



# SIERRA SIR ECHO

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

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

## September 2014 issue



### **Big Sir Note for the ECHO Sept.** *An interesting exert form the Sir's web site.*

Every healthy agency article I read talks about the benefits of social interaction, learning new ideas and fun activities. So Sir's is a Medical benefit. OK it is probably not claimable on Medicare but is much more pleasant than a work out at the gym. But like workouts you need to come regularly. See you Sept. 25 2014.

We are fortunate to induct four new members in August. Let's make them feel at home. Their names, Michael Herman, Model railroading, wood Lathe Work. Ted Bond, Golf, Old Cars. Bruno Reinhardt, Snow skiing, Golf. Lemoore (Lee) Krueger. Wood working. Let's thank their sponsors.

We have a new little sir, Woody Wilk, and a new board member Richard Beers. Let's thank them for serving.

Charles Fosnaught has resigned due to a conflict with his grand children, He will be missed.

Our governor of area 29 Sir Mannie Contino has indicated he will attend our Sept. luncheon. Bring a friend Thursday.

Bring a friend, Get involved and enjoy the ride, Big Sir Howard Jones



### **Little SIR Report**

Thanks to all for supporting SIR. I hope I can continue our successes next year as Big SIR.  
George Pisching



**Little Sir  
George Pisching**

### **SMaRT - SIR Modeling and Railroad Team -**

The SMaRT design crew is working on a portable layout to fit a 4'x6' space to use as a display layout. November is National Model Railroad Month and we hope to have enough of it built to display at our November Luncheon. Again, anyone else interested in lending a helping hand this is a great opportunity to learn how it can be done and even rekindle some of the fun you experienced when you were a wee bit younger and had that train under the Christmas tree.

Great times are had by all when you contribute some of yourself.  
Contact George Pisching at [gmpisching@netzero.com](mailto:gmpisching@netzero.com) or 275-0199.



### **SWIG - SIR Woodworking Interest Group**

Thank you for your responses about what we could make for our Christmas or Charity Project this year. The input is relatively balanced between table decorations, raffle items, and charity toys.

Some of the suggestions came from non-SWIG members and fewer from the SWIG members. Go figure.

Obviously the general members like the items more than the ones who make them. So, please, those who are willing to help make them – give me some direction to start stocking up on supplies. I will make some reindeer stands for table raffle for the Christmas Luncheon. How many tables do we usually have?

Another suggestion was an experimental spiral Christmas tree. I haven't determined the construction pattern of that yet.

I do have other patterns available for toys and nativity scenes, etc.

So, please comment and volunteer to help. We are getting close to production time to start.

Contact George Pisching at [gmpisching@netzero.com](mailto:gmpisching@netzero.com) or 275-0199..

### 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!)



**Menu:**  
**(Beef or Fish)**  
**Salad, Rolls & Dessert**  
**Lunch: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of**  
**the month at Pardini's**  
**Restaurant**

**Be a Friend, Bring a**  
**Friend**

**Board Meeting: 11:00**  
**Lunch: 12:00am**



### Last Month's Guest and Speaker

Michelle Mastro, Executive Director; Valley Caretakers Resource Center



Michelle Mastro

Clovis is home for Michelle Mastro. Born and raised in the Valley, Michelle is a product of Clovis Unified Schools and California State University, Fresno. As part of a large family with deep Italian roots, Michelle became involved with the family business operations of farming and plumbing at an early age. With an early grasp for checks and balances, Michelle used her affinity for numbers to take over the accounting processes for the family businesses.

While still working with the family business, she also began volunteering for VCRC; specifically in the areas of education and outreach. Her volunteer work with VCRC was such a good fit that they hired her part-time to do the same. Over the course of several years, Michelle transitioned into a more integral role at VCRC with the annual fundraiser, and in 2011, Michelle Mastro was hired as the Executive Director.

### This Month's Guest and Speaker



Fresno County Deputy Sheriff Chris Curtice will visit us and talk about some of his experiences as a Deputy Sheriff in Fresno County.

Chris is a 33 year veteran of the Fresno County Sheriff's Office. He is currently assigned as the Public Information Officer and has been in that position for the past 8 plus years.

Deputy Curtice spent much of his career as a Homicide detective, investigating hundreds of homicides and officer involved shootings. In 1992, Chris was one of two detectives assigned to the Ewell murders in Sunnyside



There's good news and bad news from the membership committee this month. The good news is that we inducted four new members at the August luncheon....the bad news is our attrition rate is out pacing our renewal rate. We now down to only 111 members on our rolls including the new guys....not too long ago we were in the 120s. No time to rest..we need to put the pedal down, NOW!

New members include: Sir Ted Bond...a retired Juvenile Probation Officer from Santa Clara who is a golfer and old car enthusiast; Sir Bruno Reinhard...owner of Reinhard's Cabinet s Inc, also a golfer and snow skier; Sir Mike Herman...Truck Driver for L A Times and is interested in model railroading and wood working; Sir Lee Krueger... owner of H & K Concrete Cutting and is in to wood working. Lets introduce ourselves to these guys and make sure they meet our members with similar interests. We also had two guests at our last luncheon...Paul Gruska and Bill Wolfmann. Paul was the sales manager for Old Republic Title Co and likes to golf and read and Bill was a buyer for Gottschalks and is a well known artist in Fresno. Let's meet these fine gentlemen and make them feel at home. September is also a "Proud to be a SIR" month. Make sure you wear all your rooster gear as each one will increase your chance to win a free lunch There you have it....there is such a thing as a "free lunch"!



**GOLF, SIR #175: September, 2014**

Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> SIR 169 Played at Madera C.C. The format was Orange Ball + 1. 3<sup>rd</sup> place was won by Jim Cooper, Eric Wagner, Ron Miller & Bill Lowley. Jim Cooper also won CTP on # 8 and Jerry Long won CTP on # 4.

Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> SIR 159 played a Scramble at Riverside. 1<sup>st</sup> place was won by Jim Cooper, Carl Merz, Dennis Ensminger & Larry Daniels.

Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> SIR 179 played a 2 Man Scramble at Ridge Creek. 1<sup>st</sup> place was won by Mike Castle & Bo Boehringer. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was won by Mike Castle & Jerry Long. CTP was won by Mike Castle on #3 & # 13. Sept.3<sup>rd</sup> SIR Area 29 had the annual 4 Branch tournament at Ridge Crest. SIR 179 won 1<sup>st</sup>. Paul Grushka won CTP in Flight # 6.

SIR 169 also had a CTP contest on the par 3's. Paul Grushka won CTP on #13.

SIR 175 had its 2014 Club Championship in conjunction with the 4 Branch Tournament. Charlie Pepper won Low Gross & Stan Nappe won Low Net.

Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> SIR 169 played a 4 Man 2 B.B. at Dragon Fly. Mike Castle, Fred Ketcham, Ron Elder & Eric Wagner tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> with Fred Ketcham winning CTP on # 16 with Jim Cooper winning 2<sup>nd</sup>.



**Librarian:**

LIBRARIAN: The Library is undergoing a change. We will no longer collect hardback books. The reason for this is because there has been no interest shown by the membership in utilizing this portion of the library. Therefore I am going to donate the hardback books with the permission of the Sir's Board. Prior to donating the books any member wishing to have any particular hardback book may contact me at 515-6598 or 355-4853 and request such. I will bring them to the meeting or you may make arrangements to pick them up.



A list of all the hardback books may be found on the echo web site (<http://175.sirinc2.org>) under books/library. Once you have accessed the list on the far right hand side it will denote which books are hardback.

The hardbacks will be available for the members until the end of the year at which time they will be donated as arranged with the Board.

The library will continue on in its present form with the paperbacks. The library currently has approximately 1100 books or 16 trays. I am trying to keep it at that manageable amount, thereby allowing the rotating in of new books and or the removing of the older tatter or unread ones.

I remind you, the library depends on your donations. Without these donations the library will become stagnate and thereby die.

I still looking for a person who would like to take my position as librarian He may contact me or the Board. Anyone interested can contact me at 559-355-4853. Dennis Murane.



**AVIATION: JOHN DURANT**

Call me at 909-418-0582 for more information.



*The Secretaries Corner*

The Branch Executive Committee met, as usual, in the Pardini's bar at 11 am prior to last month's luncheon. The first topic on the agenda was a plan by Dennis Murane (our branch librarian) to modify his book inventory. The Board voted to allow Dennis to completely cull out all the "hardback" books (almost 800 books) through donations to veterans and senior organizations. Dennis indicated that these books took up too much space and were rarely rented out.

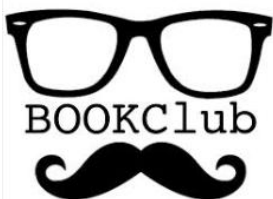
The Board also voted to approve Sir Richard Beers planned trip to Branson, Mi scheduled for October 2015. They also approved his planned day trips to the Zoo and Fresno Gardens.

Big Sir Howard Jones pointed out that plans are underway to fill the last two positions in next year's Board. Sir Richard Beers agreed to take the last Director slot and we received tentative acceptance from Sir Woody Wilk to serve as Little Sir next year.

Treasurer Bob Bakman listed the checking account at \$1269. 42 plus \$400 in petty cash.

The Board approved a request from Sir Jerry Stoltenberg our branch hardware chairman for \$150 to replenish needed supplies.

The final point of discussion was a complaint from several Board members about the lack of specificity in menu items. They want the callers to specify what form the "pork" is or what type of "beef" is being offered for our luncheon. Big Sir Howard Jones agreed to address these concerns.



The Book Club met prior to last month's luncheon and was attended by Paul Dehn, Lee Krueger, Wayne Locher, Tim Finley and Merle Knapp. With the restaurant being remodeled we squeezed into a cozy corner of the bar.

Paul liked "Dust" by Hugh Howey. This book is a great science fiction read and is the last of a trilogy by the author. Like the first two books "Dust" continues the saga of survival of Americans in the near future who have lived in huge underground silos fearful of exposure to Earth's toxic atmosphere. Ever so cautiously, they are beginning to make explorations to return to the surface.

Tim Finley asked if anyone recognized the name, "Marion Morrison". None did so Tim explained that he was later known as John Wayne. Tim loved "American Legends: The life of John Wayne". Known to many as "The Duke", John Wayne was best known for his rugged masculine roles as the hero character in countless Western Movies.

Wayne loved two books by John Grisham, "Playing for Pizza" and "The Pelican Brief". The first book was a light hearted story of a has-been quarterback playing American football in Italy. It is a story of redemption and even romance. His second Grisham book was a page turning mystery of "who done it" about solving the murder of two Supreme Court Justices.

Merle reported on "1491" by Charles C. Mann. Admittedly this was a challenging read at times but Wayne loved the fresh perspective that this historian brought to the study of the Americas before the arrival of Columbus in 1492. He learned many things about the advanced cultures of the native populations prior to the impact of European culture that rolled over them following Columbus's arrival.



**TRAVEL:**

Finally, with the weather cooling off a little, and most of the kids back in school, we golden seniors have room to travel without too much competition! First, for those of you who are interested in our local SIR chapter's travel programs, there is a special briefing for you on Friday, Sept 26 @ Marie Callender's (Cedar/Shaw) 10 til 11:30. Our 175 Branson trip will be one of the featured presentations. Also, I need to know exactly how many of our roosters and their hens plan to attend our trips to the ZOO! Cost \$ 4.25ea (includes docent).

Cheers..... Richard

**Bridge Report for July**

Couples Bridge was played Aug. 23 at the home of Don & Helga Livingstone.

Winners: Bud Pope 4980 Grace Pope 4940  
Bob Cleveland 3750 Helga Livingstone 3460

September play was cancelled.

In October we will play at the home of Russ & Tess Mott on the 8th.

Bob Cleveland.



BRIDGE  
by Sir Bob Cleveland



**"SIR DINERS"**

by Maitre D  
Sir Marshall Goodwin

Marshall Goodwin, Maitre D

On September 10, twelve couples met for a fantastic dinner at Capo's. The setting was great, the conversation was stimulating. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

Our next get together will be at Westwood's BBQ at Blackstone and Nees Ave on October 8th, starting with drinks at 5:30, dinner at 6:00. Sign up at the upcoming meeting or call me at 439-5494.

**Celebrating Birthdays this Month  
Call and wish them a  
Happy Birthday**



From  
Sir Richard Scheidt

Lee	Erickson	9/5/1930
Brad	Ferguson	9/20/1935
Hoot	Fowler	9/10/1930
Andy	Provost	9/1/1928
Jerry	Samora	9/24/1944



**Last Month's Winners**



Dave Bohrman guest from #36  
George Pope  
Jerry Stoltenberg  
Merle Knapp  
John Dennis

Birthday Lunch Ray Borne  
Free Lunch was won by Charles Franklin

**Bowling By Merle Knapp**

**ATTENTION BOWLERS:**

Bowling is on Summer status. It's a good time to meet the regulars and get in some reduced price Practice rounds.

The regular season begins on Friday, September 5th At 1:00 p.m. at Sierra Lanes. (corner of Blackstone and Sierra).

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



**SIR BRANCH # 175**

**2014 OFFICERS**

Big SIR Howard Jones 299-5410  
Little SIR George Pisching 275-0199  
Treasurer Robert Bakman 434-1975  
Asst. Treas. Andy Provost 439-3295  
Secretary Paul Dehn 292-2225  
Asst. Sectry Merle Knapp 439-3658

**DIRECTORS**

DC Contreras 2014 222-9540  
Rich Grigsby 2015 439-8540  
Gerald Stoltenberg 2015 439-8540  
George Pope 2016 434-2136  
Fred Ketchem 2016 255-4041

**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 Tom Thomas 284-8744  
Bulletin-ECHO DC Contreras 222-9540  
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 Tom Thomas 284-8744  
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  
Maynard Rodland 916-371-1978  
Vice President  
Bobbie Hairston  
Secretary  
Richard F. DeVoe 925-932-5546  
Treasurer  
Michael Berry 707-837-1792  
Director, Region 8  
Jerry L Strain 209-551-8220  
Governor, Area 29  
Manny Contino 559-322-8698

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