



SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – April 5, 2025

sirinc2.org/branch20

BIG SIR COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

We now look forward to longer days and sunnier skies, flowering trees and flowering bushes, and the kaleidoscope of colors from the myriad of flowers all around us.

Spring is known for renewal and growth. Those thoughts can be applied to Mother Nature, or we can also apply them to our daily lives. We may want to turn the page on certain aspects of our lives or try to develop a new skill or talent. We're never too old.

April Fool's Day is a day we're all familiar with. But did you know that the very next day, April 2nd, is World Autism Awareness Day? That prompts me to reflect on how much more we know about Autism today, but even more so, what little we knew about Autism 30 or 40 years ago. I can only imagine how children and parents coped with this condition when our awareness was lacking. We have made much progress in our knowledge. I believe it is in disease identification, prevention and treatment where Artificial Intelligence can make the greatest positive difference going forward.

The Christian holiday of Easter will be celebrated on Sunday the 20th, and the Jewish holiday of Passover will begin at sundown on April 12th. Other days that are celebrated are Earth Day on the 22nd and Arbor Day, when we celebrate trees, on the 28th.

And, as you're getting creative with your planting & gardening, you can expand your creativity into poetry because April is also National Poetry Month. If you're looking for some inspiration, take advantage of April 3rd, which is National Find A Rainbow Day.

Spring is a time we are reminded of how blessed we are to live in this region of the world. We have the redwoods and California Golden Poppies, the Boardwalk and Beach Volleyball, and the variety of outdoor activities we can all enjoy as good weather days are upon us.

Andre Adema

Big Sir, SIR Branch #20

Cell: 831-239-6699

E-mail: biomedprn@gmail.com

Finance and Stats for February

| | Checking | Savings | Petty Cash | Total |
|--------------------|-------------|---------|------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$13,218.06 | 0.00 | 210.00 | 13,428.06 |
| Ending Balance | 13,756.68 | 0.00 | 190.00 | 13,946.68 |
| Active Members: | | | | 106 |
| Pending: | | | | 0 |

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer

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Wine Tasting -- see Page 3

APRIL: OLD WEST MOB VIOLENCE IN SANTA CRUZ

Program: Casey Tefertiller, author of *Wyatt Earp: The Life Behind the Legend*, a Notable Book of the Year of The New York Times, and of many articles on the American Frontier.

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

Casey Tefertiller will take the SIRs on a trip back to the Wild West on April 2nd with his presentation of The History of Mob Violence in Santa Cruz. Our coast side town was once plagued with crime that led to lynchings, near lynchings and prevented lynchings. Tefertiller will take the SIRs back to the old west to learn the secrets of the past and how they unfolded. So wear your Stetsons and join the SIRs for this event.



Menu: Chicken Fettuccine; vegetables; chef's choice salad; bread; chef's choice dessert; lemonade – iced tea – water – coffee.

To make your SIR lunch reservation please respond to the Punchbowl invitation sent earlier via email. Hint for Gmail users: the invitation may be filed under the "Promotions" tab.

Important Notes:

- Luncheon price is \$25.00.
- Your \$25 dues for 2025 are due as of January 1st. You may pay at the table as you enter.
- It is very important for the branch to have an accurate count for lunch. Please let us know you are attending; also tell us if your plans change.
- Proof of vaccination is no longer required for attendees; however, keeping current on vaccinations is highly recommended (i.e. Covid, flu and pneumonia).
- Masking is not currently required, but optional.
- In the event that the County of Santa Cruz Health Officer issues any vaccination, proof of vaccination and/or masking mandates, our SIR Branch will immediately incorporate such mandates for our attendees.
- If attendees are experiencing any potentially contagious virus symptoms, they need to voluntarily excuse themselves from attendance.
- Photos of each member attendee may be taken for inclusion in next year's pictorial directory.

April Birthdays

| Name | Name |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Tony Ainsworth | Constantine Lackides |
| Edward Bush | Edgar Ross |
| Dave Herzog | Greg Takahashi |
| Ray Kubick III | Leslie Yaffa |

You must be present to win the drawing for a free lunch. Did we miss your birthday? Let Jeff Ustick know.



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"Wisdom is knowing when to speak, and intelligence is knowing when to stay silent."
— Socrates

State President

Rich Carlston (925) 324-0838

Area Representative-Area 14

John Hetz (775) 225-8983

Branch Executive Committee

Andre Adema, Big Sir 239-6699

Larry Bristow Little Sir (650) 771-2140

Jeff Boisen, Secretary 239-1708

Ira Kessler, Secretary 600-8364

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer 234-7429

[Open], Assistant Treasurer.....

Membership: Jeff Ustick 419-4577

Programs: Bill Fitzgerald 423-5102

Jim Healy 685-3829

Chuck Presto..... 435-6029

Webmaster: Dave Herzog (650) 690-6525

Newsletter: Michael Kopp..... 535-6308

Kent Madsen (408) 812-1141

2025 Directors

Ray Blute 464-7901

Ed Bush 408-997-1836

Jesse DeGennaro..... 426-0149

Ray Disparati (We Care) 438-2561

Jim Healey 685-3829

Dave Hodgins 239-5122

Charles Johnson 594-8965

Bob Lewis (Computer Club) 335-7816

Joe Mingione (650) 279-2830

Steve Tedesco (408) 810-0578

Wayne Thornton 426-4008

Frank Turner 239-9664

Les Yeffa 475-9481

Jerry Zanzinger 423-1936

2025 Committees

Badges: Dave Herman 438-3612

Bocce: Ira Kessler 600-8364

Joe Mingione (650) 279-2830

Book Exchange: Mike Kopp..... 535-6308

Bowling: Ray Merrithew (408) 354-1592

Branch Photographer: Bill Bishoff..... 854-2207

Computer & Tech Discussions: Bob Lewis 335-7816

Cribbage: Mike Kopp 535-6308

Fishing: Ed Bush..... (408) 997-1836

18-Hole Golf: Jerry Zanzinger 423-1936

Member Relations: Edgar Ross 440-9521

Poker: Joe Mingione (650) 279-2830

Publicity: Joe Mingione (650) 279-2830

PunchBowl: Ray Blute..... 566-0029

Wine Tasting: Jeff Ustick : 419-4577

Honorary Life Members

Gary Allyne

Bob Lewis

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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.

Living Past Big Sirs**Branch 36**

Cliff Barrett 2001, 2002

John Lunden 2008

Al Telles 2012

Frank Turner 2014

Bill Schraft 2015

Les Austin 2013, 2016

Gary Allyne. 2010,2011,2017

Bill Landrum 2018

Bill Ackerknecht ..2019, 2020

Chuck Presto.....2021

Charles Johnson.....2022

Andre Adema.....2023, 2024

Branch 20

Hank Pierce 2009

Rich Dean 2010

Bill Neary 2011

Sterling Frost 2012

Jim Bunker 2013

Don Little 2014

Greg Horne 2015

Bruce Bentley 2016

Norm Gruczelak 2016

Dick Doubrava 2017

Joe Mingione 2018

Tom Duncanson 2019

Les Yeffa..... 2020, 2021

Steve Tedesco 2022

Ray Blute..... 2023

Jeff Ustick..... 2024

BRANCH 20 ACTIVITIES FOR 2025**Book Exchange**

Don't forget to peruse the Book Exchange table at our monthly meetings! Lots of interesting titles to pique your interests: non-fiction, fiction, sports, biographies, history, humor, DVDs and jigsaw puzzles. Bring a book (or more) & take a book (or more).

**Bocce**

We have eight teams playing on Wednesdays (except when we have a scheduled Luncheon meeting) at two different times. First game starts at 9:30 am with assembly time at 9:15 am. The second game starts at 11:45 am with assembly time at 11:35 am. All Sirs are invited, pick a time that fits your liking and show up! The venue- FELT STREET PARK.

**9:30 GAMES:**LANE 1 (N): **WHINERS** VS **GIGGLERS**LANE 2 (S): **Beggars** vs **SCREAMERS****11:45 GAMES:**LANE 1 (N): **HOWLERS** VS **NOISEMAKERS**LANE 2 (S): **TROUBLEMAKERS** VS **COMPLAINERS**

AND in addition, every Monday (weather permitting) we have Pot Luck pick up Bocce games, at 11:15 am at the Felt Street Courts — Just show up if you want to play! If you have a Bocce ball set please bring it!

For more information: Contact Joe Mingione

jamingione@yahoo.com or Ira Kessler dinikessler@gmail.com.**Bowling**

Sirs and Sirettes Bowling League meets every Monday, 1:00 pm at The Boardwalk Bowl. This is a Seniors Trio handicap league. In order to join a team, you must bowl as a substitute until you have enough games to establish a book average. For more information or to sign up as a sub, contact Ray Merrithew at rmerrithew8@gmail.com.



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"A broken heart teaches you lessons that success never will."
— Khalil Gibran

"Most people do not seek the truth; they seek reassurance."
— Carl Jung

BRANCH 20 ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Computers and Technology Discussion

Bob Lewis chairs the Branch #20 Computer Club during regular monthly meetings (no meeting on Ladies Day luncheons). Bob also chairs a community computer "club" called the Felton Linux Users Group. Known as the Felton LUG for short, it is currently meeting semi-monthly using video conference software. See Bob Lewis, bob.l.lewis@gmail.com, to be added to either group. Virtual meetings are on the first and third Saturdays at 11:00 am. Either group usually has a lively discussion about current tech subjects or problems encountered and/or solved.

Cornhole

Cornhole is very popular lately. It's played much like horseshoes, with players tossing a beanbag at a target board that has a hole in it. Scoring rules are simple, 3 points for a bag that fall through the hole and 1 point for every bag that lands on the board. If both teams score, the low score team's points are subtracted from the high score team's points. Simple enough! Meet up after 11:00 am on meeting Wednesdays – on the far side of the meeting room, near the doors to the swimming pool.



Cribbage

Games are played before the monthly luncheon meeting at the Elks Lodge, in the Bar area. Games begin at approximately 11:00 am. For more information, contact Mike Kopp at jmkopp186@hotmail.com.

Golf

Golf continues to be the most popular of all SIR activities. We play every Monday at courses in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. In February, Sir George Jones had an approach shot that settled 2'6" from the hole at Laguna Seca!

April courses and dates:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4/07 Monday, Monterey Pines | 4/14 Monday, Seascape |
| 4/21 Monday, Salinas Fairways | 4/28 Monday, DeLaveaga. |

With the additional players from the merger, we almost doubled our number. We now have 39 players. It has been a pleasure meeting some of you from Scotts Valley and San Lorenzo Valley and I hope to meet you all in the future. There may still be openings for the State tournament April 23-24 in Napa. I played in it last year and had a great time. If you need an entry form please let me know.

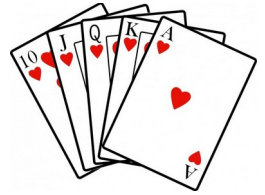
Jerry Zanzinger (831) 704-7091.



From Left, Jeff Hawkins, Dave Matthews, Bob Parker, David Llamas

Poker

Poker continues to be very popular with Branch 20 SIR members. Every Tuesday at 1:00 pm is a game for experienced players. The venue is Tradewinds Mobile Home Park, 4160 Jade St., Capitola. Seating is limited to seven players, by invitation only. For more information, contact JJ Justice at (831) 464-2387, or jjsurfman@aol.com.



Pool

Another way to interact with your SIR friends on meeting day: In the Bar area is a regulation size Pool Table available for our use! A game of 8 ball anyone?



"I consider that the hours I spend with a cue in my hand are golden. Help you cultivate horse sense and a cool head and a keen eye."
— Professor Harold Hill, "The Music Man"

Wine tasting

Our usual gathering is on the 3rd Thursday of each month. The meeting place is at Jeff Ustick's home in Felton. The time 1:30 pm to 4ish...

On Thursday, March 20th, eleven Sirs gathered at Sir Jeff Ustick's home to sample "Wines From The Southern Tip". Wines from South Africa, Australia, Chile and Argentina were tasted. A Chenin Blanc (South Africa) and a Chardonnay (Australia) competed with a variety of reds, including Cabernet Sauvignons and Malbecs from Chile and Argentina, to round out the tasting. Along with some snacks, lively conversation was enjoyed.

Our next tasting, to be held Thursday, April 17th, might challenge those attending. Our theme will be "Wines East of the Rockies". As American viticulture evolves, so do the areas that produce wine. So... begin searching for wines not from the West Coast. Rumor has it that states such as New York, Virginia and some midwest states are producing surprising good wines. Let the search begin. Cheers. Consider joining us next tasting. Contact info: phone 831 419-4577 or jeffustick@gmail.com



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