

A non-profit organization for retired men devoted to the promotion of independence and dignity of retirement

# The Grapevine

**SIR Branch #145 Monthly Meeting—Tuesday—April 10, 2012—Moose Lodge—11:30am**

## Speaker of the Month

**Lee Almquist  
History of the  
USS Hornet**

Big Sir Sez.....

The picnic is coming, the picnic is coming!! Tuesday, June 19. Buy your tickets at our May luncheon. After the meeting you can make a reservation with Al Furr and pay by mail or at the door. The absolute last chance to secure your spot is Friday June 15. But don't let things go to the end, buy your tickets now and invite some of your friends. This year we will have music from a friend of mine, Pete Sigala, who has a DJ set up. See more info on the picnic elsewhere in this Grapevine. (Oh, and don't forget that there will not be a luncheon meeting at the Moose lodge in June).

I want to thank you, the membership, for inviting potential members to our luncheons. We have had a good number of guests and applications. Don't back off because we loose some by attrition all year long. Use those welcome cards that we have given you. It is easy to approach a prospect if you have something to hand him. I've passed them out at the doctor's office, and at a restaurant.

Neal Welsh brought in a new member after a conversation at Costco and gave a card. Please use them. Put your name and telephone number on the card before placing them in your wallet.

Our web site is under construction, led by Sir Jim Grimes. He secured a domain name for our branch. There will be two ways to get to our web site, our domain name and by a link on the SIR Inc web site. Jim has prepared a draft home page and buttons to go to various pages. This is under review. Everything is open right now and content, titles etc are to be decided. It will probably be late summer before we are ready to go on line. We need a few good men to help out. If you can navigate through web sites, that is enough. If you have moderate or better skills we need to have people that can place, remove, and maintain the site. I do not want to have all the administration to fall on one person and take lots of time. Please let Jim or me know that you would be interested.

Remember to bring guests and help where you can. Tasks are easy if we have a team to accomplish them.

Richard Baines, Big Sir

## Luncheon Menu

Chicken Fried Steak & Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes  
String Beans with Bacon and Onion  
Bread  
Fried Chicken  
Salad Bar  
Strawberry Something Dessert

## Financial Report

Net Loss for April \$191.71

Balance \$ 2935.48



## May Birthdays

Sam Cardwell  
Fred Fredstom  
Dave Hildenbrand  
Leon Ryder  
Ralph Lea  
Trop Smith

Steve Cartwright  
Chuck Higuera  
Virg Raggi  
Rich Shook  
Ted Leventini  
Ralph Wetmore



### May Golf News

Last Call for Carson Valley Inn. Three nights, Two days of golf, 4-man scramble. May 21,22,23. \$320 per golfer. 23 golfers have signed up

Brookside Country Club tournament will be a 4 man two best balls tournament on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Teams will be put together by computer for A, B, C, D, players. \$55.00 Cost includes: Golf, cart, range balls, box lunch and prizes.

Get signed up for the state 4 man scramble. A player handicap is 1 to 17, B player 17.1 to 22. C player 22.1 to 27. D player is 27.1 and above. Tournament will be a t Van Buskirk on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

I will have applications for our 4 man scramble and bar-b-que at Oakmoore on June 6<sup>th</sup> Cost is \$65.00

**Howard Ferguson**  
**Golf Chairman, (368-4829)**

### Travel Corner

**November 24 - December 1, 2012** Sights and Sounds of the Holiday Season Seven Nights.  
Louisville-Pigeon Forge-Nashville Holiday Decorated Hotels and Cities Guaranteed trip that leaves from your house.  
Double Occupancy \$2580  
Jerry Wisenor Branch 145 209-334-5181

### Sick or in Distress

Know of anyone call Dave Stennick (209)368-0437

### **BIO of LEE ALMQUIST**

Born in Minneapolis, MN in 1927.

Left High School in 1944 to join the navy

Served as an Aviation Radio/Gunner on TBF Avenger's Attached to the aircraft carrier USS Franklin & involved in the Okinawa invasion in 1945. Released from Active to In-Active duty towards enrollment in the Naval V-5 program. Enrolled at the University of Minnesota, earning his commission and navy wings upon college graduation. Recalled to Active Duty on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1950 due to the Korean activity as a naval aviator.

Served as a commissioned officer, flying F4U's Corsairs plus several jet aircraft including the "Panther" off of the USS Princeton and Bon Homme Richard and land-based "Skyraiders".

Received injuries flying a combat mission in Korea and subsequently returned to the US.

Placed on in-active duty in 1955, earning the rank of Lt. Commander. Remained in the Naval Reserves flying out of Alameda. Moffit Field, Lemoore & other Naval Air Stations around the world as a Naval Aviation Reservist. Lee's and his wife (now deceased), raised twin boys & a daughter, plus have five grandchildren.

Lee also owned and operated three franchised hardware stores in California for several years.

He later assumed a corporate position with a Fortune 500 company until his retirement but a few short years ago.

He now lives in Tracy and enjoys Saturday's serving as a docent on the USS Hornet in Alameda.

# SIR State Travel Opportunities 2012

**Aug 12-18, 2012: Canadian Rockies Family Discovery.**(7 days 10 meals, Highlights, Banff, Columbia Field, Lake Louise). Great for Grandkids! Bill Bulanti, Br 16, San Mateo. 650-369-4450.

**Sep 1-14, 2012: Paris, Rhone River, and Provence.** (14 days Cruise the Rhone River (8 days) TGV (Bullet Train) to Paris (5 nights) near the Eiffel Tower includes a guided tour of Versailles and Paris (full day each) Cost, \$7000 to \$8000 Jim Hohenshelt , Br 62, Sunnyvale, 408-241-4421 or Roy Jordan 408-735-8765.

**Sep9-14, 2012: San Juan Island Cruise.** (aboard the Viking Star, view Orca whales and other wildlife; talk with our knowledgeable captain and crew about the biology and geology of the area. 3 nights in Friday Harbor and 2 nights in Leavenworth.) cost \$2060pp or \$2495 single. Lee Suess, Br 96, Jackson, 209-296-2235.

**Sep 23-Oct 2, 2012: New England for Fall Colors.** 10 day trip to New England starting in Boston and tour several states in the area using buses and trains. There also will be 2 days at the end of the trip in Boston. Cost, \$3280 pp David Abrahams Br.101. Livermore, 443-8291.

**Sep28-Oct 7, 2012: Gems of Provence & Italy.** (Regent Seven Seas Voyager from Barcelona to Monaco visiting ports of Marseille, Cannes, Florence, Rome and Portofino. Price \$5299 to \$6300 includes RT Air, transfers, Suite w/ balcony, shore excursions, Staff Gratuities, complimentary beverages, all dining and much more. Henry Puccinelli, Br 22, Area 6, 415-457-3990

**Sep 28-13, 2012 Full Transit Through to Panama Canal.** (15 night cruise departing from San Francisco. Fly back from Ft Lauderdale. For more information contact Lou Pagni Br 6, San Lorenzo, 510-276-5025.

**Oct 11-23, 2012: Spain's Costa del Sol & The Portuguese Riviera .** (13 day escorted land tour covering Madrid, Prado Museum, Cordoba, Granada, Alhambra, Seville, Cascais, Lisbon, Sintra, Estoril, Obidos, and Fatima). Cost \$4244pp Bill Rodman, Br38, San Jose, 408-274-4521 or Nick Lickwar, 408-532-6992.

**Aug 31-Sep 9, 2013: SIR 55th Anniversary Alaska Cruise.** SIR will be celebrating our 55th anniversary with a 10 day round trip cruise from San Francisco to Alaska on Princess Cruise Line. Cost, \$1418 to \$3320 depending on accommodations. This should be a great opportunity to spend time with fellow members while enjoying the wonderful scenery that Alaska offers. Flyers and more information will follow.

## Branch 145 TRIP INFORMATION

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## Travel Contacts

BRANCH 145 Jerry Wisenor –808 Tehama Dr. Lodi, CA 95242 (209-334-5181)

BRANCH 46 Pete Lispito - 209-948-2265

