

SIR STATE GOLF NEWSLETTER
February 1, 2008

Say “**Goodbye**” to **John Cooper**. Effective January 1, 2008, John retired from his position as Chairman of the Operations Sub Committee. We will miss his knowledge, dedication and personality. He has been replaced by **Wayne Thush**, who was, most recently, the golf chairman of our North Coast Division #1. **John Crawford** from Novato has taken over Wayne’s old position.

Also retiring from the committee effective January first was **Don Dill**, the golf chairman of the North Valley/Sierra Division #2 and **Dave Scharton**, the golf chairman of the South Division #5. Dill has been replaced by **Don Andrews** from Yuba City, who was a recent addition to our Policy Sub Committee; Scharton has been replaced by **Ron Witort** from Turlock.

With the conclusion of our two separate trips to Ixtapa, Mexico, in early December, we finished our 2007 tournament schedule in grand style. While attendance was down in Las Vegas, Solvang and Mexico, we had record turnouts for Reno, the State Scramble Team Championship at Poppy Ridge and the State Individual Championship and Open Play at Poppy Hills. Consequently, in 2008, we are reducing the Las Vegas tournament from two separate weeks to one week, increasing the Reno tournaments from two separate weeks to three, and reducing the Solvang tournament from a four day (with one day off) tournament to a three day (with no day off) tournament.

Our **tournament schedule for 2008** has been approved by the State Board and is highlighted elsewhere on this website. Watch this website to learn when and how applications for these events will be made available to all SIR golfers; **the application for Las Vegas is available now** (click on Entry Forms). The hosts this year are Wayne Thush, Dick Richmond and Don Hansen, a new member of the Policy Committee. The last date for sending in the application for Vegas is February 29, 2008.

Many thanks to the 100+ participants in the Individual State Championship and Open Play at **Poppy Hills** last November for completing and turning in a comprehensive **survey**. The results of the survey indicate the following tidbits:

- 50% of the golfers surveyed played on both days
- 106 golfers spent at least one night in a motel (85% spent 2 or 3 nights)
- 92% plan to return next year
- 88% plan to play both days next year
- While 48% would prefer to play both days only at Poppy Hills,
- 52% would play both days if one of the days we played golf elsewhere in the area
- 82% (99 respondents) are interested in having a lodging package made available

The State Golf Committee will consider these results when finalizing the plans for 2008 – although we already know that both rounds will be at Poppy Hills.

The results from our **Ixtapa, Mexico surveys** indicate that the vast majority (90%) of participants rated this tournament as Good or Wow! (78% Good). While it has been made clear to the committee that we need to use only airlines that fly non-stop when we go to Mexico, we are pleased that our SIR Hosts on both tournaments earned an 89% ranking of Good or Wow! (62% Wow!). And 73% of participants indicated a desire to return to Ixtapa when it is next scheduled. These results of the Ixtapa surveys also tell us that 46% prefer Mexico as an early winter destination, 83% prefer a 2- or 3-course rotation in our tournaments, and that Mt. Shasta (31%), Palm Springs (36%) and Carmel Valley (33%) are almost equally popular as potential additional destinations for the committee to consider in the future.

Please give us feedback on the value of this letter, this website, our 2008 schedule or on any other related topic by sending an email to any or all of our committee members. You can secure all of the information on how to contact us by clicking on State Golf, and then clicking on (For Complete Information in Pdf Format-Click Here). We look forward to hearing from you.