

# Sierra SIR Echo



AUGUST 2009

[www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org)

Branch 175

Vol. 15, Issue 8

## Big Sir Bill Almeida



August brings memories of picking grapes.....yellow jackets.....spiders.....sun.....dirt.....dust....and 5 cents per tray. Wow! All that for 12 hours work and 100 trays (or 5 whole dollars)! I never did last out the entire season. Grapes and cotton were not my favorite gig. I preferred stoop labor, like picking chilies, tomatoes, and figs. Tomatoes were my favorite because I ate as many as I picked. The most money I ever made was chopping cotton at \$3 an acre. That's early 1940 dollars. I think I could have bought my first car with that much money.

Hope you all enjoyed **Daryle Lamonica**. I could listen to him and his football stories as long as he is willing to talk! Never a dull moment. He sure knows his trade (see story and pictures on p. 4).

The Board and I really appreciate the manner in which you all have responded to the request for an additional \$1 in the bucket (\$2 total)...it helps make our Treasurer, **Sir Andy Provost** happy, too.

I've just returned from the Annual Big Sir Corporation Meeting which was held in Vallejo on August 3. The Elk's Lodge (which was the meeting place) was packed with State Officers, Area Governors, and Past and Present Big Sir. There were approximately 300 in attendance. I was impressed....all a classy bunch of guys. Big emphasis on retention and recruiting. I was pleasantly impacted by the fact that we (Fresno Branch #175) have used and are current with most of the material that has been made available. I will offer you more thoughts at our next meeting.

MEMU:  
Chicken or  
Chef's Salad

**AUGUST LUNCH MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27**

BOARD MEETING 10:30  
LUNCH: 11:45, PARDINI'S

Wow! **Daryle Lamonica** was certainly a very charismatic and dynamic speaker, wasn't he? He could have kept our attention all afternoon, I do believe. While eating lunch, he told those around our table many interesting facts about Pro-Football. He certainly supports the Fresno/Clovis and Central California communities. There were 15 lucky SIR who received autographed pictures that Daryle had brought with him. Who was the lucky SIR who received the picture of the famous Heidi game winning touchdown pass?

Our next speaker will be **Mr. Pat Smith** from Harris Ranch Beef Co., the well known Fresno County business (see story and picture on p. 2). Pat will tell us that there's so much more to the business than a herd of cattle. Speakers for the upcoming months will also be interesting. The December Christmas luncheon speaker and entertainment is falling into place as we speak.

With the upcoming election for SIR Branch #175, we are again reminded it takes more than a Big and Little Sir to keep our organization running smoothly. Volunteering and involvement is essential. Thanks for helping.

## *Little Sir* *Wayne Locher*



# AUGUST LUNCH SPEAKER



**Mr. Patrick Smith**  
Corporate Transportation  
Manager, Harris Ranch

After receiving his B.S. Degree in Agriculture from Cal Poly, Mr. Smith (Pat) has been involved with agriculture and transportation for over 40 years.

Mr. Smith worked on the Hamburg, Harris and Giffen Ranches transporting tomatoes for Heinz and Del Monte. Pat has also worked in irrigation—a number of years importing drip irrigation from Australia for the Mariani-Smith Company and later as District Sales Manager for Rain Bird Sprinkler Manufacturing Company.

Pat has been President/CEO for Tri Transport and General Manager for Tri Produce. Pat has also worked for Golden State Peterbilt, a heavy duty truck dealership in California.

In July of 1997, Mr. Smith became Corporate Transportation Manager for Harris Ranch. In addition, Pat manages alternative fuel and renewable energy projects for Harris Ranch.

Founded by John C. Harris in 1937, the Harris Ranch Beef Company also operates an inn and restaurant, and breeds thoroughbred horses. Overall, the operation has over 400 employees.

At over 800 acres and with over 100,000 cattle, the ranch is the largest on the West Coast. It is also among the largest in the U.S. Approximately 14,000 acres are devoted to garlic, broccoli, pomegranates, and tomatoes, among 35 types of fruits and vegetables.



**MEMBERSHIP**  
Sir Dean Clark



Welcome from the great barnyard of SIR Chapter #175 to **Sir Michael Lebda**. Mike is a retired Fresno Unified School District Teacher. Never one to pass up a good deal, he is now doing consulting work in the field of science for the Fresno County Office of Education. His good friend **Sir John Hardebeck** said to come visit us and he did. And it took only one time to visit for Michael and he said, "I want to join." Now to all my fellow SIR.....it really is that easy.

Another SIR that is always inviting friends to come to lunch is our **Big Sir Bill Almeida**. He, too, introduced **Lieroy Capriotti** and **Paul Chiamas**. Lieroy is a cabinet maker and Paul is a Psychological Coordinator for Fresno Unified School District.

Anyone who loves football and missed our last lunch, missed a great talk from **Daryle Lamonica** our local boy who made good in the world of professional football. Lots of laughs and memories of time we all remember.

Winner of the drawing for a free lunch for the most SIR paraphernalia being worn at lunch was **Sir Bob Robertson** (congratulations, Bob).

Keep inviting all those out there who really need an organization like ours.



## JULY 50 / 50 TICKET WINNERS



**Sir Fred Ketcham**  
\$45



**Sir Frank Breuning**  
\$35



**Sir Bill Winslow**  
\$15

# SPOTLIGHT ON A SIR



**BOOK CLUB**  
**“The Bookworms”**  
**Sir Tim Finley**

I wish to thank all of you, who have made it to the 9:30 AM Book Club meetings held monthly immediately before the SIR Monthly Meetings. For you who have not yet visited The Book Club, I extend an invitation to all of you for all futures meetings. There are no dues or requirements to attend Book Club meetings. We are composed of the same great cross section of seniors as the SIR general membership. Allow me to dispel the rumor of The Book Club being a collection of intellectuals. The average Book Club member is, however, Handsome, Brave, and Bold.

The following list of books were reported at the July Book Club meeting. We hope you find this listing of reviewed books helpful in your own personal search for good reading material.

Liberty and Tyranny: A Conservative Manifesto By Mark R Levin. Rated 4 stars by Amazon. Com

Pay the Devil by Jack Higgins. 3 Stars by Amazon

Losing Mum and Pup by Christopher Buckley (son of Robert F. Buckley) Rated 4 Stars.

Hot, Flat, and Crowded (why we need a green house revolution and how to renew America). By Thomas L Friedman. Rated 5 Stars

Passenger to Frankfurt by Agatha Christie. Rated 3.5 Stars

A Painted House by John Grisham. Rated 5 Stars.

See ya for a great cup of coffee and a fun time of discussion at the next Book Club meeting in the Café Java, next door to Pardini's at 9:30, Thursday, August 27.

## A FEW THOUGHTS IN PASSING

Always keep your words soft and sweet, Just in case you have to eat them.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, Because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

**Sir Wayne Schwartz**



Who do you know that's a real live clown? **Sir Wayne Schwartz** has been a Shriner Clown for 21 years. As a matter of fact, “Wayno” is one of the oldest active Shriner Clowns in the country. He started clowning in 1966 (not originally with the Shriners). Wayne says, “To do a good job, it takes about 2 1/2 - 3 hours to put on my costume and make-up before I'm ready to clown.” He's “the make-up guy” for the local Shriner Clowns.

Wayne became a SIR through his friendship with **Sir Ron Fletcher** (deceased, former Branch 175 member). Sir Ron invited Wayne to play golf with the SIR group, then invited him to join.

Born in Central Wisconsin at Wisconsin Rapids, he graduated from Nekoosa High in 1952. Not wanting to be drafted, he joined the U.S. Air Force and retired as a Master Sergeant 21 years later. He also retired after 23 years with the Fresno County District Attorney's Office Fraud Bureau.

Wayne says, “I have a strong sense of adventure and love living on the edge.” He likes to sky dive—he's had a couple of tangled shoots. He digs “being lulled into a sense of euphoria that scuba diving gives.” He loves to fly, as a matter of fact, during his Air Force career he spent most of his time in “air” or “sky” duty and has been aboard several planes that have caught on fire. Something most people don't know about Wayne is that he would have liked to have been the first man on the moon.

He's been married to Colleen since 2002 and they have 2 children. His first wife passed away in 2001, they had 3 boys. Colleen and Wayne are currently on a U.S. travel adventure and will return in October.





**OUR JULY GUEST SPEAKER  
was DARYLE LAMONICA**



SIR Speaker Appreciation Plaque being given to Daryle Lamonica (left) by Little Sir Wayne Locher

As expected **Quarterback Daryle Lamonica**, guest speaker for July, turned out to be a most fascinating and charismatic speaker. Daryle told the group that the first contract he signed was for \$20,000/yr with a \$2,000 signing bonus (that's a far cry from today's multimillion dollar contracts and signing bonuses).

When asked which were his favorite coaches he said," John Madden because he was easy to play for and Al Davis because he knows the game of football." His favorite QB in the business today is Tom Brady.

It was Howard Cosell that gave him the nickname: "The Mad Bomber." At first, Daryle said he didn't like that nickname (it had to grow on him).

Fifteen lucky Sir won autographed pictures of Daryle in action in a drawing after Daryle's talk.



Pictured above left to right: Big Sir Bill Almeida, Daryle Lamonica, Rich Grigsby and Jerry Long

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE  
FROM OUR TREASURER  
SIR ANDY PROVOST**



Our request for an increase of your voluntary contribution (into the buck bucket) to cover the overhead (bulletin printing and postage) plus the State SIR Pro-Rata Assessment has fallen short by \$950 through the July meeting.

Your Officers and Board of Directors has authorized the "re-increase" of the voluntary contribution to \$2 as well as a request to make-up for missed meetings. Our overhead costs average is \$2.50 per member per mo. Thank you helping in this important matter.

**BRIDGE**

**Sir Bob Cleveland**



Couples Bridge met on August 12 in the home of **Sir Bob and Ginny Cleveland**. Results were:

- Men first place: **Sir Bud Rayburn** 4280 points
- Second place: **Sir Frank Hunting** 3500 points
- Women first place: **Jean Hunting** 4250 points
- Second place: **Doris Rayburn** 3180 points

September play at **Sir Don Livingstone's**.  
Marathon Bridge resumes in September.

**OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER**



**FRESNO COUNTY CORONER  
DR. DAVID HADDEN**



**GOLF**  
**Sir Ron McClain**

***WE DID IT !!!!***

Branch 175 won our challenge matches against Branch 179. We won seven matches to their five on the final day to pull it out 7 to 6. We now have the trophy for a year. Some of the members of the team were:

**Sirs Rich Grigsby, Robert Thompson, Ron McClain, Robert Dickson, Charlie Pepper, Fred Fowler, Jerry Long, Jim Scroggin, Gerry Young, Stan Nappe, Frank Breuning and Gene Parker.** Way to go guys.

Don't forget, we have the 4 Branch Tourney September 2nd at Madera G.C. with an 8 AM shotgun. We only have 12 signed up at this point and we need more. The cut-off date is the day of our luncheon on August 27—plan to sign-up then.

The results of the August 11 golf tourney at Madera for the men of Branch 175 were as follows:

Flight 1: **Charlie Pepper and Ron McClain**  
Flight 3: **Gene Parker and Frank Breuning**

A little golf trivia: Do you know how golf got it's name? It stands for Gentlemen Only Ladies Forbid-den.

True or False: The reason we have 18 holes of golf is because when golf courses were originally set up, players would play a hole and have a shot of whiskey. The bottle usually was finished just as the players were reaching the 18th hole and therefore the game was forced to end.



**SUNSHINE**  
**Sir Don Luft**

Those fellow SIR who were hospitalized at some time during the past month:

**Sir Joe Collings, Sir Clarence (Wes) Weslowski, Sir Dick Hovseplan, and Sir Ray Born**

**Sir Bob Edwards (Valley Fever)**

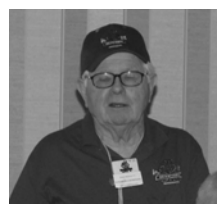
Your special thoughts, prayers, calls, and cards would be a welcome thing, I'm sure (addresses and telephone numbers are available in our SIR Roster).

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**  
**Sir Richard Scheidt**



**Gary Beacom**  
**Ray Born**  
**John Hardebeck**  
**Dick Hovsepian**  
**Mike Lebda**  
**Jerry Long**  
**Gary Pitts**  
**Ange Sasso**  
**Lee Spencer**

**Richard Beers**  
**Hal Debban**  
**Tom Harlan**  
**Ernie Johnson**  
**Wayne Locher**  
**Don Luft**  
**Bob Robertson**  
**Glenn Smith**  
**Marin Vallejo**



(Picture left)  
**Sir Howard Buchenberger**  
Winner of the July free lunch Birthday drawing.

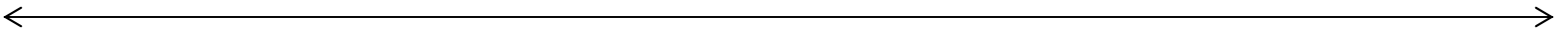
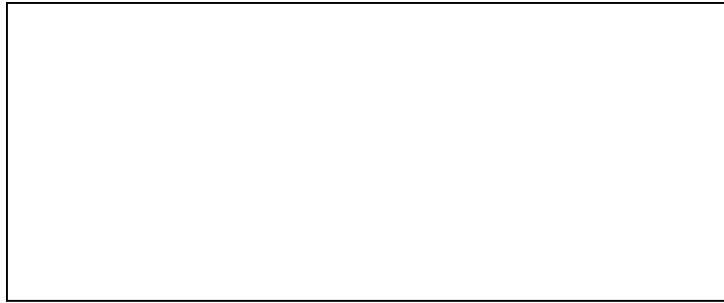
**NEEDED TO COMPLETE OUR SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2010**

**Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary**

**(please call or talk to: Bill Almeida (226-4485) or Wayne Locher (434-1991)**



**SIR Branch #175**  
 Jerry Long, Editor  
 9260 N. Green Meadows Lane  
 Fresno, CA 93720



SIR BRANCH # 175  
2009 OFFICERS

Big SIR	William Almeida	226-4485
Little SIR	Wayne Locher	434-1991
Treasurer	Andre Provost	439-3295
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Robert Cleveland	2010	435-5773
Jerry Long	2010	287-4023
Tim Finley	2011	299-5210
Richard Grigsby	2011	439-8540

ACTIVITIES

Book Club	Tim Finley	299-5210
Bowling	Merle Knapp	439-3658
Bridge	Bob Cleveland	435-5773
Golf	Ron McClain	292-1919
Travel	Richard Beers	431-3728

BARN-YARD ACTIVITIES

Attendance	Dean Clark	439-8455
Bulletin Editor	Jerry Long	287-4023
Chaplain		
Database Ed	Richard Scheidt	435-2536
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Historian	Merle Knapp	439-3658
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Photographer	Tim Finley	299-5210
Program	Wayne Locher	434-1991
	Ray Born	438-5804
	Howard Jones	299-5410
	Gerry Young	447-1136
Special Events	Ray Born	438-5804
Sunshine	Don Luft	323-7989
Telephone	Ray Born	438-5804

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