



**S.I.R.**

**EL DORADO  
Branch 23**

**ANNUAL HISTORY**

**2015**

**Prepared by  
Bill Sutherland, Branch Historian  
January 13, 2016**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Branch meetings are held at Carmichael Elks Lodge, 5631 Cypress Avenue in Carmichael, California. Branch 23 meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The Executive Committee meets at 10:30AM and the general meeting begins at noon. At the monthly meetings, members sign up for golf tournaments to be held in the following weeks and for travel to sporting events, stage presentations and other recreational destinations. Most meetings also include a guest speaker, with their presentations covering a variety of subjects of interest to the members.

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2015

#### OFFICERS:

BIG SIR:	Dick Crippen	LITTLE SIR:	Greg Hood
SECRETARY:	Tam LeFebure	ASSISTANT:	Odell Landers
TREASURER:	Jim Coe	ASSISTANT:	Steve Brush

#### DIRECTORS:

Bob Yeager, PBS	Scott Kenney	Ray Barsch, PBS
John Mahoney	Tom Novi, PBS	David Peterson

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

ATTENDANCE:	Dave Nemzek	Assistant	Vacant
MEMBERSHIP:	Carroll Hamon	Assistant	Vacant
TRAVEL	Vacant		
SUNSHINE	Chris Christopherson		
AWARDS	Ray Barsch	Assistant	Odell Landers
EDITOR	Ray Zelinski	Assistant	Vacant
WEBMASTER	Carroll Hamon		
HISTORIAN	Bill Sutherland		
BOWLING	Frank Semans		
GOLF (18 HOLE)	Cass Mastalski	Tournament Director	Gary Bradley
GOLF (9 HOLE)	Russ Korhonen	Tournament Director	Russ Korhonen
HORSESHOES	Bob Nielson		
BOCCE BALL	David Peterson		

**MONTHLY PUBLICATION:** Our monthly publication, edited by SIR Ray Zelinski is called "The Nugget". It informs the members of news concerning: officers, meeting information, Big

SIR report, Little SIR scheduled speakers or program notes, membership status, bowling and golf information, sunshine report, and financial figures. The Nugget has been published by Al Williams, of Sir Branch 3, for the past few years. Illness and injuries have prevented Al from most of his work, and Ray has been publishing the Nuggets himself. Starting in the fall, Branch 23 member, Fritz Walgenbach, started assisting Ray in formatting the Nugget. Al Williams is hopefully going to publish the rosters for our branch in 2016

**MEMBERSHIP:** Chairman Sir Carroll Hamon reported that the ending 2015 membership included 151 active members, 15 inactive members, three Honorary Lifetime members, one Senior Honorary Lifetime member, and seven members with Emeritus status. We no longer maintain a membership waiting list. Changes to the membership roles for 2015 included 14 new members; ten members passed away during the year, including two who had previously resigned; ten members resigned or were removed from the membership roll; three members moved to the inactive roles, and one active and six inactive members were given the new Emeritus status of active membership.

New members were: (14)

Dick Hill (Feb)	Dennis Sharosch (Feb)	Bob Welsh (Feb)
Mark Jones (Mar)	Steve Vahle (Jun)	John Bloomer (Jul)
Phil Sittner (Aug)	John Boss (Sep)	Todd Gibson (Sep)
Jerry Wilson (Sep)	John Moist (Oct)	Steve Ng (Oct)
Kevin Wall (Oct)	Roger Riley (Nov)	

Deceased active or inactive members were: (8)

Darrell Fredrickson (1/3/15)	Wayne Parsell (1/4/15)	Lloyd Johnson (2/27/15)
Jim Otto (3/16/15)	Matt O'Gara (2/24/15)	Don Whitmer (5/11/15)
Gail Jesswein (12/18/15)	Dick Fuller (12/31/15)	

Deceased previously resigned members were: (2)

Gerry Cassidy (7/22/15)	Kiyo Hasegawa (9/23/15)
-------------------------	-------------------------

Members who resigned or were removed were: (10)

James Okimura (Apr-IA)	Reggie Gillespie (Apr-IA)	James Cutright (Apr-IA)
Dick Laursen (Apr)	Earl Amis (May-IA)	John Owens (May-IA)
Jim Gigoux (Jul)	Rick Rivera (Sep)	Doug Allen (Dec)
Jim Reifschneider (Dec)		

Members who moved to inactive status were: (3)

Bob Mellberg (Apr)	Marv Lauer (Apr)	Don Kehoe (Apr)
--------------------	------------------	-----------------

Active or inactive members given Emeritus Status ó all in November (7)

Frank Heggli	Frank Buttler (IA)	Don Kehoe (IA)
Edward Hodan (IA)	Bob Mellberg (IA)	Sam Osver (IA)
David Salminen (IA)		

**AWARDS:** SIR Ray Barsch coordinated the following awards during 2015.

**Senior Sir Awards ó 90 Years of Age:**

Gail Jesswein (Jun)                      Gus Johnson (Jun)                      Buzz Gooch (Aug)  
Ken Mork (Sep)

**Super Senior Awards ó 95 years of Age:**

Mike Catino (Feb)                      Sam Osver (Feb)

**Certificates of Appreciation:**

Ray Barsch: For his service as Big Sir in 2014. Presented by Vic Mershon, Area 9 Governor.

Paul Joyce and his wife, Mary: For their food preparation and organizing the picnic.

Frank Semans: Chairman of our Bowling Program.

Russ Korhonen: Chairman and Tournament Director of the 9-hole golf league.

Cass Mastalski: Chairman of the 18 hole golf league.

Gary Bradley: Tournament Director of the 18 hole golf league.

Fritz Walgenbach: Treasurer of the 18 hole golf league.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Treasurer Sir Jim Coe reported the following:

Funds Available	January 1, 2015	January 1, 2016
Checking Account	\$3077.48	\$2867.70
Savings Account	\$0.00	\$0.00
Petty Cash Account	\$400.00	\$400.00
Total Funds Available	\$3477.48	\$3267.70

It was decided by historian, Bill Sutherland, that it may be helpful in future discussions about our finances to have some historical perspective of the past. Therefore, a 15 year financial summary of Sir Branch 23 was accomplished and is included as an attachment to this history.

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Sir Dave Nemzek reported that the monthly meeting attendance averaged 62.7% during 2015. The most attended meeting was February, with 101 members attending, which was 69.2% of our total at that time. The least attended meeting was November, with 80 members, equal to 54.1%.

**SUNSHINE:** The Sunshine chairman, Sir Chris Christopherson, reported receiving numerous contacts regarding illnesses, hospitalizations, and the deaths of current and past members. Monthly reports were made in the "Nugget" and announced at monthly meetings. "GET WELL" cards were mailed to those that were ill and sympathy cards were mailed to the families of deceased members.

**TRAVEL:** As SIR Branch 23 did not have a travel chairman for 2015, we did not have organized luncheon presentations on the more traditional travel opportunities, such as bus tours

and cruises. However, as a result of the 2013 effort to increase activities for the branch, the Board has been coordinating specific travel activities for our members and families. Examples include Greg Hood's efforts to arrange group attendance at Giants and Kings games, and the tour of the underground areas of downtown Sacramento. These type activities will likely continue, such as the tour of Beale AFB that was conducted in 2015.

**SPEAKERS:** Little Sir Greg Hood invited a variety of speakers and performers for the monthly meetings. The speakers and others are as follows:

January	Tom Ryan	National Park Service Ranger, Alcatraz Island
February	Teri Bennett, Bobby Mann, and Amanda Banks	Pawisitive Impact and the Front St and Bradshaw Animal Shelters. Rescue Dog Programs and other dog related programs. Included several dogs.
March	Mike Osborn, and Andrea Rodriguez	River Cats Public Relations ó River Cats history and activities
April	Donn Miller	Docent ó California State Railroad Museum. Museum history and activities
May	Dan Flynn	Director - UC Davis Olive Center. History of the Olive Center and discussion of olive oil production and olive oil varieties. Included taste sampling.
June	Doug Bonetti	Sacramento State University teacher in the Renaissance Society. Discussion of American Civil War.
July	Peter Tateishi	CEO ó Sacramento Metro Chamber. Discussed economic development and recovery in Sac region.
August	Crystal Rowland, Patti Lutz, and Bill	County "Stop Stigma" Program ó Issues related to public perceptions about mental illness.
September	Robert Pinkerton	Board member ó Sacramento Loaves and Fishes. History of Loaves and Fishes, and the many related activities.
October	William Petite	Civic Leader and Historian. Historical talk on the 1950s, entitled, "Those were the Days"
November	Dr. Bob Welti	Scientist and author. Scientific presentation on orbiting satellites.

**BOWLING:** The SIR Bowling League had 28 teams divided into 4 Divisions with 4 men on each team for a total of 112 bowlers.

Branch 23 had 16 bowlers on 7 teams:

Alley Oops:	Carroll Hamon, Bill Costa
Dream Team:	Arlis Coy, Roger Neighbors, Bob Nielsen
F.O.F.:	Horace Conrad, Darrell Schneider, Ray Barsch, Ray Zelinski

Groovers:	Joe Rodriguez, Frank Semans, Marwan Siagian, Joe Davis
The Old Farts	Fritz Walgenbach
Strikers:	David Naquin
Bottom Feeders	Ed Campini

The Bottom Feeders finished 2nd in Division 4

The Groovers finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 1

The FOF finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 4

The following Branch 23 members bowled 200+ games over the 30 week season:

<b>Name</b>	<b>number of 200+</b>
Semans, Frank	11
Davis, Joe	9
Rodriguez, Joe	8
Siagian, Marwan	5
Walgenbach, Fritz	3
Conrad, Horace	3
Coy, Arlis	3
Nielsen, Bob	1
Neighbors, Roger	1

SIR League Team Awards

Dream Team	: High Handicap Series (2874) in Division 2
The Old Farts	: High Scratch Game (663) in Division 4

SIR League Individual Awards: none

The SIR Bowling League is open to all SIR members 55 or older and is always looking for new bowlers. We bowl once a week at Country Club Lanes from September to April.

The 2015 season began Tuesday, September 1, 2015. If any SIR Branch 23 Member is interested in bowling contact Frank Semans (944-2313) or the League Secretary, Joe Dahilig (369-1933).

Frank Semans ó Chairman 2014/ 2015

## **GOLF:**

**General:** Our branch participates with two separate groups; an 18-hole and a 9-hole group. All members are allowed to play in either or both groups. Tournaments are scheduled so as to reduce conflict of tournament dates. The tournament at Wild Wings was combined for both leagues.

**9-Hole League:** The chairman is Russ Korhonen, who is also the tournament director and statistician. The 9-hole league is made possible by the assistance of Wayne Hippenstiel, treasurer, George Hood, assistant tournament director and scheduler, and Bill Sutherland, handicapper. Also, Gary Bradley assisted Russ Korhonen by publishing the 9-hole information on the 18-hole league website. There were 18 scheduled tournaments, with no rainouts. One tournament was cancelled due to very high temperatures. The 9- holerø awards luncheon was combined with the 18-hole leagueø luncheon at the Cattlemenø in Rancho Cordova, on Dec 4,

2015. The top ten point winners and the flight winners for each tournament are shown in the following tables. During the year, 60 members participated in the 9-hole golf league.

9 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2015						
Top Ten Point Winners			Club Championship Flight Winners			
Position	Name	Points	Flights	Name	Aggregate Score (best 2 of 3)	
1	Steve Schmidt	58	First	John Mahoney	-7	
2	Dallas Pennington	45		Steve Schmidt	-6	
3	Marwan Siagian	44		Marwan Siagian	Even	
4	Howard Frank	40	Second	Mike Catino	-8	
5	Russ Korhonen	37		Chris Christopherson	-3	
6	John Mahoney	34		Cass Mastalski	1	
T7	Scott Kenney	33	Third	Greg Hood	-9	
T7	David Leatherby	33		Carroll Hamon	-2	
T7	Gordon Routsong	33		Russ Korhonen	-2	
10	Cass Mastalski	32	<b>8 Man Playoff</b>			
			First	Steve Schmidt		
			Second	Marwan Siagian		

SIR BRANCH 23 - 9 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2015								
TOURNAMENT FLIGHT WINNERS								
Tourn Nr	Date	Course	1st Flight	2nd Flight	3rd Flight	4th Flight	Number of Players	
1	2/13	Arcade Creek - Red	Gary Bradley	Scott Kenney	Russ Korhonen		30	
2	3/9	Emerald Lakes	Frank Abel	Scott Kenney	Ray Zelinski		30	
3	3/16	Arcade Creek - Blue	David Leatherby	Scott Kenney	Roger Neighbours		22	
4	3/23	Davis	Frank Abel	Mike Catino	Ray Zelinski		26	
5	4/9	Land Park	David Leatherby	George Hood	Gordon Routsong		31	
6	4/20	Cordova	Steve Schmidt	Wayne Morehead			20	
7	5/11	Arcade Creek - Red	David Leatherby	Mike Catino	Carroll Hamon		29	
8	5/27	Wild Wings	Neil Fairhurst	Steve Schmidt	Scott Kenney	Roger Neighbours	36	
9	6/11	Arcade Creek - Blue	John Mahoney	Scott Kenney	Russ Korhonen		23	
10	6/22	Emerald Lakes	Marwan Siagian	Sam Scarlett	Howard Frank		21	
11	7/7	Land Park	Frank Semans	Dallas Pennington	Carroll Hamon		21	
12	7/20	Emerald Lakes	Steve Schmidt	Mike Catino	Greg Hood		24	
13	8/11	Emerald Lakes	Frank Abel	Chris Christopherson	Wayne Morehead		22	
14	8/25	Land Park	John Mahoney	Chris Christopherson	Greg Hood		24	
15	9/7	Arcade Creek - Red	Marwan Siagian	Gordon Routsong			19	
16	9/11	Davis	Cancelled due to high temperatures					
17	10/5	Arcade Creek - Red	Steve Schmidt	David Bailey			16	
18	10/19	Cordova	Frank Semans	David Bailey			19	

**18-Hole League:** The chairman is Cass Mastalski and the tournament director is Gary Bradley. They were assisted by Fritz Walgenbach, treasurer, Paul Domyancic, statistician, Scott Kenney, starter, and Bill Sutherland, handicapper. Additionally, Neil Fairhurst, Joe Rodriguez, and Tam LeFebure served as assistant tournament chairman, and Stan Holmes provided backup for the handicapping. There were 32 scheduled tournaments; one was rescheduled due to weather. One event was cancelled, Rocklin, and replaced by adding an event at Del Paso Country Club. The events at Del Paso and Granite Bay were not included in the points competition. The 18-holers awards luncheon was held at the Cattlemen's Restaurant in Rancho Cordova, on Dec 4, 2015. The top ten point winners and the flight winners for each tournament are shown in the following tables. During the year, 75 members participated in the 18-hole golf league.

18 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2015						
Top Ten Point Winners			Club Championship Flight Winners			
Position	Name	Points	Flights	Name	Aggregate Score (best 2 of 3)	
1	Neil Fairhurst	111	First	Neil Fairhurst	-23	
2	Tam LeFebure	104		Steve Schmidt	-16	
3	Scott Kenney	92		Marwan Siagian	-12	
4	David Page	91	Second	Jim DeLong	-10	
5	Mike Catino	90		Paul Elkins	-8	
6	Tom Novi	88		Tam LeFebure	-7	
7	Howard Frank	86	Third	Bob Stakolich	-13	
8	Frank Abel	79		Paul Askelson	-9	
T9	Don Landsittel	79		Mike Catino	-9	
T9	Bob Stakolich	78	Fourth	Odell Landers	-12	
				Wayne Morehead	-10	
				Gordon Routsong	1	

Big Sir Championship: Frank Semans, -15
---

SIR BRANCH 23 - 18 HOLE GOLF LEAGUE - 2015								
TOURNAMENT FLIGHT WINNERS								
Tourn. Nr	Date	Course	1st Flight	2nd Flight	3rd Flight	4th Flight	Number of Players	
1	2/4	Bartley Cavanaugh (Big Sir 1)	Joe Rodriguez	Tom Novi	Bob Stakolich	Jim Siegfried	51	
2	2/9	MacKenzie	<b>Rainout - Rescheduled to Aug 26</b>					
3	2/18	Bing Maloney (Big Sir 2)	Bill Espinosa	Phil Fotopoulos	Richard Harr	David Peterson	51	
4	2/25	Ancil Hoffman (Dual Tees)	Bob Ahders	Ray Zelinski	David Leatherby	Odell Landers	48	
5	3/4	Wildhawk (Dual Tees)	Jim Monteverde	Paul Elkins	David Leatherby	Scott Kenney	47	
6	3/18	Teal Bend (Big Sir 3)	Gary Bradley	Frank Semans	General Davie	Birge Clark	51	
7	3/25	Mather (Dual Tees)	Neil Fairhurst	Scott Kenney	Mike Catino	Jim Siegfried	44	
8	4/1	Lincoln Hills (Dual Tees)	Neil Fairhurst	Steve Schmidt	Jim Heavner	Gordon Routsong	43	
9	4/15	River Oaks (Shamble)	David Page / Jim Heavner / Scott Kenney / Fred Lythgoe					35
10	4/22	Diamond Oaks (Champ 1)	Mark Jones	Tam LeFebure	Bob Stakolich	Wayne Morehead	43	
11	4/27	Davis (Dual Tees)	Neil Fairhurst	Scott Kenney	George Hood	Wayne Morehead	31	
12	5/6	Mather (Dual Tees)	Tam LeFebure	David Nemzek	Tom Novi	Birge Clark	45	
13	5/20	Dry Creek (Dual Tees)	Rich Battistessa	David Leatherby	Paul Askelson	Gordon Routsong	38	
14	5/27	Wild Wings (9-hole combined)	Neil Fairhurst	Bill Espinosa	David Nemzek	Wayne Morehead	37	
15	6/3	Wildhawk (Best Ball)	Bob Ahders / Joe Rodriguez		Bob Yeager / Gordon Routsong		47	
16	6/8	Empire Ranch (Dual Tees)	John Mahoney	David Peterson	Tom Bogetich		32	
17	6/17	Bartley Cavanaugh (Dual Tees)	Joe Rodriguez	George Dunham	Dallas Pennington	Gordon Routsong	40	
18	6/24	Bing Maloney (Dual Tees)	David Page	David Peterson	George Dunham		37	
19	7/1	MacKenzie (Dual Tees)	Bill Sutherland	George Yamamoto	Mike Catino		35	
20	7/15	Davis (Dual Tees)	Joe Rodriguez	Scott Kenney	Phil Fotopoulos	Dallas Pennington	39	
21	7/22	Wildhawk (Champ 2)	Bill Sutherland	Tom Novi	General Davie	David Peterson	40	
22	7/29	Teal Bend (Dual Tees)	Neil Fairhurst	Tom Novi	Carroll Hamon		38	
23	8/5	Diamond Oaks (Cha-Cha-Cha)	Tam LeFebure / Tom Novi / Mike Catino / Gordon Routsong					40
24	8/19	Mather (Dual Tees)	John Mahoney	David Nemzek	General Davie	Dallas Pennington	39	
2A	8/26	MacKenzie (Dual Tees)	John Mahoney	Marwan Siagian	Marvin Del Torchio	Howard Frank	42	
25	9/2	Morgan Creek (Shamble)	David Page / Tam LeFebure / Marvin Del Torchio / Howard Frank					35
26	9/16	Dry Creek (Dual Tees)	David Page	Rich Battistessa	Odell Landers	Carroll Hamon	39	
27	9/23	Rocklin	<b>Cancelled - Course Closed. Replaced by Del Paso, 9/24</b>					
27A	9/24	Del Paso (Dual Tees)	David Page	Rich Battistessa	Linda DeLong		37 + 9	
28	9/30	MacKenzie (Champ 3)	Bill Espinosa	Tam LeFebure	Paul Askelson	Bob Stakolich	36	
29	10/7	Bing Maloney (Champ 4)	Neil Fairhurst	Paul Elkins	Cass Mastalski	Odell Landers	39	
30	10/21	Ancil Hoffman (Dual Tees)	George Zarzana	Tam LeFebure	Bob Stakolich	Howard Frank	45	
31	10/28	Bartley Cavanaugh (Champ 5)	Neil Fairhurst	Jim Monteverde	Jim DeLong	Odell Landers	43	
32	11/23	Granite Bay (Dual Tees)	Neil Fairhurst	Frank Semans	Phil Fotopoulos	Phil Sittner	28 + 6	

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:** Starting in 2013, the Branch Executive Committee has directed specific efforts to increase the activities that can be made available to the members. These efforts resulted in the following activities in 2015.



**Special Events:** Little Sir, Greg Hood was the primary organizer for the following activities:

**Beale AFB Tour:** On April 24, 27 members, relatives, and friends were given a tour of Beale AFB. The tour, which lasted 6 hours, included learning about the base missions and observing various aircraft, including the U-2, T-38 and SR-71. Beale has the remains of a WWII German POW camp, and has a highly classified NORAD facility. The tour was considered very worthwhile.

**Giants Game:** On May 21, a total of 54 SIR members and guests took a bus trip to the Giants game in San Francisco against the Los Angeles Dodgers. This is the third year that we have had this opportunity, and it has been very well attended. There are issues of traffic and parking delays that will probably not be solvable by the bus company or the Giants organization, but future trips to the Giants are likely.

**Kings Game:** Kings tickets were purchased for a game on March 22. Although the tickets were all sold, we are not making a commitment to continue this activity in the future, primarily because the Kings organization is very difficult to deal with in making the reservations. Later in the year, Greg was contacted by a previous Kings sales representative that had been cooperative, but no reservations have been made for the 2016 season.

**River Cats Game:** A Rivercats game against the Reno Aces was attended on June 18 by about 20 members. The tickets were a bit difficult to sell, and the future of this event is uncertain.

**Dante Club Events:** Primarily through Branch 23 member, Rich Battistessa, a member of the Dante Club board, we were given an opportunity to attend four Dante Club events that are available to the public. These included a crab feed in March, a wine tasting in May, a golf tournament in August, and a scholarship fundraising dinner in November

**Annual Picnic:** The picnic at Carmichael Park was held on May 5 for the fourth year, with a very good turnout. Again, the food and cooking were all handled by Paul Joyce and his wife, Mary. In addition to the excellent food, Joe Rodriguez conducted a golf chipping contest, and Tom Novi ran a spirited bingo game. Everyone had a great time.

**Horseshoes:** Our horseshoe competitions are continuing at the Elks Club after the normal luncheon, but were only held four times due to weather problems. The activity is also suffering from a lack of participants, but is very spirited and competitive. Improved participation in the future is hopeful.

**Pinochle and Bridge:** These two activities, scheduled for after the lunches, have seldom had sufficient participation to conduct the games. It is doubtful that the lunch efforts will continue; however, several Branch 23 members participate in an ongoing multi-Branch, monthly bridge game that is accepting additional players.

**Book Exchange:** This program is continuing in its third year, and is very popular. However, it has resulted in the issue of more books being brought in than taken out, which

makes it very difficult for the branch personnel to handle the storage and display of the books. Discussions have occurred during the BEC meetings to donate some of the books to charity to ease the volume problem. Fred Lythgoe has volunteered to administer the book exchange, and it is hopeful that it can continue successfully for the future.

**Bocce Ball:** David Peterson made significant effort in 2015 to create a Bocce Ball program for the branch. This effort included both finding a place to play and motivating branch members to try a game that few are familiar with. In February, the BEC approved Bocce Ball as an official branch activity. David centered his original search for a location on the American Croatian Club on Auburn Blvd. In June, it was decided that the Croatian Club would not be suitable, and it was decided to try the court at the Elks Lodge. Our first orientation to the sport came after the July lunch, where about 10 members gave it a try. Since that time, the efforts to continue have not been successful due to few participants, weather, and the poor quality of the Elks Club court. However, there is still substantial interest, and David is planning a 2016 work day effort to overhaul the Elks Club court to bring it up to a more acceptable condition. It is hopeful that Bocce Ball will eventually become a routine activity for the branch.

**Big Sir Photo Contest:** Big Sir Dick Crippen initiated and hosted a branch photo contest in September. The entries were on display in October and the awards were announced in November. Awards were given in three categories, Portrait, Architecture, and Nature, and the following people received awards: Karen Fairhurst, Neil's wife, Paul Domyancic, Jim and Ethel Coe, and Joe Sandhu. They were all given gift certificates donated by Leatherby's Ice Cream.

**Fishing:** In the early years of the branch, we had a standing Hunting and Fishing program that ceased to function many years ago. In the 2013 activities survey, about 15% of the members indicated an interest in fishing, but there has been no effort to create a program within the branch. Activities Co-chairman, Bob Yeager did identify two fishing groups associated with other Sir branches and their contacts and meeting schedules. The groups were named the Jolly Hookers and the Wheels and Reels.

**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:** The following discussion highlights some of the significant events in 2015 for SIR Branch 23.

#### **Status of Moving to a New Luncheon Location:**

The Branch Executive Committee has had an open action item since 2011 to possibly relocate our monthly luncheons to a different site. This was primarily related to issues at the Elks Club that were not to our benefit. The final conclusion of the BEC in 2011 was that only the Eskaton facility offered an alternative that was acceptable. The Dante Club was considered acceptable to most aspects except for the location, which was considered a risk for member retention. The decision on Eskaton was tabled pending remodeling of the facility that prevented our relocation in 2012. Since then, major changes both in the facility and in the lunch services that they could provide resulted in a decision in 2015 to close the issue of moving to Eskaton. It is relevant to add that the situation at Elks Club has improved, and that we learned that Branch 33, which had moved to Eskaton in April 2014, moved back to the Elks Club in November, 2015. This issue is considered closed.

**Membership:** We were notified in October by Membership Chairman, Carroll Hamon, that the State Sir has created a new membership category, Emeritus Status. Described under Rule 55 of the Sir Manual, this status can be awarded to members who cannot consistently attend monthly meetings for reasons of health, care-giving, or being unable to drive, subject to certain age and length of membership limits. This membership status is considered a significant benefit to our members in allowing a more reasonable and dignified method of closing out their active membership, and gives them the opportunity to stay connected to friends and an organization that has been so important to them. In October, a special membership committee identified 69 members, both active and inactive, who meet the age and length of membership limits. Letters were sent to 21 members who were considered possible candidates, and seven members requested the transfer. They were inducted as Emeritus members in November, 2015.

**Branch Finances:** It was noted this year that it has been permissible for at least the last few years that membership dues can be used to raise funds to cover our expenses. In the past, only voluntary donations were allowed, including specifying a certain amount. Although, we did increase our requested donation in 2014 to \$25 from the \$20 amount that we had requested for over the last 10 years, it was decided that our donation program is working well. At least for now, there are no plans to impose a dues system on the membership.

**Activities Committee:** In January, the BEC established a new committee, Activities, to coordinate surveys and other initial efforts to add more activities for the membership to participate in. This was a follow on to the 2013 survey that has resulted in several new activities, some of which are now routinely being conducted within the branch. This new committee was co-chaired by David Anderson and Bob Yeager.

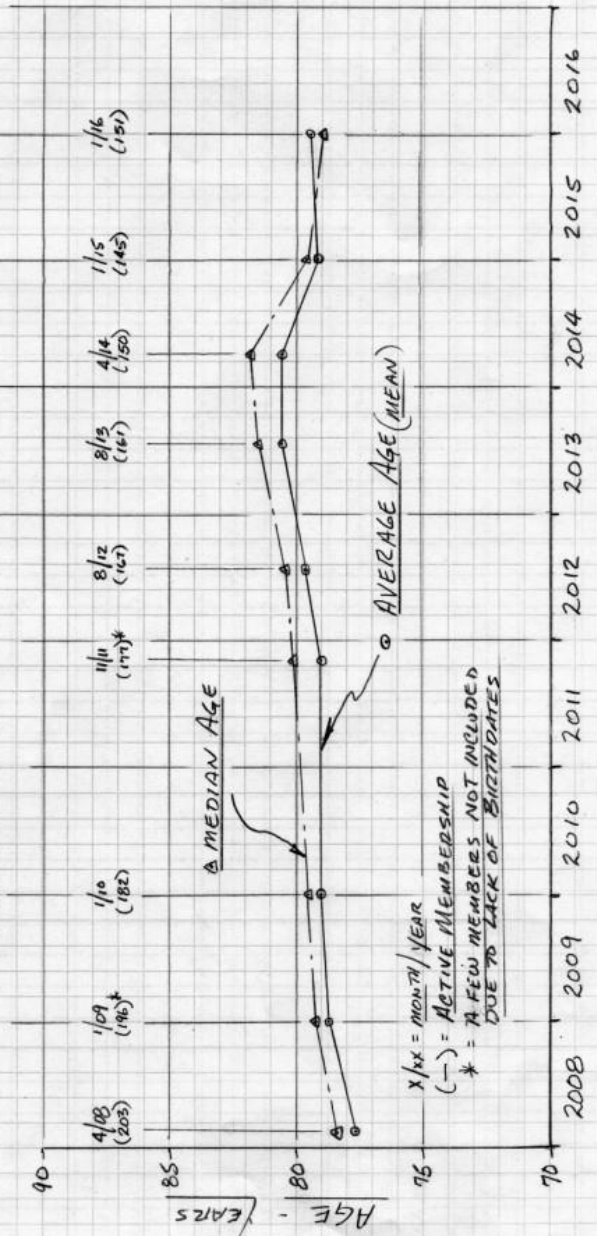
**Operations Committee:** In September, the BEC approved the establishment of an Operations Committee, based on a similar effort in Branch 33, aimed at getting the non-BEC members more involved in the luncheon process and potentially other activities. The committee is still in its formative stage at the end of the year. One new function that started in the summer of 2015, the Greeter Program, is a good example of the kinds of things the committee could coordinate. Director and Recruiting coordinator, Tom Novi, initiated a Greeter Program to have one or two members greet the other members as they enter the hall for lunch. Although it has had fits and starts getting going, in the fall it seemed to be going well and seemed to create a friendly, positive feel for the lunch. It will hopefully continue in the future.

**SIR Banner:** In February, the branch received its large display banner that was approved in November, 2014. It cost \$119, is made of vinyl, and can be displayed at all or our functions. It adds a nice sophisticated touch to our meetings.

**Branch Age Summary:** In the past, our Big Sirs have been requested to provide branch age information to the State Sir. The assessments have been based on a general review of our members' ages, and it was decided that we should accomplish a more detailed analysis, which would hopefully include some previous history data for comparison with our existing status. The analysis is documented in the following chart. It shows a history of the average and mean ages from 2008 thru 2015. It will be updated annually in the future branch histories.

# AVERAGE AGE SUMMARY

## SIR BRANCH 23



X / XX = MONTH / YEAR  
 (—) = ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP  
 \* = A FEW MEMBERS NOT INCLUDED DUE TO LACK OF BIRTH DATES

BJS / BRANCH 23 HISTORIAN / 16 FEB 2016

Bill Sutherland  
 SIR Branch 23 Historian

### Attachment 1: Financial Summary, Sir Branch 23, 2001 – 2016

The following chart was prepared with the intent of providing a historical reference for discussion about the branch finances. It summarizes the history by showing only the funds available at the start of each year, and a start at 2001 was selected as it was the last year that the branch was funded by a monthly donation. The chart identifies the time when income and cost issues occurred that had a significant impact on the finances.

