



SLORAM Bulletin

Retired Active Men San Luis Obispo

Website: <https://sloram.org>



LITTLE RAM BLEAT

Craig Perry

Carl, the BIG (& Tall) RAM, is touring Europe with his bride. As the Little RAM (by only 8 or 9 inches) I'm writing the BLEAT this month.

We are an Active Group for sure: check out what we've been up to the past month...

On 5/1 the **Hiker's Group** hiked up to the "Serenity Swing" overlooking Poly Canyon. They continue to explore the Central Coast. Check out the Bulletin to, perhaps, join them on their next adventure.

On 5/7, the **Wine Tasters** enjoyed local wines at the Brecon Estate Winery in Paso Robles and raised a glass in memory of Jim Murphy. Check out the Bulletin for the next Tasting.

On 5/14, the RAMs celebrated **National BBQ Day** (5/16) at the weekly Coffee Cabinet (CC) meeting. RAM member Bill Fieldhouse, (retired engineer with CAL-TRANS) is a life-long caterer and BBQ Master; fun program! He had to go SOLO as his sidekick was "stuck" in Solvang (BS!! It was the Danish, Bill!). The best question he had was; "as a CAL-TRANS employee, did you use Roadkill at your BBQs?" We all had fun...!

It should be noted that May 2026 is Bill's 30th anniversary as a RAM. He was indentured (inducted) on 5/1/1996. We not only acknowledged Bill, but Bob Mott as well (36 years in the RAMs) who was in attendance. We had 2 of the 3 "earliest" RAMs at the same meeting...

At our monthly luncheon on 5/19, Larry Price introduced our speaker, Bobby Soto, an 8th

generation Californian and a member of the Atascadero Historical Society. His topic: Anza Life in Cambria & early California history. Great program!

RAM history was made on 5/21 at our weekly CC meeting. Not only did Brad Parkinson share a "darn good" Cowboy poem, but our featured speaker was his son, Ian Parkinson. Ian is our current Sheriff here in SLO county. The Sheriff noted that it was the first time he ever spoke publicly in front of his dad. It's also the first time the RAMs had a father & son **both** give presentations **at the same meeting**...how Kool is that!

On 5/23, Armed Forces Day, **RAM member** Worth Vogel (USN Lt. Cmdr. Ret) was the featured speaker at the Maritime Museum in Morro Bay. He spoke about his experiences in Viet Nam and life in the Navy. He is a living hero.

As you can see, we are having FUN while being ACTIVE! We live up to our name: Retired **ACTIVE** Men. If you can, come join us! Remember: just keep **MOVING!**

There are other activities you can join: the **Book Club, SLORAM Day Trips, Golf** and the **SLORAM "Just Lunch Bunch"**.

Read & keep a copy of the SLORAM Bulletin for more information about what's going on, where & when.

Carl the Tall and his BLEAT will return next month. See you soon...

Craig Perry
Lil RAM (I'm only 5-11)

JUNE 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. SLORAM Members and invited guests are welcome. **Luncheon cost in 2026 is the same as it was last year - \$30 per member (\$5 and \$10 bills appreciated).**

The next Luncheon meeting is on **June 16th**. The featured speaker will be **Susan Quionez**, RN, Compassionate Care. Susan will present *Understanding the "End of Life Option Act"*.

The entire selection for lunch is Thyme & Basil Chicken with Rice Pilaf and the vegetarian selection will be Three Cheese Tortellini with Pesto Sauce. Desert will be Lemon Coconut Cake.

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 been Big Bean since April and will finish his run at the end of June. His replacement starting in July will be . . . announced in next month's Bulletin!

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.

June Coffee Cabinet Programs

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

June 4, 2026 – Ivan Lapidus, retired Dentist/SLORAM Member. Ivan will inform

us on *Sleep Apnea*.

June 11, 2026 – Andrea Castillo, Cal Poly PAC PIO. Andrea will present a *Photo Tour of PAC "Behind the Scenes"*.

June 18, 2026 – James Tejani, Associate Professor, Cal Poly History Dept. Dr. Tejani will present on *Eucalyptus in California*.

June 25, 2026 – Dan Dow, SLO County District Attorney. He will discuss *"Current Events, with Q & A"*.

July 2, 2026 – Francine Errico, Author. Francine will tell the *True Story About Escape From German Occupation in WWII*.

HIKING GROUP

Russ Bik



May was an exciting month for the Hiking Group. On the 1st, we completed our first HARD hike since June of 2025 to the Serenity Swing overlooking Poly Canyon. Normally people reach the tree swing by starting out at Cal Poly. That route is not only long, but the last hundred yards are made genuinely treacherous by scaling a nearly sheer rock face. Fortunately, age and cleverness bested youth and audacity to pioneer a new approach starting at the base of Cuesta Grade. It was fabulously successful as can be seen in the picture below.



On May 15 we hiked our old friend Johnson Ranch pictured below. It was a SOFT hike of 3.3 miles with an elevation change of only 270 feet.



We have two great hikes planned for June. The first will be on Friday June 5th when we will circumnavigate Madonna Mountain. This is a really good hike in the Soft/Medium hardness category that just about anybody can do. It starts out hard but then settles into a fairly level route on a tree shaded path over bubbling streams around the mountain. Only 3.7 miles with an elevation change of 590 feet.

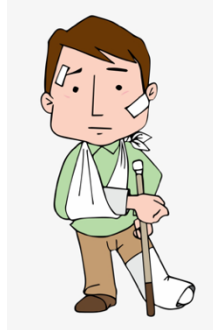
Our last hike for June on the 19th, will be, like the one to Serenity Swing, something we have never done before because the trail did not exist. The first 2.5 miles are now complete. It starts behind San Luis High School and heads up the mountain toward the old fire lookout overlooking the airport. Bik, Parkinson and Sisler scouted the trail on Friday, May 22nd. Total round trip distance is 5 miles with a 842 feet elevation change. Medium Hardness. Picture below of Bill Sisler communing with a bright yellow Yucca Plant. For more info on our hikes, visit our webpage at ramhikes.org or contact Russ Bik at rbik@me.com.



Something in Common

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, 805-458 7519
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 on Golf activities, contact Nick Higgins at 1-559-289-1586.

WEB UPDATE
Dave Harris



The Virtual Day Trips videos are back when you visit the Day Trips page or from the top menu. Also, a new Historical Videos folder has been added to the Documents page where you can watch virtual Coffee Cabinet meetings from the pandemic years when live meetings were banned.

SLORAM DAY TRIPS
Hal Thilmony

Our next outing will be a tour of the San Luis Obispo Water Resource Recovery Facility on June 23. This will round out our tours of the SLO utility companies. Over the last three years we have visited the Water Treatment Plant, the Material Recycling Center and the Kompogas Anerobic Digester where the contents of green cycling bins are processed into compost and fuel. This tour is nearly filled. Contact Hal at hthilmon@yahoo.com if interested in attending or if you would like to be added to the Day Tripper mailing list so you can get advance notice of future outings.

A new video was also added to the [Virtual Day Trips](#) web page. It is a short historical video highlighting the SLO Police and Fire Department during the years 1856 to 2006.

SLORAM TASTERS
Bill Sisler



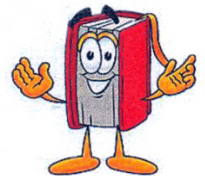
On May 7th, we gathered on the patio of Brecon Estate Winery in Paso Robles. The weather was great and we had a good turnout of members. We tasted a variety of wines, many of which were from grapes on the Estate. Our hostess, Sarah, took good care of us. We also gave a toast to one of our long term members, Jim Murphy, who had recently passed. RIP Jim.



Our next tasting will be at 2PM on June 4th at Chamisal Winery. They also have a very nice outdoor tasting area.

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.

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

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“Apple in China: The Capture of the World’s Greatest Company” by Patrick McGee. Presented by Phil Keys. As Apple presently struggles to get some of its chip manufacturing into USA, along comes this book that shows how Apple allowed itself to become dependent on China for a huge percentage of its manufacturing, making it vulnerable and unwittingly laying the groundwork for the Asian superpower to rival the USA in technological expertise.

August 25

“The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11” by Garrett M. Graff. Presented by Gary Taff. September will be the 25th anniversary of 9/11. This book can make the anniversary more poignant for all of us. The book is the first comprehensive oral history of September 11, 2001—a panoramic narrative woven from voices on the front lines of an unprecedented national trauma.

September 22

“A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles. Presented by Susan Heinemann. A novel about a man who is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel. The mega-bestseller with more than 2 million readers. A New York Times “Readers’ Choice: Best Books of the 21st Century” pick.

October 27

“The Dreamt Land: Chasing Water and Dust Across California” by Mark Arax. Presented by Bob Zdenek. The author is from a family of Central Valley farmers. He has watched the battles over water lurch from drought to flood and back again....and it is still going on. As Mark Twain said: Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting. An Amazon Editor’s pick.

JUST LUNCH BUNCH **Gordon Mullin**

It's the Just Lunch Bunch. Join us for lunch at the Elks Club in SLO on Wednesday, June 10 at noon. No speaker. No agenda.

If you have any trouble getting in, call Gordon Mullin (805) 235-5098. See you there.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE **Greg Horne**

RAM’s who attended the May luncheon or came to Coffee Cabinet later in the same week, will have heard that, after 5 years as Chairman of the Membership Committee, Bob Lever has handed over the baton to Greg Horne.

Bob took on the role of Membership Chairman at a particularly challenging time, as we were trying to come to terms with the strictures of COVID. In-person meetings were suspended as we went virtual. Membership dwindled. Once we returned to normalcy, Bob directed a recruiting blitz with spectacular results. Of our 168 active members today, 91 were inducted between 2022 and 2026.

Promotional activities initiated by Bob during this time included a SLORAM booth at the SLO Farmers’ Market, creation of new recruiting pamphlets and business cards, and announcements in social media and outlets such as the New Times. Bob arranged to produce SLORAM merchandise such as ball caps and shirts, as well as coordinated the creation of new name badges. In June 2025, Bob arranged a member trip to watch the SLO

Blues play the Santa Barbara Foresters, which was well-attended.

In his 15 years as a RAM, Bob has filled numerous roles in SLORAM with grace and skill, including Big Bean, Little Ram, Big Ram, and Director, leading to his receipt of the Paul V. Tuttle Meritorious Service Award for 2024. He is now taking a well-deserved rest from these involvements. We wish him the best - and many more fun-filled occasions with the RAM's!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ken Bych



Born/Raised:
I was born in Glen Cove, on Long Island, NY in 1955. I grew up in Syosset in a Catholic family of 5 kids. We always had love, support and the

necessities of life. After the blizzard of 1967, we moved to LA in 1969 and Dad worked at LAX. I went to high school in Woodland Hills. 4 out of 5 of my siblings graduated college. We all grew up traveling on TWA, with several cross-country drives taken as well.

Education:

B.S. Engineering Physics, UC Berkeley 1977

M.S. Nuclear Engineering, University of Washington 1981

Professional Engineer, State of California, Nuclear, 1984

Career:

I took a good paying job out of college with Schlumberger Well Services for 2 years. That worked out well, as I saved enough money and obtained a full ride from the Department of Energy to pay for my fusion research. But the allure of fusion was mitigated by the reality of the (at the time) unsolved physics challenges,

so I chose to work as an engineer in fission power and took a job at PG&E in 1981 to help start up Diablo Canyon (DCPP). I was employed in the SF Nuclear Office for 12 years and lived in the East Bay during that time (Oakland Hills & Walnut Creek).

I worked supporting DCPP for 40 years in many engineering and leadership roles, retiring in 2021 as the Nuclear Engineering Manager. We had many significant accomplishments as a team, and the plant was and is recognized as a very safe and well operated plant.

Reason to move to the Central Coast

My wife Carol and I moved to San Luis Obispo in 1993 with a one-year-old child and a second on the way. PG&E offered me a promotion to come to work at the Plant.

Hobbies/Interests

I have always had a love of recreating in the outdoors and playing sports: hiking, snow skiing, kayaking as well as baseball fan, college football fan (plus Niners). We love to travel and have made many memorable trips around the country and overseas as a family. They still love to join us when they can.

Notable Accomplishments

Personal highlights:

- I have visited all 7 continents
- I have snow skied over 750 thousand vertical feet in a season, and average above 500K per year in retirement (North Lake Tahoe).
- I went to the first Bill Graham presents: "Day on the Green" Concert in Oakland California in 1974.

Professional highlights:

- Recognized by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) for implementing the first US probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) computer tool for daily operator use in the control room; and for implementing a nuclear version of US airline maintenance model emphasizing predictive maintenance technologies and addressing prevention of likely failure modes (reliability centered maintenance)

- Chairman of the nuclear industry reliability effort for two years.
- Led the implementation of Aging Management Studies at DCPD for major component groups, conducted single point vulnerability studies across all plant systems and led many teams in analyzing and responding to equipment challenges using industry standard methods.
- Hired many of the existing engineering staff at DCPD.

Family

My wife Carol and I celebrated our 37th wedding anniversary in April. We love to travel and to visit our three adult kids and two grandkids. Our adult kids are successful professionals and have a supportive and great significant other in their lives.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Last Name	First Name
Bliss	Bob
Bross	Paul
Carter	Lark P
Clark	Glenn
Dignan	Bob
Ferguson	Danny
Frisz	Robert
Hazlett	Larry
Jorgensen	Jerren
Keys	Phil
Pettersen	Ted
Poe	Garry
Rye	Stephen
Sander	Charles
Trout	David
Whittaker	Terry

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Yrs
Alquist, Jim & Priscilla	43
Braas, John & Linda	44
Carleson, Bob & Judith	38
DeKleine, Arthur & Gloria	62
Eberhardt, Roger & Kathleen	60
Hockenbary, Warren & Joan	55
Hyduchak, John & Jean	68
Jensen, Mike & Teri	46
Kennedy, Steve & Carol	37
Knox, John & Jean	41
Lann, Ken & Ellen Morrison	50
Lebens, Frank & Sandy	61
Martindale, David & Joan	66
Mott, Bob & Beth	67
Newsom, Mike & Barbara	58
Plumb, Tim & Penny Sullivan	35
Riener, Ken & Judy	29
Whitney, Mike & Nancy	47
Woelfel, Roger & Eve	55

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

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: Terry Whittaker 805-441-2829
- P-R: John Knox 805-305-2632
- S: Nick Higgins 559-289-1586
- T-Z: Hal Thilmony 510-604-2025