



# BULLETIN

## March, 2026

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

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, Mar. 10th**

**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. 5, 2026**

### **Menu:**

Corned Beef & Cabbage, Diced Red Potatoes, Carrots, Green Salad and Cake.

### **Guest Speaker:**

**Brittan Gregory, Sonora Fire Chief**



### **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:

**Mar. 31, 2026**



### **BIG SIR MESSAGE**

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

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

Thanks to Eddie Toews and team it looks like we're all set for another great Mother's Day Banquet this May. Tickets will go on sale at our upcoming March meeting. Eddie has locked down the menu this year with your choice of a nice New York Steak, Salmon or Chicken Piccata. Included with the dinner is a Shrimp Cocktail and desert. Price will be just \$40.00. There will also be a raffle and special cash prizes to be awarded.

It looks like we have some updates to our SIR State Policies;

- Revised Policy 9A - Cash Reserve Guidelines:  
Reduced the amount per member to \$25 for smaller branches
- Added New Policy 9B – Equipment Owned by Branch or Committee:  
Added a policy which details how branch owned equipment should be handled
- Added New Policy Procedure 15c – Marketing Budget Sample Form
- Revised Documents related to Branch Member Roster reporting Policy 10 and removed Form 65:  
The State Board voted to remove the requirement for Form 65 in Policy 10
- Revised SIR, Inc. Documents related to appointment and removal of Area Representatives  
Makes AR issues the responsibility of the State VP
- Added New Policy B-15 –Photo Release Form\
- Updated Schedule of Branch Operations with Hyperlinks to Manual in Appendix A

I'll be spending time to see if any of these changes has any impact on our branch.

*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)**

(No Report this month)

*Steven Gregory Chaplain*





## RV CLUB NEWS

**Eddie Toews (209) 770-3776**  
[lcoinlady@aol.com](mailto:lcoinlady@aol.com)

.The RV club kickoff breakfast that is usually held in February had to be moved to March due to the snow storm that came through last week. Hopefully, the weather will stay good and we can get the 2026 season started.

Everyone be safe on the roads.  
Hope to see you soon.

*Eddie Toews*



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*

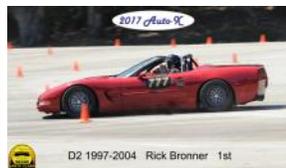


## GOLF CLUB NEWS

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

The first SIR's Golf tournament of 2026 is scheduled for March 24th at Teledi Golf Club.  
Hope to see you there!

*Raul Santana*



## CAR CLUB NEWS

**Rick Bronner - (408) 318-4826**  
[bronnerrick@gmail.com](mailto:bronnerrick@gmail.com)

Happy Motoring!  
(No Report this month)

*Rick Bronner*



## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

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

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT** February 2026

#### February Luncheon

Luncheon Attendance 70 (58%)  
Excused Absences 51 (42%)  
Guests 2

#### **Current Month Membership**

Active Membership January 120  
Applicants Being Installed 1  
Active Members Lost  
**Active Membership February 121**



## March Birthdays

Drotleff, Donald (Don)	03/04
Maguire "Kapena" Christopher	03/04
Squeri, Paul *AG	03/15
Knisely, Richard	03/15
Martin, David ( Marty)	03/23
Mercado, Trini	03/27
Finigian, Steve	03/30
Sinkler, Bryan	03/30
Neiderer, Thomas (Tom)	03/31



## FISHING CHAIRMAN

**Chuck Simons - (209) 770-5928**  
[simons4890@yahoo.com](mailto:simons4890@yahoo.com)

Managed to get to Melones today the 26th. Had two strikes in 4 hours. Talked to several fisherman who caught some fish. They were all over the lake and very picky about what lures they hit.

Any other stories send them along.

*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 Sacramento tournament held in February at Country Club Lanes had great participation. 83 bowlers from 14 Northern California SIR branches attended. The Best Participation award goes to local Branch 69 with 18 bowlers followed by Branch 55 (Grass Valley) with nine participants.

Scores were outstanding. Rudy Crisolo, Sacramento Branch 69, shot a 752 scratch series. Other high scores were Patrick Breeden, Napa Branch 65, with a 279 scratch game and Danny Roberts, Brentwood Branch 161, with a 267 scratch game.

Tod Davis and Branch 69 were outstanding hosts by coordinating with the center and supplying door prizes and delicious donuts (I must admit I ate a few ... maybe more because Cindy wasn't there to watch me). Door prizes also included two high performance bowling balls donated by the Lucky Bowler Pro Shop.

Applications for upcoming tournaments are posted on our State SIR Bowling website: [SIR BOWLING](http://SIRBOWLING.com). Be sure to note 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.

- Citrus Heights, March 4 – Fireside 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:**

The SIR winter bowling league is cruising along. The big news is we were looking at doing another SIR Summer League. The plan is to start on Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> and finish on Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Same as the winter league start times will be at noon each Monday. Cost will be the same at \$20. Anyone interested should let me know before April 27<sup>th</sup>. Teams are already forming up.

Gold Country USBC Association held their annual bowling tournament on February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. I joined with fellow SIR Branch 136 members Greg Fletcher, Bryan Sinkler and Chris Maguire. We each rolled nine games together on Saturday. We topped off the day with dinner at the Seven sisters and listened to Burn Permit play live on the main floor. All in all, a great day. We won't know the results until later this month.

*Rick Bronner*



**(See second paragraph above)**



**Pictured: SIR Ray DiBasilio, State SIR Bowling Committee Operations Advisor awarding**

**Tod Davis, Sacramento Tournament Host with a SIR coffee mug.**

# SIR STATE HAPPENING NEWSLETTER

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



Here's your state activities for March 2026

## INVESTING

SIR128 is offering its monthly Zoom about investing to all branches. On Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 1:30 PM they will be discussing the pros and cons of investing in oil and energy stocks in the current economy. The purpose of the group is "education" as opposed to soliciting money for an investment.

**Contact Michael Levine:**

michael.levine@sbcglobal.net

## TRAVEL

**Here are the upcoming trips you can join:**

**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

**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 TOURNAMENTS:

**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

Open to all SIRS, spouse, partner, relative, and invited guests. They must have a USBC card and verified average.

**Contact: Jim Erickson jim@jterickson.com**

## FISHING:

March 5-8, Pacific Coast Sportfishing Show Costa Mesa-Orange County FairGrounds.

March 6, San Pablo Reservoir, Trout Fishing

March 10, San Pablo Reservoir, Trout Fishing

March 11, San Pablo Reservoir Trout Fishing

March 18, Fishing tackle purchase trip

March 20, San Pablo Reservoir, Trout Fishing

March 24, San Pablo Reservoir, Trout Fishing

March 24, Delta, Launch from Pittsburg Marina for stripers and starry flounder

March 26, Annual Fishing Group Auction

Fundraiser at Diablo Creek Golf Course

March 27, San Pablo Reservoir, Trout Fishing

March Open Dates- Halibut Fishing in San

Francisco Bay as weather and tides allow.

**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.**



**Rick presents our Feb. Guest Speaker with an Appreciation Award for his presentation**



**New Member Jim McMan was presented with his badge**



## 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  
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www.dotpopovich.com  
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

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todd.simonson@edwardjones.com  
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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](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

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 - **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