



SIR HAPPENINGS

WINTER 2013 VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

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

President Rich's Column



Hello. If we haven't met, let me introduce myself. My name is Richard L. Dettmer (Please call me Rich) the 2013 president of Sons In Retirement, Inc., the statewide governing body for SIR. I'm looking forward to meeting many more of you as I travel the state this year honoring Sirs receiving Branch awards. While visiting Branches and meeting fellow Sirs is the most

enjoyable part of being President, I probably won't get to all the Branches or meet all of you. My regular letters will try to keep the membership informed of the activities, goals and direction of SIRinc throughout the year.

Of course we start this year with thanks to Jim Stedman, the 2012 SIRinc President, and his team who successfully led us last year and continued assisting senior men to enjoy their retirement years by providing opportunities to maintain new and existing friendships with other members.

Like last year, we will maintain measureable goals to insure the health of SIRinc. We call this program Ten-Seventy, and it works to preserve a continuing balance of new and seasoned members which has proven advantageous. Ten percent is based on Branch membership as of Last December. So, the basic goal for 2013 is for the Branch to induct at least 10% of the membership number in December 2012; better yet, I would encourage you to induct new members at least your attrition rate or the 10% whichever is higher, just to keep even. A healthy Branch, likewise, has good luncheon attendance. Seventy percent Branch luncheon attendance is a great indicator of how well the membership likes to come for camaraderie and socializing. A well run luncheon with good speakers, lunch and venue is like a magnet; they will come and have fun!

Before I sign off, I'll take just a minute to touch on ideas that I'll discuss in more detail in future letters. While maintaining the Ten-Seventy goals program, I feel that the 2013 SIRinc direction must include "Marketing." We have to sell ourselves. Marketing is both internal and external involving these issues: 1) Branch Member Retention; 2) New Branch Formation; 3) New Member Recruitment; 4) Full Staffing of State and Branch Officer Positions. We need to have this ship move forward under full sails.

Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

New Sailing Activity

Paul Freitas, Sailing Group Chairman

San Francisco Bay is a unique area for sailing. The shores are rimmed with beautiful mountains. The water is filled with seals, dolphins and seabirds. The mountains create microclimates. Winds and waves are heightened in the Central Bay while the North and South Bay are sheltered.

When I joined Branch 116, I saw an opportunity for a new activity by sharing my love of sailing. I had found that it was possible to sail comfortably with people who had little or no experience. The winches and rigging of modern cruising sailboats had done away with the need for a strong-backed crew. Novices could come along as either participants or simply to relax.

With the help of Event Coordinator Jerry Hicks and Big Sir Art Vogel, the idea became a reality. An inaugural sail was completed in November. An intrepid crew of eight sailed from Richmond to Sausalito for lunch with a run across a tame central Bay before returning home (see picture). More trips are planned once the summer winds and clear skies return in April. As the program progresses, I am interested in finding other boaters who want to coordinate for a rendezvous at Angel Island.



BRING IN A GUEST - WE NEED NEW MEMBERS

Sirs in the News

Orchard Valley Branch 54, San Jose

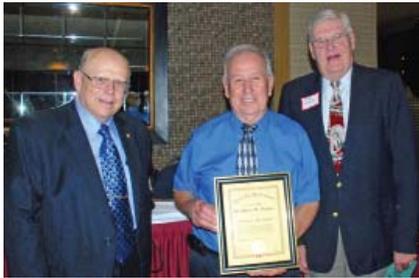
Vazquez Awarded an HLM

Bill DeMatteis, Secretary

Mario Vasquez was recognized by being presented with the prestigious Honorary Life Membership award at the Branch 54 Christmas party by President Elect Richard Dettmer (on the left in the picture) and Region 7 Director Richard Kabanek (on the right).

Mario was born in Del Rio Texas and has had quite a distinguished career. He moved to California in 1944, served in the U.S. Army occupation force in Japan, attended San Jose State University, and was an active participant in various Mexican-American organizations. He was the California State Commander of the American GI Forum (Mexican-American Veterans). He was listed in the Who's Who of Mexican-Americans and has met with several Presidents and other notables. During the last two years, he has done some extensive traveling in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Baltic, Texas, Virginia, and Hawaii.

Mario has been a member of Branch 54 for 22 years. He has served as Big Sir, has been the Program Chairman for the past ten years and he has also served on the BEC.



Discovery Bay Branch 161

Damico Honored for Service

Walter Shipilov, Past Big Sir

Tom Jones, Bulletin Editor

Bob Damico was awarded a very well-deserved Honorary Life Membership by President Jim Stedman (on the right in the picture) at a Branch 161 luncheon last year.

Bob has served in numerous leadership positions over the years. This has included being Big Sir, Little Sir, Director and Senior Advisor. Some of his other notable contributions include: Branch Activities Coordinator; Greeter for monthly luncheons; Branch Sunshine Chairman; advisor to new Big and Little Sirs. He also conducted an activities survey to identify member interest in new activities; he managed the successful "Dinner with the Ladies" program for 5 years; improved our annual Ladies luncheon entertainment with professional talent; took over our annual Al Digiusto Boat Cruise and Lunch; and in general, volunteering to fill in whenever there is a Branch need.

Bob has been dedicated to the success and well-being of the Discovery Bay Branch ever since he joined the Branch back in October of 2001. He continues to contribute regularly, with enthusiasm and an honest concern about the well-being of our Branch and its members.



Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

A True Inspiration

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

If you asked the members in our Branch who always has a smile on his face and has the most positive attitude, the answer would be unanimous... Greg Schweitzer! Greg is an avid golfer and highly competitive. After a 25 year break, he took the sport back up and re-fell in love with the game. He joined Branch 69 in September 2011 to make new golfing buddies and to take advantage of our three different golf groups. But, within weeks of joining, Greg's life changed dramatically.

Greg had an infected area in his arm and went to the ER. He was diagnosed with Necrotizing Fasciitis, also known as MRSA, the dreaded flesh eating disease. Within hours, his right arm and shoulder were amputated in order to save his life. He spent 41 days in the hospital undergoing eight more surgeries.

Even with all of his problems -- the trauma of losing a limb, the painful recovery and the required extensive physical therapy -- Greg showed up at one of our monthly luncheons after missing only three luncheons and we were all apprehensive, not knowing what to expect. But Greg came in with a big grin on his face and the first thing that he said was, "I am going to play golf again." Greg has a small golf course cut out of the brush on his acreage in Wilton. His best therapy has been practicing for hours every day, trying to master his one armed swing (see picture). He is able to drive the ball 160-180 yards and is working on improving his consistency. He is now a regular competitor in our Short Course Group and looks forward to the day when he can start winning again. In a recent match he scored 3 pars and a birdie and has broken 100 in tournament play.

The story doesn't end there. On January the 7th, Greg emailed some of his golfing buddies as follows: "Hi Guys. I just had to let you know that I scored a Hole-in-One at the Bradshaw Golf Course today with Ron as my witness. It was on the 9th hole... 110 yards going in. I used my 8 iron and nailed it! It was our second time around. The first time around I shot a 41, with no pars. The second time around, I shot a 33... three pars and the hole-in-one. Par at Bradshaw is 27. See you on Guys on Thursday." Greg is truly an inspiration to the rest of us duffers.



Spotlight on Jerry Milano **Chairman, Growth & Membership Committee**

I joined Sons In Retirement quite by chance. My grandson was visiting from Portland shortly after Christmas in 2007. After hitting buckets of balls at a local driving range, we stopped for lunch at a local Carl's Jr. At the time the restaurant party room was full of grey-haired men, like me. I knocked on the door and was told that a monthly bridge game for retired guys was in progress. I said that I would be retiring soon and liked to play bridge. "Almost retired" was good enough to get an application and a couple of monthly luncheons later, I was inducted into Branch 8.



In Branch 8, I assist the director of one duplicate bridge group and direct another. I also am a major contributor in several Branch poker games and my lack of acumen is quite well known. From time to time, I demonstrate an inept golf game with the nine-hole group. In addition, I direct a dining out activity for the Branch that puts together small groups (usually couples) so that members can become better acquainted. In 2012, I volunteered to help with the statewide Growth & Membership Committee and at the end of the year, I was nominated to chair the G&M Committee this year.

The Growth & Membership Committee has set out three primary goals for 2013. First: to support the Ten-Seventy Program (Healthy Branch Membership Goals) i.e. 10% new Branch members each year and 70% member attendance at regular Branch luncheons. Second: to support Branch membership growth with direct mail marketing programs targeted demographically at highly probable SIR candidates. And third: to directly solicit SIR Branch membership by promoting active retirement with area employers.

In my prior life, I worked in banking, first as a management trainee and later as a project manager putting Automated Teller Machines, on-line teller terminals and direct deposit functions into personal banking. For five years I was director of technology research at the American Bankers Association in Washington, DC and later managed payments clearing companies for banks in the Midwest and on the West Coast. I retired in 2008 after merging seven clearing companies across the



US into a national cooperative. My wife and I have been married for forty-six years and we live in Walnut Creek.

Presidential Citation for Excellence in SIR

Rich Dettmer, SIR President

Greetings to Regional Directors, Area Governors, Big Sirs and Branches.

An idea of recognizing the very best of Branches in each region quarterly has been developed. I would like to start this program with the next edition of SIR HAPPENINGS. I want it to be meaningful without creating a gigantic paper mill and time-consuming process. Here is how I envision that it would work... each quarter Area Governors would submit to their Regional Director



his recommendation as to the Branch, among the Branches in his Area that best represents the term, "Excellence in SIR." The Regional Director would then choose among the submissions from each Governor, the best in his Region and then submit that selection to me... ten Regions, ten selections, and one in each Region.

I would then have those ten Branches along with the names of the Big Sirs published in SIR HAPPENINGS for the quarter for all to see along with appropriate comments. It's a way to recognize the positive efforts rather than only dwelling upon what's wrong with SIR when there is so much right with it. Hopefully it will not only afford recognition where deserved, but will serve as an incentive for Area Branches to be competitive in seeking future recognition for their Branch. It could also enhance how Branches view their Governors in that they would be doing something positive in support of their Branches rather than having to just be traffic cops, rule enforcers, report collectors, etc. Finally, I would hope that it may give Governors more cause to develop a closer relationship with Branches in order to better represent the good things they do.

Like I said, I want to keep it simple so I am leaving it up to Regional Directors to use the criteria they want to use in the determination of which Branch deserves to be singled out as the best in their Region. I would expect them to consider the 10%-70% goals. In addition, they may want to consider attrition vs. recruitment; activities; new ideas; programs; etc. So in part it will be quantitative based on what's already there and in part subjective based upon opinion. That is just fine! Excellence cannot be measured by numbers alone.

We are not too late to make the Spring edition of SIR HAPPENINGS so I would like to shoot for that edition as the start-up recognition event. I'm hoping that we can generate some positive dialog by sharing great work!

Rich

San Ramon Valley Branch 128

Furry Creature

Jim Kaiser, Bulletin Editor

One evening last fall, ten hikers and friends led by Phil Reed, (see picture) made an evening walk on the east side of Mt. Diablo to view and learn about tarantulas. Phil did a wonderful job of describing the life cycle of the tarantulas and we were fortunate in finding six of the love starved male tarantulas (see the picture of one of them) wandering along the Mitchel Canyon and Globe Lilly Trails in search of a lovely, lonely female. It was surprising to learn that female tarantulas live up to 14 to 20 years.

Unfortunately for the male tarantula, once he leaves his nest in search of a female, his life expectancy shortens rapidly. Even if he does mate with a female, she may kill and eat him depending



on her mood and if he escapes her clutches, he will live only a few weeks longer. So adulthood for male tarantulas offers little except death and the opportunity to perpetuate the species.

Phil also provided a great deal of background on the Mt. Diablo flora on our walk. As an extra treat we ended the walk on the back-side of Black's Peak and enjoyed a beautiful sunset view of Clayton and the Black Diamond Park Hills along with a full Moon over Mt. Olympus.

A delightful finish to our evening was a great Pizza Dinner at Rocco's Restaurante in Walnut Creek.

Friends and spouses are welcome on all of our outings. If you are interested in more information or are new to the hiking group and want to be on the contact list for future SIR hiking trips, please email Bob Slyker at bgsly@aol.com or call 925-285-8445.



Miwok Branch 134, Novato

Military History Group

Jim Kennedy, Military History Co-Chair

The Military History Group is one of our most popular Branch activities, with 12 to 24 members attending our monthly, two hour meetings. The group was started in 2010 by Bob Walczak, a retired training expert from IBM. Bob was subsequently succeeded in his leadership role by Alan Dunham and Jim Kennedy as co-chairs. At each meeting, volunteers from our Branch present a topic to the group. The presentations are informal, although some will include DVD's, maps, photos, etc. Questions and discussion are always encouraged.

The Group is interested in a broad range of military history topics. These include the numerous battles in World War I and II as well as the Vietnam War, the Civil War, and the American Revolutionary War. The topics are broad enough that specific battles can be focused on such as the Battle of the Bulge, Gettysburg, Okinawa, etc.

The military background of some members includes service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam and includes fighter pilots, an Army Ranger, and a captain in the US Coast Guard. However, many members come to the monthly meetings with no prior service affiliation, merely a strong interest in the subject.

The monthly sessions are held in the Hamilton AFB Museum in Novato. The volunteer manager of the facility is a member of our Branch and the venue is excellent for our meetings (see picture).



News from the Branches

Area 2 Fishing Club

Great Fishing in 2012

Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Coordinator

The Area 2 Fishing Club has had a very active year in 2012. Our membership has grown and our variety of outings has expanded to some new and interesting venues. As usual we still fish the Bay and Delta a great deal and the local lakes have been very productive for those who try their luck. It's been a windy year and a lot of trips had to be canceled due to weather, but there were those hardy souls who just kept going.

The Salmon fishing has come back with a vengeance and many of our members have taken advantage of some of the best Salmon fishing in quite a few years. Both ocean and river fishing for Salmon has been great. Trout fishing in our local lakes has been very productive with some really large



Trout being caught weighing as much as 7-10 pounds. (See the picture of Carl Moyer holding up the big 7 pound Trout he caught).

The club has added some new social events to its activities calendar. Twice a year now, we are gathering at Carl Moyer's house for a fish fry. Of course, all

the fish have been caught by our own members... no store bought fish here! We also continue with our annual Summer Bar-B-Que and our Christmas Gala which include our wives and special friends.

At our meetings we have had speakers that cover all types of fishing and conservation. From the Federal Government to local guides, our speakers impart information of interest to all. SIR members and guests are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to participate in our fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Our meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but many of us arrive at about 8:00 to have some breakfast before we get down to business. For further information, please contact Pete Gates, Big Fish (925-937-2035), Harry Sherinian, Branch 116 Coordinator, (925-846-7067) or Tom Boltz, Treasurer/Secretary, (925-825-5695).

Area 8 Travel

SIR Day at the Races

Emile Lassalle, Area 8 Travel Chairman

Last October fifteen Sirs and guests enjoyed SIR Day at the Races at Golden Gate Fields and we had a great time! Like all horse races, we had some losers but we also had some winners. One of our Sirs placed a 10 cent bet on a race where you must pick all 4 horses and yes – you guessed it -- all of his horses came in and he won just over \$12.00... the next time I go to the track, I'll be a big spender and place that same bet for \$1.00.

Our group, along with Branch 2, was picked to have our picture taken with the winning Jockey from the 3rd race and we asked Area Governor, Bob Aiello, to join us in the picture. Standing near the track in the picture from left to right are: Bob Aiello, 2013 Area 8 Governor -- Larry Vittoria (Branch 26 – jockey, John Kerwin – Franzis Marshall – Emile Lassalle, Area 8 Travel Chairman – and John Ockes (Branch 59).

I was very pleased to see so many Sirs from several Branches attending this fun event...maybe next year, even more Branches will join Sir Day at the Races.



ROYAL RECRUIT

San Francisco Branch 4

An Unforgettable Hike

Ken Reed, Little Sir

George Rodriguez, Bulletin Editor

The “Walk for Health Group” thought we were going to have just another leisurely walk today but to our surprise, NASA had arranged to time the Endeavor Shuttle flyover on the same day and at the same time as our hike (see the stunningly beautiful picture). Not only did they arrange one flyover but NASA also had them do an encore with a second flyby over the Golden Gate... and before their exit from the Bay Area, they saluted by dipping their wings. WOW! What an unforgettable sight!

We knew the hike was going to be a hard act to follow after the Endeavor show but not to be outdone, it was a beautiful, calm, sunny day with spectacular views of the Golden Gate, the Bay and surrounding panoramic views.

The hike started with a long, 150+ stair climb from just behind the Warming Hut to a trail along some Fort Point bunkers, and then under the Golden Gate Bridge, along the Pacific Coast trail overlooking Baker Beach to Battery Townsend, where the WWII gun emplacements were built. We returned via the road under the bridge and stopped at the newly refurbished plaza and GGNRC information center/souvenir shop. We then walked back down the 150+ steps and stopped for a bite to eat from the Warming Hut and enjoyed our lunch while seated at a picnic bench enjoying each other’s company and our beautiful San Francisco Bay.



Damian Reynolds Branch 1, San Mateo

Successful Recruiting

Bill Schmid, Little Sir

Because recruitment is such an important part of being a Sir, Branch 1 participated in the San Mateo Daily Journal’s Senior Showcase Information Fair that was held last November in Foster City.

We had a table-top display showing the benefits of joining Sons In Retirement. The display, with several pieces of SIR Literature, was manned by five members of Branch 1, who took turns talking to prospective members about SIR benefits and activities. Pictured from left to right are: Kevin Moran, Bill Schmid, Al Huber, Rich Manrique, and Tom Keefer.

Many retired folks visited the event, and stopped by to gather information and learn about SIR and our Branch. We received a couple of membership applications on the spot and also passed out around a dozen more applications. With some follow-ups, we should have several guests at upcoming luncheon meetings.



News from the Branches - Bocce or Petanque

Indian Valley Branch 68, San Rafael

New Bocce Team is a Winner

Joe Grasso, Big Sir

At the suggestion of Roger Burstrem, I joined Branch 68 to bowl in the SIR Bowling League. It wasn't long before Big Sir, Jim Phelan, asked me if I would be willing to putt together a Branch Bocce Team to compete in the Marin Bocce Federation, which is home to over 120 teams competing five days a week.

Shortly thereafter, we formed a team of six men with varied backgrounds -- a contractor, auditor, policeman, accountant and two engineers -- and started competing in the group of lower division teams. Our team played well enough to move to the Upper Division competition. At the end of the first season, our team was tied for second place in the Upper Division Fall Session.

In the Fall Session End of Season Tournament, our team played and won 2 out of 3 games with 28 points out of a possible 30. But, because one team in the group of four we were scheduled to play did not show up, two other teams drew a "bye" for automatic 10-point wins and moved ahead into the playoffs.

Pictured (L/R) in the team picture are: Joe Grasso (team captain), Joe Cotla, Gene Denko, John Zeiter, Big Sir Jim Phelan, and Roger Burstrem. Congratulations team! We will practice in the off-season and as they say **"We'll be back."**



Orchard Valley Branch 54, San Jose

Ever Hear of Petanque?

Bill DeMatteis, Secretary

Every SIR member knows about Bocce and many are enjoying that game on a regular basis. At our Branch, Bocce is no longer listed on our activity roster probably due to lack of interest. For the past few months, French-born Pierre Garabedian, has introduced with some success the French version of Bocce called Petanque.

Petanque is basically the same game as Bocce with some minor differences. For one, the balls (also called boules) are smaller and made of steel. Also, the court is not structured like Bocce -- it can be any open field as long as it is not sand, grass or too uneven. People of all ages can play, from grandparents to grand kids. As an added bonus, in the process of playing Petanque, you are guaranteed to learn a few words of French. Petanque is not as obscure as some people might think. There is actually a U.S. Federation of Petanque. One of the most active clubs is in Fresno.

Branch 54 now has more than half a dozen dedicated players (see picture) and they meet at Azule Park in Saratoga twice a month for some exciting games. They are challenging other Sirs in the Bay Area to come, learn the game, and compete. If you have bowled or played Bocce you will be an instant pro. If not, you'll have fun anyway. We will provide training and equipment.

For more info, call Pierre at 408-246-8480 or email Marcel Tomassian at mtomassian@sbcglobal.net or visit our Web Site @ www.branch54.sirinc2.org.



News from the Branches

Fort Sutter Branch 14, Carmichael

Annual Photo Contest

Bob Wall, Photo Club Chairman

Two years ago, the members of Branch 14 discovered that many of us had a mutual interest in photography. In fact, one of our members happened to be a former photography teacher at the local Community College. The new group agreed to hold a photo shoot meeting once a month at different locations in the Sacramento region. McKinley Rose Garden, the Capitol Rose Gardens, Nimbus Fish Hatchery, Arden Fair Mall Christmas decorations and Santa plus Old Sacramento were all memorialized on digital flash cards. So... what to do with all of those pictures??

At Branch 14 we have a luncheon in October where we invite the spouses. Someone suggested holding a photo contest. Since the spouses had been invited to the monthly photo shoots, we invited all members and their spouses to submit photos for the contest. A scoring system allowed all the participants at the luncheon to cast votes for their



favorite images in three categories: Portraits (people or pets), Architecture (places you have been), and Nature (no hand of man showing).

The contest was a roaring success and we were asked to repeat it at the 2012 luncheon. We had 8 participants that submitted 35 images for the three categories. We ended up with two pictures receiving the same number of votes in the Portrait Category and so we declared a “tie” for first place. The beautiful picture of that Eagle took first place in the Nature Category.

Already the plans are being discussed for the 2013 Photo Contest and everyone is polishing their camera lens.



Amador Branch 96, Jackson

Some Fun RVing

Tom Rushing, Wagon Master

For a number of reasons, we had only four trips last year but the four trips turned out great and produced some good times and good memories.

The first trip of the year was three days of fishing in the eastern sierra. The mountains are striking from the east side of the sierras -- rising abruptly -- giving the full effect of their height... just awesome!

The next outing was to southern California. After arriving at Santee, the group took a trolley to Old Town San Diego and then explored the area on their own with interesting excursions to such places as the Midway Aircraft Carrier Museum, Balboa Park, and bicycling at Mission Bay.

We had a great trip to Oregon. There was the beautiful bridge at Turtle Bay in Redding, eating and shopping in Klamath, gambling, golfing, shopping and eating in Coos Bay. Bob & Kathy Bain and Harm & Judy Higgins did an outstanding job on this trip.

Our final destination was Camp Kiwanda. We had clam chowder and shrimp on the beach and when we were winding up our picnic one of our “unnamed” members got his Ford 250 stuck in the sand (see picture) and we threatened to nick name him “Sandy.” Everybody tried to get him out with ropes, shovels, and lots of pushing and pulling but all we did was drive the truck deeper into the sand. The tide was coming in and everyone was getting a little anxious. Finally, we called a local tow truck that looked like “Mater” from the movie Cars and after about 30 minutes of pulling and \$175 he got out...fortunately, the only damage was to his pride. The next day we took a drive to the Tillamook Cheese Factory, drove along the beautiful coast and later that evening we had a marvelous tri-tip potluck dinner.

Our last trip of the year to Death Valley was somewhat problematic. The trip was described as three days of heat and blowing sand, followed by two or three days of cold and wind... it’s not called Death Valley for nothing.



Committee Reports



SIR Day at the Sacramento River Cats

River Cats vs. Fresno Grizzlies
Saturday, July 13th, 2013 at 7:05 PM

SIR Day at the Sacramento River Cats

River Cats vs. Fresno Grizzlies
Monday, August 26th, 2013 at 7:05 PM

River Cats Flyer is available on the SIR website:
<http://sirinc.org/siractivities/SIR-sports.htm>



All SIR Day at the San Francisco Giants

San Francisco Giants vs Milwaukee Brewers
Thursday, August 8th, 2013 at 12:45 PM

For Tickets call Marisa Coppersmith at
(415) 972-2259 or
email mcoppersmith@sfgiants.com

San Francisco Giants Flyer - not available

Golden Gate Fields

Presents....

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

When: Friday April 12, 2013

Where: Golden Gate Fields Turf Club

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

Gates open at 11:00 a.m.

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

First race: 12:45 p.m.

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

Includes: Valet parking (or parking for a bus), admission & reserved seating, daily racing program, Turf Club buffet, tax/tip for the food servers and a race named in honor of your SIR Branch!

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

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

INFOSYS Committee

Dean Steichen, Chairman



Are you a NEW Branch Officer, Director or Committee Chairman or want to learn more about the position you accepted or the position you might accept? Then the best place to find the answers is on the SIR Website (www.sirinc.org). The **Members Information** page contains valuable information, Guides, Training Information and Tools which will answer your questions. The

sections **Leaders Guides, Tools & Recruiting Information** as well as **Training Information** contain numerous documents, presentations and guidelines which will prove invaluable to you.

Every position, from Big Sir to Committee Chairman is documented on the **Leaders Guides, Tools and Recruiting Information** page. The **Leadership Training** page contains all the Leadership Training presentations from 2010 thru 2012. These documents and presentations are a wonderful source of information. I especially recommend the SIR **Leadership Training – Rich Kabanek** presentation from Oct. 16, 2012.

The **Branch & Area Ideas & Tools** page is filled with documents, tools, and templates which will be very useful to Branch leaders wishing to improve their recruiting or otherwise make their Branch better.

Many people have contributed these documents to help you. If you have additional ideas or suggestions, please share them by sending them to the State Training Chairman or to the State Growth and Membership Chairman. Their addresses can be found on the State Roster (on the State Website of course).

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

Dean

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

Committee Reports

State Golf Committee

Don Dill, Operations Chairman

Your 2013 SIR State Golf Committee is committed to bringing you the best possible golf events at a good price! Your 2013 schedule is as follows:



- 1. April 22nd & 23rd;** our two day Spring Fling in the Napa Valley at Eagle Vines and Chardonnay. One day low-net and one day four-man best-ball. See our website for applications. We have 87 sign-ups as of 1-24, so hurry.
- 2. May & June;** Area Team Qualifiers...see your local Chairman.
- 3. June 10-14 and 17-21;** Reno...moving up-town to the Atlantis and playing our favorite courses, plus one new one. All information will be coming to you shortly.
- 4. July;** Individual State Championship qualifiers...see your local Chairman.
- 5. August 12th;** State Team Championship held this year at Stevinson Ranch GC, near Turlock. The location is rotated each year to make it more accessible to all SIR golfers. Check with your local chairman for your qualifier.
- 6. September 15-19;** The Fall Classic will be held in the beautiful Santa Inez Valley, staying at the Marriot and playing two great courses. Applications are on the web-site.
- 7. October 21 & 22;** SIR Individual State Championship at Laguna Seca in the heart of the Monterey/Carmel Peninsula. Seventy championship qualifiers comped by us, two days of open play, and by popular demand, the 70 qualifiers will have a buy-in this year so everybody can win some money. Bring your spouse...



the ladies will have their own separate golf outing. Applications will be on the web-site by April 1st.

For more complete information go to our website, sirstategolf.com.

On the subject of women golfers, we encourage all spouses

or significant others to play in the following events: Spring Fling in Reno and the Fall Classic and Laguna Seca. You will need a handicap and we can even assist you in getting one.

Don

State Bowling Committee

Del Locke, Chairman

Well, the Mayans were wrong, so we needed to publish our 2013 SIR Tournament Schedule and you can find it on our Bowling Activity web page. The Bowling Committee Secretary, Sir Jerry Sabo, has done a great job posting documents on this page. When Sir Bowling Tournament Managers publish their tournament announcements, with entry forms, Jerry posts then to our web page for all interested Sirs to use. This solved an old problem for bowlers whose Bowling Winter Leagues ending in March or April, did not have access to their league secretary to get entry forms for Sir Tournaments held in late summer.



Thanks to Bob York, the Bowling Committee Operations Committee Chairman, who took on the task of rewriting our committee documents, we approved and published our revised Committee Standing Rules, By-Laws and Tournament Managers Guidelines mid last year. These are also posted on our web page for use by all Sir Tournament bowlers and Tournament Managers.



Our semi-annual Bowling Committee meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2013 where we will finalize the 2013 Tournament schedule as well as conduct business for the good of the SIR Bowling Committee and all SIR Tournament bowlers. We have 21 Tournaments scheduled for 2013 and thanks to the Sunnyvale Branch which will host the 2013 State Tournament on May 19, 20 and 21. This is a slight departure from our previous

...thanks to the Sunnyvale Branch which will host the 2013 State Tournament on May 19, 20 and 21.

scheduling practice where we have added a weekend day because of the tournament location and commute traffic (you remember commute traffic, don't you?).

As a last item, SIR Bowling Tournament participation showed an increase in 2012 over 2011, increasing from 5,125 to 5,365 total entries. SIR Tournament Bowling is doing very well and I hope to see you on the lanes!

Del

Happenings Travel Bulletin

March 15-30, 2013

Romance on the Rhine & Mosel

Riverboat Cruise from Brussels, Belgium to Switzerland aboard the M/S Harmony. Cost is \$3545 PPDO including r/t air (\$2295 without airfare). All fees, taxes, meals, and wine with dinner are included. Offered by Branch 22 Travel. Call Henry Puccinelli at 415-457-3990.

March 31- April 10, 2013

Mexican Riviera Cruise

Eleven days on board the Grand Princess starting and ending in San Francisco. Ports of call include: Catalina Island, Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas, and San Diego. Prices range from \$1470 to \$1898 PPDO. Offered by Branch 141 Travel. Call either Rollo Parson at 408-268-5245 or Brian Serpa at 408-227-7658.

April 10-25, 2013

Hawaiian Island Cruise

This 15 day cruise aboard the Grand Princess starts in San Francisco and stops in Honolulu, Kauai, Lahaina, Hilo and Ensenada. Prices range from \$2490 to \$3880 PPDO. Offered by Branch 38 Travel. Call Bill Rodman at 408-274-4521.

April 14-22, 2013

Tulip Time Cruise

Discover the beauty & history of the Dutch and Belgium waterways in springtime. Cruise ports include: Amsterdam, Arnhem, Antwerp, Bruges, Middelburg and Rotterdam. Prices range from \$3225 to \$5080 PPDO and include airfare, complimentary beverages, and many guided tours. Offered by Branch 8 Travel. Call Jim Lunn at 925-551-3329.

June 1-9, 2013

Memphis to New Orleans on the American Queen

This is a 7 night cruise down the Mississippi with a pre-cruise stay in Memphis and an optional 2 day stay in New Orleans. The cruise includes r/t air, all meals on board, wine or beer with dinner, daily lectures, nightly entertainment, and shore tours. Prices range from \$3658 to \$6486 PPDO, depending on accommodations. Offered by Branch 146 Travel. Call Bob Spellman at 925-934-8428.

July 10-28, 2013

Baltic Cruise: London to St. Petersburg

Fly to London and board the Crown Princess for a 14 day Cruise with stops at Oslo, Gothenburg, Tallinn, St Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Brussels. Prices range from \$3950 to \$5445 PPDO, not including air fare which is not yet available. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan at 408-241-4421.

August 10-17, 2013

Colorado Gold Mines & Ghost Towns

Experience places in Colorado few people get to see. It's off the highways and byways and into the wilderness. The tour includes round trip home pickup, 7 night hotel stay, and admissions to all attractions. Prices range from \$2085 to \$2475 PPDO. Offered by Branches 153 and 125 Travel. Call Ralph Hunt at 650-967-8467 or Alan Patmore 408-867-4197.

August 28- September 7, 2013

SIR 55th Anniversary Alaska Cruise



Save this date for a celebration!

Sons In Retirement will be celebrating its 55th anniversary with a 10 day round-trip cruise from San Francisco to Alaska on the Princess Cruise Line. Prices range from \$1579

to \$3300 depending on accommodations. This should be a great opportunity to spend time with fellow members while enjoying the wonderful scenery that Alaska offers. There are already 100 cabins reserved. The cost includes: Gratuities on the ship, Ship Board Credit, Cocktail Party, Hospitality Suite, Transportation to and from the Pier, Wine and Gifts, and an Alaska Salmon Bake Excursion. If you need flyers or more information contact Sonoma Travel at 707-763-1545.

September 25-October 11, 2013

Panama Canal Cruise

Cruise on the Island Princess from San Francisco to Ft. Lauderdale. Ports of call include: Cabo San Lucas, San Juan del Sur, Puntarenas, Costa Rica, Panama Canal, Cartagena, Columbia, and Aruba. Trip includes a one night, post-cruise stay in Ft. Lauderdale with a guided Everglades Adventure tour plus a guided tour of Miami Beach and Miami. Prices range from \$3030 to \$4230 PPDO. Offered by Branches 101 and 121 Travel. Call Werner Schlaper at 925-443-8291.

October 15-26, 2013

Cruise Canada & New England

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

October 18-23, 2013

Branson... Autumn in the Ozarks

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

Editor's Note: The following are very brief excerpts from the minutes of the January 15th State Board Meeting and we encourage our readers to visit the SIR website – sirinc.org – for the full meeting transcript as recorded by State Secretary, Dick DeVoe.

The meeting was called to order by President Dettmer who said that we need to continue to focus on helping turn around the continuing membership decline and the loss of Branches. The Form 27 has been effective in requiring branches to focus on specific performance-related data. The 10% new members–70% attendance goals have also been successful and will continue as important goals.

Treasurer Mike Berry reviewed the financial reports and reported that the 2013 budget shows a shortfall. This projected shortfall is primarily due to the revenue loss from decreased membership. The budget was approved with the notation that all leaders are encouraged to trim expenses.

G&M Chairman Jerry Milano discussed a chart showing the troubling membership decline from 2004-present. To help combat the membership problem, the G&M Committee has established four growth projects for 2013:

- Direct mail advertising
- Stronger support of Branches
- Strategic alliances with various organizations
- Identifying locations for new Branches

G&M Committee's Form 27 Subcommittee Chairman, Jim Stedman, summarized his 2012 Membership Report as follows:

- 2133 new members were inducted, 3090 members were lost, for an 848 net member loss.
- Average Branch size was over 200 members 20 years ago; today it's 127.
- Branch members' average age has become much older at the same time Branch average size has been declining.
- Only one-half of all Branches have shown they can recruit at least 10% new members annually, the minimum considered necessary to stabilize membership.
- Seven Branches closed in 2012, greater than any previous year.
- It will take a long time for SIR to stabilize membership.
- Healthy Branches are the key to stabilization, and stabilization can only be achieved by recruiting at a minimum of 10% new members annually.

Additional reports were given by the: INFOSYS Committee; Rules Committee; Travel Committee; Golf Committee; Certificates Sub Committee; the Bowling Committee; and each Regional Director gave a status report on his region.

Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact. Every Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall you can go to <http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> and download the latest issue. Happy Reading!

Hey Computer Guy

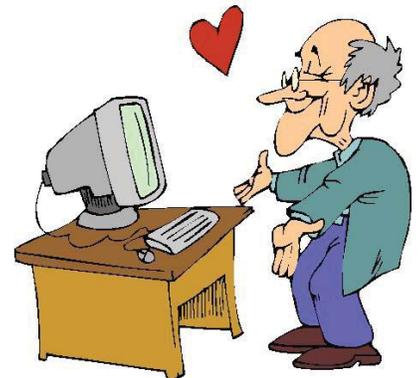
Frank Franzago, Branch 69 Bulletin Editor

I wanted to share a few of the things that I learned in a Microsoft computer workshop while cruising to Alaska:

The average life of a computer is 3-5 years. If you are experiencing problems and your computer is in this life span, you should consider buying a new one. Buying the top of the line with all the bells and whistles, might not be the correct choice. You should purchase a Computer according to what you are planning to use it for...for most of us, an entry computer will suffice. It is recommended that you first go to www.pcscout.com and complete a survey of your needs. They will then recommend a computer for you. You should buy a computer in the middle range, not the cheapest or the most expensive.

Another thing: If you are not going to use your computer in 2 hours, shut it down. My computer hadn't been shut down in 7 months, other than for restarts for up-dates. I always put it in sleep mode, but even in sleep mode, the fans come on which allows for dust buildup. They also recommend that you open the computer case at least once a year and remove the dust bunnies. My buddy, who runs the IT section at a major corporation, does not go along with this. He thinks the computer should remain on at all times and has set mine so that Microsoft updates (not Windows alone) are installed at 3:00 am each day. Also, my computer automatically goes into sleep mode if it is not used for 10 minutes. I like this approach and plan to leave my computer on, but you decide what's right for you.

Send your computer questions, problems or tips to: Hey Computer Guy, Franque12@surewest.net



SIR Happenings is published by the Information Systems Committee.

Dwight Sale,
Publisher
Email: dwight.sale@comcast.net

Send news and questions to:
Don MacGregor,
Executive Editor
Email: donmac@wavecable.com

John Skarpelos,
Editor and Production Manager
Email: john@mediaart.com