SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – February 4, 2026

sirinc2.org/branch20

Big Sir Comments

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

I hope everyone enjoyed your January. February is the shortest month of the year, known for Valentine's Day, which is a special day for love. Enjoy.

I would like to acknowledge our new members that were initiated at our January luncheon.

Bruce Bedayen
John Bost
Doug Lentz
Dan Peterson
Dick Santora
Please introduce yourself to them. ***Friends for life.***

New event opportunities for February:

- **Basketball Championship**
  Kaiser Permanent Arena
  February 25th, 4 pm.
- **Live Jazz Concert**
  Kuumba Jazz Center
  February 19th, 7 pm.
- **West Cliff Outdoor Artisan Market**
  Light House Point
  Valentine's Day February 14th, 9 am.
- **Blue Grass & Jazz Concert**
  Ugly Mug Coffee House
  February 7th, 7 pm
- **Santa Cruz Clam Chowder Cook-off**
  Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
  February 21-22, 10 am to 4 pm

I hope you try and enjoy at least one of these events. Invite other Sir members to go with you.

I hope to see you at one of our activities and the luncheon. February 4th 2026.

Sincerely,
Larry Bristow
Big Sir 2026, SIR Branch #20
Cell: 650-771-2140 **E-mail: larryrbristow@gmail.com**

Announcements

State SIR Newsletter (link)

Multi-Branch Travel
Fall 2026 and 2027 trips · Contact: glennbreslin@gmail.com

Finance and Stats for December

	Checking	Savings	Petty Cash	Total
Beginning Balance:	$2,513.64	9,000.00	210.00	11,723.64
Ending Balance	2,720.86	9,000.00	210.00	11,930.86
Active Members:				141
Pending:				4

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer

February: Santa Cruz Trains

Program: Bill Ackernecht
Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

Bill will present a history of railroads in Santa Cruz County. Trains played a significant role in the development of the economy, beginning with railroad construction in the 1870's. Routes expanded as the demand for freight service increased. Passenger service grew in popularity as Santa Cruz became a destination for tourists from around the Bay Area. Bill's interest in trains began when his grandparents gave him his first Lionel train set when he was 4 years old.

Menu: Spaghetti with meatballs; garlic bread; salad; dessert; lemonade–iced tea–water–coffee.

To make your SIR lunch reservation please respond to your Punchbowl invitation sent via email; if not seen, check your Spam, Promotions, or similar folders.

Important Notes:

- Luncheon price is $25.00.
- Your $25 2026 SIR annual membership fee was 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 February 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.

February Birthdays

Name	*Name*
Carl Cobb	Mike Russak
Raymond Gorski	Pete Tasseff
John Jameson	Ernest Williams
Joseph Anthony Maggio	

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

Congratulations Al Telles, January Drawing Winner!

State President
Fred Serena .....

Area Representative-Area 14
John Hetz ..... (775) 225-8983

Branch Executive Committee
Larry Bristow, Big Sir ..... (650) 771-2140
Joe Maggio, Little Sir ..... (408) 656-2640
Jeff Boisen, Secretary 239-1708
Dave Schwingel, Treasurer 234-7429
Al Pavot, 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
Jim Healey 685-3829
Dave Hodgin 239-5122
Charles Johnson 594-8965
Bob Lewis (Computer Club) 335-7816
Joe Mingione ..... (650) 279-2830
Steve Tedesco ..... (408) 810-0578
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 704-7091
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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State SIR Video

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
Dick Doubrava 2017
Joe Mingione 2018
Tom Duncanson 2019
Les Yeffa..... 2020, 2021
Steve Tedesco 2022
Ray Blute..... 2023
Jeff Ustick..... 2024
Andre Adema..... 2025

Wayne Thornton
Sir Wayne Thornton passed away peacefully at home January 14th. Wayne was a Sir since 1992 and participated in and enjoyed many Sir activities. Wayne was a Santa Cruz native and was involved in many organizations and youth sports activities.

A Celebration of Wayne's Life will be held on Saturday, February 21st, 1:00 pm at Oakwood Memorial Park chapel, 3301 Paul Sweet Road, with a reception to follow. All are welcome and encouraged to wear colorful attire.

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, and humor. There are also jigsaw puzzles and DVDs 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.

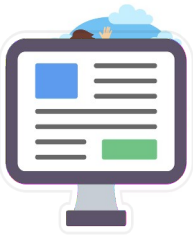
Watch for Joe Mingione's e-mail regarding the team assignments to lanes and playing times.

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.

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 a very popular activity for SIR members. We play every Monday at one of 11 different courses in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, including Delmonte, Crazy Horse, Monterey Pines, Pacific Grove, Laguna Seca and Delaveaga. Come on out and have a great time with your fellow SIR golfers. We presently have 39 eligible players in Branch 20. The Monday tournaments include two other SIR Branches. Typically, we get around 60 players every Monday.

We had a beautiful weather month in January, great golf, and lots of sunshine. The Napa Spring Fling presented by State SIR Golf will be held on April 22nd and April 23rd. Fun in Fairfield, a 4 man/2 best ball tournament will be held on May 20th and May 21st. Please go to the SIR Golf State website for more information or contact Jerry Zanzinger at (831) 704-7091.

The February golf schedule is as follows:

February 2	Laguna Seca
February 9	Pajaro Valley
February 16	Salinas Fairways
February 23	Crazy Horse Ranch

Please contact Jerry Zanzinger for updated information at (831) 704-7091.

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

8 Ball Hustlers at the July Meeting

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

On Thursday, January 15, eleven Sirs gathered at Sir Jeff Ustick's home to sample "Wines New To Me", a variety of wines not previously sampled. Besides a lovely Syrah,a variety of California Cabernet Sauvignons, a Chardonnay/Vionier blend, and an Italian red were enjoyed. Most unusual wine sampled, courtesy of Sir Joe Mingione who brought it home from Portugal, was a "white" wine the color of Windex (but much better tasting)!

Due to a scheduling conflict, our tasting in February will take place on Thursday, February 26 (the 4th Thursday of the month). More information about the theme will be coming soon. Please join with fellow Sirs for an afternoon of camaraderie. Cheers.

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

Interested in a Book Club?
If so, ***Sig Storz*** would like to know. He is interested in forming a book club, with details to be worked out by the group once it forms. Contact Sig at (831) 266-9487 or sostorz@msn.com

Branch 20 SIRS and the Santa Cruz Warriors
Join fellow Sirs on Sunday, March 8 at the Kaiser Permanente Area in Santa Cruz to watch our Santa Cruz Warriors take on the South Bay Lakers. The game starts at 5 pm. Tickets are $33 per ticket. Bring your family and friends. Make checks payable to SANTA CRUZ WARRIORS.

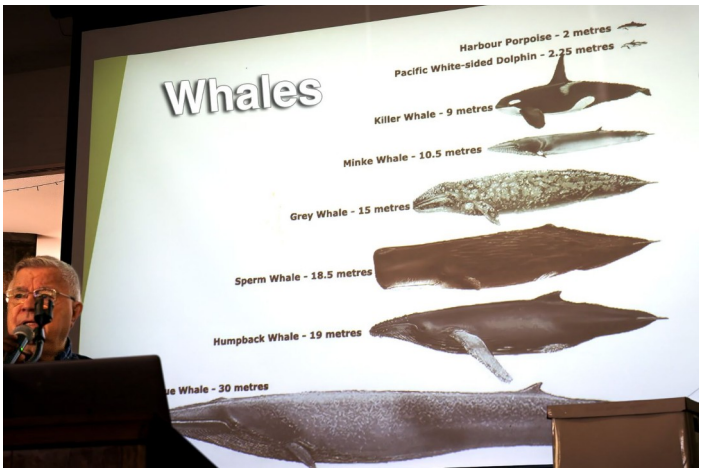
Please send your check care of: Jeff Ustick, 475 McEnery Rd. Felton, Ca 95018 by Monday, February 23. Tickets will be available at the WILL CALL window on the day of the game. ***Go Warriors!***

Sirs, upgrade your wardrobe!
It's a New Year, time for a new look. Show our community that you are a proud member of SIR by wearing the great looking SIR garb available at

sir.ourproshop.com

Polo shirts, T shirts, hats and more! Many colors, and sizes available.

JANUARY: THREE GIANT WHALES



PHOTOS BY BILL BISCHOFF

Inventions

The invention of the shovel was a groundbreaking discovery.

But the invention of the broom was the one that truly swept the nation.

This and That

Four engineers get into a car. The car won't start.

The Mechanical engineer says "It's a broken starter."

The Electrical engineer says "Dead battery."

The Chemical enginner says "Impurities in the gasoline."

The IT engineer says "Hey guys, I have an idea — how about we all get out of the car and get back in."