

# SIR Branch 4 Foghorn

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SIR Branch 4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Foghorn</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>April 2025</b></p>	
<p><b>Big SIR-Tim Hazen</b></p>	<p><b>God Bless our USA</b></p>	<p><b>Little SIR-Bill Gipe</b></p>
<p><b>Secretary-Bob Calhoun</b> <b>Asst. Secretary-Jack Major</b></p>	<p><b>Foghorn Editor</b> John McGlothlin</p>	<p><b>Treasurer-Bob Golton</b> <b>Asst. Treasurer-George Fenech</b></p>

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon.** SIR Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</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. Salmon
2. Chicken Cordon Bleu
3. Veal Stew
4. Eggplant Parmigiana

Cost will again be \$30.00.

Please respond if you will be attending ASAP so we can make plans with the restaurant (late responses will still be accepted but not preferred). We need to know if you plan on attending AND your choice of entrée, above.

You can respond to this email, respond directly to [SIRpaul@nocero.com](mailto:SIRpaul@nocero.com), or by phone to 415-254-8175.

Please include your name with your e-mail response so I can be sure to record your request correctly.

**April's Speaker. Bill Greig,** Retired Harbor Pilot. Bill was a merchant seaman before becoming a Pilot and also volunteers on the Jeremiah O'Brien. (Contact Alfred Herpe 650-992-3344) – *(your editor)*.

## Announcements and Information, Bill Gipe

**Branch 4 remembers.** Branch 4 remembers longtime SIR Dan O'Leary. His Irish tenor voice brightened many SIR lunches and holiday parties, and our golfers enjoyed the pleasure of Dan's company. May your putts roll true and water hazards part like the Red Sea.

**SIR Birthdays.** Branch 4 notes the April birthdays of Bob Fox and Roger Kelly.

**Sunshine List and Best Wishes.** Greetings sent to Bob Pardini and Dan Quigg.

**Branch 4 Membership & Lunch Attendance.** Branch 4 membership total: 77  
March lunch attendance: 35. Thanks to all SIRs who contributed to Branch 4 with 2025 dues and thanks to Bill and David for a great campaign!

***As Dave Sees It...***, by Dave Nigel. 35 members were in attendance for monthly luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center. Big SIR *emeritus*, Stu Ruth, called us to order. David Nigel gave the invocation, conducted the Pledge of Allegiance, and led singing of "God Bless America."

Activity Chairs made announcements. Jack Major described scheduled golf competitions. Tad Bogdan, reported on the San Francisco Marin Food Bank grocery distribution and invited all to join in. David Nigel invited members to join in the weekly competition at the Doelger Center's Bocce Ball court each Wednesday (with a bye on Luncheon days). Activities Chair, Bill Gipe described the excursion planned to the Pinball Museum. Membership Chairman Bill Gipe and Committee Member David Nigel announced our Branch current membership is 77.

Tony Quarto and Rolf Rosander, Raffle Co-Chairs, called out winning numbers for Don Ray and Pat Stan. New member, Herman Ng led honoring of our March "Birthday Boys" introducing the four honorees, leading singing "Happy Birthday" followed by the response from our honorees. This free lunch drawing was unique; Herman entered the names onto his cell phone APP that randomly selected winner Bob Calhoun.

John McGlothlin described our "Geritol", "District 7" Pinot Noir from Monterey County. Combining coastal beauty with a rich farming heritage, Monterey is one of our most diverse winegrowing regions (see the March Foghorn for detailed information). Don Ray's luck continued, winning again. Our drawing for a "Free Lunch" was won by Rolf Rosander.

Four entrees were enjoyed followed by a dessert of assorted donuts picked up by SIR Alfred Herpe who then introduced Eugene Ostermiller, "The Tax Man." Eugene has joined us several times and started by stating there have been few tax law changes this past year. During election years, political parties don't want risk touching taxes. Changes may occur next year as many current provisions are due to expire. An interesting "Q and A" session followed. Alfred thanked Eugene for his usual informative talk.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025 at the Basque Cultural Center.

**Geritol for April.** April's "Geritol" hails from another part of California, Baja California. The Valle de Guadalupe is just east of Ensenada and much cooler than we normally think of Mexico. The L.A. Cetto family founded the winery in 1923 after emigrating from Italy. Their Nebbiolo wine is made from the same grape as Italy's Barolos and is a full-bodied, rich wine. Made to enjoy with a roast.

**SIR News.** SIR State President Rich Carlston now has a newsletter and wants to keep you informed regarding initiatives the State leadership is working on as well as the work with the Branch Advisory Council (BAC). Efforts to distribute the newsletter to all SIRs experienced some bumps and you may have received more than one copy or (gulp!) may not have received your copy. We're working with State to clear up confusion regarding distribution and I will be including a link to allow you to catch up with the issue that is current as of each Foghorn publication date. Here is the link for the March issue of "The Rooster Crows",  
<https://sirinc.org/uploads/newsletters/March-2025-Newsletter-Final.pdf>.

**Help (Still) Wanted!** Here is the broken record sound... Your Branch still needs SIRs to step up and we will be better for it. Our volunteers are great and selfless. Many of you have the skills and experiences that will help your Branch achieve success! If everyone who has volunteered for five years, or more, stepped away. Branch 4 would close. Think about it!

## ACTIVITIES



**Local SIR Tours, Bill Gipe (650-878-5746).** SIR Local Tour

In March branch members & guests visited the Pacific Pinball Museum in Alameda. Dave interviewed us and contributed the following:

Bill Gipe, organized and led a fun-filled excursion to the Museum located in Alameda; a nonprofit interactive museum/arcade featuring a selection of rare early pinball games. Attending were Bill Gipe, Roger Kelly, and Roger's friend Phil Gravitt. All spent several hours playing pinball machines of all ages and enjoyed lunch at nearby Cafés. Bill will be planning another visit to the museum for SIRs who had planned to attend and didn't. Others interested can join by contacting Bill. The Chronicle recently featured the museum, see the link below.

[https://edition.sfchronicle.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=2f9d8d89-1c1f-4cea-8f38-49322a9745f7&share=true](https://edition.sfchronicle.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=2f9d8d89-1c1f-4cea-8f38-49322a9745f7&share=true)

Activities being planned include Malloy's Tavern on Mission Road, SSF, a visit to the new South City Library & nearby Museum and Taking a ride on the new electric Caltrain. Ideas for a SIR local tour? Please see tour clipboard at lunch or call Bill. Watch for details in the Foghorn.



**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>.

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

**Results of the March 11th Sharp Park match:** Sharp Park was unplayable due to the wet conditions with runoffs and the resulting cart-path-only restrictions. The tournament was cancelled.

**Next Sharp Park Tournament: Tuesday, April 8th<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. If the wet conditions improve, we will schedule the tournament.

The **2025 Poplar Creek Tournaments** started in February on Tuesdays 2/18, 4/15, 6/17, 8/20 (will change-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. The 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>** (reprinted from the March Foghorn) We had 13 players, and no 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. The 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 15th, 2025. The latest date I have for reopening the bar area is **June 2025**.

**Branch 4's Community Service Volunteers. Tad Bogdan**

([tadbogdan@gmail.com](mailto:tadbogdan@gmail.com), 650-863-8866) and Bill McGee ([wcmcgee@pacbell.net](mailto:wcmcgee@pacbell.net), 415-806-4608).

We had a light showing at the March Food Bank due to all the intrepid travelers on the team exploring the world. Jack Major, Paul Walsh and Tad Bogdan were the only regulars in town to volunteer for our March 7 event at Stonestown. It was a busy day, many families left with nourishing food for the week, and the time flew by quickly. The ever-so-popular outdoor Pop-up food markets are going to run out of funding in June, so if you are able, we'd love to have you join us while there's still time.

Upcoming SIR Branch 4 SF-Marin Food Bank opportunities:

**April Shift:** Rosa Parks @ Glad Tidings

**Date and Time:** Wed, April 16 2025 @ 8:30 - 11AM

**Location:** 1280 Webster St, San Francisco, CA 94115

**May Shift:** Roosevelt @ St. Dominic's

**Date and Time:** Tue, May 20, 2025 @ 10:30am -1:15pm

**Location:** 2390 Bush St, San Francisco, CA 94115

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,** March 19, 2025

Due to inclement weather and heavy rainstorms, March Bocce Ball competition was limited to just two meetings. Prior to the competition, SIRs Charlie Leach, Roger Kelly, Ramon Canova, and David Nigel met for lunch and conversation sharing many wonderful stories at the Doelger Center Deli. Promptly at 1:00 p.m., they were joined by SIRs Jere Driscoll, Bill Gipe, and Michael Song. Competition was keen and

featured many outstanding, and some lucky, shots.

SIR Bocce Ball players enjoy continuing gatherings and exciting competition Wednesday afternoons each month meeting the second, third, and fourth Wednesdays at the Doelger Center court.

We hope more SIR members will join the Bocce Team. Co-Chairmen Charley Leach and Roger Kelly extend an on-going invitation for all interested to join this wonderful activity.

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

This month's featured "Exceptional SIR Member" is Stu Etzler. Stu joined SIR Branch 4 in April 2012 and has served as Little and Big SIR, and as Speaker Coordinator. Stu was born at Children's Hospital in SF and grew up attending Parkside Elementary, Hoover Junior High, and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1964. While at Lincoln, Stu played football and threw the discus on the Track Team.

Stu attended City College, Sacramento, and San Jose State Universities, receiving his B.A. in 1971 in Metal Fabrication. While at City College, Stu met his wife Norma who came to San Francisco from Bogota, Colombia and they have enjoyed a beautiful life together.

Stu began his professional career in heavy construction with his first assignment working on BART at the Embarcadero station. At this time, he entered the master's program at Lone Mountain College earning his degree in Sculpture. Stu's next career stop was as a carpenter followed by involvement in the Construction business. Stu worked with Big Sir *emeritus* Stu Ruth on numerous projects.

A truly incredible accomplishment involved completing 432 Triathlons (a multisport race that involves swimming, cycling, and running) races and, sometimes other triathlon events including kayaking, windsurfing, roller blading, and skiing. Stu became Branch 4 Big Sir and served in that leadership capacity between 2019-2021: one of only 2 Big SIRs to serve 2 terms!

Stu truly enjoys our SIR luncheon meetings and occasionally is a spectator during our Bocce Ball competitions. We are fortunate to benefit from Stu's leadership, great sense of humor, and commitment to our Club.

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

**See you on April 2nd**