

# Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement

## Branch #51

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

No. 560  
A Non-Profit Organization  
For Retired Men



March 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:

#### Ides of March - Soon to Be Here

##### Spring is Almost Upon Us:

February was a short month with rain and cold weather, and March will be a long month set to see longer days, warmer weather, a time change to PDST on 12<sup>th</sup>, Saint Patrick's Day on 17<sup>th</sup>, and the first day of spring on 20<sup>th</sup> of March.

Please see the **Activities** section later in this newsletter for new information on mutual activities between local branches, e.g., pickleball, etc.

Area 13 Representative, Foster Kinney, had his quarterly area review on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February to review how our Area 13 branches are doing so far this year. The branches are doing well overall, but improved membership is lagging. All of us in Branch 51 need to work on bringing in new members. Fortunately, we gained a new member last month, Burt Polishook. He and his wife, Sandy, live in Los Altos. Burt is a retired international project manager with IBM. Please welcome Burt. Also, two new individuals are in the process of joining our branch.

Heads up. This year our annual **branch picnic** has been schedule for **Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**. We hope all will attend and have an enjoyable time.

A new roster is being planned for printing in 2023. Please update any changes to your SIR profile for

this new issue. E-mail your updates to Jeff Gardiner, Membership Chairman, [jeffg@usms.com](mailto:jeffg@usms.com)

If you have done so yet, please pay your **2023 SIR 51 dues by March 31<sup>st</sup>** 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: 69.3%  
At least one vaccine shot: 81.2%

###### CA COVID-19 and variants:

Fully vaccinated: 74.7%  
At least one vaccine shot: 84.8%

Data from *Our World in Data* as of 22 February 2023. <https://ourworldindata.org>

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.

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## **Branch 51 News**

### **Big SIR Notes:**

*From the computer of Gerry Shebar*

Gents,

Another month, another opportunity.

I look forward to the meal as a time to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends. It is a period of closing and opening.

Richard Jamison is the Little SIR, but he also codes the newsletter.

Kingsley Wood and Kevin Wheaton handle the financials as well as the attendance.

Jeff Gardiner takes care of the membership.

Steve Tremulis is in charge of the guest speakers.

Ray Klinke is handling the special events.

And completing the board we have Craig Carpenter,

Jim Cummings, Mike McMahan, and Sam

Meredith.

But it wouldn't be possible without you. You are the key ingredient. You make it all worth it.

Gerry  
Big SIR

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### **SIR 51 General Membership Meeting**

Our third 2023 SIR General Membership meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, **March 1<sup>st</sup>** 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](mailto:bigsirfiftyone@gmail.com).

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

February Luncheon attendance was a total of 25 (members and guests). As of the end of February 2023, our branch members totaled 61.

### **SIR 51 Board Meetings**

The next Board meeting will occur in-person this coming **March 1<sup>st</sup>**, Wednesday, at **11:00 AM**.

February Board meeting had 11 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.

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### **Monthly Presentation for Members**

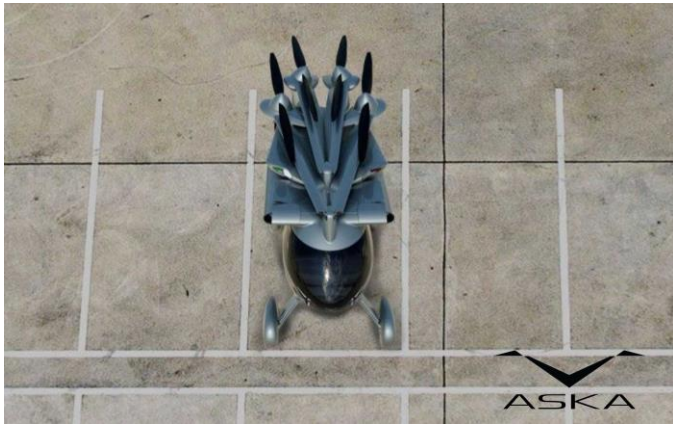
#### **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Speaker Topic:**

***Fly and Drive Automobile***

#### **Topic Description:**

***The founding and development of ASKA, a fly and drive company and its vehicle***





Gardiner, Membership Chairman, at (650) 561-9661 or jeffg@usms.com

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**

Public information about SIR organization for what we are as a social group and what we do is available on the state SIR developed website for informing and attracting the public to our branch. It is called **We Are SIR**.

[www.wearesir.com](http://www.wearesir.com)

**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.

**COVID Wavier:**

The link to the State SIR COVID Wavier website is given below for anyone who has not yet signed the required waiver.

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

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**Speaker Name and Biography:**

**Guy Kaplinsky, Co-founder & CEO of ASKA**

Guy Kaplinsky is a successful serial entrepreneur with in-depth knowledge and expertise in technology-related projects and international business. Guy co-founded ASKA ([www.askafly.com](http://www.askafly.com)) and developed the ASKA™ drive and fly eVTOL (electric Vertical TakeOff and Landing) vehicle, a real flying car. In April 2021, the company opened the world's first flying car showroom and air mobility learning center in Los Altos to launch pre-orders of ASKA™ full-scale flight testing is planned in Q1 2023, target for commercialization is 2026, subject to certification.

**Future speakers for the coming month:**

**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Speaker and Topic:**

TBD

**FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING  
SPEAKERS**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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

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**2023 Membership Roster**

A **new roster** is being planned for printing in 2023. Please update any changes to your SIR profile for this new issue. Call or e-mail your updates to Jeff

## Craig's Current Contributions: March 2023

Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig Carpenter

Former Big SIR. Very important guy. Currently the guy who returns the shopping carts to the Costco store entrance. Tips always appreciated.

### THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

"At every party there are two kinds of people - those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is they are usually married to each other." Ann Landers

"My favorite machine at the gym is the vending machine." Caroline Rhea

"All right everyone, line up alphabetically according to your height." Casey Stengel

"Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night." Dave Barry

"If you live to be one hundred, you've got it made. Very few people die past that age." George Burns

### GOOD READS FOR GUYS:

**Code Name Blue Wren** by Jim Popkin (kudos to Joe Grippo). Ana Belen Montes was a senior analyst for the US Defense Intelligence Agency & also spied for Cuba for 17 years. She was the most damaging female spy in US history.

**Never** by Ken Follett. More than a thriller, it's an action-packed, globe-spanning drama set in the present day.

**An Innocent Client** by Scott Pratt. A preacher is found brutally murdered in a Tennessee motel room. A beautiful, mysterious young girl is accused. The author reads like Scott Turow & Grisham.

**The League** by John Eisenberg. How five rivals created the NFL and launched a sports empire.

## STUFF TO WATCH (GUYS EDITION):

### Amazon Prime:

**Frank Lloyd Wright: The Man Who Built America**"

### Peacock (Comcast)

**Poker Face** Charlie Cale (Natasha Lyonne) is a charismatic, slightly aloof woman who possesses an incredibly useful trait: She can always tell when someone is lying. A series.

### Theaters:

**All Quiet on the Western Front** War breaks out in Germany in 1914. Paul Baumer and his classmates quickly enlist in the army to serve the fatherland. No sooner are they drafted than the first images from the battlefield show them the reality of war.

Well, I guess that's it. Over and out.

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## ACTIVITIES

### Multi-Branch Activities:

John Jordan, from Branch 1, is looking to expand participation across branches with 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 know more about Pickleball rules and scoring, check out the two links below.

**Basics:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTvPYdKZq00>

**Scoring:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Roh eCHp6IDw>

If you would like to learn more about the above listed activities or have suggestions about any other groups, please call or email Branch 1 Activities Director John Jordan.

John Jordan.  
Branch 1, Activities Director  
650-544-8893  
[d dblljj@aol.com](mailto:d dblljj@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.

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 February, and March 2023.

	Feb 8, Wed	Feb 15, Wed	Feb 22, Wed	Feb 28, Tue
<b>FEB</b>	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
<b>MAR</b>	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](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 **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: (SIR Branches 35, 51, others)

Meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM  
**Next ride will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> 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 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 one-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-\$6 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 starting point.

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). 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-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**



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).

### **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)

## 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*