



SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – January 7, 2026

sirinc2.org/branch20

BIG SIR COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with your family and friends. January is the beginning of a new year with new goals, hopes and dreams. A chance to start fresh. New opportunities. So here is a list of activities as members of Sir Branch # 20 you can enjoy with family, friends and fellow members of Sir.

Enjoy the Best Sunsets Season: Head to the beach or north coast for a spectacular display of colors as the sun sets over the Pacific Ocean.

Watch the Winter swell from West Cliff Drive: Bring a warm drink, maybe a blanket and watch the Pacific Ocean come alive with towering waves and watch the surfers carve through the powerful swells.

Elephant Seals at Ano Nuevo: You can see these beautiful elephant seals through March.

Mushroom Viewing Walks: In the forests of Santa Cruz county they have guided walks.

Chase Waterfalls in the Redwoods: Explore the trails at Fall Creek, The Forest of Nisene Marks and Pogonip.

Walk the Wilder Ranch Coastal Bluffs: Views of dramatic surf, seabirds riding the winds and migrating gray whales.

Winter Tide Pooling at Natural Bridges: Check the tide charts.

Whale Watching Season: From the beach, Lighthouse Point, Davenport Bluffs, whale-watching cruise out of Santa Cruz Harbor, Monterey Harbor, Moss Landing.

California King Tides: January 1-3.

Holiday Lights at the Harbor: Twinkling wonderland with boats decorated with lights

Capitola Village: Explore the village.

I hope you try and enjoy at least one of these activities, and I hope to see you at our luncheon on Wednesday January 7, 2026.

Sincerely,

Larry Bristow

Big Sir 2026, SIR Branch #20

Cell: 650-771-2140

E-mail: larrybristow@gmail.com

Finance and Stats for November

	Checking	Savings	Petty Cash	Total
Beginning Balance:	\$1,452.64	9,000.00	85.00	10,537.64
Ending Balance	2,513.64	9,000.00	210.00	11,723.64
Active Members:			141	
Pending:			0	
Dave Schwingel, Treasurer				

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State SIR Video

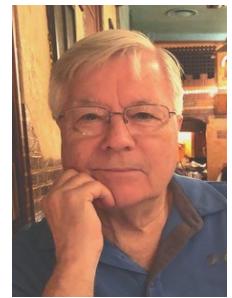
Welcome to SIR

JANUARY: THREE GIANT WHALES

Program: Richard Holmboe

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

Richard will present information on three giants of the sea – the gray whale (as big as a big bus), the humpback whale (bigger than a big bus) and the blue whale (bigger than two big busses). You will see that these giants among all animals survive by eating some of the smallest of animals. Then, you'll learn of a tiny animal that eats the giant whale. All of this will be accompanied by a slide deck of pictures that are guaranteed to amaze you.



Menu: Teriyaki chicken; roasted potatoes; Oregon baked beans; 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 January 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.

January Birthdays

Name	Name
John Baer	Mike Kennedy
David Biancalana	Chuck Maffia
Jeffrey "Jeff" Blumenfeld	Larry McAdams
Roy Brayshaw	Paul Ruiz
Ralph Cross	Rich Schwank
Mel Ferreira	Al Telles
Carl Hoyt	



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

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.



The January schedule has not been firmed up yet.

Please contact Jerry Zanzinger for updated information at (831) 704.7091.

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Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.

—Oscar Ameringer

The Democrats are the party that says government will make you smarter, taller, richer, and remove the crabgrass on your lawn. The Republicans are the party that says government doesn't work and then they get elected and prove it.

—P.J. O'Rourke

I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them.

—Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952

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"



8 Ball Hustlers at the July Meeting

Wine tasting

A gregarious group of Sirs and guests gathered on Thursday, December 18 at Vin Vivant in Capitola Village to sample a variety of wines from California, Italy, and France. Thank you to Sir Steve Edwards for being such a gracious host.



The wine tasting for January will occur on Thursday, January 15 at Sir Jeff Ustick's home (475 McEnergy Rd., Felton) from 2-4:30. To celebrate the new year, the theme will be "New To Me". Bring a bottle to share from a winery you have never tried before or a varietal you have not sampled. Light snacks and great conversations will be shared. Cheers.

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



December 2025 Wine Group

DECEMBER LADIES DAY

The Elks Lodge was beautifully decorated for the season:



Outgoing Big Sir Andre and wife Jeri:



Lunch provided by Kelly:



And people had a good time:

Music was provided by ...



Photos on this page by Bill Bischoff.