



The Award-Winning
ENQUIRER



Citizen of the Year

For his ongoing work for the youth of our region, Craig Olson, aka Craig Olson Sports, was named Citizen of the Year by our Otter Risers Club. Craig sits in his baseball bat rocking chair, constructed by our own Neil Herman. Neil, Larry and Bob helped with the surprise presentation. For Neil's account of the occasion, turn to the back. Lynn Wolters photo.

BALDERDASH, HYPERBOLE AND OBFUSCATION

From President Larry Mitberg

Greetings fellow Otter Risers! February is here! Shortest month of the year! More cold weather! More blizzards! More long dark days! Ain't it great!

It's great because on Wednesday mornings I get to go to Kiwanis meetings. Oh sure, I get to participate in the planning of service projects but there is a lot more

Larry's Lament continued on PAGE 3...

Wednesday Morning Programs This Month (& Invocation Volunteer)

- Feb 3 - Tour of new Cancer Center (meet at our usual spot!) (Bob Block)
- Feb 10 - Boy Scouts 100th Anniversary (Jerry Horgen)
- Feb 17 - Viking Library System (tour of new facility or ?) (Jerry Horgen)
- Feb 24 - Cap & Trade Issues, Brian Draxten (Clint Halvorson)

Otter Risers Kiwanis Club -

January Board of Directors Meeting - 1/8/2010

Attending: Rod Berg, Bob Block, VJ Block, Barb Gutzmer, Clint Halvorson, Lyle Hauck, Neil Herman, Mary Houg, Vern Johnson, Brian Malchert, Larry Mitberg, Erin Smith, Bob Stout, Peggy Underwood, Tom Welle, Gerry Worner

Agenda: Larry Mitberg brought the meeting to order with the agenda adopted as submitted.

Secretary's Minutes The minutes from the 12/4/09 were approved as modified.

Treasurer's Report – Balances as of 12/31/09

Administrative Account (Bank of the West)	\$ 7,381.30
Youth Services Account (Security Bank)	\$ 3,578.88
Special Reserve Fund	\$2,397
Miscellaneous Contribution	\$1,181

Report approved by motion.

Club Meetings – Mary Houg
Barb/VJ greeters for February; Jan 27 offsite

Community Service – Tom Welle
Wrestling Tournament – Saturday Jan 26 — need about 8 members to help; Speech contest – Date?; KAH – future project ?

Contributions – Les Nokes; No requests

Fertilizer – Barb Gutzmer
Date changed to 3/27/10 with alternate on 4/10/10
Need to do more presales this year since with new owner of Fraco we will need to commit to a defined number of each type of product. More to follow – will have cards with prices out earlier than they were in previous years.

Membership – Gerry Worner
Request to drop membership from Kitty Rund, who has had difficulty making it to meeting. Move to accept by Gerry, approved. Demit request from Erin Smith (baby arrival soon) – for Jan-March – move to accept – carried. No new member applications. Recommended that Jon Steinbrenner membership be dropped since he has not paid his dues and has not attended meetings. Motion carried to drop Jon S.

Programs – Lyle Hauck
Feb – possible offsite on Feb 17th

Young Children Priority One – Erin Smith
Erin will be asking others on this committee to step into the leadership role since she will be absent for about 3 months after her daughter is born. Second Saturday at the Library – 3 Otter Risers signed up for this event.

Old Business / New Business

Larry Mitberg thanked the Board for support with his mothers passing recently.

Neil Herman – discussed the use of a Citizen Award that the Club had used years ago. His idea is to present the award to Craig Olson for his support of area youth sport programs. Motion to approve – carried. Neil will present a rocking chair that he had made from baseball bats. Also discussed the desire to review use of this award annually – since by doing this we thank community members for their work and at the same time demonstrate that the Otter Risers are an active club. Motion to consider nominations for a Citizens award annually with no requirement to make this award each year – carried.

APPROVAL TO PAY THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

Administrative Account
Lake Region Heath Care - November meals \$602.07
Brian Malchert - pens for speakers \$51.34
Club Resources - website for 2010 \$250.00

Service Account

Bills approved as submitted and shown above.

Recorded by:
Brian Malchert



Congrats Erin Smith on her new baby daughter Celia

Larry's Lament

(From Cover)

happening at Otter Risers meetings than just projects.

For one thing, there is the banter that goes on between members. Everyone who walks into a meeting on a cold February morning is greeted by Gerry with a cheerful and heartfelt: "Oh, what a beautiful morning it is in Fergus Falls!" I usually agree, "Yes, this is truly God's Country. No one else would have it."

From there the conversation turns to the best way to fold a ticket to ensure that it gets drawn and a person can win the drawing. Jim wrinkles it. Les stomps on it. Barb simply puts it into the container unmarred. A neat three way fold has been productive for me.

Sometimes, the conversation will turn to last week's bowling session. Neil says: "Hey! I got a Turkey last week." Ken says, "Yah. Sure. Three gutter balls in a row." Neil responds, "Hey! At least, I didn't get the ten pin with my nose."

The breakfasts we get are conducive to regular attendance at meetings, too. How else can a person get



hospital coffee, hospital eggs, and hospital sausage patties, all without having a hospital operation.

The programs are great, too. We have had all kinds of programs over the years. Can you ever forget the time that the doctor's group gave us a presentation on how to perform an appendectomy on ourselves, without anesthetic. As I remember, Rick graciously agreed to be the model for their instruction.

I understand that Vern and Bob have been trying to get a hold of Osama bin Ladin to put on a program on the care and grooming of a beautiful beard under adverse conditions.

The high light of a week in February is truly the Otter Riser Wednesday morning meeting. The fellowship we Kiwanians enjoy is a benefit that makes me happy to belong to our club.

Until next time - Larry Mitberg

February Anniversaries



Patrick Reissour 2/22
Larry Mitberg 2/24



February Birthdays

Robert Stout 2/3
Nathan Johnson 2/6
Cris Kling 2/26
Dan Oehler 2/27

The ENQUIRER

is the award-winning (2009) monthly publication of the Otter Risers Kiwanis in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Editors: Rick Schara/Tom Rasmusson.

If you have information for the next issue, please deliver it to Rick or email to schara@integraonline.com by the third Wednesday of each month.

The Otter Risers meet Wednesday mornings at 6:50 in the Lake Region Hospital basement conference room. Everyone welcome!

Larry Mitberg, *President*

Barb Gutzmer, *President-elect*

Lyle Hauck, *Vice President*

Bob Stout, *Immediate Past President*

Brian Malchert, *Secretary*

Clint Halvorson, *Treasurer*

Directors

Dave McRoberts Gerry Worner Vern Johnson

Peggy Underwood Erin Smith Tom Welle

www.otterriserskiwanis.org

Someplace Safe Delivery Volunteers

Feb 3 - Wally Senyk
Feb 10 - Jerry Horgen
Feb 17 - Jerry Horgen
Feb 24 - Jeff Stanislawski



Craig Olson Named Kiwanis Citizen of the Year

by Neil Herman, Special to the Enquirer

The OtterRisers “Citizen of the year award “ was given to Craig Olson, local sports announcer, KBRF radio personality and co-host of a talking sports show on the local community TV channel. Craig is active with youth in their early stages of development all the way up to those aged people who just think we are young. Craig Olson’s play by play call of (not just his favorite baseball) but any sporting event is distinct and is always positive to the efforts of both teams competing. It was an honor to be a part of giving this award to Craig Olson.

Our team of OtterRisers planned a surprise presentation to Craig Olson while he was taping their TV show. We had made contact with Kris Svingen (previous OtterRiser member) co host of the show, no one else new of the planned presentation. The presentation consisted of a plaque and a rocking chair made from baseball bats. Our team consisting of Larry our Pres. Lynn our photographer Bob Past Pres. and myself, Neil who submitted Craig’s name to OtterRisers for consideration for the award. We met outside the TV studio until the show had started and then barged in plaque and chair in hand.

To say Craig Olson was surprised would be an understatement. The presentation has shown on PEG ACCESS TV and is being repeated. A CD of the presentation will also be available from Brian. The Otter Risers in some past years has given this award but it has not been awarded for many years, we need to keep alert for other opportunities to recognize people in the community that are doing activities that fit into our OtterRisers Kiwanis goals and objectives. The chair given to Craig has created lots of interest and

questions. It took me lots of hours to build, but less than the first one that I had to create with nothing but an idea in my head, and many of you know that anything coming out of my head could be questionable. This is the third one I have built (and most likely the last!). If I would have worked on it steady it may have been completed in 120 hours. NO JOKES ABOUT OLD STATE WORKERS SPEED OR HOW YOU USE TO KNOW A CARPENTER LIKE THAT.

Material used in this chair are:

18 broken baseball bats, collected by my son Jay who plays baseball for the Waterville MN Indians town team and Dave Johnson Manager/player for the Fergus Falls town team, the Hurricanes.

100 ft. of 3/8 “nylon rope are woven in the seat and back from Fleet Farm.

One handle from a broken snow shovel, rockers cut from basswood boards all from my junk bins.

About 1/3 of my time is spent scraping pint tar off bats, removing tape, gluing bats together, sorting bats for length shape color, just about every bat is different (new bats would be a lot easier to work with, but they cost \$40 – \$100 dollars per bat). Cutting, assembling, finishing is another 1/ 3 of the time. Weaving is the last step and about 1/3 of the project.

Coverage in the news on this project was on PEG ACCESS TV, KBRF radio and while I was doing this article I receive a request from the Daily Journal, and they are working on an article for their personal profile section on Craig and also the award.

Otter Risers Kiwanis
P.O. Box 4
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0004