



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for June 2025

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
Charlie's Restaurant 130 19th Hole Dr. Windsor CA
Charlie's lunch is \$23.00 (plus \$1 table tip if you wish)

Windsor Winds Edition

June 2025
Volume 30 Number 6

Big SIR – Tom Palmer



Welcome to summer. Lots of music and fun everywhere. In the middle of the fun is our June 18th "Wives Picnic". This is an event where not only are our wives welcome, but a number of them, like Colleen and Terri have been attending the planning meetings and have been in the middle of planning and organizing this event. They are an immense help and much thanks to them. Remember, if you have a little time prior to the picnic please show up at 10:00 am. Otherwise it says we start at noon and while that is officially correct, many come for social time between 11 and noon.

I am writing this second paragraph just after attending our 5/21 luncheon and I am stoked! First, the place was packed, the conversation lively and Frank even told some good jokes. Second, four days ago I thought this was going to be the first month of the year with no new members. Wrong again. We had two sudden additions (Peter Mackreth and John Curran). Also we had another application submitted that we couldn't get to (Bill Hogan) and a visitor who took an application home (John Nelson). I also had the privilege of listening to the Picnic Committee put the final touches on the preparations for the June 18th picnic. Certainly a group effort and they have done everything they can to make this upcoming event a special one. My thanks to each of them.

As some of you recall, one of my goals was to increase the safety level of our group meetings. I firmly believe that a group of, not young men, and some with heart conditions should have an AED nearby. We do for coffee, the golf course does for golf, but not Charlies where we have our largest group. We've been trying to persuade them to install one and even offered partial purchase contribution; but to no avail. Then today, when I told the board that I need other alternatives, Larry D. stood up. From now on, he will bring an AED (which he owns) to the luncheons....hopefully to never use.

Then there is the news from the Senior Rec center. As you bocce ball players know, turn out is good; often times too good and folks are taking turns waiting on the sidelines to play. For the last few months we've been trying to get the city to either put in, or allow us to put in a corn hole game next to the court so that everyone has something to do all the time. This morning Jenni said, while they have no funds to help us, we are free to put one in. Garry T. has agreed to spearhead that effort. So yes, good news.

Finally, ever since the presentation by Katie Del Santos from the food bank we have tried to find a time and folks to volunteer. We had an initial group of about 7 who were interested. Today I passed around the signup sheet and was happy to send a message to the food bank that 16 of us (15 and one wife) will be helping out. Way to step-up.

So bottom line, let's keep positive, let's keep active and let's have fun. So far, so good. Thank you all.

Little SIR – Steve De La Montanya



Hello Windsor SIR Members. Thank you Tom and others for covering my duties during my May meeting absence. I had a nice time on Vacation but glad to be back among friends and the comforts of home.

I am really impressed by the growth of the membership and the way the members of our group has opened up and been so welcoming to the new candidates and members.

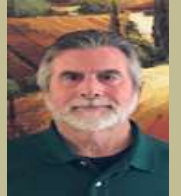
I checked out the Bocce court and it looks great, as does the garden. As we know the City is struggling with its budget and I think our group's little contributions are a real benefit to the community of which we can be proud.

Hope to see many of you at the Food bank on our days to contribute.

Thanks everyone, and see you around at the SIR events



Chris Roach – Friendship Report



Get Well/Thinking of you card was sent to Steve Monroe

MEMBERSHIP –LARRY D.

We are up to 86 members. The Big Sir goal is 90 by year's end. So let's keep inviting folks to join us.

JUNE 18TH PICNIC

(Larry D. Coordinator)

Our picnic is scheduled for the third Wednesday in June, on the 18th, at noon, at Charlies. The cost for this year will be \$45 a person, which will include lunch, beer, wine, soda, water, coffee, and desert. **JUNE 4TH IS THE LAST DAY TO SIGNUP/PAY.** We are **looking for *items to be raffled***, and those who would be willing to show up a bit early to help us with set up. (10am) We really had a great picnic last year and we, the picnic committee, would love to ensure that everyone has the same great experience this year. And yes, we will have Bingo again this year as Jenny (at the Senior Center) has been kind enough to volunteer. If you have something that can be raffled (spouse's excluded), *get ahold of me, Larry at* (ldohrebl@mindspring.com or at 707-484-5308) or Greg Smith (elihusmith1@yahoo.com).

Gary Jensen – Recruitment Coffee (John Fineren & Helpers)

Bringing a guest to coffee for them to get a feel for the group is a simple and great way to recruit. Tuesday Morning 9am coffee session continues to be busy.



Coffee at the senior center

Where else can you get a pastry and unlimited coffee for \$1?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS JUNE TO:

Wynn Bailey; Bob Brown; Lorenzo Cavallo; Steve Del La Montanya; Mike Doyle; Gary Good; Leo Jukov; Gary Kramer; Tom Lawrence; Wayne Lindahl; Chris Riggins; Dave Schleeter; Tim Senkir

Golf: Jerry Culver & Frank Treanor



The weather is getting nicer and we are getting more golfers to play. If you want to play, please contact me at bcft11@comcast.net or Jerry at so.done56@yahoo.com

THANK YOU, JEFF CAVE FOR YOUR PRESENTATION AT THE MAY LUNCHEON:



Jeff Cave, of Parent Placement Solutions spoke about how they work to match a person with the right Assisted Living, Memory Care or Independent living communities. It was a very enlightening and helpful presentation.

Thank again Jeff!

OUR LUNCHEON SPEAKER ON JUNE 18TH IS :

NONE:

INSTEAD... BINGO AT THE PICNIC. GOOD LUCK!!

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER TEAM PROGRESS:

As mentioned above, 16 of us are headed there on June 5th from 2-4pm. Each of us who have signed up will get an email from the Foodbank explaining some of what we will be doing along with a manual.

We will be also doing it on July 3rd. I will need to know who can volunteer for that effort as well. From now on, we will have a group going over once a month on the 1st Thursday of the month from 2-4pm.

Also, if someone is willing to lean in and coordinate getting the monthly list of work folks to the foodbank, I would really appreciate that.



SIR Branch 176 Bowling Report

The 2025 Summer No Tap League is well underway. It will last for 17 weeks, with the first half ending on June 23, 2025 and the second half ending on August 18, 2025. First/second place teams of the first and second halves of the season will have a three game rolloff to determine the first through fourth place teams at season end. Anyone interested in participating in should make their interest known to one of us or to workers at the Windsor Bowling Center.

Dave Harrison, Bowling Chair
harrisod@sonic.net

DRIVERS & RIDERS

THE 3 FOLKS WHO YOU CAN CALL IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO THE LUNCHEONS ARE:

Bob Wallace Windsor 707-849-2345
Jon Babich Windsor 707-608-9449
Chris Riggins Santa Rosa 925-354-3593

I ALSO NOTICED THAT STEWART HAS HIS PHONE NUMBER LISTED IN THE BOCCE BALL NOTICES IF YOU WISH A RIDE FOR BOCCE BALL.

Stewart Morgan Windsor 707-545-4957 stwrmtmorgan@gmail.com

If you too are available to provide a lift, please let our friendship director Chris Roach know. chrisroach@sbcglobal.net

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:



Peter Mackreth

Peter is originally from the U.K and moved here to pursue his music career as a guitar player for the “Acoustics” and to also go to college. He loved being involved in the UK/American folk music revival of the mid-sixties. However, It was the college thing that worked out. Following college, he went to work as an engineer for GE and was involved in the successful development of General Electric’s CT Scanner, which would set the stage for the rest of his career here in the US. Since then, he was also involved in the development of various technologies, which include CT, MRI, Gamma Cameras, PET Scanners and Ultra Sound. Very recently (still unpacking), Peter moved from Palo Alto to Windsor and is looking forward to meeting everyone.



John Curran

Born in SF in 1944 John moved to San Mateo in 1948 went to Hillsdale HS and graduated in 1962. He graduated from College of San Mateo in 1964 and then graduated from SF State in 1970. Finally, he graduated with a Masters from St. Mary's in 2000. John is a retired Santa Rosa school teacher, having taught both elementary and High school students. He now is active golfing about 3 times a week and is looking forward to also being active in SIR.



John Nelson

John was Born in San Francisco – August 16, 1954, but had a rather nomadic tour of the Western U.S. due to his father's work for the U.S. Weather Bureau. They lived in Winnemucca-Nevada, Los Angeles, Sparks-Nevada, and Manteca-California, until John finally decided to go out on his own. So, after high school, he moved to Santa Rosa in 1972. This was the best move he ever made as he met his wife, Sue in 1974 – They married in 1977. John had an excellent secondary education starting at the Santa Rosa Junior College and eventually achieved his Bachelor's Degree from Sonoma State in 1977. His entire professional career was in the insurance business working directly for the company. Primarily, he worked for and ultimately retired from Fireman's Fund Insurance. Along with his career, he was also elected to and served on the Sonoma County Fire Board for 17 years (where he met Frank). Sue and John moved from Santa Rosa to Windsor in 1987, where they've both been active in the community and expect that Windsor will be their home forever.

Sue and John have shared many hobbies over the years. They've spent time skiing, golfing, sailing, and traveling extensively internationally and in the U.S. in an RV, but their primary hobby, and for John a lifetime passion, has been photography. You may very well see some of John's future photos in our newsletter. So when you see John, don't forget to smile.

Couples Dinner (Not an official SIR Activity) Couples Dinner- Jim Vick

The SIR dinner group met at Mason Portella May 22. Five couples attended. The food was excellent as was the conversations. **No Couples Dinner in June due to the picnic.** Later, I will email everyone about the July dinner.

Anyone new or who hasn't been receiving my emails and wants to be on the dinner list please contact me at: jvick1497@gmail.com

Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



Bocce Ball at the Senior's Center Thursdays at 10:00am. All are welcome. Players not only compete to get their balls closest to the jack (the target ball) but also engage in a nuanced game of tactics, where they can knock opponents' balls away or block paths.

ROOSTER GARDEN GUYS



This will primarily be an email group with occasional face-to-face meetings to swap plants, ideas and as always geezer stories. If such a vegetable gardening activity is of interest to you, send an email to Len Schwer (Len@Schwer.net) to be added to the distribution list. Or if you just have an occasional vegetable gardening question, you will likely receive a knowledgeable answer from these Guys.

The initial focus of this gardening group is resurrecting the Rooster Garden at the Senior Center. The three raised beds of this garden were created as part of an Eagle Scout project a few years ago. We obtained permission from Jenni, Senior Center Supervisor, to assume responsibility for this Garden.

The first task was to replenish the soil in the raised beds. This was accomplished in early May when Charlie Boyd, Tom Palmer and Steve De La Montanya obtained free compost from the Town of Windsor. Then Charlie took on the task of amending and combining compost with existing soil.



Next came planning and planting of plant starts provided by Steve, Charlie and Tom: tomatoes, squash, peppers and cucumbers. I planted some pole beans seeds in the center box and used the bean trellis provided by Wynn Bailey.



LIKE TO PLAY POOL, DARTS, SHUFFLEBOARD?

Game time is every Tuesday from 3pm to 5pm.



Most of us aren't very good at pool playing, but all have a great time. However, they have changed the price. For us seniors it's \$6.00 per hour, so still not a bad buck for the bang; Or if you just want to sit back, have a cold one and enjoy the conversation, that's good too...or play one of their other games. Guests/spouses are welcome.

3PM Friday Happy Hour



At Charley's

If you are free, come and enjoy a cold beverage and lively conversation and so-so jokes. **The schedule for JUNE is:** 6/6 Mountain Mikes; 6/13 El Gallo Negro (bar only); 6/20 The Publican; 6/27 Barley and Bine.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:



The Activities Committee made up of members Wayne Lindahl (photo above), Chris Roach, Dave Harrison and Phil Bartels are looking for ideas. This group will have the responsibility of checking with our members for the level of interest in the new activity, identify the local resources available for that activity and if there is a member willing to step up and chair the activity.

Here are some of the activities that other SIRs groups participate in;

- Bridge
- Computers
- Genealogy
- Hiking
- Horseshoes
- Investments
- Ping Pong

If you have an idea or want to start an activity, please contact any of these committee members.

Wayne: wlindahl@sonic.net

Chris: chrisroach@sbcglobal.net

Phillip: pcbartels@aol.com

Dave: harrisod@sonic.net

SPECIAL PROFILE:



GREG E. SMITH

Born on November 5th, 1948 in Yakima, Washington. My parents, along with two older sisters and one brother were living on a farm in the Wapato Indian reservation. My dad and an uncle were growing carrots. A year later he started working with another uncle and became a mason. We then moved to Springfield, Or. where another sister and brother were born there. In 1956 we moved to Santa Rosa, CA. I attended Herbert Slater Junior High and Montgomery High School

I joined the US Navy in 1966 and served as an IC electrician aboard the USS Constellation CVA-64 in the 7th Fleet, home ported in San Diego, CA. I made 3 tours off the coast of N. & S. Vietnam and separated from my ship in Sasebo, Japan during the N. Korean capture of a US Navy vessel.

After the service, I graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State College, courtesy of the GI Bill and jobs as a hod carrier, bar manager, feed mill worker, etc.

I have lived and worked in Sonoma County most of my life. I purchased my first home in Windsor in 1979. I still live there to this day.

During my career I held the following jobs: Inventory Control manager at a Healdsburg lumber re-man plant; deck hand on a crab boat in Kodiak, AK; general manager /accountant for a gas station/convenience store chain; accountant for a masonry contractor; accountant for an auto parts importer; accountant for Marin County Mental Health Services; accountant for Sonoma County Superior Court; retired as Fiscal Manager for California Superior Court, County of Sonoma.

I have two sons and one daughter, plus mates, and six grandsons and two granddaughters. I am also blessed with two stepsons and their mates plus another granddaughter in the making.

I spend most of my time gardening, home/landscape maintenance and woodworking. Do some fishing and hunting.

Other than my children, my most favorite accomplishment is the chance to meet and wed my lovely wife, Terri. She has made our home a beautiful place and me a happy man. We have done a lot of traveling and have many wonderful friends plus children and relatives.

THE ROOSTER CORNER



For those of you unfamiliar with the Rooster, it has been around our branch for years. Traditionally, it was a monthly golf trophy handed out at our luncheon to someone who made a funny or grievous error. That honored person would bring the Rooster home for a month and garnish it with a relevant trinket and return it to the following luncheon. Previously, perhaps numerous times, it has been so laden with trinkets that they were removed and once again, trinket placements began.

While living with this creature for the past month, it whispered in my ear that it wanted, no demanded, recognition. So we will keep track of these awards and not lose its history by the addition of this “The Rooster Corner” in the monthly newsletter (beside folks have been complaining that the newsletter seems to be a bit short).

APRIL 2025 AWARDEE: Big Sir, Tom Palmer who at the luncheon announced the ten birthdays for the month, not forgetting any. However, the birthdays were for the following month...woops. He adorned the rooster with two things: First. A Birthday badge as an acknowledgment of the error committed and b. A chicken turd because it was chicken shit that he only got it because of the someone who almost took out our next Little Sir with a hell of a slice... skipped out of the luncheon. There could be redemption since I’m sure the rooster will catch up to him.

OTHER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(Non SIR Activities)



HOT DOG THURSDAYS

The first Thursday of every month (May through October) the Pacific Coast Air Museum serves their famous PCAM Hot Dogs, drinks, and chips to visitors from around Sonoma County. Cost: \$10.00 will get you into the museum, a hot dog, a drink, and chips. The first Thursday in June is on 5 June.



The SMART train grand opening is on June 13th at 1:45pm at the station Youth and seniors can still ride free through June 30, 2025. While a clipper card is not required until then, it takes a while to get the Senior Clipper Card and I encourage everyone to get one and save 50%. It's hard to find a place to get the Senior card immediately, so the best way is to download the application and follow the instructions from there. Start by going to:

<https://www.clippercard.com/ClipperWeb/discounts.html>



Once a month (date varies) all SIR and their spouse (SIR+) are welcome to start the “work” week with Mexican Monday – a chance for SIR couples to gather. Starts sharply at 4PM Castaneda’s Market Place. This month **16 June** is Mexican Monday. The frozen margarita machine is now making frozen horchata -- a refreshing non-alcoholic beverage popular in Mexico and Latin America made from white rice, water, cinnamon, and sugar. **\$5** for a 12 ounce cup.



Every Saturday morning starting at 8AM Jose Castaneda serves a free breakfast for veterans, i.e. “Castañeda’s Breakfast Brigade,” he provides veterans a place for connections, camaraderie & friendship.



Windsor concerts on the Green are on Thursdays from 6-8pm. Check out their schedule here: <https://www.townofwindsor.ca.gov/342/Summer-Nights-on-the-Green>

STEWART MORGAN –TRAVEL

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



2025

29 Day Northern Lights Grand Adventure South Hampton (London) to Ft. Lauderdale Sept. 27 – Oct. 26 2025. Prices range from \$3797 - \$8264 pp. depending on cabin. Is seeing the Northern Lights and visiting Norway on your bucket list? This is the trip for you join us on the Emerald Princess for a 29day cruise. Five stops in Norway, additional stops in France and Spain. Additional costs, airfare, trip insurance & \$285 port taxes. Contact kathig@shipsandtrips.com

Romance of the Rhine & Mosel River Cruise July 6-21, 2025 From Basel Switzerland to Antwerp Belgium. Castles, towns and sights such as Lorelei Rock. Stops in Strasbourg, Speyer, Boppard, Bernkastel and Trier. Cochem, Bonn, Nijmegen, Willemstad, and Antwerp. Prices start at \$6,345pp including round trip air from SFO. Possible single supplement at +\$895. Pre-trip 4day to Lucerne for \$1,295pp. 3day Posttrip to Burges \$995pp. Contact Jim Hohenshelt, 408-394-7226 or Roy 408-735-8765 Branch 62

Inside Vietnam Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hué, Hoi An, Dalat, Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) Small SIR group of 16. Oct. 19, thru November 7, '25. Starting at \$3,795 including air. Pre-trip to Hill Tribes of Vietnam 6 nights from \$1,095 and post trip to Cambodia Angkor Wat 5 nights from \$1,1695. Make your reservation by calling OAT Travel and be sure to use the SIR Group Code is G5-30339 1-800-955-1925. There is still room on this great trip. For more information from a SIR contact Milt Smith Branch 146. 925-285-2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com LINK <https://www.oattravel.com/trips/land-adventures/asia/inside-vietnam/2021/itineraries> Vietnam Tour | Hanoi to Saigon |

Overseas Adventure Travel Australia/New Zealand Jan 7, - Jan 25, '26. Australia: Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney Arrowtown, Queenstown, Rotorua, Auckland. New Zealand : Te Anau. Starting from \$6,495 including air. Free Single Supplement. Pre-trip 5 nights to Melbourne & the Outback from \$2,395. Post trip 4 nights to Fiji from \$1,995 SIR Group Code is G5-30339. Contact Glenn Breslin glennbreslin@gmail.com Branch 146 for more information. Or call direct 1-800-955-1925 Be sure to use the SIR Group Code. LINK New Zealand Tour | Australia & New Zealand |

Grand Circle Travel South Korea & Japan: Temples, Shrines & Seaside Treasures. Korea: Seoul, Japan: Tokyo, Toba, Kyoto. April 1, - April 26, '26. Starting from \$7,495 including air. Pre-trip Mongolia: Ulaanbaater & the Gobi Desert. 9 nights from \$1495. OR...Vietnam: Hanoi & Halong Bay Cruise 5 nights from \$1,495. SIR Group Code G5-30339 For more information contact Glenn Breslin glennbreslin@gmail.com Branch 146. LINK South Korea and Japan | Travel to East Asia | Overseas Adventure Travel

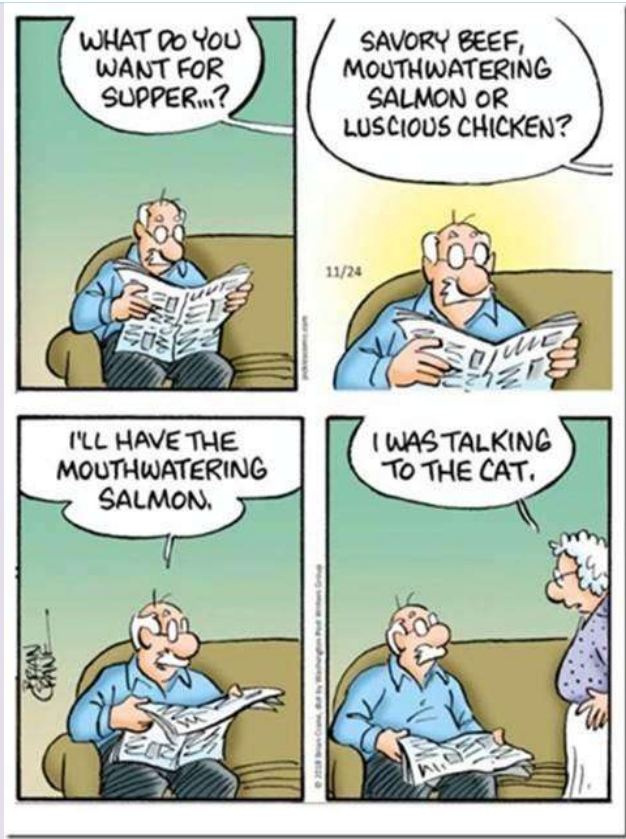
The firefighter was asked why he laughed while saving this old woman...

He said that the elderly woman said to him: "You reminded me of my wedding night.." 😂😂😂



FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:





2025 SIR Branch 176 Officers:

Big SIR

Thomas Palmer
619-920-9175

Little SIR

Steve De La Montanya

Secretary

Dave Harrison
707-838-8155

Assistant Secretary

Larry Doherty
707-484-5308

Treasurer

Garry Trojanowski
203-988-5366

Assistant Treasurer

Howard Blethen

2025 Directors

1 Year Term

Chris Roach

Wayne Lindahl

Ward Thompson

2 Year Term

Jerry Culver

Ron Nordstrom

Jim Tubb

2025 Activity Coordinator

Pool-Game Time
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
707-638-8155

COFFEE CLUB
John Fineren
707-838-3686

COUPLES DINNER
Jim Vick
281-382-4796

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
707-4847890

COFFEE
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707-838-3686

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Rich Carlston

SIR Area 13 Representative
Chris Nelle
916-205-1717

