



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: Jake Solomon, Jim Kleiser, George Brown, Bob Gonzalez, Paul Schofield, Rick Coburn

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

MARIN COUNTY

DECEMBER 2019
OUR 45TH YEAR

Vol. XLV No. 12

BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

Jim Norton – Big Sir Branch 47

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by the love of family. My holiday was quiet as my daughters are far away at the moment but as I mentioned at the November luncheon both will be coming home to celebrate my 70th birthday and will stay in California through Christmas. So December will be festive in the Norton Household.

Wasn't that a great presentation at the November luncheon by the gentlemen from the Marin Search and Rescue Team. I was particularly impressed by the fact that they recruit young boys and girls of high school age to train for such serious duties. What a wonderful way to shape young minds toward community involvement.

In last month's Big Sir report I noted that as long as our country had men like the ones in our club who served in the military we would thrive in the future. Let me add to that remark. As long as we have young men like the one who came to talk to us about his involvement at age 14 in Marin search and rescue, we'll be OK. The USA will stay vibrant and strong with sharp young men and women like him leading the way.

This is my last month as Big Sir so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors, activities chairman and other volunteers of our club for all their support during my time as their leader. The steady hand on the tiller provided by these men over the years is reflected in our club's solid finances, growing membership, splendid speakers and good attendance at our monthly luncheons and activities. I have been honored to work with such good men over the past year. I have every confidence that 2020 will be another great year with our new Big Sir Doug Twitchell! Congratulations to Doug and all our new officers. Happy Holidays!! See you in 2020!!!

OCTOBER 22, 2019 SPEAKER REVIEW

"A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF EARLY FLIGHT"

MARK BOSCH (SIR47 member)

Mark Bosch gave us a wide ranging after lunch talk. His interest in early attempts to escape the thrall of gravity with powered flight was prompted by having heard many stories of aviator Allan Bonnalie (1893-1983), his grandmother's cousin. Mark suggested it is impossible for us to experience first hand the interest, excitement, and wonder, even romance, of those early days after the successful Wright Brothers 1903 powered flight. The nearest we can come to the experience of rapid progress of flight is to our own reaction to space exploration and the first moon landing.

We were shown photographs of early glider and human muscle powered attempts to defy gravity, mainly by pushing "structures" off hills to fall, roll and tumble to the bottom. A short movie emphasized this destructive process; the Buster Keaton quality of this compilation of early flight video belies the seriousness of the participants' endeavors. Some of the images suggested they had less than a full understanding of form and function, and of the rudimentary physics of flight.

In 1907 Allan, with members of his high school aeronautics club, built a glider which did not survive a Corte Madera Ridge launch. Fortunately he did. These students were inspired by Wilbur Wright's account in Century Magazine of the brothers' 1903 powered flight. On November 1st, 1911 with the help of members of the Polytechnic High School Aero Club, Allan Bonnalie pushed off Twin Peaks in another glider. A courageous act considering 32 lives were lost in 1910 attempting to fly. He survived.

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He was obviously intrigued by flying and in 1913 started to build a powered airplane with a partner. In 1916 he qualified as a Reserve Military Aviator. On April 6th 1917 the US entered the World War 1 and he was sent to the UK in a group of 60 pilots. They underwent further training before being allowed to join the RAF. They underwent further training before being allowed to join the RAF.

He was assigned to Squadron 2-11, flying two seater DH-9 planes. Stationed near Dunkirk, the mission was to drop bombs, take photographs and head home. In one enemy encounter his plane was partly disabled, it was flying nose up and rapidly losing height.

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(Continued)

His observer climbed over him and outside the cockpit to rebalance the plane! They survived the crash landing and were both awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for their efforts.

On his return to the US in 1919, he went into mechanical engineering, working for the Southern Pacific Railway in San Francisco for eight years. In 1925 he joined the Naval Reserves as a Lieutenant. In 1929 he became a faculty member of the Boeing School of Aeronautics in Oakland, teaching instrumentation, aerodynamics and other technical issues. In WW2 he was an advisor in the Navy. After the war he was President of LAMSA a Mexican airline purchased by Boeing; he returned to the US when LAMSA was sold. He became Director of the United Flight Training Center in Denver and is credited with greatly improving the safety of flight by ensuring pilots are adequately trained. He retired as Rear Admiral from USNRF in 1953, and from United Airlines in 1958. Thereafter he held many consultant positions. He died in 1983 aged 90.

With this talk Mark reminded us of this paradigm shift in human "progress," the birth of safe powered flight. The three second flight at Kitty Hawk December 14, 1903 reordered our lives for ever. The speed with which this concept was adopted and the impact on society is overwhelming. But maybe we should not be so surprised; we are living through the digital paradigm shift and the iPhone, our portal to most of the facts, literature, and inhabitants of our World, was only introduced on June 29, 2007.

For those whose appetite for more information has been whetted by Mark's stimulating talk, may I suggest: *For the history of flight: Wikipedia....*"History of Early Flight." "The Wright Brothers." "Aviation in the Pioneer Era (1903-1914)"

More details of Allan Bonnalie's life and times: Amazon Books.... "A Lifetime in Aviation." Bonnalie biography as told to Wayne Lundberg, 1973.

The Kindle edition can be purchased for 99 cents. This inexpensive ebook is the best way to understand Allan's personality and experience. Chapter one is his first hand account of the 1906 earthquake in SF when bread was a nickel a loaf. But that's another story.....

Trevor Hughes.



**Branch 47's Annual
Christmas Holiday Party**

**Tuesday, December 3rd
At McInnis Golf Club, San Rafael**

**5 pm—6 pm Social Hour
\$48.00 / person includes:**

Appetizers and Champagne

**Cash Bar: Beer \$5, House Wine \$8,
Cocktails \$8, House Wine Bottle \$25**

<Holiday Entertainment may be Provided>

6 pm Sit-down Holiday Meal

With Choice of:

Prime Rib

Herb Crusted Salmon fillet w/lemon Butter

Rack of Lamb or Pasta Pomodoro(Vegen)

Salad

Coffee-Tea-Decaf

Dessert: Tiramisu

**Tickets will be available at the November
Luncheon**

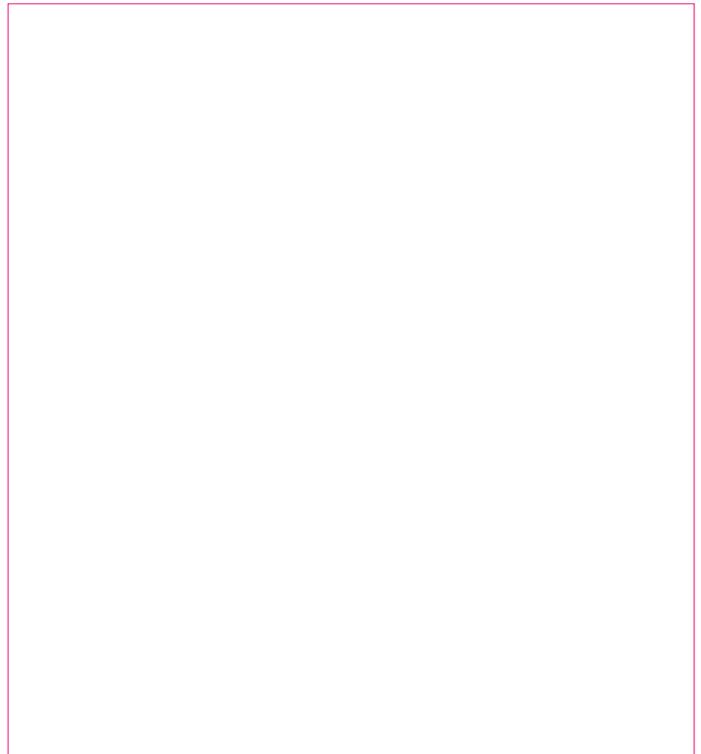
No refunds within 48 hours.

**Make a firm reservation by
Contacting Chuck McDevitt**

**By phone @415 924-6949, or email
@ MCDEV095@AOL.COM**



**For SIRs Travel please refer to the SIRs WEB site
www.sir47.org for the years Travel itineraries or
call your Travel Chairman Kurt Heilman @
415-897-2460**



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



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

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 Ned Lawrence, 415 595-1092

9-Hole Golf at McInnis Park

Mondays at 9:00 am, weather permitting
Contact James G Bitter <jybitter@aol.com>

18 Hole Golf

Season Over

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-

The GGCS QUICKEN and PERSONAL FINANCES SIG

The Quicken SIG is no longer meeting monthly or quarterly. Instead, it has gone digital and become the Quicken Forum, an Email List where Quicken users and those curious about the program can ask questions, give one another tips, and discuss the program's features, as well as other related personal finance issues.

If you would like to subscribe to the Quicken forum, contact Babette Bloch at babette@ggcs.org.

TENNIS, ANYONE?



SIR Tennis is not only FUN, HEALTHY & ENTERTAINING, it can also be EDUCATIONAL! For example, we learned that the fastest recorded serve ever was 163.7 mph by an Australian Sam Groth in 2012! Who knows what next month we will learn?



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 Sirs Outings include

1. The Mill Valley Philharmonic All programs in the series cost \$20 per ticket. Limited seating (60) will be available on a first come, first served basis. Homestead Valley Community Center, 315 Montford Av., Mill Valley, CA 94941. *Nutcracker & Other Holiday Favorites*. Hely Hutchinson - *A Carol Symphony*; George Frideric Handel – Excerpts from *Messiah*; Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky – Suite from *Nutcracker*, Op. 71a; and Other Holiday Favorites. **The next concerts are: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM** –Free Preview Performance @ Mt. Tamalpais United Methodist Church, 410 Sycamore, Mill Valley on **Friday, December 13, 2019 at 7:30 PM** @ Mt. Tamalpais United Methodist Church, 410 Sycamore, Mill Valley: **Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 2:00 PM** @ First Presbyterian Church, 1510 Fifth Ave, San Rafael

2. The Sewer Band's next concert : Monday, December 23, 2019 from 7:00 PM 8:30 PM @ 19:00 20:30 Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium 10 Avenue of the Flags San Rafael, CA. Join the Sewer Band for its annual FREE holiday concert.

3. Transcendence Dec. 6-8 (Luther Burbank center, Santa Rosa) and Dec. 14-15 (Lincoln Theater, Napa). Join Transcendence, the award-winning creators of "Broadway Under the Stars," for this new and reimagined holiday celebration for all ages, with performers from Broadway shows such as MAMMA MIA, MARY POPPINS, HAIR, AN AMERICAN IN PARIS and WICKED. You'll have the time of your life enjoying a spectacular surprise of song and dance packed with showstoppers, holiday favorites, and modern twists on some of the world's most uplifting and cherished songs. Contact transcendencetheatre.org for tickets and other information.

4. Cinnabar Theater: 3333 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma. Note: Seating is now reserved in advance, but the Theater setting has been refurbished. * **Dec. 13 – Jan 5, 2020 "The World Goes 'Round"** celebrates the love songs (from Cabaret & Chicago), ballads, and the wisdom of Kander & Ebb. Contact <<http://centerstageticketing.com/>> centerstageticketing.com or 707-763-8920 for tickets or for other performances. Join us for **NEW YEARS EVE ON BROADWAY:** Specialty desserts, with champagne toast at midnight Eastern Standard Time, complete with live-feed ball drop!

5. Ross Valley Players: Nov. 13 – Dec 22 a musical " She Loves Me". Bringing together the same source material as *The Shop Around The Corner* and *You've Got Mail*, *She Loves Me* brings the magic of a soaring score to a classic story. Each elevating the other while captivating hearts with the plights of Georg, Amalia, and their co-workers in the parfumerie. These characters remind us that the most important things in life are not the work or making money, but family, friends and those we truly love. Jan 17- Feb. 9, 2020 "Silent sky". The story, based on real events, is about some of the first woman astronomers, who helped pave the way to our understanding of both the universe and Earth. Three exceptional women are fired in the early 1900's in jobs called "computers". Prohibited from actually looking through the giant telescope (that's for the men), they undertake to discover the answer to "Where do we fit in space?" For tickets contact <<http://rossvalleyplayers.com/>> rossvalleyplayers.com or call 1-415-456-9555 Ex 1.

6. 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 **Nov. 14 - Dec. 5 "Mother of the Maid"** Isabelle Arc is a sensible, hard-working, God-fearing woman. Her headstrong daughter, on the other hand, communes with Saint Catherine, dons men's clothing and prepares to lead the French army into battle. Motherhood in the fifteenth century is not easy. In her riveting new play, Jane Anderson reimagines Joan of Arc's epic tale through the eyes of her mother. Isabelle follows the baffling journey of her odd and extraordinary daughter with a mother's loving persistence—facing her own fears and upended faith along the way.. Eight years after fleeing their home in Iraq, Jan 9 – Feb. 2, 2020 "Noura". Noura and her family celebrate Christmas, and their new life, in New York City. But when the arrival of a visitor stirs up long-buried memories, Noura and her husband are forced to confront the cost of their choices; the past they left behind.

7. The Novato Theater Company: Contact <<http://novatotheatrecompany.org>> novatotheatrecompany.org or call 415-833-4498. **Jan 23 – Feb 19, 2020 "Our Town"**

8. Pacific Empire Chorus (PEC) all-you-can-eat crab feed and live a cappella singing. **Sat. Feb. 1, 2020 from 5 pm to 9 pm @ Petaluma Veterans Bldg.,** 1094 Petaluma Blvd. \$55 for adults (\$65 at the door). Tickets on line at pacificempire.org or call 1-877-772-0087. (Those wanting to sit as with us as a group need to contact Kurt Heilman beforehand)..

Cheers

Kurt Heilman 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.



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

A card was sent to BOB FIELDS encouraging him to get well soon & not resign at this time!

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

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

Attendees: Jim Norton, Doug Twitchell, Jake Solomon, Alan Thomas, Will Kaefer, Rick Coborn, Paul Schofield, Bob Gonzales, George Brown, Erick Young, Bill Stewart

Call to Order and Quorum: Meeting was called to order and a quorum was determined to be present.

Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2019 were read. Minutes were moved to be passed, seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer reported that finances were in order and offered brief clarification on meal expenditures.

Big SIR Report: Roster updates for 2020: All members reported in who had been given assignments at the October meeting for checking items for accuracy concerning the 2020 directory. Follow up will be necessary in some instances for either accuracy, completion or both. Further needed information for directory updates will take place with Alan and Ned coordinating and Doug's assistance if necessary.

Scribes' Update for 2020: Jim said that Alan Thomas, Trevor Hughes, Jim Kelly and Erick Young have volunteered to act as scribes for 2020. Jim said such rotation would ensure that no scribe would be responsible for more than three meetings a year. Alan said he would develop a schedule to inform scribes of their assigned dates for 2020.

Live Music at Events: Joel Toste and Alan Thomas were affirmed by vote to perform at the November 26th luncheon and Alan's duo for the party on December 3rd will include him and non-member Rob Ortner. Alan will present an invoice to acting secretary to cover Rob's fee on that date.

One dollar assessment hike per year by the State is now official.

Contribution of article to State newsletter? Will hold off until officers for 2020 are in place.

Election Process: Jake Solomon to oversee event. Branch 47 is following Procedure 34 – How to elect branch officers with installation of new officers to take place November to December. Paul Schofield will perform the ceremony which will occur just prior to lunch service.

Activities report: There are several activity sheets completed from which Jim Norton planned to appoint chairmen of the most popular activities and then communication could follow between the leader and interested membership. Jim Norton followed up with this process and was told that he would have to consider extensive revisions to this process in order for it to be effective. Process will be reconsidered for 2020.

Little Sir Report: Doug reported that program speakers are scheduled through February 2020.

New Businss: Two Meetings in January: It has been the custom of Branch 47 to hold two meetings in January, one at the beginning of the month and one at the end. This afforded a transition process to take place between the retiring board

members and the new board members. After discussion, the members present determined that meetings held on January 6, 2020 and on January 27, 2020, are redundant and that only the end of the month meeting is necessary. Decision affirmed without vote.

Committee Reports: Discussion included with Big Sir report.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 AM Early departure resulted from McInnis personnel requiring board to vacate the board room due to noon event.

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Summary: Actives - 115
Gains: 0 0
Losses: 1 0

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY BOYS

Badge #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MO.	DAY	YEAR	AGE
51	CULHANE	TOM	12	30	45	74
23	GIBBS	LEWIS	12	16	35	84
57	JENSEN	NORMAN	12	12	38	81
69	LUNDGREN	EDDY	12	20	40	79
37	MILLER	GEORGE	12	13	36	83
45	NORTON	JAMES	12	17	49	70
121	POLAN	DENIS	12	5	40	79
44	PRESCOTT	DELBERT	12	18	38	81
106	SIMON	EDWARD	12	26	24	95

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE REPORT

Total Members 115
Members Present 69 60%
Guests: 0
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

Please call by noon of the Friday

JOKES OF THE MONTH

I dressed my dog up as a cat for Halloween. Now he won't come when I call him.

—Reid Faylor

Q: What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

A: A rebel without a Claus.

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

On New Years, just remember: if your cup runneth over, you've probably reached your limit.

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Monday	Dec	2	Bocce Ball
Monday	Dec	2	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Wednesday	Dec	4	Tennis
Thursday	Dec	5	Walking Group
Friday	Dec	6	Bowling
Monday	Dec	9	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Tuesday	Dec	10	Fishing
Wednesday	Dec	11	Tennis
Thursday	Dec	12	Walking Group
Friday	Dec	13	Investors' Lunch Bunch
Friday	Dec	13	Bowling
Monday	Dec	16	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Wednesday	Dec	18	Tennis
Wednesday	Dec	18	Advanced Digital Camera
Thursday	Dec	19	Bridge
Thursday	Dec	19	Walking Group
Friday	Dec	20	Bowling
Monday	Dec	23	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Dec	23	Chanukah
Wednesday	Dec	25	Christmas Day
Thursday	Dec	26	Walking Group
Friday	Dec	27	Bowling
Monday	Dec	30	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Tuesday	Dec	31	New Years Eve

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

See what's happening Statewide in SIR

www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/

To see all that SIR has to offer:

www.sirinc.org

TAMALTALK, SIR Branch 47
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