



SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – October 1, 2025

sirinc2.org/branch20

BIG SIR COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

It's interesting that the date of October 1st has had several historically significant events. Henry Ford's Model T first went on sale in 1908. The People's Republic of China was founded in 1949 with Mao Zedong as Chairman. And, after 70 years of American control, the Panama Canal Zone was formally handed over to Panama in 1979.

In a bit of a "beginning to end" story on October 1st, Hitler's troops occupied the Sudetenland portion of Czechoslovakia in 1938, and in 1946 twelve Nazi leaders were sentenced to death at the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany.

The rest of my comments this month are dedicated to the word "persistence!" Fulfilling his promise "I shall return", General Douglas MacArthur returned to the Philippines October 20, 1944, after escaping in 1942. A Hungarian uprising against Soviet Communist rule that began October 23, 1956, ultimately led to Hungary declaring itself a republic on the same date 33 years later in 1989. On October 24, 1994, after 25 years and a cease-fire between the IRA and pro-British forces, British troops left the streets of Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

It took American Teacher and Journalist Noah Webster, born October 16, 1758, twenty-two years to compile the first American dictionaries in the English Language. And in the epitome of persistence in my mind, on October 21, 1879, Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp that burned for over 13 hours. The filament was of carbonized bamboo, and it took Edison 2,774 attempts to discover it. Famous for answering questions about his failures with "I have not failed, I've just found 1,000 ways that won't work."

Let us reflect on the persistence we have all demonstrated throughout our lives in our work, the raising of our families, and the variety of challenges we have had to overcome. Now let's continue to enjoy the "fruits of our labors" in SIR and other endeavors.

Andre Adema

Big Sir, SIR Branch #20

Cell: 831-239-6699

E-mail: biomedprn@gmail.com

Finance and Stats for August

	Checking	Savings	Petty Cash	Total
Beginning Balance:	\$2,139.64	9,000.00	160.00	11,299.64
Ending Balance	2,109.64	9,000.00	160.00	11,269.64
Active Members:				140
Pending:				0

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer

OCTOBER: HISTORY OF EVERGREEN CEMETARY

Program: Dr. Traci Bliss

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

Evergreen Cemetery is a jewel in Santa Cruz's history. The vibrant public space honors individuals from many backgrounds, including visionary artists, musicians, and entrepreneurs, as well as those challenged by imprisonment and homelessness. Emerita



Professor and award-winning writer Dr. Traci Bliss will share the riveting story of why her ancestors gave their land for the cemetery in 1858. Her talk will include the contributions of men and women buried at Evergreen whose values shaped Santa Cruz culture. She is an author (*Evergreen Cemetery of Santa Cruz*) and a filmmaker (2023 documentary *Evergreen Restoration*). Bliss serves as the president of the Santa Cruz History Forum, a partner of the Museum of Art and History, which manages Evergreen Cemetery. Tracibliss.com

Menu: Honey mustard pork loin; rice pilaf; vegetables; bread; salad; chef's choice 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.

Congratulations to Charlie Johnson, the September Birthday Winner!



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

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

October Birthdays**Name**

Gary Allyne

Charles "Bert" Bertuccelli

William "Bill" Bishoff

Jack Buckingham

Tom Hansen

Dave Herman

Ramiro Hurtado

Don Jacobs

Ken Macy

Name

George McCombie

David/Dave Neubauer

Robert Parker

Alfred Pavot

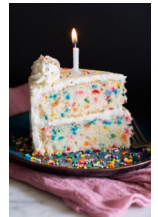
Tom Rohlf

Bill Schraft

Steve Tedesco

Robert "Bob" Whiteman

Jerry Zanzinger



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 dinikessler@gmail.com.

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These days, about half the stuff in my shopping cart reads "For Fast Relief".

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 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.

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!

**October Schedule:**

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|--|---|
| 6 Monterey Pines
(The second leg of the
Club Championship) | 20 Spring Hills (Shotgun start,
free luncheon) |
| 13 Pacific Grove | 27 Laguna Seca |

Club Championship Barbeque and Awards will be on October 20 at Spring Hills.

Other events:

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|--------------|---|
| October 2 | Individual State Championship at
Spanos Park, Stockton |
| November 2-4 | State Golf Event, November 2 individual
tournament at Monterey Pines |
| November 3-4 | Two day event at Bayonet/Black Horse. |

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.

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, September 18 a small, but select, group of SIRS (no need to mention who, they know who they were) met at Sir Jeff Ustick's home to sample "Bargain Wines: \$9.99 or less". We tasted red blends, a Cabernet Franc, a Grenache and a Cabernet Sauvignon. Our distinguished bargain taste buds enjoyed all along with Summer Sausage, several cheeses and crackers, biscotti, and grapes. A fine time of wine and conversation was had.

Our next tasting will be on Thursday, October 16. The theme, in keeping with Columbus Day, will be "Wines of Italy". Come celebrate with us and enjoy camaraderie with fellow Sirs. More information will be provided closer to the date. Cheers...or should we say Saluti.

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:

Monday	10/06	10-11:30am	Free
Thursday	10/23	10-11:30am	Free
Thursday	11/20	10-11:30am	Free



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State SIR Video

Welcome to SIR

Golf

An old man and a 20-year-old are paired together at a golf tournament. They're playing a long par 5 that dog legs around some tall trees. As the 20-year-old sets up his tee shot to hit onto the fairway the old man notes "when I was your age we used to hit over the trees - not around to the side." So, the 20-year-old readjusts and tries to hit over the trees - but can't clear them and loses his ball. He tries again and loses that one too...

Then the old man says "of course, when I was your age, the trees were only 6 foot tall."

Retirement

A frustrated wife told me the other day her definition of Retirement: *Twice as much husband on half as much pay.*

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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September 2025 Presenters

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Confidence

A guy is about to undergo surgery.

Just as the anesthesia is about to be administered, he hears the surgeon speaking, "Don't worry Bill. This is just a routine operation. There's absolutely nothing to worry about." The guy looks over and says, "thanks, but my name isn't Bill".

The surgeon says, "I know. I'm Bill."