



Scott Wild

Scott Wild is not a famous guy but his voice is. He is a dead ringer for Pop Fisher, manager of the New York Knights, a down on its luck baseball team in the movie *The Natural*. *"You know, my mother told me I ought to be a farmer."* Fisher was played by Wilford Brimley, the walrus-mustached, cantankerous coot who also appeared in *The China Syndrome*, *Cocoon*, and was a gruff sounding spokesman on Quaker Oats oatmeal commercials. Scott has the mustache and the sound but he's never set foot on stage.

He grew up in Newport Beach where he regularly enjoyed catches from the famed dory fishing fleet. His mom delivered the LA Times and in exchange for free newspapers, the fishermen gave her fresh fish. He worked at the Reuben E. Lee as dishwasher and later a bouncer after telling them he was 16 when he really was 14. But he left Newport for good in 1969 after graduating from high school. He and a friend took an old bakery truck and converted it into a motor home. The pair spent three months traveling the United States in their makeshift RV, getting as far as upstate New York. They "got run out Texas" and tried unsuccessfully to get into the Playboy Club in New Orleans. "They told us we weren't dressed properly," he recalls.

After the summer adventure, Wild began a three decade career in the construction business, which took him to Canada and all across the United States. During the slow times and in the winter, Wild worked in a lumber mill and as a bartender.

Most of that time he worked for F. J. Willert Contracting Co. in San Diego, which describes itself as a demolition, grading and premier earthwork firm. Among many projects Wild worked on were Petco Park, home of the Padres, and underground trolley station developed at the former Chargers Stadium for San Diego State. When he retired from Willert 5 years ago, Wild was superintendent.

Today he's a gentleman farmer in Aguanga with a couple dozen fruit trees and a veggie garden on 5 acres. He also spends time at the beach, surfing and eating at places such as Jake's in Del Mar and Fidels. He got reintroduced to golf in 1981 when Laura, his then girlfriend, bought him a membership in the California Oaks Men's Club.

He's never had a hole in one but once scored an eagle on a par 5 in Tijuana. Wild and other refugees from the now closed Diamond Valley course in Hemet joined Redhawk 3 years ago. The group which includes Roger Morey and Larry Harring, often plays golf but when it comes to betting, the rules are clear. No handicap strokes. "There's no such thing in our group," Wild said. "Just play better."