



SLORAM Bulletin

Retired Active Men San Luis Obispo

Website: <https://sloram.org>



BIG RAM BLEAT

Carl Kleinman

We had an amazing turnout for our March luncheon, which was not only “Ladies’ Day” but also fell on St. Patrick’s Day! We had 75 attendees that day, including 20 spouses and significant others. The program included good doses of Irish humor, poetry, a sing-along, and an enjoyable talk about the SLO Botanical Gardens.

At a March Coffee Cabinet meeting, we presented our “Unofficial Proclamation” (just for the fun of it) designating March 20th as “SLO RAM Founders Day” in recognition of the original thirteen RAM members who joined on that date in 1990! **The text of the proclamation follows on page two.**

The “New Member Table” that we launched last month at the Coffee Cabinet has been a resounding success! It’s also for first-time visitors and existing RAM members. So please join us at the table and help in welcoming both new and potential new members.

Time to jump into our Time Machine once again and take a fun glimpse at our RAM “Vault” of monthly bulletins...

- In the May 1992 RAM Bulletin, John Madonna talked about year 1961 when the Inn served its first dinner in the still-unfinished main building. Unfortunately, the City Inspector refused to approve the famous waterfall in the men’s restroom! “We practically had a big fight”, Madonna said, as the Inspector said that the contraption, which relies on a rather unique method of breaking the beam of an electric eye, would never work. “I was ready to tell him to get the #%@! out of

here. Finally, I said, ‘Let’s work out a deal. If it doesn’t work, I’ll take it out after the party’. He said, ‘it’ll never work’, but it did and still does!” The article went on to say that:

“Probably no men’s restroom in the world has been seen by as many women as this one. Women hurry in with their cameras for a glimpse of this legendary waterfall. The trash can beside it often contains more flashbulbs than paper towels!”

Sixty-five years later, the crazy contraption is still working...sans the collection of used flashbulbs!

- Many years ago, the RAM Bulletin referred to the Coffee Cabinet as “The World’s Largest Coffee Group Meeting Regularly in the World’s Nicest Place – the Madonna Inn”. The RAMS applied to the Guinness Book of World Records for recognition of this unique event. However, Guinness declined, leaving the Coffee Cabinet with the distinction of being “The World’s Largest Coffee Group Meeting Regularly in the World’s Nicest Place – the Madonna Inn – that is NOT in the Guinness Book of World Records”.

So, while there’s no denying that much has changed over the years, it’s apparent that, based on the RAM Vault, some things remain the same!

I’ll be back next month with something more to say...I just have no idea yet what it will be! Stay tuned!

**Carl's Unofficial Proclamation
Based on an Unsubstantiated Rumor
of an Unconfirmed Event
Supposedly Occurring Possibly
Thirty-Six Years Ago!**

**UNOFFICIAL PROCLAMATION
Declaring March 20th as SLO RAM
“Founders’ Day” (aka “The Day the SLO
RAMs Escaped the House”)**

WHEREAS, on the historic date of the twentieth day of March, in the year one thousand nine hundred ninety, thirteen brave men in SLO looked at their honey-do lists, looked at each other, and collectively said “Not today, Dear”; and

WHEREAS, these same thirteen legendary men realized that if they stayed home one more Tuesday or Thursday, they would be forced to reorganize the Tupperware drawer or, heaven forbid, “Talk about their feelings”; and

WHEREAS, these same original thirteen Founders staged the greatest getaway in SLO history, establishing the Retired Active Men’s organization (SLO RAMs), proving once and for all that “Active” is a relative term that can include both hiking a trail and reaching for the extra pie on the table at the monthly luncheon; and

WHEREAS, the RAMs has provided a safe haven for guys to discuss the “good old days” when music was better, cars were made of real steel, and you could buy a house for a nickel and a firm handshake; and

WHEREAS, it has been scientifically proven that when the RAMs gather, the local humidity drops by 20% due to the sheer volume and hot air from “back in my day” stories circulating in the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, it is only right that we honor the thirteen legends who realized that retirement is far too important to be spend actually resting; and

WHEREAS, the RAMs continue to uphold the highest standards of punctuality (arriving early), flexibility (staying late), and accuracy (remembering stories exactly as they prefer them to have happened); and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the original thirteen members and their enduring commitment to camaraderie, community, and expertly doing a little bit of everything – and a whole lot of nothing!;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, the BIG RAM for year two thousand twenty-six, do hereby UNOFFICIALLY proclaim the twentieth day of March as:

“SLO RAM FOUNDERS DAY”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on this day:
Socks with sandals are not only encouraged but considered the Official Uniform of the RAMs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (because we have the time) that no alarm clocks shall be set, no schedules strictly followed, and no desserts declined:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this proclamation is hereby issued on (more or less) this 20th day of March 2026 (or whenever everyone agrees on the date, give or take a day!)

Carl Kleinman

Big RAM

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 in 2026 is the same as it was last year - \$30 per member.**

The next Luncheon meeting is on **April 21st**. The program for the Luncheon this month is **“Table Talk”**. There have been suggestions from quite a few members that you would like more time to talk and get to better know each other, so the Program Committee is setting up this Luncheon to promote that.

The meal selection for lunch is Chicken Parmesan, Au Gratin Potatoes, and Apple Cobbler. The vegetarian selection will be Gluten-Free Ravioli.

COFFEE CABINET Larry Burke, Chair



Opportunities are available for members to serve as Big Bean. Each Big Bean conducts weekly Coffee Cabinet meetings over a period of three months. **Steve Kennedy has now assumed the role of Big Bean for April through June. Thanks, Steve!**

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 2, 2026 – Bill Woodson, awesome SLO RAM member. Bill will regale us with *The Electrification of Bill Woodson*.

April 9, 2026 – Josh Daniel, SLO Fire Marshall. Josh will discuss *Current Concerns*.

April 16, 2026 – Janine Stillman, *Glass Artist Extraordinaire*. Janine will discuss *Botany and Blown Glass Art – How it is done*.

April 23, 2026 – TBD.

April 30, 2026 – Terry Handy, Docent at the Dana Adobe & Cultural Center. Terry will discuss the *Migrant Mother Photo & Dana Adobe*.

May 7, 2026 – Morgan Edmunson, Project Manager, SLO Cultural Arts. Morgan will discuss the *Cultural Arts District Parking Structure*.

HIKING GROUP Russ Bik



March experienced some pretty warm days requiring that we postpone our trip to the Cal Poly Architecture Graveyard to Friday, April 3rd. But before that happened, we hiked the Panorama Trail west of Cuesta Grade on March 6th as shown below.



A picture from the coming Poly hike will be in next month's issue. The Poly hike is not our only planned hike in April. Just in case it gets warm again, our second planned hike in April will be along the coast. It will be the Cambria Bluff Trail on Friday, April 17th. This will be a 5.1-mile trip. The elevation change is only 440 feet, but the trail rises and falls which gives it a 1185-foot UP waypoint total, which, in turn, places it in the Medium hardness category. A

picture of the trail from a previous hike is shown below.



For more information on all or hikes including parking, maps, photographs, visit our website at <https://www.ramhikes.org/>. You can also contact the hike leader at rbik@me.com.

FRIENDSHIP REPORTS

**Dick Adams, Co-Chair,
Ken Riener, Co-Chair**



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

by other events. Also, if a SLORAM member passes away, his spouse or partner will be extended friendship and best wishes.

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

Please help us identify others who should receive the "SLORAM Friendship Card".

Contact:

Dick Adams, 619-302 4462,
richardbadams@sbcglobal.net or,
Ken Riener,
ken.riener@gmail.com

SLORAM 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.

SLORAM DAY TRIPS

Hal Thilmoney

A horseshoe-shaped outcropping called Painted Rock in Carrizo Plain is the destination for our next RAM outing. The guided tour begins at the Goodwin Education Center about 70 miles from San Luis Obispo on Saturday, April 11. After check-in (at 10:45am) we caravan a short distance toward Painted Rock and then hike approximately 3/4 mile to the sandstone formation where ancient pictographs were created by indigenous tribes. Enroute to Painted Rock we may be fortunate enough to enjoy some of the last remaining

wildflowers that are prevalent each Spring across Carrizo Plain.



The guided tour will take about 1.5 to 2 hours. Two spots are still available. I'm also arranging carpools to reduce the number of vehicles. Contact me at hthilmon@yahoo.com if you would like to participate or if have any questions.

SLORAM TASTERS

Bill Sisler



On March 5th, we met at the home of Greg Horne and tasted 6 wines (3 white and 3 red). We also served cheese and bread. It was a beautiful day, and everyone

enjoyed the event.

On April 2nd, we will meet at Turley Winery in Templeton. We will be tasting a variety of their wines. Each year we taste at both wineries and at one of our members' homes.

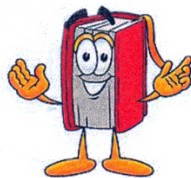
If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Bill Sisler.

Don't be spineless, join

THE BOOK CLUB

Bill Woodson

The SLORAM Book Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2PM at Mt. Carmel Church, 1701 Fredericks Street, SLO. Books reviewed by the Club are read & recommended by Members. The books always elicit observations and critiques that are



interesting & informative. The Club discussion has a round-the-table format.

April 28

“Wedemeyer Reports” by Albert C.

Wedemeyer. Presented by Russ Bik. A first-hand objective dispassionate examination of World War II, postwar policies, and grand strategy by 4-star General Wedemeyer.

May 26

“A Fever in the Heartland” by Timothy

Egan. Presented by Bob Zdenek. It's the roaring 20's. It is also the height of the Ku Klux Klan influence in America's heartland set into motion by D.C. Stephenson, Grand Dragon. Judges, prosecutors, ministers, governors and senators all proudly claimed membership. The author, a Pulitzer Prize winner, gives us a very interesting saga of how a predatory con man became one of the most powerful people in 1920s America, with a plan to rule the country—and how a grisly murder of a woman brought him down.

June 23

“The First American” by H. W. Brands.

Presented by Bill Woodson. USA's 250th anniversary is here. Get in the mood by reading a great biography of Benjamin Franklin. It was a Pulitzer Prize Finalist. Franklin was something else. Here are some of the hats he wore simultaneously: journalist, father, inventor, provocateur, moralist, ladies' man, diplomat, propagandist, revolutionary, tinkerer and humorist. The author brings to life one of the most delightful, bawdy, brilliant, original, and important figures in American history.

July 28

“The Fish That Ate the Whale” by Rich

Cohen. Presented by Bernie Troy. The fascinating untold tale of Samuel Zemurray, the self-made banana mogul who went from penniless roadside banana peddler to kingmaker and capitalist revolutionary. A Best Book of the Year by San Francisco Chronicle and The Times-Picayune.

August 25

“Becoming Earth, How the Planet came to Life” by Ferris Jabr. Presented by Bob Zdenek. A journey through the hidden workings of our planetary symphony—its players, its instruments, and the music of life—and an invitation to reexamine our place in it.

SLORAM MEN’S LUNCH
Gordon Mullin

The next "It's Just Lunch Bunch" will meet on Monday April 13, noon at the Elks Club on Elks Lane in SLO.

We eat, we talk. That's it. Join us.

If you're coming, please email Gordon Mullin- gordmullin@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Greg Horne

Who was that guy?

The “table talk” that takes place before each Coffee Cabinet or Luncheon provides us with a great opportunity to meet some of our fellow RAMs and learn something new. But if you’re like me, the first thing you forget after the meeting tends to be the guy’s name, even if he’s wearing one of those spiffy name tags.

Fear not: help is at hand. The SLORAM.org website, recently updated by Webmaster Dave Harris to make it easier to navigate on mobile devices or desktops, includes a Photo Gallery, containing snapshots of most of our members. On your phone, click on “Menu” to access the list of RAM Documents. It’s already visible at the top of the screen on your computer. Then click on “Photo Gallery”, and there you are. Make sure you’re set to icon view rather than list view.

What a handsome set of fellows! If your picture is missing, or you want an update, track down our official Photographer, Ken Packer, and ask him to take one - he’ll be happy to oblige.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Last Name	First Name
Fieldhouse	Bill
Glidden	David
Hansen	Steve
Meek	Larry
Mullin	Frank
Plumb	Tim R
Taff	Gary

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Yrs
Allen, Andy & Debbie	42
Beaton, William & Carol	9
Berney, Carl & Charlotte	48
Bych, Kenneth & Carol	37
Frisz, Robert & Merrily	23
Hartzell, Jerry & Julia	58
Hendrickson, Rich & Margaret	54
Michael, Raymond & Carol	34

ARE YOU UP TO DATE?

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

CALLER DIRECTORY
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