

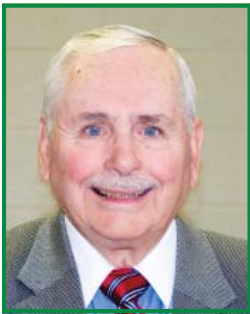


SIR HAPPENINGS

FALL 2014 VOLUME 11 ISSUE 4

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

President Maynard's Column



Our president, Maynard Rodland, is unable to write his usual outstanding President's Column for this edition of SIR Happenings.

Maynard underwent heart surgery several months ago and as frequently happens, the surgery was a success but side issues have kept him in and out of the hospital ever since.

Like all Presidents, Maynard has left his positive mark on SIR. In my mind, the most dramatic was his turning SIR into a more fiscally responsible organization with his development of a budget system that makes us all more aware of where we spend our money.

Maynard's warm personality was effective when he took on membership as his most important issue. He promoted more co-ed activities and looked further down the road toward some structural changes in SIR that would make our recruiting more relevant. He worked closely with the Growth and Membership Committee to this end and reported on this in a previous edition of Happenings.

The Board is focusing on co-ed activities which include dine-outs, different sport activities, and many more ideas. This is a positive direction for SIR and while it not only increases participation, it provides a secondary benefit by bringing in new members through the wives of our members.

Had Maynard written his remarks, he would have mentioned that as President he most enjoyed visiting the Branches where he was able to interact on a one to one basis.

Maynard told me that he is determined to make the January State Board meeting where he wants to thank all those that have helped him along the way.

Dwight Sale
Publisher of SIR Happenings
Past President and State Advisor

Pony Express Branch 69, Sacramento

When all else Fails – ...Follow the Rules

Frank Franzago, Bulletin Editor

Like most branches, we have always had a problem trying to meet the SIR goal of 70% attendance.

This year, we have maintained 78%. How did we accomplish this? It was simple...we followed the rules.

At the first BEC meeting of the year, the Board was presented with the previous year's attendance report. The members who did not meet the attendance minimums (dead wood) were identified. The Big Sir then called them to see if they really wanted to remain members. A few said no, others had legitimate problems and asked to go inactive. Although this cut into our membership numbers, our attendance rate jumped up.

We also designated a Branch Director as Attendance Monitor. Each month he reviews the luncheon attendance and calls all members who have missed the last three Luncheons without an excused absence. He then reports his findings at the next BEC meeting and recommends actions to be taken – a call from Big Sir, Form 4, Inactive status, etc. This has worked out extremely well for us. Although our membership has lost a few bodies, we have a much more active membership that participates in our Branch activities.

So...if your Branch has been unable to meet the SIR standard goal of 70%, check to see if you are following SIR rules 60, 100, 107 and if not, take appropriate action.



BRING IN A GUEST - WE NEED NEW MEMBERS

Sirs in the News

Bayshore Silver Anniversary Branch 118, San Mateo

HLM awarded to Dokouzian

Bob Green, Big Sir

Roger Guido, Branch Member

President Maynard Rodland is shown on the right presenting Sir Harry Dokouzian with his Honorary Life Membership award at a Branch luncheon meeting last August. Harry has been a long time member (since Oct 2000) and has served twice as the Branch's Big Sir. His participation in all aspects of the Branch's activities has greatly contributed to the success of the Branch.



Orangevale Branch 150, Rancho Cordova

A Hole-In-One for Doug Hilton

Bob Carlstroem, Bulletin Editor

A *Hole-In-One* doesn't happen too often and it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy...and a former teacher at that!!

It happened for Doug Hilton (see picture left below) at the Cordova Golf Course on hole #8 at a distance of 159 yards. Doug used a hybrid 3 iron. The event was witnessed by our Golf Chairman, Harold Doppelmayer, Assistant Golf Chairman Brent Soulis and John Ramos.

Since Harold, and his foursome usually bring up the rear, most all of the tournament attendees had taken off and weren't around to celebrate the event. Thus, Doug only had to put out for one \$9.00 pitcher of beer and collected a cool \$204.00.

This wasn't Doug's first *Hole-In-One*. That took place four years earlier at the Bradshaw Ranch Golf Course on hole #9. That was witnessed by John Duffy (I hope Doug bought John a beer).

The last *Hole-In-One* for Branch 150 took place back in May of 2012 by Bob Carlstroem.



WestGate Branch 125, San Jose

Feather in the Cap Awards

Michael Cronk, Bulletin Editor

Rudy Lopez and George Bassi (left to right in the picture) are shown being presented "Feather in the Cap" awards by Director Roger Danielson for scoring holes-in-one. Lopez got his ace on the 155 yard 2nd hole at Dublin Ranch in June, while Bassi aced the 160 yard 15th at Poppy Hills also in June. Another Branch 125 member, Jerry Davis, joined the Ace Club in August with a hole-in-one on the 158-yard 4th hole at Spring Valley.



Spotlight on SIR Officers

Bob Hairston - 2015 State President



How did a shy mid-western boy end up as President of Sons in Retirement?

After growing up in the 60's outside of Chicago during the draft years, I enlisted in the Navy before getting drafted and volunteered for submarines. I went to boot camp and school in Great Lakes, Illinois. From there I went to submarine school in Groton, Connecticut and then to an aircraft carrier in San Diego. It was then onto Nuclear Power School in Vallejo, a prototype submarine in Idaho and then back to Vallejo to a submarine in the shipyard that was all in pieces.

When that submarine was back together and tested, it was sent to Charleston, South Carolina and after changing crews, we set off for Cape Kennedy, shot a test Poseidon missile and headed for the Panama Canal. I wonder how many of my readers have been lucky enough to go through the Panama Canal or have enjoyed a barbecue lunch on top of the missile tubes of a nuclear submarine. Once we arrived in Hawaii, we changed crews, met our wives and started a rotation that lasted four more years. During those four years, I earned my submarine qualification dolphins and ran the engine room on the submarine.

When I got out of the Navy, I applied at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo. I did very well at Mare Island with my submarine experience. For the next nineteen years, I overhauled, tested and taught submarine equipment and systems. One of my favorite jobs was sea trials where the object was to break the equipment before it was turned back over to the submarine crew and I was very proud that the equipment held up. For eight of those years, I was an instructor teaching the shipyard employees how the submarine worked and submarine crews how the shipyard worked and sometimes the goals were different.

When I retired in 1995, I was asked to join Sons In Retirement by three fellow Mare Island guys. I was immediately placed on the BEC as a Director. My election to Little Sir soon followed and after that, I was the Big Sir in 1999 and 2000. I left that Branch and became golf chairman. After a year off, I became an Area governor, then a Regional Director and Vice-President in two year increments.

I have worked part-time for H&R Block, Waddell and Reed Financial Services, the Pepsi Golf Tour, and the Chardonnay Golf Club. I also finished my studies for a Bachelor's Degree and graduated from St. Mary's College.

I met my wife, Mary, while in Nuclear Power School and we thought that was a good time to get married and our marriage has lasted for 43 years.

Don Dill - 2015 State Vice President



I was born in the Canadian Rockies in Nelson, British Columbia in 1938 and moved to Vancouver BC at the age of four where my sister and I lived with my mother while my father went off to WWII. I finished high school at University Hill High in Vancouver in 1956 and went immediately to the University of Arizona where I met Carol, my wife of 55 years. After graduation, I began a career in retail with the F. W. Woolworth Co. and spent the next 37 years starting as a Trainee, then Store Manager, District Manager, Loss Prevention Director and eventually the last 15 years as a Senior Director of Human Resources. I retired in 1998 and became an HR Consultant. We sold our home in San Mateo and moved to Auburn in the spring of 2001.

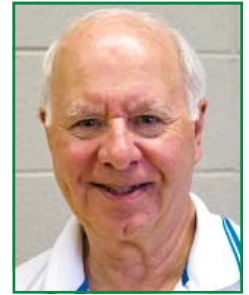
One day, I was dragged off the golf course by an overly aggressive Sir and I joined Branch 79. I became the Branch Golf Chairman and from there it was Area Golf Chairman and then I moved on to the State Golf Committee where I held a number of positions including: Division 2 Chairman, Policy Committee, Secretary, and Operations Chairman. My real love has been at the Branch level as Membership Chairman, Little Sir, Big Sir, and then Area Governor, Regional Director, and now 2015 Vice President Elect.

The most important thing that Sons In Retirement has given to me is an opportunity where one can develop **Friends for Life**. Throughout my business career, it was short-time corporate relationships that had left me with only three real friends after almost forty years spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific. But SIR – at the Branch (79) level – has provided me with friends that they write books about like...World War II heroes, tons of Air Force and Army guys, small business contractors run by basic get your hands dirty tradesmen, who will show you how to fix a pipe, run a back-hoe or repair your deck. These guys are **Friends for Life** and they are too numerous to list by name but far more than three. It is now time to give back more by assuming a leadership position and I ask my fellow Sirs to help **US** create a culture where others have the opportunity to find the same great organization that I have found in SIR.

Spotlight on SIR Officers

Derek Southern - 2015 State Secretary

I was born in North West England but lived near London until I went to Durham University and majored in Chemistry. This led to a career in the separation sciences. I developed some new products and was transferred to the company's New Jersey subsidiary where I discovered that they needed me more for marketing than for my science background and so I earned an MBA with a focus on marketing and USA accounting. In 1979, a company in California offered me a job and I spent the rest of my working life marketing scientific products to companies around the world.



During my career, I worked twice with Walt Schick and when I retired in 1976, Walt invited me to a Branch 8 luncheon in Walnut Creek. I showed some interest in joining SIR and he asked me to help him edit the Branch newsletter. So, even before I was inducted in 2006, I was editing the newsletter. The next year, the Membership Secretary was unable to continue and I was offered that job. The records needed updating and combining into a database so mailing labels for the newsletter and the roster could be produced from a single file. I also taught myself about websites and became the Branch Webmaster in 2009. After three years, I was asked to stand for election as Little Sir and then I became the Big Sir in 2011.

International marketing required a lot of presentations and instructional sessions and I also taught MBA marketing for an online university since I could do that while traveling, even with slow modems. This expertise led to me joining the INFOSYS Committee, then the Training Committee and finally the G&M team. In the latter, I examined historic SIR data and the Form 27 data that showed how just a few branches were really healthy and so many were not. This helped the SAT team alert Branches to the dangers of not recruiting enough new members to beat their attrition rate. Not a new concept, but the graphs I produced helped make the point to every Branch. This year, I was tasked with chairing the State Training Committee – a job almost completed – and when the opportunity came to volunteer as State Secretary, I applied and was voted in for the 2015 year.

News from the Branches

Snowline Branch 113, Pollock Pines

Where Gold was Discovered

Don Uelmen, Big Sir

In October, Paul Kramer and his wife Melanie were the docents for Branch 113's day at Discovery Park in Coloma.

The State Park is the site of Sutter's Mill where John Marshall found the gold that led to the California Gold Rush in 1849. In addition to a replica of the saw mill, the park has a wonderful visitor's center and many historic buildings from the 1850's.

The area, along the South Fork of the American River, was a virtual "Garden of Eden" for Native Americans as it provided year around food and game.



In the upper picture from left to right are: John & Helen Carlson, Paul Kramer, Ted Rytel, Melanie Kramer, Caroline Uelmen, Ernie Costa standing at the Grinding Rock where the Indians ground acorns. In the lower picture, a group from our Branch is standing in front of the monument marking the site where gold was discovered.

After a tour of the Park grounds, Paul and Melanie gave us a presentation about a pioneer family's preparation for a six month trek across the plains and mountains from Missouri to California in 1848 & 49. We then finished the day with a picnic lunch.

News from the Branches

Discovery Bay Branch 161

Memorial Boat Cruise

Tom Jones, Bulletin Editor

The California Delta community of Discovery Bay is home to two particular enthusiasts: Boaters, with access to over 1,000 miles of Delta waterways, with their boats docked in their own back yard and Golfers, who have a championship golf course and country club in their back yard.

Back in 1993, after a SIR meeting – or maybe it was a boat ride, or maybe a round of golf, and discussion with his buddies – Al DiGiusto conceived the idea of an event that would help introduce non-boating Sirs and their wives to the world of boating on the Delta. The idea was simple: Get the Sirs with boats to invite the non-boaters to ride with them on a cruise to one of the many Delta waterfront restaurants for lunch.

Al coordinated this very successful annual event for 12 years, until his passing in 2005. The event continues in his honor as the “Al DiGiusto Memorial Boat Cruise/Lunch” hosted by Bob Damico, Al’s neighbor and good friend.

The 21st annual event was another success. It was a perfect day for the event and around 11:00 am, five boats – with 31 Sirs and 30 Sir Ladies – converged on the Boardwalk Grill in Discovery Bay. As in past years, the tables quickly filled, the drinks began to flow, and chatter filled the air.

After lunch, thirty nine revelers embarked on the five waiting boats, like the one shown in the picture for a fun sightseeing tour of Discovery Bay.

Once again, a great time was had by all and we’ll be doing it again next year for the 22nd time.



Arnold Branch 152

Congratulations on 25 Years

R. Douglas Nunes, Big Sir

Branch 152 in Arnold was founded in January 1989, after the Murphy’s Branch 140 became too large for their meeting place and had a long waiting list. Since there were such a large number of Sirs living in Arnold, a new Branch was formed there, starting with 152 members and at one time, it was agreed to raise the membership limit to 175.

Currently, the Arnold Branch has 79 members and enjoys a monthly luncheon at the Blue Lake Spring HOA Snow Flake Lodge.

We are looking forward to celebrating this important milestone on December 10th at our Branch Christmas Dinner.



News from the Branches

Las Trampas Branch 116, Walnut Creek

San Francisco Walk

Bernie Wroblewski, Walking Chairman

Last month, despite the threat of rain – that never materialized – a group from Branch 116 enjoyed a walking tour, conducted by a docent from the San Francisco Public Library, along the Embarcadero in San Francisco. Participants experienced several fascinating architectural and engineering renovations and artistic displays, along with the corresponding history, that has really transformed this area of the San Francisco waterfront into quite an attractive area. The picture shows one of the nicely remodeled buildings.



Spirit of 76 Branch 76, Santa Rosa

Sturgeon's Mill Demonstration

John Andrews, Bulletin Editor

Bob Conover, Branch Member

Most people have never seen a 16-foot redwood log turned into lumber by an ancient steam-powered sawmill, but some Branch 76 members had the chance to do just that!

Sturgeon's Mill (see picture) is one of the world's last steam-powered sawmills that still uses its original equipment, and we had a free demonstration – it was real treat! The mill (see picture) is surrounded by a forest of redwoods and the property is loaded with all kinds of antique equipment. The visit here was a fun-filled trip back into time.

When the mill fired up its 19th-century Atlas Steam Engine (see Picture), the sound filled the entire valley. Steam poured from the mill while the saw gained



speed. "People love watching a log being sawed up" said Bob Sturgeon, whose grandfather, Wade Sturgeon, built the mill a few miles away in 1913. Then in 1923, it was dismantled and brought to its present location outside of Sebastopol.

Aside from the mill and the gardens, Branch 76 members enjoyed the small museum with its ancient hand tools and other artifacts, logging trucks, the mill office with its manual typewriters, and the blacksmith shop.

The day ended with lunch served on picnic tables beneath the redwood trees. A great time was had by all!



News from the Branches

North Peninsula Branch 91, South San Francisco

The Best NFL Stadium

Steve LaRosa, Bulletin Editor

In August, some of our Branch 91 members and their guests enjoyed a private group tour of Levi's Stadium, the new home of the San Francisco 49ers.

We began at the upper level of the Intel Plaza, where our stadium tour guide took a photo of our group with the stadium in the background (see group picture). Then we moved on to visit several of the premium club spaces, a private suite and the Verizon Press Level. The press level area is as technologically up-to-date as imaginable and gave us an excellent view of the entire field...in fact, it's doubtful that the view of the field from any seat in the stadium would be any less than "good." Also, it's important to note that WiFi is available throughout the facility.

The stadium has many eating establishments, with food items to please every palate. Large TV monitors are everywhere, so that game attendees won't miss a single play. Regrettably, we were unable to tour a team locker room. However, we were taken through the Gold Rush locker room but to the chagrin of many, there were no cheerleaders present! We enjoyed the warm sunshine as we toured



the green roof on the NRG Solar Terrace and walked among the low-water, drought-tolerant plants.

Our tour ended at the 49ers Museum Presented by Sony and that, in itself, was well worth the nominal cost of the tour. The museum is truly a fitting tribute to the rich history of the past and present 49ers. The 49ers Team Store was adjacent to the museum and some of us purchased 49er clothing and memorabilia.

Our thanks go to our Assistant Secretary, Bob Valdez, for coordinating this wonderful tour. We all agreed that Levi's Stadium certainly lives up to its billing as the best NFL stadium.



News from the Branches

Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

79er Wine Trail

Jay Hansell, Bulletin Editor

David Biltstein, Branch Wine Steward

I've been the Branch 79 Wine Steward for almost 3 years now. I have my own small vineyard and belong to some wine organizations, so I guess that makes me qualified to be the Wine Steward.

Not long ago, a couple of us started thinking about doing more than just having a wine prize at our luncheons so I came up with idea of visiting different wineries. One of our members said that he's not fond of wine and why don't we visit some breweries as well because there are quite a few micro-breweries in the area...so hey, why not! In January, we launched the Branch "**79er Wine Trail**" alternating between wineries and breweries in the Auburn and Grass Valley/Nevada city area.

Our Branch **79er Wine Trail** group is always looking to explore our foothills for places that are not familiar to everyone. Although Vina Castellano has been there for quite a while, it is a little hidden. **Vina Castellano** specializes in Spanish varietals and they are an award winning winery and vineyard, and have been nominated for the KCRA A-List as Best Winery. Their 8 acres of vines on rolling hills are just magnificent, with the tasting room as the Cave (see picture) and the pond as a backdrop. I just can't say enough about how much our group loved going there. Teena, the winemaker/owner and her crew, put on a tasting not to be forgotten. There were 25 of us and Teena took the time to explain the different varietals and what is unique about each of them and how she and her father established the wines, winery and vineyard. After the wine tasting, most of us enjoyed a picnic lunch by the pond and enjoyed the view and of course, Teena was there serving us Sangria's. WOW, what a great day!!...we'll definitely be going back.



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Luther Burbank Branch 17, Santa Rosa

Boys Night Out

Jim Fenstermaker, Bulletin Editor and Branch Secretary

The "Boys Night Out" dining experience began in August 2013 as a means to get some members together for



a nice meal and to share stories and experiences of their golf games, along with many of their other interests. We usually meet on the second Wednesday of each month (except in December) and it has grown from just 4 to 5 members to sometimes as many as 10 members attending, depending a lot on the menu and the location...the picture shows a typical gathering.

We have tried many different food experiences and flavors... from pizza, hamburgers, Chinese, Italian, French, Peruvian, Japanese, Thai to some we weren't quite sure what it was but we tried it anyway. Most places were very good and we will probably go back again if we should ever run out of new places to try. Probably our most liked place was Café Europe for their Oktoberfest entrees and the dark German Beer!

After each dinner, we discuss where to go for dinner for next month and who will volunteer to check it out, confirm that the restaurant can handle a group of "seniors," that separate checks will be available and then write an article for the **BARK** Newsletter about where the venue will be, who to contact to confirm reservations and by when. In general, it has worked out fairly well and most of those that have been "regulars" seem to really enjoy the outings. We are continually having other members join in and some drop out but this seems typical of most functions these days.

We hope to keep this going as long as we can, and even expand it to a "Couples Night Out" which is starting to take off even better!...but, that will have to be a story for a later edition.

Committee Reports

State Bowling

Del Locke, State Bowling Committee Chairman

Here it is at the end of 2014 and the end of another successful year of SIR tournament bowling. I want to thank the members of the Bowling Committee and all of the Tournament Managers and their committees, who gave their time and effort to make this happen. Without them there would be no SIR bowling activity.

2015 looks like a good year for tournaments. The committee finalized the schedule at our last committee meeting in August. We eliminated a conflict with Sonora and the State Board Meeting in August by moving that tournament to July. Sir Burt Abero, the Tournament Manager for Sonora, worked with the Black Oak Casino to get this done. I know the State Board wasn't happy with the conflict in dates, so this is now not an issue.

Sir Abero and his Tournament Committee will host the SIR State Tournament in May. I attended the Sonora Tournament this year and for those who have not been to the Black Oak facility, it is the best. It's a clean, well-lit center, where everything works...pin setters, ball returns, hand driers, etc. The staff is friendly and helpful. SIR Bowlers should really try to attend this event. Put together a team and I'll see you there.

I may have over stayed my welcome as the Bowling Committee Chairman. By State Rule #554, I can be committee chairman for only three years. This is the end of my third year but the committee is having a little trouble finding a replacement, so I'll be around until we do.

Our first three tournaments in 2015 will again be Stockton, Napa, and Livermore. We will have the 2015 Tournament schedule posted on the SIR website soon. I need to thank Sir Dan Weller for taking over as web host for the bowling activity web page. Everything you need to know about SIR Bowling is on that page. We will get the 2015 Tournament Schedule approved at the SIR State Board meeting in January, so until then see you on the lanes.



INFOSYS Committee

Dean Steichen, Chairman

From time to time, I hear comments from members like: "What does the SIR State do?" or "What has the SIR State ever done for us?"

Here are **some** of the things SIR State volunteers do:

A) SIR provides **INSURANCE** protection for all members engaged in officially designated functions. There are four categories of insurance coverage: **General Liability** (includes Vehicle, Liquor, Fire Damage, Voluntary Medical Payment, Property and Valuable Records, Fidelity Bond and Money/Securities); **Excess Liability** that extends basic liability coverage; **Directors & Officers Liability Coverage** that covers unintentional negligent act errors or omissions; and **Certificates of Insurance** for owner/operators of facilities where SIR meets.

B) SIR provides California and Federal **TAX FILING**. Each Branch is a separate Corporation and must be filed separately.

C) SIR provides **LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION**. The **SIR Manual** and **SIR Leaders Guide** provide operating rules and guidelines. SIR maintains a **State Roster**, membership records, financial records and statistics which provide operating information. SIR also provides Regional Director, Area Governor and Branch Officer (Big SIR elect, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) **Training**.

D) SIR provides **ACTIVITIES, RECOGNITION AND COMMUNICATIONS**. SIR State sponsored activities include **Golf, Bowling, Travel**, etc. The **certificates** for Honorary Life Members (HLM), Senior HLM, Senior (90 year old), Super Senior (95) and Century (100) are produced and distributed by SIR State. SIR also publishes this **newsletter** (*SIR Happenings*), maintains the State **Website** (sirinc.org) and manages the servers which host many of our Branch Websites.

So now you know!

If you want to know more of the things SIR volunteers do, look at the State Roster, especially all the State Committees. The Roster can be found on the State Website (sirinc.org).

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



Committee Reports

State Golf

Bill Wilhelm, 2015 State Golf Committee Chairman

As we begin 2015, our first priority as the new State Golf Chairman, will be to look at the significant drop in our members' attendance at our state golf tournaments. I am making it my goal to increase play by our members. In order to achieve this goal, I need the help of all our golfers. I am looking for your ideas on how we can boost the participation in state and division tournaments. Please feel free to email me with your suggestions at bill@billandbev.com.



We have recently completed our annual State Championship Tournament at Poppy Hills and the winners were:

Championship

Flight 1 John Harrison
Flight 2 Daniel Huerbin
Flight 3 Steve Miller
Flight 4 Sam Gill
Flight 5 Dave Painchaud
Flight 6 John Reuter
Flight 7 Mike Bixler

Day One Open Play

Flight 1 Bill Fox
Flight 2 Wally Holmes
Flight 3 Ted Pullen

Day Two Open Play

Flight 1 Ted Harris
Flight 2 John Vink
Flight 3 Thomas Caldie
Flight 4 Leonard Hom

For a complete list go to our website www.golf.sirinc2.org

The new course design at Poppy Hills played tough and the greens are still very young. By this time next year the greens will be mature and should be little more playable.

Our schedule for 2015 remains similar to 2014 starting with our Spring Time Tournament in Napa, (applications available on the website www.golf.sirinc2.org), followed by our summer tournaments in Reno in June. Then we move

This is your committee and your participation is vital to the health of Sir State Golf.



to our Team Championship, "The Fall Classic" and finally back to Poppy Hills for the State Individual Championship.

The committee would welcome any new ideas for future tournaments or new venues for our existing tournaments. Please feel free to email any suggestions to the committee at ssgc11@gmail.com.

On a final note, we would encourage you to check out our website at www.golf.sirinc2.org. A lot of work goes into keeping up the website so we can keep you informed of all the upcoming events. Please check it out monthly to keep up to date on all state golf activities and let us know if we can do anything to help you bring in new members.

This is your committee and your participation is vital to the health of Sir State Golf.

Happenings Travel Bulletin

January 13-28, 2015 Hawaiian Islands Cruise

This is a 15-night, round trip cruise from San Francisco aboard the Star Princess. Cruise under the Golden Gate to Hilo, Honolulu, Nawiliwili, Lahaina, and Ensenada (Mexico). Each cabin receives one bottle of wine and we will have two private cocktail parties in addition to the Captain's party. Prices range from \$2420 to \$3875 PPDO, depending on cabin selection. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Contact Don House at 408-268-1703 or Allen Daily at 408-265-8140.



February 4-9, 2015 Panama Canal Cruise

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

March 9-25, 2015 Azaleas, Plantations and Cajuns

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

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

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

April 7-8, 2015 Eastern Caribbean Cruise

This is a 12 day cruise aboard the Royal Princess starting and ending in Ft. Lauderdale. Ports of call include St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Barbados, Antigua, St. Thomas and Princess Cays. Costs range from \$2395 to \$3450 PPDO, depending on cabin selection. Offered by Branch 141 Travel. Contact Brian Serpa at 408-227-7658 or Rollo Parsons at 408-268-5245.

May 6-18, 2015 Cruising the Best of Scandinavia

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

June 19-30, 2015 The Italian Riviera & Lake Como

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

September 19-27, 2015 Upper Mississippi River Steamboat Cruise

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

November 5-23, 2015 Crossroads of Turkey

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

Help Wanted

There is an opening on the State Insurance Committee and we are looking for someone who is familiar with commercial lines insurance. It is not a heavy duty job and the only busy time is during the first three months of each year, preparing for the renewal of the SIR insurance policies.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining our committee.

Angelo Coero,
Chairman of the State Insurance Committee
Phone: 916-472-6650
Email: angjjan@sbcglobal.net.



Get SIR Happenings Quarterly

If you want to get on the "Happenings" notification list, just mention it to your Branch Email Contact. Every Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall you can go to

<http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>
and download the latest issue.
Happy Reading!

Computers

Hey Computer Guy

Frank Franzago, Branch 69 Bulletin Editor

*Ever accidentally lose some text?
...here's a tip on how to recover it.*

Recently I received this tip from one of my old computer buddies. I haven't had occasion to try it yet but when all else fails, give it a try.

This is a super-quick tip that can save you a world of hurt. Ever accidentally hit the wrong key and lose a whole portion of text you were working on? Or maybe move something to the wrong place and not be able to find it? It happens. The quickest way to undo things – especially when you aren't sure what exactly it is you even did – is to hit the Ctrl key and the letter Z. Ctrl + Z will instantly undo the accidental damage.

Send your computer problems, tips and questions to:

Hey Computer Guy at franque12@surewest.net.



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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