



Kiwanis®
Monument Hill Club

K-News

April 26, 2025

Monument Hill Club - Service Since 1974

Today's Program



The Frog Story *Benny Nasser*



President Bill Kaelin began the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

Zoomers participating were Marlene Bizub and Frank Bittinger

Jim Head was the Sergeant at Arms.

Bryan Hardesty was this week's Scribe.

Bill Kaelin led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Member Concerns

Rich Hicks led members' concerns. It was great to see Jim Taylor and Ron Mangiarelli at the meeting after their recent health problems.

Rich led a morning prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the blessings you have bestowed upon our community. We ask for your guidance as we strive to support our youth, nurturing them to become compassionate leaders in service to our community. Amen.



Visiting Kiwanians and Guests

It was good to have Bob Eskridge visiting us again and this time he brought his completed membership application. Thanks for joining us!

Upcoming Programs

- May 3 - D-38 Update, Amber Whetstin
- May 10 - Club Business and Annual Meeting
- May 17 - Computer Surgeon, Garry Greenspan
- May 24 - Care and Share, Nate Springer

Announcements

Membership Minute

Jim Wolf updated the membership minutes.

- April 26 - SLP meeting and Board meeting
- May 8 - Konnectors meeting 17:30 pm at PPBC Barr Room
- May 9 - Potluck at the Woodmoor Barn from 4-8 pm
- May 11 - Mothers Day
- May 16 - Last day of school for D38
- May 20 - High School graduations for PRHS and LPHS at the Broodmoor



Bill Kaelin announced that May 10th will be our annual business meeting. We will announce the slate of officers next week and then vote on them following week.

Jim Wolf pointed out that Scott Andrew's son, Carter is in a play called *The Fairy Tale Courtroom*. Below is a list of date and times for this production at Trinity Lutheran Church in Monument. Carter also now has a talent agent in Denver as he pursues acting in commercials.

Jim passed around a signup sheet for the potluck dinner we have planned for May 9th at the Woodmoor Barn beginning at 4:00 p.m. Needed are entrees, salads, appetizers and desserts.



PRESENTS

FAIRY TALE COURTROOM

BY DANA PROULX

TICKETS

ADULTS \$12

STUDENTS \$10

CHILD(UNDER 6) FREE



MAY 2ND 6:30 PM

MAY 3RD 3:00 PM

MAY 3RD 6:30 PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONUMENT



Distinguished Service Award

Bill Kaelin recognized Rich Strom for his many contributions and achievements in the Club with the Distinguished Service Award. When asked by Bill what he has not done in the club, Rich replied that he has not done the parade. But he does do the porta potties for the parade. This award is in recognition of Rich's deep involvement and instrumental work in forming of the Stars of Tomorrow talent show and what he has done leading this project for the past 3 years. But this award also encompasses his work as a Past President, Executive Director for our Monument Hill Foundation and so many other projects. Thank you very much! In Rich's comments, he said one thing he appreciates, values, and cherishes in his life more than anything else is the acknowledgment of his peers. Thank you very much!



Social Groups



*a collection of individuals gathering together with a common interest.
Informal, encouraging socialization & camaraderie, flexible attendance*

- Golf
- Hiking/walking
- Snow skiing/snowboarding
- Cards – poker, bridge, pinochle
- Wine Tasting
- Beer Drinking
- Lunch
- Museum Trips (US Olympic & Paralympic, WWII Aviation, Western Mining, ProRodeo Hall of Fame, Michael Garman, etc.)
- Tours - Denver Mint, State Capital, USAFA
- Outdoor Trips – sightseeing, fall colors
- USAFA Sports – football, hockey, basketball, baseball (*wolf*)
- Rocky Mountain Vibes Baseball games (*wolf*)

Social Activities

Bill Kaelin said we talked a few weeks ago about getting more social aspects into the club. So, they have come up with a list of social clubs that we might pursue. Bill selected two and passed around a signup sheet for them. They were golf and hiking groups. Jim Wolf talked about some of the social events we have and social groups that we might start, presented above. John Spidell mentioned that we have a bridge group that is already in place and they could use a few new players. They meet the last Tuesday of every month.

Weather Advice

While Bill Kaelin was trying to decide if he should cancel the meeting last week due to weather, he reached out to several people including our weatherman, Ed Tomlinson. Ed's analysis follows:

"Basically, we had a weak Albuquerque Low associated with an upper level negative tilt trough from the 850 mb level through 500 mbs associated with a weak omega block pattern to the west. The trough aloft provided positive vorticity advection supporting stratiform cloud formation and widespread precipitation enhanced by northeasterly winds providing upslope orographic enhancement across the Palmer Divide. There was minimum convective available potential energy available due to relatively warm temperatures aloft and limited moisture advection from the Gulf leading to minimum latent heat release at the Cloud Condensation Level and Level of Free Convection. Atypical of synoptic situations associated with the Bermuda high advecting gulf moisture northward, the southerly flow over eastern Texas into Kansas was not picked up by the counterclockwise rotation associated with the Albuquerque low as it tracked eastward into west Texas following the 300mb jet stream. This may be associated with the combination of the recent change to Daylight Saving Time and the renaming of the Gulf of America. The atmosphere needs sufficient time to adjust to both of these. Since this was a confusing synoptic



situation, I recommended that a more sophisticated approach be taken. I offered a classic 1889 Carson City silver dollar to be flipped for making the final decision. Despite the forecast being less than totally correct, I am still billing my customary fee plus a tax-free tip."

Bill points out that we did cancel the meeting, it did not snow, but nobody had to shovel their driveways.



March Madness is Over

Since Dennis Beasley is out of town, Bill Kaelin awarded the third and fourth prizes to Bonnie and Benny Nasser. Dennis Beasley won the competition and his granddaughter placed second.

Soap Box Derby

Greg Bielanski let us know the Soapbox Derby is scheduled for May 31st and June 1st this year. It will be in Monument on Higby Road just to the south of Lewis Palmer High School. Buildup for the cars has begun and Greg could use a backup for the buildup. This happens on Friday afternoon at 3:00 and it takes about an hour and a half in Monument. There are about four more weeks remaining of this effort. He could also really use help on inspection Day, May 31st and race day, June 1st. Please see Greg.



Service Leadership Programs

Mike Luginbuhl let us know that he is trying to reschedule the K-Kids who were planned to attend our meeting last week. They might have to be rescheduled for next school year.

The middle school leadership teacher has reached out to Mike and is scheduling our group of nine people to support her class on Wednesday. They will help her layout the final exam projects for this class. Mike is encouraged by her support for the SLP Builders Club and a Junior National Honor Society. Mike plans to consult with her about where she wants to take the leadership class next year and our support.

Mike is looking for three people to help provide backup/partner as elementary school K-Kids advisors. It is a good effort that happens with strong faculty advisors. The kids meet just before or just after school and run the program themselves with advice from their faculty advisor. We show the flag and help the advisor when needed with Kiwanis support.

Here is the [list of SLP events remaining this year for Palmer Ridge and Lewis Palmer High Schools.](#)





YARD SALE

Saturday, June 7, 2025 | 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
Jackson Creek Senior Living's Backyard
 16601 Jackson Creek Parkway, Monument, CO

Jackson Creek Senior Living is partnering with the Kiwanis Monument Hill Club and other local organizations to host a community yard sale benefiting the future Heart of Monument Play Park. Stop by to browse items sold "as-is," check out special "Beyond the Bag" bundle deals, and grab a hot dog lunch — all proceeds from the event support the future park. Cash and credit cards accepted. Guests are kindly asked to park on the north side of the building.

Donations
May 1–June 5

Jackson Creek Senior Living will collect gently used items Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Donations may be dropped off inside the community's main entrance.

Accepted Items:

- Housewares
- Décor
- Clothes
- Toys
- Furniture
- Gardening Supplies

To learn more, call 719-259-5248 or visit jacksoncreekseiorliving.com/events.

Heart of Monument Play Park Fundraiser Sponsors
www.HeartOfMonument.org










Yard Sale at Jackson Creek Senior Living

Scott Ross told us that six Saturdays from now we are replacing our meeting with a garage/yard sale at Jackson Creek Senior Living. Items will be sold "as is" and all proceeds from the event support the Heart of Monument Play Park. There are a couple of ways to help: 1) donate garage sale items at JCSL starting May 1st, and 2) on Saturday, June 7th, MHKC Will run this garage sale from set up at 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. See Scott with questions.



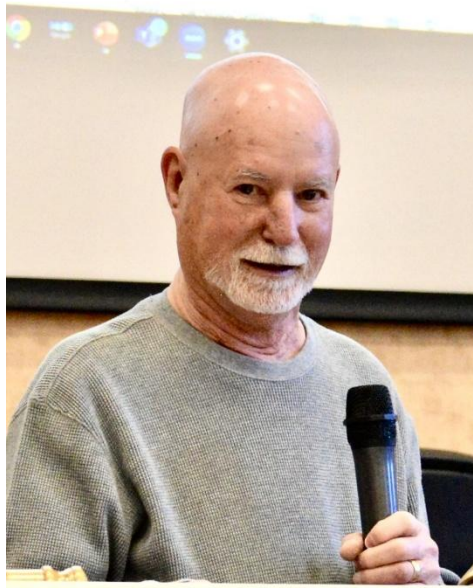
Hacked Account

Jack Fry let us know that his AOL account had been hacked and asked us to disregard emails we might have received from that account. He has set up a new account on Gmail which is how you should contact him now - hjfry67@gmail.com. His apologies.

News & Notes

Happy Birthday

Courtesy of Frank Wynne



Mark Zeiger April 21st
Joined 2010, Sponsor: Rich Rima

On Apr 21st in HISTORY:

- **1918:** The Red Baron is shot down over the Somme River.

- **1934:** A photo of the Loch Ness Monster is published.
- **1992:** The first discovery of planets outside the solar system is announced.



Humor

Courtesy of Frank Wynne

An engineer was crossing a road one day, when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess". He bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn back into a beautiful princess and stay with you for one week". The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want". Again, the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?" The engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog - now that's cool".

Happy Bucks



Kathy Strom shared a note from Skip Trahan. Skip is living in Tennessee. He's still a member and pays his dues by the year. He's having a house built, loves Tennessee, and he said to us, "Wishing you all the best. Life in Tennessee is great."



Chuck Leggiero had a couple of happy bucks. 1) he wanted to welcome back "what's his name (Ron Mangiarelli)." 2) Chuck noted that we get hit up a lot throughout the year for our different projects. Sometimes we forget about all the incredible amount of energy, work and time takes to get our projects organized. 3) his last happy Buck was for Mike Luginbuhl and all the work he does for SLP. It is amazing!



Rich Strom was proud that his granddaughter is the star of the show *The Fairy Tale Courtroom* (mentioned earlier), and he is happy for her.



RF Smith was also happy to see that "what's his name" was back with us. RF was also very happy to see Sweet Baby James (Jim Taylor). Finally, he offered thanks to all the people who have given him equipment in preparation for his upcoming knee replacement surgery. The members of the club have been very generous providing him with support and equipment. Thank you very much!



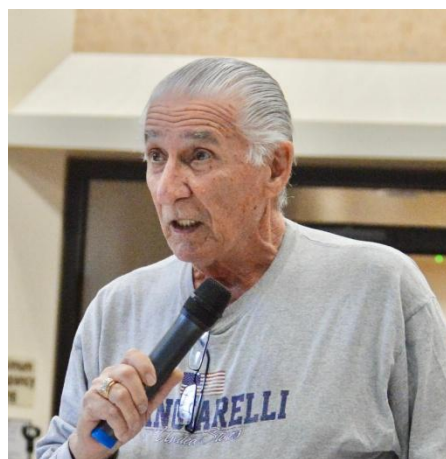
Steve Keefer hit up Mark Anderson for his missing name tag and then paid his \$5 fine even though he was wearing his blue vest. Mark thought the nametag was probably on his closet floor.



Dave Wittman had 50 bucks because he and his wife, Gail, were celebrating their 50th anniversary on Saturday. Congratulations! He told us that next week he and Gail are moving to Green Valley, Arizona. He also wanted to tell us that he is most proud of being a Monument Hill Kiwanian and all of the work that everybody has done to support our community and our youth. It's been a wonderful time and thank you for your friendship over the years!



Jim Head was very happy to see Bob Eskridge join us again on Saturday and welcomed him to our group.



Ron Mangiarelli (what's his name) had 10 happy bucks. One for his missing name tag and the others for nine stents from his recent surgeries.



On a sad note, Dean Snow told us that the lady at Silver Key who helps our drivers with meals and was on oxygen, has passed away.



Larry Young said he was not happy that Dave Wittman was leaving our Club. He's meant a lot to us over the years and done a lot of great things in support of the club, but Larry wanted to wish Dave and Gail well and hopes things turn out great for them in Arizona. The best of everything to you!



Jim Wolf told us that he is one of the guys who delivers meals to the Senior Center. Last week he arrived a little late to pick up the containers to take down to Colorado Springs Silver Key kitchen, where it was chaos. They were short-staffed trying to get food out the door. Jim finally got the food and was even more behind schedule. Going up I-25, he decided to get off on Baptist Road and take the back way into Monument. He was going 5 mph above the speed limit when he passed a police car. Jim did get pulled over by the officer who wanted to see his license, registration, and insurance. Jim explained that he had hot food for delivery to the Senior Center and asked if he could deliver the food first. The officer agreed and they both go to the Senior Center. Jim pulls in and the officer is right behind him and blocks him in. They both go into the Senior Center where a lot of seniors want to know if Jim is in trouble and is going to be arrested. THEY tell the officer that they can't arrest Jim or give him a ticket. All these seniors are helping him out. After leaving the Senior Center, the officer again asked for license, registration, and insurance. But the officer said, after all of that, I can't give you a ticket, but you've got to slow down. Jim's moral to this story is: Watch your speed on Old Denver highway! Teaser: there is a little more to this story in Benny. Nasser's frog presentation below.



Weekly 50-50 Drawing

\$82 was up for grabs in Saturday's 50-50 drawing. Larry Vliet was up to the task, won \$82 and donated it to the Foundation. Congratulations!

Program

The Frog Story *Benny Nasser*

Scribe: Bryan Hardesty



Today in our weekly Kiwanis meeting we were treated to a history of the Frog by Benny Nasser. It all started in 1974 by club members Bill Tope and Jim Carroll. It essentially was created to recognize any activity or incident committed that was a big-time screw up. The individual would receive the Frog and maintain possession until his act of stupidity was surpassed by another who would then be the new recipient. In the beginning the Frog was small and fit nicely on the top of the recipient's head. Bill Tope's version of the story of the Frog is as follows: A MAN WALKS INTO A DOCTOR'S OFFICE WITH A FROG ON HIS HEAD. WHEN HE SEES THE DOCTOR, HE IS ASKED WHAT HAPPENED, THE FROG REPLIES, "I'm not sure but this started as a wart on my butt."



The Frog had several recipients over the years, until it finally came up missing in early 1990. It was determined Joe Swofford had it and used it as a door stop. Photographic evidence proved he had possession even though he wasn't sure what happened to it. Later in 1995 the present day frog was found in Senor Frog's bar in Mazatlán, Mexico. It was extradited back to the US and continued until 2000 when a hat was inaugurated as the new head piece with the patch having a Frog and the words "Order of the Frog". On October 14, 2000, these nine members were awarded with the hat: Paul Bacalis, Dick Crowell, Jim Carroll, Bill Frier, Bobby Hill, Nick Nixon, Don Smart, John Snyder, and Bill Tope. Members get a star for additional awards.

The Order of the Frog in Kiwanis is not the only one. The University of Stockholm as part of the Nobel Celebration each year requires the newly inducted laureates to hop around campus like frogs. This proves there are worse things than wearing a frog hat.



To date there 71 members on the frog list, including women. The best story ever is when Donald Johnson and his wife Jeanne went to attend Donald's younger brother's wedding in Florida. Prior to the wedding a plan was suggested to take Donald's mother-in-law on a two-hour canoe trip on the Hillsborough River. The party rented two canoes with Donald, Jeanne and mother-in-law in one. A series of events took place that began when they heeded the warning not to leave valuables in the rental car. They took the car keys with them and secured them in his mother-in-law's purse. Their canoe got hung up and tipped over throwing everyone, money, IDs, and purses in the river. They all escaped safely, but not the valuables and purse. Donald stayed behind to aid the recovery efforts causing him to miss the wedding. For this Donald got the Frog Hat, but with a special patch, "Doris Boat Tours".



At the meeting on Saturday, caretaking for the Frog was passed on from Frank Wynne to Jim Wolf. This was decided by a member vote between Jim's story about getting a speeding ticket while hauling food to the Senior Center (see Jim's Happy Buck above) and Ed's story about the weather report prompting the cancellation of our meeting last Saturday.

The Saturday Meeting video is available here - <https://youtu.be/mDT-C9IzAK0>

Quick Links

[Monument Hill Kiwanis Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Monument Hill Foundation Website](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

Special Thanks

Senior Meals Drivers & Scheduler - Jim Murphy

Deliveries: Tues, Wed, Thurs; Senior Center; Grace Best Education Center

Photographers: Warren Gerig, Bonnie Nasser

Media Support: Scott Ross, Mark Zeiger, Jo Carroll, Frank DeLalla

**We need YOU to help with the K-News weekly.
It's FUN and a great way to support the club's communications efforts. Contact one of
us to learn more!**

[Rich Hicks](#) * [RF Smith](#) * [Mark Anderson](#)

K-News Crew

(click on a name to email us directly)

Virtual Meeting Reminder

Members receive a link to each week's meeting via email.
In-person attendance is encouraged. Zoom is available.

Monument Hill Kiwanis Supporters

Partners in Service



Sponsors



THANK YOU!

Monument Hill Kiwanis Club | PO Box 102 | Monument, CO 80132 US