

Branch 35 Palm Springs Trip

In January, State Golf Chairman Ben Gikis led SIR Branch 35 members and guests on 5-day golf trip to Palm Desert. Over 15 intrepid travelers experienced pleasant



conditions for golfing and hiking. With sunny temperatures in the 70's & 80's the four days on the links was very enjoyable. Scott Chew and Venicio Navarro secured tee times at The Westin, Pete Dye Course, Indian Wells, Shadow Ridge and The Marriott Desert Springs Palm Course. The courses challenged the skills of the participants, but the atmosphere and camaraderie resulted in a memorable time. While the members golfed, some of the women took the opportunity to

hike in Joshua Tree National Park. In the evening, the group gathered to share meals at Sherman's (an old school Jewish deli & bakery) and at Arnold Palmer's Restaurant (housing a small museum of the iconic golfer). During the week, John and Lori Rittweger hosted a potluck dinner that encouraged interaction and an opportunity to deepen friendships. Ben after dinner presented some SIR State golf awards that some of the members earned playing in the state events. Martin Virelas was presented with a SIR jacket honoring his win at the individual championships for 2025. Thanks to Ben for initiating and coordinating this event.