



SLO RAM BULLETIN

Retired Active Men, Inc.
San Luis Obispo

Website: <https://sloram.org>



BIG RAM BLEAT

Larry Price

It is nice to have warm sunny weather again. The rains so far have done a great job refilling the lakes and reservoirs. The Atascadero Lake is only about 6" below spill-over and should make it with the next good rain or two. My wife and I enjoy the 1.25 mile walk around the lake and it is great for building up my wife's stamina. This is a great time to see turtles basking in the sun on a couple of logs jutting out from the island on the south end of the lake. There are also always plenty of dogs walking their masters, but it is easy to see who is really in charge. Earlier this year Eric Brun did a nice presentation about Camp Atascadero that was centered around the lake and is one of the locations where the Buffalo Soldiers trained. The Charles Paddock Atascadero Zoo is another gem of the Atascadero Lake Park. You can see and hear the flamingos greet you as you walk past the zoo.

Ken Lann, our A/V guru has need to be away every 3rd Thursday going forward for an expected long time. Gordon Mullin and Hank Campbell are filling-in so far, but we want an additional back-up. The laptop, projector and training are provided. This is a great opportunity for a new member to get more involved with the RAM group. As an incentive, we are offering your coffee fee at only \$10 per week for the remainder of 2024.

In Memoriam

RAM member Larry Ottum passed away in February after a short hospital stay. Our RAM wellness overseer, Dr. Ed Benson has details on a service planned by the family.

March Luncheon

Thanks to RAM Member, Dr. Steve Hansen, for suggesting, coordinating, and introducing our March Luncheon Speaker Chad Wiebe of Oakstone Outfitters. The number of questions showed that it was a very interesting topic for members. Are you ready to go on a RAM activity - wild boar hunt?

Luncheon Attendance Policy:

- RSVP your attendance or regrets to the Luncheon email or call as early as possible...and definitely before the deadline.
- If you are bringing a guest, RSVP for them also.
- Advise if you and/or guest want a vegetarian meal.
- If you reserve and can't attend, you can call Terry Whitaker before noon on the Friday before.
- No shows...sorry but you still have to pay the luncheon fee as Madonna Inn charges the RAM group.

March Executive Committee Meeting

The officers and directors that make up the RAM Executive Meeting met just before the March Luncheon. RAM Activity Group leaders are also invited and welcome to attend.

Highlight of efforts:

- Website documents, such as job descriptions, that are out of date are being updated.
- We are soliciting a RAM Historian to shadow Bob Mott and glean the wonderful historical information that he has memorized or documented. This job also involves keeping a

running record of Coffee Cabinet Big Beans, Big RAMs, etc. Work is in progress to get some of these records up-to-date, then it will be easy to keep them current. If we back track a little and figure out the close number of Coffee Cabinet meetings we have had, then Steve Bennett won't have to continue mumbling a number...although I have enjoyed his solution to this issue.

- Please contact the Big or Little RAM if you have interest in becoming our RAM Historian.

Website

By the time the April RAM Bulletin hits the printer, we should have had a "website tour" by Dave Harris. Any follow-up recommendations are welcome.

Member Bios

A couple of bios have been added to the website, get yours in early before the posting price increases. This is a great way for members to get to know more about you and learn the interesting life stories of other members. This will typically be more info than in the "2 minute or less" guest introduction version but is still a short overview.

MARCH LUNCHEON

The monthly Luncheons are held in the Madonna Inn Garden Room. They are held on the third Tuesday of the month. Check in starts at 11:00am and **ends at 11:25am** so the check-in team can be seated before the meeting starts. The meeting is called to order at 11:30am, concluding at 1:00pm. SLO RAM Members and invited guests are welcome. **Luncheon cost is \$30 through 2024.**

The next Luncheon meeting will be on April 16th. The featured speaker will be Joan Burlingame. Joan will talk about *Exec to Vagabond: traveling across the USA with Mules for 2 years.*

COFFEE CABINET

Alan Henderson



Opportunities for Big Bean positions are available for next year. Each Big Bean has a stint of three months to conduct weekly Coffee Cabinet meetings. Starting in April and going through June, Ken Riener will serve as our Big Bean. Members are encouraged to volunteer as a Big Bean.

The Coffee Cabinet is held at the Madonna Inn in the Garden Room. Meetings are held every Thursday. They are called to order at 8:30am and adjourned at 9:30 am.

April Coffee Cabinet Programs

Views expressed by speakers are their own and an invitation to speak does not constitute an endorsement by the SLO RAM organization.

April 4, 2024 – Mark Lea, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner. Mark will share an *Update of SLO County Agriculture*.

April 11, 2024 – John Molinari, PhD. John will provide a *COVID Status Update*.

April 18, 2024 – Bob Mott, SLO RAM. Bob will discuss the *History of the Madonna Inn-Founders Program*.

April 25, 2024 – Jeff Clarin from Waste Connections. Jeff will discuss *Landfill, Waste Collection & Recycle Facility Info*.

May 2, 2024 – Ken Trigueiro, CEO & President, People's Self-Help Housing. Ken will discuss the work that his organization is doing.

HIKING GROUP

Russ Bik

The beginning of Spring brings us two great hikes. The first is on April 5th where we check in at the PG&E guard station south of Montana de Oro and hike down the coast



past an active blowhole and get close enough to see the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Reactor. Our second hike of the month on April 19th is equally unique. We combine a hike in Varian Ranch hosted by Mike Wright with an all-hands BBQ at his house. As always, **PLEASE LET RUSS rbik@me.com KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO TAKE A SCHEDULED HIKE.**

COMING HIKE DETAILS
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO AT WWW.RAMHIKES.ORG

Friday, April 5, 8:30 AM - We will meet in the Coon Creek parking lot and take an access road to the PG&E check-in station. From there we head West toward the coast and then South along a bluff right next to the ocean to Disney Point. We will stop at a giant blowhole formed by the collapse of part of the shoreline into the ocean. This is not a difficult hike. The elevation change is only 241 feet with a 5.1 mile .

Friday, April 19, 8:30 AM - We will meet at the parking lot of Varian Ranch and car-pool to Mike Wright's house which will serve as our trailhead. Details of the hike to be published by Mike. Contact Roger Eberhardt (reberhardt99@gmail.com) to sign up for the BBQ.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Bob Lever

The Committee did not meet in March; however, we're pleased to report that RAM membership for March increased from 141 to 146!

The latest Covid vaccine is now available. Some members have contracted Covid after attending one of our functions. Should you not feel well, please get tested and stay home.

We want to remind New Members to take advantage of all the activities RAMs has to offer: weekly Coffee Cabinet, monthly luncheons and numerous outside

activities. Our committee members are always available to answer questions or assist.

If you any questions, please contact your sponsor or any one of us.

Have a healthy Spring!

Bob Lever, Chair (213) 760-5512,
rblever@charter.net

Ernie Dossa (408) 892-3114,
Alan Henderson (805) 439-1720,
Phil Keys (805) 547-1715,
Ed Benson (805) 264-7852,
Carl Kleinman (818) 448-6075

HISTORY ROUNDTABLE
Erik Brun



*"Able Fox Five to Able Fox
I got a target, but Ya gotta
be patient."*

We will tackle
World War II

in our first meetings. Topics will include, but not be limited to:

- The Sitzkeig
- The Fall of France
- The Battle of Britain
- The War in Europe

- The War in Asia
- The Homefront
- The Marshall Plan

Join us at Camp Luis Obispo
 First Wednesday-Every Month
 Lunch (12:15-12:45)
 Roundtable (12:45-2:00)
 Mess Hall (Bldg 854)

Please RSVP to erikwak59@yahoo.com and put Roundtable in the subject line, so you will be added to the list for the Gate Guard. Lunch is \$10 "in cash".

CAMPING GROUP Gordon Mullin

We are a brand-new SLO RAM group.

Remember spending the day hiking or swimming and returning to camp, cooking dinner over an open fire and sharing stories or swapping lies till the fire dies? Let's do it again.



We are looking for RAM members who enjoy sleeping in a tent or, perhaps staying in your RV. The idea is simple. To start, we'll get together, pick one or more dates and campgrounds and away we go.

If this adventure tickles your interest, give the organizer, Gordon Mullin, a call. (805) 235-5098.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP Dave Harris



The Group met at the Los Osos Oaks State Preserve on March 14th. Photos from this outing are available for viewing on the new SLORAMPHOTOS.ORG website. If you are interested in

joining this group, contact Dave Harris at RAMwebmasterB2@gmail.com.

SLO RAM GOLF Nick Higgins



If you enjoy hitting and chasing golf balls, please join us at the Laguna Lake Golf Course on Wednesday mornings for a friendly round of golf. This 10-hole course is great for all skill levels. It's an easily walkable course or if you prefer, they have electric carts for rent.

Tee time is 8:30a. Please arrive a bit earlier to pay, check in and allow us to get organized. If you are a golf newbie or haven't golfed in a while that's okay. We just want to have a good time. See you there!

For more information contact Nick Higgins at 1-559-289-1586.

SLO RAM DAY TRIPS Hal Thilmoney



Rains held off long enough for 24 RAM's and wives to learn the ins and out of one of the largest family-owned farming and produce packing operations on the west coast. Following the tour, we had lunch at the Quarterdeck in Arroyo Grande. Check out the Day Trippers webpage for more pictures including a captivating PG&E tower repair operation that was underway during the tour.



SLO RAM TASTERS

Bill Sisler

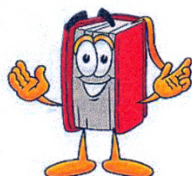


We meet monthly at either a winery or someone's house to taste wine and enjoy each other's company. Anyone interested in becoming a member of our group, contact Bill Sisler at wmsisler@yahoo.com.

Our next tasting will be April 4th at the Eberle Winery in Paso Robles.

Don't be spineless, join the THE BOOK CLUB

Bill Woodson



The SLO RAM Book Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2PM at Mt. Carmel Church, 1701 Fredericks Street, SLO. It is easy to get to: 101N Grand Avenue exit. go West on Grand toward Cal Poly, go under the freeway 1 block, U turn, right @ the driveway adjacent to the freeway. you are in.

We are having good books and reviews. It is interesting and therapeutic. We are very aware of the SLO RAM mission statement that insists on "for fun only". Inputs from participants are interesting being from different backgrounds. It is amazing to me what participants come up with.

April 23

"Path Lit by Lightning; The Life of Jim Thorpe" by David Maraniss, presented by Bob Zdenek. Thorpe, a Native American, may have been the greatest athlete the world has ever seen. He won Olympic gold medals only to have them taken away. He had many travails, but survived, complications and all. A good look at our first super-athlete.

May 28

"Touching the Void" by Joe Simpson & Simon Yates. Presented by our own mountain climber, Don Smilovitz. Joe Simpson and his climbing partner, Simon Yates, had just

reached the top of a 21K' peak in the Andes... and he broke his leg.

June 25

"Jesus and John Wayne" by Kristin Kobes Du Men. Presented by Bob Zdenek. An examination of perhaps the most influential subculture in USA.

July 23

"The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen R. Covey. Presented by Robert Hammond. Covey presents a holistic, integrated, principle-centered approach for solving personal and professional problems. USA Today: "Covey is the hottest self-improvement consultant to hit U.S. business since Dale Carnegie."

August 27

"A Woman of No Importance" by Sonia Parnell. Presented by Steve Rye. Virginia, a spy behind enemy lines, helped win WW2. The book was chosen by many different critics as "Best Book of the Year." An Amazon "Editors' Pick."

POKER GROUP

Ernie Dossa



The Poker Group is on a temporary hiatus. We will announce in the bulletin when we plan to start up again. Anyone interested in participating, give Ernie a call or email him at dossae33@gmail.com. Buy in is \$5.00 Nobody goes home rich, and losers still have their pants on when they leave.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Bross



I was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania on April 5th, 1939. I am a second generation of my family that immigrated from Slovakia. They were legal immigrants, and they were sponsored by family members that were already here. My parents

were the first generation born in this country. Both my father's and mother's parents were the immigrants, neither side could speak English. My great grandmother was my caretaker as the whole family worked for a living and were not available for daycare, so I learned Slovak at an early age. (I now speak Slovak and Spanish, but my native language is English).

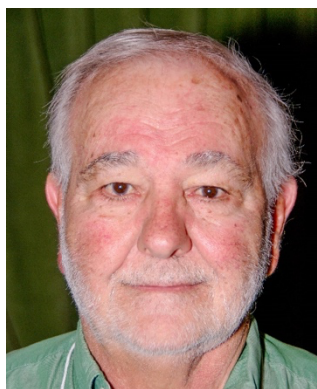
I began work as a caddy at the age of 11, processed up through other side jobs then I became a member of the 1957 Pennsylvania State Champion (undefeated) basketball team, and graduated in 1958. Wanting more education and not being able to afford college, I joined the Army in 1958 and went to Fort Bliss, Texas in El Paso where I spent 46 weeks in electronic training in the Nike Ajax and Hercules Missile fire control systems. Upon graduation my MOS was filled all around the country, so I extended my enlistment for 6 months more to attend a Nuclear Weapons school at Sandia Base located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There I also met my wife of 63 years Laurie.

My work history includes my military career and then 35 years with AT&T. Then I retired and went to work for Hope Farms winery as tasting room manager. Also during my work career I co-hosted an Outdoor Show in El Paso on KTSM Channel 9, it was called "Sun Country Outdoors" and wrote a weekly

column for the El Paso Herald Post entitled "Where It's At". Both were about hunting, fishing, and other outdoor adventures in the local region.

I love to golf, fish, and write. Unfortunately, rheumatoid arthritis has limited my ability to do the golf. My background has many areas of side interests, and they are too many to list here at this time. I would be happy to talk about them if anyone has an interest.

Len Domenic



I am retired engineer from the Aerospace Corporation, having moved to the Central Coast in 2006 from El Segundo, CA. Prior to retiring in 2019, I worked several years at Vandenberg Air Force Base, focusing on Space Launch and

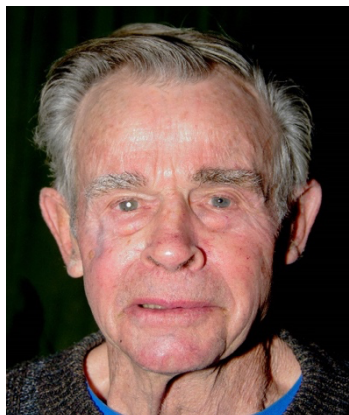
Range Safety. I currently make my home in Pismo Beach. Recently widowed from my wife of 54 years, I take enjoyment in watching my children and grandchildren succeed in life.

I have a long career working international programs for commercial industry. Concentrating on delivery of air traffic control and radar systems, I had the opportunity to live, work and travel in several countries, including Morocco, Japan, Thailand, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia to name a few. I have also lived and worked on the East Coast in the Washington-Baltimore area and in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

I am the first to admit that of all those places, nothing can match the Central Coast of California for a multi-faceted retirement lifestyle. We truly live in a unique part of the world. In retirement, I enjoy an active lifestyle having recently traveled to Turkey and Greece. I have been to Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico tracing the areas written about by my favorite author Louis L'Amour. I enjoy hiking, biking, and dog walking, and have the

distinction of having bicycled Route 66 at the age of 66.

Mark Lyon



I grew up in Buena Park, moving there in 1949. I was 5 years old. I attended Buena Park High school and graduated in 1962. Because I went to summer school I graduated early and went to college. After college I bought my

own dump truck, later added five more then became a demolition contractor. I demolished buildings, cleared citrus orchards, and cleared large tracts of land. I was married in 1970. I retired and moved to Monterey in 1994. I was 50. I love travel, bicycle riding and cruises. I have been doing woodwork for thirty years. I build high end furniture, cabinets and anything made of wood. I have a 1200 square foot workshop on my land.

Frank Mullin

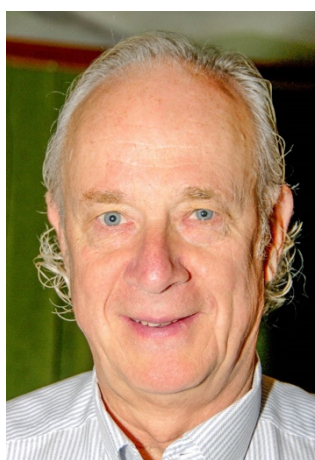


Lifelong resident of California. Majored in mathematics at Caltech and the University of Minnesota. First experience with computers in the late 50's and have been a computer nerd ever since. Worked on large software projects and

made extensive use of mathematical programs for solving problems at TRW. Have 4 children and 3 grandchildren (Portland Oregon, Long Beach, and New Hampshire). Moved to Pismo Beach in 1998 from Southern California and believe it was the best decision of my life. Became an active and avid member of the bike

club. Balance problems forced me onto a tricycle 15 years ago, which gained electric assist when I turned 80. My hobbies are biking, walking, reading, and solving math problems. I am an avid user of Project Euler which has published hundreds of problems that have been solved by over a million people in almost every country in the world. Am looking for RAM members to partner with for playing bridge or to collaborate with on solving Project Euler problems.

Charles Neumeyer



I moved to San Luis Obispo in 2020 after retirement from the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory where I served as Chief Engineer. My 40+ year career in advanced technology engineering and management was focused primarily on the development of

nuclear fusion energy. My wife Leslie is an artist who works in a variety of media. My interests include reading, hiking, biking, and swimming. We have a son living in Santa Cruz, CA, another in Aspen, CO, and a daughter living in Seattle, WA.

ARE YOU UP TO DATE?

If your contact info or other SLO RAM data or status has changed, let us know. Just click *CONTACT* on the SLO RAM website (<https://SLORAM.ORG>). You can also click *CONTACT* if you have a question about SLO RAM or any of its activities.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Last Name	First Name
Fieldhouse	Bill
Franklin	Andrew
Glidden	David
Hansen	Steve
Mullin	Frank
Plumb	Tim
Salamacha	Robert
Taff	Gary

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Yrs
Carl & Charlotte Berney	46
Robert & Merrily Frisz	21
Jerry & Julia Hartzell	56
Rich & Margaret Hendrickson	52
Raymond & Carol Michael	32

CALLER DIRECTORY

Terry Whittaker

A-B: David Werner 909-702-8787
C: Hal Thilmony 510-604-2025
D-F: Mike Dilallo 805-489-5172
G-I: Terry Whittaker 805-441-2829
J-L: David Werner 909-702-8787
M-O: David Prigge 805-773-3532
P-R: David Prigge 805-773-3532
S: Nick Higgins 559-289-1586
T-Z: Terry Whittaker 805-441-2829