



A Non-profit Organization For Retired Men

# HOROLOGIUM

Monthly Newsletter - Est. 1963

North Bay Branch No. 7, San Rafael

Website: [www.sirinc2.org/branch7](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch7)

62nd year

Br. 7

April 2025

## BIG SIR—*Tom Verkozen*



### The Magnificent Seven

Seven?! Indeed, our membership committee (Kelley Reid, Michael Sommer and Tom Martindale) has knocked it out of the park this month with SEVEN new members (four who golf). Look for them to greet you at the door when you join us for lunch on April 3.

Ken Friedman, brought into Branch 7 by Bob Phillips, lived in Europe, automatically making him a traveler, but imagine Pan Am stewardesses fawning over him. Ken, who coached little league in Mill Valley and owned the Albany Bowl. Ken and I were at Cal together during the Free Speech Movement (FSM).

Digression: Ken and I just had coffee with the story loving, houseboat living, golf! playing, script writing, former NY Times editor Gordon Haight. His life is that of intrigue ... smoky rooms, foreign postings, bells for deadlines, drinks in dives and the Beatles ...

Next Up: Emil 'Skip' Erickson. Skip is an author of historical fiction and one of Steward Keirle's and Michael Sommers' ROMEOS (Really Old Men Eating Out) ... this liar's club has dozen or more guys who meet for a lively breakfast and lunch check in once a month. Watch out if he challenges you ... he is a financial consultant who understands numbers and loves to win at card and board games.

Then there's Howard 'Mike' Cann, brought to us by Al Wuthnow. Mike and his wife Kris are in Mill Valley in the winter, Maine in the summer so they are leaving soon, Lucky Ducks, so say to hi be-

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## LITTLE SIR—*Vacant*

Little Sir guest column, by Jerry Mahoney

Hey guys,

It was pretty heartening having SEVENTY-THREE guys attending our last luncheon ... that's more guys than our membership two years ago. Shout out to our sterling membership committee: Kelley Reid, Michael Sommer and Tom Martindale.

P.S. —just so you know, Captain Tom's wife Finola laughs at his determination to meet, greet, have fun guzzling coffee with all 110 guys of Branch 7. Setting up a coffee with the Captain is easy ... call or text him at (415) 637-7974. Call him now, while you've got his number in-front of you. Quick before you forget.

*Little Sir (Continued on page 5)*

## 2025 DUES

The dues for 2025 will be \$50. Bring to the luncheon or mail to Al Wuthnow at 214 Melrose Avenue, Mill Valley CA 94941. You can also pay through Zeffy. Thank you for your prompt payment.

## April 2025 Meetings

Luncheon Thursday April 3  
Executive Committee Thursday April 17

## April 3rd Luncheon

Chicken Parmesan  
Salmon w/Lemon Butter Sauce  
Vegetarian

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT March 2025**

**TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 3/1/25** 108

**GAINS DURING MONTH** 6

#122 Howard Cann

#70 Emil Erickson

#76 Ken Friedman

#123 Lee Gotshall-Maxon

#20 Dale Mullen

#62 Raymond Nottingham

**LOSSES DURING MONTH** 3

#36 Richard Simon

#83 Stephen Denison

#95 Ed Scola

**TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 4/1/25** 111

### **April 2025 Birthdays**

77	Rene Sommer	April 4
54	Stuart Keirle	April 8
85	Jerry Mahoney	April 20
53	Ed Briggs	April 23
25	James Toso	April 24
39	Robert Chandler	April 26
86	Chuck Lomba	April 27

### **SUNSHINE & SHADOWS**

**Ken Kauer, Chairman, 472-2334**  
(No e-mail)

### **Dick Robinson, Secretary**



Branch Executive Committee Meeting, March 20th

The meeting was called to order by Big Sir Tom Verkozen at 11:00 am. We circulated a get-well card for Ted Pullen who is undergoing an aortic valve replacement procedure today. We all signed the card to wish him well in his recovery. Tom showed us a photo board he has put together with pictures of various members he has had coffee "dates" with this year. He said he's had over 50 such dates and would like to continue to get to know members by this means. Treasurer Al Wuthnow showed us the financial report which listed our cash in the bank at \$8,323 as of Mar 1. Al gave out a form to be submitted for those who have expenses to be reimbursed. Drew Dowsett, a retired CPA, has been asked to become Asst Treasurer in preparation to succeed Al Wuthnow. Dick Robinson submitted a receipt for the purchased 10 hats with Sirs logos for a cost of \$191.

The minutes for the February Executive Board meeting were approved as published in the March Horologium. Kelley Reid reported our membership has now hit 110 members with the addition of 7 new members to be presented at the April 3 lunch. The new system of signing up for lunch, Zeffy, is working quite well. The only problem is a lineup at the table to get checked in for lunch. Those members signing up for guests online can get a reimbursement from Al Wuthnow by submitting a request form. We had a very good turnout at the March 5 lunch with some 73 persons attending including guests.

We had a lengthy discussion of our website led by Tom Short. He is working to incorporate more information into our website and make it more accessible to users. We approved motion for Tom to upgrade our website. Tom Verkozen showed us the roster booklet published by Branch 134 which contains more information and photos of members which is more than our booklet has this year. The question came up about where our roster information is stored for purposes of getting access to it. Ralph Sherer had been keeping roster information and passing it along to Robby Robinson for publication in our yearly roster booklet. Tom Short wanted to have access to this database to incorporate it in our website. Tom also expressed interest in obtaining files of the last several years of Horologiums.

The speakers for coming meetings were reviewed by Dr Bob Bundy. In April we will be hearing Kent Fortner from Mare Island Brewing Co, Dr Bundy said we'd be giving out 4 packs of beer for the birthday members at that meeting. In May we'll hear from John Powers representing The Villages which supply services to seniors in the community. Our June speaker will be a representative of Alzheimer's Disease Agency in Marin. Kelley Reid said he is still working to get in contact with Joan Ryan, the sportswriter as a possible speaker. And Tom Verkozen said that he learned about Gordon Haigh's experiences as a writer for the New York Times which could be suitable as a meeting speaker.

Our ongoing activities include: (1) twice monthly outings of the walking/hiking group led by Michael

*(Secretary continued on page 5)*

## APRIL SPEAKER KENT FORTNER

Kent is the Founder of the Mare Island Brewing Company, and President of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation.

Having worked in fine-dining restaurants throughout his youth in Kansas, and heeding the “go west” mantra, Kent worked as a sommelier in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and partnered in a wine shop in Boise, Idaho.

Moving further west to pursue his wine passion, Kent worked his first winery job for Beringer in Napa in 1993 and then continued graduate viticulture studies at UC Davis. What followed was a string of winemaking posts in the California's Central Coast (Chalone Vineyards), Washington State's Walla Walla area (Canoe Ridge Vineyards), Chile (Vina Calina, of Kendall Jackson), Argentina (Tapiz Winery), and Napa (Luna Vineyards). To date he has over 30 wine vintages at 26 different wineries under his belt.

In 2000, Kent launched his own Pinot Noir project, Road 31 Wine Co., crafting just a small quantity of one highly-prized Carneros Pinot Noir. Road 31 is a one-man band, with Kent serving as viticulturist, winemaker, salesperson and delivery boy. The small batch of sought-after wine sells out quickly each spring.

In 2013, Kent expanded his adventures from grape to grain, founding the Mare Island Brewing Co. with partner Ryan Gibbons (formerly of Lagunitas). The brewery focuses on small-batch artisan beers while celebrating the incredibly rich heritage of Mare Island, where the waterfront brewery and three taprooms are located. Mare Island Brewing Co. has grown to 80+ employees in its 10 years, a milestone celebrated in the 10-episode podcast “Battleships to Beer” on the Brewer's Network.

## LUCKY 7 GOLF



### Foxtail North (Scramble)—March 5th

1	Campas, Erlingsson, Miller & Aleshire	58.36
2	Pastorino, Gioglio & Lytle	58.75

#### *Closest to the Hole 6*

#### *Closest to Hole 15*

Dan Edwards	5'0"	Gordon Haight	10'7"
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### Rancho Solano (Scramble) - March 26th

1	Radtke, Erlingsson, Bearg & Aleshire	55.3
2	Edwards, Gioglio, Violante & Jenkin	61.6

#### *Closest to Hole 8*

#### *Closest to Hole 16*

Stephen Bearg	9'4"	Paul Giambra	5'0"
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### STENZEL CONTEST STANDINGS

1 Dan Edwards & Paul Giambra	5'0"	2 Stephen Bearg	9'4"
3 Gordon Haight	10'7"		

## BOOK CLUB

The SIRs book club met on March 11th at Al Wuthnow's home in Mill Valley. We welcomed Tom Greenfield into the group for the first time, who joined Tom Verkozen, Alan Barr, John Davis, Tom Balough, Michael Sommers, Dave Cooke, and our gracious host Al.

This month's selection was "Tell Me Everything" by Elizabeth Strout. This book depicted relationships in small-town Maine and featured many of the same characters who had appeared in Strout's earlier books including the Pulitzer Prize winning "Olive Kitteridge". Everyone seemed to enjoy the book overall, despite its slow pace, rather like the towns in which it was set. But the characters and their interactions were skillfully rendered by the author and had a subtle depth that offered a lot of material for our group to discuss.

An element of poetry was added this month for the first time, thanks to Tom Balough. Some of the selections that were discussed included "Another Reason I Don't Keep a Gun in the House" by Billy Collins, "Yesterday" by W. S. Merwin, and "To Women, As Far As I'm Concerned" by D. H. Lawrence. These works were each striking in their own way, and there seemed to be a consensus that poetry was a good addition to our meeting and is a feature that we should keep. Also, John Davis read "The Second Coming" by W. B. Yeats and asked that we ponder and discuss it more deeply at the next meeting.

The book selected for next month is "The Wide Wide Seas" by Hampton Sides, which is a fascinating account of Captain James Cook's third and final epic voyage through Polynesia, Hawaii, and Alaska as he sought to fulfill his mission to find a northern passage above Alaska during the latter part of the 18th century. "The Wager" was also mentioned, which is another true story of seafaring adventure, this one involving a shipwreck on the Patagonian coast, complete with a mutiny among the survivors and a harrowing return to safety. "The Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw was favored by two people but was put aside for the moment due to the "Wuthnow Rule" which requires at least one person to have read the book before it is selected. This rule is so-named after Al Wuthnow who recommended "Raven Black" a few months ago based on the fact that it had been adapted into an excellent TV show, but apparently it was the screenwriters who worked wonders with a mediocre text. I'm sure that one or more of our group will tackle "The Greatest Generation" and recommend whether it be chosen for a future month.

Next month's meeting will be at 10 am on Tuesday April 8, again at Al's house at 214 Melrose Ave in Mill Valley. Hope to see you all there.

Dave Cooke





fore he leaves, Mike is yet another golfer, who sails, hikes, loves football, served in Vietnam and coached little league with Ken Friedman and yes, he sings!

Fourth of the Magnificent Seven is Lee Gotshall-Maxon. Thank you Kelley Reid for bringing us most of your barbershop quartet (we're still waiting for hiker, artist and San Geronimo resident Dean Jones to join us)... Lee is a fishing, golfing! guy who has yet to set up his Big Sir coffee.

And then there's Dale Mullen, brought to us by grump's twin brother, Rene Sommer. (not really) ...Dale is a young guy who served in Vietnam, golfs ... On behalf of Branch 7, Ted Pullen and I accept your offer to be a luncheon coordinator. Ted is a three time Big Sir and will show you the ropes ... Hey, Dale, I'm looking forward to having coffee with you. How about next week?

And there's Dan Schuster of Corte Madera volunteered on his application to be a greeter and to Ted with the check-in at lunch. Dan is a man of many interests (from model railroads to brewing, bocce, biking and more). Welcome, Dan. See you at the door ...

Last, but far from least, Ray Nottingham, another singer and golfer who must love the waters of the world as he did marine oil spill response. Thank you Ray, a man for whose presence we offer a second thank you to Kelley Reid (assisted by an article Colleen Bidwell published in the Style Section of the IJ). Ray is another poker, pool, bocce playing guy, but one with whom I haven't yet had the pleasure of coffee ... but I'm looking forward to finding out more.

(*Little Sir continued from page 1*)

And a shout out to our tech team .... Tom "Dr Chicken" Short ... Paul Elmquist ... and Jim Flores ... they've developing a dollop of magic that will help us learn each other's namers.

You joined Branch 7 ... now is the time to join in the camaraderie and fun as we work together to build Branch 7 ... and create whatever it is

Sommer, (2) weekly golf outings coordinated by Ron Radtke and an appointed monthly chairman, (3) Second Tuesday book revue group chaired by Michael Sommer, (4) A biking group led by Bob Phillips and (5) Pool shooting group which meets twice monthly at the Silver Peso in San Anselmo. In addition, Jim Flores mentioned the idea of starting a poker group and Ken Friedman asked about organizing a bocce ball group. Tom encouraged us to participate and promote all these activities. Tom Short will be incorporating information about our activities in our website.

## AREA 8 MONTHLY MEETINGS

Branch 7 McInnis Park 1st Thursday  
Branch 22 McInnis Park 1st Tuesday  
Branch 47 McInnis Park 4th Tuesday  
Branch 58 Elks Lodge Petaluma 3rd Tuesday  
Branch 134 Marin Golf & Country Club 1st Tuesday  
Branch 147 Elks Lodge Petaluma 2nd Tuesday

## NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by, Sons in Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons in Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants or their property in matters pertaining to said activities.



## SIR ON THE INTERNET

[www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org)  
[www.sirinc.org/wearesir-2/](http://www.sirinc.org/wearesir-2/)

Gives SIR history, organization, locations, activities, travel programs etc.. Also the State newsletter, SIR Happenings. Suggested for those thinking of joining for an early orientation.

## 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Big Sir:** Tom Verkozen **Little Sir:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Dick Robinson **Asst Secretary:** Vacant  
**Treasurer:** Al Wuthnow **Asst Treasurer:** Dick Robinson  
**Directors:** Dave Bernardi, Jim Flores, Ken Kauer, Ted Pullen, & Kelly Reid  
**Advisor:** Michael Sommer  
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