Mid-Peninsula Sons In Retirement Branch #51

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch51

No. 573

A Non-Profit Organization For Retired Men



April 2024

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:

The dues for 2024 are to be collected starting January 1st, and the deadline to pay is by March 31st. Beyond that date members who have not paid will be removed from our branch roster. The dues will be \$30 per year. Cash or a check made out to SIR 51 will work. The golfers NCGA and Northern California golf association dues have been paid and are separate from the branch membership dues. Luncheon meals are still at \$30 per person. For more information and who to send your check to is Kevin Wheaton, Treasurer 620 Sand Hill Road, Apt #213G, Palo Alto, CA, 94304. If need be, one can e-mail Kevin at krwheaton@gmail.com.

New Members

As always, try to bring your friends or neighbors to our Fremont Hills Country Club, and show them what we like and enjoy about our SIR 51 branch: tasty food, interesting members, social activities, and entertaining speakers. Possibly, we can get your friend or neighbor to join our branch, and ultimately, keep our branch growing.

If you have any changes to your profile in the roster, please inform our Membership Chairman. This allows us to keep the roster file up to date. Currently, e-mail your updates to Membership Chairman, Joe Urbassik, at jpeu1218@gmail.com

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Branch 51 News

Big SIR Notes:

From the computer of Richard Jamison

Fellow Members,

As spring approaches, weather starts to warm, time springs ahead, and traditional "fun" begins with filing our taxes. In addition, our annual \$30 dues for this year come due by the end of March. Please keep our branch active and supported with your renewed membership for 2024. After March 31st, members will be dropped from our existing roster of members for lack of dues payment.

To help the branch grow in 2024, please invite a friend, neighbor, acquaintance to our general membership meeting and luncheon. It would be great if we can add members each month. New members add interesting people with different backgrounds to our good group of existing members. As an example, our branch is exploring the possibility of merging our golf activities with branch 125 of San Jose who play essentially some of the same courses and days that we play. This can help both branches meet the minimum number of

golfers needed to reserve a course tor play - more information to come.

Please feel free to offer constructive feedback on ways to improve our branch with new activities, speaker topics, or entertaining discussions. Do consider volunteering within the branch to help do your part to improve our offerings of interesting activities, and enjoyable friendships whether they are with new or old friends.

Richard

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SIR 51 General Membership Meeting

Our next SIR General Membership meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 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.

March Luncheon attendance was a total of 40 members plus guests, an encouraging uptick in attendance. Our branch membership totals 63.

SIR 51 Board Meetings

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

For more details, please contact Big SIR, Richard Jamison at email address: rsjamison@aol.com

The lists for elected 2024 officers and committee chairmen are located at the end of this newsletter.

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Monthly Presentation for Members

April 3, 2024 Speaker

Steve Tremulis

Topic Description: The Bonneville Salt Flats and its 100-year history in land speed records.

Each winter, for thousands of years, the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah are flooded from rains and every summer those rains evaporate leaving behind a surface layer of hard crystalized salt. Its unique



environment creates one of the largest and flattest places on the face of the earth. Since 1914, the Salt Flats, as hard as concrete, makes it the ideal location for racers to test their cars and motorcycles in an all-out attempt at breaking a land speed record. There is no money involved, the racers only race against the clock with little more than a slip of paper recorded with their top speed and a pat on their back. Join us for an in-depth look as Steve Tremulis takes a look at the history of the Bonneville Salt Flats and some of the cars and drivers that became household names in their death-defying quest for ultimate speed.



May Speaker

Topic Description:

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: April 2024

Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig Carpenter

Former Big SIR, very important guy. Just bet a bundle on March Madness. All my teams lost in the first round so if a guy named Vinny comes looking for me...you don't know me.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes we arson. My friends and I have named our band "Duvet". It's a cover band.

Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering. What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? Suture yourself. Doctor to patient: You have fits of rage, followed by spells of euphoria, all within several hours. Are you, by chance, a golfer?

GOOD READS FOR GUYS:

"The Women" by Kristin Hannah "Fourth Wing" by Rebecca Yarros "The Whistler" by John Grisham

"The Demon of Unrest" by Erik Larson

"A Dangerous Fortune" by Ken Follett

STUFF TO WATCH:

"Expats" on Amazon Prime.

"Nyad" on Netflix. Diana Nyad's swim from Cuba to Florida.

"Gran Turismo" on Netflix, Amazon & Apple TV.
"Dumb Money" on Amazon, Netflix & Apple TV.

Well, I guess that's it. See you next month.Former Big SIR, very important guy. Not so much any more. Sigh.

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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.

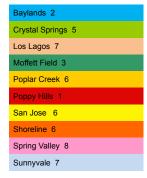
For helpful information on State SIR and various Branch golf activities, contact Mark Stuart, 2023 State Golf Chair at 916 218-2287 or mss95678@hotmail.com

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

As for SIR Branch 51's golf information, see the SIR 51 2024 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 2024.

4/2	Tues.	Shoreline.	10:30 AM
4/10	Wed.	Sunnyvale.	10 AM
4/17	Wed.	Los Lagos.	10 AM
4/24	Wed.	Poplar Creek.	10 AM
4/30	Tues.	Crystal Springs.	10 AM
5/8.	Wed.	Spring Valley.	10 AM
5/15	Wed.	Sunnyvale.	10 AM
5/22.	Wed.	Moffett Field.	10 AM
5/29	Wed.	Poplar Creek.	10 AM

TOTAL TOURNAMENTS: 51



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

Napa 2024 Golf Tournament

Here is information about the 2024 Napa Golf Tournament sponsored by Branch's 35, 149 and SIR State Golf. The links below provide the announcement and registration form for our first State Golf tournament of the year to be held in April.

The information on this event and other SIR golfing events can be found on the SIR State Golf website at www.sirgolf.org.

Ben Gikis, 2024 SIR State Golf Committee Chair

State SIR Golf Newsletter: www.sirgolf.org

Check if the <u>following activities</u> are going to occur with the recent changes in COVID-19 State SIR restrictions.

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:

Lawn Bowling is available every Friday from 10 AM to noon at the Senior Center in Los Altos. Contact Bob Taggart.

BOB TAGGART (Br 35)

(650) 321-2654

CYCLING: (SIR Branches 35, 51, others)

Meet on 2^{nd} Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM

Next Ride

Date: Thursday, April 11th, 2024

Time: 11:00am

Wives and guests welcomed; helmets required and

face masks optional.

Half Moon Bay Coastal Trail

Ride: This is one of the best bike rides in the Bay Area! We will ride a paved, flat trail along the ocean shore for about 6 miles from Poplar Beach, located south of Half Moon Bay, to Pillar Point, just past the town of Princeton. There is an optional ride to Mavericks Beach (1.5 miles) where surfing competitions take place and then on to the infamous Moss Beach Distillery (3 miles) on 140 Beach Way, HMB. There are several lunch options along our ride. This adds about 4.5 miles for a total 22 miles with no inclines. We can decide on what ride options once we arrive at Pillar Point.

Directions: Take I-280 North approximately 15 miles to Highway 92, then take the exit to Half Moon Bay. Continue on Highway 92 about

10 miles to the intersection with Highway 1, turn left. Go about one mile to Poplar St., turn right. Go to the end of Poplar St and park in the Poplar Beach parking lot, near the port-a-johns. If you park in that lot, there is a hourly parking fee that you have to prepay. There is also neighborhood street parking on side streets off of Poplar St. If you park on the neighborhood streets, please pay attention to ALL posted parking signs. Driving time is about 40 minutes. It may be windy and/or cold, so bring a wind breaker or vest.

If you plan to ride or have questions please contact Gordy Tong at gordy6850@gmail.com or 408 242-0557 or Hank Bottino bottinoh@comcast.net or 650 207-4320

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

Travel Opportunity

Prague to Budapest River Cruise November 2024

Travel News from State SIR is meant as a useful service to all Sirs.

We recognize that for many SIR members or branches it's difficult, if not impossible, to organize a cruise or major travel adventure. Therefore, as a benefit to its members State SIR occasionally organizes cost-effective trips which we will promote and you can sign up and join without the hassle of having to make all the arrangements yourself.

Here is information about a river trip Prague to Budapest 11/6-11/20 2024, discounted by \$1000 if booked by 12/31/23; also pre and post trips are available, see below. I have attached a video at the end. Do not pay attention to those prices in the video the prices I have listed in the email body are correct for SIRs. Along with the group number etc.

This trip has an additional \$1000 off my listed prices if you book by December 31. So act now, If you have any questions call or email Milt Smith State Travel Chair. Br 146, 925-285-2897c miltsmith549@gmail.com

Take a look let us know what you think. We can give you chapter and verse on shipboard life, cabins, weather, air etc. I am sending this to all SIRs statewide, we could get a large group. Also, excellent prices for solo travelers.

Dates: 11/6 thru 11/20

Pre-trip to Dresden and Berlin US departure date:

11/1/24

Pre-trip to Warsaw and Krakow US departure

date: 11/1/24

Post-trip to Budapest return date: 11/23/24

Per person pricing, by cabin level: \$1000 OFF IF

CONFIRMED BY 12/31/23

Serenade A: \$3995 Serenade B: \$3895

Sonata C: \$3795 Sonata D: \$3695 Cantata E: \$3595

Cantata F: \$3495 Prelude G: \$3395 Prelude H: \$3195

Air from SFO: \$1100

Dresden and Berlin: \$995 Warsaw and Krakow: \$1095

Budapest: \$745

The group code for the trip is G4-23630. This is fully linked to the cruises date - all set for registrations to come through at 1-800-221-2610 once travelers are ready.

Travelers can mention the promotional code EUEM 101 for the additional \$1000 off. I'll be auditing all reservations over time to ensure the discount is applied correctly for all those who register by 12/31/23.

A link for more information: https://www.gct.com/trips/river-cruises/europe/romantic-blue-danube-budapest-to-prague/2021/itineraries?year=2024&jobcode=010-1514

This one is time-critical to get a great discount! Cheers, Milt Smith SIR State Travel Chair 925-285-2897

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

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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^{th} and 20^{th} of the month prior to the next newsletter.

Newsletter Editor Art Roberts (650) 279 5560 alroberts4202@gmail.com

2024 SIR BRANCH #51 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

Big SIR: Richard Jamison

868-3723

Indoor Bowling; Bob Taggart (Br 35) 321-2654

 Little SIR: Steve Tremulis
 598-9790

 Secretary: Pete Sorenson
 868-6804

 Asst. Secretary: (Open)
 485-2276

 Treasurer: Mike McMahon
 493-7392

Lawn Bowling: Bob Taggart
Cycling: Gordon Tong (Br 35) (408) 242-0557
Tennis: Syd Jacobsen (Br 35) (408) 738-3233
Golf Chairman: Kai Johansen
Golf Assistant: Jim Cummings 207-3609
Travel: State SIR Travel: www.sirinc.org
Compusir: Stanford-PA Users Groupwww.spaug.net
Macintosh Users: Skip Ross (541) 857-6224
Historian: (Open)

DIRECTORS

Sam Meredith 325-4152 Steve Tremulis 598-9790 Jim Cummings 207-3609 Gerry Shebar 868-6124

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	Greeter: Al Runge	592-1345
Asst. Website: (Open)		Newsletter: Art Roberts	279-5560
Special Events: Ray Klinke	924-0734.	Nominating Committee: Richard Jamiso	n868-3723
Good Samaritan: Bob Guffey	593-3496	Gerry Shebar	868-6124
Member Orientation: Bob Guffey	593-3496	Jim Cummings	207-3609

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, Assistant Membership Committee Chairman:

Art Roberts 4202 Manuela Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94306 (650) 279-5560 Alroberts4202@gmail.com

"All the news that fits we print"

Anonymous