



BULLETIN

July, 2025

Website: sonorasirs.org

SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, July 8th

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:

July 3, 2025

Menu:

Country Pork Ribs, Mashed Potatoes, Brown Gravy, Corn (substitute Peas), Green Salad, and vanilla pudding.

Guest Speaker:

**SIR Member Richard Lundin -
Firefighting Drones**



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

The deadline for the next bulletin is:

July 31, 2025



BIG SIR MESSAGE

Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826

bronnerrick@gmail.com

My Daughter and I took in the Father's Day Fly-in last month. There were several warbirds on display as well as planes from Cal Fire and lots of unique planes as well. There was also a car show there that you can read about in my car report. As there were several vendors on display as well, it gave me an opportunity to speak with some as prospective guest speakers for one of our upcoming SIR luncheons. I had the pleasure of meeting with Leigh Roberts with the Tuskegee Airman Heritage chapter in Sacramento. Leigh is trying to put together a team to come to our October meeting later this year. Hopefully I will hear more soon. One of the other vendors with a really cool display was the US Forest Service. They had a small drone on display that can be used for firefighting. It uses a bin full of small pellets that when ejected from the drone release a fire-retardant chemical. The downside is they only have about a 20-minute flight time and can only cover a small area. The idea is to have a fleet of them. At our upcoming meeting this month you will hear from our fellow SIR member Richard Lundin is working with a team on similar but much larger in scale approach. Richard's team is working to deploy ex-military Predator Drones which have an appx. 1000lb payload capacity. That is similar to some of the helicopters currently being used. However, the Predators can fly in conditions the copters can't and of course no risk to human pilots. It should be a fascinating presentation.

Our July meeting is the last meeting to get your tickets to our annual summer BBQ picnic on Thursday August 21st. This year we're going all out for an authentic summer BBQ with Ribs, Chicken and Sausage with beans, corn on the cob and potato salad. There will even be watermelon for dessert. The club will be providing water, sodas and beer and wine. Each entry will get you one free drink ticket. There will also be a raffle prize drawing as well. So, get your tickets now and let's have great summer picnic.

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





RV CLUB NEWS

Eddie Toews (209) 770-3776

lcoinlady@aol.com

Our next outing will be in September. We will be heading to "Placerville RV Resort and Campground" in Placerville, Ca. Hosts will be Scott & Nancy Lewis with Co-hosts Mike & Pam Krom.

If you would like to join us at an outing, call Eddie Toews 209-770-3776 and we will get you on the road with us. You don't have to have an RV, a lot of the parks have cabins you can rent.

Stay safe on the road.

Eddie Toews



MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

George Cocores - (209) 456-9814

greekbeak1@aol.com

Membership Report - June 2025

June Luncheon

Luncheon Attendance (59%) 70
Excused Absences (41%) 48

Current Month Membership

Active Membership (May) 116
Applicants Being Installed 2
Active Members Lost 0
Active Membership June 118



GOLF CLUB NEWS

Raul Santana - (925) 451-7351

rsantana01@yahoo.com

The SIRS June 2025 golf tournament was held at Teleli GC in Sonora. More great weather was on hand and the course was in great shape. The format was skins. Each skin was worth \$5 big ones. Branch 136 winners: Trini Mercado with 5 skins and Rick Bronner with 2 skins. Closet to the pin; Mike Wright, 1st place on hole #12.

Next tournament is scheduled for July 15th, at Teleli GC.

Raul Santana



CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Steven Gregory - (209) 728-5707

discogregory@aol.com

(No report this month)

Steven Gregory, Chaplain



KAYAKING

No Report this month
Chairman Position now open



PINOCHLE REPORT

No Report this month
Chairman Position now open



June Birthdays

Durand, Paul	06/07
Boyd, William (Bill)	06/07
Bellefeuille, Jerry *DSA	06/08
Schloffel, Barry	06/20
Peluso, Serge	06/22
Banchero, Donald (Don)	06/22
Smith, Martin	06/22
Boatman, Bill	06/24
Boire, Ernest	06/24
Rancatore, James P.	06/27
Kangas, Herbert A.	06/28



FISHING CHAIRMAN

Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550

simons4890@yahoo.com

Bill Guenza took a ride up hi way 4 to Spicer Meadows reservoir. Spicer is a beautiful granite lined lake. You can see the other side of the Dardanelles. We caught some nice rainbows. Like most mountain lakes the wind blew us off. Always a good time when you are on the water.

Chuck Simons





BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Ray Di Basilio
rdibasilio@gmail.com

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

Striking up Friendships



FROM RAY:

Our first tournament in June was held at our own Apex at Red Hawk. Since I am in leagues there, I didn't think the shot would be hard. Well ... that's what I get for thinking. Seems folks had a difficult time with our house league pattern as scoring was low with relatively few 200 games. Bowlers did manage to adjust and enjoy some cash awards. Branch 113 Big SIR Chris Crowley along with his wife Terry and first-time tournament bowlers Little SIR Mark Liedstrand and his wife Sue took home some nice checks for their efforts in both Singles and Doubles. CONGRATULATIONS ALL! This tournament also welcomed 14 new SIR bowlers (over 15% of the total number). If you have not visited The Apex it is worth stopping by. The smoke-free entertainment center not only houses bowling, but also indoor golf, arcade games, and a three-story racetrack. They have a summer special, too – buy a card, get two games of bowling free nearly every day and money loaded onto an arcade card daily which can be saved up to use when you have enough for the race cars. In July our calendar will find us bowling at Earl Anthony's Bowl (Dublin), Foothills Bowl (Auburn), and Clayton Valley Bowl (Concord). We head to the National Bowling Stadium in Reno August 11-13th. With an extra \$1,000 added to the prize fund, I expect our Reno tournament to have great attendance. Room rates at the Silver Legacy are \$77/night, including resort fees. Book early to take advantage of the discounted rates (rate code on application). All applications are posted on the SIR website.

For the full schedule, head over to the SIR Bowling webpage:

[SIR BOWLING](#)

See you on the lanes,

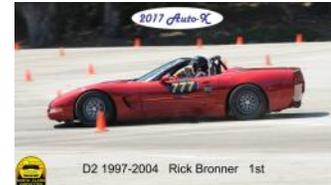
Ray Di Basilio

FROM RICK:

The SIR summer bowling league continues on at Black Oak Casino every Monday at noon. There's always room for more to join. Since some of our members head out on vacations you can always bowl as a sub. There's still a couple of open slots for full time bowlers. It's never too-late to come join in the fun! There's still time to sign up for the annual SIR State tournament in Reno on August 11th thru the 13th. Here's the link to SIR Bowling;

<https://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling>

Rick Bronner



CAR CLUB NEWS

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

At the recent **Father's Day Fly-in** [see pictures on pages 4-6] there was a car show in conjunction with the Fly-in. The local Ford Model A club had a whole line of vintage Model A on display. There were several classic cars, hot rods as well as some highly modified trucks there as well.

Later this month on July 26th-27th is the annual Twain Harte Summer Festival. There will be a car show hosted by the Gear Head Revival Car Club. They are looking to have over 100 cars on display. It's free to attend so I hope to see you there.

Rick Bronner

[





Rick's Pictures from Father's Day Fly-In



This pre-World War II 1941 Cadillac was the last run of convertible Cadillac 4 door sedans that were built by General Motors before halting automotive production to preserve steel to support the war efforts.

Only 400 production cars were completed, with an estimated 25-30 remaining worldwide.

This beauty is painted GM Fire Red, has Ox Blood Red leather interior and a Black Hartz convertible canvas top with removable B pillars.

She rolls on white wall radial tires with Cadillac Sabre wheels.

This 1941 Cadillac is a full frame up custom-built cruiser.

Upgraded with a modern drive train, Cadillac 472 CID/400 HP with 525lbs of torque and a GM 400 automatic transmission: perfect for today's highway speeds.

Additional features include:

An aluminum radiator with a thermostatically controlled electric fan.

Black powder coated frame.

Torsion bar front adjustable suspension with power disc brakes.

Ford 9" rear end with air ride and on-board compressor.

Tilt/Telescopic wheel with power steering and original Cadillac steering wheel (cut down for a more streamline fit and authentic look)

Vintage heat and A/C

Dual chrome spotlights (factory option)

She is a prime example of how elegant cars were in the 40's, but with some modern touches.

Hopefully she lives on for many decades for future generations to enjoy.

Proudly owned by Bill & Josephine Gill - San Andreas Ca

1941 Cadillac Series 62 Convertible Sedan
"Standard of the World"

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Proudly owned by Bill & Josephine Gill - San Andreas Ca



Rick's Pictures from Father's Day Fly-In





It's
BBQ
Time!



RAFFLE PRIZES APPRECIATED

EVENTS COMMITTEE

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



SIRs BRANCH 136 ANNUAL PICNIC

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Will be held at Indigeny Reserve

Social hour will be at 11:00 A.M.

Lunch will be at approximately
12:00 P.M.

Menu

Buffet Style

BBQ RIBS and BBQ CHICHEN
and **GRILLED GOURMET SAUSAGE**

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 drink tickets when they
check in at the gate.

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.

MAXIMUM 224 TICKETS AVAILABLE

NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER

AUGUST 15, 2025



2024 Local SIR Branches Combined Social Activities:
 All SIR members are welcome to join in any other branch activity.
 Many items are for couples so please contact the Event Chair.
 Please start and chair a new activity-if it's not listed.

Area Big Sir Roster	77 136 172	Donald Ronalter Rick Bronner Mark Knapp	(209) 984-9383 (408) 318-4826 (209) 613-7767
<u>Activity</u>	<u>Branch #</u>	<u>Activity Chair</u>	<u>Telephone (209)</u>
Biking	172	Steve Happel 2 nd Tuesday of the month	532-7240
Bowling	136	Rick Bronner	(408) 318-4826
	77	Mike Coe	769-3413
Car Club	136	Rick Bronner	(408) 318-4826
Fishing	136	Chuck Simmons	532-9550
Golf	77	Danny Laureta	586-4567
	136	Raul Santana	(925) 451-7351
	172	Richard Broddie	586-3151
Hiking	77	Mike Clay moderate hike every Friday	588-1345
Horseshoes	172	Rich Brandau Last Thursday of the month	352-4320
	136 172	Looking for a Chairman Dave Kenney 4 th Tuesday of the month	(650) 867-4671
Pinochle	136	Looking for a Chairman	
RV Travel	136	Eddie Toews	770-3776
Tech/Computer	172	Dick Chimenti	677-7070
		Rich Nedbal	247-6497
Theatre	172	Dave Tibbets	532-2453
Travel	143	Bill Stires (Modesto)	988-5445
	172	Charles Luke	533-3683

As of March 2024



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.

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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

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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