

# SIERRA SIR ECHO

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Sierra Branch # 175*

*Sons of Retirement*

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

**November 2015**



## **Big SIR Report for November 2015 From George Pisching**

This is a reminder that "the BEC will be starting at 10:45. This will be our new starting time".

God bless you all.  
George Pisching, Big SIR 2015.

## **SWIG Oct 2015**



The SIR woodworking interest group (SWIG) has been working on a new Christmas decoration for our December luncheon. Although we have fewer of our last year helpers we have gained a few new members to assist in the painting and assembly efforts. Yes, they are not wood workers per say, but have volunteered to help with the rest of the project. Thanks to those who have volunteered and to anyone who still are interested in lending a hand. "More hands contributing make the labor less for each." (quoting me) We are also interested in suggestions for more projects, so let us know what you are thinking of. It might be fun for us all.

Regards, George Pisching, Coordinator of SWIG

## **SONS IN RETIREMENT-Branch 175**

### **Secretaries Corner**

**Nov 2015**

Secretary Paul Dehn was not available during the October BEC (Branch Executive Committee) meeting so assistant Secretary Merle Knapp sat in and recorded the minutes. Under the newly extended meeting time, the BEC met at 10:45 prior to the October luncheon.

Treasurer Bob Bakman reported the branch checking account at \$1532.17 plus \$400 in the luncheon hall cash box. Bob admitted that he was going to have to bone up on Excel to keep pace with changes he learned of at the recent regional Manteca Officer training.

Big Sir George Pisching announced current membership at 97 members. George also promoted the importance of form 27. This is probably the single most important form we send monthly to the State headquarters. Form 27 gives a momentary snapshot of club health to our own officers as well as state officials. This form tracks luncheon attendance and specific details on growth or shrinkage of our membership levels. Big Sir George Pisching also reminded the Board members that no one has yet stepped up to be next year's Little Sir.

Sir Richard Beers our branch travel chairman, shared the success of the recent Branson trip. Many local couples joined couples from other SIRs branches to really enjoy the top notch entertainment and the lovely local vistas. Richard also indicated that he was considering a repeat of the popular Air National Guard visit of a few years ago. He also was hoping to put together a visit to the new African Safari exhibit at the local Chaffee Zoo. With the cooler weather upon us the free range African animals should be very active in their new natural setting.

Big Sir George Pisching reminded the Board that preliminary work was in progress by Secretary Paul Dehn to update information for the new roster book. The 2016 edition will include email addresses for those members with internet access. Also Paul will be interested in recording any corrections or changes from the current roster data.

Little Sir Tom Lean found a local resource for inexpensive yet attractive badges. Many Board members liked the magnetic attachments that would preclude punching holes in shirt pockets. At approximately \$6 we may find many Board Members and Directors willing to purchase their own badges. With so many former Big Sirs still awaiting their own badges, our treasury may not be sufficient to cover the badge costs so, hopefully, they'd be willing to purchase their own badges. Their badges would give their name, and the year that they served as Big Sir.

The BEC meeting adjourned at 11:40 prior to the luncheon. Our next BEC meeting will be at 10:45 am on November 19th (moved up to the 3rd Thursday because of Thanksgiving).

Any club concerns can be brought before the Board at that time or by contacting the branch secretary Paul Dehn at 292-2225



### **Librarian:**

Very This has been a very slow month for the collection of new additions to the library. My ability to visit various outlets to acquire books has been curtailed by medical issues. We have a large library, I will be bringing only a selected number of trays to the meeting because of the limited display area.

I am again asking the membership, I need someone to step forward and take my place as the Librarian. My health is such that I cannot drive and must have another member bring me and the books to the meeting.

Lastly, we have an awesome library and need to keep it. **HAPPY READING**

Dennis Murane



There was no book club meeting in October due to multiples absences. Both Tim Finley and Paul Dehn had emergency surgeries, but Paul just had to share a newly released book by John Grisham called "Rogue Lawyer".

Off of the back jacket;

"Meet Sebastian Rudd, Attorney at Law"

"His phone number is unlisted"

"He carries a gun"

"His office is a bulletproof van"

"His van is driven by his bodyguard, who is also his paralegal, his caddy and his only friend"

"He takes cases no other lawyer will touch"

"And if you ever get into trouble, you definitely want this rogue Lawyer in your corner"

I know everyone has their own tastes in authors, but most definitely, this is one of Grisham's best books. The storyline moves swiftly and the courtroom scenes are riveting. I preordered this book but it should be available now at most book stores.

Please call chairman Paul Dehn if you'd like to join the book club. He can be reached at (559) 292-2225.

Please join us every month at 10:15 prior the luncheon.

**Celebrating Birthdays this Month**

Name		DOB
John	Dennis	11/21/1928
Jack	Palsgaard	11/10/1929
Rex	Tolladay	11/11/1929



**Travel for SIRs 175:**

Our next outing will be to the Puget Sound area of Seattle WA. Brochures are now available and early deposits will guarantee those who sign up early. See you at our next meeting.  
Richard.

**SIRS BOWLING RESULTS**

Date	High Game	High Series
Oct. 2nd	Tom Harlan 188	Tom Harlan 499
Oct. 16th	Merle Knapp 190	Merle Knapp 505
Oct. 30th	Tom Harlan 184	Bill Ripley 478
Nov. 6th	Bill Ripley 182	Bill Ripley 482
All scratch scores		



**Are you a veteran?  
Join us at our November meeting**



**GOLF, SIR #175 , November 2015**

SIR 179 Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> played a Scramble at Airways. 1<sup>st</sup> place winners were Jim Cooper, Stan Nappe, Paul DeGiovanni & Paul Willims. 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners : Jerry Long, Harold Yick, Brian Odhe & Jack Yagurra. CTP winner was Don Laines on #7.

SIR 159 played a 4 Man Shamble at Riverside on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. Winning 3<sup>rd</sup> was Mike Castle's team with Mike winning CTP .

SIR 179 played at Sherwood Forest on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> Individual golf. 5<sup>th</sup> place was tied with Don Laines & Fred Ketcham. Don Laines also won CTP on hole # 4.

SIR # 169 played at Madera C.C. on Oct. 3rd a 4M2BB. 1<sup>st</sup> was won by Don Laines, John Kascht, Joe Russo & Ed Harris. Tied for 4<sup>th</sup> Stan Nappe, Ray Montag, Ken Lie & Dennis Ensminger.

SIR 159 played at Belmont C.C. on Oct.4<sup>th</sup> Individual golf. Wayne Schwartz won 4<sup>th</sup> in flight #5.

NCGA dues are due now for 2016. They are \$36.00. Make your check payable to SIR 175 & give it to Dean Clark, Bob Bakman or Stan Nappe at our Nov.19th lunch. After Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> the cost goes to \$46.00.



## MEMBERSHIP SIR'S BRNCH 175 November 2015



Membership note for November 2015 by Howard Jones

Luncheon November 19<sup>th</sup> due to Thanksgiving the following Thursday. November also is Proud to be a Sir month so be sure to wear all your Sir's paraphernalia. In recognition of all our veterans who served so bravely in our Armed Forces we ask you to wear a symbol of your Branch of Service, you will also be given a free lunch ticket along with the proud to be a Sir. This will allow us to thank the veterans among us in recognition of Veterans Day.

Membership is staying steady, not gaining as the State governors would like, We need to put more effort into recruiting new members. In talking to your friends and neighbors be sure to inform them of all the activities available to them as members. Their sponsor earns a free lunch, so there is such a thing as a free lunch. As members be sure to let us know of any changes in your phone, email or address so we can keep you informed and our records up to date. Mike Lebda our hard working Date Base member is doing a great job keeping up with changes etc.

Some good news, the members can start paying their \$ 24.00 dues for 2016 any time before January 1. The dues go toward our limited expenses etc. If anybody wants to know exactly how we use the money feel free to ask, Treasure or any board member can explain the disposition. Have a wonderful thanksgiving and remember Dec. is ladies day. We have some great table decorations and a fine program for the ladies. Thanks for being loyal members.

Howard Jones Membership Chairman



### "SIR DINERS"

by Maitre D  
Sir Marshall Goodwin

*On November 11th, the second Wednesday of the month we will be meeting at Outback on West Shaw at Marks. 5:15 for cocktails, 6 pm for dinner. Sign up at our meeting or call me at 439-5494*

**To: All Branch #175 SIR Members**

**Re: Roster Book of Our Branch 175**

Gentlemen:

It's that time again. We're starting to prepare for the 2016 Roster book. Please contact branch secretary Paul Dehn if you are aware of corrections that are necessary. Please check the current roster book and let Paul know of any updated information that should go into the new book. One important addition this year is the inclusion of email addresses for those SIRs with internet access. You can either call Paul at 292-2225 or email him at paulsusandeh@yahoo.com.

Database Editor (call Mike Lebda @ 298-7993)

Branch Photographer (a smart phone is all you need 292-2225)

# Speakers for this month's meeting



Lt Col Robert Swertfager is an F-15 Eagle Pilot performing the Air Superiority and Air Sovereignty mission with the 144th Fighter Wing, California Air National Guard. He is currently the 144th Operations Support Squadron Commander (OSS). He is a local product and graduated from Clovis West HS in 1985. Furthermore, he is a graduate of Fresno State University with a BA in Business Marketing and a Masters degree in Business Administration from Florida State University.

He is a Command Pilot with over 1200 hours in the F-15 and 400 hours in the F-15 and has served in California Air National Guard for over 15 years. He is happily married to his wife Lisa and they are the proud parents of three beautiful daughters.



*This month we will be honoring all our veterans at the monthly meeting. If you have served the military and have a cap or military logo please wear it and be noticed and show the branch of service you served.*



Each branch of the military has a unique mission within the overall mission of U.S. security and peace. Here they are in a nutshell:

**Air Force and Air Force Reserve:**

The nation's source of air and space power. The primary mission of the USAF is to fly planes, helicopters, and satellites.

**Air National Guard:**

The Air National Guard as we know it today is a separate reserve component of the United States Air Force.

**Army and Army Reserve:**

The dominant land power. The Army generally moves in to an area, secures it, and instills order and values before it leaves. It also guards U.S. installations and properties throughout the world.

**Army National Guard:**

The Army National Guard is an elite group of warriors who dedicate a portion of their time to serving their nation. Each state has its own Guard, as required by the Constitution; in fact, it is the only branch of the military whose existence is actually required by the Constitution.

**Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve:**

The Coast Guard's mission is primarily with domestic waterways. The Coast Guard does rescues, law enforcement, drug prevention, and clears waterways.

**Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve:**

The Marine Corps is known as the U.S.' rapid-reaction force. They are trained to fight by sea and land, and usually are the first "boots on the ground." Marines are known as the world's fiercest warriors.

**Navy and Navy Reserve:**

The Navy accomplishes its missions primarily by sea, but also by air and land. It secures and protects the oceans around the world to create peace and stability, making the seas safe for travel and trade.



SIR BRANCH # 175

2014 OFFICERS

Big SIR George Pisching 275-0199  
Little SIR Willis 'Woody' Wilks  
Treasurer Robert Bakman 434-1975  
Asst. Treas. Andy Provost 439-3295  
Secretary Paul Dehn 292-2225  
Asst. Secy 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 Mike Labda 298-7993  
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

2015 STATE OFFICERS

Bobbie Hairston—President  
Donald Dill—Vice President  
Derek Southern—State Secretary  
Karl Ryden—State Treasurer  
Ronald Flagel—Assistant State Secretary  
Harold D'Ambrogia—Assistant State Treasurer

Governor

Area 29 B.Allan Baxter  
Phone: 559 434-1037  
Director, Region 8: Jerry Strain  
Phone: 209 551-8220

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*"Sir Happenings" is the State*

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

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