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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.

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
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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
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MARIN COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2020
OUR 47TH YEAR

VOL. XLVII No. 9

BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

IMPORTANT NOTICE: DUE TO COVID-19 (The Corona Virus) SIR LUNCHEONS AND ALL SIR ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

September brings us to the end of summer and the beginning of fall. It also marks the beginning of our 7th month of the Coronavirus shutdown. As has been noted previously, Golf and Hiking have resumed and the Investor's group is meeting monthly by Zoom. Our Little SIR, Frank Ghazzagh, has done an outstanding job obtaining speakers for our monthly Zoom speaker sessions.

The officers and directors that are currently serving for 2020 will continue in these roles for 2021. No objections to this proposal were received by the membership.

You should have received a letter sent by email on August 31st informing you that the dues for 2021 are being waived and are not planned to be payable again until January 2022. Following is a copy of this letter:

These have been challenging times for all of us. Most of the activities we enjoy as SIR members have been indefinitely suspended. We have adapted to these conditions by continuing our monthly board meetings and our luncheon programs by holding them virtually on ZOOM. Recently, we received authorization from SIR State to reopen SIR Golf and our Branch 47 Hiking activities. They are both now on normal schedules. Our Investors group has continued their monthly meetings on ZOOM.

Our biggest challenge will be to restart our monthly luncheons at McInnis. This will require both permission from SIR State and authorization from the county and state to permit McInnis to reopen their banquet facility.

Your Board recognizes that our luncheons are the most important activity that we all enjoy and miss. The suspension of our luncheons occurred shortly after we collected your 2020 annual dues. In recognition of being unable to currently conduct our luncheons at McInnis, your Board has voted to suspend the 2021 dues regardless of when we restart our luncheons. Fortunately, our treasury account is well funded and can absorb our ongoing expenditures of SIR State payments and the publishing of our 2021 Roster.

Your Board members will continue to call you monthly to keep in touch. It is also important that you, too, should stay in touch with your SIR friends.

We are already planning what special things we will do during our reopening luncheon. If you have any thoughts on that, please let me know.

We will get through this together. Please keep safe and well. **Doug Twitchell, BIG SIR BRANCH 47**

OUR SPEAKER FOR OUR ZOOM MEETING ON 22nd SEPTEMBER

- **Speaker: Kevin McDonald**
 - **The title of talk is "Police work in san Rafael".**

Kevin grew up in Terra Linda, graduated from TLHS in 1973.

Went to San Jose State and graduated with a BS in Criminal Justice in 1977.

Started as a reserve police officer here in San Rafael in 01/76 while still in school.

Got hired by Stanford University as a police officer and worked there from 8/77 - 8/79.

Came back to San Rafael as an officer from 08/79 - 08/83 when I left the PD (staying on as a reserve officer) and went to law school at USF. Graduated in 86, took the bar and passed it.

But, came back to the PD full time from 01/86 - 05/88 when I left to practice law (again staying on as a reserve officer).

Practiced full-time for 17 years when I decided I had enough of that and was not done being a cop.

Came back to full-time officer at the end of 2005 and was assigned to patrol until March, 2019 when I was assigned to investigations.

I am currently still working as a detective, probably until retirement. I look forward to meeting you. KM

**The Astounding Life of Paul Schwartzbart
By Alan Thomas**

Paul Schwartzbart was born in Vienna in 1933, the only child of Sarah and Friedrich Schwartzbart. His family had lived in Vienna since the 18th century and his father worked with an import-export company. His mother had been trained as a milliner but stayed home to take care of Paul. When Paul was five, his family left Vienna for Cologne, Germany, From Cologne, Paul's father made his way to Belgium. Paul and his mother succeeded in their attempt to reunite with Paul's father on their second attempt. In May of 1940, Paul's father was arrested and sent to a labor camp. Paul and his mother remained in Belgium where she worked for a Belgian family. In 1943 a member of the underground made an offer to Paul's mother to take Paul to a safe area. On her agreement, Paul was sent away under the surname of Exsteen, the family name of the people for whom his mother worked. Paul spent the remainder of the war years in Jarnoinne, Belgium, in a Catholic home for boys. Although many Jewish boys had been hidden there, Paul thought he was the only one. Paul is quoted: "*He put me on a train and explained to me where I was going; my mother was not allowed to know and reminded me that I had given up my Jewish identity, you know, and that I was someone else now.*" Paul was ten years old at the time, but he understood. Paul did not know who the man was who assisted him, and was not successful in trying to find out who he was. He was remembered only as an anonymous member of the Jewish underground.

In later years, Paul found out that his father had died as a result of harsh life at the labor camp. At the Catholic School in the Ardennes Forest in Belgium, he adapted well to the change of environment and actually lived with 124 other boys then of the Catholic faith. At age twelve and with the war over, Paul made his way back to Brussels where by pure coincidence he was reunited with his mother. They ultimately made their way to the United States where he kept his promise to his father to look after his mother for the remainder of her life. In later years, he received an invitation from the Catholic school in Belgium for a reunion of the "Hidden Children." It was at the reunion that he learned that he was one of 83 boys at the school all being shielded from the Nazis. It was obvious that no discussion ever took place among these boys in which their heritage of Judaism may have been revealed. During his visit to Belgium, he researched records of the Belgian Archives in which he located files pertaining to himself, to his mother and father, and the revelation that 3,000 children from the Brussels area had been protected in the same manner in which he had been shielded.

Paul Schwartzbart has written a book entitled: ***Breaking the Silence: Reminiscences of a Hidden Child.*** The book has been reviewed, and the reviewer, David Stubblebine, has included his own thoughts and philosophical statement:

"In his book, Mr. Schwartzbart tells his story in a very frank and complete manner. He reviews not only the historical facts but also describes the inner-most feelings and fears as he wended his way through his childhood wartime labyrinth. He describes the deep resolve that crystallized later in his life to never let anything like the Holocaust happen again and never allow what happened to be forgotten."

ED Note: If you missed this excellent and moving talk You can review at our web site, SIR47.ORG under Zooming, events. The youtube uirl is <https://youtu.be/rDefRBYjN2E>

ED NOTE1: I have included this write up as it was available before press time. It usually appears in the following Tamaltalk to give the reviewer time to write it up. As it is, we have time and space.

SIR Branch 47 – August 25th, 2020 Speaker Review

Speaker: Ken Dutrieux

Topic: “Air Traffic Controller Stories of the North Bay”

Review:

The talk was given via Zoom and was well attended by approximately 45 members. Ken is Big SIR of Branch #68 (China Camp/ Indian Valley) and gave an interesting talk about his experiences as an air traffic controller.

Ken divided the talk into three parts. The first part dealt with his personal history as an air traffic controller. After joining the Marine Corps in 1975, he spent most of his duty in the Far East. He re-enlisted to go to air traffic controller school in 1979, and Ken’s first assignment was at 29 Palms. He gave an interesting anecdote about working on the installation of an aluminum panel runway at 29 Palms using panels that he help remove years earlier in the Far East. Ken was discharged from the Marine Corps in 1983, and he then went to work for the FAA. His first assignment was with the Oakland Oceanic Center. During his 24 years with the FAA, he worked a number of FAA facilities in Northern California, and he retired in 2008.

The second part of the talk covered the Air Traffic Control (ATC) system. The ATC system is a multi-layered system with different components covering regions from large down to local. The ultimate authority for US airspace is held by the 21 Air Traffic Control Centers. On the West Coast, there are three ATC Centers: Seattle, Oakland, and Los Angeles. Ken spent most of his career with the Oakland Center, which is responsible for traffic in Northern California as well as much of the traffic in the Eastern Pacific. Oakland Center Oceanic airspace covers all of the Eastern Pacific and is the largest ATC region in the world. The next level of organization is Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON). TRACON is responsible for sequencing traffic in the region around airports. Tower Control handles the active runways at a given airport, and Ground Control coordinates traffic on taxiways and gates.

The final part of the talk gave details about the complicated airspace in the San Francisco Bay area. With three major airports at San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose as well as many smaller airports, handling all the traffic in the region requires a lot of coordination.

Some Q&A

How are military aircraft handled? Military aircraft are handled like other aircraft except they generally use UHF rather than VHF radios.

What is the relation between ATC and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)?
ATC only interacts with the NTSB during investigations of incidents.

How are system upgrades going? Upgrading the ATC system has been very difficult. The latest system is a “\$9 Billion fiasco.” The biggest issue is legacy software, much of it based on decades old systems.

Erick Young

ED NOTE2: If you missed this presentation you can view and listen in its entirety at URL

<https://youtu.be/e49Ou3oRyvE>. Copy and paste in your browser or go to www.SIR47.org under ZOOMING events.

BRANCH 47 BUSINESS

SIR Branch 47 Board Meeting
Tamalpais Branch
Zoom Meeting from member's homes
August 24, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 by Big Sir Doug Twitchell and a quorum was determined to be present.

Attendees: Doug Twitchell, Frank Ghazzagh, Ned Lawrence, Alan Thomas, Bill Stewart, Will Kaefer, George Brown, Rick Coburn, Bob Gonzalez, Jake Solomon, George Miller. Missing Jim Kleiser

Minutes from board meeting of July 27, 2020 were approved by vote as distributed to board members after the last BEC.

Corona virus Updates: No known cases for branch 47 members or official SIRS activities.

Big Sir Report: A new members' call list has been distributed and all members were reminded to phone in for the monthly lunch zoom meeting on August 25. A couple of agenda items were added and will be covered under New Business.

Little Sir Report: Frank Ghazzagh attended by zoom the most recent SIR state meeting on August 19. 152 members called but specific voting was limited to Big Sirs and Area Governors. Remote meetings and electronic voting were approved as official methods to conduct meetings. The new officers for next year were approved and their term will begin next year. Several new by laws were passed and minority membership recruiting was discussed as something SIRS should consider. Results of the recent survey to all members were discussed and recreational vehicles, bocce, dining out, computers and golf were the most frequent activities mentioned. All of the new by laws have been posted on the state website for further viewing. The liability policy was discussed and some concern was expressed that fees to pay the annual premium may be a problem. Speakers have been lined up for the balance of the year.

Treasurers Report: Bill Stewart reported that there has been no activity for July or August.

Committee Reports: Golf is being played throughout the state and all branches in Marin County have been approved to start the season. Ned Lawrence is the new Area 8 golf chairman and 18 hole Sirs golf is being played Mondays and Wednesdays at various courses. Hiking is also underway although the lunch meetings that follow the weekly hike are not official SIRS events. The Investors Club continues to meet but there are no other branch 47 activities approved to date. Doug will ask the members if someone wants to volunteer to initiate the approval process for any other activities.

Old Business: Jake Solomon reminded us that the Form 20 must be sent to state by the end of August. Ned Lawrence committed to comply and will send a draft to BEC before sending to state.

New Business: Branch 47 was awarded a \$100.00 prize for zoom participation and the money must be spent for items from the SIRS store in a reimbursement concept. Doug will send around a list of items that are available and the discussion of how to spend this award will be discussed and decided at future meetings. It was voted upon and approved to suspend all dues for 2021 and Doug Twitchell will inform the members of this decision. Doug Twitchell will ask Erick Young to prepare a proposal for the 2021 roster book, including mailing costs, and present the proposal at the next BEC. The decision will be decided after the board learns the actual cost. Before deciding if the BEC will switch from Drop box to Google Drive, the branch must determine if Ron Kosciusko will set up the procedures and handle the permissions from or board members to obtain access. Ron has been invited to attend our September 21 board meeting to discuss and reach a decision. Ron is the webmaster for our branch website.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Ned Lawrence, Secretary

FROM THE INVESTORS LUNCH BUNCH

The evolving Covid-19 strategy has had a significant impact on the economy and stockmarket. The stock market has experienced extreme daily volatility over the last several weeks. There has been a significant though partial recovery. Will the recovery continue or will there be another downward trend?

The INVESTORS LUNCH BUNCH held a ZOOM video conference meeting in April With 16 in attendance. This was conducted from the comfort and safety of each person's home. We will again meet virtually on Friday, **SEPTEMBER 11th at 12:30**. If you are not already in our Investors email list and would like to join the meeting, please send me your email address to willmary@pacbell.net so that I can add you to the invitation. This will be an easy way to check out what our Investors lunch bunch is all about.

This virus and our response to it have hampered many of our normal activities. But the market goes on, and so we will too.

If you are a bit intimidated about trying a ZOOM connection, email and I will walk you through a demo.

Hope to *see you there*.

Will Kaefer, Investors Lunch Bunch Chair
willmary@pacbell.net

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES JONES
7/30/1921– 8/18/2020

SIRs Birthdays – SEPTEMBER

| <u>BADGE#</u> | <u>LAST NAME</u> | <u>FIRST NAME</u> | <u>M</u> | <u>O</u> | <u>DAY</u> | <u>YE</u> | <u>AR</u> | <u>AGE</u> |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 124 | ANCELL | HERB | 9 | 19 | 1941 | | | 79 |
| 3 | BRANDON | JACK | 9 | 21 | 1942 | | | 78 |
| 114 | BROYLES | RON | 9 | 9 | 1933 | | | 87 |
| 7 | FLAUM | RUSSELL | 9 | 22 | 1946 | | | 74 |
| 80 | LARSEN | KNUT | 9 | 20 | 1945 | | | 75 |
| 116 | LING | NANSING | 9 | 14 | 1929 | | | 91 |
| 21 | MINOIA | FRANK | 9 | 11 | 1945 | | | 75 |
| 40 | OHM | GLEN | 9 | 22 | 1936 | | | 84 |
| 47 | PLOTNICK | JEFF | 9 | 2 | 1948 | | | 72 |
| 55 | RUDY | MARK | 9 | 9 | 1951 | | | 69 |
| 50 | SMITH | BILL | 9 | 16 | 1935 | | | 85 |
| 39 | SUGRUE | DON | 9 | 26 | 1930 | | | 90 |
| 85 | WATT | JAMES | 9 | 19 | 1938 | | | 82 |

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Summary:

Actives - 116
Gains: 0 0
Losses: 1 0



Tennis Report

There has been NO SIR Tennis the last 3 months w/ the Shelter In Place during the the Virus. Even though Tennis is considered the lowest risk of all activities, the State SIRS has not yet approved this activity! BD

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|------|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| Mon | Sept. 7 | LABOR DAY | |
| Fri | Sept 11 | Investors' Lunch Bunch(ZOOM) | |
| Mon | Sept. 14 | Rooster Run | 07:00 AM |
| | | Sequential Tee Times | |
| | | 9 Hole McInnis Golf Park | 09:00 AM |
| Mon | Sept. 21 | Chardonnay | 08:00 AM |
| | | Modified Shot Gun | |
| | | 9 Hole McInnis Golf Park | 09:00 AM |
| Mon | Sep 21 | ExecCommittee Meets(ZOOM) | |
| Tues | Sep 22 | Speaker (ZOOM) | |
| Mon | Sept. 28 | Napa/Kennedy | 08:00 AM |
| | | Modified Shot Gun | |
| | | 9 Hole McInnis Golf Park | 09:00 AM |