



January 12, 2007

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# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



## The Optimist Club of Monaco South

Founded in 1976

Denver, Colorado

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

Editor for January - - Craig Eley ([craig@eley.net](mailto:craig@eley.net))

## Tree Lot Survives Blizzard

Although the Christmas week snow storm closed the tree lot for a day and a half, the MSOC Elves shoveled and used a snow blower to make paths in the lot for access to the remaining trees. The Elves did so good that almost all the remaining trees were sold, resulting in over 1400 sold this year. A special thanks to the following Elves who worked the lot following the storm: **Paul Bernard, Gary Strowbridge, Coy Horton, Harry Johnson, Russ Paul, Doug Morton, Dick Cohen, Kent Gloor, Greg Young, Mike Miller and Joe Marci.**

After Christmas, and before the second storm arrived, the MSOC Elves reappeared and cleared the lot of the remaining 40 trees. They gathered the racks, took down the lights and stored the tree stands in the trailer for later movement to the warehouse. The trees and racks were picked up by our supplier making this part of the cleanup a done deal. Thanks go out to the following: **Scott Walker,**



**Mike Miller, Don Thomson, Donlie Smith, Russ, Coy and Joe.**

This year was a record-setting one with 97 different members working the lot. Over 1500 man-hours were spent at the lot setting up, pricing and selling the trees. Those MSOC Elves who worked 20 hours or more included: **Paul Bernard, Curt Boell, Carl Brown, Ron Cisco, Karl Geil, John Greene, Coy Horton, Tom Hoch, Joe Marci, Tom Mauro, Gary Miller, Mike Miller, Russ Paul, Ralph Pedersen, Phil Perington, Donlie Smith, Oscar Sorensen, Don St. John, Gary Strowbridge, Don Thomson, Scott Walker and Greg Young.** Thanks to everyone who helped make 2006 our most successful year ever!

Kudos to **Scott Walker**, who, while cleaning up the lot, actually sold a tree two days *after* Christmas. And congratulations to **Mike Dellere** for getting the biggest tip this year - - \$150!

### Meeting Place

American Legion Hall Post 1

5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado

Every Friday Morning, 7 - 8 a.m.

## Proceedings of the Meeting of January 12, 2007

### Invocation & Pledge

The invocation offered by **Don Iley** reminded us that while we try to forget the mistakes of the past, we should remember the lessons learned from those mistakes. Don then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### Guests

**Tom McKee** brought guest **Bill Jaynes** to the meeting. Bill said that he had heard a lot about us, and decided to check us out. Word leaked out that Bill knows **Frank Middleton**, but we gave Bill a warm welcome anyway.

### Hard Times

Two MSOCers are having it socked to them. **Harry Johnson** fell while ice skating (he's very active in the Club, and apparently active on the rink as well) and broke his patella (knee cap). And our Membership Chair, **Bill Wells**, spent three days in intensive care at Rose Hospital with an infection of the pancreas. He reported to your editor that he encountered the "Sponge Bath Nurse from Hell" while incarcerated but is now resting up at home. You can extend your best wishes as follows:



Harry Johnson  
4750 E. Yale Ave. #705  
Denver 80222  
303-794-8946

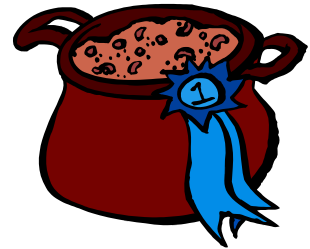
Bill Wells  
3264 S. Leyden St.  
Denver 80222  
303-757-8013  
billythe banker@earthlink.net

### Chili Cook-Off Winner

**Ron Cisco** related the history of the Tree Lot Chili Cook-off, giving credit to **Curt Jefferies** for its genesis. Ron therefore decreed that, henceforth, it would be known as the Curt

Jefferies Chili Cook-Off (Curt was relieved to hear that, at least for now, it won't be called the Curt Jefferies *Memorial* Chili Cook-Off).

Ron reported that the chili filled eight crockpots (and an undetermined number of crackpots) at the Tree Lot on Cook-Off day, and every bit of chili was consumed. The votes have finally been tabulated, and first prize goes to MSOC VP **Phil Perington**.



### Brain Bowl

**Karl Geil** told us that the two Brain Bowls are fast approaching, and that volunteers are urgently needed as readers, timekeepers, score keepers, and runners. Karl reminded us that Monaco South has been one of the biggest supporters, in terms of money and volunteers, of this annual youth event.

The Brain Bowl schedules are:

Saturday, January 20, 7 a.m.  
Fairview High School  
1515 Greenbriar Blvd., Boulder

Saturday, February 3, 7 a.m.  
Thomas Jefferson High School  
3950 S. Holly Street, Denver

The events last until 4 p.m., but members who need to can leave at noon.

Those wishing to be readers must attend one of three reader training sessions. Karl promised that those who have previously been readers will only have to attend the training for a short brush-up session. The reader training sessions have been scheduled for:

Saturday, January 13, 9 - 11 a.m.  
Fairview H.S. Cafeteria, Boulder

Thursday, January 18, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Thomas Jefferson H.S., Denver

Saturday, January 27, 9 - 11 a.m.  
North Arvada Middle School  
7285 Pierce St., Arvada

## Wives & Friends to Breakfast

Bring your wife or girlfriend (preferably not both) to Wives & Friends to Breakfast on February 9 at the DU Restaurant School. **John Young** promises a beautiful meal in beautiful surroundings for only \$15 per couple. Advance sign-up and payment is a must.

### Speaker

Our speaker was **Jeff Jones**. His talk had been billed as "Alternative Fuels," but he announced at the meeting that he would speak on "Using Yesterday's Values with Today's Technology to Meet Tomorrow's Challenges." However, it turns out he spoke about neither topic. He did tell us about how creative he has been his entire life, and included stories of his childhood exploits. He gave us a list of those who have inspired him (Henry Ford, Bill Gates, Stephen King, Bobby

Kennedy) and told us that "the greatest prize we can give to young people is a passion for learning new things."

Some members spent the time during Jeff's talk wishing he had been wearing a tie (if you were there, you'll know what that means).

### King Soopers Certificates

Cy Regan announced that the Club sold \$1,000 of King Soopers certificates during the meeting, which nets MSOC \$50. **Karl Geil**, the usual winner of the free breakfast drawing, won again, as did **Jim Rumer**.

### Drawing

Dim lighting and dimming eyesight made the drawings drag on longer than usual, as members struggled to read the tiny print on their tickets. No one won the big pot, but **Karl Geil's** numbers were called twice. All in all, it was a good day for Karl (see story above).

## Monaco South Calendar

Sat, Jan. 13, 9 - 11 a.m.	Brain Bowl Reader Training, Fairview High School Cafeteria, 1515 Greenbriar Blvd., Boulder.
Tue, Jan. 16, 1:30 p.m.	Super Citizen program, Samuels Elementary, Greg Young.
Thu, Jan. 18, 2:30 p.m.	Super Citizen program, MPB, Bruce Prather.
Thu, Jan. 18, 7 - 9 p.m.	Brain Bowl Reader Training, Thomas Jefferson High School, Denver.
Fri, Jan. 19, 7 a.m.	Regular meeting, American Legion Hall. Camaraderie Day.
Sat, Jan. 20 7 a.m.	Brain Bowl, Fairview High School, 1515 Greenbriar Blvd., Boulder.
Fri, Jan. 26, 7 a.m.	Regular meeting, American Legion Hall. Doug Morton, "My Father, Mush Morton, Commander, USS Wahoo."
Sat, Jan. 27, 9 - 11 a.m.	Brain Bowl Reader Training, North Arvada Middle School, 7285 Pierce St., Arvada.
Sat, Feb. 3, 7 a.m.	Brain Bowl, Thomas Jefferson High School, 3950 S. Holly Street, Denver.
Fri, Feb 9, 7 a.m.	Wives & Friends to Breakfast, DU Restaurant School.