



*Gold Country Branch 95  
2013 Elected Officers*

**Big Sir**

Dennis Petersen..... 916.467.7748

**Little Sir**

Dan Cockcroft ..... 916.933.6462

**Secretary**

Tim Herdt ..... 916.939.1405

**Asst. Secretary**

Terry Starkel ..... 916.817.1524

**Treasurer**

Keith Hepler ..... 916.933.7779

**Asst. Treasurer**

Joe Giacomini ..... 916.939.2060

**Directors at Large**

Dennis Callahan ..... 530.620.6908

Gary Grann..... 916.358.3805

Bill Stegman ..... 916.351.0899

George Van Blyenburgh .....

..... 530.677.1916

Brian Upton ..... 916.939.6601

Bill Yeager ..... 916.941.6632

*Region II Director*

Ralph Lingis ..... 916.933.5561

*Area 31 Governor*

Frank Severn..... 916.985.7759

*Honorary Life Members*

Al Kaiser      Ross Walter

*Chairmen*

Attendance .....George Simko

Attendance Asst. .... *Open*

Badges/Raffle ..... *Open*

Bowling ..... Don Weick

Bulletin ..... Jon Jakowitz

Chaplain ..... Ray Retallack

Fishing ..... John Ramsey

Golf ..... Brian Upton

Asst Golf ..... Dennis Petersen

Historian ..... *Open*

Membership & E-mail .. Mike Mohr

Photography ..... *Open*

Property ..... *Open*

Publicity ..... Bill Yeager

Sunshine ..... *Open*

Travel ..... *Open*

Webmaster ..... Al Schmidt

# SONS IN RETIREMENT

A NON-PROFIT BENEFIT ORGANIZATION FOR  
RETIRED MEN DEVOTED TO THE PROMOTION OF  
INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY OF RETIREMENT

*Gold Country Branch 95 - Bulletin 299 - July 2013*

Changing Badges?? — read about **Badge Changes** on page 2.

## BIG SIR — Dennis Petersen

### MY GREATEST FEAR

When asked to attend my first SIR meeting there were no great expectations, only the hope that I would meet gentlemen near my age with similar thoughts, goals and backgrounds. I had no special agenda or philosophy.

When I was asked to assist by assuming the duties of secretary I considered it an honor that I would give every effort and my reward would be the feeling of satisfaction that I was honoring all of those who had held the same position previously.

The position of Little SIR required additional effort but the reward was even greater.

Assuming the position of Big SIR has opened a new world of information about the operation of the SIR organization statewide. The decline of participation and membership is a statewide problem. When a branch closes (less than 50 members) the remaining members typically attend another branch. This is generally not a successful transition.

Our goal at Branch 95 is to make every effort to keep our meetings informative (interesting speakers), enjoyable (good food) and make every member look forward to the next meeting. We need to be known as a successful branch, one that maintains membership, with willing participation in every activity including Christmas parties, our picnics and branch leadership.

We need membership willing to provide feedback, positive or negative. It is only through your input that we can remain a successful, growing organization.

Please help us maintain our great participation, camaraderie and the feeling of enjoyment. Let us never become a branch that just fades away.

## Little SIR—Dan Cockcroft

Despite the rumble of distant thunder and a few scattered raindrops, it was a fun afternoon spent at Apple Hill for our annual summer picnic. After a delicious barbecued prepared by master chefs Dennis Callahan and Bill Yeager, everyone gathered around for a spirited bingo contest. The winners received prizes including gifts certificates for Mimi's, Regal Theatres, Nugget Markets, and Starbucks. Others enjoyed a rousing game of horse shoes.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers including Dennis Peterson who procured the food, Gary Grann who put together the delectable strawberry shortcake, Steve Thomson who manned the speaker system, Brian Upton and crew who provided the drinks, and Terry Starkel and crew who did the set up and tear down.

## Today's Speaker — Bill Yeager, PBS

Saba Joseph wrote *China Business...Navigating the Maze that is China*. Saba started his career in 1977 with Proctor & → see **Joseph** on page 2

