



# SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

## ROOSTER ROUNDUP – March 4, 2026

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

### **BIG SIR COMMENTS**

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

Hello March, goodbye February. I hope you enjoyed your February with all this rain. With March we welcome Spring on March 20, 2026. Hopefully less rain and more sunshine. March Madness March 17th, St Patrick's Day March 17th, and Daylight Savings on Sunday March 8, 2026.

Here are some activities for you, your family, friends and fellow SIR members.

- **Whale Watching:** the Gray Whales Migration
- **Roaring Camp:** Train Rides through the Beautiful Redwoods.
- **Wildflower Hiking:** visit the UCSC Arboretum Botanic Gardens
- **Seymour Marine Discovery Center:**  
100 McAllister Way Santa Cruz Ca 95060  
Tuesday through Sunday 10 AM-4 PM
- **Comedy Show:**  
Balefire Brewing Company  
21517 E Cliff Dr. Santa Cruz  
March 31, 2026 7:45 PM  
Check out their website for Events  
Comedy Show, Music, Food, Beer & Events

Have fun and stay active. I hope to see you at one of our activities, especially the Luncheon on March 4, 2026.

Sincerely,

**Larry Bristow**

**Big Sir 2026, SIR Branch #20**

Cell: 650-771-2140

E-mail: [larrybristow@gmail.com](mailto:larrybristow@gmail.com)

### **Announcements**

[State SIR Newsletter](#) (← link)

Multi-Branch Travel

Fall 2026 and 2027 trips · Contact: [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

### **Finance and Stats for January**

|                    | Checking   | Savings  | Petty Cash | Total     |
|--------------------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$2,720.86 | 9,000.00 | 210.00     | 11,930.86 |
| Ending Balance     | 2,832.96   | 9,000.00 | 170.00     | 12,002.96 |
| Active Members:    |            |          |            | 143       |
| Pending:           |            |          |            | 4         |

**Dave Schwingel, Treasurer**

### **March Birthdays**

*Name*

Kirk Crane

Chuck Hillig

Joe Kelly

David Llamas

*Name*

Thomas Loudon

Bruce Reiss

Frank Turner



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

**Congratulations Pete Tasseff, February Drawing Winner!**

### **MARCH: HEART HEALTH AND PREVENTING HEART DISEASE**

*Program:* Patrick Farrant

*Location:* Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

Patrick will talk about heart health and preventing heart disease, including warning signs, risk factors, new advances and therapy, healing and recovery, and key medications.

He was born in a small town in Northern Ontario, Canada, and moved to Sacramento in 1961 following the death of his parents. After high school and college, Patrick's primary career was with a publisher of university level textbooks.

Patrick suffered a major "heart event" in February 2005 (heart attack followed by triple bypass surgery, followed by eight stents). He then became involved with the heart patient support group Mended Hearts, where he served in many leadership positions, rising to Executive Vice President.

He currently lives in San Jose, recently widowed, with two adult children and four grandchildren. Hobbies include golf and high altitude trout fishing in the High Sierra.

**Menu:** Corned beef, cabbage and potatoes; Irish soda bread; salad; dessert; lemonade-iced tea-water-coffee. **Please note:** this is an updated menu vs. the one in the Punchbowl invitation.

**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. If you haven't paid, contact Jeff Ustick. *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.

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### **Test**

Professor to students: "Your final exam will be to figure out how to use an analog clock and a rotary phone. Don't worry, I've written the directions for you in cursive."

State President

Fred Serena .....

Area Representative-Area 14

Andre Adema ..... 239-6699

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
Membership: Jeff Ustick ..... 419-4577
Programs: Andre Adema ..... 239-6699
Bill Fitzgerald ..... 423-5102
Walt Heil ..... 915-8457
Webmaster: Dave Herzog ..... (650) 690-6525
Assistant: Joe Maggio.....(408) 656-2640
Newsletter: Michael Kopp..... 535-6308
Kent Madsen ..... (408) 812-1141

2026 Directors

Ray Blute ..... 464-7901
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
Frank Turner ..... 239-9664
Les Yeffa ..... 588-1626
Jerry Zanzinger ..... 423-1936

2026 Committees

Badges: Joe Maggio ..... (408) 656-2640
Bocce: 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: Les Yeffa ..... 588-1626
18-Hole Golf: Jerry Zanzinger ..... 704-7091
Member Relations: Jeff Ustick ..... 419-4577
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

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.

Computers and Technology Discussion

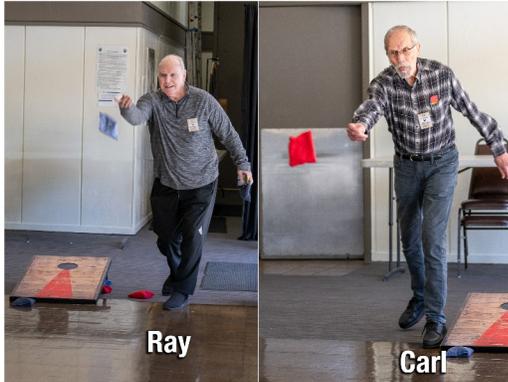
Bob Lewis chairs the Branch #20 Computer Club during regular monthly meetings (no meeting on Ladies Day luncheons). Bob also chairs a community computer "club" called the Felton Linux Users Group. Known as the Felton LUG for short, it is currently meeting semi-monthly using video conference software. 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.



**BRANCH 20 ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**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.



**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?



Pool at SIR

**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).

"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"

**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. Cash prizes for the winners and closest to the pin.



The March golf schedule is as follows:

- March 2 Spring Hills
- March 9 Laguna Seca
- March 11 Crazy Horse (New date because of rain out)
- March 16 Monterey Pines
- March 23 Eagle Ridge
- March 30 Pacific Grove

Congratulations to the Branch 20 team members, Cal Potter, Mel Ferreira, Ron Rayas, and Scott Bloom (85) who won first place at Pajaro Valley on February 9th. Each player received \$10.

Please go to the SIR Golf State website for the latest tournament information or contact Jerry Zanzinger at (831) 704-7091.

**Wine tasting**

On Thursday, February 26 ten SIRs gathered to sample Malbec wines. As the most common Argentinian wine, the Malbecs sampled gave evidence of the dark, full bodied characteristics typical of Malbecs. In addition, an Italian and local (Gilroy) Malbec, as well as a Pinot Noir were enjoyed. The wines were accompanied with salami, cheeses, crackers,olives and chocolates.



On Thursday, March 19 we will be sampling a variety of white wines as we look forward to the approaching spring. Please consider joining us to enjoy the wine and SIR comradery. Details will be emailed closer to the event. Cheers.

Contact Jeff Ustick at [jeffustick@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sostorz@msn.com)

**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

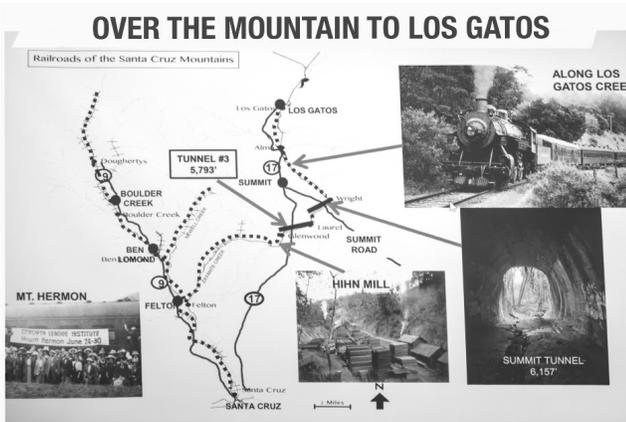
[sir.ourproshop.com](http://sir.ourproshop.com)

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



Branch 20's very own Dave Hodgin, board member of the *Scotts Valley Community Theater Guild*, invites you to the Fourth Annual Alfred Hitchcock Festival being held March 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> at The Landing in Scotts Valley. Come learn about and celebrate the history of Hitchcock's legacy in the Scotts Valley area. There will also be screenings of three movies made by the genius director. Visit the [festival website](http://hitchcockfestival.com) for details, schedule information and tickets.

**FEBRUARY: SANTA CRUZ TRAINS**



PHOTOS BY BILL BISHOFF