



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for November 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

November 2023
Volume 28 Number 11

Big SIR – Chris Roach



By the time you receive this Newsletter, Halloween 2023 will be over. How was yours? Did you have a lot of Trick or Treaters? Have you ever offered a Trick? Did you turn off all your house lights and eat the treats yourself?

A new member has joined our group. *Harold Minkin* has transferred from branch 17. Please say hello at the next meeting or event.

I want to mention that a new member, Jim Tubb, who has extensive knowledge of technology, is our new Web Page custodian. Thanks to John Crooker and Dave Harrison for handling that position until recently. Jim is doing a lot of research and will present his findings at the next BEC in November. Thanks Jim.

Outgoing Area Governor, Bob Nadell, is looking for a replacement for that position. Please contact me if interested.

Our next, and last Lunch of the year, is November 15. Hopefully that will not interfere with any travel plans on Thanksgiving, November 23.

Mark your calendars for Thursday December 14th for our annual Holiday Party Lunch. Tom Hasco is organizing the event. If you would like to volunteer please text Tom at (408) 406-4145. Hope to see you there!

Remember to check with your doctor or pharmacy for availability of the recent Covid, flu and RSV vaccinations. Be safe.

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 involved. We meet before the lunch meeting, at 10:30.

If you're an early bird (and we have many of them) please be patient with the guys selling lunch and raffle tickets. Since they are BEC members, please allow them to finish our meeting before approaching an empty table. Thank you.

Remember to get involved in some or all of the activities we sponsor: bowling, coffee meetings, golf, drag racing, bocce, couples' dinner, Friday afternoon Happy Hour, outings, and travel.

Chris Roach – Friendship Report

Get Well cards to: Dave Schleeter, John Crooker and Tom Hasco.

Little SIR – Larry Doherty



It was really nice to see such a great turn out for our October luncheon. Even more exciting for Mitch, who is not going to have two birthdays a year, one in October and one in December. Of course, that will raise our median age that much faster. We also had a good exchange between the members and Terry and Cathy Taylor of Act4Windsor about the different means we can look for a means to ensure we continue to have electricity. Next month we will be hearing from the Red Cross. ***Looking forward to seeing you all at the luncheon.***

DON'T MISS OUR LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER:

VINCENT VALENZUELA is the Executive Director, North Bay Chapter of the **Red Cross**.



Vincent's journey with the Red Cross began in 2018 as a Disaster Program Manager for Solano and Marin Counties. In this role, he successfully built strong internal connections with the volunteer base while also establishing partnerships throughout the community, working closely with the local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) in the North Bay Chapter. He has supported the Red Cross mission with multiple local and national disaster deployments to hurricanes, wildfires, floods and home fires.

Vincent has over 23 years of non-profit experience and is dedicated to supporting communities, families and building connections. In his new role as Chapter CEO, Vincent will work to bridge our Red Cross leadership to the volunteers carrying out the mission on a daily basis, facilitating the free flow of information and sharing of ideas. He will also focus on developing even stronger connections with our donors and recruiting partners and board member prospects.

A North Bay resident, Vincent enjoys adding to his vinyl record collection, cheering for Bay Area sports teams, and spending time with family and friends.

THANKS TO OUR PRVIOUS GUEST SPEAKERS:



Thanks to Shellie Adams and Cathy Taylor of WEACT, As we heard their efforts are two-fold: 1) They engage in projects they believe can make our community a

more resilient and sustainable place. 2) They also work with the Windsor Town Council to keep and expand their climate commitments.

Golf-Mike Berry



"I don't care if he is just trying to make a buck, following us with that defibrillator is unnerving."

On the cool day of October 25th we had nine regular players and two guests. So don't let these cool winter days get in the way of your golf game.

To join us you don't need to be a good golfer, just a person who enjoys the game. 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS NOVEMBER TO:

Greg Smith. Since he is the only November Birthday, I'm sure he's a lonely guy. 😊 Please be sure to wish him a Happy Birthday.

Couples Dinner (Not an official SIR Activity)



Kin, in Windsor was this month's food destination for our SIRs foodies. A convenient location, as at this time of year night time driving can be an issue for us "seasoned" adults. 20 of us gathered in the back dining room, having it all to ourselves.

The restaurant was accommodating for our group and the food offerings are diverse, ranging from pizza to main courses of braised short ribs and polenta or a hearty pork chop, comfort food for this time of year and excellent salads for those choosing lighter fare.

It isn't so much the food that draws us together, though it is fun to try out new places and return to old standbys, but getting to know our fellow SIRs and having

great/interesting conversations in addition to giving our partners a night off in the kitchen. What's not to like?

Due to the holidays, there won't be any dinners scheduled for November or December. Looking forward to getting together in January.

Dave Harrison –Bowling

The Monday morning mixed senior bowling Fall and Winter League at Windsor Bowl in which our SIR members participate is in its 7th week of the 31 week schedule. We have 10 four-person teams, and our best teams currently have 16 wins and 8 losses. Our teams' names are always whimsical, such as the current examples: Pin Seekers; Mission Impossible, The Wanna Bees, Night Crawlers, The Storm.

We always need substitutes to fill in for absent team members. Any Branch 176 SIR member interested participating in our ongoing Fall and Winter League should contact Dave Harrison for further information (harrisod@sonic.net).

Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



Bocce Ball at Lakewood Meadows Park Thursdays at 10:00am. All are welcome.

We have a new player, & SIR member, Steve De La Montanya. He used to play with the other bocce group at Lakewood Meadows Park, but that group disbanded. Steve has access to the equipment locker and has been volunteering to manicure the court. Welcome and Thanks Steve



Happy Hour on 10/27 at Flavor Burger

Don't forget every Friday there is a Happy Hour somewhere at 3:00pm. Please join us.

Gary Jensen – Recruitment and Coffee

Recruitment: We have two prospective members. Let's hope we will be welcoming them soon. 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.



September 11th coffee at the senior center

Please invite a friend.

A Profile:



MIKE BERRY

Mike was born in 1937, to an Irish family living in 'The Midlands' in the UK. Actually in a small area known as 'The Black Country' in recognition that here is where the Industrial Revolution began, heavily dependent on the many coal mines in the area. His mother moved from Ireland along with her parents, two sisters, and five brothers, looking for work. The small town that they lived in was Wednesfield, a corruption of Woden's field. Woden was the god of war, there were battles in the area as early as AD 900.

Mike was one of 6 children, all born in the UK, 4 boys and 2 girls, all given Irish first names. His early childhood was in the shadow of World War II. He gave a presentation to SIRS 176 on 'A child's view of WW II' and was surprised in how far back his memory went!

At age 10 he successfully passed an entrance exam to Grammar School. He actually started the school one year sooner than he should, only to discover he had to redo the last year in order to be old enough to leave. From school he signed up to be an articled clerk to a local Chartered Accountant (kind of like a CPA), a step that would take 5-7 years to complete. Today the same step requires a college degree. California equates the mode Mike took as a BA in Economics. The best part is that Mike met his wife Jan, who was an audit clerk at the same firm.

There were two options on qualifying as a chartered accountant – stay in the profession, or join an industrial company as a potential corporate accountant. At that time some of the larger companies were looking for accountants to take them into the new world of computing. Mike joined T.I. – not Texas Instruments, the English T.I.- Tube Investments, specializing in precision tubes. An example would be hypodermic needles, they are in fact a 'tube'. There is a story, maybe apocryphal, that in 1933 a US company sent over to the UK a tube that they claimed was the 'smallest in the world'. TI. Sent it back with theirs's inside it!

The winter of 1978/79 was one of the worst in many years in the UK. Continuous snow for 3 months, below zero temperatures for weeks. Mike received a phone call in February from his former American boss, now back in the US and a VP with Amdahl in Silicon Valley, a maker of IBM look-alike computer systems. He noted that it was 72 degrees in California total blue skies, was Mike interested in moving to California? "You bet!" After weeks, many nights of heart searching, Mike, Jan, and their two children, Andrea (16) and Nick (13), made the decision to move. Their families were quite supportive albeit anxious.

Mike moved first, in June 1979, found a house in San Jose which Jan flew out to confirm, and Jan and the kids moved in July. The whole experience proved breathtaking and full of new images and people, and weird spelling! Their Old English sheepdog made the trip too, and his ticket cost more than the family members!

Jan moved into Banking, a decision which would lead to a VP Branch Manager position at Washington Mutual, and would provide a rich set of friends. Andrea submerged herself in the 'scene' immediately, including the accent, Nick took a while longer. Mike suggested he and Nick join a guitar/folk singing group which provided years of fun, musical growth, and lots of friends. Nick became a very accomplished guitar player and songwriter. Mike just tagged along.

In 1983 Mike was appointed the manager of a world-wide consulting service that Amdahl provided to hardware clients. This appointment led to many travels abroad for Mike, and for Jan, many frequent flier miles. The experience also included speaking opportunities for Mike and many, many friends for Mike and Jan; numerous who still exist in retirement.

Jan retired in 1998, tired of the pressure of mergers on mergers which had become a feature of the banking business.

In 1999 Mike and Jan moved to Windsor to the house in which they still live. Mike worked a while longer, joining Sybase in Emeryville (later Dublin) and helped Sybase launch consulting services. He retired in 2003. It was in late 1979 Mike tried the Windsor Gold Course, met Phil Andersen. Mike soon joined SIRS. In due course was Little Sir and then Big Sir. He immersed himself in golf (not to any great accomplishment but lots of new friends). He also jumped into a number of volunteer opportunities including Traffic School Teaching, Free tax services for older people, and Membership Chair at SIRS 176 golf.

Jan hit major balancing problems and falls, a number of surgeries, some of which worked, some did not, and recently was diagnosed with heart problems.

In 2022 Mike and Jan lost Andrea who passed away after many years of fighting medical issues. Nick lives nearby, in Santa Rosa.

Jan's family in the UK are all gone while Mike has one older sister still hanging on. There are still friends in the UK, now only by email, phone and sometimes video.

So for now Mike is feeling like it's time to pull up the drawbridge. A balancing problem he developed has impacted his golf, and Jan continues to need a good deal of care and support.

FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:



**A Good Wife Can Bring
Balance To Your Life**

I don't know much about birds but I can easily identify the husband in this picture



When a woman says "What?", it's not because she didn't hear you.

She's giving you a chance to change what you said.

Lovethispic.com

I said I was good at making decisions. I didn't say the decisions I made were good.



SENIOR PEARLS OF WISDOM:

Turns out that being a "senior" is mostly just googling how to do stuff.

Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.

Apparently RSVPing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response.

She says I keep pushing her buttons. If that were true, I would have found mute by now.

STEWART MORGAN –TRAVEL

If you are interested or have questions please contact Stewart
at stwrvmorgan@gmail.com



SIR Branch Travel Chair Trips and News
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

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

[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

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 **November 13th**. All SIR and their spouse are welcome to start the “work” week with Margherita Monday – a chance to sample the best frozen margaritas 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



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					
<i>1 Year Term</i>			<i>2 Year Term</i>		
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		