

# TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter  
Century Club

VOLUME 22, No. 3

SEPTEMBER 2013



## QCC Events-creative & fun

*'LIFE IS A PICNIC!'*

### From the Corner Pocket

As the weather cools with summer behind us, we head into the yearend fall season with the coming holidays and special events. Have you been able to connect with other QCC folks? Many Districts are preparing for their big QCC gala. Some Districts have more events and some have fewer festivities but nearly all have some fall / winter, picnic, luncheon, dinner or ??? If you have some bright new ideas, a reliable able body and some time to contribute, contact your District QCC Director or other officers to find out what you can do to help.

And remember, you don't have to wait for an "Officially Sanctioned Production" to get together with your QCC friends. With your summer's travel adventures fresh in your memory, it might be a good time to get just a few friends together to swap travel stories. Was there a tour that was especially interesting and informative? A visit to a place that was breathtaking? Was there a cruise that had more than its share of troubles? There have been a bunch of them lately. Travel stories are well suited to a small audience as it takes a well-rehearsed professional to hold the attention of a large group. But if you have a particularly striking adventure



story, you might write up a piece to share with the rest of us.

Be sure to send in your well written travel stories to the QCC Editor to give him more material as each issue is put together. Be aware that Editor's edit, so don't be surprised if he cuts out some of your story, (he does that to me too). But with lots of material for the Editor to choose from, each edition of the QCC'er should have "the best of the best" for all to read. I note that the last edition had a story about the construction of Interstate 40 from Ludlow to Needles and how they had to create watering holes for the bighorn sheep. Maybe this one will have some extra tales from member's summer travel adventures or a nostalgic trip on a WWII era airplane (page 4).

Fall is a time to refocus your agenda and could give you a good reason to invite a friend who is not yet a QCC'er to your event. With your Director's nod, you can call your event a recruiting effort to be reimbursed for the cost you might have. There are no restrictions on the type of recruiting scheme. We are looking for you to find just the right thing to make it work. You might find the most effective plan and all you need is your Director's approval.

**Butch Biendara**  
QCC President

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### **Rather read the QCCer on-line?**

Go to  
<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qccnewsletter.html>

A membership application and a wealth of information about QCC officers, history, and constitution are available at  
<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>

Check the current haps at Caltrans at  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>

### **CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION By Kathy Freeman**

A special note to those of you reading this that are currently working for Caltrans – the **California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC)** is still in progress. Each year the CSECC gives state employees an opportunity to designate automatic monthly paycheck deductions to charities and allows them to give their donation to any IRS approved 501(c)(3) non-affiliate organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions such as the California Transportation Foundation. Designating donations to CTF is like keeping it in the family! We hope you will consider a donation

to the Foundation to help CTF continue its work on behalf of all Caltrans employees.

The annual northern CTF Charity Golf Tournament was held in July. The event continues to be a big success with 124 golfers playing along with 28 volunteers working to ensure all went well. Former Caltrans Director and current CTF Board Member Randy Iwasaki served as the Golf Committee co-chair this year, helping the event raise close to \$45,000 for the Scholarship and Workers Memorial and Assistance funds. Other former Caltrans **Directors Will Kempton, Cindy McKim and Leo Trombatore, and former Agency Secretary Kirk West** were all on hand again this year golfing and helping where needed. Our thanks go out to all who participated and especially to those very special volunteers.

During this past quarter, two more Workers Assistance Funds were established. **Mr. Rizwan Tanvir, a Senior Transportation Engineer in District 3 (Resident Engineer on the I-80 HOV project in Sacramento)** and his family suffered a significant financial loss due to a fire and smoke damage to their home. The second Fund was for **Mr. John Fox, Senior Transportation Engineer and Chief, Office of Maintenance Engineering in District 9.** Mr. Fox was severely injured in a motorcycle accident and admitted to an out-of-state hospital. The Fund was established to help Mr. Fox and his family with the medical and out-of-town living expenses. If you would like to assist either of these families, you may send a check made out to "CTF" with the last name of the individual designated in the memo line and mail it to the California Transportation Foundation, 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864.

Funding scholarships with our co-sponsors at Caltrans has been a tradition for CTF. Through July of this year we were able to provide over \$52,000 to students under the following: **Haveem Scholarship (Transportation Lab), Buser Scholarship (Land Surveyors), Division of Engineering Services & Architectural Scholarship, Roberts Memorial**

**Scholarship, Civil Engineering Scholarship, Sudhakar Memorial Scholarship, Cowgill Memorial Scholarship (District 8) and to Districts 1, 6/Central Region, 9, 10, and 11.** Our thanks to those Caltrans offices, divisions and districts involved this year for their sponsorship and support in this important program. We are currently in the process of raising funds for two very special scholarships: **Children of Fallen Workers Scholarship** and the **Bimla Rhinehart Memorial Scholarship**. If you are interested in donating to these scholarship funds, more information is available on CTF's website ([www.transportationfoundation.org](http://www.transportationfoundation.org)).

## In Memoriam

*We extend our sympathy to family members and loved ones of our fallen colleagues*

Name	District	Date
Richard Thornton	01	May 23, 2013
Neil Emerson Kemp	01	June 2, 2013
Leroy Ernest Turnell	01	July 14, 2013
Londa Teresa Banducci	01	July 8, 2013
Shirley Kathary	05	Aug 7, 2013
Joe Sanchez	07	July 23, 2013
Stephen Pang	07	July 30, 2013
Paul Lambert	08	July 30, 2013
Stella Ornelas	08	2013
Paul Joseph Flannery	10	Aug 22, 2013
Adele Larrabee	10	Sep 1, 2013
Roy Moreau	11	July 27, 2013
Vernon Cable	11	June 15, 2013
Warren Chan	C	May 2013

## Nostalgia Trip

By Jim Kitchen

Stewardess Jennifer Walker, welcome's me aboard, as I climb the steps into 97"Hotel". I'm about to fly in Otis Spunkmeyer Air, DC-3 Airline's N97H!

I enter the cabin; look up the sloping aisle to the open cockpit door where Captain Bob Campbell and Co-Pilot Candace Harding are completing pre-flight

checks. Seating is an executive configuration with single seats on the left, double on the right with lounge seating over the wing. I sit in the last row single seat. Then, Jennifer asks me to move forward to a lounge seat which probably helps with the center of gravity!

Captain Bob comes through the cockpit door, and introduces himself. He introduces Miss Jennifer who passes out hand operated air conditioners. We are sweltering with outside temperature in the triple digits! Our fans say "I am a fan of Otis Spunkmeyer Air!"

As we fan ourselves, Miss Jennifer gives us the run down on N97H. She was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Corps as a C-47B with registration #44-77281 in July 1945. Declared surplus, 97"Hotel" as she's now known, passed through numerous private and corporate owners, until purchased by Otis Spunkmeyer in 1988. N97H has less than 10,000 hours on the airframe, one of the lowest total flight times for D-3's still flying. Based at Oakland International Airport she and a Sister DC-3 fly Nostalgic Sky Tours over the San Francisco Bay area, and appear at air shows. Today, N97H is at the Yuba-Sutter Air Expo, Yuba County Airport, offering sky tours over the Sacramento Valley.

The left propeller turns over as the Pilot commences engine starting. Then, the right engine catches for the sweet sound of twin Pratt & Whitney (P&W) R-1830's radials idling in unison. They release the brakes, and we start down the taxiway towards the South end of the runway.

Cleared for immediate takeoff, we turn onto the active runway, and twin P&W engines roar to life as Captain Bob push the throttles to the wall. We pick up speed, the tail comes up, we speed past air show spectators watching our takeoff, passing over the runway threshold at 250 feet, continuing our climb to 2500 feet where we level out at cruising altitude, and throttle back to 150 mph. We feel cooling outside air and turn off our hand fans!

The Pilot turns off the "Fasten Seat Belt" sign, invites passengers to walk around, and we take turns visiting the cockpit. I look out the window, over the wing to a flat landscape of receding houses, orchards and rice fields beneath us. Miss Jennifer and Stewardess Deana McDade serve complimentary beverages (7up), and start the in-flight movie, "Pot of Gold" starring Jimmy Stewart and Shirley Temple.

We circle the Sutter Buttes. Situated in the middle of the Sacramento Valley, the Sutter Buttes rise to over 1500 feet. They're a miniature mountain range complete with foothills. Legend has it that Paul Bunyan was on his way to build the Coast Range with Babe his Blue-Ox pulling a wagon load of dirt when a wheel broke. Paul unloaded some dirt to fix the wheel, and that's how the Sutter Buttes got there!

We continue west to Colusa where we turn south following the Sacramento River. The scenery changes to verdant rice fields, as rice is a major crop around here. Turning towards home, we're cleared for a straight in approach from the South. The "Fasten Seat Belts" sign comes on, so we take our seats for landing. A gentle thump as the wheels touchdown, and we're back on the Yuba County Airport.

We feel the heat again, and start our fans while taxing back to the parking area. The Pilot shuts down the engines, and Jennifer opens the door. As we file out into the hot August afternoon, I overhear another passenger comment: "Now, we're part of History!" AGREED!!

*The Haps in District 1*

District 1 QCC group recently welcomed a new member, fellow retiree, **Marty Van Zandt.**

On July 10, District 1 honored employees with 25 and 30 year awards at the Red Lion Hotel. The 25 year awardees were **Alan Escarda, Brenda Bowie, Charlie Fielder** (our District Director), **David Harper, Karen Juzelczyk, Kathleen Sartorius, Loren Lee, Royal McCarthy, and Santa Finney**. The 30 year awardees were **Jaime Camden, John Carson, Joseph Leo, Lisa Spellenberg, Mike Martin, Robert Kornman, Steve Hughes, Vern Callahan, and Weldon Hailey**. District Director, **Charlie Fielder**, was the MC, and **Norma Ortega**, Acting Chief Deputy Director, was our honored guest.

Our District retiree/QCC quarterly lunch was held on July 18 at the Samoa Cookhouse. We had 42 in attendance. We enjoyed a special visit from **Bill Cotnam**, who, early in his career, worked in District 1, then later went to work in and retired from San Luis Obispo. He still keeps in touch with local friends.

District 1 Engineer, **Alan Radford** and his wife, **Nanci**, celebrated both of their retirements with an open house party on July 20, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Eureka. He retired after 34 years and she retired after 11 years with HCOE. I enjoyed visiting with several of our District retirees and honoring Alan and Nanci, as they begin to enjoy their retirement years. They already have their big trip planned.

#### Road Last Traveled

**Richard Thornton**, retired Survey Party Chief, passed away May 23, 2013, at his home in Redwood Valley. He started with Div. of Hwys. in 1962 and retired in 1995 with 33 years of service.

We also lost **Neil Emerson Kemp** on June 2, 2013. He had retired from the District 1 Maintenance Dept.

**Leroy Ernest Turnell** passed away suddenly on July 14, 2013 while working in his yard. He retired from District 1 as a Tree Maintenance Worker.

**Londa Teresa Banducci**, born in 1925, passed away July 8, 2013. She worked for District 1 and her son, **Gary**, has been a District 1 employee for several years.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of our recently departed District 1 employees.

- Arlene Hartin

## *The Haps in District 2*

Our fall picnic was held on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. Although we had several members still out on the (vacation) trail, 26 steadfast friends were present for a wonderful afternoon of socializing, good food and merriment. We'd like to remind everyone that all Caltrans (Division of Highways too) employees, both past and present, are always welcome to attend the picnic, regardless of your active work status or years of service.

**June McLean** spent 4 months in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. She flew back there in April and didn't return until July, though she had a two week 'breather' in the middle. She assisted her sister in caretaking for her brother-in-law who had become bed-ridden due to cancer and other health problems. They were available for around the clock care until he passed in June. She believes she could qualify as a 'bonified' caregiver after having to take care of her husband Art, her brother-in-law, and assisting her good friend **Shirley Shoup** with her husband Willie.

She did have a great time with her brothers and sister. She writes that the weather was very humid and there were lots of thunder storms. Her nieces started her on a walking program ranging from 2 to 3 miles. It was just them, and someone's horse and buggy, on the small country road during the outings. She also did some shopping in Washington D.C. She and **Shirley** are planning another trip to Las Vegas in November for another Bingo Blow Out. She says they will meet with friends from Lake Havasu, AZ., and will have a really good time like

always. We wish them good luck and safe journeys!

**Jim and Sandy Ceragioli** took a trip to Yosemite for 5 days in early May. They stayed at Pine Mountain Lake with day trips into the valley. He says not only was the weather perfect, but they managed to be there before school let out and the place became crowded. He tells us that lunch at the Ahwahnee hotel was a real gourmet experience. This was his first time actually seeing water coming over the falls in the park. On previous trips they had been frozen (February), and dry (August). They also had fun visiting Columbia and Sonora.

**Lew and Sandy Wood** are still in Lewiston and working on remodeling their home. They started in 1996 and may finish it yet! They have not done much traveling, but did go to Disneyland last Christmas to celebrate their oldest son's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. They also have spent a few days in Ashland, Oregon seeing a few of the plays. They plan on returning to Ashland for more in October. They say they are enjoying traveling on the "new road" over the Buckhorn Summit. He worked on the planning for a "Buckhorn Project" back in 1960. He states that apparently progress "just takes time."

**Bill Belcher** recently attended a week long church choir director's conference at the Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center. It was held right next to the shore of Lake Tahoe, and two of the presenters were William and Rosephanye Powell, both Musical Doctorates. William is currently the Choral Director from Auburn University, Alabama, and his wife is a highly respected chorale music composer. It was an amazing place to attend a moving and fulfilling program. Maybe he'll just have to attend next year too?

Remember that if you have tidbits for the QCC'er from District 2, or need information, you can always e-mail us at [shastaqcc@yahoo.com](mailto:shastaqcc@yahoo.com)

- **Bill Belcher**

## *The Haps in District 3*

The annual District 3 Pre-Holiday Party will be held on November 3, 2013 at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club in Marysville. A social hour starts at 1:00 P.M. with opening comments at around 1:45 and a buffet luncheon following at 2:00 P.M. Nominations for District Director will be heard prior to the luncheon. Anyone interested in being nominated is asked to contact an officer or committee person. This party, which is one of two each year, is always well attended and everyone enjoys the delicious food. A flyer announcing this event will be mailed out to all members. Please watch your mail.

From **Libby Haraughty** concerning the History Room: **Carleen Hagen** and I attended the video Conference in the DO last month – "California Historical Preservation Committee". We also met with IT and they said they have a laptop computer for us. So now we may be able to purchase a projector, from a non-state source, now that a laptop is on this side of the horizon.

There was a meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup> in the DO History Room. We'll continue with the inventory - trying to skinny down the VHS tapes to ones that are not streaked - doing this at home, get some handle on all the slides, need to re-inventory the flat files as there are quite a few items that were not logged in.

Another possible exhibit / display has popped up. Sut-3-A used to run down Plumas Street. We found mini copies of the Plan and Profile of Proposed State Hwy, etc. dated 1914 showing this. The Sutter County Memorial Museum has pictures from that era. Might be interesting.... This exhibit could have local interest with other Historical groups, etc. Should be fun!

Hopefully we can start showing some of the display/exhibits soon.

When the computer is ready we may be able to begin such things as scanning slides, etc. Let me know if you are interested in helping. A lady that belongs to the Yuba County Historical Society said she might be able to help us when we are ready. She has experience doing this.

That is it for now. Let me know if you can help with the History Room. - **Libby Haraughty**

#### SICKNESS/DISTRESS

**Jim Waller** (Ethelmae's husband) is not doing well with complications with cancer and lupus.

**Gary Alkins** (Susan's husband) is in poor condition in a coma and has had blood clots.

**Carleen Hagen** has knee problems and will probably need surgery.

#### OUT AND ABOUT

**Carleen Hagen** and hubby have returned from a two week cruise celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. That is the good news. The bad news, while on the trip Carleen's knee gave out and she finished the trip in a wheelchair.

- **Dan Johnson Sr.**

### *The Haps in District 4*

**D**istrict 4 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

### *The Haps in District 5*

**O**ur long hot summer has passed, and we're hoping for cooler days and maybe a little rain this fall.

Caltrans D-5 is making progress on their various construction projects, judging by what we've seen on our travels north and south. The new lanes on the Santa Maria River Bridge are a big improvement!

We enjoyed the annual CSEA Retirees BBQ at Rancho El Chorro in July. It was fun to see old friends and have a delicious meal while catching up on the latest news from CSEA and our local elected officials.

**Dick & Sandy Elliott** are getting settled in their apartment at a senior living facility in Morro Bay.

**Faith & Bill Fieldhouse** will be joining his Navy buddies for a get-together this fall, I believe, in Rapid City, South Dakota.

**Joan & John McGrath** and their poodle Gus are planning a trip in their RV around the western states, hoping to reach Yellowstone before the weather turns cold.

Our long-time friend and co-worker **Shirley Kathary** lost her battle with cancer on August 7. Shirley started her Caltrans career in the mailroom, and she eventually found the perfect position as Dispatcher for Maintenance. She was known affectionately as "Mother Hen" because of the care and concern she felt for her guys and gals in the field. She will be missed by all who knew her.

- **Kathleen Copeland**

### *The Haps in District 6*

**I** will repeat my request for someone to step up and take over preparing the District 6 QCC article for the quarterly newsletter. I will help in any way I can but I just won't be in CA that much for some time. I'm still spending a lot of time up in Roseburg, OR trying to get my dad's estate in order



and completed. Call me at 559-974-3885 if you can help with "The Haps". - **Terry Littleton**

From **Roy Andersen**, who had surgery for a torn retina in his right eye. "Not a good thing but probably would have lost sight in that eye if it had happened a few years ago."

**Ted Haynish** had hip replacement surgery in July. If anyone wants to cheer him up you can give him a call at 298-3469. Pretty painful I would imagine.

**Nora Luttrell** gave an update on **Christine Mitchell**, who is having problems with her legs. She tells me she pretty much does not drive far anymore. Bless her; she used to love to drive.

In August, **Virgle Ray** made another motor home trip to the coast. He said "Got to have that Grandparent fix before they head back to school!!!!" You guys sure have a lot of fun.

In May of this year, **Carolyn Landy**, **Josie Rendon**, my sister and I went on a Trafalgar Tour for two weeks through England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland. Needless to say it was a whirlwind nonstop tour. Very beautiful countries but I think I could spend the whole two weeks in Ireland alone next time. That was my favorite.

Send in your articles, notes and stories so we can have more news next time. Also, remember I am looking for someone to help writing the "Haps".

- **Terry Littleton**

***The Haps in District 7***

Saturday, December 7, not a day of infamy this year, instead time for the eagerly anticipated District 7 QCC Holiday Luncheon at the charming **Miyako Inn**, 328 East 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, (213) 330-2800, located two

blocks south of the "9-year-old" District 7 Office. If you are web oriented, take a virtual tour and get directions, at the hotel website, [www.miyakoinn.com](http://www.miyakoinn.com).

Every year the reunion seems to be unique. We expect the District 7 and 8 coordinated efforts to hold true for this year, too, so please add this to your social calendar and be part of the celebration not apart from it. Be among the people we are privileged to talk to, not just someone we talk about!

**Tom Fera Lunch Group**

By the time you get this newsletter, the September meeting will likely be a memory, and only a few more meetings to get together for the **Tom Fera Lunch Group**! Be the in-crowd for the second Wednesday of each month (except December). Upcoming meetings are: **October 9, 2013** at Joselito's West, **November 13, 2013** at the Steer N' Ale, and **December 7, 2013** at the Miyako Inn Downtown. These remaining 2013 dates and addresses follow below.

**RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2013**

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

- October 9, 2013      Joselito's West
- November 13, 2013   Steer N' Ale
- December 7, 2013    QCC luncheon

**Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant**; 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, CA 91042; (818) 951-2275

**Steer N' Ale Restaurant**; 3644 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107; (626) 796-2278

For more information about meetings, etc., contact: **Chuck O'Connell** at (661) 253-3428 or [chuckoconnell@prodigy.net](mailto:chuckoconnell@prodigy.net), or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or [tgilders@pacbell.net](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net).

### Tom on Tom and a Roster Request

**Tom Gildersleeve** reminisces, “Back in the **Tom Fera** era he made this organization his main thrust in life. He performed a very thorough and wonderful job and deserves a lot of credit for what he did. It was not an e-mail sort of setup and he maintained a roster of all the members together with a lot of info on them, including spouses.”

“In the **Tom Gildersleeve/Chuck O’Connell** era I use e-mail for most of my communications, and I don’t need a membership roster to do what I do. I have long ago concluded that I am doing all I am prepared to do, which is enough to keep this organization going and make sure we can still meet for lunch every month. (And, you don’t have to pay dues!) That being said, there was a question raised recently regarding updating the membership roster. Since I have no need for it, I am not interested in taking that project on. However, ...in case anybody else in our group would like to volunteer to do it, ...please contact me and I will provide you all the information I have, which can serve as a starting point.”

### Gish Makes Good, Again!

Public Information Officer **Judy Gish**, was recently a contributing author in **Roads & Bridges** monthly magazine. The article featured reconstruction of a 9.2 mile portion of the famed I-710 freeway, work by District 7 Engineers, Mid-State Precast and Shimmick/Myers and Sons Joint Venture. **Micaiah Revero**, Project Manager for SMSJV revealed, “We selected this project because of the precast element. We like to go after work that has some unique value and we saw a competitive advantage here.” Mid-State Project Engineer, **Safwat Ibrahim**, expressed the opinion that “Combining shorter construction duration with the longevity of precise concrete allows for the highway replacement to be cost-effective for Caltrans and the taxpayers of California.” While building bridges from precast concrete has been used for decades, the decade long effort to reconstruct roadways is now gaining ground, with multiple projects in District 4, District 7 and District 8, not to mention nationally, in Texas,

Missouri, Iowa, Florida, Georgia, Delaware, Utah, and Canada. The technique is also garnering support in Maintenance, where emergency slab repairs have been demonstrated along the I-210 freeway in the past two years. While not the “brain-child” of the strategy, **Kirsten Stahl** (yours truly), quoted several times in the article, gushes, “this is a natural application” of the technology. “They install quickly, in any weather with no special materials, and can be driven on immediately”, a distinct boon to motorists as well as goods movement. “If we have these panels stored at a maintenance yard nearby, we can drop them in and open to traffic an hour later.” **Deborah Wong**, recently promoted to Division Chief of Maintenance has been an active leader in the effort to apply the technology in the field; if a picture is worth a thousand words, recent work by Maintenance featured in the photos, speaks volume.

### The Emergency Response

The District Museum is currently hosting a multimedia exhibit on Emergency responses. It is a “must-see” for the visitor to the District Office. Conveniently, a sofa is set in-front of the continuous play video monitor, so you can see the best of emergency response, and hear it live from District responders, such as **Zoe Yue, Doug Failing, Amjad Obeid, Alex Perez**, and a cast of many other characters.

**Mike Miles**, recently retired as District 7 Director explained in his farewell remarks, “One of the areas in which Caltrans particularly excels is emergency response. We have so many technical experts and talented people! We currently have an emergency response exhibit in the District 7 museum, which I urge all of you to visit. You will be amazed at the daring, skill and heroism our people have shown in the face of perilous situations.”

The exhibit is located at Caltrans District 7 Headquarters at 100 South Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (across the street from City Hall and LAPD Headquarters), during normal office hours.

Hawaii Family Webster Style

In June, **Chuck Webster** and his family travelled to Kauai. **Chuck** writes, “My wife, **Sonja** and I were able to take our boys and their families to Hawaii. We spent the week on the Island of Kauai.”

“My oldest son **Michael** and his wife **Sarah** have three children, **Abigail** age 10, **Emily** age 7 and **Andrew** age 5. **Michael** is an electrician for Evens Construction in Newhall; his wife just graduated from the registered nursing program at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita.”

“My other son, **Frank** and his wife have one son **Codey**, age 6. **Frank** is a Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor at the Lancaster Maintenance Station; his wife is Office Manager at Five Star Registration.”

“After checking into our hotel, we grabbed our swim sites and headed for the water, a lovely lagoon out our patio door, perfect for the grandkids. The following morning we all went to an Island Orientation put on by Pleasant Holidays, they were very helpful with directions, places to eat, areas that are safe to snorkel in with the kids and other activities that we took advantage of. That night we all went to the Smith's Family Luau, dinner and show.”

“**Michael** and his family went on the Mountain Canal Tubing Experience, horseback riding and snorkeling at various beaches and sightseeing. **Frank** and his family took a Sunset, Snorkel Dinner Cruise to Napali Coast on the West side of the Island. The Napali Coast is only accessible to view by air or water.

“**Sonja** and I went along on the Sunset, Snorkel Dinner Cruise. We also went on the Fern Grotto river cruise, river boat ride was nice, cool with a light breeze, when we entered the rain forest a little different, the humidity was about 100% or more, but

something different to see. Independently we also visited the Kauai Coffee Plantation, Koloa Rum Company tasting room, Grand Canyon of Kauai in Waimea Canyon, Spouting Horn, a large blowhole in Po'ipu.”

“The last night we went as a family to the west side of the Island to view the sunset and had a relaxing dinner by the water. Overall, it was great family trip.”

Mike Miles has some Farewell Smiles

“As you might imagine, I have many different feelings about my imminent (July 31) retirement from Caltrans”, relates **Mike Miles** in his last message to the District, “pride in a career spent working among the finest group of people in the transportation field; sadness that I will no longer be a “Caltransian;” anticipation of the next chapter in my life (I'll be working in the private sector); and optimism about the future of this organization.”

“In a rapidly-changing transportation environment, one thing you can always rely on is that Caltrans is usually many steps ahead of the pack. We're the originators of innovations and practices that everyone else now follows. Of course, Caltrans is a big organization, so we do experience bureaucratic hiccups from time to time but we're also super good at what we do. And, rather than take the easy way, we always try to do things the right way.”

“I will certainly miss being at the cutting edge of mobility improvement but what I will miss most is the people I work with—world leaders in transportation advancement.... Caltrans manages the most complex freeway and highway system in the country, if not the world.”

“While I don't think that any one agency will be running everything in the future, Caltrans is going to have to guide those collaborations. We still are the ultimate owner and the only agency that works directly with the federal government on highway

projects. Only Caltrans has the breadth and perspective to look at the state as a whole and represent those larger interregional interests. We will still be one of the greatest engineering organizations in the world and I don't see that changing."

"Throughout my time here, I've worked in many divisions and districts and I have to say that, all in all, it's been a great ride. So, keep up the excellent work, stay safe and I'll see you around."

#### Contacts And Recent Sightings

**Jean Amster** writes, "To the group; [is] anyone of the Tom Fera, O'Connell, Gildersleeve Luncheon group on Facebook? **Jean Amster** [jsamster1@verizon.net](mailto:jsamster1@verizon.net)

Attending the wildly humorous spy thriller and murder mystery "The 39 Steps" at the Glendale Center Theater, were **Marie Martin, Bob Walters,** and **Kirsten** and **Stewart Stahl**, with an appropriately themed repast at the Tam O'Shanter afterward. For Hitchcock aficionados, the 150 characters were played by 4 multi-talented actors, multiple scene changes, and many references to other Hitchcock classics, including North-by-Northwest, Rear Window, the Birds, and Psycho.

**Joe Tang**, formerly of District 7 Right-of-Way Engineering, is now working as a Senior Surveyor Supervisor in District 12.

If you appreciate great landscape photography and the history of the old west, you should check out the link that **Joan Murdock** sent of photos by **Timothy O'Sullivan** who chronicled the west from his dark room in a wagon for the US government in 1870's. Thousands of his photographs survive from his travels, which include images of the Rockies, Canyon de Chelly, Virginia City and lesser known parts that made him one of the best known photographers of his day.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2149899/The-American-West-youve-seen>

**Ron Kosinski**, Deputy District Director of Environmental Planning writes that **Dave Roper** stopped by the office in early September, and is working to get a room at the TMC named after Traffic Engineering Legend **Dick Murphy**. According to **Ron**, this is a challenging endeavor, and needs someone more politically connected than him to get it through the proverbial roadblocks. So if any of you are "politically connected", call Dave.

#### Retirements

**Mike Miles** celebrated his 25+ years of State service at the Monterey Hills Steakhouse in Monterey Park on August 28.

**Dale Haun**, of Altadena Maintenance, will celebrate his 41 years of State Service at a luncheon in his honor, on September 12.

**Ray Herrera**, will celebrate 34 years of State Service at a BBQ at West Region, in his honor, on September 19.

#### The Road Last Traveled

**Bob Sassaman** reported that **Joe Sanchez**, a QCC member, passed away on the morning of July 23. The family wishes that you remember Joe by making a donation to Riverside County Foundation on Aging, 6296 River Crest Drive, Suite K, Riverside, CA 92507. This Foundation works to strengthen, expand and support senior programs throughout Riverside County. Joe was also a former Caltrans Deputy District Director of Planning in District 8.

**Nancy Pang** corresponded with **Tom Gildersleeve** in early August, "It is with a saddened heart that I send you this email to let you know that my beloved husband, **Stephen [Pang]**, passed away 7/30/13. Stephen was a QCC member for many years. He is also survived by his nephew, **Vince Pang**, who is a licensed engineer in Maintenance Design.

Thinking of **Steve Pang** brought back some memories for **Kirsten Stahl** who worked for him in Design. He was one of the engineers who vouched

for me to take the PE licensing exam. I remember how he and Nancy were great travelers, his fondness of singing, and how fun it was to walk into his office when Nancy had sent a giant floral bouquet, for his birthday, anniversary or some other romantic occasion.

### Be like **Chuck, Tom, Bob, Joan and Ron!**

Support your local post office and send a card or letter. An e-mail would do too! Stay in touch! Please send your items, to: **Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012.** Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: [kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov](mailto:kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov).

**Tom Almany** reminds you that the District 7 QCC Director and Treasurer are available, and you can reach him at 17200 So. Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.


### WAKE UP!

There is no time like the present to share the variety of your life with your QCC buddies. It is great to share and receive!

Many thanks to those who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above.

- **Kirsten Stahl**

## *The Haps in District 8*

 Our Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for the second Saturday in December, the 14<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 Noon at Hannah's Restaurant on Highland Avenue in San Bernardino. Please save the date!

A nice group attended our Summer Luncheon at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino. Those in attendance were **Loren and Margaret Barnett, Mary Bermudez, Judie and Gerald Brown, Gil and Jeanette Daab, John and Doris Estrada,**

**Janice Feenstra, Bill Feenstra, Les Franz, Wanda Gernux**, (a fairly new member), **Wes and Linda Grimes, Dick and Louise Haight, Doug Hogue, Al and Judi Hudgens, Carolyn Johns, Allan and Jane Kirst, Frank Lehr, Stan and Ina Lisiewicz, Dick Longstreet, Marsha Lotze, Maxine Nelson, Sybille Phillips, Tom and Bonnie Powell, Linda Salmond, Charlotte Sheehan** and her guest, **John Candelaria**, famed for being in the Guinness Book of World Records, **Taylor and Katie Smith, Ken Steele, and Linda Supernaw.** **Joe Gomez** was a late arrival and joined Q.C.C. on the spot! Hip Hop Hooray, a new member. He recently retired from Caltrans and the Army, having been on active duty and serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, etc. in recent times. It was good to see Joe and John.

We had three door prizes donated by our State President, **Butch Biendara, Roy Smoot**, who was unable to attend and **Janice Feenstra**. Butch donated a Division of Highways/Caltrans Watch, Janice Feenstra donated a beautiful orchid plant and Roy donated cash. The prizes were won by **Gil Daab, Maxine Nelson** and **Louise Haight**. We thank all our donors and it was a surprise to have these items donated for our Summer Luncheon.

**Gerald and Judie Brown** are planning a trip to Australia and New Zealand next spring. Wish I could stowaway and go with them. They were at the Q.C.C. luncheon in July but will be unable to attend our Christmas Luncheon since they do petting zoos for abused women and children during December.

**Richard Longstreet** celebrated his 85th birthday recently. Among the friends enjoying the event at a breakfast gathering in Carlsbad were **Nick and Karen Davies**, (Karen just recorded her second hole in one.), **Jim and Linda Miller** (getting ready for a trip to Hawaii), **Wes and Linda Grimes**, and **Jim and Pam Landfried**... a great time was had by all.

**Jim Landfried** just returned from a trip to Wales where he assessed work to restore a 200 year old church. His analysis was so good; they are asking him to return next summer for a three month stay to supervise the work. His efforts were volunteered through his church as is the labor to do the restoration. Jim is considering the trip, but an extended stay and absence from Pam, as well as the cost, are factors. He saw a few castles, but did not see the Prince of Wales during his trip.

**Ray Granado** retired in June. He worked nearly 40 years with Caltrans. His last years were spent in Construction and the Materials Lab.

Heard About Town: **Allan and Jane Kirst** celebrated their 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary... **Les Franz** Summer Bowling League team heading to Laughlin, NV to wrap up their season...**Les, Linda Grimes**, Linda's son Scott and Les's granddaughter, Leslie, all enjoyed the trip but didn't break the bank... **Taylor Smith's** Tuesday Dinner Group met again at the Asian Buffet in Rialto. Attendees included **Taylor and Katie, Gil and Jeanette Daab, Ernie Parke** (and caretaker), **Dick and Louise Haight** and **Wes and Linda Grimes**...Wes is getting over a spell of vertigo. We all hope he's doing well as we go to press.

#### Road Last Traveled

Yours truly received additional information about **Martha Roseberg Quade** who passed away on April 22, 2013. She was born in West Frankfort, IL and was living in Galesburg, IL when she passed away. She graduated from high school in 1942 and earned an Associate degree from San Bernardino Valley College. Martha was a veteran of the WAVES serving in the U.S. Navy and was a Pharmacist Mate at Bethesda Naval Hospital and received the American Campaign Ribbon and Victory Medal of World War II. She worked for 25 years with the Department of Transportation, now Caltrans and retired in 1980. Martha was a member of the F.O.E. in San Bernardino, CA and was a past president of that auxiliary, a member of American Post 285 in Galesburg, a charter member of the

Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C. and a faithful member of the Q.C.C.

**Paul Lambert** passed away on July 30, 2013. His services were held on August 16. Paul was a Senior Transportation Engineer in Design and was a valued member of the Caltrans family for more than 25 years and will sadly be missed.

Just as we're going to press we received word that **Stella Ornelas** passed away with cancer and no details were available.

Our prayers are with the family and friends of **Martha, Paul and Stella.**

Remember to save the date for our Christmas Luncheon for Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon at Hannah's Restaurant.

- **Marsha Lotze**

## *The Haps in District 9*

**D**istrict 9 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

## *The Haps in District 10*

**D**istrict 10 retirees are still meeting at Denny's in Stockton at March Lane and I-5 on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!

Mark your calendars for October 3, 2013 for the District 10 retiree's lunch at U.J. Restaurant at 7628 Pacific Avenue Stockton.

Social hour 11:00 a.m.; Lunch at 12:00  
\$16 Chicken, Steak or Fish (Salmon)

## SEPTEMBER 2013

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Select choice and make checks payable to "Caltrans Retirees" and send to **Dick Mesa, 6528 Herdon Place, Stockton, CA 95219.**

Program: to be determined

After 5 years of Disc Jockeying at KSQM radio in Sequim WA., **Bruce Leavitt** is spinning those same old 40 & 50 tunes at Bellewood Independent Living in Issaquah WA. Buena suerte, Bruce.

[bellewood.bruce@gmail.com](mailto:bellewood.bruce@gmail.com)

**Alan** and **Anne Wells** are leaving for London on September 10th to cruise to ports in England, Scotland, Ireland, Norway and France. They are looking forward to the bed and breakfast in London with a group of fellow cruisers going to a meat pie/fish and chips restaurant. The end of their trip is at the beaches of Normandy. We expect a report when you get back, Alan, and don't get sea sick.

**Ardyth Biffel** reports in on another chapter in the Biffel's life that their kitchen counter is stripped naked waiting for a new quartz tile counter top in a few weeks. In the meantime, newspapers, serving trays and boards have been placed to keep food from falling into the drawers below.

**Ardyth** is also going through a few months of eye surgery, cataracts & astigmatism implants. The drops are so painful. Ouch! She says in a few months she will be able to see where they go on their next cruise. She wishes everyone a wonderful fall.

**Brian Young** and son **Kevin** are leaving for Virginia in mid-September for a gathering of the Andrew Lamont Young society in Staunton Virginia. Brian is one of the Directors and founders of this group that was formed in 2007 and meets every two years. In 2008, they took a trip to Scotland. They have a common ancestor **Andrew Lamont** who was born in 1642 in Dunoon, Scotland at Toward Castle. In 1646, the Lamont clan was massacred by the Campbell's and Mary

Lamont and 4 sons escaped. They headed to Northern Ireland where she changed the last names of each son to a different name, including Andrew the youngest, who assumed her maiden name Young. In the mid-1700's, Andrew's descendants, among other Scot-Irish, went to America. Andrew's great grandson Captain **John Young** was with Washington at Yorktown during the revolutionary war.

Road Last Traveled:

**Paul Joseph Flannery** passed away peacefully on August 22nd in Roseville, CA after a long illness. He was retired as a Major in the U.S. Air Force. Paul retired from Caltrans as a Deputy Director in the Stockton office.

**Adele Larrabee** of Elk Grove passed away on September 1, 2013. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, **Merle E. Larrabee** retired Caltrans Engineer and Honorary QCC member in the Central District.

- **Brian Young**

### *The Haps in District 11*

**S**AVE THE DATE! We have reserved the Barra Barra Restaurant in Old Town once again for our Annual Luncheon on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 11:30 AM. Last year we had over 80 attendees and everyone had a great time enjoying the Mexican buffet. We will have a raffle to give away lots of wonderful gifts. Everyone is welcome, QCC members or not, whether you have 25 years in at Caltrans or not, so just come and have fun. More information will be mailed out.

The annual BBQ at Santee Lakes was held on Saturday September 14th. We will give an update in the next edition.

**Butch Biendara** reports: Our monthly Romeo meeting continues to be well attended with anywhere from 30 to 40 attendees. Come join us on the third Wednesday of every month. We start gathering at 8 AM and place our orders by 8:30 AM at the Denny's at the corner of Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road. At last month's meeting, we were treated to a show-and-tell where a member had a collection of ancient survey equipment that included Columbus's sextant and some of the tools that laid out the first pyramids, ;-).

#### Road Last Traveled:

We are saddened to learn that retired Caltrans Associate Transportation Engineer **Roy Moreau** passed away Saturday, July 27, 2013. Roy retired in 2004 after more than 40 years with Caltrans.

**Christine Carrington** reports:

My dad, **Vernon Cable**, died after a short illness on Saturday, June 15, 2013. He and wife **Peggy** both worked at Caltrans together.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of **Roy** and **Vernon**.

- **Jösan Feathers**

## *The Haps in Central*

**T**he Central District held its' summer get-together at the Dante Club in Sacramento. Some 40 members showed up in Hawaiian attire and enjoyed a great lunch, laughter and super raffle.

Our next club get-together will be our annual Holiday luncheon at the Dante Club in Sacramento on December 11th beginning at 11 am. Hope to see you there!

From **Tom and Julie Hubbs**: The highlight of our year was a 13 country, 6-week European trip. It was great! The last 10 days we spent with friends who live in Rainham, Kent, south of London, England.

From **Jack Cropper**: The South will rise again!?

From **Jack and Ellen Derby**: We just got back from Loon Lake with our ski club. Enjoyed fishing, eating, hiking, competition dominoes, etc. There were 35 of us. Great trip!

From **Chuck Pivetti**: Same old rut – Jane plays bridge and I ride my bike.

From **Jim and Earlene Borden**: Been home since May. Before that, we had a 10 day cruise on the Mississippi River, a week in Pismo Beach and 5 days in Denver to attend a wedding. Good to see everyone.

From **Rich Borgquist**: I volunteer at the California Auto Museum.

**Allen Wrenn** returned home September 4 after being in Africa for four weeks. His travels took him to Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa. A highlight was seeing two male and two female lions fighting ten feet from his safari vehicle. The males wanted to kill four cub lions. In addition to seeing a lot of wildlife he enjoyed visiting Victoria Falls and Cape Town, seeing Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya and visiting Maasai and San Bushman tribes. His accommodations ranged from a Four Seasons Hotel in the Serengeti to a canvas tent in the Kalahari Desert. In the unheated tent it was really difficult for him to get out of bed when the temperature was just 36F at 0600 hours.

From **Hugh and Kay Griffin**: In March our 9 year old granddaughters flew to Sacramento by themselves on their Spring school break. We visited their cousins (2 years old and 3 months old) in Santa Cruz and also went to Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Elkhorn Slough before heading to San Francisco. A stop at the Academy of Sciences was sandwiched between See's Candy factory and the Jelly Belly factory. In the Sacramento area, we visited the Science Museum, the Kennedy Mine in Jackson and saw "Beauty and the Beast" and "Little



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### QCCer

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Mermaid” musicals before putting them on the plane back to Oklahoma City. A great time for the four of us!

In late May, we flew to Venice and spent a week in Venice and Florence with day trips to Siena, San Gimignano, and Pisa before heading by train to Rome and on to Civitavecchia Port by van to board a cruise ship destined for Turkey, Greece, and Southern Italy. We were in Istanbul for the first two days of the disturbance but it did not affect our tour. Additional stops were Ephesus, Mykonos, Corinth, Athens, Naples, Pompeii, and Santorini before returning to Civitavecchia Port for three days in Rome. For a couple of Highway engineers, walking on the Appian Way in Rome was a special treat.

The hospitality of the Italians the first week was exceptional as was the cruise. The wonderful museums, ruins, and churches we visited allowed us to experience and envision the rich fabric of life through the centuries that we had only glimpsed through stories and pictures from history books and bible studies. So much better in person!

On our flight from Rome to Frankfurt, passengers noticed whiffs of white smoke coming from the crack between the bins behind and over our heads which came to our attention when the flight attendant arrived with huge fire gloves up to her elbows and a fire extinguisher in hand! The plane made an emergency landing in Milan. Fortunately, they determined it was an electrical short that only sparked, but never caused a fire. Having to book new flights to Frankfurt and San Francisco, we arrived home a day later than planned, tired and happy. – **Hugh and Kay Griffin**

From **Roger Cook**: **Warren Chan** passed away at the end of May from lung cancer. Warren was 78 and had been a Senior Landscape Architect in Districts 7, 8, and HQ beginning in the 1960s and retired from HQ construction around 2000.

From **Gary and Julie Bush**: In May, we left on a ten day cruise from San Francisco to Alaska. Our first stop was supposed to be Juneau. The seas were so rough along the west coast that the ship was slowed down to 15mph. We never made it to Juneau because we were so far behind schedule. We toured the fjords for the day instead. We did manage to get to the other stops on the way home and the seas were finally calm. We have decided never to sail out of San Francisco again. It was a complete zoo with herds of folks arriving, dropping off luggage and going in circles through crazy traffic.

On September 14th, we fly to the Big Island of Hawaii for two weeks to celebrate our BIG 50 anniversary. Looking forward to kicking back and enjoying a cup of Kona coffee while the soothing ocean breeze whispers through the palms outside our condo! Aloha!

- Gary and Julie Bush

## Events

Got a group that meets regularly? Let your director know and we'll add it to the event calendar.

### District 1 -

Caltrans retirees and QCC members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October at 11:30 am at the Samoa Cookhouse.

Contact **John Sherman** at  
[jsherman1@Humboldt1.com](mailto:jsherman1@Humboldt1.com)  
or call (707) 498-2629 for details.

### District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies.

Contact **Judy Tucker** at  
[linedancerjudy@citlink.net](mailto:linedancerjudy@citlink.net)

Retired folks meet on the 3rd Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the District Office snack bar at 1657 Riverside Drive Redding.

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#### District 3 -

Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville.

Contact: **Doug Becker** 530-622-1665,  
[doug.becker@att.net](mailto:doug.becker@att.net)

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#### District 4 -

The Caltrans Lunch Bunch meets on the second Tuesday of every month.

Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-465-4219,  
[edcoble49@astound.net](mailto:edcoble49@astound.net)

Administration Retirees Lunch meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Mexicali Rose Restaurant in downtown Oakland at 11:30am.  
Contact **Anita Appiano** ([aappiano@pacbell.net](mailto:aappiano@pacbell.net)) or **Kathy Freeman** ([kathy.freeman1@att.net](mailto:kathy.freeman1@att.net)).

The North Bay Caltrans Retirees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Contact: **Jim Boulter** 707-546-3097,  
[jboulter@comcast.net](mailto:jboulter@comcast.net)

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#### District 5 -

Contact **Kathy Copeland**: 805-544-1834  
[bcopel4674@aol.com](mailto:bcopel4674@aol.com)

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#### District 6 -

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact: **Don Phillips** 559-781-2057

Informal Coffee at 8 am on Thursdays at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

An informal District 6 bunch meets at Santa Fe Basque Restaurant at 3110 N Maroa Ave, south of Shields in Fresno the first Monday of the month.

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#### District 7 -

The Tom Fera Monthly Luncheon Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month (except December) in Los Angeles.

Contact: **Chuck O'Connell** at (661) 253-3428 or [chuckoconnell@prodigy.net](mailto:chuckoconnell@prodigy.net), or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or [tgilders@pacbell.net](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net).

October 9, 2013	Joselito's West
November 13, 2013	Steer N' Ale
December 7, 2013	QCC luncheon

See **D-7 Haps** for addresses and phone numbers

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#### District 8 -

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 Construction Retirees and anyone else interested meet at Coco's Restaurant in San Bernardino.

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#### District 9 -

Contact: **Lance Hinek**, 760-873-3885,  
[hinek@suddenlink.net](mailto:hinek@suddenlink.net)

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#### District 10 -

For details on events contact **Brian Young** 209-329-3445 cell or [blyoung365@gmail.com](mailto:blyoung365@gmail.com).

Lenny's Huddle meets at 7:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month at Denny's, I-5 and March Lane in Stockton.

Contact: **Stan Randolph**, 209-957-1278,  
[stanran3672@aol.com](mailto:stanran3672@aol.com)

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#### District 11-

ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets at Denny's, Navajo Road at Fletcher Parkway at 8:30 am the third Wednesday of every month.

Contact: **Butch Biendara**, 858-279-5054  
[EagleAyerie@hotmail.com](mailto:EagleAyerie@hotmail.com)

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#### Central District -

Contact **Gary or Julie Bush**  
530-642-8208  
[zbusharosa@wildblue.net](mailto:zbusharosa@wildblue.net)