



Devoted to the Promotion of
Independence and Dignity of Retirement

ROOSTER ROUNDUP

Santa Cruz Branch No. 20

Meetings at Noon – Elks Club

Jewell Street-Santa Cruz

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

SIR INC.
STATE PRESIDENT
Dale Decker 209/573-0833
AREA 14 REPRESENTATIVE
John Hetz 775/225-8983

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Big Sir	Jeff Ustick	419-4577
Little Sir	Larry Bristow	650-771-2140
Secretary	Jeff Boisen	239-1708
Asst Sec.	Mike Kopp	535-6308
Treasurer	Mike Kennedy	904-501-3323
Asst.Treas	OPEN	
Director	James Baker	423-7429
Director	Ray Blute	464-7901
Director	Ed Bush	408-997-1836
Director	Jesse DeGennaro	426-0149
Director	Jim Healey	685-3829
Director	Dave Hodgins	239-5122
Director	Joe Mingione	650-279-2830
Director	Steve Tedesco	408-810-0578
Director	Les Yeffa	475-9481

PAST BIG SIRS

Ray Blute	2023
Steve Tedesco	2022
Les Yeffa	2020-21
Tom Duncanson	2019
Joe Mingione	2018
Dick Doubrava	2017
Norm Gruczelak	2016
Bruce Bentley	2016
Greg Horne	2015
Don Little	2014
Jim Bunker	2013
Sterling Frost	2012
Bill Neary	2011
Rich Dean	2010
Hank Pierce	2009

For complete listing of Past Big Sirs, refer to your
SIRs Roster



NOVEMBER LUNCH MENU

Roast Turkey
Mashed potatoes with gravy
Dressing, cranberry sauce, mixed veggies
Dessert

PROGRAM

Hollywood Producer/Director Mike Fresco will be doing an encore presentation. Mike has 56 directing credits for many of the most popular television shows– such as Monk, LA Law, St. Elsewhere and Northern Exposure. Welcome back Mike!

BIG SIR JEFF USTICK SEZ

November is a month of changes and celebrations– and much to be thankful for. As we move into November, we may notice subtle and not-so subtle changes.



For us on the Central Coast, our October weather is usually some of the best of the year, and yet many of us look forward to the weather changes that often come in November. After months of sun, low humidity and NO rain, November brings promise of soon-to-come rain.

In case some may have not noticed (an actual impossibility) our nation will decide on a political change on election day. Without further comment, regardless of outcome, we will experience changes. As the month progresses, on November 11 we will honor our veterans, both those still with us and those who have gone on before us. For me, I pay homage to both my mother and father, WWII veterans, and my brother a career Navy officer. Their service, along with millions of others, deserve our thanks and respect. To our fellow Sir veterans, a wholehearted thank you.

November’s signature celebration has to be Thanksgiving. Traditionally, 1621 is cited as the first “American” Thanksgiving when a harvest feast was shared by the Wampanoag people and the Pilgrims. However, throughout history there are many

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COMMITTEES for 2024

Audio	OPEN	
Arrangements	Ray Blute	464-7901
	Jesse DeGennaro	426-0149
	Mel Ferreira	408-353-2107
Badge Mgr.	OPEN	854-2303
Bulletin Ed.	Mike Kopp	535-6308
Chaplain	Jim Baker	423-7429
Golf	Jerry Zanzinger	423-1936
Bocce	Ray Blute	464-7901
	Joe Mingione	650-279-2830
Poker	Joe Mingione	650-279-2830
Historian	Jeff Ustick	419-4577
Membership	OPEN	
Program	Jim Healey	685-3829
Publicity	Joe Mingione	650-279-2830
Recruitment	Steve Tedesco	408-810-0578
Roster	Jeff Ustick	419-4577
Song Leader	OPEN	
Sunshine	OPEN	
Webmaster	Dave Herzog	650-690-6525

TELEPHONE CALLERS

Non-email

Jesse De Gennaro	426-0149
Mel Ferreira	408-353-2107

Punchbowl email

Ray Blute	464-7901
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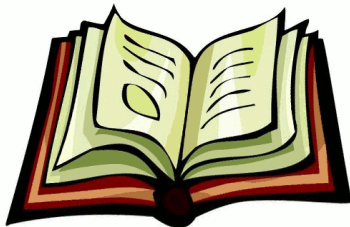
Greeters

As assigned



BOOK EXCHANGE

Don't forget to peruse the Book Exchange table at our monthly meetings! Lots of interesting titles to peak your interests: non-fiction, fiction, sports, biographies, history, humor, DVDs and jigsaw puzzles. Bring a book (or more) take a book (or more).



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mentions of celebratory feasts honoring the harvest, family and community. Abraham Lincoln made the celebration an official holiday in 1863 in the depths of the Civil War and in 1942, in the depths of WWII, the last Thursday in November became the official Holiday.

Over the years Thanksgiving has been associated with so many things beyond "being thankful". Thanksgiving used to be the kick off for the Christmas/holiday season (which now occurs shortly after Labor Day based on retail advertising and in-store displays), a day of traditional NFL football matchups (as a Midwest youth, games always included the Detroit Lions and Chicago Bears), as well as the "Black Friday" shopping debacle. While some still see these as things to be thankful for, I prefer to look elsewhere.

I am thankful for my family, my health, my friends, with best wishes to neighbors, community and fellow humankind. To my Sirs brothers, and as this year marches closer to a conclusion, we head to a new year of changes as we move to merge with other Sirs. What does not seem to change is your camaraderie, kindness and support. For all of these, and so much more, I am thankful.

Pending Merger: Branch 36 to join with us

All Sirs should have received an informational email about the proposed merger between Branches 20 and 36. The Merger Punchbowl email you have received will register your vote. You have 21 days after you receive the Punchbowl to register your vote. The merger will go forth if 80% of those who vote indicate YES. If approved, our merger will be official on Jan. 1, 2025. Your Branch 20 Executive Board voted unanimously in support of the merger.

Branch 20 Authorizes 2025 Officers

The following Sirs will serve on the Branch 20 Board next year. Thank you all for volunteering your time, consideration and sage advice..

Ray Blute, Jeff Boisen, Larry Bristow, Ed Bush, Jesse DeGennaro, Mike Fuson, Jim Healey, Dave Hodgins, Mike Kopp, Larry McAdams, Joe Mingione, Jeff Ustick and Les Yeffa.

Our Branch Needs Your Assistance

With the Passing of our Membership chair, Sir Don Hershberger, and as we approach the merger of Branch 36 with us, we need a Sir to step up to oversee membership. Training will be provided. The time commitment varies from month to month, (usually 1-2 hours per month) depending on prospective members, a simple once-a-month online report, and the ability to attend our Board meeting on our luncheon days.

All that is needed is access to a computer/internet, and a willingness to help out our branch.

Please contact Jeff Ustick (jeffustick@gmail.com) 831/419-4577 if you have questions. Your fellow Sirs will thank you.

My wife tricked me into going to the gym
Who knew that Pilates wasn't an Italian Restaurant?

TREASURERS REPORT

Sirs Mike Fuson/Jeff Ustick

Beginning balance, October 1, 2024

\$3558.52

No ending balance, acct. is balanced after this newsletter is distributed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of October 30, 2024

61 active members

6 applications on file

ACTIVITIES REPORT

GOLF- Golf is the most popular of all activities in Branch 20. We play every Monday at courses in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The November dates and courses are as follows: Nov. 4 DeLavega, Nov. 11 Monterey Pines Nov. 18 Pajaro, Nov. 25 Salinas Fairways. For more information contact Jerry Zanzinger at jzanzinger@gmail.com



POKER- Poker continues to be very popular in Branch 20. Every Tuesday at 1pm is a game for experienced Players. The venue is Tradewinds Mobile Home Park, 4160 Jade St., Capitola. For more information, Contact Joe Mingione: 650/279-2830 or jamingione@yahoo.com



WINE TASTING— On Thursday October 17, Sirs met at Sir Buzz Little's home and enjoyed a beautiful afternoon on his deck overlooking Scotts Valley. A lovely variety of Italian wines, including Chianti, Nebiolo, Proseca, Montepulciano were sampled. The wines were accompanied with shrimp, cheeses, nuts, bruschetta and breads as well as a few sweets. As usual, great conversation was also served up.

Our November tasting will take place on November 21 at 1:30. Join your fellow Sirs at Big Sir Jeff Ustick's home at 475 McEnergy Rd., Felton. In anticipation of Thanksgiving our November theme is "A Wine You Are Thankful For."

You may contact Jeff at jeffustick@gmail.com



CRIBBAGE— Games are played before the monthly luncheon meeting at the Elks Lodge, in the Bar area. Games begin at approximately 11a. For more information, contact Mike Kopp at jmkopp186@hotmail.com



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.

I tried to start a professional hide and seek team
Didn't work out
Turns out, good players are hard to find.

ACTIVITIES REPORTS

BOCCE- Bocce guys, you wanted more playing time– so here it is! Starting now, **EVERY WEDNESDAY**, except for our monthly meeting Wednesday, we are scheduled to play! Starting NOW! The place– FELT STREET PARK. The time 11:15 am. AND in addition, we are announcing Pot Luck Monday by playing a pick up game, each Monday at 11:15- Just show up if you want to play! (Don't forget to bring your game balls.)

Many Bocce players meet after our games at Jeffery's Restaurant for lunch and conversation.

Need more information? Contact: r-cblute@att.net or Joe Mingione: jamingione@yahoo.com



CORNHOLE- There is a NEW ACTIVITY available to our Branch 20 members! Cornhole is a very popular game these days. It is played much like horseshoes, with players tossing bean bag at a target board that has a hole in it. Scoring rules are simple, 3 points for a bag that falls through the hole, and 1 point for any bag that lands on the board. If both teams score, the low score team's points are subtracted from the high score team. Simple enough! Meet up after 11 am on meeting Wednesdays, on the far side of the meeting room, near the door to the swimming pool. Sir Jim Healey will gladly give you some pointers!



POOL- Another way to interact with your Sirs friends on meeting day– In the Bar area is a regulation size Pool Table available for our use! A game of 8 ball anyone?



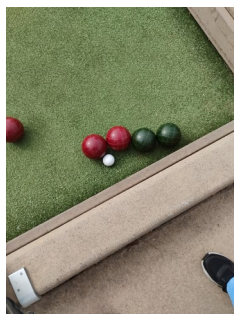
Some photos from recent Activities



October Wine Group



“Deadeye” Dave Bianclana



A tight grouping!



Left– Jim Healey celebrating a Bocce victory with an extra thick vanilla shake.



Right– Southpaw Larry Bristol readying his next Bocce move.

Do you have photos of Branch 20 SIRs activities to share? Email them to Michael Kopp at jmkopp186@hotmail.com, or send to my phone 831/295-9287 (**no pdfs please**)

**!LAST CHANCE!
DRAWING FOR FISHING ROD
AND HAND MADE QUILT!**

Both items were handcrafted by Sir Ed Bush and his wife Jessica.
There will be a drawing at our November Meeting to determine the winners.
Donation of \$5 per ticket– all proceeds go toward Branch 20 activities.
See them both at our monthly Luncheon meetings!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mike Fuson

Jim Healey



Ken Jenkins

Jeff Powell



Meet Sir Jim Healey. Jim is the consummate poet and punster. You have all heard his mellifluous and dulcet tones introducing our Guest Speakers each month. Jim's poetic excellence doesn't stop there— he was recently awarded the 1st place Blue Ribbon for Poetry and the Santa Cruz County Fair! On the following page is the award winning poem, which Jim will recite at our December Luncheon

A Robert Burns Inspired

A VALENTINE TO WOMENKIND

By Jim Healey

OH WHERE WOULD WE BE, WE BRAGGY MEN
WITHOUT THOSE GOOD DAMES WHO TAKE US IN
WHO DOES US A HUNDRED TASKS EACH DAY
AND DO THEM ALL WHILE WE HOLD SWAY?

HOW IS IT THEY REMEMBER EVERY WORD WE UTTERED
EVEN HEARING THROUGH WALL WHAT WE ONLY MUTTERED?
AND WHY ARE THESE DAMSELS SO MUCH STRONGER
AND PROVE BY OUTLIVING US LONGER AND LONGER?

THEY'RE MORE CHARMING AND SURELY MUCH MORE TENDER
MAYBE BECAUSE OF THEIR GOD GIVEN GENDER
THEY'RE SNARTER THAN WE, THEY WON'T RUN OUT OF GAS
WHEN THEY'RE LOST ON A ROAD, THEY STOP AND THEY ASK

THEY RAISE UP OF BABIES AND SERVE UP OUR FOOD
THEY NEVER GET RAUCOUS OR VULGAR OR CRUDE
THEY TREAT US BETTER THAN WE TREAT OURSELVES
THAT'S WHY WE SALUTE OUR SUPERIOR BELLES.