steichen, Chairman**

Does your Branch have a Website? Do you browse it regularly? Where do you find out about what is happening in your Branch and what events and activities are planned? Do you use the State Website, read your Branch newsletter or look at your Branch Website?

Your Branch Website and the State Website provide access to Newsletters, notices of upcoming events and activities, as well as reports and photos of the fun had by participants.

If you are reading this, you have already found **SIR Happenings**. Do your SIR friends read *SIR Happenings*? It's a great place to find out about the many things going on in SIR beyond your Branch.

I encourage you to take advantage of the many sources of info about SIR available on the State and Branch websites. You might be surprised with all the interesting and entertaining things happening throughout SIR.

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



# Committee Reports

## State Golf Committee

Bill Wilhelm, Chairman

Well, we completed our first committee meeting of the year on February 10, 2015 and resolved several issues.

Pending approval by SIR Inc. our schedule is as follows:



1. ***Spring Time in Napa Valley Tournament, April 20 & 21, 2015.***  
This tournament is nearly sold out, so if you are interested, please email me at bill@billandbev.com. Please check our website (www.golf.sirinc2.org) for further information and the application. Women are also encouraged to participate.
2. ***Reno Tournament, Atlantis Hotel, June 2015.***  
Our host for this event will be the Atlantis Hotel where you can enjoy one of the nation's 10 best hotel spas, indoor and outdoor pools, along with several gourmet restaurants. Watch for the flier from Atlantis which you should be receiving shortly. We will be playing three great courses. Somerset, Lakeridge and Red Hawk. This is always a great event so mark your calendars and get your group together.  
Week one June 15 – 19, 2015  
Week two June 22 – 26, 2015
3. ***Team Event at Poppy Ridge, August 10, 2015.***  
We have not played here in a few years and we are excited to return to one of NCGA's finest courses. Get your team together and participate in your Area Qualifier.
4. ***Fall Classic September 14 & 15, 2015.***  
Our Fall Classic this year has changed dramatically. We changed the venue from Solvang to Whitney Oaks in Rocklin and changed from a three day tournament to a two day tournament. This will be a member/guest event so you can bring a friend or relative along so they can see how much fun SIR events are. Women are also encouraged to participate.
5. ***Poppy Hills, October 27 & 28, 2015.***  
Our last tournament of the year will be held at Poppy Hills Golf Club. As you all know, the renovation has received rave reviews. I'm sure you will all enjoy playing the newly designed holes. We have changed a little due to popular demand. This year day #1 will be open play for 144 golfers and day #2 will be our Individual Championship where 70 lucky golfers from throughout the state get their green fees paid by SSGC. That still leaves 74 spots for the rest of us to play a truly wonderful golf course.

Visit our Web Site at [www.golf.sirinc2.org](http://www.golf.sirinc2.org) for information regarding any of these tournaments.

Please mark your calendars for these events and plan to play one or two a year. They are great tournaments, on fantastic golf courses at a reasonable price, with a friendly group of people. What more could you ask for?

I hope to see you soon at one of our tournaments. Send me your ideas or thoughts about SIR Golf.

## Message from Bob Hairston

- Presidents and Big Sirs have a ***one*** year term. So this year, with your help, I would like to make it the year of ***one***.
- ***Membership***- Plus ***One***. As a Branch, your main objective is to close the year with ***one*** more member than you had at the start of the year.
- ***Guests***- Encourage each member to bring at least ***one*** guest this year.
- ***Business Card***- Encourage each member to carry at least ***one*** business card in his wallet. It will make it easier to invite someone to lunch. To create business cards specifically for your branch download full instructions from: <http://sirinc.org/protected/BrAreaTools/invitecard/invitecard.html>. A tool to print multiple cards commercially is part of these instructions.
- ***Apparel*** – Have and wear at least ***one*** item of SIR apparel. ***One*** shirt, ***one*** hat, or ***one*** jacket. Show your colors. Be proud of being a SIR.
- We have this ***one*** year to make it happen. Let's make 2015 ***one*** great year to remember!

# Happenings Travel Bulletin

**May 6-18, 2015**

## ***Cruising the Best of Scandinavia***

This is a 13 day escorted tour with stops in Stockholm & Copenhagen plus a seven day Royal Caribbean Cruise of the Norwegian Fjords. Highlights of the trip are: In Stockholm, the Vasa Ship Museum, then a 7 night Norwegian Fjord Cruise, seeing Stavanger, Bergen, Alesund, Geirangerfjord, Copenhagen, and the Tivoli Gardens. Get your reservations in soon because there is already a wait list for Balcony staterooms. Prices range from \$5259 to \$6059 PPDO, depending on cabin selection. Offered by Branch 38 Travel. Contact Bill Rodman at 408-274-4521 or Hank Clark at 408-223-6464.



**June 18-22, 2015**

## ***World Series of Poker***

During this 5 day trip, you can watch (for free) the excitement of the Senior World Series of Poker (WSOP) at the Rio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, or, if you are adventurous, you can take part (but there is an entry fee, which is not included), or you can pursue other Vegas activities. Optional tours and shows are available on request. The cost is \$845 PPDO, which includes air fare and 4 nights in a luxury suite at the Rio. There will be an additional \$25 per room, per night resort fee, charged when you check in. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765.



**June 19-30, 2015**

## ***The Italian Riviera & Lake Como***

Unpack only twice. Five nights each in the resort towns of San Remo (which is in the heart of the Italian Riviera) and in the beautiful resort area of Lake Como, where many of the rich and famous Europeans spend their vacations. We will visit, in addition to San Remo and Lake Como, places such as: Rapallo, Portofino, Santa Margherita, Dolceacqua, Genoa, Belliagio, Bergamo, and tour three of Lake Como's Great Villas and their gorgeous gardens. The price includes R/T air, accommodations, 18 meals, admissions, a tour manager and guides. The cost is \$5140 PPDO and could be reduced if we exceed 20 paid passengers. Offered by Branches 54 and 32 Travel. Contact Mike Console at 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch at 408-274-2992.

**September 19-27, 2015**

## ***Upper Mississippi River Steamboat Cruise***

We will fly to Minneapolis/St. Paul for an overnight stay prior to boarding the elegant American Queen paddle-wheeler for a seven night cruise along the Upper Mississippi River during the Fall Color season. Each day we will be in a different port with free shore excursions. All meals and evening entertainment are included, as are amenities such as wine with dinner, a Captain's champagne welcome reception, and a private cocktail party. Prices vary, with stateroom selection, from \$4,875 to \$5,765 PPDO. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Contact Allen Daily at 408-265-8140 or Don House at 408-268-1703.

**October 9-23, 2015**

## ***Eastern Mediterranean Cruise***

This is an eleven-day round-trip, Rome to Rome on the luxurious Celebrity Reflection. The trip includes, two pre-cruise nights in Rome (Hotel Ponte Sisto) with two guided tours—ancient Rome and the Vatican. We will visit legendary cities such as Istanbul, Athens, Ephesus, Naples, Mykonos and Santorini. The trip includes air, all shipboard meals, entertainment, group cocktail party, and one bottle of wine per cabin. Costs range from \$5380 to \$6100 PPDO, depending on stateroom category. Offered by Branch 114 Travel. Call Jim Stoner at 408-238-8458 or Larry Martinson at 408-238-0746.

**November 5-23, 2015**

## ***Crossroads of Turkey***

This land tour of Turkey begins with 3 days in Istanbul and then continues to Asiatic Turkey, with a stop at the WW I battlefield of Gallipoli. Stops will include many ancient Biblical, Roman and Greek sites, as well as fascinating geological features and museums, showing history back to the Hittites. The cost per person is \$3795, either single or double, and includes air fare from SFO, tour transportation, all hotel accommodations, and 35 meals. An optional 5 day pre-trip to Athens is available for \$1295. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765.

**January 9-19, 2016**

## ***Mexican Riviera Trip***

This is a round trip cruise from San Francisco. The ports of call will be: Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo, Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas. Some of the attractions include: Splendid beaches and lush jungles, early architecture and towns, wildlife, Mexico's largest turtle sanctuary, kayaking, snorkeling or scuba diving, zip-lining and other outdoor adventures such as, dolphin encounters and whale watching. Costs range from \$1455 to \$1995 PPDO, depending on cabin selection and includes home pick up to & from the San Francisco Pier and all shipboard meals & entertainment. 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

## Golden Gate Fields Presents....

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

**When: Friday March 27, 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**

Includes: Valet parking (or parking for a bus), admission & reserved seating, daily racing program, Turf Club Buffet, tax/tip for the food servers. The coordinator of the Branch that brings the largest number of attendees will receive a cash voucher of \$100.00!

**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)

## 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!

## Computers

### Hey Computer Guy

Frank Franzago, Branch 69 Bulletin Editor

One of our Branch members recently had an interesting computer problem. The only thing that he could get on his monitor was the error message "No Signal Available." The school solution for this problem is: check the connections between the monitor and computer, re-boot the computer, replace the VGA cable (connection from computer to monitor) and try another monitor. If all of these fail – and they did – the problem is in the computer, most likely the video card. They say that you should open the computer, remove the video card, clean the contacts and re-seat it and if this doesn't work, replace it. When he opened up his computer, there was dust everywhere. He blew it out with air to get rid of the dust bunnies and guess what? It also got rid of the problem.

I recently opened my computer to install more RAM and I was amazed how every component was coated with a thick layer of dust...dust bunnies were everywhere! This is pretty normal and it is recommended that you vacuum your computer once a year to avoid problems.

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



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

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