



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  
**FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

SIR INC.  
STATE PRESIDENT

**Dale Decker 209/573-0833**  
AREA 14 REPRESENTATIVE  
**Bill Ackerknecht 831/588-5038**

### 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	Don Hershberger	227-4326
Director	Dave Hodgins	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

Ray Blute	2023
Steve Tedesco	2022
Les Yeffa	2020-21
Tom Duncanson	2019
Joe Mingione	2018
Dick Doubrava	2017
Norm Gruzcelak	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

### FEBRUARY LUNCH MENU



Oven roasted Ham  
Sweet potato mash with seasonal vegetables  
Chef's choice dessert  
Lemonade, Ice tea, Water, Coffee

### PROGRAM

Our February Speaker is Ken Doctor– a Netflix, Comcast and Conde Nast veteran who will tell us how and why he invented the online news site called Santa Cruz Lookout.



### BIG SIR JEFF USTICK SEZ:



Several months ago, our chapter historian, Hank Pearce, handed over to me our chapter “archives”. When going through these papers, it caused me to reflect on the nature of “retirement” and “aging”. One of the photos included in the archives showed newly appointed officers in 1968– all in sports coats or suits. To my eyes, they all appeared to be “older gentlemen”, a polite phrase that translates into OLD. While I realize that are current members range from 60-something youngsters to our members who are in their 90s, the vast majority are vibrantly involved in the larger community.

Our chapter members reflect a newer reality of retirement and aging. Today, through personal connections and technology, most of our members remain vibrant and active. Looking back on social changes in the 56 years our chapter has existed, today’s SIRS have many more opportunities to remain “young at heart”. In addition to the variety of SIRS sponsored recreational activities, many of our SIRS brothers travel widely, volunteer in our community, and provide aid and assistance to younger folks.

Growing up, I saw my grandparents as perpetually old, despite their age. To my eyes, they dressed old, spoke old and did little other than read, knit, and garden. I imagine you might have similar memories of your parents and/or grandparents. Little did I realize, I could not look into their image of themselves.

Despite how any particular day presents itself, I encourage each of us to awaken and wonder what new adventure (and sometimes challenges) may greet us. Reach out to others, support those around you, and remember... this is as young as you are going to be  
Carpe diem!

**COMMITTEES for 2024**

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	Jeff Ustick	419-4577
Membership Program	Don Hershberger	227-4326
	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



**ASSISTANT TREASURER NEEDED!**

Gentlemen, our Branch 20 is in need of an assistant Treasurer. Duties include: Attend monthly Board meetings, help Treasurer at the sign in table at our monthly luncheon meetings, and back up our Treasurer in case of illness or travel. It is not a difficult job, just requires a commitment of your time. If interested, please contact any of our officers (Big/Little SIR, Treasurer) You can make a difference!

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT (as of Jan. 31,2024)**

SIR Don Hershberger, Chair

58 active members 2 new applications

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

If your address, phone #, 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)

**TREASURERS REPORT**

SIR Mike Kennedy reporting:

Paid 2024 dues 35 members

Treasury balance as of 1/24/2024 \$3820.33

**Important message from our new Treasurer**

There is an old saying “Nothing in life is free.” But 7 cents a day is almost free. It will buy you a very small sip of Soda, 4 peanuts, 1 tiny tootsie roll or- Where you can learn how to “sort of cheat” at Bocce, win at Poker, open a bottle of wine without spilling it, find out which Doctor is better at fixing you hurt foot (hurt feelings, no can do), go home with a free book, laugh at crazy jokes, where to catch the biggest fish, how to throw a bean bag, or cheat at Golf like Trump does, ALL FOR A MEASLEY 7 COPPER COINS A DAY?

Only if you belong to the secret club of geezers. You guessed it “SIRS”. Please pay your yearly dues of \$25 to me, Mike Kennedy– SIRS Treasurer and I’ll send you the magic key to get into the club. Old keys expire on March 1st. Checks made payable to: SIRS Branch 20. Mail to me by snail mail, or bring to our next luncheon. You can still use greenbacks at the luncheon.

Thanks in advance,  
Mike Kennedy  
222 Columbia St. #C305  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

PS: We can finance your yearly dues. Pay \$25 down and payments are at a low 0% interest rate. Monthly payments are \$0!

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Ray Gorski



Hank Pearce

## ACTIVITY REPORTS

### **!SIRS NIGHT AT THE SANTA CRUZ WARRIORS!**

Join with fellow SIRS at the Tuesday, March 12 Santa Cruz Warriors Game. The Warriors will take on the Rio Grande Valley Vipers for a 7 pm tip off. Tickets are \$22. Spouses, partners and friends are also welcome. Make checks out to "SANTA CRUZ WARRIORS". Tickets must be ordered by Friday, February 16. You can bring payment to our February meeting or send via US Mail to "LES YAFFA c/o 150 JEWELL ST., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060". You will receive a Punchbowl reminder about this opportunity to enjoy an evening with fellow SIRS.



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**GOLF-** [jzanzinger@gmail.com](mailto:jzanzinger@gmail.com) Tee times- [sirgolfsantacruz@gmail.com](mailto:sirgolfsantacruz@gmail.com)

Golf is the most popular of all Activities in Branch 20. We play every Monday at courses in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

**Golfers, please make sure you send in your dues for 2024. \$46 for NCGA and \$14 for SIRs for a total of \$60. Checks should be made out to SIRGC. Send your check to Don Schmitz at 42 Loma Ave. La Selva Beach CA 95076**

We are in the wet months and during extended rainfall some of the courses we play become unplayable. The best course after substantial rain is Monterey Pines, Although it puddles up in some areas, the fairways and greens remain playable.

We also have a new member that has joined Branch 20 and SIRs Golf. Dave Allenbaugh is looking forward to his 80th Birthday in 4 years so he can play from the reds!



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**WINE TASTING-** [jeffustick@gmail.com](mailto:jeffustick@gmail.com) On Thursday, January 18, eleven SIRS gathered to sample "Wines of the Central Coast: From Monterey and the Santa Lucia Highlands to Paso Robles". A wide selection were sampled, including Oaked and Unoaked Chardonnays, a Pinot Noir, several tasty red blends and a Zinfandel, as well as a selection of wonderful Cabernets. Join us next month on Thursday, February 15, the day after Valentine's Day, for "A Wine That You Love". Bring a bottle of a wine "you love" to share and see what your fellow SIRS enjoy. Cheers."



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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 [jmkopp186@hotmail.com](mailto:jmkopp186@hotmail.com) 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.

What do you call a musician who doesn't have a girlfriend?  
Homeless

In High School my teacher said I couldn't do poetry because of  
my dyslexia.  
Fooled her, I made 2 bowls and a vase

## 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 seats available– contact SIR Jerry Clarke  
[jc@baymoon.com](mailto:jc@baymoon.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.**



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**BOCCE-** Nothing like a good day of Bocce with your fellow SIRs! Weather permitting, our February matches will take place  
on Wednesday Feb. 7 and Wednesday Feb. 21. The place– FELT STREET PARK. The time 11:30 am.. Need more information?  
Contact: [r-cblute@att.net](mailto:r-cblute@att.net) or Joe Mingione: [jamingione@yahoo.com](mailto:jamingione@yahoo.com)



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**FISHING-** [edbush@gmail.com](mailto:edbush@gmail.com) Current fishing regulations can be confusing– when in doubt, refer to California Fish and  
Wildlife Ocean fishing regulations: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean>. Winter conditions can also make scheduling a day trip  
difficult– finding that perfect day– light winds, minimum swell and shorter days can easily dissuade sport fishers. But Fear Not!  
SIR Captain Ed Bush of the Miss Molly has the know-how to find the fish. If you are interested in fishing this winter season for  
sanddabs, petrale Sole, flounder or other ground fish, have a chat with Captain Ed at any of our monthly meeting.

For us landlubbers who have “issues” (motion sickness) with boat fishing- This is the perfect time of \_\_\_\_\_ year  
to get out to local beaches on the Monterey Bay and fish for Surf Perch!



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**CORNHOLE**– We have a NEW ACTIVITY for our Branch members! Cornhole is a very popular game these days. It’s played  
much like horseshoes with players tossing bean bags at a target board that has a hole in it. Scoring is 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 teams points are subtract-  
ed from the high score team. Simple enough! Meet up after 11am on meeting Wednesday on the far side of our meeting room (near  
the windows overlooking the swimming pool)

Our thanks go out to Sir Jesse De Gennaro for donating the game set to Branch 20!



## **!WIN A NEW CUSTOM MADE DEEP SEA FISHING POLE!**

Once again SIR Ed Bush, Captain of the Miss Molly in the Santa Cruz harbor is donating two of his hand made fishing poles to our Branch! We will be offering one up for raffle for the next 3 months. Purchase your raffle tickets at any of the next 3 Luncheon meetings. Tickets are \$5 each. ALL PROCEEDS benefit Branch 20 activities. The second pole will be offered for raffle in July for a 3 month period. Ed also reminds us that he is available to take members out for a day of fishing (weather permitting). SIRS Branch 20 is deeply grateful to Ed for his continuing support !



## **BOCCE TEAM BEGGERS SCORE A PERFECT 4 AT JAN. 3 MATCH!**

(left to right) Larry Bristow, Chuck Elvert, Dave Hodgins, Larry McAdams



New Branch 20 member and avid golfer  
Dave Allenbaugh



## RECENT BRANCH 20 PRESS RELEASES IN S.C. SENTINEL



SIR is a social organization of active men over 50 from all walks of life including business, science, engineering, medicine and education. Its mission is "To improve the lives of its members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making friends for life." The parent SIR organization is a California nonprofit formed in 1958 in San Mateo now comprising over 100 branches with more than 10,000 members.

Member expectations are few- Attend monthly luncheons- Be a sociable, upstanding guy- Participate in activities and events- Volunteer when asked and introduce your friends to the joys of SIR so we can sustain our organization. Annual dues are \$25. There are no initiation fees or assessments.

What We Don't Do-

It's not like other clubs, we don't raise money, we don't have a political or social agenda and don't have a religious affiliation.

Meet Your Santa Cruz Branch-

Santa Cruz and its surrounding areas are represented by SIR Branch 20. Every year we elect a "Big SIR," a "Little SIR" and a slate of committee members. This group becomes the yearly governing body for the branch. The following year the Little SIR automatically becomes the Big SIR.

We Meet Regularly Once a Month-

We meet for lunch on the 2nd Wednesday of the month to socialize, enjoy good food, and listen to interesting speakers. Meetings are held at the Elks Lodge on 150 Jewell Street in Santa Cruz starting with our 11am "social hour." Our Big SIR opens the meeting with announcements and activity updates followed by our luncheon and featured speaker. Our on-site chef prepares a full course meal including dessert for just a \$25 total charge

Live Longer, Live Happier by Being Active-

SIR offers opportunities to get out of the house, be active, have recreation and do fun things in your spare time. Members may sign up for any one or more of these activities. The monthly Newsletter on our web page updates each activity with schedules and times.

Golf- Meets once a week at 8 different courses. Schedules and Tee-Off times are provided by the activity leader.

Bocce- Meets twice a month at 11:30am on two lanes at Felt Street Park on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. There are four teams- The Troublemakers, Noisemakers, Complainers and Beggars. Teams convene at a local restaurant after hard-fought games for lunch/breakfast to discuss excuses.

Wine-Tasting- Meets once a month on Thursdays at a members residence or at a winery. Featured wines are announced for each session. Each members brings a favorite for all to taste, compare and comment. Good conversation is sure to happen.

Fishing- On good weather days, members may board the Miss Molly, a member's boat docked at the Santa Cruz Harbor for a journey on the briny searching for the "Big One." Make your reservation early, seats are limited.

Poker- Two poker sessions are scheduled, one every Tuesday, the other on every 2nd and 4th Thursday.

Cribbage, Cornhole- Meets up at the "Social Hour" prior to our monthly meeting.

Book swaps- Occurs at each monthly meeting. Take a book or leave a book.

Travel- Trips are announced at the monthly meeting.

Billiards, Darts- Available for pick-up games at the Elks Lodge.

Professional Sporting Events- Santa Cruz Warrior games are scheduled for group tickets.

And YES, wives and partners are invited to special events as well

Here's What SIR Members Have to Say-

"Most of my friends were still working and I was cutting back. SIR had provided me many enjoyable opportunities, and I've made many new friends. - Allen R

"When I retired I didn't know what to do with my days. SIR's activities have kept both me and my wife young."- Ed B.

"My wife had just died, and I was lonely. SIR fills my days with fun things to do."— Ron C.

"I love golf, and SIR has the best and largest program in Northern California. Eighteen holes, nine holes and couples too." -Bill S.

"Although I was looking forward to taking more time off the job, I wondered just what I would do to fill that time and make new friends. SIR fulfilled that need beautifully. Thank you, SIR! - Tony De L., Member since 2000

## **Ready to be Active and Make New Friends- Join Up!**

It's Easy! Contact our Membership Chairman SIR Don Hershberger at (831) 227-4326 or email him at [donhershberger@gmail.com](mailto:donhershberger@gmail.com) . You will be invited to attend the next Monthly meeting and join in to meet the members. If you like what you see, just fill out an application and become a SIR! We also invite you to explore our website [www.sirinc2.org/branch20](http://www.sirinc2.org/branch20)

# *Jeff Ustick named new 'Big SIR'*

*By Santa Cruz Sentinel*

The SIR Inc. (Social Activities for Men) Santa Cruz Branch 20 has elected Jeff Ustick as "Big SIR" president for the year 2024.

Ustick succeeds Ray Blute.

Ustick, a SIR member for four years, joined the organization after spending more than 37 years in the field of public education.

The many professions represented in SIR membership provide interesting conversations over monthly luncheons, golf, bocce, cribbage, poker, fishing and wine tasting.

Branch 20 enrollment is 60 members and meets at 11 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month for a social hour followed by a luncheon and featured speaker/entertainment program.

For information or an invitation to attend call Membership Chairman Don Hershberger at 831-227-4326 or Ustick at 831-419-4577. For information, visit [sirinc2.org/branch20](http://sirinc2.org/branch20).

These 2 articles were printed in the January 25 edition of the Santa Cruz Sentinel– in the monthly "Young at Heart" section. SIRS Branch 20 will be featured for the next 2 months, on the last Thursday of the month.

A huge SIR Thank you to the Board for putting SIRS Branch 20 in the public eye! We are hoping to increase our membership– more fellows, more fun!

"Remember– we don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing."

George Bernard Shaw