



BULLETIN

October, 2025

Website: sonorasirs.org

SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, Oct. 14th

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:

Oct. 9, 2025

Menu:

Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Green Salad and Peach Cobbler

Guest Speaker:

Tammy Thayer

Sr. Membership Manager of PHI Cares, the membership program of PHI Air Medical, designed to safeguard your finances in the face of air medical emergencies.



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:

Oct. 31, 2025



BIG SIR MESSAGE

Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826

bronnerrick@gmail.com

We were fortunate to have Molly Wanless-Smith from the BBB at our luncheon last month. She gave a really good presentation on how to recognize and avoid scams. She broke it down to three simple approaches the scammers take, on-line, by phone or in-person. And talk about timing only a short time after her presentation some of our members got one of those scam emails supposedly from me asking for financial help. I want to make it clear I DO NOT SEND OUT EMAILS TO ANY OF OUR CLUB MEMBERS ASKING FOR FINANCIAL HELP. If you ever get one, PLEASE DELETE IT.

There are still a couple of open positions on the BEC for 2026. We still are looking for a Secretary and a Little SIR. As I will be stepping aside to let our current Little SIR Mike Krom take the helm. I have volunteered to head a search committee for guest speakers next year. This will take a big load off the Little SIR and allow him to focus on other duties. I welcome anyone to please come forward and help our branch grow.

We will start selling tickets for our Holiday Banquet at our upcoming October meeting. The menu will be the same as last year with Prime Rib, Chicken Pacatta, or Salmon as the main entrée. Look for the flyer in this newsletter. Speaking of our newsletter we will no longer be mailing any copies out. The mailing costs have gotten out of hand to where it's been costing us almost 800 dollars a year. To make up for it, we will have an extra copy available at each table for those that don't have internet or a smart phone. See you at the next meeting.

Rick Bronner



LITTLE SIR MESSAGE

Mike Krom - (209) 586-1533

mmowers@mlode.com

(no report this month)

Mike Krom



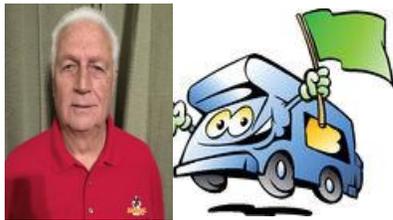


INTERNET CHAIRMAN

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

The RV Club just had a great outing to the "Placerville RV Resort and Campground" in Shingle Springs. I want to thank, Scott & Nancy Lewis and Mike & Pam Krom for all the time and work they put in to make it a fun and enjoyable outing. Two of our members stayed in the cabins at the park and were able to attend all the festivities. The food was great, as always, and the visiting was enjoyed by all. Our next function will be our Christmas Dinner in December at the Peppery Gar and Brill. Stay safe on the roads during the holiday season.

Eddie Toews



CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Steven Gregory - (209) 728-5707
discogregory@aol.com

Steve Preston, SIR badge 038 passed away recently at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife Donna and family. May he RIP ☐

Steven Gregory Chaplain



MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

George Cocores - (209) 456-9814
greekbeak1@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025

SEPTEMBER Luncheon

Luncheon Attendance (57%) 60
Excused Absences (43%) 51
Guests 1

Current Month Membership

Active Membership Aug.) 119
Applicants Being Installed 0
Active Members Lost 1
Active Membership September 118



GOLF CLUB NEWS

Raul Santana - (925) 451-7351
rsantana01@yahoo.com

The SIRS September 2025 golf tournament was held at Teleli GC in Sonora. Unfortunately, I could not make it, but was told the weather was great for golfing. The format was 2-man, best ball. Some great scores were posted, but unfortunately, no one from Branch 136 placed in the money. The last tournament of 2025 is scheduled for October 21st at Teleli GC. Hope to see you on the course.

Raul Santana



October Birthdays

Thomas , Mark	10/01
Flores, Rudy	10/02
Souza , Edmund	10/11
Kraft, Jeff	10/11
Simons, Charles (Chuck)	10/11
Lundin, Rich	10/11
Feldman, Raymond	10/16
Morrison, Bob	10/24
Kehr, Fred	10/26
Guenza, Bill	10/26



FISHING CHAIRMAN

Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550
simons4890@yahoo.com

I put my boat in quarantine for 30 days as prescribed by New Melones. That and the heat has kept me off the water. Today is Thursday. My quarantine was up yesterday so am going to hit the water tomorrow. Will complete this report then. I did fish Don Pedro a couple of times but the days didn't produce as well as some reports said.

Home from Melones with no luck today. Heat comes off the water and sends me home. Looking forward to cooler days. Keep your lines tight you never know when the fish will strike

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:

September was a busy month for SIR tournaments. We first traveled to Carson City on September 8-9, bowling at Homegrown Lanes. The new owners, Danny and Jennifer Dunbar, continue to remodel and upgrade the old facility. One of the newest improvements is the addition of the BTM software which makes bowler scores and data transfer seamless (for SIR bowling this is awesome!). We had 43 bowlers competing during the two-day tournament. Tournament host, Branch 160, added \$475 to the prize fund and also offered a \$5 coupon discount on the lunch menu to all participants. Big thanks to Branch 160 for a fun tournament!

Later in September, our tournament schedule took us to Paddock Bowl in Pacheco. We had 63 bowlers attend over the two days. Scores were high with a 279 and several others over 250. Needless to say, there were lots of smiles over the two days. Side note, Mark Bristol, owner of Paddock Bowl will be closing the facility for three weeks in December to install brand new free -all pin setters. That should really brighten the retro look of the center – we can't wait to get there again next year!

The tournament at Paddock Bowl was hosted by Branch 73. Our host was to be Wiley Bobo. Sadly, we lost Bo the very next day due to complications of cancer. I am sure Bo held on the extra day to assure we all did well in the tournament (and we did!). Bo is survived by his wife of 60 years, Carol Bobo, and two daughters. We are blessed that his mind was alert, and he was able to communicate his love with us until the end. We are saddened that his body could not keep up but find comfort in knowing he is no longer suffering and now rests in heaven. That thunder we hear will always remind me of Bo and the strikes he rolled so often.

For results of this tournament and more, head over to the SIR Bowling webpage: [SIR BOWLING](https://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling)

We are working on the calendar of bowling events for 2026. Should you want to see a tournament (or more tournaments) in your area, please let me know.

There are only two bowling tournaments remaining before we finish the 2025 schedule: Brentwood on October 14th and Modesto on November 6/7.

Important: Your 2025-26 USBC membership needs to be current before you bowl. As of October 1 all 2024/25 USBC memberships will have expired and you will need to have renewed for 2025/26. You may renew online by clicking on this link [join](https://www.bowl.com) to renew ([bowl.com](https://www.bowl.com)). Renewing through your league may not have been processed in time - renewing online is your best option to assure you will be eligible for our tournaments.

See you on the lanes,

Ray Di Basilio

FROM RICK:

The SIR winter bowling league is now in full swing. Each week we seem to add more bowlers. This week Derle and Donna from branch 77 joined in the fun. They are first time bowlers. There are still some openings available. We meet each Monday at noon at Black Oak Casino. So come join us for great fun and hang out with your fellow SIR members. Remember it's open to all SIR members AND their significant others. We even allow first family members to join in. Were else can you so much fun for \$20!

. Here's the link to SIR Bowling;

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

Rick Bronner





RV Club Sept. Outing



"Chucks Pancake Kitchen"



The RV Club having fun in Shingle Springs





Rick's Jamestown Car Show Pictures



Our Sept. guest speaker was Molly Wanless-Smith Outreach & Events Specialist at the Better Business Bureau®

Molly covered the most popular scams going on presently, focusing on those aimed at seniors.

We were encouraged to report any suspected scams to the Better Business Bureau.

Be cautious of these activities:

Solar installation/improvements; Investment opportunities/ cryptocurrency; employment offers; online purchases; home improvement; Romance/dating sites.

Do not send payments using gift cards.

We were told that AI can spoof voices.





CAR CLUB NEWS

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

I attended the 5th annual Dan McHoul car show in Jamestown. This is a benefit for Chips for Kids. There was a toy drive as well. I donated one of my precious Corvettes. Ok it's only a 1:56 scale. A limited-edition die-cast series from Racing Champions. There were some really cool cars on display. The Mother Lode Region of the Antique Automobile club had several cars on display. [see pictures on page 6]

On Sunday October 12th is the Snelling Car Show hosted by Yosemite Corvettes. I really love this show as an avid Corvette owner it's always fun to see all the different years of Corvettes on display. There are always a good assortment of Hot Rods and collector cars on display as well. They also have a fantastic barbeque with tr-tip sandwiches available.

On the weekend of September 27th my Corvette club from the Bay Area made the trip up to Sonora. Friday night we enjoyed a wonderful banquet at the Peppery. Saturday we caravanned to Yosemite then on to Mammoth Lakes. We took a few side trips to June Lake and Convict Lake before heading off to the Historical movie Museum in Lone Pine Ca. We also stopped in Manzanar to check out the World War 2 relocation camp. It was quite a scene to see 20 vettes roaring down HI way 395! [see pictures above]

Rick Bronner



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

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



The Rooster Crows!

The Scoop from the Coop

October 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

Derek Southern B8
State Advisor

Wes Howard
AR

Roy Hodgkinson B146
Parliamentarian



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!



As the weather changes, we see the beauty of fall, enjoy the tastes and smells of fall cooking and approach one of my favorite holidays - Halloween. Whether you go to a party, accompany a grandchild trick or treating, or simply enjoy the costumes of the trick or treaters, it is full of fun and sometimes a little spooky. Then after the fun of Halloween this year, the next night is the Day of the Dead celebration with pageantry and a focus on family lines past and present. Día de Muertos is Mexico's annual homecoming for loved ones who've passed and it is filled with fragrances, color and remembrance. It truly is a special time of the year. Enjoy it!



Looking Back - Golf In Review



2025 has been a successful year for the State Golf Program starting with the Annual Napa tournament in April and ending with our first ever "Monterey Week" in November. We have instituted a new program for Annual Championships, both for Individuals and for Teams. These are based on the best net rounds in State events over the entire year. We have also added an "over 80" flight in every tournament to attract more of our "senior" golfers.

For 2026, we are scheduled to have 3 2-day tournaments in the central area of Napa-Fairfield-Vallejo, starting with the Napa tournament (April 22-23), Fairfield--Rancho Solano and Paradise Valley (May 20-21) and Blue Rock Springs on June 24-25. These will be followed by the Annual Team Scramble in August and the Individual tournament in October. We are also working on a Sacramento Area event in September and plan to have the Monterey Week (Nov 2-5).



I'M YET ANOTHER RESOURCE CONSUMING KID IN AN OVERPOPULATED PLANET, RAISED TO AN ALARMING EXTENT BY MADISON AVENUE AND HOLLYWOOD, POISED WITH MY CYNICAL AND ALIENATED PEERS TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD WHEN YOU'RE OLD AND WEAK!



Why did the skeleton run away while trick-or-treating?
Because a dog was after his bones.

Why did the mummy never take a vacation day?
He didn't know how to unwind.



Finding a spider on Halloween night is considered good luck.

The first Jack O'Lanterns were actually made from turnips.

The fear of Halloween is called **Samhainophobia**.

At the September Board Meeting

In addition to routine approvals of minutes and financial statements, the Board considered the following this month:

1. The suggestions received from the BAC for improving the 2026 Annual Meeting were discussed. One of the suggestions was to change the meeting to a Saturday (to facilitate travel) with an optional dinner and program Friday night. This suggestion would provide more social time, enable the speakers to coordinate and ensure the electronics work smoothly, as well as provide more time and flexibility for the actual meetings. Gary Kohler (Br. 34) has extensive experience in handling this type of meeting and has offered to assist next year.
2. The Board voted to amend the Transition Agreement with Branch 92 (our successful coed branch) to allow the Branch to attend the Annual Meeting. All branches need to participate in the Annual Meeting.
3. The Board voted to amend Policy 11 to include in the definition of "relative" a "significant other." The need for this change was noted at the Annual Meeting.
4. At the State level, the responsibility for branch marketing was assigned to the Director of Branch Support. The responsibility developing and implementing a successful Internet marketing program was assigned to the Director of Marketing. Both officers will work closely together in coordinating all marketing initiatives.
5. While advise was previously given to branches that they could use the terms President and Vice President in lieu of Big Sir and Little Sir, we had no formal policy. The Board adopted the policy but with the requirement that branches use the terms "Branch President" and "Branch Vice President" to avoid confusion with State officers.
6. Derek Southern has been doing some terrific work with AI. Recently he has been exploring how it can assist with SIR marketing efforts. He gave a well received presentation on the possibilities. More to come on this later.
7. Ramesh Thadani suggested that we post agendas and documents on the State website and distribute the website link in lieu of copies of agendas and documents. We will be experimenting with that approach.
8. I advised the Board that the Amendment to the Bylaws (removing geographic limitations in California) is completed. The Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation (removing "retired") has been sent to the Secretary of State.
9. We discussed developing a procedure for collecting and distributing material on best practices along with members who can be consulted for advice.
10. Finally, I advised the Board that I will be appointing a Committee to draft our 2- to 3-year goals. While members of the Board will be on the committee, it is weighted in favor of branch representatives. We have suggestions from the BAC and the Board and would appreciate any you may have. The first meeting of the committee will be in early November with the target of sending a draft to both the BAC and the Board for review by the end of the first quarter. It can then finalized in the second quarter and distributed for consideration by all branches and addressed at the 2026 Annual Meeting.



Big/Little SIR Annual Training Session 1
Friday Oct 24 9:00-11:30am

- SIR Past/ Present/ Future State-Rich Carlston
- Key Elements of a Successful Branch - Andy Danver
- Branch MKT Initiative for 2026 - Fred Serena
- Big/Little SIR Responsibilities/Leader Guide-Fred Serena
- Recruiting Volunteers-Fred Serena
- State Activities- Michael Lee
- Q and A



Help us spread the word about SIR.
We have **fun**. We make **friends**.
We are **active**. We are happy. We **help** each other. We **live** longer.

WE Are SIR!





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 #01289542
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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Providing Insurance and Financial Services

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Sonora, CA 95370

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Fax 209-694-3624
tamara@tpolleylaw.com



Estate
Planning
Attorney



Todd Simonson, AAMS®, CFP®
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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