



Incorporated

A Non-Profit Organization of Retired Men
Devoted to the Promotion of Independence
And Dignity of Retirement.

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

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

Volume 46, Number 9

September 2024

The Branch Executive Committee
meets at 10:15 AM on the same day
at the same place.



SIR Happenings



FALL PICNIC AT THE RANCH

Hooker Oak Branch #84

Thursday, September 19, 2024 - 5:00 pm

Walters Ranch - Stanford Lane - Durham

- Entertainment by Ivy Flats
- Dinner by La Familia
- Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks
- Raffle Prizes

Honoring the Memory of
Jerry Walters

\$30.00 per plate

PICNIC TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE SEPTEMBER 5 LUNCHEON

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

Jerry Brandt-----	636-4392
Don Foster-----	566-1218
Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
Richard Kannenberg-----	208-869-5786
Myles Pustejovsky-----	342-4751
Allen Wood-----	343-2771
Mark Ward (Alternate)-----	680-8518

AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Lee Lamp-----	921-1375
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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
SUNSHINE,	Jim Hertl-----	897-0402
TRAVEL,	Lowell Terrell-----	895-1737
TRAVEL,	Don Foster-----	566-1218
WRITING & BOOK CLUB,	Chip Meriam-----	225-1544



FROM THE BIG SIR

Chip Meriam

Greetings, fellows.

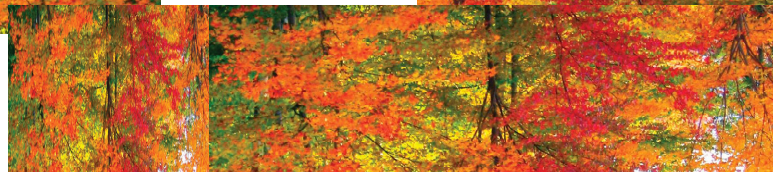
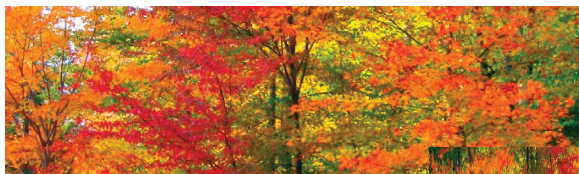
The Summer Olympics have concluded, we're experiencing shorter days and cooler mornings, football season has begun, and the "ber" months lie ahead (September, October, November, and December). The true harbinger of the approaching fall season is Labor Day Weekend (September 2, 2024).



"Labor Day recognizes the achievements of the U.S. labor movement in the late 19th century. During this time, American workers began forming labor unions to advocate for better working conditions, reasonable hours, and fair wages. The first Labor Day was observed on September 5, 1882, in New York City, organized by the Central Labor Union. In 1887, Oregon became the first state to pass a law recognizing Labor Day, followed by Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York later that year. By the time President Grover Cleveland signed it into law as a federal holiday in 1894, 23 states had already adopted the holiday."

I may be an old retired guy, but I can still remember the uneasy excitement I felt when Labor Day marked the return to school after a long summer break. These days, the local schools begin classes in mid-August! In fact, the first high school football games will take place before Labor Day. Things have certainly changed!

For SIR Branch 84, the fall season also brings us to the annual barbecue/picnic. Once again this year, the event will be held in memory of long-time SIR member, Jerry Walters. What's more, the gathering will take place at the Walters Ranch in Durham—just as it had been so many times in the past. The date is Thursday, September 19. Tickets are \$30 per plate, and can be purchased at the September 5 luncheon meeting. There will be several exciting raffle items available again, and raffle tickets will be available for sale at the event. The entertainment will be provided by the popular local band, Ivy Flats. Buy your tickets now, and bring your sweetheart.



Cycling Club

Did you know that there are literally endless bike rides of all distances and sceneries in our beautiful town? Bidwell Park, bike paths throughout the city, river rides, almond blossom rides; too many to mention. Place and distances will be determined by the group. We ride fast enough to get there and slow enough to enjoy the ride. All types of bicycles and riders are welcome.



For More Information Contact:

Tim Kressin - 951-743-1297

Ken Doglio - 530-933-3921

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 Brossoit.

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.



SIR Branch 84—Current List of Special Interest Clubs

Bowling Club - Bob Gaines 530-514-5066

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



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

Thank you for this thoughtfulness.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dave Barr, Don Camy, Jeff Eber, Jack Fitton, Don Foster,
Lloyd Lee, Chip Meriam, Bruce Roundy, Jim West

September 5, 2024 - 11:30 AM

Manzanita Place (Chico Elks)

SIR Bob Kerman



THE U.S. NAVY IN VIETNAM

FROM THE RIVERS TO THE SEA

Bob Kerman was born and raised in Chico where he attended Notre Dame School, Durham High School, Yuba College, and Chico State. He was US Navy Active and Reserve from 1967 to 2004. Bob was a machine gunner on riverine craft in Vietnam during 1968 and 1969; then Gunfire Support I Corp aboard USS Saint Paul in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971. He was commissioned as a Navy Officer in 1974 and commanded five Navy units, retiring as Captain.

With a BS degree in Agriculture and an Ag Teaching Credential, Bob taught Ag for seventeen years, Advanced Placement US History for fifteen years, and Navy Junior ROTC for 13 years.

Luncheon Fare

Yankee Pot Roast with
Mushroom Sauce
Mashed Potatoes
Vegetables
Bread and Butter
Lemon Bar

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER 5 MEETING, PLEASE NOTIFY MIKE CRUMP BY AEPTEMBER 1 530 588 4781



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



By Greg Sanger

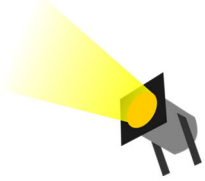


Skip Hubbard

It's my genuine pleasure to introduce yet another of our newest members, Skip Hubbard, a true Chicoan. He was born in Glendale California in April of 1944 where his father was attending Medical School at Loma Linda University. During and after World War II his dad served in the Medical Corps so Skip spent the war years with his grandparents in Portland, Oregon . After the war, in 1946, his family moved to Chico where he's resided ever since. On arriving here, his dad opened a private medical practice on E. 8th Street, which he maintained until his retirement. Skip grew up in Bidwell Park and attended Chico schools: Hooker Oak Elementary School, Chico Junior High School, and the original Chico High School where he graduated in 1962. While in school, he participated on the track team. He was part of the team that qualified for the state finals, the first Chico team to do so. Unfortunately, they didn't place. He also went out for football as a half back. From there, he went on to Chico State College where he graduated in 1968 with a BS Degree in Biology and a minor in business. During his Junior year he met and married his wife Nancy. They had two children, a son who continued the family tradition of working in the medical field and a daughter whose career has been in business, primarily working for the State of California. He spent his school summers as a Seasonal Park Ranger, serving in the back country primarily on horseback. These years also found him working on the Ski Patrol at Mt. Lassen. He continued this service for some 20 years! He had many busy summers as he also trained at the Helicopter Attack School in air rescue. His air rescue activity led to a unique experience with President John Kennedy during the dedication ceremonies for Whiskeytown Lake. After the ceremonies, JFK flew to Manzanita Lake in Lassen National Park for the night. Skip was assigned to assist him. During these same years he joined the Air Force and eventually qualified as a pilot which would have taken him to Vietnam. But due to an excess of pilots at that time, he was deferred to the end of the war and never saw action.

1968 was the year that took him away from park and military service and into agriculture. That year, he joined T.M. Duche, an English owned nut company based in Orland, California. He started as a management trainee. For the first 5 years, he rotated through the four main company departments: plant, field, administration, and accounting. After that he became the Vice President of Field Operations and then on to become the Vice President of Sales. After 25 years with Duche, he left to join Abel Reggio Company, an almond trading company named that traded an average of 1,000 tons of nuts per year. When Abel Reggio Company sold, he joined friends Pete and Patti Peterson, grower/owners at Chico Nut Company. He remained there as president until his retirement 23 years later.

So, after a very long career, Skip retired in December of 2023 and is now looking for something to do in retirement. He has been considering some golf and RC model airplane flying among other things. He is looking toward SIR for some fun and friendship so let's introduce him to all the activities we enjoy.



WISDOM

“Ol’ man river, that ol’ man river

He don’t say nothin’, but he must know somethin’

He just keeps rollin’, he just keeps rollin’ along “.

That would be the mighty Mississippi River. All 2,340 miles of it from the source flowing out of Lake Itasca in Minnesota until it reaches the Gulf Of Mexico some 75 miles south of New Orleans. It starts out about 12 feet wide and a few inches deep. As it nears the gulf it broadens out to about a mile wide, (as I recall from a ferry boat ride across it many years ago).

It’s two largest tributary rivers, the Missouri and the Ohio, were big factors in the western expansion. Geographically it drains all or parts of 32 states and 2 Canadian Provinces. It is the 13th largest river in the world by discharge volume. Amazingly 326 species of birds use it as a flyway guide. It takes about 3 months for the water below them to reach the gulf.

The government, especially the US Army Corps of Engineers, plays a big role in River management. By 1857 up to 1,000 steam boats per year we’re reaching St Paul. Then dams started to be built to control flows, bank erosion, and to assist navigation. Now there are 43 dams with 29 of these below Minneapolis with locks. The Corps keeps the channel at least 9’ deep from Minneapolis to Baton Rouge to support 175 million tons of commercial barge shipping.

If you have a few extra days, a river cruise from New Orleans to Minneapolis only takes 23 days.

By the way, my sister and her friend wrote their contact info in a bottle and threw it into our creek back home when we were kids. They are still waiting for a suave Cajun to call them.

August 13, 2024 Richard Kannenberg



The Mighty Mississippi River

USELESS AND IRRELEVANT WORDS

September 2024

AI Power Consumption

Researchers have been raising general alarms about AI's hefty and rapidly growing energy requirements over the past few months. Combined with the already huge consumption of power by the increased use of electric transportation, the enormous energy costs of cryptocurrency, concern for the inadequacy of our power infrastructure has been growing.¹ Rightfully so. As an example, I've heard (unsubstantiated as I can't remember the source) that a single AI server warehouse for CHAT-GPT 4.0 uses gigawatts of continuous power and 36,000 gallons of water per second for cooling purposes. Apparently there are tens of them across the nation and they are only one of about 15 such computing systems. A peer-reviewed analysis, published this week in "Joule"², is one of the first to quantify the demand that is quickly materializing. The continuation of the current trends in AI capacity and adoption are set to project that just NVIDIA (Not AMD or INTEL) will ship 1.5 million AI server units per year by 2027. These 1.5 million servers, running at full capacity, could consume at least 85 terawatt-hours (A terawatt is 1000 gigawatts. A gigawatt is one billion watts. The average US home uses about 3500 watts peak) of electricity annually; more than what many small countries use in a year. Cooling water aside, and mind you, this is just NVIDIA (may be a good stock tip though). Another example, if you were to fully turn Google's search engine into something like ChatGPT, and everyone used it in that way, you would have nine billion chatbot interactions instead of nine billion regular searches per day. It has been projected that the energy use of Google would spike to require as much power as Ireland just to run its search engine. It goes on.

So, OK, we have a problem. That is, we aren't generating enough power to meet these new and rapidly growing needs. Green and alternative energy sources (Solar, Wind, Geothermal, Wave, and Hydroelectric) will not answer this need as they are unreliable and will likely never be built at a scale large enough to have any significant impact on these needs. Fossil fuels are capable but not renewable, and our limited oil sources are required for the manufacture of plastic and many other products rather than being burnt as gasoline or diesel. In addition, they aren't really in the future power equation except in a few very specific areas due to their detrimental environmental impact. Therefore, as this climate and consumption issue continues to grow, I believe nuclear energy to be the only reliable carbon-free energy source that will help us meet our climate and usage goals. Regardless of public fear and opinion, traditional nuclear reactors will remain a critical component of our energy mix as they provide carbon-free energy 24/7/365, and new, advanced technologies will ensure nuclear is the backbone of the energy grid of the future. We need to get used to the idea and start building them now as their development time is long.

Several newer technologies are ready to take up much of the load if we just had the will to move forward with them. Among these are:

Small modular reactors (SMRs) are part of this because of their size, not their power. SMRs are new generation reactors that typically produce 300 megawatts of electricity or less. This is a substantial amount of energy, as a megawatt of power will run about 1,000 window air conditioners or perhaps, a moderate sized shopping mall. SMRs can change the energy world because they are easier to construct than a traditional reactor. Their components can be built in factories and shipped. As with most things, factory construction allows higher quality at lower cost and modular construction. Such construction leads to multiple reactors being built simultaneously, cutting deployment time."

Micro-reactors are also named because of their size. They are one percent or less of the size of traditional reactors operating today. Micro-reactors produce approximately 1 to 10 megawatts and are mobile, which means they can be moved from location to location depending on where they are needed. This technology will be crucial in remote areas that currently rely on fossil fuels, for example. Micro-reactors are the answer to providing these areas with clean, carbon-free energy as they can easily be transported to where they need to be, operated for weeks or months, then moved to their next location. Perhaps even privately owned and operated independently by residential neighborhoods.

A traveling-wave reactor (TWR) is a proposed type of nuclear fission reactor that can convert material into usable fissionable fuel through nuclear transmutation, in tandem with the burnup of fissile material to create energy.



Thanks to the Gates Foundation, TWRs differ from other kinds of fast-neutron and breeder reactors in their ability to use fuel efficiently without uranium enrichment or reprocessing, instead directly using depleted uranium (The US has warehoused thousands of tons of depleted uranium), natural uranium, thorium, spent fuel removed from light water reactors, or some combination of these materials. The concept is still in the development stage and unfortunately, no TWRs have ever been built due to government restriction. The name refers to the fact that fission remains confined to a boundary zone in the reactor core that slowly advances over time. TWRs could theoretically run self-sustained for decades without refueling or removing spent fuel.

A breeder reactor is an older nuclear reactor technology that generates more fissile material than it consumes. These reactors can be fueled with more-commonly available isotopes of uranium and thorium, such as uranium-238 and thorium-232, as opposed to the rare uranium-235 which is used in conventional reactors. These materials are called fertile materials since they can be bred into fuel by these breeder reactors. Breeder reactors achieve this because their neutron economy is high enough to create more fissile fuel than they use. These extra neutrons are absorbed by the fertile material that is loaded into the reactor along with fissile fuel. This irradiated fertile material, in turn, transmutes into fissile material which can undergo fission reactions. Breeders were at first found attractive because they made more complete use of uranium fuel than conventional reactors, but interest declined after the 1960s as more uranium reserves were found and new methods of uranium enrichment reduced fuel costs. The world energy situation has changed enough that the reintroduction of this technology now makes sense.

Nuclear Fusion Reactors – Research, to date, has not been successful in developing a system that can emulate the energy generation process found in stars. Progress is slow but steady and perhaps, someday, this could well answer our needs for energy. Fusion power is a proposed form of power generation that would generate electricity by using heat from nuclear fusion reactions. In a fusion process, two lighter atomic nuclei combine to form a heavier nucleus, while releasing large amounts of energy. Devices designed to harness this energy are known as fusion reactors. Research into fusion reactors began in the 1940s, but as of 2024, no device has reached net power, although net positive reactions have been achieved for periods of tens of seconds. The fuels are abundant, deuterium is found in seawater as is tritium though in much lower concentrations.

Other more advanced reactors are under development that show great promise in meeting our needs safely and sustainably. These include Non-Water-Cooled Advanced Reactors, Salt and Sodium cooled reactors, and High Temperature Gas cooled reactors.

So, here we are again. Man, it seems, can solve this problem too. All we have to do is to develop the will and the resources to make it happen, which as usual, is the core issue. We have and are developing the technology to make this a reality. Unfortunately, as you know, “atomic” and “nuclear” devices of any kind have long been attributed to unwanted mass destruction, accidental or not, and are, therefore, to be avoided out of fear. We must overcome this misguided and fearful opinion soon. In the meantime, we will have to depend on the mix we have, including fossil fuels.

Comments and arguments are welcome.

Greg Sanger

gsanger@comcast.net

1.) <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-computer-scientist-breaks-down-generative-ais-hefty-carbon-footprint/>

2.) “Joule.” Joule is a monthly peer-reviewed scientific journal published by Cell Press. It was established in 2017 as a sister journal to Cell. The editor-in-chief is Philip Earis according to Wikipedia