



SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – May 7, 2025

sirinc2.org/branch20

BIG SIR COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

The month of May is filled with historically significant events, holidays, people and sporting activities. We also benefit from the colorful May flowers brought about by our April showers.

World War II in Europe ended in May 1945. The widely recognized St. James Bible was first published in May of 1611, and on May 14, 1796, Dr. Edward Jenner developed a vaccine for smallpox in England. The number of deaths from smallpox in England was reduced by two-thirds by taking the vaccine.

A couple of the sporting events we're all familiar with are the Kentucky Derby and the Indianapolis 500. Notable firsts include the first time the Summit of Mt. Everest was reached by Edmund Hillary & Tenzing Norgay on May 29, 1953, and the breaking of the 4-minute mile by Roger Bannister in Oxford on May 6, 1954.

May is also Military Appreciation Month, Mental Health Awareness Month and, to keep all of us moving, it is National Walking Month. The individual days we love to celebrate include Cinco De Mayo, Mother's Day on the 11th, and Memorial Day on the 26th this year. Some recognizable May birthdays include Bing Crosby, Audrey Hepburn, Orson Wells, Salvador Dali and Florence Nightingale.

What you may not know is that the May bird is the Hummingbird, known for its agility, grace, and the joy it brings as we watch them flit about with their beautiful colors. Let us all show our own unique colors as we enjoy beautiful blue skies & the warmth of a golden sun.

Andre Adema

Big Sir, SIR Branch #20

Cell: 831-239-6699

E-mail: biomedprn@gmail.com

Finance and Stats for March

	Checking	Savings	Petty Cash	Total
Beginning Balance:	\$13,756.68	0.00	190.00	13,946.68
Ending Balance	12,900.18	0.00	175.00	13,075.18
Active Members:				135
Pending:				0

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer

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I STILL HAVE A LANDLINE.
OR AS I LIKE TO CALL IT,
"A CELL PHONE FINDER."

SHARED ON I'M NOT RIGHT IN THE HEAD.COM

MAY: THE EARLY INDUSTRIES OF THE SAN

LORENZO VALLEY

Program: Lisa Robinson, President of the Board of Directors, San Lorenzo Valley Museum

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

Lisa Robinson will talk about the early industries of the San Lorenzo Valley and how they harnessed the water power of the San Lorenzo River and the creeks that flow into it.

Lisa has been President of the Board of Directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society, which owns and operates the San Lorenzo Valley Museum, since 2008, where she manages the exhibitions and collections.



Menu: Chicken Enchilada Casserole; authentic Spanish rice; re-fried beans; Mexican corn salad; 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.

May Birthdays

Name	Name
Harvey Behrendt	Kent Madsen
Scott Bloom	Jack McGrogan
Arthur "Ray" Blute	George Milder
Andrew "Spike" Hall	Tom Mullen
Mike Hanlon	Mike Oropeza
Walter "Walt" Heil	Ed Rimmer
George Henderson	Jonathan "Jon" Wright
William "Bill" Landrum	Richard "Dick" Zscheile
Dr. Eugene "Gene" Lieb	



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

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

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

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 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

Norm Gruczelak 2016

Dick Doubrava 2017

Joe Mingione 2018

Tom Duncanson 2019

Les Yeffa..... 2020, 2021

Steve Tedesco 2022

Ray Blute..... 2023

Jeff Ustick..... 2024

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**

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.

AND 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 inikessler@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.



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 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!



April courses and dates:

5/05 Monday, Laguna Seca

5/12 Monday, Pacific Grove

5/19 Monday, Pajaro Valley

5/27 Tuesday, Spring Hills.

With the additional players from the merger, we almost doubled our number. We now have 39 players. It has been a pleasure meeting some of you from Scotts Valley and San Lorenzo Valley and I hope to meet you all in the future. The next State Tournament is on May 28 and 29 at Rancho Solano and Paradise Valley.

Jerry Zanzinger (831) 704-7091



19th Hole at Laguna Seca

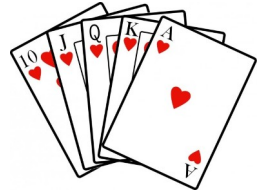
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New Cell Phone?

People are excited about the new iPhone, but nobody seems to have caught up with the awesome technology of using your blinker when you drive.

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"

Wine tasting

Our usual gathering is on the third Thursday of each month. The meeting place is at Jeff Ustick's home in Felton. The time 1:30 pm to 4ish...

On Thursday, April 17th twelve Sirs gathered to share wine, wisdom and stories. Although the April theme was "Wines East of the Rockies", only four wines that fit that description were tasted. Sir Joe Mingione brought two vintage bottles of Pennsylvania and Virginia wines that, through the miracle of time, had been converted into vinegar. Sir Vic Martin brought a red blend produced in New York (with California grapes). Host Jeff Ustick provided a pinot grigio produced in Illinois using Michigan grapes. The additional wines were a lovely mix of primarily red domestic as well as several foreign wines.



Our next gathering will be held on Thursday, May 15 from 1:30-4:00. The theme is "Support Your Local Winery". The idea is to identify the winery closest to your home and bring a bottle from them. (Google "wineries near me"- look at the provided map...and figure out which is closest.). More details to come closer to the date. Come join us and get to know some of your SIR brothers better. Cheers. Contact info: phone 831 419-4577 or jeffustick@gmail.com



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Food for Thought

If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?

Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?

Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?

BRANCH 20 ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**Gentle Hike Opportunities**

Santa Cruz County Parks is beginning a "GENTLE HIKE FOR OLDER ADULTS" series: join Park Docents Richard James and Cathy Hoeft for a gentle hike on the Discovery Trail and Italian Trail/Chaparral Trail loop (3/4-1 mile). The hike will include information about the park's cultural history, natural points of interest, and time to stop and enjoy the park's unique flora and fauna. Bring a hat, water, and sunglasses- binoculars and hiking poles/walking stick optional. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress in layers. Meet-up outside the Quail Hollow ranch house. **This is a free series for adults age 60 and over. Please note this is not a SIR exclusive activity. It is open to men and women.**

You can register in advance to secure your space at scparks.com or call 831 454-7941... or just show up.

WHERE: Quail Hollow Ranch County Park
800 Quail Hollow Road, Felton

WHEN:

Monday May 12	10-11:30 AM
Thursday May 22	10-11:30 AM
Monday June 9	10-11:30 AM
Thursday June 26	10-11:30 AM

