

## Recent Events



### Distinguished Service Award Presented to Bill Stewart and Pikk Pikkarainen

*Erick Young*



Former Big SIR and current Area 8 Representative Carl Dawson presented Distinguished Service Awards to Bill Stewart and Pikk Pikkarainen.

Bill has been the branch Treasurer for more than seven years, keeping the accounts for the Tamalpias branch in good order. The luncheon was the opportunity to wish

Bill best of luck in his move to beautiful Santa Fe NM.

Pikk has been taking care of the Book Exchange for our luncheons for the past few years. He has dutifully brought the exchange books for the reading benefit of the members.

We want to thank both SIRs for **doing their part**.

## Editor's Notes

### Changes in Luncheon Menus Announced

*Erick Young*

As members are well aware, the cost of food has risen in recent years. To address this situation, the leadership of the branch recently met to produce a plan to go forward.

There was general agreement that raising the cost of the lunches was not a good idea. Instead, the following adjustments in the menu will be made:

- 1) The entree will consist of bread and water. There will be a choice of white or whole wheat bread.
- 2) The bread will be accompanied by a salad of iceberg lettuce without dressing. Dressing surcharge will be \$1.

With these changes, we will be able to maintain the \$37 price for the lunch.

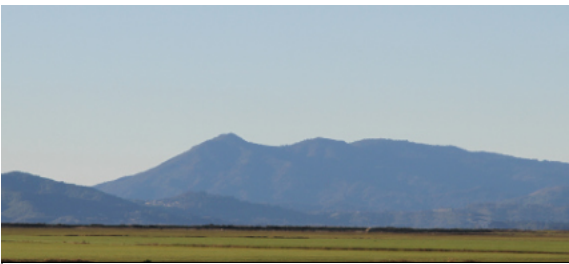
By the way, happy April 1.

**NEXT LUNCHEON TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2026 McInnis Park Club**

Reservations: <https://sir47.org/monthly-luncheon/>

Or call 415-881-7477

Give the online payment method a try. Otherwise bring a check for \$37 per person.



## Tamal Talk A SIR Publication

**Editor/Publisher** Erick Young  
[erickt.young@gmail.com](mailto:erickt.young@gmail.com)  
650-526-8079

### Tamalpias Branch No. 47

<https://sir47.org>

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Big SIR</b>      | Charlie Panfely |
| <b>Little SIR</b>   | Ron Nelson      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>    | Howard Foster   |
| <b>Asst. Treas.</b> | Frank Metzler   |
| <b>Secretary</b>    | Alan Lutsky     |
| <b>Asst. Sec.</b>   | Jim Purvis      |

|                  |                                                                              |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Directors</b> | Carl Dawson<br>Kurt Heilman<br>Dan Hurlbutt<br>Ron Kosciusko<br>Bill Wickley |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>Past Big Sir</b> | Frank Luttringer |
|---------------------|------------------|

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Activities</b> | Kurt Heilman |
|-------------------|--------------|

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Membership</b> | Charlie Panfely |
|-------------------|-----------------|

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Attendance</b> | Frank Luttringer |
|-------------------|------------------|

|                  |                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Luncheons</b> | 415-881-7477<br><a href="mailto:sirbranch47@gmail.com">sirbranch47@gmail.com</a><br><a href="https://sir47.org">https://sir47.org</a> |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### SIR State Organization

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>President</b>  | Fred Serena    |
| <b>Vice Pres.</b> | Nick Feimer    |
| <b>Secretary</b>  | Jeff Chin      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>  | Carl Masson    |
| <b>CIO</b>        | Ramesh Thadani |

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Area 8 Rep.</b> | Carl Dawson |
|--------------------|-------------|

### Big SIR Report



### Big SIR Report for April 2026

*Charlie Panfely*

Spring is here, bringing fresh opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities with friends. Branch 47 offers a variety of options, from 9-hole golf to league and family bocce, weekly hiking trips, and investor lunch meetings. So, there's no need to stay home or feel bored. Come try something new and have some fun!

At our March luncheon, we honored Bill Stewart and George Pikkarainen with Distinguished Service Awards, recognizing their years of dedicated volunteer work. Bill was our Branch Treasurer for over seven years, while Pikk administered our Book Exchange for over three years. Kudos to both of them for their commitment and positive influence on our branch. Zeffy registration was open to all members for the March luncheon as an option. It was well received as 29 members with 2 guests signed up on Zeffy. If you haven't tried it yet, please consider this time-saving option. Paying with a bank card speeds up check-in and makes things easier for our volunteers at the table.

March 31 was the deadline to pay annual dues. About 10 members still owe for 2026 and will not be eligible to attend the April luncheon. If any of you need more time, please contact Frank Luttringer for special accommodation or send a check now to our Treasurer, Howard Foster. Howard's mailing address is 851 Irwin Street-Suite 207, San Rafael, CA 94901.

Our next luncheon is on April 28th, I hope to see you all there.

Charlie Panfely  
Big SIR 2026 for Branch 47  
[cpanfely@att.net](mailto:cpanfely@att.net)

**Next Regular Branch Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday April 28, 2026, 9:30 AM.**  
**McInnis Club Restaurant; luncheon after meeting.**

## Little SIR Report



### Little SIR Report for April 2026

*Ron Nelson*

John Gulick, our March speaker, told us about his transition from a college liberal arts major to U.S. Navy officer, and how he successfully endured the rigorous training to qualify for an Underwater Demolition Team, and subsequently become a Navy SEAL. His description of the warfare he experienced in the Rung Sat Special Zone, a massive swamp in the Mekong Delta, brought home the brutality and tragedy of warfare. His many photos of his training and combat were truly fascinating.

May's speaker will be Corry-Ann Kanzenberg, the Development Director of Homeward Bound of Marin. Homeward Bound is Marin County's main provider of resources for homeless adults, families and veterans, welcoming approximately 1,000 people per year through its 17 programs. It provides safe accommodation, compassionate support and job training for people who are experiencing chronic homelessness. Corry joined Homeward Bound in 2016 where

she builds meaningful connections with donors, partners, and the community to support shelter, housing, and job training programs. She has overseen fund development at Homeward Bound for four major capital projects totaling \$60 million, which created over 100 new homes and a job training center.

If anyone is interested in serving as Little Sir in 2027, please see me at the luncheons or email me at [rnelson2914@comcast.net](mailto:rnelson2914@comcast.net). Although the responsibility to find speakers may seem to be daunting, any Little Sir would agree that it is a satisfying, meaningful and interesting endeavor, and that finding speakers is remarkably easy and fun, thanks in no small part to referrals provided by our SIRs membership. And you will be helping our branch and your fellow Sirs if you take on the job!

Ron Nelson

[rnelson2914@comcast.net](mailto:rnelson2914@comcast.net)

## April 2026 Membership Report

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Active Members        | 122 |
| Alumni                | 20  |
| Total Members         | 142 |
| Honorary Life Members | 4   |

## Passings

### Hale Prather

SIR Hale Prather was remembered at the March luncheon. He passed away at age 84. A resident of Richmond, Hale was an Alumni Member since 2022.

His obituary can be found at:

<https://www.sunsetviewcemetery.com/obituary/robert-hale-prather/>

## Sunshine Committee

If you know of any SIR who has passed, is ill, or just needs contact, please call **Frank Ghazzagh**, Chair of the Sunshine Committee. He will make sure the Branch provides the needed contact.

**415-505-7931**

## Last Month's Speaker

### John Gulick : A Navy Seal in Vietnam



## Reminder

May 26, 2026 will be our special luncheon when we invite spouses and partners to join us in our meeting. The only requirements are to be gentlemen (which we always are) and to register in time.

The talk will be Corry-Ann Kanzenberg, Development Director of Homeward Bound in Marin which is one of the main organizations that provides resources for homeless in the county.

*April Luncheon Speaker*

**Andrew Couch**

***From Storytime to Legacy :  
Making sure the grandkids get  
the story right***



Andrew Couch, co-founder of Sound Legacy, an author, podcast host, and audiobook producer who has spent more than a decade in the storytelling business. With roots in audio recording and sound design, he has developed a keen ear for enhancing stories with music, timing, and atmosphere. Long before his professional career, Andrew was collecting stories the moment he could ask a question, and he's never stopped listening.

Today, he helps families, businesses, and communities discover how storytelling can

deepen connection, foster trust, and honor lived experience. His work blends technical expertise with a genuine curiosity for people's journeys, reminding audiences that stories aren't just entertainment – they're legacy.

**April Menu Choices**

All choices include bread or rolls, butter, and dessert.

- (1) Pork Chop with Potato and vegetables
- (2) Grilled Salmon with lemon butter sauce, rice and vegetables
- (3) Vegan Plate – Penne pomodoro and vegetables
- (4) Chicken Caesar Salad

Reserve your spot at the luncheon at:

<https://sir47.org/monthly-luncheon/>



# SIR Branch 47 Executive Committee Minutes

## In Person Meeting, Tuesday, March 24, 2026

The BEC meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Big Sir Charlie Panfely. A quorum was determined to be present.

**Attendees:** Officers and Directors of 2026 Board were present as follows: Charlie Panfely, Alan Lutsky, Jim Purvis, Ron Nelson, Bill Wickley, Ron Kosciusko, Dan Hurlbutt, Carl Dawson, Erick Young (Tamal Talk), Howard Foster, Frank Luttringer, Frank Metzler.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Board agenda for March 24, 2026, and minutes for the BEC meeting of February 24, 2026.

**Big Sir Report:** See below

**Little Sir Report:** The speaker this month is John Gulick who will talk about his adventures as a Navy SEAL in Viet Nam.

1. We have speaker commitments through January 2027, with the exception of November.
2. All speakers have or will be informed about the photo formatting issue (our inability to show photos taken in HEIC format). If their presentations contain such photos, they need to be converted to jpeg format by the speaker or by us (Lucky) in advance of the luncheon.

Speakers for the next 5 months are as follows:

April: Andrew Couch (“From Storytime to Legacy - Making sure the grandkids get the story right”).

May: Paul Fordham (Homeward Bound) . This will be our annual co-ed lunch.

June: Dr. George Gallagher, Chair of the Animal Sciences Department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. (Topic TBD)

July: Tentative: Deepak Gulrajani, Owner/Winemaker of Nicholson Ranch Winery, Sonoma.

September: Wes Radez, Bay Nature Magazine (Environmental Journalism in a Changing World)

**Treasurer’s Report.** The proposed budget for 2026 and unpaid dues reports were reviewed

**Secretary Report:** As part of Policy B-13 – Record Retention, all minutes going back five years will be retained.

Alan is accumulating them and standardizing their names so they appear in alphabetical order. When done Charlie will assist in moving them to Google. Alan also signed the authorized signatories document for the checking account maintained with US Bank.

### Membership / Attendance Updates:

- The Luncheon attendance report for 2-24-26 was reviewed.
- The projected Luncheon attendance is 80, which includes one speaker and wife plus two new prospective members.
- Charlie reported current membership at 122 active and 20 alumni members.
- Two prospective members will be introduced today.
- Distinguished Service Award Forms 45B for Bill Stewart and George Pikkarainen were voted on and approved. They will be presented at today’s luncheon.

## Branch Executive Committee Minutes - 2

- Dues status: 109 collected and 10 unpaid. It was discussed that after March, dues will be delinquent and luncheons cannot be attended. Members wishing to be reinstated can do so by paying their dues.
- **In Memoriam:** Hale Prather will be remembered at the luncheon.

**Area 8 Report:** Nothing to report.

**Tamal Talk Report:** 2026 Member Rosters are still available at the luncheon meeting.

### Old Business

#### Special Activities Schedule

- a. 2026 Chinese New Years Party – Complete-2 no shows are still responsible (Erick)
- b. 2026 Luncheon with spouses and guests – May 26 (Ron N.)
- c. 2026 Garden Party – June 9 (Roger Burstrem)
- d. 2026 Miwok BYO Picnic – July 14 (Tom Culhane and Kurt)
- e. 2026 Senior Faire – TBD, Frank will report in April
- f. 2026 Sept. Cruise – September 19 (Carl is coordinating this as an area 8 activity).
- g. 2026 Christmas Party – December 8<sup>th</sup> (Kurt)

**Credit Card Payments:** Email instructions were sent to active members on Zeffy usage for luncheon reservations. 29 paid and 2 Guest RSVPs were received on Zeffy as of March 18, 2026.

**Website updates:** In March the Newsletters and Contact Us pages were updated and password protected for security purposes. There was discussion on creating a Members Only area for these pages. This will be referred to the technology group.

**Officer Name Badges:** Charlie distributed new Officer and Director badges today.

**Member Surveys Upcoming:** Nothing new contemplated at this time.

**Special Committees:** Looking for volunteers to lead a Recruiting Team as suggested in the new State Policy 15.

**Google Authenticator Implement:** Complete, installed on four BEC member phones.

**Gmail Cleanup Plan:** Complete, some emails with Hiker labels will be retained.

**Google Workspace Password Change:** Accomplished on March 13.

**Addition to BEC Regulations/History:** Charlie wrote the following statement restricting use of SIR branch email to promote non-SIR activities or other organizations:

*“The [sirbranch47@gmail.com](mailto:sirbranch47@gmail.com) account is designated exclusively for SIR Branch 47 business and will not be used to promote non-SIR activities or organizations to our members. Members who wish to receive announcements from non-SIR organizations may subscribe to them independently of SIR Branch 47.”*

The above was voted on and approved.

**State Policy B-14 – First Aid and Safety Requirements from SIR State:** This was discussed in a general manner for different scenarios. We will check the McInnis restaurant for what **First Aid** they can provide. \$50.00 will be appropriated by Charlie for a first aid kit to accompany different SIR functions.

## Branch Executive Committee Minutes - 3

### New Business

1. Need Branch Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation (Ron N.) Original incorporated in 1974. A statement of information to be filed May 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
2. BEC approval requirement for participation in Area 8 Special Events. The Branch 7 baseball game for 5-27-2026 was voted on and approved.
3. Book Exchange discontinued due to low participation
4. A Proposal from Erick to add the Digital Roster to a Password Protected website page will be referred to the Technology Group.
5. State Policy B-15 – Discuss new Photo Release Requirements. The photo Release Form 66 is required for use of photographs and images. A signed copy is to be given to the Secretary prior to use.
6. New business cards are being looked at for Branch 47. Frank, Bill B., Ron N., Charlie, and Kurt will discuss and make recommendations.

### Next BEC meeting is April 28, 2026

With no further topics to be raised, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next BEC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Lutsky, Secretary



## Budget report for 2025 / 2026

As we reported last year, we projected a negative cash flow based upon our 2025 \$30 dues, which had not been increased for some time. The actual loss was about \$1,500 as shown in the account summary. To create a positive cash flow, we increased our dues to \$45 but kept everything else the same. We are now projecting a positive cash flow in 2026 of about \$770 based upon 130 members. The state wants us to maintain a cash balance of about \$40 per member to cover cash flow for activity expenses. That means that based upon 130 members, we should have a closing balance of about \$5,200. Our projected closing balance is \$4,634, so we are about \$565 short of the state recommendation but moving in the right direction.

In 2025 we had about 130 members. So far in 2026 we have about 110 paid members with about 10 pending, so we will need to enroll about 15 new members by the end of July to get up to 130 paid members (new members joining after July 31<sup>st</sup> don't have to pay dues for the current year). Last year we enrolled 13 new members. We offer a free lunch to prospective members, and we had 2 guests in March. We are printing new business cards which we hope will be available in April. You can pick up a handful to give out to the prospective new members. As you can see from our budget, there is not much to cut with the largest expenses being our state dues and lunches for guests and speakers. We will continue to report budget results quarterly.

Please help SIRs branch 47 by bringing in new members. If you have questions or comments, contact us any time at [Sirbranch47@gmail.com](mailto:Sirbranch47@gmail.com).

|                           | 2025             | 2026             |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| General Accounts          | Actual           | Budget           |
| <b>Starting Balance</b>   | <b>\$5,360</b>   | <b>\$3,864</b>   |
| Dues                      | \$3,925          | \$5,850          |
| Bank Charges              | (\$32)           | (\$32)           |
| Badges and cups           | (\$327)          | (\$350)          |
| Roster                    | (\$777)          | (\$750)          |
| State Dues                | (\$1,683)        | (\$1,448)        |
| Tech updates              | (\$337)          | (\$400)          |
| Birthday Wine             | (\$607)          | (\$800)          |
| Other                     | (\$89)           | (\$100)          |
| <b>Total General</b>      | <b>\$74</b>      | <b>\$1,970</b>   |
| <b>Custodial accounts</b> |                  |                  |
| Lunch Guests & Speakers   | (\$1,159)        | (\$1,200)        |
| Special Activities        | (\$411)          | \$0              |
| <b>Total Custodial</b>    | <b>(\$1,569)</b> | <b>(\$1,200)</b> |
| <b>Total (Loss) Gain</b>  | <b>(\$1,495)</b> | <b>\$770</b>     |
| <b>Ending Balance</b>     | <b>\$3,864</b>   | <b>\$4,634</b>   |

## **Upcoming Events in 2026**

### **Special Luncheon for SIRS and Spouses and Partners**

May 26, 2026

Topic: Homeward Bound of Marin

### **Giants vs Diamondbacks Baseball Game**

May 27, 2026

Joint Event with Branches 7, 22, 47, 58, 134, and 147

Kurt Heilman, Branch 47 coordinator

### **Bocce/ Garden Party**

June 9, 2026

Roger Burstrem & Jim Phelan, coordinators

### **Miwok Park BYO Picnic**

July 14, 2026

Tom Culhane & Kurt Heilman, coordinators

### **Bay Cruise**

September 19, 2026

Carl Dawson, coordinator

### **2026 Holiday Party**

December 8, 2026

Kurt Heilman, coordinator

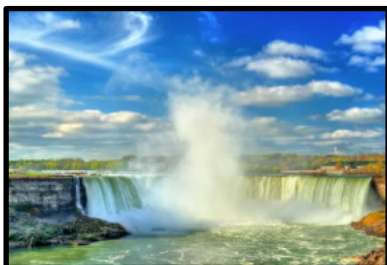
# SIR Multi-Branch Travel News

Glenn Breslin

SIR 146 Travel Chair

[glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

925-788-6520



## Explore the Great Lakes and Niagara Falls

May 3-11, 2026

From urban skylines to uninhabited islands, discover North America's wilderness alongside renowned cultural attractions aboard a small expedition ship. 378 passengers. Led by experts. Balcony staterooms \$6170-8295pp. Contact Michael & Kathi Gervais Br. 98.

Kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com 916-337-1623

Link: <https://sirinc.org/wp-content/uploads/SirGreatLakesTrip.pdf>



**Golf in Hawaii**, June 1-5 (approximate dates) Maui Join us for 5 days, 4 nights at the Outrigger Kaanapali Beach Resort. We have reserved golf tee times at the Royal Kaanapali and Kaanapali Kai Golf Courses. 4 nights at the Outrigger Kaanapali Beach Resort – newly renovated facility. Deposit of \$1931.32 is due at time of booking, remaining balance is due April 17, 2026. Single rates are available. Contact Michael or Katherine Gervais, Ships and Trips Travel Agency. (916) 337 1623 or

[kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com](mailto:kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com)



**16 Night Hawaiian Island Cruise aboard Ruby Princess** round trip from San Francisco: Oct. 23 thru Nov. 8 '26 From \$3,750 to \$6,055 pp. depending on cabin. Ports of call Hilo, Kahului, Maui, Honolulu, Oahu, Nawiliwili, Kauai, and Ensenada Mexico. Contact John Cardoza area 18 branch 143 209-483-7722

[john@storageauctionexperts.com](mailto:john@storageauctionexperts.com)

<https://sirinc.org/uploads/travel/2026HawaiiCruise.pdf>



## Christmas on the Danube

Nov. 27-Dec. 8, 2026

with a 2 day Christmas Markets of Prague extension. Six night Danube River Cruise including Christmas Markets in Vienna, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Wachau Valley, gluhwein party.

Pricing: \$5896-\$7497 p.p., double occupancy.

Contact: Bill Britton Br. 101 [bill.britton@comcast.net](mailto:bill.britton@comcast.net) (925) 200-1062

Link: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1271367>

# ACTIVITIES

## Area 8 Activities- updated 3/31/2026

| Activity                    | Frequency                       | Chair          | Email                                                                            | Phone        | Branch |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Billiards                   | 1st & 3rd Thursday              | Bob Bundy      |                                                                                  | 415-342-4935 | 7      |
| Biking                      | Friday Morning                  | Bob Bundy      |                                                                                  | 415-342-4935 | 7      |
| Coffee Klatch               | Monday 9 AM<br>Bayside Café     | Al Wuthnow     |                                                                                  | 415-640-6747 | 7      |
| Golf                        |                                 | Ron Radtke     |                                                                                  | 415-559-8995 | 7      |
| Hiking                      | Thursday AM                     | Michael Sommer |                                                                                  | 415-264-0166 | 7      |
| Snapshots Book Group        | 2nd Tuesday                     | Dave Cooke     |                                                                                  | 415-305-3173 | 7      |
| 18 Hole Golf                | Twice Monthly                   | Bill Wilhelm   | <a href="mailto:Bill@billandbev.com">Bill@billandbev.com</a>                     | 415-479-6028 | 22     |
| 9 Hole Golf                 | Weekly on Monday at<br>9:30am   | Jim Bitter     | <a href="mailto:jybitter@aol.com">jybitter@aol.com</a>                           | 415-388-7897 | 47     |
| Bocce (Co-Ed)               | 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday          | Kurt Heilman   | <a href="mailto:heilmanfour@comcast.net">heilmanfour@comcast.net</a>             | 415-408-8489 | 47     |
| Bocce (League)              | Weekly                          | Jack Friesen   | <a href="mailto:friesenjack7walter@aol.com">friesenjack7walter@aol.com</a>       | 415-226-8896 | 47     |
| Car Enthusiasts             | 3rd Tuesday 11:30 am            | Joe Sauerland  | <a href="mailto:joesauerland@comcast.net">joesauerland@comcast.net</a>           | 415-479-8442 | 47     |
| Hiking / Walking            | Thursdays                       | Jake Solomon   | <a href="mailto:J_Solomon@comcast.com">J_Solomon@comcast.com</a>                 | 415-845-1645 | 47     |
| Investors Lunch             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday          | Will Kaefer    | <a href="mailto:willmary@pacbell.net">willmary@pacbell.net</a>                   | 415-927-1043 | 47     |
| 18 Hole Golf                |                                 | Jim Larkin     | <a href="mailto:jlark57@yahoo.com">jlark57@yahoo.com</a>                         | 707-766-8402 | 134    |
| Bicycling including e-bikes | Wednesday @9:30<br>Later Coffee | Jim Barden     | <a href="mailto:jbarden@aol.com">jbarden@aol.com</a>                             | 415-897-6537 | 134    |
| Book Club                   | Wednesday                       | Dick Locke     | <a href="mailto:rflocke@comcast.net">rflocke@comcast.net</a>                     | 415-897-1572 | 134    |
| Bridge member and couples   | 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday        | Bill Cline     | <a href="mailto:wacline@comcast.net">wacline@comcast.net</a>                     | 415-892-0209 | 134    |
| Foreign Policy              | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday       | Frank Jamieson | <a href="mailto:frank.jamieson.0710@gmail.com">frank.jamieson.0710@gmail.com</a> | 415-328-7692 | 134    |
| Gardening                   | Inactive                        | Bob Mauceli    | <a href="mailto:bmauceli@comcast.net">bmauceli@comcast.net</a>                   | 585-734-3856 | 134    |
| Genealogy                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday        | Jeff Vailant   | <a href="mailto:topspinut@yahoo.com">topspinut@yahoo.com</a>                     | 415-897-7808 | 134    |
| Hiking                      | 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday        | Jim Gloystein  | <a href="mailto:jimg@gloyboy.com">jimg@gloyboy.com</a>                           | 415-717-3163 | 134    |
| Military History            | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday       | Alan Dunham    | <a href="mailto:alnberta@comcast.net">alnberta@comcast.net</a>                   | 415-897-8886 | 134    |
| Science Discussion Group    | 3rd Thursday at 10am            | Don Pierce     | Not listed                                                                       | 415-897-2701 | 134    |
| Tennis                      |                                 | Bill Cline     | <a href="mailto:wacline@comcast.net">wacline@comcast.net</a>                     | 415-892-0209 | 134    |



### **SIR State Golf Update and Schedules**

SIR State Golf held 11 tournaments in 2025 and is planning on 13 tournaments in 2026.

In 2025 we started two new programs. The first was annual competition for both team and individuals. The 3 best rounds posted would determine the winners. We also introduced an "Over 80" flight in all events, except scrambles, and an annual award for the 3 lowest net rounds (yes, we had a few sub-par net rounds). This experimenting hopes to encourage players and teams to participate (at least 3 times at SIR State events), which helps build our event turnout numbers.

This year, we started a set of "ANNUAL AWARDS". The requirements were that each Team or individual compete in at least 3 State Tournaments, and their 3 lowest NET scores would be used to determine the "GOLFERS OF THE YEAR".

We are awarding Silver Eagle Coins to the winning Team, the winning Individual, the team with 80+ points, and the individual with the lowest single net rounds of the year.

Our first 2026 SIR Golf event will be in Napa (Chardonnay and Eagle Vines) on Weds/Thurs April 22-23, followed by another event in Fairfield (Rancho Solano and Paradise Valley) May 20-21 and another at Blue Rock Springs (East and West) in Vallejo on June 24-25.

In August we will hold the annual Team Scramble Championship at Hiddenbrooke, but with a slightly different set of rules--no more ABCD requirements. There will a separate tournament and practice round on Wednesday and the official Team Championship event on Thursday.

Area 3 Golf Chair Mike Kearns is working on a 2 day tournament in the Sacramento area and the Individual Championship on Oct. 1.

We will complete the year with the 3 days in Monterey the first week of November.

Please look at the SIR State golf website, [www.sirgolf.org](http://www.sirgolf.org), for all of the event's information and their entry forms. We expect large entries for the 2026 events, so get your entries in early.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at these great events!!

Ben Gikis, 2026  
State Golf Chairman  
408 802-0794

[gikisben@gmail.com](mailto:gikisben@gmail.com)

## ACTIVITIES

### Family Bocce

Our BR 47 Family plays non-competitive bocce on the first Monday of each month. The next gathering for 2026 will be April 6, 2026.

We meet at 11:30 AM at Mamita's Cocina on 340 Ignacio Blvd. for lunch. Bocce follows at approximately 1 PM. If you are on Kurt's bocce email list, you will be advised of any changes in the schedule by email. If you are not on the bocce email list and want to be included on our bocce email list, contact Kurt Heilman.

Members, spouses and all guests are invited. There is no charge for playing bocce, but we do ask you to bring your bocce balls if you have them. Also bring a good appetite for delicious Mexican food.

Cheers, Kurt Heilman at [heilmanfour@comcast.net](mailto:heilmanfour@comcast.net), or call Kurt at 415-892-2460.

### SIR State Bowling Committee

SIR Bowling  
For information, contact:

**Dan Weller, Chairman**

925-935-5510 [dweller@astound.net](mailto:dweller@astound.net)

### Investors Lunch Bunch

Come join us every second Friday of the Month at Sam's Place in Novato at 11:30. You can order any menu item and receive a separate check.

No reservations are required. Try to get there a bit early as we are filling up the room quickly. <http://www.samsplacenovato.com>

Will Kaefer, [willmarv@pacbell.net](mailto:willmarv@pacbell.net)

### Pickle Ball

We play on the Third Monday of the Month at the Margaret Todd Recreation Center in Novato at 2 pm. The Novato courts have six dedicated pickle ball courts.

Please see the video on pickle ball basics on YouTube if you are not experienced before you come to play. Please bring your paddles and pickle balls and wear court shoes.

### Auto Enthusiasts' Group

Branch 47's car enthusiasts meet for lunch on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Sam's Place Restaurant, 1545 South Novato Blvd., Novato. Meetings begin at 11:30 AM. If you enjoy motorcycles, vintage vehicles, automotive memorabilia, car shows, etc. the car enthusiasts' group is for you. Guests are always welcome, and owning a classic vehicle is not necessary.

The group is still working on a visit to the Collectors' Museum in San Rafael. Be on the lookout for the date when it gets finalized.

For more information contact Joe Sauerland at 415-479-8442 or [joesauerland@comcast.net](mailto:joesauerland@comcast.net).

## ACTIVITIES

### Poetry Group

Poetry is a somewhat new but enjoyable experience for me. My academic degrees and teaching experiences during my academic career have focused on “Applied Mathematics”. That is why I chose to focus on something quite different, but very enjoyable, in retirement. I would like us to form a group to pursue poetry experiences at this time. This activity does not require experience with poetry, just an interest in the area. If you have an interest in joining us to pursue this activity, please contact me.

Jack Fuller

Telephone or text : 415-798-7322

Email: [jfuller@wvu.edu](mailto:jfuller@wvu.edu)

### League Bocce

The 2026 season began on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. All 6 SIR branch 47 teams are participating in the spring league. Several new players from our branch have joined one of our teams for the spring league. Several teams are looking to add additional players to their teams both as a regular team member or as a substitute. The deadline to make additions to the roster is April 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in joining a team, please contact me and I will get you in touch with a team captain.

Jack Friesen, Bocce Chair

email: [friesenjack7walter@aol.com](mailto:friesenjack7walter@aol.com)



### State Golf News

The next SIR State sponsored event is the Spring Fling Tournament at the Chardonnay & Eagle Vines Golf Club in Napa. The two-day event takes place on April 22 and 23. The cost is \$175 per person for both days or \$90 per person for single days. Ladies and guests are invited.

Additional Information can be found on the State Golf website at [www.sirgolf.org](http://www.sirgolf.org)

Ben Gikis, 2025 State Golf Chairman

## ACTIVITIES

### Thursday 09:45 Walking/ Hiking Group

|              |                 |              |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1st Thursday | Jake Solomon    | 415-472-3069 |
| 2nd Thursday |                 |              |
| 3rd Thursday |                 |              |
| 4th Thursday | Charlie Panfely | 415-302-4391 |
| 5th Thursday |                 |              |

Call leaders for details about future walks and hikes.

**Since we are down to two hike leaders, we will try an experiment in leaderless hikes. Interested parties will meet at the designated spot and hike on their own. Contact Jake Solomon to find out the latest plans and to get on the mailing list.**

**We are still looking for new leaders to help organize future hikes.**

Chairman: Jake Solomon at [j\\_solomon@comcast.net](mailto:j_solomon@comcast.net)

### 9-Hole Golf at McInnis Park

Every Monday (Weather Permitting and except Holidays) a group of golfers plays nine holes of golf at McInnis Park Public Golf Course. McInnis offers golf, a putting green, a driving range, pull carts and electric carts, (which must be reserved).

Contact Jim Bitter at [jybitter@aol.com](mailto:jybitter@aol.com)

### Travel

The SIRSS Travel activities are primarily arranged by the the State organization. For example, check out the page on Multi-Branch travel. Kurt Heilman has agreed to be the Point of Contact for Branch 47, so the state activities can be distributed to the members of Branch 47.

Please check out the page in Tamal Talk about the current opportunities.

Glenn Breslin  
SIR146 Travel Chair  
[glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

925-788-6520

### Wine Tasting

Our last wine tasting was at the home of Kurt Heilman, with plenty of good wine and plenty of great snacks. We also talked about possible future events, and we have at least one in the pipeline. We're always looking to good suggestions. Contact Kurt if you would like to be put on the mailing list.

Contact: Kurt Heilman  
[heilmanfour@comcast.net](mailto:heilmanfour@comcast.net)

415-892-2460

## APRIL 2026

| S         | M                                                                                                                                                             | T                                                                       | W         | T                                                                           | F                                                           | S         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>29</b> | <b>30</b><br>9:00 AM - 3:00 PM<br>18 HOLE GOLF<br>9:30 AM - 12:00 PM<br>9 HOLE GOLF AT<br>McINNIS GOLF PARK                                                   | <b>31</b>                                                               | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b><br>9:45 AM - 2:00 PM<br>THURSDAY 09:45<br>WALKING/HIKING<br>GROUP  | <b>3</b>                                                    | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>9:00 AM - 3:00 PM<br>18 HOLE GOLF<br>9:30 AM - 12:00 PM<br>9 HOLE GOLF AT<br>McINNIS GOLF PARK<br>11:30 AM - 2:00 PM<br>BRANCH 47 FAMILY<br>BOCCE | <b>7</b>                                                                | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b><br>9:45 AM - 2:00 PM<br>THURSDAY 09:45<br>WALKING/HIKING<br>GROUP  | <b>10</b><br>11:30 AM - 2:00 PM<br>INVESTORS LUNCH<br>BUNCH | <b>11</b> |
| <b>12</b> | <b>13</b><br>9:00 AM - 3:00 PM<br>18 HOLE GOLF<br>9:30 AM - 12:00 PM<br>9 HOLE GOLF AT<br>McINNIS GOLF PARK                                                   | <b>14</b>                                                               | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b><br>9:45 AM - 2:00 PM<br>THURSDAY 09:45<br>WALKING/HIKING<br>GROUP | <b>17</b>                                                   | <b>18</b> |
| <b>19</b> | <b>20</b><br>9:00 AM - 3:00 PM<br>18 HOLE GOLF<br>9:30 AM - 12:00 PM<br>9 HOLE GOLF AT<br>McINNIS GOLF PARK                                                   | <b>21</b><br>11:30 AM - 2:00 PM<br>Car Enthusiasts Lunch                | <b>22</b> | <b>23</b><br>9:45 AM - 2:00 PM<br>THURSDAY 09:45<br>WALKING/HIKING<br>GROUP | <b>24</b>                                                   | <b>25</b> |
| <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br>9:00 AM - 3:00 PM<br>18 HOLE GOLF<br>9:30 AM - 12:00 PM<br>9 HOLE GOLF AT<br>McINNIS GOLF PARK                                                   | <b>28</b><br>11:00 AM - 2:00 PM<br>BRANCH 47 APRIL 28,<br>2026 LUNCHEON | <b>29</b> | <b>30</b><br>9:45 AM - 2:00 PM<br>THURSDAY 09:45<br>WALKING/HIKING<br>GROUP | <b>1</b>                                                    | <b>2</b>  |

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



### April Birthdays

| Name               | Age |
|--------------------|-----|
| Ray Crawford       | 75  |
| Erick Young        | 77  |
| Marshall Jainchill | 79  |
| Don Drummond       | 80  |
| John Davis         | 80  |
| Ron Nelson         | 82  |
| John Noren         | 82  |
| Al Thomas          | 85  |
| Bill Wickley       | 86  |
| Erik Bodtker       | 86  |
| John Zeiter        | 91  |

### April Anniversaries

| Name                      | Years |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Frank and Nasrin Ghazzagh | 41    |
| Roger and Arlene Burstrem | 52    |
| Charlie and Susan Salinas | 55    |
| Marshall and Shelby Gross | 59    |
| Les and Rosemarie Folk    | 62    |