

SIR Article for LOP News May 2016

Sons in Retirement (SIR)



By Phil Frank

“**Amadan** – Her whole name is Amadan Ban Bheag, which is Gaelic for ‘Little White Fool’. Amadan hatched on April 1st of 2013. She is a captive bred Barn owl and is a wonderful education ambassador. She helps us to teach about rodent poison and its impact on wild raptor populations. Barn owls are found throughout the United States and in many areas around the world.”

I clawed that quote from West Coast Falconry’s <http://westcoast-falconry.com/>, but I met her in person (with the whole SIR Luncheon gang) when Falconer Amber Kelley presented her, along with falcon “Cubbie” and hawk “Don Diego”, All four were real cuties! With a microphone in one hand and a raptor on the other, Amber kept us rapt with interest about her feathered friends. She walked around the room, with Cubbie on her wrist, table to table, to give us a bird’s eye look...a perfect show-and-tell! Our thanks to Little SIR Jim Goetsch for bringing Amber to us...she’s really for the birds!

Multi-tasker Terry Eberhardt (530.278.3362 teberhardt@suddenlink.net) took us with great flourish to Szabo Winery in Nevada City last month. He will answer your future calls re Wine Tasting Excursions and/or broader travel. He still has two trips scheduled. One is the Canada/New England Cruise round trip from Boston, September 8 – 23, 2016 and the other is the Florida Coast to Coast with the Keys, November 5-11, 2016. Ring his bells!

You prefer beer? Ray Tschirhart sets up great excursions, like the March one @ Ol’ Republic Brewery in Nevada City. He may even have one in May...call 714 392-9282 or click rtshirt@suddenlink.net to find out. Or, read Rich Hibbs’ Branch 170 Newsletter. He’s timelier than I.

It must have been in memory of recent happy SIR excursions to wineries and pubs that songster Larry Shelley conned us into singing “Piano Man”. We all sounded as though we were edging the 2:00am curfew, but we sobered up quickly to a fine lunch and Amber’s high flying bird watching presentation.

Roosters really can play golf. At Auburn Valley in March, 14 of ours did it and 8 of them made money! Ron Wolyn is really generous...even if he doesn’t win, he doles out sweeps. I’ll bet they did even better as the host team at Wood Creek in April.

You may still be able to join our Bocce Ball Boys. Led to 3rd-place-in-the-State grandeur last year by Bob Chan, this year’s Cabo Dan Barbee promises more fun with both local and regional teams. Reach him at 268-0534 or danbarbee57@gmail.com to get your ball rolling.

Sunshine Chairman Ron Trimble was pleased that 43 LOPers answered his blood donation call on April 3. He’s scheduled another opportunity for us all on **Sunday, 5 June**. Please make that a Red Letter Day. Your donation will surely help to bring a neighbor back to health. Also, making friendly contacts with folks on his Sunshine List is your next best thing to do. Folks like Bud Abbott, John Brewer, Larry Hardy, Leif Sundblom, Elsie Weaver, will be encouraged by your good wishes and congratulations for their speedy recoveries.

Next, on Wednesday 5/4, with dessert back on the menus, there’ll be free lunches for April Birthday Boy Steve Parks and Amber Kelley’s pick-of-the-draw favorite Phil Jones, followed by up-to-the-minute Nevada County insights by Speaker Supervisor Ed Scofield. I won’t miss that!