



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

March 2025

BIG SIR—*Tom Verkozen*



Help Branch 7 Shine by looking sporty for the March 6 luncheon pictures will be taken! (if you can't attend, please email us a recent photo or CALL me and let's do coffee (and I'll take your mug shot).

It's important that we get to know each other and learn at least a few names, so, with the assistance of two new members, constant traveler and renown photographer Marty Rayman and another traveler, Tim Heiman, who was structural engineer for the Marin General Hospital addition ...

SIRs Branch 7 is working on a new, colorful branch directory. If you have some skill in creating this sort of jewel, please join us ... this is a new adventure, and some expertise would be wonderful.

Branch 7 Activities ...

Golf, the group with the largest participation, is on hiatus until March 5 ... it's a lively group of golf lovers so take a lesson or three to get up to speed (or Ted Pullen will give you grief), then contact Ron Radtke (415) 559-8995 or Bob Giachino (415) 924-1157.

Theatre ... Ted's Momma Mia! is SOLD OUT ... 11 people on the waiting list.

Picnic ... Planning in progress.

[Second Tuesday] Snapshots, the book group, where reading the whole book is optional, is reading the novel, 'Everlasting Stream, A True Story of Rabbits, Guns, Friendship and Family.' The meeting will be on March 11, the Second Tuesday of March at Dave's home. The group meets at different guy's houses ... in the summer we go outdoors! Contact our most recent volun-

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LITTLE SIR—*Vacant*

Gentlemen, Jerry Mahoney here ...

A little gossip ... Captain Tom came home from one of his (soon-to-be) 109 SIR coffees saying, 'Wow ... we've got some great, energetic guys'

He was talking about our Branch 7 social chairman who SOLD OUT the bus for a trip to the city ... lunch, enjoying the amazing play Momma Mia, no traffic hassles, fun company ... and our social chairman has plans formulating for the summer picnic and another play! ... yes, that's former Big Sir Ted Pullen

and he was talking about the keeper of our information (along with Jim Flores) ... who berths his antique, teak and mahogany 38-footer at the Point San Pablo Yacht Club ... yes, that's former commodore and former Big Sir Robby Robinson

'Were I a new member of Branch 7 who wanted

Little Sir (Continued on page 3)

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.

March 2025 Meetings

Luncheon Thursday March 6
Executive Committee Thursday March 20

March 6th Luncheon

Corned Beef & Cabbage
Bay Shrimp Louis
Vegetarian

MEMBERSHIP REPORT February 2025	
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 2/1/25	108
GAINS DURING MONTH	0
LOSSES DURING MONTH	0
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS - 3/1/25	108

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

March 2025 Birthdays		
29	Win Black	March 7
104	Spencer Brainard	March 11
31	Fred Coito	March 11
63	Don Lytle	March 17
17	Ed Kurz	March 19
91	Ron Schafer	March 21
48	Jim Land	March 25
66	Mark Wexman	March 30

Dick Robinson, Secretary



Branch Executive Committee Meeting, February 20th
Meeting called to order at 11:00 am by Big Sir Tom Verkozen. A number of recent new members attended so we went around the table and introduced all in attendance. Tom took a group picture of the group. Michael Sommer showed us a roster booklet published by Branch 134 that contained larger pictures of members than our recent roster booklet. That raised the question of should we try to upgrade our roster booklet?

Kelley Reid gave update on membership where we now stand at 108 members. All but 6 or 7 have paid this year's dues and Kelley will be contacting those with unpaid dues. Earlier we had set March 1 as the deadline for paying dues or members would be dropped from our rolls.

Tom brought up the idea of all board members and guest attendees at the board meeting being treated to a free lunch after four board meetings. That was approved by the board subject to agreement by Al Wuthnow. Unfortunately, Al has been hospitalized with heart disease but is now resting at home. In Al's absence checks for monthly lunches and other expenses can be signed by past Big Sirs Michael Sommer or Dick Robinson. Tom Verkozen needs to be added to our bank account with signing authority. Michael said that new member Drew Dowsett has been asked to serve as assistant Treasurer with the goal of taking over the Treasurer's position in the future. A discussion followed about the means for signing up guests for monthly lunches and getting reimbursements for the Sirs' member.

Ken Kauer reported that he had sent a card for recovery to Tom Verkozen's wife after she suffered a back injury and Bob Giachino who had been hospitalized with leg circulation problems.

Speakers for the next few months were reviewed by Bob Bundy. The speaker in March is Michael Dybeck of Scouting America. In April the speaker will be Ken Fortner from Mare Island Brewing Co. The May speaker will be John Powers from the Villages retirement homes and June we'll have a speaker from the Alzheimer's Foundation. Bob asked for ideas of speakers from board members

Ted Pullen reported that we have a full bus load of 56 persons signed up to attend the show "Mamma Mia" in San Francisco on May 7. There are 10 more people on a waiting list for any cancellations. Ted is now looking into possible locations for a summer picnic. He is considering Marin County parks at (1) Stafford Lake, (2) McNear's Beach (3) China Camp as locations. We need to find a suitable place for a picnic that is close by and is available at a reasonable cost. Tom proposed holding 12 regular monthly meetings at the Club Restaurant. Then we'd have the Valentine Lunch, a Summer Picnic and Christmas Party with wives and guests as extra functions. That plan was approved.

Tom Short will send out the email invitation for the March 6 lunch soon using Zeffy to sign up. The deadline for signing up is Tues March 4 at 5 m. Members signing up pay by credit card so that funds can be deposited directly into our Branch 7 bank account. Tom Verkozen will notify the Club restaurant of numbers coming a day ahead of meeting. Payment to the Club Restaurant is made by Branch 7 check.

Michael stressed the need to get our website updated. We are continuing Branch 7 activities of walking/hiking, road and trail biking, pool, golf and book reading for the coming year. Lucky 7 golf group will begin play on Wed March 5 at Foxtail GC and play weekly through the summer.

MARCH SPEAKER

by Bob Bundy

Our speaker this month comes highly recommended by Michael Sommer who had met him when he gave a presentation on Scouting last year. This is one of the best ways to learn about speakers, and if you have heard of someone who would be a great speaker or know someone, please pass the contact info on to me or another board member. We always want to have speakers who have general interest to our members and we want them to be great at presenting the material they have for us. I always appreciate feedback on speakers and look forward to hearing any suggestions or recommendations from our members.

Michael Dybeck serves as the Scout Executive and CEO for the Marin Council, Boy Scouts of America, serving nearly 1,500 young people annually and supporting over 500 volunteers. This is a position he has held since 2003.

Michael was born and raised in San Francisco and graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in History.

Michael has served as a professional Scouter for over thirty years. During his tenure, he has primarily served youth in the San Francisco Bay Area but has also served as a trainer to assist other Scout Councils throughout the Western United States, notably councils in the Los Angeles area with their implementation of Total Quality Management practices. He has also directed several National Camping Schools to help train directors in the effective administration of resident camp operations.

Michael's dedication to youth service and support of outdoor recreation extends beyond his working life. During his time with Rotary, he served as a trainer in recognizing and preventing child abuse. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the Marin Open Space Trust. And has served on the Measure A Citizen Oversight Committee for County of Marin Parks and Open Space.

Michael resides in Novato with his wife Kimberly, who is a teacher. They have two adult children.

teer Dave Cooke (415) 305-3173.

The Thursday hiking group meets on Thursday mornings for a hike and a cuppa java ... now that the rain is possibly behind us we're meeting at the old air traffic control tower at Hamilton ... Contact Michael Sommer (415) 264-0166.

The Billiards group meets after the luncheon (First Thursday) and after the board meeting (Third Thursday) of the month at the Silver Paseo in Larkspur. There's a Tiburon or two in our midst but all of us are capable of missing a short straight-in shot. Contact Bob Bundy (415) 342-4935).

There's been talk of a Bay Area adventures group ... driving to places like Port Chicago, taking the ferry to The Buena Vista, visiting Herb Caen Plaza or walking the Barbary Coast to talk SF history, go to car shows, wine tasting ... If you're interested, here's your chance to launch a group. Talk to a board member.

Half a dozen SIRs ride with the Old Spokes bike group (which was founded decades ago by George Osner). We ride every Friday morning ... trips to west Marin, Petaluma, Richmond, SF, Tiburon ... with a coffee stop at the mid-point. Contact Bob Bundy (415) 342-4935.

There's a move afoot to begin a mountain biking group and a chess group ... contact Bob Rigler (415) 238-8114 if you're interested in helping move this activity along.

Sausalito Coffee Klatch meets at 9:00 on Mondays at Bayside Cafe. I attended this last Monday and there were four SIRs there plus one young man who has applied for membership ! Contact Al Wuthnow (415) 640-6747.

There you have the current activities options ... Branch 7 is open to adding more ... so speak up (over coffee or at a board meeting) if you have something you'd like to add to our repertoire ..

Captain Coffee, (415) 637-7974

(*Little Sir continued from page 1*)

to get involved in living large,' Captain Tom continued, 'I'd jump at the chance to be on a committee with either of them ... great, generous guys with sunny attitudes who know everybody. What a great way to be part of the group,' then he continued once again ... 'I'm smiling at the level of participation we had at the board of director's meeting ... and remembering what my jolly Uncle Bill always said, "if you join a group, join in, be a part of it and you'll never lack for friends."



OUR 2025 BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS

LUCKY 7 GOLF RESUMES MARCH 5TH



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

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



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.

NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

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