



Incorporated

SIR exists to enrich the lives of its members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making friends for life.

THE ROOSTER'S CROW

The HOOKER OAK BRANCH #84
meets the FIRST THURSDAY of
each month at MANZANITA
PLACE, (inside the Elks Lodge
building) 1705 Manzanita Avenue,
CHICO, CA, 11:30 AM
The Branch Executive Com-
mittee
meets at 10:15 AM on the

**SONS IN RETIREMENT,
HOOKER OAK BRANCH #84**

Volume 47, Number 7

July 2025





FALL PICNIC AT THE RANCH



Hooker Oak Branch #84

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Walters Ranch - Stanford Lane - Durham

Barbecue by SIR Dennis Bruggman
Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks
Raffle Prizes



**Honoring the Memory of
Jerry Walters**

\$25.00 per plate

Tickets will be on sale beginning July 10. Get yours soon!





SIR Happenings



SIR 2025 Annual Barbecue- Save The Date

This year's barbecue will be held on Thursday, September 18 at the Walters Ranch in Durham. Start time to be determined.

The meal will feature Tri Tip cooked by SIR's own Chef, Dennis Bruggman. There will be more details as the planning takes place over the next few months.



GOLFERS

Branch 84 and Branch 110 tee off together for several tournaments at courses throughout the area. Now that the weather is cooperative, you can dust off your clubs, hit the range for a few practice swings, and join the fun.

For information on upcoming golf outings, please contact Paul Broissoit.

530 514 3486

FORE!



BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club meets every Tuesday night for drop-in open bowling, from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM, at the Bolero Bowling Center in Chico.



Ray Quinto

Bowling Club - Ray Quinto 530 343 6752

Fishing Club - Ron Ward 530- 354-5147

Golf Club - Paul Brossoit 530 514-3186

Hiking Club - Rich Utter (Branch 110) 925-922-7020

Movie Club - Greg Sanger 530-518-7924

Writing & Book Club - Chip Meriam 530-228-1544

Special Activities Club - Alex Van Patten 530-566-2151

Cycling Club - Tim Kressin 951-743-1297





FROM THE BIG SIR

Chip Meriam

Greetings, fellows.



It's hard to believe that half the pages of the 2025 calendar have become obsolete. But, that's where we are. June 30 has passed and we're looking directly in the face of the Fourth of July, the unofficial middle of the summer.

Of course there's much more to July 4 than an annual milestone. It is Independence Day for the United States of America. Did you know the vote to declare independence, and separation of the thirteen colonies from the rule of the British Crown, actually took place on July 2, 1776? The date we celebrate is the signing of that declaration. In fact, John Adams, the second U.S. President, advocated that July 2 be the date to celebrate independence. Clearly, Adams was over-ruled.

Just as a reminder: There is no SIR 84 meeting on July 3. Instead, we will be meeting a week later on July 10.

A few other items of note:

I hope you saw the Fall Picnic announcement on the front page. The annual gathering will take place Thursday evening, September 18, at Kay Walters' Durham estate. Tickets, at only \$25 per plate, are going on sale at the July 10 luncheon meeting, and will be available up until the date of the picnic. But....please buy your tickets promptly so the picnic committee may make proper plans.

Also, make note of the announcement on page 4. We will be "passing the hat" for the Manzanita Place serving staff. They do an excellent job taking care of us, and we want to show our appreciation.

Finally, a new Branch Executive Committee has been nominated for 2026. You can find the slate on page 5. A voice vote for approval will take place at the July 10 meeting.

I wish us all a safe, happy, and prosperous Independence Day. We'll see you on July 10.



As a group of old guys, we've been treated to some cheerful, outstanding service from the Manzanita Place servers.

Let's remind them of our appreciation.

We'll be "passing the hat" sometime during the meeting, If you feel so inclined, leave a little spare cash for the folks that bring us our lunch.



OFFICERS

BIG SIR,	Chip Meriam-----	228-1544
LITTLE SIR,	Tim Kressin-----	951-743-1297
SECRETARY,	Mike Hamlin-----	526-4408
ASST. SECRETARY,	Lowell Terrell-----	895-1737
TREASURER,	Paul Brossoit-----	530-514-3486
TREASURER ASST.,	Ray Quinto-----	343-6752

DIRECTORS

RAY QUINTO-----	343-6752
PETE VOLPATO-----	891-4705
MARTY NICHOLS-----	530-514-8270
RICK FARLEY-----	864-5113
ALEX VAN PATTON-----	530-566-2151
DENNIS BRUGGMAN-----	530-682-2369
BOB KERMAN, ALTERNAET-----	530-966-0147



COMMITTEES

ATTENDANCE,	Mike Crump-----	530-588-4781
ATTENDANCE ASST.,	VACANT	
AUDITOR,	Benny Sommer-----	895-0840
BOWLING,	Bob Gaines-----	514-5066
CHAPLAIN,	Richard Kannenberg-----	208-869-5786
CHAPLAIN ASST.,	Bob Roberts-----	219-2566
DINNER CLUB,	Jerry Brandt-----	636-4392
FISHING,	Ron Ward-----	354-5147
FISHING ASST.,	Harold Frazier-----	809-1623
GOLF,	Paul Brossoit-----	530-514-3486
HIKING,	Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
HOUSE MANAGER,	Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
MEMBERSHIP,	Greg Sanger-----	345-2344
MEMBERSHIP ASST.,	Ken Doglio-----	933-3921
MOVIE CLUB,	Greg Sanger-----	345-2344
NOMINATING COMM.,	Greg Sanger-----	345-2344
R. CROW EDITOR,	Chip Meriam-----	228-1545
R. CROW ASST.,	Lowell Terrell-----	895-1737
SONG DIRECTOR,	Jerry Brandt-----	636-4392
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES,	Alex Van Patton-----	530-566-2151
SUNSHINE,	Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
TRAVEL,	Lowell Terrell-----	895-1737
WRITING & BOOK CLUB,	Chip Meriam-----	225-1544



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

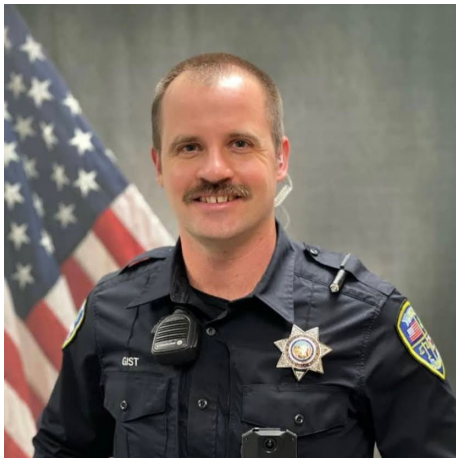
**Bill Pahland, Doug Rowe, Bob Gaines, Glen Pertuit, Bob Kermen,
Myles Pustejovsky, Vic Stockbridge, Rex Munroe, Larry Carmona**



July 10, 2025 - 11:15 AM

Manzanita Place (Chico Elks)

Joel Gist - Chico Police Department



Joel Gist grew up in Visalia. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies from Fresno Pacific University and earned his Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership at Gonzaga University in Washington. Prior to becoming a Chico Police Officer in 2021, Gist held the position of Director of Operations and Program Director at Calvin Crest Conferences near Yosemite, CA. As a Patrol Officer, Gist also has credentials as a CSI Officer, a Terrorism Liaison Officer, and as a Drone Operator. Joel enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and four children, tackling various home projects, and puts hot sauce on just about anything.

Rideshare Service

Myles Pustejovsky has kindly volunteered to set up and coordinate drivers to chauffeur members who do not drive any longer or do not have rides to our luncheons. His plan is to divide the area up into districts and ask for volunteers in each district to pick up and drop off members before and after each luncheon. If you are interested in volunteering to pick up fellow members on the way to and from our luncheons, or would like to take advantage of this new club service, please contact Myles.

Myles Pustejovsky

530-342-4751

mandadurham@att.net



Luncheon Fare

BBQ Grilled Chicken

Macaroni Salad

Corn on the Cob

Apple Cobbler A la Mode



IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE JULY 10 MEETING, PLEASE NOTIFY MIKE CRUMP BY JULY 6 530 588 4781



Slate of SIR Branch 84 Board and Officer Candidates - 2025

Big Sir	Tim Kressin	tkressin@mac.com	951-743-1297
Little Sir	Marty Nichols	martyinchico@comcast.net	530-514-8270
Past Big Sir	Chip Meriam	chipmeriam@comcast.net	530-899-2609
Secretary	Mike Hamlin	hamlin6250@gmail.com	530-526-4408
Asst Secretary	Lowell Terrell	lowell257@aol.com	530-895-1737
Treasurer	Paul Brossoit	pi_shop@hotmail.com	530-514-3486
Asst Treasurer	Ray Quinto	ray.quinto@gmail.com	530-570-4430
Membership	Greg Sanger	gsanger@comcast.net	530-518-7924
Assistant Membership	Ken Doglio	knidoglio@gmail.com	530-933-3921
Newsletter Editor	Chip Meriam	chipmeriam@comcast.net	530-899-2609
Assistant Editor	Lowell Terrell	lowell257@aol.com	530-895-1737

Directors

1	Ray Quinto	ray.quinto@gmail.com	530-570-4430
2	Pete Volpato	mrskbird@att.net	530-891-4705
3	Bob Kerman	kermenrobert@gmail.com	530-966-0147
4	Ken Doglio	knidoglio@gmail.com	530-933-3921
5	Alex Van Patton	avanpatton@gmail.com	530-566-2151
6	Dennis Bruggman	dlbruggman@gmail.com	530-682-2369
Alternate	Chip Meriam	chipmeriam@comcast.net	530-899-2609



WIT

In post graduate school I had a classmate from Holland, Chris. Therefore English was his second language. He and his wife were riding home with us after a sizeable New Year's party when he asked, "who was the thick one"?

It was a logical question to him. He had us puzzled. He had to explain his language logic. The THICK one was just the opposite of the THIN one ..

I should have been a linguist, a wordsmith or at least a language instructor. I am fascinated by the interplay of different languages, root origins, regional and foreign countries use of the same language, plus the change in word definitions over time. Sadly, I never had one foreign language class. Example: My wife brought a sack of Yellow Onions home from the grocery store. The name on the label was in Spanish: Oignons Jaunes. I don't speak Spanish, but my automatic assumption is that jaunes equals yellow. This caught my interest because when a person has an obstructed liver or bile duct they become jaundice, their skin turns yellow as do their eyes.

Some of the ways we use certain words and phrases defy explanation. For some reason the word "up" comes to mind. Here are a few examples that might be difficult to explain: Throw up, get up, wake up, shut up, close up, open up, clam up, time is up, butter up, grow up, plugged up, speak up, up-scale, catch up, mess up, tidy up, cheer up, speak up, work up, pick up, clean up, gas up, cut up, stand up, sit up, shape up, tone up, green up, wash up, up-start, upbringing, uphold, and probably more.

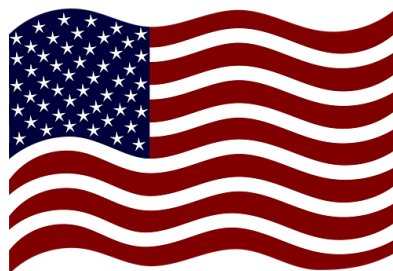
So a word to the wise might be to look at sentence structure and correct word usage when an offer for a real good deal just might be a scam. Also double check those confusing instructions on that "some assembly required" foreign made item you just purchased. Let a WORD to wise be sufficient! With that I can finish UP.

June 17, 2025 Richard Kannenberg

WISDOM

"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have."

Gerald Ford





USELESS AND IRRELEVANT WORDS

July 2025



Thought's on The Use of an AI Chatbot

"To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research." Winston Churchill

Last month I tossed around the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence in the form of Chat Bots), how much fun it can be, and how useful and helpful their responses are. But I feel like I need to repeat that they are not intelligent. Not everything that comes back from them, in the form of written poetry, images, song lyrics, or answers to questions on nearly everything will be right or even well written. They are computers and only as good as the software written by real people. Yes. They have learning routines to help them respond better over time, but these were also written by people like you and me. A few days ago I received an article¹, from my friend Chip Meriam, that made some very good points on why AI chat bots are not what they seem and perhaps why you might want to think about it seriously before using them. In the following, I'm going to plagiarize and contradict some of the thoughts presented in that article.

To do this, I'm going to start by noting they are adding to the environmental challenges we currently face. Think about it this way: They are huge power-hungry computer centers scattered in various locations. For instance, ChatGPT servers are hosted mainly on Microsoft Azure data centers. These are distributed across several key states; primarily in Virginia, Washington State, California, and Texas. Microsoft Azure is Microsoft's cloud computing platform. It has a massive network of data centers around the world that provide the computing power, storage, and infrastructure needed to run applications and services over the internet. In other words, it's the "Cloud", which really isn't a Cloud, rather the above-mentioned computer data centers. I've read that a typical data center can consume hundreds of megawatts of power and tens of thousands of gallons of cooling water per second. That's a lot! When combined globally, it is one of the largest users of electric power in the world. In fact, it is one of the three largest power consumers today. which are these data centers, cryptocurrency, and electric transportation. This, of course, leads to more greenhouse gas emissions, hence the now ominous global warming thing. According to the referenced article, "A request made through ChatGPT consumes ten times the electricity of a Google search, according to the International Energy Agency." Therefore, it is not the greenest way to do Internet searches.

Chatbots are based on what's called a Large Language Model (LLM). An LLM is a neural network (bank of computers hooked up similarly to the neurons in your head) and trained on massive amounts of text data, books, articles, websites, dialogues, code, and more. Incidentally, there is a lot of discussion, some legal, about these models being trained on what is probably copyrighted material—but that's not the subject here. They are built and programmed to predict the next word in a sentence, which turns out to be a surprisingly powerful way to simulate reasoning, creativity, and conversation. An LLM is called "large" because it contains a huge amount of data (written words)—billions to trillions of them. It is the "neurons" or adjustable parts of the model that are "trained" on petabytes of text data (1 petabyte = 1 million gigabytes). The program is fed an enormous data set, such as books, Wikipedia, open web pages, code repositories, newspapers, book and magazine articles, you name it. From all this, it learns patterns in language by trying to guess what comes next in a sequence of words, sort of like the autocomplete routine in your text editor, only on steroids. It uses its library of literature as examples of how the words should be put together statistically. In other words, it doesn't "understand" language like a human, but it builds statistical representations of how language works. When you ask a chatbot a question or to do something, it generates a response, word-by-word, based on patterns it has "learned" from all its background literature.



So, here's the rub. When you or I write something like this essay, it comes from inside us. Yes. It's based on our experience and memory but it is new, it's considered a creation. Thus, some would call such writing an art. When a person writes a book it can be considered a work of art, certainly in the world of fiction. To contrast this, a Chatbot uses the literature it has in its memory. Its output is not new but, in fact, a copy of the data it has in its memory, put together by a statistical analysis of how the words must come together to respond to the query we use to trigger its response. Therefore, to some, Chatbots are plagiarism personified and not original thought at all, and in my view, probably true. Now, just as I stated earlier, some of the ideas I've used to write this essay came from another author. They are, frankly, not mine, the thoughts were conveyed to me in his words. In this instance, the words used here are indeed mine, only used to express my understanding of those thoughts and concepts presented in his article. Concept plagiarism yes, but original words. When you consider writing as an art, it should be original, just like a painting or a sculpture. To conclude this, to use anything from a Chatbot is essentially plagiarism, it is nothing more than a copy of what other writers have already generated and, in a sense, is cheating the art. Therefore, writers should avoid the crutch of a Chatbot. In addition, and I repeat, they are nothing more than computers and as such, can generate answers so wildly wrong as to be ridiculous. According to Mr. Hart, "That's why there's no ethical way to use AI to create something. And this is why I think you have no right to call yourself an artist if you use AI to create something. Because you are not creating, you are stealing from other people."

Now, having said that, AI has its uses and should be considered a tool and used as such, but not an oracle. It has found to be a tremendous aid in medicine, pattern recognition, and such technologies as CRISPR to name just a few. It is useful for quick research. You can ask them such things as the names of the planets in our solar system and generally, you will get a quick factual response. In this way, it is useful and can help avoid arduous research of a subject as it has access to huge amounts of relevant data. Used as a tool in this way to help understanding seems legitimate, at least to me. If the words it generates are copied into personal work, it seems more like plagiarism or just plain copying the work of others without due credit. Also, chatbots get into trouble when dealing with more complex subjects such as emotions, culture, or obscure fields where it has little reference material on which to base responses. The gobbledygook it generates in these cases can be ridiculous, even hilarious.

In summary, Chatbots are good or bad, depending on how they are used. When used as a rapid top-level research aid it can be quite helpful. When misused it seems like it is the enemy of creativity, something unique to the human brain.

Comments or arguments are, as always, welcome.

Greg Sanger

gandbsanger@outlook.com

1.) "No, You Can't Use AI" by Bob Hart. *Writers Digest*, July-August 2025. Page 12.