

# Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement

## Branch #51

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

No. 561  
A Non-Profit Organization  
For Retired Men



April 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:

### Spring has Sprung

April is the month of renewal. Fortunately, the renewal of our IRS and CA FTB April taxes due have been postponed until Monday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2023. This affects most of CA counties. All Bay Area counties (Santa Clara, San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Santa Cruz) get the extension. A small benefit from the calamities of this past winter weather (atmospheric rivers, floods, wind damage, mud slides, power outages, too much snow, you name it.). One could say that the “March Madness” weather has held up to its name.

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

We have been fortunate to bring three new members to our branch. They are:

John Reimann and his wife, Jill, live in Los Altos. John worked for KMPG as a CPA. John likes fishing, genealogy, hiking, pickleball, and wine tasting. Please welcome John to our branch.

Paul Lawryk with his wife, Reneé, live in San Jose. Paul worked for Sun Microsystems and IBM as a high-tech executive. Also, he has worked as an entrepreneur. Paul volunteers and contributes to numerous non-profits that focus on underserved people services (food, shelter, etc.) Post retirement,

he has been a long-time volunteer head coach for cross-country and distance track for Los Gatos High School. Paul enjoys biking, book club, golf, hiking, pickleball, and wine tasting. Also, please welcome Paul.

Gary Wada and his wife, Donna, live in Atherton. Gary worked as a biochemist lab manager for Fujifilm Wako Diagnostics and is retired. Gary enjoys photography, computers and tech, gardening, golf, investments, fishing, and wine tasting. Again, please welcome Gary.

We need more members to join our branch to improve our success as an improving branch that can survive and grow to be more interesting and rewarding to our members. Diverse backgrounds of members help us know and learn more about our community, ourselves, and the world.

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. Please see the attached picnic flyer with this newsletter.

A new roster is being planned for printing in 2023. Please update any changes to your SIR profile for this new issue by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. E-mail your updates to Jeff Gardiner, Membership Chairman, [jefg@usms.com](mailto:jefg@usms.com)

If you have not done so yet, please pay your **2023 SIR 51 dues very soon since they were due 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

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,

This is the year of the branch. We need to recruit. There are two areas where what we offer is crucial to our success.

The first is our monthly luncheon. Here we don't just dine together, we meet, we renew old acquaintances, we develop a sense of who we are as a community.

The second are our activities. The prime activity is golf. We find that most of us have joined SIRs to play golf. However, there is more that can entice. There are bowling, bocce ball, bicycling, and most recently pickleball.

So, emphasize these activities. Get out your bowling ball. Dust off your bicycle. Get those cobwebs off your golf clubs. Join those of us who are in the mix. The rewards are in the doing.

Yours,  
Gerry

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

Our SIR General Membership meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</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.

March luncheon attendance was a total of 27 (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 April 5<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, at 11:00 AM.

March Board meeting had 9 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**

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

***How AI is Impacting Students, Both Positively and Negatively***

#### **Topic Description:**

AI (Artificial Intelligence) is making its way into nearly every aspect of our lives. From the ads we see watching television to the various headlines we read every day, AI is playing a more important role. Mr. Raisner will be talking about how AI is impacting our students in classrooms around the world as it becomes more widely used and its huge potential for misuse.



## “The Thinker” of the Future

## **Speaker Name and Biography:**



## **Justin Raisner, Carlmont High School Teacher**

Justin Raisner is the English department chair at Carlmont High School in Belmont, California. This is also his fourteenth year of advising student media, and he is tactically involved with the national Journalism Education Association. His [scotscoop.com](http://scotscoop.com) staff is annually recognized as one of the top high school news websites in the country, and his students have won awards for writing, design, photography, and broadcast. In addition to advising, Raisner has worked as a writer and managing editor for several local publications. In addition to his credentials to teach both English and Career Technical Education, he has a Masters Degree in Education Technology.

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

## May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 Speaker and Topic:

TBD

# **FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SPEAKERS**

## **PLEASE CONTACT:**

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

## **2023 Membership Roster**

A new roster is being planned for printing in 2023. Please update by 15<sup>th</sup> of April any changes to your SIR profile for this new issue. Call or e-mail your updates to Jeff Gardiner, Membership Chairman, at (650) 303-0981 or [jeffg@usms.com](mailto: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.

## Craig's Current Contributions: April 2023

*Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig Carpenter*

Former Big SIR, very important guy. Now running a car wash on the Peninsula where it has rained almost every day for months. My main customer is this guy, Noah. He brings his Ark in frequently. Still thinking of opening a Trabant dealership as well.

## **THOUGHTS TO PONDER:**

When I offer to wash your back in the shower, all you have to say is yes or no. Not all this "Who are you and how did you get in here?" nonsense.

The guy at the furniture store told me the sofa would seat 5 people without any problems. Then it occurred to me, I don't think I know 5 people without any problems.

I told my wife I saw a deer on the way to work. She said how do you know he was headed to work?

Remember how when you were little you could just rip off your diaper and run around naked and everyone thought it was so cute and funny? Anyway, I need bail money.

Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.

Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.

Raising teenagers is like nailing Jello to a tree.

Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

## **GOOD READS FOR GUYS:**

***Churchill's Hellraisers*** by Damien Lewis. The secret mission to storm a forbidden Nazi fortress.

***The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel*** by Kati Martin. New York Times gives it 4.6 out of 5 stars.

***Team America: Patton, Macarthur, Marshall, Eisenhower And The World They Forged*** by Robert L. O'Connell.

## **STUFF TO WATCH:**

## **Amazon Prime:**

***The Underground Railroad*** Cora and Caesar come up with a plan to escape their enslavers.

## Apple TV+:

"**Shrinking** The writing and acting are crisp and the characters engaging. A fantastic cast. One caveat though...30+ "F Bombs" per 30-minute episode. They don't add to the story but Hollywood seems to feel the need to do this.

**Ted Lasso.** Yay!!! The new season has started.

Well, I guess that's all or, as they say in the UK..."Bob's your uncle", which means "and there it is" and "there you have it" or "it's done".

See y'all next month.

## ACTIVITIES

*This **Multi-Branch Activities** section is being repeated from last month's newsletter to remind members that there are activities that can be enjoyed across multiple branches.*

## 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=fTvPYdKZqO0>

**Scoring:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoheCHp6IDw>

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

## GOLF

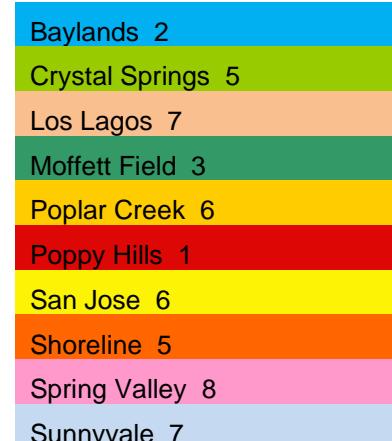


If any of you are interested in playing golf as individuals, you might want to check with the courses as to tee time availability.

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 April, and May 2023.

	Apr 04, Tue	Apr 12, Wed.	Apr 19, Wed.	Apr 26, Wed	
APR	Moffett Field 10:00 AM	Sunnyvale	Los Lagos	Poplar Creek 10:00 AM	
	May 02, Tue	May 10, Wed	May 17, Wed	May 24, Wed	May 31, Wed
MAY	Crystal Springs 10:00 AM	Spring Valley 10:00 AM	Sunnyvale 10:00 AM	Moffett Field 10:00 AM	Poplar Creek 10:00 AM

TOTAL TOURNAMENTS: 50



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 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)**

Meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM  
Next ride will be on April 13<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>

## **Foster City Bay Trail**

**Ride:** We will ride the scenic and picturesque Foster City Bay Trail from the Oracle Corporate Headquarters to the Poplar Creek Golf Course at Coyote Point. There is another 4-mile extension that would take us to the very southern edge of the SF International Airport for a total round trip of 22 miles. The trail is paved and level but there is on-going construction that will detour us on to some city streets with well designated bike lanes. We can decide on whether to ride the 4-mile extension on the day of the ride. There are several restaurants along the ride for lunch options. It might be windy, so bring a windbreaker or vest.

**Directions:** Get off Highway 101 at Marine Parkway/ Ralston. Turn right on Marine Parkway, then an immediate left onto Oracle Parkway. The meeting point is a tree-shaded parking lot with restrooms to the left of this intersection. If the parking lot there is full, backtrack over the creek to 401-501 Island Parkway and park in the Oracle lot. Ride your bike across the pedestrian bridge to the meeting 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-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 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 CHARMEN**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Big SIR: Gerry Shebar	868-6124
Little SIR: Richard Jamison	868-3723
Secretary: Jeff Gardiner	303-0981
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	303-0981
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) 303-0981

“All the news that fits we print”

Anonymous