

Sons in Retirement (SIR)



By Phil Frank

We had a *BALL!* We bowled Bocce Balls, (32 of us, on Bob Chan's two quick-dry courts). We putted Golf Balls, (37 of us, on Steve Michalak's fabulous five hole putting green). We drove, lost, found, pitched and putted and putted and putted Too Many Golf Balls, (32 of us, on LOP's gorgeous golf course). Then we toasted, awarded, (Larry Shelley and very few others), dined and reveled, (almost 70 of us at Ye Olde Magnolia Grille)! Head Ball Boy Al Cash takes the organizer prize! I hope you were there...if not, you gotta join us to participate in our next annual *SIR FUN DAY*.

Another benefit to being in our group is to have witnessed SIR Bill Belding's travelogue of Branch 170's recent invasion of Africa. Safari I know, (I am now well informed), SIRs Frank Nole and Roger Pope and their wives went on a safari with Bill and his. Now, it's his story, they had a fabulous trip and saw wondrous sights and creatures. Bill brought back photos and sounds to prove it, and we're the happier for having been allowed to tag along with them.

Some of we SIR are old, but not as old and revered as the songs that Verne Bagby pulls out of his song book. The latest he led were "America the Beautiful" and "Shine on Harvest Moon". After that, we were happy to go on to chide guys going from young to old this October. I was one of them, but Doug Wilson was luckier...he won a free lunch! Speaking of oldies, Tom Haslett has celebrated so many birthdays that Dick Green presented the Senior SIR President's Award to him at his home, where they each discussed flying the C-47(DC-3). Tom has missed several luncheons due to hospital appointments, but will be back soon.

Comings: New members inducted were Larry Brown, Jack Ellena, Terry Fenstermacher, Jamie Hash and Steve Sutter. Waiting in the wings are: Andy Ameigeiras, Bernie Bender, John McMahon and Charlie Sundblom. These swell fellows have swollen our ranks to 121, making Branch 170 the swellingest branch in the state! All hail Big SIR Dick Green for his leadership in that direction.

Goings: Dale Zinck has moved to make Oregon a better place. Neil Weaver past on peacefully to a far better place. Back in 2005, when he joined SIR, he told us that he was a model boat and train enthusiast. It seems that interest, grandparenthood and his wife Elsie kept him on track through his Senior SIR Award and 91 good years. We'll think of him often as he rolls along the upper road.

Goings on: Golf at Dark Horse. Tue 11/10/14, 09:00, \$45, sign up by 11/3/14. Got it? No? Call Rod Corvington 274-8125 or Chuck Mercer 268-9302. Do it...it's close and easy.

As always, the Military Bull Session will resume in the Marina Lounge, 1600-1800 on November 12, and all the other second Wednesdays.

Now that the World Series is history, John Brewer and Gary Resnick are getting serious in our own bull pen, warming up for our fastest ball of the year, the 12/4 SIR Christmas Dance. It's sure to be a hit. You've probably struck out by now if you don't have one of the 184 tickets, but Gary has the ducat score at 916 765-5013.

The last thing that Little SIR Elmer Curtis did before closing our meeting was to draw Bill Buchholz's name out of the Free Lunch Hat. I bet he'll beat you to the door for his freebie on Wednesday, 5 November.