



BULLETIN

August, 2026

Website: sonorasirs.org
SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 8th

[Note: no meeting in Aug. due to our annual BBQ picnic.]

Reserve your spot(s) with:

Jim Horan jimhoran2@yahoo.com
Or call (408) 499-8297

Leave Your Name, Badge No. & Number of guests.

Deadline for reservations is:

Sept. 3, 2026

Menu: Attend Aug. picnic for a great BBQ. (see flyer on page 5)

Guest Speaker:

N/A



BULLETIN INPUT NOTICE
Don Herzer Editor - (209) 586-3078

If you have any photos of your activity please attach them to your reports. If I do not receive your report by the deadline I will just report no activity for the month. Please send all bulletin input to Don Herzer at:

corvdon@wsccpubs.net

Please Note: The executive board has decided to no longer mail hard copy Bulletins. Hard copies will be available at the monthly meetings.

The deadline for the next bulletin is:

Aug. 31, 2026



BIG SIR MESSAGE

Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826
bronnerrick@gmail.com

I hope to see you all at our upcoming summer picnic. Remember it's on WEDNESDAY August 12th. Same place as last year at Indigeny Reserve. We're planning on feasting on Ribs, Chicken and Summer suage with all the fixings.

Everyone gets a free drink coupon as well - good for a beer or a glass of wine. Sodas, ice tea and waters are also included as well as desert. I plan on bringing my cornhole set and maybe we can have a little competition. And if you can remember to bring something for our raffle that would be really appreciated. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet, it's not too late if you act right away. Call Eddie Toews at 209-770-3776 and he will get you setup.

(see flyer on page 5)

Rick Bronner



LITTLE SIR MESSAGE

Mike Krom - (209) 586-1533
mmowers@mlode.com

(no report this month)

Mike Krom



INTERNET CHAIRMAN

Jim Horan (408) 499-8297
jimhoran2@yahoo.com

Our Branch website is at sonorasirs.org. Here you can look at current as well as old bulletins, BEC meeting minutes and more. Please let me know if you have a new email address so I can get timely branch information to you. I hope to see you all at the next meeting. Our state sir bulletin can be viewed at <https://wearesir.com>.

Jim Horan



CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Steven Gregory - (209) 728-5707

(no report this month)

Steven Gregory Chaplain



RV CLUB NEWS

Eddie Toews (209) 770-3776
lcoinlady@aol.com

The RV Group is at a standstill this month. Our next outing is to the 49r RV Park in Plymouth, CA. We will be there from September 13th to 18th (5 nights) Our next outing will be in October and then we will have our Christmas Dinner in December. It should be some fun events.

Anyone wanting to join us is welcome. Call Eddie Toews at 209-770-3776 for information on the events.

Drive safe and see you at the picnic.

Eddie Toews



GOLF CLUB NEWS

Raul Santana - (925) 451-7351
rsantana01@yahoo.com

Our July 2026 golf tournament was held at Teleli GC. The course was in great shape and the weather was a bit muggy and overcast, which held off the sun. We tried a new format, where 22 golfers were separated into A and B groups.

'A' group consisted of those with a 19 handicap or lower, who then blindly chose a playing partner from the B group. We then both hit tee shots and chose the best shot and then played alternate shots, until the ball was in the hole. Interesting and fun concept where you got to meet and play with new people.

Branch 136's own Tom Niederer came in 1st place with partner Frank Rands! Jim Lucia won closest to the hole on # 12.

The next tournament is scheduled for August 18th at Teleli GC. Hope to see you out on the course.

Raul Santana



MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

George Cocores - (209) 456-9814
greekbeak1@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT JULY 2026

JULY Luncheon

Luncheon Attendance 58 (50%)
Excused Absences 58 (50%)
Guests 2

Current Month Membership

Active Membership JUNE 116
Applicants Being Installed 0
Active Members Lost 0
Active Membership JULY 116



FISHING CHAIRMAN

Chuck Simons - (209) 770-5928
simons4890@yahoo.com

Too hot to



Chuck Simons



August Birthdays

Thomas, Bob	08/01
Burke, Randall (Randy)	08/04
Gregory, Stephen	08/07
Page, Rex T. *DSA	08/09
Rodgers , Travis (T.J.)	08/12
Cunningham, Michael	08/19
McVey, Lance	08/25
Nuzum, Jim	08/31
Boldemann, Lloyd	08/31



CAR CLUB NEWS

Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826
bronnerrick@gmail.com

THAT CAR SHOW IN TUOLUMNE IS COMING! 🌟🚗

Get ready for an evening of classic cars, great music, delicious food, and community fun at West Side Memorial Park!

📅 August 12th

📍 West Side Memorial Park

18625 Main St., Tuolumne, CA 95379

🚗 CAR SHOW PARTICIPANTS:

Car show parking by 4:45 PM

👛 \$35 per car with shirt preregistration

🚗 \$25 per car without shirt

🏠 Market & Food Vendors | 5-8 PM

🎵 Live Music by Spinout | 6-8 PM

🍷 Beer & Wine Garden

🍹 Root Beer Floats & Beer Floats

Rick Bronner



KAYAKING & PINOCHE REPORT

No Reports this month

Chairman Positions now open



Don't miss our BBQ Picnic—see flyer on page 5



BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Ray Di Basilio
rdibasilio@gmail.com

Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826
bronnerrick@gmail.com

Striking up Friendships



FROM RAY:

July was a busy month for tournaments. The first tournament was held in Auburn at Foothills Bowl. The management and staff always make us feel at home even though we do not have any SIR branches or leagues locally. Very consistent scoring in all divisions over the two days. Winners in singles A division Don Daniels from Grass Valley branch 55, and B division Jeff Hanson from Pollock Pines branch 113. In the doubles A division were Mark Owens and Rick Willson from El Dorado Hills branch 95, and in the B division, Robert Barr and Mike Akiyoshi, branch 55 Grass Valley.

On July 21-22 the tournament schedule took us to Clayton Valley Bowl in Concord. Top placers in singles A division were Gordon Dinsdale from branch 65 Napa and B division Mike Akiyoshi branch 55 Grass Valley. Doubles A division first place went to Brent Moffitt and Mark Green branch 59 Dublin, and B division winners Robert Barr and Mike Akiyoshi, branch 55 Grass Valley. Great Bowling, Robert and Mike!! I think your tournament averages are creeping up.

Patrick Breeden from branch 95 Napa on one of his shots left and picked up a 7-10 split, WOW!

Amazing fact: Data from PBA frame analysis shows that professional bowlers convert the 7-10 split about 0.7% of the time 11 Points+1. This means you'd need roughly 145 attempts to expect one successful conversion.

The largest and widely anticipated tournament of the year is up next. Let's get together in Reno!

Applications for upcoming tournaments are posted on our State SIR

Bowling website: [SIR BOWLING](http://SIRBOWLING.com)

Reno, NV, August 10-12 – National Bowling Stadium

Grass Valley, CA, September 2-3 – Prosperity Lanes

Pacheco, CA, September 23-24 – Paddock Lanes

See you on the lanes,

Ray Di Basilio

FROM RICK:

As I write this, the SIR summer bowling league is about to wrap up. I would like to congratulate the team of Tim Hurley, Dawn and Howie Maka for winning first place. Team SIR THING with myself, Byan Sinklier and Raul Santana placed second. The good news is the SIR winter bowling league starts on Monday September 14th. Same time, place and cost. Bowling starts at noon at Black Oak Casino and still just costs \$20.

On another topic I have been working with our Gold Country USBC Association president Jim Horan (our branch webmaster!) in putting together a youth bowling league. As a board member myself I am in charge of the youth committee for our association. My team consists of myself, Darrin Brick and fellow branch 136 member Greg Fletcher. We have recently completed our second free clinic for the kids. As of today, we have already signed up 13 youngsters for the winter league. If you know any kids ages 8-18 that want to participate our league will start on Sunday September 13th at 4pm. We picked this day and time after surveying several kids and especially their parents on which day and time worked best for everyone. Cost for the kids will only be \$15 a week. The best part is all the money received over the lineage fees will go into the kid's Smart account. This is money they will accrue every year they participate and after they turn 18 it can be used for further education whether it be University, JC or even trade schools. Our hope is to promote fun, friendships and future financial benefits. Sorta sounds like SIR!

Rick Bronner



Jim Erickson, Dan Weller and Ray DiBasilio
 Presenting our host with a SIR coffee mug



Cindy Akin ready for check-in and Brackets



Big Sir Swears in new member John Rago

July Luncheon/Meeting Happenings

Guest Speaker Dot Popovich told us about State Farm Health Insurance Offerings





SIRS BRANCH 136 ANNUAL PICNIC
Wednesday, August 12, 2026
Will be held at Indigeny Reserve

Social Hour will be at 11:00 A.M.
Lunch will be at approximately
12:00 PM

Menu

Buffet Style

BBQ RIBS and BBQ CHICKEN
And GRILLED GOURMET SAUSAGE (MILD)

Sides will include:

Ranch Style Beans. Corn on the Cob,
Country Potato Salad, Watermelon,
Desserts, Sweetened Ice Tea,
Lemonade and Infused Water.

Branch will provide Beer and Wine
while it lasts. Each person will
Receive two tickets when they check
In at the gate.

RAFFLE PRIZES ARE APPRECIATED

Tickets are \$30.00 per person
And will be on sale at the June
And July regular meetings. Tickets
WILL NOT be sold at the door.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Eddie Toews 209-770-3776
George Cocores, Gene Zanoni
Mel Kutsch, Rick Bronner

MAXIMUM 200 TICKEYS AVAILABLE
NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER
AUGUST 5, 2026

SIR STATE HAPPENING NEWSLETTER

Michael Lee – SIR State Activities Director
(88mlee@gmail.com)



Here are your state activities for August 2026

INVESTING:

The next Zoom on Wednesday, August 26th at 1:30 p.m. will feature Realtor Brian Schwatka who will go into depth about specific options to aging-in-place.

On September 23rd, Ken Fisher: author, billionaire investment analyst, and founder and executive chairman of Fisher Investments, will address market reactions to the mid-term elections. This will be very popular so sign-up early.

Contact Mihael Levine for Zoom link:
michael.levine@sbcglobal.net

TRAVEL

Here are the upcoming trips you can join:

Oct. 23 - Nov. 8, 2026. 16 Night Hawaiian Island Cruise aboard Ruby Princess round trip from San Francisco from \$3,750 to \$6,055 pp. Ports: Hilo, Kahului, Maui, Honolulu, Oahu, Nawiliwili, Kauai & Ensenada. John@storageauctionexperts.com

Nov. 27-Dec. 8, 2026. Six-night Danube River Cruise including Christmas Markets in Vienna, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Wachau Valley, Gluhwein Party. \$5896-\$7497 pp. bill.britton@comcast.net (925) 200-1062

May 2027: Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Slovenia with an optional pre-trip to Albania. This is an OAT trip, we can have our own group with as few as 12, You need not be a SIR to sign up you can also be a guest. We need to fill it by Aug. 14, 2026. Milt Smith miltsmith549@gmail.com

BOWLING TOURNAMENTS:

Reno: August 10-12 at the National Bowling Stadium, hosted by BR 113.

Grass Valley: September 2 & 3 at Prosperity Lanes, hosted by BR 55.

These events are open to all SIRS, spouse, partner, relative, and invited guests. Bowlers must have a USBC card and verified average.

Summer BBQ: 9/20/26 at 4:30pm in Pinole, CA. \$25 per person and significant others welcome.

For more information, contact Jim Erickson at 925-580-4146 or jim@jterickson.com.

FISHING:

Multiple Dates - SF Bay & Ocean for Rockfish, Halibut, Stripers Salmon, with Pedro Contreras
Multiple Dates - Bodega Bay for Rockfish, Halibut, Salmon, with Matt Richards

August 5th to 8th - Dory Boat fishing trip to Pacific City Oregon, with Ken Bellendir

August 11th - Delta for Black Bass w/Tom Kostik
August 12th - Antioch Oakley Pier, potluck, with Phil Scimonelli

August 16th to 22nd - Seward Alaska Trip, Salmon, Halibut, Lingcod with Tom Chapman

August 18th - SF Bay, potluck, with Ron Lew

August 25th - Delta for Black Bass w/Tom Kositk
For more information about fishing contact:

Brion Beetz brion.beetz@gmail.com

GOLF:

August 5-6 Hiddenbrooke--State Team Scramble Championship

Sept. 15-16 (I think--MIKE please confirm) Lincoln Hills and Turkey Creek

Oct. 1 State Individual Championship at Teal Bend

Nov. 10-11 Monterey BlackHorse and Bayonet

Ben Gikis GIKISBEN@yahoo.com

If you have an activity that would be beneficial to publicize to all members of SIR throughout the state, please contact Michael Lee at 88mlee@gmail.com.



SIR WINTER BOWLING LEAGUE

Winter 2026 Season

Mondays at Noon
Starting September 14th

Location: Black Oak Casino

Teams: 3–4 players

Cost: \$20 per person

End of Season Awards

Open to All SIR Members and Significant Others

A fun, friendly league for beginners, casual bowlers, and seasoned rollers.
Join the SIR crew for good competition and great camaraderie.

Sign-Ups on Monday, September 14th

Contact: Rick Bronner

Phone: 408-318-4826

Email: bronnerrick@gmail.com



SIR – Social Activities for Men

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of our members through fun activities and events while making friends for life

All SIR members are welcome to join in any branch activity.
Ladies are welcome to join in all Branch 172 activities.
Please start and chair a new activity if it's not listed.

2025 Combined Group Activity Chairmen

Activity	Branch	Chairmen	Telephone 209
Big Sir	77-Sierra	Donald Ronalter	984-9383
	136-Sonora	Rick Bronner	408 318-4826
	172-Twain Harte	Glenn Arlands	415 385 3509
Biking	172	Steve Happel 2 nd Tues of the month	768-4250
Bowling	77	Mike Coe	769-3413
	136	Rick Bronner	408 318-4826
Car Club	136	Rick Bronner	408 318-4826
Fishing	136	Chuck Simons	532-9550
Golf	77	Danny Laureta	925 997-2482
	136	Raul Santana	925 451-7351
Hiking	77	Mike Clay (moderate hike) Every Friday	588-1345
Horseshoes	172	Rich Brandau	352 4320
Kayak	172	Steve Happel (4 th Tuesday of the month)	768-4250
Pinochle	172	Bill Lewis	604-6304
RV Travel	136	Eddie Toews	532-3970
Tech/ Computer	172	Dick Chimenti	677-7070
Theatre	172	Dave Tibbets	532-2453
Travel	143	Bill Stires (Modesto)	988-5445
	146	Glenn Breslin (Walnut Creek)	925 788-6520
	172	Charles Luke	533-3683

Branch# 172, Twain Harte
PO Box 1143, Twain Harte, CA 95383
Website: SIRtwain.org

Email: SIRtwainharte@gmail.org

Revised TMF 7-02-25



SIR Classifieds

SIR Members are now invited to place ads for items that they want to sell—services are not allowed. A 10% fee will be charged based upon the selling price, up to a maximum fee of \$100 per item. If you are just donating an item, there is no charge.

Want Some SIRs Apparel?

Here is how to get it:

Get on your computer and go to <https://sir.ourproshop.com> and peruse the items available and order on-line. Notice that shipping and handling charges are avoided above a certain order amount. If your order is large enough to avoid these charges or you are willing to pay them, process your order. If you know of a friend who also wants SIRs merchandise, consolidate your order with him.

If you don't have a computer, find a friend who does and have him help you.





Sonora SIRs Branch 136 Advertisers:

**SAVE 25%
ON THE SALE OF YOUR HOME!**

Emily Hunter
Broker/Owner
DRE #01389542
925-785-3785
emhunterRE@gmail.com

Michael O. Bowers
Broker/Associate
DRE #00901538
209.770.3683 or 510-919-4949
Michael@MichaelBowers.com

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tamara@tpolleylaw.com

TMP

Estate
Planning
Attorney



Todd Simonson, AAMS®, CFP®
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Steve Henley
Owner

(209) 532-7994
shop@sierraheavyduty.com
www.sierraheavyduty.com
18968 Waylon Way Sonora, CA 95370

To all our members, if you frequent any of these businesses, please remember to thank them for their gracious support to our Branch.

SIR STATE OFFICERS

www.sirinc.org

President - Rich Carlston
Vice-President - Lee Lamb
Secretary - Jeff Chin
Treasurer - Carl Mason
Area 5 Representative - Jerry Morrow

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 2012 - Baci Frecceri
2013 - Phil VanSwoll 2014 - John Bristow
2015 - Jim Johnson 2016 - Dale Decker
2017 - Danney Laureta 2018 - Paul Squeri
2019 - Jim Botto
2020 & 2021 - Gene Zanoni
2022 - Phil VanSwoll 2023 - Eddie Toews
2024 - Rick Bronner
2025 - Rick Bronner

BRANCH #136 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Dale Decker - Big Sir 2016
Eddie Toews - Treasurer 2009 - current
Gene Zanoni - Big Sir 2020 & 2021

HONORARY LIFE EMERITUS

Frank Taylor - Treasurer 2001-2015
We are all so sorry for his passing on

DATED MATERIAL

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

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 456-9814 and ask for an application form that will be mailed to you, or by downloading the form from our branch website.

www.sonorasirs.org. After the application is filled out, it is to be returned to George Cocores with a check for the amount stated on the application. George's address is 17595 Brentwood Ln. Twain Harte, CA 95383

Jan. 24, 2024

Branch 136 Executive Committee

Big Sir: Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826
Little Sir: Mike Krom (209) 586-1533
Sec: Mark Bowden (209) 312-2267
Asst Sec: Gene Zanoni (209) 532-1989
Treas: John Salmon (209) 206-6244
Asst. Tres: Marty Samson (925) 321-8397

Directors

Bill Burnes (209) 533-4334
George Cocores (209) 456-9814
Stan Enos (209) 533-2928
Melvin Kutsch (209) 533-0384
Marty Martin (209) 586-1886
Raul Santana (925) 451-7351
Paul Squeri (209) 586-4083

Behind the Scenes

Photographer - **Steve Belochi** 770-2592
Bulletin - **Don Herzer** 586-3078
Internet - **Jim Horan** (408) 499-8297
SIR Items Sales - **Fred Kehr** 785-4358
Chaplain - **Steve Gregory** 728-5707
(all 209 area code unless noted)

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