

Scrap Iron News
January 25, 2015

It Was a Very Good Night

Our annual Scrap Iron banquet was Saturday, January 24th at the Franciscan Event Center in Centennial. It was another big night of celebration for Club members. The venue and food were excellent, and many thanks go to our banquet co-chairs, Dennis LeBlanc and Bob DeGroot.

Our Master of Ceremonies for the evening was a relative newcomer to the Club, Mike Ebbing. Mike was on his game and added great insight into our passion, with statements like, "Ernie Banks just passed away. He played his entire career with the Cubs trying to get to a single World Series. He would have loved to have one of our World Championship rings!

Most Valuable Player or Person (MVP)

MVP Awards were great fun as usual. Many of the recipients were surprised by their selection and the reactions were as Master Card would say, "PRICELESS."

The 2014 MVP recipients were:

80 Scrappers	Ron Ammerman and Neil Kvern
80 Gray Berets	David Bray
75s	Glenwood "Monty" Phillips
70 Legacy	Bob Ross
70 Force	Harry Elenbaas
65 Phiten	Mike Edwards
65 Classics	Original Classics of 2013-2014
65 Diamonds	Bart Prieve
65 Reds	Bob Sims
60 Freedom	George Wise
60 Legends	David Maestas
60 Diamonds	Terry Goodrich
55 Rockies	Jim Casswell and Andy Jaramillo
55 Coyotes	Charley Mylander
55 Rocky Mountain Thunder	Mark Troxel and Mark Haupt
50 Rocky Mountain Thunder	Tommy Edwards
50 Moore Plumbing	Randy Strandberg

Scrap Iron Hall of Fame

Our Hall of Fame expanded from 38 to 42 with the induction of four new members. Mike Massong, Chairman of our Hall of Fame Committee related the great achievements of the four recipients. The responses from the inductees demonstrated the magnitude of the honor. Art Graebe was quite humbled by the efforts of his daughter and two of his teammates to come from out of state to share the evening with him. Skip Walker and his wife Linda drove from the Phoenix area just to be with his Phiten team and receive his award.

The 2014 Hall of Fame inductees were:

Old Timer Category	Gordy Ledford
Player Category	Skip Walker
Manager Category	Ron Howard
Special Category	Art Graebe

Ken Green Award

The Club's annual award for service to the Club was presented for the first time to two individuals. Our treasurer, Jim Casswell, and Past President, Alan Wiechmann both thank everyone in the Club the recognition.

Fund Raising

The night was also a great night for our Club budget. There was a \$1,000 matching gift offer which was exceeded with contributions during the evening. The raffle and silent auction were fun and raised in excess of \$2,500. Many thanks go to the contributors and purchasers.

Banquet Photos

During the evening Jack Eberhard took numerous pictures. They can be seen at Jack's website, <http://www.jacksactionshots.com/Senior-Softball/Scrap-Iron-from-2005-to> . If you see a great shot, you can purchase the photo from Jack.

Award winners will be receiving a print that will be given to their manger at the February Board meeting. Thanks, Jack for spending your evening taking pictures, and providing prints.

Upcoming Board Meeting

The Scrap Iron Board and Executive Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 7th at 900 S. Broadway, Denver. The major decision to be made at the meeting is the team budgets for 2015.

It's Time to Pay Our Dues

Teams must submit their dues prior to receiving any payments for entry fees or uniforms. Let's get this step behind us so our coaches and Club treasurer can focus on more interesting work.

Send your \$195 check (\$102.50 for those 75 and older this year) made out to Scrap Iron Softball Club to your coach ASAP.

Every Club member is receiving a King Soopers or Safeway gift card loaded for \$10 as part of their dues. You will also receive a short note on to reload the cards. We need more participation in this program that costs us nothing in time or money, yet pays the Club 5% on everything you buy including gasoline at King Soopers, Safeway, and their affiliates. Approximately 40 active participants in 2014 generated over \$6,000 for the Club. Just an average of three new participants per team could raise team budgets by \$600. I've heard coaches of several teams remark that they need new or additional uniforms. Using the gift cards can help that happen without sacrificing any tournaments.

Top Gun SSUSA Winter Classic

Three Scrap Iron teams, 55 Rocky Mountain Thunder, 65 Phiten, and 65 Diamonds, went west for the first tournament of the calendar year, January 8-11 in Menifee, CA. This may be the earliest in a year that a Scrap Iron team has ever played. The weather was great for the 65s, but rain interrupted the younger teams playing on Saturday and Sunday. From my personal perspective, it felt great playing softball in January in 70 degree temperatures.

Our Club members did a lot of promoting of the two Aurora tournaments this summer and we seem to be making progress. The Top Gun Club still has four teams planning to play in the Rocky Mountain Championships, and two additional 65 teams are making plans for Aurora, one each in SPA and SSUSA events.

Tournament of Champions (TOC)

Our 55 Rocky Mountain Thunder, and 60 Freedom are trying to become the first Scrap Iron team to win this prestigious tournament. Jack Eberhard takes pictures for SSUSA at their major events. He also takes high school sports pictures for Channel 9. While talking to his Channel 9 contact, he mentioned that he would be in Florida taking pictures at the TOC and that two Scrap Iron teams would be competing. Channel 9 offered to post the Rocky Mountain Thunder and Freedom pictures on the Channel 9 News website. Let's see some great catches so everyone can see that Seniors still have some game!

Alan Wiechmann

A Message from Our President

Welcome to the 2015 Scrap Iron season.

Thank You to those who attended the Banquet this year and those who could not maybe next year! A special thanks to Dennis LeBlanc and his committee for a great venue and meal. I think those that attended the Banquet can agree that it was a wonderful evening of friendship. I would like to add my congratulations to each Team's MVP selections, SI Hall of Fame inductees, Dennis Lutz and Don Pierson for being inducted into National Senior Softball Hall of Fame and the Ken Green Award winners, Jim Casswell and Alan Wiechmann.

As many of you know, each year in early February the Board (made up of each team's manager) reviews our budget projections to determine the amount of money available for each of our teams for the coming season. As a group we rely on several factors for these projections. SI is very fortunate to have several major contributors that account for approximately 25% of our budget. In addition, monies from all of our dues, raffles and contributions to meet a matching funds donation at the banquet and such programs as the bat program (thanks Mike) and merchandise sales (thanks Lil and Larry) account for another significant portion of the budget.

The remaining portion of the projected budget has to be made up in other ways. Last year the grocery card program raised over \$6000 to increase team budgets. While very significant, this was accomplished for the most part by less than one quarter of our membership. Those members and their families deserve a very heartfelt thanks.

I want to re-emphasize the grocery card program and how to make the most of it not only for the club but also for your family if you use a credit card that gets points etc. While I hope everybody participates, by just doubling our overall participation it can provide more monies for each team to be used for entry fees, uniforms, etc. and makes meeting the proposed budget that much easier. One last thought on this subject, these cards can be used by family, friends, even neighbors as long as they keep reloading the card the Club will get our 5%....

Again welcome to the 2015 season let's all stay healthy and have fun while representing the largest and best Senior Softball organization in the World!

Best of luck to the Teams heading for the TOC, bring back some hardware.

If you have any feedback about the any of these discussions please feel free to let me know.

Andy

303-805-9678

andyshapiro@msn.com

A Message from Our Fund Raising Chairman



Leaving money to the Club

I know it can be difficult to think about what happens to our assets when we pass, but it something we all need to consider. When doing my estate planning recently, I considered making a specific bequest to the Scrap Iron Softball Club, which can be done very easily in a Will or Trust.

An alternative that I found more attractive is to name the Scrap Iron Softball Club as one (partial) beneficiary of my IRA. This is a very tax efficient idea I believe, because the amount left to the Club qualifies as an estate tax charitable reduction AND will also pass tax-free to the Club. Any part of an IRA left to individuals (like my sons) will result in income tax when withdrawn just as it does for withdrawals I make, so it's better to leave other assets to the kids and use my IRA to benefit the Club and/or other charitable organizations.

To name beneficiaries for my IRA, I contacted the trustee, and obtained the beneficiary form. I was able to fill it out with no difficulty. I specified several beneficiaries with percentages of the IRA to be given to each, including the Scrap Iron Softball Club. If needed, (my trustee didn't need this) you can specify the Club address as: "Treasurer Scrap Iron Softball at www.scrapironsoftball.com."

I understand that there are additional ways to leave money to the Club, but they all seemed more complicated.

However you choose to do it, please consider leaving something the Club to sustain it after you leave this earth.

Bart Prieve