



Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

July 25, 2014 – Vol. 39, Issue 38



Optimist Club of Monaco South



Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado
Serving Youth and the Community for 37 Years
Recognized as Outstanding Service Organization in Colorado in 2012

www.monacosouth.org

Editor for this Issue—George Buzick



Good Morning Optimist!

"Lonesome" **Jack Kleinheksel** was our single greeter on this beautiful Friday morning. How someone can be so enthusiastic at 6:00 a.m. is amazing to me! However, who sihed up and forgot? Beware, OC Larson will be after you!

First Bell & Invocation

President **Jon Wachter** is back from his honeymoon, and started the morning off with banging of the bell at precisely 7:00 a.m., and asked Chaplin **Bob Coulson** to do the invocation. Bob explained that today was National Carousel Day and followed with an invocation comparing Life to a carousel and catching the brass ring.*

President Jon said that he kept up with the club while he was honeymooning with his new bride Jill, in the Dominican Republic by reading the newsletter via email. Additionally, he thanked **Bob Coulson** and **Craig Eley** for conducting the wedding.

Announcements

Optimist Gala: **Paul Simon** shared, the Celebrate Your Optimist Gala (formerly known as the Installation Dinner), takes place Saturday, September 27, Monaco South is looking for a record turnout for this event. First-time attendees and their dates get \$10 off the \$33 meal price thanks to a decision by the MSOC board and will be entered in a drawing for special prizes. A signup board started around the club Friday morning and will be circulated at each meeting. You also can RSVP via Paul Simon by emailing him at paul4123@comcast.net. The event begins with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. and will be at the historical former Delmonico Hall, 3220 Federal Blvd. We'll help organize carpools, so in signing up please indicate if this is your first time at this event and/or if you are interested in carpooling.

* Editor, since some asked, what was the connection between a carousel and a brass ring. Per the National Carousel Association, a brass ring was a small grabbable ring that a carousel rider could grab during the course of a ride. Usually there were large number of iron rings and one brass. The iron rings could be tossed at a target as an amusement and typically getting the brass ring gets the rider some sort of prize. The prize was often a free repeat ride. The phrase to grab the brass ring is derived from this activity.

OI Junior Golf: Joe Marci reported that the younger

THE OPTIMIST
International Junior Golf Championships

golfers in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship (OIJGC) completed their rounds this week, with some impressive scores. Commonly

referred to as simply the Optimist, the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is one of the largest and most prestigious junior golf events in the world.

In addition to top-level tournament golf, participants have the opportunity to meet new friends and to have a great deal of fun. Each year, more than 650 junior golfers from 30 countries participate in the Optimist. While the Colorado/Wyoming golfers gave it their best shot, almost all of the top prizes went to countries other than the United States. Four out of five age groups were won by golfers from Thailand and one by a golfer from Chile. Jordan Jennings of Montrose CO did manage to finish 16th in the boys 10-11 division; while Dillon Stewart of Fort Collins finished 23rd in the 12-13 year old division and Tyler Zhang from Lone Tree and Jackson Solem from Longmont finished in the top ten of the boy 14-15 division. Sisters Marie and Caroline Jordaen of Cherry Hills Village and Katie Berrian from Castle Rock represented the CO/WY District well. We are proud of our golfers and know they had lots of fun at the PGA National Golf Course. This week the boys 16-18 and girls 15-18 will play.

March of Dimes MUDD Volleyball: **Greg Hurd** says he could still use "a few good men" to help park cars on Saturday morning, August 2. Start time is early (6:00 a.m.), but you will be done by 9:00 and can enjoy the rest of the day at the event or go out to breakfast with the rest of the gang.

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Celebrate Your Optimism Gala

MARK & CHANGE YOUR CALENDAR the MSOC

installation of the 2014-2015 club officers will be **Saturday, September 27, 2014 at Highland Park Pavilion**, formally Delmonico Hall, at 3220 Federal Boulevard, across from Highland Park.



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******

Announcements Continued

Brent's Place Pancake Breakfast: Paul Bernard announced that the Brent's Place Pancake Breakfast will be held tomorrow, Saturday July 26 at Generals Park on the Fitzsimmons Medical Campus. We will be flipping flapjacks and sausage, while the Tamarac Optimist ladies will be serving. Be there by 7:00 if you want to help out.

Palisade Peaches: Bob Finkelmeier reminds us that fresh Palisade peaches would be here in mid August. You cannot get much fresher than this, as the peaches are brought over the mountains in a refrigerated truck to Bob's house on the day after they are picked. Unlike peaches bought at the grocery store or sold by other groups to be picked up on a specific date these peaches are picked a little riper and handled by hand the old fashioned, or in an "artisanal" way. \$25/box or lug for peaches you cannot beat. \$3.50 per box comes back to either Monaco South or Tamarac Optimist Club, depending on sales. Give Bob a call, or a sign-up sheet will be circulated again next week.

Member Update, Perry Allen: Tom Glazier mentioned that the family for whom **Perry Allen** is the butler has moved (part-time) to San Diego and has asked Perry to go with them. The good news is that they are keeping their place in Evergreen, so we will still be able to enjoy Perry's company, at least occasionally.



Perry Allen
Photo Craig Eley

Member Update, Don Thomson: The last on **Don Thomson** is that he is feeling better after successful surgery, but is on a regimen of 23 pills a day. His wife Joyce has asked that you check first before visiting, as Don is still fairly weak, but I am sure he would appreciate a get-well card or two. Keep Don in your thoughts and prayers.

Monaco South 100% Day: Ron Cisco announced that Friday, September 5th will be 100% day. The goal is to have 100% of our members in attendance. To do this we need to get in contact with those who don't show up regularly and convince them to come. We will have steak and eggs for breakfast (for the regular low \$7 breakfast price) made by our chefs.

Craig Eley announced, if that isn't enough, after breakfast four of our members will take on past president **Karl Geil** in "Are You Smarter than the Brain Bowl Chair?"



Yes, it will be like Jeopardy with teams, thanks for asking, except one team will have only one member. You won't want to miss the bloodbath!

But wait, there's more! September 5th has also been declared Hawaiian Shirt

Day! So dig into your closet and try to find a shirt more outrageous than those habitually worn by **Jack Kleinheksel**. There will be semi-fabulous prizes awarded for various categories of shirts.

Play Golf in Vail: Ed Collins announced that he is looking for some more golfers to play Cordillera at Vail next week. Cost is \$85. Contact Ed (303-905-7572) for further details.

Super Citizen School Principals: Robert Wardlaw, Super Citizen Program overseer, announced that on Friday, August 15th, the principals from our ten Super Citizen schools will be joining us for breakfast. He is asking each school coordinator to follow up and confirm that they or a school representative plan to attend. He would like 100% participation but realizes that may not happen. He shares that any time we can involve Optimist members with school

our Super Citizen school's principals and teachers, it is beneficial. Once again our school coordinators are:

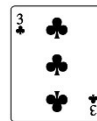
- ◇ Bradley International—Randy Marcove
- ◇ Hamilton Middle—Tom Mauro & Karl Geil
- ◇ Highline Academy—Jim Easton
- ◇ Holm Elementary—Donlie Smith
- ◇ Lowry Elementary—Paul Stratton
- ◇ McMeen Elementary—Don Thomson
- ◇ Most Precious Blood—Pat Sullivan
- ◇ Samuels—Kent Gloor
- ◇ Slavens—Tom Hoch
- ◇ University Park—Bob Avery

Last year 695 Super Citizen Certificates and presentation pictures were handed out to deserving Super Citizen students, plus at the end of the academic year eleven Charlie Korsoski Super Citizen Awards were presented to the outstanding Super Citizens at each of the schools.



Drawing & Final Bell

Today's drawing was worth \$200 to the one who could draw the Three of Clubs; and there was such a person in the group assembled. Although not old enough to be a member of the club quite yet, Evan Easton (son of **Jim Easton**) was old enough to draw the appointed card and won the \$200. Will he share with his Dad? That remains to be seen. Once the \$200 was in Evan's pocket, there seemed to be a loss of interest in the rest of the drawings. We will start over next week!



Top left, Prez Jon Wachter, Jim Easton and Evan enjoy the win.

Top right, Evan and Dr. Bob make sure the dollar count is correct.

At right, Evan displays his bounty before he is approached by the IRS. Evan shared that some will be saved, some past forward to support others, and some will be spent on fun things.

Photos Jim Easton



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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS MONACO SOUTH NEEDS NEW MEMBERS

We need 15 new members to achieve honor club. So bring your friends, neighbors, sons or grandsons... get them to join and receive a discount on your next year's dues. Don't forget, for only \$100, you can make them a *Friend of Optimist*, and it counts too! See Greg Young for details.

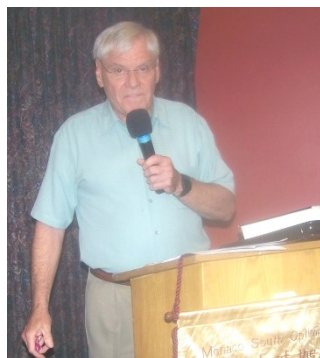
Our Speaker, Bill Wells



Our speaker today was our used to be member, Bill Wells. Bill took a poll as to whether we are better off today than in past history. Apparently, because we are Optimists, we see ourselves as better off, but a majority of the population would say that we are worse off. "Not so!" says Steven Pinker, in his book entitled "*The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*."

In *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, published in 2011, Pinker argues that violence has decreased over multiple scales of time and magnitude, including tribal warfare, homicide, cruel punishments, child abuse, animal cruelty, domestic violence, lynching, pogroms, and international and civil wars. Pinker considers it unlikely that human nature has changed. In his view, it is more likely that human nature comprises inclinations toward violence and those that counteract them, the "better angels of our nature." He outlines six 'major historical declines of violence', which all have their own socio/cultural/economic causes.

Bill Wells pointed out that, according to Pinker, the bible is filled with stories of human atrocities, plagues, and wars, and that this peaked at World War II. Since then things have improved to the point where the has been no use of nuclear weapons, even though several countries have them; murders and rapes are decreasing, genocide is "minimal"; all in all, you have a better chance of surviving in



Bill Wells
Photo Don StJohn

today's world than at any other time in history. According to Pinker, this is because of five elements:

- Literacy – Expands people's horizons, allowing them to put themselves in someone else's place.
- Democracies – Elect leaders who are not aggressive, thereby reducing violence between nations.
- Trade – Reduces animosity and develops interdependence, reducing probability of war.
- Communications - Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, so nothing is hidden, everyone knows everything, immediately.
- World Organizations – United Nations, NATO, SEATO, etc., allow structured resolution of problems, without war.

In conclusion, Pinker states that we, "think we are worse off because the media reports primarily bad news and we remember more bad things than good." In spite of this, says Pinker, "the last 10-15 years have been the most peaceful times in human existence."

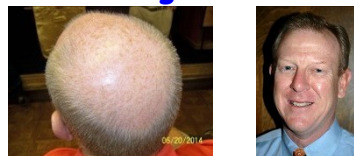
Even though there was a certain amount of skepticism regarding Pinker's conjectures, we appreciate Bill Wells interesting sharing and look forward to seeing him (as a member) at future meetings.

Editor: Read an interesting review of this book in the New York Times, by Peter Singer, published: October 6, 2011 by [Clicking Here](#).

Weekly Greeters

8/1/14	Frank Middleton & Lynn Jones
8/8/14	Tom Glazier & Allen Malask
8/15/14	Elton Strong & Howdy Fry
8/22/14	Gary Miller & Ralph Pedersen
Need Friday morning greeters, see O.C. Larson, 303-797-7432 or larson1942@comcast.net	

Did You Recognize This Head?



This is the head of Howdy Fry. Picture on right was taken sometime ago, before the new hair cut style. We had one correct answer from Greg Young! However, since Greg is the club's treasure his prize was not awarded. Thank you Greg for such a good guess!

Aug 1	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Speaker Pending
Aug 2	Sat	6:00 am	March of Dimes MUDD Volleyball, Majestic Commercenter, 20100 E. 32nd Pkwy (east of I-70 and Tower Rd.) in Aurora
Aug 8	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Type 1 Diabetes
Aug 15	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Super Citizen School Principles
Aug 20	Wed	6:30 pm	Meeting, Legion Hall - Board Meeting, District 4 Council Office, 3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 102
Aug 22	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Camaraderie Day
Aug 29	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - Arapahoe County Sheriff, David Walcher
Sep 5	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall - 100% Day—everyone needs to be present
Sep 27	Sat	5:30 pm	MSOC Celebrate Your Optimism Gala, Delmonico Hall, 3220 Federal Blvd.

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

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Bob Safe	1995-96
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Tom Overton	1996-97
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Peter Dimond	1997-98
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Cy Regan	1999-00
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Stan Cohen	2000-01
John Young	1982-83	Don St. John	2001-02
Pat Bush	1983-84	Jack Rife	2002-03
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Karl Geil	2003-04
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Paul Bernard	2006-07
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Greg Young	2007-08
Bob Avery	1989-90	Phil Perington	2008-09
Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Ron Cisco	2009-10
Bill Walters	1991-92	Ed Collins	2010-11
Kent Gloor	1992-93	Randy Marcove	2011-12
Gary Strowbridge	1993-94	Paul Simon	2012-13
Mark Metevia	1994-95		

2013 - 2014 Officers

President	Jon Wachter	303-204-5645
Vice President	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Vice President	John Oss	720-210-8056
Secretary	Pat Bush	720-747-5482
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

Board of Directors

Michael Chavez	303-960-5304
J. R. Gieck	949-636-7614
Jack Kleinheksel	720-938-1760
Mike McMahon	303-514-5175
Fred Pasternack	303-758-3754
Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384
Michael Short	970-261-6012
Scott Walker	303-803-3338
Paul Simon (Past Pres.)	303-300-9940

Newsletter Committee

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	rfinkelmeier@comcast.net	Ralph Pedersen	303-759-3384	r.pedersen2658@comcast.net
Jim Piccinelli	303-721-1470	jp Piccinelli@earthlink.net	John Oss	720-210-8056	john.oss4us@gmail.com
Dick Zolman	303-796-8746	rzolman691@aol.com	Paul Stratton	303-366-6375	pcstratton@comcast.net
George Buzick	303-803-2268	gtbuzick@comcast.net	Pat Bush	720-254-3741	pbush@bushreese.com
Robert Wardlaw	303-525-2532	rlawardlaw@gmail.com	Craig Eley	720-771-0866	craigceley@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Aug **Robert Wardlaw**, Sept **Pat Bush**, Oct **Paul Stratton**, Nov **Phil Perington**

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.