



SLO RAM BULLETIN

Retired Active Men, Inc.
San Luis Obispo

Website: <https://sloram.org>



BIG RAM BLEAT

Larry Price

I have missed attending the last several Coffee Cabinets and the April RAM Luncheon due to my service at Diablo Canyon Power Plant in support of their 24th refueling outage for Unit 2. There are a lot of extra inspections and maintenance activities going on to support the plant's license extension which is presently in progress for consideration by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I am enjoying working with the Diablo team and the traveling outage workers from all over the country. I look forward to returning to RAM activities within the next couple of weeks.

April Luncheon

Thanks to John Knox for being the Big RAM at the April Luncheon. I heard that the presentation about travels with mules was well received and enjoyed by the RAM members. I understand that we are still having problems with reservations for the Luncheon. Several RAM members who had made reservations did not get the luncheon entrée but received a sandwich after some wait and no salad or desert. We are sorry that this happened and are working on a solution so that this does not continue to happen. The Madonna Inn plans and prepares for the luncheon based upon the reservation count received. When extra people above the reservation number are admitted, there aren't enough entrees for everyone. This puts the RAM Luncheon team in an awkward position. Ordering more luncheon plates than the number of reservations would increase the cost to RAMS and in turn, the individual luncheon cost. The Luncheon Team has worked hard to balance the luncheon count with the typical number of

“no-shows” to prevent or minimize extra meals.

Member Bios

It is great to see the new member “bios” being added to the website. Our RAM members have such interesting and varied backgrounds. Again, I encourage veterans of the RAM group to submit their own bio to Dave Harris (webmaster) for addition to the website.

Audio Visual Support

As previously mentioned in Bulletins and meetings, we need A/V support during periods that Ken Lann is unavailable. Near term need dates are: **May 9, May 16, May 23**

This is a great opportunity for some new members to step up and provide support to the RAM group. Please contact Ken Lann (KenLanno1@gmail.com) or Hank Campbell (hankcampbell@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer and to arrange for some training.

MAY 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 May 21st. The featured speaker will be our own Brad Parkinson. Brad will talk about *The First and Only Mechanical Test of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity – Seven Near Zeros*. Please make a reservation if you plan to attend.

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.

May 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.

May 2, 2024 – Ken Trigueiro, CEO & President at People's Self-Help. *Ken will discuss his organization and their programs.*

May 9, 2024 – Kyle & Jim Rizzoli. They will present on *Rizzoli's 2024 Racing Season*.

May 16, 2024 – Frank Bauer, Pro Sports Agent. Frank will discuss his *Experiences With Players, Contracts & More*.

May 23, 2024 – Worth Vogel, SLORAM Member and Commandant, US Navy (Ret.). Worth will present *True Stories From a RAM Who Served in Vietnam; Memorial to All Vets*.

May 30, 2024 – Stacey Ritter, Concussion Rehab Specialist. Stacey will present on *Seniors and Concussions*.

June 6, 2024 – Lisa McKinny, from the Girl Scouts. Lisa will talk with us about the Girl Scouts' *Current Programs & Updates*.

HIKING GROUP

Russ Bik



It is hard to convey the beauty of the trails in the Spring. We ended April with a hike through the foothills of Varian Ranch in the Edna Valley. Afterwards we celebrated Spring with a BBQ and an ode to Spring read by Brad Parkinson. Check out the pictures: <https://www.ramhikes.org/4-19-2024>.

Our first hike in May will be on SATURDAY 5/4/24 when we do Cerro Cabillo Ridge and Crespi Trails in Morro Bay State Park. Both A soft hike 3.7 miles long with a 583 foot elevation change. Not very much elevation change since it is in Morro Bay.

Our second hike in May will be FRIDAY 5/17-24 the Sycamore Springs to Ontario Ridge Trail overlooking Avila Beach. This is a great hike which leads over a 100 yard suspension bridge, past the Secret Garden, Yoga Dome, and Massage Parlors. Only 2.6 miles with a Soft Rating. 820 foot elevation change. Like a time machine to the 60's.

See our website at <https://www.ramhikes.org/> for details.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bob Lever

The Committee is pleased to report that RAM membership for April increased from 146 to 149! The next meeting of the committee is this month. The report will be in the next bulletin.

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!

Mess Hall (Bldg 854

Bob Lever, Chair (213) 760-5512,
rlever@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

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".

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)

CAMPING GROUP Gordon Mullin

We are a brand-new SLO RAM group.



We have scheduled a two-night stay on the Carissa Plains (California Valley) at Selby Campground. Note that this is a 'primitive' campground, i.e., no water but there are toilets. Dates are the nights of May 14 & 15 – returning on the 16th.

For more info, call Gordon Mullin at (805) 235-5098.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP Dave Harris



There is no outing planned for May as of this writing, but new photos will continue to be posted on SLOAMPHOTOS.ORG.

If you have any questions or 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 Thilmony

Our next group outing will be to the Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa on



Tuesday, Jun 11th at 10:30am. If you have never explored the property with a docent or if you would like to go again, let me know via email (hthilmon@yahoo.com). This outing is open to RAM's and their partners. A \$5 per person fee is payable at the Mission on the day of the tour. A group lunch following the tour is also being planned.



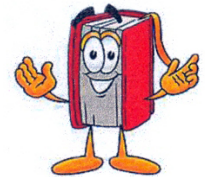
SLO RAM TASTERS

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 joining, contact Bill Sisler at wmsisler@yahoo.com.

Our next tasting will be May 2nd at Kelsey See Canyon Winery in San Luis Obispo.

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 what participants come up with.

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 critics as “Best Book of the Year.” An Amazon “Editors’ Pick.”

September 24

“The Immeasurable World - Journeys in Desert Places” by William Atkins.

Presented by Bob Zdenek. A rich and exquisitely written account of travels in eight deserts on five continents that evokes the timeless allure of these forbidding places.

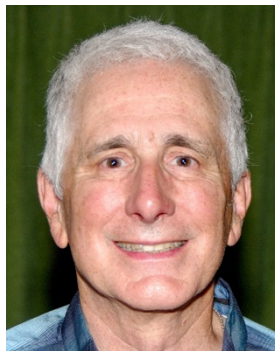
POKER GROUP
Ernie Dossa

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

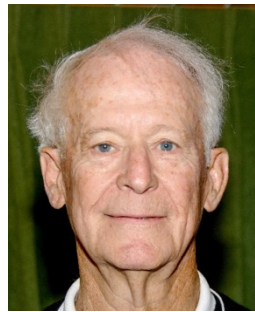
Joe DeMartini



Born in Stockton, CA and raised in Linden, a very small farming community, about 15 miles east. Received a BS Degree in Business from Cal Poly 1978. Retired from PG&E in 2013 after 35 years as the Senior Manager of Labor

Relations and Human Resources for our Electric Generation Business Unit. My office was at Diablo Canyon. My hobbies include fly fishing, upland bird and waterfowl hunting, cycling, dog training, hiking and pinochle. I have been married for 43 years to Elena DeMartini. We have one son, Gregory, who also resides in San Luis Obispo.

Marlin Vix



I was born in Oakland, CA on Feb. 21, 1945. My family moved to Corcoran, CA at the end of WW II, and my father became an industrial arts teacher and track coach at Corcoran High School. We moved in 1950 to Fallbrook, CA and

I went to elementary through high school there. I graduated from San Jose State and have a MS in Agriculture from Cal Poly.

After graduating from college my wife and I bounced around for about six years – always working but never satisfied with what we were doing. In a moment of clarity my wife and I decided in 1973 to go to Europe and the Middle East. We spent a year traveling 16,000 miles in a VW Camper that we bought in Hollywood and picked up at the Westphalia factory near Dortmund Germany. I went back to school in 1975 and was privileged to become a professor at Cal Poly in the Agribusiness Department from 1977–2014.

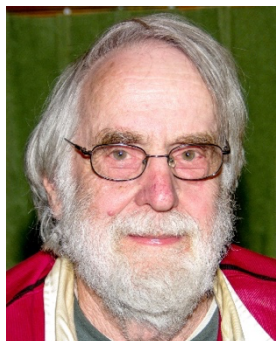
At thirty years of age, I decided to go back to school at Cal Poly to learn something that would be fulfilling and useful. As luck would have it there was an opening for a lecturer in the Agribusiness Department just as I finished my MS degree. That one-year Lectureship turned into a 37-year career at Cal Poly. Having the opportunity to teach was not something I had ever thought I would do, but I guess it was meant to be.

I started college as a music major, and lasted 4 days, but I have remained interested in music my whole life. I play piano (poorly), guitar (even more poorly) and sing (only solos in the shower if no one is at home) and if any of you heard me do any of these you will understand why my music education and career was a very brief one. I have played tennis most of my life and now play three times per week, but I do not play matches any longer. I take lessons, practice, and hit with a ball machine and have not played a match in the past 10 years.

Beside the year trip to Europe, my wife and family traveled for four months in the South Pacific and lived for four months in Florence Italy and four months in London. In addition, I spent about another year outside the United States traveling for one month at a time to Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru, and several trips back to Europe that seem to always end in Paris.

Without question, my greatest accomplishment is being happily married to Cindy for 55 years. She was an elementary school teacher in the San Luis Coast School District for many years. Our daughter is a lawyer for the National Labor Relations Board in San Francisco and our son is a commercial realtor also in San Francisco. They are both happily married, and our five grandchildren provide us with great joy and keep us young and smiling.

Dirk R. Walters



Born in 1942 I attended local public schools in Western Illinois near the Mississippi & Rock Rivers where I spent much of my free time exploring the local stretches. I was very active in the Boy Scouts. I attended Western Illinois University (BS in Ed) and

Indiana University (MS & PhD). I met my wife of 52 years while doing an Ecology Project in graduate school. I came to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the Fall of 1969 when I was hired to teach botany. I was there until I retired in 2010. During my time in California, I was an early participant of the Environmental Movement. Through most of the years I was active in the local Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Population Connection (formally ZPG). After growing up in the Midwest and coming to California I fell in love with the new experience of real hills and mountains. I spent much of my free time backpacking in the mountains, especially the Sierra Nevada.

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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Last Name	First Name
Adams	Dick
Ardman	Harvey
Boudreau	Michael
Branin	Barry
Equinoa	Richard
Flores	Jose Luis
Gilbert	John
Jensen	Mike
Knox	John
Ramsey	Larry
Whitney	Mike

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Yrs
Bennett, Steve & Joanne	15
Brown, Jeffrey & Carol	18
Busby, Cid & Denise	38
Christopher, David & Janis	51
Dilallo, Michael & Carol	39
Erickson, Larry & Shirley	28
Pottratz, Dick & Jeanie	63

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