



SIR BRANCH 20 NEWSLETTER

ROOSTER ROUNDUP – September 3, 2025

sirinc2.org/branch20

BIG SIR COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members of Branch #20,

September can be considered our “getting back to normal” month. The family vacations are over, and the kids are back to school. We fall into fall, and the weather becomes more temperate. Those of us who are retired, which includes most of us in SIR, take advantage of families being back home, and take our own vacations. In many parts of the world, September can be an ideal time of year with respect to climate and not being overly busy.

Historically significant events during the month of September include a couple of countries claiming their independence after having been colonized for many years. On September 18, 1810, Chile claimed its independence from Spain after 269 years. After being a colony of Portugal for 322 years, Brazil claimed its independence on September 7, 1822. Being a child of a Dutch father and an Indonesian mother, I’m reminded of the many years Indonesia was a Dutch colony starting in the 1600’s, ultimately gaining its independence in 1945.

On September 9, 1776, the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies to the United States. On September 25, 1789, the first U.S. Congress proposed 12 Amendments to the Constitution. Ten of those Amendments were ratified and make up the Bill of Rights.

Other significant events were on September 26, 1984, Britain agreed to allow Hong Kong to revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. On September 12, 1990, a treaty was signed by East and West Germany, and the Allies of World War II, re-unifying Germany.

Besides both mine and my wife’s birthdays, notable birthdays in September include boxing champ Rocky Marciano, composer George Gershwin, American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald, and one of my favorites, puppeteer Jim Henson who created the Muppets. Just a few of his famous creations include Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Big Bird, the Cookie Monster, and Bert and Ernie.

Enjoy the beginning of our Autumn season on September 23rd.

Andre Adema

Big Sir, SIR Branch #20

Cell: 831-239-6699

E-mail: biomedprn@gmail.com

Finance and Stats for July

	Checking	Savings	Petty Cash	Total
Beginning Balance:	\$2,213.64	9,000.00	160.00	11,373.64
Ending Balance	2,139.64	9,000.00	160.00	11,299.64
Active Members:				139
Pending:				0

Dave Schwingel, Treasurer

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Wisdom of Frank and Ernest

Ernest, holding his scorecard on the way to the clubhouse:

"I never realized what a bad golfer I was ... until somebody else kept score."

SEPTEMBER: REAL ESTATE MARKET AND

MORTGAGE UPDATE

Program: Walt Heil, Tai Boutell, and Brooke Squyres

Location: Elks Club, 150 Jewell Street, Santa Cruz

Walt Heil is a Realtor with Room Real Estate; Tai Boutell is a Lender with Santa Cruz Lending Group; Brooke Squyres is a Reverse Mortgage Specialist with Long-Bridge Financial, LLC



Walt will provide an update on the real estate market in Santa Cruz County and recent trends. He will also provide tips for downsizing/rightsizing and best practices for selling or buying a home. Tai will cover the home mortgage market — what is driving the market and what is potentially ahead. Brooke will explain the reverse mortgage and what is new.

Menu: Meatloaf; mashed potatoes; vegetables; bread; 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 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 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.

September Birthdays

Name	Name
Andre Adema	Robert “Bob” Lewis
Scott Cunningham	Royce Manchester
Steven Edwards	Owen Miller
Richard “Dick” Glissman	Joe Mingione
Charles “Charlie” Johnson	Ron Rayas
George Jones	



Congratulations to Everett “Butch” Mudgett, the August Birthday Winner!

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

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

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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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.

This year we have 12 different courses we play on. We 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!

**September Schedule:**

2 (Tuesday) Spring Hills	22 (Monday) Salinas Fairways
8 (Monday) Pajaro Valley	29 (Monday) Crazy Horse
15 (Monday) Delaveaga	

Please note that the Club Championship will be held on two days: September 22 at Salinas Fairways and October 6 at Monterey Pines. Barbeque and Awards will be on October 20 at Spring Hills.

We have 11 different courses that we play. Spring Hills, Delaveaga, Monterey Pines, Salinas Fairways, Laguna Seca, Pajaro Valley, Pacific Grove, Eagle Ridge, Ridgemark, Del Monte and Crazy Horse Ranch. 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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Robots?

The biggest joke on humankind is that computers have started asking humans to prove they are not robots!

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?



8 Ball Hustlers at the July Meeting

"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, unless specified otherwise. The time 1:30 pm to 4ish...



On Thursday, August 21 Branch 20 Sirs gathered to sample "Wines From Chile" (... and one from Argentina). Besides the wine, the Sirs enjoyed cheeses, beef empanadas, shrimp and homemade persimmon dipped chocolates (thank you Sir Fred Molnar). Much of the wine growing areas in Chile are at the same latitude as California (although in the Southern Hemisphere); our 'unbiased' opinion was that our local grown grapes and the wine produced still reigns supreme.

Next month we will be sampling "Bargain Wines". (The wine must cost \$9.99 or less before any taxes). Whites, reds, roses... it doesn't matter but cost does. We will gather on Thursday, September 18 at Sir Jeff Ustick's home from 1:30-4:00 pm. More information will be provided closer to the date. Join with fellow Sirs to enjoy time together.

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



Wine Group, July Tasting

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	9/08	10-11:30am	Free
Thursday	9/25	10-11:30am	Free
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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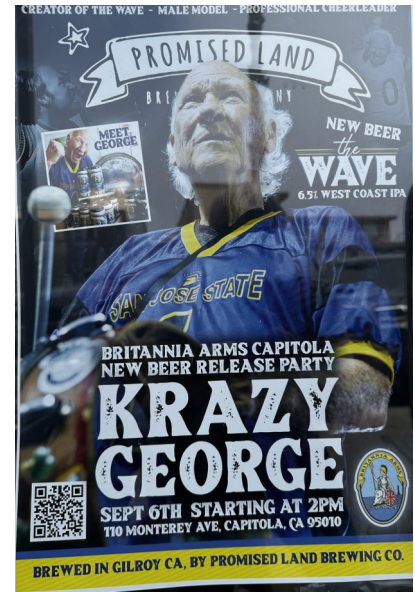
State SIR Video

Welcome to SIR

Member News

Our very own SIR Member, Krazy George, will introduce his new beer "The Wave" at a premier release on Saturday Sept 6th, 2:00 pm, at Capitola's Britannia Arms restaurant. Branch 20 Members would be more than welcome to show their support and attend his BIG occasion.

—Item submitted by Joe Mingione



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