



A non-profit club for retired men devoted to the promotion of
independence and dignity of retirement

Luther Burbank Branch 17

Santa Rosa, CA



THE REDWOOD BARK NEWSLETTER

For **FEB. 21, 2019** Meeting

NEW LOCATION: meeting at **LEGENDS** in the Bennett Valley Golf Course, 3328 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa, CA

For **Excused Absences**, **Guests Lunches** or **Alternate Lunch Selection**, please, you must call or email **before** 10:00 am on the **Monday preceding** the meeting for an excused absence, **otherwise you will be charged for a meal.**

Contact: **John French**, sonomaink@yahoo.com 707-280-4120 or **Marv Schouweiler**, mschouweiler@att.net 707-484-3070

Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting: 10:00 am

Social Hour: 11:00 am

Lunch: 12:00 noon

Speaker: Tales of a Cat Officer, Charley Taylor

Adjourn by: 1:30 pm

Please place your badge into the collection buckets when leaving through the side door to the parking lot.

Lunch Menu

Caesar salad

Beef Stroganoff

Rolls and butter

Beverages; Regular or decaf coffee, iced tea or water. Sodas are free but must be picked up at the bar.

Carrot cake

Big Sir Mark Burchill's Message

SIRMarkB@sonic.net 707-542-2529

Late last year, SIR Branch 17 made some changes to activities we had been doing for many years. Change is never easy, and changing things that people have emotional ties to can be even more difficult. Yet change occurs, whether we like it or not.

I want to give you some insight into the process of implementing a key change we made last year, changing the religious invocation to a more secular reflection.

Our SIR branch welcomes men of all races, religions, income levels and political parties. That diversity makes our meetings and activities more enjoyable and makes our Branch stronger. When inviting speakers, we do our best to ask them not to promote a political, religious or other position. Our speaker last November, Jack Tibbets, has some strong feelings about a few controversial topics in Santa Rosa politics. However, he agreed to steer clear of promoting those ideas, and gave us a very enjoyable, non-partisan presentation.

Our SIR Branch 17 leadership received multiple resignations in 2018 that specifically named the religious invocation as a reason for departing. State SIRinc also reinforced the basic principles of SIR, including "No espousal of any political, religious, sectarian or fraternal philosophy."

Led by Big Sir Bob Reuther, the Board Executive Committee had a lively discussion about how best to resolve this issue. Rather than completely eliminate the thoughtful comments at the beginning of the meeting, the BEC opted to shift the commentary from a religious invocation to a more secular positive reflection for the day.

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Little Sir George Traverso's Message

geosan@sbcglobal.net 707-528-6987

As I enter into the month of February, I seem to become more of a romantic.

Let's admit it: when we look into our morning mirrors, we see ourselves as we are...wrinkles, puffy eyes, etc. We don't notice any of the acne or pimples from earlier years. However, in most of us there resides a feeling that returns us to our youth with all the memories of an old teenager...dating, sock hop dances, etc., etc. I think that this emotion is important for our overall well-being and positive outlook. What I am trying to say is that although we have our "aches and pains," that little spark is fundamental to our person. With this conclusion, let's talk a little bit about how that big February romantic day got its name.

I love stories and legends; especially historical accounts that are not only interesting but challenge my imagination.

One story... Valentine was a Christian priest in the third century AD who objected to the Roman emperor's policy of worshipping pagan idols. In 269 AD, as the story goes, while he was in jail awaiting execution, Valentine prayed for the jailer's sick daughter who miraculously recovered. Before his death, the priest sent the young girl an endearment note for her return to health.

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**SIR Luther Burbank Branch 17 is in Area 10 of Region 3.
The following is a list of your 2019 Officers and Directors.**

OFFICERS:

Co-Big Sirs: Dennis Mangan
Mark Burchill

Little Sir: George Traverso

Secretary: Jim Gurke

Asset. Sectr'y: Kurt Wehrmeister . .

Treasurer: Glenn Seime

Asset. Treasurer:

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geosan@sbcglobal.net

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Chris Nolan

Paul Willihnganz

BARK Newsletter EDITOR:

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Dennis Mangan

Mark Burchill

Jim Fenstermaker

Membership/Attendance:

John French sonomaink@yahoo.com . . . 707-280-4120

Marv Schouweiler . mschouweiler@att.net 707-484-3070

AREA 10 GOVERNOR

Robert Reuther

REGION 3 DIRECTOR

Dennis Pangburn

Big Sir Message

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It was desired that the reflection would be thoughtful and positive, and not necessarily religious in tone.

This was perceived by most in the Board Executive Committee as a workable compromise, attempting to please most members. Big Sir Bob had planned to sit down with Herb Percy and discuss the proposed changes. However, when Herb learned of the planned shift in tone, he immediately withdrew his Chaplain's Corner column in the BARK and resigned from the club. Our club leadership had no part in the decision to eliminate the Chaplain's Corner.

With Herb's unfortunate departure, the plan now is to ask a different member to offer a positive reflection each month. If you would be interested in offering the monthly reflection, please reach out to your Co-Big Sirs, Dennis Mangan, or Mark Burchill.

Little Sir Message

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Valentine is believed to have been executed on February 14, 270 AD. Some 230 years later, as the socio-political climate changed in the last days of the Roman Empire, the Pope established Feb., 14th as St. Valentine's Day.

Another story... Valentine was a bishop who lived in Rome. As the Roman Empire was at its peak, Emperor Claudius II believed that marriage made soldiers weak and banned marriage altogether. This edict on marriage was a great shock. Noticing the injustice of this decree, Valentine held secret marriage ceremonies. Soon the authorities discovered the Bishop's actions and quickly imprisoned him. While awaiting his sentence, a jailer's blind child was brought to the imprisoned Bishop. The child was miraculously cured and soon Valentine was summoned before the court to agree with the Emperor's ban on marriage. Valentine refused. Just before his execution, he asked for a pen and paper and wrote an endearment note to the little girl: "From Your Valentine." This phrase lives on to this day.

So here we are: stories of historical figures are always fascinating to me. I take this opportunity to highlight a famous person who over the many years has made the month of February truly romantic.

**JANUARY****Membership Relations:**

John French, Chairman

sonomaink@yahoo.com

707-280-4120

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

At our January 17th lunch we had 57 members attend along with two guests and our speaker from Cal Fire, Captain Sean Perry.

Our guests were John Grant sponsored by #10 Jerry Peterson and Larry Helmke sponsored by #62 Ted Scapeccia. Both handed in their applications which will be reviewed at the February 21st BEC meeting. Way to go Jerry and Ted, when their guests become members they get a free lunch for their efforts, so bring a potential member and get YOUR free lunch!

Starting in 2019, per SIRinc rules, we will no longer carry an inactive list. The board has decided after trying to contact all on that list, to drop them from the membership roster, but they will be more than welcomed back when/if things get better for them. Also, more of our fire victims have resigned. SIR Branch 17 total membership is now 84.

INACTIVE DROPS & RESIGNED LIST:

#32 Frank Moreda --resigned

#54 Oscar Barragan

#78 Ralph Lassa – resigned

#81 Don Arrabit

#110 Hugh Sargent

#124 Bob Bailey

#135 Bill Buhrman -- resigned

#138 Joel Butler

#164 Rich Scudero -- resigned

#180 Lloyd Douglas

Program for February 21, 2019

Tales of a Cat Officer, Charley Taylor

Charley will share his experiences launching and recovering a few thousand Navy aircraft, some weighing over 72,000 pounds on the catapult. He and his roommate Rob (an A-4 Attack pilot who also flew combat missions) set goals of finishing their two year shipboard tours never putting an airplane in the drink. There were many colorful moments. Relying on fellow Attack pilots, an A-6 Bombardier/ Navigator an Attack pilot Air Boss, an extraordinary Limited Duty Officer and 70 ABEs (Aviation Boatswain's Mates -Equipment) was one of Charley's most rewarding tours. Charley will also answer any nagging questions you may have about how do they do all of that stuff?

Zumwalt ERA CAT Officer *



ACTIVITIES:

Bocce:

(Article by Mark Burchill)

We will be on hiatus until spring. We are still working to settle on a schedule. We plan to try some different bocce courts in Sonoma County later this coming spring.



Anyone interested in getting on the mailing list should contact Mark Burchill, at: 707-542-2529 or SIRMarkB@sonic.net

Bowling:

(Article by Mike Heinzelman)

If you have an interest in joining the SIR bowling league, or just want to see how Mike is progressing, come-on-down to Double Decker Lanes in Rohnert Park any **Monday at 10:00 am.** Ask for the SIR bowling group. (Remember, it's not a weekly commitment--just come when you can.) Whether you are a good bowler or a beginner, you are welcome.



For more information call Mike Heinzelman at 579-6615 or email to: mdheinz2@gmail.com.

Boys' Night Out: (Article/ by Mark & Dennis)

Boys' Night Out returned to Tippi Thai after four years, and found the food just as delicious as before. Tippi Thai is a family-owned restaurant that specializes in authentic Thai food done their unique way. Thirteen Sirs attended and all had a good time, as you can see by the photo. Conversations were, as usual, wide ranging. At one end of the table, we heard discussions about art, geography, a Burmese Restaurant in San Francisco, our own Global Forum and perhaps the most interesting, a discussion of the ratio of bacteria to skin cells on the average human body. Yum! At the other end of the table we had civilized discussions of travel on cruises and trains, survival in sea water and red-light districts in Thailand. Never a dull night with the boys.



Starting with February, **Don Malvestiti** will be taking over the leadership of Boys' Night Out and he has chosen another favorite to return to--the **Washoe House**, 2840 Roblar Rd. at Stony Point Rd.



The date is **Wednesday, February 13th**. Arrive by 6:00 pm for dinner. Come earlier for cocktails if desired. Since most of you have been here before you do not want to miss out on this "special place." You probably know the menu, but if not and you have any questions call 707-795-4544. They do not have their own website as yet.

Reservations are a must!

Contact Don at malvestitidon485@gmail.com or call him at 707-539-0677, leave a message if he does not answer, by **Sunday, February 11th**.

Bridge:

Bridge is an important activity with many of our members not only within our own branch but with participation of members from other branches in our area. Bridge activities are coordinated by chairman Al Black, call 707-578-3210 or email to rosaridge@comcast.net.



We welcome new and interested members who are thinking of joining the pool of players.

Bridge days scheduled this month for play at Legends Restaurant in Bennett Valley starting at **10:00 am** on **Tuesday, Feb. 12th and 26th**.

Couples' Night Out

The largest attendance yet was **40** happy but hungry people assembled to enjoy the great food at Basilico Cucina Italiana restaurant. We had the use of the downstairs banquet room which really helps and makes for a more fun evening. Everyone was having such a good time we didn't realize that after 8:30 pm it just might be time to head home.

The word is out that Branch 17 has **GREAT** Couples' Night Out events, thanks to Fred Rose, as there were Sir members from an Oakmont Branch and from Branch 76, so it must be good!

(see photos on page 7)

On **Thursday, February 28th** come to **La Gare French Restaurant**, 208 Wilson Street, S/R. Cocktails at 5:00 pm, Order dinner at 5:30 pm

As Santa Rosa's most romantic restaurant, where thousands of couples over the years have celebrated engagements, weddings and anniversaries. Traditional French Cuisine in a quaint elegant and relaxed atmosphere while using only fresh local ingredients.



For more information call 528-4355 or to view their menu and other items, check out their web site at www.lagarerestaurant.com

Reservations are a must!

Contact Fred Rose: fredicrose@comcast.net or call 707-548-5797 to make your reservations by

Friday, February 22th or sooner if possible.

Hope to see all lot of SIR members and guests at the Couples' Night Out dining experience!

GLOBAL FORUM: *(Article by Marvin Mai)*

The Global Forum will be back to their regular meetings on **Friday, February 8th at 10:00 am**. A lively discussion about global events and forecasts for 2019 would include:

+Syria what happens after U.S. withdrawal?

+U.S. approved sale of Patriot Missiles to Turkey, how will Russia react?

+U.S. Navy Worried about China's expanding naval capabilities, now loading anti-ship missiles on subs, what other actions are possible?



All Sir members are invited to join this monthly confab at: **4743 Woodview Drive**,

(South on Summerfield Rd to the end, turn left up the hill about 1/3 mile, the house is on the left.)

PARK IN THE DRIVEWAY OR IN THE BAY ACROSS THE STREET, AS THERE IS NO PARKING ON THE STREET.

Should you have any questions, please email Marvin at maimarvin57@gmail.com

or call him at 707-545-2224.

Note the new start time at **10:00 am**

Recap of January 17, 2019 Program:

We had the honor to listen to Cal Fire Captain Sean Jerry at the January 17th luncheon. As a Cal Fire representative, he gave a very complete and interesting account of his experiences during that terrifying October night in 2017. Captain Sean gave us statistics of those many other fires that affected our community.



He also served more recently in the devastating Camp Fire which destroyed the city of Paradise in Butte County. The questions and answers following his talk were very informative and were well received by our members. I again thank Cal Fire's Sean Jerry for his time and effort in enlightening our Sir membership. *(Article/ by George Traverso)*

Golf:

The new year is here and with it comes the rain. Wet conditions tend to keep us off the course and finds us sitting home by the fireplace. Fun golf can still be found in the winter but we just have to look a little harder for it. During these really wet weeks when BV goes underwater we'll head off to dryer fairways. Keep an eye out for last minute venue changes, and we'll keep you playing golf.

When it rains it pours.



Come join us for a fun day of golf.

The place to be is the Bennett Valley Golf Course - The time to be there is Monday mornings starting at 8:30.

Hope to see you all out there.

Until next time, Good Golfing.

Roy Thuestad

707-975-4406

roymond@comcast.net

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Mark Your Calendar

Annual Branch 17/176 Picnic

Thursday, June 20, 2019

New Location:

Outdoor Event Area at Windsor Golf Course

New Caterer:

Charlie's at Windsor Golf Course

Social hour 11:00am-Food Service at Noon

BBQ Chicken, Veggie Pasta, Chili Beans,
Corn on the Cob, Salad, Bread & Butter,
Dessert

Wine, beer and soft drinks

All silverware, dishes, glasses and
tablecloths provided

50/50 Raffle plus more

Additional details will be coming soon!
Come join the fun, good food and drinks.

Ticket Sales begin in April

Questions?

Then contact Ted Scapeccia:
707 529 0063 or tescape4@gmail.com

The Poem of the month!

I'm Not Just February

by Annette Wynne

I'm not just February
With winds that blow
All day, and piled-up snow;
I'm Washington and Lincoln, too,
Who kept our country's flag for you!
I'm Valentine of airy grace—
With golden hearts and hearts of lace
And pretty cards that people send,
Quite as a secret, to a friend.
Though I am short of days and small,
I'm quite a big month, after all!

List of the February Birthdays

Jim Fenstermaker Jim MacMillan Robert Tuttle

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

POKER FEST:

(Article by Steve Edelstein)

We are adding a **second** game, on Thursday, February 28th. We have three players who are willing to play twice a month. We would be willing to help you learn how to play. It's fun and good way to meet your fellow Sir members.



The new dates are **Thursdays, February 7th and 28th**, from **12:30 pm to 4:00 pm**, at **Legends** in the Bennett Valley Golf Course.

Contact **Steve Edelstein** by email at:

1thatisland@gmail.com or call 707-206-8084.

Please leave a message, I **will** return your call.

Travel Golf has ended for the season and resumes in **March 2019**.

Between now and then, think of courses that you'd like to see included in our line-up and let us know. If you have any feedback as to how the Travel Golf experience can be improved, all ears are open. We look forward to March when we resume our traveling adventures.

(article by Roy Thuestad)

Wine & Beer Appreciation: (Article by Gary Bondi)

Mark your calendar for Friday, February 8th.

At 11:00 am, we will visit the **Hook & Ladder** winery and vineyards on Olivet Road where we will enjoy a private tasting and a tour of the winery. Two of their Pinot Noirs just won Best of Class at the recently completed San Francisco Chronicle



Wine Competition where there were 6,800 wine entries from throughout North America. Following the tasting we will meet for lunch at **Charlie's Grill** at the Windsor golf course, just a few minutes down the road from the winery. This is a co-ed outing so please feel free to bring your spouse, significant other, friend, guest or a potential new member. A great way to introduce them to Sir activities and social gatherings. If you plan on attending please email me at gbondi@sonic.net or call my cell phone, **217-5858**. We would appreciate your response not later than **Monday Feb. 4th**. I will need a head count for the winery and restaurant. Hope to see many of you there for an enjoyable day of fine wine, good food and great company. Thanks, Gary Bondi.

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NOTICE

2019 Membership DUES were due in January.

Our annual dues for 2019 have been set at **only \$20.00, DOWN** from \$40.00 in 2018!

This was made possible by our move to Legends where we pay **no** rent **versus** the \$3,600 per year we paid at the Scottish Rite Center. That savings will be partially offset by no longer making a profit on lunch (\$1,200/year), and no bar profit (\$200/year), putting our net **savings** at \$2,200 per year, average.

Dues bills will **NOT** be mailed this year! Instead, make your check **payable to SIR Branch 17**, and mail it to: Glenn Seime, 2970 Tuxedo Place, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-8566, or if you prefer to save the price of a stamp, then bring your check with you and pay Glenn at the February 21st lunch meeting.

Calendar of SIR Events for **FEB. 2019**

Details and contact information is available on the SIR 17 website: <http://www.sir17.org/calendar-of-events.html>

Any Monday **Golf** at BVGC

Any Monday **Bowling**, Double Decker Lanes, R/P, 10 am

Feb. -7 Poker Fest, Legends, BVGC, 12:30 pm

Feb. 8 Global Forum, Marvin Mai's place, 10:00 am

Feb. 8 Wine, Beer & Spirits, Hook & Ladder Winery, 11am

Feb. 12 Bridge Club, Legends, BVGC, 10:00 am

Feb. 13 BNO, Washoe House, 5:30 pm

Feb. 21 SIR BEC Meeting, Legends, BVGC, 10:00 am

Feb. 21 SIR Meeting/Luncheon, Legends, BVGC, 11:00 am

Feb. 26 Bridge Club, Legends, BVGC, 10:00 am

Feb. 28 Poker Fest, Legends, BVGC, 12:30 pm

Feb. 28 CNO, La Gare restaurant, 5:00 pm

Joke of the day



I was in the six item express lane at the check-out quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the person ahead of me had slipped into the check-out line pushing a cart piled high with groceries.

Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the person to come forward, looked into the cart and asked, "so which six items would you like to buy today?"

A special Thank You to members Gordon Boulton and others for helping me by spotting all my errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling and any other boo-boos I have made before the final edition goes to press and you see it.

Jim, the Editor

Pictures of Couples' Night Out at Basilico Cucina Italiana restaurant on 1-24-19



Photos by Dennis Mangan



"Away in a meadow all covered with snow
The little old groundhog looks for his shadow
The clouds in the sky determine our fate
If winter will leave us all early or late."

Don Halley



By now have you checked out the **NEW** SIR Branch 17 website?

Try it out at www.sir17.org, you will be amazed.

There is still some work to finish, but is useable, thanks to a lot of hard work by
Dennis Mangan, Mark Burchill & Jim Fenstermaker.

	2017	Location	City	Attn'd
11-Jan-17	Burma House 2	Brickyard Center	Santa Rosa	6
8-Feb-17	Washoe House	Stony Point Road	Cotati	11
8-Mar-17	Bibi's Burger Joint	Third Street	Santa Rosa	11
12-Apr-17	Gary Chu's (closed)	Fifth Street	Santa Rosa	8
10-May-17	Franchetti's Grill	Dutton Avenue	Santa Rosa	11
7-Jun-17	Yeti	Farmers Lane	Santa Rosa	3
12-Jul-17	Haka Sushi	7th Street	Santa Rosa	5
9-Aug-17	Charlie's Grill	Shiloh Road	Windsor	9
6-Sep-17	Hopmonk Tavern	Petaluma Avenue	Sebastopol	16
11-Oct-17	canceled due to fire			0
8-Nov-17	Bruno's	Fourth Street	Santa Rosa	15
	2018			
10-Jan-18	Hansel's Bistro	Guerneville Hwy + Willowside	Santa Rosa	13
7-Feb-18	Riviera	Montgomery Drive	Santa Rosa	12
7-Mar-18	Gravenstein Grill	Top of the Hill	Sebastopol	10
11-Apr-18	EpiCenter	Piner Road	Santa Rosa	15
9-May-18	BJ's Brewhouse	Coddington	Santa Rosa	16
6-Jun-18	Charlie's Grill	Shiloh Road	Windsor	11
11-Jul-18	Hopmonk Tavern	Petaluma Avenue	Sebastopol	8
8-Aug-18	Central Market	Petaluma Blvd	Petaluma	9
12-Sep-18	Bear Republic (fdb Latitudes)	Golf Course Drive	Rohnert Park	14
10-Oct-18	Sazon Peruvian Cuisine	1129 Sebastopol Road	Santa Rosa	5
7-Nov-18	Chevy's	Railroad Square	Santa Rosa	13

This is a list of Boys' Night Out places that we have gone to in the last two years, along with the number of attendees at each location. Another list of past years will be posted in the March issue of the Bark.



NON-RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for, or by, or sponsored by, SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guest who desire to participate. SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

SIR Branch 76 COUPLES BRIDGE

(Article by Bob Bennett)

The Couples Bridge group is a year long commitment that ends in late June. Unfortunately we have two couples that had to drop out this year due to health concerns. This is an opportunity for one or two new couples to fill in for the rest of the season. It can be any pair, a sir and a partner or two sirs as a pair. This is open to a pair in any Santa Rosa area branch. We would like to see some new participants in this fun social activity.

This is a home and home bridge event to be scheduled at the convenience of the participants.

If you would like to participate in Branch 76 Couples Bridge group, call or email Bob Bennett, 433-4574 or bennett9@aol.com.

Rule changes by SIRinc State Board.

At the State Board meeting on October 30, 2018, the following Rules passed with immediate effect.

Changes in the rules about retirement:

Rule 2 (q) now reads: "Retired" means the status of a man who has ceased full-time employment, is working only part time, is contemplating leaving full-time employment in the near future, or has reached the point in his career when he has discretionary time to engage in social networks, meetings, events and luncheons. (New 6/21/18)

Rule 50 has also been rewritten and approved. It now reads: Membership shall be open to any man retired from full time gainful occupation or only working part-time regardless of age, race, color or religion that will participate in SIR activities and events, can reasonably attend luncheon meetings, and will also be willing to volunteer and bring guests for the purpose of perpetuating the organization. (Revised 1/11/93) (Revised 11/8/11) (Revised 7/7/18)

Dual Membership:

Rule 80: Membership in more than one Branch at the same time is **now** permissible. The member is required to pay dues to both Branches.

Inactive Members:

Rules 90-94: The "Inactive Member" status has been deleted as it has been established that they were never a "guest" and therefore NOT an "insured" person covered by our General Liability insurance. A "guest" is a "potential member" and covered as "insureds" at authorized SIR activities.