



BIG SIR NOTES

Dale Decker - 533-0455

January was a very busy month for me. When our previous Big Sir (you know who he is) told me I would feel like I was on vacation in this new position I believed him! Apparently he was so efficient and was keeping me so busy that I didn't notice. However, now I'm looking for my real vacation when Danny Laureta takes over next year and I'm put out to pasture.

However, one of the fun things of a new job is the opportunity to try new things; like a newer version of Microsoft Excel.

I did this in hopes of fixing a spreadsheet problem I encountered but it, the newer version, or I, failed.

In the newer version all the icons were moved to I don't know where. It was like renting a car only to find out that the steering wheel was on the other side, the transmission selector was in the glove box and the controls were replaced with an iPhone app! And I have a flip phone! Ah! so much for progress. Now down to the real business.

As I mentioned at our January luncheon we've lost 9 members since the end of the 2015 for various reasons. Also, our average attrition rate of -25 (total of -76 over the last 3 years) means we'll lose even more. Our BEC is busy working on ways to attract new members through publicity and new activities to keep our branch viable. But the real work needs to be done by all of us: our current membership. Our goal this year is to have a net growth of +1 over the end of 2015: i.e., 223. It is through us and our friends and contacts where the majority of guests, which usually become members, come from. In fact, our own analysis based on the last three years of history indicates we need 1.3 guests to get 1 new member. So here's what I've been working on to help all of us: I've put together an 'Organization & Membership Application Packet' that is available for us to pass on to our friends and neighbors. In fact, we should take several copies and give them to the ladies we know and have them pass it on to other ladies and men they know.

The 'packet' contains sections covering The Beginning of SIR, The Beginning of SIR in Tuolumne County (with reference to Sierra Branch 77 and Twain Harte Branch 172), a chart showing the overall structure of SIR,

our current BEC members and some general items about membership. Finally, the last page is a new two sided Application for Membership.

Why did I do this? Well, when I joined SIR back in 2008 it was just a luncheon with a no host bar and occasional guest speaker. I knew nothing of the organization, little about the activities, even less about the BEC. So, when I started to complain somewhat my sponsor (Knute Kleinen) challenged me to become 'Big Sir' I took it to heart and never looked back. And, by the way, the challenge works both ways as Knute is now our RV Club Chairman!

The information in the 'packet' is not new. I originally included it in our 2015 Membership Directory so all of us would know more about our branch. Since inception, this directory has been given to all new members when they're installed. A great start Decker but what about our guests?

Ah yes, the guests. Sponsors bring a guest, perhaps buy them a drink, introduce them to their friends and fellow members but probably don't (for lack of knowing or not wanting to bore them) tell them all about SIR! Or perhaps they just feel they'll join SIR because they know you, the food is good and the drinks are cheap!

So here's a three part solution to this quandary for sponsors:

Part 1: Pick up a copy of the Organization & Membership Application Packet which includes an Application for Membership and give it to your guest. Now relax and enjoy your drink as he has everything he needs to understand our organization. It even tells him what to do if he has questions.

Part 2: Pick up a copy of another new document: 'SIR Branch 136 Guest Sponsor Responsibilities'. It's my attempt in providing you with some suggested steps to ensure your guest has a positive and meaningful experience. This is your copy. If you have suggestions on improving it let me know.

Part 3: A 'Your Opinion Counts' comment card will be included with the above items. Please ask your guest to complete the card near the end of the luncheon and leave it on the table. Additionally, comment cards will be placed on all the luncheon tables for both current and new members of less than 12 months to complete. Our Member Relations Program Director will pick these up and compile the data for presentation to the BEC and to all our members at a later date. It is from the comment cards that we hope to learn how to get it right and make improvements.

BULLETIN

February 2016

Website: sonorasirs.org

SONORA BRANCH #136

**Sonora SIR Branch #136
will meet at the Sonora Elks
Lodge on
Tuesday, February 9th
Starts at Noon
(Social Hour Starts at 11:00 am)
The Branch Executive
Committee Meets at 10 am.**



MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE LINE

**If you are not able to attend
the regular monthly meeting
or are bringing a Guest
please call the Membership
Message Line at**

536 - 6311

**No Later Than Noon on the
Sunday Before the Luncheon
Meeting!**

**and leave a clear message
with your NAME & BADGE
#, GUEST NAME and the
reason you will not be able to
attend if applicable.**

Finally, our new Activities Program Director, Jeff Phillips, kicked off a 'Media Exchange' activity at our January luncheon. This 'Take one - Leave one' activity with Movie DVD's, Music CD's, and puzzles was, from I observed, a big success and hopefully will continue so.

I'm very optimistic about our start in 2016. If you are attending the February 9th luncheon you'll be hearing from Monty Youngborg, Dinner/Theater Program Director, about what's coming this year for you and your family to enjoy. SIR Branch 172 has had a huge success with this type of activity and we hope we can do the same.

We have the top SIR branch in the area and we're on course to make it even better with your help and participation. I only steer the ship - you make it go so let's have fun!



LITTLE SIR NOTES

Danny Laureta 586-4567

With the drought the last few years, we are so fortunate to have a winter with lots of rain and snow with Mother Nature not done yet as the reservoirs and lakes are filling up. Hopefully we get more wet weather and add to snow pack as we head into February. The 2016 SIR Branch 136 Special Events Committee members are; Dick Aberle, Roger Swartz, Jake Parsons, John Vieira and Jim Turner. Because of member's survey inputs, we are making changes to the ticket drawing procedures and adding more bartenders during the social hours.

Our guest speaker for February is Allen Silver, he is a Master Parachutist with hundreds of jumps. He will give a presentation of his experience and adventures.



Chuck Simons

Fishing Chairman (209) 770-5928.

simons4890@yahoo.com

Happy New Year Fishermen!

I have been in contact with Bert Kronnick from the Twain Harte SIRS regarding fishing outings for 2016. We are looking at March or April for our first trip to Beardsley. Depending on the weather of course. We are

hoping to include fishermen from Branch 136. If you have any interest in or ideas for fishing outings, please contact me.



GOLF CHAIRMAN

Joint Br. 136 & Br.77 Golf Committee

Paul Padavana - 532-8051

Asst Jeff Phillips - 588-2977

Handicap Tom Nischwitz-694-8624

February will be here soon, meaning our first golf tournament will be held on February 16th (weather permitting). The format will be four-man team two best ball Stableford, which is what we tried to play in November but most teams didn't finish due to rain. Sign-ups will be at the SIR's luncheon or you can contact me by phone, e-mail, or mail. Deadline for sign-ups is one week prior to the tournament date. Looking forward to a fun year of golf and friends.



Schmitz, Herman	2/1
LeLievre, Bill	2/2
Hoffman, Guy R.	2/6
Young, Dick	2/7
Meggers, Robert	2/9
Phillips, Jeff	2/11
Harm, Ray	2/23
Ollmann, James J.	2/25
Poston, Homer R.	2/25
Toews, Eddie L.	2/27



BOWLING CHAIRMAN

Bert Abreo - 736-4804

For Jan 4, 2016

High Game - Gene Deaver 244

High Series - Dave Rossi 629

Standings - No Excuses 4-0

Bob's Boys, Georgie's Boys, Hines Pickles & Drex Wrex 3-1

For Jan 11

High Game - Dave Rossi 279

High Series - Dave Rossi 685

Standings - Georgie's Boys 7-1

Bob's Boys & No Excuses 6-2
Hines Pickles & Drex Wrex 5-3

For Jan 18

High Game - Gerry Davis 266

High Series - Dave Rossi 699

Standings - No Excuses & Hines Pickles 9-3

Georgie's Boys & Drex Wrex 8-4.

Gerry Davis was 88 pins over average

with a 266. Most pins over average in a

game to date Trini Mercado, Sr.111 with 277

Most pins over average in a series to date

George Parsons 182 with 578

High Game to date - Dave Rossi 279

High Series to date - Dave Rossi 791

It seems that Bob Thomas and Bruce

Peterson Were the only ones to participate in

the Stockton Tournament and word has they

did well. The results are not yet posted on

the State SIR website.

Upcoming tournaments include:

Livermore at Granada Bowl on February 9 &

10. Stockton No-Tap at Pacific Lanes on

February 23 entry forms available on line

and at Black Oak, Carson City at Gold Dust

West on April 11-14 entry forms available on

line and at Black Oak.



RV CLUB NEWS

Knute Kleinen - 694-8866

John Avila - 586-1992

The RV Club will meet on February 8th at My Garden Café on Hwy 108 at 9:00 am.

We will be finalizing our outing calendar for

2016 RV season. This calendar will be

published in the March SIR Bulletin. Jerry

Bellefeuille has put all 2015 RV Club

Newsletters on our website at sonorasirs.org.

Just click on the RV Club to open all the

monthly newsletters.



INTERNET CHAIRMAN

Jerry Bellefeuille -533-3630

I have updated our website to include schedules for Local and State Golf, Bowling Tournaments, SIR Motherlode Group Activities, RV Club Newsletters, and Our State "Happenings Now" Bulletin.

You can find these and all our bulletins on

line at www.sonorasirs.org



**THEATER AND DINNER
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Monty Youngborg - 588-9632**

Afternoon at the Theater

Our SIR Branch established a program to have day at the local theater. This program consists of 4 suggested plays at the Sierra Repertory Theater (SRT), approximately one play in each quarter of the year. Each play is scheduled to be on the Wednesday Matinee, starting at 2:00 and should be over by about 4:00. Individuals attending the play can arrange for dinner after the play. The price for each play is \$28.00. If we have 20 or more people attending the play, the price is \$23.00.

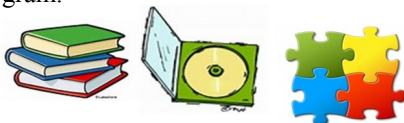
The first play is "My Fair Lady" on April 14th. This is the opening play for the 2016 season and should be a great production. The short biographic for the play is:

A brilliant score and unforgettable characters tell the triumphant story of Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle. Can Professor Higgins polish a scrappy street vendor and pass her off as a refined lady? Lerner and Loewe's masterful score includes "I Could Have Danced All Night," "Wouldn't It Be Lovely," "On the Street Where You Live" and many more. The play is rated G. The other there plays planned for the remainder of the year is:

"Hank Williams: Longest Highway", May 4th. "Cyrano", September 28th.

"A Christmas Story", November 3th.

More information will be provided about each play as we get closer to the date for the play. Other plays that will be presented thought the year and are available on the SRT website, which is, www.sierrarep.org Please contact Monty Youngborg by phone or e-mail monty@goyoungborg.com. Also, please contact Monty if you would like to be included in the "Afternoon at the Theater" program.



**JEFF PHILLIPS
Is our New Activities
Program Director**

The media exchange kickoff during the January luncheon was a resounding success! The inventory of books, movies, music and puzzles continue to build as we go. Plan on

stopping by at the tables to pick and choose while helping out by adding to our inventory. Your exchanges and media donations are much appreciated and will help build what is looking to be a very popular activity. Please let Jeff Phillips (588-2977) know if there are any suggestions as to how we can continue to improve this SIRS new activity! Special thanks to fellow SIRs Rudy Flores and Bill LeLievre for lending a hand.

"TAKE ONE LEAVE ONE"



PINOCHLE

**Bob Morrison—588-0994
robert.mrrsn@yahoo.com**

We are looking for more players, so please join us. You don't have to know how to play; we will train you. You don't have to show up for every meeting; you play only when you want to. You will be playing with a great bunch of guys from all three SIR branches in the area. It's a great way to spend a winter afternoon. You play free for your first two meetings. Thereafter, you pay only \$3 each meeting. (Where else can you have fun so cheaply?) You win a prize if your score at the end of the meeting is one of the three highest. Moreover, you win \$10 if you score in the top 50% at a free meeting. We meet at the Pine Tree Restaurant from noon to 4:30 PM each Monday. We have lunch starting at noon and start playing at 1:00 PM. For more information, go to web site www.sirtwain.org and click on the pinochle icon. Below are three tables showing the results of the scores for our pinochle sessions. The first table lists the average score of each player based on the number of sessions played in January. The second lists the weekly first place winners and their scores for January. The third lists the SIR branch average scores for January.



January 2016		
Player	Branch	Average
4 Monday Session Players		
Roland Patton	172	391
Sonny Tome	77	305
Dick Robinson	172	289
Mike Schmidt	172	273
Bert Kronnick	77	224
Mike Eachus	172	224
Del Rotelli	77	209

Player	Branch	Average
3 Monday Session Players		
Henry Beltran	172	435
Dave Goldemberg	172	352
Al De Neveu	136	341
Art Barte	172	304
Tom Newell	136	287
Bob Morrison	136	274
Jerry Morrow	172	263
Felix Ledbetter	77	231
Bill Burnes	136	215

Player	Branch	Average
2 Monday Session Players		
Paul Halek	172	177

Weekly First Place Winners			
Date	Score	Player	Branch#
4-Jan-16	511	Henry Beltran	172
11-Jan-16	518	Roland Patton	172
18-Jan-16	449	Dave Goldemberg	172
25-Jan-16	485	Henry Beltran	172

SIR vs SIR vs SIR	
Branch Average Scores - Jan 2016	
Branch	Score
172	301
136	279
77	242



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Bill Lobdell - 586-7145

Year End 2015 Active Members	222
January lost Members	-9
January New Installs	0
Current Active Members	213

January Luncheon Attendance (71%)	152
Excused absences (38%)	23
Total Active Members	213



2016 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

It is that time of the year again. The 2016 Annual Assessments are due by February 9th. As a convenience, Eddie Toews and Frank Taylor will be in the lobby of the Elks Lodge before the February Luncheon Meeting to collect your assessment and give you your Sonora SIRs Branch 136 Membership Card. They are the same as last year, \$25.00.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for membership in Sonora SIR Branch #136 are to be obtained from the Membership Director at the monthly meetings, by telephoning him at 586-7145 (and an application form will be mailed to you), or by downloading the form from our branch website. After the application is filled out, it is to be returned to Bill Lobdell with a check for the amount stated on the application. Bill's address is 17022 Broken Pine Rd. Sonora, CA 95370.



BULLETIN INPUT NOTICE!

Jim Botto Editor - 586-0822

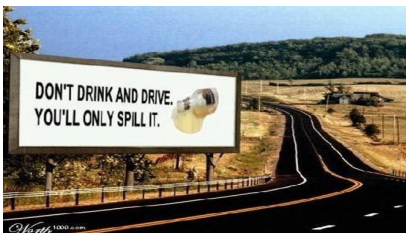
Asst. Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630

I want to take this opportunity to thank the committee chairmen who sent in their reports to me on or before the deadline. If I do not receive your report by the deadline it will not be published in the current month. Please send all bulletin input to Jim Botto at

giacamo42@gmail.com

The deadline for the next bulletin is

February 29, 2016



SIR Mother Lode
#77 Sierra #136 Sonora #172 Twain Harte
Winter-Spring 2016



SIR Baseball Days at AT&T Park & Oakland Coliseum

Our State SIR Sports Chairman negotiated special ticket prices with the SF Giants and Oakland A's in specific ball park sections for **ALL STATE SIR BRANCHES**

The prices and sections listed below are for seat tickets only and, collectively, our 3 Motherlode branches must reach a 25 ticket minimum for each game listed.

TRANSPORTATION IS NOT PROVIDED
Work with fellow SIRs to CARPOOL

- **Make one check for each game**, payable to your SIR Branch with Team and Game Date indicated
- **If we do not reach the 25 member minimum per game, checks will be returned**
- SIR Branch Treasurers will deposit your check then consolidate and process one branch check payable to the team for each game
- All 3 Motherlode Branch Checks will be mailed together

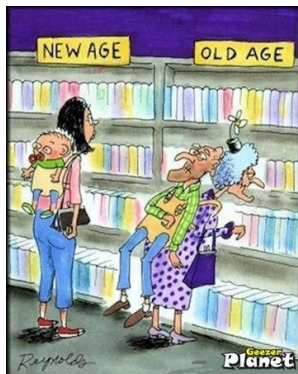
**DEADLINE FOR YOUR BRANCH TO RECEIVE YOUR CHECKS IS
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016**

Date & Time: Sunday, May 22, 2016, 1:00pm
Teams: SF Giants vs Chicago Cubs
Ticket Cost: \$45.00 each ticket (Sections 308-324)
Transportation is not included

Date & Time: Saturday, June 18, 2016, 1:00pm
Teams: Oakland A's vs LA Angels
Ticket Cost: \$32.00 each ticket (Sections 101-106; 128-132)
All SIR attendees will receive a '89 Dennis Eckersley Replica Jersey with ticket
This is the only Saturday afternoon game this year and SIR members will receive a coupon that guarantees they will receive a Jersey.
Transportation is not included

Date & Time: Sunday, July 31, 2016, 1:00pm
Teams: SF Giants vs Washington Nationals
Ticket Cost: \$46.00 each ticket (Sections 308-324)
Transportation is not included

The 'Catch': The A's and Giants have sections designated for all SIR state branches. All of these seats are "first come, first served" meaning the sooner we collect and submit checks, the greater our chance is to keep the prices above and stay in the sections. It is possible, if other SIR branches get checks to the Giants and A's before we do, that prices and sections may change



Did you know that they call baby diapers Huggies, Pampers, and Luvs. But they call adult diapers Depends. When a baby poops in the diaper it's still Hugged, Pampered, and Loved. But when an adult poops in it's diaper it **depends** who is in the will!

SIR STATE OFFICERS

www.sirinc.org

PRESIDENT: Sir Donald Dill

VICE-PRESIDENT: Sir Jerry Strain

SECRETARY: Sir Derek Southern

TREASURER: Sir Karl Ryden

REGION 2 DIRECTOR

Jerry Morrow, Twain Hart, Ca

AREA 27 GOVERNOR

Sir Jim Johnson, Sonora, CA

PAST BIG SIRs - BRANCH #136 SONORA

1997 - Dave Holton/1999 - Al Limon

2000 - Bob Gibbs/2002 - Jim Nuzum

2003 - Dick Nutting/2004 -Bill Dunlavy

2007- Wil Reich/2008- Roger Milligan

2009 - Don Nilan/2010 - Don Banchemo

2011 - Al Smith/2013 - Phil VanSwoll

2014 - John Bristow - 2015 - Jim Johnson

BRANCH #136 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Al Limon - Past Big SIR 2000

Bill Dunlavy - Past Big SIR 2007

Frank Taylor - Treasurer 2001-2015

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

Big SIR: Dale Decker 533-0455

daledftg@sonnet.com

Little SIR: Danny Laureta 586-4567

drlaureta@gmail.com

Sec: Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630

sirjerry4@gmail.com

Asst. Sec: Angelo Costanza 588-9529

angelof55@sbcglobal.com

Treas: Eddie 'Ed' Toews 532-3970

Lcoinlady@aol.com

Asst. Treas: Frank Taylor 532-4480

sonorataylors@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

First Year

Paul Squeri 586-4084

Jeff Phillips 588-2977

Monty Youngborg 588-9632

Bill Lobdell 586-7145

Second Year

Rex Page 533-4501

Dick Aberle 532-4066

Jim Botto 586-0822

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN & CO-CHAIRMEN

Activities: Jeff Phillips 588-2977

Atten./Membership - Bill Lobdell 586-7145

BEC Advisor—Al Limon 533-4544

Bowling - Bert Abreo 736-4804

Branch Photographer - Steve Belochi 533-5315

Bulletin - Jim Botto 586-0822

Fishing - Bert Kronnick-586-7726

Chuck Simons -532-9550

Golf - Paul Padavana 532-8051

Tom Nischwitz 694-8624

Jeff Phillips 588-2977

Hon. Life Membership - Al Limon 533-4944

House - Jerry Erath 533-3791

Internet - Jerry Bellefeuille 533-3630

Lunch Tickets - Roger Swartz 533-0376

Luncheon - Rick Bacon 765-8210

Luncheon Drawing - Bill Dunlavy 533-7601

Bert Maxwell 588-1177 & Jim Nuzum 533-2729

Membership Growth - OPEN

Nominating Committee Chairman -

Phil VanSwoll 532-1133

Pinochle - Bob Morrison 588-0994

Propane—Al Limon 533-4544

Asst. Prop. Marty Martin 586-1886

Public Relations - Ray Bailey 532-0444

R.V. Travel Group - Knute Kleinen 694-8866

Asst. John Avila 586-1992

Senior Member Awards - Jim Johnson 536-1595

SIR Item Sales - Cecil Steen 533-4760

Sunshine - Chaplain - Steve Gregory 533-0309

Travel - Paul Halek Branch #172 352-7399

DECLARATIONS

NON RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

All activities arranged for or by, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate, Sons In Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities (Rule 345).

Checks, money orders or credit cards for Travel for one day or less (no overnight), where a bus/busses is/are used as the primary means of transportation, may be made payable to the Branch sponsoring the event. All other checks, money orders or credit cards for travel must be made payable to the travel agency (Rule 429 & 421).

February 9th

Luncheon Menu

Roast Pork, Apple Sauce

Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

Green Salad

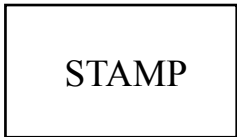
Cookies

Our Guest Speaker this Month:

Allen Silver

Master Parachutist

Sons In Retirement, Inc
Sonora Branch #136
22295 Paseo De Los Portales
Sonora, CA 95370



DEVOTED TO THE
PROMOTION
OF INDEPENDENCE AND
DIGNITY OF
RETIREMENT



DATED MATERIAL