

Country Squires- Minutes of Meeting on September 10, 2026

President Don Elliott began the meeting at 12 noon. Art Rosen offered his original poem commemorating September 11, 2011 as Words of Inspiration- see attached. .

After luncheon, the minutes of the August 13th meeting were approved unanimously as were the memberships of Doug Kerr and Harvey Renick (sponsored by Gil Watson & Craig Stockel).

Country Squire Program Co-chair Dave Wood was our September speaker; his topic provided an update on CRISPR Therapeutics, which he introduced to CS members several years ago (2017). The acronym CRISPR stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats which is a gene editing platform that treats diseases, inflections, and cancers by removing bone marrow walls, editing the faulty gene and infusing the repaired cells. The research team of Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna first documented the use of CRISPR-Cas-9 as a gene-editing tool in *Science* magazine in 2012 for which they received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2020. While genetic mutation has been going on for thousands of years, work began in the 1970's on the human insulin gene at Stanford U.

Dave's presentation provided slides showing the center of the double helix of our DNA and how the pairings of its factors work interactively. He reported that the defective hemoglobin in sickle cell anemia has successfully been treated with CRISPR, though costing \$2.2M. It also has been used on tissue culture of pig kidneys for transplant to humans as well as mosquitoes causing malaria.

During a program intermission, Don Elliott entertained the Squires with James Whitcomb Riley's poem *Little Orphant Annie* aka " *Goblin Gonna Getcha, if you Don't Watch Out!*"

At the program conclusion, Don announced that Squires Board Members Peter Keenan and Dave Wood would be leaving the area shortly and were thanked for their contributions with a hearty round of applause by the membership.

An Executive Committee Meeting followed adjournment at 1:40 PM.

By Art Scutro, Acting Secretary
10/3/2026