



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

www.greenwichrma.org

This Bulletin is brought to you each week by these volunteers
Scribes: **Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Dan Fredland, Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Marshall Toppo.** On leave: **Steve Elliott,** Archivist: **Harold Frost.** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz.** Print/Dist: **Chet Risio**

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Scribe: FRANK SCARPA

“Prejudice is a great time saver. You can form opinions without having to get the facts.” E.B. White

President TAD LARRABEE called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

BOB BISHOP led the Pledge of Allegiance. With GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE at the piano, DON CONWAY led the singing of “The National Anthem”, a “ragged and funny” rendition of “Side By Side”, followed by “On the Sunny Side of the Street”.

TOM HEALY graced us with two jokes. The first (handed down by the late Peter Ryan) involved a race track visit by grade schoolers and a chance meeting with a jockey. The second story, appropriate to today’s speaker, highlighted the possible tragic consequences of having Auto-correct on our computers.

WAYNE WRIGHT reported that JOE MANCINELLI has returned safely from a hospitalization in Greece and was present today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Guest Jennifer Febles spoke on behalf of Kids in Crisis. This organization—which provides crisis prevention, intervention, support and advocacy—is hosting a fund-raising triathlon and Family Festival on June 23-24 at Cummings Beach in Stamford. She made a plea for volunteers for that event. (200 are needed.) KIC is privately funded, and monetary contributions are appreciated.

Visit: www.kicitriathlon.com/volunteer or call 203 622 6556.

2. ARNOLD GORDON apprised the membership of the “90 Plus Study”. Volunteers over 90 years of age are being sought for a study evaluating

life styles (diet, alcohol and coffee consumption, body weight etc.) and correlations with longevity. Contact 949 768 3635 or visit study90@uci.edu for more information.

3. WAYNE DE VRIES has posted the proposed budget on the bulletin board. Comments are welcome.
4. PETER STERN reported that TAG is seeking volunteers to drive seniors and disabled Greenwich residents to medical appointments or other necessities. Shifts are 4 hours in duration, Monday through Friday. Office help with computers is also sorely needed. Those interested may call 203 637 4345.
5. PETER UHRY announced the "last call" for RMA caps or polo shirts.
6. RETURNEES: TAD LARRABEE noted that WAYNE DE VRIES has returned from Maine, MARSHALL TOPPO from Ft. Lauderdale, PETER STERN from Martha's Vineyard, TOM HEALY from Las Vegas and BOB CAREY from London and Portugal.
7. SPECIAL EVENTS: ABBEY SMOLER previewed upcoming events (details below). MIKE FERRARESE reported that he and ABBEY would welcome volunteers to assist them and, ultimately, assume their roles in organizing these events.

COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE noted that 99+ members were in attendance, plus 2 guests: Geoffrey Burge, g/o TONY COCCHI and Bob Fishman, g/o MIKE WARNER. The birthday boys were ERF PORTER 82, PETER COLEMAN 73 and ROB BLOOM 67. HORST noted that 36 men have not yet paid their dues, urging compliance.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: TONY COCCHI reported 298 outside hours submitted by 38 men and 147 inside hours by 20 men. TAD LARRABEE topped the scales with 36 hours.

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FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: PETER STERN reported on 9 players on 5/30. "HIMSELF" was the blushing winner with 3,300. JOHN HOFFMAN was 2nd with 2,950 and RON FRIEDMAN came in third with 2,780.

GOLF: PETER UHRY reported on 26 optimistic players. Heavy rain curtailed play, and few players finished 9 holes. Closest to the pin prizes were not awarded on account of "blurred pencil markings". PETER attributed conditions to Divine Intervention and "offered up" the longest drive prize to the Deity. PETER STERN will host on June 12.

SUMMER TENNIS was rained out on Monday.

PICKLEBALL garnered 7 players. TONY COCCHI, in charge, welcomed new players on Tuesdays from 9-11 at Loughlin Field in Cos Cob.

HEARTS: There were two tables, 5 games, 8 players and 4 winners. (JACK SWEGER won twice.) There were 5 "moon shooters", and Jack was one of them also. Special recognition should go to the two players who continue to show up without any measurable success.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks to be made out to RMA, and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be cancelled. Contact MIKE FERRARESE (myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0235).

Belmont Race Track: June 14. Cost \$85pp, buffet lunch in the Belmont Room. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 10:30 a.m. Status Wait listed. Note: JACKET AND TIE REQUIRED.

Sound Water Cruise: August 30, 2-4 p.m. Snacks served aboard. Cost \$35 Self-drive. Status: open.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Jerry Shereshevsky of Redding has had a long career in advertising, direct media and public relations; and he has spent 22 years at Young and Rubicam as well as extensive time at Yahoo. He points out that "today we are all publishers". However, he still relies on the New York Times as his "source of information". He now illustrates the power of networks. "There are more websites than people." He details the rise and success of Facebook, Amazon, Google and E-bay. These are not "fads". Social media has become "a way to keep up". The logarithmic growth of networks was (and is) inevitable. The prevention of the dissemination of "fake news" is a conundrum.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Dr. Jill Gildea, Superintendent of Greenwich Public Schools. "Top 12 Innovative Practices at Greenwich Public Schools."

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MEMBER PROFILE OF PETER SCHIEFERDECKER

This is the 25th in a series of Member Profiles intended to allow members to get to know one another beyond a face and a name tag.



Peter racing his J 34 C Strider

(GEORGE) PETER SCHIEFERDECKER was born in Bloemendaal, The Netherlands, in 1925. He has had to spell his name ever since he learned to talk. His father was an executive with Royal Dutch Shell and worked all over the world. As a small child Peter lived in Venezuela for a year and when he was five he lived in Patagonia. Back in Holland he lived in Voorburg, a suburb of The Hague and went to the Montessori school. This was not a great success because Peter found out that the Montessori system allowed children to do what they wanted so he spent his days watering the plants and tending the aquarium, learning nothing.

He went to high school in The Hague, a 45-minute bicycle ride away. On May 10, 1940 he was awakened at 4:00 AM by the sound of Dutch anti-aircraft guns firing at German planes dropping paratroopers and landing on a nearby small airport. The Hague was under attack. This was the beginning of a five-year occupation which started with little trouble from the German side but got nastier and tougher as the war did not turn out the way the Germans had planned, and the Dutch resistance grew.

In the beginning Dutch authorities mistakenly collaborated hoping for some semblance of control. Over the years the persecution of Dutch Jews became intensive. Young men were forced to work in Germany and many resisted by hiding. "I saw Jews beaten up in the streets and trainloads of them transported to holding camps and eventually to the death camps. Two classmates of mine were shot while trying to escape".



At school, age 11

In 1943 the SS police came to fetch me for work in Germany, but I was not home. The underground had warned me. The final two years of the war I often had to hide. The winter of '44 - '45 was the worst part. It was the coldest winter ever, there was no heat, no gas and no electricity and practically no food. There were several sweeps to pick up young men. The arrival of Canadian troops in May '45 was a great relief. The war years left an indelible impression in my mind.

After the war Peter went to the University of Leiden to study law, earning a Candidate in Law (comparable to a BA). In 1948 he was called up to serve in the Dutch army and a year later shipped out to Indonesia. As a corporal in the infantry Peter saw some action there. The country had been under Dutch control for about 400 years and now wanted independence. At first the Dutch did not quite understand that idea and felt they knew better how to run it than the locals. During the Japanese occupation all Dutch civilians were put in concentration camps. The Dutch government, still reeling from the war, sent troops to Indonesia to reestablish order and repatriate the civilian prisoners.



On patrol, Indonesia'

Back home in 1950, Peter joined a small investment firm in Amsterdam. In 1951 he married his sweetheart, Jeannette Fresine Nini van Kleffens (Netty). In 1958 his family, now with two sons, emigrated to the United States with the help of the First Boston Corporation. They moved to Riverside CT. He soon discovered the FBC people did not know what to do with him, so he joined Brown Brothers, Harriman where he became an analyst of foreign securities. Not much came of this as BBH portfolio managers were reluctant to invest in foreign stocks.

President Kennedy's Interest Equalization tax, aimed to reduce the outflow of dollars into foreign securities, put an end to Peter's efforts and he became a portfolio manager. In those years another son and a daughter were born. In 1969 Peter and Netty and their two oldest sons, born in Europe, became US

citizens. He joined Scudder, Stevens and Clark and three years later went to F. Eberstadt & Co where he became head of its then miniscule investment advisory department. Over the years the department grew rapidly, and Peter was made a stockholder of the firm. He specialized in managing common stock portfolios for the pension funds of major corporations. Marsh & McLennan Co bought the Eberstadt mutual fund and investment advisory business and Peter became President of its independent advisory unit called Eberstadt Asset Management (EAM). At its peak it had about four billion dollars in pension funds and non-profit portfolios under management.

In 1984 Marsh decided to sell EAM to Alliance Capital. Peter and his entire staff were fired, and most clients left. Peter worked with two other small firms until retiring in 1988.

All his life Peter has loved to sail. As an active member of the Riverside Yacht Club for fifty years he served as its Treasurer and on the Board of Governors. He and Netty have sailed to Maine, Nova Scotia, Chesapeake Bay and the Caribbean. They have also traveled through the US and to all the continents. He has owned thirteen boats in his lifetime.

“Over the past centuries reams of paper have been spent on the romance of sailing, on the thrill of controlling a boat that is moved by the power of wind, not by an engine.



Sailing the Caribbean

“When the sails are properly trimmed the boat glides silently through the water, and earthly worries are left behind. There is no competition with other boats and the time of arrival at a safe anchorage is not a matter of concern.

There were many moments in my sixty odd years as a sailor when my boat was well-balanced and moved smoothly, the wind blew steady and from the right angle, and everything seemed at peace with the world. Moments that make you say to your crew: “this is what it’s all about.”

Cruising has given me many more hours of peace and quiet than I could find elsewhere in my busy life. Still, like in racing, there have been moments of panic, chaos and pandemonium on my cruises, mainly caused by equipment failure, engine problems or my own errors in navigation or seamanship. It is peculiar but true that whenever I sit around with old cruising friends and talk about our sailing days, we discuss moments of distress much more often and with more relish than the good times we have all experienced during many years of cruising.”

Peter likes to write, doing the Riverside Yacht Club’s newsletter and also wrote a memoir for his two grandchildren. Peter and Netty have been married more than sixty-six years. They have three sons and a daughter. George is an architect and Adriaan retired as a Managing Director at Bank of America, Richard is Communications Director and a daughter, Janet, a Human Resources consultant.

Peter volunteered for many years as Treasurer of Greenwich Audubon and later as President of the Nathaniel Witherell Auxiliary. He has traveled to all continents and is fluent in Dutch and English with a working knowledge of German and French.

He joined the RMA about twenty years ago and was Corresponding Secretary, clowning along for about two years until he ran out of jokes. He served for twelve years as editor of The Cigar Box Bulletin. He got a diploma to prove it with his name (you guessed it) misspelled.