



SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – November 5, 2025

sirinc2.org/branch20

BIG SIR COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

For most of us in America, November is a month for us to "Give Thanks". Let us "give thanks" to our forebearers for doing whatever they did, overcoming whatever obstacles confronted them, and sacrificing their lives and livelihoods to improve the lives of the generations that followed. As a result of the sacrifices my parents made, I am an immigrant to the United States and feel blessed to participate in the fabric of this great nation.

Most of us in SIR probably only have to go back one or two generations to see what our grandparents and great-grandparents endured for each of us to be able to attend our monthly SIR luncheons. I, for one, do not take the makeup of our daily lives for granted.

A few other people and events that we can "give thanks" to include the election of Abraham Lincoln on November 6, 1860. However close the election, there's no disputing his impact on American history. The Berlin Wall was opened on November 9, 1989. Having just returned from an amazing vacation in Europe, I personally "give thanks" for that.

We celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th. We can all "give thanks" to those who have sacrificed much, sometimes the ultimate sacrifice, that enable us to live our lives in the framework of freedom. What was to become a patriotic favorite, and a song that we're very familiar with in SIR, Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" was first performed November 11, 1938 by Kate Smith.

Birthdays of those we can "give thanks" to include Scott Joplin on November 24, 1868, and on the same day two years later, motivational lecturer Dale Carnegie was born. Samuel Clemens, or more popularly known as Mark Twain, was born November 30, 1835.

And someone you may not be familiar with is Mary Edwards Walker, born November 26, 1832, in Oswego, New York. She was the first female surgeon in the U.S. Army and served during the Civil War. She was captured and spent four months in a Confederate prison. In 1865 she became the first AND ONLY woman to ever receive the Medal of Honor.

In this month of Thanksgiving, let us "give thanks" to those around us and those that went before us.

Andre Adema

Big Sir, SIR Branch #20

Cell: 831-239-6699

E-mail: biomedprn@gmail.com

Finance and Stats for September

	Checking	Savings	Petty Cash	Total
Beginning Balance:	\$2,294.64	9,000.00	160.00	11,454.64
Ending Balance	2,100.64	9,000.00	160.00	11,260.64
Active Members:				140
Pending:				0

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer

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Before we work on artificial intelligence why don't we do something about natural stupidity?

NOVEMBER: TALK BY A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

Program: Kevin Foster

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

Kevin Foster was raised in California, Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado. He has been a resident of Santa Cruz County for the last 30 years. Some of the many fine hats he has worn and continues to wear: licensed falconer, wildlife rehabber and rescuer for Santa Cruz County Native Animal Rescue, Pyro technician with Devastating Pyrotechnics, retired Rodeo Clown/Bull-fighter, creator of the Boulder Creek community emergency response team (CERT), wedding officiant, general contractor, columnist for the Santa Cruz Mountains bulletin, ad-hoc helper with animal and other issues for CHP/Sheriff/Animal Control, and a loving father and husband.



Menu: Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, fresh cranberry sauce; bread; salad; dessert; lemonade-iced tea-water-coffee.

To make your SIR lunch reservation please respond to your Punchbowl invitation sent via email; check your Spam, Promotions, or similar folders.

Important Notes:

- Luncheon price is \$25.00.
- Your \$25 dues for 2025 were 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 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.



Charlie leads, "God Bless America"

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 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 & 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

November Birthdays**Name**

Michael "Mike" Baroni

Jim DeBarrios

Elliot Dembner

Paul Fewel

Mike Fuson

Name

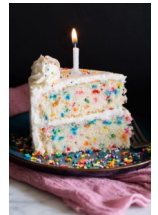
James Healey

Ira Kessler

Dave Matthews

Donald Nelson

Errol Walsh



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

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.

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 irinikessler@gmail.com.

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My grandson wants to be an accountant -- for his birthday I got him a big bag of receipts.

I told my wife to embrace her mistakes ... so she hugged me.

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, to be added to either group. Virtual meetings are on the first and third Saturdays a 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.

We recently had a note worthy achievement by one of our players: a 20 handicapper. On the back nine at Pacific Grove, he had eight pars and one bogie, for 36, 45 on the front. There is always hope!

**November Schedule:**

3 Monterey Pines	17 Del Monte
10 Pajaro Valley	24 Crazy Horse

SIR state golf is coming to our Area. There is a two day event on November 4 and 5 at Bayonet/Blackhorse.

Please go to the SIR State Golf Website for online entry forms.

We have 11 different courses that we play. Next time you see Doug Patterson and the scorers at the course, you might want to thank them for all the work they do putting this together! Please contact Jerry Zanzinger for updated information at (831) 704.7091.

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State SIR Video

Welcome to SIR

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"



8 Ball Hustlers at the July Meeting

Wine tasting

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

On Thursday, October 16 a small but dedicated group of Sirs gathered to sample a pleasant variety of Italian wines, in recognition of Columbus Day. Breads served with fig balsamic, cheeses, and shrimp, accompanied wines including Vermentino, Montepulciano, Nebbiolo and Chianti. The Settecieli Primitivo from southern Italy was a group favorite.

On Thursday, November 20 we will be gathering at Sir Jeff Ustick's home in recognition of Thanksgiving. Our theme will be "Wines We Are Thankful For". Select a wine you enjoy and bring a story/memory about why you are thankful for it. Join with us to enjoy wine, snacks and camaraderie with fellow Sirs.

Contact Jeff Ustick (jeffustick@gmail.com or 831 419-4577) with questions. Cheers.



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:

Thursday 11/20 10-11:30am Free



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Why am I the only naked person at this gender reveal party?

I'm pretty sure I only need one more bad decision and I'll have the whole set.

My mechanic told me "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."



**Riding Lawnmower
\$300**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Our Area Representative, John Hetz, attended the September meeting to award two of our members with Distinguished Service Awards for their outstanding service to Branch 20.

Jeff Ustick was cited for his tireless work during the merging process to insure the resulting membership roster was up-to-date and accurate.

Joe Maggio was awarded for his expertise and dedication to the resulting look, accuracy and functionality of our new name badges and sandwich board signs.



*Joe Maggio (right) receiving his award.
Jeff Ustick was unable to attend the
September meeting.*

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The Virtues of Wine: A Story Good For a Laugh

My wife, Mary, and I were sitting out on the back patio, enjoying the cool evening by our fire pit. Mary had a glass of her favorite red wine, and I had mine.

Mary sighed,

"You know you're the best thing that's ever happened to me."

"You make me happy."

"You calm my fears."

"You brighten my days."

"I don't know what I would do without you."

I laughed and said, "That's just the wine talking."

Mary replied, "I was talking to the wine."

