

Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement Branch #51

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch51

No. 534
A Non-Profit Organization
For Retired Men



January 2021
Devoted to the Promotion of
Independence and Dignity of Retirement

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

Please Note:

Next SIR General Membership Meeting for Wednesday, 6th of January 2021 will be via Zoom with the General Membership Meeting starting at 1:00 PM after our half hour **social meeting time** which starts at:

12:30 PM

(Start logging in at or before 12:30 PM)

The General Membership Meeting (all members) times for the beginning of the 2021 year are the following dates and times.

First Wednesday of the month:

Jan 6, 2021 12:30 PM
Feb 3, 2021 12:30 PM

For more information on our Zoom video conference meetings, check within this newsletter for details.

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Big SIR Notes:

From the computer of Jim Cummings

Fellow SIRS,

Hope all have had a good holiday season and that you and yours are well.

We have been battling the pandemic for 10 months and can see the light at the end of the tunnel getting brighter. Obviously, it is going to take time to get people vaccinated but most of us will be able to get the shot ahead of younger people.

It is going to be several months before we will be able to actually meet and have lunch together. Meanwhile, we will continue to have ZOOM meetings. Starting January 6th, we will start a "social half-hour" at 12:30 PM with a speaker at 1:00 PM. This week NICK CIARDELLA of CALFIRE will address us about the obvious fire problems locally and statewide.

We can use the early start to see our old friends and update each other about the virus and whatever else is on our minds.

Hope to see you all Jan 6th. Stay safe.

Jim
cell:650-207-3609
home:650-328-2168

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Monthly Presentation for Members

January 6th Speaker Topic:

Local CAL FIRE Community Protection

Topic Description:

The world of CAL FIRE and recent fire activities

Speaker Biography:

Nick Ciardella, Division Chief of CAL FIRE, Local 2881 SCU, will describe his background at our January 2021 Zoom meeting.

Courtesy of CAL FIRE and LinkedIn websites

Future speakers for the coming months:

February 3, 2021– To Be Determined

**FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING
SPEAKERS**

PLEASE CONTACT either:

Steve Tremulis
(650) 598-9790

or

Kevin Wheaton
(650) 485-2276

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General Interest

SIR 51 Board Meetings

Next virtual **Board meeting** will be held on the first Wednesday of **January, the 6th, at 11:00 AM.** Please start logging into the virtual meeting at 10:45 AM. For more details, please contact either Big SIR, Jim Cummings (cell:650/207-3609), or Secretary, Gerry Shebar (650/868-6124).

Selection of 2021 Board members is essentially complete. There are a couple of vacant positions not filled yet. See the list of 2021 officers and committee chairmen at the end of this newsletter. Big SIR will announce new Board members for approval by the General Membership via our Zoom meeting.

December’s board meeting had ~14 attendees.

Important Alert for All SIR 51 Members

Starting two months ago, this newsletter does not include individual e-mail addresses for all members who are referenced within it. Only a member’s telephone number will be listed. Recent experience by some members have **found phishing e-mails** sent to our members by a “fellow” member that actually is not a true SIR member who is asking for financial support via gift cards for the benefit of a fake charity. Please beware of this or other suspicious activities, whether it is by e-mail messages or by telephone calls.

SIR 51 General Membership Meeting

Many of you may have used ZOOM video conferencing application to communicate with family and friends. If you are not familiar with ZOOM app, not to worry, it is fairly easy to use. The State SIR group has provided training information at the link given below.

<https://sirinc.org/Zoom/LearningZoom.pdf>

An "invitation" will be sent for the January meeting for you to click a link to join the scheduled meeting. If necessary, you can get the app at [ZOOM.us](https://zoom.us)

Last month’s December General Membership Zoom meeting was attended by 61 SIR members from various branches around the area who wanted to hear the talk by retired, 3-Star Lt. General, H. R. McMaster, former National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump. The talk was quite special and interesting due to the high-level position and work that H. R. McMaster had and did, and his concern for keeping the free world defended.

Try to join our January General Membership Zoom meeting to see and talk with your fellow members. It is fun and interesting for all. **Please remember to avoid making background noise or, easier, just mute your sound while in the meeting to help the video meeting be more enjoyable for all.**

Please note, in January 2021, the SIR Branch 51 **Membership Roster** will be published only in electronic form. A file copy will be sent to all

members via e-mail, and the roster file will be archived on our branch website.

SIR 51 Website

SIR Branch 51 website provides helpful information on our activities and archives our news. Should you have inputs for our website, please contact our website master, Gerry Shebar at (650) 868-6124.

www.sirinc2.org/branch51

State SIR Website

See State SIR website: www.sirinc.org

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Craig's Current Contributions:

Former Big SIR, very important guy. Now just waiting for COVID to be over. Lonely...Warriors lousy, 49ers worse...no Sharks as yet. Giants, whatever.

Good Reads For Guys:

Shadow of the Dragon

By Tom Clancy & Marc Cameron. A missing Chinese scientist, unexplained noises emanating from under the Artic ice, and a possible mole in American Intelligence are just some of the problems that plague President Jack Ryan in the latest entry in Tom Clancy's #1 New York Times bestselling series.

The Golden Thread

By Ravi Somaiya. The Cold War & the mysterious death of Dag Hammarskjold.

Total Power

By Vince Flynn. A Mitch Rapp novel by Kyle Mills. It's a race against the clock for Mitch Rapp when ISIS takes out the entire US power grid & throws the country into chaos.

JFK: The coming of age in the American Century, 1917-1956

By Fredrik Logevall

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent

By Isabel Wilkerson. A masterfully researched study of race in America through the lens of caste.

Popular On TV

The Queen's Gambit

On Netflix. Best short series of the year IMHO.

The Crown

On Netflix...just really good...as usual.

Tiny Pretty Things

On Netflix...a series about ballet performers at an academy in Chicago. I hated it but your wife should love it.

Bodyguard

On Netflix. The security guy is assigned to protect a senior (female) politician...until their professional relationship unravels into a steamily personal one.

The Undoing

On HBO. As good as *The Queen's Gambit* with Nicole Kidman, Hugh Grant & Donald Sutherland. Six-part series with an affair, a murder...a whodunit.

Stay safe and on to 2021!

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ACTIVITIES

GOLF



With the state and county re-imposing COVID-19 restrictions, uncertainty now exists as to when and where we will be able to play golf.

As you know, State SIRs cannot sanction any official tournaments at present. The courses involved have us “penciled in” should we at some point be allowed to play as a group. If any of you are interested in playing as individuals, you might want to check with the courses as to tee time availability.

It is reported that the 2021 golf schedule is preliminary arranged. See Excel golf file sent out earlier this month. More news to come. Stay tuned.

Courtesy of Golf Course Coordinator:

KAI JOHANSEN
(650) 853-2493

Also, contact Big SIR, Jim Cummings, as a mutual supporter for golf news.

JIM CUMMINGS
home: (650) 328-2168
cell: (650) 207-3609

Check if the following activities are going to occur while under COVID-19 state, county, or municipality restrictions.

COMPUSIR



COMPUSIR is a self-help Computer discussion group. Normally, it meets monthly at the PALO ALTO ELKS LODGE 4249 EL CAMINO REAL, PALO ALTO. Check first if meetings are being held by Zoom, or not at all. When in-person meetings can be held access is by the following method. For entry, use the announce button on the pedestal to the left of the Front door. **COMPUSIR** is now part of SPAUG (the Stanford – Palo Alto Users Group). SPAUG Meetings are still held the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of each month at 7:00 pm, when possible in-person, 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

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. When possible with less COVID-19 restrictions, we meet on **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 (Bob Taggart) 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 and 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:

BOB TAGGART (650) 321-2654, Br 35

LAWN BOWLING:



Check if Lawn Bowling is able to meet and play. We meet on 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

TENNIS:



When possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, check first to see if our tennis group meets which happens on 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

CYCLING:

SIRS ON BIKES:



The SIR bicycle group is not riding in January. SIR has given the order that all outdoor activities are to be suspended. We take this to mean that protocols have to be resubmitted at the appropriate time. So, as for now, there is no SIR bicycle ride for January. We have complete trust in safety protocols and hope to be back riding again.

This is the master list for 2021. It may change as the year goes by, so the final word is in the month's newsletter.

~~**January** 14, 2021~~

~~Stevens Creek/Shoreline Park (Mt. View)~~

February 11, 2021

Coyote Creek (South San Jose)

March 11, 2021

Coyote Hills-Alameda Creek (Fremont/Niles)

April 8, 2021

Foster City Bay Trail

May 13, 2021

Brisbane Bayshore Trail

June 10, 2021

Guadalupe Trail--(Alviso to San Jose)

July 8, 2021

Sawyer Camp Trail / San Andreas Trail

August 12, 2021

San Leandro-Alameda Ride

September 9, 2021

Mt. View to Alviso

October 14, 2021

Half Moon Bay

November 11, 2021

Los Gatos Creek Trail

December 2021 No ride

(If the weather is good, the riders may pick a ride)

If you have questions, please contact Jim Lunt or Gordon Tong as per below.

JAMES LUNT (408) 252-6804, Cell: (408) 921-5085

GORDON TONG (408) 242-0557

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.

STATE SIR TRAVEL INFORMATION



For information on State SIR travel, go to the State SIR website listed below, and click on "Region and Area Info", click on "Resources", click on "More Information", then look for "Travel Management Information" section which has sub-links to travel agencies, bus companies, and a travel handbook. Also, one can use "Search Here" box at the base of the page using the word "travel".

STATE SIR WEBSITE

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.

Also, if you wish to add material to the newsletter, inputs for the next newsletter should be submitted between the 15th and 20th of the month prior to the next newsletter.

Newsletter Editor:

Richard Jamison
(650) 868-3723

To all, have a happy and healthy 2021 New Year.

2021 SIR BRANCH #51 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Big SIR: Jim Cummings 328-2168
Little SIR: (Open)
Secretary: Gerry Shebar 868-6124
Asst. Secretary: Richard Jamison 868-3723
Treasurer: Kingsley Wood 799-8420
Asst. Treasurer: Kevin Wheaton 485-2276

DIRECTORS

Director: Joe Grippo 948-2130
Director: Sam Meredith 325-4152
Director: Craig Carpenter 325-4152

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

Indoor Bowling: Bob Taggart (Br 35) 321-2654
Lawn Bowling: Don Hughes 323-9916
Cycling: Jim Lunt (Br. 35) (408) 252-6804
Tennis: Bill Kamin 322-4300
Golf: Kai Johansen 853-2493
Jim Cummings 328-2168
Travel: State SIR Travel: www.sirinc.org
Compusir: Stanford-PA Users Group www.spaug.net
Macintosh Users: Skip Ross (541) 857-6224
Historian: (Open)

New Board Members

Jeff Gardiner 561-9661
Ray Klinke 924-0734
Mike McMahan 493-7392

ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMEN

Attendance: Kingsley Wood 799-8420
Audit: Sam Meredith 325-4152
Russ Porter 234-1212
Website: Gerry Shebar 868-6124
Asst. Website: Art Lewis 964-3223
Newsletter: Richard Jamison 868-3723
Good Samaritan: Bob Guffey 593-3496
Member Orientation: Bob Guffey 593-3496
Luncheon Programs: Steve Tremulis 598-9790
Kevin Wheaton 485-2276
Membership: Gerry Shebar 868-6124
Asst. Membership: (Open)
Greeter: Al Runge 592-1345
Special Events: (Open)
Nominating Committee: Jim Cummings 328-2168
Steve Tremulis 598-9790
Craig Carpenter 325-4152

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,
Acting Membership Committee Chairman:

Gerry Shebar,
3345 Stockton PL.,
Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 868-6124

“All the news that fits we print”

Anonymous