

# The Reminder



September 2013

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan

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## Robert (Bob) Babcock



An excellent source of member prospects for organizations like the Senior Men's Club that is often overlooked is the wives of prospects. A good example is Bob Babcock and his wife Elizabeth. When Bob retired in 1987 after his career in the business world, Elizabeth suggested that he look into our club. The rest is history, with the SMC benefitting greatly from multi-faceted contributions from one of our most active members.

Bob's participation in the Club's activities includes: Membership Chairman; Table Setting Chairman; Lunch Ticket; Attendance; and Games committees. His many contributions to the Club were recognized in 2005 when he was awarded the Outstanding Service Award. Through the years, Bob has enjoyed the Bowling and Golf leagues, and is proud of the hole-in-one he made in 2006.

Bob was born and raised in Malden, Massachusetts and received Bachelor of Science and MBA degrees from Syracuse University. His business career included positions with Ford Motor Company, American Motors, American Motors - Canada, and Arthur Young.

Bob served four years in the Air Force including a stint in Korea where he served as honor guard at the signing of the Armistice. Bob and Elizabeth have been married 56 years and have lived in Birmingham since 1960.

The Senior Men's Club extends a special thank you to Elizabeth for her recommendation of the Club to Bob!

—Chuck Ragains

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

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## OCTOBER DISCUSSIONS

OCTOBER CHAIRMAN: Augie Perrotta



**Thomas H. Knasel**  
4573 Brafferton Dr.  
Bloomfield Hills, 48302-2207  
248-563-5802  
Email: thjkna@gmail.com  
Sponsor: John Flintosh



**Jay N. Kafarski**  
2345 Hidden Pine  
Troy, 48098-4135  
248-641-9961  
Email: jaykafarski@gmail.com  
Sponsor: Bill Munro



**Anant Bhogaonker**  
4445 Rolling Pine Dr.  
West Bloomfield, 48323-1445  
248-225-5874  
Email: anantbhog@gmail.com  
Sponsor: Pete Mehra



**George Ritter**  
28420 Sunset  
Lathrup Village, 48076-2659  
248-559-2998  
Email: georitermd@comcast.net  
Sponsor: Tom Schrift



**Joseph A. Murphy, Jr.**  
751 Ann St.  
Birmingham, 48009  
248-792-5484  
Email: jamjr5@gmail.com  
Sponsor: Pete Kass



**John P. O'Leary**  
5447 Tequesta Dr.  
West Bloomfield, 48323-2354  
248-681-7747  
Email: olearyjohn@yahoo.com  
Sponsor: Tom Gillingham



**Martin I. Reisig**  
927 Madison  
Birmingham, 48009-5748  
248-258-6222  
Email: mireisig@aol.com  
Sponsor: Stu Shuster



**Timothy S. McGee**  
3871 Woodman Dr.  
Troy, 48084-1154  
248-643-097  
Email: tsmcgee1@hotmail.com  
Sponsor: Ty Perkins



**John K. Holden**  
3865 Millspring Rd.  
Bloomfield Hills, 48304-3047  
248-646-9773  
Email: jkholden@comcast.net  
Sponsor: Perry Driggs



**Ted D. Wanamaker**  
798 Box Canyon Ct.  
Rochester Hills, 48309-2326  
248-375-5542  
Email: twaw24@comcast.net  
Sponsor: Ron Denton

## New Associates:

**Robert C. Sparks**  
7955 Ranch Estates Rd.  
Clarkston, MI 48348-4026  
248-391-3354  
Email: sparks7955@comcast.net  
Sponsor: John Marsh

## To Life Member:

**Richard W. Judy**  
**William J. English**  
**David H. Key**

## Deaths:

**J. Richard P. Sharpe**, joined September 2010  
**William M. Kelly**, (Life) joined January 1999  
**Jack E. Ledingham**, joined May 2009  
**Donald A. MacDonald**, (Life) joined April 1999  
**Richard A. Suminski**, (Life) joined November 2000  
**Dennis S. Nielsen**, joined May 2008  
**William G. Bratton**, (Life) joined November 1992  
**Harold R. Melin**, (Life) joined January 1987

—Pete Kass, Membership Chairman  
—Robert Beach, Database Chairman

## Monday Golf

Amazing! The official season has ended for the Monday Golf League at Lincoln Hills (to make way for bowling). But Lincoln Hills continues to hold our Monday League tee times (7:30 to 9:30AM) open for your continuing play. Just call in to reserve your spots and pay at the desk. Greens fees are \$13 for senior players and \$9.50 for Leisure Pass holders. Just identify yourselves as Senior Men's Club (SMC) members. There will be no SMC "starters" present but (to provide added motivation) you are welcome to call Committee Members for names and contact information on other prospective players.



This year's SCRAMBLE was held on August 12 under challenging weather conditions. Twenty-one stalwarts endured threatening skies and finished the round. Twelve avid competitors participated in the Scramble. Adjusted for handicaps the winners were: 1st Place : Gordon Fox, Pete Kass, John Marsh and Alan Nealley; 2nd Place – Ken Bugis, Don Foehr, Ben Porter and Rich Wehling and 3rd Place – John Perryman, Bob Smith, Cliff Snedeker and George Stern. It is unfortunate that everyone did not get to participate. We'll try to do the Scramble earlier next year to accommodate delays that may arise.

All Monday golfers are encouraged to participate in the Annual Golf Banquet in October. Details are not finalized and will be announced soon.

A final report will be included in the October *Reminder*. Until then, congratulations and thank you.

—Bill Spreitzer

## Irish Humor?

After spending the evening at the pub, Murphy staggered out with his last bottle in his pocket.

Unfortunately, he tripped and fell, and then felt something wet running down his leg.

"Lord" he prayed, "let it be blood!"

## Thursday Golf

The annual Thursday Golf Tournament is being held at press time for this article. All players are competing against their established averages. There are three flights in the tournament:

- Championship Flight - for players with averages of 45.0 and below
- Flight #1 - for players with averages of 45.1 thru 50.0
- Flight #2 - for players with averages of 50.1 and up

Calculation of winning scores is based on the first of two consecutive rounds played. Prizes for the top two winners in each flight will be awarded at the golf banquet.

Reservations are now on sale for the Annual Stonycroft Scramble being held on Tuesday, September 10. The cost for this very special event is \$43 for non-members of Stonycroft and \$28 for members. See any Golf Committee member to sign up. To ensure that the competition is fair, the Stonycroft pro will assign team members based on scoring averages. Power carts are available at the Pro Shop for \$10 and need to be reserved in advance.

Prizes for the first place team will be awarded at the Stonycroft luncheon after the Scramble.

—The Golf Committee

## Bowling

Let's get rolling! Yes, summer is almost gone and it's time to think about bowling. So get that dusty ball out of the closet and be ready to start on Monday, September 9. Once again, we will bowl at Thunderbird Lanes on Maple Road, just east of Crooks. We start practice at 9:00AM, with scoring at 9:15AM.



New bowlers are most welcome. Even if you haven't bowled for years (maybe never), why not give it a try? You will find that we bowl for fun and camaraderie - not for highly competitive scores. You will fit in and we guarantee you will have fun! Please call Chairman Tom Venier (248-642-2386) or just show up at T'Bird Monday morning. You could start as a sub to try it out.

—Bowling Committee

The newest inductee into our most prestigious membership category is **Dick Judy**. A club member since 1999, Dick is a real "Illini" - born in Champaign, Illinois, went to Champaign High School and to the University of Illinois. He graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and promptly married Joanne - his childhood sweetheart.



Dick joined the Marines in April, 1951 and served as a Second Lieutenant with the Second Marines in Korea. After his discharge, he first worked for an Illinois newspaper for two years, and then joined Ford Motor Company. His Ford career lasted 35 years and included a number of communication positions. Dick retired in 1990 as Director, External Communications Office.

His marriage lasted 60 years, until sadly, Joanne passed. Dick has three children, 5 grandsons and one great grandson. He is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. Dick is an avid Club golfer, was on the staff producing "The Wars of Our Generation" and has served as monthly program chairman. Welcome, Dick!

—John Steele

## Lung Cancer Screening

In the US, over 200,000 people are diagnosed with lung cancer each year and about 160,000 will die. In July, the US Preventative Services Task Force proposed that adults age 55 to 79 who are at high risk for lung cancer, be screened with low-dose CT scans. Smoking is the biggest risk factor resulting in about 85% of US lung cancers.



High risk is defined as smoking one pack a day for 30 years, 2 packs a day for 15 years and so on. Healthy people in that age range with at least a 30 pack year history of smoking who are either still smoking or have quit in the last 15 years are all candidates to consider screening. Your risk goes up the more you smoke, the longer you smoke and with age.

With screening before age 55, the balance of benefits and harms shifts. The high rate of false-positive results associated with lung cancer screening can lead to additional imaging which, in turn, results in more radiation, anxiety and, in some cases, lung surgery to prove there is no cancer. Screening after age 79, on average, confers no survival benefit.

—Augustine L. Perrotta, DO

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## Yes, We Were at the Dream Cruise



*Bob Jordan with his Ford Model A*



*Tom Gillingham with his Austin Healy*

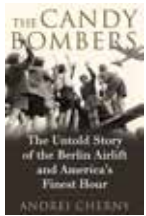
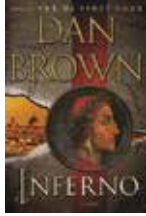
The SMC was well represented at the 2013 Dream Cruise by Bob Jordan and his Ford Model A as well as Tom Gillingham and his beautiful Austin Healy.

Photos by Dick Kern



## Book Reading Groups

On Wednesday, September 4 at 10:30AM, we will discuss the book "Inferno" by Dan Brown. "Inferno" is a predictable, unbelievable, breathless action that starts with Robert Langdon, who sprints injured from a hospital bed in what he discovers is not New England but Florence, Italy. This book's plot is ambitious even by Brown's standards. The writer continues to command a great following. Brown's readership is already acquainted with Langdon, art historian cum world-saviour, all in one. He lands in the most unthinkable situations with the world's most gorgeous, brainy and spirited women (in Bond 007 fashion), and together they solve hidden mysteries, just in the nick of time to ward off crazed men.



On Monday, September 16 at 3:00PM we will discuss "The Candy Bombers" by Andrei Cherry. This book brings to life a little-known post-World War II story. What started as a single pilot's car tour of bombed-out Berlin turned into an international campaign to help lighten the suffering of the children of West Berlin. The time was 1948, and the Soviet Union had closed all land access to the isolated Free World sectors of West Berlin in an attempt to starve the people into accepting Communist rule.

Next month on Wednesday, October 2 we will discuss "Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell.

—Ted Chapekis



## Camera Group

The Camera Group will join with the Computer Group for a joint meeting as a special Discussion Group program on Friday, September 13 at 2:00PM on Digital Stereo Photography. Member Al Huberty will discuss how you can take 3D digital images and the different ways to show them to family and friends. There are cameras today that can take 3D pictures and display them on your computer or 3D TV. Al will share some pictures taken by various people and project them on a screen. Yes, you will wear furnished special glasses like at the movies. He will also share with us how to scan old 3D slides and display them on



## Classic Movie Group

Hollywood musical fan, Irv Poston, will be showing "That's Entertainment" on Monday, September 9 from 1:00-3:00PM. The film is MGM's legacy of excerpts from dozens of the studio's most famous musicals from the 1920s to the 1950s hosted by a succession of legendary stars. This is the last film shot on MGM's famous "back lot." They don't make them like this anymore. Bring your date.



—Augie Perrotta



## Investment Group

On Wednesday, September 11 at 2:45PM, James L. Bashaw, CFA and President, JLB & Associates, a private investment firm in Plymouth, will present "Answers to Investment Questions that Everyone Wants to Know." Should we be in stocks, bonds, gold, or cash? Should we anticipate an up or down market? He will answer these and many other investment questions. Jim is a new speaker to SMC.

The Stock Game will begin on October 4. Entry forms with greater investment options will be available at the September meeting.

—George Miller



## Computer Group

The Computer Group will meet on Wednesday, September 18 at 3:00PM. The guest speaker is Norman Schmitt. Norm teaches Apple iPad, iPhone and Apple Mac computers at the Birmingham Area Senior Coordinating Council (BASCC). Norm's topic for this meeting is "The Features and Capabilities of the iPad." Bring your Apple iPad or iPhone to this meeting if you have specific questions about them. All are welcome at this meeting, men, women, members and non-members.

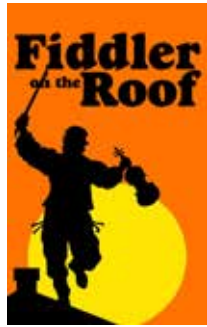
Members are also encouraged to attend the Discussion Group meeting on Friday, September 13. SMC member, Al Huberty will discuss the use of computers with digital 3D photography.

—Ron Denton, Irv Poston

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## “Fiddler on the Roof”

Tickets will go on sale at 9:00AM Friday, September 6 for our annual trip to the Stratford Festival on Wednesday, September 25. We expect a quick sellout of this event. Tickets are \$125 per person and include transportation, lunch, excellent seats to the play, post theatre snacks, and all gratuities.



The play is an affectionate portrait of village life in Tsarist Russia. The play is based on Sholem Aleichem's 1894 stories about Tevye and his daughters and takes its title from the painting “The Fiddler” by Marc Chagall. Amidst challenges from his daughters and the uncertainties of the world beyond his village, the milkman-philosopher, Tevye, strives to maintain his sense of tradition and of joy.

--Lunch will be at the Stratford Country Club in the Main Banquet Room.

--“Fiddler on the Roof” will begin at 2:00PM at the Stratford Festival Theatre.

--Following the play, a quick stop will be made at the Stratford Rheo Thompson Candy Shop.

--A sandwich snack/dessert will be served on the return trip.

We should arrive home about 8:30PM.

**IMPORTANT:** Travel to Canada now requires a valid passport or an enhanced driver's license or ID. Your ID will be checked prior to boarding the bus.

—Bob Gualdoni, Riggs Miller, and Joe Samyn

## Grand River Fall Color Cruise

Save the date: Wednesday, October 23. The Senior Men's Club and their ladies will be enjoying the color cruise on Lansing's scenic Grand River. The fall color change should be at its spectacular best.



We board the triple deck Michigan Princess showboat and will enjoy the relaxing style and grandeur of an earlier era. Captain Chamberlain will take time to point out on-shore features and riverside views. Cruise time is 11:00AM to 1:30PM.

Stroll the open deck or relax in the comfort of the salon with an unparalleled view of the Grand River. A sumptuous buffet of roast turkey, vegetarian lasagna, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potato casserole, cornbread stuffing, warm vegetables, chilled salads, rolls, dessert, coffee and iced tea will be the menu.

Tickets go on sale Friday, September 13. The cruise is a reprise of a similar event a decade ago. We will depart from the First Presbyterian Church on Maple Road in Birmingham. Parking is available in the rear lot. Departure by deluxe motorcoach is promptly at 8:45AM. We'll see you on the bus!

—Joe Samyn and John O'Brien

## Save the Date!

## “Company” is Coming

Keep Friday, November 15 open for “Company,” the smash Broadway musical with music and lyrics by the famous Steven Sondheim. A possible Plan “B” is in the offing where we would buy-out the Village Players house for a TCH benefit. If Plan “B” happens, the event would be on Thursday night, November 14. In either case the tickets are only \$25 including an afterglow with the cast. A fun evening with a very short drive. Put the dates (with your date) on your calendar now!

## SMC Christmas Party

We will hold our Annual Christmas Dinner Dance on Wednesday, December 4 at the San Marino Club. The festivities will begin with a social reception at 6:00PM with snacks, punch, and a cash bar. We will be seated at 6:45PM for announcements and introductions, followed by dinner at 7:00PM and dancing to follow.

Tickets will go on sale at the Special Events table beginning at 9:00AM on Friday, October 25. More details in the *October Reminder*

President Stu Shuster has appointed a SMC Nominating Committee with the most important responsibility of selecting candidates for Club Officers for 2014.

Committee members are Past President Dick Harper, Chairman, Past Presidents Bill Johnson and Irv Poston plus members Cliff Bath and John Slocum. The committee has initiated deliberations which will continue in September. Per our constitution, nominations and the election of officers will take place during the first two weeks in November. Members with officer candidate suggestions are encouraged to contact any committee member.

## Free Lunch



Once again, the SMC will offer a free lunch at Friday meetings in September for guests who are new member prospects.

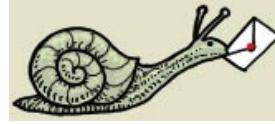
Details as follows:

- Available for guests of members and associates
- Offered at meetings on September 6, 13, 20 and 27

- Maximum of 10 free lunches per meeting

Register in advance with Associates Committee Chairman John Klein at 248-363-3020 or (Klein60@yahoo.com) by the Thursday preceding the planned guest attendance date.

—John Klein



We still have more than 100 members with email addresses who also receive the *Reminder* by postal delivery. We have been campaigning to convince such members to discontinue postal mailing, which saves us about \$1 per copy in printing and mailing expense. And we have had some success - as shown below, we mailed 298 *Reminders* in July, down considerably from 461 in July 2010.

July *Reminders* mailed:

2010 - 461

2011 - 396

2012 - 355

2013 - 298

If you are a member getting the *Reminder* two ways, why not tell Bob Beach (RCBeacher@wowway.com) that we can discontinue "snail mail?" The emailed *Reminder* arrives almost a week before the postman.

## Dress Code



President Stu Shuster has announced that our regular Friday meeting dress code - coats required, ties preferred, will be in effect starting with our September meetings.

Note that our "fashion police" will be watching to ensure that we maintain our reputation as the "best dressed men in Birmingham."

## SMC 2014 Dues Coupon

2014 dues are payable before January 1, 2014. A \$10 late fee **must** be added for dues paid after January 1, 2014. Make checks payable to SMC and pay at a meeting or by mail. Please use the coupon if paying by mail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by mail, send to:

Senior Men's Club - Dues  
The Community House  
380 South Bates Street  
Birmingham, MI 48009

Dues:

- \$40 Active Member
- \$40 Associate Member
- \$0 Life Member\*

*\*Life Members pay no dues, but many use the coupon to make a voluntary contribution for financial support of our Club.*

Our mystery lyrics for July really lived up to the word mystery. Only one correct answer was received to identify the song containing these opening lines:

*In the land of San Domingo  
Lived a girl called \_ \_ \_ \_ \_*

This apparently obscure Spike Jones "classic" was recognized only by Tom and Rose Marie Venier, who knew that the song is "Oh By Jingo." Tom told us that Rose Marie knew the melody, most of the lyrics and sang it for him. Congratulations to the Veniers!

Since we do feel a little guilty about how difficult that one was, we may be going too far the other way this month. Hopefully not too many will recognize the song containing this line:

*Make sure that your umbrella  
is upside down*

Can you name that tune? We will credit the first 50 correct answers - (that's a joke, son.)

## Sports Trivia

We actually were surprised when only four Tiger fans got the answers to last month's trivia challenge. We asked you to remember the nicknames of these well-known Tigers, Ty Cobb, Hal Newhouser and Sparky Anderson (other than Sparky, that is). The answers are:

- Ty Cobb "The Georgia Peach"
- Hal Newhouser "Prince Hal"
- Sparky Anderson "Captain Hook"

(remember how often he changed pitchers?)

Only Jack McLaughlin, Tom McNally and Clay Gordon got all three, while Dick Smith got Cobb and Newhouser.

OK, let's try this again-with players from other teams. Can you remember the nicknames of these former stars?

Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams and Reggie Jackson?

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, which meets on Fridays at 10:30AM at The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, Michigan 48009.

Officers for 2013 are: Stuart B. Shuster, president; John M. Steele, first vice president; George L. Stern, second vice president; Eugene P. Jacoby, recording secretary; Richard A. Kamp, corresponding secretary; James E. Bayson, treasurer; Richard E. Shirley, assistant treasurer; David A. Schwartz and Clifford O. Bath, officers at large; George A. Grove, parliamentarian.

THE REMINDER includes: Dick Harper, editor; Chuck Ragains John Reddy, and John Flintosh, associate editors; Tom Booth, Bill Shaffmaster, and Geno Markel, photography; Mary Kennedy, computer layout; Bob Jordan, mailing.

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham  
380 South Bates St., Birmingham, MI 48009  
www.tchseves.org

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## CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

**Executive Board Meeting:** Tuesday, September 3, 9:30AM

**Reminder Deadline:** Friday, September 20

### Games

**Bowling:** Monday, 9:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes (Beg. September 9)

**Bridge:** Tuesday, 9:00AM and Friday after lunch

**Monday Golf:** 7:30AM at Lincoln Hills

**Thursday Golf:** 9:00AM at Springdale

### Special Events

**Stratford Festival,** Wednesday, September 25, 8:15AM

**Grand River Fall Color Cruise,** Wednesday, October 23, 8:45 AM

### Group Meetings

**Book Reading Groups:** Group A: Wednesday, September 4, 10:30AM

Group B: Monday, September 16, 3:00PM

**Classic Movie Group:** Monday, September 9, 1:00PM

**Camera Group:** Friday, September 13, 2:00PM

**Investment Group:** Wednesday, September 11, 2:45PM

**Computer Group:** Wednesday, September 18, 3:00PM

*All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.*

### SMC on the Web:

<http://www.tchseves.org/subpage/senior-mens-club>



# SIMC Detroit River Tour

7/24/2013



Bus started in Birmingham and took us to the GM HQ/Renaissance Center for lunch at Andiamo's. Then we boarded the Diamond Queen river boat for our trip from Detroit to Wyandotte. The tour included side trips into Rouge complex channels and seeing many drawbridges. We disembarked in Wyandotte for the bus trip back to Birmingham. Great trip and great weather.

—Photographs by Tom Booth using Canon Rebel XT camera

