



INCORPORATED

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TAMALPAIS BRANCH NO. 47

A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation of Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement.

Big Sir -- Jim Norton 415-491-0816
Little Sir--Doug Twitchell 415-897-1759
Secretary - Ned Lawrence - 415-595-1092
Ass't Sect'y - Charles Stedwell-415-299-1498



TAMAL TALK

A SIR PUBLICATION

Luncheon Meeting:
McINNIS GOLF CENTER, SAN RAFAEL
Fourth Tuesday of the month
Happy Hour at 11:00 am, as always

Editor/Publisher - Ron Kosciusko -415-435-0650
Attendance Committee-415-881-7477
Cashier - Glen Ohm - 415-479-5693

Directors: Bob Wilson Jake Solomon Jim Kleiser George Brown Bob Gonzalez Paul Schofield

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Region 10 Director - Jim Filippo 415-892-2063 Area 6 Governor - Sandy Grieve

MARIN COUNTY

MARCH 2019
OUR 45TH YEAR

VOL. XLV No. 3

BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

As I write this, I just returned home from the February Luncheon, what a great crowd we had with attendance over 80 members and guests. Those of you who couldn't be there missed a wonderful presentation on Beekeeping by John McGinnis and his wife Doreen. Who knew bees could be so interesting? Kudoes to Little Sir Doug Twitchell for arranging this compelling presentation on such an unusual topic.

I heard that the Chinese New Year's Party was also a great success with 25 or so people in attendance. Thanks to See Tom for his effort organizing this event enjoyed by so many members and their guests.

Unfortunately, Little Sir Doug Twitchell and I couldn't be there as we were in attendance that day at the SIRs State meeting for Big and Little Sirs in Walnut Creek. It was interesting rubbing shoulders with the officials from state and many of the other branches. We heard about the challenges facing the SIRs organization statewide. My takeaway is that our branch 47 is doing very well by growing our membership, recruiting outstanding leadership and staying financially stable.

As I missed the January luncheon, I just had my first chance to view the 2019 roster book, what a first class job! Many thanks to Erick Young who led the effort to get the book updated, put together and distributed in time for our January luncheon. Well done Erick.

Regards, see you all next month

Jim Norton, Big Sir - Branch 47

MARCH MONTHLY LUNCH MENU

NOTE COST IS NOW \$29

Salad

Chicken Toscana with penne pomodoro

Alternative: Grilled Salmon with rice and vegetables

Rolls and butter

Dessert

The Armchair Navy of Lee Turner

By Alan Thomas

On Tuesday, January 22nd, we were the audience to a unique presentation by our own Branch 47 member Lee Turner. Lee was employed for 15 years in London followed by another 24 years in the Bay Area. Lee was a ship broker defined as a freight forwarding agent who acts on behalf of importers, exporters or other companies or persons to organize the safe, efficient and cost effective transportation of goods via shipping lines. Duties include arranging courier and specialist hand-carry services; working closely with customers, colleagues and third parties to ensure smooth operations to deadlines and a great number of other responsibilities of which Lee said that general public has little or no knowledge.

For the mission that Lee spoke about, his ship of choice was a Liberty Ship Replacement, class designation of SD-14. The SD-14 was reputed to be great work horse, the last with a conventional engine room. A Wikipedia description reads: "Great ship but even when new she was past her sell-by date. British seafarers were slow to change. The British companies and shipbuilders were good but became complacent. Liberty SD-14s were designed in the 1960s to replace the aging WWII tonnage which was soon to go out of service."

Lee's particular ship was a tanker and his original mission was transport of dry cargo, in this case a shipments of steel. While Lee did not involve himself with voyages per se, his ownership of the ship involved a circuitous trip and he covered the ship's voyage to Haifa, Israel, Greece, and eventually Hawaii. Germany was using a Liberty 36L and Australia was using Liberties that were deemed unsafe and these ships were blacklisted by the ILWU. Regarding the cargo, no corrosives were to be used on the ship as well as a prohibition of arms or explosive cargo. Desert Storm was on-going at the time.

Lee had to carry a self-insured insurance policy as he could not obtain insurance that was American based. The later cargo of bombs was loaded at Port Chicago in San Francisco Bay.

Port Chicago was the 1944 site of a tremendous ammunition explosion that took many lives.

(Continued)

March Luncheon Speaker

March: Jack Devlin - Member of SIR Branch 68. Topic U.S.S. Sultana - Worst Maritime Disaster in US History. Background: Jack is a member of Branch 68 and was in the Navy from 1964 - 68 - including a 16 month tour in Vietnam. He had a 45 year career in property / casualty insurance. He learned of the Sultana disaster from his great-great grandfather's obituary. Jack has researched this disaster and will recount much of the story we may never have heard of before.

DOUG TWITCHELL , LITTLE SIR

(Continued)

The bombs were intended to be discharged in Kuwait. Lee "got the nod" which means his fee as manager was agreed upon and Lee took over as manager of the mission. Before the ship embarked, Lee took a tour and saw the many explosives that constituted its cargo. Naval longshoremen were used to load the cargo; all were previously Navy Seabees. After the cargo of bombs was loaded, the ship embarked for Kuwait. The route had been mapped out but canals were avoided due to prohibitive expense. From San Francisco, Kuwait is half way around the world, or approximately 12,000 miles. After sailing to Hawaii which prevented discharge of cargo, the ship sailed back to Port Chicago. After another unsuccessful attempt to again unload the bombs at Port Chicago, the ship set off for Saudi Arabia. Instead the bombs were taken to Savannah, Georgia, and the voyage was over.

Lee Turner felt that in a way he had somewhat participated in a war exercise, but since he never left the United States nor sailed with the ship, it was his "armchair war."

Book library

Over 1/3 rd of the members indicated a desire to continue the availability and use of our book library. Currently our library is a depleted so we can use more good books, the ones you think are better than average.

Culling books that were never taken to be read has been an issue. So, if you get a dud do not bring it back. I know that sometimes one persons trash is another persons treasure.

If you really like a book and want to keep it that is OK . But it would be nice if you replaced it with other good read. Taking your "good books" to a reseller weakens our library.

SIR Br 47 May Party Tuesday May 7, 2019

**Luncheon at the Marin Country Club
11:30 am social time and 12:00 for lunch**

Please invite your spouse and friends to join us.



The cost is \$33 / person for a 3-course lunch which includes spinach salad, rolls & butter, and choice of main course:

- (1) Mushroom & Goat Cheese Stuffed Chicken,**
- (2) Grilled Salmon or**
- (3) Gnocchi Gorgonzola.**

Also brownies & ice cream, coffee and tea.

There is a no host bar, for those interested.

How many of you remember giving and receiving May Baskets?

Join us to celebrate the coming of summer with good friends.

Please make check payable to SIR Branch 47 and send to: Kurt Heilman, 457 Fieldstone Dr., Novato, CA 94945.

<< Payment must be received by noon Friday, May 3.

Cancellations will not be honored after 48 hours in advance.

**Contact Kurt Heilman @ 1-415-892-2460
or heilmanfour@comcast.net.**

**You can buy your tickets at our Mar. 26
and Apr. 23 luncheons**



TRAVEL

March 11 – 15, 2019: Spring Training – Scottsdale, AZ. Travel by Air & Bus – Enjoy Baseball games, shows and local attractions. Also includes 4 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, and 4 Dinners plus Lodging. Cost \$1648 per person DO – Single Supplement additional \$500. For additional information contact Bill Stires #143 209 544-2684 or wsmkp101130@sbcglobal.net

April 6-21, 2019: Princess Hawaii Cruise R/T San Francisco: Ports of Call: Hilo, Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Ensenada.. Pricing, Inside \$2290, Outside \$2865, Balcony \$3365 and Mini-Suite \$3935 Double Occupancy. Single Occupancy range from \$399 to \$7395. **Veterans,** Bring your DD214 to the travel agent for an additional \$250 shipboard credit. For more information contact Brian Serpa 408 227 -7658 bserpa@sbcglobal.net or Alan Patmore # 125 408 867-4197 alan_patmore@earthlink or Talbot Tours 800 662-9933

April 24-28, 2019: San Antonio Spring Fiesta: 5 day tour includes, Fiesta Flambeau Parade, City Tour, Tower of Americas, River Walk, Alamo, also Home Pick up, R/T Airfare, Professional Tour Manager, Deluxe Motor coach w/ restroom, 4 Nights Hotel Accommodation at Drury Plaza Hotel Riverwalk, 8 meals: All 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 3 dinners – Plus all taxes and Gratuities, Baggage Handling for 1 suitcase per person (except airline Baggage fees) Contact for additional information, Roy Newman #45 530 755-3713

roy.newmand@comcast.net or Talbot Tours 800 662-9933

May 2-13, 2019: Crystal Mediterranean Cruise with 3 Night Land Package.13 Ports of Call in Italy and Greece: Price \$5350, Includes Air and Ship and 16 Breakfast, Lunch and Dinners. For additional information and brochure contact Milt Smith Br#146 925 280-0328 miltsmith549@gmail.com or Alamo Travel 848 874-7800

**Questions?? Your Travel Chairman:
Kurt Heilman –415 892-2460**

TENNIS, ANYONE?

Every Wednesday 9:30 AM McInnis Park

Bill Donnelly 897-8966 or Glen Ohm 479-5693 if interested



QUICKEN SIG

Meets quarterly for info call
B. Bloch, GGCS, 415-388-3864

ADVANCED DIGITAL CAMERA STUFF

3rd Wednesdays, vp@ggcs.org
All Wednesday sessions are from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

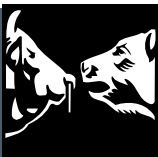
GGCS classroom
First Presbyterian Church
Fifth Avenue, San Rafael



FISHING

The fishermen meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Novato United Methodist Church at 9:30am. For detailed information, contact **SIR Bill Cline, Branch 134, @**

INVESTORS LUNCH BUNCH



Second Friday of the month at Sam's Place at 1545 South Novato Blvd. Order from the complete Breakfast/Lunch menu and receive individual checks. No reservations are required. Meeting will start at 11:45, followed by presentations and discussions.

Contacts:

Will Kaefer 415-927-1043, or

BRIDGE GROUP

The bridge group meets on the third Thursday of each month at a member's home. Play is from 10 am to 2 pm. To reserve space and get directions for the next event, call or email

Charles Caviness: 415 435-9618

THURSDAY WALKING/HIKING GROUP

1st week each month: Jake Solomon 415-472-3069
2nd week each month Pierre Terrier 415-785-4513
3rd week each month: Al Springstead 415-250-3808
4th week each month: Alan Thomas 415-457-4576
5th week (if applicable): Dee Stuever 415-459-6751

GOLF



Chairman Tom Brady, 897-8573

9-Hole Golf at McInnis Park

Mondays at 9:00 am, weather permitting

Contact **James G Bitter <jybitter@aol.com>**

18 Hole Golf

March 4	Monday	Petaluma CC	08:30
March 11	Monday	Rooster Run	Sequen-
tial Tee Times Starting @ 07:00			
March 18	Monday	Foxtail North	08:00
March 25	Monday	Napa/Kennedy	08:00

BRANCH 47 BOCCE

The first Monday of each month; no cost to play. Spouses and guests are encouraged to attend. We start with lunch at 12 noon @ the Swiss Hotel on the Sonoma Square. Then we play Bocce @ about 1:30 pm at Depot Park behind the Swiss Hotel. Bring your own Bocce balls, if you have them.

Contact: Kurt Heilman @ 415-892-2460 or heilmanfour@comcast.net to let him know if you want to be on the mailing list or to join us for lunch and bocce.



BOWLING

Bowling League bowling is every Friday at Country Club Bowl, 88 Vivian Way, San Rafael.

Start time: 10:45 AM. Come and share the fun!

Contact **Paul Schofield, Chair 892-7019**

SIR ROLLING ROAMERS RV CLUB

Join us for lunch 2nd Tuesday of each month & on our outings.

For information, contact

SIR Ray Canziani Branch 22, Wagon Master (415) 453-4463

IN MEMORIAM

SAM MEBLEM

Br 47 Outings include:

1. A unique opportunity suggested by Bob Gonzalez (our Nov. 27 Luncheon Speaker). Enjoy Vintage Music and tour the lovely Victorian Home of Richard Reutlinger on 824 Grove St., SF 94117 (between Fillmore & Webster). Concerts are on specified Sat & Sun afternoons @ 2 pm (doors open @ 1:30 pm, so you can tour the old Victorian before the concert.). Send a check payable to Richard Reutlinger to the address above to reserve seats. **\$25 per person.** Free champagne and snacks are served during intermission as you enjoy Richard's fine collection of mechanical musical instruments. Be sure to mention which day you wish to attend and buy your tickets early to guarantee seating. The next scheduled concerts are: **Jan. 19 & 20 Adam Swanson; Mar 9 & 10 Jeff Barnhart; Apr. 20 & 21, 2019 Ethan Leinwand; Aug 24 & 25 Brian Holland and Danny Coots; Sept 28 & 29 Frederick Hodges and Janet Klein**

2. **Cinnabar Theater:** 3333 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma suggested by Al Anderson. Contact <http://centerstageticketing.com/> or 707-763-8920 for tickets or for other performances. * Note: Seating is now reserved in advance, but the Theater seating has been refurbished. **March 8-10 Much Ado About Nothing; April 7 An Evening of Raga Music.**

3. **Ross Valley Players: March 8 – 31** "These Shining Lives". For tickets contact <http://rossvalleyplayers.com/> or call 1-415-456-9555 Ex 1.

4. **Marin Theatre Company:** Contact the Box Office at (415)388-5208, <mailto:boxoffice@marintheatre.org> or visit us during regular Box Office hours of operation: 397 Miller Ave. Mill Valley, CA 94941 **Feb 28 – Mar 24 The Who & The What** Brilliant Pakistani-American writer Zarina is finishing a novel about women and Islam when she meets Eli, a young convert who bridges the gulf between her modern life and her traditional heritage. But when her conservative family discovers her controversial manuscript, they are all forced to confront the beliefs that define them.

5. **Weill Hall 2017-18 Season of great performances @** the Green Music Center @ Sonoma State University. For tickets contact <http://gmc.sonoma.edu/> or 1-866-955-6040. Time and cost vary, depending upon the performance. The next performances are **Mar 30 Anne Akiko Meyers; Apr 4 Monterey Jazz Festival – Cecile McLorin Salvant and Christian Sands...**

6. **The Novato Theater Company:** Contact <http://novatotheatercompany.org> or call 415-833-4498. **April 5 -28 You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown..**

7. **Marin Onstage, The Belrose Theatre,** 1415 5th Ave., San Rafael, CA 415-290-1433. **Sol Flamenco the Passion of Spain in Music and Dance!** Friday, **March 8 and Saturday, March 9, 2019.** Show at 8:00 pm, Tapas at 7:30

8. **Mill Valley Philharmonic free concerts @Mt.Tamalpais United Methodist Church.** Pre-concert lectures begin 45 min. before the scheduled performances.

Wed. March 13 @ 7 pm

Fri. March 15 @ 8 pm

Sat. March 16 @ 4 pm. Please let Kurt Heilman know if you want to attend this concert and go to dinner afterwards @ Piazza D' Angelo in Mill Valley @ 6:30 pm. Please bring cash in case we cannot split the bill. We will toast to our good friend and long-time viola player – Jim Breitmayer.

9. **Br 68 SIR Race Day @ Golden Gate Fields on March 29.** The \$41 pp includes: free parking, entrance to Turf Club, prime rib luncheon buffet. Mail your check to **Ron Gurich 36 Bridle Path Lane, Novato, CA 94945 by March 19 AND make check payable to SIR Branch 68.** Be sure to include your return address! Plan to arrive @ 11:00 am as races start @ 11:45.

**Cheers, Kurt Heilman
1-415-892-2460**

NOTE: If anyone has a suggestion for a Br 47 Outing or event, please let Kurt Heilman know so he can include it in our future outings.

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Summary:

Actives -	113	
Inactives -	-	
Gains:	0	0
Losses:	0	0

Luncheon Wine Winner

Laslo Folk

MARCH BIRTHDAY BOYS

Don Kuchta, Bob Fields, John Freel, Herb Husen, Tim Leveque, Peter Kerner, Pierre Terrier, Norbert Hudobnik, George Vaio, Peter Brousseau, Bill Stewart, Ara Apkarian

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE REPORT

Total Members	113
Members Present	81 72%
Guests:	4
Visitors:	2

To call-in non-attendance, order an alternative plate or to notify you're bringing a guest/visitor

**Call or Text 415-881-7477
or E-mail sirbranch47@gmail.com**

Friday	Mar	1	Bowling
Monday	Mar	4	Bocce Ball
Monday	Mar	4	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Mar	4	18 Hole Golf
Wednesday	Mar	6	Tennis
Thursday	Mar	7	Walking Group
Friday	Mar	8	Bowling
Friday	Mar	8	Investors' Lunch Bunch
Sunday	Mar	10	Daylight Savings
Monday	Mar	11	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Mar	11	18 Hole Golf
Tuesday	Mar	12	Rolling Roamers
Tuesday	Mar	12	Fishing
Wednesday	Mar	13	Tennis
Thursday	Mar	14	Walking Group
Friday	Mar	15	Bowling
Sunday	Mar	17	St Patricks Day
Monday	Mar	18	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Mar	18	18 Hole Golf
Wednesday	Mar	20	First Day of Spring
Wednesday	Mar	20	Tennis
Wednesday	Mar	20	Advanced Digital Camera
Thursday	Mar	21	Bridge
Thursday	Mar	21	Walking Group
Friday	Mar	22	Bowling
Monday	Mar	25	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Mar	25	18 Hole Golf
Monday	Mar	25	Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday	Mar	26	Branch Luncheon Meeting
Wednesday	Mar	27	Tennis
Thursday	Mar	28	Walking Group

See what's happening Statewide in SIR
www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/
To see all that SIR has to offer:

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A blonde goes to the doctor with burns on both of her ears and her right hand. "Sit down and tell me how it happened," says the doctor.

"I was ironing my clothes when I received a call. Instead of picking up the phone, I picked up the iron and burned my ear."

"What about the other ear and your hand?" the doctor asked.

She replied, "I tried to call for an ambulance."

AREA 6 MONTHLY MEETINGS

<u>Br. #</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Phone</u>
7	The Club at McInnis Park 1st Thursday	415 456-3763
22	The Club at McInnis Park 1st Tuesday	415 924-4862
47	Club at McInnis Park 4th Tuesday	415 881-7477
	Happy Hour - 11:00 am; Luncheon - 11:45 am	
68	The Club at McInnis Park 2nd Tuesday	415 479-3286
134	Embassy Suites 1st Tuesday	415 892-0209

ATTENDANCE: Failure to attend three consecutive meetings without giving prior notice to the Attendance Chairman, and/or failure to attend at least 6 meetings within the previous 12 months, may result in termination.
Condensed from Rule 100 of State Policy Manual
Attendance at another branch meeting, duly recorded with the

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE
Please report SIR illnesses or deaths to
Bill Donnelly at 415 897-8966

*
* **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will not meet in December** *
*
* Next meeting , **March 25 2019 10:30 AM** at the *
* **McGinnis Park Golf Club Boardroom 350 Smith Ranch** *
* **Road** *
* **San Rafael, CA 94903** *
*

DATES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
The Monday preceding the Fourth Tuesday
Branch 47 Luncheon Meeting

BRANCH 47 LUNCHEON MEETINGS IN 2019

Fourth Tuesday Of The Month

January 22 (Tuesday)	February 26 (Tuesday)
March 26 (Tuesday)	April 23 (Tuesday)
May 28 (Tuesday)	June 25 (Tuesday)
July 23 (Tuesday)	August 27 (Tuesday)
September 24 (Tuesday)	October 22 (Tuesday)
Nov 26 Tuesday	

TAMALTALK, SIR Branch 47
Ron Kosciusko, Publisher
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Tiburon, CA. 94920