Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement Branch #51

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch51

No. 523
A Non-Profit Organization
For Retired Men



February 2020 Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement

LUNCHEON: 12 PM - FIRST WEDNESDAY - FREMONT HILLS CC, 12889 VISCAINO PL., LOS ALTOS, CA

Reminder: Next SIR Luncheon is on Wed, the 5th of February 2020

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For February 2020 luncheon, the speaker will be Lt. Col., Warren Cook. He has some very interesting ideas regarding the Marine corps' future as well as he has some reasonable thoughts regarding China. It would be well worthwhile for our entire membership to come to this upcoming luncheon.

Topic:

Marine Corps' Future

Topic Description:

Thoughts and a perspective on the Marine Corps' challenge for the future with regard to effectiveness to confront current and future adversaries.

Speaker Biography:

Lieutenant Colonel Warren C. Cook Jr., representing the US Marine Corps, is a National Security Affairs Fellow for the academic year 2019–20 at the Hoover Institution.

Cook served in a variety of command and support roles throughout his 20-year career as an infantry Marine. As lieutenant, he deployed to the Pacific as an 81mm Mortar Platoon commander in the 1st Marine Division. He served as the aide to the commanding general of the First Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Naval Task Force 58 in operations against the Taliban in southern Afghanistan. As a captain, he continued his service as aide to the commander of the First Marine Division during the initial attack and subsequent stability operations in Iraq. He then returned to Iraq as a rifle company commander. As a major, he led an adviser team in the Al Anbar Province, then commanded Marine recruiters throughout Los Angeles, Kern, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. He concluded his tenure as a major with Pentagon duty, where he served as junior aide to the commandant of the Marine Corps.

As a lieutenant colonel, Cook served as a desk officer in the Strategic Planning and Policy Directorate, United States Indo-Pacific Command. He then commanded 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, an infantry battalion in the First Marine Division.

He earned an undergraduate degree in history from Williams College and an MA in national security studies from the College of Naval Command and Staff.

Lieutenant Colonel Cook's research at Hoover will focus on how the Marine Corps can optimize lethality through technology.

Future speakers for the coming months:

March 4 - Ray Swartz - "Traveling by Bicycle"

April 1 – Adina Ardelleen - "Trade and Tariffs"

<u>May 6</u> – Jon Haveman, PhD - "Economics of Climate Change"

FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SPEAKERS

PLEASE CONTACT: Walt McCullough

mystkbrkr@comcast.net (650)-303-8194



General Interest

If you have not noticed, SIR Branch 51 has a new website address. Check it out.

www.sirinc2.org/branch51

Please note for those who arrive to the SIR luncheon after 12:00 PM, the payment table will be closed for the lunch and speaker presentation. In order to pay for your meal, please find Kevin Wheaton, Assistant Treasurer, to ensure you have been counted and have paid for your lunch.

February volunteers that will help register members and collect their payments for the lunch at the reception table are:

John Preston, Jeff Gardiner, Al Runge

If there are any questions regarding your receiving duties, please contact Kingsley Wood, kingsleykwood@gmail.com (650) 799-8420

And...

For the up-coming 2020 year, the yearly \$25 SIR Branch 51 dues are due by March 31, 2020. Don't wait and forget, get it paid early and be done with it. Fortunately, all golfers have paid their golf organization membership dues for 2020. Send your SIR dues by check or pay in-person (exact cash only) to:

Kingsley Wood, Treasurer 1009 Forest Court Palo Alto, CA 94301 (650) 799-8420 kingsleykwood@gmail.com

For the golfing enthusiasts who envy a golfer that gets a hole-in-one, our own SIR member, Greg Schaem did just that one lucky day. Here is a write up by former Big SIR, Steve Tremulis, who presented the golf award to Greg at our last luncheon.

Hole-In-One: October 14, 2020 will go down in the history for Greg Schaem as it was the day he finally got his first hole-in-one! At the SIR State Championships, held at Hiddenbrooke Golf Course in Vallejo, Greg teed up his 7 iron at the 133-yard, par-3 and that would be the only shot he would need to card an eagle hole-in-one, his first ever! To celebrate the occasion, the SIR organization awarded him a "Feather-in-the-Cap" pin that he can proudly wear as good luck for each of his next golf games in hope for number 2. Congratulations to Greg for such a momentous occasion! No word yet on what the bar tab looked like!

For more detailed information regarding the SIR organization award, please read the *Golf Feather-in-the-Cap* attachment in .docx or .pdf file form.

Also, ...

Save the date for fellow SIR member, Ron Rosenfeld's staged reading of an one-act play titled, *Blessed Thorn: The Excommunication of Baruch Spinoza*, plus an accompanying lecture. This will be held on Tuesday, the 18th of February, 2020 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM at the Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, in the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center at

3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Please see the poster attachment (.pdf) to this newsletter.

Plus...

If you enjoyed our yearly BBQs and Holiday Luncheons, we need one good man to step up to volunteer to be our Special Events Coordinator for 2020. Here's your chance to contribute to our Branch and keep the tradition alive. Please contact Big SIR, Jim Cummings, if you can help us with these events. Our SIR's group will be thankful.

Jim Cummings,

Home: (650) 328-2168 Cell: (650) 207-3609 jimcumm@msn.com

In addition, ...

Our Area 13 Regional Governor, Foster Kinney, will visit us to present a certificate to Steve Tremulis for his service as 2019 Branch 51 Big SIR.

Speaking of former Big SIR, Steve Tremulis, there are photo files attached to the newsletter which show Steve, his daughter, and wife in a ballet school's presentation of Nutcracker/Grinch. The following is Steve's explanation of the show. He is not the Grinch! See the files: *Steve Tremulis Nutcracker 2019.* (either in .docx or .pdf file format)

Christmas Ballet: As promised (or threatened) here are a few pics of ex-Big SIR Steve Tremulis in a beautiful pas-de-deux with his daughter, Allie, in her ballet school's Christmas production of the Nutcracker/Grinch. Steve played Santa while Allie played the Snow Queen for which they had rehearsed for several months. Steve's wife, Sandra, also took to the stage as Clara's mother, making this performance a true family affair. Luckily, no mishaps occurred so all three are still on good terms with one another! It's a great lesson to keep trying new things out of your "comfort zone" and join in on some of the many other activities that SIR offers to its members. You never know, you might just find a new skill that had been hiding all these years!

FYI for 2020...

For a listing of the 2020 SIR Branch 51 approved board officers and committee chairmen, please check the list at the end of this newsletter.

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Craig's Current Contributions

...Former Big SIR, important guy, big shot. Wishing I had hair like Dave Mason, Ron Rosenfeld's brains, Sam Meredith's collection of sport coats, Kingsley's assortment of Hawaiian shirts, Gerry Shebar's gambling skills, Jimmy Garoppolo's looks – and bank account...

At The Movies

1917 - a classic & "must see".

Little Women - actually, go with your wife. You'll hate it but she will think you are a sensitive and thoughtful husband.

Just Mercy - disturbing & uncomfortable but very well acted.

Bombshell - if you hate Fox News & Roger Ailes, you will love it. Lots of A List stars.

JoJo Rabbit - interesting concept.

Like A Boss - do not see if you have suicidal tendencies.

Good Reads For Guys

The Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw. (courtesy Joe Grippo)

Successful Aging by Daniel Levitin. Debunks the idea that aging inevitably brings infirmity & unhappiness and instead offers a trove of practical evidence-based guidance for living better & longer. You're Not Listening: What You're Missing and Why It Matters by Kate Murphy. A self-help guide to all married men...if you know what I mean.

Thoughts To Ponder

(courtesy Tom Cooper & Walt McCullough)

"It's better to walk alone than with the crowd going in the wrong direction"

"Be who you needed when you were younger"

"When you forgive you heal. When you let go you grow"

"If you have a gun you can rob a bank. If you have a bank you can rob everyone"

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now"

"Stop trying to make everybody happy...you're not tequila"

"In 1658 the Virginia legislature passed a law outlawing lawyers. Has anyone checked to see if it is still on the books?"

"Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him"

"Be the kind of person your pet thinks you are"

"The pharmacist asked me my birthdate again today. I'm pretty sure she is going to get me something"

"Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back"

"I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize".

See you at our next luncheon on February 5th! Better yet...bring a friend.

Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig Carpenter



ACTIVITIES



GOLF Two Month Schedule:

| FEB. | <u>KUAK</u> | <u>Y</u> | | MARC | <u>H</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 04 TUE Spring Valley | 10:00 | 03 | <mark>TUE</mark> | Poplar Creek | 10:00 |
| 12 Wed Sunnyvale | 10:00 | 11 | Wed | Spring Valley | 10:00 |
| 19 Wed San Jose Muny | 10:00 | 18 | Wed | Shoreline | 10:00 |
| 26 Wed Los Lagos | 10:00 | 25 | Wed | San Jose Muny | 10:00 |
| _ | | 31 | TUE | Crustal Springs | s 10:00 |

PLEASE BE AT THE COURSE AT LEAST <u>ONE HOUR</u> BEFORE THE FIRST TEE TIME.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER Leader Board

| GROSS | | <u>NET</u> | |
|------------------|------|----------------|----|
| 1-Ned Miller | 83 1 | l-Kai Johansen | 64 |
| 2-Steve Tremulis | 85 | Mike McMahon | 64 |
| 3-Mike McMahon | 88 3 | -Art Lewis | 65 |
| 3-Ray Klinke | 88 4 | -Tony Hanley | 66 |
| 5-Jim Stanford | 89 5 | 5-Jim Stanford | 67 |
| 6-Jim Cummings | 90 | Rob Harrell | 67 |
| 7-Ron Rosenfeld | 93 | Kevin Wheaton | 67 |
| Kai Johansen | 93 | Ned Miller | 67 |

All of the golf courses we play require a player count 7-14 days prior to play date.

Please call or e-mail **JIM CUMMINGS** (650) 328-2168, <u>jimcumm@msn.com</u>, if your play or no-play commitment changes. Golf course coordinator:

KAI JOHANSEN

(650) 853-2493 kai.johansen@sbcglobal.net



COMPUSIR is a self-help Computer discussion group. Meets monthly at the PALO ALTO ELKS LODGE 4249 EL CAMINO

REAL, PALO ALTO. For entry, use the announce button on the pedestal to the left of the Front door. **COMPUSIR** is now part of SPAUG (the <u>S</u>tanford – <u>Palo Alto Users Group</u>). SPAUG Meetings are still held the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at 7:00 pm. at PA Elks Lodge (address above). The meeting is upstairs (elevator available past the stairway). More information at www.spaug.net.

MACINTOSH USERS

Contact Skip Ross to join this e-mail group where SIR members in all branches can exchange MAC-related news, get answers to questions and share experiences.

SKIP ROSS (541) 857-6224 waross@closereach.com



INDOOR BOWLING: (BRANCHES 5,

35 & 51) We bowl on a handicap system,

so all have an equal chance. Each season teams are revised and always have a mix of players by ability.

Tuesdays at Homestead Lanes: Homestead and

Stelling in Sunnyvale from 1-3 PM. Be there by 12.45 PM. New bowlers are always welcome at any level of experience. If you're new, it's easier if you call me in advance so we will be prepared. Spouses, women friends, are welcome—there are now 10 co-ed teams.

YOU CAN JOIN ANYTIME

A ball & shoes are available at the bowling lanes. Looking for some exercise that does not rely on good weather? Indoor 10-pin bowling is a fun low impact activity. Most SIR bowlers are surprised at how fast bowling skills come back to them after a long lay-off. Many have not bowled since they were youngsters. For more information, contact:

TIM EASTHAM (650) 366-2449

wteastham@comcast.net



LAWN BOWLING: Tuesday,

Thursday, and Saturday at 9:30 AM at Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club, 474 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Players need to be 15 minutes early to be entered into the draw for teams. Free coaching is available for new players. Contact:

DON HUGHES (650) 323-9916



<u>TENNIS</u>: Our tennis group meets Mondays and Thursdays at Rinconada Park in Palo Alto. Please be there by 8:30 AM when doubles teams will be formed. Late arrivals will play as

sets are completed. We play an open spin-in doubles format. Play level is about 2.5. We welcome non-SIRS, so bring a friend.

BILL KAMIN (650) 322-4300 billkamin@att.net

CYCLING:

SIRS ON BIKES:



SIR Area #16 bike rides regularly start at 11:00 AM, the 2nd Thursday of the month. Wives and guests are welcome. Bring bike, helmet and a jacket if it is windy. Rain

cancels.

The SIR Branch 35 monthly bicycling is a combined activity with all SIR Branches in Area 16. The objectives of the monthly rides are to continue to promote fellowship, share experiences, get some exercise and above all, have FUN! Planned SIR rides are announced

in each SIR Monthly Newsletter and by email to all interested members. We ask that all participants exhibit a positive attitude, exercise good judgment when riding such as maintaining a safe distance between riders, obeying all traffic signs and stop lights, etc.

There are 10 standard SIR bike trails - all very scenic from South San Jose to South San Francisco and from Half Moon Bay to Fremont all between 15 to 20 miles round trip on paved, level bicycle trails. Some trails will have optional 4-5 mile extensions. The riding pace is moderate between 9 to 13 mph depending on oncoming headwinds. Riding on streets is kept to a minimum. Planned rides will have short restroom/water breaks and lunch is at a known restaurant at the halfway point of the ride.

Some of the SIR bicyclists have been experimenting with establishing rides on each Thursday of the month. These rides will be more unstructured with the objective of finding new, paved and safe biking trails to add to the standard 10 SIR ride list. Some of these new trails may be outside of the Immediate Bay Area. The riding pace is a little faster depending on the riders, bike trails are new to the riders so there may be some backtracking and are not always well marked/identified so it makes for a more adventurous ride.

If you plan to ride or have questions please contact Jim Lunt or Gordon Tong as per below.

JAMES LUNT (408) 252-6804, Cell: (408) 921-5085 jamesdlunt@yahoo.com

GORDON TONG (408) 242-0557 gordy6850@gmail.com

2nd Thursday, February 13th at 11:00 AM

Coyote Creek Trail (South San Jose)

Ride: We will ride the Coyote Creek Trail starting from the Wyndham Garden Hotel at 399 Silicon Valley Rd., San Jose. The ride will be about 6 miles to the Coyote Creek Golf Course. We will go past the golf course another 3 miles to a model airplane launching site, then double back to the golf course club house for lunch. After lunch we will ride back to the hotel parking lot for a total of 18 flat miles, round trip. For those who want a shorter ride, they may omit the ride to the airplane site, thus reducing the round trip to 6 miles.

<u>Directions:</u> The Wyndham Garden Hotel is located south of San Jose, one block east of highway 101 and just north of the highway 101/85 interchange. The directions are the same whether coming on highway 101 or 85: Take the Bernal Rd. exit. Turn left on Bernal Rd., which becomes Silicon Valley Blvd. after crossing under 101. Turn left on Rue Ferrari Rd., the service road next to the hotel, and park in the hotel parking lot behind the furthest hotel building on the right.

This is the new cycling events' master list for 2020. It may change as the year goes by, so the final word is in the month's newsletter and the reminder the weekend before the Thursday ride.

Cycling Schedule for 2020

January, Stevens Creek/Shoreline Park (M.V.) February, Coyote Creek (So. San Jose) March, Coyote Hills-AlamedaCreek (Fremont/Niles)

April, Foster City Bay Trail May, Brisbane Bayshore Trail June, Guadalupe Trail--(Alviso to San Jose) July, Sawyer Camp Trail/ San Andreas trail (new ride)

August, San Leandro-Alameda Ride September, Mt. View to Alviso October, Half Moon Bay November, Los Gatos Creek Trail December, no ride (members may call for a ride)

NON-RESPOSIBILITY 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 guests 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.

BRANCHES 5, 16, 35 & 51 TRAVEL NEWS



Numerous Trips are available through SIR statewide. Check the state publication, then click on Travel.

STATE SIR HAPPENINGS at www.sirinc.org

SIR BRANCH 51 NEWSLETTER

If you have any inputs, suggestions or feedback to add or improve the newsletter, please let me know.

Newsletter Editor:

Richard Jamison (650) 868-3723 rsjamison@aol.com

2020 SIR BRANCH #51 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

| Big SIR: Jim Cummings | 328-2168 | Indoor Bowling; Tim Eastham | 366-2449 |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Little SIR: Tim Eastham | 366-2449 | Lawn Bowling: Don Hughes | 323-9916 |
| Secretary: Gerry Shebar | 868-6124 | Cycling: Jim Lunt (Br. 35) | 408-252-6804 |
| Asst. Secretary: Richard Jamison | 868-3723 | Tennis: Bill Kamin | 322-4300 |
| Treasurer: Kingsley Wood | 799-8420 | Golf: Kai Johansen | 853-2493 |
| Asst. Treasurer: Kevin Wheaton | 485-2276 | Jim Cummings | 328-2168 |
| | | Travel: State SIR Travel: | www.sirinc.org |
| <u>DIRECTORS</u> | | Compusir: Stanford-PA Users Grou | p <u>www.spaug.net</u> |
| | | Macintosh Users: Skip Ross | 541-857-6224 |
| Director: Joe Grippo | 948-2130 | Historian: | |
| Director: Sam Meredith | 325-4152 | | |
| Director: Craig Carpenter | 325-4152 | | |

ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMEN

| Attendance: Kingsley Wood | 799-8420 | Luncheon Programs: Walt McCullough | 303-8194 |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Audit: Sam Meredith | 325-4152 | Membership: Tim Eastham | 366-2449 |
| Russ Porter | 234-1212 | Membership Assistant: Gerry Shebar | 868-6124 |
| Website: Gerry Shebar | 868-6124 | Greeter: Al Runge | 592-1345 |
| Art Lewis | 964-3223 | Special Events: | |
| Newsletter: Richard Jamison | 868-3723 | Nominating Committee: Jim Cummings | 328-2168 |
| Good Samaritan: Bob Guffey | 593-3496 | Steve Tremulis | 598-9790 |
| Member Orientation: Bob Guffey | 593-3496 | Craig Carpente | r325-4152 |

All telephone numbers are in the 650 area code, except where noted differently.

All changes in address, telephone number, and e-mail address needs to be reported to the SIR Branch 51, Membership Committee Chairman:

Tim Eastham, 2110 Ward Way, Woodside, CA 94062 (650) 366-2449 wteastham@comcast.net

"All the news that fits we print"

Anonymous