



# BULLETIN

## December, 2025

Website: [sonorasirs.org](http://sonorasirs.org)

### SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, Dec. 9th**

**Reserve your spot(s) with:**

**Jerry Bellefeuille**

**[sirjerry4@gmail.com](mailto:sirjerry4@gmail.com)**

**Or Call (209) 588-3978**

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

**Deadline** for reservations is:

**Must have Luncheon tickets**

### **Menu:**

Annual Christmas Luncheon. See flyer on page 8.

### **Guest Speaker:**

**Highlite reel of SIR activities**



### **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@wscppubs.net](mailto:corvdon@wscppubs.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:

**Dec. 31, 2025**



### **BIG SIR MESSAGE**

**Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826**

**[bronnerrick@gmail.com](mailto:bronnerrick@gmail.com)**

I want to wish all our fellow SIR members Happy Holidays! 2026 has been quite a year for us. We have added 16 new members so far this year. That's the most I can recall in all the years I've been a member. A big thank you to all our "Rooster Booster" members for bringing in new members. Also, let's give a big warm welcome to all our new members. I hope membership in our branch is all you expect and more! Our BEC board has done a fantastic job this year taking care of business. We are in great financial shape even as we have frozen our monthly luncheon prices for the last two years and even subsidized our annual picnic costs for our members during these difficult economic times.

It looks like you may be stuck with me for another year as your Big SIR. Our current little SIR Mike Krom is still having some health issues to deal with. Let's all hope everything goes well for Mike. At our last board meeting it was decided to postpone our vote for the 2026 BEC until January.

For 2026 I will be heading up a new committee for finding our guest speakers. Anyone who wants to help out please let me know. This will lessen the load for our Little SIR going forward. I'm planning on trying to bring in guest speakers from various backgrounds and industries. For our January 2026 meeting we will have Kirk Wilson Clifton from Leavitt Insurance group giving us an update on the California Fair Plan.

I'm looking forward to our upcoming Christmas banquet. So far, we have close to 110 attendees signed up. The menu looks great with Prime Ribs, Salmon or Chicken to choose from. I'll have the pleasure of handing out some year end awards as well as our special cash prizes. Don't forget to bring something for the raffle too.

*Rick Bronner*



### **LITTLE SIR MESSAGE**

**Mike Krom - (209) 586-1533**

**[mmowers@mlode.com](mailto:mmowers@mlode.com)**

(No Report this month)

*Mike Krom*



### **INTERNET CHAIRMAN**

**Jerry Bellefeuille (209) 588-3978**

**[sirjerry4@gmail.com](mailto:sirjerry4@gmail.com)**

Our Branch website is at [sonorasirs.org](http://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>.

*Jerry Bellefeuille*



### **CHAPLIN'S CORNER**

**Steven Gregory - (209) 728-5707**

**[discogregory@aol.com](mailto:discogregory@aol.com)**

Mary Christ Mass to all members and their families!

*Steven Gregory Chaplain*





### RV CLUB NEWS

Eddie Toews (209) 770-3776

[lcoinlady@aol.com](mailto:lcoinlady@aol.com)

I want to wish everyone a belated Happy Thanksgiving. Now its on to Christmas. The RV Club will be finishing the 2025 season with our annual Christmas dinner here in December, then on the 2026. I hope everyone has a merry and wonderful Christmas and stay safe on the roads.

Merry Christmas to all!

*Eddie Toews*



### MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

George Cocores - (209) 456-9814

[greekbeak1@aol.com](mailto:greekbeak1@aol.com)

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

#### November Luncheon

Luncheon Attendance

(62%) 75

Excused Absences

(38%) 45

Guests 2

#### Current Month Membership

Active Membership OCT.)

120

Applicants Being

Installed 1

Active Members

Lost 1

Active Membership

**NOVEMBER: 120**



### GOLF CLUB NEWS

Raul Santana - (925) 451-7351

[rsantana01@yahoo.com](mailto:rsantana01@yahoo.com)

The November SIRS 2025 golf tournament was held at Teleli GC in Sonora. The weather was cold to start but warmed up a bit for a beautiful day. The recent rains made for a wet course, so we had to stay on the cart paths. This made for a lot of walking. 24 players braved these conditions and the format was a 2-man colored scramble. Each player took turns playing a special marked colored ball. If you lost the colored ball, your team was basically out of the running for prize money. Although there were some very good scores, no one from Branch 136 placed in the top three. Congrats to Jim Lucia for 3rd place on closest to the pin on hole # 12. This was our last tournament of 2025 and I want to thank everyone who participated throughout the year. Hope to see you on the course in 2026.

*Raul Santana*



### CAR CLUB NEWS

Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826

[bronnerrick@gmail.com](mailto:bronnerrick@gmail.com)

Happy Motoring!

(No Report this month)



### December Birthdays

Caplinger, Larry (Cap)	12/04
Eaton, Herman	12/12
Perry, Thomas (Tom)	12/12
Herzer, Donald (Don)	12/14
Santana, Raul	12/17
Gelber, Bob	12/20
Long, Ron	12/21
Vanier, Dennis	12/26
Stevenson, Robert (Bob)	12/26
LaFrance, Mike	12/28
Price, Chuck	12/30



### FISHING CHAIRMAN

Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550

[simons4890@yahoo.com](mailto:simons4890@yahoo.com)

(No report this month)

*Chuck Simons*

### KAYAKING & PINOCHE REPORT

No Reports this month



Chairman Positions now open



## **BOWLING CLUB NEWS**

**Ray Di Basilio**  
**rdibasilio@gmail.com**

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

## **Striking up Friendships**



### **FROM RAY:**

The State SIR Tournament Committee is working on cleaning up our website and creating a new SIR Bowling Tournament Average look-up tool (you may have already seen the preview: Tournament Data). With the new tool comes updated SBTA Rules:

#### **SBTA Rules:**

- A bowler must have bowled 12 SIR Tournament games in a calendar year in order to have a valid SBTA.
- All games bowled in a SIR Tournament will be used when calculating SBTA. If a bowler is injured and a game is not completed, that game will not be used. However, all other full games bowled in the series will be used.
- SBTA will be updated after each tournament and before the next scheduled tournament.

It has been my pleasure to be a part of providing so much fun to so many bowlers.

Cindy and I are definitely looking forward to doing it all again in 2026!

Happy Holidays,

The 2026 Bowling Calendar is already posted on our State SIR Bowling website: [SIR BOWLING](http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling)

See you on the lanes,

*Ray Di Basilio*



### **FROM RICK:**

It's been an amazing year for Bowling. Let's recap ...

- 15 Tournaments held in 13 different centers
- 388 unique bowlers
- 8,134 games bowled
- 1,322,668 total pins knocked down
- Most games bowled in the year: JC Surratt, Branch 65, 105 games
- Highest average in a single tournament, a tie, both bowled at Concord:
  - o Gary Kaufman, Branch 19, Average 237
  - o Lou Gilson, Branch 19, Average 237
- Highest tournament attendance: Reno with 163 unique bowlers
- Total dollars running through tournament accounts: \$88,291
- One perfect 300 game bowled by Tim Hetzer at Clayton Valley Lanes in Concord.

The 2026 SIR Bowling Calendar is now on line at <https://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling>

*Rick Bronner*





New Members Chris Maguire and Tom Eager were sworn in by Rick at the Nov. Meeting



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS



# The Rooster Crows!

## The Scoop from the Coop

December 2025

### Board of Directors

- Rich Carlston B8**  
President
- Fred Serena B59**  
Vice President
- Jeff Chin B103**  
Secretary
- Carl Mason B88**  
Treasurer
- Ramesh Thadani B98**  
CIO
- Andy Danver B35**  
Dir. Mktg/Comm.
- John Farcich B1**  
Dir. Br. Support
- Bruce Corwin B159**  
Dir. State Docs.
- Michael Lee B128**  
Dir. Activities
- Fred Serena B59**  
AR Coord., AR
- Jerry Morrow B172**  
AR
- Bruce Corwin B159**  
AR
- Wes Howard B32**  
AR
- Derek Southern B8**  
State Advisor
- Roy Hodgkinson B146**  
Parliamentarian



Well, the time has finally come. After 17 months, I will be stepping down as President of State SIR. Now, don't cheer too much, I'll still be around. Fred Serena becomes President at the end of this month and I wish him, and the entire Board of Directors, success as he steps into this new leadership role.

It has been an honor to work for and with so many leaders of SIR throughout the State. I have taken the opportunity to visit personally many of our branches to hear their concerns, to answer questions and to make awards. In every case, I found dedicated leaders ensuring that our Mission Statement and Vision is being satisfied. I witnessed their success through the joy, friendship and concern that I saw their branch members exhibit for each other. I have immense pride in our leaders, the quality of their leadership and the sacrifices they so willingly make for their branch. They are outstanding men.

We have come a long way in the past 16 months, a journey with successes, joys and pitfalls but we have made that journey together. We are diverse but it is because of diversity that we gain our greatest strength. I want you to know how much I have appreciated all of your counsel, suggestions and criticisms. It is with your help that we have advanced and, hopefully, improved SIR.

I want to thank the members of the Branch Advisory Council. These men voluntarily stepped forward to work with me as we confronted challenges and issues. Their help was invaluable. Thank you for so willingly giving of your time and energy.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for everything that they have done. These are dedicated men who don't get recognized enough for their dedication and hard work. I can say without hesitation that they care about you and SIR. Those two pillars constantly guide them. Thank you!

So, as I step down into the Past President position, let me simply say one last time to everyone - Thank You! I hope to see you in the future.

*Rich Carlston*

**You know you are getting old  
when your back goes out more than you do.**

### Branch Advisory Council - 2025

- Nick Feimer** Br. 1
- John McGlothlin** Br. 4
- Tom DiGrande** Br. 8
- Neil Wheeler** Br. 17
- Roger Moseley** Br. 19
- Mark Ashley** Br. 23
- John Hetz** Br. 28
- Nick Jize** Br. 32
- Gary Kohler** Br. 34
- Andy Danver** Br. 35
- Glen Kramer** Br. 37
- Carl Dawson** Br. 47
- Fred Serena** Br. 59
- Greg Sanger** Br. 84
- John Muzio** Br. 95
- Gary Carrier** Br. 98
- Michael Gardner** Br. 106
- Don Sturt** Br. 110
- Carlos Xavier** Br. 116
- Michael Garcia** Br. 128
- Thom Degnan** Br. 146
- Peter Dreier** Br. 149
- Bruce Corwin** Br. 159
- Roger Stewart** Br. 169
- John Oberg** Br. 170
- Tom Palmer** Br. 176



*We're so sorry to hear you're leaving!*



*We'll be sorry to see you go. Honestly!*

What did the zero say to the eight?  
 "Nice belt!"

Why was the math book sad?  
 Because it had too many problems!



What did the grape do when it got stepped on?  
 Nothing, it just let out a little wine!

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?  
 Nacho cheese!

## 2025 PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

Andy Danver Br. 35 2/21/25



Derek Southern Br. 8 8/26/25



Space doesn't allow me to describe the incredible work and effort made, and being made, by each of these Award recipients.

Suffice it to say that they are among the elite in SIR.

Rick Kindle Br. 143 4/4/25



Bruce Corwin Br. 159 10/9/25



In addition to Dale Decker Br. 36 9/24/24 (deceased), **only twelve other members** have received the President's Award to date.

Each of these men is an outstanding leader. Each has done truly extraordinary work and is an outstanding example of service, dedication and commitment.

Dieter Rex Br. 45 5/5/25



Mark Stuart Br. 98 10/20/25



We owe a great deal to these exceptional men! Be sure and recognize and thank them when you have the opportunity.

Bruce Henry Br. 32 7/2/25



Alan Baker Brs. 93 & 98 11/17/25



Lee Lamp Br. 129 8/7/25



Connor Chin Br. 93 11/17/25



Gary Bradley Br. 23 8/13/25



Kevin King Br. 95 11/19/25



Derek Southern is organizing an AI Committee to train and assist branches in its use. If you have experience or an interest in AI and would like to help, please contact Derek. Thank you

## Some Simple SIR Sentiments



No strangers linger here,  
just friends we haven't met,  
And greeting each new face  
becomes our safest bet.

We welcome every soul,  
with handshakes warm & bright,  
For friends not met just yet  
still sparkle in our sight.

We thrive on lunchtime tales,  
half true but twice retold,  
And brag about our youth,  
which somehow stays on hold.

Improving lives through fun  
is basically our creed,  
A daily dose of joy  
is something that we breed.

Our golfers smack the air,  
convinced they've hit it straight,  
And bowlers celebrate  
a score that came by fate.

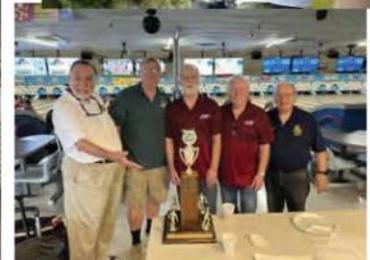
The calendar runs wild—  
events of every kind,  
From walking groups to wine  
that strengthens heart and mind.

Adventures big or small  
give purpose to our days,  
And SIR provides the spark  
that lights our social blaze.

So here's to joyful times,  
and friendships growing strong,  
With SIR the moments shine  
and keep us going strong.

Now raise a glass to SIR,  
the home of wit and glee,  
Where friendship is the prize,  
and every laugh is free.

written by Jon Miller  
Damian Reynolds Branch 1



Spread the word. We have **fun**. We make  
**friends**. We are **active**. We are **happy**.  
We **help** each other. We **live** longer.  
**WE Are SIR!**





Branch #136

# Christmas Luncheon

December 9, 2025



Elks Lodge  
100 Elk Dr., Sonora, CA

Raffle prizes are always greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.

## Menu:

Shrimp Cocktail  
Prime Rib w/ Baked Potato  
-or- Salmon with Rice Pilaf  
-or- Chicken Piccata  
with Rice Pilaf  
Includes Vegetable, Salad  
and Dessert

**\$40 per Person**

Tickets will go on sale at the  
Oct. 14th & Nov. 11th Luncheons

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SEATING IS LIMITED

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS AND  
CANCELLATIONS IS DEC. 2, 2025

ALL SALES ARE FINAL AFTER THAT DATE

Anyone wanting wine, it will be  
available at the bar for purchase.

**No Host Cocktails @ 10:00 AM**

**Lunch at 12:00 PM**

# 2026 Sonora SIR #136 Annual Dues Notice

November 1, 2025

Dear Fellow SIR member,

Below is your Annual Sonora SIR Dues Notice for 2026.

Even though the cost of everything has gone up these days, your SIR dues are the same as the last several years and your Board of Directors continues to strive to make SIR affordable and enjoyable to all of our members.

The Annual Dues for 2026 are **\$30.00**. This amount covers the cost of the State SIR assessment and normal operating costs of the branch. **Annual Dues are due by January 1<sup>st</sup> and considered delinquent after that date.** Dues not paid by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 may result in your loss of membership (extenuating circumstances will be considered).

I encourage you to Send in Your Dues Now.

**Send checks to:**

**SIR #136 at John Salmon, 10844 Countryside Ct., Sonora, CA. 95370**

We appreciate your early remittance so that your Board can budget and plan for our in-person activities in the new year.

Thank You for being a loyal SIR member.

Eddie Toews

Treasurer

**PRINT, DETACH, and Include with your Remittance**

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**Sonora SIR #136**

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$30.00, made out to Sonora SIR #136. For my 2026 Annual Dues.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check No: \_\_\_\_\_ **Checks made payable to Sonora SIR # 136**

Send to: SIR #136 at John Salmon, 10844 Countryside Ct., Sonora, CA. 95370



## 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
<b>Big Sir</b>	77-Sierra	Donald Ronalter	984-9383
	136-Sonora	Rick Bronner	408 318-4826
	172-Twain Harte	Glenn Arlands	415 385 3509
<b>Biking</b>	172	Steve Happel 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues of the month	768-4250
<b>Bowling</b>	77	Mike Coe	769-3413
	136	Rick Bronner	408 318-4826
<b>Car Club</b>	136	Rick Bronner	408 318-4826
<b>Fishing</b>	136	Chuck Simons	532-9550
<b>Golf</b>	77	Danny Laureta	925 997-2482
	136	Raul Santana	925 451-7351
<b>Hiking</b>	77	Mike Clay (moderate hike) Every Friday	588-1345
<b>Horseshoes</b>	172	Rich Brandau	352 4320
<b>Kayak</b>	172	Steve Happel (4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month)	768-4250
<b>Pinochle</b>	172	Bill Lewis	604-6304
<b>RV Travel</b>	136	Eddie Toews	532-3970
<b>Tech/ Computer</b>	172	Dick Chimenti	677-7070
<b>Theatre</b>	172	Dave Tibbets	532-2453
<b>Travel</b>	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 #01288542  
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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Sonora, CA 95370-5116  
Bus 209 532 4120  
www.dotpopovich.com  
dot@dotpopovich.com



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242 S. Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

209-694-3622  
Fax 209-694-3624  
tamara@tpolleylaw.com



Estate  
Planning  
Attorney



**Todd Simonson, AAMS®, CFP®**  
Financial Advisor

1311 Sanguinetti Road Ste B  
Sonora, CA 95370  
Bus. 209-533-1307 Fax 888-305-1959  
todd.simonson@edwardjones.com  
www.edwardjones.com  
California Insurance License OC24309



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for the High Country"*

**James Moreda Jr.**

Phone: (209) 588-8031  
Fax: (209) 533-4350  
Emergency: (209) 614-8344

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 SIR'S 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

## 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

Jan. 24, 2024

## 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

## Branch 136 Executive Committee

**Big Sir:** Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826

**Little Sir:** Mike Krom (209) 586-1533

**Sec:** Jim Rodriguez (209) 536-4338

**Asst Sec:** Gene Zanoni (209) 532-1989

**Treas:** John Salmon (209) 206-6244

**Asst.Tres:** Eddie Toews 532-3970

## 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 - **Jerry Bellefeuille** 588-3978

SIR Items Sales - **Fred Kehr** 785-4358

Chaplain - **Steve Gregory** 728-5707

(all 209 area code)

## 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).

STAMP

ADDRESS LABEL