



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 --	Doug Twitchell	415-897-1759
Little Sir--	Frank Ghazzagh	415-505-7931
Treasurer-	Bill Stewart	415-990-2010
Asst Treasurer	Will Kaefer	415-9271043
Secretary -	Ned Lawrence -	415-595-1092
Asst Secretary	Alan Thomas	415-457-4576

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

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

State President - Ed Benson ebensonbwa@aol.com
Region 3 Director Dennis Pangburn pang1@comcast.net, Area 6 Governor - Sandy Grieve agrieves1@comcast.net

MARIN COUNTY

JANUARY 2020
OUR 45TH YEAR

VOL. XLVI No. 1

BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

The sudden passing of our 2019 Big SIR, Jim Norton, on December 8th was a tremendous shock to all of us. Our sympathies go to his family. Dealing with this loss is made even more difficult because the family was preparing a reunion celebration for Jim's 70th birthday on December 17th. Jim did an outstanding job as Big SIR last year and left our Branch 47 in excellent condition. I am proud to be your Big SIR for 2020 and will do my best to build on the legacy that Jim has left us.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season enjoying time with friends and family. Everyone who attended the holiday party on December 3rd had a great time. We all enjoyed the music provided by our member Alan Thomas and his friend Rob Ortner. It was a perfect way to usher in the holiday season. A special thank you to Chuck McDevitt for organizing this event.

As we head into the New Year here are the two primary changes that will be effective in 2020:

Dues of \$30 are payable in January. The board voted to reduce the dues this year by \$5 because of our increasing membership and our strong financial position. Please have your dues check available at the January luncheon check-in.

Our meal cost has increased to \$30. This is a \$1 increase. As we did last year, it is much easier for the check-in process if you make your payment by check.

Our club thrives on new members and new ideas. Please invite your friends, neighbors and acquaintances to our meetings. Remember, a guest's meal is free. Of course, we hope that they will join our club, but if they do not, the meal is still on us.

We are making a concentrated effort this year to start some new activities. If there is some activity that we do not currently have and which you think would be of interest to our members, please feel free to come to one of our board meetings to discuss it or contact me directly. Let me know prior to the meeting, so we can include this in the meeting agenda. (Board meetings are the Monday prior to the luncheon – dates are listed in the Roster Book).

Our speaker for the January 28, 2020, luncheon is Dale Miller of the Golden Gate Electric Vehicle Association (GGEVA). The topic title is: "You'll Want an Electric Car – Here's Why". This should prove to be an interesting and timely topic. If you have any speaker suggestions, please contact our Little SIR – Frank Ghazzagh.

The 2020 Roster Books should be available at the January luncheon.

Doug Twitchell, BIG SIR BRANCH 47

NOVEMBERR, 2019 SPEAKER REVIEW

Marin County Search and Rescue – A Valuable Service

Our speaker for the SIR Branch 47 meeting held on November 26, 2019 was Michael St. John of the Marin County Search and Rescue Team. Michael St. John has served as a volunteer for the Marin County Search and Rescue (SAR) Team for 40 years. He started in 1979 as a volunteer as an Explorer Scout with the Marin County Sheriff's Office and one of his earliest challenges was being on the search for the Trailside Killer. Michael had considered law enforcement but instead decided to join the fire department. The position he held was battalion chief for the Mill Valley Fire Department. Early on, he became involved with SAR and told of the greatly different backgrounds of the SAR volunteers—the number is now at 98 volunteers. The young man who accompanied Michael is Kobi Pole who attends Colorado's Mountain College.

The Marin SAR works with many other counties. The range of area covered runs from the Oregon border to central California. Michael states that students on SAR teams mature quickly and learn leadership and problem-solving skills. Michael's passion for the outdoors includes pursuits of hiking, mountain Michael is complexly dedicated to helping others and impacting the community for the better. Michael St. John has been publicly thanked for outstanding service to the team.

The Marin County's Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit was started by the Explorer Team. The Explorer Team was the first scouting group in Marin to accept female volunteers. In the mid-1970s volunteers attended a conference in Washington State, returned and quickly convinced the rest of the group to change the focus to search and rescue. In 1978, the sponsorship was changed to the Marin County Sheriff's Department and the first responses began with search and rescue missions. High visibility SAR missions of note were:

- Orphan Airlift at Hamilton Field of Vietnamese children with first aid events

- Overnight search for two missing children

- Search for victims of the Trailside Killer—seven hikers had been killed between 1979 to 1981

- Assisting in disaster operations such as the 1982 flood and lesser floods of subsequent years

(Continued)

(Continued)

Assisting in investigations for numerous evidence searches

The Marin County SAR team has also provided services such as lost/missing person searches, high altitude mountain and cliff rescue, rescues on a mutual aid basis but has primary duties on a mutual aid basis with other counties. Historical highlights include the following:

- in 1989, SAR responded to 18 missions, three times the number of responses from 1988

- Average number of members for several years runs about 70

- The unit enjoys strong support from the Sheriff's Department which ensures that the best equipment and training is made available

- The Marin County SAR Team became a fully certified team of the Mountain Rescue

- Association following four years of intensive training and challenging tests.

Cumulatively, it is estimated that 800 people have served the community since the 1960s and dozens of lives have been saved by team members and many more of those rescued had been saved from hardship and pain. Though the projection of many video slides and presentations of Michael St. John and Kobi Pole, we have all gained knowledge of an exceptionally valuable agency which could be pressed into service at any time and on very short notice.

Alan Thomas



SIR Br 47 Chinese New Year's Celebration

@ 11:30 am on Tues Feb 11, 2020 at Yet Wah restaurant, 1238 fourth St., San Rafael



This is our first party in 2020 to kick off the Year of the Yang Metal Rat. This Rat has exceptional taste, so what better than a sit-down Chinese Banquet

The proposed menu includes: Sizzling Rice Soup, Yet wah Lettuce Blason, Glazed Walnut Prawns, Glazed Orange Beef with Broccoli, Lemon chicken, Salt and Pepper Pork Chops, Sweet and Sour Fish Filet, Mixed Vegetables with Bean Curds and Cashews, White or Brown Rice, Dessert. Plenty of food to eat and take home.



Cost is \$30 including tax & tip. Please invite spouses and other guests to help us celebrate the New Year.

Tickets are on sale at the Br 47 January 28, 2019 luncheon. Reservations required.

Contact See Tom @ 415-378-3008 or seestom@gmail.com.

Feb. 4 2020 is the deadline for making both reservations and payment



TRAVEL



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

JANUARY LUNCH MENU

Salad

Pot Roast with mashed potatoes and vegetables

Alternative: Grilled Chicken breast with potatoes and vegetables

Rolls and butter

Dessert

NOTE: Lunch Price is now \$30.

Please pay by check

LUNCHEON SPEAKER FOR JANUARY

January 28: Dale Miller, President of the Golden Gate Electric Vehicle Association (GGEVA):
"You'll Want An Electric Vehicle – Here's Why"

Get answers about cost savings, tax benefits, performance, safety, long road trips, self-driving, and the joy of never having to go to a gas station again. Compare the reality versus the myths about driving electric.

GGEVA, the Marin chapter of the Electric Auto Association, is a nonprofit educational, support and advocacy organization that promotes electric vehicles. A Marin resident, Dale has been driving an electric car for eight years.

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



ADVANCED DIGITAL CAMERA STUFF

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

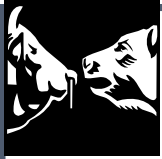
GGCS classroom
First Presbyterian Church
Fifth Avenue, San Rafael

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, @**



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 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

2020 Season (Schedule Pending)

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?

The tennis Gods have not been good to us this month! Several cancelations for wet courts & lack of players! Hopefully new members will show up in 2020! BD

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. Ross Valley Players: 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 hired 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.

2. Marin Theatre Company: 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. Inspired by stories from Arab-American women and created in response to Ibsen's A Doll's House, Heather Raffo's Noura charts the intricate pathways of motherhood and marriage—and the fragile architecture of what we call home. 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

3. 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).

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

5. Cinnabar Theater: 3333 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma. Note: Seating is now reserved in advance, but the Theater seating 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

Cheers

Kurt Heilman 1-415-892-2460

6. Homeward Bound Fresh Start Chef Events. Thu. Jan. 16, 2020 @ 6:30 pm. Warm Up the Winter with Chef Rebecca Katz. Learn recipes to bring great taste and foster wellness with a "soup banquet" from [Rebecca Katz](#), an educator and graduate of the Natural Gourmet Institute who has written five cookbooks and heads the Healing Kitchens Institute in Bolinas. Her menu is: Ruby Red Beet Soup with Parsnip Chip, Coconut Cauliflower Soup with Ginger & Turmeric, Orange Salad with Olives & Mint with Pomegranate Vinaigrette, Latin America Chicken Stew with Greens & Polenta Croutons, and Macarons and Lola's Chocolate Chip Cookies. Cost is \$65 pp. Visit [Fresh Starts Chef Events online](#) to make reservations or call 415-382-3363 x243.

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

JIM NORTON

12/17/1949-12/8/2019



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

There will be a memorial service for Jim Norton following the holidays with a date still to be determined. You will receive this information as soon as it is available.

If you wish to send a personal card to Jim's family here is the address. Jim's wife's name is Kris.

85 Golden Hinde Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94903

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 HIGHLIGHTS

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 Ortnor. Alan will present an invoice to acting treasurer 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 Business: 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.

Editors note: I was advised after the meeting that the dues were lowered \$5 for 2020 and that the lunch would increase by \$1.

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
 before the lunch date*

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAY BOYS

Badge #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MO.	DAY	YEAR	AGE
58	BOSCH	MARK	1	28	1949	71
71	D’ADDARIO	RICHARD	1	19	1949	71
10	GRIFFIN	KEN	1	20	1933	87
17	KELLY	MICHAEL	1	20	1942	78
28	MCGINNIS	RON	1	23	1943	77
13	WINTER	NORBERT	1	28	1938	82
56	ZILBER	LEONARD	1	11	1938	82

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Wednesday	Jan	1	New Years Day
Wednesday	Jan	1	Tennis
Thursday	Jan	2	Walking Group
Friday	Jan	3	Bowling
Monday	Jan	6	Bocce Ball
Monday	Jan	6	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Wednesday	Jan	8	Tennis
Thursday	Jan	9	Walking Group
Friday	Jan	10	Investors' Lunch Bunch
Friday	Jan	10	Bowling
Monday	Jan	13	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Tuesday	Jan	14	Fishing
Wednesday	Jan	15	Tennis
Wednesday	Jan	15	Advanced Digital Camera
Thursday	Jan	16	Bridge
Thursday	Jan	16	Walking Group
Friday	Jan	17	Bowling
Monday	Jan	20	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Jan	20	Dr Martin Luther King Jr Bday
Wednesday	Jan	22	Tennis
Thursday	Jan	23	Walking Group
Friday	Jan	24	Bowling
Monday	Jan	27	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	Jan	27	Executive Committee Meets
Tuesday	an	28	Branch 47 Luncheon
Wednesday	Jan	29	Tennis
Thursday	Jan	30	Walking Group
Friday	Jan	31	Bowling

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 27th 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 2020

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:

**TAMALTALK, SIR Branch 47
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Tiburon, CA. 94920**