



# SIR HAPPENINGS

APRIL 2016 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

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

## President Don's Column

Project 2016 has completed their surveys and field Focus Groups. They have gathered your recommendations and possible solutions to the issues that face SIR today. In May, they will be visiting with the Big Sirs to review plans for the future and I urge all Branches to participate. I have spent hours reviewing the findings and three key initiatives that you have asked for stand for *immediate action*.



1. The need to Recruit & Retain members and stop our loss in membership in the majority of our Branches. Your consensus opinion is to implement the basics of RAMP. Training will be provided via numerous sources but don't wait; start now by taking action.
2. Publicity: You want direct assistance on "What is SIR" and how do we get our Branch message to prospective members.
3. Rules: You want to reduce the number of rules, simplify the manual, and improve our communications to the Branches.

There are more but these three we/you can start immediately, with help from your Area Governor or Regional Director and your President. What can I do to motivate you to take action on the first two initiatives?

*Don Dill*  
President

## Southern Peninsula Branch 5, Mountain View

### A Good Social & Exercise Activity Jim Lunt, Biking Chairman

The Branch 5 Bike Riding Group has been around for about 15 years. Rides are planned to be both a social and exercise activity and we only ride on paved bicycle trails so that almost any type of bike in working order can be used. Both wives and guests are always welcome.

The pace is moderate and the rides are about 15 to 20 miles in distance. We go about half way, then stop for lunch and return the same way. Most of the time the group will stretch out with a lead group, a middle group, and those who like to socialize bringing up the rear...so, we stop about every 2 to 3 miles to bring the group back together.

An example of a recent event was riding the flat Foster City Bay Trail for about 10 miles from the Oracle Headquarters to the Poplar Creek Golf Club at Coyote Point for lunch, before turning around and heading back. The picture shows a typical group during a previous ride.

Any Sirs in the area that are interested in riding with us, can call me, Jim Lunt, on my cell phone at 408-921-5085 or my home phone, 408-252-6804.



BRING IN A GUEST - WE NEED NEW MEMBERS

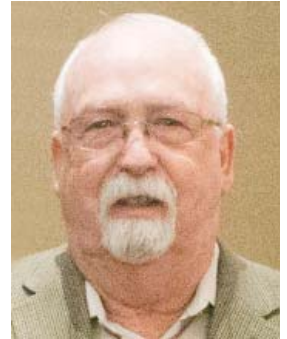
## Spotlight on State Officers

### **Jerry Strain — 2016 State Vice President**

I would like to give you some background about myself and my family so that you know exactly who I am.

I am a native Californian born in Modesto and raised in Riverbank. I attended grammar school in Riverbank and graduated from Oakdale High School in 1960. My wife and I were married in December of 1960 and have now been married for 55 years. We have three children, 6 grandchildren, and one great grandson, all living in California.

In January of 1961, I joined the US Air force where I spent 8 years as a Missile Systems Guidance Technician. I went to work for Westinghouse in February of 1969 where I spent the next 33 years. While working for Westinghouse, I went back to school at night and worked during the day. I have earned two AS Degrees, one in Metallurgy and one in Electrical Engineering. In 1985, I received a BSCS Degree in Computer Science. I then spent the next 17 years working as a Senior Systems Engineer with Westinghouse and eventually Northrop Grumman in the field of Oceanic Research with the Naval Department. I retired in 2002 and moved back to Modesto where most of our family still lives.



I joined Sons In Retirement in 2004, in order to play golf with my neighbor. In just over a year from the date I joined, I began to become quite active in SIR. I became the Branch Golf Chairman in 2004 and held that position until 2008. I was appointed as the Area 22 Golf Chairman from 2007 until 2012. As you can see, I held other jobs at the same time. I was Assistant Branch Secretary in 2008 and Secretary in 2009. At the same time, in 2009, I was appointed to the State Golf Committee as a member of the Policy Board.

In 2010, I was elected as the Little Sir of Branch 144, and in 2011 elected as the Big Sir. While I was the Big Sir, I also served on the State Golf Committee and was appointed as the Chairman of the Policy Committee. I served there for two years until 2012 when I and became Chairman of the Operations Committee where I served until January of 2016.

From 2014 until 2015, I served as Regional Director for Region 8. While serving as RD, I was also appointed as Chairman of the Growth and Membership Committee. As you may or may not see, I had 3 separate jobs at the same time.

I am now Vice President of SIR, and am proud of my legacy with SIR, particularly the Honorary Life Membership that my Branch awarded me in 2012, which to me is the highest award that SIR can bestow on one of its members.

## Sirs in the News

*Placer Gold Branch 37, Auburn*

### **Mike Nickey Awarded an Honorary Life Membership**

**Mike Moore, Bulletin Editor**

President Don Dill is seen presenting an Honorary Life Membership award to Mike Nickey for his many contributions to Branch 37. Shown in the picture with Mike, is his wife, Jeanne.



# Sirs in the News

## Santa Lucia Branch 89, Salinas

### Worker Bee Awarded an HLM

#### Vic Lanini, Big Sir

At the March luncheon meeting, Bob Earl (on the right in the picture) was presented with an Honorary Life Membership by Region 7 Director, Pat Misener (on the left) and Area Governor, Pat O' Keefe (standing in the center).

Bob has been a member of Branch 89 for 17 years, having served as Big Sir, along with heading up the Golf Program, and currently is responsible for our web page which he researched and implemented with the help of his son. That feat in itself was a big undertaking that has greatly benefited our Branch.

Bob is one of those true worker bees who never turns down a request to take on a task. He joins Norm Graulich as our two allotted positions for this honor. However, the recent merger of Branch 56 into Branch 89 added two more Honorary Life Members: Ray Morasca and Jack Smales.



## Discovery Bay Branch 161

### Will Myers Earns an HLM

#### Tom Jones, Bulletin Editor

State President Bob Hairston is shown presenting Will Myers with the prestigious Honorary Life Member Award. Left to right in the photo are Will's wife Raquel, Will, and Bob Hairston.

Will has been a member for 18 years, and has served in several Branch Executive Board positions, including Little Sir and Big Sir. He is recognized for his participation in, loyalty to, and contributions to the betterment of Branch 161.



## Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto

### Golf Champion

#### Don Reed, Bulletin Editor

Area 22 Golf Chairman Joe Adams is shown presenting Faustino Saldivar with a State Individual Championship jacket. Faustino placed 1st in Flight 1 at Creekside Area 22 in July, District 8 in Atwater in August. Then the State Championship in October 2015 at Poppy Hills in Pebble Beach. Congratulations, champion!!



*Livermore Branch 101, Livermore*

## **Roger Everett and Bruce Nevin Receive HLMs for Notable Service** Ron Saltgaver, Bulletin Editor

Last Fall Branch 101 honored two members for their notable contributions to SIR and Branch 101.

Roger Everett joined the Branch in 2003. He has served in a number of key positions including: both Big and Little Sir; a member of the BEC for many years; is quite active in the Hiking Group, Kayaking and SIR travel. In addition to all of that, he has brought in somewhere in excess of 26 new members. He is shown in the picture on the upper right with President Bob Hairston receiving the award.

Bruce Nevin joined our Branch in March of 2001. He has been a very active leader in the Branch and some the key positons that he has held are: serving as both Big and Little Sir, a member of the BEC, Attendance and Membership Chairman. Overall, he has been made a big contribution to the health of Branch 101. He is shown with President Hairston in the picture on the lower right.



*Snowline Branch 113, Pollock Pines*

## **Bob Perrault and Bob Rath Senior Honorary Life Members** Russ Salazar, Little Sir

Snowline Branch 113 in Pollock Pines recently honored two Senior Honorary Life Members for their selfless dedicated service to SIR. Senior Honorary Life Member status was bestowed on Robert Rath and Robert Perrault.

Robert Rath was a founding member helping to establish Snowline Branch 113 in 1983. Since that time he has actively served in leadership positions in the Branch, Area, Region, and State levels. Robert was presented an HLM award in 1998. He is now 91 years old.

Robert Perrault became a member of Branch 113 in 1995 and, since that time, has served in many Branch leadership positions. He has served in most of the positions on the BEC and has chaired many committees and projects. Bob was presented an HLM award in 2008. He is now 88 years old.

Russ Salazar is shown presenting the Senior HLM awards to Robert Perrault (on the left) and Robert Rath (on the right) at the Branch annual Christmas party.



# News from the Branches

*Contra Costa Branch 146, Walnut Creek*

## **Acoustic Musicians Group**

*Richard Hockenbrock, Bulletin Editor*

*Carl Tilchen, Group Leader*

It is not every day when you have a professional musician come to a SIR luncheon to join the organization. But so it was when Carl Tilchen joined our branch several years ago. Looking back, Carl came to his first meeting with a guitar in hand. He met Alan Elnick, now Branch 146 Little Sir, who noticed Carl's guitar and they instantly became friends. A month or two later they started the Acoustic Musicians Group as a new Branch activity.

Carl began promoting their group in the Branch 146 SIR CALL newsletter and opened the group to any and all Area 2 SIR members, in addition to welcoming wives and significant others. He holds his monthly meetings in either Alan's home or another member's home in Walnut Creek. He writes: "Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome. Spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy."

The Acoustic Musicians Group has been meeting for some time now and I decided to attend as SIR CALL Bulletin Editor to gather material for this article. Carl had his agenda ready and his first subject was "Let It Be" by the Beatles to analyze the lyrics, play the guitar, and sing the song. I learned that Carl and Alan are accomplished lyricists. On this particular day, Harvey Oxman attended with his guitar and all three of them started jamming.



Carl Tilchen discussing the recent song he wrote, "Can You Imagine" for the refugees fleeing the War in Syria



Al Elnick singing a song he wrote while living in New York City called "Judith Ann" about a girl he met at TGI Friday's

*Contra Costa Branch 146, Walnut Creek*

## **Mexican Train Dominoes**

*Rich Hockenbrock, Bulletin Editor*

Eighteen people showed up for the final Mexican Train Dominoes game of the year at Jeff and Alicia Baily's home on New Year's Eve.

At precisely midnight, New York time, the group posed for this picture, hooting and hollering and wishing each other a Happy New Year and somewhere out of that din emerged the dulcet tones of Auld Lang Syne led by our SongSir, Lynn Shafer.



## News from the Branches

*Spirit of 76 Branch 76, Santa Rosa*

### **Couples Night Out**

**Jim Jones, Chairman of Couples Night Out Club**

Our Couples Night Out is a monthly event designed to bring Branch 76 couples together for an evening of dining enjoyment at a local restaurant which is noted for its excellence, cuisine and affordability. Our club meets every month at a restaurant of choice. Our last night out was at the Walter Hansel Wine & Bistro (see pictures).

This restaurant is a favorite of discriminating diners. Their famously delicious dinners are served in a casually elegant

environment with an upscale feel. They feature an amazing menu of French, country-style cuisine, graced with a few worldly surprises. The atmosphere is Wine Country casual and the service is “magnifique!”

The Bistro’s wine list has been hand selected by owner Steve Hansel, winemaker and owner of Walter Hansel Winery. The wine list features the very best that Wine Country has to offer and a selection of French wines that will provide the perfect pairing for an exquisite meal.

If any Sir in this area would like to join us for a fun night out, just call me, Jim Jones at 707-539-2027.



*John Muir Branch 19, Clayton*

### **Flashback Tour of San Francisco's Haight Ashbury**

**Bernie Theobald, Day Trip & Publicity Chairman**

Members of our John Muir Branch 19 recently spent an enjoyable day trip to San Francisco’s eclectic Haight Ashbury neighborhood. This unique and enjoyable trip was organized to recall and commemorate the 1967 Summer of Love. Seventeen folks—including husbands and wives—commuted from the East Bay into the city to participate in a unique, and interesting, flashback walking tour of the Haight. The focus was on the cultural impact and music coming out of San Francisco’s Haight Ashbury community during that late 1960’s era.

The two-hour walking tour included stops at the former residences of Janis Joplin, the Grateful Dead, the Jefferson Airplane, the Diggers community firehouse, and the Panhandle. SIR members and their wives

also had the opportunity to see and learn about the colorful history of the “painted ladies.” There are some beautiful Victorian homes that have become an integral part of the neighborhood. The seminal Haight Ashbury community is yet another interesting example of one of the many different neighborhoods that help comprise the unique fabric of the Bay Area.

Standing in front of The Grateful Dead house in the Haight are from left to right: Gayle Duncan, Elaine Stephenson, Jack Duncan, Jim Garcia, Bobbi Silberman, Barry Silberman, Lorraine Ruppert, John Fernando, tour guide Kurt Weitzmann, Tom Ruppert, Mike Krawesky, Bill Stephenson, Connie Krawesky, Michelle Barnaba, Jack Barnaba, Hilda Luke, Nelson Luke, and Bernie Theobald.



# Committee Reports

## INFOSYS Committee

Dean Steichen, Committee Chairman

Have you really looked at the first page of our SIRINC.ORG website?

Does it project the “correct” image of SIR? Do we look like we are a friendly group? Do we provide enough information about SIR that a visitor would get a pretty good idea of who we are and what we are about?

When you look at the webpage, do you get the feeling - “WOW, that looks like an organization I would be interested in being a part of”? Do you recognize that SIR has activities and events which might interest you? Do you get the message that SIR is open to all men that are retired or semi-retired, does not have religious or political ties and does not raise money to support other causes?

Do you think a visitor is encouraged to look for Branches near him? Can he easily find the listing of our Branches and Branch Websites? Is there enough information for a visitor to easily get connected to SIR?

If you think we are not projecting the correct image, let INFOSYS know. We are always looking for concrete ideas to improve the message and image we portray in our publications and website.

If you are interested in helping, INFOSYS is looking for you. Contact Dean Steichen, INFOSYS Chairman, [DJSTEICH@comcast.net](mailto:DJSTEICH@comcast.net).



## State Bowling Committee

Jerry Sabo, Committee Chairman

The State Bowling Committee’s fall meeting was held in February, at the Elks Lodge in Sacramento. A great deal of time was spent revising the By-Laws of the Bowling Committee to incorporate some of the changes we have made to improve the bowling faction of SIR. For example, this year we included a no-tap tournament at Stockton which was attended by 50 bowlers. This was the first such SIR Tournament and By-Law changes were necessary.



Bowling Policy Advisors Curtis Manning and Bryan Davenport have implemented a SIR Tournament Database, where Tournament Managers can access bowler history from past SIR Tournaments. Previously, Tournament Managers were forced to use the USBC posted averages for handicap found only on Bowl.com. By-Law changes have been made to allow the Tournament Database to be used. The Database that is manned by Bryan Davenport and Bowling Web Master Dan Weller, gives everyone using the SIR website quick access to both USBC and SIR Tournament averages. The primary purpose of the Database is to give SIR bowlers more incentive to attend tournaments. Often times a bowler achieves a high average at his home bowling alley, but really falters when attending a tournament at another location.

New Bowling Committee members Paul Kramer—Assistant Secretary, and Eric Miller—Assistant Treasurer, were installed at the February meeting.

If there is something you think the Committee needs to address concerning SIR

tournament bowling, please let a member of the committee know what your concern is so we may address it. SIR Bowling Committee members can be found on the SIR Bowling website. Our next

scheduled Committee meeting will be held on August 2nd at the Elks Lodge in Sacramento.



# News from the Branches

*Mount Diablo Branch 8, Walnut Creek*

## **Explore and Eat**

**Ron Woods, Chairman**

**Larry McEwen, Assistant Chairman**

Our Explore & Eat Activity arranges tours for Branch 8 members and their guests, highlighting cultural events coupled with excellent dining opportunities in the Bay Area. Over the past year these trips have included “Day at the Races;” the Autodesk Gallery on Market Street in San Francisco; and the “Looking East” exhibit at the Asian Art Museum connecting Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painters with the influence of Japanese art.

Last March, seven Sirs and their guests went to visit the Pierre Bonnard Exhibit at San Francisco’s Palace of the Legion of Honor (see picture). The museum is one of the City’s principal museums of fine arts and is housed in a replica of the French Pavilion of the 1915 San Francisco Pan-American Exposition. It is located in the City’s Lincoln Park with commanding views of both the Golden Gate Bridge and the City.

The exhibit, entitled “Painting Arcadia,” consisted of over 70 works that spanned the artist’s complete career, from his early Nabi masterpieces, through his experimental photography, to the late interior scenes for which he is best known. The exhibit celebrated Bonnard (1867-1947) as one of the defining figures of modernism in the transitional period between Impressionism and abstraction.

Also on exhibit was Raphael’s “Portrait of a Lady with a Unicorn,” surely one of Raphael’s most beguiling and enigmatic paintings. This exhibit consisted of only one painting featuring an unidentified blond-haired sitter and epitomized the beauty of Raphael’s female portraits during his Florentine period.

The exhibition further highlighted the stylistic relationships between this masterpiece and Leonardo da Vinci’s “Mona Lisa.” Leonardo’s canonical work, painted in Florence in the early years of the 16th century,

had a great impact on the younger Raphael, who also practiced in the city during this period. Our group was able to explore Raphael’s painting in detail and also got a glimpse into its intriguing history including changes that were fostered upon the painting over the last 600 years.

Quite an interesting day for all of us!





# News from the Branches

**Luther Burbank Branch 17, Santa Rosa**

## **Global Forum**

**Thomas Johnson, Branch member**

**Jim Fenstermaker, Bulletin Editor**

Once a month, members of Santa Rosa Branch 17 gather for a friendly discussion on the world around us. No topic, past, present, or even future, is off limits. There are even occasional friendly discussions of politics and religion when they relate to international affairs. The group has been meeting for two years to enjoy multiple perspectives on current events. In our attempts to understand world events, we have explored various topics extending from pre-Socratic philosophers to the rise of the Islamic Caliphate in the 8th and 9th centuries to the current petroleum oversupply and its impact on international affairs. It's an eclectic crew of SIR members and we're ready to explore wherever the subject takes us.

The Global Forum began with the interests of a single member, Chuck Aver, who has sadly since passed away, but others have come forward to keep the Forum going. Chuck invited others to join him over coffee to discuss current events. Only one person came the first month. The group has grown since and any number of members stop in, when their other schedules allow.

Every month is different and all are exciting. All it takes is one person willing to host the gathering and great fun can ensue. Add a bit of coffee and the discussion just takes off. Meetings are held each month on the second Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 am. If anyone in the area is interested in joining our discussions or would just like more information, please contact Thomas Johnson at TWJ@sonic.net.



**Mission Trail Branch 35, Palo Alto**

## **Trail Birds Serenade Guest Speaker**

**Del Fillmore, Bulletin Editor**

Branch 35 may not be the only Branch with a chorus. Ours is called the Trail Birds because we are the Mission Trail Branch and this group of a dozen or so men have been singing since our Branch was organized way back in 1971 (see picture). But, in 1974, they tried something new. They started "helping" to introduce guest speakers by singing a parody song related to each speaker's background or topic.

The idea is "easier said than done," and currently two of our members, David Skurnick and Bob Simon, take turns at the challenge of composing parody lyrics. In a recent example, the speaker was a shoulder surgeon and explained the benefits of shoulder repair for avid golfers...and Branch 35 is very big on golf. So, David set his lyrics to "Enjoy Yourself, It's Later Than You Think":

You'd like to play a round of golf; it's such a lovely day,  
Your driver is a RAZR Fit Xtreme from Callaway.  
Club like that can send the ball two hundred yards or more,  
But, you can't drive a golf ball, when your shoulder's  
feeling sore.

Enjoy yourself, if you're still in the pink,  
However, if your shoulder's on the blink,  
If you can't do the things you like to do,  
Then Doctor Watson's surgery can make you feel like new.

The unsuspecting Dr. Elizabeth Watson was first given the kind of introduction she no doubt anticipated and then the Trail Birds took over. Under the direction of Don Boeckling, -- with Don Cameron caressing the ivories in the background -- the good doctor got a dose of the prescribed lyrics administered by the 'Birds,' with the entire Branch membership singing along in the background from song sheets passed out to each table.

All of our speakers enjoy this kind of Trail Bird welcome, and no doubt take away with them the good feelings that accompany any "serenade." The 'Birds' founder, Emmett Fitzpatrick, would surely be proud were he around today. No slouch at songwriting—with over 200 copyrighted in his name—Emmett is perhaps best known in Branch 35 today for his chart-topping "If I Had My Life To Live Over, I'd Live Over The Corner Saloon."



# Committee Reports

## State Golf

**Bill Wilhelm, Committee Chairman**

Poppy Ridge is the location of our "Team Championship." Don't forget to sign up to play in your area team events. Check with your area chairman for the date and course. Remember, one team from each area will qualify to play for the State Championship on Monday August 8, 2016.



Our "Individual Tournament" this year will be at Laguna Seca on October 17th and 18th. The 17th will be a practice round, with the championship to be played on the 18th. Again, be sure to sign up for your area and division tournaments.

***At our last committee meeting, we decided to open our State Tournaments to all SIR Members with a current NCGA handicap. We will no longer require members to have a SIR NCGA Handicap. This change is only for our state tournaments.***

As I write this, we are about to hold our annual "Spring Time in Napa" tournament. Weather looks to be perfect, between 70 and 82 degrees. We are down a little in attendance this year, with only 116 men and 29 women. I hope to have a few more next year, so look for the flier in November on our website.

Our Reno Tournament has been cut from two weeks to one week this year due to a lack of attendance, so we are combining both weeks into the week of June 20th to 24th. Those of you who have signed up for week one will be contacted to see if you want to cancel or play week two.

Our attendance on all tournaments seem to be down quite a bit this year and I'm not sure why. Any help or suggestions that you can give us would be appreciated.

The Solvang Tournament has a few members signed up already, so we are hopeful that we will be able to fill it up. Remember to sign up for this two day tournament at the Alisal Rivers course on September 18-21, 2016. Applications are available on the Sir State Golf website.

We are in the process of confirming all of the 2017 tournaments at our next meeting and I feel it will be an exciting schedule for all. We are actively looking for input from you, the average everyday golfer, so please contact me or your Division Chairman with any and all of your ideas for future tournaments.

*Bill*

## State Bocce

**Jack Meylink, Committee Chairman**

In February of this year, we held the first annual State Bocce Tournament at the Waterloo Bocce Club in Stockton. This was actually a tournament for 2015 but because of bad weather and the holidays, we were not able to hold the tournament until this year.



Four teams participated and the play was very competitive. After each team had played each other, there were no undefeated teams so a one game playoff was held and the winner was the Twin Valley Branch 36 from Santa Cruz (see picture). Win or lose, everybody had a great time at this event!

I want to thank Al Telles, Bill Schraft, Ben Tinetti, Tom Cerciel, and Ira Kessler of Twin Valley Branch 36; Bill Brown, Buzz Romero, Frank DeEmilio, Mary Mitz, and Bob Valdez of North Peninsula Branch 91; Joe Lapira, Ed Cruz, Sam Kemp, and Tom Freschi, of Rocklin Branch 98; and Robert Chan, Jim Shiro, Andy Ameigeiras, and Don Clausnitzer of Lake of the Pines Branch 170 for their participation. All of these individuals should be congratulated for their play and qualification in this first annual event.

In August and September of this year, we will again have regional qualification tournaments to determine the participants in this year's State Tournament. If your Branch would like to play in one of these regional tournaments make sure I have your contact information. If you would like to help me organize a tournament in your region, I could certainly use the help. I plan to publish a list on the SIR State Website of the Bocce contacts by Branch so that individuals know whom to contact in each Branch and each Branch can then contact another for challenge play. Keep em rolling!!



# Happenings Travel Bulletin

## **July 2-16, 2016** **Alaska Land & Sea**

This is a 15 day round trip air to Fairbanks returning to Vancouver. 7 days visiting Fairbanks, Denali, Mt Kinley, Kenai and then board the Star Princess in Whittier for an 8 day cruise from Hubbard Glacier down the Inside passage ending at Vancouver. Prices range from \$4845 to \$5850 depending on cabin. Offered by Branch 73 Travel. Call Tim Rau at 510-222-3905.

## **July 11-23, 2016** **Eastern Europe to the Black Sea**

After two nights in Budapest, Hungary we embark on a cruise down the lower Danube to Belgrade, Serbia, through the Iron Gates, transit the Danube-Black Sea Canal to Constanta on the Black Sea and then by bus to Bucharest, Romania. We will make stops in Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. Optional tours will be included at various stops along the way. There are also optional extensions to Vienna (3 nights) or Prague (4 nights) and Transylvania (3 nights) or Istanbul (4 nights). Prices range from \$4670 to \$5670 PPDO and includes air fare. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call either Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765.

## **August 16-30, 2016** **Oceania Nautica Cruise**

The trip starts in Stockholm with an overnight tour before boarding the Nautica. Highlights of the trip include: a 10 day cruise visiting St Petersburg, Tallinn, Helsinki, Riga, Klaipeda, Berlin and Copenhagen. Included are r/t air, shipboard gratuities, four free shore excursions, free Wi-Fi and a \$200 shipboard credit per cabin. Prices range from \$5544.00 to \$8844.00 depending on stateroom. Offered by Branch 121 Travel. Call Bill Britton at 925-200-1062.

## **August 3-7, 2016** **Alaska's Ultimate Fishing Adventure**

This is a four night fishing adventure in Ketchikan, Alaska at the Salmon Falls Resort, fishing for Salmon, Halibut and Lingcod. Fine dining back at the Lodge with renowned chefs and menu service. For those of you that have had an ultimate Alaska Fishing Trip on your bucket list, this is a trip of a lifetime. Bring your fishing buddies, or your wife, children, grandchildren, and/or friends for an unmatched experience. Salmon Falls Resort offers world class fishing, magnificent scenery, abundant wildlife, gourmet meals and unrivaled Alaskan hospitality. For those non-fishermen, enjoy excursions to see Bears catching fish with Eagles flying above among other wondrous sights. Cost is \$3795 PPDO and includes r/t air for you and your vacuum packed boxed fish. Offered by Branch 114 Travel. Call either Larry Martinson at 408-528-0746 or Jim Stoner at 408-238-8458.

## **September 6-17, 2016** **Colors of Canada & New England**

Enjoy a 10 day cruise from New York City to Quebec City aboard Holland America's ms Zuiderdam, plus one night in New York City. Stops include Gloucester Massachusetts, Bar Harbor Maine, Halifax and Sydney Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and Quebec City. Cruise the scenic Gulf of St Lawrence and the sights of Saquenay Fjord. Prices range from \$3325 to \$4125 PPDO, depending on cabin choice. Offered by Branch 32 Travel. Call either John Pletsch at 408-274-2992 and 408-504-1255 or Mike Console at 408-246-1080.

## **September 13-27, 2016** **Essence of the Elbe**

This trip starts with 2 nights in Prague, then 7 nights aboard the M/S Allegro and 3 nights in Berlin. Included are meals with wine and beer served at lunch and dinner. There will be 10 exclusive tours with personal headsets. Prices start at \$3595, plus air. Offered by Branch 146 Travel. Call Ken Richter at 925-689-6217.



## **October 15-23, 2016** **Paddle Wheel Cruise up the Columbia & Snake Rivers**

Fly to Portland for an overnight stay prior to boarding the elegant American Empress paddle wheeler for a 7 night cruise up the scenic Columbia and Snake Rivers to Clarkston, Washington. The price includes wine with dinner, a private cocktail party, and more. Cabins with verandas vary from \$3,850 to \$4,935 PPDO. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call either Allen Daily at 408-265-8140 or Don House at 408-268-1703.

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