

# Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement Branch #51

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

No. 555  
A Non-Profit Organization  
For Retired Men



October 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:

### Fall has Arrived

#### Great Time of the Year:

With the new season upon us, we can enjoy cooler weather, shorter daylight, good football, new TV shows, fall harvest, and maybe some more rain. Halloween will be later in the month for you trick-or-treaters. Do keep your fingers crossed that we get a good wet season as well.

FYI. State SIR 2023 Ireland trip is being planned. If you are interested, contact State SIR Bill Stires at [bstires46@gmail.com](mailto:bstires46@gmail.com) or 209-988-5445 for details or Milt Smith, State SIR Travel Chair at [miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com).

Also, there is a new, externally-focused, State SIR website for attracting and informing the public about the SIR organization called **We Are SIR**.  
[www.wearesir.com](http://www.wearesir.com)

We will be meeting in-person for our, Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> of October General Membership meeting. Please encourage your fellow members to come to our luncheon and speaker presentation. Masks are optional.

Please keep in mind for future luncheons, send a RSVP if you plan to attend so that the Fremont Hills Country Club can plan for the number of meals needed. E-mail a RSVP to Big SIR, Gerry Shebar at [gshebar@yahoo.com](mailto:gshebar@yahoo.com).

There is good news within our golf activity. On Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, on the 15<sup>th</sup> hole at Baylands Golf Links, our new SIR 51-member, Joe Urbassik, hit a **HOLE-IN-ONE!** Congratulations Joe! May there have been a free round of drinks for everyone.



As for happenings within our branch, see the respective sections later in this newsletter.

#### COVID-19 News:

US average daily cases of approximately 49,910 cases as of 21<sup>st</sup> of September, 2022. The US has 67.6 % fully vaccinated individuals. California has average daily cases of approximately 4,126 cases and COVID-19 fully vaccinated individuals at 74.0%. Data is from the Mayo Clinic records. The dominant Omicron subvariant is BA.5. A third booster vaccine is available from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna to cover these new variants of BA.4, and BA.5. At this time there is a limited supply of

Moderna vaccine due to a manufacturing issue. Getting the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is readily available. To get Moderna booster vaccine, one may have to search various pharmacies and clinics for it.

**Monkeypox News:**

As for Monkeypox status, the US has approximately 25,341 cases with California having approximately 4,886 cases as of 27<sup>th</sup> of September according to the CDC. Fortunately, the infection rate is relatively low, it is much less contagious a virus, less severity of illness, and we have Smallpox vaccine that is useful to prevent Monkeypox infections.

As always, protect yourself and others as best as you can.

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**Branch 51 News**

**Big SIR Notes:**

*From the computer of Gerry Shebar*

Gents,

I got the Omicron booster last week. It is a relief to know that this reduced the chances of catching some of the most recent mutations. Still, even with this added protection I know that most of my acquaintances are still quite cautious.

The past few years have been trying on everyone. Yet, for me I did not suffer the sense of isolation and confinement as some others. I credit SIRs with a having a big role in getting through the pandemic. With the resumption of golf in June of 2020 and the online meetings on zoom, I had a rewarding and safe social life.

I hope that each of you are also safe and healthy, both physically and mentally.

See you soon,

Gerry Shebar  
Big SIR 2022

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**SIR 51 General Membership Meeting**

Our next 2022 SIR General Membership Meeting (all members) will be held **in-person**, on Wednesday, **October 5<sup>th</sup>** starting at **11:30 AM**. Let’s continue to meet in-person to enjoy our friends, a luncheon, and a guest speaker.

**SIR 51 Board Meetings**

The next Board meeting will occur **in-person** this coming **October 5<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, at **11:00 AM**.

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

The list of elected 2022 and 2023 officers and committee chairmen is located at the end of this newsletter.

September board meeting had nine board members in attendance.

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**Monthly Presentation for Members**

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Speaker Topic:**

*Are Aliens Visiting Earth?  
The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence*

**Topic Description:**

Presentation of experiences and observations that appear to be alien activity near earth. The talk relates to the main SETI mission to "explore, understand and explain the origin, nature and prevalence of life in the universe."

**Speaker Name and Biography:**



**Seth Shostak**

Seth Shostak is an American astronomer and author, and is currently the senior astronomer for the SETI Institute in their search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

Seth claims to have developed an interest in extraterrestrial life at the tender age of ten, when he first picked up a book about the Solar System. This innocent beginning eventually led to a degree in radio astronomy, and now, as Senior Astronomer, Seth is an enthusiastic participant in the Institute’s SETI observing programs. In addition, Seth is keen on outreach activities: interesting the public – and especially young people – in science, in general, and astrobiology in particular. He’s co-authored a college textbook on astrobiology, and has written three trade books on SETI. In addition, he’s published more than 600 popular articles on science including regular contributions to NBC News MACH, gives many dozens of talks annually,

and is the host of the SETI Institute’s weekly science radio show, “[Big Picture Science.](#)”

*Photos courtesy of the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, (SETI), Institute*

**Future speakers for the coming month:**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 Speaker and Topic:**

To be determined

**FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING  
SPEAKERS**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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

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**2022 Membership Roster**

As always, if you have any corrections or changes 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. See next section.

**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**

The State SIR has elected new officers. See the website link below to learn more about the State SIR organization.

**State SIR Website:**

[www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org)

The State SIR organization has a newsletter called **SIR Happenings**, to help SIR members know what

the state officers are organizing for overall support and various activities for the local branches. See link below.

<https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>

The State SIR group provides guidance to help branches improve their members' involvement and the growth of branch membership.

The link to the COVID Waiver website is given below.

### **Waiver:**

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

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### **Craig's Current Contributions:** **October 2022**

*Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig Carpenter*

Former Big SIR, very important guy. Currently the PR guy for PG&E & have been told to look for another job by my boss. So, I did. Auditioning for the "Food Taster" position for Vlad Putin. Might be a short career I'm thinking.

### **THOUGHTS TO PONDER:**

"Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock"

"Only in math problems can you buy 60 cantaloupe melons & no one asks "What the Hell is wrong with you?"

"When the pool re-opens, due to social distancing rules, there will be no water in lanes 1, 3 & 5"

"Tip: save business cards of people you don't like. If you ever hit a parked car accidentally, just write, "Sorry" on the back and leave it on the windshield"

"Just once, I want the username and password prompt to say "Close enough"

"Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags or is it just me?"

"Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn"

### **GOOD READS FOR GUYS:**

***Nimitz at War - Command Leadership From Pearl Harbor To Tokyo Bay*** by Craig L. Symonds. If you like the book, it was my idea. If you don't like it, it was recommended by Mike McMahon

***Against All Odds: A True Story of Ultimate Courage & Survival in World War II*** by Alex Kershaw. The untold story of four of the most decorated soldiers of World War II - all Medal of Honor recipients - from the beaches of French Morocco to Hitler's own mountaintop fortress.

***A Place Called Freedom*** by Ken Follett. Set in an era of turbulent social change...Scotland, 1767.

***The Last Train To London*** by Meg Waite Clayton. "An absolutely fascinating story of love, loss & heroism in the dark days leading up to World War II. A glowing portrait of women rising up against impossible odds to save children" - Kristin Hannah, best-selling New York Times author.

### **STUFF TO WATCH:**

***The U.S. And The Holocaust*** on PBS. Ken Burns directs a three-part series.

***Top Gun: Maverick***. If you missed it in the theater, you can rent it for \$5.99. A must see!

### **Apple TV:**

***Sydney***, a documentary about Sydney Poitier on Apple TV.

### **Amazon Prime:**

***Where The Crawdads Sing***

***Facing Ali***, a documentary on the life and career of Muhammed Ali celebrated through the eyes of ten of his ring opponents.

"The Giants are so yesterday & the 49ers are only 1 & 2 with the dreaded Rams coming to town next week. BUT the Warriors open their preseason this

Friday...at 3AM! Yikes! Fall is here, the weather is beautiful and we are fortunate to belong to SIR51."

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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 October and November 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.

	Oct 04, Tue	Oct 12, Wed	Oct 19, Wed	Oct 26, Wed
<b>OCT</b>	Los Lagos	Poplar Creek	Sunnyvale	Crystal Springs
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:30 AM

	Nov 01, Tue	Nov 09, Wed	Nov 16, Wed	Nov 23, Wed	Nov 30, Wed
<b>NOV</b>	Los Lagos	Spring Valley	Shoreline	Poplar Creek	Sunnyvale
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:30 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](http://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 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](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:

(SIR Branches 35, 51, others)

2nd Thursday — October 13, 2022, 11:00 AM

Wives and guests welcomed; Rain cancels, helmets required and face masks optional. Read latest CDC guidance via link below:

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

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordon Tong at 408-242-0557 or [gordy6850@gmail.com](mailto:gordy6850@gmail.com) or Hank Bottino at (650) 207-4320 or [bottinoh@comcast.net](mailto:bottinoh@comcast.net).

**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.

**Driving 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.

**Cycling Comment:**

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!

**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 search "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

[rsjamison@aol.com](mailto:rsjamison@aol.com)

## 2022-2023 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  
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)  
Compusir: 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: Ray Klinke	924-0734
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*