



**Wilton Rotary Drummer**  
**Wilton, Connecticut**  
[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)

**October 25, 2019**

**Vol. 39, Issue 14**

**Editor: Bill Meehan**

---

Under a bright sun with temperate weather and near peak foliage, a dozen Rotarians conducted Rotary business over lunch at Rolling Hills and listened as Ed Hynes (by day, Sr. Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch in Westport) told tales of the conflict swirling about Revolutionary War southwestern Connecticut, the Sound and Long Island.

**Announcements:**

- **Bob Green** – Wilton Rotary Membership Application is pending.
- **November 9 – 10:00 to 4:30: Rotary Day at United Nations** - Will focus on community-based solutions to the global refugee crisis. Christene will represent the Club but all are welcome. For more info see [www.rotaryundaynyc.org/](http://www.rotaryundaynyc.org/)
- **Carnival** – the indefatigable Pat Russo is locking in September 25 through 27, for the 2020 Carnival.
- **Lucky Drawing** – Bud was not present – discussion of forming a posse to find him.

**PROGRAM & WORKSHOP: Ed Hynes, Long Island Sound – Revolutionary War Front Line**

Just over five years ago Ed regaled the Club with tales of the exploits of General Wooster and Benedict Arnold (while he was still a rising rebel star) and General Tyron's narrow escape in Westport following the raid on Danbury and the Battle of Ridgefield (See Drummer Vol. 33, Issue 43). Today, Ed spoke of how Tyron's raid fit in a bigger picture. Southwestern Connecticut and the Long Island Sound were the front line for much of the Revolutionary War. Washington's forces chased the British from Boston on St. Patrick's Day, 1776. The British occupied New York and Long Island in August of 1776. Until the British finally evacuated New York in November 1783, the cities, towns, and farms along Connecticut's southern shore stared across the Sound at the British and Loyalist occupied north shore of Long Island. The Sound was no-man's land occupied by British warships, Yankee and Loyalist raiders. The common whaleboat became the vehicle of choice for raiders making the 6 to 10 mile crossing. During this period, Loyalists in New England fled to New York and Long Island. Patriots on Long Island fled to Connecticut. Ed narrated some of the many notable raids conducted by both sides during the long seven years that the conflict raged. Raids were fueled by the British ban on trade with New England, wartime shortages, bitterness and revenge. Kidnappings and violence were common on both sides. Nearby Connecticut shoreline communities such as Stamford, Norwalk and Fairfield were both the origin and target of raids. Ed had many tales to tell but so little time.

***NEXT MEETING: – Lunch Meeting, Friday, November 1, 12:15 at ROLLING HILLS COUNTRY CLUB***