

The SIR Branch 4 Foghorn



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God Bless America



July 2022 Issue

July Lunch. First Wednesday! July 6, 2022
Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave., South San Francisco

Lunch Basics. Entrée choices for July's lunch: SIR Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting **on (First) Wednesday, July 6th** at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave., South San Francisco. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and the bar will be available at 11:30AM. Menu choices are Breast of Chicken, White Fish of the Day, Vegetarian Pasta, or Sausage Basquaise. Cost is \$30.00. Exact change is appreciated, and checks are accepted.

We need your reservation **no later than June 29th** so we can reserve your choice; Chicken, White Fish, Pasta, or Sausage. Respond to SIRpaul@nocero.com, or by phone to 415-254-8175.

Future Plans. In June, we had over 30 SIRs attending. **Starting with July, we are back to First Wednesdays through October (we're working on November's date) at the Basque CC.**

Forecasting accurate lunch turnout helps us and the Restaurant. It also puts the BEC in a better position to evaluate lunch options. Please help by sending or calling in your reservation and entrée choice as early as possible. We will meet with BCC's management to select luncheon entrees based on feedback we receive. As we move into Summer, attendance often drops and I'm sure many of you are resuming trips and visits that have been restricted during the COVID era. Enjoy, and help us plan!

For June, 7 SIRs reserved luncheons and were not able to attend. At the same time, we still have walk-ins who have not reserved. We need your help, please reserve AND, should you find you can't attend, please contact the person you reserved with.

Little SIR John

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Information and Announcements

Membership and Attendance, 92 members (includes 2 Super Seniors) and 33 lunch attendees at the June meeting

The 2022 Membership Roster book is available at the badge table. Thanks to Paul Nocero we also have a newly designed SIR wallet Guest Card available. The card will be helpful to invite interested friends to a future Branch 4 lunch at the BCC.

Branch 4 celebrates July birthdays for:

Jerry Blumenthal
Jere Driscoll
Al Herpe
Charley Leach

Bob Pardini
Tony Ramirez and
George Rodriguez.

Guest Column-As Dave Sees It, by Dave Nigel.

Our June luncheon was another successful gathering at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco with thirty-three enthusiastic SIR members in attendance.

Big Sir Stu Ruth welcomed everyone, followed by George Rodriguez's usual inspirational words followed by our group singing of our beautiful rendition of "God Bless America."

Once again, there were many positive comments regarding the three delicious entrees of chicken, salmon, and pasta.

Following our meal, "Activity" reports were presented by Golf Chairman Jack Major describing several upcoming events. Charley Leach, Bocce Ball coordinator, updated this weekly activity inviting new and interested members to join-in at the Doelger Senior Center Bocce court Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 pm. Bocce ball is an Italian game like lawn bowling. Jerry Blumenthal reported Cyber Sir activities are still in the planning stages.

Dave Nigel (aka Professor Dave) gave a comprehensive talk on California history from the time of the Native Americans, Father Junipero Serra and the Missions, the Mexican period, two American Wars with Mexico (Texas and California's wars for independence), California's gold rush, concluding his presentation with the Trans Continental Railroad.

Little Sir John McGlothlin made several announcements. Members extended praise for our Foghorn newsletter that John has been editing and publishing (with an occasional typo).

With these thoughtful comments, the June meeting adjourned.

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Activities

Golf

Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and Paul Nocero 415-254-8175 June 2022.

A summary of the **local SIR golf rules** has been published and is now available. Check the web site:

<http://branch4.sirinc2.org/golf.html>.

The **2022 Sharp Park Tournaments** are still scheduled for the **second Tuesday** of the month, starting at 09:30. Check the website for the current schedules and past results. Signups and results will be emailed.

Results of the June 14th Sharp Park match: We had 20 players in 6 groups starting at 0930. It was kind of cold and windy. The greens were in good shape. The fairways were about the same, with plenty of gopher and ground squirrel homes. A flock of pelicans flew over the berm; there was also a lot of them around Harding Thursday too. Results next issue.

Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, July 12th - first tee-off is 0930. SIR members and their guests are invited. **Check in a half-hour before your tee time** inside the club house. Sharp Park fees are **\$30** - \$24 greens, and \$5 prize fund. Add a cart for \$20 for \$50. Breakfasts for \$13 are available per Kevin

The **Poplar Creek Tournaments** are starting in February scheduled for: Wednesday 2/23, Tuesday 4/19, Tuesday 6/21, Wednesday 8/24 (end of aeration), Wednesday 10/26, and Tuesday 12/20.

All start at 1000 with a 40-player max.

Results of the June 21st Poplar Creek match: This was after the Foghorn cutoff – results next issue.

Next Poplar Creek Tournament: Wednesday August 24th - first tee-off is 1000. Signups will be sent out online and the clipboard too. Green (\$34), prize fund (\$7) is back for \$41. Optional cart fees are \$25 single, \$16.50 each shared. Prize merchandise vouchers can't be used for cart rentals during tournaments. Individual payment for cart fees will be made to the Pro Shop. Coordinator will collect the green and prize fees.

SIR Area 4 Away Golf Tournaments: Metropolitan, Crystal Springs, Tilden are hopeful to play in 2022.

Walk For Health

There will be a walk for health Friday July 29 at the traditional time of 1:44 PM - meeting place to be announced.

Please call George at 415-314-6768 for information.

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Local Trips

Bill Gipe reports the June 18-19 *San Mateo Daily Journal* contains a front-page article about the passing of local artist Ruth Waters at age 88 after a fall. Ruth was still active with the Peninsula Museum of Art, which is now located at the Tanforan Mall. Before the pandemic she gave our SIR local trip group a tour of the (former) Museum & Galleries in Burlingame.

There will be an exhibition called “Made with Serendipity” to honor Ruth at the Tanforan Mall site through July 20. Interested in a SIR local trip group visit in July? Contact Bill.

Also of note, the Tanforan Memorial, commemorating the 8,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry incarcerated at the Tanforan Assembly Center in 1942 will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony August 27th, at 1 PM. The Memorial is adjacent to the BART Station and received funding from the San Bruno Community Foundation, BART, the U.S. Government and others.

CyberSIRs

Jerry Blumenthal. No meetings scheduled. Waiting for Doelger Center to welcome us back. Contact Jerry (415-728-5573) if interested and/or if you have ideas.

Sometimes the best (for the Scammer) scams are the old-school ones. One SIR recently received an inquiry from (supposedly) another SIR asking whether they used Amazon/ Sounds simple, yes, and a polite yes resulted in a request to buy some Amazon cards to help the requester get through his problems sending a gift with his Card, buy an e-card and get back to me, so I can help him. By now there was a strong odor of a rat! This Scam has several variations but once the scammer gets the codes you provide them, they are off to the races with your money.

Feeling bad you didn't jump on the Cryptocurrency bandwagon. Don't! You could have snapped up BITCOIN when it

was at \$67,700 in November. Today, your “coin” would be worth \$18,946. Who know where it is going next? The Cryptocurrency Company Coinbase is laying off 20% of their workforce despite investment articles just a few months ago that Cryptocurrency was becoming much more popular. Who knows, BITCOIN could be at \$75,000 in a few months but.... Message here, REALLY, REALLY, understand what you are investing in!

Finally, investing during this “perfect storm”. Did you know, you can get 9.62% from Series I Savings Bonds from now through October. After October, the rates are reset and may go up, or down. Treasury Bonds are exempt from State and Local income tax.

Compare this with your bank. S&L or Credit Union; some are adjusting upward and others (i.e., Chase) are not.

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Bocce

Contact Charley Leach at 415-333-7277 or Crleach@sbcglobal.net.

Wednesday, June 15th, another wonderful gathering of our Bocce Ball players at Doelger Senior Center in Daly City.

Chairman Charley Leach organized this activity which was truly wonderful after two plus years of not being able to play this fun-filled sport that builds great camaraderie.

The players met just prior to 1:00 p.m. for friendly competition; those present were Charley Leach, Jere Driscoll, Roger Kelly, and David Nigel.

It was also wonderful that SIR Tony Marotto, who is recovering from major

surgery, joined the players as he enjoyed watching the competition and the skillful play.

We hope more SIR members will join the Bocce Team that meets every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 p.m. except for the first Wednesday of each month when we have our luncheon meetings.

A good time was enjoyed by all the competitors as each player participated on winning teams with very close scores.

Feel free to join the activity as a lot of fun and camaraderie. If interested contact Charley Leach for more details... as it would be great to have more players involved.

Wine Tasting

Call Bob Fox for info (415-753-2630). **What to watch for; 2020 vintage wines.**

As you cannot forget, 2020 was the year of many great fires. These occurred before, during and after the 2020 grape harvests. In 2020 many white wine grapes were harvested before the fires spread and smoke taint affected grapes. For white wines made from Chardonnay grapes, some vineyards were affected. The real damage occurred with the red wine grapes were crushed. Red grapes get their color from the grape skins. Many grapes were affected by "smoke taint". Some brands you usually purchase are affected by the difficult harvest and you may not be able to purchase their 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel or Pinot Noir wines.

So, what if you do see a 2020 red wine? No reputable winery wants to market wines that taste or smell bad; some harvested as early as possible, some blended in grapes from areas not affected by smoke, some

reduced skin contact, some centrifuged the crushed juice to separate any taint, etc. Advice. Taste a bottle and if you like it, buy! Caution from dealing with the fire's effects may result in lighter, fruitier wines with less alcohol; this isn't bad! Meanwhile 2021 was much less challenging and I think wineries continued to err on the side of harvesting a little early, producing more fruit and less alcohol. *Little SIR*

Extra !!!!

July Luncheon Reservations are flowing in. Do we have yours? We look forward to hearing from you!!!! Let's beat June's 32 attendees.

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Midyear Report and Request for Your Involvement

Here we are in June. Surprisingly we've only canceled one luncheon, while dealing with location issues, lack of speakers and continuing concerns with COVID. There are many SIRs to thank for all we accomplished, starting with Big SIR Stu and Little SIR George for getting us through 2021 ending with a great Holiday Luncheon, planned on short notice. All's well that ends well!

One group meriting recognition is our membership. You've worked with us through changes in venue, designing popular menus and while some of the things we usually expect such as speakers and activities. You are SIR and your BEC and Activities Chairs work for you!

Many SIRs deserve credit for our accomplishments and I'm going to list some examples at the risk of omitting others equally important:

- The first group you encounter when you attend a Luncheon staff, our Badge Desk, check you in and issue your badge. For 2022, they've taken on the additional work of collecting for our luncheons.
- One SIR volunteered to repair and refurbish the badge case used to store and sort badges.
- Every meeting needs a great Master of Ceremonies to start meetings, so everything falls into place.
- Games of chance and levity, reward the lucky. Our two-person Pit Crew sincerely wish every ticket they sell is a winner!
- Two SIRs doubled as luncheon speakers. Providing insights for taking control of your lives and appreciating local history. One SIR recognizes our "birthday boys". Another SIR baked brownies!
- We needed a planning committee to find and arrange for lunch venues and their work is responsible for the great times we've experienced at the BCC. All done while keeping our Books balanced.
- When we learned how important it is to accurately forecast luncheon attendance one SIR volunteered to collect information to share with the luncheon committee and badge crew.
- Our membership committee kept in touch with each of us, collected dues and, while reaching out talked with members not able to participate and kept them informed of SIR.
- Activity chairs kept Golf thriving, restored BOCCE, invented interesting and sometimes challenging Walks for Health. Work goes on to reactivate other Activities.
- The BEC members and activity Chairs arrive at least an hour in advance of Luncheons to work with others listed above so you enjoy your luncheon experience.
- Our Tech Department pushes Foghorns via email and Web, plus Special Announcements and Rosters, so you have the information you need.

Many key tasks are carried out by a small group of SIRs. In many cases they've often been doing this for several years. They (we) need your involvement and help. There are two parts to this survey:

- a. **Activities.** We're asking for information on Activities you participate in now, Activities you would like to see and/or help conduct. We can start new Activities and add Committee Members at any time.
- b. **Officers and Directors.** We're asking for interest in serving in positions that help determine branch policies and procedures and how we spend your dues. They are elected annually; 2-6 Directors, Treasurer & Assistant, Secretary & Assistant, Little SIR and Big SIR. Will you contribute your time to help SIR?

You might think, "there is no way, I can do something like serving on a board, planning an activity, speaking at a meeting, etc., etc.". If you take the plunge, you'll find there are others waiting to make you succeed (like they helped me) AND you'll find it rewarding. **Watch for our Survey!**