



SLO RAM BULLETIN

Retired Active Men, Inc.
San Luis Obispo

Website: <https://sloram.org>



BIG RAM BLEAT

John Knox

Fox walks quietly.
Chicken roosts unknowingly.
Imagine what's next...

-Bill Sisler

Big RAM Spotlight:

Bill Woodson and the Book Club



Imagine what is next at The Book Club! It could depend on whether you are the chicken or the fox...

For 1st timers, The Book Club sits around a large table at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, with Bill Woodson presiding. The March discussion was *The Next Five Minutes*, by Dick Rutan. He flew *The Voyager* for a 1986 trip around the world, without refueling.

Several people, around the table, had not read the book, but enjoyed the lively discussion! Other people had notes spread out before them, each making his/her comments in turn.

I learned several interesting facts. The fuel tank held 1200 gallons. It was full when it left Edwards Air Force Base. When it returned, ten days later, there were 18 gallons of fuel (enough to fly up to Seattle).

The selection of books is 'eclectic', some serious, some easy, some deep, some delicate. Coming in August will be *The Ice Maiden*, the story of 500-year-old body of a girl, found frozen in the Andes, in 1995. It was a great story and will be a great discussion!

APRIL 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 will be \$30 in 2025.**

The next Luncheon meeting is on April 15th. The featured speaker will be **Brian Lawler**, Cal Poly Professor and graphics arts consultant. Brian will discuss *A Look at Burning Man*.

COFFEE CABINET

Alan Henderson



Big thanks to Steve Kennedy for a great job as the Big Bean the past three months. Opportunities are currently available for members to serve as Big Bean, including now through June. Each Big Bean conducts weekly Coffee Cabinet meetings over a period of three months.

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 3, 2025 – Larry Burke, SLORAM Member. Larry will cover part 2 of his presentation on the evolution of the modern automobile.

April 10, 2025 – Azarm Ghareman, PhD, Psychologist in SLO. Dr Ghareman will discuss *Phase of Live Issues*.

April 17, 2025 – Dawn Addis, California State Assembly Member. Dawn will present on *Current Legislation*.

April 24, 2025 – Michelle Haddad, from The Literacy Connection. Michelle will discuss the *SLO County Libraries Literacy Programs/needs*.

May 1, 2025 – Cindy Springfield, Director, Atascadero City Paddock Zoo. Dr. Springfield will discuss *Zoo Happenings*. Please note that this meeting of the Coffee Cabinet is designated as a “LADIES DAY”.

HIKING GROUP Russ Bik

On Friday, March 21, 2025, fifteen RAM Hikers climbed the Johnson Ranch trail just South of SLO. It was a slightly abbreviated 2.4-mile hike because the left half of the lower loop was closed by the Rangers due to mud. The parts we walked were fine. The scenery and weather were absolutely beautiful. The elevation change was only 240 feet and so this hike constituted a good hike for everyone to evaluate their fitness for the coming Spring season.



Our next hike on 4/4/25 to the KSBY TV tower West of Cuesta Grade will be a 5.9-mile hike with an elevation change of 985 feet. This places it solidly in the Hard category of the Bik hardness scale. We will follow that hike with a Soft 2.4-mile hike of the Felsman Loop in the Ferrini Open Space just West of SLO. This 4/18/25 hike has an elevation change of 560 feet.

The RAM Hikers encourage you to visit our website at <https://www.ramhikes.org>. There is a wealth of information there about planned hikes plus pictures and maps of all our hikes going back to 2022. You can contact the hike leader Russ Bik at rbik@me.com and get on our regular active hiker mailing list.

FRIENDSHIP REPORTS Dick Adams



The purpose of the Friendship Committee is to identify and extend friendship and best wishes to those RAM members who are unable to attend RAM activities because of sickness, injury or becoming severely impacted by other events.

Also, if a RAM member passes away, his spouse or partner will be extended friendship and best wishes.

A “RAM Friendship and Best Wishes” card will be circulated for signatures by all RAM members at a monthly RAM luncheon or weekly Coffee Cabinet meeting and forwarded to the member or family.

Please help us to identify those who should receive the "RAM Friendship Card".

Contact:

Dick Adams

619-302 4462

richardbadams@sbcglobal.net

WEB UPDATE

Dave Harris



A first draft of a website tutorial has been posted online using an AI generated voice. Let me know if you would like to see more of these. To see it,

click the Videos link from the top menu on SLO RAM.ORG.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bob Lever

Spring is off to a beautiful start. Hope you're enjoying it and are allergy-free. Not only has Spring brought flowers (and pollen), it's brought more new members...4. to be exact!

Speaking of new members, there is one requirement change the Committee made: attendance at **either** a Lunch **or** Coffee Cabinet (rather than both) qualifies one as a new member. Also, regarding new members, David Harris is looking for a RAM to assist with new member on-boarding...capturing information of perspective members' bios, pictures, etc. Anyone interested should contact David.

There's another gift Spring brings... Baseball!! As of now, on May 26th, June 1st or 29th we'll be meeting at Sinsheimer Stadium for a RAM's Blues Day for members and family. Senior tickets are \$6.00, food and drinks are available for purchase, and parking is free. Once we settle on a date, we'll report back with more specifics.

Bob Lever...rlever@charter.net

HISTORY ROUNDTABLE

Erik Brun / John Knox

Join us at Camp San Luis
Obispo, Second Wednesday-
Every Month:

Lunch (12:30-1:00)

Roundtable (1:00-2:00)

Mess Hall (Bldg 854)



Future Roundtables:

Apr. 9 – *Battle of the Bulge*

May 14 – *Okinawa & Iwo Jima*

June 11 - *Surrender*

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. The State of California has finally raised their lunch price, "UNDER \$12".

POKER GROUP

Ernie Dossa

The Poker Group is trying to revive itself ... We have 5 members, but we need a few more to allow for absentees. The next poker date is **Monday, April 14th**. If interested, call Ernie Dossa at 408-892-3114.



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 Navy Gordon Mullin



When winter leaves us, we'll plan again. Email Gordon Mullin at gordmullin@gmail.com

SLO RAM DAY TRIPS

Hal Thilmony

On April 1st, 20 RAMs and spouses toured the SLO Water Treatment plant and enjoyed a group lunch at Nucci's Pizza.



Plans for a tour of the SLO Repertory theatre have changed. In lieu of a tour of the current facility, the Managing Artistic Director of the

SLO Rep will speak at a Coffee Cabinet meeting in June on the Past, Present and Future of Repertory theatre here in SLO. We have also been teased with an early access "Hard Hat" tour of their new facility once it's under construction in 2026.

Our next scheduled outing will be an educational tour at the Luffa (Sponge) Farm in Nipomo. The date is May 23. Send an email (hthilmon@yahoo.com) if you are interested and would like additional details.

SLO RAM TASTERS

Bill Sisler



On March 6th, we met at the home of Brad Parkinson to taste a number of purchased wines. Brad provided the perfect tasting venue in his pub. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. We auctioned off some extra wines to raise money for the group. We also enjoyed samples of cheeses and bread.

The next tasting will be held on April 3rd at 2PM at a tasting room in SLO called Region SLO. They feature different wineries each month and April features Tablas Creek Winery.

The purpose of the group is strictly social with an opportunity to taste some fine wine and try different cheeses.

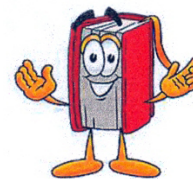
Anyone interested in joining our group, please contact Bill Sisler.

Don't be spineless, join the THE BOOK CLUB

Bill Woodson

Your weekend should be fully booked. The SLORAM 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.



April 22

“**Lindbergh**” by A. Scott Berg. Presented by Ed Benson. A biography of Charles Augustus Lindbergh, who on May 31, 1927, landed in Paris from New York—completing the first solo transatlantic flight. A New York Times notable book.

May 27

“**WAR**” by Bob Woodward. Presented by Steve Rye. Woodward tells his revelatory, behind-the-scenes story of three wars—Ukraine, the Middle East, and the struggle for the American Presidency. Instant #1 New York Times Best Seller

June 24

“**The Russo-Ukrainian War**” by Serhii Plokhy. Presented by Bob Zdenek. Plokhy, a leading historian of Ukraine and the Cold War, offers a definitive account of this conflict and possible consequences. This timely book is very interesting & informative in light of near future world politics - whatever they may be. 4.3 on Goodreads.

July 22

“**Carson, The Magnificent**” by Bill Zehme. Presented by Larry Burke. Enjoy this walk down memory lane. Plenty of insights into what made Johnny tick. An Amazon Editor’s pick.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Phil Brennan



Where were you born/raised?

Born in Jersey City, NJ. Moved to California at age 3 and have lived here ever since, primarily in Sunnyvale.

Education

BSEE Cal Poly ‘85
MBA Golden Gate University ‘95.

Career

- Engineer and Operation Mgmt
- Regional Sales
- Semiconductors, RF/Microwave

How did you end up on the Central Coast?

My wife and I chose to retire here. We both know the area and have family here also.

Hobbies / Interests

Golf, RC aircraft, 3d printing, CAD design.

Notable accomplishments

Will be married 40 years this October.
Raised 2 good kids.

Family

Have lots of friends
Wife is Sylvia.
Two daughters: Danielle and Justine

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
Allen, Andy & Debbie	41
Berney, Carl & Charlotte	47
Frisz, Robert & Merrily	22
Hartzell, Jerry & Julia	57
Hendrickson, Rich & Margaret	53
Michael, Raymond & Carol	33

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://SLO RAM.ORG>). You can also click *CONTACT* if you have a question about SLO RAM or any of its activities.

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:	Hal Thilmony	510-604-2025