



# SIR HAPPENINGS

SPRING 2015 VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

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

## President Bob's Column — The Future is Now



I have met a lot of Big Sirs at Honorary Life Membership presentations since October and at the two regional meetings for lunch with the President. I can feel their excitement and enthusiasm. Their Branches are growing again. Their members are bringing guests. The guests are filling out applications.

This plus one theme might work. Putting the focus on members and membership to bring in just one more guest. Just one more member. One more than the number the Branch began with at the start of the year-- Plus One.

Some Big Sirs have told me they are already at plus one over their losses. Some Branches are plus ten. But it seems like all the Branches are growing again. Or is it just Spring?

I want that energy and excitement to come from both directions. I make every effort to go to any Branch or Area for a presentation or meeting. And when I do, the Regional Director, Area Governor, and Big Sirs are there. I listen and they talk. That is how I see my job.

I have set a lofty goal and all of the members are doing their jobs. The newsletters are full of encouragement and positive information. There are activities and picnics and Spring Ladies Day events. Members are participating in sports trips and traveling and RVing. What a great organization we have!

## Ramping Up

### Dick DeVoe, Region 6 Director

RAMP is an acronym to easily recall the four functions important to long term Branch survival: R-Recruiting, A-Activities, M-Member Relations and P-Publicity.

Based on many years of SIR experience, the four RAMP functions have been found to be essential to the long term health improvement of Branches. The Survivability Action Team (SAT) encourages every Branch to be "RAMPing Up" with a Chairman and a Committee for each of these functions if it has not already done so.

There are many Branches that are now in high survival risk with none of these active functions. Without such emphasis – particularly in a Branch that can no longer offset member attrition – there is essentially no hope of long term survival.

The greatest deterrent to establishing these Chairmen and Committees in moderate-to-high risk Branches typically boils down to two reasons: The Branch leadership ignores or doesn't recognize the obvious survivability warning signs and/or the Branch leadership has attempted to establish one or more functions and has failed for lack of volunteers.

In reality, it doesn't matter which reason it is. The result will be the same...membership drops off, median age goes up, the Branch's energy/vitality declines, and Branch attractiveness for guests and existing members continues to decrease. It becomes a "perfect storm" that critically aggravates the situation.

"Branch leadership" is the key to the problem and the key to the solution. RAMPing up must be done to give the troubled Branch a chance to overcome the perfect storm.

- Leaders need to change the Branch culture from members "being served" to members "serving and being served." Without sufficient volunteers, it's obvious that Branch failure will happen in the future.
- Obtaining sufficient volunteers is not rocket science. However, for small Branches, it can be much more difficult. One tool is to engage Directors as Chairmen of RAMP Committees, who can find another member(s) to assist him. Another tool is to ask new members to serve on one of the Committees.
- If there is not a strong Branch culture "to serve" in a Branch, its leaders need to employ improved methods for obtaining volunteers. The Four Step process used by the Boy Scouts for decades is available on the SIRinc website, and there are experienced SIR members who have successfully used part or all of those 4 Steps.
- Recruiting and Activities are the two highest priorities. Both of these functions run closely hand-in-hand. The more and better recruitment, the more guests, the more activities, and the more attractiveness to guests (and members!).

**Bottom line**-Show me a Branch at high survivability risk without a strong RAMP commitment in the near future, and I'll show you an unsalvageable Branch long term.

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

# Sirs in the News

*The Villages Branch 114, San Jose*

## **Senior HLM for Eckert**

**Dan Affourtit, Bulletin Editor**

William (Bill) Eckert has been an active member of Branch 114 for over 20 years and during that time has performed outstanding and exceptional service to the Branch. Among his many contributions, he has served as Big Sir and received a Branch 114 Distinguished Member Award in 2008, in recognition of this extraordinary service to the Branch. He was previously presented with an Honorary Life Member Award some 10 years ago and has now been awarded the Senior Honorary Life Member Award.

Pictured presenting the award to Bill at a Branch luncheon are from left to right: Big Sir Lou Figone, Region 7 Director Pat Misener, Bill Eckert and Area 20 Governor Rene Padilla.



*Southern Peninsula Branch 5, Mountain View*

## **Cal Cook Awarded an HLM**

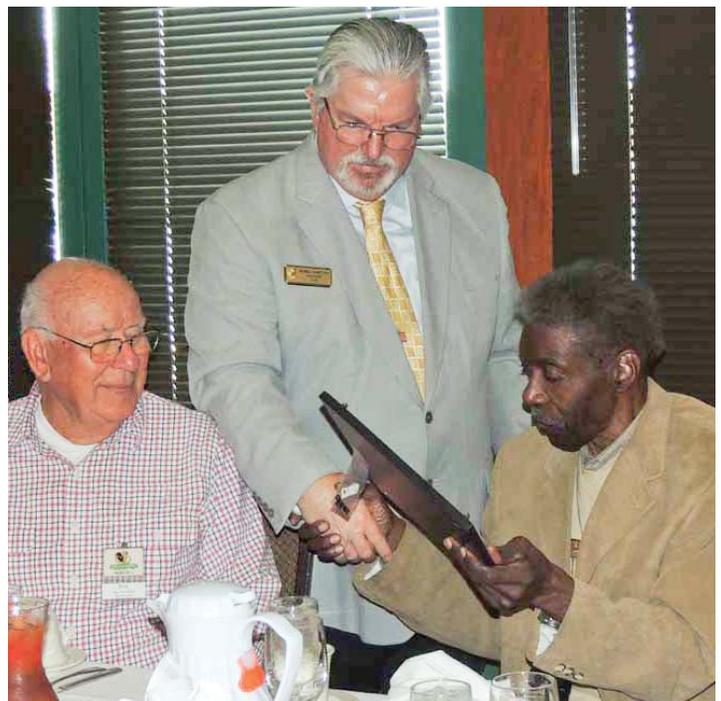
**Howard Trudeau, Director**

**Gary Hornberger, Big Sir**

Calvin "Cal" Cook received his Honorary Life Membership Award at the Branch 5 April 22nd luncheon for his outstanding contributions to the Branch since he joined in January of 1991. Cal was Big Sir in 2000 and served on the Branch Executive Committee from 1993 to 2009.

Cal was Chairman of both the Summer Barbeque and the Christmas Party each year from 2002 to 2009. These were always entertaining events, with talented entertainment, and they were enjoyed by all those that attended. He was also an active participant in the Golf Group for many years. Cal has widely promoted SIR membership and has sponsored 8 new members.

Standing in the picture is SIR President, Bob Hairston, presenting the HLM award to Cal Cook on the right. Also in the picture, sitting at the table, is Branch 5 member Roy Dreisbach.



# Sirs in the News

*Stanislaus Branch 103, Modesto*

## **Two Holes-In-One**

**Don Reed, Bulletin Editor**

In the picture on the left, Golf Chairman Claude McMillen is shown presenting Bob Kredit with a “Feather in the Cap” award from SIR State Golf for his hole-in-one. Bob got his ace while playing during the weekly 9-hole Muni Golf. He used a 3 hybrid, which he used to come within an inch of getting a hole-in-one on the same number 3 hole the week before.

Golf chairman Claude McMillen is shown in the picture on the right presenting Roy Bruk with another State Golf “Feather in the Cap” award for his hole-in-one on hole number 8 at the Creekside golf course. Roy hit a 3 wood on the 120 yard hole during an Area 22 golf tournament.



*Hooker Oak Branch 84, Chico*

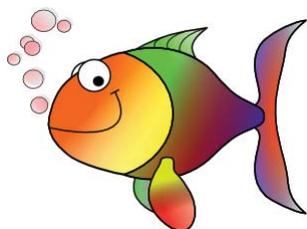
## **The Ultimate Fisherman**

**Gerry McLaughlin, Fishing Chairman**

**Don Bollerud, Bulletin Editor**

Fred Sherman is pictured with his trophy for being “The Ultimate Fisherman” of the Branch 84 Fishing Club. The trophy was presented to him by his fellow fishing “buddies” at their November breakfast meeting. Even at 95, Fred is still out there on the boat or on the bank, trying to “hook em.”

Fred, along with past Big Sir Tom Bowen and Gerry McLaughlin our Branch Secretary and Fishing Chairman, was one of the founders of the Fishing Club and has rarely missed the chance since then to “Go Fishin.”



# Sirs in the News

## Honorary Life Memberships Awarded in 2014

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Name</b>
129	John H. Aubuchon	21	Carlo J. Pedron
102	Gary Bohn	8	William A. 'Perk' Perkins
103	William 'Bill' Caldwell	68	James D. 'Jim' Phelan
117	James J. Casali	76	Fred M. Recknagel
118	Harrv A. Dokouzian	93	Maynard 'Rod' Rodland
161	Richard G. 'Dick' Donald	120	Gordon R. Shepherd
136	William W. 'Bill' Dunlavy Sr.	143	D. Bradford 'Brad' Sleeper
149	James 'Jim' Gibbany	45	William T. 'Bill' Smith
174	Paul E. 'Pete' Giers	8	Dean J. Steichen
89	Norman Graulich	28	Donald 'Don' Trout
143	Duane 'Chief' Larson	16	John F. Weaver
147	John T. McEntee		

## Confused about how to use

### SIR — SIR, Inc — SIR's — Sir — Sirs — Sir's — or Sirs'

...many of us are and here are some tips.

**SIR** stands for **Sons In Retirement** ...if you want to use the corporate title, use **SIR, Inc.** or **Sons In Retirement, Inc.**

#### Common Mistakes:

- **SIR** is never plural — there is only one Sons In Retirement — **so, never write or say SIRS** when referring to Sons In Retirement
- **SIR** is always capitalized
- There are no periods between the letters
- The possessive of **SIR is SIR's**

#### Some examples:

- John is a member of **SIR — Not SIRS**
- **SIR's** annual meeting is held in August — possessive
- **Sir Refers to an individual member of SIR**

#### Some examples:

- **Sir** John Jones is a member of SIR — Singular
- Many **Sirs** attended the SIR luncheon — Plural
- A **Sir's** son attended a SIR luncheon — Singular Possessive
- Some **Sirs'** wives attend SIR picnics — Plural Possessive

**If you agree or disagree, or have something to contribute send an email to The Editor, Don MacGregor, at [donmac@wavecable.com](mailto:donmac@wavecable.com)**

# News from the Branches

**Miwok Branch 134, Novato**

## **SIR Artists**

**Bill Bradfield, Art Group Chairman**

This February marks the first anniversary of the Art Group created by Branch 134. Like most activity groups, it came into being from the interest of some members, like Bill Bradfield and Alan Dunham. An initial organizational meeting drew the interest of eleven members and formal meetings began in February 2014.

In the quest to find a place to hold their monthly meeting, the new group had a stroke of good fortune when the daughter-in-law of a Branch 134 member agreed to let the group use her facility, the North Bay Artworks in Novato. Talk about a deal! It is a multi-use facility which includes a gallery, cubicles for use by local artists on a long-term basis, and a classroom, which is where the Art Group meets (see picture).

Branch 134 members with an ongoing interest in creating their own “masterpieces” and members with no artistic experience whatsoever are welcome...all one needs is curiosity and the willingness to try something new. Watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, charcoal, ink, pencil...the choice of media is up to the person.

As the Art Group enters its second year, the members are looking to add outings, such as an art museum trip, to their activities.



# News from the Branches

*Contra Costa Branch 146, Walnut Creek*

## **A Strenuous Activity**

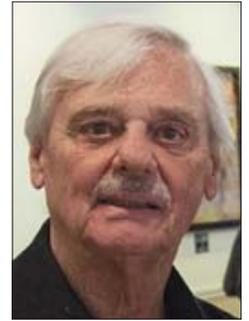
**Rich Ahlf, Hiking Chairman**

I've been in Branch 146 for about ten years now and although we've had a walking group for years, I figured we needed a hiking group to draw younger members. I was pleasantly surprised at the response I received when the group was started. As always spouses were welcome.

January of 2014 was our first outing and I picked an easy hike on Mt Diablo to see where everybody was health-wise. I gradually made the hikes harder and longer as the year progressed. Also as summer approached, I moved our hiking closer to Oakland, Berkeley and the Eastbay hillside when it became just too hot to hike in the Walnut Creek area. I tried to make the hikes interesting with sweeping views and beautiful scenery (see picture).

One of our early hikes was on the new Bay Bridge (bring ear plugs), about 6 miles across. I brought a couple of books on hiking in the East Bay and soon realized that although they were graded – Easy, Moderate and Strenuous – that did not pertain to our age group, so I've started grading our hikes. I'll probably need quite a few more hikes to get this right. I've graded them from 1 to 10 – ten being our most Strenuous. At the end of last year, we finished the season with a 7 mile, grade 10, hike at Diamond Mines in Antioch and I can truthfully say that quite a few of our group that completed this hike would not have been able to do it at the beginning of the year.

I now have about 30 Sirs in my group, with half as many spouses, and I have noticed an influx of new members who said that they wanted to join our group...and so I've concluded, that if you want to increase Branch membership and add younger men, this is one of the ways to do it.



**Rich Ahlf**



# News from the Branches

*Livermore Branches 101 & 121*

## **Hiking Group's Assault on Maguire Peaks**

**Art Hull, Branch 101 Hiking Chairman**

**Werner Schlaphler, Branch 121 Hiking Chairman**

Branches 101 and 121 in Livermore have a joint hiking group of about 35 to 40 active members, including spouses and guests, who meet every Wednesday at 8:30 am (rain or shine) to tackle the trails in one of the many surrounding Regional Parks in the Tri-Valley area. The hiking group meets at a local parking lot and divides into three subgroups: The Amblers, who do a flat hike usually at a nearby local park; the Ramblers, who enjoy a moderate distance and elevation gain; and the Scramblers, who take on a little more distance and elevation gain.

With nearly 100 trails to choose from, the planned choice of trails for a given day is always different. On a recent Wednesday in March, the Ramblers and Scramblers braved the 16 mile drive over to the Sunol Regional Wilderness to hike on the Upper Maguire Peaks Trail off of Welch Creek Road. At the northern edge of the Sunol Regional Wilderness, the trail system leading to the Maguire Peaks is very isolated and scarcely used, which adds to the adventure and enjoyment. Crossing the gently flowing Welch Creek, the Upper Maguire Peaks Trail immediately winds through a narrow tree-lined canyon and quickly climbs steeply to a ledge, with a sharply rising hill on the right side and an acrophobia inducing drop-off on the left (see picture). After the first mile the trail opens up into a gentle grassy plateau allowing the hikers to catch their collective breaths and draw some cool liquid from their water bottles.

We pause long enough to notice a few non-native cedar trees down the hill, possibly planted there by early 20th century ranchers. We frequently see remnants from the past like rusting farm equipment, old decaying farm buildings, and ancient Ohlone grinding rocks. From here the hike turns downhill along a heavily wooded dirt road, which isn't necessarily good since we will be retracing our steps back up.

At about two miles into the hike, we intersect the Maguire Peaks Loop Trail along which the Ramblers will stay for the moderate elevation gain, challenging enough, and with some great views of the surrounding valleys, while the Scramblers will head up to the west peak on a steep west side trail that overlooks the Vallecitos Valley and San Antonio Reservoir to the north and the majority of the Sunol Regional Wilderness to the south. The views from this vantage point are some of the best in the Regional Park system.

The Ramblers complete the loop around the base of the mountain, retracing their steps on the Upper Maguire Peaks Trail and while the Scramblers, after enjoying a granola bar break, climb down the northern side of the west Maguire Peak to take the same path as the Ramblers back to the cars.

On this hike the Ramblers and Scramblers cover about 6 miles each while the Scramblers climbed about 1400 feet of total ascent and the Ramblers somewhat less. Heading back to Livermore, we all know we have exceeded our required 30 minutes of sweating per week.



# News from the Branches

*Alta Sierra Branch 124, Grass Valley*

## **Pool League at Dusty's Tavern**

**Dusty Rigdon, Tavern Host**

Our Pool League now has 29 active members. We meet each month – mostly on a Monday – for about 5 hours with an average of 20 members joining in (see picture). Nine Ball is the game of choice because it speeds up the play, but the players set the game and rules of play. Liar's Dice, Cards & Dominoes are also played.

We have tried different formats for the food which got a little complicated on occasion, so we are now standardizing on a main course of Tri-Tip furnished by the host with 4 to 5 members bringing some type of Hors d' Oeuvres adding to the festivities. Those 4 or 5 members will change each month so everyone gets a chance to show off their cooking skills.

The cost is shared by all with each member putting up to \$20 in the tip-Jar. All drinks including beer, wine, and the hard stuff, along with the main food courses are supplied by the host. In the future, we may be able to have the Pool League event at other locations as more members with pool tables join in. If other SIR Branches would like to start their own Pool League, we would be able to have some playoff activities. For additional information on how this has worked out, send an email to Dusty at [dustystavern@aol.com](mailto:dustystavern@aol.com).



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*Dredgers Branch 112, Rancho Cordova*

## **Wheels & Reels**

**John Spisak, Bulletin Editor**

**Walt Hodnett, Fishing Chairman**

The Wheels & Reels was formed in the mid-80's after Branch 112 received our charter. We were sponsored by the Jolly Hookers of Branch 49. Almost all of the original members have died except for Bob Bellows and myself.

We have had many outings with our wives and also in the company of the Jolly Hookers. We've taken trips, as a group, to Canada and Mexico and also to Alaska. Once every year, we take our wives to lunch to reward them for allowing us to fish as much as we do.

The Wheels & Reels meet the fourth Monday of each month, except for December, which is "Ladies Month." We meet at Coco's, on Madison and Sunrise for breakfast at 7:00 in the morning.

In the picture, is a nice 2 ½ pound Rainbow Trout that I recently caught at Collins Lake.



# Committee Reports

## INFOSYS Committee

Dean Steichen, Chairman

The INFOSYS Database Sub-Committee is developing the next generation SIR State Database. The current Database evolved over many years as SIR information and record keeping needs have grown. It has served us well but its limitations are restricting our ability to distribute the workload and take advantage of modern networking opportunities (Cloud computing).

Data entry of financial data (Form28), State Roster (Form 20), and Certificates info are significant and time consuming tasks. Our current Database tool (MS ACCESS) was not designed to allow the input work to be distributed since the Database and processing programs were programmed to reside on a single computer. This means that all the data entry, reporting, emailing and printing must be done from this same computer. The overworked hero manning the database computer is 89 year old Dwight Sale. He is the creator, developer and custodian of the SIR State Database since its inception.

Our new Database team (Marty Owen, Dwight Sale, Dan Weller and Dean Steichen) is using a tool (civiCRM) which will reside on a network server somewhere "in the Cloud" and can be accessed from anywhere with internet access. We will be able to distribute the work pretty much anywhere it makes sense to do it. We will be able to input data, extract reports, send emails and print locally from any internet enabled computer. Of course, there is plenty of security and access controls so not just anyone will be allowed to do these things but it is only a matter of permissions and knowledge which will control who can do them.

Currently, we have completed many of the data conversion routines to populate the new database from our old one. We have developed much of the new Form 28 and Form 20 processes and are working on the financial processes to support California and Federal Tax and Corporate reporting. There is still a lot to be done but we have made a good start.

If you are interested in being a part of this project or any of the other processes supported by INFOSYS, contact Dean Steichen ([djsteich@comcast.net](mailto:djsteich@comcast.net)).



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## Growth & Membership Committee

Jerry Strain, Committee Chairman

In the past, I have mentioned about being your brother's keeper. That holds just as true today as it did before. In fact, I would like to use a quote from the first two lines of a song by the Hollies:

*The road is long with many a winding turn, that leads us to who knows where, who knows when.  
But I'm strong, strong enough to carry him. He ain't heavy, he's my brother.*

*So on we go. His welfare is of my concern, no burden is he to bear we'll get there. For I know he would not encumber me. He ain't heavy, he's my brother.*

It is time to embrace our older members, and call upon their knowledge and wisdom. Let's not just ignore them and put them out to pasture. Let's call upon them to stay active and involved.

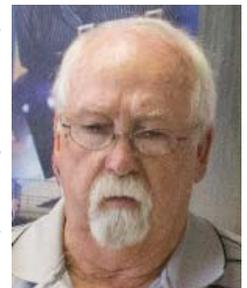
Sons In Retirement is not just an organization where you go to play golf, or go bowling once in a while...it is your extended family. It is not just a place to go once a month to a luncheon and eat, listen to a speaker, then go home and forget everyone. SIR is where you go to have fellowship with your other family. As VP Don Dill said, it is a place to find "Friends for Life." The friends I have made through SIR are my friends for life. We play golf, meet at one another's home to play cards or dominoes. We have dinners together, both dining out and dining in. We have been on cruises, bus trips, week long golf outings and road trips together. I have met guys who are plumbers, electricians, carpenters, auto mechanics, and more who are all willing to give a helping hand if needed.

Branch 159 has formed a "Transportation Committee" dedicated to offer rides for members who have difficulty in attending their Branch luncheons. I call upon all Branches within SIR to form such a committee, if you have not already done so. We need to retain our older members any way we can.

Membership (Retention) is as big a part of SIR as Growth. We need to do everything we can to retain our members, especially those who have become bored or complacent. This should be a priority for every Branch. Insure there are good speakers, improve or expand your activities and get as many members involved as you can. It is a proven fact, that Branches with numerous activities inspire retention and growth.

Most of all, we must continue to create more co-ed activities. We have found that dining out groups are becoming especially popular among the Branches. My Branch has so many in the dining out group that we had to add a second night. Pickle Ball, Bocce Ball and Bowling are also great co-ed activities.

Last but not least, let's make it our personal goal to help reach the President's goal of "plus one in each Branch." Bring someone to lunch next month who could be a friend.



# Committee Reports

## Golf Committee

Bill Wilhelm, Chairman

We are progressing well with our 2016 schedule. We have all our dates and most of the venues set, and they are as follows:

\*Spring Time in the Napa Valley, April 18TH & 19TH 2016

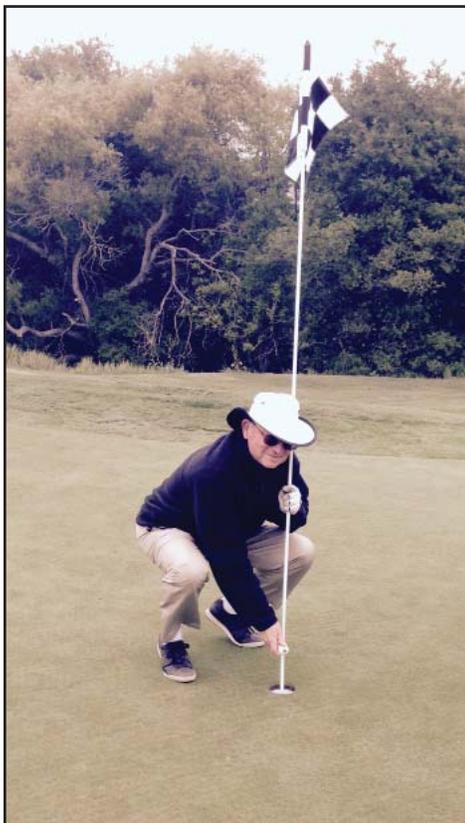
\*Reno Events at the fabulous Atlantis Hotel. Week one will be June 13TH to 17TH and week two June 20TH to 24th.

\*Our Fall Classic will be held in September – 2016. At this time we are still working on a venue.

\*The Individual Championship will be again held at the newly renovated Poppy Hills course on Oct 17th & 18th.

We had a great turnout for our annual Spring Time in Napa tournament...181 men and women! Day one was overcast but day two was downright cold, the coldest two days in April this year! One never knows what Mother Nature has in store for us. This year's tournament included some great shots but none better than Jim Cherniss who aced the eighth hole at Chardonnay (see picture below). Nice going Jim!

I was very thankful for the support from all you SIR golfers that attended the event and particularly for our SIR President for giving us a sendoff talk. Shown in the picture are some



of our leaders that

participated. Standing from left to right are: Bob Hairston, Don Dill, Bill Hockenson, Don Andrews, and Jerry Strain . Sitting are: Bill Wilhelm, Jim Lynch, and Rich Seyler. Our new SIR Vice President actually won a few dollars but we are still investigating his handicap for accuracy. Let's hope Mother Nature will be a bit nicer to us next year.

We are exploring other one-time tournaments for 2016, so we need all you golfers out there to help us out. If you have any ideas for venues and or formats you would like to see, please let us know. You can email me at [bill@billandbev.com](mailto:bill@billandbev.com). You can also check out our web page at [www.golf.sirinc2.org](http://www.golf.sirinc2.org) for more information.

Next scheduled event:

### **Reno Tournaments**

Week 1: 6/15/15 thru 6/19/15

Week 2: 6/22/15 thru 6/26/15

At the Atlantis Casino Resort & Spa and three great courses!

Three Days of Scramble Format

Summerset, Lakeridge, and Redhawk

Call 1-800-723-6500 for Reservations



As a reminder! This is your State Golf Committee, so please let us know how we can make your golfing experience at our tournaments more enjoyable.

**Until next time...Chairman Bill**

# Happenings Travel Bulletin

## **August 21- September 1, 2015** **Paris & Normandy**



This trip is a 12 day Seine River Cruise aboard the deluxe Ms River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$6,199 and include 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Offered by Branch146 Travel. Contact Ken Richter at 925-689-6217.

## **September 7-25, 2015** **The Island of Cuba**

The door is now open and CUBA is waiting to be rediscovered. Home pick up and transfer to SFO, then fly to Miami for an overnight stay and then a charter flight to Camaguey to begin a professionally guided seven-day tour. Interact with local residents and experience the culture, habits and lifestyles of the Cuban people. Visit colonial towns as well as the city of Havana. This tour is designed to provide an educational as well as pleasurable experience such as visiting the Bay of Pigs museum; learning to dance the rhumba; and how to roll cigars. The price is \$4560 PPDO and includes roundtrip airfare. Offered by Branch 1 Travel. Call Philip Manriquez at 650-871-5009.

## **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.

## **September 30-October 11, 2015** **Canada & New England**

This is an 11 day cruise on the Caribbean Princess. The cruise starts in Quebec City with 8 stops including: Port Saguenay, Graspé, Charlottetown, Sydney and Halifax, Bar Harbor and ends in New York. Prices range from \$2990 to \$3389 PPDO depending on accommodations and includes r/t air, and much more. Offered by Branch 58 Travel. Call Derlin German, at 707-763-6162.

## **October 9-23, 2015** **Eastern Mediterranean Cruise**

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

## **November 5-23, 2015** **Crossroads of Turkey**

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

## **December 26, 2015-January 3, 2016** **New Year's Celebration**

A New Year's Celebration on a Western Caribbean Cruise. Prepare to enjoy a better than usual way to greet the New Year. The event includes a one night stay in New Orleans and then boarding the Norwegian Dawn for seven days of freestyle cruising and visiting the following ports of call: Cozumel (Mexico), Roatan, Bay Islands, (Honduras), Harvest Caye (Belize) and Costa Maya (Mexico). Prices range from \$2350 to \$3530 PPDO. Price includes home pick up, roundtrip air fare to New Orleans and all shipboard meals. Offered by Branch 1 Travel. Call Philip Manriquez at 650-871-5009.

## **January 9-19, 2016** **Mexican Riviera Trip**

This is a round trip cruise from San Francisco. The ports of call will be: Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo, Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas. Some of the attractions include: Splendid beaches and lush jungles, early architecture and towns, wildlife, Mexico's largest turtle sanctuary, kayaking, snorkeling or scuba diving, zip-lining and other outdoor adventures such as, dolphin encounters and whale watching. Costs range from \$1455 to \$1995 PPDO, depending on cabin selection and includes home pick up to & from the San Francisco Pier and all shipboard meals & entertainment. Offered by Branch 62 Travel. Call Roy Jordan at 408-735-8765 or Jim Hohenshelt at 408-394-7226.

### State Travel Committee

**Bob Spellman, Chairman**

There are many good reasons why our members enjoy traveling with SIR, such as sharing their travel experiences with fellow members and it's a wonderful opportunity to meet new members and their wives, often leading to lasting friendships. Also, when you travel with SIR, you don't need to make any plans...just sit back and enjoy your trip.



Each Branch Travel Chairman is responsible for providing his Branch membership with a variety of travel opportunities including day trips, overnight trips, and longer domestic and overseas adventures.

As we all know, today there are thousands of travel options available and that the lowest price doesn't always guarantee the best value or experience. Sons In Retirement only works with travel companies that meet our strict requirements and can provide our organization with the expertise and experience needed to meet our members' expectations.

When our Travel Chairmen consider possible travel events, they compare prices as well as many other factors to see what is included and more importantly what is not included. Here are some of the things they look at before making a final decision: The length of the trip, number of meals, time of the year, is it a reposition cruise, gratuities, are tours with headsets included, airline stops and cost. Also considered are: Port charges and fees, shipboard credit allowance, beverage policy, cocktail parties provided and trip physical requirements. Additionally, if it's a land trip, the quality of lodging, restaurants, and transportation are also checked.

Many of our Branches also are very active in providing interesting daytrips for their members such as Golden Gate Fields, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Levi's Stadium, and Sporting events, Theater Shows, Casino and Wine tasting Trips. These trips usually involve a comfortable Motorcoach, returning home by dinner.

It is our hope that you will join us on one of our travel adventures in the near future.

#### 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**

Do you know what a Snipping Tool is? It is one of the coolest devices that I recently learned about. It is built into Vista and some versions of Windows 7. If it doesn't appear after you click on Start & type in Snipping Tool on your search bar, it can be downloaded free.

Used in conjunction with the Print Screen Key on the keyboard, it allows you to capture and save any portion of what you see on your monitor. Are you looking for a logo and when you find it, it is part of a big picture? Use snipping and you save only the logo. Is there a group picture showing and you want to cut out one person? Snippet it. It is easy and you can save it as a variety of different types, but you will most likely save it as a Jpeg. The resolution that you get is equal to what you see.

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



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