



www.SIR47.ORG Our own website

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
Treasurer - -Bill Stewart 415-990-2010



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

State President - Jerry Strain (sirjerry42@gmail.com)
Region 10 Director - Jim Filippo 415-892-2063 Area 6 Governor - Sandy Grieve

MARIN COUNTY

APRIL 2019
OUR 45TH YEAR

Vol. XLV No. 4

BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

Jim Norton, Big Sir - Branch 47

As I write this I just returned from one of our SIRs weekly Thursday hikes. It was a great time with wonderful views and some of the wild flowers that are just beginning to show up around Marin. My thanks to Pikk Pikkarainen, who is quite the naturalist, for leading us through the trails around Fairfax and by the Boy Scout campsite property. Did you know Pikk is an author who wrote a book illustrating the plant life here in Northern California? He showed us a copy and it is quite informative. It is another example of the many diverse accomplishments of the impressive men of SIRs Branch 47.

Which brings me back to my theme at our March luncheon, as much as I enjoyed the views and flowers on our hike, it was the company of our SIRs men that made the day so enjoyable. SIRs is a social club so be social and join one of our activities! It is the best way to make new friends. For myself, I thank all the men of SIRs for the gift of their friendship. I look forward to seeing you all at the April luncheon.

Jim Norton

February Speaker Review

John and Darlene McGinnis are really into bees and have been for about five years even though there's not much money in it, according to John. Together John and Darlene run a small family business called "Buzz Off Honey at Goah Way Ranch" in Petaluma. They build and sell bee hive equipment, sell honey, but their favorite thing to do is capture swarms of honeybees and relocate them in a safe place so they can live and establish a new colony. If swarms aren't relocated, the bees have only a 25% chance of survival. That's where John and Darlene's custom-built hives come in. By the way, they brought one of their hives along for us to inspect—a thing of beauty which can be bought for about \$250 (bees not included).

Bees swarm when the hive gets overcrowded; this happens mostly in March, April, and May, so John urges us to call him immediately if we see a swarm because the bees "will remain in their temporary location for a very short period of time." (His telephone number is 707-478-9787.).

You can tell that John believes that bees are interesting and important creatures. There are many differing opinions on bees, says John, but we do know certain things for sure. Eighty percent of foods need bees, nature's most prolific pollinators. Without them, according to the Sierra Club, "We" lose our strawberries and avocados, peaches pumpkins, and more than 140 fruits and vegetables that depend on hardworking honeybees for pollination."

Which brings us to a serious subject. John didn't say much about this in his presentation, so I did a little research on a news item I saw not too long ago. Since 2006 there have been catastrophic losses of honeybee colonies. Scientists call this phenomenon "colony collapse disorder," and they have linked it to exposure to neonicotinoids, a nerve agent class of pesticides produced by Bayer-Monsanto that is used to coat crop seeds or as a spray to kill pests. And to make matters worse, The Dow Chemical Company makes a product called sulfoxaflor which is "highly toxic to bees," according to The Sierra Club. These pesticides make their way throughout the plant including the pollen and expose bees to micro-dosages which are very bad for bees. And for us! Because if we lose our bees, we'll lose small family farms and local businesses, not to mention billions of dollars of agricultural revenue. Chronic exposure to neonics disrupts the immune and nervous systems of bees and is probably the reason beekeepers lost 33% of their hives over the winter of 2016-2017, again according to The Sierra Club.

We probably can't do much to fight the USDA, the EPA, Bayer-Monsanto, and Dow Chemical, but we can stop using harmful pesticides on our plants. And we can call John and Darlene when we see a swarm and be assured that they will provide comfortable housing for our busy little friends. A world without honey is unthinkable! Thanks, John and Darlene, for raising our awareness. May you capture many swarms!

Michael Kelly

APRIL Luncheon Speaker

DOUG TWITCHELL, LITTLE SIR

Br 47 Member Survey Results

1. 80 out of 81 members attending our Feb. 26 luncheon provided a response
2. 37 of the 80 responding view our Br 47.org website monthly & 21 view occasionally
3. Tamal Talk is viewed 44 out of 80 monthly & 27 have printed Tamal Talk ** 51 out of 80 said it is OK to stop Tamal Talk and had all info on our website vs. 13 said stopping Tamal Talk would be a problem
4. Our Roster Book is viewed by 29 monthly & viewed by 31 occasionally ** 65 keep a copy of Roster Book at home *** 45 said a Roster Book ecopy only was OK vs. 26 who preferred the hard copy Roster Book
5. 59 out of 80 check their emails daily ** 67 view their emails from home computer vs. 39 viewing emails from smart phone/l-phone/Laptop/l-pod ***69 said they prefer Branch 47 communications by email
6. 68 said the survey was NOT difficult vs. 3 said survey was difficult

THANK YOU ALL FOR PARTICIPATING. The information we received is very important for our future Branch planning & communications.

Tamalpais Branch 47 Area 8, Region 3 McInnis Park Board Room, March 25, 2019

Attendees: Jim Norton, Bob Gonzalez, Jake Solomon, Doug Twitchell, Bill Stewart, Will Kaefer, Paul Schofield, George Brown
Guests: Kurt Heilman, Rick Coburn (later appointed as Director)
Big Sir Report:

Jim Norton related that we have a new Region 3 Director.

A new procedure for approving new members was instituted.

The projector and speaker system was discussed but no new decisions were reached.

Last year's insurance form will be sent by the secretary Craig Fines, Sirs Insurance person.

The winner of the free lunch selected from the survey forms will be announced at Tuesday's lunch meeting.

Little Sirs Report: Doug Twitchell has lined up lunch speakers through July.

Treasurers Report: Our branch currently has \$12,074. In our account which will be diminished for a few unpaid obligations like lunch wine and Christmas Party deposit. 95 members have paid 2019 dues and only 18 members remain unpaid.

We currently have 113 members.

Survey Results: Based on a conference call by the Recruitment and Retention Committee, the following recommendations were suggested:

1. Committee Chairmen and Officer Training session on how to update the website will be held immediately following the April lunch meeting. The following committees will be asked to attend: bowling, bridge, bocce, golf, Investments, membership, little Sir, Big Sir, Tennis, hiking, web manager, Jake.
2. Recent new members will be reintroduced by the Big Sir and sponsor at each lunch meeting
3. All new members will be added to ecopy of roster book and distributed

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 Apr. 23 luncheon

 **TRAVEL**

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) More info: Contact 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 more info and brochure contact Milt Smith Br#146 925 280-0328 miltsmith549@gmail.com or Alamo Travel 848 874-7800

May 8-12, 2019 Golden Spike 150th Anniversary. Destination Salt Lake City Includes, Super Shuttle, Air & Motor coach. 4 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches and 2 Dinners. Price \$2065 DO - \$2445 SO. Additional info & brochure contact John Pletsch Br#32 408 274-2992 jeplet@sbcglobal.net or Talbot Tours 800 662-9933

May 10-16, 2019 Music Cities Tour Music Cities Tour May 10 to 16, 2019 3 nights in Nashville and 3 nights in Memphis. Breakfast Daily 1 lunch 2 dinners including a welcome dinner in Nashville and farewell dinner in Memphis. 6 nights 1st class hotel accommodations,, deluxe motor coach with wifi. Roundtrip airport transfers, airfare to Nashville, returning from Memphis City tour in Memphis and Nashville, visit Graceland, Oak Alley Plantation, Frogmore Plantation Rock "n" Soul Museum, Country Music Hall of Fame, Sun Studios where Elvis began his career .Costs \$2975 pp, discounts available if attending talk Nov. 2 at Denny's in Concord .Larry Yarberry 925 890-9245 lyarberry42@comcast.net

May 19-26, 2019 □ America's Music Cities □ (Br 38) Escort, Bill Rodman (408) 274-4521. Co-escort Alan Patmore (408) 867-4197. Eight day escorted tour 3 nights in New Orleans, 2 nights in Memphis & 2 nights in Nashville). Highlights... Walking tour of French Quarter or Coach tour of New Orleans, Swamp tour, Mardi Gras World, Jazz Revue, Graceland, Etc. Brochures on Br 38 website :<http://branch38.sirinc2.org/> and from your branch travel rep or, call Br 38 escorts or ,e-mail brodman@sbcglobal.net. Also covered in the \$3643 pp dbl occupancy are air taxes & fees/surcharges, hotel transfers, all driver & tour guide gratuities & RT air fare from SFO & transport to/from the airport. Deposit of \$775 pp (includes cancellation & waiver insurance) of \$275 pp is due upon reservation. Checks payable to COLLETTE or use the Credit Card Form (in brochure) & mail, along with your application, to Bill Rodman, 2025 Folle Blanche Dr, San Jose, CA 95135. **NOTE: Book now and save \$100 per person**

**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

All are welcome. Open to all of Area 6.



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, @
415 892-0209**



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
Brian Stompe 415-897-1610

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
c.caviness@sbglobal.net**

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
Call leaders for details about future walks and hikes

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

April 1	Monday	Petaluma CC	08:30
April 8	Monday	Rooster Run	Sequential Tee
Times Starting @ 07:00			
April 15	Monday	Foxtail South	08:00
April 22	OFF Easter Week		
April 29	Monday	Chardonnay	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**

Book library

Currently our library is a depleted so we can use more good books, 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.

Br 47 Outings include:

1. Br 47 BYO Picnic and wine tasting @ Wilson winery 1960 Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg on Wed. April 10 @ 11 am. The cost to taste will be about \$15 pp. Sign up will begin @ our Tues Mar 26 Br 47 luncheon, but reservations can be made up until April 8.

2. A unique opportunity suggested by Bob Gonzalez. 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: **Apr. 20 & 21, 2019 Ethan Leinwand; Aug 24 & 25 Brian Holland and Danny Coots; Sept 28 & 29 Frederick Hodges and Janet Klein**

3. Cinnabar Theater: 3333 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma suggested by Al Anderson. Contact: <<http://centerstageticketing.com/>>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. **April 7 An Evening of Raga Music. Mar 29- April 14 “A Perfect Ganesh”** Two outwardly unremarkable, middle-aged friends throw themselves into a rousing tour of India, each with her own secret dreams of what the fabled land of intoxicating opposites will do for the suffering she hides within. **June 7 – 23 “The Barber of Seville”** Rossini’s laugh-out-loud romantic comedy has been entertaining audiences for more than 200 years with its outrageous stage antics and vocal acrobatics. Featuring some of opera’s most recognizable tunes, audiences are sure to leave the theater singing *Figaro, Figaro, Fiiiii-garo!*

4. Ross Valley Players: March 8 – 31”These Shining Lives”. April 12 - 28 “Scott & Zelda”. For tickets contact <<http://rossvalleyplayers.com/>> rossvalleyplayers.com or call 1-415-456-9555 Ex 1.

5. Marin Theatre Company: Contact the Box Office at (415) 388-5208, <<mailto:boxoffice@marintheatre.org>>boxoffice@marintheatre.org, or visit us during regular Box Office hours of operation: 397 Miller Ave. Mill Valley, CA 94941 **April 25 – May 19 “Jazz”.** Young and in-love Violet and Joe move to Harlem at the turn of the century. As time passes, Joe begins an affair with a young woman, setting off a series of shocking events. Adapted from Toni Morisson’s stunning novel and musically underscored by Bay-Area jazz musician Marcus Shelby—Nambi Kelley’s *Jazz* is a beautiful theatrical composition.

6. Weill Hall 2017-18 Season of great performances @ the Green Music Center @ Sonoma State University. For tickets contact <<http://gmc.sonoma.edu/>> gmc.sonoma.edu or 1-866-955-6040. Time and cost vary, The next performances **Apr 4 Monterey Jazz Festival – Cecile McLorin Salvant and Christian Sands; Fri. Apr. 5 The Tallis scholars; Apr. 7 Santa Rosa Symphony – The Composer is Dead; Sat. April 13 Taikoproject; and many more....**

7. The Novato Theater Company: Contact <<http://novatotheatrecompany.org>> novatotheatrecompany.org or call 415-833-4498. **April 5 - 28 “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown”.**

8. College of Marin -- Marin Oratorio. May 12 & 13 Mozart’s Great Mass in C Minor. For tickets contact 415-485-9385 or brownpapertickets.com.

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.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Summary:

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

Luncheon Wine Winner

Al Anderson

APRIL BIRTHDAY BOYS

		<u>Day</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AGE</u>
Thomas	Al	7	1941	78
Lewis	Chris	9	1932	87
Nelson	Ron	11	1944	75
Young	Eric	18	1949	70
Wickley	Bill	21	1940	79
Bodtker	Eric	25	1940	79
Brown	Gene	30	1949	70

MARCH ATTENDANCE REPORT

Total Members 112
Members Present 77 68%
Guests: 3
Visitors: 0

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
with your request, giving name and badge number

Monday	Apr	1	Bocce Ball
Monday	Apr	1	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Apr	1	18 Hole Golf
Wednesday	Apr	3	Tennis
Thursday	Apr	4	Walking Group
Friday	Apr	5	Bowling
Monday	Apr	8	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Apr	8	18 Hole Golf
Tuesday	Apr	9	Rolling Roamers
Tuesday	Apr	9	Fishing
Wednesday	Apr	10	Tennis
Thursday	Apr	11	Walking Group
Friday	Apr	12	Bowling
Friday	Apr	12	Investors' Lunch Bunch
Monday	Apr	15	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Apr	15	18 Hole Golf
Wednesday	Apr	17	Tennis
Wednesday	Apr	17	Advanced Digital Camera
Thursday	Apr	18	Bridge
Thursday	Apr	18	Walking Group
Friday	Apr	19	Bowling
Friday	Apr	19	Good Friday
Saturday	Apr	20	Passover
Sunday	Apr	21	Easter
Monday	Apr	22	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Apr	22	Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday	Apr	23	Branch Luncheon Meeting
Wednesday	Apr	24	Tennis
Thursday	Apr	25	Walking Group
Friday	Apr	26	Bowling
Monday	Apr	29	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Apr	29	18 Hole Golf

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 Attendance Chairman of that branch, will be credited to a member's attendance record (*Rule 101*).

Call the branch phone listed above to secure a guest spot.

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

*
* EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will not meet in December *
*
* Next meeting , April 22 2019 10:30 AM at the *
* McGinnis Park Golf Club Boardroom350 Smith Ranch *
* Road *
* San Rafael, CA 94903 *
*

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

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	

JOKE OF THE MONTH

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising.

I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour.

But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

APRIL MONTHLY LUNCH MENU

NOTE COST IS NOW \$29

Salad
Grilled Salmon with lemon butter sauce, rice and vegetables
Alternative: Grilled Chicken Picatta, with rice and vegetables
Rolls and butter

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

Thursday hiking group



Cataract falls Mill Valley



Olompali Historic State Park