



Devoted to the Promotion of
Independence and Dignity of Retirement

ROOSTER ROUNDUP

Santa Cruz Branch No. 20

Meetings at Noon – Elks Club

Jewell Street-Santa Cruz

APRIL 10, 2024

SIR INC.
STATE PRESIDENT
Dale Decker 209/573-0833
AREA 14 REPRESENTATIVE
Bill Ackerknecht 831/588-5038

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Big Sir	Jeff Ustick	419-4577
Little Sir	Larry Bristow	650-771-2140
Secretary	Jeff Boisen	239-1708
Asst Sec.	Mike Kopp	535-6308
Treasurer	Mike Kennedy	904-501-3323
Asst.Treas	OPEN	
Director	James Baker	423-7429
Director	Ray Blute	464-7901
Director	Ed Bush	408-997-1836
Director	Jesse DeGennaro	426-0149
Director	Jim Healey	685-3829
Director	Don Hershberger	227-4326
Director	Dave Hodgins	239-5122
Director	Ken Maus	854-2303
Director	Joe Mingione	650-279-2830
Director	Steve Tedesco	408-810-0578
Director	Les Yeffa	475-9481

PAST BIG SIRs

Ray Blute	2023
Steve Tedesco	2022
Les Yeffa	2020-21
Tom Duncanson	2019
Joe Mingione	2018
Dick Doubrava	2017
Norm Gruzcelak	2016
Bruce Bentley	2016
Greg Horne	2015
Don Little	2014
Jim Bunker	2013
Sterling Frost	2012
Bill Neary	2011
Rich Dean	2010
Hank Pierce	2009

For complete listing of Past Big Sirs, refer to your
SIRs Roster



APTIL LUNCH MENU

Chef choice salad
Herb rubbed tri tip
Baked beans and veggies
Chef's choice dessert
Lemonade, Ice tea, Water, Coffee

PROGRAM

Our April speaker will be Sean Venus of Venus Spirits and kitchen. Sean will tell us how and why he has concocted 150 craft beers, organic whiskeys and other libations along with two new restaurants in the last 14 years.

BIG SIR JEFF USTICK SEZ:

With the beginning of Spring, I take note of new beginnings. From the emergence of new growth on plants and trees to the forming of Quail and Wild Turkey harems near my home, a new season flexes its muscles. I try to pay attention to all the seasonal changes that become more evident in this spring season. New changes, new growth, new opportunities.

I had the privilege to attend a regional SIRs conference in Lafayette on March 15. Over 50 SIRs branches were represented as we discussed how we can sustain, nurture and grow our branches. While some chapters have experienced significant growth, others seem to be languishing. A common thread ran through most of our conversations: how do we meet the needs of our fellow Sirs in our local branches? Many branches have found it difficult to get everyone back to the luncheon meeting following Covid. Some branches have seen a drop off of involvement in activities beyond the luncheon meeting.

So, how are we doing? While our membership remains fairly constant (some of our more senior Sirs have resigned for a variety of reasons, but we have also recently inducted new members), how do we maintain a vibrant branch— better meeting the needs of its members? Over the past 18 months or so, we have continued to provide opportunities to play corn hole (AKA bean bag toss) during our social hour, learn and play cribbage, utilize the Elk's pool table, access the book exchange, and provide opportunities to meet with fellow Sirs before our luncheon meetings. We have a robust golf cadre, as well as opportunities to play poker, a monthly wine tasting, participate in a fishing outing thanks to Captain/Sir Ed Bush.

(continued on page 2)

COMMITTEES for 2024

Audio Arrangements	OPEN	
	Ray Blute	464-7901
	Jesse DeGennaro	426-0149
	Mel Ferreira	408-353-2107
Badge Mgr.	OPEN	854-2303
Bulletin Ed.	Mike Kopp	535-6308
Chaplain	Jim Baker	423-7429
Golf	Jerry Zanzinger	423-1936
Bocce	Ray Blute	464-7901
	Joe Mingione	650-279-2830
Fishing	Ed Bush	408-997-1836
Poker	JJ Justice	464-2387
	Ken Maus	854-2303
Historian	Jeff Ustick	419-4577
Membership Program	Don Hershberger	227-4326
	Jim Healey	685-3829
Publicity	Joe Mingione	650-279-2830
Recruitment	Steve Tedesco	408-810-0578
Roster	Jeff Ustick	419-4577
Song Leader	OPEN	
Sunshine	OPEN	
Webmaster	Dave Herzog	650-690-6525

TELEPHONE CALLERS

Non-email		
Jesse De Gennaro		426-0149
Mel Ferreira		408-353-2107
Punchbowl email		
Ray Blute		464-7901
Greeters		
As assigned		



FISHING POLE RAFFLE!



Captain Ed and his exquisite hand made deep sea fishing pole. Last chance to enter is this month! Drawing will be held at close of our April luncheon meeting.

BIG SIR JEFF USTICK SEZ

(continued from page 1)

A twice a month Bocce and lunch gathering and a recent outing to see the Santa Cruz Warriors play.

To maintain and grow our branch we have sponsored articles in the Santa Cruz Sentinel. While his effort has had some success encouraging fellow gentlemen to join, word of mouth is still the most effective method to maintain and grow our branch. What is of great value is to hear from our members on what the officers and board members can do to better serve your needs. What activities would you like to be offered? How can we better serve your needs?

As spring is the season of new opportunities, please let your board know what we can do to provide more or better opportunities to enhance your SIR's experience.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT (as of Mar. 31 ,2024)

SIR Don Hershberger, Chair

61 active members

9 current applications

****NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS****

If your address, phone #, or email has changed, notify SIR Don Hershberger, 118 Fife Lane, Aptos, 831/227-4326 or email to: donhershberger@gmail.com

TREASURERS REPORT

SIR Mike Kennedy reporting:
Opening balance, March 1: \$4018.83
Balance as of March 21: \$3787.33

Hi SIRS guys. Near the front check in counter for the monthly luncheon, there is a case with name badges. The member who took care of that has resigned. Big SIR Jeff and myself are going to try and update the badges. If you check in and don't find a badge with your name on it, let me, Mike Kennedy know. I'm the Treasurer sitting at the check in counter. We'll try and create one for you. If there is a member willing to take over this very easy job, let me or Jeff know thanks, Mike Kennedy, Treasurer. 904-501-3323 mrkennedy6284@gmail.com

SIRS HELPING SIRS

Having recently talked with a fellow Sir who can no longer attend our luncheon meetings or other activities due to his wife's health issues, perhaps we can provide some advice to those in need. If you have had experience and can recommend an in-home health aide, please let Big Sir Jeff Ustick (jeffustick@gmail.com or 831/419-4577) know. He can then put you in direct contact with a fellow Sir who might benefit with that information.

Thank you.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

GOLF– jzanzinger@gmail.com . Tee times: sirgolfsantacruz@gmail.com

Golf is the most popular of all Activities in Branch 20. We play every Monday at courses in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

(Current report) The rains continue, and unfortunately, many of our outings have been cancelled. But– some **GOOD NEWS**. **The 2024 Spring Fling in Napa will be held on April 24-25 at Chardonnay and Eagle Vines golf courses. You can golf both days or only one.**

Please contact Jerry Zanzinger for more information at: jzanzinger@gmail.com or 831/423-1936

This months schedule: 04/01 Mon. Spring Hills. 04/08 Mon. Pacific Grove. 04/15 Mon. DeLaveaga. 04/22 Mon. Pajaro Valley. 04/29 Mon. Laguna Seca.



POKER– Poker continues to be very popular in Branch 20 SIRs

Every Tuesday at 1pm is a game for experienced players. Game will be temporarily hosted by Joe Mingione or Jerry Clarke until JJ Justice recovers from his recent hospitalization. Players will be notified as to venue before each game day. For more information, contact Joe Mingione 650-279-2830. The game is played at Tradewinds Mobile Home Park, 4160 Jade Street, Capitola.

The beginners low stakes game– Poker Pals has been cancelled due to the host resigning from our Branch. If someone is willing to host, please contact either Big Sir Jeff Ustick jeffustick@gmail.com or news editor Michael Kopp jmkopp186@hotmail.com



WINE TASTING– jeffustick@gmail.com

On Thursday, March 21 fellow SIRs gathered at Big Sir Jeff Ustick’s home for our monthly Branch 20 wine tasting. In celebration of the season, a selection of “Spring Wines” were sampled. Among the samples were Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, several Savi-gnon Blancs, Tempranillo and a rose. While all wines were enjoyed, the Daou Rose certainly had the spirit of Spring. Along with the wines were cheeses, fruit and a traditional Spanish salad (Ensalada Malaguena) with flavors of the sea (fresh cod), land (potatoes, onions, eggs, olives) and the air (oranges). Each wine was also paired with interesting conversation.

The April tasting will take place on Thursday, April 18. The theme for April will be “Something New To You.” Select a wine you have never had but were attracted to because of the label design...something eye-catching or unusual. Together we will all sample it for the first time. We meet at 475 McEnery Rd., Felton from 2:00-4:30 pm. Join us to sample wine, enjoy tasty snacks, conversation and camaraderie. Cheers!



NON RESPONSIBILITY 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. SIRs Inc. and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants, passengers, or their property, in any matters pertaining to said tours, trips or other activities.

I choked on a carrot this morning and all I could think was
“I’ll bet a doughnut wouldn’t have done this to me.”

Driver: “What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?”
Officer: “Keep it. When you collect 4 of them, you get a bicy-
cle.”

ACTIVITIES REPORTS

BOCCE- Nothing like a good day of Bocce with your fellow SIRs! Weather permitting, our April matches will take place on Wednesday April 3 and Wednesday April 17. The place— FELT STREET PARK. The time 11:30 am. Need more information? Contact: r-cblute@att.net or Joe Mingione: jamingione@yahoo.com



FISHING- edbush@gmail.com Captain Ed is impatiently waiting for a break in the weather, sea conditions and clarification of California fishing regulations. Blustery winds and large swells do not make good fishing. Currently the only legal fishing is for Sand dabs and flatfish (halibut and flounder). It is hopeful that rockfish and ling cod seasons might open on April 1st. Be sure and refer to CDFW regulations before heading out. If still unsure, check with Sir Ed Bush. Meanwhile, when the tides and swells cooperate, you can still fish for surf perch from the shoreline of Monterey Bay.



CORNHOLE- We have a NEW ACTIVITY available for our Branch 20 members! Cornhole is a very popular game these days. It is played much like horseshoes, with players tossing bean bags at a target board that has a hole in it. Scoring is simple— 3 points for a bag that falls through the hole and 1 point for any bag that lands on the board. If both teams score, the low score team's points are subtracted from the high score team. Simple enough! Meet up after 11 am on meeting Wednesdays— on the far side of the meeting room. Sir Jim Healey will gladly give you some pointers!



CRIBBAGE- Games are played before the monthly Luncheon meeting at the Elks Lodge, in the bar area. Games begin at approximately 11 am. For more information, contact Mike Kopp at jmkopp186@hotmail.com Or Les Yeffa at lesscruz@aol.com



POOL- another opportunity to interact with your Sirs friends on meeting day— In the bar area is a regulation size pool table available for our use! A game of 8 ball anyone?



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Dave Allenbaugh



Dave Herzog

Ed Bush

Les Yeffa

True excerpts from Church Bulletins

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Ladies, don't forget our rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on June 4 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

The Ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5pm– prayer and medication to follow.

The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7p. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double doors at the side entrance.

Don't let worry kill you off– let the Church help.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge– Up Yours!"