



SIERRA SIR ECHO

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sierra Branch # 175
Sons of Retirement



December 2013 <http://175.sirinc2.org> Fresno Branch 175

Big Sir

Charlie Pepper



My tour as Little/Big Sir is almost complete and I can honestly say it has been a ball. It was truly an honor to serve the Branch and I feel privileged to have been a part of the machine that makes this organization so successful. There are a lot of hard working members out there that unselfishly give their time and energy so others can live the life of the barnyard rooster. I hope we all appreciate their efforts.

There is a great new slate of officers that are moving in to serve in 2014 and I will pass the gavel to Sir Howard Jones at the December luncheon. I know our members will give their full support to Howard and the other officers that make up the Branch Executive Committee. I believe that 2014 will be our best year ever.



Whew!!! Goodbye 2013!!!

Don't forget that this year's Christmas luncheon will be on Thursday, December 19, and all members are encouraged to bring their wives and/or girlfriends. Our outgoing Little Sir and incoming Big Sir, Sir Howard Jones, has lined up a great choir from Clovis East High School for our Christmas entertainment. Look forward to seeing you there.



Merry Christmas

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Would also like to thank the entire Director the newly elected Directors the Board Members and officers for serving this coming year. Also for the men behind the scenes that make our Branch as good as it is. The committee members, phone callers, Harry Carle for the lunch tickets and Ron Pistachio for the 50-50 ticket sales. I am hoping I will be able to carry on in the excellent fashion of the previous Big Sirs

Fred Ketchum and his wife Ann as usual have put together a fine luncheon arrangement for our Christmas and Ladies day get together on December 19

We have a talented and popular 12 to 15 girls chorus to perform at our Luncheon They are from Clovis East High School and directed by Kevin Medley who accompanies them on his keyboard. They will sing a few Christmas songs as well as some oldies we all grew up with Due to time restrains and class schedules they will sing at 12:00 and our dinner will be served after their performance.

Please try and attend before 12 Noon for a fun and entertaining luncheon.



**Little Sir
Howard Jones**



Menu:
Chicken or Ham
Hosted wine w/ lunch
(bring your wife and/or girlfriend)
Lunch: Thursday Dec 19th
At Pardini's Restaurant

Be a Friend, Bring a Friend

Board Meeting:
None for this month





**This Month's Guest Speaker will be:
The Great choir from Clovis East High School will be
there for our Christmas entertainment directed by Kevin
Medley who accompanies them on his keyboard.
(No Speaker Scheduled)**



**Last Month's Guest Speaker Was:
Joan Thornton from Grand Circle Tours.**

And will do a presentation of our European River Cruise in 2014.
This promises to be a very informative show and remember that we will
still be entitled to the BIG discount till the end of this month!



**MEMBERSHIP
by Sir Ron McClain**

I hope your Thanksgiving was a happy one filled
with family and friends. We have so much to be
thankful for.

Now comes Christmas. I hope the true meaning of
Christmas fills your home with love and health.

We lost Sir Andy Lawson in his passing this month. He will be missed.

This is my last article as membership chairman. It has been a rewarding job, but I must step down due to
health reasons.

Sir Tom Tomas will be taking over starting in January. Be patient with him as this job has a lot of moving
parts.

He will do a great job but need time to get used to it.

Looking forward to the luncheon and all our lovely ladies, they really add some class to our group.

Ron

2013 SIR 175 GOLF DEC. 2013

Dec. 17th SIR 169 Airways, K. Brown 456-5576

Dec. 19th SIR 159 Airways, 432-8601

Dec. 23rd SIR 179 Airways, B. Prehiem 638-4647

Dec. 26th SIR 159 Riverside 432-8601

Jan. 2nd SIR 159 Pheasant Run, D. Ensminger 297-0540

Jan. 7th SIR 169 Airways, Ed Dorn 433-0670

Jan 8th SIR 159 Ridgescreek, D. Ensminger 297-0540

Jan. 14th Sir 179 Riverside, Buck Smith 224-9679

Jan. 16th SIR 159 Riverbend, D. Ensminger 297-0540

Jan. 21st SIR 169 Riverside, J. Doerty 434-0753

Jan 23rd SIR 159 Belmont, D. Ensminger 297-0540



Nov. 5th SIR 169 played a Scramble at Tulare. 2nd was won by Tom Lean's team.

Nov. 12th SIR 179 played a 4 Man 2 bb at Pheasant Run. Mike Castle & Jerry Long's team won 1st.

3rd place was won by Tom Lean, Rich Grigsby, & Fred Ketcham's team.

Nov. 19th SIR 169 played a Shamble at Madera Muni. 1st place was won by Bob Dickson & Fred Ketcham's
team.

3rd place was won by Stan Nappe's team.

Nov. 26th SIR 179 played a Scramble at Sherwood. Bob Dickson won CTP on #17.

Nov.27th SIR 159 played a Scramble at Sherwood. Bob Dickson's team won 1st.

Dec.3rd SIR 169 played a Shamble 4 man 2 bb at Valley Oaks.

Stan Nappe's team won 2nd & Stan won CTP on # 8.

LAST CHANCE! GOLFERS!!!

NCGA DUES are due now for 2014. They are \$36.00 if paid by December 19th for renewals & \$46.00 for new members or existing members after that date. Make your check out to SIR 175 & mail it to Bob Bakman, 1975 E. Desert Island Drive, Fresno, Ca. 93730 or bring it to the SIR Christmas Lunch & give it to Bob Bakman or Stan Nappe.



BRIDGE
by Sir Bob Cleveland



Bridge Report

Couples Bridge will be played this month on the 13th at the home of Don and Helga Livingstone.

In December we will have lunch at the Landmark Restaurant on the 11th and play bridge after.

Arrangements: Bud and Grace Pope.

Bob Cleveland

Celebrating Birthdays this Month
Call and wish them a
Happy Birthday

Name	DOB
Dean Clark	15-Dec
Don Milliken	1-Dec
Don L. Dueker	4-Dec
Donald Lewis	3-Dec
Keith Herzog	7-Dec
Kenneth Fisher	20-Dec
Richard Grigsby	27-Dec
Sid Marks	2-Dec
Thomas Thomas	15-Dec
Wayne Houser	2-Dec
William Weber	22-Dec



From
Sir Richard Scheidt

Sunshine

By Sir Keith Herzog

The following members or family of members have been reported to be ill or hospitalized. (contact Keith if you know of others 439-0896):

Lee Erickson - had a variety of heart tests in the hospital.

John Durant was in the hospital this week to get a pacemaker installed.

He is now at home resting.

We lost Sir Andy Lawson in his passing this month. He will be missed.



by Sir Don Milliken

SIRS book club had more interesting reviews and lively discussion at its November meeting. Eight Members -- Don Milliken, Tim Finley, Paul Dehn, Wayne Locher, George Zerlang, Hal Debban, Louis Volpp and Merle Knapp participated.

Don and Paul both reviewed Michael Connolly thrillers -- "The Gods of Guilt" and "Chasing the Time" respectively.

Paul reported that main character Henry Pierce becomes involved in a shocker "full of twists and turns" with "a complete shocker" at the end.

"I did find the bad guys to be too paper-thin and one-dimensional and the pesky police detective was continually missing all manner of evidence. Once I agreed to buy in to the far-fetched story line, I was rewarded with a really good story."

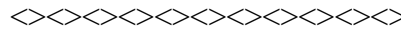
Tim reviewed the classic D. H. Lawrence book "Sons and Lovers", A story about a coal miner, wife and two daughters in early 20th-century England.: "D.H. Lawrence draws a portrait of common life in beautiful old England. There is much more to the story, not always positive or beautiful but it is life at a very difficult and challenging time."

Wayne's pick last month was "The French Admiral" by Dewey Lambdin, an adventure story with historical underpinnings.

George finished his report on "Robinson Crusoe, USN", a true story of a survivor in the battle of Guam who spent three years in hiding among the Japanese on the island.

Louis felt "The Associate" by John Grisham, a legal thriller in the Grisham tradition, had a thin story line and is "a really poor book"

Join book club discussions in January (just inside the cafe at Pardini's).

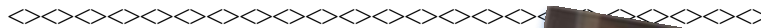


SIR LIBRARY
by Sir Dennis Murane

Librarian: The library is shrinking in volume, by the number of individual books. But I feel the remaining volumes will be utilized more by the members. Most of the removed books had not been read in over a year or more and some ever. These

paper backs will be donated to some hospitals aka the VA and or rest homes, etc.

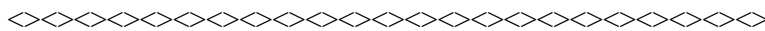
There will be no books brought to the next meeting, but as always you can go on-line and reserve any books on the list and I will bring them to the next meeting.



TRAVEL Not much to report regarding new travel activities. We do have a good group going on the European River Cruise next near; and we are still eagerly waiting for the 144th Ftr Wg to give us the green light on a tour of their base and F 115 aircraft. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL YOU SIRs !!**



TRAVEL
by Sir Richard Beers



The latest edition of SIR Happenings has just been posted on the SIR website:
<http://sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>
President Dettmer's front page article reviews all the dramatic changes that are occurring in SIR. Check the Travel Page for some exciting trips. I hope you enjoy reading our latest edition.
Don MacGregor
Editor, SIR Happenings


Bowling
By Merle Knapp
New Time: 1:00pm, Fridays
Location: Sierra Lanes,
Blackstone Ave.
Who: Open To All Fours branches
Results for September Branch 175 (only)

November Special Winners

DC Contreras
Marshall Goodwin
Richard Fender
Merle Knapp
Military Recognition Bill Ripley
Proud to be a SIR Charles Prestor
Free Lunch Ticket Hal Debban



MODEL RAILROADING and WOODWORKING Sir George Pisching

The SWIG (woodworking) is continuing with the wooden vehicles Christmas project. The parts are cut. Shellacking them is next, but still waiting on the delivery of the wheels and axles. In September, we plan to assemble and in October to paint. We are offering them to our membership first, then to needy children organizations. Talk to me about this.



"SIR DINERS"

by Maitre D
Sir Marshall Goodwin

Sir's Diners

Marshall Goodwin, Maitre D

On January 8th we have reservations at Outback on West Shaw Ave.

Happy hour starts at 5:30, Dinner at 6:00. Sign up during the December meeting or call me at 439-5494. This is a great time to meet with fellow members and their spouses.

BRING A GUEST

Help keep the membership up!

Our most important job is to continue to grow our membership. Bring a friend or neighbor or former business associate that is now retired to the next meeting. You will do him a favor by introducing him to SIR (and you will earn a free lunch when he joins!)

NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

SIR does not require dues! *But*, we do gratefully accept donations at the Luncheon to cover Branch expenses such as bulletin, certificates, lunch for speakers, certificates, and State dues, for example, amounting to about \$2.00 per member per month. The simplest way to cover this donation is to buy a \$24 Smiley Face for your badge which covers you for the whole year.

For those with email capabilities, you can now go to: www.175sirinc2.org and read your monthly bulletin as well as receive it through your regular email. Read the Echo News for the meeting dates, speaker, and meal information.

We will continue to mail through the Postal Service to those members who do not have emails. It is important however, to keep your email and mail address current. If email or mailing addresses changes do occur, we require you to contact us to update our data base information. Your personal information is not disseminated, only within the authorized SIR Websites. You can notify us in two different ways of changes:

- (1) If you have email, send the changed information to: Richard [rscheidt@comcast.net]. (phone# in the bulletin)
- (2) There will be someone at the front table at our meetings, prior to each meeting, where you may provide changes to emails and resident addresses.

Your concerns or questions regarding the distribution of the monthly bulletin, or have problems opening your email bulletin, please discuss it at a board meeting, or at the luncheon. We want your input, for any reason, in order to make the monthly bulletin assessable and interesting for all the SIR members to enjoy.

SIR Branch # 175
2966 W Canterbury Court
Fresno, CA 93711



SIR BRANCH # 175

2013 OFFICERS

Big SIR Charlie Pepper 433-0646
Little SIR Howard Jones 299-5410
Treasurer Robert Bakman 434-1975
Asst. Treas. Andy Provost 439-3295
Secretary Paul Dehn 292-2225
Asst. Sectry Merle Knapp 439-3658

DIRECTORS

Fred Ketcham 2013 225-4041
Russ Mott 2013 441-1115
George Pisching 2014 275-0199
DC Contreras 2014 222-9540
Rich Grigsby 2015 439-8540
Gary Beacom 2015 434-4007

ACTIVITIES

Book Club Don Milliken 577-0733
Bowling Merle Knapp 439-3658
Bridge Bob Cleveland 435-5773
Golf Stan Nappe 435-6703
Travel Richard Beers 431-3728

BARN-YARD ACTIVITIES

Attendance Ron McClain 292-1919
Bulletin-ECHO Jerry Long 287-4023
Chaplain Russ Mott 441-1115
Database Ed Richard Scheidt 435-2536
Hardware Jerry Stoltenberg 289-9287
Historian Merle Knapp 439-3658
Librarian Dennis Murane 840-1517
Membership Ron McClain 292-1919
Model Railroading:
George Pisching 275-0199
Special Events Fred Ketcham 225-4041
Sunshine Keith Herzog 439-0896
Telephone Gerry Young 447-1136
Woodworking:
George Pisching 275-0199

SONS IN RETIREMENT

2013 STATE OFFICERS

President
Richard 'Rich' Dettmer 530-755-4118
Vice President
Maynard 'Rod' Rodland 916-371-1978
Secretary
Richard F. DeVoe 925-932-5546
Treasurer
Michael Berry 707-837-1792
Director, Region 8
Ed Dorn 559-433-0670
Governor, Area 29
Douglas Hansen 559-222-0497

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**"Sir Happenings" is the State
Bulletin: www.sirinc.org**

**Visit our Fresno SIR
Branch 175 website at:
<http://175.sirinc2.org/>**