



## TRAVEL BULLETIN

December 2014

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!

### Vol. 33, No. 12 December 2014

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.

### \*\*\*\*\*OVERNIGHT AND LONGER TRIPS\*\*\*\*\*

**Jan 13-28, 2015 ♦Hawaiian Islands Cruise♦ Roundtrip from San Francisco aboard the Star Princess** (Br 74) Escorts, Don House (408-268-1703) & Allen Daily (408-265-8140). This is a 15-night, round trip cruise from San Francisco with NO FLIGHTS involved. Transfer to San Francisco pier to board the STAR PRINCESS. Cruise under the Golden Gate to Hilo, Honolulu, Nawiliwili, Lahaina, and Ensenada (Mexico). Driver, Stevedore tips and luggage handling tips are included as is Group Protection Insurance covering cancellation/trip interruption for medical reasons. Each cabin receives 1 bottle of wine and we will have two private cocktail parties in addition to the Captain's party. Prices range from \$2420 to \$3875 pp/dbl occ depending on cabin selection. The final payment date has passed, therefore final payment should be mailed to Don House, 6770 Crystal Springs Ct., San Jose, 95120 with Application.

**Feb. 4-19, 2015 ♦Panama Canal Cruise♦** (Br 141) Escorts Rollo Parsons (408-268-5245) and Brian Serpa (408-227-7658). This 16 day cruise starts in Los Angeles and ends

in Ft. Lauderdale. It will highlight the 100 year anniversary of the canal and the completion of the canal third lane that accommodates the large ships of our time. Home pick-up and delivery so no driving is required. Ports include Cabo San Lucas, San Juan del Sur in Nicaragua, Puntarenas in Costa Rica, Cartagena and Aruba. Trip cost includes home pick up to the San Jose Airport and return from Ft. Lauderdale, 15 night luxury cruise aboard the Island Princess, all shipboard meals and entertainment, luggage handling of one suitcase per person, one bottle of wine per cabin, all taxes and fees. Costs range from \$3270 to \$4080 pp/dbl occ depending on cabin selection (insurance not included). Brochures available at your SIR branch travel table or contact one of the Br. 141 escorts. Deposits are 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.

**March 12-18, 2015 ♦Azaleas, Plantations & Cajuns♦** (Br 32 & 54) Escorts John Pletsch (408-274-2992) & Mike Console (408-246-1080). 7 days in Cajun country includes home pick up, round trip air, 3 nights Drury Inn in Baton Rouge and 3 nights Royal Sonesta in New Orleans, 13 meals (6 breakfast, 4 lunches, 3 dinners). Tours include New Orleans School of Cooking class w/lunch, National WWII D-Day Invasion Craft Museum, Evangeline State Park (Acadian House, Evangeline Statue), Antebellum Homes in Natchez MS, Houmas House Plantation & Gardens and Gator Farm Tour. City tours: Bation Rouge, Lafayette, Natchez and New Orleans. Price: \$2630 (dbl occ) \$3080

(single). Deposit of \$250 with final payment due January 10, 2015. Optional insurance available (\$206 dbl occ or \$249 single). Deposits payable to Talbot Tours Trust Acct. Send deposit and application to John Pletsch, 2697 Suisun Ave, San Jose, CA 95121.

**April 6-12, 2015 ♦ National Cherry Blossom Festival and Historic Virginia Tour♦**

(Br 21) 6 days/15 meals - includes special premium reserved seating for National Cherry Blossom Parade, visits to Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown Settlement, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery and many more great historical attractions. Brochures available at your Branch travel table or have a brochure emailed to you in pdf format. Make sure and ask us about the early application deposit discounts now available. Escorts: Ron Berube ([sir21travel@gmail.com](mailto:sir21travel@gmail.com)) 408-829-5588 and Dick Kohl ([dakohl@pacbell.net](mailto:dakohl@pacbell.net)) 408-268-0428.

**April 7-18, 2015 ♦ Eastern Caribbean Cruise♦**

(Br 141) Escorts Brian Serpa (408-227-7658) and Rollo Parsons (408-268-5245). This 12 day cruise aboard the Royal Princess starts and ends in Ft. Lauderdale. Ports of call include St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Barbados, Antigua, St. Thomas and Princess Cays. Home pick ups so no driving required. Costs range from \$2395 to \$3450 pp dbl occ depending on cabin selection. Brochures available at your SIR branch travel table or contact one of the Br 141 travel escorts. 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.

**April 27-30, 2015 ♦ Spring Celebration in Yosemite♦**

(Br 74) Escorts: Don House (408-268-1703) and Allen Daily (408-265-8140). Travel by Deluxe coach to Yosemite with stops at Merced Fruit Barn, hosted lunch at Tanaya Lodge and ride the Sugar Pine Railroad. Stay 3 nights at the Yosemite Lodge with hosted daily breakfast, hosted lunches at Ahwahnee Hotel and Wawona Hotel and hosted dinner at Yosemite Lodge. Also included is a tour of the Yosemite Valley Floor and see the grandeur of Yosemite's nature. On your way home enjoy wine tasting and hosted lunch at Ironstone Winery. Price is \$1,295 pp/dbl occ. (add \$435 sgl sup.). Deposit of \$400 pp payable to ALAMO WORLD TRAVEL & TOURS TRUST ACCOUNT should be mailed to Don House, 6770 Crystal Springs Ct., San Jose, CA 95120 with Application. Call for brochure. This trip fills up fast so don't wait.

**May 6-18, 2015 ♦ Cruising the Best of Scandinavia♦**

(Br 38) Escorts, Bill Rodman (408-274-4521) and Hank Clark (408-223-6464). Direct flight from SFO to Copenhagen on Scandinavian Air. Thirteen day escorted tour with stops in Stockholm & Copenhagen plus a seven day Royal Caribbean Cruise of the Norwegian Fjords. You'll be picked up at The Villages or Capitol Light Rail Station in San Jose. Highlights...Stockholm, Vasa Ship Museum, 7 night

Norwegian Fjord Cruise, Stavanger, Bergen, Alesund, Geirangerfjord, Copenhagen, Tivoli Gardens. Details described in our brochure – available at your branch travel table or, call Br 38 escorts or, e-mail [brodman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brodman@sbcglobal.net). You can also view & print the brochure & application on the Br 38 website: <http://branch38.sirinc2.org/> First deposit of \$595 pp (which includes cancellation & waiver insurance) is due upon reservation. Make checks payable to COLLETTE or use the Credit Card Authorization Form (included in the brochure) & address to Bill Rodman, 2025 Folle Blanche Dr, San Jose, CA 95135. NOTE: Get your reservations in soon for best cabin selection. There is already a wait list for Balcony staterooms.

**July 1-16, 2015 ♦ European Historical and Cultural Tour♦**

(Br 21) 15 days - Roundtrip SFO – Frankfurt, Germany, includes 22 meals, home pick up and return. FIRST CLASS tourist accommodations and Professional Tour Manager throughout the trip! Brochures available at your Branch travel table or have a brochure emailed to you in pdf format. Make sure and ask us about the early application and deposit discounts now available. Escorts: Ron Berube ([sir21travel@gmail.com](mailto:sir21travel@gmail.com)) 408-829-5588 and Dick Kohl ([dakohl@pacbell.net](mailto:dakohl@pacbell.net)) 408-268-0428.

**Sept. 19-27, 2015♦Upper Mississippi River Steamboat Cruise♦**

(Br 74) Escorts: Allen Daily (408-265-8140) and Don House (408-268-1703). We will fly to Minneapolis/St. Paul for an overnight prior to boarding the elegant American Queen paddle-wheeler for a seven night cruise along the Upper Mississippi River during the Fall Color season. Each day we will be in a different port with free shore excursions. All meals and evening entertainment are included, as are amenities such as wine with dinner, a Captain's Champagne Welcome Reception, a private cocktail party and Group Protection Insurance which covers pre-existing medical conditions. Price varies with Stateroom selection, from \$4,875 to \$5,765 pp/dbl occ. Deposit of \$900 pp (includes Insurance) payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account should be mailed to Allen Daily, 1580 Trona Way, San Jose, CA 95125 with Application. Call for brochure.

**October 9-23, 2015 ♦ Eastern Mediterranean Cruise♦**

(Br 114) Escorts Jim Stoner (408-238-8458) and Larry Martinson (408-238-0746). Eleven-day round-trip Rome to Rome on the luxurious *Celebrity Reflection*. Two pre-cruise nights in Rome (Hotel Ponte Sisto) with two guided tours—ancient Rome and the Vatican. We will visit legendary cities such as Istanbul, Athens, Ephesus, Naples, Mykonos and Santorini. Trip includes air, transfers, all shipboard meals, entertainment, group cocktail party, one bottle of wine per cabin, all port taxes and government fees. Costs range from \$5380 to \$6100 pp/dbl occ, depending on stateroom category. Deposit of \$1000 **includes trip insurance covering pre-existing medical conditions.** Send application and deposit payable to Cruise Adventures

Unlimited Trust Account to Jim Stoner, 8458 Traminer Court, San Jose, CA 95135. Brochure available at your SIR Branch travel table.

**November 5-23, 2015♦Crossroads of Turkey (19 days) ♦** (Br 62) Escorts Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226) and Roy Jordan (408-735-8765). This land tour of Turkey begins with 3 days in Istanbul, then proceeds to Asiatic Turkey featuring stops at the Gallipoli WW I battlefield, legendary Troy, many ancient Biblical, Roman and Greek sites, fascinating geological features and museums showing history back to the Hittites, and ends in Ankara. The per person cost is \$3795, either single or double, and includes air fare from SFO, tour transportation, all hotel accommodations, all taxes and fees, gratuities for drivers/guides, 35 meals. An optional 5 day pre-trip to Athens is available for \$1295. Call Jim or Roy for a brochure.

**January 9-19, 2016♦Mexican Riviera Cruise (11 days)♦** (Br 62) Escorts Roy Jordan (408-735-8765) and Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226). Round trip from San Francisco - **no flights**. Ports of Call – Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo, Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas. Available features – Splendid beaches and lush jungles, early architecture and towns, wildlife (birds, iguanas, crocodiles) and Mexico's largest turtle sanctuary, kayaking, snorkel or scuba diving, zip-lining and other outdoor adventures, dolphin encounters and whale watching. Cost (pp. dbl. occ.) is \$1455 (interior cabin), \$1750 (Oceanview), \$1995 (balcony) (single occupancy rates available) and includes home pick up to & from San Francisco Pier, the 10 night cruise, all taxes and fees, gratuities for drivers & porters, all shipboard meals & entertainment. Call Roy or Jim for a brochure

**\*\*\*\*\*COMING ATTRACTIONS\*\*\*\*\***

**June 2015♦World Series of Poker (6 days)** (Br 62) Escorts Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226) and Roy Jordan (408-735-8765). The exact date will be determined when the 2015 World Series of Poker (WSOP) schedule is defined. You can watch (for free) the excitement of the Senior WSOP, or, if you are adventurous, take part (there is an entry fee, not included) at the Rio Hotel and Casino, or you can pursue other Vegas activities. Optional tours and shows are available on request. Cost is \$675 (dbl) and \$850 (sgl), includes airport transfers (home pick up to SJC & LAS to the Rio), air fare and 5 nights in a luxury suite at the Rio. Call Jim or Roy if you have a question or would like a brochure.

**September, 2015 ♦California Railroad Museum via AMTRAK (1 day)♦** (Br 62) Escorts Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226) and Roy Jordan (408-735-8765). The California Railroad Museum in Sacramento is noted for fine displays of railroad history in California, including a number of full size cars and locomotives. Extend the railroad experience with a round trip from the South Bay on the AMTRAK Capitol Corridor train. The date and more details in future Travel Bulletins.