



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

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www.greenwichrma.org

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On a tombstone in Washington, DC:

“They gave me a medal for killing a man and a dishonorable discharge for loving one.”

A Gay Veteran

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN called all to assemble at 9:59am with a *“macht schnell.”* STEVE MARINO led the Pledge. GRAN BURGESS conducted the songfest with *God Bless America, Hey, Look Me Over* and *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*. BOB MORGAN deftly accompanied at the ivories.

BARRY RICHELSON handled the projectionist duties.

Corresponding Secretary (a title that begs for a change) BOB CAREY told of a beautiful blonde golfer who outscored the men in the foursome but also offered to show them a good time. JERRY also mentioned a great article about the Melody Men in the Greenwich Times.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. MIKE AMBROSINO thanked the members for the outstanding response to his request for clothing for Covenant House.
2. ARNOLD GORDON told of the passing of two members, ERNEST BANKER, 95 passed away Oct. 13. ARNOLD is seeking an RMA member who knew ERNEST well enough to deliver a memorial at a future meeting. LEONARD SAARI, a member since May 2003, passed away a week ago. BOB LUCE, a close friend, will deliver a memorial at the next meeting.
3. RUSS HARDEN brought us up to date on the annual banquet to be held at Tamarack Country Club on Wed. November 13 at 10:30am. No meeting that day.
4. MIKE RYAN teed up for the golf lunch next Wednesday, Oct. 30, at the Field Club on Lake Ave. The cost is \$47.00, and attendees are requested to bring items for the raffle. The time is immediately following the meeting. Jackets are required, ties are optional
5. Returnees; WAYNE from Maine (DEVRIES, that is). GARY MILLER from six months in New Hampshire.
6. Kate Petrov of the Greenwich Library reminded us of a talk in the RMA meeting room next Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 7:00pm by attorney Floyd Abrams on the First Amendment. Mr. Abrams has been notable in his defense of the media to maintain confidential sources.
7. Human Interest: CHET RISIO introduced JIM SANTORA on a timely subject, the World Series. JIM regaled us with stories of the intense rivalry between fans of the New York Yankees and the Brooklyn Dodgers. Unable to win the Series, mock funerals were held for the Dodgers. Mourning fans paraded a casket through the streets of Brooklyn with effigies of players and coaches accompanied by a ragtag band playing somber music. The Dodgers did win in 1955 but then they moved to Los Angeles and the bitter rivalry ended.
8. Today's Speaker: CHARLES ADAMS urged all to stay for the talk by Captain Jesse Paluch on Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation South Africa: On the Front Lines of the Poaching Crisis.
9. Next week's speaker: BOB ROBINS informed all that Randall Atcheson, Minister of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church, will perform on both the organ and piano next week, accompanied with commentary.

COMMITTEES

Visiting: MICHAEL AMBROSINO reported that BOB BISHOP and TOM McGUIRE had cataract surgery and are recovering nicely.

Membership: HORST TEBBE gave the attendance as 99 members and 3 guests for a total of 102. Tim Brooks g/o AV RIVEL and RUSS HARDEN, Tom Higgins g/o BOB STRONG and Bill Featherstone g/o PETER UHRY. The birthday boys were JOEL BLUMBERG, 79, KEITH ROE, 74, DON HELLER, 90, ART WERNICKE, 77, JOHN KNIGHT, 79, RON FRIEDMAN, 85 and BILLY LONDON, 74.

HORST also mentioned that RALPH MASTOLONI has been ill and not attended meetings, but we are pleased to have him here in attendance today. RALPH was recognized with a round of applause.

Volunteer Hours: GERRY MAYFIELD gave the hours for the week ending Oct. 23, 2019, 390 outside hours by 37 members and 190 inside hours by 29 members. Top RMA volunteer was BOB CAREY with 45 hours.

PETER STERN, Interim Volunteer Chairman, made a plea for members to report their volunteer hours, asked for members to sit at the Volunteer desk and for some member to step up and assume Chairmanship of the Volunteer Committee. Please contact PETER at pmstern@optonline.net

GAMES OF THE RMA

Golf: JOHN CRAINE advised us that yesterday, a cool and misty Oct. 22, there were ten players. Due to the foul weather only two completed 18 holes. JIM DEAN shot a 92 and MICHAEL AMBROSINO carded a 98. Smart money says this was probably the only time in RMA golf history where all finishers of 18 holes shot under 100. JOHN CRAINE was closest to the pin on 7, as measured by JIM SANTORA. MICHAEL AMBROSINO was closest to the pin on 15.

We had no winners on the 17th longest drive challenge due to the out of bounds drives. The RMA golf season will wrap up next week Tues. Oct. 29 with start times commencing 10:00am.

Hearts: ANDY HOLMES gave the results for Oct. 16. Seven games were completed by 12 players at three tables. Winners: LOU TROVATO, 2, CHARLIE GRAVES, JIM DEAN, ANDY HOLMES, JACK SWEGER, and DON CONWAY with one game each. Moon Shooters: LOU TROVATO, 2, JIM DEAN, 2, GRANT PERKINS, ANDY HOLMES, JACK SWEGER, and JOHN STANKUNAS with one each. Next week's captain is GEORGE DIPPY.

Tennis; Captain GERRY GIBIAN reported for Oct. 18. In the final round on Court 1 the winners were GERRY GIBIAN and GEOFF BURGE while on Court 2 the winners were TOM WEST and PETER STREICH. Next week's captain will be ANDY HOLMES.

Bridge: TONY COCCHI gave the scores for Oct. 16, which was a 5 player rotation system. 1st place TONY COCCHI with 2990, 2ND place was ED MASTOLONI 2470, 3RD place was RON FRIEDMAN 1720. One slam bid was made by TONY and ED.

Pickleball report by TONY COCCHI: Thurs Oct. 17 there were 4 players in windy environment. Mon Oct. 21 rained out-courts were flooded. There are three more RMA Pickleball sessions planned tomorrow Oct. 24, Monday Oct. 20, and Thursday Oct. 31. After that, if a good day is forecasted, TONY will poll the players.

Tai Chi: WILL MORRISON cited a Harvard Medical report recommending tai chi.

SPECIAL EVENTS

DON CONWAY said the RMA is planning a trip in January to see 5 Guys Named Moe at the Westchester Dinner Theater, details to follow.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

CHARLES ADAMS introduced **Captain Jesse Paluch** of the NY State Environmental Conservation Police. His talk, *On the Front Lines of the Poaching Crisis*, related his efforts in wildlife crime scene investigation training in South Africa. The slaughtering in Africa of elephants for their tusks and rhinos for their horns has had a devastating effect. In 1900 there were 10 million elephants. There are an estimated 350,000 remaining. The last male black rhino died this year. Only two females remain. The demand for ivory in the Far East for its supposed aphrodisiac quality drives this illegal trade.

Captain Paluch, who heads a team of 40 Conservation officers, said the illegal wildlife trade worldwide is a \$77 billion industry, second only to human trafficking. A pair of seven-foot elephant tusks has a street value of \$200,000. Attempts to stem the slaughter by cutting off the tusks is useless. One third of an elephant's tusks is buried in its skull. So, poachers cut off the entire skull. Photos of this brutality were shown.

Rhino horns are not ivory but keratin, like fingernails. Yet the demand is strong for their supposed curative power, tusks and horns are also carved into art objects. Captain Paluch has led raids on illegal traders, confiscating their ivory and destroying it. He also conducts training sessions in Africa with local officers in hopes of stemming the illegal slaughter at its source.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Randall Atcheson, Minister of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church, will perform on both the organ and piano, accompanied with commentary.

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