

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.
37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: BOB SHULLMAN

"I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do." - Leonardo DaVinci

President **JOE MANCINELLI** opened the meeting with a warm welcome and then **MIKE AMBROSINO** came to the podium for the Pledge of Allegiance. As there was no song leader or piano player available for this meeting, **JOE** then played a video of The Melody Men singing at Citi Field in 2014. In lieu of the songs that the members usually sing, **JOE** then played a very entertaining video tribute to music from the 1950s that can be viewed here.

[Video Tribute Music from Fifties](#)

The mentor for this meeting was **DON ROTZIEN**. The scribe for the day was **BOB SHULLMAN** while the projectionists were **TONY COCCHI** and **LEN CARUSI**. **JOE** then made the following announcements:

- The First Presbyterian Church is not available for an in-person meeting on August 31 due to the carpets being cleaned that day. As such that meeting will be broadcast on Zoom.
- We are into a new fiscal year and a number of members still need to pay **JEFF JUNKER** their annual dues of \$100. Please do so in the very near future.

- **JOE** then reviewed some recommended actions all of us should consider doing to minimize the spread of Covid.
- The first RMA Beauty Contest will be held in the near future. All members who would like to be a contestant should send **JOE** photos that focus on them in shorts from the waist down with their zippers up. When a sufficient number of entrants are received, **JOE** will announce the date at which the winner will be selected.
- The Belmont trip has been cancelled as the track is now closed due to construction.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** then came to the podium and was sorry to report that two members passed away last week. **ALAN PINKERTON “COOKIE” GIBB**, a member since February 2018, died on July 27 just shy of his 80th birthday. As usual, we need someone who knew him to deliver an RMA eulogy. Please contact **ARNOLD** at: ajgordo@verizon.net or 203-340-9336. **ALAN**'s obituary can be found here:

[Obituary For Alan Pinkerton](#)

You have probably seen the special message we sent a few days ago about the passing of **DONALD HELLER** at the age of 92. **DON** joined the RMA in February 2012. A funeral service was held at Temple Sholom on Sunday, July 31st. Five RMA members attended. His close friend, **KLAUS JANDER**, will deliver an RMA eulogy for **DON** on August 10th. An amusing anecdote by one of his sons during his comments at the service is worth retelling. When **DON** was chairman of the Greenwich Planning and Zoning Commission, he oversaw the approval of the Apple Store on Greenwich Avenue, but insisted that they lower the planned light intensity of the outdoor sign. He was told by the Apple appellants that they never waiver from that particular brightness, the same as all their stores around the world. **DON** persisted, so the problem was brought all the way to Steve Jobs, who relented. At the next hearing the appellants reported the news and told **DON** that the decision came directly from Steve Jobs. Don replied: Who?

In view of the continued spread of the Omicron BA.5 covid-19 variant, even among a few of our own members, here is a useful article on how to deal with the infection:

[When you have Covid, here's how you know you are no longer contagious](#)

Registered Democrats and Republicans have a civic duty to perform on Tuesday, August 9th, by voting in the primary elections for local and statewide candidates. For details, see:

[Information Regarding Primary Elections](#)

Time for some puns:

“What’s the difference between a hippo and a zippo? One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter.”

“The guy who invented the doorknocker got a no-bell prize.”

And some things to ponder:

“Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?”

“Is it true that cannibals do not eat clowns because they taste funny?”

Then it was time for the real jokester of the day, **PAUL CAMPION**, back to the fold from his recent hip surgery. **PAUL** came to the microphone and instead of sharing some humorous jokes right way he told a human-interest story about what had occurred during his visit to a beach on the Atlantic Ocean side of Cape Cod. He first saw some seals, then, amazingly, two giant, white sharks appeared off the shore. A helicopter that had been tracking the sharks up and down the Cape Cod coastline showed up and warned everyone to get out of the water. Eventually the sharks departed. **PAUL** then told the following short shark jokes:

- What type of Shark likes to gamble? Card Shark
- Where do sharks go on vacation? FIN LAND
- What do you call a shark that likes to be by himself? LOAN shark
- What do they order at McDonald’s? Quarter FLOUNDER with cheese
- Where do they go for recreation and happy hour? THE SAND BAR

PETER STERN then came to the podium with the following membership-related news:

- 81 individuals in total were at today’s meeting in person (78 members and three guests), in addition to eight attendees on Zoom.
- There were six birthdays this week as follows: **SAL DEANGELO** was 99, **BOB MEANEY** was 75, **JOHN HOFFMAN** was 93, **ANDERS EKERNAS** was 77, **TOM MORONEY** was 83 and **TOM DOODY** was 78.

- Andrew Lobelson was the guest of **HORST TEBBE** and **BOB STARK**, Harry Fisher was the guest of **DAVID MICHONSKI** and **JOHN TONER** and Dennis Olmstead was the guest of **SAM MARASSO**.
- The local Zoom attendee was **ED FARRELL**.
- **PETER** then noted there was one returnee this week, **STEVE BOIES** from Salzburg, Austria.

PETER BERG then came to the podium to preview today's speaker, First Selectman of Greenwich Fred Camillo, who will discuss the multiple challenges facing the Town of Greenwich and the progress his administration has made in addressing them. Fred was elected first selectman in 2019. He previously served in the Connecticut House of Representatives for the 151st district from 2009 to 2019. He is a lifelong resident who graduated from Greenwich High School and was a summa cum laude graduate of Manhattanville College. As an experienced businessman, he was a founding member and former director of Greenwich Recycling. His community service includes being a member of the Representative Town Meeting and serving on many local Greenwich boards.

Next up to the podium was **HORST TEBBE**, who introduced next week's speaker, his son, Nelson Tebbe, whose presentation is entitled "Originalism on the Supreme Court." Originalism is now the favored mode of constitutional interpretation on the Roberts Court. But what is originalism exactly? What are the main arguments for and against the method? What is the competing approach, sometimes called living constitutionalism, and how often is it used in practice, and by whom? Nelson Tebbe, Professor of Law at Cornell Law School, will examine these questions using examples from the Supreme Court including recent decisions on gun rights, reproductive freedom, and the free exercise of religion.

Professor Tebbe teaches courses on constitutional law at Cornell Law School. He works on freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and general constitutional law. He is the author of *Religious Freedom in an Egalitarian Age* (Harvard University Press, 2017). Tebbe holds a B.A. degree from Brown University, a J.D. from Yale Law School and a Ph.D. with distinction from the University of Chicago Divinity School. Before teaching, he clerked for Hon. John M. Walker of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, worked for the American Civil Liberties Union, and was an associate at Davis, Polk and Wardwell. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. His most recent articles have appeared in the *Harvard Law Review*, the *Columbia Law Review*, the *Michigan Law*

Review, and he has published in popular outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Atlantic*.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOHN CRAINE came to the podium to review the upcoming annual RMA Raft Up that will occur at noon next Thursday, August 11, assuming of course the weather cooperates. We currently have four boats and based on the number of people who wish to participate we need some more boats. Please contact **JOHN** if you wish to join the event with your boat.

DON ROTZIEN announced that the next ROMEO lunch will take place on Thursday, August 18th behind the main concession stand at Greenwich Point. The time is 1:00 pm. Bring your own lunch and meet with old friends and possibly make some new ones. Beach cards are required but we will also make arrangements to allow RMA/ROMEO members into the park. **DON** ended his announcement with "I look forward to seeing you there."

FUN AND GAMES

Pickleball: **PAT MACCARTHY** reminded members that pickleball is sweeping the nation and the RMA following friendly articles in *Sports Illustrated*, the *New Yorker* and *Parade Magazine*. RMA pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 10 am until 12 pm on Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you would like to be put on the email list confirming play or have a free pickleball lesson, contact **PAT** at Pmaccarthy415@gmail.com.

Golf: **PETER TUNLEY** announced that we had 15 members who played golf on a very hot day. The competition winners were Hole 7, **BOB SHULLMAN**, Hole 15, **BOB SHULLMAN**, long drive, **JOE MANCINELLI**. There were six scores below 100: **JOE MANCINELLI** (97), **TONY COCCHI** (95), **TONY FITZPATRICK** (92), **GRAN BURGESS** (91), **RUSS HARDEN** (89), **PETER TUNLEY** (88). **TONY FITZPATRICK** will be the captain next week.

Bridge: **JOHN FEBLES** announced that bridge is played after the meeting at the Greenwich Library at 12:30, downstairs in the cafeteria.

Tennis: **JOHN KNIGHT** announced that five members played tennis last week and tennis will be played this Friday at Binney Park from 8 to 10.

Hearts: DON CONWAY reported the results from the eight members who played at two tables. At Table 1, three games were completed with **PETER BERG, DON CONWAY** and **JACK SWEGER** each winning one game while **PETER BERG** shot the moon two times. At Table 2, three games were also completed with **MIKE AMBROSINO** winning two of them with **BOB SHULLMAN** also winning a game and shooting the moon once.

Walkers and Talkers: TAD LARRABEE reported that last Thursday at 9 am, ten met at the clambake area at Greenwich Point and enjoyed a very nice walk with a slight breeze and no clear threats of thunder storms. He checked out the tide-controlled drainage pipe at the south end of Eagle Pond and was very surprised to see a three-foot-plus shark on the hunt! Maybe that's why the egret population is down and we rarely see fish in that pond.

For those of you who wonder if you should walk with us, we walk at a relaxed pace. One participant's phone app claimed that we averaged 2.3 MPH and covered three miles--all while enjoying conversations, of course. What it didn't say was that, this time, it was reasonably level terrain – very minor hills – which is not always the case.



Tad's Walkers & Talkers at Greenwich Point

Tai Chi: WILL MORRISON reminded everyone that once a week he leads some members in Tai Chi in Old Greenwich. If any other members are interested in participating, please contact him for more details. Finally, he reminded everyone about the RMA Annual Picnic

that will be held on September 14 for which volunteers are needed. Please contact him if you are able to assist.

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

JOE MANCINELLI then returned to the podium and introduced **PETER UHRY** who shared with the membership his review of a book, *The Life and Times of Horatio Hornblower, A Biography of C.S. Forester's Famous Naval Hero* by C. Northcote Parkinson, published in 1970. He started his review by showing a film clip that **PETER** said "...says it all... adventure, romance, sailing ships doing battle in the Napoleonic Wars....all brought to life in this classic 1951 movie." But wait.....**PETER** then said that movie was based on a series of books written by C.S. Forester in the 1930s, while the book he was reviewing was written in 1970, demonstrating the continuing interest in this character.

In the early 1800s, much of Europe was mired in the Napoleonic Wars. England, France, Spain and the Turks were duking it out on land and sea. Navies were especially important to the war, with heavy wooden ships, some armed with up to 70-90 guns and manned by 500 men, engaged in frequent sea battles. Many of these events are documented in paintings and later in both fiction and non-fiction books. Books proved a great way to memorialize these times in Europe. For example, the army exploits of Sir Arthur Wellesley, 1st duke of Wellington, in the Peninsula Wars, were described in over a dozen fictional books featuring Lt. Richard Sharpe, written by English author Bernard Cornwell.

Perhaps some members have read naval stories from this period. Patrick O'Brian's naval stories set in about 1810, featuring Captain Jack Aubrey and his trusted companion, Stephen Maturin, make for engrossing reading. The film *Master and Commander*, starring Russell Crowe, was based on the first book in the Jack Aubrey series. If you haven't yet done so, see this film as it is an engaging adventure story and marvelously filmed. Better yet, get hooked on the book series.

Perhaps more famous than the O'Brian series was the Horatio Hornblower book series. C.S. Forester allowed us to experience the life and times of an English naval officer who rose through the ranks. Hornblower is rather like the well-known Lord Nelson in that he became famous for his daring and intelligence while at sea. Interestingly, Forester, in his 12 novels about Hornblower, never puts his character in a battle where Nelson was also present. The 12 Hornblower books let readers experience this period of history and (from

an armchair at home) live the life of the seaman and officers on numerous English warships in the early 1800s.

Several months ago, **PETER** was scouring the shelves at the Recycling Center's Book Swap (Greenwich's best free library) when he stumbled across Mr. Parkinson's book on Hornblower. What a great read. Parkinson filled in so many details about Hornblower, his rise through the ranks, his marriages and his special naval exploits. The author really enriched the reader's understanding of this wonderful character in Forester's books. Among other things **PETER** learned was that Hornblower was a man of action on the deck of a ship but a less extraordinary person on land. Details of his exploits serving the English Navy are clearly presented and readers learn of his two marriages and his subsequent ties to the duke of Wellington. **PETER** finished the Parkinson book, gave it to his wife, who also enjoyed it, and they both told interested people that this biography really helped clear up so many loose ends about Hornblower and enriched their understanding of the times. They said he was a real person, and the book proved it.

Now for **PETER's** confession. He said he was wrong. C.S. Forester's character, Horatio Hornblower was *not* a real person. Forester made up Hornblower, borrowing stories from various historically accurate English naval exploits. He particularly likened his character to a noted Scottish Admiral, Andrew Gordon. **PETER** was crest fallen, embarrassed and had been totally duped. **PETER** stated his wife stopped talking to him for a full day. Okay....so now what? Well, the fact that Parkinson's fictional biography did such a good job of fooling **PETER's** wife and himself, and yet communicated so many factual insights into the "life and times" of this period of English history, convinced him to tell you all about it. A novel it is. Hornblower never existed. **PETER** then stated he must live with it.

PETER went on to state that Forester was also a prolific author of many non-fiction works, other novels and two plays. He penned *The African Queen* in 1935 and *The Good Shepherd* in 1955, the latter recently made into a movie entitled *Greyhound*. It describes the harrowing experiences of convoys in the North Atlantic during WWII. *Greyhound* was released in 2020 and starred Tom Hanks. **PETER** stated in his opinion the movie is well worth seeing and available on your computer.

JOE then returned to the podium and adjourned the meeting for the coffee break, while asking that if any other members have a human interest story they believe would be of interest to the membership to let him know.

TODAY'S SPEAKER



After the coffee break, **PETER BERG** came to the front of the room and introduced Fred Camillo, the First Selectman of Greenwich, to whom he had previously sent a list of 20 questions suggested by the membership. He said he planned to ask Fred, time permitting, to respond regarding the following topics: Traffic & Parking, Parks & Recreation, Housing, The Capital Plan, The Environment, Partisan Politics and Nathaniel Witherell.

Following are brief summaries of some of Fred's responses (recounting his detailed responses to all the questions asked would take many pages, but they can be viewed on the video of the talk on the RMA website).

- **TRAFFIC & PARKING ISSUES:** A problem. Back in 1969, there were about 14,000 cars registered in Greenwich. Today, about 50 years later, with roughly the same population, there are about 70,000 cars in town plus many cars registered out of state. We are working on many safety-related initiatives, including sidewalks, crosswalks, bump-outs, smart traffic lights, and bike paths and bike sharing.
- **PARKS & RECREATION:** Regarding the question of adding more dog parks for Greenwich residents to use, we are currently working with the City of Stamford's mayor to add a dog park to its Rosa Hartman Park, which is located on our border with Stamford, to also be open to our residents. Additionally, we are looking at a few locations in Western Greenwich to add a dog park in that area. Regarding the question about adding more pickleball courts, we are currently considering creating more pickleball courts by providing portable nets that can be used by pickleball players at our current tennis court locations.

- **HOUSING:** Regarding adding more affordable housing in Greenwich, it's hard to do. We are looking to do so by having Greenwich Communities (the former Greenwich Housing Authority) finance "scattered sites," affordable housing integrated into the community rather than concentrated in large multi-unit structures. Additionally, we are looking to enhance our currently Town-owned housing by upgrading their amenities and landscaping.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN GREENWICH](#)

- **CAPITAL PLAN:** Regarding the questions about the Town's long-range plans, we currently have a "vision" in place that looks out 15 years. We have discovered that when we try to plan expenditures for 15 years too much changes, and that is now leading us to concentrate more on a five-year capital plan.
- **ENVIRONMENT:** Regarding the use of leaf-blowers, we are looking for some compromising on the part of those who want to be able to use them, those who complain about the noise they make, and those who want to ban them altogether. The RTM I am told will be addressing this topic and is considering allowing them for small-size properties during the spring and the fall, but not during the summer.
- **PARTISAN POLITICS:** "It's gotten toxic" and social media in my opinion is adding to the challenge.

Numerous other questions were addressed.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW FRED'S ENTIRE PRESENTATION](#)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on August 10, will be →**FRANK SCARPA**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to frankjscarpa@gmail.com.

ALL MEMBERS: The CBB team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members' enjoyment. We can truly use new members to join the Scribe Tribe. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at tbroo@aol.com if you can support this effort.

ALL MEMBERS: Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours to **JOHN FEBLES** at jfebles13@gmail.com.

ALL MEMBERS are reminded that in addition to streaming on the Internet, RMA speakers are normally shown on the local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA. Visit our website at <https://greenwichrma.org>

RMA 2022 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	8:45 am	QiGong and Tai Chi Workout	Will Morrison – wdmorrison@gmail.com
Mondays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Tuesdays	Various tee times	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Mike Ryan – ryantomac@netscape.net
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00 am	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	John Dean - Jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe – onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi at lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Hearts	Bob Shullman – bob.shullman@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:30 pm	Bridge	Andre Mazurek - Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net
Thursdays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com

Friday	11:00	Outdoor Tennis, Bruce Park	John Knight - johnknight7@gmail.com
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis (resumes in fall)	Andy Holmes - Andyholmes56@gmail.com

*Day & time of some events may vary; check with contact