

SIR

Branch #51

Website: www.sirinc2.org/branch51

No. 590

A Non-Profit Organization



September 2025

Enrich Your Life

**LUNCHEON: 12 PM – FIRST WEDNESDAY – FREMONT HILLS CC,
12889 VISCAINO PL., LOS ALTOS, CA**

Branch 51 News

Big SIR Notes:

At a recent meeting of the Branch Leaders the State SIR Goals were shared.

- * Lower SIR's median age by attracting and inducting younger new members.
- * Build strong rapport with all branches.
- * Develop and gain membership approval of a 3-5 year SIR strategic plan.
- * Gain membership approval of changes to Incorporation Documents and Bylaws.
- * Improve the accessibility and "readability" of Procedures & Bylaws and Operation Guides.
- * Train branch BEC's on successful operating and marketing procedures.
- * Develop succession plan for State Officers, Directors and key operating positions.

Also the State is recommending:

- * Remove "retirement" as a requirement
- * Remove "Northern California" as a branch limit

- * Require branch marketing plans with budgets
- * Enhance communications thru Area Consultants
- * Streamline 'on-line' database updates
- * Use natural language queries to access manuals
- * Hire legal advisors to update Bylaws

Gerry Shebar

General Interest

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 joeu1218@gmail.com

SIR 51 General Membership Meeting

Our next SIR General Membership meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, September 3, starting at 11:30 AM for social half-hour, then at noon for lunch.

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

Message from our Treasurer

Please try to arrive before 12:00 noon. Our collection team needs to close their operations desk to enjoy the meeting. If you absolutely must arrive late, find either Kevin Wheaton or Mike McMahan to pay up and register. Don't just wander in. It screws up our records.

SIR 51 Board Meetings

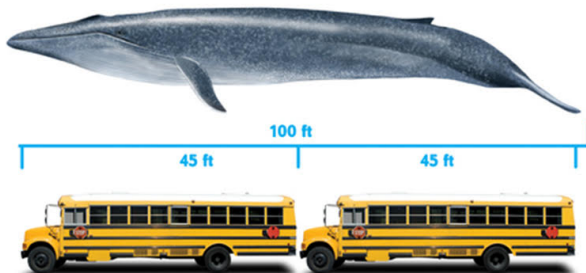
The next Board meeting will occur in-person Wednesday, September 3, at 11:00 a.m.

For more details, please contact Big SIR, Gerry Shebar at email address: gshebar@yahoo.com

September Speaker

Whales-Giants of the Sea

Richard Holmboe will present information on three giants of the sea - the gray whale



(as big as a big bus), the humpback whale (bigger than a big bus) and the blue whale (bigger than two big buses).

You will see how these giants of the animal kingdom survive by eating some of the

smallest of animals. Then, you'll learn of a tiny animal that eats the giant whale. All of this will be accompanied by a slide deck of pictures and a video that are guaranteed to amaze you.



Richard is retired and living in San Jose with his wife Arlene. In his civilian career, he worked mostly for HP and Agilent Technologies.

He spent a good part of that career writing high-tech manuals and training courses. He also spent 22 years in the navy and naval reserve - in submarines, surface navy and naval air. He has been a popular docent at the Pigeon Point lighthouse near Pescadero for seven years. He has spoken to groups many times on the subjects of the lighthouse, on whales, and on his submarine experience. Additionally, he presents popular poems in a dramatic and meaningful way.



**FOR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING
SPEAKERS PLEASE CONTACT:**

Steve Tremulis
(650) 598-9790

Craig's Current Contributions:
September 2025

Courtesy of former Big SIR, Craig Carpenter

Former Big SIR. VERY important guy. I hear the 49ers are short a few wide receivers so I am calling Kyle Shanahan today & offering my talents. I am willing to take the NFL minimum wage... which is \$840K/year. At 83 years of age, 6'1", 205 lbs. & still able to rip off an 8.3 40 yard dash. Gotta hit the tattoo parlor first though. I figure I get hit once then I'm off to rehab for the rest of the season.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

The older I get, the tighter companies are putting the lids on jars.

When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "East".

Cell phones bring you closer to the person far from you. But take you away from the ones sitting next to you.

Why did the art thief's van run out of gas as he drove away from the museum?
Because he had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh. (I know...I APOLOGIZE. My bad.)

You're not fat, you're just easier to see.

GOOD READS FOR GUYS:

"Mark Twain" by Ron Chernow. 1174 pages. A decidedly warts-and-all portrait of the man many consider to be America's greatest writer.

"Twilight of the Gods, War in the Western Pacific 1944-45" by Ian W. Toll. A riveting account of the harrowing account of the last year of World War II in the Pacific when the U.S. Navy won the largest naval battle in history & Douglas MacArthur made good on his promise to return to the Philippines.

STUFF TO WATCH:

"SEC Football, Any Given Saturday" on Netflix. Personal Note - my son played football for UCLA (now part of the Big 10) but, let's face it, the SEC is heads & shoulders above everyone else in college football.

"Hostage", also on Netflix. When the British Prime Minister's husband is kidnapped & the French President starts receiving threats, both leaders must face an impossible choice.

"Nature" on PBS. Consistently stunning documentaries transport viewers to far-flung locations ranging from the torrid African plains to the chilly splendours of icy Antarctica. Now in their 44th season.

"Murder in a Small Town" on Amazon Prime. Karl Alberg moves to the idyllic small Canadian town of Gibsons to become the new police chief and to soothe a psyche that has been battered by big-city police work. Unfortunately the gentle paradise has more than its share of secrets.

Well, I guess that's it. See you in October.

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

As for SIR Branch 51's golf information, see the SIR 51 2025 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 the next two months of 2025.

08/27	Wed	Moffett Field	10:00 AM
09/02	Tues	Baylands	8:30 AM
09/10	Wed	Los Lagos	10:00 AM
09/17	Wed	Crystal Springs	10:00 AM
09/24	Wed	Shoreline	10:00 AM
09/30	Tues	Moffett Field	10:00 AM
10/08	Wed	Poplar Creek	10:00 AM
10/15	Wed	Sunnyvale	10:00 AM
10/22	Wed	Crystal Springs	10:00 AM
10/29	Wed	Los Lagos	10:00 AM

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

Information on other SIR golfing events can be found on the SIR State Golf website at www.sirgolf.org.

Ben Gikis, 2025 SIR State Golf Committee Chair

State SIR Golf Newsletter: www.sirgolf.org

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. 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

Bocce Ball:

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

rntheo1@icloud.com.

(first two letters are r and n)

BOB TAGGART (Br 35)

(650) 321-2654

CYCLING: (SIR Branches 35, 51, others)

Information on the September ride will be provided later in a supplementary email.

If you have questions, please contact Gordy Tong at 408-242-0557
or gordy6850@gmail.com).

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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 15th and 20th of the month prior to the next newsletter.

Newsletter Editor

Art Roberts

alroberts4202@gmail.com

2025 SIR BRANCH #51 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

Big SIR: Gerry Shebar	868-3723
Little SIR: Steve Tremulis	598-9790
Secretary: Pete Sorenson	868-6804
Asst. Secretary: Gary Wada	325-7228
Treasurer: Kevin Wheaton	485-2276
Asst. Treasurer: Mike McMahon	380-0983
Golf Chairman: Kai Johansen	380-9493
Golf Assistant: Jim Cummings	207-3609
Bowling: Bob Taggart (Br 35)	321-2654
Bocce Ball: Richard Oehlberg	
Cycling: Gordon Tong (Br 35)	(408) 242-0557
Historian: (open)	
State SIR Travel:	www.sirinc.org

DIRECTORS

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

ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMEN

Speakers: Steve Tremulis	995-3231
Audit: Sam Meredith	325-4152
Membership: Joe Urbassik	714-9610
Website: Gerry Shebar	868-6124
Asst. Website: Joe Urbassik	714-9610
Greeter: Open	
Newsletter: Art Roberts	279-5560
Special Events: Ray Klinke	924-0734
Nominating Comm.: Richard Jamison	868-3723
Good Samaritan: Bob Guffey	593-3496
Member Orientation: Bob Guffey	593-3496

All telephone numbers are in the 650-area code, except as noted differently.

All changes in address, telephone number, and e-mail address should be reported to the SIR Membership Chairman Joe Urbassik 714-9610