



TRAVEL BULLETIN

December 2011

Chairman/Assistant Br.35: Ed Pausa/Walter Weber

COORDINATED TRAVEL COMMITTEE

AREAS 5 & 20

TRAVEL COORDINATOR

Allen Daily (408) 265-8140

➔➔➔➔ **PLEASE READ!** ➔➔➔➔

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS - FIRST Contact the Tour Escort!, then send him your check made payable to the listed travel agency. Make sure your phone number, address and branch number are on the check. Reservations are on a first paid, first served basis. Your reservation is firm only when the Tour Escort has received your Payment.

BROCHURES - Brochures are available for most trips ask your Branch Travel Chairman for a copy.

REFUNDS - Refunds are made as outlined in the brochures.

RESPONSIBILITY - All travel events and other activities arranged for and by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its Branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of participants or passengers, or their property, in any manner pertaining to said travel or other activities.

YOUR TRIP NOT IN THE BULLETIN? - Trips that are full or are not available for sign up are not included in the Bulletin.

HANDICAPPED? Notify Tour Escort, before signing up, so suitable arrangements can be made.

DEPARTURE - Unless otherwise specified, trips depart from the South Light Rail Parking Lot G, located at Highway 87 and Capitol Expressway in San Jose. Check Brochure for your trip!

BULLETIN If you would like to receive your Bulletin via email, email your request to robert_marcy@sbcglobal.net from the email address that you want your Bulletin delivered to. You will get your copy of the Bulletin monthly as opposed to the bimonthly mailed copy! If you are not interested in travel get your name taken off our mailing list by contacting Bob Shields at (408) 268-4975, email rwshields@Comcast.net, or your branch Travel Chairman.

Vol. 30, No. 12 December 2011

This Travel Bulletin is published by the Sons In Retirement Coordinated Travel Committee, representing Area #5 (Branches 39, 54, 74, 94 125, and 141) and Area #20 (Branches 21, 32, 38, 62, 114 and 153). It is mailed without charge to each interested SIR in these Areas.

*****NEW TRIPS*****

Mar. 22-26, 2012 ☐ Giants Spring Training☐

(Br 62) Escorts: Jim Hohenshelt 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan 408-735-8765. Fly San Jose to Phoenix for 3 Giants Spring Training games. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Express (Old Town Scottsdale), a few blocks from the Scottsdale Stadium. Trip includes home pick up/return, air fare, and airport transfers, accommodations, all breakfasts, 1 dinner, admission to 3 games, and free time between games. Cost is \$1295 (dbl) and \$1745 (sgl). Call Jim if you have questions.

Apr.12-19, 2012 ☐ Southern Culture ☐

Branch 39 Escorts Neil Jameson (831) 336-2476 and Wayne Dawson (408) 972-1054. Board the elegant authentic Paddlewheeler **American Queen** Cruise roundtrip New Orleans including a FREE pre-night in New Orleans. Wine with all Dinners and FREE Shore Tours! Ports of call: Oak Alley, St. Francisville, Natchez, Vicksburg & Houmas

House. Prices from \$2825 to \$4060 if all deposits are in by December 31, 2011. PLUS an optional 2-night post-stay in New Orleans including city tour, New Orleans School of Cooking and free time! \$415 Double & \$640 Single Call Neil Jameson 831-336-2476 jamesons@pacbell.net or Wayne Dawson 408 972-1054

April 20, 2012 ☐ Golden Gate Fields☐

(Br 62) Escorts: Jim Hohenshelt 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan 408-735-8765. SIR is hosting another race day at Golden Gate Fields. Transportation to the track is not included but price does include admission to the Turf Club, buffet lunch, daily program, valet parking, and the best in thoroughbred horse racing. Cost is expected to approximately \$30..

Apr.23-28, 2012☐Southern California & Catalina☐

(Br.74) Escorts: Allen Daily (408) 265-8140 & Don House (408) 268-1703. Take AMTRAK from San Jose to Santa Barbara for an overnite. Deluxe coach to Reagan Library and on to the Pechanga Resort in Temecula for two nights. Take a narrated tram ride thru the 50 acre flower fields in Carlsbad, and visit the Birch Aquarium. Cruise to Catalina for 2 nights and scenic island touring. Enjoy "Romeo and Juliet" during an overnight in Santa Maria. Stop for wine tasting in Paso Robles while enroute home.

Brochure with price and deposit info is now available at your Branch Travel Table, or call. Allen or Don.

May 19-24, 2012 ☐Seattle/San Juan Islands☐

(Br 62) Escorts: Jim Hohenshelt 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan 408-735-8765. We meet at San Jose Airport and fly to Seattle for 3 nights with tours of the Boeing Aircraft factory, Underground Seattle, Pioneer Square, and the opportunity to visit Pike Place Market and Seattle Center and Space Needle. We finish at the Crab Pot Restaurant for a Pacific Clambake Dinner. Then it's on to Friday Harbor for 3 days (2 nights) of scenic cruising, sightseeing, and whale watching. We close with a farewell dinner in Friday Harbor. Cost of \$2195 pp includes air fare, airport transfers, accommodations, and a free day in Seattle, all breakfasts, 2 dinners, and the opportunity to see the whales up close. Call Jim or Roy if you have questions.

Sept. 1 - 14, 2012 ☐Paris, Rhone River, and Provence☐

(Br 62) Escorts: Jim Hohenshelt 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan 408-735-8765. After our SFO to Marseille (France) flight, we take a motor coach to Arles where we board the UniWorld 5 star rated cruise ship, the "River Royale". The next 8 days (7 nights) we cruise the Rhone and Saone Rivers, with stops and day tours in Avignon, Viviers, Tournon, Lyon, and Chalon sur Saone. After disembarkation at Chalon sur Saone, we board the TGV (Bullet Train) to Paris. We have 5 nights in Paris at a luxury hotel near the Eiffel Tower. Our first 2 post cruise days will include a full day guided tour of Versailles followed by a full day guided tour of Paris (highlighted by the Louvre, the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe, the Opera, the Madeleine, the Champ Elsysees, and the Eiffel Tower). Our last 2 full days in Paris are open, but with a bus and guide at our disposal. We (inputs encouraged) will decide which attractions we will visit (or revisit) those last 2 days. The cost is approximately \$7248 to \$7517 pp depending on the cabin category, including air fare, transfers, accommodations, taxes, cruise meals, land breakfasts, the Versailles Tour, and the Paris City Tour. The Paris extension can be deleted for a saving of \$1100. For questions or a brochure, call Jim or Roy.

Sept.18-23,2012 ☐Autumn Sierra Adventure☐

(BR.74) Escorts: Don House, 268-1703. Allen Daily, 265-8140 Travel by deluxe coach to Yosemite for 3 nites at Yosemite Lodge. Lunch at Tenaya Lodge and several view stops and touring in the park. Breakfast daily plus lunch at the Ahwahnee. and the Wawona Hotel. Drive over scenic Tioga Pass for spectacular touring of Mono Lake, Bodie, Mammoth Lakes, etc with two nites accommodations at Mammoth Creek Inn. Four hosted dinners including one at The Ironstone Winery with fine Tasting and organ music during the trip home. Look for the brochure at your Branch Travel Table or call Allen or Don for details.

*******OVER NIGHT AND LONGER TRIPS*******

December 30, 2011- January 2, 2012 ☐New Year's in Monterey☐ (Br #21) Escorts: Dick Kohl (408) 268 0428 and Bill Kurtz (408) 268 8830. This fun filled trip will be one you will remember with fondness for a long time. We will be taken by motor coach to the Monterey Embassy Suites Hotel and be staying there for the whole New Year's weekend celebration. The Joe Sharino Band will be providing the music at the New Year's Eve extravaganza. Included in this trip are a visit to the aquarium, the Monterey Movie Tour, lunch at Pebble Beach's Tap Room, the Steinbeck Center, a live performance at the Golden Bough Theatre and much more. The cost of this trip is only \$1103 per person double occupancy.

Jan. 10-12, 2012 ☐15th annual Reno Amtrak☐

(Br. 39) Tour escort Neil Jameson (831) 336-2476 and Wayne Dawson (408) 972-1054. A great gambler and sightseeing trip. Leave from VTA/Hwy 87 and or The Villages. Board Amtrak in Emeryville for a leisurely trip through the snow-covered Sierra Nevada, arriving at the Silver Legacy in Reno. Day 2 morning is free. Depart at 2 p.m. for a visit to the Scheels Sports Shop located in Legends Mall in Sparks offering something for everyone. Then enjoy a surprise group dinner before returning to the Silver Legacy. Return on Day 3 After a hosted breakfast and late morning departure, stop at the Black Oak Restaurant for a no-host meal stop. Return home approximately 6:00 pm. by bus with a lunch stop in Vacaville. Brochure available. Price \$340 dbl/\$380 single. Make check payable to Talbot Tours Trust Acct. and send to Neil Jameson, 390 Hallson Lane, Ben Lomond, CA 95005-9411. Email jamesons@pacbell.net

Feb. 14-16, 2012 ☐ Valentine's Day in Pismo Beach☐

Branch 21 Escorts: Bill Kurtz (268-8830) and Dick Kohl (268-0428). Join us on Valentine Day for a 3 day Central Coast Caper. Enjoy great wine tasting, delicious meals, spectacular ocean vistas, and much more on this relaxing trip to Pismo Beach. We leave from San Jose with a stop at the Paso Robles Inn for a hosted lunch, some wine tasting at the Eberle Winery, and then on to Pismo. We will be staying at the Shore Cliff Hotel on the ocean's edge and eat at 2 of Pismo's best restaurants -Giuseppe's and McClintock's. Our stay will include a trip to the Eden Valley Winery and Claiborne and Churchill Winery, two interesting wineries in the Eden Valley. In the evening of the second day we will enjoy a show at the Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville. After breakfast on the 3rd day we will stop to see the Monarch Butterflies who seek refuge in Pismo each winter. On the way home, we will stop in San Juan Bautista for a hosted Mexican lunch at Jardines. The cost of the trip is \$595. Send application and check payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account and mail to Bill Kurtz , 1115 Olive Branch Ln., San Jose CA, 95120

Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2012 ☐ The Wonders of Costa Rica ☐

(Br. 32) Escorts, Mike Console (408) 246-1080, and John Pletsch, (408) 274-2992. Experience the lush forests, magnificent waterfalls, rumbling volcanoes, endless coastlines and diverse ecosystems in a place that preserves

its delicate ecology for all to enjoy along with some of the most spectacular scenery you will ever experience. Tour includes: Round trip Air, 18 meals, Motor Coach, Hotels, Professional Naturalist Tour Director, all Admissions per itinerary, all tips for scheduled Meals, Tour Guides, Tour Director, and Drivers are also included. Pick up a brochure for complete details of itinerary. **Cost: \$ 2579** dbl occ. \$3179 single. A deposit of **\$500 per person** is required to secure reservations. An Optional Cancellation Insurance is available at \$195 per person and is payable with your deposit. Make Checks payable to: Premier World Discovery Mail Checks to Mike Console 3527 Parkland Ave. San Jose, Ca. 95117

Mar 19 - Apr 3, 2012 □Hawaiian Islands Cruise□

Roundtrip from San Francisco aboard the Star Princess (Br 141) Escorts, Brian Serpa (408) 227-7658 & Rollo Parsons (408) 268-5245 NO FLIGHTS.....This 16-day cruise starts and ends in San Francisco. Cruise through the Golden Gate on your way to and from sunny Hawaii. We stop at 5 ports of call: Hilo (Hawaii) Honolulu (Oahu), Nawiliwili (Kauai), Lahaina (Maui), Ensenada (Mexico). Special features include Home Pickup to and from San Francisco pier, 1 bottle of wine per stateroom, port taxes, taxes on included items, and porter tips for 1 suitcase per person. Prices range from \$2140 to \$3090 depending on stateroom category. Deposits range from \$381 w/o insurance to \$563 w/o insurance. (Ask about reduced-deposit promotions from Princess Cruises.) Brochures available. Deposits payable to Talbot Tours Trust Account Send deposit and registration to: Brian Serpa, 6091 Pietz Ct, San Jose, 95123

Mar 22-26, 2012 □Giants Spring Training □

(Br 62) Escort: Jim Hohenshelt. Fly San Jose to Phoenix for 3 Giants Spring Training games. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Express in Old Town Scottsdale, which is only a few blocks from the Scottsdale Stadium. Trip includes home pick up/return, air fare, airport transfers, accommodations, all breakfasts, and 1 dinner, with free time in Scottsdale between games. Cost is \$1295 (dbl) and \$1745 (sgl). Call Jim Hohenshelt 408-241-4421 or 408-394-7226 if you have questions or want to sign up.

Apr. 9-26, 2012 □ Hong Kong to Tibet Via The World's Highest Railway □ Once-in-a-lifetime adventure to see Tibet before complete modernization.

(Br. 39) Escort: Neil Jameson (831-336-2476 email jamesons@pacbell.net and Wayne Dawson (408) 972-1054. Visit Hong Kong, Shanghai, and take the Yangtze River cruise. From Chongqing fly to Lhasa, Tibet for 3 unbelievable full days, return to Xi'ning via the luxury Tibet Express Train (Power Point Presentation available – email me) and return via Beijing. Incredible side trips included. 16 nights/41 meals. All the usual costs included in \$5191 double/\$6291 single price. Brochure now available. Presentation TBA.

Apr. 11-16, 2012 □National Cherry Blossom Festival□

(BR 32). Escorts: John Pletsch (408) 274-2992 and Mike Console (408) 246-1080. Celebrate the beauty of spring in

Washington DC as the nation celebrates the festival's **100th anniversary**. Tour includes reserved seating at the Cherry Blossom parade, tram tour of Arlington, many National Memorials, visit to the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Institution's Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center displaying over 335 aircraft including the Space Shuttle Enterprise and the Enola Gay, Mt Vernon, the Newseum and Potomac River Cruise. **Included is home pick up**. Price is \$2170 per [person dbl occ (single \$2470). Deposit is \$424 with insurance or \$250 w/o insurance, payable to Talbot Tours Trust Acct. Mail to John Pletsch, 2697 Suisun Ave, San Jose, CA 95121

May, 2012 □Seattle/San Juan Islands□

(6 or 7 Days) (Br 62) Escorts: Jim Hohenshelt 408-241-4421 and Roy Jordan 408-735-8765. Details are still being worked out. Fly San Jose to Seattle. There will be perhaps a quick stop in Seattle, or maybe a couple of days, then we will take a boat to Friday Harbor on San Juan Island for three or four days of cruising, sightseeing, and whale watching. Costs will likely be in the area of \$1900 to \$2200 pp/dbl. occ., which will include airfare, lodging, probably all breakfasts and several lunches or dinners. Watch the next Bulletin for more information, or call Jim Hohenshelt at 408-241-4421 or 408-394-7226

May 18-24 2012 □Southern Sights & Southern Lights □

(Br 21) Escorts: Bill Kurtz (268-8830) and Dick Kohl (268-0428). Journey with us to the Deep South to savor some Southern hospitality. This 7 day trip features the lovely and historic Southern cities of Savannah and Jekyll Island, Georgia and Beaufort and Charleston, South Carolina. We will have a riverboat ride in Savannah and a narrated carriage tour of downtown Beaufort. This tour includes a full-time tour manager, deluxe accommodations, and 13 hosted meals at some of the famous and outstanding restaurants in the area. The trip also includes group travel insurance for medical reasons. The cost of the trip is \$2695. Send application and check payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account and mail to Bill Kurtz, 1115 Olive Branch Ln., San Jose Ca, 95120.

June 15-23, 2012 □ Harbor Hopping in New England □

(Br 153) Tour escorts Ralph Hunt (650-967-8467) and Alan Patmore (408-867-4197). Two nights in Boston that includes 'Bean Town' touring followed by a 6-night Harbor Hopping on a New England cruise aboard the *American Star*. Ports of call include the mainland stops of Providence, Newport, and Bristol in Rhode Island. Massachusetts' stops include New Bedford, Fall River and the storied islands of Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and Block Island. Many opportunities abound for thoroughly enjoying all this cruise has to offer. For starters there's the 17th Century Architecture, inspiration for Herman Melville's Moby Dick as well as soaking-up the seafaring heritage experience of New England's quaint islands and seaport villages. Trip includes home pick-ups and transfers to airport, air transportation from Bay Area to Boston, MA and return from Providence, RI as well as many other amenities. Per-person prices range from \$4408 -

\$5268. Deposit is \$500 pp payable to Talbot Tours Trust Account. Please send registration and deposit to: Ralph Hunt, 13158 Diericx Dr., Mountain View, CA 94040-3916.

Jul 13-22, 2012 □ Bermuda Plus 2 Nights in New York □

(BR 32) Tour escorts John Pletsch (408) 274-2992 and Mike Console (408) 246-1080. 2 nights at the Best Western President Hotel at Times Square, guided tour of New York and then set sail for Bermuda aboard Holland America's MS Veendam for 7 night cruise. Ports of Call include St George with its old British charm, and Hamilton, with its pink-sand beaches, colorful cottages and British colonial charm. Staterooms aboard MS Veendam range from Large interior stateroom \$2995 per person, to Lanai Stateroom \$3460 per person, Large Oceanview stateroom \$3195 or \$3270 per person and The Verandah Stateroom \$3775 per person. ALL cabin prices are per person, double occupancy. All price categories includes Travel Guard Insurance. **Deposit of \$600 payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account.** Mail deposit and application to John Pletsch, 2697 Suisun Ave, San Jose, CA 95121

Aug. 4-16, 2012 □ Switzerland and The Enchanting Rhine □

(Br. 114) Tour escorts Jim Stoner (408-238-8458) and Larry Martinson (528-0746). Start with a 2-night stay in Zurich, then spend 2 nights in Lucerne, a medieval gem. After a city tour of cosmopolitan Basel, we will embark on the luxurious river cruise ship MS Amacello for a 7-night trip up the Rhine River to Amsterdam. Highlights include Colmar, the "Capital of Alsatian Wine," a Strasbourg canal cruise, historic Heidelberg and Worms, the scenic Rhine Gorge, with dozens of castles, and Cologne, with its famous 13th century Gothic cathedral. We end with a tour of vibrant Amsterdam. River cruise includes meals and unlimited wine with dinner. Special highlights include lectures, folkloric dance programs and musical performances,. Cost is \$6425 to \$8500 for a suite, pp dbl. occ. Group medical insurance, round trip air, port charges, and transfers included. Deposit \$1000 pp, payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account, should be mailed with applications to Jim Stoner, 8458 Traminer Ct., San Jose, CA 95135.

****COMING ATTRACTIONS*******

October 2012 □ Spain's Costa del Sol & The Portuguese

Riviera: 13 Days □ Highlights: Madrid, Prado Museum, High Speed Train, Cordoba, Costa del Sol, Granada, Alhambra, Cadiz, Seville, Cascais, Lisbon, Sintra, Estoril, Obidos, Fatima Bill Rodman (408) 274-4521 & Nick Lickwar (408) 532-6992.

October, 2012 Fleet Week (Br 62) Escorts: Jim Hohenshelt 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan 408-735-8765.— Fleet Week date not defined yet. Trip will include bus to Jack London Square to board the Celebration on the Bay motor launch for a day on the bay (catered lunch) to view the Fleet Week air show (Blue Angels). Details and costs are being finalized.