

Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement

Branch #51

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch51

No. 559
A Non-Profit Organization
For Retired Men



February 2023
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:

When It Rains, It Pours

It's a Blessing and a Curse:

January has given us much needed rain. Nine atmospheric rivers and maybe more later this winter. Unfortunately, dangerous flooding, high winds, and power outages occurred. Let's hope that we get more rain to fight our state drought, but hopefully, not all at once.

Please see the **Activities** section later in this newsletter for information on creating more mutual activities across local branches. More choices, more fun.

For golfers, please see the Golf section of this newsletter for news and details of a new golf tournament called **Friendship Golf Tournament** which will be held on March 6th 2023 at Discovery Bay Golf and Country Club.

If you have done so yet, please pay your **2023 SIR 51 dues** to our Treasurer, Kingsley Wood. You can pay in-person at our luncheon or send him a check at:

Kingsley Wood
1009 Forest Court
Palo Alto, CA 94301

VIRUS News:

All current viruses are still a threat to us, especially COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and the Flu during this winter. Please take appropriate precautions.

COVID-19:

US COVID-19 and variants:

Fully vaccinated: 69.1%
At least one vaccine shot: 80.1%

CA COVID-19 and variants:

Fully vaccinated: 74.5%
At least one vaccine shot: 84.6%

Data from *Our World in Data* as of 18 January 2023. <https://ourworldindata.org>

RSV:

This virus affects mostly infants, young children, older adults (65+), and adults with chronic heart or lung disease or weakened immune systems.

RSV info for older adults:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/high-risk/older-adults.html>

RSV Prevention info:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/prevention.html>

Flu News:

Flu season is starting this year with a surge. Get this year's flu shot as soon as possible.

As always, protect yourself and others as best as you can against all these virus threats.

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

====*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*

Branch 51 News

Big SIR Notes:

From the computer of Gerry Shebar

Gents,

When I first joined SIRs there were over 100 members in Branch 51.

In 2016 we still had 103 members listed in the Roster.

Pre-covid in 2019 the Roster listed 99 members. Sadly, last year the 2022 Roster listed 76 members. And the current 2023 Roster lists 64 members. (Although we have had several resignations since publication so the actual count is now 60 active members.)

Long story short we have lost 40% of our membership over the last 8 years. We are not alone. The same downward trend is happening statewide.

Some Branches have closed. Some Branches have merged with others in order to regain a healthy membership. I am hoping that we will not follow similar measures.

This month our Treasurer, Kingsley Wood, will be making a final call to collect this year's dues. Please, respond.

But beyond just remaining a member, attending luncheon meetings, and/or participating in other activities (golf, bowling, biking, etc) consider **recruiting**. I know of three members bringing a guest (prospective new member) to the February luncheon. Way to go guys!

Let's all pitch in.

Gerry
Big SIR

====*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*

SIR 51 General Membership Meeting

Our second 2023 SIR General Membership meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, **February 1st** starting at **11:30 a.m.**, for social half-hour, then at noon for lunch.

Please 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 bigsirfiftyone@gmail.com.

Please encourage your fellow members to come to the luncheon and speaker presentation.

January Luncheon attendance was a total of 26 (members and guests). As of January 2023, our branch members totaled 60.

SIR 51 Board Meetings

The next Board meeting will occur in-person this coming **February 1st**, Wednesday, at **11:00 AM**.

January Board meeting had 10 attendees.

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

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

====*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*==*

Monthly Presentation for Members

January 4th, 2023 Speaker Topic:

Industrial Design – Instruction to Prototype

STUFF TO WATCH:

Netflix, Amazon Prime, Apple TV+, etc.

check next month

Best wishes to all for a joyous, healthy & prosperous 2023!

~

ACTIVITIES

Multi-Branch Activities:

From John Jordan, Branch 1.

Good day fellow SIR members.

We are looking to expand participation for our Branch in various activities. Specifically:

- **Economics & Current Events:** A monthly gathering over lunch to delve into the goings on in the world. Topic(s) to be presented prior to getting together but nothing is off the table.

- **Computer & Technology:** Discover the many things our computers, laptops, smart phones, etc. can do of which you were unaware. Also, great group for self-help to solve problems and better understand how we can use technology more to our advantage.

- **Book Discussion:** Read any good books lately? Wondering what to read next? Finding you are reading less but want to get back to some good reads? This group could get you going or add more to your reading enjoyment.

- **Stock Study:** Large cap? Small cap? Options? Crypto? Meets monthly in San Mateo.

Other activities that are popular: Bocce, golf, bowling, pickleball (just getting started)

If you would like to learn more about these or have suggestions about any other groups, please call or email Branch 1 Activities Director:

John Jordan.
650-544-8893
ddeblljj@aol.com

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.

A special golf event in March 2023 called **Friendship Golf Tournament** has been organized by SIR Branch 161 of Discovery Bay. It is being held at the Discovery Bay Golf and Country Club on the 6th of March 2023 starting at 9:00 a.m. Details are found via the following lengthy link.

https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Jd1uggw4thpypOUTMLcVSjf1eXYZr7QL0msxXUGVZ7PnB3Rp1HICfVLBwh0OvgqasGm2rwK8lCcPyXS-4vJ00sli0tpnw_xeL1P1hSqXNLVIfBfqR8U_mXw8aiLa3upU4_6T2Vc8eOrsjUfo1MGV1FpdiZA4M9r6eMcb78-SHfo1rJIIPgsqTXmiVdweHKz3PLTAkH9y0XHfktAKKMhmEaM62YHvJShP-BKXpgEi10lexkHrqKUwyA==&c=33dy9tbM5GKWsR_WrwMUxvEIE80R-XSqegKbbdbeJzg15EdA-IFjlw==&ch=ZmoRjhGbEMB0iKy1S4KFVjBec0szHFX9jHx_zaYteMVx7U-ZSOeRJQ==

Branch 161 contact person for this event is listed below.

Johnny Welton
5751 Prestwick Court
Discovery Bay, CA 94505
Email: johnnywelton40@gmail.com
Cell: 925-876-5844

As for SIR Branch 51's golf information, see the SIR 51 2023 golf schedule which is available via Excel or .pdf file copies either electronically sent to you or at the SIR 51 website. Below are the dates, times, and locations for January, February, and March 2023.

	Jan 03, Tue	Jan 11, Wed	Jan 18, Wed	Jan 25, Wed	Jan 31, Tue
JAN	Baylands	Poplar Creek	Los Lagos	Spring Valley	Shoreline
	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM

	Feb 8, Wed	Feb 15, Wed	Feb 22, Wed	Feb 28, Tue
FEB	San Jose 10:00 AM	Sunnyvale 10:00 AM	Los Lagos 10:00 AM	Poplar Creek 10:00 AM

	Mar 08, Wed	Mar 15, Wed	Mar 22, Wed	Mar 29, Wed
MAR	Spring Valley 10:00 AM	Shoreline 10:00 AM	San Jose 10:00 AM	Crystal Springs 10:00 AM

TOTAL TOURNAMENTS: 50

Baylands 2
Crystal Springs 5
Los Lagos 7
Moffett Field 3
Poplar Creek 6
Poppy Hills 1
San Jose 6
Shoreline 5
Spring Valley 8
Sunnyvale 7

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

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 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 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)

Meet on 2nd Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM
Next ride will be on February 9th 2023.

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

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

Coyote Creek Trail (South San Jose)

Ride: We will ride the scenic 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 ride past the golf course for another 4 miles to the Anderson Visitor Center at the end of trail, then back to the golf course club house for lunch. After lunch we will ride back to the hotel parking lot for a total of 20 miles. For those who want a shorter ride,

they can stop at the golf course restaurant, for a round trip of 12 miles.

Footnote: With the heavy rains this month, the Coyote Creek Trail may be muddy or not fit for bike riding so I will ride the trail next week. If sections of the Coyote Creek Trail are blocked, I may change the ride and send out a revised ride notice. Please stay tuned as we approach 9th February 2023. Thanks.

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordon Tong at 408-242-0557 or gordy6850@gmail.com or Hank Bottino at (650) 207-4320 or bottinoh@comcast.net, who is my biking group co-leader.

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!

We ask that all riders exhibit a positive attitude, exercise good judgment when riding such as maintaining a safe distance between riders, obey all traffic signs, stop lights, etc. There will be a designated **lead** rider and a **sweeper** (or 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



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

For information on State SIR travel, go to the State SIR website listed below and search "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
rsjamison@aol.com

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
Compusir: 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: 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