

The Grapevine

Lodi/Stockton Branch SIR 145 Newsletter

A non-profit social organization for men



DECEMBER 2025

**“There are no strangers here, only friends that haven’t met”
—Yeats**

Big Sir Greeting for December 2025

Dear Members,

This is the last of 2025 monthly's Big SIR'S monthly message.

Let me first start by thanking you for allowing me to perform the duties as YOUR BIG SIR FOR 2025 and looking forward to another exciting year in 2026.

Year 2025 was a challenging year. We accomplished a lot in the club. I am most proud of our success in recruiting. We added several new members, thanks to our own current members recruiting constantly. We had very successful golf outings throughout the year. Thank you, for your hard work, Bill Rutherford. We also had a very successful picnic in May of this year. Again, I like to thank all that help make the picnic a total success. One person who really has stood out above all of us is Mark Wahlman. I like to thank him for his hard work and dedication .

We are having a good turnout for our CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT WOODBRIDGE CC THIS UPCOMING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 at 11:30 AM. Please, if you have not SUMMITTED AN RSVP PLEASE DO IT IMMEDIATELY BY DECEMBER 5, as we need the count. REMEMBER IF you sign up BUT ARE A NO-SHOW, you still owe the fee, since we counted you to show and the food was prepared based on your pledge when you signed up.

As this year comes to an end, next year will bring some new challenges and new opportunities can enhance the growth of our chapter. Continue to invite and reach out to friends and golf buddies to come join us.

A change is the yearly membership fee is that it will be \$25.00. Our state SIRS is charging us as a Chapter \$12.00, per year per person.

The food for the lunches may go up a couple of dollars to \$27.00 due to our caterer increasing their fee. This is still in negotiations but, please be advised that sometime during the years if things change, then we must change also.

Once again, I would like to thank all the members of Chapter 145, for their contributions and support to the Chapter. All of you have made a great difference in the everyday success of this Chapter. You have helped when we need the most support. In one way or another we help one another and that's what I love about our whole membership. THANK YOU TO ALL! Let's make next year the best year yet.

Merry Christmas to you and your families, and a VERY HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL, HEALTHY, and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!!

Regards,

Juan G Ochoa, BIG SIR, jgochoa@icloud.com, 209-481-5325

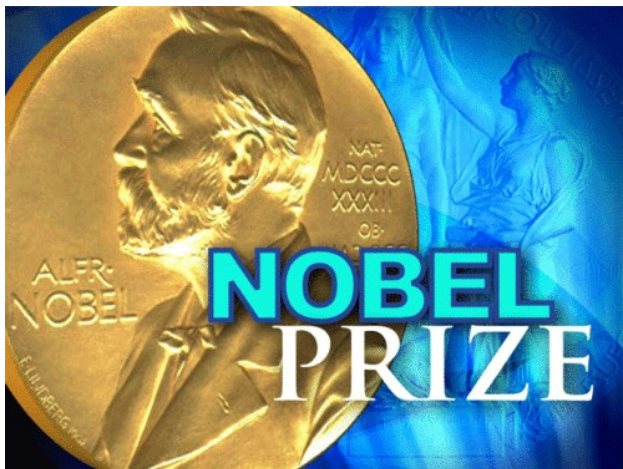
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name	Sir Since
12/04/56	Jeffrey Amos	08/14/18
12/04/54	Lew Baumbaugh	06/09/22
12/09/41	Frank Daniels	04/28/05
12/10/26	Howard Fergusen	
12/26/42	Doug Fritz	10/12/10
12/15/44	Frank Whitney	8/2025



DECEMBER HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

12/07	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
12/10	Nobel Prize Day
12/13	National Guard Birthday
12/21	Winter Solstice/Yule
12/24	Christmas Eve
12/25	Christmas Day
12/31	New Year's Eve



BULLETIN EDITOR COMMENTARY by David Stull

Our November meeting included a great Thanksgiving Luncheon, and also the induction of two new member to our Chapter: TIM COX AND STEVEN COSTA.

I am attaching their biographies, which, I think, you will find very interesting! Be sure to make them feel welcome at our upcoming meetings.

We were also privileged to honor all the members in our Chapter who are veterans, with a photo. (Some did not get into the photo.)

We are looking forward to the Christmas luncheon on the 9th, and the good food and good fellowship. Christmas is still that special time of the year when we are filled with awe and many special remembrances. Take advantage of the drama productions and the excellent musical presentations, which we have in this area.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!





Financial Report

SIR Branch 145

November 15, 2025

Membership Report NOVEMBER

Membership in attendance:	35
Guest in attendance:	1
Percentage of active members in attendance	32%
Total active members:	108
Members Added:	2
	148 Stehpen Costa
	153 Timothy Cox
Members Reinstated:	0
Members Dropped	0
Members Resigned	1
	166 Hank Klor

Stephen Hellmer-Membership Chairman

Starting Bank Balance: \$ 1,618.51

Income

Lunch receipts	\$ 950.00
(Check 2356 12.11.24 Lodi H.S. Check not cashed)	\$ 400.00
50/50 Pot	\$ 56.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,406.00

Expenses

Creative Catering (SIR Luncheon)	\$ 784.80 *
Elks Lodge Monthly Luncheon facility rental	\$ 300.00 *
SIR State Treasurer (reimbursement)	\$ 186.20 *
SIR Golf (Temporary working capital)	\$ 400.00 *
Temple Gallagher (Newsletter)	\$ 125.00 *
TOTAL	\$ 1,796.00

Net Gain/Loss \$ (390.00)

Ending Balance \$ 1,228.51

Joe Stephens SIR Branch #145

Treasurer

twarrior1945@gmail.com

209 992-1020

GOLF RENEWAL TIME



2026

SIR Golf annual dues

Including NCGA (\$49)

DUE December 31st

**Total due is \$55 payable to SIR
GOLF**

**c/o Bill Rutherford
1067 1st Avenue
Walnut Grove, CA 95690**

2026 ANNUAL DUES

Annual Dues of \$25 per member are due and may be paid at the January meeting.

If not attending,
please mail a check to:

**Joe Stephens
P.O. Box 114, Clements,
CA 95227**

TIMOTHY COX BIOGRAPHY



Tim was born in Dameron Hospital in 1947 and raised mostly in the Patterson area. He graduated from Modesto Junior College with an AA degree in 1967 and then transferred to Fresno State College where he earned a BA degree in news editorial journalism in 1970. He completed an MA degree in Mass Communications in 1971 and continued his education at the University of the Pacific where he earned an EDD degree in higher education in 1987.

His first job out of college took him to the Merced Sun Star newspaper where he was hired as a general reporter and editor of the newspaper's education section. In 1973, he changed careers when he was hired as the public information officer at Monterey Peninsula College. In 1978 he worked for a short time at a community college advocacy association in Sacramento managing news media relations, marketing campaigns, and state conferences. He was selected for the public information officer position at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton in 1979.

His role at Delta College was expanded to include the management of the college's community use of facilities, as well as managing the Performing Arts Center complex, the Clever Planetarium, and the print shop/duplicating center. He was active in numerous community organizations including the Stockton Arts Commission, the Stockton Symphony, the Stockton Choral Association, the Stockton Opera Association, the United Way of San Joaquin, the Chamber of Commerce and the Stockton Advertising and Media Club and the Business Leadership Summit.

That motivated Tim's course of life: As a youngster his interest in antique cars began as he saw old cars parked along his early morning paper route when his parents were living in the San Diego area. When his father died in 1962, the family moved back to Patterson to be with relatives. In 1967, at the age of 18, he had enough money to buy an old 1931 Buick Convertible Coupe and began, what would be a restoration that would span 50 years. What parts he could not find at swap meets or through club members, he started to make to get the Buick back on the road. Along the way, he took machine shop courses to learn manufacturing processes.

The biggest challenge came about 1976 when the Buick was almost finished (mechanically) except for the replacement of the disintegrating tar paper firewall insulator panel, a part that every vehicle has, to keep engine noise and heat from entering the passenger cabin. With time, and a lot of experimenting with new materials, he was able to make a new panel for the Buick. After showing it to some Buick friends he started getting requests to make firewall panels for other Buicks as well as other cars and trucks. Through word of mouth and a little advertising, old, deteriorated firewall insulator panels started arriving from coast to coast to be remanufactured. The demand outgrew the two-car garage, and he soon found warehouse space in South Stockton.

Tim met his soon to be wife, Jackie, in 1986 at Delta College. They were married in 1988 and she immediately became an integral part of the hobby-turned-business, managing the finances and HR activities and keeping the focus on "family activities." Together, they have four children and now have eleven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

With the help of family and some dedicated employees, the company, QuietRide Solutions, was officially formed just after his retirement from the college in 2000. Over the next twenty years, the business expanded its product offerings from firewall insulators to include other insulation products for antique, classic and newer cars, and trucks 1928 through 2015. The company developed about 10,000 vehicle specific products over the course of the years. Cox sold the business in 2021. The company remains the leader in aftermarket automotive insulation products. That old Buick found a new home in an automotive history museum in the Netherlands.

Autobiography of Steve Costa

Steve was born in Berkeley, Ca. but his parents moved to Lodi when he was 13.

Steve attended Tokay High, where he lettered in both baseball and basketball, and graduated in 1975.

He achieved an Associate's degree from Delta College with a Major in Natural Sciences, and a minor in agricultural science. Steve worked for Brea Agriculture in Stockton for 10 yrs.

He was picked up by the Clorox Company and spent 30 years with Clorox working in their many divisions (of which there are 65). Steven retired as a Senior Scientist. He was only one of 2 hires, without a prior Master's Degree, to achieve that position out of 2000 scientists. Most all his training was internal with Clorox. His job required extensive travel all over the world. He most often would leave from the Sacramento airport on Monday and be gone all week. He acquired 3 patents while with Clorox, which, of course, he turned over to Clorox upon retirement. Steve retired in 2017 at age 60.

After retirement Steve served on the Board of Directors of Pixie Woods, for 6 years, which turned into an almost full time position. Steve also was a volunteer with Hospice of San Joaquin.

Steve has 3 adult sons from a previous marriage and is getting married again, to the love of his life, Judy, in March. Steve did a romantic proposal to Judy, last summer in Budapest, Hungary.

Let's all give a warm welcome to Steve, and get acquainted more at our Christmas luncheon.



**From left to right, New Member, Stephen Costa, BIG Sir, Juan Ochoa
& New Member, Timothy Cox**

Wine Appreciation Group

That's a Wrap

With 2025 quickly coming to an end we've wrapped up our final Wine Appreciation group with a gathering in November. Hosted by Tony & Lynda Canton we experienced some new kinds of wines that many hadn't tried before. Great choices Tony! There were so many amazing appetizers and some delicious cookies and cakes. No one went away hungry... it was a fun evening, and we are very grateful for the Canton's sharing their beautiful home. (Sorry, there were no publish-worthy photos to share.)



The Wine Appreciation group meets the fourth Thursday in January, March, May, July, September and November. **The next gathering is January 22, 2026 and will be hosted by Dave & Mary Dias.** *The group is currently not adding members but if there is enough interest a second group will be established. Please reach out to Dave Dias.*



Dine In/Dine Out Group

December Group Meets at SIRS Holiday Party

Our Dine In/Dine Out group has a pass for December because of the SIRS Holiday Party on December 9th. The first event in 2026 will be in February, more information will follow.

The Dine In/Dine Out group meets the fourth Thursday in February, April, June, August and October. *The group is currently not adding members but if there is enough interest a second group will be established. Please reach out to Dave Dias.*



December Special Holiday Trivia

- What is Scrooge's first name in *A Christmas Carol*?
A. Baltazar; B. Ebenezer; C. Hesperus.
- What real-life department store was the movie *Miracle on 34th Street* based on?
A. Bloomingdale's; B. Macy's; C. Sears.
- What are the most popular other two names for Santa Claus? A. Father Christmas; B. Kris Kringle; C. Saint Nick; D. Saint Nicholas (½ point each)
- Which modern-day country was the real St. Nicholas born in? A. Germany; B. Ireland; C. Israel; D. Turkey
- What did Frosty the Snowman do when a magic hat was set on his head? A. Dance; B. Sing; C. Talk.
- Which country first put up Christmas trees?
A. England; B. Holland; C. Germany; D. Italy.
- What is the snowman called in the song "Winter Wonderland"? A. Parson Brown; B. Happy One.
- What country did eggnog originate from?
A. England; B. France; C. Germany; D. Poland.
- According to the song, what gift was given on the 8th day of Christmas? A. Golden rings, B. Maids a milking; C. Pipers piping; D. Lords a leaping.
- Whose eyes are "all aglow" in *The Christmas Song*?
A. Angel's; B. Mama's; C. Tiny tot's.
- What was the total number of gifts given in "The 12 Days of Christmas"? A. 158; B. 256; C. 364.
- What gift did the Little Drummer Boy give to the newborn Jesus? A. hat; B. song; C. smile.
- What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?
A. *Silent Night*; B. *White Christmas*.
- Who wrote *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*?
A. Dr. Seuss. B. Hans Christian Andersen.
- What popular Christmas Song was actually written for Thanksgiving? A. *Jingle Bells*; B. *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*; C. *Let It Snow*.
- What company first used Santa Claus in their advertising in 1931? A. Alka-Selzer; B. Coca-Cola; C. Macy's; D. Target.
- In "Twas the Night Before Christmas," where did the clatter come from? A. Chimney; B. Lawn; C. Hall, D. Roof.
- What are two other names for a Christmas Tree? A. Fir Tree; B. Holiday Tree; C. Tannenbaum; D. Yule Tree. (½ point for each one)
- How many reindeer are named in "Twas the Night Before Christmas"? A. Six; B. Eight; C. Ten.
- What was the original title of *Silver Bells*?
A. *Bells*; B. *Christmas Time*; C. *Tinkle Bells*.
- What was the first Christmas carol broadcast from space in 1965? A. *Jingle Bells*; B. *Silent Night*; C. *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*.
- "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was originally published under what title? A. *Long Winter's Nap*; B. *A Visit from Saint Nicholas*; C. *A Christmas Story*; D. *The Night Santa Came*.
- Which Holiday movie includes a Donald J. Trump cameo? A. *Bad Santa*; B. *Elf*; C. *Home Alone 2*; D. *Christmas Story*.
- What Christian group banned Christmas in Boston from 1659 to 1681? A. Anglicans; B. Baptists; C. Puritans; D. Quakers.
- What is the original Latin meaning of the French word Noel? A. Birth; B. Christmas; C. Holiday.
- In what century was the term Xmas first used?
A. 16th; B. 17th; C. 18th; D. 19th; E. 20th.
- What political cartoonist is primarily responsible for the modern depiction of Santa Claus? A. Udo Keppler; B. Thomas Nast; C. Louis Dalrymple; D. Herbert Block (aka Herblock).
- In what decade did NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) start tracking Santa on Christmas Eve? A. 1940s; B. 1950s; C. 1960s; D. 1970s.
- What popular holiday song was written during the Cuban missile crisis as a plea for peace? A. *Baby It's Cold Outside*; B. *Do You Hear What I Hear?*; C. *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*.
- What decade did Rockefeller Center put up its first Christmas Tree? A. 1930s; B. 1940s; C. 1950s.
- Who created the first electric light display?
A. Thomas Edison; B. Nicola Tesla; C. George Westinghouse; D. Alexander Graham Bell.
- What Northeastern state holds the Guinness record for the largest snowman? A. Maine; B. Vermont; C. Massachusetts; D. New Hampshire.
- What country is the Poinsettia native to? A. China; B. Japan; C. Mexico; D. South Africa.
- What old Christmas tradition told people passing by that the residents were Christian? A. Candles in the window; B. Wreath on the door; C. Music.
- How many wise men (Magi/Kings) does the Bible say journeyed to Bethlehem? A. Two; B. Three; C. Four; D. None of the above.
- What country has the longest holiday season, from early September to late January? A. Philippines; B. Brazil; C. France; D. Poland.

Answers to December Special Holiday Trivia

30-A, 31-A, 32-A, 33-D, 34-A, 35-D, 36-A
20-C, 21-A, 22-B, 23-C, 24-C, 25-A, 26-A, 27-D, 28-B, 29-B,
11-C, 12-B, 13-B, 14-A, 15-A, 16-B, 17-B, 18-C&D, 19-B,
1-B, 2-B, 3-B&D, 4-D, 5-A, 6-C, 7-A, 8-A, 9-B, 10-C,

ONLY IN AMERICA WHY

1. Only in America.....can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.



2. Only in America.....are there handicap parking places in front of our skating rinks.

3. Only in America.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.



4. Only in America.....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a Diet Coke.

5. Only in America.....do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.



6. Only in America.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

7. Only in America.....do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

8. Only in America.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.



9. Only in America.....do we use the word 'politics' to describe the process so well: 'Poli' in Latin meaning 'many' and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures'.





RV TRAVEL



Roger Jackson, RV Chair

Jackson Rancheria RV Park
 11407 Dalton Road, Jackson, CA 95642
 Deadline to book is March 1, 2026

Sunday, April 26 – Friday, May 1, 2026

1. Call to make your reservation: (800) 822-9466
Mention you are with SIRS2026
2. Once you have confirmed your reservation
Call or text Roger, RV Chair →
209-658-2673 or Email: rogjaxn@me.com
3. **IMPORTANT:** Reservations are transferrable:
Please call Roger before cancelling
10 rigs = a 15% group discount



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR RETIRED MEN
LODI BRANCH #145
1729 Zinfandel Drive
LODI, CA 95242

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2025 OFFICERS

BIG SIR
Juan Ochoa 481-5825
LITTLE SIR
Felix Moran 609-4084
SECRETARY
Anthony Moles 369-8182
ASST. SECRETARY

TREASURER
Joe Stephens 992-1020
ASST. TREASURER

2025 Directors-at-Large

John Coakley 914-9830
Mike Lynn 224-6115
Bill Rutherford 916-995-6079
Glenn Nellman 209-369-8620

Area State Representative Tony Butera
209-985-3473
State President Rick Carlston
925-324-0838

2025 Committee Chairman

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ANECOTALIST
Mike Lynn 712-6200
ATTENDANCE
Stephen Helmer 242-4607
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Replacement TBA

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David Stull 479-4944
BULLETIN PUBLISHER
Temple Gallagher 986-8367
CHAPLAIN
David Stull 479-4944
GREETER

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HISTORIAN
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MEMBERSHIP RECORDS
Stephen Helmer 242-4607
NOMINATING

PICNIC

PHOTOGRAPHER
Ed Oyler 209-482-6809
PROGRAM
Felix Moran 609-4084
Tom Pratt 916-622-4791

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

Big SIR
SARGENT AT ARMS

SONG LEADER
Joe Stephens 992-1020
TRAVEL & TOURS
John Cardoza 209-483-7722

PAST BIG SIR
Ruben Moser 1988-1989
Al Baerwald 1990
Bill Owen 1991
Al Cooper 1992
Earl Klapstein 1993
Dave Stennick 1994
Gus Armendariz 1995
Jerry Kirsten 1996
Bob McCaffrey 1997
Tom Bandelin 1998
Frank Garcia 1999
Bob Handel 2000
John Korphage (18) 2000-2001
Jack Jackson 2001
Bill Dauer 2002
Ron Westerterp 2003
Dave Hinchman 2004-2005
Paul Reiner 2006
Neal W. Welsh 2007
John Mendonca 2008
Bill Shankles 2009
George Cameron 2010
Richard Baines 2011-2012
Al Furr 2013
Chuck Bennett 2014-2015
Jack Johnson 2016
Bob Gorbet 2017
Phil Schrock 2018
Paul Wright 2019-2021
Mark Wahlman 2022-2023