



BULLETIN

September, 2025

Website: sonorasirs.org

SONORA BRANCH #136

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 9th

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:

Sept. 4, 2025

Menu:

Chicken Cordon Blue, Rice Pilaf, Peas,

Green Salad and Chocolate Pudding

Guest Speaker:

Molly Wanless-Smith

Outreach & Events Specialist

Better Business Bureau®

Molly is going to talk about the many scams affecting senior citizens and how to recognize and prevent them.



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:

Sept. 31, 2025



BIG SIR MESSAGE

Rick Bronner (408) 318-4826

bronnerrick@gmail.com

With nearly 100 attendees, our summer picnic was a big success. A big thank you goes out to our volunteers, Eddie Toews, Stan Enos, Gene Zaroni, Chuck Simons, Bill Guenza and Mel Kutsch. We couldn't have done it without you! This year was a real summer BBQ picnic. The food was excellent and there were lots of raffle prizes to be won. It was really nice to see all our members with their wives having a good time.

I recently returned from our annual SIR State meeting in Lafayette. I'll give you a brief update of our 4-hour meeting. The good news when it comes to our name and logo—NO CHANGE! They are still looking into legal ramifications of whether to change our non-profit status. That may take another year or two to get all the answers. There were a couple of motions to update our corporate bylaws;

- Remove the word retired from articles of incorporation.
- Change our territory to all of California. This will open up the door to adding branches in So-Cal.

Another revision makes it possible for all family members to join in on our activities on a unlimited basis. The BIG SIR also has the power to allow guests the same privileges.

We also elected all the State officers for 2026. There were many other topics covered but the one that really was good news -SIR is growing. After several years of declining membership 2024 saw an increase! 2025 is looking good so far. So, let's all help our branch grow. Here's the easiest way to do it, INVITE A FRIEND! Remember friends get a free lunch.

See you at our September meeting.

Rick Bronner



LITTLE SIR MESSAGE

Mike Krom - (209) 586-1533

mmowers@mlode.com

In my opinion the picnic turned out great. Lots of smiles and friends talking, smiling and laughing. The food was not the greatest, but a lot better [than last year].

On my side of things, there are a couple of twists and turns. All good but confusing to me. I will know more next month. Other than that, Pam and I are getting ready for the RV trip this Sept to the Placerville/Shingle Springs RV park. Again, great response with 10-12 rigs showing up.

This will be number 2 as far as my co-hosting goes. Last time it was with Steve and Mary Finigian and this trip will be with Scott and Nancy Lewis. Granted, there is some footwork involved: contacting the RV park, with names, rig size, pull through, back in, food assignments etc. But when all put together it is a lot of fun and enjoying each others company.

Something for all to think about. There still is time to get a couple more outings. Another park close by is 49er RV Park. Food for thought.

As for me, I'm feeling good, getting stronger every day. And with my last CT scan with contrast, things are looking good. The oncologist may even shut down my chemo before the #8 cycle. Just a note: I had to get approval to rearrange my chemo on Tuesdays so Pam and I could go to the Placerville outing. I can't expect too much, but I do. See you soon

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 Group will be having its last outing for this year here in September. We will be going to Placerville RV Resort and campground in Shingle Springs. We will be there for 4 days to visit and enjoy being out.

In December we will be having our annual Christmas Dinner to finish out the 2025 season.

Be safe on the roads and enjoy the coming fall season.

Eddie Toews



CHAPLIN'S CORNER

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

(No report this month)

Steven Gregory Chaplain



MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

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

[No report for August since we had the picnic instead of a meeting]



GOLF CLUB NEWS

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

The SIRS August 2025 golf tournament was held at Greenhorn Creek GC in Angels Camp. The heat was hot, but mostly held off until later in the day. The course was in great shape, except for the fairway bunkers. We had 25 brave souls on hand and the format was 2-man, best ball. We had some winners from Branch 136:

Rick Bronner and yours truly tied for 3rd place with a net 67.

Dave McGuigan won 3rd place for closest to the pin on hole #3.

Mike Wright won 3rd place for closest to the pin on hole #13.

Next tournament is scheduled for September 16th at Teleli GC. Hope to see you on the course.

Raul Santana



[editor's note: I screwed up and didn't report July birthdays, so I've included them for this issue - sorry for the oversight]

September Birthdays

Belochi, Steve	09/01
Costello, Jim	09/02
Armendariz, Manuel	09/02
Atkins, Ron	09/09
Barnes, Harold (Barney)	09/11
Moreda, James	09/11
Lucia, James (Jim)	09/11
Holt, Steven *DSA	09/12
Simon, Bill	09/12
Lewis, James (Scott)	09/16
Phillips, Robert	09/19
Abreo, Albert F.	09/24
Kutsch, Melvin (Mel)	09/27
Aberle, Dick	09/28
Cocores, George *DSA	09/30
Bethel, Ron	09/30



KAYAKING & PINOCHLE REPORT

No Reports this month
Chairman Positions now open



FISHING CHAIRMAN

Chuck Simons - (209) 532-9550
simons4890@yahoo.com
(No report this month)

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 annual tournament in Reno was held on August 14-16. It happened to fall on the Monday after Hot August Nights so we were still able to see many classic cars as we arrived in town. We had 163 bowlers, which was another increase in the participation from the previous year (bowling is back!). Aside from the elevator breakdown on the first morning and needing to take equipment up the stairs to the 4th floor (or the big escalator) everyone managed the challenge and we are in better physical shape for it. We bowled on a new oil pattern this year and most were pleased with good scores.

The NBS is always a fun venue for us as we are allowed to take over the massive bowling site's computer system to run our tournament. Cindy and Cyndi sure had fun with that! The new staff members were awesome and it will be a pleasure to work with them in future years. Save the date for next year's event, August 10-12th.

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!

For results of this tournament or the full schedule, head over to the SIR Bowling webpage:

SIR BOWLING

See you on the lanes,

Ray Di Basilio



FROM RICK:

Here are the results for our local SIR members who attended the SIR State Bowling tournament in Reno last month;

Singles 167 +—Branch 136-Bob Thomas placed 18th. Dave Rossi and I were further down the list. Mike Coe from branch 77 placed 2nd

167 and below-Gene Mendenhall from branch 77 placed 33 while our fellow 136 members, Jim Lucia, Tom Perry. Bryan Sinkler, Ray Garcia were further down. Lilian Thomas, Cherly Perry, Sandy Lucia and Elaine Simmons bowled in all three events. Elaine even won a bracket as well as placing in all events. Now here's the good news;

FIRST PLACE- TEAMS—Branch 136- The Team of Bob Thomas, Dave Rossi, Bruce Peteson and Mario Deharo.

SECOND PLACE from branch 77-the team of Mike Coe, Gene Mendenhall, John Braseco and Chuck Garber.

The SIR Winter bowling league starts on Monday September 8th. If you want to join in on the fun all you need to do is show up at noon at Black oak Casino on the 8th or contact me at 408-318-4826. You can also email me at bronnerrick@gmail.com. It's only \$20 a week. So come on out and have some fun!

. 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

I recently attended two car shows, the first at the music in the park event at West Side Memorial Park in Tuolumne City, the second at the Street Heat Car Show in Copperopolis. The Tuolumne event had the band Spinout playing classic songs from the 50's and 60's. There was a good turnout of classic hot rods and cars on display including several from the Mother Lode Antique Automobile Club. The Copperopolis show also had live music playing in the town square. I ran into some of our fellow SIR members there as well. Both events had a very diverse collection of cars from hot rods to supercars. As far as I know the next event will be the annual car show hosted by the Yosemite Corvette club on Sunday October 12th at Henderson Park in Snelling. Hope to see you all there.

Oh, If you read this in time, there will be a car show along with a chili cookoff and live music in Tuolumne on Sunday Sept. 7th. (see flyer pg. 13)

Rick Bronner



The Rooster Crows!

The Scoop from the Coop

September 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

Roy Hodgkinson B146
Parliamentarian

CORRECTION

At the Annual Meeting I showed the recipients of the **President's Award**. By mistake, I attributed the handling of 450 golf tournaments to the wrong person. The right person is **Gary Bradley**. Sorry Gary and thank you Rob.



2025 Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was last month. For me, it was my second as President. It was wonderful to see around 130 of our SIR leaders at the meeting. We covered a lot of ground. Here's a summary:

The 2026 State Officers were elected. We have a terrific incoming leadership group and we can expect that 2026 will be an outstanding year. Wes Howard volunteered to fill the open AR spot on the Board and will be appointed shortly.

Derek Southern received a President's Award for his work with AI as well as his tireless service for SIR both State and Branch 8.

We voted to remove the geographic restrictions in our By-laws so we can now have branches anywhere in California. We also voted to delete the term "retired" from our Articles of Incorporation to ensure that one need not be retired to join or be a member of SIR.

We had several talks from our State leaders during the morning session reporting on the state of SIR and a few of the many accomplishments achieved this year. In addition, Carl reported on our financial position, which is in good shape.

After lunch, we had two separate breakout sessions. Fred held a session with the Area Representatives and interested members in which they discussed many issues impacting our Area Representatives. The other session involved comments from three past Presidents and myself. That session addressed marketing to younger men, training, getting leaders to step forward, suggestions relative to finding speakers and finally a clear acknowledgment that those in attendance are the leaders of SIR in the future and an expression of appreciation for their service.

Note: Proceedings from the meeting will be posted on the State website.



2026 State Officers

Pres: Fred Serena
VP: Nick Feimer
Sec: Jeff Chin
Treas: Carl Mason
CIO: Ramesh Thadani
D Doc: Bruce Corwin
D Br Sup: John Farcich
D Mktg: Neil Wheeler
D Act: Michael Lee
AR: Jerry Morrow
AR: Carl Dawson
[AR: Wes Howard*]

*To be appointed.

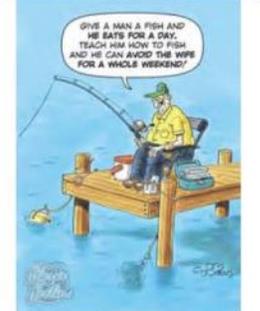
President's Award
Derek Southern



"Sorry. Casting when it's windy isn't one of my strong points."

FISHING is our newest State activity!

Interested, see Brion Beetz - Br. 2





Vision for 2026



The Sir President and the Board have agreed that our Area Representative are a critical component to the success of the SIR organization. The Area Representatives are not just coaches for the branch. ARs now have more flexibility to assist our branches to meet their needs in the future.

I was asked where is SIR heading? The answer is forward. It is my goal to have the State Administration leaner by removing old policies and forms and adopting new important policies. Some of our new policies include a branch document retention policy and a new first aid and safety policy to increase protection of our branch members.

Branches are not islands. There are several methods we can use to get to know other area branches and establish mutual understanding of how other branches operate. How do we start:

- Invite other branch Big Sirs to your luncheon and BEC meetings
- Invite other branch members to your activities
- Read other branch monthly newsletters
- Find common ground with other leaders

I will continue to emphasize having a two-way communication with the branches. I will be asking our State Secretary to distribute the Board meeting agendas to all ARs and the meeting summaries to them as well. We will continue distributing The Rooster Crows! newsletter to all ARs and Big Sirs.

The success or failure of a branch should not be judged on the number of members. It should be judged on whether the branch is fulfilling our mission and vision of SIR.

Thank you.



- 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



Attracting and Retaining Baby Boomers in Clubs and Organizations (including SIR)

- Executive Summary**
The Baby Boomer generation is the largest and most diverse generation in the United States... (text continues)
- The Shifting Landscape of Club Membership**
1. Membership is Down and Declining... (text continues)
- Executive Summary**
The Baby Boomer generation has the largest number of members in the United States... (text continues)



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

WE Are SIR!





Rick's Car Show Pictures









I would like to thank the following people for all the help they provided to put on the annual picnic. Without their volunteering the functions would not be happening.

They are:

George Cocores, Stan Enos, Mel Kutsch, Gene Zanoni, Bill Guenza, Chuck Simons, John Salmon, Rick Bronner

And myself — Eddie Toews Chairman





If you sign up for the Cuba trip (see next page), you may see sights like this)



SIR Multi-Branch Travel

September 2025 - Newsletter

From: Glenn Breslin glennbreslin@gmail.com

GOOD NEWS !!!

New Trip Announced: Many SIRs have mentioned interest in going to **CUBA** on 3/12/26 for a 6-day tour.

Discount Expiring Soon: At this time, a **10% discount** available on these trips: Australia/New Zealand and Japan/Korea. This discount is expiring on 9/2.

Vietnam/Cambodia Trip Update: **Sold Out 13 SIRs are going.**

Please let Glenn Breslin know if you are interested. glennbreslin@gmail.com

Based upon both the SIR Multi-Branch travel questionnaire results and the related member interview input, these travel destinations have been chosen for future SIR Travel.

<u>Australia/New Zealand</u>	Cuba	Japan/Korea	Vietnam/Cambodia Sold Out – 14 SIRs Going
1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295-No Airfare/ \$7645-With Economy Airfare) Both Melbourne Pre -Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available Click this link for details Click Here Group code is G6-	3/12/26 to 3/18/26 (\$4611 with airfare already included) Immersion into culture and history Five-star lodging All meals but one included All tours included Click Here	4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495-No Airfare/ \$9095-With Economy Airfare) Hiroshima post-trip available Click this link for details Click Here Group code is G6- 30339	10/19/25 to 11/7/25 (\$3495-No Airfare/ \$4695-With Economy Airfare) Angor Wat Post- Trip Included available Click this link for details Click Here Group code is G5- 30339

Travel Quotes:

“A journey well shared is a journey well enjoyed.”

“A good friend listens to your adventures. Your best friend makes them with you.”

“There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with.”



SIR

WINTER BOWLING LEAGUE

BLACK OAK CASINO

STARTS MONDAY SEPT.8th

CHECK IN AT NOON

BOWLING AT 12:30pm

RSVP-- -Rick Bronner-408-318-4826

ALL SIR MEMBERS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANT

OTHERS ARE INVITED

\$20.00 PER WEEK

TUOLUMNE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS PRESENTS

HEAT STREET SHOWDOWN

- CHILI + BEAN
COOKOFF
- CAR SHOW
- CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT
- LIVE MUSIC
- SILENT AUCTION
- BEER AND WINE



SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
9AM - 3.00 PM

TUOLUMNE MEMORIAL HALL

FUNDING FOR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

REGISTER HERE



18375 FIR AVE.
TUOLUMNE CA 95379



209.352.6087



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:

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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
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