



INCORPORATED

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TAMALPAIS BRANCH NO. 47



# TAMAL TALK

A SIR PUBLICATION

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
Treasurer-	Bill Stewart	415-990-2010
Asst Treasurer	Will Kaefer	415-9271043
Secretary -	Ned Lawrence -	415-595-1092
Asst Secretary	Open	

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, Rick Coburn

State President - Ed Benson [ebensonbwa@aol.com](mailto:ebensonbwa@aol.com)  
Region 3 Director Dennis Pangburn [pang1@comcast.net](mailto:pang1@comcast.net), Area 6 Governor - Sandy Grieve

MARIN COUNTY

JULY 2019  
OUR 45TH YEAR

VOL. XLV No. 7

## BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

We are past the official start of summer and are coming up to our nation's birthday, the Fourth of July. I hope our members have some wonderful plans to celebrate the occasion with family and friends because we sure have a lot to be thankful for living in the good old USA.

I know our country and its culture come in for some withering criticism, some of it justified, but I always think compared to what? What country that has ever existed on this earth has ever been better for more of its citizens than America? More freedom, more prosperity, more justice, more opportunity, more accomplishments and more earnest effort to continue spreading these blessings to an ever wider circle of our people.

And all of this achieved while dealing with a population mix from every corner of the world and every race and religion. I know America is not perfect but she is the best there ever was and will be even better in the future.

After watching that chilling presentation on life in North Korea at our June luncheon I sure know I am glad to be an American. So celebrate the Fourth of July with gusto men and thank your lucky stars you get to live your life in the USA.

**Jim Norton, Big Sir - Branch 47**

**A Man in Black**  
**Presentation by Mark Twitchell**  
**Special Agent, Asset Forfeiture Coordi-**  
**nator**  
**Internal Revenue Service**  
**By Alan Thomas**

Doug Twitchell, Little SIR of Branch 47, was proud to introduce his son Mark on May 21<sup>st</sup> for a presentation on Mark's occupation. Doug has often spoken of the position that Mark holds, and the day had arrived at which the members of Branch 47 were able to hear from Mark himself of the responsibilities and enforcement actions that his job as criminal investigator entails.

An excerpt from the IRS Fiscal Year 2028 Annual Report summarizes the nature of Mark's position: "...financial crime has evolved and proliferated around the world, so have IRS Criminal investigation special agents and their abilities to track the proceeds of financial crime," "CI uses cutting-edge technology combined with sophisticated investigative work to bring the most impactful cases that affect tax administration."

Mark shared some significant history with us regarding the origins of IRS investigations. As a separate agency, the Internal Revenue Service originated in 1919. The first narcotics investigation took place in 1922. In 1931, Al Capone was sentenced to prison for income tax evasion. While he undoubtedly committed many capital crimes, the only one that could be proven was his possession of \$250,000 in undeclared proceeds. For that he was sentenced to twelve years in prison.

While Mark was able to discuss the nature of cases he researches, this was in anecdotal fashion and specific cases were not raised for discussion. Some general features of Mark's position are raised as follows: Mark is one of 2,000 special agents; the IRS has a total count of 70,000 civil service employees; IRS crime fighting involves all law enforcement techniques; agents follow the money trail; agents talk to the public and interview witnesses; agents testify in court and to grand juries; agents execute search warrants and plan and figure out court contingencies;

**A Man in Black (continued)**

the IRS cannot prosecute suspects for embezzlement, but law calls for declaration of proceeds nevertheless gained on embezzled money. Failure to declare funds received in any manner is subject to criminal investigation. Assets that were subject to forfeiture must be returned to victims; if subpoenas are served, parties can be jailed if there is failure to appear. Scamming was raised as a timely topic; the investigation itself of scamming is handled by IRS Internal Affairs, and money gained through scamming is sent to India.

The actual process of criminal investigation follows this sequence: (1) criminal investigation is initiated; (2) a primary investigation is carried out; (3) a criminal investigation is carried out once IRS gets the go-ahead; (4) recommendations for prosecution are carried out if appropriate and after the investigation phase of the process is complete; (5) accused parties are given the right of appeal.

Branch 47 of SIRs thanks Mark Twitchell for making his interesting, informative and comprehensive presentation. We all gained knowledge of a very specialized investigative branch of government and hold Mark in high esteem for the challenging and responsible duties that he must perform on a daily basis.

SIR BR 47 BAR-B-QUE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Social time @11:30am with Lunch @12:00 NOON.



Debbie Ghiringhelli is again catering our BBQ at Miwok Park in Novato (on Novato Blvd. between San Miguel Way & Eucalyptus).

=> You can park at Miwok Park, on Novato Blvd. or on San Miguel Way (from which you can also enter via the back of the Park).

We reserved the Trout BBQ Area for Br 47 members, spouses & other guests. We reserved 2 bocce courts if you wish to play.

<< Cost is \$36/ person >>

Menu is choice of BBQ Tri-tip, BBQ Chicken, or both, or BBQ Tofu with vegetable Kabobs (vegetarian) plus Caesar salad, fruit salad, stuffed eggs, and garlic bread. Coffee, water & dessert are also provided. << You may bring your own beer / wine / liquor if you wish, but remember this is a city park. >>

Tickets are on sale at our Br 47 July 23 and Aug. 27 luncheons.

Contact Tom Culhane @ 415-897-5077. Send payment to Tom Culhane, 9 Jaoquin Ct, Novato 94947

**Payment must be received 48 hours in advance and/or cancelations made by noon Sunday Sept. 8, 2019 in order to be honored**



For SIRs Travel please refer to the SIRs WEB site [www.sir47.org](http://www.sir47.org) for the years Travel itineraries or call your Travel Chairman Kurt Heilman @ 415-897-2460

JULY MONTHLY LUNCH MENU

NOTE COST IS NOW \$29

*House Soup*

*Bay Shrimp Louie*

*Alternative: Grilled Chicken ceasar salad*

Rolls and butter

Dessert

JULY 23 Luncheon Speaker

Tony Lazzarini, Novato 51-50 Club: What Really Happened in Vietnam From the Perspective of a Helicopter Gunner.

DOUG TWITCHELL , LITTLE SIR

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Late one night a burglar broke into a house and while he was sneaking around he heard a voice say, "Jesús is watching you." He looked around and saw nothing. He kept on creeping and again heard, "Jesús is watching you."

In a dark corner, he saw a cage with a parrot inside. The burglar asked the parrot, "Was it you who said Jesús is watching me" The parrot replied, "Yes." Relieved, the burglar asked, "What is your name?" The parrot said, "Clarence." The burglar said, "That's a stupid name for a parrot. What idiot named you Clarence?"

The parrot answered, "The same idiot that named the rottweiler Jesús."

## 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**



## QUICKEN SIG

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

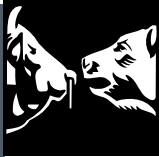
## ADVANCED DIGITAL CAMERA STUFF

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

## 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**

July 1	Monday	Petaluma CC	08:30
July 8	Monday	Rooster Run	Sequential Tee
		Times Starting @	07:00
July 15	Monday	Foxtail South	08:00
July 22	Monday	Blue Rock East	08:00
July 29	Monday	Hiddenbrooke	08:00 Play
		Back Side Twice Airfication	on Front Nine

## 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](mailto: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-**



## TENNIS, ANYONE?

The best turnout this month was Wednesday May 22 with 7 players. When more than 4 show up, we use 2 courts at McInnis. If there are not 2 foursomes, then we play 4 games so that every one serves, than rotate the remaining members in. Players that have played once with a player may not play with that partner again. This works well when there are more than four players. **Play is at McInnis Park every Wednesday @ 9:30 AM. Call Bill Donnelly 897-8966 or Glen Ohm 479-5693 if you wish to join the fun!**



## **Br 47 Outings include:**

**1. Wed. July 31 @ 11 am -- Br 47 BYO Picnic & Wine Tasting @ Marlys Green's home.** Marlys has 2 llamas at her farm located at: 789 Du franc Av., Sebastopol. Pikk Pikkarainen will provide South American wine for which we will split the cost to taste. Bring your own lunch so we can taste wine and eat. We will solicit attendees at our June 25 & July 23 luncheons.

**2. Music Concert Series @ Pacheco Plaza in Novato on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday from 6-9pm on July 19 Zydeco Flames & Aug 16 Top shelf Classics.** The concert is free in the plaza, but bringing your chairs is advisable.

**3. Pt. Richmond Music's Free Concert Series from 5:30 – 8:00 pm.** This annual summer-long series begins Friday June 14. Local restaurants offer a wide array of cuisines, and concert-goers can pair fine food with beverages from PRM's no host bar, with proceeds directly supporting the music series. Festival-style seating is available with a limited number of chairs provided, and concert-goers are encouraged to bring their own festival/lawn chairs. PRM, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, produces the series in support of its mission to build community through the unifying language of music. Please visit [www.poinrichmondmusic.org](http://www.poinrichmondmusic.org) for more information. **The next concerts are:** \* **Fri. July 12 @ 5:30 - 6:30 pm** Dirty Cello (blues with a wailing cello) **AND @ 6:45 – 8:00 pm** Deep blue Jam (based on Americana/rock/roots jam band)

**4. Ross Valley Players: July 12 – Aug 11 "Crimes of the Heart"** For tickets contact <http://rossvalleyplayers.com/> [rossvalleyplayers.com](http://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> or visit us during regular Box Office hours of operation: 397 Miller Ave. Mill Valley, CA 94941. **June 13 – July 7 "Wink"** Sofie is an unhappy housewife. Gregor is her breadwinning husband. Dr. Frans is their strange psychiatrist.

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Wink is the cat\*. And Wink has just gone missing. Secret desires, , domestic anarchy, and feline vengeance at any cost make Wink an absurd, dark comedy about the thin, thin line between savagery and civilization.

**6. Weill Hall 2017-18 Season of great performances @ the Green Music Center @ Sonoma State University (1801 East Cotati Av. Rhonert Park, CA).** For tickets contact <http://gmc.sonoma.edu/> [gmc.sonoma.edu](http://gmc.sonoma.edu) or 1-866-955-6040. Time and cost vary, depending upon the performance. **The next performances are:** Jul 11 @7:30 pm Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue - Jul 13 @7:30 pm Roberto Tapia - Jul 20 Chris Little @7:30 pm – Jul 21 Steep Canyon Rangers @ 2:00 pm.

**7. The Novato Theater Company:** Contact <http://novatotheatrecompany.org> or call 415-833-4498. **July 12 – 28 "Legally Blonde - The Musical"**.

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.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

**NEIL BURTON**

### **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Neil Burton In Memoriam. A Sympathy Card was sent to the Burton Family w/a note of regret. Neil was a member since 2006.



If any of you know of a member who needs some "sunshine", please report an illness or death to BILL DONNELLY at (415) 897-8966

## BRANCH 47 BUSINESS

Tamalpais Branch 47  
Area 8, Region 3  
McInnis Park Board Room  
June 24, 2019

**Attendees:** Jim Norton, Doug Twitchell, Jake Solomon, Will Kaefer, Bob Gonzalez, George Brown, Bill Stewart, Jim Kleiser, Rick Colburn

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Big SIR, Jim Norton at 10:30

**Minutes of May Meeting:** Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Stewart reviewed our accounts. Payments were made for the purchase of AV Equipment of \$1,129. Checking balance is \$10,721 which reflects this payment.

**Little SIR Report:** Doug Twitchell reported no significant changes from last month. Speakers are scheduled through the remainder of 2019. He will continue to book speakers into 2020 if possible.

### **Big SIR Report:**

**SIR State Survey:** Jim Norton noted that members may have received a survey from the State. Members are encouraged to respond to the survey. Jim will remind members at tomorrow's luncheon.

**Passing of Neil Burton:** Jim noted the passing of our member Neil Burton. Neil was a member of our branch since May 2006.

**Member resignation:** A letter was received from a member requesting to resign. Jim Norton will call this member to get more background.

### **Old Business:**

**New Member Requirements:** Jim Norton went over the suggested requirements for new members during the first 6 months of membership. This should will help them be come more connected with the branch members. Suggested activities include: attend a board meeting, serve as a greeter at the luncheons, work at the attend ance desk. Doug Twitchell brought up the new member letter that was developed in 2018. It was suggested that the Membership Chairman incorporate this into the new member packet. The new member sponsor should work closely with the new member to be sure he becomes involved in activities they are interested in. Rick Colburn reviewed the New Member Packet that will be effective with our new members beginning immediately. Rick noted the importance of the sponsor to bringing a new member into the branch. He suggested a sponsor may want to take a new member to lunch for a personal get acquainted session.

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## **(BRANCH 47 BUSINESS CONTINUED)**

**WEB Page:** Jake Solomon recommended that WEB Committee become a permanent committee of the branch. The actual make up of this committee was discussed. Bob Gonzalez noted that we could have a WEB professional provide some WEB design services. Will Kaefer noted that it is critical that we be able to easily modify and update the WEB page contents. The best software to use is also in question. Should this be Word Press or some other product. It was suggested that our members be polled to see who might have the interests and skills needed to support our web page.

### **New Business:**

**Activities Review:** Rick Colburn updated the activity list from our members. This lists a count of members expressing interest in specific activities. There is considerable interests in activities that are not currently sponsored by our branch. No decision was made how to proceed with this as it is complex issue with many moving parts. This will serve as a basis for discussion in our future meetings.

**New Members:** Two new member applications were approved.

**State SIR Meeting at Thunder Valley Resort Hotel, Lincoln, CA:** Jim Norton will send in our reservation for the Big SIR and Little SIR to attend the meeting on Tuesday, August 20.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:57

## **JUNE MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

### **Summary:**

<b>Actives -</b>	<b>113</b>		
<b>Inactives -</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Gains:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Losses:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	

### **JULY BIRTHDAY BOYS**

**2nd, Wayne Colyer, 13th, Jim Kleiser,**

**25th Paul Schofield, 27th, George Martinez,**

**30th Charles Jones**

## **JUNE ATTENDANCE REPORT**

<b>Total Members</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Members Present</b>	<b>82 72%</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Visitors:</b>	<b>0</b>

***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**

**ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

Monday	Jul	1	Bocce Ball
Monday	Jul	1	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Jul	1	18 Hole Golf
Wednesday	Jul	3	Tennis
Thursday	Ju4	4	Walking Group
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>
Friday	Jul	5	Bowling
Monday	Jul	8	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Jul	8	18 Hole Golf
Tuesday	Jul	9	Fishing
Wednesday	Jul	10	Tennis
Thursday	Jul	11	Walking Group
Friday	Jul	12	Bowling
Friday	Jul	12	Investors' Lunch Bunch
Monday	Jul	15	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Jul	15	18 Hole Golf
Wednesday	Jul	17	Tennis
Wednesday	Jul	17	Advanced Digital Camera
Thursday	Jul	18	Bridge
Thursday	Jul	18	Walking Group
Friday	Jul	19	Bowling
Monday	Jul	22	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Jul	22	18 Hole Golf
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Branch Luncheon Meeting</b>
Wednesday	Jul	24	Tennis
Thursday	Jul	25	Walking Group
Friday	Jul	26	Bowling
Monday	Jul	29	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Jul	29	18 Hole Golf
Wednesday	Jul	31	Tennis

**AREA 6 MONTHLY MEETINGS**

<u>Br. #</u>	<u>Branch 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 , **July 22 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	

**See what's happening Statewide in SIR**

**[www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/)**

**To see all that SIR has to offer:**

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