



TRAVEL BULLETIN

March 2013

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 rwshields@comcast.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. 32, No. 3 March 2013

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*****

November 13-25, 2013 ♦Paris, Rhone River, and Provence♦ (Br 62) Escorts Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226) and Roy Jordan (408-735-8765). We are proposing a less expensive version of the Rhone River cruise previously listed. We fly from San Francisco to Nice for an overnight stay and short exploration. The next day a motor coach takes us to Arles, with a stop at the Rhone American (WWII) Cemetery. At Arles, we board the Grand Circle 5 star rated cruise ship "Provence," and after touring Arles (Roman sites, Van Gough, optional "Afternoon in Provence" tour), we depart for an 8 day (7 night) cruise of the Rhone and Saone Rivers, with stops, day tours, and free time in Avignon (Papal Palace, famous bridge), Viviers (medieval village walking tour), Tournon (visit & dinner in French home), Lyon (UNESCO World Heritage site, Basilica of Fourviere, tour of Beaujolais region, discussion of WWII resistance in Rhone Valley) and Macon (recently renovated old town),

also an overnight stop in Trevoux. After disembarking in Macon, we board a bus for Paris, with a stop and walking tour in Beaune en route. We have three nights in Paris at the Moderate First Class Novotel Paris Eiffel Tower (or similar) hotel. Our stay in Paris includes a panoramic tour, passing by the Champs Elysees, Eiffel Tower, Cathedral of Notre Dame and other landmarks, and a guided tour of Versailles. Another day will feature an optional tour of the Louvre and a half day free. The cost is \$4510 or \$4710 (lower deck), or \$5210 (upper deck) pp/dbl occupancy, or \$5355 single, including air fare, transfers, accommodations, taxes, cruise meals, and breakfasts, Paris and Versailles tours. For those wanting to explore further, there are extensions available, a three night pre-trip in Nice for about \$650 and a three night post trip in Paris for about \$700. Brochures are available from Jim or Roy, or from your branch travel table.

November 14-19, 2013 ♦ Branson Holiday♦

(Br 32 & 54). Escorts John Pletsch (408-274-2992) and Mike Console (408-246-1080). Six day tour to America's Entertainment Capital featuring the Osmonds, the Lennon Sisters, The Miracle of Christmas, the Twelve Irish Tenors, Shoji Tabuchi and much more holiday magic. Round trip airfare Bay Area/Kansas City, Deluxe motor coach, five night accommodations (Embassy Suites Kansas City – 1 night, Raddison-Branson – 4 nights). Ten meals (4 breakfast, 1 brunch, 5 dinners, admission to 7 shows, all gratuities and

trip cancellation insurance. Price: \$2270 pp dbl occ (+\$320 single supplement). Deposit \$400 per person to secure reservation. Checks or Visa, Mastercard, Discover accepted. Payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account. Mail to John Pletsch, 2697 Suisun Ave, San Jose, CA 95121. Call for brochure or pick up at your branch travel table.

February 3-19, 2014 ♦Vietnam, Cambodia & Mekong

River Cruise♦ (Br 114) Tour Escorts Jim Stoner (408-238-8458) and Larry Martinson (408-528-0746). Unforgettable trip includes two World Heritage Sites: Ha Long Bay and Angkor Wat, plus the two distinctive cultures of Cambodia and Viet Nam. The journey begins in Vietnam's charming capital of Hanoi, followed by an excursion to Ha Long Bay for a once-in-a-lifetime overnight stay aboard a traditional Junk. A short flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia, will bring us to the gateway of the ancient Khmer empire. We'll spend three days touring the awe-inspiring temples of Angkor Archeological Park. We'll then embark on the Mekong cruise at Tonle Sap Lake. We'll explore the stunningly scenic and ever-changing Mekong River, visiting rural villages, historic pagodas, floating markets, a Buddhist monastery and Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. The cruise concludes with a two-night stay in vibrant Ho Chi Minh City, still known to the locals as Saigon. Our riverboat is a 124-passenger AMALOTUS (AMA Waterways), with all the amenities to ensure an unparalleled travel experience. Costs range from \$7580 pp dbl occ to \$9685 for a 624 sq. ft. luxury suite. Package includes deluxe hotels, trip insurance, round-trip air (including intra-Asia), all transfers, gratuities, Visas, port taxes, all meals on cruise, excursions, entertainment, and much more. Send application and \$1,000 deposit payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account and mail to Jim Stoner, 8458 Traminer Court, San Jose, CA 95135. Detailed brochure available.

*******ONE DAY TRIPS*******

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 ♦The Jersey Boys♦

(Br. 74) Escorts: Allen Daily (408-265-8140) and Don House (408-268-1703). We will take a deluxe coach to Pier 39 with free time for lunch and shopping, then proceed to the Curran Theatre for our reserved Loge seating for an entertaining afternoon of familiar music. The price is \$125 per person. Brochure with Application is available at your Travel Table or from Allen Daily.

May 3, 2013 ♦Horse Races at Golden Gate Fields♦

(Br 32 & 54) Escorts John Pletsch (408-274-2992) and Mike Console (408-246-1080) are doing a one day trip to Golden Gate Fields the day before the Kentucky Derby. You can bet on the Derby that day as well as races at Golden Gate Fields and other Race Tracks. Pick-up will be at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride South Lot area "G" off of Capitol Expressway at Highway 87. Cost: \$90 includes Motor Coach Transportation, a great Buffett luncheon,

indoor Club House seating, and Driver tip. Betting is on your own, but if you don't bet, you can't win!! Call John Pletsch or Mike Console to reserve a spot. Make checks out to ALAMO TOURS & TRAVEL. Mail checks to: John Pletsch, 2697 Suisun Ave., San Jose, CA 95121.

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

March 31-April 10, 2013 ♦Mexican Riviera Cruise♦

(Br 141) Escorts Rollo Parsons (408-268-5245) and Brian Serpa (408-227-7658). This 11 day cruise on board the Grand Princess starts and ends in San Francisco. With front door pickup and delivery service no driving is required. Ports of call are Catalina Island, Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas and San Diego. Costs range from \$1470 to \$1895 pp double occupancy depending on cabin selection. Included are home pickup, all taxes and fees, all tipping for drivers and porters, all shipboard meals and entertainment, pre-trip orientation, cocktail party and bottle of wine. Only \$100 trip deposit required. Retired military on board credit of \$100 available. Deposits payable by check or credit card to Talbot Tours Trust Account. Mail deposit and registration to: Rollo Parsons, 5987 Via Madero Drive, San Jose, CA 95120.

April 10 – 25, 2013 ♦Hawaiian Islands Cruise ♦ Roundtrip from San Francisco aboard the Grand Princess

(Br 38) NOTE: Book Now, time is running out for cabin selections. Escorts: Bill Rodman (408-274-4521) & Hank Clark (408-223-6466). NO FLIGHTS.....This 15-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: Honolulu (Oahu), Nawiliwili (Kauai), Lahaina (Maui), Hilo (Hawaii) and Ensenada (Mexico). Transportation to and from San Francisco pier from The Villages & Capitol Light Rail station, 1 bottle of wine per stateroom, port taxes, taxes on included items, Travel Guard Group Protection Plan and porter tips for 1 suitcase per person. Prices range from \$2490 to \$3880 per person, double occupancy, depending on stateroom category. Deposit of \$800 per person. Higher deposit if traveling as a single. Brochures available at your SIR branch travel table. Brochure can also be viewed on SIR 38 website: <http://branch38.sirinc2.org/> Deposits payable by check or credit card to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account. Mail deposit and registration to: Bill Rodman, 2025 Folle Blanche Dr, San Jose, CA 95135.

May 9 – 19, 2013 ♦Blues & Barbecue, New Orleans to Memphis♦

(Br 32 & 54) With escorts John Pletsch (408-274-2992) and Mike Console (408-246-1080). Enjoy a 9 day excursion on the steamboat American Queen into historic towns that line the lower Mississippi River with stops in Natchez and Vicksburg, MS and Helena, AR. Also enjoy 3 nights in New Orleans. Cabins on the American Queen range from \$4109 to \$5709, including air. Deposit of \$600 payable to Grand

American Tours & Travel Trust Acct. Mail to John Pletsch,
2697 Suisun Ave, San Jose, CA 95121.

June 19-26, 2013 ♦Michigan, Mackinac Island & Chicago♦

(Br 21) Escorts Bill Kurtz (408-268-8830) and Dick Kohl (408-268-0428). This 8 day trip to the heart of the Midwest features a full-time Tour Manager with trip insurance included in the price of the trip. This excursion starts in Detroit where we will visit the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, the Motown Museum, and the famous Ford Rouge plant. Then off to Mackinac Island where we will stay and eat in the world-famous Grand Hotel. From there we will go to Traverse City, a great summer tourist location where we will visit Sleeping Bear Dunes National Seashore, one of the most beautiful places in America. After a stop in Holland, Michigan, we head to Chicago where we will stay right in the Loop at the Sheraton Hotel. Here we will have a guided bus tour and an Architectural River Cruise of the city, and other sights. This trip includes many more features so pick up a brochure and join us on this great excursion to the Midwest. This trip includes airfare, deluxe motor coach throughout, full-time tour manager, trip insurance, most meals, and all tips with a tour price of \$3170 per person. Send application and check payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account and mail to Bill Kurtz, 1115 Olive Branch Ln., San Jose, CA 95120.

August 17-24, 2013 ♦ Colorado Gold Mines & Ghost Towns♦

Tour Escorts (Br 153) Ralph Hunt (650-967-8467) and (Br 125) Alan Patmore (408-867-4197). Enjoy spectacular scenery throughout as you experience places in Colorado few get to see. It is off the highways and byways and into the wilderness! Tour inclusions are many and include round-trip home pickup. Seven night hotel accommodations and much more. Price for double occupancy is \$2,085 pp with \$2,475 for a single. All prices include admissions to all attractions, taxes, baggage handling and a Talbot Tours gift. Mail completed application and deposit to Ralph Hunt, 13158 Diericx Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040.

August 18-24, 2013 ♦Best of the Canyon Lands♦

(Br 32 & 54) Escorts: John Pletsch (408-274-2992) and Mike Console (408-246-1080). Six nights. Tour the canyons of Utah and Arizona. Travel by air SFO to Denver and then air-conditioned coach to Moab, Arches National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Monument Valley and Grand Canyon. Six nights first class hotel accommodations. Tour includes services of professional travel director, gratuities, hotel/airport transfers. Price \$2588 per person double occupancy. Single supplement +\$735. Deposit of \$500 per person with final payment due May 18, 2013. Trip cancellation insurance available. Mail application to John Pletsch, 2697 Suisun Ave, San Jose, CA 95121.

Oct. 10 – 15, 2013 ♦Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta & Santa Fe♦

(Br 38) NOTE: This trip is now first come, first served by the travel agency. Call Now! Escorts, Bill Rodman (408-274-4521) & Hank Clark (408-223-6466). Coach departs The Villages & possibly Capitol Light Rail station. Fly from San Francisco to Albuquerque, NM. Highlights..... Balloon Fiesta, Old Town Albuquerque, Nuclear Science & History Museum, Indian Cultural Museum, Turquoise Trail, Santa Fe, Loretto Chapel, Santa Fe School of Cooking with optional excursion to Taos. Brochures available at your SIR branch travel table. Brochure can also be viewed on SIR 38 website: <http://branch38.sirinc2.org>. Mail deposit and registration to: Bill Rodman, 2025 Folle Blanche Dr., San Jose, CA 95135.

Oct. 15-26, 2013 ♦Cruise Canada & New England♦

(Br 141) Escorts Brian Serpa (408-227-7658) and Rollo Parsons (408-268-5245). This 12 day trip begins and ends in San Francisco. The first day is a flight from San Francisco to New York with an evening and the next morning in New York City. Then board the Emerald Princess for a 10 night cruise up the New England coast and into Canada. Ports of call are Newport, Boston, Bar Harbor, Saint John, Halifax, Sydney, Charlottetown and Quebec City. Costs range from \$2985 to \$3890 depending on cabin selection. This price includes home pick-up and return, roundtrip air transportation, 10 nights aboard the Emerald Princess, all shipboard meals and entertainment, luggage handling, pre-night in New York City, all transfers between airport, ship and pier and hotel, all applicable taxes, including air, government and port taxes, all driver & porter gratuities, pre-trip orientation and a Talbot Tour gift. A retired military onboard credit of \$100 is available. Deposits are payable by check or credit card to Talbot Tours Trust Account. Mail deposit and registration to: Brian Serpa, 6091 Pietz Ct., San Jose, CA 95123.

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

September 7, 2013 ♦America's Cup Finals♦

(Br 62) Watching America's Cup races in San Francisco Bay may be a once in a lifetime experience. We plan to take a cruise on the Bay to watch the Oracle Team defend the Cup against the winner of the Challenge Elimination Series. The finals are a best of 9 race series; we tentatively plan to watch the first race on September 7. The details and cost are still being worked out, they may be changed from what was described in previous bulletins. However we expect to include the cruise, round trip transportation from San Jose, and perhaps a lunch. If you are interested or have questions, call escort Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226) or Roy Jordan (408-735-8765). We may go on multiple days if there is sufficient

interest. Also, we are considering trips in July or August to watch races in the Challenge Elimination Series. If you are interested, please call one of the escorts.

October 13, 2013 ♦Fleet Week♦ (Br 62) Again this year, we are planning a cruise on the Bay to watch the Fleet Week air show (featuring the Blue Angels). The cost this year is \$195, which includes round trip transportation from San Jose, a catered lunch, and the cruise and air show. We must commit to a minimum of 40 people by April 15, 2013 or we will lose our reservation on the boat. If we don't get 40 signed up by April 15, 2013 the trip will need to be cancelled and money will be refunded. If you would like to go with us or have questions, call escort Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226) or Roy Jordan (408-735-8765).

Dec. 30, 2013 – Jan. 7, 2014 (Approx. dates) ♦New Years Extravaganza 2014♦ (Br. 74) Escorts: Allen Daily (408-265-8140) and Don House (408-268-1703). Planning to view floats, have New Year's Eve Celebration, The ROSE PARADE, a Concert, Palm Springs and Follies, possibly Death Valley, Las Vegas and more.

*******STATE 55th SIR Anniversary Cruise*******

August 28-September 7, 2013 ♦ Cruise to Alaska♦

SIR celebrates its 55th anniversary with an 11 day round trip cruise from San Francisco to Alaska. The celebration is on board the Grand Princess of the Princess Cruise Line. Ports of call include Juneau, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC. This will be a great opportunity to relax and spend some time getting to know your fellow SIR members while enjoying the wonderful Alaska scenery. Costs range from \$1,579 to \$3,300 pp double occupancy depending on cabin selection. The cost includes most ship gratuities, transportation to and from the pier, ship board credit of \$25, cocktail party, hospitality suite, wine and gift, and an exclusive all SIR Alaska Salmon Bake and Gold panning excursion. Princess Cruise line has a sale for sign ups that occur from February 11-26 (two weeks) and from March 11-18. Signups during these times will only be required to provide a \$100 deposit per person and will receive a coupon book with a retail value of \$325. For more information and brochures see your Branch Travel Chairman at the travel table or call him at home.