November 2026 BULLETIN 435

SLORAM Bulletin
Retired Active Men San Luis Obispo
Website: https://sloram.org

BIG RAM BLEAT
Carl Kleinman

I told my good buddy Ken Lann that I would try to keep my Bleats a wee bit shorter (no promises!), so here goes…

2027 Election Winners
Our October elections of 2027 Officers and Directors are officially in the books. Please join me in congratulating our newly elected leadership team:

Little Ram	Greg Horne
Secretary	Dave Harris
Assistant Secretary	Abby Emadzadeh
Treasurer	Rich Pescatore
Asst. Treasurer	Bill Fieldhouse
At-Large Director #3	Dick Adams

Tuttle Award Update
The Executive Committee has reviewed a stellar lineup of nominees and has chosen this year's Paul V. Tuttle Meritorioius Award recipient. Who won? My lips are sealed (even though it's killing me to do so!) until the big reveal at the December Holiday Gala.

Holiday Gala
Our popular Holiday Gala returns on December 15th! Ticket prices are $25 per person. You can download and print reservation forms from the RAM website or pick one up at upcoming RAM Luncheons and Coffee Cabinet meetings. Seating is strictly limited this year, so reserve your seats before they're gone.

Join Us: Executive Committee Meetings
I'd like to remind all RAM members they are welcome to attend the quarterly RAM Executive Committee meetings which take place prior to RAM Luncheons. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th at 9:30 AM at the Madonna Inn. We will be gathering in the space directly across from the bar (no…sorry…not at the bar!).

Bulletins from the RAM Vault:
Okay, I know that you've all been waiting patiently, for what must seem like forever, for this month's edition of fun history from the RAM Vault. So here it is:

- As he's done for a few years, Brad Parkinson will be holding his ever-popular haiku poetry contest, with the winners awarded at the Holiday Gala. On that note, I came across this fun item from the December 2002 Bulletin, in which the RAM Computer group presented six error messages written in the Japanese haiku poetry format:

  Stay the patient course.
  Of little worth is your ire.
  The network is down.

  Three things are certain:
  Death, taxes, and lost data.
  Guess which has occurred.

  Having been erased,
  The document you're seeking
  Must now be retyped.

  A crash reduces
  Your expensive computer
  To a simple stone.

  You step in the stream,
  But the water has moved on.
  This page is not here.

  Serious error.
  All shortcuts have disappeared.
  Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

- Did you know that the RAMS once had a monthly luncheon speaker gift called "Rammy"? According to the April 2006 Bulletin:



"Rammy", our new monthly lunch speaker gift, has been made exclusively for us by Mosser Glass and marked with the Mosser 'M' which certifies them. A limited quantity is available for purchase at only $20, a good price for collectible glass. More than 25% of our Rammy inventory was sold in the first week."

Here's my offer: If any RAM member still has a "Rammy" and brings it to a Coffee Cabinet meeting in November, his coffee that morning will be on me! (This offer is only good for the first member to do so!)

I've got to admit that writing the monthly Bleat has hands-down been my favorite part of serving as your Big Ram. Well…maybe it's actually the telling of jokes (sorry guys!) at the monthly luncheons, or working with our amazing activity groups, or serving on the Executive Committee, or getting to know so many more of you! I just hope you've had half as much fun reading these columns as I've had writing them! (Sorry once again, Ken!) So, let's meet again in next month's Bleat!

NOVEMBER 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 **November 17th**. The featured speaker will be **James Hill, Educator and Pastor**. His topic is "*Mississippi Miracle*".

The entre selection for lunch is Roast Turkey Breast with Whipped Potatoes. The vegetarian selection will be Gluten-Free Ravioli. Desert will be Pumpkin 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.

November Coffee Cabinet Programs

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

November 5, 2026 – Craig Perry, RAM Member. Craig will share his experience on a Kern River Safari (Whitewater Rafting).

November 12, 2026 – Peter Falzone, Executive Director of the Cal Poly Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Mr. Falzone will discuss *Current Programs to Help Students.*

November 19, 2026 – Roger Briggs, SLO Land Conservancy. Roger will discuss *Protecting Lands Forever.*

November 26, 2026 – Happy Thanksgiving! No meeting today.

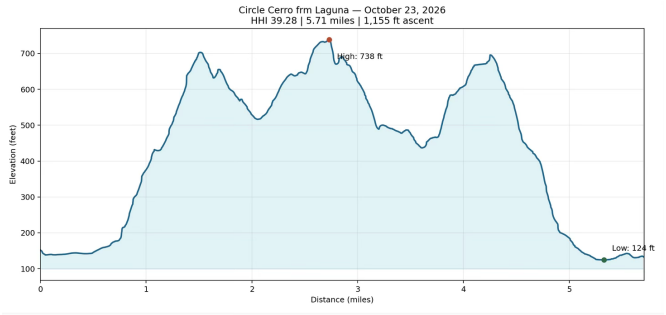
December 3, 2026 – Will Friedman, Harbor Master (Director) for Port San Luis. Will's topic will be *Current issues at Port San Luis.*

HIKING GROUP
Russ Bik

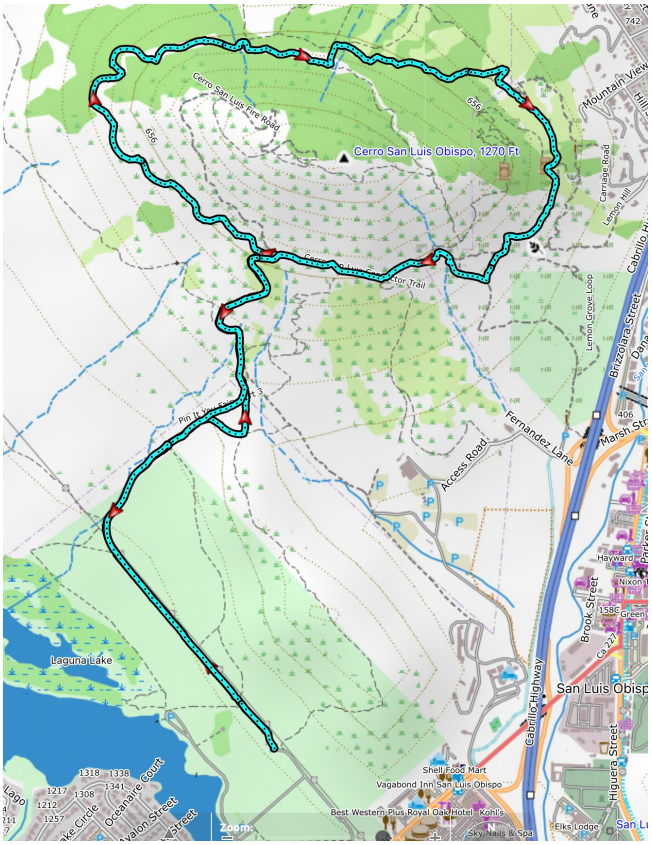
On Friday, October 23rd, we tested our limits with the most difficult trek of the year.



We circled Cerro San Luis (Madonna) starting at the Laguna Lake Park. The distance was 5.71 miles, but what added to the challenge was the cumulative climb of 1,155 feet. As can be seen in the elevation profile below, the trail goes up, down, up, down, and up and down again. It was 3 1/2 hours of pretty solid hiking. Besides the huge sense of accomplishment, the morning views after the rains with dew drops sparking in wet grass and the expanses of clearing skies over the Los Osos Valley were really memorable.



Our next hike will Friday, November 6th at 8:30 AM when we hike the Johnson Ranch Loop just south of San Luis Obispo. This hike will be literally half as hard as Madonna. 3.4 miles with a 480 cumulative elevation change. It has a Hike Hardness of 19 versus 39 for Madonna. Very similar to Whale Rock which is 18.



For more information on our hikes visit https://www.ramhikes.org or email Russ 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, 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 8:30 am. 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 October 1st, we met at the home of Brad Parkinson for our annual Gala year-end event. This event included wives and persons of special relationship. It was a potluck event, and we had some excellent food. There were nearly 30 people and the weather was perfect.

The new year kicks off in November, and our first tasting will be on November 5th hosted by Muril Clift. We will be tasting a selection of California wines along with cheese and bread.

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

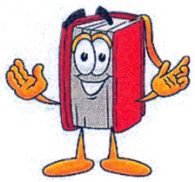
SLORAM DAY TRIPS
Hal Thilmony

Our October trip took us to Camp Roberts to explore the largest Army History Museum in the Western United States. Gary McMasters, Museum Curator, escorted 25 RAM's and guests through the main museum and the large annex. Additional pictures are posted on the RAM Activity page (Day Trips - SLORAM). You can also find a link to an informative video on the museum (Camp Roberts Historical Museum - YouTube).



Our next and last outing for 2026 is scheduled for December 12th. It will be a docent led tour at the SLO Botanical Gardens followed by lunch at Marcerro located at the nearby Dairy Creek Golf Course. Contact Hal at hthilmon@yahoo.com for more information.

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. If reading isn't your thing anymore, try audio books. They beat commercials. Almost all books listed below are in audio format.

November 24
"The Fish That Ate the Whale" by Rich Cohen. Presented by Bernie Troy.
When Samuel Zemurray arrived in America in 1891, he was tall, gangly, and penniless. When he died in the grandest house in New Orleans sixty-nine years later, he was among the richest, most powerful men in the world. In between, he worked as a fruit peddler, a banana hauler, a dockside hustler, and a plantation owner. He battled and conquered the United Fruit Company, becoming a symbol of the best and worst of the United States: proof that America is the land of opportunity, but also a classic example of the corporate pirate who treats foreign nations as the backdrop for his adventures. In Latin America, when people shouted "Yankee go home!" It was men like Zemurray they had in mind. Cohen unveils Zemurray as a hidden kingmaker and capitalist revolutionary, driven by an indomitable will to succeed. Known as El Amigo, the Gringo, or simply Z, the Banana Man lived one of the great untold stories of the last hundred years. Zemurray emerges as an unforgettable figure, connected to the birth of modern diplomacy, public relations, business, and war—a monumental life that reads like a parable of the American dream.

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.

March 23
"American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis" by Adam Hochschild. Presented by Gary Taff. Award-winning historian Adam Hochschild brings alive the horrifying yet inspiring four years following the U.S. entry into the First World War, spot-lighting forgotten repression while celebrating an unforgettable set of Americans who strove to fix their fractured country—and showing how their struggles still guide us today.

April 27
"This Vast Enterprise: A New History of Lewis & Clark" by Craig Fehrman. Presented by Steve Rye.
NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER
A major revisionist history of the Lewis and Clark expedition: The book offers a fresh and more accurate account of one of the most important episodes in American history, humanizing forgotten figures and shattering long-held myths.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Greg Horne

"Community and Connection"; it may sound a little clichéd, but I believe it's as good a way as any to characterize something that we RAMs derive from our weekly coffees and monthly luncheons in the Madonna Inn Garden Room. The programmed portions of these meetings – opening remarks, presentations by guest speakers, poems from Brad, humor from Larry, and so on – are a big part of the fun, but so is the informal "table talk" that takes place before the formal proceedings commence. It's a recurring, golden opportunity to catch up with old friends, and make new ones.

There has been a fair amount of buzz in the last year or so about a phenomenon that has crept its insidious way into society in recent years: the "Gen Z Stare". This is the blank, unblinking and expressionless look exhibited by members of "Generation Z" – those born between the mid-1990's to around the year 2012 – in social or workplace situations where a verbal response would normally be expected. Instead of responding to a simple question, or engaging in small talk, these young people just stare back at you, appearing to be completely disinterested.

Ask a Gen Z'er about this, and if you get an answer at all, it's likely to be that this is a totally natural and appropriate response, a virtuous refusal to engage in meaningless chatter or offer up the false positivity of a smile. But I don't buy it. I think it's simply an indication that these poor youngsters have never learned to communicate in the real world. The constant presence in their lives of handheld devices – the endless texting, the constant scrolling through websites, the compulsive posting online of their latest "life experience" – have all got in the way of acquiring the basic interpersonal skills needed to engage in actual human-to-human conversation.

We are so lucky to have been born before all this nonsense! Of course, our own handheld devices are of practical use to us in some situations, and an email address, possessed by almost all our 170+ members, makes certain types of communication much easier to accomplish. But these avenues into the digital world are no substitute for genuine interactions in the real world. Our skill at "small talk", acquired in the schoolyard, honed at teenage parties, and perfected by the office cooler, is the hidden lubricant that facilitates those satisfying conversations at SLORAM meetings – with friends both old and new.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Last Name	First Name
Amos	Ron
Beyer	Lionel
Bosserman	Gordon
Braas	John
Bych	Kenneth
Clift	Muril
Domenic	Leonard
Eberhardt	Roger
Higgins	Nick
Irwin	Jim
Price	Larry
Rice	Kevin
Seeber	Jim
Woodson	Bill

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Yrs
Barragar, Steve & Nancy	37
Burke, Larry & Susan	34
Parkinson, Brad & Ginny	49
Short, Stan & Nancy	39
Sicanoff, Steve & Ilene	54
Vogel, Worth & Julie	38

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