



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for February 2024

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

February 2024
Volume 29 Number 2

Big SIR – Larry Doherty



It was great to see everyone at this month's luncheon. During this meeting we honored John Young with a SIR's Presidential Award, as he is over 90--well done John!!! In addition, we learned that John volunteered in the past handling the treasurer's role for our branch for 10 years. It's amazing how many years he has been retired now. If you were unable to attend, you need to ask John how long it has been.

We have a lot of great speakers planned for this year, so please, come and join us for lunch. It was truly a pleasure having Cork's daughter Heather there this month, as her information was very worthwhile.

Perhaps the most important thing to come out of this past luncheon was that the members voted to have our own picnic this year, which is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 26th**. Erin, from the Senior Center has agreed to run Bingo for our group, so that should be a nice return to something the members seemed to enjoy in the past. Dave has kindly offered to co-chair this picnic with Steve, so thank you both for that. Gary and I have also volunteered to help. Don't forget that your involvement is just as important as your presence, so we can all ensure that we have a successful branch.

In regards to the SIRs at the state level, they have raised our rates this year by a dollar per member (insurance). We did not raise our rates for the members and will discuss it in the future about what to do next year. And speaking of raising their rates, so has Charlies. While we anticipated this, since everything has gone up in price, we will not yet change your cost for lunch, at least until after the first quarter and a discussion with the BEC.

Speaking of the BEC, we meet every Wednesday at 10:30, prior to the luncheon. All are invited to attend and perhaps you may have an interest in getting more involved with the branch, as we are always looking for new leaders for the next year.

And a big thumbs up to Jim, who has our website up and running. Can't remember someone's name or face, well go to the "Branch 176" tab of the website <https://windsorsirs.org/members.html> and you can now test your memory and match the two and learn that which you knew it all along.

Don't forget, if you need anything or have a concern don't hesitate to call me.

Regards, Larry

Little SIR – Tom Palmer



I am especially excited to announce our next Wednesday luncheon speaker, Jim Sullivan. My wife and I met Jim when we took his tracking class about two years ago. Please read about him in the section below.

I have also had the pleasure of working with Jim Tubb, attempting to get all of our photos on the new web page; a good way for each of us to put faces with names. Our web page also has the weekly calendar, our prior speaker (with her slide show), and current/past newsletters. Please check it out at: windsorsirs.org Making this website and keeping it up is a massive job and so we thank Jim.

There are changes coming to our golf world. Mike Berry is giving up all of his volunteer work to help take care of his seriously ill wife. We thank Mike for all the good work he has done. Golf leadership will now be by committee consisting of Frank Treanor, Jerry Culver and Ron Nordstrom. It's great of those guys to step up.

Chris Roach – Friendship Report

It was a very good month. No Get well or Sympathy cards were sent.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS FEBRUARY TO:

Tom Hasco, Bruce Okrepkie, Tom Palmer, Ed Peoples,

Chris Roach, Tony Rossi

Golf- Frank Treanor

Golf leadership has, out of necessity, changed. We are trying to learn from Mike that which needs to be done. We are hopeful to start playing sweeps in February, when the rain lightens up.

To join us you certainly don't need to be a good golfer, just a person who enjoys the game. We usually begin arriving at 7:45. Starting sometime in February we will be trying to act more as a golf club with everyone getting out close to the same time. We may go back to sign-ups and require a Sunday call to the golf course at 707-838-7888. The specifics are being discussed.

If you are new to Sirs or figure it's time to pick the game up again, please let us know you wish to join the golf group. Call Frank at 707-322-7217, or email him at bcft11@comcast.net

DON'T MISS OUR LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER ON 2/21:



JIM SULLIVAN is a 4th generation Sonoma county native who lives near Occidental, California. He is a retired Landscape Contractor, an award winning Plein Air landscape painter, and an internationally certified tracker.

A graduate of Notre Dame in biology, he also studied in Vienna, Austria, and did graduate work at several other universities and still takes--and teaches-- classes and workshops at the Santa Rosa Junior College and elsewhere.

In May, 2010, Jim was qualified as one of about 600 internationally certified animal trackers. Currently he is teaching two SRJC tracking and bird language classes a year. He will talk to us about the joy of animal tracking.

Special thanks to our last guest speaker, Heather Campopiano.

Heather spoke regarding long term care planning for seniors including the need of trusts. Following the meeting she asked me to pass on that “if you need a trust, or need to update your existing one or have other elder law issues call her law office and let her know you are with SIRS and she will provide you with a free 15-20 minute consultation”. If you missed her talk or just want her power-point presentation, it is on our website. Just click under her photo.

<https://windsorsirs.org/meetings.html>

DUES NOTICE:

Yearly dues of \$24 has been approved. Dues should be brought to the February meeting or mailed to Garry Trojanowski, 9575 Wellington Circle, Windsor, Ca. 95492. To those who have not paid, please expect to get a call from Larry to inquire as to your desire to be a 2024 member of branch 176.



2024 June Picnic News Flash:

Mark the date JUNE 26, 2023. Over the past several months, your Branch Executive Committee has discussed and debated whether Branch 176 should hold its own picnic, or should continue to participate with Santa Rosa Branch 17. The BEC decided to take this issue directly to the membership. After a discussion of pros and cons at the January lunch meeting, the attendees overwhelmingly voted to hold a separate picnic. While our branch has happily participated with Branch 17 for many years, many of our members missed the Bingo Game activity which has been scrubbed in recent years, and felt that the raffle event took too much time away from conversation and other activities. Bingo, led by Erin Stroud, Senior Center Director, will be conducted at this year's Branch 176 picnic at the Windsor Golf Club meadow, catered by Charlies Restaurant. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to our picnic event. We count on each of you to help make this year's picnic a success.

Couples Dinner (Not an official SIR Activity)

Couples Dinner- Wayne Lindahl

Our first 2024 Couples Dinner at Tambayan Filipino Eatery in Larkfield was another successful evening of getting to know each other better and good conversation. Other than the food this is the main reason for gathering, the enjoyable food is a plus.

For most of us this was a new dining experience, new foods to try. Hopefully, some of our members might return for another meal. The owner was very accommodating in setting up this dinner, and very easy to deal with, the servers' friendly, efficient and the service excellent.

We were seated mostly at tables for four, so everyone had an opportunity to talk. We had two new couples join us for their first time, Harold and Stephanie Minkin and Gary Quinton and Dave Michelson. Hopefully they will return to our next Couple's dinner (and thanks Harold for the following photos).





Welcome our newest members:



Tom Lalli

Tom is the grandson of Italian immigrants, born in Detroit and raised in Silicon Valley. He enlisted in the Navy in 1965, Spent three years on the Coral Sea (CVA-43 Carrier) with two Vietnam tours. His wife and he have been married 57 years with two boys in Santa Rosa and a daughter in Pleasanton. They have four adult grandchildren. He worked his entire 31-year career with Hewlett-Packard in Palo Alto, Santa Rosa and Rohnert Park, mostly in Marketing and Sales Support. Upon retirement they moved to Lake Wildwood... a gated community in Penn Valley near Grass Valley. They stayed there for 23 years, returning to Sonoma County last year to be closer to their kids and to downsize. Tom was a SIR in Grass Valley. His main interest include Bocce, Fantasy Football, Walking/Hiking, Poker and Golf



Ken Tomsen

Ken was born and raised in San Francisco. He was in the Marine Corps in the late 1960s and served 2 tours in Vietnam. He has been married to his wife, Susan, for 36 years and they have four grown daughters. He worked in trucking most of his life: as a teamster, on the loading dock, as terminal manager and dispatcher. Tom plays golf when he can, goes bowling once or twice per week and likes building model ship and planes. He likes to work in the garden and do “never ending yardwork”. Tom has been a guy who volunteers. He did volunteer work for the Veterans Administration, driving veterans from Santa Rosa to the VA hospital in San Francisco. He volunteered as Marshall at golf tournaments; the Charles Schwab Cup, LPGA Mediheal Championship and Presidents’ Cup. Tom is a two time cancer survivor, now in good health looking forward to “forming friendships”.



John Hancock

John “was in the service for 6 years. He spent “quite alot of time in The Vacation Land of the Orient.” He had his own insurance agency and sold it after 17 years. After completing his “doctorate in BS” he became a mortgage broker for 11 years. When his daughter wanted help in getting her business started he jumped at the chance. Today she has two successful floral businesses in Rohnert park. His wife and he have a blended family of 3 boys; 2 girls; 5 grandchildren, 4 great grand kids, 3 dogs, 1 grand dog and 2 grand cats. John is a fun loving guy who enjoys “BS-ing”, coming to coffee, & happy hour and hopes to play some Bocce ball. Note: John, and Bob Wallace, who John invited to SIRs, are good, long-time friends.



Bob Wallace

Bob is a SoCal boy from Valley Center who's had many opportunities to travel in his life. He has lived in Mexico, Hawaii, Michigan and then Louisiana where he met Becky his wife of 43 years. He brought her back to Santa Rosa and they have lived in Windsor for 33 years. Bob has had a very fulfilling career building a construction company until he retired in 2021. They have 2 sons, 35 & 37, and a daughter who is 34. In the early 90's, Bob was on the Windsor Soccer Board and also was involved in starting the Windsor Boys and Girls Club Board. He also helped start the Windsor Community Garden. Even though he busy watching their grandkids, ages 2 and 4, three plus days each week, Bob plans on attending coffee, bocce ball and happy hour.

Gary Jensen – Recruitment and Coffee

Recruitment: We brought in three new members. We are on a roll, so let's keep inviting friends.

For Coffee: Interest in the Tuesday Morning coffee session remains high. Where else can get coffee, a pastry and good conversation for \$1.00?



Coffee at the senior center
Please invite a friend.

Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



Bocce Ball at the Senior's Center Thursdays at 10:00am. All are welcome.

Did you know, Bocce is a ball sport belonging to the Boules family and developed into its present form in 18th century Italy and is now the 3rd most popular sport in the world?

Dave Harrison: Bowling Report for SIR Branch 176

We are just past the mid-point of the 2023-2024 fall-winter Monday Morning Mixed Seniors League at the Windsor Bowling Center. Teams including Sir Branch 176 members are fully engaged. Presently, John Campbell's team leads the pack, with my team following closely behind. Other teams including Don McCorquodale and Wayne Lindahl are also clearly in the hunt. Bowler Ken Tomsen has just applied to join Branch 176 after being recruited by Don. Thanks Don. Ken will be a great addition to our Branch. Paco Montanez and Dick Wright

continue to act as substitutes. If you would like to participate in Monday morning senior bowling, please let me know. We are always looking for substitute bowlers.

Dave H. (harrisod@sonic.net)



Special Profile:



Rich Laucks

I started out as a child in Sault Sainte Marie Michigan, which is located in the Upper Peninsula across the Saint Mary's river from Canada. When I was born, my dad was on Guam in the Pacific in the USMC. With only one trip back to the states during the war to do some to serve as an instructor at camp Lejeune. It was when my mom was able to join him that I was conceived. While he was gone, mom took care of family logistics while dad spent quality time in the Pacific garden spots like Guadalcanal. My dad was a talented, funny guy. For example, while in the Pacific he would write my mother letters with a native woman enter on the back, she started out as an old ugly woman. However, with each letter she got better and better looking until she was a raving beauty. He had the opportunity to stay in the core postwar, but opted to return to our hometown and his old job of working in a bakery.

We were basically a poor family, but I never knew it because I had cloths to wear and we never went hungry. I do recall that we didn't have a car until I was eight years old. After high school I joined the Naval Reserve. It was easy to get in as it was pre-Vietnam and the Navy was glad to sign up a kid who wanted to escape his hometown. No one in my family had ever attended college and I was determined to get a degree, so I slowly worked my way through Michigan State

while working nights in a Fisher Body assembly plant. The 60s were a big time in my life as I did get that degree, got married, and then our first child was born.

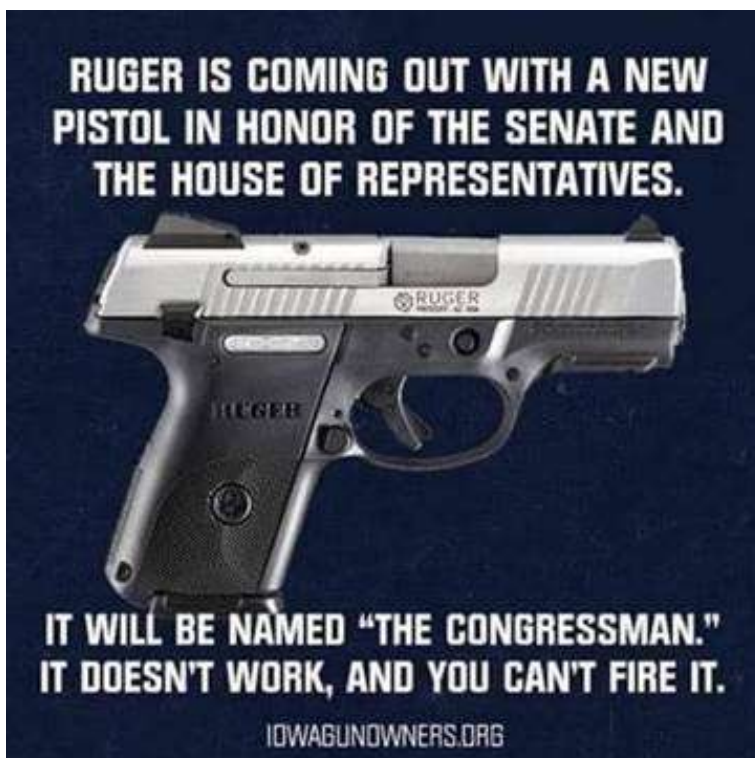
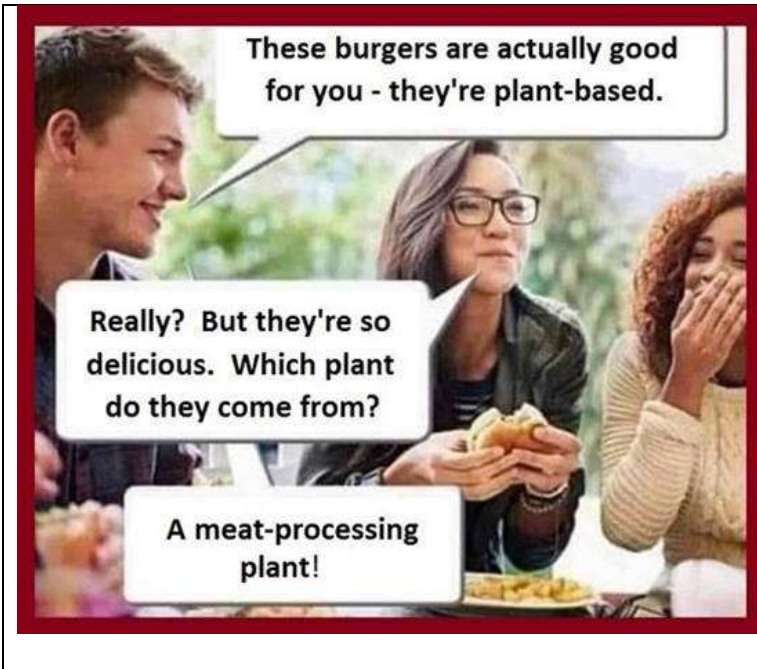
My normal work schedule in the factory was 6 PM until 4:42 AM and after a couple hours sleep, I would head off to class. I am pretty certain that I must've set the all-time Michigan state record for sleeping in class. After many years of this I graduated with a BS in criminal science. I took the graduate business school admissions test, scored well and decided to get an MBA. I got a job at the business school as a graduate assistant and life was good. I could sleep all night in my own bed and I even had a parking spot. My main job was grading undergraduate papers, and it seemed that many of my students knew more than I did.

After finishing at MSU, I was ready to go to work. I received what seemed like a great job offer from JL Hudson Company, Detroit's largest retailer. He wanted me for a new management position to investigate and provide solutions for their inventory shrinkage problems. The job wasn't formalized yet so they said I could work in their security department until it was ready. After several delays over many months, they informed me that they had decided not to add the new position. I ended up with two valuable years of experience in crime prevention. In Detroit's inner city, every day was it an adventure. Our security department had an injury list like an NFL team. We prosecuted an average of 300 thefts a month and many of the thieves were quite unfriendly.

It was then time to move on to my next job with Forrest City Enterprises in Cleveland Ohio. I became the Director of loss prevention for the retail division. I really enjoyed my time there and stayed with that company for ten years. While almost everybody's job in a corporation is to create profit, mine was to keep the profit by pursuing wrongdoings, running investigations, and resolving cases. My last career stop was in Green Bay Wisconsin with ShopKo stores Inc. where I spent almost 20 years. I was mainly a management organization guy and my main task was developing a great work staff. During my last several years I switched from loss prevention to store operations. My very last job was as a Regional Vice President. I got the job as the two employees who had it before me, both have nervous breakdowns. I recall a friend saying "you don't get a nervous breakdown you just give them".

Life here is good. Last year my wife, Jennifer and I bought in Brooks Creek, an over 55 community, in Windsor. We especially like that it's a close walk to several other businesses. We have two daughters Rebecca in San Diego and Amanda in Seattle, so we're kind of splitting the difference between the two of them. I also enjoy sports, although I don't seem to have the same enthusiasm I had when I lived in Green Bay as a Packer season-ticket holder/stockholder. I've always been passionate about the game of golf and I really loved to play, but with my health issues, it's been a couple years. I'll often think that I'm going to get back to it and golf was mainly why I joined SIR's. I skipped the usual getting to know folks, and having coffee and convinced my one of my golfing partners Al Materri who was a Windsor SIRs member, to directly sponsor me. Now I do in fact go to coffee and never know, someday I just might play some golf.

FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:



SENIOR PEARLS OF WISDOM:

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

God promised men that good and dutiful wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the earth round. . . and laughed and laughed and laughed.

OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(Not official SIR Activities)

Every Saturday morning (8:00-10AM) 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 **February 19th**. 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.

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

STEWART MORGAN –TRAVEL

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



SIR Branch Travel Chair Trips and News Milt Smith State Travel Chair miltsmith549@gmail.com 925-285-2897
January 2024

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

Prague to Budapest River Trip November Nov. Dates: 11/6 thru 11/20, 2024

Pre-trip to Dresden and Berlin US departure date: 11/1/24

Pre-trip to Warsaw and Krakow US departure date: 11/1/24

Post-trip to Budapest return date: 11/23/24

Cabin pricing: Serenade A: \$3995 / Serenade B: \$3895 /Sonata C: \$3795 Sonata D: /Cantata E:

\$3595 /Cantata F: \$3495/Prelude G: \$3395/Prelude H: \$3195/Air from SFO: \$1100. Dresden and Berlin: \$995 PRE-TRIP - Warsaw and Krakow: \$1095 PRE-TRIP-Budapest: \$745 POST-TRIP. **Contact Milt**

Smith 925-258-2897 . miltsmith549@gmail.com or book directly grp. Code G4-23630 1-800-221-2610

MORE FROM STEWART MORGAN –TRAVEL

These events are NOT promoted by the state SIR

Going on now until February 18th starting nightly at 6pm the annual [Napa Lighted Art Festival](#). It's too late this year to see images projected on public buildings, but the rest of the outdoor event is still in progress.



The Napa Lighted Art Festival is a celebration of creative arts, technology and lights, and supports innovative techniques using light and light technologies as a growing art medium. This walkable outdoor experience is FREE in Downtown Napa, featuring 10 lighted art sculptures for five weeks. Bring the family and experience the magic of lighted art at the 2024 Napa Lighted Art Festival!

Also: The Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a **FeBREWary BeerFest**. This event includes a **free shuttle** running to and from various local brew pubs **every Saturday** in February (starting this coming Saturday). The shuttle runs from a little after 12:30pm until about 6pm providing transportation to various locations in Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, and Windsor. Click here for more informatio: [Sonoma Country FeBREWary event](#)

2023 SIR Branch 176 Officers:					
Big SIR Larry Doherty ldohrebl@mindspring.com 707-484-5308		Little SIR Thomas Palmer Palmer.ts@gmail.com 619-920-9175		Secretary Dave Harrison harrisod@sonic.net 707-638-8155	
Assistant Secretary Jerry Culver so.done56@yahoo.com		Treasurer Garry Trojanowski garryski@att.net 203-988-5366		Assistant Treasurer Howard Blethen HT552@yahoo.com	
2023 Directors					
<i>1 Year Term</i>			<i>2 Year Term</i>		
Ed Peoples	Tim Senkir	Gary Jensen	Chris Roach	Wayne Lindahl	Ward Thompson
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 Frank Treanor 707-322-7217	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 Jim Tubbs drdelta91@gmail.com	COFFEE COORDINATOR John Fineren 707-838-3686		
SIR State President Dale Decker			SIR Area 13 Governor		