

Sir Branch 125

2004 Branch History



March 2005

Jim Noah, Branch Historian

Benton White, Editor

Bill Adler, Photography

Greg Lynch, Associate Editor

2004 SIR Branch 125 Officers



Big SIR	Gene Plevyak
Little SIR	Wayne Stewart
Secretary	Don Johnson
Asst. Secretary	Roger Hughes
Treasurer	Pete McErlean
Asst, Treasurer	Pete Morrone

Directors

Benton White – Past Big SIR	Dick Rathman
Jim Silver	Milt Howard
Jim Riley	Chuck Roberts

Committees

Attendance.....	Dave Ross
Auditor.....	Jim Silver
Badges.....	John Bozek and Jim Riley
Bridge Club	Don Palermo
Bocce.....	Frank Genochio
Bowling.....	Vic Harris
Bulletin	Greg Lynch
Chaplain.....	Benton White
Computer Club	Norm Martin
	Ed Metevia
	John Feemster
	George Watson
Cribbage	Greg Lynch
Data Base	Ed Metevia

Golf

Chair	Milt Howard
Asst. Chair	Roger Danielson
Treasurer	Peter Morrone Bob Goldman Milt Howard
Annual Schedule	Roger Danielson
Weekly Schedule	Roger Danielson Milt Howard
Check In	Jim Harvey Bob Goldman Milt Howard Pete Morrone
Handicap	Bob Norbutas Pete Morrone Carl Vollerson
Awards/Scorer	John McManus
Area5 & 20 Liaison	Dick Rathman
Special Events	Saul Miano
Greeters	Ernie Amsden and Jack Hutchinson
Historian	Jim Noah, Ted Norton as Assistant
Lunch Tickets	Ken Sohn and Lupe Portillo
Membership	Larry Peck
Memorial	Bill Tippen
Photography	Bill Adler, Ed Metevia, Greg Lynch
Program	Greg Lynch
Pinochle Club	Bob Stevens
Poker Club	Chuck Roberts
Pot Luck	Roger Hughes
Program Certificates	John Bozek
Recruitment	Neal Atchison
Rooster Items	Ernie Amsden
Roster	Ed Metevia
Social Activities	Chuck Roberts
Special Events Chair	Bob Rung Helpers (Neal Atchinson, Ed Linn, John McManus, Saul Miano, Gene Plevyak, Jim Riley, Chuck Roberts, Bob Shields, George Watson, Benton White)
Sunshine	Ed Hirschfield
Telephone Chair	Pete McErlean Helpers (Frank Genochio, Walt Baxter, Joe Vargas, Tom Franklin, Don Johnson, Ken Sohn, Ernie Gifford, Chuck Thompson, Dave Wessels, Bill Adler)
Travel	Alan Patmore
Wedding Certificates	John Bozek & Ed Metevia

As one can tell from the long list above many of our SIR members are willing to volunteer their time and effort to help the organization run smoothly. By one estimate more than 2/3rds of our membership chip in one way or another to help the Branch provide the kind of experience for its members that keeps it such a healthy organization.

BIG SIR End of Year Report – 2004

Branch 125 enjoyed a good year in 2004 managing to grow a little despite the loss of a few long-time and active members, notably **Jim Riley**, who was killed in a tragic accident in an experimental aircraft.

Our members' attendance at meetings increased a bit in 2004 to average about 130 attendees and our programs continue to be strong with interesting speakers. This past year, in addition to continuing as the publisher of our excellent monthly newsletter, **Greg Lynch** was also our Program Chair. He did an excellent job of providing us with interesting and entertaining speakers.

The Branch 125 Newsletter continues to be outstanding, probably the best in all of SIR, and a model for the State Bulletin initiated in 2004 and distributed electronically via email to all members with email addresses. Kudos to **Greg Lynch** for making the newsletter enjoyable and colorful. Many thanks, also, to **Ed Metevia** for distributing the bulk of the Newsletters to our members via email. Ed continues to be an outstanding contributor to the smooth functioning of the Branch.

Our activities continue to have strong participation reflecting the outstanding leadership in each area. **Milt Howard** continued as the Chair of the Golf Committee and was ably assisted by a number of men including **Roger Danielson**, who automated the scheduling of teams for each tournament and **Bob Norbutas**, who tracks the monthly best players and all the others who contribute to enjoyable tournaments. The golf program continues to be our largest draw with an average of eight teams per tournament. The automation of many golf related scheduling and recording effort and the inclusion of a number of members on the golf committee have eased the burden of week to week tournament management.

The Barbecue and Christmas parties were outstanding and **Bob Rung** and his Special Activities committee continue to put on great parties. There are always many hands to help with each of these functions and that is a tribute to the men who belong to Branch 125 and enjoy each others company.

Chuck Roberts continued to schedule events during the year to museum, manufacturing facilities, and the like that are of interest to our members. Bob and **Roger Hughes** coordinated the Pot Luck in September that included members' spouses. Each year this event seems to get better and more popular.

Saul Miano continued to coordinate the spring and fall golf outings to the Sierra foothills. These two events attract about 24 golfers for three days of golf (including the ever popular Forest Meadows) interspersed with good food and camaraderie by all who participate.

BIG SIR End of Year Report – 2004 (con't)

At the Christmas party in 2004, we awarded four of our members plaques for their Outstanding Service to Branch 125. This is a continuation of the awards made last year by Big SIR Emeritus **Benton White**. Our 2004 awardees were **Roger Danielson** for his outstanding contributions to the Golf Committee, **Roger Hughes** for initiating the Members and Wives Annual Pot Luck luncheon at Vasona Park and his active participation in the operation of the branch, **Greg Lynch** for his creativity in producing an outstanding Branch Newsletter and his general support for the smooth operation of the branch, and **George Watson**, for his many hours of behind the scenes effort on the Annual Barbecue and the Christmas Party.

Our branch is allowed three Honorary Life Members and these are **Saul Miano, Ed Metevia** and **John Bozek**, all of whom continue to be very active in the operation of the branch and its activities.

Our Little SIR **Wayne Stewart** has been of great assistance to me during my tenure as Big SIR and is more than ready to assume the role of Big SIR. I am confident that he will carry on the traditions of this Branch and leave his own mark of improved programs and operation.

It has been a pleasure to be your Big SIR in 2004 and I thank all of you for making this an excellent Branch to be enjoyed by all who join it. Many, many thanks to all who have volunteered in 2004 to make our branch fun. It is now in very capable hands so I can sit back with the rest of you and enjoy your company interacting with you at lunch, on the golf course and at other Branch events.

Gene Plevyak



Branch 125 Honorary Life Members:
John Bozek, Saul Miano, Ed Metevia

PRORAMS 2004



Greg Lynch outdid himself this year with Programs. 2004 began with one of the most interesting speakers we have had, **Gary Richards**, the “**Mr. Road Show**” of the **SJ Mercury**. An indication of how well he was received was the large crowd that gathered around him after his talk with more questions. The nice thing was that he stayed until well after 2:00 to answer every question. Following that **Jonas Dino**, a Public Affairs Officer for NASA Ames, spoke in February. His audio-



visual presentation, particularly in light of the Mars Exploration, then in full swing, made for another interesting and well received presentation. Jeanne Wun, Community Relations liaison for Hospice of the Valley kept up the level of program excellence with her presentation “**Living with Dignity, Redefining Hope: Hospice Care as an End of Life Option.**” You could literally hear a pin drop during her speech, and again the people who gathered for questions at the end was testimony to how well she was received.

Cecile Nguyen, Crime Prevention Specialist for the SJ Police Department, was our April speaker. It did not make us feel secure to learn how many ways the bad guys are learning to invade our space even when we don't know it. There was a lighter note in May when **Jim Moss**, defenseman for the new SJ professional Lacrosse team, told us about Lacrosse in general and the SJ Stealth in particular. He did well enough to pick up a few fans. June brought **Michael Hemp**, President of the History Company, speaking on Cannery Row. The July BBQ in the park substituted for a July program.

Dan Rusanowsky, the San Jose Sharks radio announcer, was our speaker in August. His pessimism about the pending strike and chances for an NHL hockey season proved to be well founded. Still, he was a fascinating speaker and appreciated by all. **Don Loughridge**, a submariner in both WWII and the Korean War, helped us understand what it felt like to spend one's life under the water and under-the-gun in war like circumstances. Some of us left feeling claustrophobic. October brought a fascinating talk by **Bob Parsons** from The Stroke Awareness Center at Stanford. Most helpful was his information of what to do if one felt the symptoms of a stroke and how quickly to get it treated to avoid long term harm. Another long line waited afterwards for individual questions and he graciously served them. The final speaker of the year was in November. He was **Dr. John Greenleaf**, a research physiologist retired from NASA Ames. He tried to help us understand what happens to a human body when exposed to prolonged weightlessness and the measures taken to contract the bad effects. Our December program was, of course, our Christmas Party.

Computer Club

We average from 12 to 16 members a month attending our very helpful Computer Club. They meet in the Saratoga Senior Center the 3rd Thursday of each month and have helpful presentations for anyone who owns a computer. We have enough expertise in the room at any time that allows whoever might be struggling with a problem with their personal computer to get instant help. **Norm Martin, John Feemster, and Ed Metevia** have among them the answer to almost any question that might be raised. This is becoming a more popular program each year and we are lucky to have such competent leadership.

Treasury

SIR is a volunteer organization and we depend on contributions from our members to keep us afloat. There are no membership dues or initiation fees. We each pay for our lunches and golf, when we participate in those activities. Each member is given an opportunity to contribute \$2.00/\$3.00 each month to the so called "kitty" and those funds are used for whatever expenses we accumulate over the year. We pay for our speaker's lunch, we pay dues to the State SIR organization (though they do not allow us to charge dues ourselves), and cover whatever expenses it takes to run our organization. Our monthly contributions allow us to keep our head above water financially. It takes someone to keep track of all of these financial transactions and we are lucky to have had **Pete McErlean** as our Treasurer for some years now.

Bowling



For those of us who have been in Branch 125 for a number of years we have become used to the monthly reports from our Chair of the Bowling Committee, **Vic Harris**, about the status of our various bowlers in the SIR Area Bowling League. No matter how badly we seem to be doing as the season progresses we usually end up with a few of our members on the Championship team. Thanks to Vic, bowling continues to be a popular activity among our members.

Special Pictures



Branch 125 Golf

Two out of three members of our SIR Branch have their NCGA membership through their affiliation with Branch 125. We have had occasions when almost a third of our membership is participating in a Branch sponsored golf event. We regularly have 12 or more foursomes participating in our every Wednesday outings. By any measure we have as active a golf program as any SIR branch. Those Golf Committee people listed above have been tireless in their efforts to make this activity as attractive as any such program could be. Just scheduling us for weekly outings at different golf courses is a Herculean task and the Committee has the gratitude of all Branch 125 members. Several of our members qualified for the SIR State Golf Tournament semi-finals this year. **Ed Metevia** not only won his flight at that level, he had the lowest net score for all the competition!



The Golf Special Event Group as they prepared to attack Forest Meadows.

Two trips a year to Forest Meadows, a small golfing community in the foothills of the Sierras, is a tradition of Branch 125 that has become increasingly popular. These three days excursions arranged and led by Life Member **Saul Miano**, happen in early May and October. Three days of golf, meals together, enough competitions so that almost all receive some reward, and a whole bunch of male bonding, only begins to describe the popular event. As this report is being prepared in early 2005 more than 30 people are already vying to get on the list for this spring's event.

Special Events

There is always something else in Branch 125. We have our **July Barbeque**, accompanied by golf for those who want it, at Blackberry Farms, our **September Picnic** at Vasona Park, an event that includes our wives, several **special outings** to places like the NUMI factory in Fremont or a trip to coast to see the elephant seals birthing, to the two **three day trips to the mountains to play golf** (the first and last covered more fully below). There is always something going on of interest in Branch 125.



BARBECUE

July is the time we put special emphasis on recruiting new members. A barbeque lunch at the park next to Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino is the setting. We begin with an early morning 9 holes of golf where everyone who participates wins a prize. That activity is followed by an even larger gathering of members who join the early golfers for a hearty lunch (prepared by fellow SIR members), horseshoes, card games, and just plain fellowship. Our members are encouraged to bring guests who they believe might be interested in being a part of branch 125 and we usually do reap some new members out of that event. Bob Rung Chairs the picnic portion, **Saul Miano** the golf. They have many willing helpers.



MEMBERSHIP



Countering the trend of the State SIR branches to lose members, our SIR Branch began 2004 with **167** members. We begin 2005 with **175**. Joining as *new members* this year are an outstanding group of newcomers and we feel lucky to have them in our ranks. They include **Gene Bernardini, Pat Brennan, Bruce Capron, Charles Carroll, Gene Carson, Calvin Coran, Paul Cusick, Jerry Davis, Larry Davis, Martin DeVries, Robert Fowler, Joseph Gerage, Erick Henrickson, Bob Johnson, Rene Marfull, Robert Moore, Jerry Nieto, Don Reams, Don Rosenbaum, Tom Schatzel, Al Smith, Edward Wendler, and Danny Yeung**. What an impressive group they are and we feel honored to have had them join our ranks.



As always with a group our age, some have passed away during the year. This year SIR 125 says a sad goodbye to **Bill Kolb, Jr., Jim Riley, Bill Strohmeier, and Elmer Whistance**. Our deep condolences go to their loved ones. They will be missed.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Daytimers (above) entertained us at the highly popular Christmas party. Bob Rung pictured at the left with along time committee member, George Watson, continues for his 12th year of planning and running an outstanding function. Bob will be the first to tell you that his outstanding team of volunteers are mostly responsible. Many thanks to all.

Fifty Years of Marriage



We honor members and their wives who have completed 50 years of marriage. They are presented a certificate as part of our Christmas celebration each year. Included in that group this year were SIRs ***John Powers, C.J. King, Guadalupe Portillio, Robert Thomas, Jay Pinson, Richard Bonvechio, Elbert Turner, Dane Christensen, and Steve Volek.*** Congratulations to all of these couples. They serve as a wonderful example for all of us.

THE END