

# Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement

## Branch #51

Website: [www.sirinc2.org/branch51](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch51)

No. 547  
A Non-Profit Organization  
For Retired Men



February 2022  
Devoted to the Promotion of  
Independence and Dignity of Retirement

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

### General Interest:

#### Surges Come and Go

While the Omicron variant and its sub-variant (BA.2) infections are surging in the southern and western regions of the US, the northeastern region of the US is experiencing decreasing infections and hospitalizations.

Since the Omicron variant is extremely contagious, it pays to be careful about our potential exposure to people who are known symptomatic or unknown asymptotically infected. Keep wearing your masks, distancing, and get the third booster shot. Currently, you can **order four free, at-home, rapid COVID-19 test kits** from the US government, postage-paid, and the kits would be sent out in approximately seven to 12 days. The website to use to order them is [www.COVIDtests.gov](http://www.COVIDtests.gov) which will take you, in turn, to an USPS site for ordering kits. Also, you can call 1-800/232-0233 during 5 AM to 9 PM PST, seven days a week. There is a limit of one order per household. Priority is given to most vulnerable Americans who live in ZIP codes the are high on the federal government's *Social Vulnerability Index*.

FYI, if you happen to get an e-mail message, text message, or phone call that states that it can help you with your order. **Beware** that there are **scammers** that are trying to get your personal information for financial gain. There is no need to provide any more information than your name and address. Also, there is a possibility that if you live in a complex where multiple people live at the same

address, you may find that your order could be denied because someone else has order the test kits at your address. If this is the case, make sure that you enter your apartment number or other unique location identification. If there are still problems, you can call the 1-800 number listed earlier.

Currently, the government is in the process of supplying **three, free N95 mask per person** for all residents via health centers and pharmacies. This is to happen very soon. Keep your eyes and ears open for when and where you can get them locally.

The effects of the coronavirus COVID-19 Omicron and Delta variants have caused the US to exceed, on-average, nearly 700,000 **DAILY** infection cases with high hospitalizations. This virus is nothing to take lightly.

Here is updated data from the Mayo Clinic records for COVID-19 for the US and CA as of the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2022. Vaccinations for the nation are at 63.6% being fully vaccinated, and 75.9% having received at least one shot. For Californians 5 years or older, 68.8% have been fully vaccinated and 80.1% have at least one shot of vaccine.

Let's hope this new 2022 year will provide better health conditions for ourselves, our families, and our friends.

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# **Branch 51 News**

## **Big SIR Notes:**

*From the computer of Gerry Shebar*

Gentlemen of SIR,

I look forward to when we can once again break bread together. Sadly, not this month. Many SIRs chapters are in the same quandary. They have queried the members, examined the Covid situation, and decided not yet. Branches 4, 15, and 35 in our area are also waiting. We will send out a query in mid-February to see who is comfortable with a March luncheon. There is some hope the omicron strain will subside quickly. We shall see. Over the last 2 years my thoughts and hopes about the pandemic have often proved wrong.

In the meantime, let's stay safe.

Gerry Shebar  
Big SIR 2022

## **SIR 51 General Membership Meeting**

The **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** 2022 SIR General Membership Meeting (all members) will be **held via Zoom on Groundhog Day**. We will have to see what March brings whether we can meet in-person on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 for our regular General Membership luncheon and speaker meeting.

Last month's January General Membership Meeting via Zoom had a total of 15 members attending.

## **SIR 51 Board Meetings**

The Board will meet this coming February, 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 AM via Zoom.

For more details, please contact Big SIR, Gerry Shebar (cell:650/868-6124).

Please see the list of newly elected 2022 officers and committee chairmen at the end of this newsletter.

January board meeting had 12 attendees.

## **Monthly Presentation for Members**

### **Febraury 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 Speaker Topic:**

To Be Determined.

Currently, availability of speakers is causing difficulty in getting them signed up. This is often due to the inability to show remote presentations.

### **Speaker Biography:**

TBD

### **Topic Description:**

TBD

### **Future speakers for the coming month:**

#### **March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 Speaker Topic:**

TBD

**FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING  
SPEAKERS**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Steve Tremulis**  
(650) 598-9790

## **2021 Membership Roster**

As always, if you have any corrections to your profile data, please contact our Membership Chairman, Jeff Gardiner, at (650) 561-9661. Also, the roster file has been 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](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch51)

## State SIR News

If you have not done so yet, COVID-19 Waiver needs to be signed by all SIR members and submitted to your branch board members. The links to the Wavier, Branch Protocols are given below. **Please read, print, sign, and submit wavier.**

### Branch Protocols:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/686f3f04701/e2662867-a239-4f89-baac-baf50ee70e2d.pdf>

### Wavier:

<https://sirinc.org/wp-content/uploads/Waiver-final.pdf>

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## Craig's Current Contributions:

*Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig Carpenter*

Musings from former Big SIR...important guy, now about as popular as Omicron.

### THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

Is an argument between two vegans still called a beef?

Fun fact: women spend more time wondering what men are thinking than men spend actually thinking.

Gerry Shebar to Jeff Gardiner..."A huge stack of toilet rolls fell on me at Costco. I'm ok though. Just soft tissue damage".

Sam Meredith to Kevin Wheaton..."I stepped into an elevator today and a very large breasted woman stepped in with me. As I was staring at her because I couldn't help it, she says 'would you press one please' so I did. I really don't remember much after that."

When I see lovers' names carved on trees, I think it's strange how many people bring knives on dates.

## GOOD READS FOR GUYS:

*The Judge's List* by John Grisham. Investigator Lacy Stolz follows the trail of a serial killer and closes in on a shocking suspect - a sitting judge - in "one of the best crime reads of the year...bristling with high-tech detail and shivering with suspense...worth staying up all night to finish", *Wall Street Journal*.

*A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* by Marina Lewycka. "The side-splittingly funny story of two feuding sisters, Vera and Nadezhda, who join forces against their father's new, gold-digging girlfriend. Hint: he is 84 and she is 36...MAKES PERFECT SENSE TO ME! The voluptuous Valentina, with a proclivity for green satin underwear and boil-in-the-bag cuisine, will stop at nothing in her pursuit of Western wealth."

## MOVIES/FLICKS:

### Netflix:

*Munich - The Edge of War* The true story of a possible attempt to assassinate Hitler...starring Jeremy Irons.

*Ozark, Season 4*. My wife hates the violence but it is a great series. Starring Jason Bateman & Laura Linney...also the Mexican Mafia.

### Amazon Prime:

*Cold War*. Nominated for three Academy Awards. A passionate love story (YOUR WIFE WILL LOVE YOU!) between two people of different backgrounds, who are fatefully mismatched and yet condemned to each other.

*Tender Bar*, directed by George Clooney & starring Ben Affleck. A coming-of-age drama film set on Long Island in 1972.

Well, I guess that's it. Let's get this Omicron thingy behind us and FINALLY return to the carefree lives we had before 02/20. Best wishes to all for a joyous 2022!

Lastly, on a personal note, I had an angiogram in November &, though I had ZERO symptoms, the

docs found that I was blocked 100% in a right artery and 95% in a left artery. A double bypass was performed on 12/30 and all is once again right with the world. Pain level throughout...0-1. Please, please get a stress test, especially if you have a family history with heart issues (as I do). We have the best doctors and medical facilities in the world within 15 minutes of your house. Just "DO IT".

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## ACTIVITIES

### GOLF



**With the state and county removed some COVID-19 restrictions, except masks, and the State SIR leadership allowing vaccinated members to be active in outdoor and indoor settings (with waivers), precautions still should be taken while playing golf.**

If any of you are interested in playing golf as individuals, you might want to check with the courses as to tee time availability.

The 2022 golf schedule is available. Check for an Excel or .pdf file copies either electronically sent to you or at the SIR 51 website. Below are the dates, times, and locations for February 2022 and March 2022.

Please register your intentions to play by signing "Yes" or "No" on the sign-up sheet.

All participants must be at the course at least one hour before tee time.

	Feb 01, Tue	Feb 9, Wed	Feb 16, Wed	Feb 23, Wed
<b>FEB</b>	Spring Valley	San Jose	Sunnyvale	Los Lagos
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM

	Mar 01, Tue	Mar 09, Wed	Mar 16, Wed	Mar 23, Wed	Mar 30 Wed
<b>MAR</b>	Poplar Creek	Spring Valley	Shoreline	San Jose	Crystal Springs
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM

Crystal Springs
Los Lagos
Moffett Field
Poplar Creek
Poppy Hills
San Jose
Shoreline
Spring Valley
Sunnyvale

*Courtesy of Golf Chairman:*

**KAI JOHANSEN**  
(650) 380-9493

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

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

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**Check if the following activities are going to occur with the recent COVID-19 and State SIR reduced restrictions. Do keep in mind, however, mask restrictions are still in place in most places.**

### 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 **S**tanford – **P**alo **A**lto **U**sers **G**roup). 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](http://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 Cupertino 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 bowling skill that comes back after a long lay-off. Many have not bowled since they were youngsters. For more information, contact:

**BOB TAGGART (Br 35)**  
(650) 321-2654

## 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 form. Play level is about 2.5. We welcome non-SIRS, so bring a friend.

**SYD JACOBSEN (Br 35)**  
(408) 738-3233

## CYCLING:

Branches 35, 51, others

2nd Thursday— February 10, 2022, 11:00 AM

Wives and guests welcome, Rain cancels, Helmet mandatory, jacket or vest, with face masks optional and a bike (including an e-bike).

We usually ride the Coyote Creek Trail in South San Jose in February but because the trail is partially closed due to flooding, I changed this month's ride to:

### Guadalupe River Trail

(Alviso to Downtown San Jose)

**Ride:** We will begin the ride at the trailhead near 2040 Gold Street in Alviso. We will follow the scenic, paved trail past Mineta San Jose International Airport and on to San Jose Market Center on Coleman Avenue where we will eat lunch at the Panera Bread (503 Coleman Avenue, San Jose). We will ride back on the same route for a round trip of approximately 18 miles.

**Directions:** Take Highway 101 South to Highway 237 Eastbound (towards Alviso and Milpitas). Go 2.5 miles and exit on "Lafayette and Great America Parkway." At the intersection, turn left on Lafayette and then immediately into the right turn lane. The next traffic light intersection is "Gold St. Connector" so turn right. Go about .25 mile to another traffic light which is Gold Street so turn left. Go about .25 mile until you see a yellow traffic sign "Narrow Bridge Ahead". Turn right into the New Alviso Educational Center parking lot.

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordon Tong (Br35) at 408-242-0557, leader [gor dy6850@gmail.com](mailto:gor dy6850@gmail.com).

or  
Hank Bottino (Br35) at (650) 207-4320  
[bottinoh@comcast.net](mailto:bottinoh@comcast.net), co-leader.

FYI. 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, stop lights, etc. There will be a **lead** rider and a **sweeper** as the last rider to ensure that all riders stay on course. It's important that all riders keep the lead rider in their sights.

### **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](http://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 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the next newsletter.

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Richard Jamison  
(650) 868-3723

## **2022 SIR BRANCH #51 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Big SIR: Gerry Shebar 868-6124  
Little SIR: Richard Jamison 868-3723  
Secretary: Jeff Gardiner 561-9661  
Asst. Secretary: Richard Jamison 868-3723  
Treasurer: Kingsley Wood 799-8420  
Asst. Treasurer: Kevin Wheaton 485-2276

### **DIRECTORS**

Sam Meredith 325-4152  
Craig Carpenter 325-4152  
Ray Klinke 924-0734  
Mike McMahon 493-7392  
Jim Cummings 207-3609  
Steve Tremulis 598-9790

### **ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN**

Indoor Bowling; Bob Taggart (Br 35) 321-2654  
Lawn Bowling: Don Hughes 323-9916  
Cycling: Gordon Tong (Br 35) (408) 242-0557  
Tennis: Syd Jacobsen (Br 35) (408) 738-3233  
Golf Chairman: Kai Johansen 380-9493  
Golf Assistant: Jim Cummings 207-3609  
Travel: State SIR Travel: [www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org)  
Compuser: Stanford-PA Users Group [www.spaug.net](http://www.spaug.net)  
Macintosh Users: Skip Ross (541) 857-6224  
Historian: (Open)

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMEN**

Attendance: Kingsley Wood 799-8420	Speaker Coordinator: Steve Tremulis 598-9790
Audit: Sam Meredith 325-4152	Membership: Jeff Gardiner 561-9661
Russ Porter 234-1212	Asst. Membership: (Open)
Website: Gerry Shebar 868-6124	Greeter: Al Runge 592-1345
Asst. Website: Art Lewis 964-3223	Special Events: (Open)
Newsletter: Richard Jamison 868-3723	Nominating Committee: Gerry Shebar 868-6124
Good Samaritan: Bob Guffey 593-3496	Jim Cummings 207-3609
Member Orientation: Bob Guffey 593-3496	Steve Tremulis 598-9790

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:

Jeff Gardiner,  
2152 Sand Hill Road,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
(650) 561-9661

“All the news that fits we print”

*Anonymous*