



The Pathfinder

Branch Number 59

Thirty-Sixth Year

July 2011

Bulletin No. 6

NEXT MEETING at Newark Pavilion - Thursday, July 21, 2011

The Rooster Crows by Big Sir Hugh Twomey

Who says

"THERE'S NO FREE LUNCH."

Last month our SIR Branch 59, Branch Executive Committee have given your future "GUEST," a one time free lunch, provided your guest agrees to consider joining you as a member of Branch 59. This policy will be reviewed by the Branch Executive Committee in six months.

Now when you invite a guest, you pay \$17.00, and your guest is issued a complementary lunch ticket. You pay \$12.50 for the meal, and \$4.50, for the following: 1.) HALL RENTAL, 2.) SET-UP, 3.) THE PATHFINDER, 4.) PRO-RATA TO SIR STATE, 5.) MISCELLANEOUS.

"Let Us Hear from You" Occasionally a member at large will think of a constructive idea to improve the experience of our members at SIR functions. The constructive idea is a good start. The next step is to communicate the idea to the SIR Branch 59, leadership.

As the saying goes, "no good deed goes unpunished," so the next step might involve some work. "Let Us Hear from You" anyway. Just put it in the "Suggestion Box."

We have a trend chart that clearly illustrates a need to invite guests as potential members to SIR Branch 59, just to maintain our present active membership level.

Branch 59 June attendance was 149 members. We were very pleased to welcome Sir Ron Sternal to our membership, he was sponsored by Sir Howard Elz.

The Social Committee will be needing assistance for the Holiday, luncheon from willing members to help make it another success. Now is the time to let Sir Jim Ferenz know that you would help as a SIR Branch 59 supporter.

Branch 59 needs friends of yours to join us as guests and become members of the SIR Branch 59. Now is the time to invite a friend to our luncheon as your guest.

Hugh Twomey



Our Speaker Dave Dockter by Little Sir Ron Holladay

Our speaker for July, Dave Dockter, happens to be the son of one or

our members. He is the son of Alvin Dockter. Dave is the Environmental Planner Managing Arborist for the City of Palo Alto, CA. His presentation will open your eyes to the beauty and diversity of trees in our area. It may remind you of childhood experiences, hikes in the hills and understanding the technical aspects of trees. Learn the responsibilities of the suburban forest we live in and how to maintain it.

His presentation will take you through a tour of some of the most fun highlights, facts and lies about famous and historical significant trees in northern California. A pictorial of over 100 years of tree maintenance of El Palo Alto redwood. The goal of the talk is to simply heighten your awareness and appreciation of some of the elements that define our character, our urban forest shade canopy, and how to sustain its benefits. These are amazing trees in our natural and built environment, and you will never see them the same again.

Mr. Dockter is involved in many Arborist Organizations in the bay area, has been involved in amending several municipal tree ordinances throughout California and is involved with creative enforcement remedies to effect compliance. He is involved with the El Camino Real Pilot Design Workshop, Architectural Review Board advisory, High Speed Rail PA Task Force and principal author of the Palo Alto Tree Technical Manual.



MENU

BBQ Ribs, Chicken and Italian Sausages

Fruit Salad, Potato Salad, Cut Corn and Corn Bread, Beans, Green Salad



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
Ed Guthrie (510) 659-0498 or email edguthrie@comcast.net



Branch 59

Officers

Big Sir

Hugh Twomey
(510) 796-5559

Little Sir

Ron Holladay
(510) 656-9017

Secretary

Jim Ferez
(510) 651-7717

Asst. Secretary

Peter Angelides
(510) 797-3570

Treasurer

Ben Fernandez
(510) 657-6982

Asst. Treasurer

Nat Lord
(510) 797-1704

Directors

Bill Anderson
Bill Dark
Robert Ingebretson
Jerry Sabo
Frank R. Thomas
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 June Meeting Minutes

Little Sir Ron Holladay called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call by

Secretary, Officers
Present: Little Sir Ron Holladay, Secretary Sir Jim Ferez, Treasurer Sir Ben Fernandez, and Assistant Treasurer Sir Nat Lord. Officers absent: Big Sir Hugh Twomey and Assistant



Secretary Sir Peter Angelides. Directors present: Sir Bill Anderson, Sir Bill Dark, Sir Robert Ingebretson, Sir Jerry Sabo, Sir Frank R. Thomas, and Sir Roger Wallin.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the April minutes as published in the Pathfinder.

Treasurer's Report: Sir Ben Fernandez reports financials remain sound with a cash position of \$6074.56. Sir Ben warns that with attendance trends and related revenue going in a downward direction we need to watch expenses carefully. Sir Ben also reported that the May Sweetheart Luncheon lost \$225.78.

Little Sir's Report: Sir Ron Holladay reported that our speaker will be one of our own members Sir James Stanhope, a career Air Force Fighter Pilot. Colonel Stanhope is a Veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Stanhope flew the P38 in WWII and will speak to us about those experiences.

Committee Reports:

Attendance: Sir Ed Guthrie projects at 149 for today's luncheon.

Membership: Sir Ron Brutvan proposed one new member for acceptance. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the new member. The new member is Sir Ron Sternal (8) sponsored by Sir Howard Elz. New members will now receive a Certificate of Membership as they are introduced to the Group.

Birthdays: Sheldon Schwarz reported that we will celebrate 13 May Birthdays ranging from 91 to 61 and 17 June Birthdays ranging from 94 to 67. The Officers, Directors, and Members wish our "Birthday Boys" a very happy birthday.

Nominating Committee: Sir Frank R. Thomas reports he has a complete slate of Officers, for 2012, to be submitted to the members for a vote.

Golf: Sir Bill Leake reports that the Sir Division 4 Golf Tournament will be on August

31 at Boundary Oaks. The top two from each flight go to Poppy Hills in October. Branch 59 members play every Monday at Sunol.

Social: Sir Jim Ferez 'thanked' the Social Committee for the outstanding job they did for the May Sweetheart Luncheon and reminded the Branch Executive Committee that if the branch wants to do a December Event we need to get started immediately. The Committee needs more members to participate in the planning and Execution of the event.

Unfinished Business

Advertising: Sir Frank R. Thomas suggested we can get a SIR advertisement in the Tri City Voice for \$10.00. Sir Frank will work on an ad. We will need to come up with a contact phone number.

The issue of complementary lunch on a one time basis for a Guest who is a potential new member was discussed and a motion was made, seconded, and passed. Potential members who are invited as a guest will be afforded a complementary lunch on a one time basis. This issue will be reviewed again in six months to determine if we are getting any benefit from this expense.

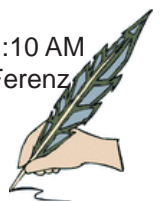
New Business

Suggestion Box: Big Sir Hugh Twomey requested that a Suggestion Box be placed at the Ticket purchase area at each meeting so that members have an opportunity to state what they like or do not like about our SIR meetings and what they would like us to change in order to improve attendance and gain new members. This was accomplished at the June meeting. Results will be discussed on a continuing basis. The Branch Executive Committee has taken on the challenge of turning this trend around and will look into all aspects of our organization including the facility, the importance of a bar, changes in meeting day, quality of food. In essence, any area that affects our membership will be reviewed with our membership.

Sir Frank R. Thomas suggested that we consider doing an Exit Interview of some kind for members who leave the Organization to determine why we are losing people. This was tabled for future discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM
Submitted by Secretary, Sir Jim Ferez

Jim Ferez



MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDANCE and BIRTHDAY NEWS

by Sir Ron Brutvan, Sir Ed Guthrie, and Sir Art Winkley

Birthday Report



Sir Art Winkley
Birthday Chairman

July Birthdays

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|----|
| Gordon Thym | 07/01/1923 | 88 |
| James Stanhope | 07/02/1923 | 88 |
| Valentino Pianetta | 07/14/1925 | 86 |
| Frank D. Thomas | 07/21/1925 | 86 |
| Boyd McCaslin | 07/24/1925 | 86 |
| Fred Cutter | 07/09/1929 | 82 |
| Gordon MacLeod | 07/12/1930 | 81 |
| Bernard Teague | 07/14/1930 | 81 |
| Luciano Nausin | 07/26/1930 | 81 |
| Dino Mostardi | 07/27/1930 | 81 |
| Ben Fernandez | 07/02/1934 | 77 |
| Ronald Oliphant | 07/14/1934 | 77 |
| Carl Shaner | 07/30/1937 | 74 |
| Rowland McNeil | 07/24/1938 | 73 |
| Ron Sternal | 07/07/1939 | 72 |
| Wayne Meyer | 07/13/1939 | 72 |
| Gene Lim | 07/04/1940 | 71 |
| Bob Balan | 07/18/1941 | 70 |
| Anthony Gross | 07/15/1942 | 69 |

New Members

Ron K. Sternal
2470 Ascot Way
Union City, CA 94587-1867
510-471-7278
Email: rcstern@sbcglobal.net
Birthday: 7/7/1939
Badge No. 8
Sponsor: Howard Elz
Call me: Ron

Ron Sternal



Membership Report



Sir Ron Brutvan
Membership Chairman

Guests: **Guest of:**
Andy Anderson Phil Utic

Visitors:
Jim Blood Inactive Member

Change of Status:
Jack Long resigned

Membership Total
(as of June 2011)

217 — Active Members
30 — Inactive Members

Bring in a Guest
We need new
Members

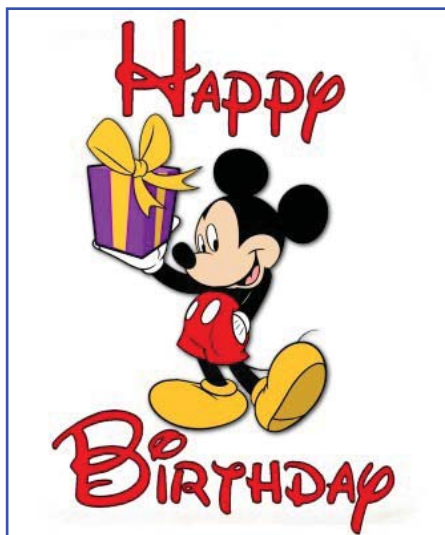
Attendance Report



Sir Ed Guthrie
Attendance Chairman

Attendance Report
(For June 2011)

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Members | 149 |
| Guests | 1 |
| Visitors | 1 |
| Total = | 151 |
| 40 excused | 29 unexcused |



You can get this issue of the Pathfinder or earlier issues by going to the Branch
Website: <http://branch59.sirinc2.org/>

SIR BRANCH 59 ACTIVITIES

Strikes and Spares by Jerry Sabo

Branch 59 bowlers have not fared too well in our most recent outings. Branch 6 did OK at the state meet, branch 59 members didn't even make the top 10—definitely out of the prize range. We had similar results at Pinole.

By the time this article is read we hope to report success at Cambrian Bowl where twelve of us are headed. We still plan to have a foursome going to Yuba City and then to Napa Bowl in late July.

We did have a lot of "big" games rolled at Cloverleaf these past few weeks so maybe that will be a sign of good things to come.

Our upcoming schedule for the months of August and early September are as follows:

| | | | |
|---------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Sonora | AUG 8, 11 | Mon, Thu | Black Oak Casino |
| Reno | AUG 22, 23, 24 | Mon, Tue, Wed | Reno Bowl |
| Fremont | SEP 11, 12 | Sun, Mon | Cloverleaf Bowl |

We have had several new members join us in the past month or so. Branch 59 members are **Tom Bohannon** and **Ron Sternal**. Branch 6 members include **Dick Sofield**, and **Kasey Warner** (transferred from Pollock Pines).

SIR members are always invited to join us at Cloverleaf Family Bowl; located in the shopping center at the corner of Grimmer and Fremont Blvd. Just show up and be ready to start practice bowling at 12:45 P.M. Cost is \$12.00 to bowl, and we always have a "top" game and series pool as well as a poker game going on. We normally are finished before 3:00 P.M. This is a bit different from a normal bowling league because we bowl as individuals rather than teams. Besides that, if you can't make it to bowling there is no fee or penalty. Any SIR member can join our group at any Monday gathering. If you happen to show up on March 7th, or March 21st, there may be a lot of bowlers missing to go to the available tournament, but there will almost always be at least 5 or 6 bowlers that choose not to go to tournaments.

For those of you that might be interested in a bit of Monte Carlo Bowling, several of the SIR bowlers have been going to the "special event" on Friday's at 1:00 P.M. at Cloverleaf Bowl. There is one exception in that on the second Friday of each month, we bowl "no-tap". On those Fridays we start bowling at 12:30 rather than the usual 1:00. Cost is \$12.00. Usually there are lots of snacks and a great time can be had at the Friday session. SIR bowlers that usually attend include: Nat Lord, Frank Cordova, Roger Wallin, Jerry Sabo and Gary Bennett. The group has been growing, and there are no quota guarantees or membership requirements.

Jerry Sabo



Golf Notes by Bill Leake

Welcome to the Branch 59 golf column.

Please welcome **Ron Hamro** who joined SIR last February and now has joined SIR golf. We are in the process of completing the 3 sessions of Reno as this article is being written. Results will be made known next month. Do you want to stay abreast with SIR state activities – visit www.sirstategolf.com and it will tell you more than you need

to know. At the last SIR luncheon a flier went out – we will have the division 4 qualifier August 31. Call me if you did not get an entry form. It is \$49 per golfer, held at Boundary Oaks in Walnut Creek, and the top two finishers form each flight go to Poppy Hills in October. **Make checks out to SIR Division 4 Golf and mail to Bill Leake, PO Box 434, Fremont CA 94537.** For this tournament, I plan to generate a list of those who have paid and are going so we can get car pools going. This may be the last time we go to Poppy Hills so you don't want to miss on the opportunity of playing golf there.

For the rest of the schedule this year, we have Sep 11-15 Fall Classic at Solvang. 5 days, 4 nights, 3 days of golf this year – 2 days of 2 man best ball & scramble 1 day. There is talk about a possible cruise in January 2012.

Suggestion Box – Do you have a suggestion to get more golfers to play state tournaments? We now have a suggestion box. Call Bill Leake (510-793-6561) for details. You could win a case of golf balls. 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.

Post -- post your score.

Please – we need more members for SIRs and also SIR golf.

Thank you for reading this article.

Bill Leake



CYBERGEEZER MEETING

The Cybergeezer group will meet at the Fukaya A room of the Fremont Main Library. This month we meet on the Tuesday before the SIR luncheon meeting of Thursday. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 19th 2 to 4 pm** — see you there and then.

Jerry Sabo – 510-790-3135

WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY

Join us for an hour at the Creative Writing Class at the Fremont Senior Center every **Tuesday at 10:00 AM**.

During that hour, instructions are handed out for writing (but not required); writings are read (if you want to read what you wrote) and discussed. It is an active class with some great people.

Ron Holladay - 510-656-9017

Nat Lord Sports (510) 797-1704



SIR DAY AT THE GIANTS

The 2011 SIR DAY with the WORLD CHAMPION SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS is Wednesday, August 10th, the Giants vs the Pittsburgh Pirates, 12:45 PM. Tickets are priced dynamically and can change based upon demand so order your tickets NOW! Prices currently range from \$10 to \$24.50 (View Level) to \$33 or \$44 (Lower Box) to \$38.25 (Club Level)! Choose the seating area that suits you!

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

BOCCE

Bocce Ball at City Beach every first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM for all members and guests, unless it rains.

Ed Shannon - 510-651-6786

Roger Wallin - 510-793-8291

Area 8 SIR Travel Adventures Emile Lassalle

July 14, 2011

MOVING MOVIE TOUR

We will tour San Francisco and our walk-on escort will show clips of famous movies that were made in San Francisco over the years. You will be taken to a Hosted Luncheon at "FOG HORROR" on Pier 15 and at the end of the tour to dessert at "MEL'S". \$89 Per Person.

For more information call Joe Guerrero, 510-483-3627 or Emile Lassalle at 510-538-7463

October 2nd-13th, 2011.

THE GRAND TOUR OF ITALY

We land in Florence the first day. We won't be packing each day to move to a new city, we will stay 4 nights in Montecatini, 3 nights in Rome and 2 nights in Sorrento. From these key cities we visit other areas. Included you will have 10 breakfasts and 10 dinners, air is included and also, all taxes and port fees. Calbot Tours will have a sign-up for the trip on April 1st between 1:30-2:30 PM at Carrows Restaurant In Casco Valley. Hope you can make it. Contact Joe Guerrero or Emile Lassalle for any information you might want. Joe Guerrero 510-483-3627 or Emile Lassalle 510-538-7463

Call Travel Chairman Emile Lassalle
for more information 510-538-7463

READERS AND BROWERS

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

Wayne Adams 510-797-7611



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



SIR HAPPENINGS

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

SUNSHINE REPORT

by Dave Marymee, Bob Walter and Carl Shaner

LES ADDISON (Past Big Sir) is recovering at home from a fall in front of his house in May. Les attended the June luncheon.

THOMAS AHERN is receiving physical therapy at the Lincoln Convalescent Center in the Irvington District. It is located on Lincoln Avenue. Stop in and see Thomas as he appreciates seeing friends.

FRED ANDERSON being wheelchair bound did not get to attend the June luncheon. His driver was away attending his mother's funeral.

DON GILLIS (Past Big Sir) is recovering nicely at home after removal of his left upper lobe of his lung. We wish Don well.

CARL SHANER (Sunshine Committee) takes shots to relieve pain in his spinal area. We wish Carl well.

WES SCHILLING underwent a hernia operation in June. We wish Wes a speedy and successful recovery,



Dave Marymee



Bob Walter



Carl Shaner

CONRAD WALLA and Ann had to leave a cruise shortly after embarkation because of Con's pain. Con has chemotherapy treatment once a week. We wish Con well.

ART WINKLEY (Birthday Committee) suffers from back and leg pain. Art came to the June luncheon but had to leave for home because of the pain. We wish Art well.

DARELD YOUNGKER suffers from blood clots in his left leg. He has to wear support hose and uses a walker and a cane to get around. We wish Dareld well.

Your Branch Executive Committee meets each month before the regular Branch 59 luncheon meeting. You are all welcome to attend.



Letters to the Editor

Hi John:

I wanted to respond to your Pathfinder invitation to proffer thoughts as to the SIR falling attendance. I think it is probably pretty well known that cultural shifts have occurred which transcend all service and social organizations. You can talk to any Elk, Rotarian, Lion club member and they will all attest to a decrease in attendance. The next in line generation is simply not of the joiner mindset. When I joined the Fremont Rotary in 1985, it had 106 members... it now has 46. It is not the bar – nor the food, necessarily, since that is just a microcosm of any overall bigger problem. The cost might have something to do with it. When I joined the SIRs almost 12 yrs ago, the cost of the meal was 8.00. Now it is 17. For people on fixed incomes, I am sure the rising costs have something to do with it. I think it will require a seismic shift in how the SIRs approach the problem. Maybe go to a less expensive meal, such as breakfast instead of lunch, a change in venue to a less expensive meeting place.

When I was in Solvang last year for the golf tournament, I sat next to the incoming president of SIR. I told him that maybe SIR should utilize its existing membership to emphasize leaving portions of estates to the SIR to help subsidize the food costs. I was told in no uncertain terms that the charter would not allow that. Well, maybe the charter needs to be changed then. I told him I would be willing to leave 100K from my estate to the SIR to help lessen the future costs to its members... I was told that would require more than SIR could handle administratively since, after all, it is a volunteer work force and the additional work would prove unwieldy.

Such negativism! No wonder the SIRs are in trouble. With that kind of static don't change anything attitude, I can only see long term failure in the organization.

Gary Bennett

Editors Note:

Gary Bennett's note was the only response we received on the problem of membership loss. We welcome letters from the 216 other members of Branch 59. We encourage more of you to speak up.

Branch 59 2012 Nomination Slate

OFFICERS

Big Sir: Sir Ron Holladay

Little Sir: Sir Skip Mugford

Secretary: Sir James Ferenz

Assistant Secretary: Peter Angelides

Treasurer: Sir Hugh Twomey

Assistant Treasurer: Sir Vincent Fernelius

DIRECTORS

Sir Don Gillis

Sir Jerry Sabo

Sir Ed Thomas

Sir Frank R. Thomas

Sir Roger Wallin



PATHFINDER BRANCH NO. 59

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Return Service Requested



**FIRST
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Committee Chairmen and Assistants

ACTIVITIES

Rob Ingebretson - **Chairman**

ATTENDANCE

Ed Guthrie - **Chairman**

Robert Boike - Assistant

Dave Priego - Assistant

Ed Thomas - Assistant

BIRTHDAYS

Art Winkley - **Chairman**

Sheldon Schwartz - Assistant

BOWLING

Frank Cordova - **Chairman**

Jerry Sabo - Assistant

BRIDGE GROUP

Arnold George - **Chairman**

CAPS & EMBLEMS

Arnold George - **Chairman**

Dino Mostardi - Assistant

CHAPLAIN

Ralph Knight - **Chairman**

Howard Thompson - Assistant

CIRCULATION

Bill Briscoe - **Chairman**

Fred Ilg - Assistant

CYBERGEEZERS

Jerry Sabo - **Chairman**

Ron Holladay - Assistant

GOLF

Bill Leake - **Chairman**

Fred Ilg - Assistant

GREETERS

Bruno Orsetti - **Chairman**

Howard Thompson - Assistant

LIBRARIAN

Wayne Adams - **Chairman**

James Ploor - Assistant

MEMBERSHIP

Ron Brutvan - **Chairman**

Fred Gotthardt - Assistant

Carl Nordling - Assistant

PATHFINDER

John Skarpelos - **Editor**

Fred Gotthardt - Assistant

ROSTER - DATABASE

John Skarpelos - **Chairman**

Fred Gotthardt - Assistant

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Frank R. Thomas - **Chairman**

SOCIAL

Jim Ferenz - **Chairman**

Bill Dark - Assistant

Ron Holladay - Assistant

Rob Ingebretson - Assistant

Ed Kurtz - Assistant

SONG LEADER

Frank Campos

SPORTS

Nat Lord

SUNSHINE

Dave Marymee - **Chairman**

Bob Walter - Assistant

Carl Shaner - Assistant

WALKING GROUP

Don Henry - **Chairman**

Vince Fernelius - Assistant

WRITING YOUR LIFE

STORY

Don Gillis - Assistant

Ron Holladay - Assistant

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Robert Mannell

State Vice-President

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Director, Region 6

Dean Steichen

Governor, Area 8

Don Graff

Senior Honorary Life Members

Gus Anastole

Lyle Kingery

David Marymee

Honorary Life Members

Louis Bufkin

Fred Gotthardt

Nat Lord

John Skarpelos

PATHFINDER DEADLINE

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

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

2009 Don Gillis

2010 Frank R. Thomas

*(deceased)