

# ATLANTA CLUB



## Koi Chronicles

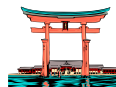


February 2008  
Volume 20, Issue 2

**Dedicated to Sharing the Joy of Keeping Koi**

Inside this issue:	
AKC Calendar Koi Show Calendar	2
On the Road ... to Nature's Coast	3
ORP 101	4
ORP 101 continued Tabiji: Pick Your Perfect Pond	5
Koi Show Trophy Sponsorship	6
Trophy Sponsors continued	7
Year End Budget Report	8
Year End Budget Report	9
Meeting Minutes	10
Growing Up in the Mud (part 2)	11
Continuing Series on Water Quality	12
Water Quality (cont.)	13
Water Quality (cont.) Meeting Hosts Needed	14
Membership	15
Meeting Directions	16

### By the Pond



David Boyd, President AKC

The Atlanta Koi Club would like to thank Steve and Laura Castel for hosting our January meeting. The Executive Board reviewed and approved the budget to be voted on by the membership at the February meeting. The upcoming auction was discussed as well.

Our club was fortunate to be invited to Steve Castel's warehouse for our meeting. There were many new faces as well as old faces at the meeting. It was amazing to see the robots that are Steve's profession and to listen to Steve as he gave us a tour of his warehouse. The only bad part was seeing all these wonderful toys and not being able to play with any of them.

This year's budget was discussed at the officers meeting and a few changes were made. The auction was also discussed and the possibility of having to buy water due to the current water restrictions was brought up. Steve Castel, our auction chairperson is going to check into what is required so that our club is not violating any codes. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.

### KOIBUCK\$

At the January meeting we introduced **KoiBucks**. **KoiBucks** are certificates in a \$10 denomination. They cannot be redeemed in cash from the club, but they can be used to purchase fish at our 2008 annual auction in April. They can also be used to purchase fish or other products from the 2008 show vendors in September.

How do you get **KoiBucks**? Simple. You earn them. At the club meeting the attendees divided up into 4 teams. All the teams received the same 25 question quiz based on the information in the January *Koi Chronicles*. Team B won with a score of 92 points. Congratulations to Team B members who each won **KoiBucks**: Robin Scott, David Pugh, Jay Drew, Herve Rijnveld, David Marier and, David Boyd! As I told all the teams, "You know more than you think you do!"

*Atlanta Koi Chronicles* is a monthly publication of the **Atlanta Koi Club**. Material is selected for its interest to Koi and Pond enthusiasts. **AKC Koi Chronicles** accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the contents. Reproduction is permitted provided that this newsletter and/or the original source are credited. Articles may be submitted to the editor.

**\$10**

**\$10**

This KoiBuck certificate can be used by the Bearer at the Atlanta Koi Club 2008 Auction to purchase koi or be used at the 2008 Koi Show to purchase koi or merchandise from show vendors.



Bearer Name: Sample only...may not be used for any purchases.



# Koi Events!



- Central Florida March 7-9 2008  
[www.cfks.org](http://www.cfks.org)
- Koi Health Seminar February 15-17 2008  
[www.koihealthseminar.com](http://www.koihealthseminar.com)
- South FL — February 23-24 2008 Tropical Koi & Watergarden Society
- MAKC 2008 —September 12-14. 2008 Westminster MD

## Grant Fujita to Speak at Charleston Showa Club

The Charleston Showa Koi Club will be getting Grant Fujita to come from California to speak to our club. Grant will be talking about his experiences in Japan for the first part of the day and after lunch he will give us a talk on judging.

Our club will do the best we can to have some fish for him to judge for us. This is a free event for you to attend. Grant doesn't make it to the East Coast very often, so this should be a very good event.

All we ask is that you let us know if you can come. The date is Saturday. April 12th it is a so it should give you time to get home. We don't have a venue as of yet. However, we plan to have one soon. I will keep you up to date. You can contact me at [robe8lew@aol.com](mailto:robe8lew@aol.com) or our president at [president@charlestonshowakoiclub.org](mailto:president@charlestonshowakoiclub.org)

Robert Lewis



Steve Castel takes us all on a tour of the robots in his shop. This one handles wheels for a car manufacturer.

# AKC CALENDAR



I encourage all members to attend our monthly meetings and also consider hosting a regular meeting or one of the two socials. The currently planned meetings and events are:

**February 10:** Meeting at Senior Activity Center in North Park (<http://www.alpharetta.ga.us/index.php?p=216>) in Alpharetta, GA.

**March 16:** Meeting at Splendor Koi (<http://www.splendorkoi.com/>) in Marietta, GA.

**April 12: (Saturday)** Auction at Coastal Pond Supply (<http://www.coastalfountain.com/>) in Tucker, GA.

**May 18:** hosts needed

**June 8:** Summer social, hosts needed

**July 13:** hosts needed

**August 10:** hosts needed

**September 14:** hosts needed Koi Show Planning and Set-up @ Coastal Ponds

**October 12:** hosts needed Election of Officers

**November 9:** Winter social, hosts needed

Please contact me ([vp@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:vp@atlantakoiclub.org) or 678-297-7926) if you are interesting in hosting one of the May-November meetings or socials. Please share your pond and koi with other members of the club.

Michael VP@atlantakoiclub.org

## Atlanta Koi Club Officers 2008

**President**  
David Boyd  
[pres@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:pres@atlantakoiclub.org)

**Vice President**  
Michael Anderson  
[vp@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:vp@atlantakoiclub.org)

**Secretary**  
Peggy Fricke  
[scribe@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:scribe@atlantakoiclub.org)

**Treasurer**  
Steve Castel  
[money@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:money@atlantakoiclub.org)

**Property Manager**  
Hervé Rijnveld  
[stfuff@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:stfuff@atlantakoiclub.org)

### Appointed officers

**Membership**  
Susan Brown  
[join@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:join@atlantakoiclub.org)

**Koi Show**  
David Pugh  
[koishow@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:koishow@atlantakoiclub.org)

**Koi Auction**  
Steve Castel  
[auction@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:auction@atlantakoiclub.org)

**Pond Tour**  
Held on odd-numbered years

**P.R. Director**  
Harvey Siskin  
[pr@atlantakoiclub.org](mailto:pr@atlantakoiclub.org)

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Members figure out the quiz answers.



The weekend following Koi America there is another koi & goldfish show. This show is considerably smaller but is just as much fun in a different way. Nature's Coast Koi & Goldfish Show is held in Florida on the gulf coast with the nearest city being Gainesville. I had never been to this show before but from Gaye's enthusiastic description it sounded like one that I wanted to attend. The goldfish I had bought from Tommy at our show had finished quarantine so I decided to bring them to exhibit. This time we loaded up Gaye's Mercedes and, again with little dogs headed south on I-75.



Surrounded by palm trees and hanging Spanish moss we were warmly greeted by the show chairman Johnny Foster. This show is held outside of our motel room. Koi tanks were set up within a roped section of the parking lot near some large shade trees. Aquariums were next to the tanks under a tent. Partially surrounding the koi tanks in a "L" shape are motel rooms for the exhibitors. One can also opt for a room in another area of the motel, but why? I was introduced to some of the friendliest koi kichi people. It was great to come out of your motel room door and be only steps away from the tanks. Friday evening everyone enjoyed casually sitting outside their rooms and talking about koi and goldfish.

The judges for this show were the infamous Pete Ponzio judging goldfish, then Pete and Tom Ayers of Arizona judging koi. This show is so laid back and quietly southern that the goldfish judging didn't start until late morning and was followed by the koi judging. Shadowing Pete while he judged goldfish was a lesson in efficiency. With a keen eye he evaluated, eliminated and promoted the fish accordingly. Following the goldfish judging Pete moved on to nishikigoi with Tom and again I shadowed. With two knowledgeable and experienced judges koi were perused and evaluated. Just as judging was moving toward the larger sizes the Floridian heavens opened and the rains came. The downpour only lasted 30 minutes or so but as Tom stated, within that period he experienced more rain than he would normally in a Phoenix summer. The koi loved it! Although this show would be considered small by many, the quality of koi exhibited was outstanding.

While the show just outside the motel rooms the banquet was about another 500 feet beyond. We walked to the restaurant where the club had reserved a room. The delicious food and amazing trophies could have rivaled that of a larger show. The awards started with the goldfish. Gaye won the American Goldfish Assoc. Award for her Ochiba Ryukin and the Chairman's Award for her red and white Rancho. I took home Reserve Grand Champion with my Goshiki Telescope. Gaye's winning streak continued when she won Grand Champion with her red and white Ryukin. This was her 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive Grand Champion win this year with 3 different goldfish. With an entry of 101 koi Tom Ayers announced Nature's Coast had graduated from a small show to a medium show but, it still retained that small show warmth and friendliness. The quality of koi was superb but there was one tank that seemed to have the best and that tank was owned by David Hardcastle of Florida. David went home with Grand Champion for his Kohaku and Reserve Grand Champion with his amazing Kujaku. Longfin over 16 inch was presented to Johnny Foster.



Gaye and I had AKC Friendship awards for both goldfish and koi. For goldfish we decided on the largest Pearlscale both of us had ever seen. This leviathan turned out to belong to Johnny. The koi recipient was a very large Doitsu Ochiba Shigura. As she moved through the water her smooth leathery grey skin gave her a whale like appearance. When Gaye presented the award she said we came to Florida looking for Manatee and this was the closest we could find. The proud owner turned out to be Wanda Pawlak mother of Blackwater Creek's owner Joe Pawlak.

Nature's Coast is a small, excuse me..."medium" show with everything within walking distance. The only time we drove was to go to breakfast less than a half mile down the road at the *all you can eat breakfast buffet*, yum. Although there were a handful of vendors I still managed to snag 3 premium Kohaku toisai. They may or may not be ready to return with me next year but I will return, and next time I'll be bringing koi, too.



## Introduction

No, I am not talking about an *Optional Retirement Program*. That is an “ORP” you might find discussed in AARP’s magazine. We are discussing **Oxidation Reduction Potential**. Boy, that was a mouthful. What is it? Do I have to be a rocket scientist to understand it? Is it anything of *real* interest for the average nishikigoi keeper? No, you do NOT have to be rocket scientist to have a working knowledge of ORP for our hobby. ORP as one more tool you can use to care for your Living Jewels.

## What is ORP?

ORP is one more those three letter acronyms (TLAs) you get to learn when you read books and magazines about nishikigoi keeping. Simply put, ORP is an indication of how free the water is from organic pollution. In general, cleaner, less polluted, water is better for our nishikigoi. Cleaner water means our nishikigoi can spend their energy on growth and skin quality. They will not have to spend energy trying to overcome poor water conditions.

Oxidation and reduction were originally thought of as the adding or removing oxygen from another material. This is like adding oxygen to iron to create rust. Now oxidation and reduction are thought of more in terms of the ability to steal an electron (oxidation), or to give up an electron (reduction).

## How ORP is Measured

OK, so how do we measure ORP? ORP is about the ability to move electrons. Therefore an ORP meter uses a special probe in the water to measure the potential for moving electrons in the water. This potential is displayed by the ORP meter in millivolts.



Personally I use an ORP meter that I can calibrate. I follow the manufacturer’s instructions on how to clean the probe and calibrate the meter. I definitely clean and re-calibrate before any chemical treatment such as the use of potassium permanganate. I want to know the impact of the dose, not just the theoretical calculated impact. Neither the nishikigoi nor I like surprises when it comes to pond chemistry.

Measuring the pond passing through the skimmer (from left to right): Digital temperature reading 82.0F, calibrated pH meter reading 7.48, and calibrated ORP meter reading 326.

## ORP Levels

Can ORP be too high in a pond? Can the water be too clean? Simple answer...yep. Water can indeed be too clean or oxidative for our fish. In our pond we are NOT trying to create sterile water. Sterile water means no filter bacteria, no algae, and no fish. Bad karma. Bad joss. No thanks. Here are some ORP ranges you might see in a nishikigoi pond and what they can indicate:

- <120mv:** The water is very polluted. The pond filtration and aeration has not kept up with the organic load.
- 120-200mv:** The water is polluted. The pond filtration and aeration is struggling to keep up with the organic load.
- 200-300mv:** The water is relative clean. The pond filtration and aeration are keeping up with the organic load.
- 300-400mv:** The water is extremely clean. The pond filtration and aeration are more than keeping up with the load. This should be the target range for all nishikigoi ponds.
- 400-500mv:** This range may be too oxidative for long range good nishikigoi health. May indicate presence of a chemical oxidizer such as potassium permanganate, chlorine, or ozone.
- 500-550mv:** Very oxidative water suitable for killing parasites. Exposure should not be longer than 8 hours.
- 550-650mv:** Too oxidative for nishikigoi long term or short term.
- 650-700mv:** In this range bacteria are killed within a few seconds and the water is considered sterile enough to be potable.

(Continued on page 5)

### Items that Impact ORP Readings

There are several factors that will change the ORP level of the pond water.

**Organic Load:** The most obvious thing that will change the ORP readings is the absence or presence of organic pollution. After all, for most of us hobbyists, this is one of the key reasons we purchased and use an ORP meter.

**Dissolved Oxygen:** Remember how we said that originally ORP was thought of as the adding or removing of oxygen to another substance. If we increase the dissolved oxygen levels in the pond, the ORP values will go up. This is one of the reasons folks always hear me preaching for more aeration.

**pH:** ORP moves inversely with pH changes. If the pH drops, the ORP levels go up. Bring up the pH, the ORP levels decrease. For example, if your pond ORP is 400mv or higher and there is no oxidizing chemical present, double check the water pH. The pH might be lower than you think it is and lower than you want it to be.

**Calibrated Meter:** Sounds like a no-brainer. You need a meter that has been calibrated and has good batteries, or an AC adapter. An inaccurate meter might be more dangerous than no meter at all if you are using the meter readings to dose oxidizing chemicals.

### Using ORP

There are many practical uses of ORP for the average nishikigoi hobbyists.

**Checking Filtration:** Measure the ORP of a stable pond system. This will tell you how well the pond's filtration and aeration are handling the load. Expand the filtration and aeration as needed. You can monitor the ORP over time to see if there is any indication that with a growing load (i.e., larger fish, more fish) the pond system is nearing its current limits.

**Measuring Pond Treatments:** You can use an ORP reading to help you perform a pond treatment for parasites with an oxidizer such as potassium permanganate. Slowly add the chemical and constantly monitor the ORP levels using a calibrated meter. Bring the ORP level to the target level for the target duration.

**Checking Dechlorination:** Chlorine is one of the most potent oxidizer chemicals available. That is why it is used by government agencies to provide potable water to your home. As a koi keeper we do not want the chlorinated water (ORP typically around 650mv) to drive up the pond's ORP. We can use the ORP readings to add enough dechlorinating chemical, such as sodium thiosulphate, to just offset the impact of the chlorine. Ideally, when all the new water has been added, the ORP is the same, or only slightly higher, than before the new water was added.

### Summary

ORP readings give you a snapshot of the pollution levels in the pond system. ORP is measured in millivolts using an ORP meter. ORP readings can help you decide if the filtration and aeration should be expanded or the load should be reduced. The readings can also help you more accurately use oxidizing chemicals for parasite treatments. ORP is simply one more tool you can use to better plan and maintain the home of your Living Jewels.

Reprinted from *Koi Nations* (October/November 2007)

Michael Anderson

## Tabiji: Pick Your Perfect Pond

OK, there is probably no such thing as a truly perfect backyard pond. But there are several different types of ponds. Part of our Tabiji or journey is to pick the destination. In the context of a backyard pond, this means picking the right type of pond(s) for your situation. Picking the best type of pond for your situation can make all the difference in how frustrated or happy you will be with the pond in the future. There may also be restrictions in your deed, Home Owners Association (HOA) covenants, or local ordinances that also influence your pond decision. Before building a pond be sure to know your budget for initial cost (i.e. parts and labor) plus operational costs (i.e., water and sewer bills, electric bill), a plan for doing the maintenance, and have any needed approvals/permits from your HOA or local government agencies. You do not want to be filling the pond only to find out it is illegal.

What do I mean by different types of ponds. Let's consider three broad categories of outdoor ponds: the water feature, the water garden, and the koi pond.

### Water Feature

This type of pond is a landscaping device about the sight and sound of water. It could be still such as in a reflecting pool. The water could also be moving such as in a fountain in a basin. A relatively new type of water feature is a pondless waterfall. A pondless waterfall uses a submerged pump inside a plastic vault in the bottom of the pond. The pond is then filled with gravel above the water level. The pump delivers the water to a waterfall. The water cascades down

(Continued on page 7)

# Banquet and Trophy Sponsorship

David Pugh <sup>6</sup>

Each year at the award's banquet the generous folks who have sponsored an award are asked to present that award to the lucky exhibitor whose fish was judged most deserving. This is a chance for you to meet some really great folks from all over the Southeast and to have a great meal. The banquet will be catered by the same restaurant we used last year and we look forward to the same great food.

One other great part of the banquet is that there is an auction for some great items. Last year this included a weekend at the Buckhead Towne Suites, an original Koi flag, two AKC directors chairs, and an original art piece. The money raised from this auction goes directly to KHV research.

Award Sponsorships allow our club to continue in the tradition of having some of the best trophies in the AKCA (sure we are prejudiced). Sponsorships range from \$25 to \$200. We hope you will consider sponsoring a trophy for your favorite variety.

For that small amount you get to present the trophy at the banquet, have your photo taken with the winner, and have your name listed on the AKC website, unless you request anonymity. Then you can "Google" yourself and get a result.

One complimentary ticket to the Banquet will be given for each Trophy category at or above the \$100 sponsorship cost. These trophies have been highlighted.

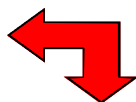
To sponsor a trophy contact:

David Pugh by phone at 678.357.2707 or via email at [atlantakoishow2008@yahoo.com](mailto:atlantakoishow2008@yahoo.com)

## Trophy Sponsorship Cost

Grand Champion	\$200
Reserve Champion	\$200
Adult Champion (Size 5 and 6)	\$100
Young Champion (Size 3 and 4)	\$100
Baby Champion (Size 1 and 2)	\$100
Best Jumbo (Size 6)	\$100
Most Unique	\$50
Best Novice – (Exhibitor is showing koi or longfins for the first time)	N/A
Best in Size 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	\$200
Best Kohaku	\$25
Best Sanke	\$25
Best Showa	\$25
Best Utsuri	\$25
Best Bekko	\$25

Koi  
Trophies



Grand Champion longfin	Spon.
Best in Size 1, 2, 3	Spon.
Best Longfin "A" (Kohaku, Sanke, Showa)	\$50
Best Longfin "B" (Utsuri, Bekko, Asagi/Shusui, Koromo/Goshiki)	\$50
Best Longfin "C" (Kawarigoi, All Hikari)	\$50

Best Asagi/Shusui	\$25
Best Koromo/Goshiki	\$25
Best Kawarigoi	\$25
Best Hikari Muji	\$25
Best Hikari Utsuri	\$25
Best Hikari Moyo	\$25
Best Tancho	\$25
Best Gin Rin "A" (Kohaku, Sanke, Showa)	\$25
Best Gin Rin "B" (Utsuri, Bekko, Asagi/Shusui, Koromo/Goshiki, Kawarigoi, All Hikari)	\$25
Best Doitsu	\$25



Long-fin trophies above



Goldfish trophies are on page 7



(continued from p. 6) **Goldfish Trophies**

Grand Champion Goldfish	\$100
Reserve Champion Goldfish	\$100
Baby Grand Champion Goldfish	\$50
Novice Exhibitor – (Exhibitor is showing goldfish for the first time)	N/A
Best in Size - Mature*, Young**	\$100
Best Oranda *	\$25
Best Oranda **	\$25
Best Ryukin *	\$25
Best Ryukin **	\$25
Best Ranchu/Lionhead *	\$25
Best Ranchu/Lionhead **	\$25
Best Eye-growth *	\$25
Best Eye-growth **	\$25
Best Pearlscale *	\$25
Best Pearlscale **	\$25
Best Single-tailed *	\$25
Best Single-tailed **	\$25
Best Wakin/Jikin *	\$25
Best Wakin/Jikin **	\$25
Best Special Varieties *	\$25
Best Special Varieties **	\$25

\* young — under 3 inches  
 \*\* adult— over 3 inches



Our hosts Steve & Laura Castel and V.P. Michael Anderson visit during lunch. Thanks again, Steve & Laura.

(Continued from page 5)

the waterfall into the gravel. This type of pond might be a good choice for those that want a more natural looking landscaping device that minimizes the risks of ponds of water around small children or pets. Here is an example of a water feature installation: [http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl\\_design\\_water\\_features/article/0,,HGTV\\_3575\\_5239752,00.html](http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl_design_water_features/article/0,,HGTV_3575_5239752,00.html)

**Water Garden:**

This type of pond is also a landscaping device that is primarily about growing and presenting aquatic plants, hence the name water garden. Smaller ornamental fish, such as the many varieties of goldfish, can make a great complement to the plants. The goldfish is a highly adaptable creature, living in shallow water of minimal quality and quite happy in a water garden setting. Their small size and hardy nature allow them to live among the plants with only a small filter or waterfall and moderately running water to provide for oxygen needs and ammonia removal. Water gardens with sloped sides and depths of 10 inches to 36 inches are fine. And water turn over as infrequent as six times a day should be adequate to keep one goldfish per 20-25 gallons of water. These hardy fish require only minimal care and are well suited for the average water garden. Here is an example of a water garden installation: [http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl\\_design\\_water\\_features/article/0,1785,HGTV\\_3575\\_1388521,00.html](http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl_design_water_features/article/0,1785,HGTV_3575_1388521,00.html)

**Koi Pond**

This type of pond is one that is designed to grow and display ni-shikigoi, commonly called koi. Note that in this description I did not say a koi pond is a landscaping device that happens to contain koi.. While a koi pond can indeed be build in a variety of different styles and shapes, it is first and foremost a home for large fish. So a koi pond is an environment for growing and displaying koi. Koi are riverine carp and are much larger than their cousins the goldfish. While a gold fish will be typically grown at 4-8" long, koi will commonly be 24" long with some koi growing to over 36". Note I said koi are riverine carp. That means they do best in larger ponds with at least 4' depths (more is better). While 20-25 gallon is adequate for a goldfish, each koi should be allocated at least 250 gallons (more is better). Bottom drains and skimmer send the pond water to external filter systems. The filter systems are needed to handle the significant levels of waste produced by these large carp. To provide such fish with a suitable home, koi ponds have vertical walls with depths of 4' to 8' (deeper is better). Another aspect of emulating a river is to provide current. The currents can be provided by columns of air rising from the bottom drain domes. The currents cause gas exchange

(Continued on page 9)

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Treasurer's Report - Year End 2007				
by Stephen Castel		(01/01/07 thru 12/31/07)		
Code #	Income Categories:		2007 Budget Amount	2007 Actual Amount
2100	Club Store		\$8,150.00	\$ 9,729.00
2200	Flower Show		\$0.00	\$0.00
2300	Koi Show		\$16,346.00	\$11,171.91
2400	Koi Auction		\$12,000.00	\$13,041.25
2500	Misc.		\$8,707.00	\$35,925.78
	2510	Donation	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
	2595	Transferring Funds	\$8,000.00	\$25,504.00
2600	Pond Tour		\$2,750.00	\$ 1,045.00
2700	Membership		\$3,530.00	\$ 6,119.04
3000	No Category		\$0.00	\$ 56.59
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>\$51,483.00</b>	<b>\$77,088.57</b>
Expense Categories:				
090	AKCA Seminar		\$0.00	\$0.00
100	AKCA		\$100.00	\$ 100.00
200	Club Store		\$19,300.00	\$16,545.22
300	Flower Show		\$0.00	\$0.00
400	Insurance		\$950.00	\$ 901.00
500	Koi Show		\$16,020.00	\$12,387.34
600	Koi Auction		\$9,400.00	\$10,065.25
700	Misc.		\$2,900.00	\$ 2,250.06
800	Newsletter		\$500.00	\$ 119.42
900	Pond Tour		\$1,850.00	\$ 1,182.92
1000	Raffles		\$1,025.00	\$ 143.55
1100	Rent		\$0.00	\$0.00
1200	Donations		\$225.00	\$ 2,000.00
1250	Advertising		\$1,000.00	\$0.00
1300	Membership		\$1,500.00	\$ 1,151.98
1400	Bank Charges		\$60.00	\$25,635.83
	1490	Transferring Funds	\$0.00	\$25,504.00
1999	Not Categorized		\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$54,830.00</b>	<b>\$72,482.57</b>
<b>NET BUDGET TOTAL</b>			<b>(\$3,347.00)</b>	<b>\$ 4,606.00</b>



January meeting pictures



Budget Report continues on page 9