



TRAVEL BULLETIN

May 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. 5 May 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.

*****PRESENTATIONS*****

Thursday May 9th at 2 p.m. for **◆Paris, Rhone River, and Provence – November 13-25, 2013◆** at Mama Mia's, 200 East Hamilton Avenue. RSVP to Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226) or Roy Jordan (408-735-8765)

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

September 15-23, 2013 ◆ARRIBA! CUBA!◆(Br 39) Escorts Neil Jameson (831-336-2476) and Wayne Dawson (408-833-8435). Overnight in Miami. Fly to Cuba. Extensive touring in Trinidad City, then Havana with touring and night time activities. Visit a cigar factory and see historical landmarks; lectures, nature tours, shopping, and restaurants. Brochure and pdf available. 9 days, 19 meals. US government approved tour. Fares from San Jose VTA. Cost is \$3999 double or \$4399 single occupancy.

November 20-21, 2013 ◆CHRISTMAS ICE FANTASY at THE ELDORADO, Reno◆ (Br 74) Escorts: Allen Daily (408-265-8140) and Don House (408-268-1703). Our annual Christmas show at the Eldorado will be an Ice Fantasy where Cirque meets the Ice combining the excitement of figure skating with the thrill and wonder of cirque acts on ice. We will include our private Cocktail Party, buffet dinner and breakfast, casino time with \$5 cash and \$5 food bonus at the Nugget, plus no-host rest stops at the Black Oak and Nut Tree Center. The price is \$199/p dbl. occ. (\$16 Sgl. Suppl.) payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited. Mail check & Application to Allen Daily, 1580 Trona way, San Jose, CA 95125.

Dec. 29, 2013 – Jan. 3, 2014 ◆New Year's Extravaganza 2014◆ (Br. 74) Escorts: Allen Daily (408-265-8140) and Don House (408-268-1703). We will travel by deluxe coach to the Hyatt Regency, Long Beach with a hosted lunch at Harris Ranch. After viewing the decorating of the Floats, lunch at Lawry's, have a guided tour of Space Shuttle ENDEAVOUR. Tour Universal Studios; enjoy New Year's Eve with dinner/champagne/dancing/Monte Carlo Casino, etc. View the Rose Bowl Parade from your reserved seat with cushion and program. Watch football on the large screen, followed by a teppan-vaki style dinner. Tour the Getty Villa, view the monarch butterfly sanctuary; overnite w/dinner at Pismo Beach and additional stops on the way

home. Price is \$1845/p dbl. occ. with \$373 sgl. suppl. and includes Insurance. Deposit of \$200 is due with Application and payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited. Mail check & Application to Allen Daily, 1580 Trona way, San Jose, CA 95125.

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

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.

December 4, 2013 ♦Beach Blanket Babylon♦

(Br 141) Escorts Brian Serpa (408-227-7658) and Rollo Parsons (408-268-5245). Beach Blanket Babylon is the longest running musical revue in theater history. It's a zany spoof of pop culture and politics, highlighted by extravagant costumes and outrageously huge hats. After the show (where we have center and side box seats), dinner with wine is hosted at nearby Capp's Restaurant—great food and service. We'll arrive early enough in San Francisco for Christmas sightseeing and shopping. Trip also includes deluxe motor coach transportation and dinner and driver gratuities. Price: \$178 per person. Please send your application and check payable to "Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account" to Brian Serpa, 6091 Pietz Court, San Jose, CA 95123. This one sells out so make your reservations early. Brochure available.

*******OVERNIGHT AND LONGER TRIPS*******

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.

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.

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. Also note the trip presentation May 9th under "PRESENTATIONS" heading above.

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 \$1,200 deposit payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account and mail to Jim Stoner, 8458 Traminer Court, San Jose, CA 95135. Detailed brochure available.

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

September 7, 2013 ♦America's Cup Finals♦ (Br 62) Watching America's Cup races in San Francisco Bay, with the Oracle Team defending the Cup against the winner of the Challenge Elimination Series, may be a once in a lifetime experience. It appears that our previous plan for a cruise on the Bay may not work out for a reasonable price (although it is still a possibility). More likely will be round trip bus transportation from San Jose to the viewing locations and admission to the viewing stands. 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. 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. In addition, 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 2014 ♦Cruise to Madeira and Canary Islands♦ (Br 141) Escorts Brian Serpa (408-227-7658) and Rollo Parsons (408-268-5245). Details will be coming.

February 2015 ♦Cruise the Caribbean♦ (Br 141)
Escorts Rollo Parsons (408-268-5245) and Brian Serpa (408-227-7658). Details will be coming.

*******CANCELLED TRIPS*******

October 13, 2013 ♦Fleet WeekCancelled**♦** (Br 62)

You may have noticed in the news that the rest of the Blue Angels 2013 season has been cancelled as the military reduces its budgets to accommodate the sequester. Therefore, as it stands now, this trip is cancelled. We will maintain our list of people who have expressed interest in case the air show is reinstated. Reinstatement for 2013 is doubtful, but the news item indicated that the Blue Angels might have a schedule in 2014, if that occurs we may be able to assemble a trip. So, if you would like to be added to the list, or have any questions, call escort Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226) or Roy Jordan (408-735-8765).

*******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. For more information and brochures see your Branch Travel Chairman at the travel table or call him at home.