



SIR HAPPENINGS

SPRING 2013 VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2

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

President Rich's Column



Hello again. It's been awhile. Well, here we are just starting the second quarter of 2013. We had to make some tough budget decisions in view of the contraction in our membership, but that is behind us and we are moving forward with positive focus.

We have a lot going on in SIR. I have personally visited many Branches making presentations, etc. Each Branch was a little different from the other but, large and small, all had great spirit and camaraderie. Those visits are most definitely a "fun" part of being President. As I Said, there are some really good things going on at SIRINC.

We have for the first time in a long while, formed a new Branch in SIR. Branch 164, a provisional start up, met for the first time in Modesto last month. It was sponsored in Region 8 by Branch 144 with a lot of help from Jerry Strain. Regional Director Ed Dorn has cause to be proud. My Plaudits go out to all involved. This type of drive serves SIR well. Welcome to all in provisional Branch 164.

The State Growth and Membership Committee under Jerry Milano's leadership, has taken much of its show on the road to the Branches rather than vice versa. I am very pleased with the direction this committee is going. The Survivability Action Team (SAT) of that committee is virtually contacting Branches by Region and Area helping to identify if their branch has survivability weaknesses and affording them resources to turn that around. It has been getting rave reviews from those who have participated in the program. This, gentlemen, is the proactive stuff that success is made out of in SIR. The whole committee is very focused on making SIR stronger and reaching out to do just that. If you haven't heard from them, you will ...they are on the circuit!

Each Branch is unique to some degree in and of itself and some are doing really swell. I was looking for a way to recognize the successes that many branches have, but there are many such Branches, in many Areas and Regions. Selecting one seemed shortsighted. I came upon the idea to recognize one Branch quarterly by each Region selected by the Regional Director after conferring with his Area Governors. I am calling this a "Presidential Citation for the Pursuit of Excellence in SIR." The Regional Directors have been working with me on this. You will find the listing of the ten best performing Branches by Region and Big Sir as selected by their Regional Director for the first quarter of 2013 in this edition of SIR HAPPENINGS. It's a way to acknowledge and thank those displaying the best performance in their Region. Each Branch's Big Sir, so honored, will receive the citation at a Branch luncheon or other special event from his Regional Director.

I would be very pleased to see this turn into a competition between Branches in each Region for the remainder of the year knowing that SIR would continue to thrive with all of your efforts, I am sure! I am looking forward to seeing and hearing about your fine efforts. Until then, enjoy and have fun!

Presidential Citation for Pursuit of Excellence in SIR

Rich Dettmer, SIR President

It is my pleasure to announce the ten Branches and their Big Sir, one in each Region, that were selected to receive a **Presidential Citation for Pursuit of Excellence in SIR** for the first quarter of 2013. They were selected based upon input from their Regional Directors for performing at the highest level among Branches in the Region. They will be presented with a State Certificate of Award by their Regional Directors. Congratulations to the following Recipient Big Sir and their Branches:

John E. Schlenz, Branch 129, Region 1
Karl E. Ryden, Branch 49, Region 2
Ted Patterson, Branch 69, Region 3
Frank R. Barker, Branch 149, Region 4
Kenneth M. Reed, Branch 4, Region 5

Stanley Johnson, Branch 8, Region 6
Charles E. Hanson, Branch 125, Region 7
Jerry L. Emery, Branch 144, Region 8
Robert G. Zimmerman Branch 98, Region 9
David N. McCuan, Branch 53, Region 10

I thank each of them and their membership for putting forth their best efforts in keeping Sons in Retirement a dynamic, relevant, and strong organization.

BRING IN A GUEST - WE NEED NEW MEMBERS

Sirs in the News

Almaden Branch 94, San Jose

Super Senior Nelson

Ron Carter, Membership Chairman

Pictured is Region 7 Director, Richard Kabanek on the left, presenting a Super Senior Award to 95 year old Larry Nelson.

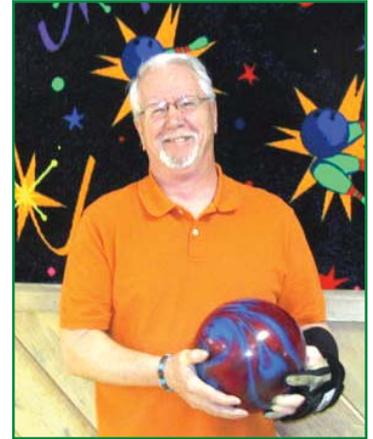


Snowline Branch 113, Pollock Pines

White Bowls a Perfect Game

Michael TerMatt, Bulletin Editor

In March at the Friday Boys bowling soiree at Knotty Pine Lanes, Sam White bowled a perfect 300 game! When Sam got his 10th strike in the 10th frame, the news circulated quickly and everyone stopped bowling and became very quiet. His next ball was again a strike and the crowd started buzzing in anticipation of his final ball. Sam calmly and slowly began his approach and released the ball.....CRASH!! All ten pins went flying in every direction until none were left standing. Sam had accomplished every bowler's dream... a perfect game. The crowd went wild.



Sam became the third member of Branch 113's very exclusive 300 Club. Only Bill Bumbaca and Tom Wollard have ever accomplished this magical feat before last Friday. Congratulations Sam, you did yourself proud. A very happy Sam White is seen in the picture following his perfect 300 game.



Pathfinder Branch 59, Fremont/Newark

Silva and Silveira Receive President's Senior Award

John Skarpelos, Bulletin Editor

In the photo on the left Sir Norman Silveira (right) is shown accepting the Senior Sir President's Award from Area 8 Governor Bob Aiello (center) and Little Sir Rob Ingebretson.

In the photo on the right Sir Mal Silva (left) is shown accepting the Senior Sir President's Award from Area Governor Bob Aiello.

Branch Survivability with Hope for the Future

Dick DeVoe, Survivability Action Team Chairman

The most critical issue facing SIR for the long-term is branch survival. Why? In less than 25 years, SIR has lost over 50 branches, and the failure rate is accelerating. In the past 15 months alone, ten branches have closed – including one with well over 100 members.

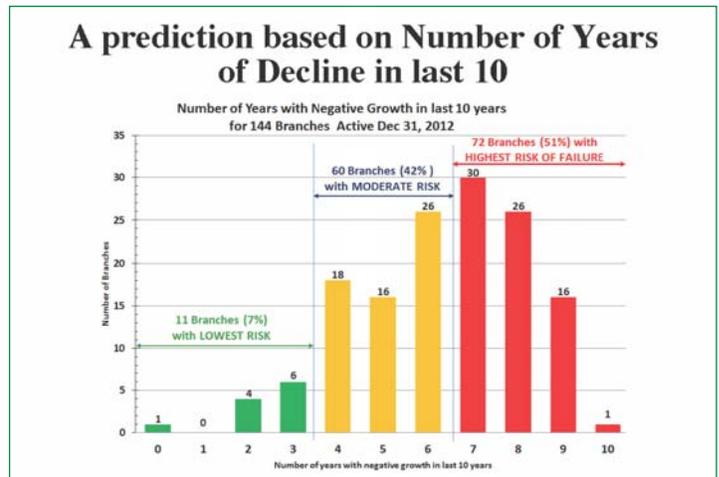
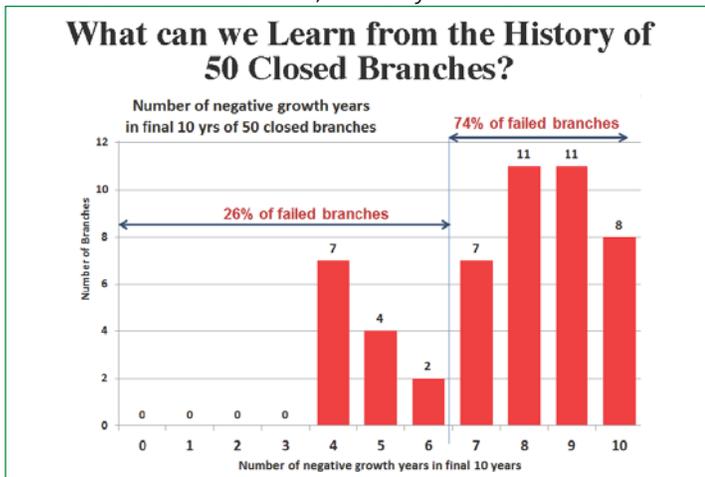
Survivability Action Team Founded

In December 2012 four members with similar concerns about Branches' deteriorating health came together to form the Survivability Action Team (SAT) as part of the State Growth & Membership Committee. One of its first findings was from regional/area leaders confirming that some closed Branches could have been saved if only proper identification and timely intervention had taken place. This knowledge increased the SAT members' determination to find appropriate indicators of every Branch's failure risk. No branch is immune to failure, as evidenced by 50+% of formerly healthy closed branches that once had over 200 members each.

Survivability Indicators

An early breakthrough in the SAT's research is reflected in the Chart on the left titled "What Can We Learn about the History of 50 Closed Branches?" Almost 74% of failed branches had 7 or more of their last 10 years with a membership decline. The other 26% lost membership 4, 5, or 6 of their last 10 years.

The Chart on the right shows why that information is so important in helping to predict failure risk in existing branches. 51% of our Branches are already at extreme risk of failure with 7 or more years of decline in the past 10 years. Another 26% are considered at moderate risk, and only 7% are at low risk.



This important indicator was followed by others using data that had never been available before – including from the Form 27 monthly branch report that began 3 years ago. The SAT then developed and produced a simple but revealing survivability summary sheet for each of the 135 existing branches.

Reigniting the SIR Spirit

In the past, there was no easily available information to warn regional and area leaders about the insidious decline toward failure for so many Branches. Now we have information that gives an early warning. The SAT calls this high-reward endeavor "Reigniting the Sir Spirit."

SAT Mission & 1st/2nd Phase

- Provide continuing Branch survivability-related information for each Branch,
- Share that information with Regional Directors, Area Governors, and Branch leaders in order for them to evaluate the survivability risk level of their Branches,
- Identify current effective tools for survivability improvement and to research new and/or improved tools,
- Provide experienced services of the SAT to those Branches committed to survival.

As part of the 1st phase rollout, Power Point presentations have been completed with 7 of the 10 Regional Directors and most of their Area Governors. The other 3 presentations are planned to be completed by the end of April. The 2nd phase is for a Regional Director, Area Governor, and/or SAT member to present the information to Branch leaders. The key to the survivability of Branches will be their leaders' understanding of their survival risks, their commitment to survive, and their actions short and long term to meet that commitment.

SAT Liaisons

Each SAT member has been assigned as SAT liaison to one or more Regional Directors (RD's) and their Area Governors:

- Dick DeVoe (chair) to RD 1 Bob Roberts; RD 9 Gale Jeffers; RD 10 Jim Filippo.
- Ed Benson to RD 4 Bobbie Hairston.
- Walt Schick to RD 3 Jon Moninger; RD 6 Dean Steichen; RD 8 Ed Dorn.
- Derek Southern to RD 2 Ralph Lingus; RD 5 George Kranen; RD 7 Richard Kabenek.

Updates on the next SAT phases and other evolving information will be printed in future editions of SIR Happenings.

How to Recruit Branch Leadership

Roger Pelz, Member of the Growth & Membership Committee

Are you having trouble getting your members to take leadership positions in your Branch?

Do you make announcements that there is an open position and you need someone to fill it and nobody comes forward?

I sympathize with you because that was also the case in my Branch. However, there is a way to guarantee that you get the people you want in leadership positions and have all positions filled every year, with just the right people. What is this magic process? ...I call it:

“THE FOUR STEPS TO GET BRANCH LEADERSHIP”

First of all, a little background on me to give this information some credibility. I was a Boy Scout Executive – paid professional – not a volunteer – for 20 years. During the first 10 years, I worked in the field with the adult leadership of Boy Scout Troops and Cub Scout Packs. At least three or four times a year, I would get the complaint that “we need a Scoutmaster, or Cubmaster, or a Den Mother, or a Committee Chairman, etc. and no one will volunteer to take the job.” I would meet with the existing leadership of the Scout unit and walk them through the steps recommended by the BSA to recruit leadership and not once – I repeat – not once in that period, did I ever fail to get the right person to take whatever position was needed at the time!

Does the complaint I mentioned above sound familiar to you if you substitute Branch needs like Little Sir, Secretary, Treasurer, Travel Chairman, Activities Chair, Recruitment Chair, Member Relations Chair, etc.? It did to me when I first heard the announcement from the head table that our Branch needed volunteers for a specific job and of course, no one came forward.

If your Branch uses the “FOUR STEPS TO GET BRANCH LEADERSHIP” exactly as written, you will get your man! If it has worked for the Boy Scouts of America for at least 75 years, it will also work for you. It is currently working really well for Branch 33. Last year in October we used the “Four Steps” process for the first time to recruit a Program Chairman. In February we began the 2013 Nominating Committee effort with a prospect selection meeting. Since then, that group has recruited: a Branch Executive Committee Director, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, and an Assistant Treasurer. By the time you read this article, we will I’m sure, have recruited the 2014 Little Sir.

You will find all of the material you need to use the “Four Steps” process on the Branch 33 web site. It is on a private page which can only be accessed by clicking on: <http://www.sir33.com/4steps.htm>.

If you have any questions about the “Four Steps” process or would like help in training your Nominating Committee on using the process, I urge you to call me, Roger Pelz, at 916- 961-3315 or Email me at rdpelz932@att.net.

INFOSYS Committee

Dean Steichen, Committee Chairman



Have you ever wondered what SIR Officers and Committees do?

First of all, SIR is an all voluntary organization. There are no office buildings, no “Administrative Assistants,” no hired help of any kind. Your Branch, Area, Region, State Officers and Committee members work from home, on their own, and frequently with little, if any,

recognition. They do this because they enjoy SIR and want to see it succeed.

Most of you probably have some idea what some of your Branch Officers and Committee members do but may not give it much thought. An organization like SIR, requires many helpers to keep it functioning well. Your Branch Officers (Big Sirs, Little Sirs, Secretary and Treasurer), along with your BEC and others, keep your Branch running but there are many others, outside your Branch, which contribute to your Branch and SIR.

The best information on what your SIR Officers and Committee members do can be found on the SIR website (www.sirinc.org). The Members Information web page has links to several documents which describe your leader’s activities. The SIR Leaders Guide describes important roles and duties while the Schedule of SIR Operations provides a schedule of tasks for both State and Branch Officers. Additionally, the Leaders Guides and Training Tools web page provides further information on their duties and tasks. A review of these documents will give you a good feel for all the work done at many levels to ensure your SIR experience is enjoyable and rewarding.

Maintaining the SIR State Website and keeping these documents current is just one of the many tasks performed by your SIR State Information Systems Committee. We hope you make good use of them.

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

Dean

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

News from the Branches

Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

Wine Appreciation

Jack Bevis, Wine Appreciation Chairman

“Wines of the World” was the theme as The Wine Appreciation Group met at Jerry and Kathy Hicks’ home on the last Thursday of January—see photo below. The twenty-five wine lovers were greeted at the door with an Oregon King Estates Pinot Grigio. Sampling of a Spanish wine from the Duero valley—a Chianti Classico Riserva from Italy—an Australian Shiraz—an Argentinean Malbec—and finally a Cabernet from Napa and Sonoma Valley followed. Plenty of hors d’ouvres provided a sobriety check for the abundant tastings.

The wine appreciation group meets bi-monthly, on the last Thursday of the month, at the home of one of the members who is the host for that time. Reservations must be made in advance through the Head Sommelier Jack Bevis. The host decides on the theme, selects and obtains the wines to be served and provides the Hors d’ouvres. The host also provides some wine tasting notes and general information on the selected wines. The cost is shared equally among the guests who deposit their share in a basket on their way out.

Modesto Branch 144

Who’s Up for Pickleball?

Chuck Adams, Activities Chairman

Members of our Modesto Branch 144 started playing pickleball less than a year ago after Discovery Bay Branch 161 taught us the game and helped stripe the tennis court. The game has really caught on within the Branch and now the games are a Saturday morning ritual. Standing on the court with their colorful rackets from left to right are Chuck Adams, Duane Retzloff, Sam Graham, John Gasper, and Cal Campbell.

Our local newspaper has featured several articles about SIR pickleball. The community is invited to play and some of our members provide lessons and the equipment for people while they are learning the game. As an added benefit, we just recruited our first player from the community as a member of our Branch.

We would like to find other SIR members statewide who play the game. Maybe we could start a tournament system within the organization like other activities enjoy ...remember, pickleball is the fastest growing retirement sport in the United States. Interested members can check it out online at: www.usapa.com or members can contact me, Chuck Adams, at chuckpadams@sbcglobal.net.



News from the Branches

Bidwell Branch 110, Chico

Woodworking Group Going Strong Michael Kobelt, Woodworking Group Member

When our Woodworking Group was started in the spring of 2009, it was agreed that our goal would be to learn and make things, while at the same time, enjoying the camaraderie. We have remained true to that purpose and have expanded our work to include occasional projects that benefit the community. One example of that is making white oak name plaques for the awards wall of the California State University, Chico gymnasium.

We have a core group of about seven regulars. Members bring in their own projects to work on, or help each other with their projects, but sometimes just hang out. A dozen or so other woodworkers and non-woodworkers visit occasionally to work in the shop, get help with a project, or just to see what we're all about.

Bill Gebhardt generously shares his well-equipped woodworking shop where the group meets twice a month. Bill always has a pot of hot coffee for us, and his wife sometimes bakes cookies for us. Bill is one of the coordinators of the group, and Little Sir Craig Lindquist, is the other coordinator. Craig also generously shares the use of his shop and special tools with the group.

In the lower photo Sir Ray Rolls on the left and Sir Bill Jameson on the right are shown cutting some Redwood pieces. The other picture shows a beautifully made toy chest that Craig Lindquist made for his grandson.



Our Woodworking Group is a friendly bunch of guys and has been a very successful activity for Branch 110.



Area 6 Fishing Group

A Hearty Bunch of Fishermen Bob Rowden, Area 6 Fishing Chairman

SIR Fishermen are a hearty bunch. We brave freezing cold windy seas in the winter and early spring in search of the elusive and prehistoric sturgeon in bay waters. We plunge ahead into ocean waters in early spring seeking King Salmon even before the weather warms. Salmon season is fast upon us now, with great expectations (as always) for an even better catch this year.

Area 6 fishermen prefer to ocean fish on the *Outer Limits*, a 55 foot catamaran out of Sausalito. We also fish San Pablo and San Francisco bays for Halibut and striped bass in late spring and summer. In the hard to believe picture, Dick Forman is shown hoisting the 110 pound Halibut he caught. Dick is 85 years old and brought that monster fish up to the boat, without help, from 300 feet of water...to be honest, the dark side of the fish had been filleted.

A smaller group (usually 4 to 6) travels to various locations each summer for larger species. We have been to Baja California Mexico to fish the Sea of Cortez for Marlin, Sailfish, Dorado, and Wahoo; to Rivers inlet and Vancouver Island in British Columbia for big halibut, and for the past several years to Sitka Alaska where we have had great catches of Salmon, Halibut, Lingcod, and Rockfish. We typically bring back about 90 pounds of frozen fillets per fisherman.

Our group meets on the second Monday of each month (except for December) at 9:30 am in the conference room of the Novato United Methodist Church where we exchange fish stories, plan trips, and share doughnuts and coffee. All Sirs are invited to join us!



Area 8 Travel

China Terracotta Warriors

Emile Lassalle, Travel Chairman

Our day trip to San Francisco to see the China Terracotta Warriors and a play was just fantastic! We arrived at the Asian Culture Center for the first part of our tour. To our surprise the travel company supplied us with a small bus, which was very cozy and allowed us to get acquainted with one another.

It was quite an experience for all of us to view such an amazing selection of the warriors (upper photo), horses, chariots, and the hundreds of artifacts all brought to San Francisco from China for Americans to see.

We departed the Asian Center and were off to Chinatown for a delicious Chinese luncheon (lower photo) at the Garden Restaurant. Three tables were ready and the food was superb...our only complaint was that there could have been more food.

After lunch, we headed to our live Chinese stage production... "Turmoils at Professor Ming's Mansion" at the Buddha's Universal Church. It is an original production set in Ancient China with a modern-day spin and was spoken in both Chinese and English. The children were all dressed as animals and were having so much fun running across the stage. The garments, that all wore, were either from Hong Kong or China and were so colorful and beautiful.

I highly recommend that if you have not seen the Terracotta Warriors, GO! ...it's something you don't want to miss.



Region 4

Wanted: A Bocce Tournament!

Bill Lewis, Member of Region 4 Bocce Group

Region 4, which is comprised of Napa and Solano Counties, has been playing winter Bocce under the cover of Napa's excellent courts—see picture. We are looking forward to having Vacaville and Fairfield join us soon ...and we are also asking that other SIR Bocce teams contact us so we can try to work out a big tournament later on this year.

Any interested teams can contact any of the following Sirs: Joe Catania at 707-224-2586, pjcatania@comcast.net – Gary Savelli at 707-552-4200, jamminwithgary@att.net – or, Bill Lewis at 707-643-6032, wmalewis@att.net.

We do hope to hear from some of you Bocce players out there.



Twenty-one reasons why English is Hard to Learn

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there was no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen on how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when does are present.
15. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
17. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
18. After a number of injections my jaw got number.
19. Upon seeing the tear in the painting he shed a tear.
20. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
21. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend? ...

News from the Branches

Country Club Branch 33, Carmichael

Goodwill Ambassadors of SIR

Gil Robles, Big Sir and Bob Keldgord, Past Big Sir

They are thirty-six in number and are the public spirited musical ambassadors of SIR. They're known as the Country Aires and are sponsored by the Country Club Branch 33...see picture. In 2012, they entertained over 4000 folks at 68 appearances in the Greater Sacramento Area.

They range in age from 60 to 95, with an average of 77.6 years. Thirty are members of Branch 33 and the remainder are from Branches 107, 14, 127, and 9. They include retired educators, engineers, military personnel, governmental employees, insurance executives, a lawyer, a dentist, an auctioneer, a chef, a computer systems analyst, and other vocational areas. Overwhelmingly, they are proud veterans of military service, primarily from World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam.

They've been entertaining folks since 1972! Of the current group, twenty seven are vocalists and eight are musicians. Since 1999, the ensemble has been under the distinguished direction of Clyde Kidd, a retired high school principal, who is ably assisted by Fred Stallcop, PBS and SHLM, who serves as Business Manager. For some ten years, the group also included a former broadcaster as its announcer/emcee.

Branch 33 is believed to be the only SIR Branch with a choir. It all started very informally when three Sirs stood in the rear hall of monthly meetings and began harmonizing...that was in 1971. A year later, the current organization was formalized, and ultimately a uniform of Gray trousers and Blue Blazers was adopted. In addition to its current Director, the organization has been well served by four Maestros, including Duane Hansen, who directed from 1995-1999 and who, at age 90, remains a valued member of the group.

The choir's history would not be complete without credit to Jean Weathers, an immensely talented pianist, who accompanied the vocalists from 1989 until her retirement in 2012. Pictured are the group's instrumentalists which includes a pianist, an accordionist, two banjo players, two guitarists, a keyboard bass, a harmonica virtuoso – plus a drummer, Houston Keehner, who at age 95, is the organization's senior member.

"Pay" for the participants comes in the form of satisfaction received during and after performances, as enthusiastic audiences applaud and otherwise demonstrate their appreciation.

As Director-Emeritus Duane Hansen noted in 2006, "The men take part because of a great love of music, a desire to find humor, camaraderie, treats, and expressions of appreciation."

Both SIR and residents of the Greater Sacramento area are, indeed, extremely fortunate to have this marvelous musical group. Rarely has any group given so generously to its community for so long!

At age 41, the Country Club Aires are going strong, ready and willing to serve as goodwill ambassadors for SIR!



Committee Reports

State Golf Committee

Don Dill, Operations Chairman

SIR Golf Can Grow Your Branch Membership!

It's hard not to get caught up in the number one topic of concern in SIR: the loss of membership. Lots of negative doom & gloom, but sometimes you have to look at the positives and maximize your recruiting efforts around your number one activity...GOLF. As of April 1st we have 4,816 SIR NCGA golfers and we are growing each month...that's 27% of all the SIR membership.



We have challenged our Division, Area and Branch Golf Chairmen to step up to the plate and grow SIR golf, while at the same time bringing in new, young members. Big Sirs of 2013 and up-coming Little Sirs, if your Branch Golf Chairmen aren't growing your membership, then they aren't doing their job! Area Governors--if your Area Golf Chairmen aren't growing membership through golf, then get a new Donkey!! When's the last time you sat down with your Area Golf Chairman and challenged him to show you the following:

- Area and Branch Golf tournaments promoting guest events, couples golf and reaching out to new golfers/members? Do you have a publicity guy?
- When's the last time your Area/Branch Golf Chairman ran a "public service announcement" in the local paper promoting SIR golf and the opportunity for new members to get their NCGA handicap for \$36, the cheapest price in town?
- Is he supporting the Team Championship, Individual Championship, and a host of other State events, or pre-occupied with his own little event in Star Thistle, Nevada?
- Your Area golf program should probably have a handicap chairman, certified by NCGA program... homemade handicaps don't recruit good golfers.



There are great hard working Branch and Area golf chairmen out there growing our 4,816 SIR golfers but there is far more we can be doing. SSGC has challenged our 5 Division Chairmen to light a fire under our Area and Branch Golf Chairmen to rebuild our membership numbers. Activities are the number one reason people join SIR! If I can

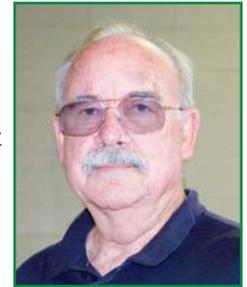
be of any help to any SIR golfer, call me at 530-885-6943.

Don

State Bowling

Del Locke, Committee Chairman

There really isn't much new news. We are executing our plan for 2013 with 5 of 21 scheduled SIR bowling tournaments already held.



All relevant SIR bowling tournament news can be found on our website. We have posted the 2013 schedule as well as upcoming tournament entry forms and tournament results. In the near future I will be contacting SIR Tournament Managers, Branch Bowling Chairmen and other Sirs to compile a list of all SIR bowling leagues in the state to see if the Bowling Committee can expand our tournament schedule. We will be looking for potential Branches that may want to host a future SIR tournament, as South Lake Tahoe did last year. There are currently 3 spots open on our schedule and we would really like to fill them in to make SIR tournament bowling available to as many Sirs as possible.



The 2013 SIR State Tournament was held May 19, 20 and 21 in Sunnyvale. For information on this tournament, interested Sirs can contact the Tournament Manager, Tom Birley, or look for tournament information on the SIR Bowling website:

<http://sirinc.org/bowling/>

Del



Happenings Travel Bulletin

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 18-24, 2013

Best of the Canyon Lands

Spend six days touring the canyons of Utah and Arizona. You will visit Moab, Arches National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Monument Valley and the Grand Canyon. Tour includes a guide and r/t air. Cost is \$2588 PPDO. Offered by Branches 32 & 54. Call John Pletsch at 408-274-2992

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 12-21, 2013:

Sorrento Italy Tour

Tour highlights include an overnight stay outbound in Boston and 7 nights at the 4-star Hotel Michelangelo in Sorrento. We will visit the Museum of Correale, spend a full day on the Isle of Capri, see the lost city of Pompeii, tour the Royal Palace and the magnificent grounds and gardens of Caserta & Montecassino and visit the famous hilltop Abbey of Montecassino which was destroyed during WW II and rebuilt again. A three day Rome extension option is available. Cost is \$3795 PPDO. Offered by Branch 96 Travel. Call Lee Suess at 209-296-2235 or Gary De Rosa 209-296-4934.

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 5-12, 2013

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

This is the most photographed event in the world...but our trip doesn't end there. We will also visit Santa Fe, Taos, the wonders of Carlsbad, travel through the Sacramento Mountains to Ruidoso (Billy the Kid Country), then to Albuquerque by way of White sands & "Valley of Fire" Lava Flow. We will visit Acoma, Indian Pueblo for a tour of the Mesa Top Fortress and ride the world's longest aerial tram to the top of Sandia Peak. Cost is \$2695. Offered by Branch 98 Travel. Call Sam Kemp at 916-781-0822.



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.

November 13-25, 2013

Provence to Paris

This is an 8-day (7-night) cruise on the Rhone River (Broudoux Valley) to Macon. We will travel by bus to Paris for three days where we will enjoy tours of the city and Versailles. Prices range from \$4510 to \$5210 PPDO. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226.

State Baseball



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

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

Hey Computer Guy

Frank Franzago, Branch 69 Bulletin Editor

The other day, I was sitting at the kitchen table doing my income taxes. I had all kinds of stuff scattered around... tax forms, W-2's, 1099's, bank statements, investment statements, etc. I got to thinking that this is just like my computer. I have all the stuff that I am working on, on my desk top. When I finished with my taxes, I bagged up everything that remained, put it in a large manila envelope and marked "2013 Taxes" on it and stored it away in a filing cabinet. I do the same thing on my computer. When I finish what I am doing on the desktop, I package everything and put it in a folder, name the folder, and store it in My Documents or My Pictures. This is an excellent way to be able to find anything that you created or saved. I must have at least 20 folders in My Documents. The same goes for pictures. It's easy to make a new folder. Just right click your mouse, select NEW, select FOLDER and name it. To get any file into that folder, just click on it (hold the mouse button down) drag the file to the folder and then release the mouse button.

Here's another tip...If you are a "Hunt and Peck" typist like I am, and often accidentally hit the Caps Lock key and type a lot of text in caps before noticing it and then have to retype all of it in a small case, you might be interested in a way to prevent this from happening by in effect putting an



alarm sound on the Caps Lock Key. To install a tone that sounds when you hit the Caps Lock key, go to Start, Control Panel, Ease of Access Center, Make the Keyboard Easier to Use. Then put a check on the Turn on Toggle Keys block. After that, you will hear a tone whenever you press

Caps Lock, Num Lock, or Scroll Lock. If you have Windows 7, just right click on the desktop, then Personalize, Ease of access center is on the lower left and the rest is the same. Send your computer questions or tips to: Hey Computer Guy, Franque12@surewest.net.

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