



SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – March 5, 2025

sirinc2.org/branch20

BIG SIR COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

The month of March originates from the ancient Roman calendar where it was named “Martius”, after the Roman god of war. It marked the start of the military campaign season, and agricultural activities like planting. Let us hope that this year, 2025, it marks the end of several on-going military campaigns.

We remember the famous Shakespearean warning “Beware the Ides of March”, and Julius Caesar’s utterance of “Et tu, Brute”, before Brutus stabbed Julius Caesar to death. We also celebrate our Irish American friends by turning everything, from our attire to the Chicago River, green while we look forward to eating some great corned beef and cabbage.

The world-renowned Albert Einstein was born March 14, 1879. His theory of relativity led to new ways of thinking about time, space, matter and energy. He received a Nobel prize in 1921, immigrated to the U.S. in 1933 and urged then President Roosevelt to have the United States develop the atom bomb before Nazi Germany did.

American playwright Tennessee Williams was born March 26, 1911 in Columbus, Mississippi. His works included “The Glass Menagerie”, “Night of the Iguana”, and two Pulitzer Prize winning plays, “A Streetcar Named Desire” and “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”. Amazingly, all of those were made into memorable movies.

The famous phrase “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” was stated in a speech by Patrick Henry on March 23, 1775, igniting the American Revolution against British rule. And so, the great American experiment began.

Let us enjoy this month as the weather gets warmer and the days grow longer. Let’s try to fully participate in the activities made available via SIR, and appreciate the ability to do so.

Andre Adema

Big Sir, SIR Branch #20

Cell: 831-239-6699

E-mail: biomedprn@gmail.com

Finance and Stats for January

	Checking	Savings	Petty Cash	Total
Beginning Balance:	\$11,389.06	0.00	0.00	11,389.06
Ending Balance	13,623.06	0.00	210.00	13,833.06
Active Members:				106
Pending:				6

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer

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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!

MARCH: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ALFRED HITCHCOCK IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Program: Jay Topping, Scotts Valley Historical Society

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

Jay Topping, the historian of the Scotts Valley Historical Society and presenter at the 2025 Alfred Hitchcock Festival, will share with us the story of Alfred Hitchcock’s time and work in Scotts Valley. Did you know Hitchcock’s *The Birds* was inspired by an actual 1961 event in Capitola?



Menu: Corned beef & cabbage; Potatoes; chef’s choice salad; bread; 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.

March Birthdays

Name	Name
Kirk Crane	Dave Matthews
Joe Kelly	Warren Penniman
Don Lillard	Bruce Reiss
David Llamas	Wayne Thornton
Thomas Loudon	Frank Turner

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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Ask Mister Buck: Financial Expert

Q: Mr. Buck, what do you call someone who always invests in bad stocks?

A: An incomepoop!

—Frank & Ernest by Bob Thaves



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

Ira Kessler, Secretary 600-8364

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer 234-7429

[Open], Assistant Treasurer.....

Membership: Jeff Ustick 419-4577

Programs: Bill Fitzgerald 423-5102

Jim Healy 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

Ray Disparati (We Care) 438-2561

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 475-9481

Jerry Zanzinger 423-1936

2025 Committees

Badges: Dave Herman 438-3612

Bocce: Ira Kessler 600-8364

Joe Mingione (650) 279-2830

Bowling: Ray Merrithew (408) 354-1592

Branch Photographer: Bill Bishoff..... 854-2207

Computer & Tech Discussions: Bob Lewis 335-7816

Cribbage: Mike Kopp 535-6308

18-Hole Golf: Jerry Zanzinger 423-1936

Member Relations: Edgar Ross 440-9521

Poker: Joe Mingione (650) 279-2830

Wine Tasting: Jeff Ustick :..... 419-4577

Living Past Big Sirs (Branch 36)

Cliff Barrett 2001, 2002 Gary Allyne.....2010,2011,2017

John Lunden 2008 Bill Landrum 2018

Al Telles 2012 Bill Ackerknecht2019, 2020

Frank Turner 2014 Chuck Presto.....2021

Bill Schraft 2015 Charles Johnson.....2022

Les Austin 2013, 2016

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.

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, humor, DVDs and jigsaw puzzles. Bring a book (or more) & take a book (or more).

**Bocce**

For the time being, we will continue to have 2 game times available on Wednesdays (except when we have a scheduled Luncheon meeting). First game starts at 9:30 am, second game starts at 11:30 am. All Sirs are invited, pick a time that fits your liking and show up! The venue– FELT STREET PARK.



AND in addition, we are announcing Pot Luck Monday by playing a pick up game, each Monday at 11:15am– 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.

Bowling

Sirs and Sirettes Bowling League meets every Monday, 1:00 pm at The Boardwalk Bowl. This is a Seniors Trio handicap league. In order to join a team, you must bowl as a substitute until you have enough games to establish a book average. For more information or to sign up as a sub, contact Ray Merrithew at rmerrithew8@gmail.com.

**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 meeting Wednesdays – 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. In February, Sir George Jones had an approach shot that settled 2'6" from the hole at Laguna Seca!

March courses and dates:

3/3 Monday, Eagle Ridge	3/10 Monday, Monterey Pines
3/17 Monday, Laguna Seca	3/24 Monday, Ridgemark.
3/31 Monday, Spring Hills	



Scott Cunningham and Tom Hansen

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 650-279-2830, or jamingione@yahoo.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"

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Seasoned Citizens Humor

Due to my isolation, I finished three books yesterday. And believe me, that's a lot of coloring.

What did our parents do to kill boredom before the internet? I asked my 26 brothers and sisters and they didn't know either.

I tried donating blood today ... NEVER AGAIN! Too many stupid questions: Whose blood is it? Where did you get it? Why is it in a bucket?

Today, I melted an ice cube with my mind just by staring at it. It took a lot longer than I thought it would.

Just sold my homing pigeon on eBay for the 22nd time.

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...



On Thursday February 20, eleven Sirs gathered at Sir Jeff Ustick's home to taste "Wines of the Old World". Several white wines were sampled including a Spanish Albarino and two French whites. Each were dry, fresh and delicious. The remainder of the wines were red: two French wines from Bordeaux, a French blend, Italian blends, and one Napa wine from Miner. In addition to the wines, shrimp, chocolates, cheeses, grapes and other snacks were also shared. Despite the delicious wines and noches, the conversation and camaraderie stood out as the best of the afternoon. Consider joining us next tasting. Contact info: phone 831 419-4577 or jeffustick@gmail.com



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More Seasoned Citizens Humor

I grew up with Bob Hope, Steve Jobs and Johnny Cash. Now there's no jobs, no cash, and no hope. Please don't let anything happen to Kevin Bacon.

Shoutout to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the password they created yesterday. You are my people.

Think you're old and you will be old. Think you are young, and you will be delusional.

There's nothing scarier than that split second when you lose your balance in the shower and you think, "They are going to find me naked."

Not in jail, not in a mental hospital, not in a grave — I'd say I'm having a very good day!

