



BULLETIN

SIR# 172 • Twain Harte, CA
Website: www.sirtwain.org
PO Box 1143 • Twain Harte, CA 95383

August 2026



A Note From Your Big Sir

Clark Beerman 209 586-3387

Today started out very sadly after reading my email advising me of the passing of Jim McCracken our SIR joke master. He will surely be missed. not only as a member of SIR, but as a wonderful human being !

The summer is passing by very quickly, but it seems like fall around my block were the leaves are falling. Twain Harte doesn't seem to be as busy as years gone by. I hope every member has enjoyed the summer so far, and in good health! Don't forget about the ladies picnic on 9-17-26 at the Moose Lodge, hope to see you all there !



A Note From Your Little Sir

Ken Rorabaugh 209-578-4494

First I want to apologize for last months mistake.

But I've been busy. We got a great speaker for this month. Kris Albrecht, Veterans Service Officer.

I want to thank Steve & Linda for a wonderful time canoeing. It was nice to have hamburgers & extras at the end. I am proud of our

groups...give them a try.

We are getting closer to the Ladies Day Panic. Do what you can to help. Let's make this the best one yet.

LUNCH SCHEDULE

Lunches are at noon, the first Wednesday of the month, at the Moose Lodge, 20921 Longeway Rd. with Social Hour at 11:00 am.

Lunch cost is \$22.00

Wednesday

August 5, 2026

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Wednesday

September 2, 2026

Meat Loaf

Wednesday

October 7, 2026

Enchiladas & Tacos

Each meal comes with vegetables & dessert

Our HOTLINE

Number:

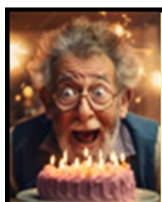
209 288-4944

August Speaker



Kris Albrecht

Veterans Service Officer



August Birthdays

Pat Chabot Jim Groh Walt Moneski
Don Parr Bill Parson Gary Sanchez

FELLOWSHIP

Jim McCracken died suddenly Wednesday night, the 22nd of July.

See page 5



P I C N I C

Website: www.sirtwain.org

SIR# 172 Twain Harte



LADIES' DAY PICNIC @

MOOSE LODGE, Sonora

THURSDAY, September 17, 2026

Tickets are \$32 each payable at our July, August & September lunches
or mail checks payable to: Sir Twain Harte
Mail to: PO Box 1143, Twain Harte, CA 95383



When: Thursday, September 17, 2026

Social Hour: 4:00pm to 5:00pm / Dinner: 5:00pm to 6:15pm

Raffle & Silent Auction: 7:00pm

Cutoff Day to receive payment: September 4, 2026

Mail Checks to: SIR Twain Harte Picnic, PO Box 1143, Twain Harte, CA 95383

Menu: Tri-Tip, BBQ Chicken Breast, & BBQ Chicken Thighs

RAFFLE

6 tickets for \$5 12 tickets for \$10 24 tickets for \$20

Shade: The pictures tell the story – hats and sunscreen are good to have

Seating: Plenty - bring your favorite lawn chairs if you want



SIR WINTER **BOWLING LEAGUE**

Winter 2026 Season

Mondays at Noon
Starting September 14th

Location: Black Oak Casino

Teams: 3–4 players

Cost: \$20 per person

End of Season Awards

Open to All SIR Members and Significant Others

A fun, friendly league for beginners, casual bowlers, and seasoned rollers.
Join the SIR crew for good competition and great camaraderie.

Sign-Ups on Monday, September 14th

Contact: Rick Bronner

Phone: 408-318-4826

Email: bronnerrick@gmail.com

SIR# 172 TWAIN HARTE ACTIVITY GROUP NEWS

Group Chairmen have submitted planned event dates that will be covered by SIR Insurance

BIKE (Steve Happel, 532-7240)

*Rides are planned for the **SECOND TUESDAY** each month*

Our bike ride will be on Tuesday August 11. We will meet at Twain Harte Market at 8:00 and carpool up to the Trailhead and ride Clark Fork Road. It is about 17 miles, uphill going and down hill coming back. Lunch in town afterwards.



HIKE – Moderate difficulty, weekly, along the HWY 108 corridor

Michael Clay from Branch 77 leads the hiking group. This includes winter hiking in the lower elevations (e.g., Red Hills), snowshoeing in the higher elevations (e.g., Dodge Ridge), and hiking in the upper elevations in warmer weather. Contact Michael at 209 588-1345 and come join in the SIR adventures. Well-behaved ladies and dogs are welcome.



KAYAK (Steve Happel, 532-7240) 2023 kayak trips are scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of the month



Just kidding. This is on the St. Francis River.

Our kayak outing will be on Tuesday August 25. We are going to do something different this time and ride our kayaks down the Stanislaus river from Knights Ferry to Rodden road. Everyone will have to pack a lunch for this one. The river is usually calm this time of year with one small rapid which you can portage around if you choose to do so. We will meet at Knights Ferry at 9:00 and set our gear out and drive all the cars down to Rodden Rd. for the return trip and we will transport everyone back in 2 or 3 cars to the start and then paddle down the river.

Everyone will have to wear life vests for this one as I believe it is required to float down the river. I need to hear back from you by email if you plan on attending to help with the planning. Linda, Reba and I plan on attending. More info will be available later in August. If you have any questions we can talk about it at the meeting.

THEATER (Dave Tibbets, P: 209 532-2453)

Any member who wishes to be on the SRT Theater list, please send me an email asking to be added. My email is: dksvcs@att.net. You will then receive all information on each play and dinner as it becomes available.



We sold 46 tickets for the show, "Great Balls of Fire," at the East Sonora Theater on Saturday, 2:00pm, August 8, 2026. If you purchased tickets to this show, I will have them for you at our August 5, luncheon.

The next show will be, "Dracula, a Comedy of Terrors," on Thursday, October 29, 2026, 2:00pm at East Sonora Theater. Stay tuned for details.



PINOCHLE (Bill Lewis, 209 604-6304)

Tuolumne County Senior Center, Sonora. Each Monday except for the 1st.

PINOCHLE TOURNAMENT-

Contact Bill Lewis: Call or Text @ 209 604-6304

Have fun with Pinochle We are accepting players from SIR's 172, 136, & 77.

Significant other's welcome! Come Join Us... Player's Needed!

Tuolumne County Senior Center, Next to the Tuolumne County Library in Sonora.

Every Monday except Holidays - Meet @ noon, start 12:15.

Entry fee of \$5.00. Awards for 1st & 2nd place. 3rd place depending on attendance.

Play Cutthroat (3 players) or Partners (4 players) per table depending on attendance



PROPANE (Walt Moneski 209-770-5988 oneski@sbcglobal.net)

If you want to get in our excellent JS West propane program, call or email Walt, or contact him at our next meeting.



TECHNOLOGY (Dick Chimenti 209-677-7070 casachimenti@gmail.com)

Got a problem with your smart phone, your iPad, your computer? We've got people in SIR with years of experience who can help. Before you spend money taking your equipment to a shop, try this first.

Dick Chimenti (casachimenti@gmail.com) and Steve Spangler (stevenjspangler@hotmail.com) of our branch and Rich Nedbal (richnedbal@msn.com) of Branch 77 can either answer questions or direct you to where answers might be found.



Make a fashion statement...

SIR shirts, hats, and other SIR branded materials can be purchased at the SIR ProShop website:

<https://sir.ourproshop.com/>

**Not an actual SIR shirt. Visit website for great selection.*



Twain Harte Weather in August

<https://www.weather-us.com>

The last month of the summer, August, is another tropical month in Twain Harte, California, with temperature in the range of an average high of 87.4°F and an average low of 59.4°F

Temperature

The shift into August reveals an average high-temperature of a still tropical 87.4°F closely mirroring July's climate. In Twain Harte, the nighttime chill during August is a clear shift from the day's highs, with an average of 59.4°F

Humidity

The months with the lowest humidity in Twain Harte are July and August, with an average relative humidity of 33%.

Snowfall

June through October are months without snowfall.

Rainfall

July and August are months with the least rain in Twain Harte when the rain falls for 1.6 days and typically aggregates up to 0.04" (1mm) of rain.

Daylight

In Twain Harte, the average length of the day in August is 13h and 35min.

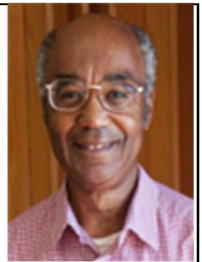
On the first day of the month, sunrise is at 6:04 am and sunset at 8:09 pm. On the last day of August, sunrise is at 6:30 am and sunset at 7:31 pm PDT.

Sunshine

In Twain Harte, California, the average sunshine in August is 12h.



August 2026



SIR Branch Travel Chair Trips and News Milt Smith State Travel Chair miltsmith549@gmail.com

SIRs Multi-Branch Travel just completed 2025 with 13 SIRs traveling to Vietnam.

These 3 SIR trips are also sold out for 2026: Australia, Japan and Cuba. It is now time to plan for Fall 2026 and 2027 trips. The following trips are now available:

16 Night Hawaiian Island Cruise aboard Ruby Princess round trip from San Francisco: Oct. 23 thru Nov. 8 '26 From \$3,750 to \$6,055 pp. depending on cabin. Ports of call Hilo, Kahului, Maui, Honolulu, Oahu, Nawiliwili, Kauai, and Ensenada Mexico. Contact John Cardoza area 18 branch 143 209-483-7722

john@storageauctionexperts.com LINK: 2026 Hawaii Cruise

Christmas on the Danube with a extra 2 day Christmas Markets of Prague extension. Nov. 27-Dec. 8, 2026 Six night Danube River Cruise including Christmas Markets in Vienna, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Wachau Valley, Gluhwein Party. Pricing: \$5896-\$7497 pp, dbl. occupancy. Contact: Bill Britton Br. 101. bill.britton@comcast.net (925) 200-1062. LINK:

A SIR trip to Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Slovenia with an optional pre-trip to Albania, is departing in **May of 2027**. This is an OAT trip. We can have our own group with as few as 12. You need not be a SIR to sign up, you can also be a guest. We need to fill it by Aug. 14, 2026, to secure our SIR spaces... again guests (spouse, partner, traveling companion) are welcome. If eight more people sign up by Aug. 1. '26 we can keep this an exclusive SIR trip. At the moment **Single Supplement, traveling alone, is free but time and space are limited and could fill quickly**. There are significant discounts by signing up now.. If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact Milt Smith by email, miltsmith549@gmail.com phone or text at 925-285-2897

In memoriam

Jim McCracken



Jim and Mary were married on January 19, 1964 and have three sons: Dave, Jim and Rob. They've lived in Mi-Wuk Village for many years and actively contributed to their community.

They were instrumental in creating the Mi-Wuk/Sugar Pine Fire Protection District, a 1.2 square mile district protecting a primarily residential community, consisting of single family dwellings, secondary residence and vacation cabins. SIR Twain Harte members were also involved including Don and Joan Walton, Joe and Diane Gil and more.

SIR Mi-Wuk members filled one of the large, round tables at the Elks each monthly meeting. It looked like the "Goodfellas" bar scene - a bunch of guys packed around the table, a drink here and there and lots of talk. That was the "Mi-Wuk Mob".

We talked about the upcoming Annual Ladies' Day Picnic figuring we'd need two tables for the guys and gals. We decided the Ladies and Guys would sit at separate tables and it worked. The ladies had a great time talking and sharing stories and the guys talked about the wrenches on sale at Lowe's, all the roads with potholes, the new Bridgestone tires at Doherty and other exciting issues.

The original mob was Jim McCracken, Henry Beltran, Don Walton, Joe Gil, Kirk Wallace, and Ed Nissen.





SIR – Social Activities for Men

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of our members through fun activities, lunches and events while making friends for life

Branch #172, Twain Harte
PO Box 1143, Twain Harte, CA 95383
Website: sirtwain.org Email: sirtwainharte@gmail.org

BYLAWS

SIR Branch #172 – Twain Harte (SIR Twain Harte) follows the most current Bylaws as presented in the SIR MANUAL on the SIR State Webpage (SIR Manual – SIR (sirinc.org)). (May 5, 2022)

POLICIES

1. Branch Executive Committee (BEC) + Membership

1a. The BEC will consist of a possible 13 voting members: Big Sir, Little Sir, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Membership Chairman, and 6 Directors. (7-7-22)

1b. SIR State considers all members as ACTIVE (January 3, 2019). Inactive, Emeritus and other Statuses no longer exist. (7-7-22)

1c. BEC will meet at the Moose Lodge1 on the same day as the regular luncheon. (12-6-23)

2. Lunch

2a. SIR Twain Harte has no required number of lunches members must attend as allowed by SIR State Bylaw 18 and Policy 25. The Fellowship Chairman may follow-up, when practical, when members are notably absent from lunches. The follow-up is to note how long the situation will persist. Pertinent information will be transferred to the Membership Chairman.(7-7-22)

2b. The Branch will pay once for a guest's lunch if that guest is a potential member, and for a first-time new member that never attended as a guest. The free lunch applies to the regular monthly lunch and does not apply for special events that have a higher cost (e.g., Ladies Picnic and Holiday lunch). Three free raffle tickets will be provided to the guests and new members (if there is a raffle). (7-1-26)

2c. Luncheons are held on the first Wednesday of the month, except the BEC may alter for special events (e.g., Christmas dinner, ladies' picnic). (12-6-2023)

2d. The BEC may raise, or lower lunch prices based on various budgetary concerns (e.g., inflation, caterer charges, member attendance, etc.).2 (7-7-22)

2e. The Branch will acknowledge branch veterans, especially new members that have served or veterans not previously recognized, during every November luncheon. (7-7-22)

2f. Ladies may attend the monthly luncheon activity with the Big SIR's discretionary permission. This discretionary permission is based on specific situations, such as a lady drives a member to lunch and the lady has nowhere to go while waiting (hot/cold car). The member needs to request this discretionary permission with enough time to order the lady's lunch, otherwise the lady will need to wait until all members are served their lunches to determine if there are any extra lunches available. (1-8-25)

2g. The Branch will conduct a monthly name drawing for the current month's birthdays. The winner of the drawing will receive cash to reimburse the lunch cost. (7-1-26)

3. Dues

3a. The BEC may raise, or lower dues based on various budgetary concerns (e.g., inflation, member attendance, subsidies, etc.).3 (7-7-22)

3b. All members will pay dues with the exception of Honorary Lifetime Members (HLMs) and Senior HLMs. The BEC may vote to waive dues for certain members if requested or as the BEC deems appropriate. (7-7-22)

3c. New members to SIR Branch 172 during the last quarter (Oct., Nov., Dec.) of the calendar year do not pay dues for the remainder of the calendar year. (7-7-22)

4. Activities

4a. All SIR activities to be covered by insurance must be voted on by the BEC stating the group/activity, and date. Pursuant to the provisions of California Corporations Code 5239 effective January 1, 2002, Branch 172 elects to be covered by the provisions of Section 5239. (7-7-22)

4b. All SIR-sponsored approved activities including team sports of any kind can be regulated, limited or cancelled by any authorized State or local health department. (7-7-22)

4c. Ladies may attend all Branch 172 sponsored activities. Exceptions include lunches (refer to Bylaw 2f), and any "member only" (e.g., golf) tournament. (1-8-25)

END NOTES

1 Moose Lodge, 20921 Longeway Road, Sonora, CA 95370

2 Lunch price is \$22 (12-8-2025)

3 Dues are \$27 (12-8-2025) July 7, 2022.

Branch 172 BEC approved the By-Laws September 1, 2022,

Revised the July 7, 2022 version Policy 4b to delete COVID requirements May 4, 2023.

Revised the September 1, 2022 version by changing Policy 1C from the Elks to the Twain Harte Golf Club. December 6, 2023.

Revised the May 4, 2023 version by changing Policy 1c from the Twain Harte Golf Club (THGC) to the Moose Lodge, and 2c. from Thursday to Wednesday. January 8, 2025.

Added Policy 2f allowing ladies to attend all Branch 172 Activities, and

Policy 4c allowing ladies to attend a lunch at the Big SIR discretion. January 7, 2026.

Revised Policy 2b to exclude special events for free lunches for first time guests. July 1, 2026.

Revised Policy 2b to include new members that hadn't attended a free lunch.

Added Policy 2g to clarify that the Birthday Boy drawing will cover the current lunch cost.

2026 CHAPTER 172 OFFICERS & SUPPORT

BEC

Big SIR	Clark Beermann
Little SIR	Ken Rorabaugh
Secretary	Steve Spangler
Treasurer	Randy Cole
Asst/ Treasurer	
Membership	Open

Directors Jerry Jenson, Tom Francis, Mark Knapp, Glenn Arlands, Jerry Morrow

RAMP

Recruitment	R: Tom Franciis, Glenn Arlands
Activities	A: Tom Franciis, Glenn Arlands
Member Relations	M: Tom Franciis, Glenn Arlands
Publicity	P: Paul Halek

STATE OFFICERS

Regional Director	Jerry Morrow
President	Rich Carlston

SUPPORT

Budget	Paul Halek
Audit	Rich Brandau, Dave Tibbetts
Nominating	Jerry Morrow
Fellowship	Charles Luke
Webmaster	Dick Chimenti
Bulletin	Pat Vierra
Historian	Vacant
Propane	Walt Moneski

LUNCH DAY ACTIVITIES

Greeting Table	
Attendance	Pat Vierra
Cash	Michael Hauck
Name-Badges	Open & Michael Hauck
Raffle	Pat Chabot
Chaplain	Ron Hawke
Song Master	Dick Chimenti
Joke Master	Jim McCracken
Table Caller	Charles Luke
Picnic	Big SIR/Little SIR + volunteers
XMAS	Big SIR/Little SIR+ volunteers



Stay in touch with your community
by supporting the great events put
on by your Twain Harte Chamber
<https://www.twainhartecc.com/events>

Welcome New Members
Gary Sanchez, Steve Miller
Mark Mazza

LUNCH ATTENDANCE REPORT

Members	46
Guests, Visitors	4
Speakers	0
TOTAL GUESTS, SPEAKERS	50

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MEMBERS	
Beginning Membership Count	82
New Members	3
Resignations, Terminations....	1
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	84
VETERANS	34

You see those vehicles taking
an alternate route over there?
We need to start construction
over there too

