



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

December 4, 2009

Vol. 34, Issue 10

## The Optimist Club of Monaco South

Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado

Serving Youth and the Community for 34 Years

[www.monacosouth.org](http://www.monacosouth.org)

Editor for this Issue—George Buzick



**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL



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### Good Morning Optimists!

With the temperature hovering at 8 degrees, 67 stalwart Optimists were greeted by **Keith Galloway** and **Nick Newey** and settled down for yet another **John Marinis** "special breakfast." Kudos to John for the great breakfast burrito and for his ability to turn out great breakfasts, week after week.

After the invocation by **Tom Overton**, President **Ron Cisco** cruised the room looking for members who had some \$ Happy Bucks \$ – A recently initiated program to gather funds for the Children's Cancer Fund. Among others, **George Vassilaros** was happy that he was having a new grandbaby, **Freddie Pasternack** was happy the Nuggets won big, **John Young** was happy that his furnace would be repaired after two days without heat, and **Nick Newey** was happy that his son would be returning from Afghanistan.

The pot was up to \$120. In spite of some valiant efforts to draw the Queen of Hearts, the pot will continue to grow. Be here next week to take a shot at augmenting your holiday gift fund by more than \$120.

Supermarket sales were a whopping \$2,400. Looks like people are getting ready for the holidays. Bring your checkbook (or cash) and

see **Cy Regan** to help support this painless fund raiser.

### Christmas Tree Sales

The 2009 tree lot opened in great weather and with lots of fantastic Monaco South Optimist volunteers. The manpower support was hot all week, but the weather got cold. Sales are still at a pace equal to 2008, despite the decline in temperature. After one week, 58 members have already worked to support the tree lot. Our annual goal is 100 members,



Oscar Sorensen sets up Santa and Frosty at the Tree Lot (Oscar is the one in the middle). Photo by Craig Eley

which we almost reached last year, with 97 members helping to raise the fund needed to continue our youth and community projects. Sales were up 20% over the first four days,

Continued next page



Meeting Place  
American Legion Hall Post 1  
5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado  
Every Friday Morning, 7:00 – 8:00 am  
\*\*\*INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN\*\*\*

## Christmas Tree Sales Continued

but dropped slightly with the cold snap.

We fully expect to see our sales increase over the next week as the weather returns to the 40's (we hope!). The next load of trees will arrive on Wednesday, December 9, at 10 a.m. We can use all the help we can get to unload and price the trees. (Thanks to the **Tamarac Optimist Club** for their assistance in pricing the first two loads of trees.)

Thanks to **Steve Kady** for getting Fox News to feature our tree lot as we opened. (Editors Note: Several customers on the lot Friday night said they had seen the Fox news item and had come to the Monaco South lot, even though they had purchased somewhere else in the past.) Channel 9 also filmed the lot, but as yet has not run the footage.

The annual Chili Cook Off will be held the afternoon of Saturday, December 12. **Greg Young** will be defending his title from last year and, if history is any indication, this should be one of the highlights of the holiday season. Come join us for some delicious Chili and outstanding camaraderie.



## Announcements

**Steve Kady** urged us to attend next week's meeting, at which Denver City Councilman Charlie Brown will be talking about the potential taxing of medical marijuana. Steve asked us to have some intelligent questions for Mr. Brown and said he was also trying to get Chief **Gerry Whitman** to give his perspective on the subject.

Brent's Place, a group with which Monaco South members have worked on several occasions, is having an open house on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual White Elephant Holiday gathering will be on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. **Oscar Sorenson** reminded us that not having a gift is not an excuse for attending this meeting, as there will be gifts available for those who forget.

There will be no meeting on Christmas Day or New Years Day.

## Super Citizen Presenters for December

Day	School	Presenter
9 @ 2:30 pm	MPB	Don Iley
10 @ 5:30 pm	Hamilton	Harry Fegley
14 @ 8:00 am	Highline	Jim Easton
10 @ 9:30 & 10:30 am	Samuels	Gary Strowbridge
16 @ 1:20 & 2:05 pm	McMeen	Steve Kady
18 @ 8:30 am	Slavens	Bill Walters
18 @ 3:00 pm	Bradley	John Young

The Tree Lot is here! Please everyone, sign-up for shifts on the tree lot. We all need to help out with our biggest fundraiser of the year. The kids are counting on us.



**Mike Snipes** captures the fun at the tree lot. There are job opportunities for all MSOC members. Come and help out. It is for the kids and to support the 60 plus projects carried out throughout the year.

## Our Speaker

*It Isn't Rocket Science... Or is it?* **Tom Mauro** introduced his nephew, Jeff Coyne, who is a real, live rocket scientist. In spite of the fact that he believes, like Tom, that Pueblo is the center of the universe (huh?), he gave a fascinating overview of the Phoenix Lander, whose mission it was to investigate various



aspects of Mars. Jeff mentioned that it took nine months for the trip to Mars, which is 120 million miles from Earth, culminating with "seven minutes of hell," 12,500 mph when entering the atmosphere of Mars, to 5 mph at actual landing. The mission was successful, the appropriate data was gathered and the Phoenix Lander, which was manufactured at the Lockheed Martin plant in Waterton Canyon, now sits on the surface of Mars, frozen in an atmosphere of dry ice (carbon dioxide). Temperatures on Mars range from around 0 degrees to -110. There is only faint hope that the \$90 million Lander will "awaken" after the Martian winter, primarily because of the delicacy of the solar array that provides power for the unit. Jeff was so good that even Freddie admitted that "he appeared to know what he was talking about." We hope to have Jeff back to talk about the Juno project, a mission to Jupiter.



Jeff Coyne, Electrical Engineering Manager, Sensing & Exploration Systems, Lockheed Martin.

Photo by Don StJohn

### Milestones of Optimist International

- 1911 A new type of civic and service organization, calling itself the "Optimist Club," forms in Buffalo, New York.
- 1919 The first International Convention takes place in Louisville Kentucky with 11 clubs and 1298 members.
- 1922 Members adopt the Optimist Creed and the purposes that guide the organization today (service to youth, community and Optimism).
- 1923 The future course of the organization is set by selecting the motto "Friend of the Delinquent Boy."
- 1924 Motto is revised to "Friend of the Boy." The first Canadian Club charters in Toronto.
- 1928 First International Oratorical contest is conducted. Organization grows to 117 clubs and 8,000 members.
- 1954 Campaign against narcotics peddlers results in Congress passing the 1956 Narcotics Law.
- 1960 A full-fledged campaign against pornography

- reaching school-age children through the family mailbox begins.
- 1963 Octagon Clubs for high school students become an official part of the youth program.
- 1969 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Board of Directors creates Optimist International Foundation.

*(Continued Next Week)*

### Comic Relief

- ◆ When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
- ◆ The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
- ◆ When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
- ◆ Time flies like and arrow, fruit flies like a banana.
- ◆ A backward poet writes inverse.

If you haven't visited our website recently you need to stop by. **Paul Bernard** has update it and it now has a lot more information. Visit: <http://www.monacosouth.org/index.php>.

## Monaco South Calendar

Dec 11	Fri	7:00am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Charlie Brown, Denver City Councilman on Medical Marijuana
Dec 12	Sat	11:30	Chili Cook Off at Tree Lot
Dec 16	Wed	6:30pm	Board Meeting, 3540 S. Poplar, Suite 102
NOTE: Board Meetings have changed to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month			
Dec 18	Fri	7:00am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Santa White Elephant Gift Exchange
Dec 19	Sat	8:00am	Christmas Baskets Delivery
Dec 25	Fri		Christmas Day, no meeting
Jan 1	Fri		New Year's Day, no meeting

**Past Presidents of the  
Optimist Club of Monaco South**

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Gary Strowbridge	1993-94
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Mark Metevia	1994-95
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Bob Safe	1995-96
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Tom Overton	1996-97
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Peter Dimond	1997-98
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
John Young	1982-83	Cy Regan	1999-00
Pat Bush	1983-84	Stan Cohen	2000-01
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Don St. John	2001-02
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Jack Rife	2002-03
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Karl Geil	2003-04
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Bob Avery	1989-90	Paul Bernard	2006-07
Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Greg Young	2007-08
Bill Walters	1991-92	Phil Perington	2008-09
Kent Gloor	1992-93		

**2009 - 2010 Officers**

President	Ron Cisco	303-794-0749
Vice President	Howard Fry	303-601-5088
Vice President	Frank Ross	303-713-1008
Secretary	Robert Wardlaw	303-759-0360
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

**Board of Directors**

George Buzick	303-803-2268
Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
Jim Easton	303-300-2431
Don Iley	303-840-7706
O.C. Larson	303-755-1213
Randy Marcove	303-667-3663
Gary Miller	303-751-0838
Terry Shroyer	303-757-7944
Kale Smith	720-207-4363
Phil Perington (Past Pres.)	303-832-4578

**Newsletter Committee**

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NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Dec: **GEORGE BUZICK**, Jan: **BRIAN WILLIAMS**, Feb: **OC LARSON**, Mar: **RALPH PEDERSON**

**THE OPTIMIST CREED — Promise Yourself . . .**

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID  
AT DENVER, COLORADO AND**

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