



# SLORAM Bulletin

## Retired Active Men San Luis Obispo

Website: <https://sloram.org>



### BIG RAM BLEAT

Carl Kleinman

My fingers get “happy feet” the moment I sit down to prepare my monthly Big Ram Bleat! I always have so much to say (some important, often not, but hopefully usually fun!), but this month there are definitely several important RAM topics to discuss...

### OFFICER/DIRECTOR ELECTIONS:

- As Craig Perry becomes Big Ram and I transition to Director in 2027, here are the member nominations for the remaining Officers and Directors positions, with voting to take place in **October 2026**:

#### Officers:

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Little Ram          | Greg Horne      |
| Secretary           | Dave Harris     |
| Assistant Secretary | Jerry Hartzell  |
| Treasurer           | Rich Pescatore  |
| Asst. Treasurer     | Bill Fieldhouse |

#### Directors:

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Coffee Cabinet Chair    | Larry Burke |
| Membership Chair        | Greg Horne  |
| Program Chair (interim) | Craig Perry |

3 At Large Directors (4 Nominees)

Dick Adams  
John Knox  
Brad Parkinson  
Larry Price

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:

- The Executive Committee met prior to the August luncheon. While a complete copy of the minutes from the meeting is available on the RAM website, here is a brief summary of some key items:

- Electronic Voting:** Voting by members for 2027 Officers and Directors will occur in **October 2026**. This will be done **electronically** via a ballot to be available on the RAM website, rather than via paper ballots or email. More information will be shared once the procedures are in place.
- Attendance Policy:** To establish a clear policy, the Executive Committee decided that women continue to be welcome to attend the Holiday Gala, designated “Ladies’ Day” meetings, RAM-sponsored outings, and as speakers or guests of speakers. However, **attendance by women at Luncheons, Coffee Cabinets, or other meetings is permitted only under extenuating circumstances, and with the prior approval of the Big Ram.**
- Finances and Gala Tickets:** The RAMS are presently in a sound financial position, so the ticket price for the December 15<sup>th</sup> Holiday Gala will remain at \$25 per person.
- Gala Seating Capacity:** Due to concerns about overcrowding at the 2025 Holiday Gala, the number of tickets available for the 2026 Gala will be reduced from 135 back down to 116 (our limit prior to last year).

### MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD:

- The annual Paul V. Tuttle Meritorious Service Award is presented to a SLO RAM member in recognition of his leadership, dedication, and continued

support of our organization. All members, including past recipients, are eligible.

Please email your nominations and supporting reasons to Craig Perry by **September 30<sup>th</sup>**. The award will be presented at the December 15<sup>th</sup> Holiday Gala after the Executive Committee votes by secret ballot in October.

### **NOW FOR THE FUN STUFF...**

- Always on the lookout for ridiculous and useless stories contained in our RAM Bulletins Vault, but needing to keep it briefer than usual this month, I came across these ideas from previous RAM events that definitely should **never** be repeated:
  - **September 1993** – “Bob Mott led SLO RAM yodelers to new heights of vocal finery!” **It may be a lost art. But...nah...I don’t think so!**
  - **March 1994** – In connection with an historic train tour to Paso Robles, the RAMS planned to present a “three-minute all-male vintage fashion show to spark your imagination. Our models will be a select group right out of the pages of an 1894 catalog!” **Yikes...I can’t get that visual out of my head!**

I think that we should just stick with Larry Burke’s occasional Elvis impersonations and call it a day! And at this point I’m gonna call it a month and will talk with y’all next time. In the meanwhile, stay well and continue to have fun!

### **SEPTEMBER 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 **September 15<sup>th</sup>**. The featured speaker will be **Eric Brun**, Military Historian & SLORAM Member. Eric will discuss *Central Coast History, 1500’s to Today*.

The entire selection for lunch is Italian Lasagna with vegetables. The vegetarian selection will be Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce. Desert will be Chocolate Cream Pie.

### **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.

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.

### **September Coffee Cabinet Programs**

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

**September 3, 2026 – Michael Auriemma**, founder of BellaVia Food & Coffee in SLO Co. Michael will discuss the *Mediterranean Lifestyle and the Mediterranean Diet*.

**September 10, 2026 – Angela Gonzales**, from California Highway Patrol in SLO. She will discuss *CHP Developments*.

**September 17, 2026 – Carl Kleinman**, our very own Big (&Tall) RAM. Carl will lead us in a *Stroll Down SLORAM Memory Lane*.

**September 24, 2026 – Eric Brun,**  
Military Historian & SLORAM Member. Eric  
will discuss the *Naval Base in Morro Bay*.

## HIKING GROUP

**Russ Bik**

As you know, the Hiking Group has more than its share of Scientists and Engineers. Things like Planetary Alignment and strange hidden forces of physics (i.e. Coriolis Force) are taken into consideration when determining, for example, whether we hike clockwise or counterclockwise. Of course it is. We can't help ourselves. We are currently passing through a periodic realignment of the axis of the earth relative to the sun which affects our exposure to both its direct and indirect rays. As a result, we have been sticking close to the coast and will continue to do so through September. We will head inward from the coast starting in October.

On August 7th we hiked to Point Buchon in Montana de Oro and walked along the coast to view Diablo Canyon. The hike started in the Coon Creek Lot and covered 5.4 miles in a relaxing 3 hours. Diablo Canyon can be seen directly behind the hat of Ken wearing the backpack.



Our second hike (summit picture below) was on August 21st from Morro Bay to the top of Black Hill which is the second in the line of volcanic plugs beginning with Morro Rock and ending with Isley Hill. 2 hours; 3 miles; 550-foot elevation change finished off with a great lunch at the Bayside Cafe.



Our first hike in September will be on the 4th along the shore of Whale Rock Reservoir shown below in Cayucos. The highest and lowest elevations are only 57 feet apart, but there are lots of undulating elevation changes over its 4.3 miles. Not a hard hike with some good views.



The last September hike will be on the 18th, when we will hike along the Quarry Trail in the hills behind Cayucos shown below. Only 3.5 miles, but more difficult than Whale Rock. The views make it worthwhile. Both September hikes are in the Easy category. For more hike details and information on the hiking group visit [ramhikes.org](http://ramhikes.org) or email 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.

## SLORAM TASTERS Bill Sisler



On August 6th, we met on a beautiful day at the home of Rich Pescatore for our annual Beer and Brats. We tasted a number of beers from the Barrelhouse

Brewery in Paso Robles. Rich cooked the brats on his BBQ and we also enjoyed beans and salad.

Our next tasting will be on Thursday, September 3rd at Calcareous Winery in Paso Robles. We will be tasting a variety of their wines and enjoying cheeses and bread that we bring. Calcareous Winery has a beautiful hilltop location with wide views of the countryside.

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

## SLORAM DAY TRIPS Hal Thilmony

On August 11th, RAM Day Trippers and wives enjoyed an escorted tour of the recently rebranded Central Coast Zoo in Atascadero. Many thanks to Zoo Director Dr. Cynthia Stringfield for making this a special visit. After the zoo we gathered for a group lunch at the A-Town Diner.

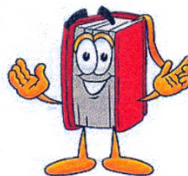
One of the following two images is legitimate. The other was creatively reimagined with the help of AI by our resident webmaster Dave Harris. For more actual photos go to [Day Trips - SLORAM](#)



**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 and maybe, controversial. The Club discussion has a round-the-table format. Presenters can



control the forum, usually by providing discussion questions beforehand. You learn a lot. Audio books count!

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 Samuel Zemurray, the self-made banana mogul who went from penniless roadside banana peddler to kingmaker and capitalist revolutionary.

NO BOOKCLUB MEETING IN DECEMBER

January 26

**“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.

February 23

**“1776”** by David McCullough. Presented by Russ Bik. Readers find this book to be a compelling and well-researched historical narrative that weaves together personal stories and events of 1776.

It reads like a novel with historical twists. Its thorough documentation makes it essential reading for Americans. Learn more about our nation's history and the individuals that risked so much. The author, David McCullough, has written several great books, including this one.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

**Greg Horne**

We have two main channels of communication by which we keep our SLORAM members up-to-date. This monthly Bulletin is emailed to all active members, as well as being provided in print form at the weekly Coffee Cabinet and the monthly luncheon. If you don't see the Bulletin in your email, check for it in your Junk folder. Mark it as "Not Junk" or move it to your Inbox. You can make sure that it gets to you in future by adding our Secretary, Gordon Mullin, to your Contacts.

The other main channel is our SLORAM website, [www.sloram.org](http://www.sloram.org), maintained by our Webmaster, Dave Harris. In addition to the latest Bulletin, posted on the Home page, there is a wealth of information that you can access through the menu: Activity Groups, Administration, Calendar and Documents. Today I'd like to highlight a couple of specific items on the Documents menu.

"Photo Gallery" contains photographs of almost all our active SLORAM members and is a great way to put a name to a face - or a face to a name. Choose the icon view to see all the photos arranged in alphabetical order. If your photo is missing, look for our resident photographer, Ken Packer, at your next meeting - he'll take your picture to add to the Gallery.

"Biographies" is where you can get to know more about your fellow RAMs, through their brief life histories. RAMs are an amazing bunch of guys, with such varied and fascinating backgrounds and life experiences! Right now, we only have Biographies for about half our members. If yours isn't included, please consider filling out the "Biography Form" that you will find on the Documents

menu; it's easy to do, and comes automatically to me and the Webmaster. We'll post it to the website, and if you're new to the organization, we'll also include it in the next Bulletin. Thank you!

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| Last Name   | First Name |
|-------------|------------|
| Bennett     | Stephen    |
| Bertozzi    | Dan Jr.    |
| Brennan     | Phil       |
| Christopher | David      |
| DeMartini   | Joe        |
| Diel        | Richard    |
| Grimes      | Joe        |
| Hammond     | Robert     |
| Hausman     | John       |
| Lann        | Ken        |
| Moudakis    | Pat        |
| Pedroni     | Paul       |
| Short       | Stan       |
| Woelfel     | Roger      |
| Wright      | Mike       |

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| Name                        | Yrs |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Cook, John & Nancy          | 56  |
| Goldman, Arft & Lorraine    | 39  |
| Higgins, Nick & Katy        | 51  |
| Lonsway, David & Sharon     | 63  |
| Miers, Jim & Sue Miers      | 31  |
| Neumeyer, Charles & Leslie  | 39  |
| Tarin, Don & Fiona          | 21  |
| Vix, Marlin & Cynthia Adams | 58  |

## 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 |