



INCORPORATED

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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 -- Jim Norton 415-491-0816
Little Sir--Doug Twitchell 415-897-1759
Secretary - Ned Lawrence - 415-595-1092
Ass't Sect'y - Charles Stedwell-415-299-1498



TAMAL TALK

A SIR PUBLICATION

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 Jake Solomon Jim Kleiser George Brown Bob Gonzalez Paul Schofield

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

MARIN COUNTY

MAY 2019
OUR 45TH YEAR

VOL. XLV No. 5

BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

Well men, it looks like spring has sprung as we are now getting wonderful weather consistently. The SIRs hiking group gets moving every Thursday so if you've got spring fever come join us on our next jaunt. Of course there is also tennis and golf available to get you in motion outdoors in this fine Marin spring weather. I urge everyone to pick an activity and keep moving. Remember what the Doc says, use it or lose it.

On another note, who knew gasoline could be such an interesting topic? Our Branch 47 member Lewis Gibbs sure gave us the lowdown on that subject at our April luncheon. I've always wondered why gas prices in California are so high compared to the rest of the country. Lew did a good job of demonstrating how stringent the regulations are in California making our state's fuel mixture unique and therefore costly. I understand now why we pay more but I'm still going to grumble about it.

For May's luncheon, our Little Sir has signed up his own son to talk about IRS enforcement practices, sounds like another great subject. I am looking forward to that presentation. Don't forget we have a May party and also a wine tasting near Healdsburg on the social schedule for this month so sign up and enjoy the food, the wine and the company of your fellow members. Don't miss those events, they'll be fun.

Finally, I just want to send out one last kudo to member Bob Gonzalez for all the research and testing he did to bring us our new sound system. It worked great so THANKS Bob, good job!

See you all soon.

Jim Norton, Big Sir - Branch 47

MAY MONTHLY LUNCH MENU

NOTE COST IS NOW \$29

Salad

Tri-Tip topped with balsamic onions, mashed potatoes and vegetables

*Alternative: Pesto Tortellini and vegetables
Or Grilled SALMON w/ Rice and vegetables*

Rolls and butter

Dessert

May Luncheon Speaker

Mark Twitchell, IRS Criminal Investigator – stories from the “front lines” of CI.

DOUG TWITCHELL , LITTLE SIR

March 26, 2019. Speaker Review

The Sinking of the SS Sultana by Alan Thomas

The presentation was made by Jack Devlin of the San Rafael Fire Foundation. Jack may be the foremost expert of the worst maritime disaster in U.S. history, the sinking of the *SS Sultana*. The Sultana sunk on April 27, 1865, but was overshadowed by the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln occurring a few days earlier.

Under command of Captain J. C. Mason of St. Louis, the *SS Sultana* was a Mississippi River steamboat that ran a regular route between St. Louis and New Orleans with a crew of 85. On April 21, 1865, the ship stopped in Vicksburg, Mississippi, to have hasty repairs made to its boilers and to take on more passengers. A patch of lesser thickness replaced the parent plate, a hurried one day repair.

The ancestor of Jack Devlin, Hiram Tubbs, had joined the Union Army in 1862. He was mustered into the Michigan 2nd Calvary under General Sherman and was captured by the Confederate forces. Tubbs was taken to Cahaba Prison in Mississippi, transferred to Selma, Alabama, and then released in 1865. The prison records show that 13,000 died there, a total of 39,000 prisoners had been held there, and that drinking water came from a ditch. Each prisoner was estimated to be housed in an area of three square feet. On release, Tubbs and many other prisoners were sent to Camp Fisk prior to boarding the *SS Sultana*

During the time in port, the *SS Sultana* became bursting at the seams with over 2,000 men who had muscled, threatened or bribed their way on board. Most of the new passengers were Union soldiers, many of who had just been released from prisons like Cahaba prison. After the boiler was repaired, there is no record that any of the boilers were inspected. The stats on the ship are tonnage of 1,719 tons, 34 foot diameter paddlewheels, capacity of 376 passengers and cargo, and a regular crew of 85.

Under grossly crowded conditions, the *SS Sultana* sailed up the Mississippi from Memphis, only eight miles from embarkation. At 3:00 a.m., two of the three boilers exploded. The enormous explosion flung many passengers into the water and destroyed a large section of the ship. Hot coals scattered by the explosion turned the remaining ship into an inferno. Many who survived the explosion died of drowning or hypothermia. Many bodies were never recovered and Captain Mason was among those who perished. In many instances, rebels and soldiers pitched together to rescue others. The official count of the number who perished is 1,800 and the final list of survivor is 700 to 800.

Jack Devlin was related to a survivor, Hiram Tubbs, and through this relationship Jack was motivated to conduct his extensive research. Jack presented a fascinating and dramatic account of this disaster and we thank him for this detailed and interesting story.

SIR Br 47 May Party Tuesday May 7, 2019

**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 \$33 / 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 3.

Cancellations will not be honored after 48 hours in advance.

**Contact Kurt Heilman @ 1-415-892-2460
or heilmanfour@comcast.net.**



TRAVEL

Kurt and I were wondering how many of you read the travel section and if you have taken any of the trips listed. Please respond to Ron Kosciusko or Kurt. Ronkoz@sonic.net or heilmanfour@comcast.net. THANKS

May 2-13, 2019: Crystal Mediterranean Cruise with 3 Night Land Package.13 Ports of Call in Italy and Greece: Price \$5350, Includes Air and Ship and 16 Breakfast, Lunch and Dinners. For additional information and brochure contact Milt Smith Br#146 925 280-0328 miltsmith549@gmail.com or Alamo Travel 848 874-7800

May 8-12, 2019 Golden Spike 150th Anniversary. Destination Salt Lake City Includes, Super Shuttle, Air & Motor coach. 4 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches and 2 Dinners. Price \$2065 DO - \$2445 SO. For additional information and brochure contact John Pletsch Br#32 408 274-2992 jeplet@sbcglobal.net or Talbot Tours 800 662-9933

May 10-16, 2019 Music Cities Tour Music Cities Tour May 10 to 16, 2019 3 nights in Nashville and 3 nights in Memphis. Breakfast Daily 1 lunch 2 dinners including a welcome dinner in Nashville and farewell dinner in Memphis. 6 nights 1st class hotel accommodations,, deluxe motor coach with wifi. Roundtrip airport transfers, airfare to Nashville, returning from Memphis City tour in Memphis and Nashville, visit Graceland, Oak Alley Plantation, Frogmore Plantation Rock "n" Soul Museum, Country Music Hall of Fame, Sun Studios where Elvis began his career .Costs \$2975 pp, discounts available if attending talk Nov. 2 at Denny's in Concord .Larry Yarberry 925 890-9245

l.yarberry42@comcast.net

May 19-26, 2019 America's Music Cities (Br 38) Escort, Bill Rodman (408) 274-4521. Co-escort Alan Patmore (408) 867-4197. Eight day escorted tour 3 nights in New Orleans, 2 nights in Memphis & 2 nights in Nashville).Highlights... Walking tour of French Quarter or Coach tour of New Orleans, Swamp tour, Mardi Gras World, Jazz Revue, Graceland, Etc. Brochures on Br 38 website :<http://branch38.sirinc2.org/> and from your branch travel rep or, call Br 38 escorts or ,e-mail broadman@sbcglobal.net. Also covered in the \$3643 pp dbl occupancy are air taxes &fees/surcharges, hotel transfers, all driver & tour guide gratuities & RT air fare from SFO & transport to/from the airport. Deposit of \$775 pp (includes cancellation & waiver insurance) of \$275 pp is due upon reservation. Checks payable to COLLETTE or use the Credit Card Form (in brochure) & mail, along with your application, to Bill Rodman, 2025Folle Blanche Dr, San Jose, CA 95135. **NOTE: Book now and save \$100 per person**

(Continued on page 5)

TENNIS, ANYONE?

Every Wednesday 9:30 AM McInnis Park

Bill Donnelly 897-8966 or Glen Ohm 479-5693 if interested



QUICKEN SIG

Meets quarterly for info call
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

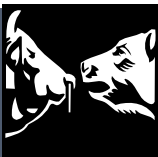
GGCS classroom
First Presbyterian Church
Fifth Avenue, San Rafael



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

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

GOLF



Chairman Tom Brady, 897-8573

9-Hole Golf at McInnis Park

Mondays at 9:00 am, weather permitting

Contact **James G Bitter <jybitter@aol.com>**

18 Hole Golf

May 6	Monday	Petaluma CC	08:30
May 13	Monday	Foxtail North	08:30
<i>*Note Time Change</i>			
May 20	Monday	Napa/Kennedy	08:00
May 27		<i>OFF Memorial Day</i>	

BRANCH 47 BOCCE

The first Monday of each month; no cost to play. Spouses and guests are encouraged to attend. We start with lunch at 12 noon @ the Swiss Hotel on the Sonoma Square. Then we play Bocce @ about 1:30 pm at Depot Park behind the Swiss Hotel. Bring your own Bocce balls, if you have them.

Contact: Kurt Heilman @ 415-892-2460 or heilmanfour@comcast.net to let him know if you want to be on the mailing list or to join us for lunch and bocce.



BOWLING

Bowling League bowling is every Friday at Country Club Bowl, 88 Vivian Way, San Rafael.

Start time: 10:45 AM. Come and share the fun!

Contact **Paul Schofield, Chair 892-7019**

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

Joke of the Month

In a Catholic school cafeteria, a nun places a note in front of a pile of apples, "Only take one. God is watching."

Further down the line is a pile of cookies. A little boy makes his own note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Br 47 Outings include:

1. **Br 47 BYO Picnic and wine tasting @ Armida Winery, 2201 Westside Road, Healdsburg on Wed. May 15 @ 11 am.** The cost to taste will be about \$15pp. If you are interested in attending, **contact Frank Ghazzagh @ 415-505-7931 or fg40@hotmail.com.** Reservations must be made by Sunday May 12.

2. **Sewer Band 61st Annual Spring Concert – Tues. May 21 @ 7:30 pm at the Marin Civic Center, San Rafael. The concert is free, but donations are appreciated.** The program is a journey through the majestic beauty of Yosemite to songs from Hollywood classics – as well as a little “West Coast Jazz” – all the sounds that make California one of a kind.

3. **Cinnabar Theater: 3333 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma suggested by Al Anderson. * Note: Seating is now reserved in advance, but the Theater seating has been refurbished. Sun. May 5 @ 3 pm Cinnabar Singers Spring Concert @ Eilm Lutheran Church, Petaluma. Contact [<http://centerstageticketing.com/>](http://centerstageticketing.com/) centerstageticketing.com or 707-763-8920 for tickets or for other performances.**

4. **Ross Valley Players: May 23 – June 16 “Moll Flanders”. July 12 – Aug 11 “Crimes of the Heart”** For tickets contact [<http://rossvalleyplayers.com/>](http://rossvalleyplayers.com/) rossvalleyplayers.com or call 1-415-456-9555 Ex 1.

5. **Marin Theatre Company:** Contact the Box Office at (415) 388-5208, <mailto:boxoffice@marintheatre.org> or visit us during regular Box Office hours of operation: 397 Miller Ave. Mill Valley, CA 94941 **April 25 – May 19 “Jazz”.** Young and in-love Violet and Joe move to Harlem at the turn of the century. As time passes, Joe begins an affair with a young woman, setting off a series of shocking events. Adapted from Toni Morrison’s stunning novel and musically underscored by Bay-Area jazz musician Marcus Shelby—Nambi Kelley’s *Jazz* is a beautiful theatrical composition

6. **Weill Hall 2017-18 Season of great performances @ the Green Music Center @ Sonoma State University.** For tickets contact [<http://gmc.sonoma.edu/>](http://gmc.sonoma.edu/) gmc.sonoma.edu or 1-866-955-6040. Time and cost vary, depending upon the performance. The next performances are: **Sat May 4 & Mon. May 6 @ 7:30 pm “From Russia with Love” & Thur. May 9 @ 7:30 pm....**

7. **The Novato Theater Company:** Contact <http://novatoteatrecompany.org> or call 415-833-4498. **May 24 – June 9 “Come back to the five and dime, Jimmy Dean , Jimmy Dean”.**

8. **College of Marin -- Marin Oratorio. May 12 & 13 Mozart’s Great Mass in C Minor. In addition, “A BRIGHT NEW BOISE”** In an attempt to reconnect with his estranged son and "start over", fallen evangelical Will takes a job at the local Boise, Idaho Hobby Lobby. It doesn't take long before disturbing secrets are revealed and Will is forced to confront his reasons for leaving the church. Past and present worlds collide, forcing Will to choose which one gives life more meaning: his son or his beliefs. Join us for this humorous and compelling comedy. Performances: **May 3*, 4, 10, 11, 17, & 18 - 7:30 PM or May 5, 12**, & 19 - 2 PM @ the Studio Theatre / PA32, Performing Arts Building, Kentfield Campus.** For tickets contact 415-485-9385 or brownpapertickets.com.

**Cheers, Kurt Heilman
1-415-892-2460**

TRAVEL CONTINUED



May 21 – June 1, 2019 Princess Alaska Cruise Tour: 7 day Land – 8 day cruise. **Land:** Fairbanks Denali National Park Mt. McKinley Lodge. **Cruise:** Hubbard Glacier Scenic Cruising- Glacier Bay Cruising, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan and Vancouver. Includes Home Pick-up R/T Air, Bottle of Wine, All driver and porter Gratuities and Luggage Handling for one suitcase. Price range from double occ \$2835 to single \$6260. For additional information contact Roy Newman #45 530 755-3713 or roy.newman@comcast.net

May 24 – June 17, 2019: Machu Picchu and Galapagos, add onto Peru Amazon Jungle. Price Hotel and Ship \$7022 Plus Amazon Hotel \$1195. Includes Air, Auto & Ship – 11 Breakfast, Lunches and 10 Dinners. For additional information and brochure, contact Milt Smith Br#146 925 280-0328 or miltsmith549@gmail.com

**Cheers
Your Travel Chairman:
Kurt Heilman –415 892-2460**

BRANCH 47 BUSINESS

Tamalpais Branch 47
Area 8, Region 3
McInnis Park Board Room
April 22, 2019

Attendees: Jim Norton, Bill Stewart, Doug Twitchell, Jake Solomon, Paul Schofield, Will Kaefer, Rick Coburn, George Brown, Bob Gonzalez, Jim Keiser, Ned Lawrence

Big Sir Report: Jim Norton, Doug Twitchell combined to purchase brand new Branch 47 projector and complete audio visual equipment for our own exclusive use. The Little Sir will need to bring this equipment to each monthly lunch meeting but several aspects of this equipment will make our speakers presentations more professional. The projector has Universal Serial Bus inputs so that a speaker can transfer their presentation to a flash drive. The AV system has two speaker units so that the speaker can use the lovelier microphone and the hand help microphone can be passed around the room so that every attendee can hear the questioner. The new system will utilize the existing speakers that are installed in the McInnis dining room. Special thanks to Bob Gonzalez who researched available equipment, bought everything under the budget that the board allocated, and tested the equipment and made sure the McInnis manager approved of our equipment. Branch 47 AV equipment and projector will be used for Branch 47 meetings only and will not be used or offered to other Sir branches or any other club or for personal use of any member. Our new Region 3 Director is Dennis Pangborn. It was decided that the template for Tamaltalk should be stored in dropbox as a back-up. Since Tamaltalk copies are all stored in dropbox and contain the BEC minutes, the Secretary has not stored BEC minutes. All decisions made by email between BEC meetings should be reflected in next months' BEC minutes.

Little Sir Report: Lunch speakers have been lined up through August of 2019.

Treasurers Report: Branch 47 currently has \$12,364.00 in our checking account. This will be reduced by the purchase of the projector and AV equipment. 106 members have paid 2019 dues and the Membership Chairman will remove names from our roles that are no longer able to attend lunch meetings. The Treasurer will purchase new checks and will not use the Ross P.O. Box printed on the old checks. Hopefully, we can order new checks without an address.

Committee Reports: A discussion of the best method to gain more use of our activities was discussed. Our new member application offers 73 activities. Some are available in conjunction with other branches and some could be utilized to form a new activity with a Chairman if several members express interest in an activity. The Big Sir and membership Chairman will discuss and add this component to the new member welcome package that is being put together.

(Continued)

(BRANCH 47 BUSINESS CONTINUED)

Old Business: Jake Solomon will head up the committee to recommend the 2020 slate of Officers. These will be presented at a future lunch meeting.

New Business: The secretary will look at the forms for the state sponsored program for best branch on the state website. While, we may or may not enter this contest, we decided to look over the forms necessary to compete and see the criteria that the state uses to determine an outstanding Sirs branch.

Ned Lawrence, Secretary

APRIL MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Summary:

Actives -	113	
Inactives -	-	
Gains:	0	0
Losses:	0	0

MAY BIRTHDAY BOYS

1st, Paul Bell, 7th Will Kaefer , 19th, Ronald Simon

26th, Victor Reizman, 31st, Charles Caviness

31st, Bill Donnelly, 31st, Don Shaw

APRIL ATTENDANCE REPORT

Total Members	113
Members Present	79 70%
Guests:	2
Visitors:	0

To call-in non-attendance, order an alternative plate or to notify you're bringing a guest/visitor

Call or Text 415-881-7477
or E-mail sirbranch47@gmail.com



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

This past month, Get Well Cards were sent to TED SMITH hospitalized at Marin General Hospital, RUSS FLAUM at Kaiser Hospital, & Paul Schofield with a home illness urging them a speedy recovery!

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

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Wednesday	May	1	Tennis
Thursday	May	2	Walking Group
Friday	May	3	Bowling
Monday	May	6	Bocce Ball
Monday	May	6	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	May	6	18 Hole Golf
Wednesday	May	8	Tennis
Thursday	May	9	Walking Group
Friday	May	10	Bowling
Friday	May	10	Investors' Lunch Bunch
Sunday	May	12	MOTHERS DAY
Monday	May	13	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	May	13	18 Hole Golf
Tuesday	May	14	Rolling Roamers
Tuesday	May	14	Fishing
Wednesday	May	15	Tennis
Wednesday	May	15	Advanced Digital Camera
Thursday	May	16	Bridge
Thursday	May	16	Walking Group
Friday	May	17	Bowling
Saturday	May	18	ARMED FORCES DAY
Monday	May	20	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	May	20	18 Hole Golf
Wednesday	May	22	Tennis
Thursday	May	23	Walking Group
Friday	May	24	Bowling
Monday	May	27	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Monday	May	27	9 Hole Golf (Weather Permits)
Monday	May	27	MEMORIAL DAY
Tuesday	May	28	BRANCH LUNCHEON MEETING
Wednesday	May	29	Tennis
Thursday	May	30	Walking Group
Friday	May	31	Bowling

AREA 6 MONTHLY MEETINGS

<u>Br. #</u>	<u>Branch Phone</u>
7 The Club at McInnis Park 1st Thursday	415 456-3763
22 The Club at McInnis Park 1st Tuesday	415 924-4862
47 Club at McInnis Park 4th Tuesday	415 881-7477
Happy Hour - 11:00 am; Luncheon - 11:45 am	
68 The Club at McInnis Park 2nd Tuesday	415 479-3286
134 Embassy Suites 1st Tuesday	415 892-0209

ATTENDANCE: Failure to attend three consecutive meetings without giving prior notice to the Attendance Chairman, and/or failure to attend at least 6 meetings within the previous 12 months, may result in termination.

Condensed from Rule 100 of State Policy Manual

Attendance at another branch meeting, duly recorded with the Attendance Chairman of that branch, will be credited to a member's attendance record (*Rule 101*).

Call the branch phone listed above to secure a guest spot.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Please report SIR illnesses or deaths to
Bill Donnelly at 415 897-8966

*
* **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will not meet in December** *
*
* **Next meeting , May 27 2019 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 2019

Fourth Tuesday Of The Month

January 22 (Tuesday)	February 26 (Tuesday)
March 26 (Tuesday)	April 23 (Tuesday)
May 28 (Tuesday)	June 25 (Tuesday)
July 23 (Tuesday)	August 27 (Tuesday)
September 24 (Tuesday)	October 22 (Tuesday)
Nov 26 Tuesday	

See what's happening Statewide in SIR

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