

SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for NOVEMBER 2026

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, or State Webpage:

Windsor Branch 176
Monthly Luncheon Meeting Every 3rd Wednesday
@ 11:30 Jimmy's Lakeside Grill, 1320 19th Hole Dr.
11/18 Lunch is $30.00

Windsor Winds Edition
November 2026
Volume 33 Number 11

Big SIR – Steve De La Montanya



Seasonal Activities

We are well into fall, and the clocks fall back this weekend. So far, the good golf and bocce weather is holding on, and our recent outings have been great. Before long, however, we may begin to miss some outdoor playdays and turn to indoor recreation.

The billiards group has relocated to the Windsor Bowling Center. Although there are only two tables available, the atmosphere is great, with wonderful support from the bowling center staff.

At the Senior Center

The heat will be on at the Senior Center! The coffee is good, the conversation is lively, and you can't beat the price. Several members stay after coffee hour to participate in the balance and stretching classes offered at the center.

October Luncheon

We enjoyed a nice luncheon in October and tried a new meeting and luncheon format. We started the meeting earlier and completed our business in time to allow for a more sociable lunch period.

Jimmy arranged to replace our usual table service with a buffet featuring a very nice Mexican fajita spread. So far, the feedback has been positive regarding both the food and the new schedule.

Leadership Update

We held elections for the open 2027 officer positions during our meeting.

- **Big SIR:** Bruce Okrepkie was elected.
- **Little SIR:** Mark Nelson was elected.
- **Two-Year BEC Members:** Jerry Culver, Tim Sinker, and Jim Tubb were elected.

A new board position, **Attendance**, was approved, and Ron Nordstrom was elected to fill the position.

The following members, whose two-year director terms are ending, will continue as one-year directors for 2027: Phil Bartels, Harold Minkin, and Bob Wallace.

Swearing in will take place during the November meeting.

A new **Safety Committee** was also established and will be led by outgoing Big SIR Steve De La Montanya.

November 18 Luncheon Schedule

- **10:30 a.m.** — BEC meeting
- **11:00 a.m.** — luncheon sign-in begins, time to arrive
- **11:30 a.m.** — General meeting begins
- **12:00 p.m.** — Meal is served
- **1:00 p.m.** — Speaker's presentation begins

Please arrive early enough to pay, pick up your name tag, and get settled before the general meeting.



Little SIR – Bruce Okrepkie

Our speaker in October was, Nolan Sullivan Director of Health Services, who gave us an update on Measure O. He was excellent and the quarter cent sales tax is being spent on helping the County with homeless, addiction and mentally impaired.

In November we will have Circuit Riders as our speaker. They provide rides for those who need them . In addition, they work with the County probation department to assist young people. They will talk about the Vista Academy.

Our Christmas Party will be held in December. More details will follow. See the flyer below.

Little Sir

Bruce Okrepkie

Chris Roach – Friendship Report



Get Well cards: Shar Nordstrom (Ron), Jim Henrikson and Bob Wallace

Sympathy card to Judith Henrikson (Jim)

Goodbye card to Bob Browne.

MEMBERSHIP –LARRY D.



Our numbers are about to climb as we welcome what's left of the Healdsburg SIRs members. If you missed the last luncheon, you missed a great lunch. Hope to see you at the November 18th luncheon.

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

Jon Babich, Steve Clark, Kenneth Fewer, John Hackenburg, Mike Quilici, Ed Radigue, Greg Smith, Dennis Wilkinson.

LUNCHEON NEWS



As a reminder, after discussions among Steve and Jimmy and the BEC it was decided that serving lunch at the beginning of our meeting was too disruptive. Since Jimmy needs to serve us at noon to avoid a problem with his luncheon patrons, the BEC voted to, beginning October 21, to *start our luncheon at 11:30 am*. and ask that you **please sign in between 11 and 11:25 and be in your seat by 11:30**. Please adjust your calendars and we'll see you shortly before 11:30.

LUNCHEON ON 10/21







At the luncheon we had 42 members who enjoyed a taco bar lunch. There was beef, chicken, grilled peppers and every add-on you can think of. Our speaker, Nolan Sullivan, the Director of Health Services for the County of Sonoma, gave a very polished presentation on how money received from Measure O (2020 1/4 cent sales tax) has helped so many distressed (mental illness, addictions, homeless) neighbors. It has really made a positive difference countywide.

Once again, after the meeting Larry Thompson gave a demonstration on how to use or newly acquired AED and how to do hands only CPR.

SIRs 2026 Holiday Party

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for a festive afternoon of good food, great company, music and holiday cheer!

Wednesday, December 16, 2026

Noon – 2:00 PM

Jimmy's Lakeside Grill
1320 19th Hole Drive

Music by *Mr. Music*

MENU SELECTIONS

Your menu selection will include one of the following entrée choices:

BEEF ENTRÉE

SEAFOOD ENTRÉE

VEGETARIAN ENTRÉE

Wine will be provided.

$70.00 per person

More details and RSVP information to follow.



Bocce Ball – Charley Boyd:



Both Courts are playing well and turnout is good, but still room for more. It's a lot of fun and you are welcome to play. Please come join us.

3PM Friday Happy Hour



Happy Hour at Russian River

NOVEMBER'S SCHEDULE:

11/6: Lupe's
11/13: El Gallo Negro
11/20: The Publican
11/27: Jimmy's (he starts Happy Hour for us early)

TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE
8:45-9:45

A special thanks: Wynn and Heide Bailey were kind enough to give the Tuesday coffee group a Costco gift card in memory of Gary Jensen. Gary started the coffee group around the start of Covid. When he retired from running the coffee group, he turned the group over to John Fineren to run. Gary was kind enough to continue coming to coffee each week and help by telling Fineren what to do and what to buy for the goodies. So, if you see Wynn or Heide Bailey, please thank them for the gift and if you see Fineren please tell him he better get it right, because Gary is still watching from above.

Most of our new members' first visit was to coffee time. So PLEASE don't forget to invite a friend.



John Fineren with some coffee time snacks

SIR Branch 176 Bowling Report

The Monday and Tuesday morning Mixed Senior Bowling Leagues continues their 2026-2027 Fall - Winter leagues. If anyone would like to join, please let me know. Dave Harrison, Bowling Chair (harrisod@sonic.net).



NEXT OPPORTUNITY IS 11/5 @2PM*





Volunteers working on 10/1/26

To clarify, this is not an official "Sir's Activity", it's a foodbank activity in which we assist, therefore, women/friends are absolutely welcome and encouraged to participate.

We have a group going over once a month on the 1st Thursday of every month from 2-4pm. **The next service opportunity will be on November 5th, so if you haven't been getting my foodbank sign-up emails and wish to volunteer, please email me immediately** at: palmer.ts@gmail.com

Windsor Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove

The official event dates are December 4th to December 31st 2026

Mark Nelson who is heading this project will receive an email 2-3 weeks before the December 5th opening night with our tree location and an event map. The theme will once again be "Enhancing senior men's lives through fun activities". **Come and help decorate**.

The decorating time for us will be **Monday November 30th at 3pm**. Mark your calendars. While we have some decorations from last year, more is better. Members may provide decorations consistent with our theme (activities**).**

If you have questions or want to help, please contact Mark at:

mailto:mnelson@santarosa.edu

Couples Dinner
Jim Vick

The October SIR dinner was at the Santa Rosa Country Club October 15th and as always the dinner and camaraderie was great. This luncheon was a gift from Jim, so thank you Jim.	***Due to the holidays there will not be a sirs dinner in November or December*** **If you wish to attend future ones next year, but haven't been getting the emails about them, please email Jim at:** **jvick1497@gmail.com**	





LET THERE BE POOL:









Even though Rack n' Que went out of business, our friends at the bowling alley have stepped up. Tim, our bartender, (*a Sir in the making*) opens the bar at 3pm, where the two pool tables (Bring quarters) are located. So pool is still every Tuesday from 3 to 5pm at the Windsor Bowling Center on Conde Lane. So come and play pool….or just stop in, have a drink, and enjoy the conversation (like Ron above).

PROFILE OF THE MONTH



Bob Browne

From an early age, Bob Browne learned to adapt to changing landscapes. Though he never spoke of a childhood fascination with insects, the constant movement of his early years, from Boston to San Francisco during World War II, exposed him to the rhythms of nature, the mechanics of environments, and the ways living things respond to change.

Later, his Air Force training in complex weapons systems sharpened his analytical instincts. By the time he reached college, those threads of curiosity and discipline quietly converged, preparing him for the field that would define his professional life: agricultural entomology.

Bob was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on July 6, 1938. His father worked in the Boston Naval Shipyard, and when World War II began, the family moved across the country to the San Francisco Naval Shipyard. Bob was in first grade then, beginning a new chapter in San Francisco. He graduated from Lick-Wilmerding High School in 1956.

The Military Years

That same year, he joined the Air Force and joined the Weapons Mechanic School in Denver, where he trained in maintaining Air Force weapons systems. His service took him to postings in Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Morocco, giving him a broad view of the world and a foundation of technical discipline.

After his discharge in 1960, Bob enrolled in San Mateo Junior College — a decision that changed his life in more ways than one. It was there he met Barbara Bristol, whom he married after the fall semester of 1960.

A Career in Entomology

In 1961, he enrolled at San Jose State College and graduated with a B.A. in agricultural entomology, a field that uses knowledge of insects to help preserve crops. Agricultural entomology examines how farming practices, land use, and climate affect biodiversity and ecosystem health. Bob applied for a position as an entomological research technician at UC Berkeley and was accepted. During their years in Berkeley, Bob and Barbara welcomed two children, Nicole and Michael.

“While working full time as a research technician, I entered a master’s degree program in agricultural entomology,” he said. “That’s when I knew I had found my role in life!”

One example of the field’s impact stayed with him throughout his career. In the 1940s, entomologists released two leaf beetles that feed almost exclusively on a species called Hypericum (colloquially known as “goatweed”). Within a decade, the weed’s abundance fell by more than 99%, restoring the rangeland.

Bob completed his graduate coursework and received his degree in 1972. That same year, he accepted a position as an agricultural entomologist at the Washington State University Field Station in Wenatchee, Washington, beginning a new chapter for his family.

A Focus on Family

Life in Wenatchee brought both opportunity and challenge. Barbara struggled with the snow and cold weather and wanted to return to San Mateo. They divorced in 1978, and she moved back to California, leaving Bob to raise Nicole and Michael as a single parent. Both children later graduated from high school in Wenatchee.

By then, life had shifted again. In 1982, a lady named Sharon Bell walked into his life, and they married in 1983. Bob and Sharon made their home in Wenatchee and had a rewarding life together until her passing in 2014. Over time, Nicole and Michael both returned to California — Nicole built a career with UC Santa Barbara while working from her home in Clear Lake, and Michael established Cirq Winery near Windsor.

In time, Bob followed his children back to California and made his home in Windsor.

One thing is for sure: Bob drew on his resilience shaped in childhood, discipline forged in military service, curiosity awakened in his college years, success as an entomologist, and an abiding devotion to his family. He couldn’t have asked for more.

Additional note from the editor……Bob and SIRs:



Bob has been an active member since 2020. One could always find him at coffee, playing Bocce Ball or at Happy Hour. Generally a quiet man, he loved talking about his family, his life in Wenatchee and his hobby of carving knives. Eventually, health challenges affected his balance and he struggled over the last couple of years, but still remained active…even playing Bocce Ball as late as October of this year. However, now he can no longer can enjoy playing nor can he sit for more than about 20 minutes; so he regretfully has retired from SIRS. Thank all of you who, at the luncheon, signed his farewell card. Bob is one of those guys who made the most of his time with SIRs. His company will be missed.

TRAVEL FROM STATE SIR:

16 Night Hawaiian Island Cruise aboard Ruby Princess round trip from San Francisco: Oct. 23 thru Nov. 8 ’26 From $3,750 to $6,055 pp. depending on cabin. Ports of call Hilo, Kahului, Maui, Honolulu, Oahu, Nawiliwili, Kauai, and Ensenada Mexico. Contact John Cardoza area 18 branch 143 209-483-7722 john@storageauctionexperts.com

LINK: https://sirinc.org/uploads/travel/2026HawaiiCruise.pdf

Crossroads of the Adratic with Overseas Adventure Travel; Departure date: May 4, ’27 return May 21. There is a pre-trip available to Albania. Until it fills single traveler supplement is free. This will be a great trip exploring Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Slovenia. Prices, including airfare start at $7,750. This is a small group of no more than 16. We need to get 12 from SIRs to keep our group. Deadline is end of July. Signing up now can also result in some good discounts. When you sign up be sure to use our group code: G7-23630 SIR 146 and let me know. If you have any questions of any kind please contact me ASAP by email, phone or text…I do all three. CrossroadsadriadicSIR146.pdf Milt Smith Branch 146 925-285-2897c miltsmith549@gmail.com

Christmas on the Danube with an extra 2-day Christmas Markets of Prague extension. Nov. 27-Dec. 8, 2026 Six-night Danube River Cruise including Christmas Markets in Vienna, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Wachau Valley, Gluhwein Party. Pricing: $5896-$7497 pp, dbl. occupancy. Contact: Bill Britton Br. 101. bill.britton@comcast.net (925) 200-1062.

LINK: https://sirinc.org/wp-content/uploads/Christmas2026OnTheDanubeCollette.pdf

PRIVACY & THE WEBPAGE

WWW.WINDSORSIRS.ORG

Having your photo and some background information about you on the web page is completely voluntary. If you don't want it there for either privacy or security reasons, tell or email Jim at drdelta91@gmail.com He will remove it; otherwise if we don't hear from you **we are assuming consent**. Please review the web page https://windsorsirs.org/and what is there, and if you want something added, deleted or changed, again let Jim know.

Finally, if you've never provided a full **bio. for the newsletter** and would be willing to do so, please contact Gary Good at gary.good@comcast.net. Gary is graciously helping Tom Palmer with that segment of the newsletter.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

Seasonal Decoration Swap & DIY Holiday Greenery

Date & Time: Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location: Huerta Gym (9291 Old Redwood Highway)
Details: Hosted by the Town of Windsor to trade or make holiday greens and decorations.

Veterans Day Ceremony

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 11:00 AM (Town Offices Closed)
Location: Windsor Town Green
Details: Presented by VFW and American Legion to honor veterans.

Winter Wine Walk

Date & Time: Thursday, November 19, 2026, from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: Downtown Windsor
Details: Hosted by the Windsor Chamber of Commerce, featuring over 20 participating local wineries and food vendors (tickets limited to 450 total; General Admission is $67).

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY:

November 1, 1848 - The first medical school for women opened in Boston. The Boston Female Medical School was founded by Samuel Gregory with just twelve students.

November 2, 1947 - The first and only flight of Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" flying boat occurred in Long Beach Harbor, California. It flew about a mile at an altitude of 70 feet.

November 3, 1903 - Panama declared itself independent of Colombia following a revolt engineered by the U.S.

November 4, 1890 - The first electrified underground railway system was officially opened in London.

November 5th - Remembered as Guy Fawkes Day in Britain, for the anniversary of the failed "Gunpowder Plot" to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I in 1605.

November 6, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th U.S. President and the first Republican. He received 180 of 303 possible electoral votes and 40 percent of the popular vote.

November 7, 1944 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, defeating Thomas E. Dewey. Roosevelt died less than a year later on April 12, 1945.

November 8, 1895 - X-rays (electromagnetic rays) were discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen at the University of Wuerzburg in Germany.

November 9, 1989 - The Berlin Wall was opened up after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War. The 27.9 mile wall had been constructed in 1961.

November 10, 1775 - The U.S. Marine Corps was established as part of the U.S. Navy. It became a separate unit on July 11, 1789.

November 11, 1918 - At 5 a.m., in Marshal Foch's railway car in the Forest of Compiegne, the Armistice between the Allied and Central Powers was signed, silencing the guns of World War I

November 12, 1942 - During World War II in North Africa, The city of Tobruk was captured by the British Eighth Army under General Bernard Montgomery.

November 13, 1956 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

November 14, 1666 - The first experimental blood transfusion took place in Britain, utilizing two dogs

November 15, 1864 - During the American Civil War, Union troops under General William T. Sherman burned Atlanta.

November 16, 1933 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the U.S. and Soviet Russia had resumed diplomatic relations, suspended since 1919.

November 17, 1869 - The Suez Canal was formally opened after more than 10 years of construction.

November 18, 1477 - William Caxton printed the first book in the English language, *The Dictes and Sayengis of the Phylosophers.*

November 19, 1493 - Puerto Rico was discovered by Columbus during his second voyage to the New World.

November 20, 1945 - The Nuremberg War Crime Trials began against 24 former leaders of Nazi Germany.

November 21, 1920 - The IRA (Irish Republican Army) shot and killed 14 British soldiers in Dublin in what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

November 22, 1963 - At 12:30 p.m., on Elm Street in downtown Dallas, President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed.

November 23, 1890 - Ten-year-old Princess Wilhelmina became Queen of the Netherlands.

November 24, 1859 - Charles Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was first published, theorizing that all the living creatures descended from a common ancestor.

November 25, 1783 - At the end of the Revolutionary War, the last British troops left New York City.

November 26, 1789 - The first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American republic.

November 27, 1701 - Anders Celsius (1701-1744) was born in Sweden. He invented the centigrade (Celsius) temperature scale commonly used in Europe.

November 28, 1821 - Panama declared itself independent from Spain and joined the fledgling nation of Gran Colombia.

November 29, 1947 - Palestine was partitioned into Jewish and Arab land by the U.N. General Assembly, resulting in the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel the following year.

November 30, 1782 - A provisional peace treaty was signed between Great Britain and the United States heralding the end of America's War of Independence.













2026 SIR Branch 176 Officers:

Big SIR Steve De La Montanya 707-529-7522	**Little SIR** Bruce Okrepkie 707-484-0869	**Secretary** Larry Doherty 707-484-5308
Assistant Secretary Thomas Palmer 619-920-9175	**Treasurer** Garry Trojanowski 203-988-5366	**Assistant Treasurer** Howard Blethen **Attendance Director** Ron Nordstrom

2026 Directors

1 Year Term			*2 Year Term*		
Jerry Culver	Ron Nordstrom	Jim Tubb	Bob Wallace	Phil Bartels	Harold Minkin

2026 Activity Coordinator

Pool-at the Bowling Alley Bob Wallace 707-849-2345	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 707-838-8155	COFFEE CLUB John Fineren 707-838-3686
COUPLES DINNER Jim Vick	BOCCE BALL Stewart Morgan 707-545-4957	RECRUITMENT Gary Jensen 707-337-8380	GREETER John Fineren 707-838-3686
SONG LEADER Tom Hasco 707-544-4445	NEWSLETTER Tom Palmer 619-920-9175	WEB PAGE Jim Tubb 707-484-7890	COFFEE COORDINATOR John Fineren 707-838-3686
SIR State President Fred Serena		**SIR Area 13 Representative** Chris Nelle 916-205-1717	

