

# Arden Arcade

Chartered, February 23, 1955

February 16, 2016

Volume 1, Issue 28

Pledge by Stan Nicolaus  
Invocation By Prez Steve

Guests were Patricia Clearwater (works for Jonathan Kocycz), Patrick Sweeney, and Andrew Ross (Matt's son.)

Happy Bucks:

Steve started out by announcing his daughter just was involved in her first theatrical endeavor at Fairy Tail Town. Tim Cahill said his seventh month old Granddaughter just makes him smile. Bruce Stimson said he's had his two Granddaughters all weekend and they went to the zoo, Star Wars, and Frozen on ice—and they go home tonight! Joe Green says he finalized the pen logo and is going on the first ski day with his family on Thursday. Tom Griffin gave happy bucks because his alma mater, Villanova is ranked 1st for the first time. Jed gave happy bucks because he gets the oil out of his eye next Tuesday!

Matt Ross says his daughter received district honors for middle school band (while just in 6th grade!O, also his son decided to go to Rio instead of Jesuit and so he saved enough to become a Bell Ringer! (again)

Bill Hambrick talked about the dictionary distribution and shared some thank you letters from the kids. The last distribution is next Tuesday.

Paul King reminded us that on Charter Night February 20th, we will be celebrating the 61st Birthday of Arden Arcade Rotary. We will celebrate at Del Paso Country Club on the corner of Watt and Marconi. No host cocktails start at 6pm, dinner at 7pm. Today is the last chance to sign up.

Paula announced the Speech Contest is on March 8th. We will be meeting at the Dante Club on that day.

President Steve introduced our speaker: our own Tom Griffin. Tom spent 32 years in the FBI. He passed around a picture of Tom and President Regan in the Oval Office.

Tom started in Milwaukee. He first worked a number of thefts at night and was on a stakeout. They saw someone go into a trailer to steal and so they went to get them and a car came out aiming right at Tom. Tom shot at the car but they got away. Two weeks later they caught the guys and the partner told Tom, "good thing you shot at him, my partner was going to run you down".

Another time Tom went in to an apartment looking for a bank robber and while they were clearing rooms tom caught sight of a man at the



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ARDEN ARCADE

Arden Arcade 2015-2016



Steve Turner,  
Club President

Paul King, Vice President, President Elect

Stuart Nelson, Secretary

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Tom Goode, Controller

Past President, Joel Archer

Joe Green, Membership

Matt Ross, Public Relations

Jeri Petersen, Arden Arcade Foundation

Matt Ross, RI Foundation

Cathy Skeen, Club Events

Tim Martin, Community Service

Mike Caplan, International Service

Al Cady, Sergeant at Arms

Paul King, Rotary House,

Paula James, Youth Programs

Patt McCormick, Newsletter Editor

Attendance: Jed Van Wagner

(916) 435-1754

[jsjhm@gmail.com](mailto:jsjhm@gmail.com)

## RAFFLE

**\$760.00 this week**

- 1. \$308.00—Carroll Cook had the ticket but did not pull the ace**
- 2. \$452.00—Tom Griffin had the ticket but did not pull the ace**

**Next week: \$770 up for grabs!**



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end of the hallway with a gun. Just as Tom was going to shoot, he realized he was looking at himself in a mirror at the end of the hallway.

Tom was at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta investigating the bombing in the park. They got intel from someone who knew Richard Jewel that he may be the bomber. The media went bananas and convicted Jewel in the press and he was not guilty. They later found proof that he wasn't even near the park when the bomb went off by requesting photos from anyone who had them and searching them for Richard Jewel. His life was pretty ruined and he received a very large settlement.

In 1970, Angela Davis was arrested because she had purchased the shotgun used by a man who took over a courtroom in Marin County and killed the Judge. Angela Davis became only the third woman ever on the FBI's Most Wanted List. She ended up being found in New York, but then Governor Nelson Rockefeller wanted her out of New York, so Tom had to go to then Governor Ronald Regan's home to get him to sign the extradition papers. Then Tom flew back to New York and presented them directly to Nelson Rockefeller and he never even said a word of thanks. Ronald Regan had spoken with them long enough that Tom almost missed his plane to New York, and the Governor of New York barely grunted.

In 1987, Regan nominated Robert Bork to the Supreme Court (he didn't get confirmed.) Then he nominated Anthony Kennedy from McGeorge Law School. Tom was charged with finding any dirty laundry in Kennedy's background. Tom found something and brought it to the attention of his superiors. They wanted Tom in Washington DC immediately. He was on a Red-eye flight trying to read the information he was to present when the stewardess said you're the only one with a light on—turn it off. When he got to Washington he told the supervisor what he found, then the supervisor said you need to tell the section chief, who then told him he needed to tell the Assistant Director who then said he needed to tell the Director, William Sessions. Director Sessions then said you need to tell the Attorney General, Ed Meese. When Tom got on the phone Ed Meese said "Hi Tom!" - the others in the room were stunned. Ed Meese then said bring hi to the White House. The picture shown around today was from this day when he met with President Regan to tell what he'd learned about Anthony Kennedy. President Regan said nice to meet you, and Tom proceeded to tell him about meeting him when he was the Governor of California to get the Angela Davis extradition papers signed. When they left the room James Baker (Chief of Staff) said "there is no casual conversation with the President during the day." When Tom had arrived at the FBI offices after his red eye flight he asked to take a shower so was given a towel. When he went to leave he put the towel in the supervisors office because he had been so rude to him.

Tom was asked about the Unabomber, but Tom said the SF Police did most of that investigation. He did do the Harvey's Casino bombing investigation. The bomber wanted 3million dollars or he blow up the bomb he left on the 2nd floor of Harvey's in South Lake Tahoe. The bomb experts thought that if they sliced through the bomb between the explosives and the charges they could keep it from blowing up—it didn't work and the bomb went off. A year later the bombers two sons turned him in for the reward money.

Tom was asked why he joined the FBI. He said he was in college when a friend said he was going to go to NYU Law School. Tom said I can do that and proceeded to pass the LSAT and go to Law School. In his 3rd year he heard a recruiter from the FBI talk and said that sounds like fun. He had to take a test that he did very well on which indicated that he could learn languages quickly so he pursued Language School and

Had a choice between Russian and Cantonese. He chose Cantonese and was sent to the Language School in Monterey, CA. He spent 15 months in Monterey and then in 1968, moved to Sacramento. When he first moved here he thought it was a cow town, but a good place to raise a family.

At that time there were no relations with Mainland China because Mao was in charge. The only way to get information about China was through interviewing refugees. Tom suddenly became the expert on Chinese information. Each time he interviewed someone he had to say “slow down” - even though he knew Cantonese he couldn’t understand it at such a fast clip. Once China was open, Mandarin became the main language and Tom was no longer the expert.

Tom went to South America and left his rental car in the hands of his translator while he used the restroom. When he came back both his money and passport were gone. The translator said “I don’t know what happened!” Tom went to the American Embassy and received a new passport in 2 hours because he knew the legal attaché from the FBI! When he wanted to go from Argentina to Paraguay he didn’t have the required visa, so he sat in the middle of the passenger van and the border agents never even asked for his Visa.

Tom was very good friends with BT Collins, even went to high school with him in White Plains, NY. BT mailed him one of his high school report cards once and Tom realized BT had forged both his father’s and the Pastor’s signatures. When Tom confronted him he said “you’re right, and there’s nothing you can do about it because I don’t have a right arm!” Later when BT was in Mercy Hospital, Tom went to visit him and they were in the elevator and BT said, “You people should not come to this hospital—I came in with pneumonia and look I don’t have an arm!”

The X-Rated version: Tom was with BT one time when a woman named Joyce asked him if he could still perform sexually. He said sure—Mattel made me a fake penis filled with CO2 and when I want to perform I just pull the string!

Thank you, Tom, for a very interesting and fun presentation!

#### UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

[February 23<sup>th</sup>](#) Our Meeting’s presenter will be Randal Burton, Esq, who will regale us about the Alcatraz Swim. This swim starts at the “Rock” in our grand Bay, putting man and woman into a precarious place on the food chart. Catch this speaker, while you still can...

[March 1<sup>st</sup>](#) Our Meeting’s presenter will be Farm to Fork pioneer Kyle Hagerty. Kyle, who’s day job is as a Fire-fighter in Arden-Arcade, will be talking about the “Farm Stand Next Door” a growing trend in neighborhood farm stands that share the bounty with neighbors. These farm stands recently got a boost with Sacramento City’s new ordinance