



SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – February 5, 2025

sirinc2.org/branch20

BIG SIR COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

As we enter the month of pink hearts, roses and presidential birthdays, we, especially in America, also join in the festivities of the Super Bowl. Two teams, filled with incredible athletes, that have risen to the top of their respective football conferences, compete to be able to sing the Queen song “We Are The Champions”! As I personally say regarding this, and many other endeavors, “Only In America”! May your favorite team win. Or at least cause you to have a good time and maybe win something in a fun football pool.

Historically speaking, on February 2, 1990, South African President F.W. de Klerk lifted the 30-year old ban on the African National Congress and promised to free Nelson Mandela. Nine days later, after 27 years in prison for being against the Apartheid government, Nelson Mandela was set free. A little more than 4 years later, in the FIRST all-race elections, Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa.

American inventor Thomas Edison was born February 11, 1847 in Milan, Ohio. Known mostly for inventing the light bulb, he acquired over 1,200 patents. He is also known for the famous phrase, “Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration”. Many of you who have creative ideas or may have even invented something, know this firsthand.

American artist and illustrator Norman Rockwell was born February 3, 1894, in New York City. Legendary baseball player Babe Ruth was born February 6, 1895 in Baltimore, Maryland, Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809 near Hodgenville, Kentucky and THE George Washington was born February 22, 1732 in Westmoreland County Virginia.

Let us enjoy this month filled with love, football festivities and a Presidents Birthday holiday. And, of course, all of the social activities offered via SIR.

Andre Adema

Big Sir, SIR Branch #20

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Finance and Stats for October

Check back next month after the books and bank accounts are fully combined from the merger.

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Sir Achievements – from the State SIR Website

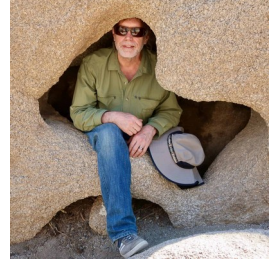
- Our members live longer because they are active and socially engaged.
- We are the largest golfing group in the Northern California Golf Association.
- Our bowlers can bowl in at least 15 State tournaments across Northern California.
- Our spouses/partners love SIR because it gets us out of the house.
- Our activities keep us physically fit and mentally alert.
- We have a great time, and we truly Make Friends for Life!

FEBRUARY: YOUR HOME–NATURAL HAZARDS & INSURANCE

Program: Chris Gordon (GeoDisclosure) and Jessica Murawsky (Cassidy Insurance)

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

Two hot topics (pun intended) on Californians’ minds are on the agenda for the February meeting. Chris Gordon, founder of GeoDisclosure, a premier natural hazard disclosure service for Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, will tell us about Wildfire Evacuation and Preparation. Jessica Murawsky, Assistant Manager and agent at Cassidy Insurance Agency, will tell us about finding the best coverage for health, home, auto and family. Cassidy Insurance Agency works with multiple insurance companies to make it easier to find the right plan for you, your family, or your business.



Menu: Ranch chicken; rice pilaf; vegetables; green salad; 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.

February Birthdays

<i>Name</i>	<i>Name</i>
Gabe Carmona	Joseph Maggio
Carl Cobb	Mike Russak
Ron Cox	Pete Tasseff
Raymond Gorski	Pat White
John Jameson	

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

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 is the most popular of all SIR activities. We play every Monday at courses in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. February courses and dates are as follows: 2/03 Laguna Seca, 2/10, Pajaro Valley, 2/17 Salinas Fairways, and 2/24 Pacific Grove.

Welcome Scotts Valley and San Lorenzo Valley Golfers!

After Memorial Day & Labor Day we play on Tuesdays

Club Championships: Sept.22 and Oct. 6. BBQ and Awards Oct. 20.

Start times are 8:00 am, except for the following: Oct. 20- 8:30 am Shotgun Start. P.G. Feb. 24, June 9, Aug 4- 9:40 am Start All Seascape times- 9:00 am Start



Poker

Poker continues to be very popular in 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 6 players, by invitation only. For more information, contact Sir Joe Mingione at jamingione@yahoo.com



650-279-2830, or

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... We gather to explore a different varietal, region and flavor profiles of wines from around the world. We strive to increase our knowledge, spend some quality time with our SIR friends and maybe tell a few stories. The "theme" for our February meeting hasn't been decided just yet, but all interested parties will be notified in a timely manner. If interested in joining us, you can contact Jeff for more information and directions to his home. Contact info: phone 831 419-4577 or jeffustick@gmail.com



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The officer said, "You drinking?" I said, "You buying?" We just laughed and laughed.... I need bail money.

The adult version of "head, shoulders, knees and toes" is "wallet, glasses, keys and phone."

Poetry Corner

From Sir Jim Healy, inspired by Robert Burns and read by the author at the December luncheon; it's repeated here in honor of Valentine's Day.

A Valentine to Womenkind

Oh where would we be, we braggy men
Without those good dames who take us in
Who do us a hundred tasks each day
And do them all while we hold sway?

How is it they remember every word we uttered
Even hearing through walls what we only muttered?
And who are these damsels so much stronger
And prove it by outliving us longer and longer?

They're more charming and surely much more tender
Maybe because of their God-given gender
They're smarter than we, they won't run out of gas
When they're lost on a road, they stop and they ask.

They raise up our babies and serve up our food
And never get raucous or vulgar or crude
They treat us better than we treat ourselves
That's why we salute our superior belles.

And this, from the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, by David Swanger, former Santa Cruz Poet Laureate. It memorializes the recent storm damage to the Municipal Wharf.

The end
last supper, last inning, last exit,
last words, myself bounced about
standing on the seaward glance
of an ancient wharf pummeled
by wind and wave its barnacled
beams refusing to give way until
they do and wharf breaks bond
with the shore and drifts buoyant
enough for me to ride its gallop

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keeping myself sharp by regularly asking myself tough questions like "what happened yesterday" and "what was i planning on doing just now"

