



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

January 1, 2010

Vol. 34, Issue 14

## 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—Brian Williams



**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL



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INTERNATIONAL

# Happy New Year 2010

Next meeting  
January 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 am

Holiday Party  
January 9<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00 pm



January							February							March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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31																				
7:00	15:	23:	30:	0:			5:00	13:	21:	28:	0:			7:00	15:	23:	29:	0:		
April							May							June						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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6:00	14:	21:	28:	0:			6:00	13:	20:	27:	0:			4:00	12:	19:	26:	0:		
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				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
4:00	11:	18:	25:	0:			3:00	9:	16:	24:	0:			1:00	8:	15:	23:	30:	0:	
October							November							December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31																				
7:00	14:	22:	30:	0:			6:00	13:	21:	28:	0:			5:00	13:	21:	27:	0:		

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\*\*\*

## Happy New Year

With A New Year we start off with a new editor as well. Welcome **Brian Williams!**

First, let me remind everyone that the first MSOC meeting for 2010 will be on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Let's start the New Year off right by having a great turnout for this first meeting.

And as stated by Bill Vaughn, *An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.*

## Tree Lot Highlights

By Joe Marci

This year the tree type that we sold the most was again the Noble with 340. We also sold the following: Fraser 290, Douglas 239, Nordman 117, White 82, Scotch 80, Canaan 65, Balsam 50, and Colorado trees 40. Additionally we sold 1300 feet of Garland and 316 Wreathes.

Thanks to the 92 members who participated in this years major fundraiser. The leading worker at the lot was **Russ Paul** with 103 hours. The following members worked over 50 hours each: **Steve Kady, Les Larson, Phil Perington, Paul Simon, Bryce Slaby, Oscar Sorensen, Gary Strowbridge, and Greg Young.** We appreciate the coordination work done by Gary Miller (electric), **Mike Miller** (site/trailer), **Joe Marci** (logistics), Ralph Pedersen (finance), and **Ed Collins** (tree cutting).

Thanks also to the MSOC Board Members who ensured we had daily manpower coverage for all shifts.



Photo by Mike Snipes

There were over 2,300 hours worked this year, which is an all time record. These hours include the students from George Washington High School

and the **Tamarac Optimists Club** who were great helpers again this year.

There will be a brainstorming session after the meeting on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Legion Hall. Anyone who has ideas for changes in future tree lots is welcome to attend. If you have an idea for change and can't attend this meeting please feel free to contact **Joe Marci** at 303-771-3748 or by email at [marcifrog@aol.com](mailto:marcifrog@aol.com).

## Brain Bowl

Yes, it's time to sign up for the 2010 Brain Bowl. We will need 250-300 volunteers for the three tournaments that will draw nearly 200 teams and nearly 1000 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade participants.

Volunteers to serve as scorekeepers, timekeepers, readers in classrooms, runners, or written proctors. We also need a few individuals with good computer skills and adept at working with Excel spreadsheets.

## MSOC HOLIDAY PARTY

**Come One, Come All: Bring a Spouse, Date or Both...**

Food, Fun, and Fellowship will be on the agenda at the Monaco South Holiday Party on [Saturday, January 9, 2010.](#)



All MSOCers, spouses, and friends are invited!

The fun begins at **6:00 p.m. at the Woodside Village Clubhouse, 8335 Fairmont Drive.** Like last year we will have some topnotch entertainment for everyone to enjoy.

Please **RSVP** so we know how much food and drink to buy. If you haven't signed up at a meeting, email **Steve Kady** at [thumpkady@msn.com](mailto:thumpkady@msn.com), or **303-931-1470**, to let him know you will be there and how many will be in your party. Due to the ever changing economy, there will be a small cover charge of \$5.00 to help with the food and beverage costs.

Meat and beverages will be provided, please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name:

**A - F Appetizers**

**G - M Side dishes**

**N - R Salads**

**S - Z Desserts**

Steve is also looking for volunteers to help with setup, or serving, or clean up. If you haven't already signed on to help with the party, please consider telling Steve that you will assist in making this the best MSOC party yet!

## Brain Bowl Dates for Reader Training\*

- ◆ Saturday, **January 16<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00-11:00 am at the Valmont Presbyterian Church in Boulder
- ◆ Tuesday, **January 19<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30-8:30 pm. at Overland High School
- ◆ Saturday, **January 30<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00-11:00 am at Overland High School

*\*All Readers must attend a training session this year before serving as a Reader. There is a "fast track" for veteran Readers.*

## Brain Bowl Tournament Dates

- ◆ North Region Brain Bowl—Saturday, **January 23<sup>rd</sup>** at Monarch High School in Louisville
- ◆ Central Region Brain Bowl—Saturday, **February 6<sup>th</sup>** at Overland High School in Aurora
- ◆ South Region Brain Bowl—Saturday, **February 20<sup>th</sup>** at Harrison High, Colorado Springs

To get involved let **Karl Geil** or **Paul Simon** know. Please make sure to tell them which regional tournament (N, C, or S) you want to volunteer.

## Super Citizen Presenters for January

Day	School	Presenter
<b>20 @ 2:30 pm</b>	MPB	<b>Ed Collins</b>
<b>22 @ 9:10 am</b>	Holm	<b>Ron Cisco</b>
<b>28 @ 1:20 &amp; 2:05 pm</b>	McMeen	<b>Joe Marci</b>
<b>29 @ 3:00 pm</b>	Bradley	<b>Paul Bernard</b>

## Santa a Big Hit at Tree Lot

By Craig Eley

As an added attraction for families who visited the 2009 Monaco South Tree Lot, Santa Claus was on the premises listening to the Christmas wishes of young and old alike. What started as a two-day experiment last year grew into a very popular feature this year. On Friday evenings and all day on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the run of the Tree Lot Club members volunteered to don the red and white suit and take up residence in the Santa House, a snug little cottage loaned to us free of charge by Tuff Shed.

It was **Bryce Slaby**'s idea to try to get the use of a shed donated, and without it we would not have been able to undertake the Santa program. Rumor has it that Bryce went to the Tuff Shed office and said, "Will you loan us a Tuff Shed, or would you like to hear some jokes?" Good choice, Tuff Shedders!



Photo by the masterful finger of their parents.

We set up a digital camera in the Santa house, and bolted it to a shelf that we installed. When kids were with Santa, their parents pushed the camera shutter button. We ended up with more than 500 photos of kids, which we uploaded to a photo album

website. We gave each parent a Monaco South wooden nickel, which listed our website. Our webmaster, **Paul Bernard**, put a link on our website which directed the parents to the online photo album, from which they could download a full resolution photo of their little darlings. (You too can view these pictures at: <http://www.monacosouth.org/> and click on *Tree Lot Picture Album*.)

Prior to the opening of the Tree Lot, **Bryce Slaby** put in many hours creating a magnificent Santa Chair from scratch. I was in charge of providing a cushioned seat pad, but based on the comments of some of our bony-bottomed Kris Kringles, I better make a thicker one for next year!

A lot of MSOCers assisted in the logistics of the Santa house, including **Steve Kady**, who decked the halls with red felt, and **Don St. John**, who brought a heavy duty space heater to keep the right jolly old elves warm and jolly. **Becky Olson** created and printed on her large capacity printer some festive signs to adorn the Santa house, announcing that Saint Nick was present and open for business.

Of course, what made it all possible were those MSOCers who were willing to sit for three hours at a time, day after day, in the Santa House while wearing a cheerful countenance at all times. These stalwart Santa's were **George Vassilaros, Howdy Fry, John Young, Ed Collins, Tom Hoch, Don Thomson, Todd Olson, Nick Newey, Gary Strowbridge, Kent Gloor, Russ Paul and Don Iley.**

Was it worth all the time, effort and expense? Well, it was reported by a Tree Lot worker that at least one youngster emerged from the Santa house and enthusiastically told his parents, "this is the best Christmas ever!"



Even some family pets got into see Santa.

## Monaco South Calendar

Jan 8	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Karl Geil on the Brain Bowl
Jan 9	Sat	6:00 pm	MSOC Holiday Party, Woodside Village Clubhouse, 8335 Fairmont Drive
Jan 15	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Jan 16	Sat	9:00 am	Brain Bowl Training, Valmont Presbyterian Church, 3262 North 61 <sup>st</sup> Street, Boulder
Jan 19	Tue	6:30 pm	Brain Bowl Training, Overland High School, 12400 East Jewell Ave., Aurora
Jan 20	Wed	6:30 pm	Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Jan 22	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Robin Finegan, Director of Consumer Services, Denver DA's Office

**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**

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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**

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Dick Cohen	303-320-1767
Don Iley	303-840-7706
Jim Easton	303-300-2431
Les Larson	303-755-1213
Randy Marcove	303-667-3663
Terry Shroyer	303-757-7944
Kale Smith	720-207-4363
Phil Perington (Past Pres.)	303-832-4578

**Newsletter Committee**

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	<a href="mailto:rfinkelmeier@comcast.net">rfinkelmeier@comcast.net</a>	Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	<a href="mailto:jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net">jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net</a>
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Marlin Kent	303-779-0778		Phil Perington	303-832-4578	<a href="mailto:perington@msn.com">perington@msn.com</a>
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Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	<a href="mailto:pedersen.ralph@q.com">pedersen.ralph@q.com</a>	Brian Williams	720-253-5731	<a href="mailto:bdw6688@yahoo.com">bdw6688@yahoo.com</a>

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: 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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