

## SIR Branch 4 Foghorn

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|                         | <p><b>SIR Branch 4</b></p> <p><b>Foghorn</b></p> <p><b>March 2025</b></p>       |                            |
| <p><b>Big SIR-Tim Hazen</b><br/> <b>Secretary-Bob Calhoun</b><br/> <b>Asst. Secretary-Jack Major</b></p> | <p><b>God Bless our USA</b><br/> <b>Foghorn Editor</b><br/> John McGlothlin</p> | <p><b>Little SIR-Bill Gipe</b><br/> <b>Treasurer-Bob Golton</b><br/> <b>Asst. Treasurer-George Fenech</b></p> |

**March 5<sup>th</sup> Luncheon.** SIR Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Basque Cultural Center, [599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco](#). Hope to see you there! Lunch will be served at 12 noon. The bar will be available at 11:30AM. Menu choices are:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. White Fish          | 2. Breast of Chicken   |
| 3. Grilled Pork Chops. | 4. Eggplant Parmigiana |

**Please respond if you will be attending as soon as possible so we can make plans with the restaurant.** We need to know if you plan on attending AND your choice of entrée, above. Cost will again be \$30.00.

You can respond directly to Paul at [SlRpaul@nocero.com](mailto:SlRpaul@nocero.com), or by phone to 415-254-8175. **Important: Paul will be travelling overseas this month, but can still receive emails and phone calls. Due to the time difference, if you call, please leave your request as a voicemail message.** Please include your name with the e-mail response so Paul can record your request correctly.

**Important:** Still time to pay your \$30 annual dues for 2025. Please pick up a dues envelope at the sign-in table if you haven't done so already.

### **March's Speaker** (Contact Alfred Herpe 650-992-3344) – Eugene, “The Tax Guy”.

A very timely subject what with all the turmoil within your federal government, IRS laying off temps, and possible (probable?) changes and extensions to tax laws. NPR has an interesting article about the impact <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/20/nx-s1-5304220/irs-job-cuts-doge-tax-season> (your editor).

## **Announcements and Information, Bill Gipe**

**Branch 4 remembers.** We recognize and thank Peter Angelonides for 20 years of membership and wish him well!

**SIR Birthdays.** Branch 4 celebrates the March birthdays of Bob Calhoun, Pat Long, Bill McGee, Bob Richter and Woody Woodall.

**Sunshine List.** Greetings sent to Jerry Blumenthal, Dan Machado, Bob Pardini, Ken Reed and Dan Quigg.

**Branch 4 Membership & Lunch Attendance.** Membership total is currently 75. February lunch total was 37 (badge table count). Thanks to all for the 2025 dues campaign.

**New Member.** Branch 4 welcomes Kent MacMaster (Badge #135 )to SIR.

Reminder: please pay SIR branch dues by March 30<sup>th</sup>. Your \$30 annual dues enable Branch 4 to meet obligations and expenses.

**Help (Still) Wanted!** We asked for volunteers to MC our Birthday Boys celebration and SIR Herman Ng came forward! We looked for a volunteer to allow the BEC to honor Stu Ruth's request for "Emeritus" status after 4 years as Big SIR and Tim Hazen stepped up! We may have another volunteer to announce soon. Volunteers are the lifeblood that we need to coordinate activities, represent your interests, participate in Board decision-making, etc. We need new viewpoints! Talk to Big Sir Tim or Little SIR Bill, our Officers, or our directors for information.

## **SIR News**

**Branch Advisory Council (BAC).** John McGlothlin is our representative on the State President's Branch Advisory Council and has been reporting on their meeting. State President Rich Carlston has "scooped" John and is now reporting on BAC meetings in his monthly newsletter, "The Rooster Crows" (page 2) at <https://files.constantcontact.com/686f3f04701/10894878-92ae-4708-afa4-d4df564baf51.pdf?rdr=true> interesting and worth reading!

## **Geritol for March**

Once upon a time, there was prohibition. Illegal to import, produce and sell alcoholic beverages. When the 21<sup>st</sup>. Amendment lifted restrictions, production was still controlled (as it is today). To monitor pricing and provide advice to growers and producers, California was divided into "grape pricing districts". Monterey and San Benito County became District 7. The "District 7" Pinot Noir label reflects the Monterey County origin of this month's Geritol, produced by Scheid Vineyards a major grape grower in the area with a grand tasting room in Carmel with more expensive wines. The 2022 Pinot Noir represents good value and quality.

***As Dave Sees It...***, by Dave Nigel. On a sunny February day, 37 members attended our monthly luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center. Big SIR, Stu Ruth, called our meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of SIR Ted Wright who recently passed away. Stu called upon David Nigel to give the invocation, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and conduct our singing of “My Country Tis of Thee” (to the tune of “God Save the King”).

Little SIR Bill Gipe, introduced our newly nominated Big Sir for 2025, Tim Hazen, and wished Tim well. Bill expressed a “Big” thank you to Big Sir “Emeritus” Stu Ruth, who diligently provided leadership for the past **four years** beginning at the outset of COVID-19 in 2020. Stu encouraged members to seek leadership positions as this is how new ideas and activities are generated. Little Sir and Membership Chairman, Bill Gipe, introduced new member Ramon Canova and welcomed Ramon to SIR.

Stu then called upon activities chairs for announcements led by Golf (Jack Major), describing planned tournaments. Next, Community Services (Tad Bogdan), described the FoodBank distribution, inviting all to join this “Deed of Helping Others.” Bocce (David Nigel) inviting members to join in the fun and competition at Doelger Center. Local Travel (Bill Gipe) discussed future excursions planned for the Pinball Museum in Alameda. Membership (Bill Gipe, with David Nigel) announced current membership is 74. This year’s membership campaign concludes March 30<sup>th</sup>. Raffle Co-Chairs (Rolf and Tony), called winning numbers for Bill Lippincott and Dave Ocampo holding winning raffle tickets.

One of our newest members, Herman Ng, volunteered to conduct our monthly “Birthday Boys” event, introduced our honorees, led singing “Happy Birthday” and drew the winning free lunch ticket for John McGlothlin. John described our “Geritol” bottle of Chenin Blanc wine (see the February Foghorn for a description) and Dave Nigel won the wine. Our drawing for a “Free Lunch” was won by Tim Hazen. Next, John honored SIR Bill McGee for his work with Tad Bogdan on our Community Volunteer activities and presented Bill with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Four entrees were enjoyed followed by dessert arranged by SIR Alfred Herpe, (Guest Speaker Chair) who introduced Sausam (Susan) Molthen of Al-Masri restaurant specializing in Egyptian cuisine and belly dancing. Sausam is Master Teacher at the Sausan Academy of Egyptian Dance in San Francisco and Choreographer/Artistic Director of the “*Sausan Ensemble*”. Following an interesting lecture on the history of Belly Dancing, identifying stars throughout the years, she described the music and cultural aspects of this form of dance. A question-and-answer session capped the presentation.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 5th, 2025, at the Basque Cultural Center.

## ACTIVITIES



**Local SIR Tours, Bill Gipe (650-878-5746).** Our February visit to Alameda's Pacific Pinball Museum was postponed because of illness. Please sign up and join fellow Branch 4 members on Thursday March 20 or March 27 (rain date). The signup clipboard will be at the March lunch or call 650-878-5746 message line. The museum's website is [www.pacificpinball.org](http://www.pacificpinball.org).



**Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and Bill McGee 415-806-4608. March 2025.** 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>.

**2025 Sharp Park Tournaments** are scheduled for the **second Tuesday** of the month, starting at 0930. Check the website for current schedules and results. Signups and results will be emailed.

**Results of the February 11th Sharp Park match:** The sunny weather was cold to start but warmed up later. The course was very wet, with cart-path-only with holes #6 and #10 wet with runoff. We had 10 players with no guests. Scores were high due to the conditions. Highlights: Birdies: Tad had one on Hole #15 and that's it. Pars made include Forrest Holleman on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Pat Stan on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Tad Bogdan on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The results were emailed and are available on the website. (See Pat Stan's "View", below)

**Next Sharp Park Tournament:**  
**Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – 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 **\$35 - \$26** greens, and \$9 prize fund. Add a cart for \$25 for **\$60**. Breakfasts are available per Kevin.

The **2025 Poplar Creek Tournaments** are starting in February are Tuesdays 2/18, 4/15, 6/17, 8/20 (will change due

to aerating) 10/21, and 12/16. These start at 1000 with a 24-player max. This year's contract is pay the green fee \$38, pro shop merchandise voucher fees (\$7), and optional cart fees (\$17.50 each and split a cart, \$25 singles), to the SIRs coordinator. Prize fund vouchers are for pro shop merchandise only. Check in 30 minutes prior to first tee time.

**Results of the Poplar Creek Tournament: Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup>**  
We had 13 players, and 0 guests. We still have the restaurant/bar/restroom red-tagged due to a sewer pipe break underneath, since October. This puts the kibosh on the post-game revelries. This looks like a big job...months. Next tournament is scheduled for April with not much hope for the repairs. Most of the fairways were fine, with several with occasional water. The greens were fast and in good shape. We had enough carts too. Highlights were: Birdies – Joe Penko - on par 4 #6. Dave Ocampo, Tad Bogdan, Jack Major - all panned hole 17. We lost group 3's card with the details for Paulie, Gabe, and George. See the website for details.

**Next Poplar Creek Tournament:** April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

***Golf, Another View, by Pat Stan.** With the forecast calling for rain, but not until late in the afternoon, 12 intrepid golfers signed up to play at Sharp Park on the 11<sup>th</sup>; buoyed by expected course conditions, described as "Sharp Park was in good shape last month". Initial euphoria began to wane with a later note stating "Sharp Park is (Contd. Page 5)*

*("View", Contd.) **cart-path-only only**, even pre-rain. Bring your galoshes." Sharp Park lived up to its reputation of not draining worth anything, resulting in standing water on a few holes and on some drives, even though the tee shot landed in the middle of the fairway, the ball plugged and was nowhere to be found. Before teeing off, two of 12 golfers were unable to make it and backed out. The other 10 threw caution to the wind and choose to attack the course. On the 5<sup>th</sup> hole the course would claim its first two victims where the side of the hill repeatedly (3 times) reached up, grabbed Dave Ocampo and slammed him to the ground. Dave being Dave wanted to continue but his cart partner persuaded him to call it a day. The 14<sup>th</sup> hole convinced two others that it just wasn't worth finishing the round.*

**Branch 4's Community Service Volunteers. Tad Bogdan**  
([tadbogdan@gmail.com](mailto:tadbogdan@gmail.com), 650 863 8866) and Bill McGee  
([wcmcggee@pacbell.net](mailto:wcmcggee@pacbell.net), 415-806-4608).

The traffic at the Jan 29th Food Bank event was light and easy because it was the first day of Lunar New Year — and celebrants traditionally stay home to celebrate with their families on that day. Bill McGee, Paul Walsh, Paul Nocero, Stu Ruth, Jack Major, and Tad Bogdan had a good time representing the SIRs while joking around at the event. And we made a great contribution to many needy families.

Upcoming SIR Branch 4 SF-Marin Food Bank opportunities:

**March Shift: Stonestown**

**Date and Time:** Fri. Mar 7, 2025 @ 10:30am -1:15pm

**Location:** 501 Buckingham Way, San Francisco, CA 94132

Please contact Tad Bogdan [tadbogdan@gmail.com](mailto:tadbogdan@gmail.com) or 650 863 8866 if you would like to join the fun and add to your Karma Pool.



**Bocce. Charley Leach 415-333-7277, Roger Kelly 650-346-9668:** We meet at Doelger Center Wednesdays 1-3PM. Doelger Center is about 1/4 Mile North of Westlake Joe's. We don't meet first Wednesday of each month (SIRs Luncheon). Show up and get a game or 2, or maybe even 3. Beginners are (always) welcome!

**Bocce Report**, by David Nigel. On a cold and very chilly Daly City afternoon, eight bundled-up Bocce Ball players gathered for their weekly competition and camaraderie.

pitted against the "Green" team of Charley Leach, Pat Long, Jere Driscoll, and Michael Song. The competition was classy and displayed talented shots.

Two teams were established with the "Red" team of Roger Kelly, Richard Soward, Ramon Canova, and David Nigel were

Each team having reached the winning score of twelve-point victories resulted in a very close third game that was won (Contd. Page 6)

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(Bocce Report, Contd.) by a narrow margin of two-points. Ramon Canova, our newest

Bocce Ball player was complimented on his excellent play.

Co-Chairs Charley Leach and Roger Kelly extend an on-going invitation for all interested to join our wonderful activity. We hope more SIRs will join the Bocce Ball Team that meets every Wednesday

afternoon from 1:00-3:00 p.m. except the first Wednesday of each month when we gather at the Basque Cultural Center for our luncheon meetings.

### **“An Exceptional SIR”, by Dave Nigel.**

March's featured SIR Member is Bill McGee. Bill was born in Richland, Washington, as was his father-in-law SIR David Barnett. Richland is in [Benton County, Washington](#) located at the confluence of the [Yakima](#) and the [Columbia](#) Rivers. The McGee family moved to the San Francisco Peninsula town of Los Altos where Bill attended Homestead High School in Cupertino. Next, Bill enrolled in the University of California, Santa Barbara earning his Bachelor's degree in Economics.

Bill began his professional career working in marketing and advertising. He held positions with Atari Corporation (home computers and video game consoles), Microsoft (Windows, etc., etc.), and other companies. Advancing to the position of Vice President he enjoyed a very fulfilling career. Bill met the love of his life, Pamela in an office building elevator where he was working and where Pamela was involved in launching the waterfront Boulevard restaurant; located in the historic Audiffred building. Bill presented Pamela with his business card and from there flourished a romance that blossomed into a marriage that recently celebrated their twenty-second wedding anniversary. They have two successful adult sons.

Bill and Pamela truly enjoy traveling and recently enjoyed a wonderful trip to Italy. This has been a challenging and difficult year for Bill as he lost both his dad and stepmother. Both were 96 and lived very long and happy lives.

Bill joined SIR Branch 4 in June 2022. Playing golf is one of Bill's great pleasures and he works with SIR Jack Major on our Golf Committee. We are very fortunate to have Bill as a member of our Branch and to enjoy his contributions to Golf and to our Community Service activity.

*Want to Recognize a SIR, talk to Dave Nigel*

**See you on March 5**