



## SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for December 2023

### SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life. Visit our [Branch Webpage](#), [State Webpage](#) and/or attend Tuesday morning coffee.

### **Windsor Branch 176**

Monthly Luncheon Meeting Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
Charlie's Restaurant 130 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Dr. Windsor CA  
Charlie's lunch is \$22.00 (plus \$1 table tip if you wish)  
Reminder: Yearly Dues (\$24) can also be paid at lunch.

### *Windsor Winds Edition*

December 2023  
Volume 28 Number 12



## Big SIR – Chris Roach



This is my final Newsletter input as Big SIR. I feel that 2023 has been a good year for our branch. We brought in 15 new members this year! We had a successful summer picnic and I'm looking forward to our Holiday Party on December 14.

Thanks to all who came to our monthly lunches. If you haven't been attending, please make an effort to join us in 2024. We are signing up interesting guest speakers for you. All of the activities were well attended, especially Coffee, bocce and golf is on the rise!

Thanks to all Officers, Directors and Activity Coordinators for their work during the year. Special thanks to Ward Thompson for his 9 years of service as our Treasurer, Dave Harrison for being our Secretary, Bowling Coordinator, Picnic Chair and for his 10 years on the Board. Thanks to Wayne Lindahl for restarting the successful Couples Dinner program! Thanks to Mike Berry & Gary Jensen for their many years of service! Thanks to new members Gary Trojanowski (Treasurer) and Jim Tubb (Web Page) for taking on those assignments. We hope to see more new members getting involved! Thanks to Tom Hasco for taking on the Holiday Party. And to Larry Doherty for stepping up to take on the Little SIR duties after the original candidate dropped out at a late date and really helping me out during the meetings and elsewhere. More to come at the Holiday Party. Hope to see you there!

Hope you all have a great Holiday Season!

## Chris Roach – Friendship Report

*Get Well cards to: John Campbell and Nancy Michnevich.*

Jim Branscombe's dear friend (and one of our SIRs members) **George Gallegos passed away** on Thanksgiving at the age of 80. He is survived by his wife Lynn who has received a sympathy card. George, you will be missed.

## Little SIR – Larry Doherty



Wow did we have another good turnout this past Wednesday! I hope you all are planning to come to the Holiday Party, as I know Tom Hasco has put a lot of effort into it!!! Tom did explain the additional cost this year, in fact, down to the penny. 😜 It is not only our party that costs more but it seems like everything is taking a little more away from our savings. Oh, but not next year's dues as we voted on keeping the dues the same. So please, don't forget to bring a check in January for \$24 or by mailing one to the new secretary. You can find more information on the dues in this newsletter.

I truly want to thank Chris Roach for a great job he did this year. I look back now one year ago and thought, wow, it is going to be tough to fill Frank's shoes but Chris managed it exceedingly well. If I don't see you at the party, I hope you have a Happy Hanukkah, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

## 2024 Dues

It's that time again. No change for SIR 176 required yearly dues. The amount is \$24.00. Dues can be paid at the luncheon meetings OR sent to the new treasurer, Garry Trojanowski, 9575 Wellington Circle, Windsor, Ca. 95492 made out to "SIR Branch 176".

No Luncheon this month, so don't miss our **Holiday Party** on December 14<sup>th</sup>, Noon at Charlies. Please mail the forms and payment to Tom Hasco per flyer instructions. If you need another flyer, contact Tom Palmer at: [palmer.ts@gmail.com](mailto:palmer.ts@gmail.com)

## THANKS TO OUR PRVIOUS GUEST SPEAKER:



Thank you Vincent for sharing with us the mission of the Red Cross, highlighting some “mission moments” and reminding us to always have a “go bag”. If you have any questions including volunteering, Vincent welcomes your inquiry at [vincent.valenzuela@redcross.org](mailto:vincent.valenzuela@redcross.org)

## Golf-Mike Berry



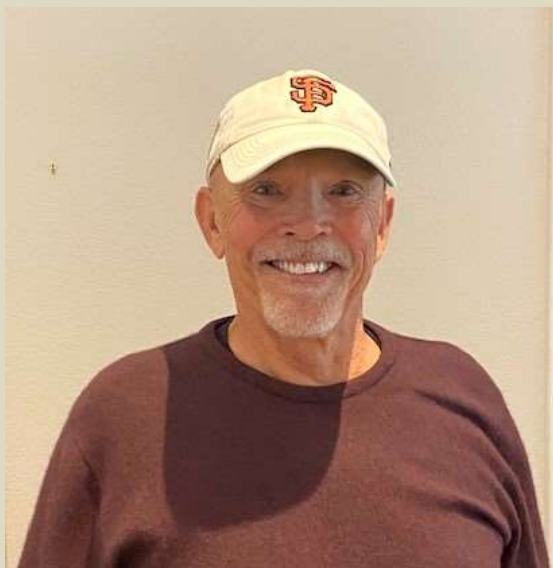
2024 Dues are coming due. To play in our weekly “tournaments” (\$5.00 fee) one must have a membership and a handicap. (We also welcome those who play without entering the “weekly tournament”) During December NCGA membership reminders will be issued. Members of SIRS 176 Windsor will receive specific payment instructions from Mike Berry.

To join us you don't need to be a good golfer, just a person who enjoys the game & don't mind cool weather. We usually begin arriving at 7:45. Prior to Wednesday, use the signup sheet at the golf course or call the golf course at 707-838-7888 to sign up for SIRS golf. The starter usually gets us out by 8:00. ***If you are new*** to the golf group, please show up at 7:45 and look for us. Since we look forward to playing with new members, we will certainly make adjustments to get you in.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:



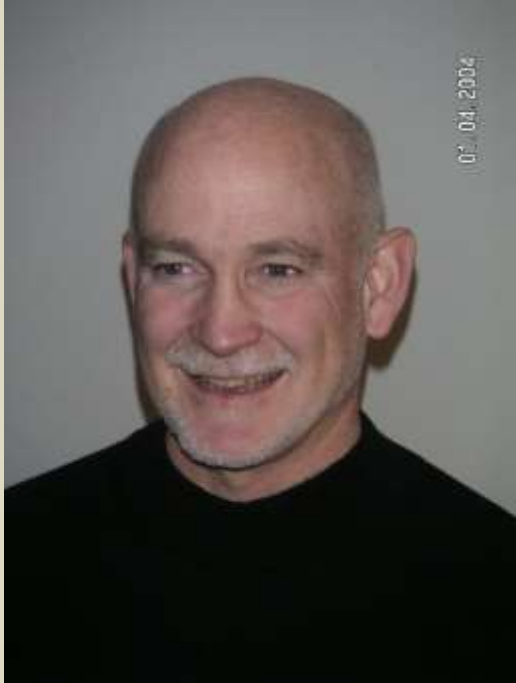
**HAROLD MINKIN** was born in Oakland and grew up in Daly City. His wife of 41 years, Stephanie, was born in San Francisco. He worked in the computer industry for over 30 years, first as an engineer and later in sales at Oracle Corporation. Harold retired in 2004, and moved from Belmont to Cloverdale. Since he didn't want to fully retire he decided to get into the wine business and worked special events at Coppola winery. He also joined the Red Cross and was a member of the National Disaster Team and head of Disaster Education. Several years later he volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. Currently Harold is the Vice- Chair of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission. He was a member of branch 17 but decided to transfer to branch 176 mostly because of his good friend Wynn Bailey and others met at coffee. His hobbies include golf, wine, cooking, reading, hiking, swimming and bike riding. Harold joined us in October.



**BOB ADAMS** moved from the east coast to the Bay Area in 1972 after an enlistment in the navy. In 1981 he graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering. Eight years later, after moving to the south bay, he met his future wife, Shellie. They've now been married for 31 years. Bob and Shellie moved full-time to Windsor in 2018 after living in Mountain View for 28 years. Both now retired, they enjoy travel, sailing on SF Bay and worldwide, being part of WeAct, and exploring Sonoma County. Bob is also currently on the TGVA-HOA board.



**CHARLES BOYD** originally from Petaluma served in the US Navy during Vietnam for four years. Thirty five years ago he was married to his wife Barbra. After the Navy he moved to the Windsor area. He retired from Sutter where he was the Director of the pulmonary rehabilitation program. He and his wife love to travel and especially enjoy "music cruises". He also hosts house concerts. His hobbies include working on old cars & motorcycles, long range fishing, gardening, and cooking. His interest in SIRs include Bocce ball, coffee, and perhaps golf following some needed orthopedic surgeries.



**TERRY TAYLOR** has spent over 3 decades in Sonoma County and is a resident of Windsor, CA. He is married to his best friend, Cathy, and shares adventures with her, their children (6) and grandchildren (5).

Terry studied psychology as an undergraduate and graduate at Stanford University. He currently owns and serves as president for a US consulting firm, Global Genesis that specializes in negotiations, conflict resolution/mediation, high performance teamwork, and executive coaching. Global Genesis is a family owned and operated business that partners with professionals throughout the world. Terry has consulted in over 60 countries around the world.

Terry is a founding member of WeAct, a Windsor-located nonprofit that works with climate resilience and quality of life projects. He enjoys Bocce Ball, biking, and walking, and music.

Note: Wayne Fogleman also joined in November but has been traveling and so will be in December's newsletter.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS DECEMBER TO:**

**HOWARD BLETHEN, JIM BRANSCOMBE, JOHN CROOKER, GARY FRANKLIN, STEVE MONROE, DICK**

## **2023 Couples Dinner In Review:**

In 2023, our first four dinners were all in Windsor, starting with 14 couples at Tian Yuen in January, 9 couples at Grata in February, 11 couples at Qimura in March, followed in April with 12 couples for a Mexican fix at Diana's on Old Redwood Hiway. In May, we ventured out to Santa Rosa for Dinner at Vine Burgers, recommended by Rich and Jennifer Laucks. Back to Windsor in June for our local French fix by 10 couples at Maison Porcella, then three more Santa Rosa trips in July for 10 couples at Betty's Fish & Chips and in August for 5 couples at the Mitote Food Park, and 9 couples in September at Americana near Railroad Square. In October, we returned to Windsor's Town Green with 11 couples at Kin Windsor.

In **2024**, we will try to stay close to Windsor for the dark early months and revisit some local favorites and perhaps venture a little further out during the summer months. Your recommendations are always welcomed and if you are not getting notified early about our next dinner, please contact Wayne Lindahl, ([wilindahl@sonic.net](mailto:wilindahl@sonic.net)) to be added to the couples dinner notification list.

## **Dave Harrison –Bowling**

Our Monday morning Mixed Seniors League has just completed 10 of its 31 weekly sessions. Last week, Sir John Campbell's team, the Pin Lovers, had the highest Scratch Game, Scratch Series, Handicap Game and Handicap Series, followed by Dave Harrison's team, the Pin Seekers. Both teams are neck and neck in wins, currently the Pin Seekers are slightly ahead of the Pin Lovers. In individual play, Dave Harrison came in third in the cumulative Handicap Series.

It must be remarked that our bowling home, Windsor Bowl, has recently undergone a major upgrade of its bowling facility, with new machinery and fixtures. It is a great improvement.

If you are interested in participating in our league of ten four-player teams, a great way to start is to become a substitute bowler. We need substitutes, particularly during the Holiday season when so many active team members are traveling or with family. Please contact me, Dave Harrison, at [harrisod@sonic.net](mailto:harrisod@sonic.net), or 707-292-2300 and we'll put you in touch with our league secretary who handles substitutions. The member fee for bowling is \$15.00 per week. Substitutes pay \$11.00 per game day. We bowl three games and are credited with four.

## **Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan**

Thursday Bocce Ball will now be held at the Senior Center at 10:00am. All are welcome.

## **Gary Jensen – Recruitment and Coffee**

Recruitment: We had four new members in November. Most came to coffee before joining. Keep spreading the word!!!

For Coffee: Tuesday morning coffee remains one of our most attended events. Good coffee, good pastries, and good company. Come join the fun and invite a friend.



A record 31 folks for coffee at the senior center on 11/14

Please invite a friend.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Anyone like photography and willing to take some photos for the Newsletter? Tom Palmer is looking for help improving our newsletter and if someone enjoys taking photos, and/or has a camera better than the iPhone, please contact Tom at [palmer.ts@gmail.com](mailto:palmer.ts@gmail.com) He especially needs help during the monthly luncheon meetings as he will be up front and with the speaker per his Little Sir duties.

Jim Tubbs is busy working on our web page and would like input involving design decisions for the layout of the site and content ideas. He does all the work, just an extra pair or two of eyes would be quite helpful. If interested, please contact Jim at [drdelta91@gmail.com](mailto:drdelta91@gmail.com)





## A Profile:



### Larry Doherty

I was born in San Francisco (SF) to an Irish father and an Italian mother. Both of them were the first generation of Americans. I was the first half breed on both sides. Nearly all my relatives back then lived in SF so we spent a lot of time with each family. The Irish side spoke some Gaelic and played cribbage while the Italian side did speak Italian and there, we played dominoes. As children we were not allowed to speak either.

We left SF for San Jose (SJ) when I was in elementary school. When we moved to SJ there was only 90 thousand people living there. The school was right around the corner from our home, so my parents decided that I and my three younger brothers did not need to attend Catholic schools any longer. Of course, this meant that the nuns would have to find some other child to use their yard stick upon...yeah!

During high school, I played baseball and managed to get some good grades which enabled me to get a Marine Corps scholarship to attend the Citadel. Well, being only 17 and knowing more than anyone else, I decided to leave South Carolina and head to Utah, where my friends were attending college. It seemed being a rolling stone was easier than being called "boy." I was a Ute for nearly two years before heading off to the oil fields in Wyoming. What a great and beautiful place that was. Funny, when I was in Bairoil—Wyoming had 500K people. (Wyoming still only has 500K people.) Knowing I needed to settle down and feeling like I had an obligation to this great nation; I enlisted in the Coast Guard. I was not going to be like my father and join the Marines though their hymn was the first song my brothers and I knew how to sing.

The Coast Guard (CG) was very good to me. After boot camp and basic Gunner's Mate school, I was sent to the USCGC Morgenthau, which was essentially a small destroyer. We were based out of Alameda but spent most of our time sailing around the Alaskan seas. We referred to ourselves as the "Fish Guard," since we spent most of our time boarding Russian, Japanese, and Korean fishing trawlers ensuring they were keeping good records of what they caught in our waters. (The fish they took was fish the US wasn't eating at the time but eventually McDonalds put it in their fish sticks.) When one of my brothers got in a bad crash, the CG transferred me to the Alameda CG boot camp so I could spend more time with my brother. There I taught boots how to shoot. It was a great job for 2.5 years and I became so proficient at shooting I began competing (while in the CG and then at the Police Olympics).

After the service I was fortunate enough to get hired by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. I worked there for 40 years, though the last 13 years were as extra help (only working half time). I worked patrol in the north part of the county and the river. When I was in violent crimes (detectives) I helped investigate the murders of Ramon Salcido, the Mann murders on the coast, the Jane Gill murder in the mansion, along with many more. During the last 19 years I was the guy no one liked, as I was in charge of Internal Affairs. (When I got that position, I told my wife we wouldn't be invited to any more office birthday and/or Christmas parties.)

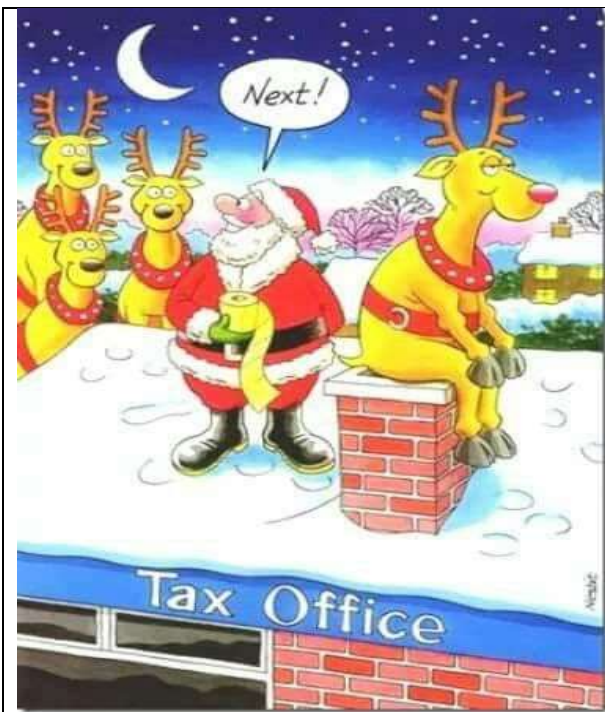
While patrolling in Windsor (1984) I met my wife Colleen, who was working as a "bagger" at Raley's. She was pushing some carts from the parking lot back to the store when she ran those carts into my patrol car. Yes, love at first sight, well at least it was for me. We have been married for 36 years. When we moved to Windsor in '87 it was because I wanted to live where my family was (in Healdsburg) but she wanted to live where she grew up (Santa Rosa) so we settled in between. What a great choice that has been!

We raised three wonderful sons; Timothy Patrick, Brett Ryan, and Trevor John (yes, good Italian names), who have all worked in law enforcement (though my wife really wanted an electrician or a plumber). After Colleen (a 30-year Sheriff Office Dispatcher) and I both retired for good in 2020, Brett and Trevor have blessed us with 4 grandsons. Luckily, they all live within a mile of us.

In Windsor, and while I was still working; I coached both youth and high school baseball and football teams, the Windsor HS varsity baseball team, chaired for the Windsor Boys and Girls Club, earned my bachelor's and master's degrees in military history, and meet some wonderful and dear friends. It was Dave who invited me to SIRs back in 2022. Thanks Dave, it has been a great time ever since.

I look forward to next year where I will serve you as the Big Sir to the best of my abilities.

**FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:**





## SILLY CHRISTMAS JOKES:

What is every parent's favorite Christmas song? Silent Night!

How did Joseph and Mary weigh baby Jesus at birth? They had a weigh in the manger.

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!

What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense? Wait, there's myrrh.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.

What do you call an elf that runs away from Santa's workshop? A rebel without a Claus!



## STEWART MORGAN –TRAVEL

If you are interested or have questions please contact Stewart  
at [stwrvmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:stwrvmorgan@gmail.com)



**SIR Branch Travel Chair Trips and News**  
[miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com) 925-285-2897c

**Milt Smith State Travel Chair**

**November 2023**

**[Rose Parade & New Year's Eve Dec. 30, 2023 – Jan. 4, 2024. Cost \\$3,375pp.](#)**  
[Includes air fare, lodging, New Year's Eve party, Rose Parade, Nixon Library, coastal cities, luxury bus, lodging, 9 meals. Contact Joe Salamida 408-767-2838. ascreenman756@gmail.com](#)

**Princess 11 Nigh Inside Passage Cruise from San Francisco Rt Alaska May 26 – June 6, 2024.** Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway AK and Victoria, Canada. Cabins start \$2590 pp to \$3322 pp double occupancy SIR 143 Contact John Cardoza 209-483-7722 or [johncardoza@hotmail.com](mailto:johncardoza@hotmail.com)

**Best of Spain and Portugal April 27 – May 12, 2024. Branch 146. Cost \$7,895pp.** Madrid, Segovia, Porto, Lisbon, Seville, Gibraltar, Costa Del Sol, Alhambra, Valencia, Barcelona, round trip airfare, 15-day guided tour with Travel Director, 14 nights at centrally located 4star hotels, 5 dinners and 2 lunches including wine, all tips, transfers and baggage handling. Contact Glenn Breslin 925-288-6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

**[THIS TRIP now cancelled...Memorials of WWII Tour Sept. 6 – 15, 2024 Cost \\$4,972pp dbl.Occ.](#)** London, Portsmouth, Paris, D-Day Museum, Landing R/T air, motor coach, ferry from England to France. 8 brkfst. 4 dinner. Contact Glenn Breslin 925-288-6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

**Every Saturday morning (8:30-10AM)** Jose Castaneda hosts a **FREE breakfast for veterans** at Castaneda Marketplace; 8465 Old Redwood Highway. This “Castañeda’s Breakfast Brigade,” provides veterans a place for connections, camaraderie & friendship

<https://www.facebook.com/CastanedasMarket>



**Once a month**, date varies, this month it is **December 18th**. All SIR and their spouse are welcome to start the “work” week with Margherita Monday – a chance to sample the best frozen margheritas in Windsor. Starts sharply at 4PM Castaneda’s Market Place.

## **OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**(Not official SIR Activities)**

**Keep an Eye Out for notices from Len Schwer about Margarita Monday and other community events.** For additional information contact Len Schwer at: [Len@schwer.net](mailto:Len@schwer.net)



<b>2023 SIR Branch 176 Officers:</b>					
<b>Big SIR</b> Chris Roach (707) 490-8510 Chrisroach@sbcglobal.net		<b>Little SIR</b> Larry Doherty 707-484-5308		<b>Secretary</b> Dave Harrison 707-6388155 harrisod@sonic.net	
<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Jerry Culver 707-953-4901		<b>Treasurer</b> Ward Thompson 707-539-1377		<b>Assistant Treasurer</b> Howard Blethen 707-892-2992	
<b>2023 Directors</b>					
<i>1 Year Term</i>			<i>2 Year Term</i>		
Rich Laucks	Jock Rader	Tim Senkir	Ed Peoples	John Crooker	Gary Jensen
<b>2023 Activity Coordinators</b>					
	<b>ATTENDANCE</b> Ron Nordstrom 707-338-6363	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Larry Doherty 707-484-5308	<b>FRIENDSHIP</b> Chris Roach (707) 490-8510		
<b>TRAVEL</b> Stewart Morgan 707-545-4957	<b>GOLF</b> Mike Berry 707-837-1792	<b>BOWLING</b> Dave Harrison 707-638-8155	<b>COFFEE CLUB</b> Gary Jensen 707-377-8380		
<b>COUPLES DINNER</b> Wayne and Maryl Lindahl 707-837-2816	<b>BOCCE BALL</b> Stewart Morgan 707-545-4957	<b>RECRUITMENT</b> Larry Doherty 707-484-5308	<b>GREETER</b> Gary Jensen 707-337-8380		
<b>SONG LEADER</b> Tom Hasco 707-544-4445	<b>NEWSLETTER</b> Tom Palmer 619-920-9175	<b>WEB PAGE</b> Jim Tubb 707-484-7890			
<b>SIR State President</b> Dave Gonzales <a href="mailto:yogonzo@wahoo.com">yogonzo@wahoo.com</a>			<b>SIR Area 13 Governor</b> Bob Nadell 707-836-4123 <a href="mailto:nadellb@sbcglobal.net">nadellb@sbcglobal.net</a>		