



SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – August 6, 2025

sirinc2.org/branch20

BIG SIR COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

Not to be outdone by his predecessor Julius Caesar in 46 BC, Caesar Augustus also had a month in the Roman Calendar named after him in 8 BC. Besides that, one day was taken from the month of February to insure both July and August had 31 days. Another event that occurred way back then was when Mount Vesuvius erupted on August 24th in 79 AD and buried the city of Pompeii, Italy. If you've never been there, it is worth the trip to see how people, and all they were doing, were literally buried in place by that overwhelming eruption.

On August 8, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi launched the "Quit India Movement", a campaign for Indian independence from British control. It wasn't until 5 years later, on August 15, 1947, that India celebrated its Independence Day, marking the end of British rule.

We all know that Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue in fourteen hundred and ninety-two, 8/3/1492 to be exact, with his three vessels the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. Searching for a westward route to China and India, he stumbled upon the Caribbean Islands and America by extension instead.

The Purple Heart was created August 7, 1782, the Women's Suffrage (19th) Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920, and FDR signed the Social Security Act on August 14, 1935. I'm sure many of us appreciate the impact of Social Security on our daily lives today.

A couple of notable birthdays in August are Frederic Auguste Bartholdi on August 2, 1834, a French sculptor who patented the Statue of Liberty, and movie producer Cecil B. DeMille whose 70 movies include Cleopatra, The Ten Commandments, and The Greatest Show on Earth.

Let's celebrate Left Handers' Day on the 13th, National Be An Angel Day, when we focus on good deeds and kindness, on the 22nd, and National Navajo Code Talkers Day on the 14th. The Navajo Code Talkers were crucial to the success of every Marine assault in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. The Navajo Code proved to be indecipherable by the Japanese.

Let us enjoy each day in this last month of Summer.

Andre Adema

Big Sir, SIR Branch #20

Cell: 831-239-6699

E-mail: biomedprn@gmail.com

Finance and Stats for June

	Checking	Savings	Petty Cash	Total
Beginning Balance:	\$2,818.94	9,000.00	265.00	12,083.94
Ending Balance	2,213.64	9,000.00	160.00	11,373.64
Active Members:				137
Pending:				0

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer

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Wisdom of Frank and Ernest

Sign in the auditorium lobby: Tonight: the Poetry of Robert Frost

Frank: "I took the road less traveled ... and now I need a new front-end alignment!"

AUGUST: DOES IT TAKE A ROCKET SCIENTIST?

Program: "Rocket Man" Fred Butler

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

"Like everyone, I became involved with space in the late 60's. I watched the moon landing on a black and white tv I brought to work. Spent the next 21 years as a craftsman at Lockheed, and spent 16 months at Northrop on the B2 stealth bomber. I worked on the Space Shuttle engine for about 5 years. I first shot a rocket at my son's elementary school 35 years ago. With grand kids, we launched more. After trial and error my longest flight was 685 feet. I have given a career/ rocket class twice. I hope to do more.



I am retired and my main hobby is water propelled rockets and woodworking."

Menu: Beef Stroganoff; mixed vegetables; Caesar salad; garlic 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 were 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.

August Birthdays

Name	Name
Mike Almgren	Ray Disperati
Ed Breiling	Victor Martin
Larry Bristow	Richard "Dick" Mills
Jim Chrislock	Everett Mudgett, Jr.
Thomas Diamond	David "Dave" Schwingel



Congratulations to Ken Murphy, the July Birthday Winner!

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

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

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

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 588-1626

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

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 Allyn

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 Allyn 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.



Watch for Joe Mingione's e-mail regarding the team assignments to lanes and playing times.

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!

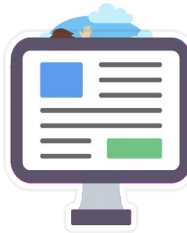
For more information: Contact Joe Mingione jamingione@yahoo.com or Ira Kessler dinikessler@gmail.com.

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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.

This year we have 12 different courses we play on. We had a note worthy achievement by one of our players, a 20 handicapper. On the back nine at Pacific Grove, he had eight pars and one bogie, for 36, 45 on the front. There is always hope!

**August Schedule:**

4 Pacific Grove	18 Laguna Seca
11 Crazy Horse Ranch	25 Monterey Pines

Please note that the original schedule listed Seascape on the 25th. Seascape has been replaced with Monterey Pines.

Congratulations to Cal Potter. He scored a hole-in-one at Pajaro Valley on the 7th hole!

A State tournament will be held at Hiddenbrooke on August 6 and 7. It is a scramble and Branch 20 will be represented by a team. Please contact Jerry Zanzinger for updated information at (831) 704.7091.

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.

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Local Produce

It's important to lock your car doors, especially now ... your friends, neighbors and even strangers will put free zucchini in your car.

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?



8 Ball Hustlers at the July Meeting

"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 third Thursday of each month. The meeting place is at Jeff Ustick's home in Felton, unless specified otherwise. The time 1:30 pm to 4ish...

On Thursday, July 17 eleven Sirs gathered to sample WINES OF THE NORTHWEST. Three white wines accompanied a variety of red wines including Pinot Noirs and red blends as well as a Portuguese red. Besides engaging conversation and tall tales, the Sirs enjoyed cheeses, nuts, shrimp and fruit.



The next tasting will take place at Sir Jeff Ustick's home and will feature WINES OF CHILE (the country... not the food!) on Thursday, August 21. A reminder will be sent out closer to that date. Please consider joining us for an enjoyable afternoon of camaraderie. Contact Jeff Ustick (jeffustick@gmail.com) or 831 419-4577 with questions. Cheers.



Wine Group, July Tasting

BRANCH 20 ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Gentle Hike Opportunities

Santa Cruz County Parks is beginning a "GENTLE HIKE FOR OLDER ADULTS" series: join Park Docents Richard James and Cathy Hoeft for a gentle hike on the Discovery Trail and Italian Trail/Chaparral Trail loop (3/4-1 mile). The hike will include information about the park's cultural history, natural points of interest, and time to stop and enjoy the park's unique flora and fauna. Bring a hat, water, and sunglasses- binoculars and hiking poles/walking stick optional. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress in layers. Meet-up outside the Quail Hollow ranch house. **This is a free series for adults age 60 and over. Please note this is not a SIR exclusive activity. It is open to men and women.**

You can register in advance to secure your space at scparks.com or call 831 454-7941... or just show up.

WHERE: Quail Hollow Ranch County Park
800 Quail Hollow Road, Felton

WHEN:

Monday	9/08	10-11:30am	Free
Thursday	9/25	10-11:30am	Free
Monday	10/06	10-11:30am	Free
Thursday	10/23	10-11:30am	Free
Thursday	11/20	10-11:30am	Free



Happy Customer at Hallcrest Vineyards,
June Wine Tasting

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State SIR Video

