



THE ACORN



THE ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS

APRIL 25, 2016

Rotary



PETER WICK

Saudi Arabia to Switzerland

In 10 Days

And Only Food-Poisoned Himself Once
Not Counting A Toilet-Hugging Hangover in Damascus

The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

Website: www.RotaryFairOaks.org

Email Address: FairOaksRotary@gmail.com

Phone Number: (916) 534-8557

Mail Address: PO Box 2

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Facebook: www.facebook.com\FairOaksRotary

Weekly Meetings

We Meet Almost Every Monday Evening

Social Hour 6:15 - 7:00 PM

Dinner & Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Location: Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

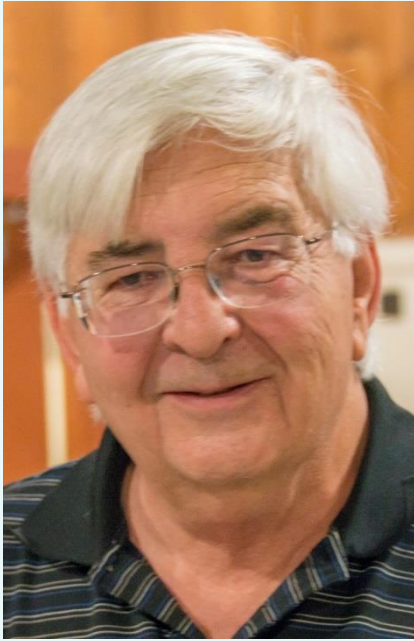
Fair Oaks

Visitors are Welcome

Peter Wick

Saudi Arabia to Switzerland in 10 Days

Reporter: Mary Cate Gustafson



A long long time ago (1976), in a land far far away (Saudi Arabia), there lived a young man named Peter Wick who was working for a construction company owned by the Bin Laden family. Peter himself was not Arab, he was Swiss, but he had come to Saudi Arabia for the adventure, and the money didn't hurt either. But Christmas was soon approaching and he needed to get home quick. So he and his co-pilot set out to drive 3500 miles from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to Bern Switzerland in only 10 days in a Toyota Crown (a knock-off of the Mercedes 600) that was a gift from a Saudi prince.

Day 1: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to Al Mudawarah, Jordan

They headed out of Jeddah, the main entry point for pilgrims on their way to Mecca and headed towards the sacred city of Medinah. As Peter drifted off to sleep he warned his co-pilot "Do not drive into Medinah. This is a sacred place and we are not believers." But apparently his co-pilot didn't hear him because when Peter awoke, they were in Medinah. Luckily, the special license plate on his special car from the head of Saudi Arabia seemed to keep them safe from harm and they made it safely through to their destination, Al Mudawarah, Jordan.

Day 2: Al Mudawarah, Jordan to Damascus, Syria

This leg of the trip had a few firsts. He enjoyed his first beer in over a year and it was also the first time anyone had washed his car with gasoline. In just one day they drove through three incredibly beautiful cities. The first was Ma'an, Jordan which is the old headquarters of Lawrence of Arabia. Next they visited Petra, a Nabatean City. Most people know this location from the third Indiana Jones movie, but Peter swears you must put it on your bucket list and see it in person. Lastly, they drove through Jerash, Jordan - a site with old Roman and Greek ruins and a low number of tourists.

Days 3 and 4: Damascus, Syria



This was Damascus in 1976



This was a belly dancer in a bar in Damascus in 1976



This was a bar in Damascus in 1976

Peter spent a total of nine years in Saudi Arabia, including 12 continuous months in the country. That's an entire year in the world's most socially repressed country, after which, he finally got some time off. On the drive home to Switzerland they stopped in Damascus.

What do you get when a young and unhappily repressed Peter visits a bar in Damascus and hangs out with belly dancers?

For the answer, please continue to the following page.

Peter Wick, Part 2

Saudi Arabia to Switzerland in 10 Days

A Tale of Exotic Cities and Barren Landscapes

Relieved by Excessive Drinking, Bad Fish & Communist Customs Agents



What did Peter get?

**A very bad hangover and the lifelong ability to belly dance
Even at a Rotary meeting**

Day 5: Damascus, Syria to Mersin, Turkey

Highlight: drove through Aleppo which is the oldest continuously inhabited city on earth.

Day 6: Mersin, Turkey to Istanbul

Lessons Learned in Istanbul: (1) Turks are TERRIBLE drivers. (2) Don't eat the fish. It's not very fresh.

Days 7 and 8: Istanbul

(Recovering from food poisoning)

Day 9: Istanbul to Venice, Italy

Passing through the Bulgarian border can take days...unless you know who to pay. It's amazing how fast paperwork can be processed when the guards see a \$20 bill. After running out of gas in Belgrade and being lectured on the merits of communism and the evils of capitalism, they made it to Venice, or in Peter's words "Paradise".

Day 10: Venice, Italy to Bern, Switzerland

After dropping off his travel companion in Zurich, Peter hurried home. He arrived just in time to finish his Christmas shopping and make it to Christmas dinner at 7pm on December 24th.

The Meeting

CLUB NEWS



Kyle Thompson was inducted into the club. Her sponsor, Shelley Weisman helps Kyle with her Rotary pin.



Marlow Simonetto organized and managed the very successful 2015 Fair Oaks Uncorked. For her tireless effort, she was awarded her first Paul Harris Fellowship.

The Meeting

CLUB NEWS



The club had a team in the Toilet Race at Fair Oaks Fiesta Days and they took second place. **Reid** and **Mary Cate Gustafson** (left) pushed the toilet racer and **Dawn Abatemarco** (below) was the passenger. At the meeting, Dawn paid a happy fine because she escaped injury.

Here's the really great part to this story: the tires rolled themselves off of the rims about 10 yards into the race and Reid and Mary Cate still managed to take second place – pushing a toilet racer riding on its rims.

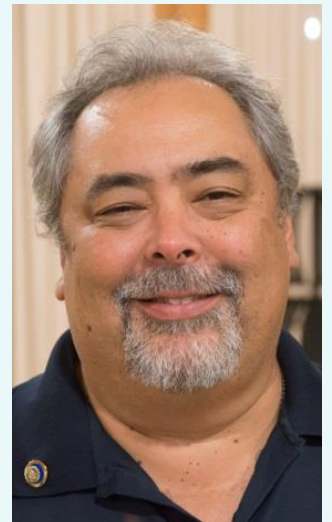


Please pay your annual dues. **Nancy Regan**, club treasurer, will be happy to accept your payment.

Ray Ward

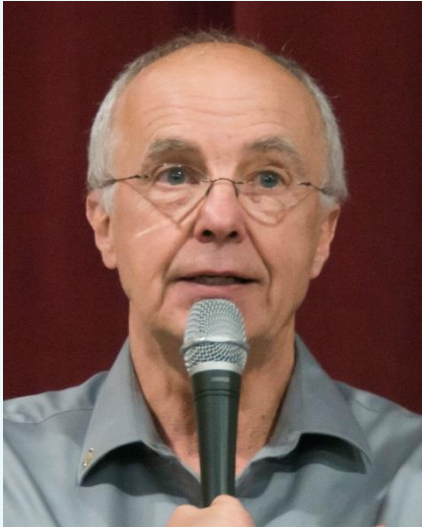
Ray has raffle tickets to help raise money for the District 5180 conference which begins on May 22. \$20 each or seven for \$100.

The group rate for rooms at the Double Tree in Berkeley has been extended. The deadline for registering for the conference expires really soon.



The New Memorandum of Understanding Has Been Approved

Article by Pete Schroeder



Our great Club and great Foundation will continue to improve working together in service - to our community and beyond. Everyone involved in changing the Club/Foundation relationship and revising the MOU should be acknowledged and recognized for their sincere interest, diligence and hard work.

Pete Schroeder
President

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a document that describes the relationship of the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks and the Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation. Because there are proposed changes to this relationship, as described below, the MOU needed to be updated. The new version of the MOU, to be “official”, had to be approved by the Club in the form of a vote of the membership. Thus, the vote on May 2, 2016.

The most important changes:

- Two separate Foundation funds (the Restricted Fund and the General Fund) now permit contributions to be designated to either fund. Undesignated contributions will be deposited into the General Fund.
- The General Fund can be now used to support any Club Project, local or international. The Restricted Fund generates earnings that are used for local awards to high school students. Eight \$1,000.00 awards are given out each year.
- All fundraisers will now belong to the Foundation. This is important because the Club Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit. As a result, any contributions, donations, ticket purchases and sponsorships can be considered charitable contributions with favorable tax advantages. The Club is a 501(c)(4), a non-profit, so contributions to the club can not be considered charitable.

The club's Foundation is managed by its Board of Directors. **Dan Smallhouse** is the Board President this year. The next Board meeting will be held on May 14, starting at 9:00 AM. It will be held at Pete Schroeder's clubhouse. The meeting is open to all members.

There are two openings on the Board and two new Board members will be elected at the May 14 meeting. Members who might be interested in serving on the Foundation Board can submit an application letter to Bev Purcell.



The Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS and LITTLE GENIUS



Maggie Hoy

The annual Rotary Day at the River Cats is June 5. The game starts at 1:05 PM and tickets are \$22. The club will be providing a bus ride with food and “unlimited mimosas” for \$32. The party in the Clubhouse parking lot will begin at 10:00 AM and the bus will depart for the game at 11:00 AM.

Maggie organizes the annual campout at Lake Francis. This year, Maggie needs a replacement because she and Joe have to attend a wedding in Minnesota. Please contact Maggie if you can help.



Mazzy Chirwa is the new Little Genius. She did an admirable job.

HAPPY FINES (In no particular order)

Maggie Hoy paid a happy fine for her father who is a six-year cancer survivor.
Jim Cralle –Went fishing on opening day and claims to have caught fish. Other reports seem to contradict this.

Reid Gustafson – The last Little Free Library has been planted and he finally gets his garage back.

Blaine Lamb – Got a new car and they are no longer a one-car family

Pete Romines – Went fishing with Jim C and two of Pete’s sons. Only Brent Romines caught fish, according to Pete.

Mary Cate Gustafson – It is now possible to be a club member for two years and still be a Honeymooner.

Linda Aseltine – Space X successfully landed a rocket on a barge in the ocean. Her son works for Space X.

Dawn Abatemarco – Because she was not injured during the Toilet Race on Saturday.

Diana Cralle – For a whole bunch of reasons, all of which seemed to be related to Fiesta Days.

Neil Shepherd - Went to Texas, met his new grandson and was allowed to be alone with him for three hours.

Shelley Matthews – Was happy because Jim Cralle is no longer Little Genius.

Fred Rowe – Was happy for the same reason as Shelley (immediately above).

NJERI THUBEI AND UPEENDO

Article by Geri Beck



Njeri Thubei has spoken briefly at two meetings within the past month. As we have all seen, third-world poverty can be a terrible, self-sustaining problem for poor people in developing countries. Njeri's Foundation is presently working to address one of the many issues that make extreme poverty such a threat to young women.

The following article by **Geri Beck** summarizes Njeri's message to the club.

The Upendo Women's Foundation

By Jerri Beck

BACKGROUND

The Upendo Women's Foundation is a grassroots nonprofit organization whose aim is to create a more dignified, humane and sustainable world for girl children through advocacy, reproductive health awareness, education and sustainable feminine hygiene. The issues that Upendo will address are issues of Women/girls empowerment, economic sustainability, menstrual hygiene, family-planning education, lost learning days, inability to pay tuition and poor waste management techniques.

IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE

Upendo is presently working to deliver 6,000 reusable sanitary pad kits to Kenya, Zanzibar and Malawi in July.

LONG TERM OBJECTIVE

The founder and Executive Director, Njeri Thubei, says that the organization's vision is to make sure that every girl and woman in the world has a ready and feasible access to quality sustainable hygiene and health education by 2025.

THE FACTS

- 2.5 million Kenyan girls miss school days every month because they can't afford pads
- 32% don't use pads during every cycle
- 88% say that cost is the main constraint to using sanitary pads.
- 75% of those surveyed want to buy a reusable product
- Reusables have the potential to overcome the under-use of sanitary pads

THE FOUNDER

The foundation was founded by Ms. Njeri Thubei, who was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya. Njeri is passionate about empowering girls and women through education. She believes in a world of equal opportunities for all and she believes that, given equal opportunities, all girls can get empowerment through access to quality education. She remembers growing up in her teenage years and how difficult it was to attain the feminine hygiene products and how many girls in her own neighborhood missed school because of this.

2016 District Conference

“Come Dressed To Play”

Don't
Miss
The
Fun



Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Berkeley, CA

When: Conference May 20-22, 2016

Excursions begin May 19th to 22nd

Registration www.Rotary5180.org

Limited Event Availability

Why Attend?

- Enjoy Friendship with Fellow Rotarians
- Explore the Bay Area
- Great Speakers
- Great Entertainment



To Sign-Up go to www.Rotary5180.org

Deadlines

- 4/25/2016 For Hotel Group Rate
- 5/6/2016 Conference Registration



No Deposit Refunds After July 1, 2015



2016 ROTARY DAY



Sunday, June 5 at 1:05 p.m.

Sacramento River Cats vs. Albuquerque Isotopes

Triple-A Affiliate of the Colorado Rockies



ENJOY THESE EXCITING BENEFITS!

- ★ Excellent Rotarian Seating Options - Senate & Assembly
- ★ \$22 Senate Seating (\$6 to End Polio Now), \$15 Assembly Seating (\$3 to End Polio Now) & \$10 Donation Seating (to be given away by the district) (\$2 to End Polio Now)
- ★ Seat selection based on best seats available at time of payment (yes, early birds get the 3rd base side)

Can't make it, but still want to support POLIO NOW? Tickets purchased for this game can be exchanged at the Raley Field's Round Table Pizza Ticket Office for any Sunday-Thursday regular season game.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS is JUNE 1st 2016! Remember early birds get the best seats

Name: _____ **Member ID #:** _____

Rotary Club of: _____

Address: _____ **City/State/Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

		# OF TICKETS		
\$22	Senate: (\$6 Polio)	_____	= \$	_____
\$15	Assembly: (\$3 Polio)	_____	= \$	_____
\$10	Donated* Tickets: (\$2 Polio)	_____	= \$	_____
TOTATDUE:			\$	_____

To place your order,, please return this form along with payment (made payable to Rotary District 5180) to:

Tom Cicchini
2200-B Douglas Blvd., Suite 150
Roseville, CA 95661

For questions please contact: Tom Cicchini at 916.773.1938 or tom.cicchini@raymondjames.com

** River Cats will match every donation ticket purchased*





107th International Rotary Convention Seoul, South Korea & Japan — May 23-June 9, 2016



Please join us in South Korea &/or Japan

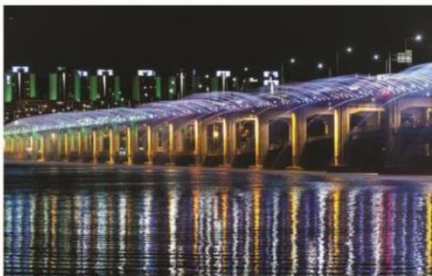
South Korea (Depart USA May, 23, 2016)

- ❑ **Pre-Convention Tour: South Korea**
May 24-28, 2016 — from \$1,549pp
 - 4-nights accommodation (4-4.5 star hotels)
 - Daily breakfast & lunches, Welcome Dinner & Reception
 - Tours: Seoul, Namsan Cable Car, Namsangoi Hanok Village, Dongdaemun Market & Design Plaza, Korea Folk Village, Kimchi making, Wawoojeonsa Temple, Daejeon Hot Springs, Daereungwon King's Tomb Complex, Cheomseongdae Observatory, Gyeongju National Museum & more...
 - Deluxe private motorcoach transportation
 - All entrances fees, service charges, taxes per itinerary
- ❑ **Convention Tour: Seoul**
May 28-June 1, 2016 — from \$1,199pp
 - 3-nights accommodation (3.5 - 4 star hotel)
 - Daily breakfast, lunch on tour days, Farewell Dinner
 - Tours: Gyeongbokgung Palace & National Folk Museum, DMZ full-day tour includes Imjingak Park, Freedom Bridge, the 3rd Infiltration Tunnel, DMZ Theater/Exhibition Hall, Dorasan Station & Unification Village & more...
 - All entrances fees, service charges, taxes per itinerary

www.ehregister.com/rotary

Japan

- ❑ **Post-Convention Tour: Japan**
June 1-9, 2016 — from \$2,929pp
 - 8-nights accommodation (4-5 star hotels)
 - Daily breakfast, lunch on tour days, Welcome & Farewell Dinners
 - Tours: Hiroshima, Peace Park & Museum, boat trip to Miyajima Island, Kiyomizo Temple, Nijo Castle & Gardens, Kinaku-ji Golden Pavillion, Craft Workshop, Gion Corner in Kyoto, Nara Todaiji Temple, Kasuga Shrine, Nara Dear Park, Hakone, Komagatake Ropeway, Lake Ashi cruise, Mt. Fuji 5th Station, Fuji Visitor Center, Tokyo city tour & a visit to several of Tokyo's distinct districts
 - All entrances fees, service charges, taxes per itinerary
 - Transportation by Bullet Train (Hikari) or Deluxe private motorcoach
- ❑ **Travel Services** *(Provided on all tours with a minimum 20 people)*
 - Arrival & departure assistance
 - Round-trip group airport transfers by motorcoach in South Korea & Japan
 - Luggage assistance & portage at the hotel
 - Travel Documentation includes:
—Passport wallet, luggage tags & personalized trip itinerary booklet
 - Taxes, services fees included
 - Travel escort to accompany the group



For more information, contact Dan McVeigh: 916-520-5438
or Georgia Shoemaker at Expanding Horizons: 714-975-9941
www.ehregister.com/rotary - coming soon!


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FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Club Meeting Peter Wick Travels in the Middle East	May 2 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Fair Oaks Clubhouse 7997 California Ave
Club Meeting Speaker: Jocelyn Baldwin Topic: Charter Schools	May 9 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Fair Oaks Clubhouse 7997 California Ave
Club Meeting Emily Butler: Splash Science Education & Outdoor Exploration	May 16 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Fair Oaks Clubhouse 7997 California Ave
Club Board Meeting	May 18 6:30 – 8:30 PM	TBA
District 5180 Conference	May 20-22	DoubleTree Hotel in Berkeley
Club Meeting Topic: Club Assembly	May 23 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Fair Oaks Clubhouse 7997 California Ave
Rotary International Conference	May 28 – June 1	Seoul, Korea
No Club Meeting	May 30	
Rotary Day at the River Cats	June 5 11:00 AM	Congregate at: Clubhouse Parking Lot For Bus Transportation
Club Meeting Speaker: Robert Sanger Topic: Folsom Cordova Community Partnership	June 6 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Fair Oaks Clubhouse 7997 California Ave
Club Meeting Speaker: Best Guess – Fred Rowe Topic: What are Rotary Fellowships?	June 13 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Fair Oaks Clubhouse 7997 California Ave
Club Board Meeting	June 15 6:30 – 8:30 PM	TBA
Club Meeting Speaker: Pete Schroeder Topic: The Year in Review	June 20 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Fair Oaks Clubhouse 7997 California Ave
Demotion Dinner	June 25	