



SIR Branch 176 Windsor Winds Newsletter for November 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
Jimmy’s Lakeside Café 130 19th Hole Dr. Windsor CA
Lunch is \$30.00

Windsor Winds Edition

November 2025
Volume 30 Number 11

Big SIR – Tom Palmer



I am going to talk about the Jimmy’s Lakeside Café change and how it affects us. It’s quite a change and change is sometimes difficult to adapt to, especially when it hits us in the pocketbook. I’ve met with the new owner Jimmy a few times and watched as he remodeled the restaurant and freshened up our meeting room. He’s been in the restaurant business a long time and came out of retirement to create something that will last, not only for himself, but for his family too. As such, he must create a pleasant atmosphere, have very good food, exceptional service along with pricing that is competitive and yet sufficient to support the restaurant and its employees. Jim is very adamant that his employees are happy, and do relatively well, hence his insistence on a 20% tip from all groups, not just from SIRs. Our

past practice of throwing a few dollars on a table after the buffet was over was something he was against....because his employees would not sufficiently benefit. That 20% is why our luncheons now cost \$30.00 and why the cost of the holiday party increased.

I've also heard some complaints that the pricing for us is higher than the menu pricing. Of course it is; Groups are handled differently than just a few folks because it takes more employees to serve a group, along with other employees to set up and clean the meeting room. It's apples and oranges. Simply stated, it's the extra cost for the privilege of about 50 guys having lunch together. No doubt we had it really good with Charlies, but that's no reason to be frustrated with the new place. I must admit that Jim and I had some heated words about price changes and what I perceived was us being devalued. After listening intently to him, I don't think that's true. I believe him when he says he wants to serve us and make us happy. Now, Steve may decide to form a committee to look into other options, but my guess is that there will be problems/drawbacks regardless where we look. We are simply in different times where things now cost more. We were paying \$23.00 and throwing in a couple of bucks for the tip...so now we pay \$5.00 a month more (which goes to the servers). Most of us are fortunate enough to easily handle that. As to food quality, we'll keep an eye on that.

I guess most of all, I am hoping that these increases do not deter anyone from coming to our meetings. Being a strong, caring, and fun branch needs to remain our top priority. In order to keep doing that, we absolutely need to have good luncheon turnouts. So please don't get distracted by changes and problems we didn't create. We have excellent proven leaders for the next two years, so let's all support them and this branch. **I sincerely hope I see you November 19th at my final luncheon as your Big Sir.**

Little SIR – Steve De La Montanya



Hello Fellow Windsor SIR Members. About time to reset the clocks, and none too soon for golf start times.

Sorry I missed the October meeting. I want to extend my thanks to Jerry and the guys for stepping up and taking care of business. Also, a big thank you to Charlie and Mark for taking care of the lunch ordering. The feedback was mostly positive with a little concern about food doneness and the quality of the sides. We will continue to monitor this as we finish out the year and then evaluate if we need to consider other options next year.

For November we will be selecting items from the same menu.

Cheeseburger

Hamburger

Impossible burger (Vegetarian Selection)

Club Sandwich

Chicken Salad

The Two Sides Are Fries and Side Salad

Please review the selections in advance and be prepared to choose.

We do have the option of adjusting entries in the future. Please pass your comments on to me.

OUR NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKER IS: Chief Ron Busch

From the Sonoma County Fire District

Topics include: Dept. Status, Fire Prevention, and member questions

DRIVERS & RIDERS

THE 3 FOLKS WHO YOU CAN CALL DIRECT 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 ???

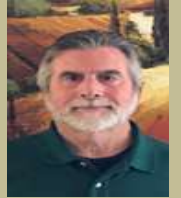
STEWART ALSO HAS HIS PHONE NUMBER LISTED IN THE BOCCE BALL NOTICES IF YOU WISH A RIDE FOR BOCCE BALL.

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

If you have any questions please let our friendship director, Chris Roach, know.

chrisroach@sbcglobal.net

Chris Roach – Friendship Report

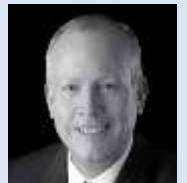


Get Well cards were sent to Steve Greer, Jim Neal, Jim Branscomb, and Sherry (Steve DLM wife),

A Sympathy card was sent to: Allen Cunningham (his wife passed)

“I would like to remind everyone to get your COVID and Flu shots “

MEMBERSHIP –LARRY D.



No new changes in our membership. I look forward to seeing you all at the Holiday Party.

HOLIDAY PARTY NEWS:

The Holiday Party will be held on December 17 at 1200 hours at what used to be Charlie's, now “Jimmy's lakeside café”. The new owner increased the price by about 20%. However, the cost to you will be \$65 per person with the balance paid by the Branch. This will include menu choices of New York Steak, or Salmon Piccata or Chicken Marsala with sides of broccolini carrots and mashed potatoes. Prior to that there will be a salad drop. Also there will be free wine, live entertainment by Mr. Music, and of course Chris Roach will bake a wonderful sheet cake.

The following Holiday Party flyer is how you will let Frank know if you are coming (please attend, you will enjoy it), your menu choice and how to pay. I will send this flyer in a separate email so you can easily print and send it to Frank. **You may also bring the form and check to the November 19th Luncheon.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS SEPTEMBER TO:

Steve Backman, Allen Cunningham, Larry Doherty,
Steve Johnson, Stewart Morgan.

SIRS Holiday Party

Please join us for the
SIRS Holiday Celebration
Where: Jimmie's at Windsor GC
When: December 17 at 12 Noon
Cost: \$65.00 per person, includes wine
Please use the form below to RSVP and
prepay for the event by Dec. 8th

Name _____

Entree: Circle one

New York Steak Salmon Piccata
Chicken Marsala

Guest Name _____

Entree: Circle one

New York Steak Salmon Piccata
Chicken Marsala

Send this form and your check payable to
SIRS Branch 176 to
Frank Treanor,
245 Grove Street
Windsor CA 95492

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 and catch up on all the world events. Tuesday Morning 9am coffee session continues to be a popular and a fun time.



Coffee at the senior center

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

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

The SIR couple's dinner on 10/22 was at Le Gare in Santa Rosa, Eleven couples attended. As usual, food and conversation was great.
Due to holidays there will be no sirs dinner in November or December. We will start the new year with a BANG.





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

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER TEAM PROGRESS:



There were about 10 of us there in October and we loaded boxes for seniors. Each month we seem to get one or two new guys who are willing to give it a try. So please join us. To clarify, this is not a "Sir's Activity", it's a foodbank activity that we assist in, therefore, women are absolutely welcome and encouraged to participate with us.

Continuing on, we will have a group going over once a month on the 1st Thursday of the month from 2-4pm. **The next service opportunity will be on November 6th, if you did not get my email (1st time) and still wish to volunteer, email me immediately.**

*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. It takes about 10 minutes a month but it conflicts with the time I'm trying to finish up the newsletter, so if that someone who can email and has an extra ten minutes, is you...please let me know.

Golf: Paul Hanson & Frank Treanor



It's getting cooler and wetter so Golf has a few less players each week. So now is a good time to start playing. All are welcome, so if you wish to play, talk to Paul who has taken over for Jerry. Jerry is appreciated for his service over the last year and thanks to Paul who has stepped up. If you would like to play you need to be at the course by 0730. Any questions, I can be reached at bcft11@comcast.net. And Paul can be reached at pablo558389@hotmail.com

SIR Branch 176 Bowling Report

As I write, our thirty-one week Fall to Spring Monday Morning Mixed Seniors Bowling League has now completed eight weeks of competitive bowling with twelve active teams. Sir member teams are in the midst of the action. At the end of the October 20 seventh session "Luigi's Crew" (my team), led by Sir Lew Commendatore, was in first place having won 20 points. "Barbie and the Three Bears" led by Sir John Campbell and including Sir Mark Nelson was in second place with 16 points. "Strike Force" led by Sir Phil Bartels was in seventh place with 14 ½ points, and "Laurel and Hardies" led by Sir Don McCorquodale had 13 points. Total point spread between high team and low team was 10 points, so competition is very close and keen. If you would like to be a substitute bowler, please let me know. **Presently, we have three vacancies among the twelve teams.**

Dave Harrison, Bowling Chair
harrisod@sonic.net

Windsor Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove

The official event dates are December 4th to December 31st 2025

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 be “Enhancing senior men’s lives through fun activities”.

The decorating time for us will be Monday December 1st at 3pm. Mark your calendars. Members may provide decorations consistent with our theme (activities). **I am encouraging folks to bring their decorations to the November Luncheon, so we can see what we have.** The board may need to purchase some for yearly use, as there are numerous activity ornaments available on Amazon for less than \$10.00 each.

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

<mailto:mnelson@santarosa.edu>

Bocce Ball - Stewart Morgan



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

Bocce, also known as Italian lawn bowling, is one of the oldest lawn or yard games. The word “bocce” is a plural of the word “boccia” meaning ball in Italian.



WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

What, no new members? That doesn't happen often. So please let's not get complacent. We always lose a number of folks at the beginning of each year, so let's invite our friends to coffee or pool or ?

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
- 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

ROOSTER GARDEN GUYS



Harvest is complete (unless our peas start producing) As you know some vegetables were given to SIR members and the rest to our senior community. Hopefully, next spring we will once again be involved with the Senior Center, planting new crops.

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. So join us at Racks-N-Cue, 8928 Lakewood Drive Windsor.



3PM Friday Happy Hour



If you are free, come and enjoy a cold beverage and lively conversation and so-so jokes. **The schedule for November is:** 11/7: Flavorburger; 11/14: The Rough Draft; 11/21: Mountain Mikes; 11/28: El Gallo Negro (bar only).



SPECIAL PROFILE: GARY GOOD:



I was born in Seattle in 1950, where I developed an early fascination with technology and innovation. In 1997, I relocated to the Bay Area, immersing myself in one of the world's most vibrant tech communities. My career has spanned several decades as a technologist and feature article writer, focusing on the ever-evolving landscape of technology.

As a Senior Vice President in multiple organizations, I have written for diverse audiences, including engineers, scientists, and industry specialists. My ability to communicate complex technical concepts effectively has allowed me to connect with readers from various professional backgrounds. Over the years, I have also ghost-written award-winning articles on behalf of experts in numerous fields, helping to share their insights and achievements with a wide audience.

My passion for both technology and writing continues to drive my work, as I seek to bridge the gap between innovation and understanding for professionals and enthusiasts alike. Before retiring, I worked with tech clients including Itron (Liberty Lake WA), which offers products and services for energy and water resource management. There I wrote white papers, one of which introduced Itron's intentions to build systems that leverage artificial intelligence as AI began to be deployed more widely. I also worked for 10Fold Communications, a technology-based public relations firm that served clients in Silicon Valley and in other major metros. I began my career in Seattle, where I led public relations for Data I/O (Issaquah, WA), the world's leading developer of manual and automated data programming and security provisioning systems for flash memory, microcontrollers, and logic IC's. There I won numerous awards for technical and marketing writing.

I'm a pretty fair runner, having run the two-mile as well as cross-country races in high school. I have run sporadically over the years, and now at 75 I continue to train at shorter distances. I hope I'll never have to give it up because I still get a "runner's high."

TRAVEL FROM STATE SIR:

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: Australia & New Zealand | Grand Circle Travel

Cuba – March 12- 2026. It is legal to travel once again, open the a link and check it out, if interested contact Glenn Breslin glennbreslin@gmail.com ASAP as he is putting an online Q&A together. LINK: Cultural Cuba Experience | Mayflower Cruises and Tours

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 \$1,495. 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

Explore the Great Lakes and Niagara Falls, May 3-11, 2026: From urban skylines to uninhabited islands, discover North America's wilderness alongside renowned cultural attractions aboard a small expedition ship. 378 passengers. Led by experts. Balcony staterooms \$6170-8295pp. Contact Michael & Kathi Gervais Br. 98. Kathig@shipsandtripstravel.com 916-337-1623. LINK: Great Lakes and Niagara Falls on the Viking Octantis

Christmas on the Danube with a 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, double occupancy. Contact: Bill Britton Br. 101 bill.britton@comcast.net (925) 200-1062. LINK: Christmas on the Danube | Collette

OTHER NON-SIR EVENTS:



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 **17 November** 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; two sizes large \$7 and small \$5.



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.

Vino for Veterans

Hosted by Kendall Jackson



Organized by Jose Castaneda
Castaneda's Marketplace

In honor of Veterans Day, Castaneda's Marketplace is proud to announce that Kendall-Jackson Family Wines will host this year's "Vino for Veterans" event on **Saturday, November 8.**

As Castaneda's Marketplace has done for the past 14 and a half years, this event will begin with an **8 AM breakfast** for veterans at Castaneda's Marketplace, a warm gathering of friendship, gratitude, and stories shared over good food.

Starting at noon, veterans and their spouses are invited to join us at Kendall-Jackson's tasting room on Fulton Road for a special wine tasting experience led by their talented staff. To make it special event, Castaneda's Marketplace will be preparing a fresh paella to pair with the wines. The paella (by Paella Guy) will be open to all guests tasting at Kendall-Jackson that afternoon.

This partnership of Castaneda's Marketplace and Kendall-Jackson brings together two organizations that emphasize community. Kendall-Jackson represents the heart of Sonoma County's wine industry, built on hard work, integrity, and excellence, much like our veterans, who embody honor, duty, and grit at the core of our nation's strength.

If you are a veteran who has not attended our breakfast before but would like to join the wine tasting at Kendall-Jackson, **please register, at Castañeda's, in advance** so we can provide an accurate headcount and ensure a great experience for all.

Let's raise a glass together in gratitude and community.



FOR THE LIGHT HEARTED:



The wife said:
"Here's \$20, get
the dog a jacket.
If there's any
money left over,
get yourself a beer!"



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| 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 | | | 2 Year Term | | |
| Chris Roach | Wayne Lindahl | Ward Thompson | 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 COORDINATOR John Fineren 707-838-3686 |
| SIR State President Rich Carlston | | | SIR Area 13 Representative Chris Nelle 916-205-1717 | | |

