

# Sons in Retirement



Volume 22 Issue 3

Web site <http://www.sir5.org>

March, 2009

## **Big SIR sez:**

For this month's edition, I'd like to offer some observations on the state of our Branch 5. First, the good. Our finances are in good shape according to the annual audit performed by our esteemed auditor, Zeke Sicotte. This means that we shouldn't have to raise annual contribution requests based on the current situation. However, unforeseen circumstances, such as a hike in restaurant charges, could change the status quo. Also, as mentioned at the last meeting, we are no longer able to rely upon Golden Gate Travel to underwrite the costs for roster printing. In this regard several of our brother branches actually sell space in their roster to commercial enterprises to cover their printing expenses. Anyone that has a brother-in-law, or other relative, or friend, that is interested in this type of almost free advertising, please let us know.

Next, the not so good. First, from the year's end until the end of February, we have experienced to my knowledge the largest number of departures since my joining SIR in 1998. I realize this is common to other branches, as well as other like organizations, but I think we all must do our utmost to try to stem the tide of decline. We've discussed this problem at some length in board meetings, and instituted several actions, such as posting recruitment posters, and placing articles in local newspapers. Although a few members have joined subsequent to those actions, it hasn't come close to maintaining the headcount. I'm appealing to the membership to provide any feedback you can on how to enhance our recruitment strategy. We are anticipating help from State SIR in this regard, but I think

progress starts within the Branch.

Second, and possibly in concert with the above, attendance at our luncheon meetings is down considerably in the first two months of 2009. In this regard, we have in place a system wherein those unable to get transportation to Michaels can contact us, and we can arrange for a volunteer member to provide transportation. Also, last year we established a system whereby a committee of volunteers telephone each member to ascertain whether the member will be attending the luncheon meeting, and providing a brief description of the upcoming speaker, and his topic. The feedback we've been getting on this policy has been favorable, but has not resulted in improved attendance. Here again, I'd appreciate your feedback on what we can do better to up attendance.

### **Lunch, March 25th**

**Salads:** pasta primavera, spinach with mushroom and egg, Caesar, and tomatoes vinaigrette

**Entrees:** sirloin tips, crab, shrimp cannelloni

**Dessert:** ice cream

As announced in the February meeting, several changes as approved by the board, in Branch 5 organization are pending. First, Little SIR, Ken Christie, has resigned his post as of March 31 due to schedule conflicts with his part-time mathematics instructor at San Jose State. In his stead Howard Trudeau will assume all Little SIR duties except chairmanship of the Member Contact Committee, which will continue under Ken Christie. Also, John Geibel has

agreed to assist, and later assume the responsibilities of Holiday Party Chairman, so ably performed by Cal Cook, lo these many years.

I will appreciate any and all commentary from you.

*Ted*

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## **SPEAKER**

Our March speaker is Linda Heider, whose topic will be "Volunteers Do Make a Difference". Linda joined the El Camino Hospital Auxiliary in 2001 after retirement from her career as a Stanford University administrator. She began her service by joining the volunteers who man the Information Desk at the main entrance of the hospital.

Shortly thereafter, she was asked to co-chair the Scholarship Committee, and the following year was its chair. During this time, she also participated in orientation training for new volunteers. In 2005 she was elected by the membership to the position of President, in which she served for two years. Subsequently, she has continued to serve on the Board of Directors as Director of Recruitment and Placement. It is a job that she feels passionately about and one she eagerly hopes will make a difference to the organization she represents: the El Camino Hospital Auxiliary.

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## **Attendance Report**

Not received

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# Membership

February 25, 2009

**In Memory of:** Donald Rogers

**New Members:** None

**Membership Changes:** None

**Membership Status:**

Active: 112

Waiting: none

Inactive: 10 (2 no Bulletin)

Widows on mailing list: \_3

**Current Mailing List:**

152: 93 by email and 59 by US mail.

**Member Record Updates:**

The following members wish to resign:

Albert Clancy #45, Richard Frakes #32, Eldon Thomason #171

They gave various reasons, such as "my table-mates have died", "the speakers are not interesting," "I don't know anyone anymore".

*Al Stratz*

Membership Chairman

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## April Birthdays

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Ernest Wuthman    | 4/29, |
| Herbert Warne     | 4/24, |
| Robert Parsons    | 4/06  |
| James Wilhelm     | 4/20  |
| Richard Hilbers   | 4/12  |
| William Dear      | 4/21  |
| Kenneth Liddicoat | 4/08  |
| John Gordon       | 4/15  |
| Tom Laughead      | 4/04  |
| Adrian Flakoll    | 4/16  |

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Board

January 20, 2009

1. Big Sir Ted Hinshaw called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM in the Golf Pro-Shop Conference Room near Michael's at Shoreline Restaurant , 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View CA 94043.
2. Big Sir confirmed a quorum of six or more officers and directors present.

3. The minutes of the 11-12-08 meeting were presented and comments made. A corrected version was issued dated 12-28-08. No comments were offered.

Note: In accordance with custom, there was no Branch Executive meeting in December.

4. No visitors or guests were present.
5. Big Sir report

A. Little Sir proposal. Please add info for this item.

B. Other. Please add info for this item,

6. Secretary's report.: Branch Records from Jere Austen (Outgoing Secretary) were given to Bill Chamberlin (Incoming Secretary).
7. Treasurer's report: Don Harryman distributed the Monthly Cash Report for December 2008 showing ending month and year Cash Balances of \$5693.74.

Annual contributions for 2009 are coming in slowly. The membership should be reminded that "contributions" are required, and the "suggested" amount is a minimum. There is no onus in larger contributions !

8. Budget Report : The December/year Cash Report was issued showing Net custodial losses of \$139/\$418.

9. Committee Reports:

A. Membership. Active 120; Inactive 10 ;Waiting List 0  
 B. Attendance at luncheon 74 (Represents 65% of membership) Guests 0, Visitors 0

C. Travel: Joe Ames announced that the roster pamphlets which have been printed free by the travel agent will be free no longer. Cost would be around \$600. Other free printing will be investigated. Joe said that he is retiring from the position of Travel Chairman. New tours to the Mexican Riviera and Ireland were announced.

D. Holiday parties: Cal Cook reported \$2625 collected and \$2549 expended, leaving \$75 for Branch 5.

E. Speaker's Committee. A motion was made that the speaker's committee is the responsibility of the Little SIR. MSP. Ken Christie said that he has a book that lists potential speakers.

F. The situation of the Little SIR for 2009 has become compli-

cated. He has taken on other jobs after his retirement and his new work schedule interferes with his SIR duties. It was proposed that the Nominations Committee start a search for a new Little SIR..

*Bill Chamberlin, Secretary*

**February 25, 2009**

**Not received**

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## GOLF

SPRING VALLEY 01/29/09

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| RICHTER, WAYNE L    | 64 |
| TRUDEAU, HOWARD JR  | 67 |
| COOK, CALVIN        | 75 |
| TOTAH, KAMEL        | 73 |
| KRAEMER, ARTHUR     | 74 |
| STEVENS, JAMES R    | 76 |
| CTTP #4 : RICHTER ; |    |
| #11: STEVENS        |    |

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## CompuSIR Chairman,

**Jim Dinkey, Branch 35**

**COMPUSIR:** Meetings are held the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of each month at 12:30 and 7:15 pm. Both meetings are held at the **Los Altos Post 558 American Legion Hall, 347 First St., Los Altos** across from Draeger's Grocery Store about a block off Foothill Expressway. Use the public parking lot off First Street and Second Street behind the Main Street Businesses. **Do not park in Draeger's lot or other PRIVATE lots.**

**Mar 11th – ROBERT ACKERMAN,** Senior Software Scientist, of the SETI institute

< www.seti.org > will discuss engineering aspects of the Allen Telescope Array (ATA) used to seek evidence of life in the uni-

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verse by looking for some signature of its technology. The ATA is one of the newest tools allowing a targeted SETI search to proceed 24/7.

**April 8th – LARRY TEMPLETON** – Build your own high-end media home entertainment computer.

**May 13th – JOHN FOLIOT** – Stanford Accessibility Program.

**June 10th –** A roundtable/panel discussion about changing e-mail using your domain to avoid problems when changing your ISP; using WHOIS; etc. Jim will address the issue of the problem of changing e-mail when leaving one ISP for another. An autoresponder is useful and an automatic signature line notifying of coming change. NOTE: SIR's are welcome at either meeting time 12:30 or 7:15 pm

To get on CompuSIR mailing list : <http://mailman.svpal.org/mailman/listinfo/compusir16>

OR Jim Dinkey at [jim-dinkey@jimdinkey.com](mailto:jim-dinkey@jimdinkey.com)

JIM DINKEY (493-9307)

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**TRAVEL NEWS**  
**FOR AREA 16,**  
**BRANCHES 5, 35,**  
**52, & Guests**

Apr 8 – 23, 2009 : 16

Days **EASTERN MED CRUISE on NCL's JADE** \$3304 – 4107pp dbl Escort: Joe Ames 408-736-8387 **Round Trip from BARCELONA – 5 PORTS + EGYPT (SOLD OUT – NO CABINS LEFT!)**

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**PRICE REDUCED**

Sep 22 – Oct 1, 2009: 10

Days **SHADES of IRELAND (Kiss the Blarney Stone & More!)** \$3044pp dbl Escort: Joe Ames 408-736-83

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**PRICE REDUCED – SIGNUP NOW – CABINS ARE GOING!**

Oct 12 – 23, 2009 : 12 days **MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE (Round Trip from San Francisco)** \$1015 – 1545pp dbl Escort: Joe Ames 408-736-8387

**NEW!! Optional shore trip to COPPER CANYON**

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Aug 28 – Sep 7, **2010** : 11 Days **PASSION PLAY in OBERAMMERGAU & GERMAN HI-LIGHTS** \$4795pp dbl (Note Price Increase) Escort: Talbot Tours 408-879-0101 **\$200 Refundable Reservation Deposit!**

Call the Escorts for Complete Information and Reservations for the trips. (See Flyers for details)

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**Bowling**  
**BRANCHES 5, 35,**  
**& 51**

We Bowl Every Thursday. Come Join Us: Palo Alto Bowl 4329 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, Practice at 12:45, Bowl at 1:00

George E. Falkenthal  
[cloxdoc@aol.com](mailto:cloxdoc@aol.com)  
(650) 493-8401

**Results of last session tournament scores:**

High Series Scratch: Tim

Eastham 520  
High Game Scratch: Tim Eastham 194  
High Game Handicap: Bob Buettler 234  
High Series Handicap: Bob Beuttler 664

*BILL FINKEMEIER (323-2177)*

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**SIRS ON BIKES:**  
**SIR Area #16**

Bike rides regularly start at 11:00 AM the 2nd Thursday of the month. Wives and Guests are welcome. **Bring bike, helmet and a jacket if it is windy. Rain will cancel.** Attendance averages 10-15 riders. More are welcome. Rides are planned to be 15-20 miles on paved bicycle trails with some optional ride distances. The pace is moderate and riding on streets is kept to a minimum and include a restaurant lunch break.

**2nd Thursday—March 12, 11:00 AM**  
**STEVENS CREEK TRAIL & SHORELINE PARK (MT. VIEW)**

**Ride:** We will ride a flat 12-mile round-trip to Michael's Restaurant in Shoreline Park, plus an optional 5-Mile loop to the Palo Alto Duck Pond, near the Palo Alto airport (a total ride of 17 miles). Lunch will be at Michael's.

**Directions:** Meet at the south end of the Stevens Creek bike path off Yuba Drive in Mountain View at 11:00 AM. Yuba Drive is off El Camino Real between Highways 237 and 85 and can be

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reached from El Camino Real or via Centre or Church Streets from 237.

**If you plan to ride contact**

CHAIRMAN ALTERNATES: Jerry Butler Tom Gregory; 650-494-8078 OR 650-493-8894; [gxb366@aol.com](mailto:gxb366@aol.com)  
[tgreg@surfrees.com](mailto:tgreg@surfrees.com)

**FUTURE RIDES**

- April 9 Foster City
- May 14 Los Gatos Creek
- June 11 Coyote Creek (so. San Jose)
- July 9 Alameda Creek – Coyote Hills
- August 13 Stevens Creek – Shoreline Park
- September 10 Foster City
- October 8 Los Gatos Creek
- November 12 Coyote Creek (So. San Jose)

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**36th Annual  
SACRAMENTO JAZZ FESTIVAL/JUBILEE  
May 22-25, 2009**

Some of our members have been enjoying the special SIR discount for SIR members.

To find out more go to

[www.sacjazz.com](http://www.sacjazz.com)

Contact JIM FUSARO for tickets or information.

Group and Tour Sales coordinator

449 Cedar River Way

Sacramento Ca 95831-2462

916-428-571

[Jim4jazz@comcast.net](mailto:Jim4jazz@comcast.net)

**RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION**

All activities arranged for or by, or sponsored by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Son In Retirement, Incorporated and its Branches do not assume responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters.

-2009-

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Area 16 Governor: Stanley Barkey (408) 996-3137

**SONS IN RETIREMENT  
INCORPORATED  
SOUTHERN PENINSULA  
BRANCH 5**

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**PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE**

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