



# 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>January 2026</b></p>	
<p><b>President -Tim Hazen</b></p>	<p><b>God Bless our USA</b></p>	<p><b>Vice President-Paul Nocero</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>

**January Luncheon.** SIR Branch 4 will hold its next luncheon meeting Wednesday, January 7th, at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco. We hope to see you there. Lunch will be served at 12 Noon and the bar is available at 11:30AM. Menu choices are:

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|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. White Fish. | 2. Chicken Breast  |
| 3. Steak Haché | 4. Mushroom Omelet |

Cost is now \$35.00. This increase in cost is due to general rising costs affecting the amount the restaurant is now charging Branch 4. **Please respond ASAP if you will be attending, so we can make plans with the restaurant (late responses will be accepted but not preferred).** We need to know if you plan on attending AND your choice of entrée. You can respond directly to Paul at [SIRpaul@nocero.com](mailto:SIRpaul@nocero.com), or by phone to 415-254-8175. Please include your name with the e-mail response so Paul can record your request correctly.

**January Speaker and more....** Andy Danver, SIR Area Representative with an update on SIR, especially State SIR initiatives. Also, Bob Fox has asked for time to discuss his ideas for reviving our wine appreciation group, a great forum to learn about wines and flex your olfactory skills. Bob has a wealth of experience with small group tastings.

Finally, Bill Gipe will be bringing a selection of books to see if there is interest in reviving our Book Exchange. Great start to the new year!

## Announcements and Information

**Luncheon Attendance.** Branch 4 concluded 2025 with our Holiday Lunch at the Oyster Point Yacht Club. Thanks to the 62 members and guests who made reservations for the party and made our event a success!

**Membership.** Branch 4 has a December membership total of 77 and November lunch attendance was 42 (badge table count).

**Sunshine:** Branch 4 sends a greeting to Bill Lippincott, who missed the Holiday Lunch.

**Birthdays:** Branch 4 remembers January birthdays for Mike Chapman, Rich Fraher, Tim Hazen, Peter Klein, Bill Lippincott, Donald Ray, Richard Soward, Ray Steward, Wil Uclusin, and Brian Weiss.

In Memoriam-SIRs We Honor and Remember	SIRs We Welcomed in 2025!
2025 Branch 4 friends who passed: <i>Ron Appel</i> <i>John Gehring</i> <i>Rich Palmer</i> <i>Bob Pardini</i> <i>Ken Reed.</i>	In 2025 Branch 4 welcomed: <i>Ramon Canova</i> <i>William Dyer</i> <i>Reynerio Hernandez</i> <i>Kent MacMaster</i> <i>Herman Ng</i> <i>Fred Tealdi</i>

**Geritol For January.** We start the new year with a bright new wine, Beaujolais Nouveaux from Georges Dubeouf (aka the “King of Beaujolais”). Traditionally the first wine from the harvest and proof “*the vintage is the best since the last one*”. A juicy, frivolous red from the Gamay grape. Released each November and made to be enjoyed over the next few months. To be in Paris or Lyon when the wine is released, some of the wine is delivered in barrels; they say “three rivers flow into Lyon; the Rhone, the Soane, and the Beaujolais”. The Nouveaux we buy is a little heartier to stand shipping and handling. In a few months more conventional versions arrive, still fruity and a bit longer lasting, if you can wait!

**Lost your Foghorn (gasp!)** or want to look up an article in an older edition, this is the link for Branch 4’s Newsletter Archive, <https://sirinc2.org/branch4/foghorns.html> . While you’re at it, browse the SIR Website, Members Section, for more useful information <https://sirinc.org/members/>

<b>As Dave Sees it, by David Nigel</b>
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Our annual Holiday Party took place on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Oyster Point Yacht Club. Sixty-two SIR members, families and friends attended. Thanks to Chair Bill Gipe who did another great job preparing for this fun-filled event and to John and Joanne for their organizational skills and special festive amenities. President Tim Hazen warmly greeted us and set a very festive tone. He explained our “Guessing” game. This year’s items to be calculated was a very large container filled with pretzels. We are very grateful to Big Sir Emeritus, Stu Ruth and his wife Grace during past years have counted marbles, jellybeans, walnuts and other items for this activity which adds to the fun of our event. Joanne McGlothlin created festive place cards with slips of paper attached for folks who calculated their estimate of the total number of pretzels. Main courses included Tri-tip, Chicken a la Marino, or Stuffed Portobello, topped-off by a delicious Tiramisu. President Tim Hazen introduced popular returning entertainer, Marilyn Cooney who sang and played the keyboard with favorite and familiar Holiday songs as we all enthusiastically joined in accompanying the singing. This was truly a lot of fun!

Next was a very special honoring of Past Big Sir Leaders with our Distinguished Service Award (DSA) for their exemplary and important service over the years. John McGlothlin, Jack Major, and Bob Fox introduced our honorees commenting on their achievements and dedication to SIR Branch 4 and Branch 91. Honorees included Stu Etzler, Stu Ruth, George Suter, John Cooney, Jerry Blumenthal, Bill Gipe, Flor Mendoza and George Rodriguez. In addition to their service as Big SIRs, the group has an impressive list of contributions in other roles.

Grace Ruth reviewed our Pretzel estimates and announced Joanne McGlothlin as winner with her incredible estimate of 443; only one pretzel off the actual number of 444. John conducted our “Geritol” drawing, describing the wine to be awarded. The winner of the Merry Prankster Cabernet (incidentally, 60 years ago the Pranksters hosted the first “official” performance of the Grateful Dead) was Peter Aiello.

Folks who brought gifts participated in the gift-exchange (Note, John selected an enjoyable Beaujolais Noveaux, prompting him to acquire another for January’s Geritol). Marilyn Cooney returned and led a wonderful “Sing-along.” President Tim Hazen again acknowledged Bill Gipe for outstanding efforts to make our luncheon a success and concluded the party, thanking everyone in attendance and extending good wishes for happy holidays, good health, and a joyous New Year!

**Missing your copy of the State Newsletter, *The Rooster Crows*?**  
**[https://sirinc.org/uploads/newsletters/December-2025-Newsletter-Final\\_1.pdf](https://sirinc.org/uploads/newsletters/December-2025-Newsletter-Final_1.pdf)**

<b>Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 7th. 2026!</b>
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## ACTIVITIES



**Golf: Golf: Jack Major 415-412-6654 (cell) and Pat Stan 650-504-6146 January 2026 (Welcome Pat!).** 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>. Reported by Jack Major.

The **2026 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 November 11<sup>th</sup> Sharp Park match:** There was high coastal fog with light wind developing later - just about ideal weather. The course was well watered, with several fairways carpet-like, and greens were in nice shape. No problems with wet areas. They raised the green fees to \$44 in October, part of a big jump in green fees all over the area courses. We had 14 players with one guest, Wil Growney with George Bacigalupi. Highlights: Birdies - none this time. Plenty of pars on #8 (8) and #15 (3) with a blind shot due to the weeds.

**Results of the December 9<sup>th</sup> Sharp Park match:** It was clear, cold and windy to start, but warmed up in the afternoon somewhat. The course was in good shape. We had 16 players with 5 guests, Wil Growney, Tony Maffei and Robert Gani with George Bacigalupi, Jim Reed and Mike McCurdy with

Dennis Meixner. Good work for potential members' signups. Highlights: Birdies - Mike McCurdy on par-3 #8. We had 7 pars on #8 (Pat, Tad, Tony, Wil G, Dennis, Don, Wil U). The bag for hole #15 was missing in action, so no closest on #15.

**Results of the December 16<sup>th</sup> Poplar Creek match:** It was cold and crisp to start and warmed up in the afternoon. We had 14 players, and 4 guests, Mike McCurdy and Jim Reed with Dennis Meixner, David Silver with Tad Bogdan, and Wil Growney with George Bacigalupi. **Headline: Jon Bologna got Hole-in-One on #17.** Too bad the bar was still closed, and he was in the last group. The rest rooms were open, showing some improvement since October 2024. The next tournament is scheduled for February with not much hope for progress on the repairs. Detail results will be email'ed.

*The next Poplar Creek tournament is Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup>. The 2026 schedule for Poplar Creek is: Tuesdays 2/17, 4/28, 6/16, 8/18, 10/20, and 12/15.*



**Local SIR Tours. Bill Gipe, 650-892-5857** First Saturday, we try to visit Molloy's for the SF Banjo Band's program. Please look for a local tour clipboard at the Badge Table and make a local tour suggestion. How about a return visit to Hiller Aviation Museum, the Pacific Pinball Museum or an Oracle Park update tour before the Giants new season?

Molloy's isn't the only hot spot for entertainment. Spin by 31<sup>st</sup>. Ave and El Camino in San Mateo (Hillsdale Center), Saturdays from 1 to 3 and listen to a group of strumming singers, sharing 60's folk and more on their guitars, banjos, cellos and ukuleles. The player in the red sweater strumming a Ukulele is none other than Lynn Williams who you will remember as late SIR Bud Sandkulla's partner. Great energy and good voices!



**Bocce. Charley Leach 415-333-7277, Roger Kelly 650-346-966.** 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!

*By David Nigel.*

Bocce Ball Co-Chairman, Charley Leach and Roger Kelly do a great job organizing our weekly competitions and attracting new members. Bocce is a timeless game that combines strategy, skill, and a touch of friendly(?) competition. Originating in Italy, it is beloved worldwide.

Whether playing on a sunny afternoon in your backyard or engaging in a competitive match, bocce ball offers endless fun for players of all ages. Learning to play is straightforward, and once you grasp the basics, you can enjoy hours of engaging play.

Charley and Roger will teach new members everything they need to know, including rules, scoring, and strategies to elevate your game. BTW, Giuseppe Garibaldi the liberator of Italy in the 1860s was a Bocce player.

Play begins at 1:00 p.m. Groups are selected representing the green and red teams. Each game is played and the winning team must accumulate twelve points for a victory. Play and the competition are usually close and exciting. All interested in joining our weekly games are welcome.



**Community Service. Tad Bogdan 650-863-8866.** Please contact Tad with your ideas and to request information. David Nigel and Paulie Walsh have been promoting an effort to collect “pull-tabs” to donate for Ronald McDonald House to use to raise funds to support families of cancer victims. Our BEC will be meeting with Tad to discuss other service opportunities. Please send Tad your suggestions.

## **“An Exceptional SIR”**

Dr. David Barnett was born in Richland, Washington in 1933 (fun fact, SIR Bill McGee, Dave’s son-in-law, was born in the same small town in Southeastern Washington) and was raised on a small farm in Richland, the youngest of five siblings. In 1951, Dave entered Washington State University to study veterinary medicine and was awarded his D.V.M. degree in 1957. From there he worked up and down the Bay Area and Central Coast on both large and small animals (the largest being primates at the San Francisco Zoo), before opening the Colma Animal Hospital in 1965.

During his nearly forty-year stint at the Colma Animal Hospital, he was active in the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), serving as president of both the Peninsula and the California Veterinary Medical Associations. He represented California in the AVMA House of Delegates for five years, and for six years was a member of the AVMA Executive Board, culminating in election as president of the 56,000-member National Conference in 1994.

In 1995, Dave received the Washington State University Alumni Achievement Award, recognized "for preeminence in the field of veterinary medical research and dedicated leadership in the AVMA." He was presented the award that year when he returned to WSU to speak at the College of Veterinary Medicine Richard B. Wescott Symposium. Dave sold his practice in 2004 and retired shortly thereafter.

In 1959, Dave married the love of his life, Joan Thomas. They first settled in South San Francisco where they had their three children - Pamela, Denise and Tom. In 1966 the Barnett’s moved to Burlingame, where Dave has lived ever since. Outside of his practice, Dave was an avid tennis player, skier, hunter, and pilot. For many years he piloted family and friends in his Beechcraft Bonanza A36, including numerous trips to the Borrego-Anza desert where they maintained a vacation getaway. Dave is fairly new to Branch 4 but almost immediately jumped into action, with our group volunteering at the SF Food Bank. David truly enjoys our monthly luncheon meetings at the Basque Cultural Center.

***See you in the New Year. Lunch is Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at the BCCC***