



TAMAL TALK

A SIR PUBLICATION

www.SIR47.ORG Our own website

TAMALPAIS BRANCH NO. 47

A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation of Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement.

Big Sir -- Jake Solomon 415-472-3069
 Little Sir-- Jim Norton- 415-491-0816
 Secretary - Ned Lawrence - 415-595-1092
 Ass't Sect'y - Charles Stedwell-415-299-1498
 Treasurer - Paul Schofield - 415-892-7019
 Ass't Treas.-Will Kaefer - 415-927-1043

Luncheon Meeting:
McINNIS GOLF CENTER, SAN RAFAEL
Fourth Tuesday of the month
Happy Hour at 11:00 am, as always

Editor/Publisher - Ron Kosciusko -415-435-0650
 Attendance Committee—415-881-7477
 Cashier - Glen Ohm - 415-479-5693

Directors: Bob Wilson Tim Leveque Jim Kleiser George Miller Doug Twitchell

State President - Jerry Strain (sirjerry42@gmail.com)
 Region 10 Director - Jim Filippo 415-892-2063 Area 6 Governor - Sandy Grieve

MARIN COUNTY

APRIL 2018
OUR 44TH YEAR

VOL. XLIV No. 04

BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

So far this has been an unhappy year. For those who have not heard, we lost our third member this year, as Harold Lichterman passed away on March 3rd. He certainly will be missed by friends, family and his friends in Branch 47.

Statistically, It takes about 3 guests to sponsor one new member. This tells us that we need to invite more folks to our luncheons, and encourage more of the guests to join SIR. While on the subject of luncheons, I would like to point out that we had 69% attendance last month. We can do better. Many of the other Marin branches have had about 75% attendance – in the past, we have had 75% attendance or better. There are not many requirements in SIR, but luncheon participation is expected. Also, when you bring a guest to a luncheon, or when you are unable to attend, please text the Branch 47 hot line (415-881-7477) or e-mail (sirbranch47@gmail.com) and let Doug Twitchell know that you are bringing a guest

I attended a meeting of the area 8 Big Sirs, representing the 5 Marin branches and 2 from Petaluma. Sandy Grieves, area governor, hosted the meeting. Sandy is taking an active role in coordinating branch activities. We will have monthly articles from Sandy in Tamal Talk; look for his current message.

REMINDER: If you have not yet paid your \$35 dues, you should do so. Contact Paul Schofield, our branch treasurer

Jake Soloman
Big Sir

April 24th Lunch Menu

Salad

Grilled Salmon with lemon butter sauce, rice and vegetables

Alternative: Grilled Chicken Picatta, with rice and vegetables

Rolls and butter

Dessert

Lunch Fees up \$1 to \$28

April 24th Luncheon Speaker

John Riley PhD, a psychologist retired after 30 years in HR at Chevron will speak on mental Health and substance abuse services in Marin.

-Jim Norton

Around the Area 8

The Big Sirs of the seven Area 8 branches got together on March 15th with .me. The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Improve co-ordination between the Branches
- Prepare for the statewide Big Sirs meeting on March 26th
- Set up an Area wide publicity and press relations campaign
- Establish an Area 8 advisory Council

It was also an opportunity to get to know each other a little better and discuss problems the branches face.

SIR does face a very real problem. The range of entertainment, education and erudition products available to individuals over the internet and on TV seems to have led to a lesser need for social activities. It is certainly easier to fill time these days, Terms like Facebook Addiction are even being bandied about. The membership of all social clubs is declining and SIRs is certainly no exception. But there really is no substitute for face to face contact with other human beings and the friendships and fellowships that develop from discovering mutual interests. We are determined to make sure that Area recruiting difficulties do not turn into "An insurmountable opportunity". Branch 134 has done much better than the others and is expanding. Dick Locke, facing a membership that is starting to strain Marin's banquet facilities, is anxious to share their best practices with the whole area and his offer will certainly be taken up with gratitude

The first meeting of the new Area Council has been scheduled for April 19th and more details will follow when all the Branches have selected their representatives.

Sandy Grieve

Area 8 Govenor

FEBRUARY SPEAKER REVIEW

Forrest Booth, a noted San Francisco maritime attorney, spoke to us about piracy on the high seas. As he himself admitted, piracy is nothing new and has an extremely long history. Any country that ever put goods into boats and attempted to move them from point A to point B was subject to it. Pirates simply take by force what isn't theirs and trade it or sell it to another party who is willing to pay the price asked.

Today, piracy is a serious worldwide problem. Piracy is rampant in the Singapore Strait and the Strait of Malacca, the world's busiest commercial waterways. A third of the world's shipping moves through these straits each year. About 130,000 ships arrive at Singapore each year, which means that a ship enters the 1.7 mile wide bottleneck every four minutes—a pirate's delight and target rich environment. The number of attacks there is on the rise. Stealing cargos of liquid fuel is the dominant piracy game in Asia, not taking hostages, a play the Somali pirates favor. By the way, Somali piracy has declined significantly. Indonesian piracy is on the rise. Half of the world's attacks take place in the waters off Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia.

It is estimated that global piracy costs shippers as much as 10 billion per year. Upping their speed to outrun pirates can cost a cargo ship around \$88,000 per day. Other costs come in the form of lost cargo, higher insurance, added shipping time, extra pay for crews, litigation and legal costs, security, rerouting, labor, and ransoms. All of these costs affect the cost of goods that we buy. All of these costs affect the cost of goods that we buy, and since 90% of the world's trade is carried by sea, the link between piracy and consumer goods costs becomes very apparent.

According to Booth, there's only so much that can be done to deter, prevent or avoid piracy. Some options are razor wire, high-powered lights, fire hoses, sound equipment, armed guards, and increased vigilance. Many ships are now installing "citadels" which are safe rooms that cannot be accessed from the outside. In them, there's everything the crew needs to survive until they can be rescued: communication gear, food, access to all the ship's systems, weapons, etc. But, as Booth says, today's pirates are very sophisticated. They have computers and cell phones and they are conversant with the social media. They know English and can even manipulate satellites. They have connections with organized crime, especially in Asia, and on the whole they are a "tough bunch."

"The ultimate nightmare," says Booth, would be the hijacking of a passenger ship for ransom. Many passengers would die, he says, and there would be a lot of collateral damage if Navy SEALs were sent in to save the day. There would be negotiations but no guarantees. "Pirates will kill," Booth admonishes us, and they have the weapons to do it. Unfortunately, says Booth, "we will be dealing with this issue for many years to come." Sorry to end on such a negative note! Thanks, Forrest, for your insights.

-Michael Kelly



GOLF

Chairman Tom Brady, 897-8573

April 2 Monday Foxtail South 08:00
 April 9 Monday Petaluma CC 08:30 9 Holes Twice
 April 16 Monday Blue Rock East 08:00
 April 23 Monday Napa/Kennedy 08:00
 April 30 Monday Rooster Run 07:00 Sequential TeeTimes

9-Hole Golf at McInnis Park

Mondays at 9:00 am, weather permitting
 Contact Jack Friesen <friesenjack@aol.com>

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

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.

SIR ROLLING ROAMERS RV CLUB

Join us for lunch 2nd Tuesday of each month
 & on our outings.

For information, contact

SIR Ray Canziani Branch 22, Wagon Master
(415) 453-4463

TENNIS, ANYONE?

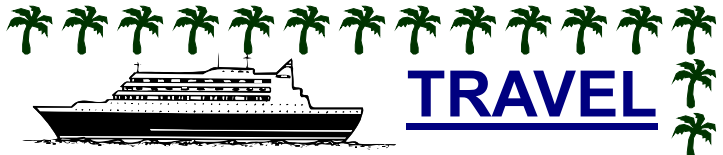
Every Wednesday 9 AM McInnis Park

Bill Donnelly 897-8966 or Glen Ohm 479-5693

Interested in Dominos???

. Gary Polsky, of Branch 68, is their new Dominos Chairman and would like to hear from anyone who is interested, his contact information is

garypolsky77@gmail.com or (415) 710-4949.



TRAVEL

Apr 4-14, 2018: Tulip Time in Holland. A 7-night Cruise R/T to Amsterdam aboard AMA Waterways. Celebrate the beauty of the Netherlands and Belgium in the springtime. You will visit the legendary Keukenhof Gardens, and pass colorful row houses and houseboats, See Ann Franks home then indulge in culinary bliss via Belgium chocolates and stropwafel. Cost ranges from \$4830.00 to \$6195.00 based on cabin choice and includes complimentary bikes, unlimited complimentary fine dining and wines, all guides, gratuities and taxes, R/T air, choice of excursions, and river view staterooms or suites. John Pletsch, Br.32, 408-274-2992 or Mike Console, 408-246-1080.

Apr 18-27, 2018: Spring Tulip River Cruise. 10-day Cruise featuring Dutch and Belgium Waterways. Highlights include Amsterdam, Volendam, Hoorn. Arnhem. Middelburg, Ghent, Bruges, Antwerp, Kinderdijk windmills. Utrecht and Keukenhof Gardens. Cost \$4376 to \$7176 and includes RT Air, Insurance, Air Taxes, Hotels and transfers. Bill Britton, Br121, 925-443-9913.

Apr 22-30,2018: Explore the magnificent Northwest. 9 day voyage aboard the elegant American Empress, from Clarkston, WA to Portland. OR. Ports: Richland, WA, The Dalles. OR. Stevenson, WA and Astoria, OR. \$3665 includes T/T airfare to Spokane and return from Portland, all port taxes, porter gratuities, wine and beer with dinner, complimentary shore excursions in each port. Pre-night stay at famous Davenport Hotel, in Spokane, WA Lee Sues, Br. 96 408 309-1480 or Tom Duncanson, Br. 20 831 662-8605

May 25-Jun 9, 2018: Historic Cities of Eastern Canada & New England. 16- day trip begins in Toronto then Lake Ontario, Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Quebec City and Montreal. Then travelers will board Holland America cruise ship and cruise down the St Lawrence river to Charlottetown, Sydney and Halifax and onto Bar Harbor ending in Boston. Cost is \$3695 to \$5185 (with out Airfare). Jim Hohenshelt, Br 62, 408-394-7226 or Roy Jordan, 408-735-8765.

Questions?? Your Travel Chairman:
Kurt Heilman -415 892-2460



QUICKEN SIG

2nd Tuesdays, 10:am
B. Bloch, GGCS, 415-388-3864

ADVANCED DIGITAL CAMERA STUFF

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

GGCS classroom
First Presbyterian Church
Fifth Avenue, San Rafael

All are welcome. Open to all of Area 6.



FISHING

The fishermen meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Novato United Methodist Church at 9:30am. For detailed information, contact

SIR Bill Cline, Branch 134, @
415 892-0209



INVESTORS LUNCH BUNCH

Second Friday of the month at Sam's Place at 1545 South Novato Blvd. Order off from the complete Breakfast/Lunch menu and receive individual checks. No reservations are required. Meeting will start at 11:45, followed by presentations and discussions.

Contacts:

Will Kaefer 415-927-1043, or
Brian Stompe 415-897-1610

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

THURSDAY WALKING/HIKING GROUP

1st week each month: Jake Solomon 415-472-3069
2nd week each month Pierre Terrier 415-785-4513
3rd week each month: Al Springstead 415-250-3808
4th week each month: Alan Thomas 415-457-4576
5th week (if applicable): Dee Stuever 415-459-6751

Call leaders for details about future walks and hikes

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Summary:	Actives -	103	Inactives -	6
	Gains:	1		0
	Losses:	1		0

PERFECT ATTENDANCE 2017

Erik Boditker, Jack Brandon, Russell Flaum, Bob Gonzalez, Kurt Heilmann, Mike Kelly, Peter Kerner, Carlos Martin, George Miller, George Pikkarainen, Terry Scott, See Tom

MARCH LUNCH TICKET WINNER

CHARLIE JONES

APRIL BIRTHDAY BOYS

7th Alan Thomas, 9th Christopher, 11th Ron Nelson, 25th Erik Bodtker, 30th George Brown

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE REPORT

Total Members	103
Members Present	82 80%
Guests:	5
Visitors:	2

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

See what's happening Statewide in SIR
www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/

To see all that SIR has to offer:

www.sirinc.org

BRANCH 47 OUTINGS

1. A unique opportunity suggested by Bob Gonzalez that I highly recommend. Enjoy Vintage Music and tour the lovely Victorian Home of Richard Reutlinger in San Francisco. Concerts are on specific Sat & Sun afternoons @ 2 pm (doors open @ 1:30 pm so you can tour the old Victorian before the concert.). **April 28 & 29 for Adam Swanson. The location is 824 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94117;** the door opens at 1:30 pm and the concert begins at 2 pm; the price is \$25 per person. Make the check payable to Richard Reutlinger and mail it to his home on 824 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Free champagne and snacks are served during intermission as you enjoy Richard's fine collection of mechanical musical instruments. Be sure to mention which day you wish to attend and buy your tickets early to guarantee seating.

2. **Cinnabar Theater: 3333 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma suggested by Al Anderson.** Contact center-stageticketing.com or 707-763-8920. Next music venues: Suggested by Al Anderson. Next performances is **Mar 30 – April 15 Amadeus.** The story about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his rival, Antonio Salieri..

3. **Ross Valley Players: Apr 12 – 28 Just my Type. A world premiere musical.** A therapist couple writing a primer on the Myers-Briggs Personality Indicators analyze four couples they have counseled in the past as they explore what happens when people of opposite traits marry. For tickets contact rossvalleyplayers.com or call 1-415-456-9555 Ex 1.

4. **Marin Theatre Company: Mar 15 – Apr. 8 The Wolves.** A portrait of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for nine girl soccer players. Contact the Box Office at (415)388-5208, boxoffice@marintheatre.org, or visit us during regular Box Office hours of operation: 397 Miller Ave. Mill Valley, CA 94941

5. **College of Marin Performing Arts.** Contact "pa.marin.edu" or 415-485-9385 for more details and tickets. **April 9 @ 11:10 am @ Lefort Recital Hall "Evidence of Things Not Seen" – Art songs of Ned Rorem.**

6. **Weill Hall 2017-18 Season of great performances @ the Green Music Center @ Sonoma State University.** For tickets contact gmc.sonoma.edu or 1-866-955-6040. Time and cost vary, depending upon performances. The next performances are: **April 14 @ 7:30 pm** Diane Reeves: **April 19** Eight Blackbird: **April 21 @ 7:30 pm** Louis Lortie, piano: **April 22 @ 3:00 pm** Apollo's Fire / the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra; **April 27 @ 8:30 pm** Nrityagram Dance Ensemble, **April 28** Les Violons Du Roy with Isabella Faust, violin

Cheers, Kurt Heilman
1-415-892-2460

SIR Br 47 May Party Tuesday May 1, 2018 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 \$32 / person for a 3-course lunch which includes spinach salad, rolls & butter, and choice of main course:

- (1) Mushroom & Goat Cheese Stuffed Chicken
- (2) (2) Grilled Salmon or
- (3) Gnocchi Gorgonzola.
- (4) 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, April 27



Cancellations will not be honored after after 48 hours in advance. Contact Kurt Heilman @ 1-415-892-2460 or heilmanfour@comcast.net.

You can buy your tickets at our Apr. 24 luncheons

www.SIR47.org is the Branch 47 Web site and details past issues of TAMALTALK.

