



# The Pathfinder

Branch Number 59

Thirty-Fourth Year

September 2009

Bulletin No. 8

**NEXT MEETING at Newark Pavilion - Thursday, September 17, 2009**

## Things to Consider by Big Sir Don Gillis

We have printed "SIR Cards" for your use in recruiting new members. These are business card size. The front tells who we are, where and when we meet, and invites potential members to join us. The back side tells what we do and what we don't do. See card images below.



### Sons in Retirement – Branch 59

We are retired men who enjoy our leisure time with friends & activities. We meet for lunch at the Newark Pavilion on the third Thursday of the month and would be pleased to have you join us. Social hour at 11am and lunch at noon.



My Name \_\_\_\_\_

My Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**What do we do?** We have a monthly meeting with a speaker. We have 18 hole Golf, Bowling, Ladies Day Events, Bridge, Travel, Book Exchange, Computers & Technology, Walking, Singing and more.

**What don't we do?** We have No Dues, Fund Raising, Political or Religious Agendas. No Surprises!

Visit us at <http://www.sirinc.org>

Each Sir will be given 4 cards at our September luncheon. Put two in your wallet and give your wife two. Be sure you write in your name and phone number in advance.

Give these out to prospective Sirs on the golf course, bowling alley, cocktail party, church

gathering etc. This can be a powerful recruiting tool. Thanks to John Skarpelos and Fred Gotthardt for their work in designing and producing these cards. Additional cards will be available for those needing more than four.

At our August Meeting, we had a seating problem. This is the first time since January that this has occurred. It was caused by saving places for members who were not going to attend. Please remember the rule: **ONLY SAVE PLACES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TOLD YOU THEY WILL BE ATTENDING.**

*Don*

## Our Speaker Bob Benya by Little Sir Frank R. Thomas

Bob Benya, our September speaker, has been a member of SIR Branch 59 since October 2000. He was born in Yonkers, NY on March 19, 1931, the eleventh child of Michael and Susan Benya, immigrants from Czechoslovakia.



He was raised in New York and graduated from Syracuse University in 1953 with a business degree. ROTC involvement at Syracuse led him to become a military pilot in the U.S. Air Force. He trained at various locations for three years. After graduating, he came to Travis Air Force Base in California during the Korean War. After leaving the Air Force in 1959 he refused to leave California so Bob attended Hastings College of the Law graduating in 1961. He practiced law in Fremont for 37 years and retired in 1998. He has represented many members of Branch 59.

He declines to speak about Aviation or the Law but proposes to tell us all he knows about Mission San Jose in the City of Fremont. He has been a docent at the Mission for several years and has encountered numerous precocious fourth graders during that time. Our speaker loves history and he will share Mission history with us along with the comments of some of the students along the way. The Mission is visited by ten thousand 4th grade students every year.

Mission San Jose was founded in 1797. It is two hundred and twelve years old at this time. The Mission museum is the oldest building in Alameda County.

### MENU

**Roast Pork and Salmon**

Grecian Potatoes, Rice and Vegetables



If you are not coming or if you are bringing a guest or visitor  
**Don't forget to Call on the Monday before the meeting - or earlier**  
Hugh Twomey 796-5559 or email [hught22@comcast.net](mailto:hught22@comcast.net)



## Branch 59

### Officers

#### Big Sir

Don Gillis  
(510) 490-1978

#### Little Sir

Frank R. Thomas  
(925) 960-0429

#### Secretary

Jim Ferez  
(510) 651-7717

#### Asst. Secretary

Peter Angelides  
(510) 797-3570

#### Treasurer

Ben Fernandez  
(510) 657-6982

#### Asst. Treasurer

Bobby Ben Snodgrass  
(510) 796-3543

### Directors

Bill Anderson  
Bill Dark  
Richard Holley  
Robert Ingebretson  
Jerry Sabo  
Roger Wallin

### Branch 59

Meets at Newark Pavilion  
6430 Thornton Avenue  
Newark  
on the 3rd Thursday of  
each month  
10:00 AM  
Executive Board Meeting  
11AM Social Hour  
12 Noon Lunch

A Nonprofit  
public benefit  
corporation for  
retired men



## Sir Jim Ferez August Meeting Minutes

Big Sir Don Gillis called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call by Secretary: Officers

Present: Big Sir Don Gillis, Little Sir Frank R.

Thomas,  
Secretary Sir  
Jim Ferez,  
Assistant  
Secretary  
Sir Peter



Angelides, Treasurer Sir Ben Fernandez and Assistant Treasurer Sir Bobby Ben Snodgrass. Directors present: Sir Bill Dark, Sir Richard Holley, Sir Robert Ingebretson, and Sir Roger Wallin. Directors absent: Sir Bill Anderson and Sir Jerry Sabo.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the July meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Sir Ben Fernandez reported the financials as of the end of July. Our ending Balance is \$3438.93. A motion was approved to increase our petty cash fund from \$200 to \$300 dollars. Our expenses for the month were normal.

Program: Little Sir Frank R. Thomas reported that the speaker for this meeting will be Mr. Ralph Thomas. Mr. Thomas played Football on the University of San Francisco championship team. Frank then played in the NFL for the Chicago Cardinals and the Washington Redskins. Frank had a number of interesting experiences which he will relate. Frank's topic will be the NFL Then and Now.

The election of Officers and Directors was held at this meeting: Results are as follows: Big Sir Frank R. Thomas, Little Sir Hugh Twomey, Secretary Jim Ferez, Assistant Secretary Peter Angelides, Treasurer Ben Fernandez and Assistant

Treasurer Bobby Ben Snodgrass  
Directors: Bill Anderson, Bill Dark, Don Gillis, Robert Ingebretson, Jerry Sabo and Roger Wallin

Big Sir Don Gillis reminded the Officers and Directors that we need more active participation in Activities of the organization.

### Committee Reports:

Attendance: Sir Hugh Twomey expects 186 for lunch today.

Birthdays: Sir Art Winkley stated that we would celebrate 17 birthdays this month. Birthdays range from 97 to 63. Branch 59 wishes a special Happy Birthday to Sir Tom Sherba, our member, and Governor of Area 8.

Membership: Sir Ron Brutvan reported two of our members passed in July. Sir Henry "Hank" Lewis on July 24 and Sir David Nazar on July 26. Our sincere condolences to the families of these members.

Golf: Sir Bill Leake reports that Dues for the 2010 season are due. Total amount is \$31.00.

**Unfinished Business:** Big Sir Don Gillis is looking for two chairmen to handle Recruiting and Activities.

**New Business:** Big Sir Don Gillis reviewed the topics from the SIR State Annual meeting. He stated that the most important factor to preserve the future of SIR is the recruiting of younger members. We all need to keep this in mind and really work on bringing potential new members to our organization.

A motion was made and seconded to purchase a number of cards which would state the date and time of the meeting, what we do, and how to contact us. It is hoped that this will help in the recruiting of new members. We all need to get more involved in recruiting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.  
Submitted by Sir Jim Ferez, Secretary

# MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDANCE and BIRTHDAY NEWS

by Sir Ron Brutvan, Sir Hugh Twomey, and Sir Art Winkley



**Sir Art Winkley**  
Birthday Chairman

## September Birthdays

Tom DeHart	09/23/1916	93
Gerald Desmond	09/18/1920	89
Dale Murray	09/09/1921	88
Mike Whitfield	09/08/1924	85
Joe Barrera	09/09/1924	85
Raymond Erickson	09/12/1925	84
Harry Gardiser	09/01/1927	82
Joe Markovich	09/26/1927	82
John Skarpelos	09/09/1928	81
Edward Tavares	09/12/1929	80
David Priego	09/12/1929	80
G. Austin Smith	09/19/1929	80
Armando Castiglioni	09/02/1930	79
Bill Stannard	09/05/1931	78
Roger Tansley	09/04/1932	77
Donald Eliason	09/25/1932	77
Gerald Moore	09/15/1933	76
Vincent Fernelius	09/15/1933	76
Vern Talley	09/24/1933	76
Arthur Slauer	09/02/1936	73
John Trischetti	09/17/1938	71
Robert Ingebretson	09/08/1940	69
Warren Mindestrom	09/06/1942	67
Stan Peters	09/24/1942	67
Howard Elz	09/21/1943	66
Edward Blank	09/21/1943	66
Fred Ilg	09/10/1945	64



## New Members

We had no new members last month.

Branch 59 had a peak active membership of 284 in May of 2003. You will notice in the Membership Report in the next column that we have dropped to 252 active members, a decrease of 32.

Are you doing your best to bring in new members?



## Membership Report



**Sir Ron Brutvan**  
Membership Chairman

### Guests:

**Robert Fuchslin**

**Delmore Morsette**

### Guest of:

Hugh Twomey

George Perry

### Visitors:

none

### Change of Status:

**Clarence Chacon**

Resigned

**John Kennedy**

Resigned

**James Bove**

Resigned

**Stan Saylor**

Resigned-moved

**Robert Lewis**

Transfer to Br. 26

**Lloyd Keplinger**

Transfer to Br. 26

**Tom DeHart**

New Phone number

510-894-1850

### Membership Total

(as of August 20, 2009)

**252 — Active Members**

**23 — Inactive Members**

## Attendance Report



**Sir Hugh Twomey**  
Attendance Chairman

### Attendance Report

(For August 20, 2009)

Members	170
Guests	3
Visitors	0

**Total = 173**

54 excused 32 unexcused

You can get this issue of the Pathfinder or earlier issues by going to the Branch Website:

<http://johnsplace.sirbranch.com/>





# SIR BRANCH 59 ACTIVITIES

## Strikes and Spares by Jerry Sabo



**Don Henry** and **Wayne Adams** placed first at Napa in doubles while **Jerry Sabo** and **Gary Bennett** placed in doubles, and all events. Reno was another story – we were there, but that is about all that there was to say except perhaps for one nice 212 game by **John Pesek**. We would be very surprised if anyone won any money at

Reno – even the gambling was not a good experience. I guess we really do miss **Ray Erickson**, especially at Reno and hope he will join us again soon.

Ditto for the Stockton trip where only **Nat Lord** and **Gary Bennett** showed any signs of consistency. Don Henry did roll a very nice 220, but other than that there were only a few high games – Nat at 202, **Roger Wallin** a 199 and Gary and Wayne each rolled a 197.

### Upcoming tournaments:

Coming up very soon will be the Dublin tournament at Earl Anthony Bowl on September 21st. Next will be our tournament to be held again at Cloverleaf Bowl in Fremont. Any senior (male or female) that has an established book average can bowl at our tournament. This will be the first time that our tournament will not be held on a Sunday. Save the dates and come watch us on Monday, September 28th and Tuesday, the 29th. Singles bowling will be from 10:00am and doubles will start at about 12:30. I need to remind elected Big SIR Frank Thomas that his brother from Sonora will be at our tournament on Tuesday. By the way, we miss our bowling Frank Thomas. We were also saddened by the loss of David Nazar, who had a tremendous showing at the bowling tournaments that he was able to attend last year.

### Tournaments for October:

Citrus Heights (Sacramento) – Oct. 4th and 5th

Harvest Park (Brentwood) – Oct. 20th and 22nd

Remember, all SIR members are welcomed to join us most any Monday at Mowry Lanes, located at 585 Mowry Ave (behind Comcast) and be ready to start practice bowling at 12:45pm. The cost is only \$5.25 for three lines of bowling and the only other commitment is that when you join you either already are, or will become a sanctioned bowler (cost \$20/year). Once you have a book average, or set your average with 21 games or more then you can join us in tournament play. Unlike other leagues, we bowl year round. **Top bowlers for August:**

James Lawrence – 187, 174, 225 = 586 Series

Chuck Pereira – 202, 212, 176 = 590 Series

Roger Wallin – 170, 197, 219 = 586 Series

*Jerry Sabo*

## Golf Notes by Bill Leake



**Welcome to** the Branch 59 golf column.

If you are a member of SIR and like to golf, we have a place for you. Please talk to me at the next luncheon meeting for more information.

Since the last column we have completed two events – the state individual qualifier and the state team championship. We have results. For the team championship, from branch 59 we had the team of **Terry Dalziel, Dave Tanner, Bob Teglia** and **Tony Zeuli** competing, but unfortunately they did not place in the money. For the individual qualifier, our best finisher was **Wyl Wyman** who finished 3rd. He also won money. For the rest of us, we had fun. Those who competed and finished at Boundary Oaks, along with Wyl, were **Skip Mugford, Wayne Meyer, Dave Tanner, Terry Dalziel, Bill Leake, Richard Howe, Ed Tavares, Tom Russo, Greg Johnston, and Armando Castiglioni**.

**Dues Dues Dues** – It is time for the 2010 NCGA dues. The dues for branch 59 will remain at \$31. Please make checks payable to SIR Branch 59 and mail to: Bill Leake, PO Box 434, Fremont CA 94537

The deadline for dues is mid-December.

Tee times – Thank you **Bill Watts** for calling in Thursday tee times, and thank you **Jerry Desmond** for calling in tee times for Mondays.

During the September 13-16 we will have completed the Fall Classic South at **Solvang**. We will have results next month. There is a new event this year, **Fall Classic North** – September 30th – October 4th to be at Warm Springs Oregon – this event's entry form is on the web at [www.sirstategolf.com](http://www.sirstategolf.com).

Finally – we will have only 1 trip to **Nuevo Vallarto – Paradise Village**. The dates are: November 10-17 and November 11-18.

**Take a Bow** – Two months in a row without an entry in this section. So – Do you have a reason to take a bow ? Long drive, hole in one, eagle, other – let me know.

**Post post post** – don't forget to post your score.

**Regular play for SIR Branch 59** – We play every Monday and Thursday at Sunol. Join us – to find out the tee time, please call Sunol at 925-862-0414. The reservation is made under LEAKE.

Thank you for reading this article.

*Bill Leake*



## Nat Lord Sports (510) 797-1704



### SIR Day at the Oakland Raiders To be Announced



### PATHFINDERS WALKING AND HIKING GROUP

Meet Wednesday mornings at 8:00 AM at the Park at Paseo Padre and Isherwood. Everyone welcome and bring a friend.

**Don Henry** at 510-656-5659.

**Vince Fernelius** at 510-489-0396



### READERS AND BROWERS

Bring your magazines and books to share, take books home to read.

**Wayne Adams 510-797-7611**



### CYBERGEEZER MEETING



When -  
**Tuesday, September 22nd.**

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Where -  
Fremont Main Library, Fremont  
Fukaya B room.

**Cheers**  
*Fred*

## Area 8 SIR Travel Adventures Daryl Main

**DECEMBER 12-14, 2009**

### VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS TO NEVADA CITY and GRASS VALLEY

SIR Branch 90 - is sponsoring this trip. Cost is \$499 PPDO, \$165 single supplement. If you are interested in this trip call Daryl at 510-352-2210 or Dan Miller at 650-591-3314.

**FEBRUARY 5 -20, 2010**

### 15 DAY PANAMA CANAL CRUISE ON THE CORAL PRINCESS

Leave from the port of Los Angeles and sail the canal with many stops and depart from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida for home. This is an all inclusive trip, including all tips, air fare and group travel insurance. Cost starts at \$3190 for an inside stateroom to \$4170 for a mini-suite. For more information call Daryl Main at 510-352-2210

**FEBRUARY 10, 2010**

### THE FOUR ACES AT THE MONDAVI CENTER'S JACKSON HALL IN DAVIS

If you are interested attending this event please let Daryl Main know at 510-352-2210. Cost is \$76 person.

The annual SIR day at the races is coming in October. If interested please let me know The cost is still \$25 per person. Call Daryl Main at 510-352-2210.

For more information Call Travel  
Chairman, Daryl Main 510-352-2210 for  
details. To download a brochure go to  
[www.branch26.com/Travel.html](http://www.branch26.com/Travel.html)

### BRIDGE GROUPS

The Bridge activity includes 2 night time couple's groups and a daytime group following the monthly luncheons. The diners are encouraged to join the latter card sharks in order to overwhelm the noise of tables and chairs being moved by Pavilion's staff.

**Arnold George - 510-797-9524**

# SIR HAPPENINGS

<http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>



# SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Dave Marymee — Bob Walter — Carl Shaner

**TOM DeHART** (93 year old Sir this month) has had his share of health problems. His latest problems were twofold. He broke a molar tooth biting an apple and had treatment for skin cancer. Tom had to have the tooth removed and a bridge inserted to replace the tooth. Tom expects to celebrate his birthday at the September birthday table.

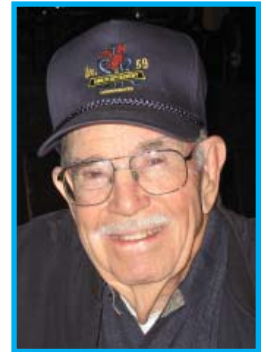
**NIELS NIELSEN** (95 year old SIR) had a hug and a hearty hello as he attended the August luncheon.

**CLARENCE DUTRA** missed the August Birthday luncheon honoring him as the oldest active Sir. Clarence was 97 years old August 31. Clarence missed the luncheon due to a fall into a glass panel which required 18 staples and stitches in the back of and top of his head. We wish Clarence a speedy recovery.

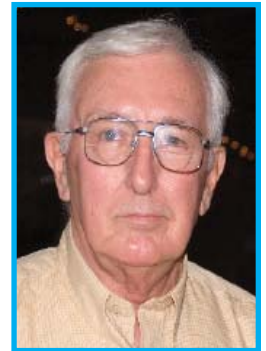
**CLARK REDEKER** (92 year old SIR) attended the August luncheon. Clark also attended the memorial service honoring Sir Harry (Hank) Lewis in early August. Clark says he is scheduled for a stent implant in early September for a blockage in a blood vessel in his heart; Clark already has a stent implant in the left shoulder region. Hope all goes well for you, Clark.

**CLYDE VOORHEES** (92 year old SIR) says he has some pain in the middle of his back as he is recovering from a fall backwards on an escalator at an earlier A's game. Otherwise, Clyde says he is doing OK.

**JACK WEBB**, wheel chair bound Sir, missed the August luncheon as he had a medical appointment for a blood test. Jack takes blood thinner medication and previous blood tests indicate Jack is doing OK.



Dave Marymee



Bob Walter



The dynamic musical duo – Sir **Ed Guthrie** on the left and Sir **Doug Eads** below – provide entertainment during the Branch 59 luncheon meetings. They would like to become a trio. If you have musical skills, please join them.





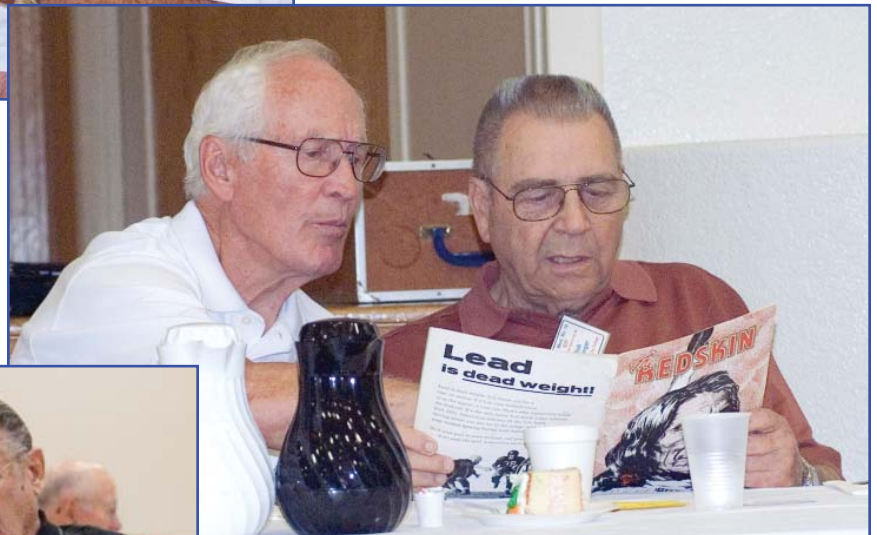


Sir **Ed Kurtz** (left) discusses important SIR activities with Sir **Phil Utic** (center) and **Ed Shannon** (right).

Sir **Frank Borghi** (left below) having a few words with Sir **Arnie Mozzetti** at a recent luncheon meeting.



Sir **Mal Silva** (left below) discusses Cybergeezer activities with Sir **Fred Gotthardt**.



Speaker **Ralph Thomas** (left below) with Sir **Bob Springer** reminisce about Ralph's days with the Redskins looking at an old program.



Sir **Jack Gaunt** below accompanies the Singing Sirs on the keyboard.



## PATHFINDER BRANCH NO. 59

John Skarpelos, Editor  
1636 Vernal Avenue  
Fremont, CA 94539-4736

< john@mediaart.com >

Return Service Requested



FIRST  
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### Committee Chairmen and Assistants

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Hugh Twomey - **Chairman**  
Robert Boike - Assistant  
Ed Guthrie - Assistant  
Ed Thomas - Assistant

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Art Winkley - **Chairman**  
Frank D. Thomas - Assistant

#### **BOWLING**

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Jerry Sabo - Assistant

#### **BRIDGE**

Arnold George - **Chairman**

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#### **CYBERGEEZERS**

Fred Gotthardt

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Fred Gotthardt - Assistant

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Gerry Desmond - Assistant  
Fred Ilg - Assistant

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Gordon MacLeod - Assistant  
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Frank Campos

#### **SPORTS**

Nat Lord

#### **SUNSHINE**

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Bob Walter - Assistant  
Carl Shaner - Assistant

#### **WALKING GROUP**

Don Henry - **Chairman**  
Vince Fernelius - Assistant

### STATE OFFICERS

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#### **State Vice-President**

Buck Kendrick

#### **State Secretary**

Gary Gruber

#### **State Treasurer**

Robert Mannell

#### **Director, Region 6**

Jim Stedman

#### **Governor, Area 8**

Tom Sherba

#### **Senior Honorary Life Members**

Lyle Kingery

David Marymee

#### **Honorary Life Members**

Louis Bufkin

Fred Gotthardt

Nat Lord

John Skarpelos

### PAST BIG SIRs

1976 Peter Clark\*  
1977 Karl Heine\*  
1978 Harry Cooper\*  
1979 Kenneth Foster\*  
1980 Larry Varblow\*  
1981 Guido Milano\*  
1982 Alex Fulton\*  
1983 Stephen Epler\*  
1984 George Herman\*  
1985 Ray Crosby\*  
1986 Loran Coburn\*  
1987 Robert Davis\*  
1988 Robert Klindt\*  
1989 Martin Annen\*  
1990 Lee Updegraff  
1991 Fred W. Fretter\*  
1992 Lyle Kingery  
1993 LeRoy J. King\*  
1994 George Hubach\*  
1995 Clyde Killion\*  
1996 Bill Schwan\*  
1997 Nat Lord  
1998 John Buchanan\*  
1999 Art Lampert\*  
2000 Harry Heyen\*  
2001 Bob Beam  
2002 Rollin Cunningham\*  
2003 Don Henry  
2004 Tom Sherba  
2005 Howard Thompson  
2006 Les Addison  
2007 Ted Bresler  
2008 Richard Holley

\*(deceased)

### PATHFINDER DEADLINE

Copy deadline for the next issue of the *Pathfinder* will be Thursday a week after the monthly luncheon meeting.