



BULLETIN

February, 2026

Website: sonorasirs.org

SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, Feb. 10th

Reserve your spot(s) with:

Jerry Bellefeuille

sirjerry4@gmail.com

Or Call (209) 588-3978

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

Deadline for reservations is:

Feb.5, 2026

Menu:

.Roast Pork & Apple Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Green Salad and Cookies.

Guest Speaker:

Troy Vickers



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:

Feb. 28, 2026



BIG SIR MESSAGE

Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826

bronnerrick@gmail.com

We're off and running for 2026. We have elected two new Board members for 2026. Mark Bowden as our Secretary and Marty Samson as asst. Treasurer. The remaining board members are the same as last year. At our January meeting we had Kirk Clifton from the Leavitt Insurance Group updating us on the Fair Plan. So far, the good news is no big increases have been announced for 2026 yet. Kirk stressed the importance of the first 5 feet. This means NO combustible materials within the first 5 feet of your dwelling. This includes any plants or shrubs. This was mostly a Q&A session. Kirk did his best to answer everyone's questions. For February we will have Troy Vickers. Troy is a senior membership rep with PHI Cares. PHI is the emergency Helicopter service company.

During our January meeting I placed clipboards with a survey for guest speaker requests. Here's a list of your suggestions;

- County Administrator
- City Manager
- Urologist -*Dr. Maynes
- Local Auto Dealership—SIR Discounts
- Fish & Wildlife
- Sonora History-Historical Society
- Firewise Rep
- Sonora High Football Coach
- District Supervisor-Budgets
- Tax Services
- County Road & Works
- Medical services-Eye, Orthopedists
- Columbia College Foundation—KIM
- Sheriff
- Assisted Living -Costs - Help

I'll do my best to work on this list. If any of you have a contact with anyone on the list, PLEASE let me know. It's always easier with a personal connection.

Rick Bronner



LITTLE SIR MESSAGE

Mike Krom - (209) 586-1533

mmowers@mlode.com

(No Report this month)

Mike Krom



INTERNET CHAIRMAN

Jerry Bellefeuille (209) 588-3978

sirjerry4@gmail.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>.

Jerry Bellefeuille



CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Steven Gregory - (209) 728-5707

discogregory@aol.com

(No Report this month)

Steven Gregory Chaplain

[Feb. 2nd]





RV CLUB NEWS

Eddie Toews (209) 770-3776

lcoinlady@aol.com

.The RV Club is having another quiet month with the start of the 2026 season coming soon. Our first activity will be our annual kickoff breakfast in February (to be scheduled). We also have an outing scheduled for the end of April in the Santa Cruz area. We have a couple of other activities being worked on with information to be shared soon.

Have a great month and drive safe.

Eddie Toews



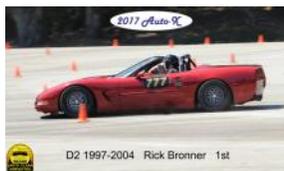
GOLF CLUB NEWS

Raul Santana - (925) 451-7351

rsantana01@yahoo.com

(No Report this month).

Raul Santana



CAR CLUB NEWS

Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826

bronnerrick@gmail.com

Happy Motoring!

(No Report this month)

Rick Bronner



MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

George Cocores - (209) 456-9814

greekbeak1@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT JANUARY 2026

January Luncheon

Luncheon Attendance	69 (58%)
Excused Absences	51 (42%)
Guests	2

Current Month Membership

Active Membership NOVEMBER	120
Applicants Being Installed	1
Active Members Lost	1
<u>Active Membership JANUARY</u>	<u>120</u>

My name is Jerry Bellefeuille, and I currently manage several key responsibilities for our branch, including maintaining the branch website, sending all branch-wide emails, handling monthly luncheon reservations, and staffing the check-in table for our regular meetings. These are all important functions that help ensure the smooth operation of the branch.

My wife and I plan to relocate to the Boise, Idaho area to join my brother, and we have contracted to place our home on the market on March 1st. As a result, I will be transitioning away from these roles.

I would greatly appreciate it if members would give thoughtful consideration to taking over some or all of these responsibilities so that we can ensure a smooth handoff and continued success for the branch.

Thank you for your support.

Jerry Bellefeuille



February Birthdays

Rodrigues, Jim (J.R.)	02/06/45
Stoddard, Andrew (Andy)	02/06/61
Bowden, Mark	02/24/58
McGuigan, David (Dave)	02/25/57
Toews, Eddie L. HLM	02/27/46



FISHING CHAIRMAN

Chuck Simons - (209) 770-5928

simons4890@yahoo.com

Only got out on the water for a few hours last week with no results. The water is up to the top ramp.

Chuck Simons

KAYAKING & PINOCHLE 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 first tournament of 2026 was held at Napa Bowl. The Napa Valley enjoys beautiful scenery with rolling hills and vineyards typically making the drive very enjoyable ... this year we enjoyed the fog. Fortunately, the fog rolled out in time to allow 76 bowlers to come together for our two-day event, up a few from last year.

We were reminded at dinner with fellow bowlers that it had been 60 days since our last tournament – far too long for friends to be away from each other! Not to worry, 2026 is packed with tournaments – time to plan some trips (and dinners out!). Our host Dave Ellingson (Branch 65) did an outstanding job of coordinating the event with Napa Bowl. Dave and Branch 65 also procured eight bottles of local wines which were distributed as door prizes. In appreciation for his help as Tournament Host, the SIR State Bowling Committee presented Dave with a SIR coffee mug.

Bowlers with top scores included:

John Pocekay (Branch 73) with a 676 series
Laurie Furlani (Branch 65 guest) with a 192 game
and a near-perfect 279 game rolled by Lou Gilson (Branch 19).

Applications for the upcoming tournaments are posted on our State SIR Bowling website: SIR BOWLING. Applications have group codes for discounted room rates for both Carson City in April and Reno in August. Make plans early and be sure to use the appropriate code when booking your room. • Sacramento, February 18-19 – Country Club Lanes • Concord, March 24-25 – Clayton Valley Bowl • Carson City, NV, April 13-15 – Gold Dust West • SIR State Tournament, May 12-13 – Country Club Lanes

See you on the lanes,

Ray Di Basilio

FROM RICK:

Jim Lucia and wife Sandi made the trip to Napa Bowl for the January SIR Bowling tournament. Jim placed 3rd in division 2 men's singles earning himself \$61. He had a total of 727 with his handicap. Sandi unfortunately didn't fair so well. However, in the doubles Jim and Sandi placed 4th. That got them another \$60.00. Our next SIR bowling tournament will be on the 18th and 19th this month at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento. As always, all SIR Bowling tournament info and applications can be found at: <https://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling/index.html>

Rick Bronner



Pictured: SIR Jim Erickson, State SIR Bowling Committee Chair; SIR Dave Ellingson, Napa Tournament Host; SIR Ray DiBasilio, State SIR Bowling Committee Operations Advisor

SIR STATE HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

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



Here's what's happening with state activities
January 2026

TRAVEL

Travel leaders would like to know the following from those interested in traveling:

1. Where do you want to travel to in the future?
Can be multiple travel locations.
2. What duration (# of days) works best for you?
3. Do you prefer a land trip or a cruise trip?
4. What are your preferred Land Tour companies or Cruise companies?

5. Please include your contact information:
Name, Email and Phone Number

Please send your answers to Glenn Breslin:
glennbreslin@gmail.com

Here are the upcoming trips:

April 1 - April 26, 2026. South Korea & Japan:
SOLD OUT

May 3-11, 2026. Explore the Great Lakes and Niagara Falls led by experts. Balcony staterooms \$6170-8295pp.

kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com

June 1-5, 2026 (approximate dates). Golf in Maui, Hawaii, Maui. 5 days, 4 nights at the Outrigger Kaanapali Beach Resort. Single rates available. kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com

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 of call Hilo, Kahului, Maui, Honolulu, Oahu, Nawiliwili, Kauai, and Ensenada Mexico.
john@storageauctionexperts.com

....

TRAVEL (continued)

Nov. 27-Dec. 8, 2026. Christmas on the Danube with an extra 2-day Christmas Markets of Prague extension. 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

GOLF:

April 22-23. Napa: "Spring Fling" at Chardonnay and Eagle Vines Golf Courses

Contact Ben Gikis GIKISBEN@yahoo.com

BOWLING:

February 18-19: Country Club Lanes in Sacramento. Tod Davis BR 69 (916) 722-3575

March 5: Fireside Lanes in Citrus Heights.

Contact Art Tourtilott BR 112 (916) 635-6148

March 24-25: Clayton Valley Bowl in Concord.

Gary Kaufmann BR 19 (925) 360-9260

Contact: Jim Erickson jim@jterickson.com

FISHING:

February 4 Lunch Meeting Barbara's Fish Trap Restaurant at Pillar Point Harbor

February 10 Fishing for Trout at a Reservoir-Location TBD

February 12 Fishing for striper & starry flounder in the Delta

February 24 Fishing for striper & starry flounder in the Delta

February 27 Fly fishing show runs 2/27 to 3/1

Contact: Brion Beetz brion.beetz@gmail.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.

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 1st and considered delinquent after that date.** Dues not paid by February 28th, 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

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
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 #01288542
925-785-3785
emhunterRE@gmail.com

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

Two Brokers serving you with an unparalleled level of service and a combined 56 years experience.

BLUEBIRD REALTY
www.BlueBRealty.com

Residential • Luxury Homes • Ranches • Land



Dot Popovich
Agent, Lic. #0B12959

558 S. Washington St.
Sonora, CA 95370-5116
Bus 209 532 4120
www.dotpopovich.com
dot@dotpopovich.com



Providing Insurance and Financial Services

TAMARA M. POLLEY

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



RJ Summit Electric Inc.
Lic# 881021
Industrial • Commercial • Residential
Emergency Services

*"High Quality...
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
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 Cocreos 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 Cocreos (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

STAMP

ADDRESS LABEL