



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  
**March 8, 2023**

SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC.  
STATE PRESIDENT  
*Richard Kindle 209/652-8608*  
Region 4 Director  
*Patrick Reed 209/289-3314*  
Area 14 Governor  
*Bill Ackerknecht 831/458-0312*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Big Sir	Ray Blute	464-7901
Little Sir	Jeff Ustick	419-4577
Secretary	Jeff Boisen	239-1708
Asst Sec.	Mike Kopp	535-6308
Treasurer	Mike Fuson	510-299-7675
Asst. Treas	Mike Kennedy	904-501-3323
Director	James Baker	423-7429
Director	Ed Bush	408-997-1836
Director	Jesse DeGennaro	426-0149
Director	Jim Healey	685-3829
Director	Don Hershberger	227-4326
Director	Dave Hodgkin	239-5122
Director	Ken Maus	854-2303
Director	Joe Mingione	650-279-2830
Director	Steve Tedesco	408-810-0578
Director	Les Yeffa	475-9481

## PAST BIG SIRs

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 Booklet



## MARCH LUNCH MENU

Chef choice salad  
Herb rubbed pork loin with Bing cherry Demi glace  
Roasted potatoes and breaded mushrooms  
Lemonade, Ice tea, water  
Chefs choice dessert

## PROGRAM

Ursula Kelly-Tolley of the Pacific Stroke Association, who was scheduled to speak at our January meeting but was unable to navigate the storm damaged roads, will share her 35 years of cardiac and stroke research. Her motto is "Education is the Key to Prevention". Come and get educated!



## BIG SIR RAY BLUTE SEZ

This past month the Executive Committee completed a culling of the membership. Due to the COVID pandemic we lost connection with our members for a variety of reasons. We have made numerous attempts to contact everyone to determine their status in maintaining their membership. As of June 2019 we had 100 active members, as of February 2023 we have 60 active members with 8 applications on file. Over the past two months we have inducted five new members– this is very encouraging. The announcement of our meetings in the local newspaper is very effective. We need to thank SIR Joe Mingione who is responsible for making this happen every month. We also want to extend a major thank you to those of you who have sponsored our new members. A free lunch is a small token of our appreciation. I want to encourage all of us to continue speaking to our friends and neighbors about SIRs and how becoming a member is easy and provides many rewarding activities. Remember word of mouth is the most effective way to reach out to our community. Also, use our newsletter as an informational tool, it provides a great description of who we are and what we do.

In last months newsletter I included a survey which I hoped would be of interest to all of you. My intent is to make a connection with each of you. I would like to personalize my time as Big Sir and through the survey create topics for discussion – and maybe implementation. I received only three responses last month, so I am going to include the survey again and see if we receive any additional responses.

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**COMMITTEES for 2023**

Audio Arrangements	OPEN	
	Ray Blute	464-7901
	Jesse DeGennaro	426-0149
	Mel Ferreira	408-353-2107
Badge Mgr.	Ken Maus	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
Fishing	Ed Bush	408-997-1836
Poker	JJ Justice	464-2387
	Ken Maus	854-2303
Historian	Hank Pearce	429-5441
Membership Program	Don Hershberger	227-4326
	Jim Healey	685-3829
Recruitment	Steve Tedesco	408-810-0578
Roster	Jeff Ustick	419-4577
Song Leader	OPEN	
Sunshine	OPEN	
Webmaster	Bob Hogan	334-6707

**TELEPHONE CALLERS**

**Non-email**

Jesse DeGennaro	426-0149
Mel Ferreira	408-353-2107

**Punchbowl email**

Ray Blute	464-7901
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**Greeters**

As assigned



**Reminder- Branch 20 will be charging \$25 dues per year, starting January 1, 2023. This fee was due by November 15, 2022.** We will be dropping past members that we have not heard from this past year. Please reach out to friends, neighbors, relatives and other organizations you belong to and spread our story of active involvement for MEN. Help us thrive and grow in the future!

All can join or rejoin at any time by paying the \$25 dues (NO prorating). You can pay at our monthly meeting– drop off a check payable to SIRs Branch 20 at the sign in table, or mail your check to:

Elks Lodge  
Attn: Les Yeffa  
150 Jewell St.

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SURVEY: What do you members really think of Branch 20?

1. What do you like about our Branch?
2. What do you feel could be improved in the Branch?
3. If you could see one improvement, what would it be?

Please give serious thought and consideration to the above and email your

**TREASURERS REPORT**

SIR Mike Fuson reporting

Beginning balance as of February 8, 2023: \$3915.39

(note: final balance February is not recorded until after the newsletter is published)

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT (as of February 20)**

SIR Don Hershberger Chair

60 ACTIVE

8 NEW APPLICATIONS ON FILE

**\*\*NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS\*\***

If your address, phone number, or email has changed, notify SIR Don Hershberger, 118 Fife Lane, Aptos, 831/227-4326 or email to [donhershberger@gmail.com](mailto:donhershberger@gmail.com)

**EARN A FREE LUNCH– BRING IN A NEW MEMBER!**

Don't forget to peruse the Book Exchange at our monthly meeting. Take a book, bring a book (or more).



I had the rudest, slowest and nastiest cashier today.  
I guess it's my own fault for using the self checkout lane.

Grandson: "What's the dumbest thing you've ever done?"  
Me: "Awfully bold of you to assume I've peaked."

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Kirk Crane 3/21



Joe Kelly 3/24

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## ACTIVITIES REPORTS

### **GOLF**– [jzanzinger@gmail.com](mailto:jzanzinger@gmail.com).

Branch 20 golfers play every Monday at various courses in the area. For the past few months it seems as though the rain gods have chosen Mondays to drop those precious droplets. It rained on 6 Mondays in December and January. Although we missed a number of tournaments as a result, February has been good to us– except that Crazy Horse on the 27th may be rained out.

Our esteemed coordinator, Mike Banks, who has volunteered for many years to put the tournaments together, has decided to hang it up. He is in his eighties and has some major health problems. If anyone is interested in taking over this job, I'm sure Mike would be happy to hear from you.

On March 6, we have some golfers from Branch 20 that will be playing in the Friendship Tournament at Discovery Bay. Tournaments like this one are a lot of fun and give us a chance to meet fellow SIRs golfers from many other branches.



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**WINE CLUB**– The February gathering of the SIRS Wine group enjoyed a lovely variety of Santa Cruz County wines. Among the favorites were the Storrs Christie Vineyard Chardonnay, the Soquel Partners Pinot Noir and a Syrah from Two Black Cats of Watsonville. Please join us on Thursday March 16th to sample wines of Oregon. Join us for tasty wines, light snacks and great conversations and stories, some of which might even be true. Look for a Punchbowl invitation in March. The wine group meets at Little Sir Jeff Ustick's home in Felton. The Wine Group meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 2pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by Monday March 20 to [jeffustick@gmail.com](mailto:jeffustick@gmail.com) or call 831/419-4577.



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**CRIBBAGE**– Games are played before the monthly Luncheon meeting at the Elks Lodge, in the Bar area. Games begin at approximately 11 am. For more information, contact Mike Kopp at 831/535-6308, or Les Yeffa at 831/475-9481.



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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.

Ironically, there are no canaries in the Canary Islands

Likewise, the Virgin Islands do not have any  
Canaries either.

## ACTIVITIES REPORTS

**POKER-** Poker continues to be very popular in Branch 20 SIRs. Players have 2 choices for games! Every Tuesday at 1pm is a game for experienced players. There may be a few seats available. For more information, contact JJ Justice at 464-2387, [jjsurfman@aol.com](mailto:jjsurfman@aol.com). The beginners low stakes game– Poker Pals-meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 1pm. For more information contact Ken Maus at 854-2303, [kenrjo@gmail.com](mailto:kenrjo@gmail.com). Both games are played at the Tradewinds Mobile Home Park, 4160 Jade St. Capitola.



**BOCCE-** Branch 20 Bocce is played every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:30am. Meet us at Felt Street Park (just off 17th Ave across from Shoreline Middle School). Most players opt to meet for lunch after at Jefferys Restaurant. For more information contact Ray Blute 464-7901, [r-cblute@att.net](mailto:r-cblute@att.net) or Joe Mingione 650-279-2830, [jamingione@yahoo.com](mailto:jamingione@yahoo.com). Speaking of Joe Mingione, he and his wife are vacationing in Italy right now, but he found the time to send us a history of Bocce– read it below and on the next page. Mille Grazie Guiseppe!



**FISHING-** SIR Ed Bush, Captain of the Miss Molly, is taking some time off for the stormy season. Rockfish season closed on Dec. 31 and will reopen April 1. Additionally, the harbor mouth partially is blocked with sand with few boats willing to risk running aground. Fishing excursions on the Miss Moly will resume in the Spring . For more information contact: [edbush24@gmail.com](mailto:edbush24@gmail.com)



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## THE HISTORY OF BOCCE

Throwing balls toward a target is the oldest game known to mankind. Around 5000 B.C. the Egyptians played a form of bocce with polished rocks. Graphic representations of figures tossing a ball or polished stone have been recorded as early as 5200 B.C. While bocce today looks quite different from its early predecessors, the unbroken thread of bocce's lineage is the consistently common objective of trying to come as close to a fixed target as possible. From this early objective, the basic rules of bocce were born. From Egypt the game made its way to Greece around 800 B.C. The Romans learned the game from the Greeks, then introduced it throughout the empire. The Roman influence in bocce is preserved in the game's name; bocce derives from the Vulgate Latin *bottia*, meaning boss.

The early Romans were among the first to play a game resembling what we know as bocce today. In early times they used coconuts brought back from Africa and later used hard olive wood to carve out bocce balls. Beginning with Emperor Augustus, bocce became the sport of statesman and rulers. From the early Greek physician Ipcrates to the great Italian Renaissance man Galileo, the early participants of bocce have noted that the game's athleticism and spirit of competition rejuvenates the body.



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As the game enjoyed rapid growth throughout Europe, being the sport of nobility and peasants alike, it began to threaten the health of nations. The popularity of the game was said to interfere with the security of the state because it took too much time away from archery practice and other military exercises. Consequently, Kings Carlos IV and V prohibited playing bocce, and doctors from the University of Montpellier, France, tried to discredit the claim that playing bocce had great therapeutic effect in curing rheumatism.

In 1576 the Republic of Venice publicly condemned the sport, punishing those who played with fines and imprisonment. Perhaps most grave was the condemnation by the Catholic Church which deterred the laity and officially prohibited clergymen from playing the game by proclaiming bocce a means of gambling.

Contrary to the rest of Europe, the great game of balls thrived in Great Britain. Such nobility as Queen Elizabeth I and Sir Francis Drake were avid fans. According to legend, Drake refused to set out to defend England against the Spanish Armada until he finished a game. He proclaimed "First we finish the game, then we'll deal with the Armada!"

The sport first came to America in the English version called bowis— from the French boule meaning ball. In accord with how the game was played in Britain, American players threw the ball not on stone dust (as is most often done today in bocce) but on close cropped grass which some say is the origin of the modern lawn. It has been noted that one early American playing field was at Bowling Green on the southern tip of Manhattan and that George Washington built a court at Mont Vernon in the 1780s.



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**ASST. WEBMASTER NEEDED!**

Our SIR Branch 20 has untapped potential. We just need to add current useful information to make the site come alive, and been seen as a valuable tool for our members as well as to attract potential new members. If you have imagination and basic computer skills, we can teach you web skills.

For more information, contact SIR Bob Hogan 831/334-6707

Living in Santa Cruz is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun.

I was raised as an only child, which really annoyed my sister.

The older I get, the more I miss people I've lost over the years. Maybe being a tour guide wasn't such a good idea after all.