



## SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – January 7, 2026

[sirinc2.org/branch20](http://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](mailto: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

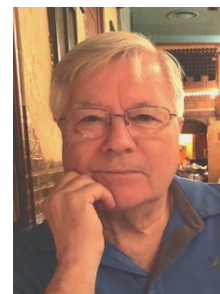
*Welcome to SIR*

### 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.

**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

Al Pavot, Treasurer .....

[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 &amp; 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

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

**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](mailto:jamingione@yahoo.com) or Ira Kessler [dinikessler@gmail.com](mailto:dinikessler@gmail.com).

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**Cribbage players**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [jsurfman@aol.com](mailto: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**

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 McEnery 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](mailto: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.*