



# BULLETIN

## March, 2025

Website: [sonorasirs.org](http://sonorasirs.org)  
SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, March 11th**  
**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:

**Mar. 6, 2025**

**Menu:** Corned Beef & Cabbage, Diced Red Potatoes, Carrots, Green Salad and Cake

(Note: this meal last year was excellent, but bring your appetite)

**Guest Speaker:** SIR member, archaeologist and Geologist Richard Lundin . At this meeting he will be speaking and informing us about the use of use of drones for comprehensive fire suppression.



### **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](mailto:corvdon@wsccpubs.net)**

The deadline for the next bulletin is:

**March 31, 2025**



### **BIG SIR MESSAGE**

**Rick Bronner**

**(408) 318-4826**

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

It looks like I going to be missing one or two meetings this spring. I'm scheduled for a knee replacement on April 8<sup>th</sup>. I believe rehab is typically a 6-8-week process. I'm hoping with a good physical therapy schedule I can make it back in time for our annual Mother's Day Banquet.

I'd like to thank our SIR member Eddie Toews for working with our caterer Dino to secure a fabulous menu and reasonable price for the upcoming banquet. This year we will again have a choice of New York Steak, Salmon or Chicken Picatta Dinner for \$35. Included is a Shrimp Cocktail and of course Desert. There will also be a raffle and special tickets to win big money. We will be selling tickets at our upcoming March meeting.

[see flyer on page 4]

*Rick Bronner*



### **LITTLE SIR MESSAGE**

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

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

This month's speaker will be Richard Lundin, a SIRS member and archaeologist and Geologist. At this meeting he will be speaking and informing us about the use of use of drones for comprehensive fire suppression.

Also I would like to add that the guest speaker last month ended up being a no show. For whatever reason I do not know. But what I did notice from my seat, that during lunch and the time afterward that people, at each of the tables were having a good time talking and interacting with each other. A very, very nice sight. Until next month.

*Mike Krom*



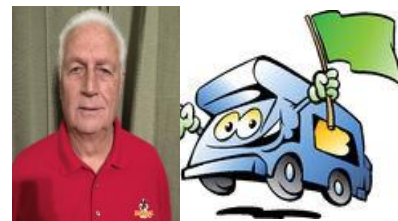
### **INTERNET CHAIRMAN**

**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*



### **RV CLUB NEWS**

**Eddie Toews (209) 770-3776**

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

The RV group had its kickoff breakfast in February. It was a productive meeting and we had a lot of discussion about outings for 2025 season. Several people are working on outings with more information to come in the near future.

With the loss of Dale Decker and others, the membership has dropped to 15 rigs. If you have an RV and would like to visit the club at one of our outings, please contact Eddie Toews at 209-770-3776 and I will get you all the information about our outings and set you up to join us.

Stay safe on the road.

*Eddie Toews*





### GOLF CLUB NEWS

Raul Santana - (925) 451-7351  
[rsantana01@yahoo.com](mailto:rsantana01@yahoo.com)

Golf will start up again the 3rd Tuesday in March 2025. no details yet.

*Raul Santana*



### CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Steven Gregory - (209) 728-5707  
[discogregory@aol.com](mailto:discogregory@aol.com)

(No report this month)

*Steven Gregory Chaplain*



### MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

George Cocores - (209) 456-9814  
[greekbeak1@aol.com](mailto:greekbeak1@aol.com)

#### Membership Report February 2025

February Luncheon	
Luncheon Attendance (50%)	57
Excused Absences (50%)	58

Current Month Membership	
Active Membership (January)	116
Applicants Being Installed	1

Active Members Lost	2
Active Membership Feb.	115



### HELP NEEDED

1.) I am looking for someone to assist me with the Membership & Attendance Worksheet. Some Excel experience is required. The time commitment on your part with me would be two hours a month. Please contact George Cocores if you are interested in this rewarding experience.  
209-456-9814.

2.) We are looking for someone to take luncheon reservations in June of this year. Jerry Bellefeuille will be on vacation and will not be able to do it. You would need to be familiar with sending large batches of emails and be able to extract the email addresses from an Excel worksheet. The process would take at least a couple of hours of work to make the mailing list and sending out emails and taking count of the replies. This volunteer would also need to send out emails alerting our members of the June bulletin being available to view on our website. Contact Jerry at [sirjerry4@gmail.com](mailto:sirjerry4@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Thank you



### March Birthdays

Drotleff, Donald (Don)	03/04
Squeri, Paul *AG	03/15
Knisely, Richard	03/15
Thomas, Stanley (Stan)	03/23
Martin, David ( Marty)	03/23
Mercado, Trini	03/27
Finigian, Steve	03/30
Neiderer, Thomas (Tom)	03/31



### KAYAKING

No Report this month  
Chairman Position now open



### PINOCHLE REPORT

No Report this month  
Chairman Position now open



### FISHING CHAIRMAN

Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550  
[simons4890@yahoo.com](mailto:simons4890@yahoo.com)

No fishing in Feb.

*Chuck Simons*



## **BOWLING CLUB NEWS**

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

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

### **Striking up Friendships**



#### **FROM RAY:**

In February, 90 bowlers competed at Country Club Lanes in Sacramento. High scores were abundant! Rick Land had a 278, narrowly missing a 300 game. Five other bowlers scored over 250 (quite an accomplishment). Always good to see smiling faces when lane conditions are favorable. Our newest Branch 113 SIR, Alan Lowry, was our big winner taking first place in a couple of events. Alan, you're now hooked for life!

Our next tournament will be held at Clayton Valley Bowl in Concord, March 25-26th. As usual, Cindy and I will be there both days, staying at one of our favorite hotels. Doing so allows us to bowl doubles one day, and singles the next. We also get to have a night away and dinner with out-of-town friends. Let me know if you'd like to join us!

Applications for the Carson City in April are starting to arrive in my mail box. This venue is always popular as it is an under one roof get-away. Gold Dust West offers rooms, meals, and bowling; how can you beat that?!?

This year's Annual SIR State Tournament is scheduled for May 12/13<sup>th</sup> at Country Club Lanes. The central location and the \$500 added to the prize fund should bring in plenty of bowlers. This one is a SIR-only event, no guests allowed (cheerleaders always welcome).

For the full schedule, head over to the SIR Bowling webpage: [SIR BOWLING](#)

See you on the lanes,

*Ray Di Basilio*



#### **FROM RICK:**

If all goes well, we may have a SIR's Summer Bowling League this year. Black Oak Casino has already given us a Monday noon time slot. Mike Coe from SIR Branch 77 is putting together a plan that includes allowing SIR's members and their significant others to bowl this summer. The league should start in early May. Were hoping to get somewhere around 40 bowlers to participate. If you are interested let me know so we can start making plans. It's been several years since we've had a real SIR's league here so I'm hoping there will be a lot of interest.

Next up on the SIR's monthly tournament calendar is in Concord at Clayton Valley Bowl on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. As always SIR's bowling schedule and applications can be found at <http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling/index.html> or just google SIR Bowling.

*.Rick Bronner*



## **CAR CLUB NEWS**

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

Spring is in the air and it's time to get our hot rods ready to roll again. After sitting for months let's make sure our tire pressures are good and our fluid levels are correct. I found this cool little portable compressor from Airmoto for under \$100 that works wonders. It's not the fastest but it's extremely accurate. There are several of these available now and are extremely compact. Easy to use and charge by USB.

It's time to mark your calendars for the Hot Copper Car Show coming this May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is one of the biggest Car shows in our area and we typically see over 200 cars on display. We should also be getting the dates for the annual Rod's to Rails Car Show on main Street in Jamestown soon. Also coming up is the annual Father's Day Fly-In at Columbia Airport, which will also feature a Hot Rod and Classic Car show this year as well.

*Rick Bronner*





Sons in Retirement #136

# Ladies Day Luncheon

May 13, 2025



**No Host Cocktails  
@ 11:00 am**

**Lunch @ Noon**

**Menu: Choice of**

New York Steak w/ Baked Potato  
or Chicken Picatta or Salmon with  
Rice Pilaf, Salad, Vegetable  
and Dessert.

Shrimp Cocktail

**\$35:00 per Person**

Tickets will go on sale at the  
March & April Luncheons

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MAXIMUM 224 TICKETS AVAILABLE

NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER

May 6, 2024

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EVENTS COMMITTEE:

Rick Bronner 408-318-4826

Stan Enos

Gene Zannoni

Eddie Toews

George Cocores

**Anyone wanting wine, it will be  
available at the bar for \$12.00 per  
bottle.**



# The Rooster Crows!

## The Scoop from the Coop

March 2025

### Board of Directors

**Rich Carlston**  
President

**Lee Lamp**  
Vice President

**Jeff Chin**  
Secretary

**Carl Mason**  
Treasurer  
CIO (open)

**Andy Danver**  
Dir. Mktg/Comm.

**John Farcich**  
Dir. Br. Support

**Bruce Corwin**  
Dir. State Docs.

**Michael Lee**  
Dir. Activities

**Fred Serena**  
AR Coord., AR

**Jerry Morrow**  
AR

**Bruce Corwin**  
AR

**Derek Southern** State  
Advisor

**Roy Hodgkinson**  
Parliamentarian



Please join me in welcoming John Farcich to the Board of Directors. We are look forward to working with him.



Welcome Spring!

### News Of The Day From State

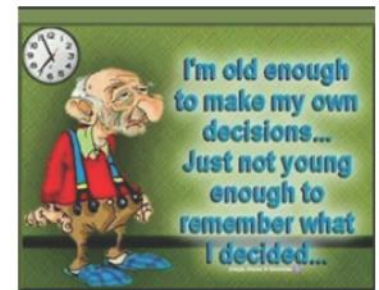
- First, congratulations and Thank You to the members of the BAC. They have worked tirelessly to provide input to the Board of Directors. They will continue over the next many months to continue to assist me and the Board.
- We are working on improving the SIR Manual. Presently, it is a formidable document that I've been told is not inviting to read. It is not the readily used tool or general source of information it is meant to be. We're trying to fix that. Bruce Corwin is leading the effort to make it more inviting and easier to use. This is important given the constant turnover in leadership that our branches experience. We need a manual that provides clear information and guidance for our new branch leaders so they can lead their branch. To that point, the new manual will be more compartmentalized. It will have a section for our branch leaders that is shorter and more concise, giving them the information they need. It will focus attention on the branch by-laws which contain the basic "how to" for running a branch. More esoteric matters will be addressed in the appendices. And of course, there will be a separate section addressing State SIR policies and procedures. Bruce is also working to improve search capabilities. The net result, we hope, will be greater use of the manual by our leaders.
- **Correction:** Last month I announced our relationship with Grouper but made a typo in the announcement. Grouper may work with Medicaid but I intended to say Medicare. Thanks to those who pointed out the error. More to come on Grouper.



...to Jim Gragg and Kevin King who have been serving on the Board of Directors but have needed to resign for personal reasons. We greatly appreciate all they have done for SIR!!



### The New 60





## Business Planning

We are beginning to work on a major project that is years overdue. The Board, with the assistance of some members of the BAC, is beginning to work on a “five-year business plan” which we hope to have available by this year’s Annual Meeting for your review and consideration.

Guided by our Mission Statement “to enrich the lives of its members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making friends for life,” we need to recognize who we are and our personal and organizational limits. We need to examine our strengths, weaknesses and challenges. We need:

- to develop a vision of who we want to be in the future,
- to determine how we can get there and what obstacles or challenges we will face,
- to determine action plan(s) and goals and
- to ensure the business plan is reviewed, understood and supported by our organization.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, once the plan is adopted and approved, it will need to be implemented, not just set it on the shelf to gather dust.

It is likely the business plan will call for change. Change is not a bad thing but a necessary fact of life. We are constantly undergoing change although we often don’t recognize it. A good illustration of ongoing change is in our current emphasis on growing our membership. Branches are now focusing greater resources and effort on increasing their membership – this is change. Branches are endeavoring to increase the number and diversity of their activities – this is change. Branches are improving their websites – this is change. Branches are actively considering how to attract younger members – this is change. Branches are modifying some of their luncheon approaches to make lunch more entertaining – this is change. Our pilot marketing programs with State SIR matching funds - this is change. State SIR is modernizing its reporting processes and computer capabilities – this is change. State SIR is reemphasizing its training efforts – this is change. There is always change. The key to a good business plan is to identify appropriate changes beneficial to the organization and that have the support by the organization.

One change that I would like to see is the removal of the geographic limitation for our organization. I’m informed that the limitation to Northern and Central California was established so that everyone could attend the Annual Meeting. Our capabilities for remote attendance have changed dramatically, removing the reason for the geographic limitation. There is a tremendous need for our organization in Southern California and we have men interested in forming SIR branches there. I’ll have to see if others agree.

It's **Spring**. Time to **spring** Forward!!  
Time to get out and go!!





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 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month	532-7240
Bowling	136	Rick Bronner	(408) 318-4826
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
Kayak	136	Looking for a Chairman	
	172	Dave Kenney 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 #01289542  
925-785-3785  
emhunterRE@gmail.com

**Michael O. Bowers**  
Broker Associate  
DRE #00901538  
209.770.3683 or 510-919-4949  
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dot@dotpopovich.com



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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  
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**James Moreda Jr.**

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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](http://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:** Steve Holt (713) 842-0083  
**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** 533-5315  
Bulletin - **Don Herzer** 586-3078  
Internet - **Jerry Bellefeuille** 588-3978  
SIR Items Sales - **Fred Kehr** 785-4358  
Chaplain - **Steve Gregory** 728-5707

## 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