

Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement

Branch #51

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch51

No. 548
A Non-Profit Organization
For Retired Men



March 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:

Good News is Coming

COVID-19 News:

While a significant portion of the US is seeing reduced COVID infections and hospitalizations, there are still regions with high hospitalizations, community transmission, and low capacity for hospital beds being available. In the Bay Area, we are fortunate that most local counties are removing mask requirements, except for transportation hubs (on planes, in airports, on trains, buses, etc.) and for health care workers.

Whether you are ready to drop the mask or not, do consider your risk for infection if you are an immuno-compromised person.

It is expected that Santa Clara County will join the other Bay Area counties shortly, and reduce the use of masks for indoor activities, barring the exceptions mentioned above for public transportation hubs and their vehicles.

If the CDC determine that the areas within the US have high hospitalization and community transmission rates and very limited hospital bed capacity, the mask requirements can return. With high vaccination rates and low infection rates, we may succeed keeping our masks off.

The on-average daily infection rate is down to 75,000 people from last month's 700,000 on-average daily infections. Good news!

As a reminder from last month's newsletter, 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 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*.

Also, the government is supplying **three, free N95 mask per person** for all residents via health centers and pharmacies.

Here are updated data from the Mayo Clinic records for COVID-19 for the US and CA as of the 25th of February 2022.

National vaccinations:

Fully vaccinated: 64.9 %
At least one shot: 76.3 %

California vaccinations:

Fully vaccinated: 70.3 %
At least one shot: 81.8 %

Branch 51 Plans:

Based on this good news, our Branch 51 is hoping to meet in-person for General Membership meeting and luncheon on April 6th and have a BBQ/Picnic in June or July. Make sure that you have submitted

your Waiver and shown your vaccination status to our board members. Stay tuned for details.

May this new 2022 year bring us 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

Gents,

Unfortunately, we are still not quite ready to resume our live luncheons. Hopefully April will be the month that we return to normal.

I am optimistic on the rollback of the restrictions that we have all been subjected to these past 2 years. Albeit, these restrictions seem entirely prudent.

One good piece of news I am happy to share with you, we are planning for a SIR picnic this summer. Yay! Members and guests and spouses at the country club by the pool. Details should become available within the next few weeks. I look forward to greeting everyone. I am sure the BBQ and salads and desserts will meet our highest expectations.

Till then, I hope to see everyone at our zoom meeting on March 2nd.

Stay safe,

Gerry Shebar
Big SIR 2022

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SIR 51 General Membership Meeting

The **March 2nd** 2022 SIR General Membership Meeting (all members) will be **held via Zoom**, starting at 12:30 PM. We will have to see what April brings whether we can meet in-person on

April 6th, 2022 for our regular General Membership luncheon and speaker meeting.

Last month's February General Membership Meeting via Zoom had a total of 17 members attending.

SIR 51 Board Meetings

The Board will meet this coming March, 2nd 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.

February board meeting had 12 attendees.

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Monthly Presentation for Members

March 2nd, 2022 Speaker Topic:

The Future of Electric Automobiles

Speaker Biography:

Speaker: Ron Freund

Ron has driven plug-in vehicles for more than twenty years, totaling over 338,000 miles. With confidence from that experience, he recognizes that they are the future. As an engineer, he endorses the equation "PV + EV = near self-sufficiency in energy" and drives on sunshine daily (Photovoltaic + Electric Vehicle).

Topic Description:

Future of Electric Automobiles

Future speakers for the coming month:

April 6th, 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

State SIR News

The State SIR organization has a newsletter to help SIR members know what the state officers are organizing and their various activities to support the local branches. The State SIR group provides guidance to help branches improve their members' involvement and the growth of branch membership.

The links to the Wavier and Branch Protocols are given below.

Branch Protocols:

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

Wavier:

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

State SIR Website:

www.sirinc.org

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Craig's Current Contributions:
March 2022

Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig Carpenter

Former Big SIR, former PR flack for Vlad Putin. Currently out of work & hiding...from Vlad.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

At the store there was a great big X for me to stand on. I've seen too many Road Runner cartoons to fall for that.

Life's journey is not to arrive safely at the grave in a well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting "Holy Cow, what a ride!"

Sign over a gynecologist's office: "Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

Will Rogers-isms:

"Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco"

"There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works."

"There are three kinds of men: the ones that learn by reading; the few who learn by observation; the rest of them have to touch the electric fence to find out for themselves."

"You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks."

"Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it is called golf." (I ACTUALLY THINK IT WAS JIM CUMMINGS WHO SAID THIS).

GOOD READS FOR GUYS:

Leave The Gun, Take The Cannoli by Mark Seal. The epic story of the making of the Godfather.

I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes. A breakneck race against time...and an implacable enemy. New York Times Bestseller.

Facing The Mountain by Daniel James Brown. By the author of "The Boys In The Boat". A true story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II.

MOVIES/FLICKS:

Netflix:

Inventing Anna on Netflix. A journalist investigates the case of Anna Delvey, the Instagram-legendary heiress who stole the hearts and money of New York elites.

The Tinder Swindler on Netflix. A guy lavishly wines and dines women he has met on Tinder (the dating website). He uses their trust to fleece them out of their money. Stay until the end to find out what happens to him...and the various women. A true-crime documentary.

Amazon Prime:

Reacher on Amazon Prime. Shoot 'em up, bang bang.

In Theaters:

Dog in theaters now. 90% rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Two former Army Rangers are paired against their will on a road trip of a lifetime. Briggs and Lulu race down the Pacific Coast to get to a fellow soldier's funeral on time.

Death On The Nile A who dunnit that my wife and I just saw...and really enjoyed. We gave it an "A". Go with your spouse.

Until next month...best wishes to all. Please don't tell Vlad you heard from me. Heading for Poland now. Shhh.

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ACTIVITIES

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 March 2022 and April 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.

	Mar 01, Tue	Mar 09, Wed	Mar 16, Wed	Mar 23 Wed	Mar 30 Wed
MAR	Poplar Creek 10:00 AM	Spring Valley 10:00 AM	Shoreline 10:00 AM	San Jose 10:00 AM	Crystal Springs 10:00 AM
	Apr 05, Tue	Apr 13, Wed.	Apr 20, Wed.	Apr 27, Wed	
APR	Moffett Field 10:00 AM	Sunnyvale 9:30 AM	Los Lagos 10:00 AM	Poplar Creek 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

State Golf Newsletter:
www.sirgolf.org

Check if the following activities are going to occur with the recent changes in COVID-19 State SIR 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 **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.

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 Tuesday— March 8, 2022, 11:00 AM

Wives and guests welcomed; Rain cancels, helmets required and face masks optional. E-bikes are allowed. Read latest CDC guidance below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Coyote Hills/Alameda Creek – Niles/Fremont

Ride: We will begin the ride at the Coyote Hills Park and continue on the Alameda Trail to the quaint town of Niles where we will have lunch at a downtown sandwich shop. The biking trail is paved and generally flat (except at the start there are some gentle rolling hills). The trail is approximately 9 miles each way, with an optional 1 mile loop of a scenic view of the Bay (total ride of 19-21 miles depending on where you park).

Directions: Take Highway 101 North, exit on Highway 84 across the Dumbarton Bridge past the toll booth, take the first exit, Paseo Padre Parkway. Turn left and go one mile to Paterson Ranch Road; turn left. This is the entrance to Coyote Hills Park (there is a small sign). Go 1/2 mile to the park toll booth/parking ticket machines

(\$5 per car or use your East Bay Regional Park District season pass). Continue another 1/2 mile over several speed bumps to the park office and museum; park there.

If you prefer, take I-880 North and exit on Highway 84 West. Exit on to Paseo Padre Parkway and turn right. Proceed to Patterson Ranch Road and turn left.

Optional FREE Parking: There is a parking lot on the corner of Paseo Padre Parkway and Paterson Ranch Road (on your immediate left). Many of the riders will park here and ride 2 miles on a paved path into the park.

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordon Tong (Br35) at 408-242-0557, leader gordy6850@gmail.com.

or

Hank Bottino (Br35) at (650) 207-4320
bottinoh@comcast.net, co-leader.

Special Note: For the months of March, through June, 2022, SIR Branch 35 monthly bicycling rides will be on the second TUESDAY. The following are planned SIR Branch 35 rides from April, through June 2022:

April 12th New Palo Alto Bridge over I-101 to Los Altos Hills to Downtown Los Altos

May 10th Half Moon Bay Coast Side Trail

June 14th Guadalupe Trail--(Alviso to San Jose)

FYI. SIR Branch 35 monthly bicycling is a combined activity with all SIR Branches in Area 13. 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-RESPONSIBILITY 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

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
Compuser: Stanford-PA Users Group 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