



A Non-profit Organization For Retired Men

HOROLOGIUM

Monthly Newsletter - Est. 1963

North Bay Branch No. 7, San Rafael

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch7

62nd year

Br. 7

February 2025

BIG SIR—*Tom Verkozen*



Week I of coffee

I had the pleasure of coffee with two newbies ... Zee and Tim. The meetings were enlightening for all of us (remember, at slightly over a year, I'm a newbie who volunteered to reinvigorate Branch 7).

Perhaps you were greeted with a smile and handshake from Zdenek Skyvara, who volunteered to meet and greet at his first official SIR meeting on January 2. Zee, born in Czechoslovakia, was a professional river guide and contractor before becoming an enrolled agent. Zee, along with another new member Tim Heiman, who was born in Kansas and retired four years ago after finishing as the structural engineer on the Marin General project, were the first of the members to step up. They're great guys and I feel honored to know them, knowing that next time we talk we'll know each other even better!!

Week II of coffee

Thus far I've had 16 java get togethers (only 90 to go) and have several more set up ... the next step is up to you! If you are to get the most out of SIRs (as I have fun running the show), let's do coffee! Text me (415) 637-7974. Now (before you forget my phone number).

Us newbies (I've been a SIR since June of 2023) are taking part in shaping Branch 7 ... Other newbies ... Tom 'Dr Chicken' Short and Paul " . " Elmquist and Jim "Choo Choo" Flores are handling our tech (which is completely out of my wheelhouse), Hurry home from Austria, Dr Chicken, please!

Dr Marty Rayman is our new photographer, and Zee and Paul are greeting, yet there's room for you to join the fun, at the door, planning events

(Continued on page 2)

LITTLE SIR—*Vacant*

OUCH, IT'S A SCAM!

by guest columnist Jerry Mahoney

Hey, my friends, you do not want to miss our February 6 meeting whether you come solo or with a guest. The topic is scams and how to avoid them.

Yes, it's our 'bring a guest or spouse' luncheon but lots of SIRs (possibly including Captain Tom, whose wife may be on grandson duty) are coming solo for three reasons: 1. to learn what we can from Marin's IT department, which may save you from losing money and living in anguish but there's another good reason; 2. The luncheon is an easy time to meet the partners of you wonderful SIR buddies; 3. The luncheon is a great time to visit with friends.

BTW, Don Beers asked a great question: How do you sign up a guest?

Answer: Hit the RSVP button, select a meal, then hit the + and make it two meals.

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.

February 2025 Meetings

Luncheon Thursday February 6
Executive Committee Thursday February 20

February 6th Valentine's Luncheon

Prime Rib, Chicken Toscana,
Grilled Salmon w/Lemon Butter Sauce,
or Vegetarian Risotto


<u>MEMBERSHIP REPORT</u> January 2025	
<u>TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 1/1/25</u>	106
<u>GAINS DURING MONTH</u>	4
#16 David Cellers Tom Greenfield Ivan Hawtof #55 Don Maxon	
<u>LOSSES DURING MONTH</u>	2
Peter Robinson, to Inactive (8/24) Michael Sachs (11/24)	
<u>TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 2/1/25</u>	108

February 2025 Birthdays		
35	Nick Kerry	February 3
50	Eddie Powell	February 3
18	Bill Trenam	February 16
95	Ed Scola	February 27
143	Richard McTeague	February 28

SUNSHINE & SHADOWS
Ken Kauer, Chairman, 472-2334
(No e-mail)

and elsewhere (for example, the Membership committee, masterfully run by Kelley "Frog Killer" Reid and Michael "Grumpy" Sommer, could use a helping hand ... and we will need someone to assist Ted Pullen as he'd like to pass on the co-ordination of events role he has held for years (a role that will soon be known as Magician of Fun).
 Captain Tom

Dick Robinson, Secretary



Minutes of the Branch Executive Committee Meeting, January 16, 2025
 I missed the meeting but am writing up items discussed after checking with board members.
 Our finances are sound and only a few members are still outstanding on their payment of dues for this year. They have been reminded and will be dropped from membership if dues are not paid by Mar 1.
 The Zeffy system of signing up for monthly lunches was initiated in January and worked amazingly well. Members were sent an invitation to the upcoming lunch meeting a couple of weeks ahead of time. When they sign up for lunch, members state their meal preference and pay by credit card at least two days before the meeting. This is done so that the Club Restaurant can be notified and prepare the proper amount of food. A word of caution is that once a member signs up and pays, it isn't possible to get a refund from Zeffy. So make sure that you can come to lunch meetings when signing up.
 We'll be using Zeffy to sign up for the Valentine lunch on February 6 which will include ladies as guests. Include your guest by indicating two persons when signing up. Costs will be \$50/pp for prime rib and \$40/pp for salmon, pasta or salad. That includes a \$2/pp donation for use of Zeffy.
 Upcoming speakers will be: Jason Balkarama from Marin County IT Security speaking on the risks of spam in February, Michael Dybeck from the Boy Scouts of America in March, and Kent Fortner from Mare Island Brewing Company in April.
 Ted Pullen has arranged an outing for Wednesday May 7 to see the musical play "Mamma Mia" in San Francisco. The package will include bus trip from Marin, lunch at Max's Opera Cafe in SF and theater ticket for a cost of \$117/pp. Ted had support to set up this trip and the package was approved by the board. To sign up, send your check to Ted along with your choices for lunch. Ted has notified other branches of this upcoming trip so sign up as soon as possible. The limit is about 50 people.
 The Board approved continuation of our usual slate of activities for the coming year. The walking/hiking group meets weekly for local hikes. The book group meets on second Tuesdays of month to discuss book choices. The "shoota gamma pool" group meets twice monthly after regular monthly lunches and Executive Board meetings. Dr Bob Bundy leads a group of bikers on rides in the county. Wine tasting outings are being explored by Dave Bernardi. Lucky 7 Golf will be starting weekly golf outings on March 5 at Foxtail North followed by Hiddenbrook on March 12, Windsor on March 19 and Rancho Solano on March 26. Golfers wishing to play can sign up at monthly lunches or by email to Ron Radtke.

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Jason Balderama, Chief Information Security Officer at the County of Marin, has over 23 years of experience in government IT, including 8 years in cybersecurity. He earned the [Certified Information Systems Security Professional \(CISSP\)](#) certification in 2013 and remains a member in good standing with ISC2. Jason was instrumental in establishing the County's first-ever cybersecurity program in 2016, which has been continuously developed and matured under his guidance. Jason's efforts earned the Marin cybersecurity program the prestigious [California Association of Counties \(CSAC\) Challenge Award in 2019](#).

Additionally, Jason spearheaded the creation of the Marin Information Security Collaboration (MISC), a groundbreaking initiative that united the County and its cities and towns in cybersecurity efforts. This initiative evolved into the [Marin Security and Privacy Council \(MSPC\)](#) in 2022, expanding its membership to include public and private sector organizations across the County. The MSPC was subsequently recognized with the Collaboration Award at the State of California Cybersecurity Education Summit in 2022. Jason also championed community outreach by launching the [Marin CyberSafe News](#) cybersecurity newsletter in January 2022, providing valuable resources to all County residents.

Jason's contributions extend beyond local impact, as evidenced by his co-chair role in the MS-ISAC Security Awareness Work Group for the past four years and active participation in the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI). He is a frequent speaker at the California Counties Information Services Directors Association (CCISDSA) and is a key contributor to their Cybersecurity Work Group. Most recently, in March 2024, Jason partnered with the Bay Area UASI to host the region's first [cybersecurity tabletop exercise](#) at the Marin County Civic Center, further demonstrating his commitment to advancing cybersecurity collaboration and preparedness. It was labeled the largest and one of the best regional tabletop exercises in the state.

For the County's security newsletter, see the following link on our web site. [Cybersecurity newsletter](#)

Humor Section – Keep Learning...

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. -- Henry Ford

I've decided that whatever age I am is the new 30!

If you're not called crazy when you start something new, then you're not thinking big enough.

Don't worry about getting old, worry about thinking old.

What is the difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson – Tom Bodett

I'm still waiting patiently for the wisdom that supposedly comes with old age.

January 1st is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one.

To be old and wise, you must first have to be young and stupid.

It's easier to learn new tricks if you watch it first on You Tube.

I wish I was 18 again, not that I don't like the age I'm at right now, but at 18 years old I knew everything – Michael Nuccio

The problem is I can't tell the difference between a deeply wise, intuitive nudge from the Universe and one of my own bone-headed ideas!

My body knows how old I am, but my mind refuses to believe it....

You are never going to be this young again, so make your mistakes, run free, and don't be afraid to fail.

Lifelong learning is good for the brain, mental well-being, and self-esteem. Cheers to a fresh start and a year full of exciting possibilities!

**SIR's #7, #47, & #22,
invites you to a
matinee performance of:**

**Mamma Mia!
Wednesday May 7th 2025**

A Mother. A Daughter. 3 possible Dads?!?
All culminating into a trip down the aisle you'll never forget!
Set on a Greek island paradise where the sun always shines,
a tale of love, friendship, and identity is beautifully told through the
timeless hits of ABBA. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to
discover the father she's never known brings three men from her
mother's past back to the island they last visited decades ago.
For nearly 25 years, people all around the world have fallen in love
with the characters, the story, and the music that make
MAMMA MIA! the ultimate feel-good show.



COST: \$117/PP

**Bus will leave Park & Ride at
Lucas Valley Road at 10AM
Approx. Return 5:30pm**

Cost Includes: Luxury Motorcoach Transportation,
Bus Fees (Parking, Driver Gratuity, Bridge Toll, Fuel), Lunch at Max's Opera Cafe
(Please make meal choice at registration), Rear Orchestra Seats for the
matinee showing of Mamma Mia! at the Orpheum Theater in San Francisco

**All checks should be made out to SIR Branch 7
Mailed to: Ted Pullen, 455 Cedar Hill Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903
Questions? Call Ted at (415) 499-4610**

All trips and tours are arranged for your pleasure. TravelCenter, Tours and Travel, SIR's #7, Ted Pullen and Trip Escort assume no responsibility for any passengers or their possessions. Trips and tours are subject to change and availability. Specific conditions apply. Individual cancellations/changes must follow SIR's #7's cancellation policy. No refunds after final payment. CST#100294-40

TravelCenter, Tours and Travel, 1936 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 Phone: (925) 937-2223



MAMMA MIA!
MAY 7TH 2025 - \$117/PP

Sign-Up By Wednesday March 26th, 2025 To Reserve your Space!

All checks made out to SIR Branch 7

Mailed to: Ted Pullen, 455 Cedar Hill Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ **Check #** _____

Circle Entrée Choice(s): All Entree's Served w/ Soft Drink & Dessert

- Reuben Sandwich w/ Fries
- French Toast w/ Bacon
- Chicken Cobb Salad
- Veggie Scramble w/ Potatoes
- Cheeseburger w/ Fries

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Branch 7 February Photo Contest

We have \$20 Peets gift cards for the first three SIRs who correctly identify the location of this month's Marin photo (email your entry to one of our newest members, renowned photographer Dr. Marty Rayman ... drmartyrayman@gmail.com).



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



SIR ON THE INTERNET

www.sirinc.org
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
Publisher: Kirk Beales — 415-492-2686,
bear38@outlook.com
Webmaster: Vacant

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.