



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for June 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 3rd Wednesday
Charlie's Restaurant 130 19th 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

June 2023

Volume 28 Number 06

Big SIR – Chris Roach



Our Treasurer, Ward Thompson, is retiring after 9 years of outstanding service to the branch. Many thanks for all you have done Ward! He will serve for the remainder of the year. Anyone interested in taking over the position will have Ward to train him. It doesn't require an accounting degree, just some basic math and computer skills. If you are interested, please contact Rich Laucks (707) 836-0227 or me (707) 490-8510. Ward is also available to give a detailed description of the position.

In our ongoing attempts to gain new members, we have discussed attending Windsor events to hand out SIR flyers. Two such current events are the Thursday Night Concerts series on the Town Green and The Windsor Farmers Market. You can contact Gary Jensen (707) 337-8380 for flyers and to coordinate events.

Reminder: No meeting in June, we're having our Picnic on June 15! Hope to see you there!

Invitation to BEC: Anyone interested in finding out what the BEC is and does is invited to join us. Especially new members and those interested in becoming a

Director, Committee Chair or Officer. We meet before the lunch meeting, come anytime between 10:30 and noon.

Remember to get involved in some or all of the activities we sponsor: bowling, coffee meetings, golf, bocce, couples dinner, Friday afternoon Happy Hour, outings, travel and poker. Hope to see you at the next lunch meeting in July!

Chris Roach – Friendship Report

A Sympathy card was sent to Jim Griffin's family on his passing

Little SIR – Larry Doherty



Looking forward to seeing all of you that can make it for this year's picnic. And a special thanks, for those who took part in the committee helping to prepare it for us. As you know there is no speaker for the picnic so a little tease for our July meeting...she's an attorney. I know, like we need more of them, but what can I say.

Warmest Regards,

LarryD.

REMINDER REGARDING OUR JUNE MEETING

Our usual monthly meeting at Charlie's will not be held in June since we are having our Picnic on June 15th.

Our Newest Member Greg Smith:



Greg Smith was welcomed as a new member on 5/17/2023. He was born in Yakima, WA. But raised here in Santa Rosa. His siblings included 3 sisters and 2 brothers. Greg has 2 sons, 2 daughter, 4 grandsons, 2 granddaughters and 2 step-sons. His wife is Terri. In 1966 through 1969 he was in the US Navy assigned to the USS Constellation. (CV64). Greg attended SUJC and Sonoma State University receiving his BA in Business Management.

Professionally he started as an Inventory control manager for South Bay Redwood in Healdsburg, then was a commercial crab fisherman in Kodiak Alaska. He then moved back and was the General Manager, Controller of Dave's Pit Stop in Sonoma County. After that he was the accounting manager, Mental Health Services, for the county of Marin followed by being the Fiscal manager for the Ca. Superior Court, Sonoma County, from which he retired in 2010.

He has been a resident of Windsor since 1979. He enjoys traveling, gardening, woodworking, fishing & hunting. He has attended SIR's coffee, happy hours and weekly meetings and plans on continuing to do so. Greg may venture out and try Bocce ball. He's adamant that he's not a golfer, so don't ask. He would like you to know that he talks softly and hoarsely since he uses a speech valve following his laryngectomy in 2004, so don't be taken back, he's used to it.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS JUNE TO:

Wynn Bailey, Lorenzo Cavallo, Tom Lawrence, Wayne Lindahl, Dave Schleeter, Tim Senkir & Jack Symons

THANKS TO OUR MAY MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER

Our presenter was Karen Handcock for Sonoma County Fire District. Her time, gifts and knowledge was appreciated.

Dave Harrison –Bowling

Branch 176 members are participating in the Windsor Bowl Monday Morning Mixed Seniors no tap bowling league. Becoming a substitute player is an excellent way to enjoy bowling. If you are interested in becoming a bowling league substitute, please contact Dave Harrison at harrisod@sonic.net.”

Dave Harrison, Bowling Chair.

Golf-Mike Berry

The number of golfers have been increasing Turnout for weekly sweeps is steadily increasing, enough to open up 2 flights of winning spots...but more is better. You don't need to be a good golfer, just a person who enjoys the game. Please come and join us between 8 and 8.30. 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 on time (7:45-8:00) and look for us. Since we look forward to playing with new members, we will certainly make adjustments to get you in.

EDITOR'S NOTICE:

I receive very positive feedback concerning our “Profile” section. For it to continue folks must step up and be willing to share. If you are so inclined, please contact me at palmer.ts@gmail.com.

Couples Dinner (Not an official SIR Activity)



Wednesday, May 24th, we enjoyed another Couples Dinner at Vine Burgers in northern Santa Rosa. Everyone enjoyed their meals, a nice selection of beef, lamb, pork and seafood burgers, and had a good time. We had three new couples join us for this event, Phil and Cyndy Bartels, Gary and Helen Franklin and George and Lynn Gallegos. Always good to see new faces, get to know new members and hope they join us again.

We were seated at tables for four and one table of seven, rather than one long table in the rear dining room. The owner/chef, James Byus III, came back to welcome us and thank us for coming and had hired extra staff for this event.

Among the favorite dishes were the Little Lamb Burger, the “Real” Hamburger (Pork) and the milk shakes, both chocolate and strawberry. A “Thumbs Up” for Vine Burgers.

Gary Jensen – Recruitment and Coffee



May 30th coffee at the senior center

Coffee time attendance at the Senior Center is good but please let's bring some guests.

SIR BRANCH 176/17 PICNIC

We are excited for our summer picnic which should be a great time. Please review the flyer below: Also, if anyone has a pop up canopy they can lend to the effort please contact Dave Harrison. (harrisod@sonic.net)

The SIR Branches 17/176 Picnic

Thursday, June 15th, 2023

Outdoor Event Area at Windsor Golf Course
1302 19th Hole Drive, Windsor, CA

Catered By Charlie's at Windsor Golf Course

11:00 am Social Hour

12:00 Noon Lunch Served

BBQ Chicken, Veggie Pasta, Chili Beans, Corn on the Cob,
Salad, Bread, Butter & Dessert
Wine, Beer, Soft Drinks
Raffle Music

All for Only \$40.00 per person!

Picnic Sign Ups at April 19th and May 17 Meetings
or

Sign ups by mail

Ward Thompson, 5530 Melita Rd., Santa Rosa, Ca. 95409
707-322-9396 / patandward@sbcglobal.net

Purchase by mail deadline is June 1st.

Be sure to include mailing address and name(s) for name tags

No tickets will be sold the day of the Event

Contact David Harrison, Br 176 Picnic Chair with questions
707-292-2300 / harrisod@sonic.net

Gary Jensen – Recruitment and Coffee



May 30th coffee at the senior center

Coffee time attendance at the Senior Center is good but please let's bring some guests.

Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



Bocce Ball at Lakewood Meadows Park Thursdays at 10:00am

FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

Why the man who invests all your money is called a broker?

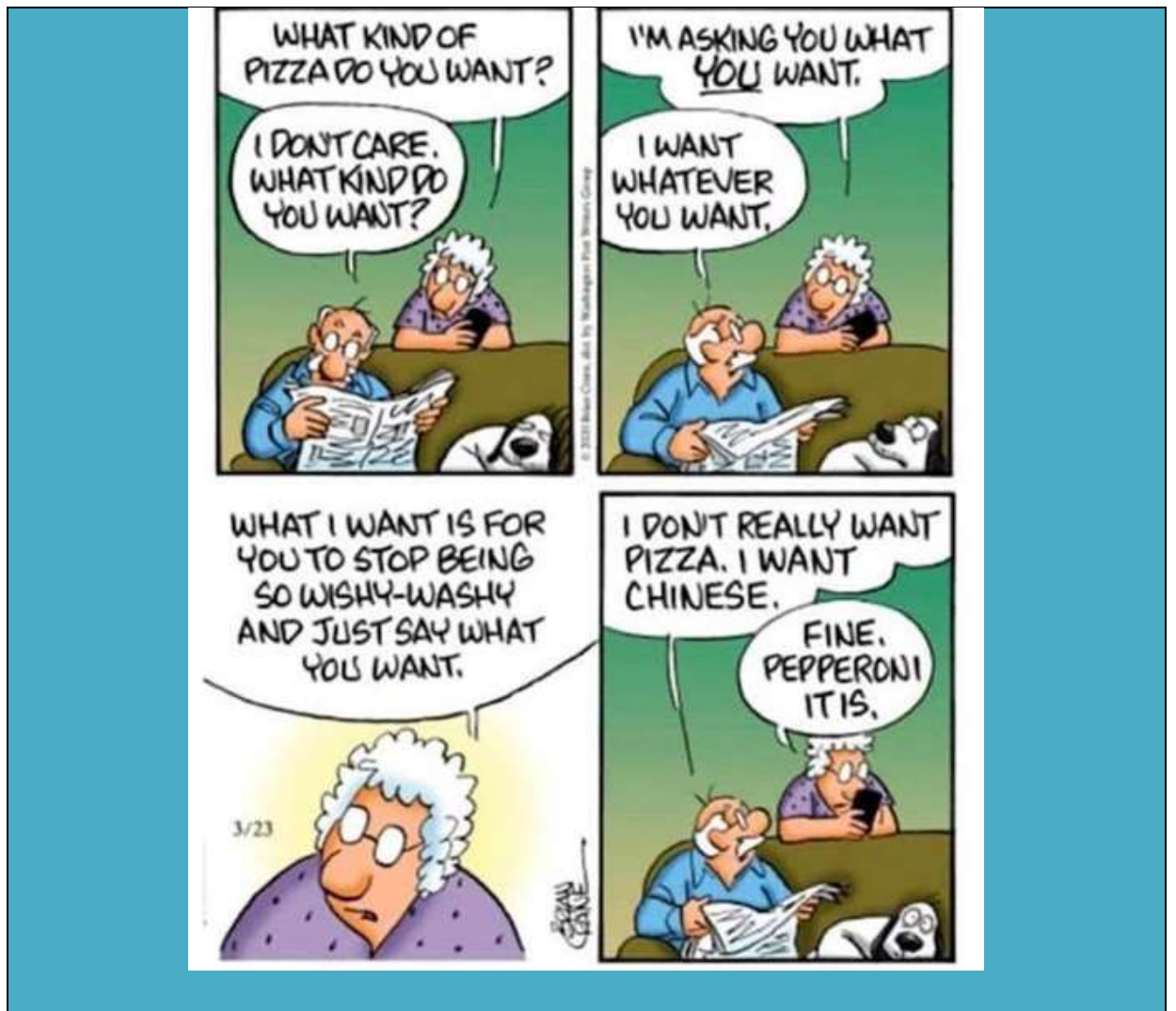
Why we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage?

RED SKELTON'S RECIPE FOR THE PERFECT MARRIAGE

“She has an electric blender, electric toaster and electric bread maker. She said "There are too many gadgets, and no place to sit down!" So I bought her an electric chair.”

This is why Shetland ponies never caught on in Wyoming.





My Profile:

WARD THOMPSON:



I was born in Livermore, Ca. in 1940, and the youngest of four brothers. My parents owned and operated the Golden Rule Creamery and Restaurant in downtown Livermore during World War II, and if you wore a military outfit, you ate for free. I had two older brothers, Wayne 12 years and Jerry 10 years older and an almost second family with me and my 1 ½ year older brother Bob. When I was 4, my dad sold the business and moved to Willits Ca. where he bought a large parcel of heavily forested land and built a lumber mill and dry kiln on Outlet Creek north of Willits. He logged some of the land and cut and dried lumber for the market, and did very well. As a child, I can remember the spawning of the Salmon behind the mill, where the stream was solid with Salmon by the thousands. We were never short of fish to eat. I started school in Willits and then my dad sold the business and moved to Santa Rosa where he decided to retire. I started the third grade at South Park Elementary School, then to Burbank Elementary, Santa Rosa Junior High, then the first graduating class of Herbert Slater Junior High and the last graduating class of Santa Rosa High School, when it was the only Public High School in Santa Rosa. There are now 5 public high schools. I then graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College and then attended Sacramento State 1 ½ years.

In the meantime, in 1960, I met my future wife Pat at SRJC where we started dating. She was the head song leader and I was the president of the only fraternity on campus. We made quite a couple. In 1961 myself and several buddies decided to join the US Coast Guard Reserves (or be drafted by the Army) and spent 6 months on active duty and then 5 ½ years on active reserve, which meant 2 weeks a summer on duty and then 1 weekend a month at Reserve meetings. On release from the 6 months active duty, it was too late to enroll at Sac. State to finish graduation. So and I decided to get married and did so on Jan. 7th 1962 and planned on completing college that spring.

Now I need to go back and set the stage for the rest of my life. My dad's retirement lasted less than a year, and he had to get back involved in something. He built 3

homes in Santa Rosa with his brother at his side, then bought Weeks Hardware Store, in downtown Sebastopol, that was established in 1906 by Hod Weeks. It was a thriving business and soon after he found a great need for people to get work done on their rural pumping systems. He started doing pump work and then, in 1949, he decided that he needed to get a well drilling rig to get water for all these local developing properties. In 1951 he sold the hardware store and then became "Weeks Drilling and Pump Co." At that time the office was behind the hardware store on Weeks Way and the yard was what is now the City of Sebastopol Park. Later, in 1962, we moved to our present location on Hwy. 12 just east of Sebastopol. In the meantime, my older brothers had served 1st in the Navy and 2nd in the Army and then went to work at the business. I worked summers from my sophomore year on as a driller's helper and then back to school in the fall. As I was about to start my last semester at Sac. State, shortly after marriage, I got a call from one of my brothers and he said they needed me to come to work at Weeks as soon as possible. Pat and I discussed it and after a while, we decided I should probably do that. Our only income was from Pat's job and we were living in a very small room over a garage. I needed to go to work!!! In retrospect, as I look back, it was probably the best decision I ever made. I finished my education in the school of hard knocks.

They told me the day I came to work I was going to need to take over one of the drilling rigs. I started my job from the top down. I ran a drill rig for 10 years, and, in those days, we worked 6 days a week and long hours every day to get the jobs done. Saturdays, I got to do all the billing and office paper work that stacked up during the week. It turned out, I got 3 days a month off, as 1 weekend was my CG Reserve meetings. Ah yes, the good old days. Pat and I had 2 sons, Mike and Jeff who brought us 2 beautiful daughter-in-laws, 4 grandchildren and now 2 twin great-grand-children. We are blessed and life is good.

My Dad passed away unexpectedly, following surgery, at the age of 55, when I was at SRJC. It was obviously a very huge loss for my mother, brothers and me. We were all very dedicated to the business and continued its operation, with each of us having diverse personalities and talents, we were able to grow and build the business to the point that it now is managed by the 4th generation of the Thompson family, and one of the largest drilling and pump companies in the state. Our mom continued working at the company until her late 90's and lived to almost 102. She was an amazing woman.

I loved playing basketball, and was the MVP at SRHS in my senior year. I continued to play in City League until my Early 40's. I also played golf and have enjoyed the comradery with the Windsor Senior Men's and the SIR Golf groups. I also loved deer and elk hunting and trout fly fishing over the years with many friends.

In the mid 60's, I got involved with the local Associated Drilling Contractors branch of the state organization, now the California Groundwater Association. I became very active on the branch and state level and was State President in 1977 and 1978. To this day, we still attend branch and state board meetings and annual conventions, now to see the many wonderful friends we have established over the years. In 1977 (another huge drought year) we had over 1200 attendees at our State Convention at the Sahara Tahoe Hotel at Stateline, our largest attendance to that date. Our luncheon speaker was State Attorney General, George Deukmejian, soon to be Governor of California. What a wonderful down to earth man. He was only our luncheon speaker because our Keynote Banquet speaker was the famous Hollywood entertainer and then U.S. Senator from California, George Murphy. He gave such an inspirational talk that nearly everyone in the audience of nearly 800 people stood in a long line to shake his hand.

Meanwhile, during the late 70's drought, I was overseeing and managing 11 drill rigs, 3 of which were working around the clock and 10 pump rigs, with a total of 75 employees. I was a little busy, but I loved the work and the wonderful and energetic employees that worked long hours to get the job done. In the 80's I got involved in environmental drilling, which we did all over the state with 4 rigs and crews for about 20 years. A lot of that work was in Silicon Valley.

In 1988, I was given The Contractor of the Year Award by the CGA and in 2005, Pat and I were given the only ever CGA Humanitarian Award for our work in Thailand

In 1993, I convinced my wife that we needed to see other parts of the world, as our son Jeff had done in his 20's, so I planned a trip where we went to Hong Kong and Singapore, each for a week and then to Bali for 2 weeks. An amazing trip, and we were hooked on traveling. Early the next year, we were invited to a friend's house for dinner and she also invited another couple whom we had met, but never got to know, Phil and Jeanne Anderson. It was a life changing event. They told us about their Santa Trips they had been taking for a few years and asked us to join them in December for a trip to many parts of Europe to play Santa to orphanages, hospitals and old age homes, etc. We accepted, knowing we would probably not see them very often as they already had established wonderful relationships with people from all over the U.S. As it turned out, we were inseparable for the next 30 years, traveling the world together playing Santa as well as many of our own trips including cruises, renting large boats and sailing the canals and rivers of France on 3 occasions from 1 to 2 weeks. Over those years we cruised or sailed or rafted on the Yangtse, Nile, Amazon, Rio Negro, Shotover, St. Lawrence, Guilin and many other rivers, seas and oceans, bringing cheer and goodwill to the world. In that 30 year span we have visited more than 60 countries around the world. How could you ask for more!!!!

Other than Santa Trips, our most memorable trips were the year I retired, when, in Asia, a horrible Tsunami struck many countries killing over 230,000 people and displacing millions. We decided we needed to go and help where we could. In 2 weeks we received donations from CGA members of over \$7,000 to help those in need. We traveled to Phuket, Thailand, rented a car and drove about 100 km north to the Khao Lak and Takua Pa area where we met some friends that were already there helping. We were there to help in any way, help build homes, cleanup areas, etc. As it turned out, they found out we knew about wells and pumps and trying to de-contaminate many well that were ruined by the flooding. We had planned on working 3-4 days a week and then do some site seeing in a new country for us. It turned out, we were getting many phone calls a day from NGO's that heard we could help with wells. The next 6 weeks, we worked 10-12 hours a day hiring people and doing and overseeing many well projects in the area. We took one day off to go on an elephant ride. We met so many wonderful people there that became our friends. We hated to leave, but decided we would come back the next year to continue our work, which we did and spent another 5 weeks helping so many people. We felt honored and blessed that we could make a difference in so many people's lives.

Phil invited me to join the SIR Branch 176 in 2005, shortly after my retirement at Weeks. I have really enjoyed meeting many new people and the camaraderie of the group. I am especially honored to have recently received the Distinguished Service Award and the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award from Branch 176. Thank You!!!!

Thanks for giving me an opportunity to share my life stories with you and, I apologize for the lengthy diatribe.

OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(Not official SIR Activities)

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>



The **third Thursday** of the month, Jose Castaneda offers a free coffee and concha (Mexican pastry) to all seniors. An opportunity to meet other Windsor residents for socializing.



Once a month, date varies, 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.



The Pacific Coast Air Museum is once again hosting Hot Dog Thursday on the first Thursday of the month April through October. The next one is June 1st.

<https://pacificcoastairmuseum.org/hot-dog-thursday/>

Hot Dogs are \$8 including a drink, chips and entrance to the museum. The delicious hot dogs are served between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Noon tends to be the most crowded time with limited close in parking; last year they sold out of hot dogs on more than one occasion. This is not an official SIR activity, so bring your spouse and neighbors.

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

2023 SIR Branch 176 Officers:					
Big SIR Chris Roach (707) 490-8510 Chrisroach@sbcglobal.net		Little SIR Larry Doherty 707-484-5308		Secretary Dave Harrison 707-6388155 harrisod@sonic.net	
Assistant Secretary Jerry Culver 707-953-4901		Treasurer Ward Thompson 707-539-1377		Assistant Treasurer Howard Blethen 707-892-2992	
2023 Directors					
1 Year Term			2 Year Term		
Rich Laucks	Jock Rader	Tim Senkir	Ed Peoples	John Crooker	Gary Jensen
2023 Activity Coordinators					
	ATTENDANCE Ron Nordstrom 707-338-6363	MEMBERSHIP Larry Doherty 707-484-5308	FRIENDSHIP Chris Roach (707) 490-8510		
TRAVEL Stewart Morgan 707-545-4957	GOLF Mike Berry 707-837-1792	BOWLING Dave Harrison 707-638-8155	COFFEE CLUB Gary Jensen 707-377-8380		
COUPLES DINNER Wayne and Maryl Lindahl 707-837-2816	BOCCE BALL Stewart Morgan 707-545-4957	RECRUITMENT Gary Jensen 707-337-8380	GREETER Gary Jensen 707-337-8380		
SONG LEADER Tom Hasco 707-544-4445	NEWSLETTER Tom Palmer 619-920-9175	WEB PAGE John Crooker 707-328-8748			
SIR State President Dave Gonzales yogonzo@wahoo.com			SIR Area 13 Governor Bob Nadell 707-836-4123 nadellb@sbcglobal.net		