



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](mailto:ebensonbwa@aol.com)  
Region 3 Director Dennis Pangburn [pang1@comcast.net](mailto:pang1@comcast.net), Area 6 Governor - Sandy Grieve [agrieves1@comcast.net](mailto:agrieves1@comcast.net)

MARIN COUNTY

MARCH 2020  
OUR 45TH YEAR

VOL. XLVI No. 3

## BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

The February luncheon had a most interesting speaker, Galen Dunham. Galen gave a fascinating presentation detailing Civil War uniforms; equipment; weapons; battle strategies and more. He brought numerous actual items for us to view. We must have made a great impression on Galen as he submitted an application to join our Branch. Great job team!

Our guest, Shig Negabe was brought by our Little SIR, Frank Ghazzagh. Shig also submitted an application for membership. We are off to a great start for 2020 in meeting our membership goals.

The Chinese New Year's Lunch at Yet Wah Restaurant was held on February 11<sup>th</sup>. It was attended by 16 members and guests and was a fun way to bring in the "Year of the Rat". Thanks to See Tom for organizing this delicious event.

On a sad note: Robert Fields, passed on February 12<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. Our condolences go to his wife, Patricia, and all his family. We will pass on details of any memorial services when this is received.

Our speaker for our March 24<sup>th</sup> luncheon is Catherine Fallis. She will be talking about wines and the 10 and Done Wine Guide. This is important information for all of us living in "wine country".

Please contact our Little SIR, Frank Ghazzagh, if you have speaker suggestions.

**Doug Twitchell, BIG SIR BRANCH 47**

## January 2020 Speaker Review

Dale W. Miller, of the Golden Gate Electric Vehicle Association (GGEVA), gave the luncheon talk to the Branch 47 membership on January 28, 2020. GGEVA is the local chapter of the Electric Vehicle Association, a non-profit organization that promotes the use of electric vehicles.

Mr. Miller talked about the many advantages of electric vehicles. In addition to the environmental benefits of not using fossil fuels, electric vehicles have a number of other advantages over conventional vehicles. These advantages include excellent acceleration, low cost per mile (\$0.04/mile for electric vs. \$0.16/mile for gas), lower maintenance costs, and simpler mechanical systems. He said that newer cars are engineered to run 1,000,000 miles. Battery lifetimes are now in excess of 8 years.

He addressed the perception that electric vehicles are expensive. The lowest cost electric vehicle on the market is now \$31600, and there are a number of government rebate programs available. He cited a study that showed the 5-year ownership costs were actually lower for a Tesla Model 3 than a Camry.

Another perception is that the range of electric vehicles is limited. Cars with ranges up to 373 miles are available, and more than 8 models have range in excess of 226 miles. This is compared to the typical California commute of 40 miles. Charging times can become an issue on longer trips, but the situation is improving. A 240-volt system needs 2 ½ hours to provide 100 miles of charge, although new DC Fast Charge systems can do the job in ½ hour. Tesla has 15,911 connections at 1804 locations in North America.

There was a spirited question and answer session. Some of the questions were:

What about hybrids? Mr. Miller believes they are on the way out.

(continued)

(continued)

What are Toyota's plans?

Toyota apparently is focusing on hydrogen fuel, although the company has recently announced an electric vehicle.

How do you reconcile the future of electric vehicles with the views of the current administration?

The visions are not reconcilable.

What is the cost of a charging station?

The cheapest is around \$500, but there may be additional costs associated with installation.

Erick Young

### March 26th Luncheon Menu

*Salad*

*Chicken Toscana with penne pomodoro*

Alternative: Grilled Salmon with rice and vegetables

*Rolls and butter*

*Dessert*

**Luncheon cost is now \$30**

**Please pay by check**

### LUNCHEON SPEAKER FOR MARCH

Catherine Fallis "10 Grapes to Know, The Ten & Done Wine Guide"

Catherine is the founder of Planet Grape® LLC, a wine consulting firm providing content, reviews, corporate & private tastings, restaurant wine program development, and speaking services.

She created her alter-ego, *grape goddess*®, to help bring wine down to earth for consumers as well as those entering the wine industry. She is one of a handful of female professional sabreurs in the world, opening a bottle of Champagne with a sword in a dazzling theatrical performance.

She has recently launched Planet Grape Wine Review, America's first female-led wine review platform, and has authored *Ten Grapes to Know, the Ten and Done Wine Guide*.

## 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**

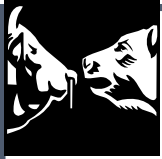
**GGCS classroom**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Fifth Avenue, San Rafael**

**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**

March 2	Monday	Rooster Run	07:00 AM
Sequential Tee Times (STT)			
March 9	Monday	Petaluma CC	08:30 AM
Modified Shot Gun (MSG)			
March 16	Monday	Chardonnay	08:00 AM (MSG)
March 23	Monday	Blue Rock West	08:00 AM (STT)
March 30	Monday	Foxtail North	08:00 AM (MSG)

## 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 892-7019**

## 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](mailto:babette@ggcs.org).

## TENNIS, ANYONE?



**After 2 cancellations for lack of a foursome this month, 2/19 tennis 7 players signed up with 6 showing up. Spirited play was fun & good exercise gained on a beautiful Marin day! Bill Donnelly**



**Play is at McInnis Park every Wednesday @ 9:30 AM.**

## Br 47 Outings include:

**1. Mill Valley Philharmonic 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Purchase tickets @ [millvalleyphilharmonic.org](http://millvalleyphilharmonic.org). \* **Fri. Mar 13 @ 7:30 pm** @ Mt. Tam United Methodist Church - \$20 pp ,

- **Sun. Mar 15 @ 2:30 pm** Concert & Gala @ Mill Valley Community Center - \$40 pp incl. wine, beer soft drinks, sweet & savory nibbles, and silent auction.

**2. Cinnabar Theater:** 3333 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma. Note: Seating is now reserved in advance, but the Theater seating has been refurbished. **April 3-19 "How I learned to Drive"** is a moving tale of survival, as seen through the lens of a troubling relationship between a young girl and an older man. Wildly funny, surprising and devastating. **Others performances include: Feb 29 Broadway Bash; Mar. 14 Patrick Ball's Celtic Harp.** Contact CinnabarTheater.com.

**3. Ross Valley Players: March 6 – April 5 "The Glass Menagerie"** by Tennessee Williams. For tickets contact <<http://rossvalleyplayers.com/>> [rossvalleyplayers.com](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>> [boxoffice@marintheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@marintheatre.org), or visit us during regular Box Office hours of operation: 397 Miller Ave. Mill Valley, CA 94941. **March 5 - 29 "Love"** When Penelope is approached about joining a group of women making harassment allegations against her former boss, she finds herself at an uncomfortable crossroads—the man accused was a former lover and remains a dear friend. As the women's stories unfold, Penelope questions what happened to her, what she enabled, and her very identity. *Love* examines what accountability looks like when an abuser of power is one of our favorite men, and poses a radical question: Can we place love at the center of these reckonings? **Monday March 16. "Natural Shocks"** Based on Hamlet's "To be or not to be" speech, Natural Shocks is a 65-minute, one-woman tour-de-force play that bursts to life when we meet a woman waiting out an imminent tornado in her basement. Her story—and the secret she reveals—puts the reality of guns in America front and center. Natural Shocks is part confessional, part stand-up, and part reckoning.

**5. The Novato Theater Company:** Contact <<http://novatototheatrecompany.org>> [novatototheatrecompany.org](http://novatototheatrecompany.org) or call 415-833-4498. **Mar 12 – Apr 5 "The Who's Tommy"** music, lyrics, and book by Pete

**6. Homeward Bound Fresh Start Chef Events.** Cost is \$65 pp. **Next Chef Events are: Thurs Mar 19 Ziggy Eschliman**, who hosts the "Wine Wednesday" show, leads the event that will feature selected wines paired with a menu of fresh bites. **Thurs April 23 Lisa Lavaggio** celebrates the bounty and passion of Italian food! A much-loved instructor at Ramekins in Sonoma County, Lisa offers tips and inspiration from 35 years of experience cooking with her first-generation Italian relatives. 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.**

### SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

Sad news to report that SIR Robert Fields passed on 2/12/20. A sympathy card with a personal note was sent to the family.



## IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT FIELDS

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





**TRAVEL**

**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 @**

# **SIR Br 47 May Party Tuesday May 12, 2020 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 \$36 / 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 8.  
Cancellations will not be honored after 48 hours  
in advance. Contact Kurt Heilman @ 1-415-892-2460  
or [heilmanfour@comcast.net](mailto:heilmanfour@comcast.net). >>**

**You can buy your tickets at our Mar. 24 and Apr. 28 luncheons**

**BRANCH 47 BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS**

**February 24, 2020**

**Attendees:** Jake Solomon, Alan Thomas, Will Kaefer, Rick Coburn, Bob Gonzalez, Frank Ghazzagh and Bill Stewart. The meeting was called to order by Little Sir Frank Ghazzagh. Three Branch 47 members were present and had been invited to attend by Big Sir. They are Mark Bosch, George Miller and Trevor Hughes. Since there is a Branch 47 Board shortage, Big Sir is inviting various members to see if such members may be interested in serving on the Board in the future.

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2020 were read. Minutes were moved to be amended, seconded and carried. Assistant Secretary erroneously listed Eric Young as a Board member and Frank Ghazzagh’s absence was reported in error.

**Activity Approval:** Activity Approval is required each year to fulfill Branch insurance requirements. Monthly, annual or periodic activities are listed as follows with the requirement that such activities appear in Branch minutes:

- Monthly luncheon—4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month except December—luncheon held at McInnis Restaurant 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.;
- (b) Bowling every Friday morning late August - May, Country Club Bowl, 88 Vivian Way, San Rafael, (Marin SIR branches);
- (c) Hiking—every Thursday weather permitting;
- (d) 9 Hole Golf—Monday mornings at McInnis (Marin SIR Branches);
- (e) Tennis, every Wednesday a McInnis Park at 9:30;
- (f) Bridge—first and third Thursday of each month at a member’s home;
- (g) Investor’s Lunch Bunch—2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at Sam’s Place, 1545 Novato Blvd at 11:45 a.m. (Marin SIR branches);
- (h) Advanced Digital Camera—3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 1:30 to 3:30 GGCS classroom, First Presbyterian Church 1510-5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Rafael (SIR Marin branches);
- (i) Fishing—2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from at Novato United Methodist Church, (Marin SIR branches);
- (j) Bocce 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month (spouses and guests), various locations;
- (k) Bocce Tournament—19<sup>th</sup> of September (Marin SIR branches);
- (l) Chinese New Year feast in local restaurant annually in February;
- (m) Boat Cruise on San Francisco Bay;
- (n) Annual picnic in Miwok Park in Novato. As other activities occur, they will be noted and added to this list on an annual basis.

**Big SIR Report:** The matter of the State Hqs. requesting e-mail addresses of each branch member was raised again. Branch 47 Board determined that this request had been voted down in 2019 and the matter would remain in that status. A revised brochure is in the planning stages but has not yet been completed. New brochures can be ordered with branch information on the reverse side. Matter should be revisited in March to cover items raised under new business. Passing of Robert Fields, member T-108 on February 12, 2020 was noted. Alan will check with member Wayne Colyer to learn of a service or other farewell for Robert Fields. Alan’s later call to Wayne revealed that there would not be a service for Robert Fields.

**Little SIR Report:** Speaker for the meeting of February 25 will be a Mr. Dunham, a prominent speaker on the history and

details of the American Civil War.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Assistant Treasurer reported that any items dealing with membership or financial changes must be approved by motion. Treasurer brought Board up-to-date on current membership figures compared with status from a year ago. Branch 47 is slowing a slight gain.

**Old Business:** State officers spoke at the recent Town Hall meeting in Fairfield and promoted inviting new members directly to a branch activity in addition to the luncheon. Focus on an activity should take place at a regular monthly meeting.

**New Business:** Pending issues follow: possibility of downloading from the State is considered, whether to adapt state designed brochure or not, and should modifications be made specific for Branch 47? Matter is tabled for March meeting.

**Adjournment:** February 24th, 11:45 a.m. The next Branch 47 Board meeting will be held on March 23, 2020.

**FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE REPORT**

<b>Total Members</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Members Present</b>	<b>75 66%</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>2</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](mailto:sirbranch47@gmail.com)  
with your request, giving name and badge number*

*Please call by noon of the Friday*

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**Summary:**

<b>Actives -</b>	<b>114</b>	
<b>Gains:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Losses:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**MARCH BIRTHDAY BOYS**

- 3rd, Don Kuchta, 13th, John Freel,**
- 13th, Herb Husen, 16th, Tim Leveque,**
- 17th, Peter Kerner, 18th, Pierre Terrier,**
- 22nd, Norbert Hudobnik, 23rd, Peter Brousseau,**
- 26th, George Vaio, 29th, Ara Apkarian**

**ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

Monday	Mar	2	Bocce Ball
Monday	Mar	2	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Wednesday	Mar	4	Tennis
Thursday	Mar	5	Walking Group
Friday	Mar	6	Bowling
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Daylight Saving time Begins</b>
Monday	Mar	9	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Tuesday	Mar	10	Fishing
Wednesday	Mar	11	Tennis
Thursday	Mar	12	Walking Group
Friday	Mar	13	Investors' Lunch Bunch
Friday	Mar	13	Bowling
Monday	Mar	16	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>St Patrick's Day</b>
Wednesday	Mar	18	Tennis
Wednesday	Mar	18	Advanced Digital Camera
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>First Day of Spring</b>
Thursday	Mar	19	Bridge
Thursday	Mar	19	Walking Group
Friday	Mar	20	Bowling
Monday	Mar	23	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meets</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Branch 47 Luncheon</b>
Wednesday	Mar	25	Tennis
Thursday	Mar	26	Walking Group
Friday	Mar	28	Bowling
Monday	Mar	30	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)

**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 , **March 23rd 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/](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**