

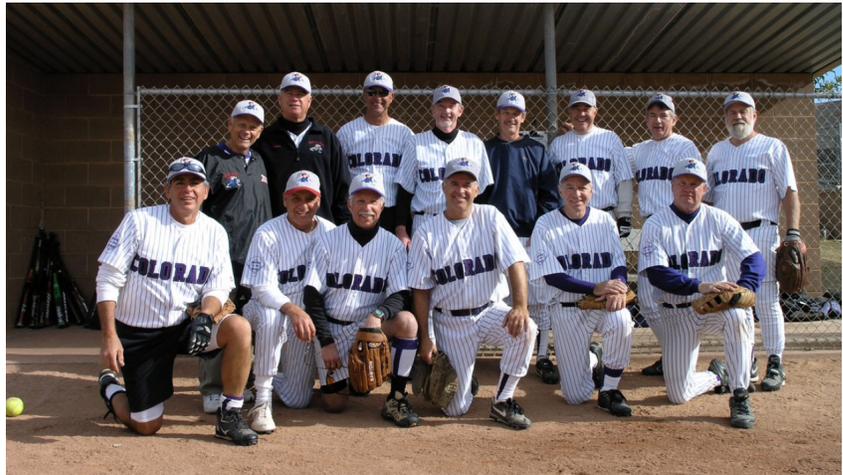
# SCRAP IRON *Softball*

## Quote of the Month

By Mike Massong

Quote from Denny Cheatum who many of us old timers played ball with. " The top half of the players in the lineup are very comparable to any team you may play against as far as hitting goes. It is the bottom half of the lineup that many times makes the difference on whether you win or lose a game".

You can complain that roses have thorns... or you can rejoice that thorns have roses.



### The Legacy of a team

It has come to my attention and quite a surprise, the history of possibly one of the longest running teams in Scrap Iron history.

**The Scrap Iron Diamonds** (Pictured above). We are guessing this picture was taken in 2006. Just



look at those young studs !! Look at this fellow on the left (Bart Prieve) (*check his ID*) no way this young kid is over 50 !! I have reached out to several trying to identify everyone in the picture, unfortunately there are a few we just can't ID. If you can help ID these players please contact me and I will reprint the photo in the next edition complete with names.

The Scrap Iron Diamonds were originally started by Jerry Reedy under the name "Diamonds in the Rough". Over the years the team was managed by Steve Lents, Dennis LaBlanc, and Larry Alma. In 2009 Bart Prieve took over until 2013 when TheDiamonds split into two teams, Terry Goodrich took over the 60's Diamonds and Bart ran the 65 Diamonds. The 2013 60's Diamonds had one of the most



## Ask Billy the Bat Boy

Billy is an expert in all things softball, He is an anonymous member of our club and is anxious to answer your questions. Here's two:

**Dear Billy, If a hot Miken Bat is rated at 120/ft. Sec. and the pitcher is 60 feet away with a 60 year old nervous system that has slowed to 3ft./ Sec. with a wind blowing from home plate @ 15 mph. How much dental insurance does he need? Signed, Old Fart Pitcher.**

**Dear Old Fart, He needs no insurance... "don't be stupid wear a mask!" Billy**

**Dear Billy, I used to love playing in the wood bat tournament here in a Denver a few years ago, do you think it will ever come back? Signed, Love wood Bats.**

**Dear Love, yes it can "close your eyes, click your heels together three times and say I wish for a wood bat tournament three times." Or... why don't you organize one there are plenty of readers here who will help! Billy**

**Tip from Billy: Good players inspire themselves. Great players inspire others.**

successful seasons ever. They won 4 major tournaments - Southwest, Texas, Midwest and Rocky Mtn Championships. "We started the year playing in the Mayors Tourney in Kona, Hawaii.

It was one of those magical years that will probably never be duplicated," says Terry. Under Bart's direction the team won SSUSA Worlds in Phoenix in 2010 (pictured below). In 2016 Terry and myself (Art) stepped in as co coaches with Bart. For the 2017 season Bart moved up to play 70's and Terry went on to form the Scrap Iron 5280 team, 60's Majors. I took over the duties of team manager in 2017, in 2018 Terry's 5280 team moved down to triple A and soon I'm sure we will be facing each other in a tournament, hopefully it will be a championship game.

### 2010 Scrap Iron Diamonds 60's world champions



**Legacy of a team cont.**

My plans are to stay with the Diamonds ( keep the legacy alive) and hopefully when the time is right move the team up to 70's keeping our roster intact. As the proud manager of the current Diamonds I would like to thank Bart Prieve for trusting in me to take over his team, I would also like to thank Dennis LeBlanc, also a previous manager of the Diamonds, for befriending me with many encouraging words when I first joined Scrap Iron. I unfortunately I have not yet met Jerry Reedy I understand from many who know him he is a great guy. I personally feel extremely honored to be managing the Diamonds, even *more* now that I find I'm connected with such great men who managed the Diamonds before me. Now that's a Legacy I'm proud of. Art Graebe

**Pictured below is the proud 2018 Scrap Iron Diamonds**



*Front row : Joe LaRoue, Marce Leija, Norm Freedman, Andy Jaramillo, Charlie Powell, Rob Minner, Jesus Bencomo, Art Graebe. Back row: John Parisi, Randy Drenning, Cliff DeKnikker, Gary Foster, Mick Roemer, Kelly Hallman.*

**Softball memories**

By, Fran Dowell, SSUSA Executive Director

I've been very fortunate to have so many wonderful memories, it is hard to come up with two... but here goes.

No. 1

Was my induction into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) as part of the Class of 2015 in the Director Category, during the opening ceremony of the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas. As many of you know, I'm very rarely at a loss for words. I was taken back seeing my family and friends, as well as my softball friends in the stands. I didn't have words. It is a memory that I will treasure forever.

No. 2

In Raleigh, North Carolina at the 2009 Eastern National Championships.

A player (Charlie) had a massive heart attack, and Michael Boone (National Director), Dave Dowell (National Director) and I were able to perform CPR. It took Charlie a long time to recover while in the hospital, but he thankfully survived. His wife later sent me a note saying there truly are **"angels in the outfield."** Charlie promised he would see me again, and flew to Phoenix for the World Championships. He was unable to play, but we had him in the Opening Day Parade. It is one of my most treasured memories of my life, being able to save someone's life and see them again



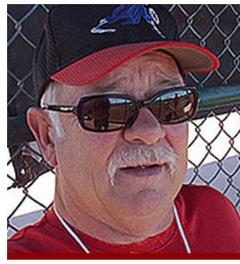
Fran, being inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame. On Fran's right is her son, Christopher, on her left her daughter, Kelly and far left her husband Dave



Phil Field.



Ken Green.



Murl Skalla.



Bob Wiltgen



Bob Gryzmala & wife Jean.



Jerry Reidy & wife Sonja

### Our Founding Fathers, update

With so many new members joining our club I feel it's extremely important to remember with thankfulness and respect for our clubs history. First I would like to publicly thank Bob Wiltgen for the background of our founding fathers, this again is why we must not forget, and keep our history alive, for many years we have shown four founders, Bob Wiltgen, Ken Green, Phil Field, & Murl Skalla, now it comes to our attention we have two additional founding fathers that were right there along side the others with just as much input and financial support. Jerry Reedy and Bob Gryzmala please accept our apologies for not mentioning you in our last issue. I am so glad that with a little more digging we have discovered your involvement. Please know you will be added and remembered in all future mentions of our clubs past. This editor wants for every member of the Scrap Iron club to be proud of our legacy, be respectful to our club and feel a close bond between members. Competitive sports sometimes can bring out the worst in people, I believe the brotherhood of our members can over come this. After all we are old guys still playing a game we love.

With many thanks to you, our founders, you have started a softball club that has grown into the largest softball club in America we have gained much respect from Senior Softball USA as well as other softball clubs and suppliers. It is with great satisfaction that just this past week the executive board has voted unanimously to accept a new team into or club which is forming for 85 plus players. Without your organization and planning for our future, senior softball would not be as big in Colorado as it is today.

**Please read stories below.** I asked Arlen to send me something for next months newsletter, he send me two articles that were so good I couldn't wait until next month. Arlen is one of our pioneers in Colorado senior softball. It is sure good here from him, I loved playing ball with Arlen, what a gentleman and wonderful teammate. He is by far the best pitcher I have ever played with, and if you know Arlen you also know he can hit the ball! Thank you Arlen for the memories, your number 1 in my book! Art

## A Lifetime of Softball

By Arlen Amundson



I started playing softball at Lowry Air Force Base In 1959, then with Martin Co, then Hewlett Packard, playing at Island Grove, Mountain View, city park In Ft. Collins, Pioneer Park In Cheyenne, and Garden Acres with outstanding teams from Greeley, McDoy's, K- Bar, D&J's with Billy Bragg, Jack Lewis, Myron Long, Rickets, Hertske, Gettman and Cheatum. And the Gentry brothers from Sterling. Also Mind Imprint teams from Loveland with Gary Nation, also Medexico, GoJo Sports and County Cork, and also Sekich and Bill Walters.

Then With Murl Skalla and Kenny Green and all the teams at Softball country. We played in the rain in Orlando, snow at Peterson AFB, wind in Billings and whatever else came up including a field full of flying crickets in Dallas. In 1992 Scrap Iron, with Kenny and Murl, Gordie Leford, Tom Grubbs, Bob Gryzmala, Jerry Reidy, Billy Nero, Bill Brown and many others. We started a 50 age group team but didn't have enough for a 55 age group after a year or so, so Kenny, Grubby and I

played for Skinny Dugan's from Las Vegas. We actually flew there just for practices. Our Scrap Iron teams with help from guys from Texas, Az., and Florida won our share of gold at the Huntsman games and I remember when we were in Vegas and I went to breakfast at the motel and Phil Field told me they flew a plane into one of the towers and we watched as another one hit the second tower. We toured the Grassy Knoll and School Book Depository in Dallas. On one trip Gryzmala and I played cribbage in the back seat from Denver to Des Moines and I don't think we saw Lincoln or Omaha. I played with Dennis Lutz and many of the guys from Longmont, and also Colorado Springs, and Evergreen, but I was impressed with Gordie Ledford who had to drive to practices and games from Ft. Morgan. I've had many friends in softball and I wish I would have had more time to say goodbye to Kenny Green, Murl Skalla, Phil Field and Dar, so the next time you see your friends and teammates make your handshakes a little firmer, your hugs a little longer, your smiles and laughter bigger and longer and more often. SCRAP IRON is one of a kind and we owe a lot to the group that started it all. Thanks to all the guys I played with and against for the chance to call you a teammate and a FRIEND. And thank your wives and families for letting you play while they had to spend vacation time at ball parks!!!

Our 2008 Scrap Iron 70's team was made up of a lot of guys who probably weren't picked to win the Rocking Reno tourney but we hung in there and kept winning. We got to the last batter in the championship game just needing one more out to win the World Championship. I pitched the ball and the batter lofted a fly ball to left and Phil Field camped under it and we were champs. I threw my glove high in the air and ran out and hugged Phil ( I think I kissed him on the cheek). And we all celebrated and we had a chance to get a World Championship Ring. Whether they did or not I reminded them that there were only 13 or 14 guys in the whole world that could get this ring and it might be our only chance we as a team would have and we should do it. Some of the guys on the team were, Ken Green, Phil Field, Jerry Reidy, Ray Heisler, Chuck Gomez, Don Burkhardt, Miles County, Neil Kvern, Dean Neff, Bill Flemin, Fred Mattos, Ron Ammerman and I probably missed a few. All Scrap Iron Champions Should remember that they belong to a small group that can make that claim to fame. What a great bunch of guys that gave it their all for Scrap Iron.

## My Scrap Iron Story By Rob Minner

Thanks to the encouragement and support of my good friend, Bob Gryzmala, I'm into my 10th year of playing softball with the Scrap Iron club. My enjoyment for the game started back in the 1960s when I played Little League baseball in eastern Pennsylvania. The coach decided to keep me in the outfield and I've come to enjoy the challenge of catching fly balls ever since. I wasn't good enough to make the high school team but did play one year of American Legion ball before entering the Air Force. That led to playing fast pitch softball on our squadron teams and company sponsored teams in city recreation leagues. Slow pitch came on the scene and our church sponsored a team that was in the leisure division which I played in for many years. My love for the game and being in the outfield never diminished.

I didn't think I was good enough to play at the tournament level that the SI teams did. But Bob encouraged me to give it a try sharing that was the reason he helped get the club started. You didn't have to be a superstar, only a strong desire to play the game. He mentioned with the different levels the chance of getting on the right team was very possible. So, for the last ten years I've had the pleasure of playing on the Phiten, Diamonds, Freedom, Rockies and Reds teams. It has given me the opportunity to develop many lasting friendships. Looking back, the highlight has to be our SI Diamonds AA team winning the world championship in Phoenix in 2010. Lord willing, I hope to be playing SI softball for many years to come.

Thank you Bob and all the founding fathers for making possible a way for an average player like me the opportunity to continue playing a game I love and at such a competitive level. Some dreams do come true.

Rob at his first Scrap Iron tournament  
In Reno, playing for Scrap Iron Phiten  
2009



**Great Moments of a Senior Softball Career,**

We get enormous joy from playing a kid’s game that makes most of us ache for days after playing six, eight, or ten games at a tournament. After nearly fifteen years of Scrap Iron softball and playing in most parts of the country, I’ve taken time to think about why I do it. The answer is that I’ve always played with wonderful guys, and the games generate lots of great memories.

Everyone probably shares my experience of playing with great guys, so that part of your personal experience is probably the same as mine. However, the specific memories we each have are obviously different. Memories that have stuck with me run the gamut from being the hero, and goat, success, and lack of success, fun, and more fun.

I’ve had the good fortune of playing on Two SSUSA World Tournament winners, One SPA World Tournament winner and one of the Club’s two winners of the SSUSA Triple Grand Slam, **yet It’s amazing to me that failures which I laugh about are at the top of my list of memories.** Coming in at number three is hitting into a bases loaded triple play! I’m in select company with that one. I don’t remember if we won or lost the game so it only strikes my funny bone when I think about it. No remorse, just a funny memory.

My number two and number one memories are my try at copying Jose Canseco. At number two is tipping a fly ball that was staying in the park off my glove and over the fence. Instead of an inning ending out, it was a three-run home run. At number one is getting hit in the back of the head by a fly ball to the outfield. You’ve got the picture, I needed to turn and find the ball. If I could have combined number one and two, maybe I would have been on Sports Center with Jose. In case you’re too young to remember, Jose once bounced a fly ball off his head and over the outfield fence.

Yes, it’s been great fun and funny at the same time.

Kenny Green had it right when he said, “You don’t stop playing, because you get old. You get old, because you stop playing.”

Anonymous Scrap Iron Member,

**Can you guess who this is?** Please send me your guesses, if your right you might win a prize... maybe an all expense paid trip to Schafer park!

**We are up !**



**Total monies received from our grocery card program this year is \$2,083.00, that’s up \$232.00 from this time last year. Keep up the good work**

**COACHES A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

**Reminder for all coaches to get their rosters in to both Jimmy and Rick Keller so that we can get the email blast going to everybody including the new players that we have on the various teams!!**

**Tournament Results**

**Scrap Iron Xplosion** took 2nd place in 60 AAA in Las Vegas.

We started 4-0 and ended up playing 9 games (4 on Sunday)

First game we were down 4 runs in the top of the 7th and scored 11 runs and then hung on to win it as the visitors by one run. Second game we came from behind in the last two innings scoring 12 runs to win, again as visitors. This became our theme for the weekend in the big games. The game for 3rd place, we (visitors again) never led until the top of the seventh, where we took a mighty one run lead and then got the other team to pop up twice and hit a home run for an out. Then in the game to secure no worse than 2nd place, we never led until the eight inning (we were visitors again). We tied the game in the 7th and they did not score, leaving the winning run on third base. Then in the 8th we scored 4 and held them to win a nail biter again. It was one of those tournaments where no matter what the lead was by the other team, we felt like if we could get close and just take a lead then we just might win it.

A shout out to our outfielders who played every inning and did the majority of the courtesy running.

They are warriors (Barry Jark, Gregg Pearson, Arlis Bader, Ed Dilley\_

All tournaments went to Dan (Master) Silvey, Barry (Waffle House) Jark, John (Sloop) Bellatti and Andy (Pres) Shapiro

A special shout out to Kathy Pearson for great bookkeeping for all 7 games and fans Nanette and Alice.

**Pictured below Scrap Iron Xplosion**



**Scrap Iron Alliance** recently completed Texas State Championship. We went 1-1 in pool play and 1-2 in the bracket. We were the #5 seed and beat the #4 seed. Then we lost to the #1 seed and dropped the next game to finish 5th place. The top hitters for the weekend were Will Connor .762, John Karagiannes .737, and Manny Collado .733. On a side note Sammy Cofield was struck above the left eye one a hot shot to SS. He is facing some serious surgery for the two broken and still has no vision in his left eye, please keep him in your prayers.

**Scrap Iron Diamonds** went 1-4 in the Las Vegas tournament, we are a continual blessing to those Southern California teams, for some reason they love to beat up on us. The good news is we shook off a lot more of our winter rust and played reasonably well, we are excited about going to Reno next month.

**Scrap Iron 5280** we were 6-1, only lost the Championship game, and beat No Guts No Glory 2 out of 3. Team batting average was .679 with 6 guys over 750 and 9 home runs.

**Pictured below the 2018 Southwest Champions, Las Vegas**



**Just look at all those happy faces, that's why we do what we do!**

**Scrap Iron Heavy Metal** (60AAA) scored 114 runs in 5 games, batted .682 as a team and still came away with a 2 and 4 record (won one by forfeit). We led in 3 of our 5 games going into the bottom of 7 and let all three slip away due to some pretty stout hitting from their opponents. We did manage revenge against Baker Boys (winners in St George). We will get our LCF, RCF and Pitcher back for El Paso and are planning to dominate there. Hats off to Kelly Hallman for batting .833, Bruce Brothis .826, Pete Ayotte and Don DiFiore for a combined 5 jacks and 31 RBIs (they both hit .762) and Jimmy Fiala with a real nice .714 at the plate.

**SCRAP IRON 3N2 70 MAJOR TEAM - VEGAS**

We did great the first day and ended up as the number 2 seed out of 14 teams. On the second day we ran into a buzz saw with the "Ponchos" team. They were hot and used up all 6 of their home runs

and also hit many off the fence. "Ponchos" was the tournament championship. After that we lost the next 2 games. Seeing we were short 3 outfielders and 2 infielders we did as well as possible. I want to recognize a few players that stepped it up in the tournament. Orville Strain, Stan Suichta, and Len Mykland, I would also like to thank Terry Goodrich and Mike Edwards because without them being there we could not have even played. There was also a sighting of Bill Nero at the tournament. He kept score for us and offered me his guidance at times.

**Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder** 55s came to within one inning of winning the "If" game in the 55 Major bracket this past weekend in Las Vegas. We did it the hard way, losing the second bracket game before winning 7 games in a row, including the first championship game on Sunday. With temperatures topping out in the low 90s, we played 5 games on Sunday, only to come up short in the last game, 35-25.

All Tournament Team members, as voted by their teammates, were **Steve Antonczyk, Jack Donnelly, Chris McTigue and Tim Terrell**. This was a fun tournament. In the first bracket game we lost, we came back from a 15-run deficit in the bottom of the 7th only to lose it in the 8th, 40-32. Then we sent 6 teams home and won 7 straight "must win" games.

**Below pictured Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder**



**Scrap Iron Mile High** (55 AA) made its debut in Vegas. Sporting the red/white/blue camo jerseys in our maiden game we had barely finished team introductions, when we discovered we were getting clobbered 20-10 after 4 innings. With nothing to lose and no aspirations of glory, we decided to pull 2nd base and go with a 5-man outfield. Somehow it worked, and on the strength of an 18 run open inning, we pulled out our first win 38-25 over a stunned Las Vegas team. Offensively we will be OK this year as we scored 145 runs in 6 games. However our defense is still a work in progress. We finished 3-3 for the tournament with a solid foundation for our next tournament in El Paso.



**Darrell "Skip" Walker. 11-16-1944 to 4-1-2018**

On April first, Easter Sunday, Darrell "Skip" Walker passed away after a long battle with Pancreatic Cancer. "Skip" was well know by Scrap iron players as a great player and person. "Skip" could do it all. Hitting for both power and average, Excellent fielder with a good arm, and a runner who not only ran for himself but also others on the team. He was also a great, fun loving, person.

Skip played on a number of Scrap Iron teams and on the Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday Leagues. Most recently he was on the Scrap Iron 3n2 70 Major Team. Skip won many MVP awards and is in the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame.

Skip was a great athlete. Many do not know it, but he had a Football Scholarship to CSU when he was young. His wife Linda was always at his side and is one of Scrap Irons finest cheerleaders. I've had the pleasure of playing alongside Skip, and also as his coach. The ultimate player to coach and play with as he would do all he could for the team. A total team player who never complained.

About 5 years ago Skip hit a walk off Grand Slam to help us win a game in Reno and move us forward in the tournament. Some of the players said to Skip "great job, you won it for us". Skip's reply was "no, I scored one run, it was the guys on base that won it". "If they weren't on base it would have been a solo homer". That was the way Skip Walker was, as a person, and how he played the game he loved.

Last fall in Phoenix was his last tournament. I told him that he could play as much as he wanted to in the field.

After a few games he approached me and said he could do no more to help the team on the field. He then said he would coach third base and enthusiastically helped us score runs.

I have already had other teams asking about "Skip" and giving their condolences. Softball players and their families across the nation knew and loved him.

He is now in heaven playing for the big coach upstairs. He will not disappoint him as he never disappointed anyone who he was associated with.

Mike Massong



**Harry Jackson Newman, III died at age 89 on 12/31/2017 in Aurora, CO after a five-year struggle with leiomyosarcoma. Most recently he had lived in Heather Gardens in Aurora, CO.**

Harry was born in Zanesville, OH in 1928. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry Jackson Newman Jr and Mildred Virginia Pryor Newman. He is survived by his brother William Newman of Boyne City, MI, his sister Mary Alice Thornton of Palo

Alto, CA, his cousin Jared Miller of Canyon City, CO, and by four children, Linda Newman (Lon Coleman), Nancy Newman (George Boatwright), John Newman and Paul Newman (Donna Newman). His three grandchildren Mary, Madeline, and Lucas Boatwright will also miss him. He is also mourned by his dear friend, Carol George, who supported him greatly during his cancer treatments.

Harry grew up in Zanesville, OH, and Troy, OH where he graduated from high school. He moved with his family to Denver, CO in 1946 and attended the University of Colorado. He was proud of the fact that he

supported himself through college and graduated with a business degree in 1951. Soon after graduation, he completed U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and served as a Lieutenant in the US Navy in the Korean War, stationed on an LSM (Landing Ship Medium). After an honorable discharge from the Navy, he worked in management positions for Ralston Purina and Martin Marietta.

Harry received his MBA in 1965 from the University of Denver and went on to have a successful career in personnel management for Archer Daniels Midland and Ashland Oil. He retired from Ashland Oil in 1983 and moved back to Denver in 1986.

Harry always relished athletics. He was an avid handball player and ballroom dancer much of his adult life. He was a football quarterback in high school, and played for the University of Colorado baseball team. Harry was a baseball catcher, a demanding position, and continued being a catcher well into his 60's in leagues for 30 and older players. He enjoyed playing senior softball in his 70's and 80's, winning several tournaments including World Championships, U.S. National Championships and the Senior Olympics in various age groups. Playing softball, often acting as Manager of the team, was one of his deepest passions and he never tired of the game's strategy. His teams included Scrap Iron, Denver Blue Jays, Secure Horizons Silver Streaks, and the Kaiser Permanente senior softball team. Harry was inducted into the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame as a manager and also won several individual medals at the state level (Colorado) in the Senior Games and participated in national Senior Olympic competitions.