

Rooster's Tale



Sons in Retirement – Branch 110

Meeting October 27, 2025 1705 Manzanita Ave., Chico, CA

Luncheon at 11:30 am—Executive Committee at 9:30 am

Program: The topic for the October program is about **Bidwell Mansion**. This is indeed a very timely issue. The speaker will be **Amber Drake**. As a tour guide and supervisor at Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park for 13 years, Amber shared her love of John Bidwell's story with tens of thousands of visitors, including Huell Howser who highlighted the park on his PBS show Road Trip. She planned and implemented many successful and long-running programs including the Harvest Festival and the Christmas Evening Tours and her signature tour of the house for third grade students. She is especially proud of her involvement with the interpretive panels adjacent to the house that remain to tell part of the story of the Mansion and the Bidwells.



Although she no longer works for the park, she still enjoys telling people the amazing true story of John Bidwell's life and prominent role in California History. Recently, Amber has become passionate about spreading the truth about John Bidwell while debunking rumors and false innuendo.

Lunch: **The price of a salad is now \$18. The price of lunch is still \$20.**

Lunch Menu	Lunch Attendance Communication
Meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, veggies and bread. Dessert will be a surprise.	It is important to communicate whether you will participate in the OCTOBER 27th luncheon. <u>Please respond to the survey</u> , but if you could not do the survey, and <u>if you WILL attend</u> , contact Rocky Rockwell at 916-209-3217 or Dave Jones at 530-895-1022 <u>by 6:01 pm on Wednesday, October 23rd</u> .

BEC Message: Gentlemen,

New Policy for Luncheon Payments

Starting with the October meeting, if you reserve a luncheon meal for our SIR Branch 110 meeting, **you are responsible for the payment.**

If your plans change, you must notify the Luncheon Committee (Dave Jones or Rocky Rockwell) of your cancellation by 5 PM on the Friday before the Monday meeting.

If you do not cancel in time, you will be charged for the meal. The payment will be due at the next meeting you attend.

Please note that if you attend the meeting without reserving a meal in advance, a meal will not be available for you.

Your Luncheon Committee is: Dave Jones at chicore@hotmail.com or (530) 895-1022 and Rocky Rockwell at clockwell15@gmail.com or (530) 961-3418. (provided courtesy Rocky Rockwell)



Big Sir Message: Zach Justus did a great job explaining Artificial Intelligence to us last month. His presentation was both informative and thought-provoking, helping us better understand what AI is and how it's rapidly becoming a part of our everyday lives. He emphasized that AI is not something to fear, but rather a powerful new tool that humans can use to perform a wide variety of functions—from analyzing data and automating repetitive tasks to enhancing decision-making and improving communication.

Zach also highlighted how AI is already being used in fields like healthcare, education, and business, and encouraged us to think critically about its potential impact on our own work and communities. His clear explanations and engaging style made a complex topic accessible, and many attendees left with a deeper appreciation for the opportunities and challenges AI presents. We're grateful to Zach for sharing his expertise and sparking such meaningful discussion.

Presentations like his help us stay informed, inspired, and ready to embrace new ideas. *Don S.*

Please check out our website for regular updates and a new humor format.

Branch 110 Website: <http://www.branch110.sirinc2.org>

Webmaster: Ron Braziel

2025 Officers and Directors

Big Sir: Don Sturt		Little Sir: Ralph Skytte
Secretary: Bob Dinger	Asst. Sec.: Dave Rush	Database Mgr: Rocky Rockwell
Treasurer: Charles Staser	Asst. Treas.: Jose Lopez	Parliamentarian: Ken Edson
Director: Randy Benson (3 rd term)	Director: Mike Nicholas (2 nd term)	Director: Joe Navarro (2 nd term)
Director: Mike Gross (1 st term)	Director: Dave Jones (1 st term)	Director: Jan Loring (1 st term)

Health, Memorials and Wisdom

In order to include information about Branch 110 members who have health issues or have passed away, **everyone's assistance is requested**. If you know of a member who has had health issues or has recently died, please provide the information to Don Alger. Let's not miss acknowledging our fellow members.

Bill McDermott: William Kinney McDermott, age 97, of Chico, California passed away on Saturday, May 31, 2025. Bill was a long time member of SIR and rarely missed a luncheon meeting until the last few months. He was a nationally active tennis and softball player into his nineties and played tennis locally as late as 2024.

Every path has a few puddles.

SIR 110 Activities


Please remember that when planning SIR activities, it is critical that approval be obtained from the BEC and have it entered into the minutes for insurance coverage.

Bowling





SIR Bowling took the summer off but started again in September. **Please contact Randy Benson with any questions at 530-513-9815.**

Piscatology		The Lake Davis trip is in the books. The lake was green with algae and may have been turning over. We experienced some fairly stiff winds that came up mid-
<p>morning and persisted into the afternoon. We did, however, manage to land a couple of fish on day one. On day two, three boats went to Frenchman and the water and weather was better but only Bruce Crowson caught one fish. Larry and the two Steve's stayed with Lake Davis and caught a few nice rainbows about 16-17". Our final trip of the year is at Lewiston and Trinity Lakes at the end of this month. Lodging is available at the Lewiston Valley Motel and RV Park. Call them at (530) 778-3942. The fishing group meets for breakfast the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 am at the Cozy Diner. Stop in and join us for breakfast.</p> <p>Please check out the Branch 110 website for pictures of fishing activities.</p>		
<p>Contact Dana Davis at 530-570-1687 if you want to know more about the group.</p>		

Hiking		Our October 21 hike is along the Paradise Lake walking path. We'll meet at 9 am at the Park and Ride lot that's nearest Highway 99 along Fir Street. From there we'll carpool to Paradise Lake. After the walk, we'll stop for lunch in the Paradise area (lunch is optional).
<p>PLACE: Paradise Lake walking path WEAR: Layers, hat, walking or hiking shoes or boots LOGISTICS: Bring water. Bring a snack, if desired. Suggest bringing sunscreen, eye protection, lip balm, walking poles or staff if desired, a personal first aid kit, and a hat. Binoculars could come in handy to bird watch. Include in your pack the name of an emergency contact, contact information and medical insurance information. Bring money for lunch (optional). COMMENTS: This hike is along a walking path so this is generally even terrain with gradual elevation changes. Surfaces can include rocks and potholes and can be slippery from rain and leaves. Be alert to tripping and fall hazards.</p> <p>Please check out the Branch 110 website for pictures of past hiking activities.</p> <p>For additional information, please contact Rich Utter, Randy Benson or Jim Hertl.</p>		

Bridge		The Bridge players played last month. Bob Dinger was the only Branch 110 winner. They meet weekly on Thursdays at 2750 Sierra Sunrise Terrace in Chico at noon. Call Bob Dinger at 530-892-9063 for information.
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Pinochle		Winners for September are: Charlie Clayton - 1st; Janice Zigler - 2nd; Barbara Fradilla - 3rd. Next lunch and game date is Wednesday, October 22, at 11 am at the BCCC. Come join the fun group.
<p>Call Joe Navarro at 343-0832 with questions.</p>		

Wood Working		Due to a lack of participation, <u>there are no longer regular meetings.</u> If someone has a project that needs a little help, call Craig Lindquist at 530-898-8483 or Bill Gebhardt at 530-879-0429 for more information.
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Please review the "New Policy for Luncheon Payments" on page 1.

History

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 14th, at 10 am at 6 Stratford Way.** We will have quick reviews of our projects on Chico's Historic Grocery Stores, Flour Mills and Flumes Bio Sketches of

Notable Chico Residents, and discussion of a new project on

The History of the Origin of Chico Street Names.

If you would be interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Don Alger (dalger@csuchico.edu or 530-894-2452).

More History

There will be an endeavor to keep members informed about upcoming history related community events.

Contact Don Alger (dalger@csuchico.edu or 530-894-2452) for more information about these history activities.

Chico History Museum Events

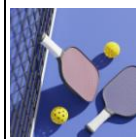
Saturday, October 18: "Loveliest of Places: A Study of Pre Bidwell Mansion Historical Resources"

Saturday, October 25: "Through the Lens of the Wright-Patrick Ranch"

Saturday, November 8: "Veterans Voices: A Celebration of Service and Community"

Saturday, November 15: "Rebuilding the Honey Run Covered Bridge"

Saturday, December 6: "Chico in the 50's"

Pickleball

The Pickleball group has been delayed during the hot weather but is back up to regular programming now which is 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays at 20th Street Park. We may change to noon since the courts are crowded at 10 now that that it is cooler.

Thanks to all of the participants for making Pickleball a fun choice to socialize and get some exercise. Anybody thinking about picking up a paddle, you are welcome to join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am at 20th Street. Come on out and enjoy the fun. Please check about current time of the activity. **Jay Hanson can be reached at jbirdhanson1@gmail.com**

Book Exchange

SIR BOOK EXCHANGE AT THE OCTOBER 27 MEETING

Please bring books to the October lunch meeting to exchange. We're enjoying continued success exchanging books with people passing on books that they enjoyed and people taking books home that they'd like to read.

Stop by the SIR Book Exchange table to put out your books and to see what is available. The book exchange starts during the social time before our lunch meeting.

Please contact Rich Utter or Randy Benson with any questions.

ABV 110

The October ABV activity will be oriented toward the beer drinkers in the group. It will be **Thursday, October 30, at 2 pm at Farmers Restaurant and Taproom.** There are a wide variety of beers to sample and several tasting options to choose from. They of course offer non-beer options and food.

Please check out the Branch 110 website for pictures of recent ABV activities.

To be on the ABV email list, contact Don Alger (dalger@csuchico.edu or 530-894-2452).

Golf



Branch 110 Golf is a very popular activity not only for our members but also for other local SIR Branches. There are tournaments usually twice a month on Mondays with a variety of entertaining formats at different courses. Call **Darrell Hands**, the Chair of the activity, at 530-966-1303 for information.

On September 16, 23 Sirs played at River Oaks in Nicklaus

1 st Place = 57.1	2 nd Place = 59.1	3 rd Place = 60.0
GALLAWAY, JOE	CAMY, DON	HANDS, DARRELL
QUINTO, RAY	KNOWLTON, JACK	MATHESON, TOM
SOLOMON, DAN	PORTERFIELD, CAP	SOMMER, BENNY
VAN PATTEN, ALEX		WHITE, GARY

CLOSEST TO PIN 3: HERMAN, CRAIG - 5' 8"; DAVIS, SAM - 6' 6" **PIN 6:** VAN PATTEN, ALEX - 3' 1"; HYDER, MARK - 4' 1" **PIN 8:** MATHESON, TOM - 12' 3"; HERMAN, CRAIG - 16' 3" **PIN 11:** VAN PATTEN, ALEX - 7' 0"; WHITE, GARY - 22' 5" **PIN 14:** CAMY, DON - 10' 5"; HERMAN, CRAIG - 13' 10"

On October 6, 36 Sirs played at Rolling Hills

1 st Net = 57.6	1 st Net = 58.8	3 rd Net = 59.6	3 rd Net = 59.6
DONAHOO, SCOTT	BARGER, JIM	HULL, MICHAEL	GALLAWAY, JOE
HANDS, DARRELL	MABREY, BOB	MARTINSON, KEITH	GIFFORD, KEVIN
PORTERFIELD, CAP	MCMAMARA, DENNIS	QUINTO, RAY	HERMAN, CRAIG
	WHITE, GARY	VAN PATTEN, ALEX	MAIN, ED

CLOSEST TO PIN 4: MCMAMARA, DENNIS - 11' 5"; ATKINS, NORM - 22' 2" **PIN 6:** PORTERFIELD, CAP - 7' 2"; BINGAMAN, BILL - 8' 1" **PIN 12:** HULL, MICHAEL - 10' 0"; GRIFFIN, RON - 10' 6" **PIN 14:** DONAHOO, SCOTT - 14' 11"; MABREY, BOB - 26' 7" **PIN 16:** GIFFORD, KEVIN - 1' 7"; BINGAMAN, BILL - 13' 0"

Technology Information

Brave Internet Browser

Do you watch some videos on your browser or from YouTube that is always breaking in with ads? I used to. It got very frustrating having these 15 or 30 second ads pop up right in the middle of these videos.

Well, there is a solution. I installed the "Brave" internet browser onto my pc. It is an internet browser that is built on the Google Chromium open-source project. It is very familiar with Chrome. Easy to use!

Now, when I am browsing with Chrome, Microsoft Edge or YouTube and see a video I want to view, I just click on the video and then highlight the address in the address bar, press a CTRL + C (copy), open the "Brave" browser, click in the Brave address bar and press CTRL + V (paste) and hit the enter button. Wa La! I can watch the video without the frustrating ads.

The Brave internet browser is a free web browser that is heavily focused on user privacy, speed, and security. It was co-founded in 2015 by Brendan Eich, the creator of JavaScript and co-founder of the Mozilla project.

Key aspects and features of the Brave browser are built-in Ad and Tracker Blocking (Brave Shields). Unlike other browsers, Brave blocks third-party ads, trackers, and cross-site cookies automatically on every website, including video and streaming sites like YouTube. This results in faster loading times and a cleaner browsing experience.

Information provided courtesey of Rocky Rockwell

MEMBERSHIP

There are now **129** members including **9** on Attendance Relief.

Membership brochures and applications are always available at the membership table or you can call **Sam Smith** at 530-720-1041 to get one via the postal service.

Roster Updates

Since the preparation and printing of the 2025 Roster, some changes have occurred.

The "Roster Updates" will help keep members informed of **current membership**.

If you need to communicate with a new member, contact Rocky Rockwell (530-961-3418).

New Members Not in the 2025 Roster	Mick Grey	Robert Minton	Warren Locke	Tim Hill
	Mark Frey	Scott Brogden	Mike Bates	Don Krysakowski
	Mike O'Malley			

New Member in September



Name: **Mike O'Malley**
Occupation: Former College / Pro Soccer Coach
Interests: Baseball Day, Biking, Bocce Ball, Dancing, Dine Out, Fishing, Golf, Hiking, Pickle Ball

Sponsored by: Jose Lopez

Guest in September

Bruce Eggleston - guest of Vern Hartman

Announcements

Editor's Note: The deadline for the **November** Rooster's Tale is **Thursday, October 30**. Send your information by email to dalger@csuchico.edu or phone at 530-894-2452.

Future Programs: A **November 17th** veterans program is scheduled. **December 15th** will feature Christmas music.

State SIR Bulletin: (SIR Happenings) is available for review at <https://sirinc.org/newsletters/>.

Our Branch Officers for 2026: A formal election was held at the August luncheon meeting and the proposed nominees were elected by acclamation.

After an email to Ralph Skytte describing responsibilities for establishing assignments for 2026 committees, he provided the following response:

"sorry being out of town I dont think ill be the big sirs but thanks for the offer"

His name has been removed from the list of 2026 Officers and Directors.

Big Sir: Vacant		Little Sir: Vacant
Secretary: Bob Dinger	Asst. Sec.: Dave Rush	Database Mgr: Rocky Rockwell
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Director: Mike Gross (2 nd term)	Director: Dave Jones (2 nd term)	Director: Dana Davis (1 st term)

SIR Branch No. 110
2025 Christmas Dinner Party
will be held at



Monday, December 8, 2025
5:00 PM Social -- 6:00 PM Dinner

MENU CHOICES

ROAST BEEF
TURKEY
VEGETARIAN

Cost: \$35.00 per person.

Children's
Choir

Prizes!!

Happy Holidays
to
Everyone!



Prizes!!

Please make checks payable to
SIR Branch No. 110.

Tickets will be sold at the October and November luncheon meetings.



Don Alger, Editor
6 Stratford Way
Chico, CA 95973

FIRST CLASS MAIL



FIRST CLASS MAIL



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

If you have an October birthday, please join us at the October 27th luncheon and see what you might win.

Richard	Waldsmith	Oct	4	Jose	Lopez	Oct	14	Howard	Hanson	Oct	23
James	Johnson	Oct	8	Vincent	Herrera	Oct	15	William	Colvin	Oct	26
Charles	Staser	Oct	9	Raymond	Schimmel	Oct	18	Alfredo	Romero	Oct	30
Roger	Merlo	Oct	11	Jim	Barger	Oct	22				

It is possible to get a free lunch. Both the sponsor and his guest will receive a free lunch when the guest joins and is inducted.

Please, be a friend and bring a friend to the next SIR meeting!

RANDOM THOUGHTS

I started out with nothing and I still have most of it.