



SIR HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 2016 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

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

President Don's Column "Our 2016 Challenge"

As we start the new year, I want to stress the need for all Branches to accept the challenge of reaching our **two** main objectives/goals this year:

- Reversing the loss of membership. (which has gone on for too long in over 50% of our Branches)
- Creating a culture in all Branches where the BEC leaders want to build healthy Branches and understand the need to grow. Don't be a "wait and see BEC," get engaged now and use the tools you have been given.

We have spent thousands of our dollars and hundreds of hours this past year on training Branch officers, Big Sirs, Treasurers, Secretaries and Membership Chairmen and have provided great programs to reverse the loss in membership. What is needed for all of us, from the State, to the Regions, Areas and most importantly, the Branches, is to go to work immediately and make it happen!

Your leaders have put forth a strong well designed program called RAMP, and I am proud of what they designed and now our/your job is to see that it is fully implemented. The size of your Branch will determine the number of key positions needed – but make no mistake – whether you are a Branch of 40 or 350 members, every Branch needs the pieces in place. Let's revisit the four cornerstones to RAMP'S success:

1. **Recruiting:** the key position. At least one person in every Branch and (as the size of the Branch goes up, the team gets bigger), put new members on your team as they have not exhausted their pool of potential new friends. Get your Golf Chairman actively involved in recruiting; in fact, if activities bring in new members get all Activity Chairmen recruiting now.
2. **Activities:** the more activities, the more attractive your Branch is to all prospective recruits; co-ed groups are a driving force. Healthy Branches have 10 or more Activities.
3. **Membership:** this really stands for **Retention**. The pieces include indoctrination or "Welcome to SIR package," three-month follow-up contact to see how your new recruit is fitting in. A phone call to members who are not showing up for lunch, why? Exit interviews, for all members who leave us, why? Retention is the area all Branches can improve on immediately and we can stop our membership drain now!
4. **Publicity:** an absolutely essential piece to assist Recruiting and Activities. What's necessary is a face-to-face relationship between your Publicity person and the senior editor of your local paper. Place public recruiting notices at all local golf courses, bowling alleys, and senior centers throughout your immediate area.

What keeps me in SIR and makes me and you want to volunteer is that SIR provides us with the opportunity to become friends with some of the greatest guys we have ever met. I urge all of you to get **involved** and create healthy Branches that provide us with **Friends For Life**.

I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible throughout 2016.



In Memoriam – James V. Musci

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Jim Musci, Past State President. He succumbed after a lengthy illness on October 26, of last year. Jim held a number of key positions in SIR and among them were: Region 9 Director; Chairman of the Growth and Membership Committee, and Big Sir of Sierra Hills Branch 79. Jim joined Branch 79 in 1995, after transferring from Branch 62 in Sunnyvale. He was known as a dedicated leader and was active in golf and bowling. In 2004, Jim was honored with an Honorary Life Membership.

BRING IN A GUEST - WE NEED NEW MEMBERS

Past President Bob Hairston "Service"

For the last twenty years or so, I have had the honor to serve Sons in Retirement in one manner or another. There are many ways to serve. I was a BEC director, Little Sir, and Big Sir. I took a year off to work on my golf game and then became assistant golf chairman. When our golf chairman became ill, I took over for a couple years. As usual, I made changes and our Branch played courses we had never played before.



After another year off to play golf, I took on the job of Area Governor for two years. During this time, SIR Branches were making the transition from printed and mailed newsletters to email. The costs cut into the treasury of my Branches because they relied on annual contributions.

My service continued as Regional Director and then Vice President. During those positions our organization had a scandal and we continued to lose members. We put in controls to stop both. Through the hard work of many of our leaders, we recognized the problems and with the help of all of our members, we can turn it around.

As State President last year, it was my honor to represent Sons In Retirement. Last year I traveled to Branches from Santa Cruz to Lake Tahoe. And, I visited Branches from Lake Shasta to Fresno. All in all, I put about 8000 miles on my Toyota Van. I have been so proud to present Honorary Life Memberships to deserving members nominated by their Branches. I led regional meetings with representatives of Branches to hear their concerns one on one. At each stop, the leaders could not believe the State President would take the time to come to their BEC and luncheon...and they thanked me profusely. I explained it was an honor and a privilege to represent Sons in Retirement.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our members, officers, and committees who believed and supported me through these twenty plus years. It has been an honor to serve.

INFOSYS Committee

Dean Steichen, Committee Chairman

Our society is becoming more technology oriented every day. Most of you have "smart" phones, many have tablets and nearly everyone has a computer.

SIR has been taking advantage of this technology. We have had our www.sirinc.org website for many years that provides a wealth of information about SIR, both for the person who knows little about SIR, as well as for our members, Branch and State leaders. A large number of our Branches have websites which provide information about activities and events for their members. SIR is represented on Facebook and has a Wikipedia page. Some Branches have MeetUp pages. All this, and we still are an unknown to the vast majority of retired men in our communities.



What can you do to get the word out about SIR? Many of our members know little of SIR, and even less beyond their own Branch. If you want to know more, start with our www.sirinc.org website. Explore your Branch website or websites of nearby Branches. Become informed and talk to your friends and acquaintances. I think you will soon agree that -- Joining SIR is the best thing a retired man can do for himself.

SIR INFOSYS maintains the www.sirinc.org website, hosts or otherwise supports Branch websites, Facebook, Wikipedia, SIR Happenings, and lots of other things which help facilitate communications within SIR. If you are interested in helping, INFOSYS is looking for you. Contact Dean Steichen, INFOSYS Chairman, djsteich@comcast.net.

State Bowling

Jerry Sabo, Committee Chairman

The State Bowling Committee's fall meeting was held in August in Sacramento. We finalized our 2016 tournament schedule at that meeting, so look for it on the SIR Bowling Website—it's still in draft form until final approval at the next State Committee Meeting in January. At the August meeting, Del Locke finally was able to step down as Committee Chairman and I stepped in to fill his vacancy.

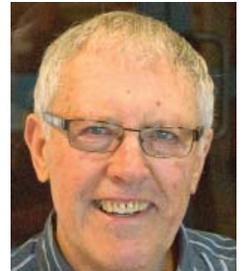
Bryan Davenport has taken over the SIR Tournament Database, where tournament managers can access bowler history at SIR tournaments. The Database was used for the Brentwood Tournament held in October. Several bowlers and tournament managers felt that this method of obtaining bowler averages was much simpler than looking up USBC data and using that information. Another comment was that this method of handicapping is fair to all bowlers and may prevent "sandbagging."

There is talk of a "no-tap" in Stockton this year. That tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23rd but has not been approved.

Dan Weller is to be commended for really improving the SIR Bowling Website. Most everything that you need to know about our Bowling Committee and the work we have done is posted on the site.

If there is something you think the Committee needs to address concerning SIR tournament bowling, please let a member of the committee know what your concern is so we may address it. Bowling Committee members can be found on the SIR Bowling Website: <http://sirinc.org/bowling/>

Our next scheduled Committee meeting will be held on February 2nd at the Elks Hall in Sacramento.



Committee Report

PROJECT 2016 – “Building our Branches”

Ed Benson, Growth & Membership Committee Chairman and Project Team Leader

In September, our President-Elect, Don Dill, commissioned a task force called Project 2016. The project’s key objective is to develop solutions to reverse our declining membership trend. The project has three guiding principles: **Education** – in what works and should work; **Involvement** – by Branch and State leaders; and **Communication** of findings, recommendations and results. Members of the Project Team are Ed Benson (Team Leader), Bob Hairston, Jerry Strain, Dwight Sales, Mark Stuart, Dick DeVoe and Derek Southern.

Project 2016 has six phases:

1. Gather information – from Branch and State leaders through surveys and focus groups
2. Develop recommendations – by the project team
3. Test recommendations – with Branch and State leaders
4. Reach consensus – on the most viable path forward
5. Implement the recommendations
6. Fine tune the implemented recommendations

In mid-October we emailed a survey to all 2015 Big Sirs and 2016 Big and Little Sir-elects and the response rate was a relatively gratifying 64%. We also surveyed our State Leaders, from Area Governor to President. The full report on the Branch survey findings, questions and recommendations can be found on the State website. Go to sirinc.org, and click on Member’s Information; after entering the security information, go to Branch Improvement under the Branch Information heading and click on [PROJECT 2016](#).

In mid-December, we sent invitations to all 2015 Big Sirs to attend one of ten focus groups to be held in January at seven locations, from Modesto to Chico and we strongly encouraged attendance at one of these meetings. Concurrently, we sent a written survey covering the same questions, to all State leaders

Each of these focus groups met for two hours and addressed the following questions:

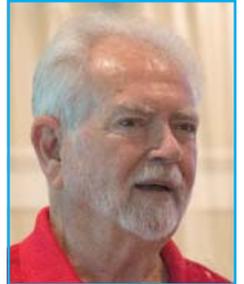
1. There were numerous comments that SIR needs to be attractive to the “next generation.” How might we change “our product” to become more attractive?
2. It is apparent to us that there are three groups of Branches – the “can do’s/trying to do’s,” the “can’t do’s” and the “won’t do’s.” We can train the “trying to do’s” and the “can’t do’s,” but what do we do with the Branches that have been trained and don’t/won’t implement the training?
3. Recruiting the “right” leaders is identified as the number one problem facing SIR. What can be done about it?
4. The Branches feel strongly that publicity about SIR is imperative. Given our financial constraints, what can be done to garner more publicity for SIR?
5. The rooster has been our symbol since the inception of SIR. Do you feel it adds or detracts from the SIR image with new recruits?
6. Relations between “State” and the Branches can be contentious. What can be done to improve this situation?
7. Literally no one wishes to become an Area Governor. How might this job be changed to make it attractive to more of the “right” recruits or should we eliminate it? If it’s eliminated, then what?
8. Given that most Branches and the State change leadership every year, program continuity suffers and leaders leave their roles just as they become well experienced. How should this lack of continuity be addressed?

The focus groups were completed in mid-January as was the written survey from the State leaders. This will complete Phase 1. The project team will meet in mid-February to review all the input and develop initial recommendations. We expect that by the first part of March, we will be able to begin testing the recommendations with the Branches and the State leadership.

Although we are still a long way from issuing our final recommendations, there are a number of things the Branches can undertake right now, that will create an improved Branch. These are:

- Impress on new members that your Branch (as is all of SIR) relies on volunteers to keep the Branch running, and that our members are expected to step up when asked
- Involve your new members in your activities from day one
- Impress on everyone that recruiting is the life blood of the Branch
- Involve the spouses/partners. Impress on them that they too are part of the SIR family as they’re great sources for finding potential members
- Improve your website; it’s your window to the world
- Provide guests with a welcome package, and make sure they feel welcomed
- Collect feedback from guests who elect not to join
- Review the sponsor role with sponsors
- Provide a formal orientation for new members upon or close to their induction
- Follow up with new members after four to six months to see how they’re doing
- Interview those voluntarily leaving the Branch to determine the “real” reason why
- Understand your guest to member conversion percent and work to improve it
- Consider seeking help from those, who have expertise, who are outside of the Branch

If anyone has comments or questions on Project 2016, please email me at, EBENSONBWA@AOL.COM.



News from the Branches

Bidwell Branch 110, Chico

This Woodworking Group Keeps Making Sawdust

Bill Jameson, Bulletin Editor

Michael Kobelt, Woodworking Group Member

Chico Branch 110's Woodworking Group has remained active for six years and our core group of seven regulars still meets twice a month at Bill Gebhardt's backyard woodshop. There are occasional visitors that come in looking for help with a project, or just to chat.

For one of our regular meeting times, we arranged for our group to get an interesting tour of a high-tech cabinet shop a few miles away in the country. The business is G. Watson Designs. They use a combination of skilled hand-work and computer-controlled woodworking machines to make custom furniture and cabinetry with elaborate carvings.

Last Spring we accepted a donation of an old oak ice box in bad shape. The woodworking group decided to restore it with a new look (see picture) and raffle it off at a SIR luncheon. We had fun working on it and it generated enough ticket sales to cover the restoration costs, with funds left over for the Branch treasury.



More recently Craig Lindquist finished making a pair of matching oak mantle clocks (see picture), which are also destined to be raffled at a SIR luncheon. Craig was supported by fellow woodworkers – who are never short on advice. All of us guys have made quite a variety of projects over the last couple of years, including furniture, cabinetry, small boxes, gifts, chopping blocks, stools, hand tools, and shop accessories.

We continue to learn new and challenging ways of working with wood and are always looking forward to the next get together where we use woodworking machines and tools, collaborate, share our successes and failures, and socialize over a good lunch. It's been a very beneficial happening in our lives.

Sirs in the News

Arnold Branch 152, Arnold

Burnett Honored with an HLM

Doug Nunes, Big Sir

Shown in the picture from left to right are: Bruce Burnett (holding his Honorary Life Membership plaque) – SIR President Bob Hairston – Branch 152 Big Sir Doug Nunes – and Area 27 Governor Jerry Morrow.

Bruce was one of the original Charter Members of Arnold Branch 152 back in 1985. He has had continuous membership for 26 years, with flawless attendance. He gives the invocation each month with humility and purpose. He is an Arnold Branch treasure of friendship and a symbol of dedicated membership. Bruce was also awarded the SIR Senior Award on his being 93 years of age.



Sierra Hills Branch 79, Auburn

Saunders Awarded HLM

Craig Saunders on the left receives his HLM certificate from State President Bob Hairston. Craig has served as Big Sir, Little Sir, Membership Chairman and Program Chairman for Branch 79. Most recently he was Governor of Area 33.



News from the Branches

John Muir Branch 19, Clayton

Golf Champions

Jerry Burton, Golf Program Director

Branch 19 has announced its 2015 Golf Champions which are determined every fall with a three round tournament at Lone Tree Golf Course in Antioch. The scoring uses the two lowest net scores for each player across several flights. A Match Play tournament is also played during the season with one annual winner based on the net scores.

The winners are pictured from left to right: Rich Peterson (D Flight Champion), Gary Kaufmann (Match Play Champion), Bill Boyer (B Flight Champion), Jerry Burton (C Flight Champion) and Jack Duncan (A Flight Champion). They were recognized at the annual golf awards luncheon at the Guadalajara Grill. Along with the recognition, each winner received a special monogrammed golf shirt.



Ongoing golf activities are played at nearby courses including Lone Tree Golf Course, Oakhurst Country Club, Deer Ridge, Delta View, Diablo Creek Golf Course, and Eagle Vines in Napa, among others. Players have an active NCGA handicap index to compete in the various games.

Luther Burbank Branch 17, Santa Rosa

Bodega Bay Fishing

Ted Scapeccia, Fishing Chairman

Last July, four of our more adventuresome Branch members sailed out to sea from the Bodega Bay Harbor area, on the Miss Anita (see picture), under the guidance of Captain Vince. Originally, we had six signed up for the trip, but two had to back out. Those venturing out were: Don Salazar, Assistant Fishing Chairman, Jim Jones, and Glenn Seime all from Branch 17 and John Bateman from the Oakmont Branch.



While the salmon remained elusive, our fishermen were nonetheless successful. Ling Cod and Rock Fish were said to be jumping into the boat. By the end of the day, virtually all had their limits, but no Salmon. A fair number of Lings had to be returned to the ocean due to being undersized.

Since the ocean was not very kind that day, bottom fishing was tough because standing up was a real challenge. But in the end, all had plenty of fish and a very memorable and enjoyable trip. Rumor has it they are already asking about next year.

News from the Branches

Area 2 Fishing

This Fishing Group Does Nearly 100 Events Annually

Ernie Wong, Branch 116

Karl Droese, Branch 171

In October, 13 members of the Area 2 Fishing Group traveled to Pyramid Lake, Nevada for two days of fishing for the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, a genetic strain of cutthroat trout now unique to Pyramid Lake. The fishermen split into three groups with one group fly fishing from stepladders, one group spin casting from shore and another group trolling from a boat. The combined group caught and released over 100 of these large beautiful fish that once inhabited Lake Tahoe before being commercially fished to extinction. Most of the members stayed at the Nugget in Sparks, while a few stayed at a private ranch owned by one of the members. A barbeque at the ranch on the afternoon of the second day celebrated a very successful and enjoyable outing.

The Pyramid trip was just one of nearly 100 events scheduled each year by this very active group which draws its membership from several Branches. Some type of fishing is available every week of the year. The members regularly fish for salmon in the ocean and rivers; for rockfish and ling cod in the ocean; for striped bass, sturgeon and halibut in the Bay and Delta; for black bass in the lakes and Delta; for steelhead and shad in rivers; and trout in the local lakes as well as lakes and streams in the Sierras.

Members volunteer as fish-masters, setting up each of the events, including such tasks as arranging accommodations and food for multi-day trips, assigning non-boat owners to boats and obtaining guides. Signup sheets are posted on the walls at meetings and circulated to the membership by email.

The camaraderie generated by the fishing experience spills over into several social events including Spring and Fall fish fries, a summer BBQ, a Holiday dinner; an annual fundraiser of donated fishing gear; and trips to sportsmen's shows and stores.

In addition to sponsored events, the Fishing Group provides the opportunity to meet others with similar interests frequently resulting in non-sponsored "spur of the moment" local trips as well as adventures to farther away places such as Alaska, Canada, Oregon, Washington and Mexico.

Notwithstanding the severe California drought, the Group has managed to have a banner year with wonderful fishing experiences and excellent results.

We carry about ninety members on our roster but participation varies. Some members fish weekly (even several times weekly), others may fish only once or twice a month, or even a year – but the opportunities are always there. We encourage all Sirs who might have an interest in fishing and even those who think they might like to develop a new hobby, to visit our Group. We have many resources including very experienced and knowledgeable fishermen delighted to share their expertise (and even their equipment) with those who might wish to try the sport. Our Group (see picture) meets the fourth Thursday of each month at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Meetings start at 8:30am. Many of the members come early and order breakfast which is served to them in the meeting room.

We live in a fisherman's paradise. Let's enjoy it!



News from the Branches

LaMorinda Branch 171, Moroga and LaMorinda Hills Branch 174, Moraga

Long Time Commitment to Bocce

Joe FitzGerald, Branch 174

Keeping with tradition, last October, 25 Bocce players from Branches 171 & 174 trekked to Campo di Bocce in Livermore for a friendly morning of bocce games, followed by an Italian feast. Everyone played at least two full games. While we had no official prize, we all felt like winners and all went home full. With the addition of many new bocce recruits this year from both existing SIR members and new Branch inductees, we look forward to kicking off our 2016 season next May with a great deal of enthusiasm.



Members of Moraga's two SIR Branches have an active and long standing Bocce commitment...see the group picture. Our interest goes back to a time well before our predecessor single branch divided into two clubs following strong growth. Bocce players gather two mornings a week throughout our May to October season, welcoming all comers who show up. We don't have fixed teams, but play with whomever is there and winners have a right to stay on the court until defeated. Bill Bondy, of Branch 171, is the long-time leader the group's activities, assisted most recently by Joe FitzGerald from Branch 174.

State Bocce Committee

New State Bocce Program

Jack Meylink, State Bocce Chairman

I would like to start off my first column by introducing myself. My name is Jack Meylink and I'm the Chairman of the new State Bocce program. I stepped into this position in June of this year and my goal for this year has been to promote inter-branch play with the eventual goal of a State tournament for those Branches that want to compete. I think the biggest challenge so far has been identifying those Branches that have a Bocce activity and that want to compete outside of their own Branch. I still don't think I have identified all of those Branches and I hope that ongoing updates in this publication will help to spread the word.



Since I was starting from scratch, I asked the Regional Directors for Bocce contacts by Region or Branch and it is primarily from this feedback that I have been communicating with specific Branches that have expressed an interest. As a result of this, I'm happy to report that two "regional" tournaments were scheduled this year. The first was in October at the Western Gateway Regional Park in Penn Valley. This park has six excellent courts open to the public but you have to be careful because they are extremely fast. We had a total of six teams from Region 3 and Region 9 that played in a round robin tournament format. Each team played three games in the morning, and then broke for a BBQ lunch that was provided as part of the entry fee and then played the final two games in the afternoon. The team from Branch 98 in Roseville went undefeated for the day and took home first place honors. Lake of the Pines Branch 170 took second and Auburn Branch 79 was third.

The second tournament was scheduled in San Jose on November 2nd with five Branches from Regions 5 and 7 planning to play. Unfortunately, we had a hard rain the night before that continued into the morning. Due to the weather, the tournament was cancelled. However, when it started to clear, we had a few games between Branch 36 and a team we made up from a couple of Branch 20 players, as well as the Area Governor for Area 20 and Regional Director for Region 7. In spite of the weather, we had some good games and a good BBQ lunch.

We plan to have a State playoff in Stockton at a still to be determined date in January consisting of the two top finishing teams from the two regional tournaments. The Stockton location will be at the Waterloo Bocce club on indoor courts.

In 2016, we hope to start earlier with the goal of having a tournament in every SIR Region that is interested. The state playoffs will be in the late September or early October time frame when the weather has cooled somewhat and hopefully before the rains come.

Please contact me if you have a Bocce activity in your Branch or if you would like more information. My phone number is 530-878-1219 and my email address is: jackmeylink@yahoo.com.

News from the Branches

Livermore Branches 101 & 121 Combined Hiking Group

Walk for Good Health and Comradery

Werner Schlapfer, Branch 101 Hiking Chairman

The Livermore Branches have a very active hiking and walking group...seen in the picture. The Livermore Valley is lucky to be surrounded by a number of beautiful regional parks, part of the East Bay Regional Park District. In close proximity to Livermore, are the following regional parks: Del Valle, Brushy Peak, Morgan Territory, Dublin Hills, Pleasanton Ridge, Las Trampas and Sunol. A little more distant, but still easily accessible are: Round Valley, Anthony Chabot and Lake Chabot, the Diablo Foothills, Garin/Dry Creek, Redwood and Coyote Hills Regional Parks. In addition, we have the Los Vaqueros Watershed and Mount Diablo State Park within easy driving distance...and not to forget, Livermore has Sycamore Park and Pleasanton has Augustin Bernal Park. All of these wonderful places are regularly visited by our hiking group.

We meet every Wednesday morning for carpooling to our hiking destination. Typically between 20 and 35 SIR members show up, sometimes accompanied by a spouse or a friend, more rarely by a son or daughter and occasionally even by a grandchild. We eagerly invite non-SIR friends and this has turned out to be a great recruiting tool for our Branches.

We divide into three groups which we call Amblers, Ramblers and Scramblers. The Amblers -- typically 5 – 8 strong -- are the walking section who normally do a 3 – 4 mile more or less level walk in and around Livermore or Pleasanton in such places as Sycamore Park or on walking paths through the Livermore vineyards.

The Ramblers and Scramblers normally start from the same staging areas in one of the parks. They start the hike together, but the Ramblers then do a shortcut which results in a hiking distance of 4 – 5 miles, with usually about 600 to 1000 feet elevation gain. The Scramblers separate to do a hike of 5 – 7 miles, sometimes as much as 8 – 9 miles, with an elevation gain of 1000 to 1500 ft. There are typically about 10 – 12 Ramblers and up to 15 Scramblers. The hiking location and the routes (and estimated distances and elevation) for both Ramblers and Scramblers are announced by e-mail to all prospective hikers by the Branch 101 Hiking Chair, Art Hull, the day before the hike.

We enjoy the healthy hikes through the shaded valleys, up the open ridges to the peaks of the East Bay hills with spectacular views ranging from Mount Tamalpais in the west to the Sierras toward the east. From early spring to mid-summer, there is an abundance of wildflowers. We are routinely observed by curious deer, turkeys and, of course, cattle. We occasionally encounter coyotes, bobcats, foxes and even wild boars. Red-tailed hawks often soar above us and we have even spotted eagles.

The great outdoors with healthy exercise in the company of good friends is priceless!



News from the Branches

Hooker Oak Branch 84, Chico

100 Miles of Hiking

Don Bollerud, Bulletin Editor

Jim Hertl, Hiking Chairman

Since Sir Jim Hertl started the Hiking Group, they have hiked over 100 miles during their outdoor adventures. They have hiked in local parks, along local water flumes, on Yahi Indian trails, along remote sections of the Sacramento River, next to the Oroville Diversion Dam Lake and around local Paradise Lake and mountain trails. Jim always stresses safety on the trail, proper equipment and preparation before the hike and the “pre-hiking” of the trail -- by the group leader -- to be sure it is safe and not too difficult for the hikers.

There have been as many as fifteen Sirs, spouses, friends and even grandchildren on the hikes and then again as few as four, but Jim says that all these hikes have been an excellent introduction to prospective members, for the fellowship of SIR.

In the picture, taken by Marty Miller, are (L to R) - Mike Gannon, Steven Danehy, Jim Hertl and Paul Miller after they had returned from a crisp, picturesque hike along the Hendricks Flume. Starting at the Desabla Reservoir, they hiked approximately 5 1/2 miles and enjoyed the soothing effects of the tall trees, total silence, and the water flowing through the flumes.



Hooker Oak Branch 84, Chico

Long Time Fishing Club

Don Bollerud, Bulletin Editor

Gerry McLaughlin, Fishing Club Chairman

The Branch 84 fishing club was formed by then Big Sir Tom Bowen, Fred Sherman, and Gerry McLaughlin back in 2003. About 16 members showed an interest and the Fishing Club now has 18 active members. The group has made several overnight trips going to Bucks Lake, Black Butte Reservoir, Eagle Lake, and fishing for bottom fish and Salmon out of Noyo Harbor, in Fort Bragg. Most of our fishing outings are to Lake Oroville or the Thermalito Afterbay near Oroville. Our most recent outing was to Fort Bragg, leaving out of Noyo Harbor. Five members and a guest enjoyed a great day of fishing. We chartered a boat, (six pack), for 8 hours leaving from the harbor at 7:00 am. We caught a total of 71 fish, including 4 Salmon, 18 Lingcod, and a lot of mixed bottom fish.

Pictured left to right with their catch are: Dick Ray, Ron Ward, Phil Miller, Gerry McLaughlin, Mike Renfro, Jeremy Quiroga (deck hand) and Jesse Smyth. The fishing club meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Country Waffles on the Notre Dame Blvd. at 8:00 am.



Committee Reports

State Golf

Bill Wilhelm, Committee Chairman

I can't believe it's been almost a year since I was appointed as the SIR Golf Chairman. I believe we have made some great strides in a short period of time.

We have had some great tournaments...some in old familiar places and some at new venues. Most tournaments were well attended but we always need more people in order to make them even more successful.

Our Napa tournament sold out at 143 men and 40 women. Thanks to all of you who attended and as a reminder, this year's tournament will be April 18th & 19th. The applications are on our SIR STATE GOLF website at www.golf.sirinc2.org.

The Reno tournament was not as well attended. We had two different weeks with 80 players on week 1 and 106 on week 2. The accommodations at the Atlantis were terrific and we played the courses the players picked: Lakeridge, Red Hawk (the lakes) and Summerset. Please put the following dates on your calendar for this year. They are for week one, June 13-17 and week two is June 20-24.

Our team event worked well at Poppy Ridge. We had 140 players, the winners were: Allen Bowman, Jim Brown, Robert Earl, and Egidio Tonus. All are from the Salinas area. Everyone had a good time and gave the course great reviews. The weather was ideal with little or no wind. This year's event will be held at the same venue on August 8th. Get your team together and participate in your area qualifier. Check with your Area or Branch Chairman for the qualifying dates.

The Fall Classic was held at Whitney Oaks but was not as well attended as we anticipated. Our intent was to switch the tournament between the north and the south each year to get more players but we only had 86 total participants. This year we are going back to Solvang on September 18-21 with a two day event to keep the cost down so we hope we can entice more of you to attend. We have not made a decision for 2017 yet as we are looking into several sites, perhaps a

Mexican trip or another resort area. Please send me information on what your favorite place might be.

Finally, our Individual Championship was held at Poppy Hills with a moderate participation of 65 on day 1 and 108 on day 2. The Committee paid for the 70 players who qualified in their area and division tournaments so we only had 38 paid players. The winners of each flight received a Championship Jacket supplied by the committee. They are as follows: 1 Faustino Saldivar, 2 Leland Landry, 3 Daniel Koffler, 4 Dennis Meixner, 5 Dave Painchaud, 6 Noel Hays, 7 Rich Peterson.

This year's championship will not be held at Poppy Hills. Apparently there was a conflict in the dates, so we are in the process of finding another course, perhaps Bayonet, Black Horse, Laguna Seca or Poppy Ridge. Remember, in order to get your green fees covered and play for the championship, you must qualify in your area and division tournaments. Each of our 5 Divisions sends 14 players, 2 in each of the 7 flights so there is room for you at any handicap level. Again, check with your Branch and Area Chairman for the dates of these tournaments.

Our 2016 Golf Committee will have some changes this year. Dave Betts our current Treasurer is moving onto the Policy Committee and to take his place as Treasurer, I have asked Bob Mannell who has graciously accepted. Two of our long time members are also stepping down after many years of service:

Ron Witort, our Division 5 Chairman, and Don Andrews, our past Chairman, Division 2 Chairman, and member of the Policy Committee. I have also accepted the resignation of our Secretary, Bill Hockenson, due to private family matters. These gentlemen have put forth a great deal of their time and effort in order to make this committee better and I would like to publicly thank them for their hard work.

Our new members will be: Gilbert Matossia, as our Secretary and Butch Evans, as our new Division 5 Chairman. Welcome gentlemen and I look forward to having you as members of our committee.

I would like to close by reminding you that this is your Golf Committee and ***we need your help by participating in our tournaments.*** As always, if you have any comments or questions, please contact me at: BILL@BILLANDBEV.COM



SIR Baseball

SIR Days at the Major League Parks

Join your fellow Sirs as we converge at AT&T Park, the Oakland Coliseum and Chukchansi Park to watch great baseball match-ups:

- The Washington Nationals vs the SF Giants
- The Oakland A's vs the LA Angels
- And the Sacramento RiverCats vs the Fresno Grizzlies

With 25+ members

1. Select a representative to collect the monies.
2. Then call each team's group sales executive to confirm the numbers.
3. After mailing in the check, you'll need to distribute the tickets to your friends & family members.

But you must act quickly. **These games will sell out.** The A's game includes a jersey give-away. The other games are top-notch rivalries you don't want to miss.

For questions, contact:

Lee Moy, State SIR Sports Chairman
(559) 709-9851

LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com

Or visit sirinc.org, sporting events,
http://www.sirinc.org/siractivities/SIR_sports.htm

SIR DAY AT THE COLISEUM OAKLAND A'S VS ANGELS JUNE 18, 2016 SATURDAY, 1PM

ALL SIR ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE A '89 DENNIS
ECKERSLEY REPLICA JERSEY WITH TICKET



VS



SECTION 101-106, 128-132
GROUP RATE-\$32-DYNAMIC PRICING
SUBJECT TO CHANGE & AVAILABILITY

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 12TH 10% DEPOSITS DUE

**PLEASE FIRST CALL, RESERVE, AND THEN
SEND ONLY ONE BRANCH CHECK FOR GROUPS OF 25+
RYAN PHELAN, GROUP ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
7000 COLISEUM WAY, OAKLAND, CA 94621
(510) 563-2393**

Lee Moy, State SIR Sports
LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com
(559)709-9851

SIR Day at Chukchansi Park Fresno Grizzlies

VS

Sacramento RiverCats



Tecate Thirsty Thursday
August 25, 2016, 7pm
Triple AAA Baseball
Houston Astros vs SF Giants
right field level reserve
\$ 15 pp group rate
extra: possible BBQ prior



Lee Moy, State SIR Sports
LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com
(559) 709-9851

SIR Day at AT&T Park
31 July, 2016-Sunday, 1pm
SF Giants vs Washington Nationals
section 308-324, view reserve infield



"Dynamic Pricing": subject to availability/demand
urgency is recommended-book by February
Group rate for 25+ branch members: \$46 pp

1. Have one branch/group representative call:
Peter Sercia, (415) 972-2243
SF Giants Group Sales
2. Confirm numbers
3. Send one branch/group check

Lee Moy, State SIR Sports
LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com
(559) 709-9851

Happenings Travel Bulletin

March 12-31, 2016

South America Cruise

Fly to Santiago, Chile and after a restful night in a hotel, board the Star Princess for a cruise along the west coast of South and Central America ending in Los Angeles. There are many interesting ports of call along the way. Costs range from \$3660 to \$5260 PPDO, depending upon cabin selection. Costs include such things as home pick up, transfers to the airport, meals and entertainment aboard ship. Offered by Branch 141 Travel. Call either Rollo Parsons at 408-268-5245 or Brian Serpa at 408-227-7658.

May 11-21, 2016

Alaska Cruise

This 10 day cruise starts and ends in San Francisco. Cruise through the Golden Gate on your way to and from Alaska. We stop at 4 ports of call: Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan & Victoria, B.C. We'll also cruise beautiful Glacier Bay. There are a number of things in the price, such as a bottle of wine in each stateroom and two cocktail parties. Prices range from \$2150 to \$3270 PPDO depending on stateroom category. Offered by Branch 74 Travel. Call either Don House at 408-268-1703 or Allen Daily at 408-265-8140.

June 3-19, 2016

Great American Waterways

This is a 15 night cruise on a small ship with only 88 passengers. The Blount Small Ships Cruise Lines features a relaxed cruising adventure, with excellent food and beer & wine included at lunch & dinner. They have a BYOB policy if you want the hard stuff. This classic adventure starts in Chicago, from the famous Navy Pier, and we will sail across four of the great Lakes, down the Erie Canal to the Hudson River, through New York Harbor, past the Statue of Liberty and finally disembarking in Warren Rhode Island. We will explore many charming towns and interesting places along the way. Costs include: round trip home pick-up, R/T air, and all meals on board ship. There are four cabin categories and prices range from \$5560 to \$7890 PPDO. Offered by Branch 54 & 32 Travel. Call either Mike Console at 408-246-1080 or John Pletsch at 408-274-2992.

July 11-23, 2016

Eastern Europe to the Black Sea

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

August 3-7, 2016

Alaska's Ultimate Fishing Adventure

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

September 6-17, 2016

Colors of Canada & New England

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

October 15-23, 2016

Paddle Wheel Cruise up the Columbia & Snake Rivers

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

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