



# The Chanticleer

New 159 website - [www.branch159.sirinc2.org](http://www.branch159.sirinc2.org)

**Program: Our Own Ron Branam**

Date February 11, 2016

Place Pardini's Restaurant  
2257 W. Shaw Avenue

Social Hour 11:00 AM

Meeting : 12 Noon  
\$ 15 and no Buck Bucket

What if... the Ground Hog saw his shadow and missed out on Marti Gras and Valentine's Day? Be careful in February. Don't get left out.

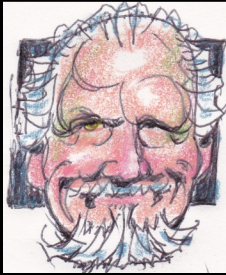
Guys, step out to our SIR Lunch... strut, cock-a-doodle, be a brightly Marti Gas colored, bushy tailed fine old bird. We will flock to SIR Pardini's fine dining for another festive celebration of our freedom in retirement.

Little Sir and his team launched the SIR RAMP program in January and we will all support his efforts.

As your Big Sir... we will continue to focus on improving and growing our Branch #159. We will do that by applying your good ideas to SIR RAMP programs. SIR will remain relevant and provide social activities that encourage more fun.

Your directory is a good place to find officers and activities chairmen to discuss your thoughts. Pass them along. Become one of our active members who are more involved and have found renewed value. Enjoy more fun with more friends. You can be that guy

If you are one of us guys who forgot...to Mail to Shane or bring **(Big SIR continued on page 2)**



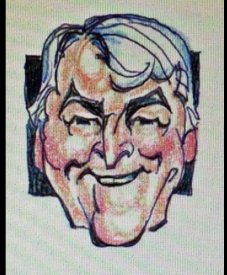
**Big SIR Perry**

Whew! Now I can exhale. When I first considered skipping a guest speaker in January and having instead a kind of organizational meeting, a couple of thoughts crept in my mind. First, would anyone show up to hear about RAMP, the state of the economy, and the Ambassador program. It could be drier than a breakfast of unbuttered toast in the Sahara. Second, did we have enough info cover the thirty or forty minutes speakers usually take.

My second question was answered first, when the program started thirty minutes late. So much for micro-managing. There was so much information to get out that, even racing through, we didn't finish. (Don't worry- the year is only 12% over, we'll get all the information out.) I must apologize to those who had more to say but couldn't because we were so late.

My first question, would it be boring was answered next. Just in case it got to be tedious I had some nude dancers standing by outside ready. Thanks to Shane and Steve Chase they never got to perform. You may want to thank them personally. I have to admit, I was on the edge on my seat the entire meeting. Well maybe that's an exaggeration but not by much.

RAMP is an exciting program to me. We need volunteers. There are four separate committees to be filled: Recruitment (we need new members), Activities (we need something for them to do), Membership ( we need to know who they are), and Promotion (after all, you can't be a Private all your life). If you volunteer, I you get a liberal expense account, a big annuity, AND A NEW CAR! I can't promise those things but I can promise our gratitude and, if you request, a spiffy grandiose title like Grand Potentate of Exalted Recruiters. **(Little SIR continued on page 2)**



**Little SIR Gary**

**The 2016 assessments are now due.  
The assessments pay for;  
The printing of our Chanticleer,  
administrative meetings, state assessments,  
extra lunches, & Wine for our raffles  
Please make checks for \$15 payable to;  
SIR Branch #159 Mail to;  
Shane Petersen  
3245 E. Sample  
Fresno, Ca. 93710**

**Be A Friend - Bring a Friend**

(Big SIR continued from page 1) your \$15 assessment check to lunch...and if you haven't paid last year's assessment...you need to pay that too. It renews your Sir membership and makes you a member in good standing who pays his share of State fees and insurance costs.

You can be a cocky Valentine Rooster when you treat your lady to dine out...attending our popular Ladies Date Night Delight February 17. Enjoy...visit friends.

Our ladies are getting to know more new lady friends. These ladies may have friends with husbands who would enjoy being a SIR. Recruit...win your husband a complementary meal. Fine deal.

Yes...pursue our rewards for members in good standing who bring new members to keep our Branch strong. One month after your new member is inducted...you, as his sponsor, will be rewarded complimentary lunch. It's a tasty good deal?

Hey...remember to get your good buddy to join us for February lunch with Sirs. He can't help but like us and our variety of enjoyable activities. Persuade him to join SIR #159 just for more good social fun.

We do have good February fun for you with our Sir Ron Branam. speaking of his Big Time racing adventures....Thank you, Sir Ron.

When you bring a guest or sponsor a new member...be sure to tell your caller for the food count. Please introduce him to your Ambassador...your Big Sir and get to know some new folks. You can bet we will have another fine lunch.

(Little SIR continued from page 1) Uncle Perry Wants You! The requirements are simple, check your pulse and if you feel a thump every minute or two your in. Everyone should consider these or any number of other things you can do to help out.

We need Ambassadors. People who can help out potential new members even before they join. See Gilbert Matossian, Mike Moyle or John Crawford. When your guests become new members you get a free lunch. Just think, if you bring in 365 new members a year you'll never have to buy food again! Think of the savings. Last but not least, we need more things to do. We all have interests that do not expose us to prosecution, so lets get organized, and do them together. See me if you've got something.

I want to thank Mike and Gilbert and their committee, they have been working on this stuff for months and deserve your gratitude. Thanks to all who participated this month and who will make this year a resounding success.

Next month the guest speaker will be one of our own, Ron Branam. Ron is a former computer programmer for Gottschalks and a SIR 159 member since 2012. A member of the Sports Car Club of America, he has worked as a turn marshal at races. And I don't mean go-carts, I mean the real deal- Grand Am, Indy car and Formula One. which means, He's in the track's corner telling guys like Helio Castroneves and Tony Kanaan where to get off. It is going to be a very interesting program so don't miss it.

Well that's about it for this month, dinner is on the table and if I don't get there right now I may just waste away.

## Jim Whitmer (The Stuff of Legends) SIR of the Month

You would have thought SIR James Whitmer had slowed down as we sat chatting on the back porch. As we conversed between sips of his afternoon "tea", he was just recovering from a nasty fall that crack a rib which then punctured his lung. But James has a lot of internal fortitude. Even



with one eye gone south and a knee that was compromised in an axe incident, Jim has rebounded. You'll see him on the links (and the bowling lanes) once again. Wonderful!

Sir James, you see, is one of those great Mid-Western kind of guys

raised in tiny town Central, North Dakota. During the radio era, you would find him inventing ways to entertain himself. These were the days way before the Internet. The "highway" was over yonder.

Creating ways became a way of life for him. Eager to learn and a little too antsy to stay put, Jim would have little chores given to him to preoccupy his time. Eventually, he was heading to the Boy Scout Jamboree as an Eagle Scout/group leader held in our nation's capitol.

During the pre/post Korean War span, SIR James would marry a college instructor (Mary Ann). He served our country near the Hearst Castle all the while learning the intricacies of bridge. Jim enrolled in a class offered by the state of California, leading to a certificated in traffic engineering. It was the first class and license they had ever offered. Much of his earlier work still directs traffic in the town of Downey, California to this day.

While parts of Riverside GC was undergoing a transformation, his steady foursome of friends would play golf regularly there. These were the pre-SIR times. It evolved into the Monday morning format as it is now know today. Flubs are allowed, and "do-overs", too. The empha-

size on fun couldn't be more a point of joy. James' feisty stance for the underdog is in thick contrast to the laid back nature of what's become traditional.

Today we raise our Dixie cups and sip Southern Comfort before teeing it up at the 15th hole at Riverside Golf Course. It's a salute to a man who's life is intertwine with a customary practice joyfully shared by many SIR members.

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### Birthdays

Joe Bencivengo, Bud Burrows, Alan Bynum, Steve Chase, Michael Cunningham, Roger Deal, Ted Feasel, George Gruner, Roy Harris, Joe Hushek, Bob Jones, William Laudig, Roger McCoy, David Metzger, Randy Morris, Lee Moy, Danny Munoz, Abel Parra-Gutierrez, Rick Ransom

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### Bridge Scores

**Dec 29** 1st. Bob Cleveland, 2nd. Russ Mott, 3rd. Gene Tognazzini  
4th. Fred Wrazel, 5th. Charles Ratliff  
6th. Vic Froehmer, 7th. Jack Leonard  
Consolation: Hugh Cox  
High score: 4380 Bob Cleveland  
High table: 1500  
Bob Cleveland Russ Mott

**Jan 5** 1st. Jim Lund, 2nd. Charles Ratliff, 3rd. Jack Leonard, 4th. Gene Tagnozzini, 5th. Vic Froehmer, 6th. Fred Wrazel, 7th. Hugh Cox  
Consolation: Bob Cleveland  
High score: Jim Lund  
High table: 1090  
Jim Lund Charles Ratliff

**Jan 19** 1st. Hugh Cox, 2nd. George Rurik, 3rd. Larry Knoll, ,  
4th. Bob Cleveland, 5th. Jim Whitmer

6th. Russ Mott 7th. Ron Vieira  
Consolation: Charles Ratliff  
High score: 5300 Hugh Cox  
High table: 1850  
Bob Cleveland Gene Tognazzini

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### Attendance Report

In January, 2016, SIR Branch #159 had 231 active members with 159 of those members attending the February 12, 2015 luncheon at Pardini's. This represents 69% of the active membership. Of the 71 members absent, 42 were excused. Members are expected to attend the monthly meeting or to notify the Attendance Chairman when the wish to be excused. Three consecutive unexcused absences or six unexcused absences in a twelve month period constitutes a jeopardy to membership. If you are unable to attend a future meeting, PLEASE call 447-5388 or send an email to DukMarshall@aol.com When you call or email please include your NAME and BADGE NUMBER

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### Duke Marshall, Attendance Chairman

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### Digital Media/Computer Group

The next Digital Media/Computer Group meeting will be the Third Tuesday February 16, 1 PM in the "River Room" at Woodward Park Library 944 East Perrin Ave, Fresno. All SIR Branches, Wives and Guests are welcome.

I will cover digital photo editing and tweaking (improving) as a live demo (not PowerPoint), and your photo & computer issues. Between us we have most of the answers; in January we had such a good time nobody wanted to leave and we went way overtime.

(Note the Library is already taken for the March 3'rd Tuesday; tentative plans are 3/22.)

[Roger.Deal@Comcast.net](mailto:Roger.Deal@Comcast.net)

## ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Ann & Al Baez  
Lety & Carlos Fernandez  
Britt & Russ Hewer  
Lois & Allen Layne  
Betty & Sal Morales  
Betsy & Jim Peterson  
Patty & Alex Ramirez  
Nancy & Don Smith

## Golfers Corner

### **WEATHER CONDITIONS**

We've had quite a few heavy winter storms and we may expect a few more. Of course all this water is much needed for our area, however during or right after a bad weather day, players are advised to call the pro-shop on the morning of our event to verify the course conditions and our tournament status.

### **GOLF SIGN-UP PROCEDURE FOR THE NEW 159 PLAYER.**

For the new branch 159 golf player who wants to play in our weekly golf event, here is the sign up procedure and some basic info.

Branch 159 plays golf each Thursday (except on the 2nd Thursday of the month which is our branch monthly luncheon) and on the 2nd Wednesday.

All tournaments are with a cart and have a shotgun start (except at Fig Garden GC). In addition to the tournament contracted green fee paid to the GC, there is a \$5 SIR fee to cover our golf fund, our tournament cash prizes and our two CTP (Closer to the Pin) contests.

Each month we have a Monthly Chairman who manages the tournaments. His name appears on the Chanticleer and on our golf website. He will attend the check-in at the golf course, hand out the score cards on the day of the event and collect the \$5 SIR fee.

Each month we print on a large double page cardboard, the sign-up sheet with all active players name. We call it the "Sign-Up Board". Its available at each weekly golf event and also at the monthly luncheon. Usually, we display the Sign Up Board for the current and the following month, so you can plan accordingly. We vary the weekly format: individual, 2mBB, scramble, shamle, novelty etc..

So look for the Board(s), find the event(s) you'd like to play and circle your name in the appropriate column (s). This will ensure that your name be published in the Roster, which is posted on our website usually by Friday pre-

ceding the weekly game. Unless your email address is not included in our 159 Golfers Directory, by Friday prior to the event you will receive a notice that the Roster is posted on our website. If you signed up, your name should be there and you need not do anything else, just wait for the next email (usually the day prior to the game) that will show your pairing.

If you missed the Sign-Up Boards, if your name did not show on the Roster, or if you want to change the available format (ex, from Shamle to 2mBB, etc..), then email or call the Monthly Chairman by Sunday 8 pm the week before the event, to let him know your decision (add, drop or change).

If you'd decide within a day or two of the event to play or if you'd have an unexpected last minute change, the best is to call the Monthly Chairman.

Lastly, in case of inclement weather, call the pro-shop on the morning of our event to find out about the status of our tournament.

We look forward to seeing you playing with us. Welcome to Branch 159.

## Branch 159 February

### Golf Schedule

*Chairman Ron Wilson c960-8294*

Thur 2/4 10AM SG Belmont CC  
Wed 2/10 10AM SG Airways  
Thur 2/18 10AM SG Madera Muni  
Thur 2/25 10AM SG Lemoore  
Thur 3/3 9 AM SG Riverside  
Wed 3/9 9AM SG Ridge Creek  
Thur 3/17 9AM SG Dragonfly

## Sunshine Desk

Bob Knievel is on the sick list this month and Dan Ybanez is recovering from a stroke. Larry Daniels is still out with a bad back and Gary Karzarian is still out. Our very best wishes go out to these gentlemen and we all



**Butch Evans, in Appreciation for Many Year of Service**

wish them a speedy recovery.

Don't forget to let me know of any fallen Roosters, my email is ronwilson777@outlook.com and phone is 960-8294, Thanks. Ron Wilson



The only reason they say 'Women and children first' is to test the strength of the lifeboats.  
~ Jean Kerr

### Travel

SIR 159 will be hitting the road once again. For a mere \$60, members will receive a Dennis Eckesley jersey and a game ticket to watch the Oakland A's. Additionally, the cost covers the bus ride and tip to the driver. Watch the A's take on arch-rival LA Angels on June 18th, Saturday. Game begins at 1 pm at the Coliseum.

What to do? Make out a check to SIR 159, and mail it to Lee Moy, 127 N. Helm Ave, Clovis 93612.

Deadline. Due to the popularity of the jersey give away, these promotional games will sell out quickly. Checks due: Feb 18.

To avoid any confusion, these checks will be non-refundable. You must, on your own, seek another person to replace your seat if something else arises.

Remember. While it's hot in Fresno you'll be treated to milder climate in the East Bay.

Additional consideration. There's a possibility that we might stop at the Bass Sports Outlet store in Manteca, and have a bite to eat at the 21st Amendment Brewery prior to the Game.

Bus. - Leaves & returns from the Ramada Inn, 6:30 am/pm.

**Spotlight** Didn't get your birthday and/or your anniversary greetings? Please e-mail Lee Moy your important dates so we can get you on the mailing list. This is especially true for those who are the newest members (last two years). Christmas and other holiday "cards" are also sent out to members throughout the calendar year.

Last year, the travel committee meet and came up with some wonderful seasonal trips. For this winter, we decided a "mini-bucket" list trip on a train through the snow to Reno. Thanks to the hardest of work, the Chinese bore their way through the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Today we sit in awe at the splendor of winter all the while

resting in comfort on a cozy train. There will be Motown entertainment by Martha (of the Vandellas). Additionally, "Elvis" will also be performing. The Silver Legacy Hotel is our final destination. A shuttle bus will take us from the train depot to-n-from the hotel. Room reservation is based on double occupancy. This is a two night, three day once-in-a-lifetime event. Thank committee members John Price, Del Kerns, James Norieiga, and Steve Chase for their input. All aboard!!

*PS Let Lee Moy know if you want to go.*

**"Din-o-SIR"** ... Single SIR guys are hungry men with appetites, too. Perhaps every quarter we would try a different cultural eatery, and not be restricted by the time of day. Our kick-off event would be a specially ordered dining experience at the Clovis Hunan restaurant. This "Asian soul food" meal is "off the hook" with many one-of-a-kind selections only seen during holidays. SIR couples are invited to join the food fun; with/out your wives is optional, also. Price includes: tax & tip, plus the variety of dishes.

**"Warrior Basketball"** ... Cheer, drink beer, and have a fantastic time celebrating with the NBA world champion fans. Be one of the four carpooling to see the Golden State Warriors take on the Portland Trail Blazers. Game is scheduled April 3, Sunday, 5pm. Only seats selling are in the upper level for \$170+

Three SIR members, Jim Vaughan, Larry Duba, Lee Moy and their wives attended the gala Shen Yen presentation. It was held at the Saroyan Theatre.



If you have a special event you wouldn't mind sharing with your fellow SIR members, then please submit it to Lee Moy for the Chanticleer publication. Let's start spreading the good news.



Lee Moy

Lee Moy

709-9851

[LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com](mailto:LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com)

**CHINESE NEW YEAR SPECIAL DINNER  
HUNAN RESTAURANT, CLOVIS & HERNDON**

**\$ 39 per person-paid in advance**

**FEBRUARY 9TH, 2016; 6:30 PM; TUESDAY**

**drink orders are extra**



**Chinese New Year  
2016**



**ALL ABOARD!**



**Fresno-Reno**

# **Sierra Scenic Train**

**March 8-10, 2016**

**\$ 395<sub>pp</sub>-3 days/2 nights**

**Silver Legacy Casino-Hotel**

## **SCHEDULE**

**6:30am**      **Depart Fresno  
downtown  
train terminal**

**10/11am**    **Arrive/Depart  
Martinez**

**6:15pm**     **Arrive Reno  
hotel shuttle**

**March 10-10am** **Depart Reno**

**3/4:30pm**     **Arrive/Depart  
Sacramento**

**8pm**            **Arrive Fresno**



**2 carry-on/overhead bin  
luggage; \$ 395 pp. includes:  
senior discount, resort fee**



**“Mystery” Lunch-going  
Chicken pasta-return  
B.Y.O.B.-cups & ice  
provided  
“Top Shelf”-on board  
entertainment**



Lee Moy-709-9851  
[LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com](mailto:LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com)

