

# SIR

## Branch #51

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



No. 596

March 2026

A Non-Profit Organization

Enrich Your Life

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

### Branch 51 News

activities, lunches, and events while making friends for life.

Last but not least, at our February luncheon I asked members present if anyone has the

#### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT PETE SORENSON**

The Olympics coverage has been very exciting to watch, but now it's back to work.

A few highlights from 2 recent State SIR workshop briefings:

SIR branches receive an application for every two invited guests.

SIR was founded 68 years ago. Since then society has changed but SIR hasn't. Now State SIR (the guys who try to keep 80 SIR branches somewhat organized while handling our taxes, insurance, etc) has taken on the task to define how society has evolved and how SIR needs to change to better enrich the lives of today's members through well-organized, well-run, fun

capability and interest to create a replacement for our existing Branch 51 website. There were no takers. Now, our State SIR says they will provide free software, a free template, and dedicated volunteers to help us. Are any of you conversant enough with computers to take on this task which could be stimulating, creative, and fun?

Please send Gerry Shebar or me an email if interested.

Joe Urbassik has been pooling our members to find out if there are activities that could be added to our offerings. Don't be bashful!

Here's a message from Joe:

Do you like San Francisco Giants baseball? We are arranging a SIR 51 outing to Oracle Park in San Francisco for Wednesday May 27, Giants vs. Arizona Diamondbacks. Ticket prices are \$27, ground floor, just outside 3rd base under the overhang to protect from the sun. Spouses are welcomed and encouraged to join the event. Let Joe Urbassik know if you plan to attend at [joeu1218@gmail.com](mailto:joeu1218@gmail.com). Details of transportation to San Francisco are still to be resolved. We hope you will join us! Ray Klinke and Joe Urbassik.

## **PLAY BALL!**

### **SIR 51 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Our next SIR General Membership meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, March 4, 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 Mike McMahan or Kevin Wheaton 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, March 4, at 11:00 a.m. For more details, please contact President, Pete

Sorenson at email address:  
[petersorenson@comcast.net](mailto:petersorenson@comcast.net)

### **MARCH SPEAKER**

Our March luncheon speaker will be Richard Holmboe: "My Submarine Life or Living on a Pig Boat"



Richard will present his US Navy submarine experiences during the Vietnam War. This is a light-hearted presentation that includes information about submarines and about his experiences in two trips overseas. The talk will include many interesting and colorful slides.

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: February 2026**

*Former Big SIR - very important guy. Now kinda meh (Yiddish for "whatever").*

### **THOUGHTS TO PONDER\*:**

*\*All plagiarized from Walt McCullough...who no doubt stole it from someone else.*

*I asked my friend to spell "wonton" backwards.  
He said "not now".*

*My friend went bald years ago but still carries  
around an old comb with him.  
He just can't part with it.*

*I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's  
impossible to put down.*

*I accidentally passed my wife a glue stick instead of  
a chap stick.*

*She's still not talking to me.*

*I didn't think orthopedic shoes would help.  
But I stand corrected.*

*Thief steals tires off of a police car.  
Police work tirelessly to nab the suspect.*

*My wife called me to tell me that she saw a fox on  
the way to work.  
I asked her how she knew it was on its way to work.  
She hung up on me.*

*When I was young I was a poor golfer.  
But after years of play and practice, I am no longer  
young.*

### **GOOD READS FOR GUYS:**

*"The Eye of the Needle" by Ken Follett.  
His code name was "The Needle". He was a  
German aristocrat of extraordinary intelligence - a  
master spy with a legacy of violence in his blood,  
and the object of the most desperate manhunt in  
history. But his fate lay in the hands of a young and  
vulnerable English woman whose loyalty, if swayed,  
would assure his freedom and win the war for the  
Nazis.*

*"Nash Falls" by David Baldacci  
When Walter Nash is recruited by the FBI to help  
bring down a global crime network his life is turned  
completely upside down in this thriller from #1 New  
York Times Best Seller David Baldacci.*

### **STUFF TO WATCH:**

*"Being Gordon Ramsay" on Netflix. Follow celeb  
chef Gordon Ramsay in this 6 part series where he  
juggles family life (SIX KIDS!) & his biggest launch  
yet, the opening of five culinary experiences in one  
of London's tallest buildings, 22 Bishopsgate.  
Warning: Ramsay cannot complete a sentence  
without some derivation of the "F" word.*

"Shrinking", Season 3 - on Apple TV. Starring Jason Segel, Jessica Williams & Harrison Ford as three therapists at the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Center. Crisp dialog, foul language but very entertaining.

Well I guess that's it. Yours Truly & Mrs. Yours Truly are headed to the Big Island for a week. See you later.

## 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](mailto:mss95678@hotmail.com)

This year we are joining SIR Branches 16 and 5 at some old and some new golf courses.

As for SIR Branch 51's golf information, see the SIR 51 2026 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.

02/26	Thurs.	San Ramon.	08:59 AM
03/05	Thurs.	San Jose Muni	09:00 AM
03/12	Thurs.	Lake Chabot	09:00 AM
03/19	Thurs.	MetropolitanGC	09:00 AM
03/26	Thurs.	Canyon Lakes.	09:00 AM
04/02	Thurs.	Los Lagos	09:00 AM
04/09	Thurs	San Jose	09:00 AM
04/16	Thurs.	Spring Valley	10:00 AM
04/23	Thurs.	Sunnyvale	09:00 AM
04/30	Thurs.	Monarch Bay	09:00 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](http://www.sirgolf.org).

Ben Gikis, 2025 SIR State Golf Committee Chair

State SIR Golf Newsletter: [www.sirgolf.org](http://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](mailto:rntheo1@icloud.com).

(first two letters are r and n)

**BOB TAGGART (Br 35)**  
(650) 321-2654

**CYCLING:** (SIR Branches 35, 51, others)

The SIR Br 35 bike ride for March 2026 is described below. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thx, Gordy 408 242-0557

Date: 2nd Thursday - March 12th, 2026

Start Time: 11:00 AM

Wives and guests welcomed; helmets required.

Coyote Hills Regional Park/Alameda Creek Trail – Niles/Fremont

Ride: We will meet outside of the Coyote Hills Park Visitor Center and start the ride onto the Alameda Trail to the quaint town of Niles. The biking trail is scenic, tree-lined, paved and generally flat (except at the

start there are some gentle rolling hills). The ride will include some city & neighborhood streets ending up at a sandwich shop downtown Niles. The ride is approximately 9 miles each way.

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 per car or use your East Bay Regional Park District season pass). Continue another 1/2 mile over several speed bumps to the Visitor Park Center, 8000 Patterson Ranch Road, Fremont, CA and park there.

If you prefer, take I-880 North and exit on Highway 84 West. Exit on to Paseo Padre Parkway and turn right. Turn left onto Patterson Ranch Road and proceed to the Coyote Regional Park Visitor Center. Park your vehicle.

If you plan to ride or have questions, please contact Gordon Tong at 408-242-0557 or [gordy6850@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:alroberts4202@gmail.com)

## **2025 SIR BRANCH #51 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** **ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN**

President: :Pete Sorenson	868-6804
Vice Pres.: Steve Tremulis	995-3231
Secretary: Gary Wada	868-7356
Treasurer: Mike McMahon	380-0983
Asst. Treasurer: Kevin Wheaton	353-0686
Golf Chairman: Kai Johansen	380-9493
Golf Assistant: Jim Cummings	328-2168
Bowling; Bob Taggart (Br 35)	321-2654
Bocce Ball: Richard Oehlberg	
Cycling: Gordon Tong (Br 35)	(408) 242-0557
Historian: (open)	
State SIR Travel:	<a href="http://www.sirinc.org">www.sirinc.org</a>

### **DIRECTORS**

Steve Tremulis	995-3231
Jim Cummings	328-2168
Gerry Shebar	868-6124
Richard Jamison.	868-3723

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRMEN**

Speakers: Steve Tremulis	995-3231
Audit: Gerry Shebar	868-6124
Joe Urbassik	714-9610
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
Gerry Shebar	868-6124
Steve Tremulis	995-3231

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