



# SLO RAM Bulletin

## Retired Active Men San Luis Obispo

Website: <https://sloram.org>



### BIG RAM BLEAT

#### Carl Kleinman

I've been away the past month traveling, but it's great to be back and see all of the familiar smiling faces at the RAM meetings! I want to sincerely thank Craig Perry, our amazing Little RAM, for filling in for me while I was gone, including writing last month's Big Ram Bleat (as if he didn't already have enough on his plate as Chair of our Program Committee!).

One such Committee that has been very busy recently is the Membership Committee. Dave Harris, Greg Horne, and their fellow Committee members are leading an initiative to create a digital marketing plan to increase awareness of the RAMS. Please be sure to read Greg's column below about this great endeavor!

That reminds me of the amazing group of guys who work behind the scenes for the RAMS, keeping it vibrant and growing, and making sure that we have great programs for our members when they come to our meetings each and every week. It's definitely a team effort that should not be taken for granted. It's also a lot of fun, so don't hesitate to volunteer to get involved!

You guys had a brief break from the RAM "Vault" with me being away last month. So let's blow the dust off of it, and take another look inside at past "goings-ons"...

The April 1993 Bulletin had the following article on the new "KaffeeKlatschKlub" which later changed its name to the CoffeeClubbers (due to the unintended initials of the original name), and then eventually to the Coffee Cabinet:

"Four new SLO RAM members want to buy the first round of coffee for any of their constituents who would like to meet informally on a regular basis to "shoot the bull" and attempt to solve the world's problems. These momentous caucuses are planned to be held at the Madonna Inn coffee shop each Thursday from 8am to 9am. Continuation will then depend on the participation of our membership in the new SLO RAM KaffeeKlatschKlub. Madonna Inn management has promised to keep cups full to help lubricate the larynxes of RAM orators. The foursome who volunteered to buy all drinks at the first meeting included Don Morris and three other fellow RAMS."

Three months later, the July 1993 Bulletin said that:

"Six RAMS showed up to the first meeting to tell their versions of what is wrong with the world today and shoot the bull in general. Since that time, the group of regulars has grown to about twelve, and Madonna management says they may move the group from the coffee shop to the main dining room if it continues to expand."

And expand it did, to where forty-three years later our weekly attendance regularly exceeds 60 members...and we RAMS still haven't run out of things to talk about! But where or where can we find another volunteer to once again pick up the tab for everyone's drinks?

Thanks to the efforts of Bob Lever, many of you have already purchased our good-looking RAM hats and shirts. But did you know that the RAMS had shirts waaaay back in 1995? Per the May 1995 Bulletin:

“Shirts are now available featuring a ‘Retired Active Men’ logo on them. Choices include either a small logo above the pocket, a large logo on the back of the shirt, or both logos on the same shirt. The shirt can be either a t-shirt, a golf shirt, or a sweatshirt.”

If any member still has one of those shirts and wears it to a Coffee Cabinet meeting, coffee is on me! But for that member only...not for everyone!!!

I don’t know about you but, ever since I retired, I’ve had a hard time keeping track of what day of the week it is! I’ve found that one of the many benefits of attending Coffee Cabinet meetings is that at least I always know when it’s Thursday! Talk to you again in next month’s Bleat!

## JULY 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 **July 21<sup>st</sup>**. The featured speaker will be **Dr. Al Liddicoat**, Cal Poly Executive VP/Provost. He will present on *Leadership in Higher Education*.

The entre selection for lunch is Baked Honey-Cured Ham with Au Gratin Potatoes and the vegetarian selection will be Grilled Portabella Mushroom. Desert will be Peach Cobbler.

## 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 finished his run at the end of June. His replacement starting in July and serving through September will be **Greg Horne!** Big thanks to Greg for stepping up - again.

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.

## July Coffee Cabinet Programs

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

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

**July 9, 2026 – Christine Dawson**, from the Community Foundation–SLO. Christine will discuss *New and Current Programs at CF-SLO*.

**July 16, 2026 – Bear McGill**, from Honor Flight Central Coast. Bear will present *Flights for Veterans to Washington D.C.*

**July 23, 2026 – Greg Horne**, SLORAM Member. Greg will talk about *Rowing at Cambridge, 50 Years On*.

**July 30, 2026 – TBD.**

**August 6, 2026 – TBD.**

## HIKING GROUP Russ Bik



On June 5th we hiked 3.8 miles around Madonna Mountain (aka Cerro San Luis). It was a great hike with lots to see. Our photographer Barbara found a swing to use, and the trail is shaded most of the way. Most of the steepness on the hike occurs at the very start then it is smooth sailing.



There are bubbling streams, and you can see the granite quarry at the base of Bishop Peak which is the source of rock going into slide repairs on Hwy 1. We passed through a lemon grove watered by an active spring. It was the destination in the 1800's for folks riding up Carriage Road to picnic after church on Sunday.



Then on Friday June 19th (see below), we hiked the Bowden Ranch Trail for the first time. This is a new trail currently under construction that begins at the end of Lizzie Street across from French Hospital. It goes up the mountain behind SLO high school to reach the old Fire Watch Tower. This was a medium hardness hike with a distance of 5 miles.

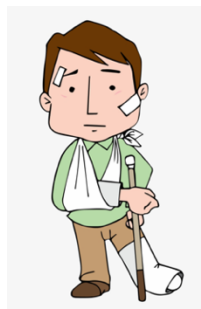


Our first hike in July will be on Friday the 3rd when we do the Panorama Trail west of Cuesta Grade. It is a SOFT hardness hike of 3.5 miles with an up waypoint total of 945 feet. It begins at the Old Stagecoach trailhead and proceeds west. We will see the hairpin track loop and pass through a tunnel under the tracks.

For more information on our hikes, visit <https://www.ramhikes.org/> or contact Russ Bik at [rbik@me.com](mailto: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](mailto:richardbadams@sbcglobal.net) or,  
Ken Riener, 805-458 7519  
[ken.riener@gmail.com](mailto: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



We will be transitioning to a new hosting service for [SLORAM.ORG](http://SLORAM.ORG) later this summer, so things might get a little wonky during the switchover. We might even determine that changing platforms is the best way to go which would require a complete rebuild. This would be a good time to let us know what you would like to see changed, added, removed, re-organized, etc. You can use the Contact form or send an email to: [sloramb2@gmail.com](mailto:sloramb2@gmail.com).

## SLORAM DAY TRIPS

Hal Thilmony

On June 23rd, 20 hardy RAM's and their significant others participated in one of the most comprehensive tours we have ever taken. Last year the San Luis Obispo Water Resource Recovery Facility completed a 10-year upgrade transforming the WRRF into a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment and reuse facility. Among the technologies described during the 2-hour tour were the use of superfine ultrafiltration membranes, the expanded odor control and neutralization process and the ultraviolet disinfection process to replace chemical and carcinogenic by-products. The end result is a much cleaner effluent in support of recycled non-potable water as well as aquatic life in San Luis Obispo creek.



Following the tour, about half of our group met up at the SLO Public Market to enjoy a group lunch. For more pictures from this outing go to [Day Trips - SLORAM](#).

If you would like to be added to the Day Tripper email list, send a request to [hthilmon@yahoo.com](mailto:hthilmon@yahoo.com). Stay tuned for future RAM daytrip adventures in and around San Luis Obispo...

## **SLORAM TASTERS**

**Bill Sisler**



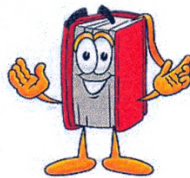
On June 4th, we met at Chamisal Winery on a beautiful afternoon. We tasted six wines and was assisted by our hostess Julie, who described each wine. They have a very nice outside area for tasting. We brought our own bread and cheese to complement the wine, and Steve Sicanoff brought a bag of chocolate biscotti to enjoy.



Our next tasting will be at 2PM on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the home of John Baillie and we will be tasting some purchased wine.

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.

July 28

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**“Apple in China: The Capture of the World’s Greatest Company”** by Patrick McGee. Presented by Phil Keys. If you enjoy books that combine business, technology, global politics and human drama, this is your book. It explores one of the most consequential relationships in modern business history: how Apple built its manufacturing empire in China and how that partnership reshaped both the company and the global economy. The book is also highly relevant to current events. Understanding Apple’s relationship with China provides insight into many of today’s headlines about technology, geopolitics, manufacturing, and international competition.

Named a best book of the year by The New York Times, and The New Yorker.

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.

November 24

**“The Fish That Ate the Whale”** by Rich Cohen. Presented by Bernie Troy. The fascinating untold tale of Samual Zemurray, the self-made banana mogul who went from penniless roadside banana peddler to kingmaker and capitalist revolutionary.

**JUST LUNCH BUNCH**  
**Gordon Mullin**

It's the Just Lunch Bunch. Join us for lunch at the Elks Club in SLO. No speaker. No agenda. There is no plan yet for a July lunch. Gordon will keep the usual attendees in the loop if a date is set.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Greg Horne**

The ranks of SLORAM continue to grow, with 10 new members having joined us already in 2026. At the same time, 6 members passed away or went inactive – this is an inevitable consequence of our demographics. The great news is that we have 173 active SLORAM members, with 5 additional prospects in our pipeline.

Based on the typical attendance we see at our luncheons and the Coffee Cabinet, compared with the capacity of the Madonna Inn Garden Room, there is no need for us to consider limiting the number of members at this time. So, it's full-speed-ahead for our efforts to get the word out and give more “old dudes” the opportunity to have fun with us!

The majority of our new members come from referrals from our existing membership, but we also find some new recruits through announcements in external media such as New Times, KCBX and Visit SLO, and we have a fledgling Facebook presence too. Your Membership Committee will be stepping up these outreach activities over the next few months. I'll report back in a future Bulletin on how this initiative is going.

These communication channels lead interested men to our SLORAM website, [www.sloram.org](http://www.sloram.org), which contains information on our organization, meetings, and activity groups. Dave Harris just posted a new video on the website with some great pictures telling our story. Check it out!

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Last Name	First Name
Allen	Andy
Barragar	Steve
Brun	Erik
Carleson	Bob
Clemm	Carl
DeKleine	Arthur
Dossae	Ernie
Falkenhagen	Bruce
Garrett	Duane
Lever	Bob
Lodder	Dieter
Miller	Charles (Tad)
Muller	Rob
Neumeyer	Charles
Packer	Ken
Renning	Jim
Riener	Ken
Zdenek	Bob

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

Name	Yrs
Bik, Russ & Darlene	46
Cain, Glenn & Kathryn	47
Dignan, Bob & Claudia	53
Emadzadeh, Abby & Linda	48
Ferguson, Danny & Jan	56
Miller, Tad & Patti	50
Peltzman, Edward & Gaye	61

## **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