



SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – December 3, 2025

sirinc2.org/branch20

BIG SIR COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus on December 1, 1955. The Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. On December 16, 1773, colonists disguised as Native Americans dumped chests of tea into the Boston Harbor in protest of British taxes. Those were just a few events in December that were "beginnings" of things to come.

Besides celebrating holidays such as Christmas, Hannukah and others during the month of December, it tends to be a month when certain things "come to an end." It is obviously the end of a calendar year. It is also the end of our personal fiscal years. We begin to wrap up everything financial in preparation for filing our taxes. For me personally, my tenure as Big SIR, for both Chapter 36 and Chapter 20 will come to an end. It has been my privilege to serve in that capacity for the last three years. Thanks to all who help make our chapter work.

A habit that we may have is to reflect on the goals set at the beginning of the year and compare them to what actually happened. In that vein, we'll set some new goals that we want to complete next year. That may include home improvement projects or a vacation, develop a new skill or go to your favorite play or musical. Whatever the specifics, the December to January timeframe can be a time of closure and a new beginning.

I hope you and yours have a very enjoyable holiday season, that the month of December and the year of 2025 ends in a positive way, and that we set the stage for a terrific 2026!

Andre Adema

Big Sir, SIR Branch #20

Cell: 831-239-6699

E-mail: biomedprn@gmail.com

Finance and Stats for October

	Checking	Savings	Petty Cash	Total
Beginning Balance:	\$2,100.64	9,000.00	160.00	11,260.64
Ending Balance	1,452.64	9,000.00	85.00	10,537.64
Active Members:				140
Pending:				0

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer

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DECEMBER: HOLIDAY LADIES DAY

Program: Music by the Stargeezers

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

The "Stargeezers" are returning for an encore performance. These four accomplished musicians will serenade everyone with familiar songs. It is important to note the lady in the group is definitely not a geezer; maybe just a "geezerette" in training.



Menu: Ham; scalloped potatoes; roasted vegetables; salad; dessert; lemonade-iced tea-water-coffee.

To make your SIR lunch reservation please respond to your Punchbowl invitation sent via email; check your Spam, Promotions, or similar folders.

Important Notes:

- Luncheon price is \$25.00.
- Your \$25 2026 SIR annual membership fee is due by December 31. The membership fee covers our liability insurance and other branch operational costs. You may pay by cash or check at our December luncheon or you may send the fee to:

Les Yeffa, 150 Jewell St., Santa Cruz, Ca 95060.

Thank you to those who have already paid.

- 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 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.

December Birthdays

Name	Name
Dave Allenbaugh	Ward Schuyler
Bill Fitzgerald	Casey Tefertiller
Dave Painchaud	Mike Ulwelling
Calvin "Cal" Potter	Todd Wipke
Charles "Chuck" Presto	



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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Q: Where do bad rainbows go?

A: To prism – it's a light sentence, but with time to reflect ...

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 Healey 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 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**

In addition to our usual collection on the exchange table, this month we have included a large collection of titles that celebrate all things feminine -- from well known female authors to strong female characters in both fiction and non-fiction. Also included are a few DVD's sure to entertain adults and children of all ages. We welcome donations of every genre.



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

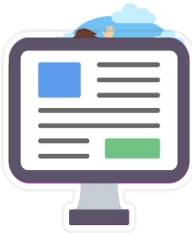
jamingione@yahoo.com or Ira Kessler dinikessler@gmail.com.

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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 our SIR Wednesday meetings – 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.

We recently 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!

**December Schedule:**

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Pajaro Valley | 22 Laguna Seca |
| 8 Monterey Pines | 29 Spring Hills |
| 15 Fairways | |

The team of Boisen, Zanzinger (both from Branch 20), Patterson and Ecklund won the special Monterey Bay two day State Championship at Bayonet/Blackhorse. Congratulations to the winners!

We have 11 different courses that we play. Next time you see Doug Patterson and the scorers at the course, you might want to thank them for all the work they do putting this together! Please contact Jerry Zanzinger for updated information at (831) 704.7091.

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State SIR Video

Welcome to SIR

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 jsurfman@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"



8 Ball Hustlers at the July Meeting

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...

In recognition of the Thanksgiving season, a group of Sirs gathered on Thursday, November 20 to enjoy wine, a variety of light snacks and camaraderie. Each Sir shared a story of "thanks" that ranged from family, sharing time with fellow Sirs and even a story of a youthful attempt to find a "free" Christmas tree that luckily did not end in an arrest. A good time was had by all.

The next Sir wine gathering will not take place until Thursday January 15. The theme, in recognition of the New Year, will be "Wines New To Me". Select a winery or varietal you have not tried, and give it a taste. We hope to see you then! Cheers.

Contact Jeff Ustick (jeffustick@gmail.com or 831 419-4577) with questions.



Wine Group, July 2025

NOVEMBER PRESENTATION

Kevin Foster, our November presenter brought several photogenic feathered friends to our SIR luncheon:



Great Horned Owl



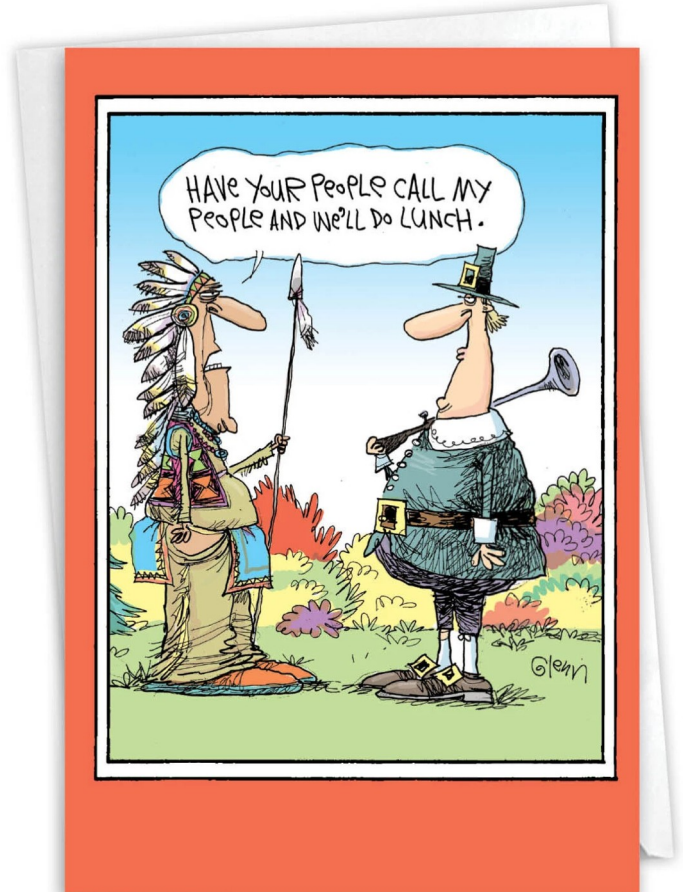
Red-Tailed Hawk



Peregrine Falcon

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

Some leftover turkey humor for you ...



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Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.

~Nikita Khrushchev

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it.

~Clarence Darrow

Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.

~Author Unknown

If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates.

~Jay Leno

Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel.

~John Quinton