



## TRAVEL BULLETIN

August 2015

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. 34, No. 8 August 2015

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, and 114). It is sent without charge to each interested SIR in these Areas.

### \*\*\*\*\*NEW TRIPS\*\*\*\*\*

#### **May 11-21, 2016 ♦ Alaska Cruise, Roundtrip from San Francisco aboard the Grand Princess♦** (Br 74) Escorts:

Don House (408-268-1703) and Allen Daily (408-265-8140). **NO FLIGHTS** ....This 10 day cruise starts and ends in San Francisco. Cruise through the Golden Gate on your way to and from Alaska. We stop at 4 ports of call: Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan & Victoria, B.C. We'll also cruise beautiful Glacier Bay. Included: Transportation to and from San Francisco pier from Capitol Light Rail Station, 1 bottle of wine per stateroom, port taxes, taxes on included items, Travelex Group Protection Plan and porter tips for 1 suitcase per person. Plus...two cocktail parties on board. Prices range from \$2150 to \$3270 per person, double occupancy, depending on stateroom category. Deposit of \$700 per person. Higher deposit if traveling as a single. Brochures available at your SIR branch travel table. Deposits payable by check or credit card to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account. Mail deposit and registration to: Don House, 6770 Crystal Springs Ct., San Jose, CA 95120.

**June 4-19, 2016 ♦Great American Waterways♦** (Br 54 & 32) Escorts: Mike Console (408-246-1080) and John Pletsch (408-274-2992). A 15 night cruise on a small boat

(Blount-88 passengers) which will sail across four of the Great Lakes –Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. This classic American adventure starts in Chicago from the famous Navy Pier and explores some of Michigan's charming small towns, including Victorian-era Mackinac Island. Ports include stops in Cleveland OH, Erie PA, Buffalo NY, Oswego NY, Sylvan NY, Troy NY, Kingston NY, West Point NY and Warren RI. Learn about the history of Lake Erie and the building of the Erie Canals from a local expert. Marvel at the lowering of the ships retractable Pilot House on the Welland and Erie Canals, then explore some of New York's most scenic locales, including: Niagara Falls, Cooperstown (home of the Baseball Hall of Fame), the Hudson River Maritime Museum, and West Point (home of the U.S. Military Academy. Sail through New York Harbor and admire a close up look at the Statue of Liberty and the awesome New York skyline, finally disembarking in picturesque Warren Road Island. The Blount Small Ships Cruise Lines features a relaxed cruising adventure, has excellent food with beer and wind included at luncheons and dinners. They have a bar furnished with Mixers and Snacks (FREE), but you Bring Your Own Boose. Round-trip Home Pick-Up and all Port Charges and Taxes are included. Costs run from \$5660 to \$8125 per person/double occ plus insurance, depending on cabin selection. Deposit of \$500 per person plus insurance. Make checks payable to: TALBOT TOURS TRUST ACCOUNT. Mail all Checks to: Mike Console, 3527 Parkland Ave, San Jose, CA 95117.

**September 6-17, 2016 ♦ Colors of Canada & New England♦** (Br 32) Escorts: John Pletsch (408-274-2992) or (408-504-1255) and Mike Console (408-246-1080). 10

day cruise from New York City to Quebec City aboard **Holland America's ms Zuiderdam** plus one night in New York City. Enjoy stops in Gloucester Mass, Bar Harbor Maine, Halifax and Sydney Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and Quebec City. Cruise the scenic Gulf of St Lawrence and the sights of Saguenay Fjord. \$3325 to \$4125 depending on cabin choice. Deposit \$600 w/o insurance or \$921 to \$1011 with insurance. Final payment date is May 6, 2016. Send Deposit along with application payable to "Talbot Tours Trust Account" to John Pletsch, 2697 Suisun Ave, San Jose, CA 95121.

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

**August 20, 2015 ♦Phantom of the Opera♦**

Branches 32 & 54, Escorts; Mike Console, (408) 246-1080 and John Pletsch, (408) 274-2992. A 2:00 P.M. Performance at the Orpheum Theatre in San Francisco. This one day trip includes: round trip motor coach, hosted lunch at the Fog Harbor Restaurant on Pier 39, admission to Phantom of the Opera loge seating, and driver tip. Cost: **\$178 per person**. No deposit, full payment due on sign-up. **Checks** preferred, there will be a charge for use of Credit Cards. Trip costs are NON-Refundable—although may be transferred if minimum count has been met and/or there is an active waiting list. Sign-up deadline: July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. We expect an early sell-out, so don't wait until the deadline to sign-up, you'll probably miss the show or we will put you on our waiting list for a second chance, if there are cancellations!! Make Checks Payable to: **Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account** Mail to: Mike Console, 3527 Parkland Ave., San Jose, CA 95117. Meal choices at Fog Harbor Restaurant in San Francisco include several choices so please select from those listed on the brochure.

**October 11, 2015 ♦Fleet Week Air Show Cruise♦** (Br. 62) Escorts Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226) and Roy Jordan (408-735-8765). Watch the 2015 Fleet Week Air Show from San Francisco Bay on a lunch cruise aboard the iconic San Francisco Belle. The price of \$170 includes bus transfer from San Jose (Capitol VTA Parking Lot), the cruise with lunch buffet, sparkling wine, orange juice, soft drinks, coffee & tea (wine, beer & cocktails available for purchase onboard). If you might be interested, please call Jim as soon as possible.

**Dec. 9, 2015 ♦Beach Blanket Babylon♦** (Br. 74) Escorts: Allen Daily (408-265-8140) and Don House (408-268-1703). Take a deluxe coach to San Francisco for brief shopping time at Pier 39 before taking your reserved Box Seat in the Balcony, for this famous, zany musical show. Then we're off to the FIRENZE BY NIGHT RESTAURANT for a hosted dinner, followed by a short tour of Christmas Lights if time permits. The price is \$190/person. Make your check payable to Cruise Adventures Unltd. and mail to Allen Daily, 1580 Trona Way, San Jose, CA 95125-5018 with your completed Application.

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

**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.

**Nov. 24-25, 2015 ♦Christmas at The Eldorado, Reno♦** (Br.74) Escorts: Allen Daily (408-265-8140) and Don House (408-268-1703). Our Annual overnight trip to the Eldorado will include "EBENEZER, A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL" as well as our private cocktail party, buffet dinner, buffet breakfast, and playtime at the Nugget with \$5 Food Credit and \$5 gambling credit. Always a fun start to the Christmas season. Price is \$215 pp/dbl occ. or \$232 single occ. Make check payable to Cruise Adventures Unltd. and mail with Application to Allen Daily, 1580 Trona Way, San Jose, CA 95125-5018.

**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.

**Feb. 12-March 2, 2016 ♦Australia & New Zealand Cruise♦** (Br 114 Escorts, Larry Martinson (408) 528-0746 and Jim Stoner (408) 238-8458. Fly out of San Jose to L.A. to Sydney. On arrival in Sydney, we go on a guided tour of Sydney including an inside visit and tour of the Opera House. We then board the MV Sydney 2000 for a bay cruise including a Seafood Buffet lunch before we arrive at the Rydges World Square Hotel for a two night stay. Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> we board the **Princess Diamond** with stops at Melbourne, Hobart (Tasmania), Fiordland National Park in New Zealand, Dunedin (Port Chalmers) N.Z, Akaroa, N.Z, Picton, N.Z, Wellington, N.Z, Tauranga, N.Z, ending this 15 night cruise in Auckland. Trip includes air, transfers, all shipboard meals, entertainment, two group cocktail parties, one bottle of wine per cabin, all port taxes and government fees. **Also included is Trip Insurance covering pre-existing medical conditions.** Prices range from \$6,085 Interior, \$6,625 for Ocean View and \$7,315 for Balcony pp/dbl/occ. Deposit is \$1,400 per person. Send application and deposit payable to Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account to Larry Martinson, 9029 Village View Dr. San Jose, CA. 95135. Brochures available at your SIR Branch travel table.

**March 12-31, 2016 ♦South America Cruise (18 Day Cruise)♦** (Br 141) Escorts: Rollo Parsons (408-268-5245) and Brian Serpa (408-227-7658). Fly to Santiago, Chile and after a restful night in a hotel board the Star Princess for a cruise along the west coast of South America, and Central America and ending in Los Angeles. Many interesting ports of call along the way. Costs range from \$3660 to \$5260 pp. dbl. occ. depending upon cabin selection. Costs include home pick up transfers to the airport, meals and entertainment aboard ship, all departure and port taxes, all driver and porter gratuities, pre-trip orientation and a Talbot Tours gift. Pick up a brochure on your SIR Branch Table or call one of the Escorts.

**April 17-25, 2016 ♦AMAWATERWAYS TULIP TIME CRUISE♦** (Br. 114) Tour escorts Jim Stoner (408-238-8458) and Larry Martinson (408-528-0746). 8-night river cruise through the Netherlands and Belgium. On board the luxurious AmaSerena (new in 2015), discover the beauty of the Dutch and Belgian waterways when the countryside is in glorious full bloom. We will visit Amsterdam, Volendam, Edam, Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges (optional), Kinderdijk (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the famed Keukenhof Gardens. Trip includes air, transfers, GUIDED EXCURSIONS, fine dining with wine and beer, free wifi, informative lectures and much more. Costs range from \$5950 to \$7950, including 4 categories of French and

outside balconies. Group insurance covering pre-existing conditions included. Please send your application and \$1400 per person deposit payable to "Cruise Adventures Unlimited Trust Account" to Jim Stoner, 8458 Traminer Ct., San Jose 95135. Detailed brochure available at your SIR Travel Table, or call Jim or Larry.

**July 11-23, 2016 ♦ Eastern Europe to Black Sea (13 days)♦** (Br 62) Escorts: Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226) and Roy Jordan (408-735-8765). After 2 nights in Budapest, Hungary we embark on a cruise down the lower Danube to Belgrade, Serbia, through the Iron Gates, transit the Danube – Black Sea Canal to Constanta on the Black Sea and then by bus to Bucharest, Romania. We will make stops in Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. There will be included and optional tours at various stops along the way. There are also optional extensions to Vienna (3 nights) or Prague (4 nights) and Transylvania (3 nights) or Istanbul (4 nights). The price ranges from \$4670 to \$5670 pp/dbl. occ. including air fare, single supplement (limited availability) is \$595. Deposit is \$500, but early sign up discounts up to 10% are available for full payment in advance. Contact Jim or Roy for a brochure, information, or to sign up.

**November 12-23, 2016 ♦ Panama Canal Cruise & Panama (12 days) ♦** (Br 62) Escorts: Roy Jordan (408-735-8765) and Jim Hohenshelt (408-394-7226). This trip is centered on Panama itself with visits to Panama City, Chitre, and the Gamboa Rain Forest, but includes a two day complete passage through the Canal on a 24 passenger catamaran. Tour the Canal Administration building and the Expansion Project Visitor Center and cross the Canal (Gaillard Cut) on the Centennial Bridge. Spend a night anchored in Gatun Lake and see the Gatun Dam and hydroelectric plant. Walk the nature walks and if you choose, explore by kayak. Experience Panama's Spanish colonial heritage, lush rain forest, and local crafts. Become acquainted with the indigenous Embera people, shop, and try local cuisine. Optional extensions to the wild archipelago of Bocas del Toro and Cartagena, Columbia are available. The price is \$4770 pp/dbl. occ. or \$5315 single, including air fare. Deposit is \$500, but early sign up discounts up to 10% are available for full payment in advance. Contact Jim or Roy for a brochure, information, or to sign up.