

Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement Branch #51

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch51

No. 566
A Non-Profit Organization
For Retired Men



September 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:

Summer Is Coming to an End

September is here and we should continue to have good weather, albeit, hot at times. What better way to cool off is to join your friends at Fremont Hills Country Club. Try to bring a friend or neighbor to our luncheon that would enjoy our diverse members, our food, and an interesting speaker. It would be great if we can get your friend or neighbor ultimately to join our branch to keep the branch growing.

Another sad bit of news.

IN MEMORIAM

Foster Kenny

**Former BIG SIR of Branch 5 & Area
13 Representative**

Foster passed away on Sunday, August 27, 2023. He was a dedicated and enthusiastic SIR member who assisted the seven branches in our area 13. He will be greatly missed.

Tribute from Branch 51

There is a celebration of Golden Gate Fields last horse racing event before closing. A flyer is included with this newsletter that explains the *SIR Day at the Races* event for all SIR members to join in the fun. The celebration is on Monday, September 25th 2023, at noon. Cost for the event is \$76 per person, including buffet and TurfClub. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, September 20th

Other news.

Here are comments from our State SIR president, Dave Gonzolas, regarding a survey of branches willing to allow women to join SIR branches.

"The State Board has carefully reviewed the results of the recent survey about permitting women members in Sir. The data from 73 branch replies showed that only 14% said YES, so your Board has voted to discontinue any further action or discussion to revise our bylaws to allow women in SIR".

On another note.

The SIR Foundation, which supports all branches for financial aid in time of need needs to replenish its coffers due to past support for branches that received help, e.g., improvement projects, infrastructure needs, wildfire disasters, etc.

The Sons In Retirement Foundation Inc. (SIRF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible within the limits prescribed by California law.

SIRF is currently managed by a five-member volunteer Board of Directors. We invite any SIR

member with fundraising experience to help the Board obtain donations that allows us to continue providing grants where needed or requested.

If you can contribute, any amount, the SIR Foundation thanks you. To obtain a donation form, print the included SIRF file with this newsletter. Contact person is Jim Walton, Foundation President, jameswalton2176@gmail.com

By the way, if you have any changes to your profile in the roster, please inform our Membership Chairman in order to keep the roster file up to date. E-mail your updates to Joe Urbassik at joeu1218@gmail.com.

As for other happenings within our branch, see the respective sections later in this newsletter. Be healthy and safe.

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Branch 51 News

Big SIR Notes:

From the computer of Gerry Shebar

Gents,

We continue to have lively conversations at our monthly luncheon. We also have a great meal. It would be good if everyone encouraged their fellow SIRs to attend.

Our annual nomination of next year's board is underway. We have Richard Jamison in the role of Big Sir. Steve Tremulis is continuing in the role of Little Sir. Kevin Wheaton takes on Treasurer with some help from Mike McMahan. Joe Urbassik stays on as Membership. Pete Sorenson has agreed to be Secretary. Ray Klinke remains in special events. I will continue to maintain the website.

The only key post we have open is the editor of the newsletter. This involved gathering input from the members, putting it into a Word and PDF format. Then distributing it house-wide. Anyone interested in taking this up should contact me or Richard Jamison.

Gerry

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SIR 51 General Membership Meeting

Our next SIR General Membership meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, **September 6th** starting at **11:30 a.m.**, for social half-hour, then at noon for lunch.

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

July luncheon attendance was a total of 28 members including the speaker. As of July month-end, our branch members totaled 62.

SIR 51 Board Meetings

The next Board meeting will occur in-person this coming **September 6th**, Wednesday, at **11:00 a.m.**

July Board meeting had seven attendees.

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

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

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Monthly Presentation for Members

September 6th, 2023 Speaker Topic:

Tournament Poker

Topic Description:

Gerry Shebar will talk about some of the differences between a cash poker game and tournament poker.

Speaker Name and Biography:



Gerry Shebar

Gerry Shebar is a fair poker player. He has won over \$44,000 with his best win being \$14,306. This places him at 53,318th place among the poker players in the world.

Future speakers:

October 4th, 2023 Speaker and Topic:

TBD

Speaker Name and Biography:

TBD

FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SPEAKERS

PLEASE CONTACT:

Steve Tremulis
(650) 598-9790

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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

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

State SIR Website:

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.

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Craig's Current Contributions:
September 2023

Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig Carpenter

Former Big SIR. VERY important guy. Thinking of joining the 49ers coaching staff...perhaps as head coach. If we don't sign Nick Bosa soon or lose the opener to the Steelers, then go to Plan B, perhaps applying to run the U-Haul operation moving the Oakland A's from Oakland to Las Vegas. Just a couple of thoughts.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

"We've been friends for so long, I can't remember which one of us is the bad influence".

"Only in math problems can you buy 60 cantaloupes and no one asks 'what the heck is wrong with you?'"

Wife to husband... "how can a man who can hit a deer at 250 yards keep missing the toilet?"

You'd be surprised how quickly employees at Lowe's assist you after ignoring you for 20 minutes when you try to start a chainsaw.

So the game is a simple one. With the cat clutched in your arms, you fire the pistol and see how long you can hold onto the cat. The world record is 1.3 seconds.

A police officer came to my house and asked me where I was between 5 and 6. He seemed irritated when I said "kindergarten".

It's my wife's birthday tomorrow and she's been leaving jewelry catalogues all over the house. So I bought her a magazine rack. That should go well for me.

GOOD READS FOR GUYS:

Small Mercies by Dennis Lehane. He wrote *Mystic River* and this book is a masterpiece - an all-consuming tale of revenge, family, love, festering hate, and insidious power, set against one of the most tumultuous episodes in Boston's history - integrating the schools in South Boston, circa 1974.

Bibi - My Story by Benjamin Netanyahu. Love him or hate him, this is a remarkable man. The longest tenured Prime Minister in Israel's history having served for over 15 years.

Libra by Don DeLillo. This is a psychological thriller whose primary character is the attention-grabbing loner and loser Lee Oswald (nobody called him Lee Harvey before his infamous act). The title **Libra** signifies Oswald's astrological sign and its "scales" for a fated life course.

Wager by David Grann. A tale of shipwreck, mutiny, and murder.

Midnight in Broad Daylight by Pamela Rotner Sakamoto. An unlikely but true story about family, divided loyalty, service and duty, discrimination, and warfare.

STUFF TO WATCH:

Netflix:

Who is Erin Carter. A British teacher who finds herself caught up in a robbery in Spain must fight to clear her name and protect her family.

Quarterback. This limited series focuses on three NFL quarterbacks - Patrick Mahomes, Kirk Cousins and Marcus Mariota & shows their personal lives plus practices and games. My wife loved it as well!

Apple TV+:

Drops of God. A woman discovers the world's greatest wine collection that's left by her estranged father and competes against his protege to claim her inheritance.

Slow Horses. 97% on Rotten Tomatoes. A spy thriller starring Gary Oldman. Two seasons to watch.

Hint: If you enjoy the Wall Street Journal, you can get the digital version for \$5/month when they have a special running...which is often. Beware though, at the end of the 12 month period you will be billed at the going rate...currently \$29-\$39/month...unless you cancel.

Well, I guess that's it. See ya next month.

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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.

	Sep 05, Tue	Sep 13, Wed	Sep 20, Wed	Sep 27, Wed
SEPT	Baylands 8:30 AM	Shoreline 10:00 AM	Poplar Creek 10:00 AM	Crystal Springs 10:00 AM

	Oct 03, Tue	Oct 11, Wed	Oct 18, Wed	Oct 25, Wed	Oct 31, Tue
OCT	San Jose 10:00 AM	Spring Valley 10:00 AM	Sunnyvale 10:00 AM	Crystal Springs 10:00 AM	Los Lagos 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

For helpful information on State SIR and various Branch golf activities, contact Mark Stuart, 2023 State Golf Chair at 916 218-2287 or mss95678@hotmail.com

Also, for more information on State SIR golf activities, use the link below.

www.sirgolf.org

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 September, and October 2023.

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 SIR 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 September 14th 2023.

Wives and guests welcomed; 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>

Guadalupe River Trail – Alviso to Downtown San Jose.

Ride: We will begin the ride at the trailhead near the Alviso Educational Center parking lot (free parking, drinking fountain and restrooms) at [2040 Gold Street](#) in Alviso. We will follow the scenic, paved trail from Alviso past Mineta San Jose International Airport and to the 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. This trail was closed earlier this year due to the heavy rains & flooding causing trail closures underneath streets, expressways, and freeways.

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 Alviso Educational Center parking lot.

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-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 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: Richard Jamison 868-3723
Asst. Secretary: Pete Sorenson 868-6804
Treasurer: Kevin Wheaton 485-2276
Asst. Treasurer: Mike McMahon 493-7392

DIRECTORS

Sam Meredith 325-4152
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: (Open)		Speaker Coordinator: Steve Tremulis	598-9790
Audit: Sam Meredith	325-4152	Membership: Joe Urbassik	714-9610
Website: Gerry Shebar	868-6124	Asst. Membership: Art Roberts	279-5560
Asst. Website: (Open)		Greeter: Al Runge	592-1345
Newsletter: Richard Jamison	868-3723	Special Events: Ray Klinke	924-0734
Good Samaritan: Bob Guffey	593-3496	Nominating Committee: Gerry Shebar	868-6124
Member Orientation: Bob Guffey	593-3496	Jim Cummings	207-3609
		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:

Joe Urbassik,
4128 Willmar Drive,
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650) 714-9610

“All the news that fits we print”

Anonymous