

Sons in Retirement (SIR)



By Phil Frank

Past: We were visited at our last meeting by SIR Regional Director Don Dill. He complimented our Branch Executive Committee on the effectiveness of our activities and membership program. His major mission, however, was to present Senior Certificates to our two newest nonagenarians.

Alfred Jose and Richard Dement, both long-time members, have been contributing to the camaraderie of our group for years. Congratulations and thanks to you both, Al and Dick.

To top off that May meeting, our own Captain Richard Green, U. S. Coast Guard, Retired, did a Ship's Master...ful job of taking us on a training cruise on his Coast Guard's tall ship, the USCGC Eagle. With the aid of his up-to-date video presentation, he aptly described life on this unique training ship, which was originally built in 1936 for Hitler, but commandeered by the US as war reparation. Here are some of my copious notes...she weighs 1800 tons, qualifies as a bark (not a ship) with three masts, (as tall as 15 stories), sports 5 miles of rigging, can make 10 knots under auxiliary diesel power (as much as 18 under sail), takes Coast Guard cadets and OCS on worldwide training cruises, as long as 10 weeks, when not berthed in New London. What more need you know to entice you to join her crew? Thank you, Dick, for taking us on a great cruise.

Present: Luncheon Wednesday, June 4, 12:00 to 1:30. Seemingly sustaining a salty speakers tradition, SIR Jim Goetsch will entertain you with a slide program and stories from his sailboat cruising trip to Mexico. If you ever wanted to go cruising (or if you can't imagine why anyone would go cruising) you don't want to miss this program.

June Golf dates: Fri 6 Black Oak, Tue 24 Dark Horse, Mon 30 Turkey Creek. Check the website.

On June 9 form a line at the Sportsmen's Bar to shoot the bull in our Military MBS. Happy Hour is from 1600-1800 hours.

Bocce Ball play starts this month. The Roosters' Team Captain (Capo, to the amanti) Bob Chan and his backup giocatore Rich Hibbs have completed their players/referees/rules clinic and report that their twelve man team is triggered for their regular Tuesday tourneys.

Future: Travel Chairman Mel Pimentel announces that he has 4 scheduled events: Mississippi River Cruise on The American Queen, from St. Paul to St. Louis in August; Branson, Missouri on October 6-11, 2014; Colorado Springs, December 29-January 2; Panama Canal Cruise on the Island Princess, February 4-19, 2015. There may even be more. Find out at 268-3359.

Fun Day: This stirring SIR event will be held on Saturday, September 27, and will include golf, bocce ball and dinner at the clubhouse. Plan for it! I'll press Major Domo Al Cash for details in a future edition.

Free Lunch winners: Larry Elliot, as his birthday present, and Vern Bagby, just 'cause he was present. Maybe new members Cliff Fowler and Mark Hicks will be our next winners. But don't let them off easy...be sure you're with us at the clubhouse on June 4, and bring a guest!