

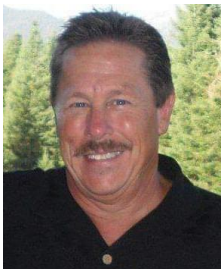
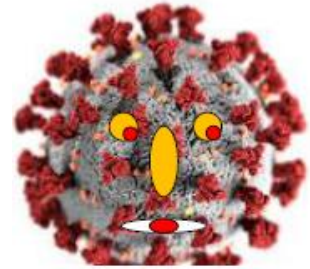
Rooster's Tale



Sons in Retirement – Branch 110 **No April Meeting**
1705 Manzanita Avenue, Chico, CA—**No Luncheon –No Executive Committee Meeting**

SIR Luncheon Program Update

The new (novel) coronavirus has certainly caused great changes in everyone's lives. That certainly includes SIR program planning. However, as problems go this is quite inconsequential and is just a minor challenge. The March program with Sherry Miller was of course cancelled and she retired and was going to leave town so that will not be rescheduled. The April Diamond Match program will be delayed and the new date will be dependent on juggling the other potential programs. The Program Committee had programs either scheduled or planned for several topics which include: K9 Units and Police Work, a Blue Angels presentation, Chico Chamber of Commerce Activities, and Weather Forecasting. These will all have to be rescheduled which of course will be dependent on when we can have the next Branch 110 Luncheon and the availability of speakers. It has also been suggested that a presentation on the COVID-19 pandemic might be of interest, if everyone is not tired of hearing about it. If anyone has any connections with appropriate medical personnel for that topic, please notify the Program Committee Chair (**Jim Braziel**).



Big Sir Message

Hello SIR members of Bidwell Branch 110. It certainly has been a rough road this past few weeks regarding the coronavirus and COVID-19. I want to make certain that all our SIR members are updated and informed of this Epidemic. Our Chico Elks Lodge #423 is currently closed to our Elks members and we will not continue our SIR activities and luncheons until it is safe. As our Chico Elks Lodge staff has been deep cleaning our facilities and kitchen, we want to make certain that our facility is ready to reopen as soon as possible. **Continued on page 3.**

2020 Officers & Directors

Big Sir – Steve Laird	Little Sir – Ron Imhoff
Secretary – Bob Dinger	Asst. Sec. – Richard Matt
DB Mgr. – Rocky Rockwell	Treasurer – Ed Matzdorff
Asst.Treas.– Ted Raleigh	Asst.Treas – Norm Stump
Attendance Sec. – Don Curtis	
Director – Jim Amis	Director – Dave Jones
Director – Ken Tietz	Director – Mike Nicholas
Director –Jose Lopez	Director – Ken Edson

Lunch Menu

No Meeting
No Lunch
No Menu

Attendance

No Meeting
No Lunch
No Survey

No need to contact Don Curtis

Branch 110 Website: <http://www.branch110.sirinc2.org>

Webmaster: Ron Braziel

SIR 110 Activities

Except for a few who had a meeting before March 15, there were no reports of activities due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Bridge

Come join this friendly group of SIRS. They **normally** meet weekly on Thursdays at 2750 Sierra Sunrise Terrace in Chico at noon. Call Robin Thompson 343-2953 for information.



Dominoes

Our winners for March Mexican Train are: Betty Porter and Mary McLay. Come join us. We **normally** meet at Red Lobster for lunch (\$15) and Dominoes on the 2nd Thursday— each month from 11:30 AM to 4 PM. New players are welcome! Call Joe Navarro at 343-0832, if you have questions.



Pinochle

Come join us. The group **normally** meets at the Red Lobster on the 4th Wednesday at 11:30 AM. Call Joe Navarro at 343-0832, if you have questions.



Piscatology

The fishing group held our March monthly meeting (2nd Thursday each month) at the Cozy Dinner. Twelve of our most active members attended. Plans were developed for our first fishing trip of the season but the trip had to be cancelled. We **normally** meet every second Thursday at 7:45 AM at the Cozy Diner for breakfast. Contact Bob Weckerle 864-6698 or Bill Colvin 521-7269 for information.



Hiking

There will be no hikes until further notice due to the virus crisis. Call Jim Hertl with any questions at 897-0402 or email him at jim.hertl@sbcglobal.net.



Cars, Coffee & Donuts

No plans for the next activity!! Questions? Call Jim Braziel at 916-709-3344.

Out To Lunch (OTL)

Due to the state board shutting down all activities there will be no OTL (Out To Lunch) until further notice. Questions? Contact Bill McNelley at 530-228-7948.

Bocce 110

This activity has been cancelled because of a lack of interest.

Woodworking

We managed to meet once at Bill Gebhardt's shop before all SIR activities were cancelled. Looks like now we'll have to do our woodworking at home alone. And who knows for how long?

Perhaps we could meet online. Or maybe we could connect to a virtual reality woodshop (do they have those yet?) Wonder how a virtual table saw works? Does it make noise and sawdust? (We like the noise of a real saw - it lets us know there's something dangerous going on.) And how do the hand tools work? Does someone keep the plane irons sharp? (Woodworkers don't like to sharpen. We believe it takes up precious time. We'd rather spend that time using a dull tool, which takes a lot longer to use and tires us out quicker.) Either way, just don't think virtual reality is gonna cut it.

Back at the real shop: Bill made an accessory for his go-cart that will hold his cane securely as he races around the neighborhood. He also designed a dog-proof latch for an inside gate. (see photo).



Craig Lindquist milled flooring cutoffs to make a box for his custom branding

iron. Michael Kobelt made a handle for a box for drill bits.

Woodworking (continued)

This activity **normally** meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Bill's backyard shop. Go through the wooden gate to the right of the big garage door and you'll see the shop. We **normally** lunch at Bellachino's Cafe from 11:30 to 12:30. Call Bill Gebhardt at 879-0429 or Craig Lindquist at 898-8483 for information.

Travel

It is uncertain when tours will become available. The Travel Chairman highly recommends all members to stay home for at least 2 months. Once the current situation clears up members will feel safer to travel again. Until then treat your partner with respect and kindness being cooped up at home. For information on tours, contact Jose Lopez at 891-6715 or 864-5978.



Vino 110



Just before the current crisis, we were planning a short trip to Nascere Winery. Hopefully, we can reschedule soon. Meanwhile, stay home, watch TV, drink the Nectar of the Gods. The WISE VILLA WINERY trip to Lincoln has been cancelled for lack of interest. It may be rescheduled for late summer. Stay tuned in! For more information call Keith at 343-5358.

History Club

When participation in activities is possible, there will be a number of options available. More information will be provided to those on the SIR History email list. If you have questions, or would like to receive information about History Club activities, contact Don Alger at 894-2452 or dalger@csuchico.edu.



SUPPER CLUB

The Supper Club will have no dinner activity for April, May and until further notice.

SIR Golf Reports



No Golf Activities were Reported



Big Sir Message

continued Our SIR President, Ed Benson sent this directive to all SIR Branches to take effect March 15, 2020:- "State Board Members, State Activity Chairmen, Area Governors, Big and Little Sirs Regarding the coronavirus and COVID-19 - By a unanimous decision of the SIR State Board, it has been decided to postpone all Sir Activities, luncheons and events until further notice in accordance with Governmental and Health Advisories. Inform all our SIR members accordingly as immediately as practicable. This may be a fluid situation, but at this time we feel we have no alternative to taking this action. We will keep you informed as further direction develops. Should you have any questions, please contact your Regional Director or me." *Regards, Ed Benson, SIR State President.*

If you have any questions, please contact Big Sir, Steve Laird or our Little Sir, Ron Imhoff. In the best interest our SIR Bidwell Brach 110, I want you all to be safe.



On one Friday in **April, 1970**, (it actually happened every Friday evening, almost without fail), Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts...and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier. Dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, "Thank you. Thank you."

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place. When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like "a funny old duck," as my dad used to say. Or, to onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant ...maybe even a lot of nonsense. Old folks often do strange things. Most would probably write Old Ed off. That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger and thirst. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive. The men adrift needed and prayed for a miracle.

They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged on. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft...suddenly Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal of it - a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait...and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull... And he never stopped saying, "Thank you." That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude.

Eddie died on July 23, 1973 (age 82)

This story "***Old Man and a Bucket of Shrimp***" was provided courtesy of Rocky Rockwell.)



There are currently 181 active members.

Membership brochures and applications are normally available at the membership table or you can call Don Levensaler at 891-1045 to get one via the postal service.

Even though we are not meeting face to face SIR membership is still open to accepting new applications. Anyone wishing an application can e-mail me at dlev29@comcast.net The completed application can be returned by USPS or E-MAIL.

We know many of you were planning on paying your ABC fee at the March meeting and of course couldn't. Attached is a report of unpaid fees. The ABC fee is \$24, **made out to "Sir 110"**. Mail to Sir membership chairman: Don Levensaler, 1492 Keri Ln, Chico, CA 95926. Shown below is a gentle reminder of those who still have to pay their fees.

Barger, Jim	Emmons, Steve	Kirks, James	Matthews, Paul	Reager, Skip
Baxter, Frank	Fromer, Michael	Knowlton, Jack	McDermott, William	Renlund, James
Bingaman, William	Gebhardt, William	Kreider, Larry	McNamara, Dennis	Robertson, Kenneth
Bollinger, John	Giberson, Richard	Hagen, Lyman	Merrill, Fred	Scott, Troy
Carlson, Ernie	Hagen, Lyman	Hansen, Raymond	Musgrave, Mike	Shippen, William
Carroll, Charlie	Hansen, Raymond	Herman, Craig	Osborne, Michael	Shook, Doug
Ciapponi, Fred	Herman, Craig	Iannone, Rocco	Pederson, Gary	Skibo, Jack
Cohea, William	Iannone, Rocco	Laird, Stephen	Phillips, Donald	Sorger, Neil
Costa, Peter	Imhoff, Ronald	Mace, Joseph	Prewitt, William	Spooner, Daryl
Day, Jeff	Jemison, William	Marple, Larry	Priddy, Charles	Thommen, Harold
	Kandler, Art	Matt, Richard	Pustejovsky, Donald	Van Houtte, Edward

Please Bring a friend to the next SIR meeting!

Announcements

- **Editor's Note:** Deadline for the May Rooster's Tale is Thursday, April 30. Send your articles by email: dalger@csuchico.edu or phone him at: (530) 894-2452.
- **State SIR Bulletin: ("Sir Happenings")** The latest edition is available for review at <http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>
- **Future Programs:** Whenever we can have another luncheon meeting, rest assured we will have another interesting program. As always, ideas are always welcome.
- **Annual Basket Collection (ABC):** Just another reminder that our annual **ABC fee** is due. Please see the information above.
- **Chaplain's Message:** In the midst of these troublesome days, brought on by the coronavirus and subsequent social distancing, you may be a SIR (Bidwell Branch 110) with an unmet need. If so, feel free to email me TomShifflet@aol.com.

Likewise, if you are a SIR 110 that is willing to volunteer some time and energy toward helping a fellow SIR with a specific need, please contact me TomShifflet@aol.com. I will try to match SIRs with needs and SIRs who are willing to help. We can get through this pandemic together.



Don Alger, Editor
 6 Stratford Way
 Chico, CA 95973
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If you have an April Birthday, we are sorry we will not be able to celebrate with you. Here's hoping you had or will have a great day.

Jack	Lutz	Apr	09	Mike	Wacker	Apr	7	Dick	Truesdell	Apr	22
Charlie	Carroll	Apr	15	Marc	Mallinger	Apr	16	Greg	Robertson	Apr	26
Robert	Ediger	Apr	02	Steve	Emmons	Apr	26	Dave	Zebley	Apr	4
Les	VanderVelden	Apr	3								

****It is also possible to get a free lunch card without being a Birthday Boy. There is a free lunch winner at every meeting from a name badge drawing. Also both the sponsor and his guest receive a free lunch when the guest joins and is inducted.**

Please Bring a friend to the next SIR meeting!