

**Scrap Iron Softball Club
Celebrating
Ten Years of Excellence
August 31, 2014**

Four Scrap Iron Winners at Rocky Mountain Championships (RMC)

The 70 Legacy, 70 Force, 65 Phiten, and 60 Freedom won their divisions at the RMC. Fifteen of the Club's 17 teams were entered. No one entered the 80s division so our two Scrap Iron 80s teams sat this one out. Second place finishes went to the 50 Rocky Mountain Thunder, 50 Moore Plumbing, 55 Rocky Mountain Thunder, 55 Coyotes, 60 Legends, 65 Diamonds, 65 Classics, and the 75s. In the 65 AAA division, Scrap Iron teams swept the top three places with Phiten, Diamonds, and Reds finishing first, second, and third respectively.

The tournament grew from 41 to 51 teams this year. It appears that once we get teams to Colorado they find that the RMC is a great tournament at a top venue. The tournament will be even better with more teams, and we are working on ways to get teams entered next year from new markets.



2014 Rocky Mountain Championships - 65 AAA Champions, Scrap Iron Phiten

Back Row – Mark Solloway, Ed, Jerry Malberg, Mike Edwards, Ron Hefner, Alan Wiechmann, Skip Walker, Dick Schimmels; Front Row – Mike Massong, Stan Suichta, Greg Broeckelman, Ken Hiatt, Tom Reynolds, Don Carpenter; missing – Mel Vanek

Let's Go to San Diego

If you looked at the list of teams at the RMC, it's nearly void of California teams, i.e. only one this year. We are the largest senior softball travel club in the country. The Top Gun Softball Club of San Diego may be the second largest club with nine teams. I have been in discussions with their President, Kevin Evans, about getting Top Gun teams to the RMC. Each January, the Top Gun Club co-hosts the TOP Gun SSUSA Winter Classic. Last January, I proposed to the Top Club that we would support their 2015 Top Gun Winter Classic if they would support our 2015 Rocky Mountain Championships. At our January Scrap Iron Board meeting, our coaches supported the idea. Kevin Evans has since made the proposal to the Top Gun Board, and their response was: "*As an Association, we are going to push for the teams to attend your tournament instead of Rock-n-Reno.*"

Their tournament while not a TOC qualifier appears to have comparable participation to the RMC, Midwest Championships, Northern Championships, Texas State Championships, etc. Last year there were 46 teams with entries at every age level through the 80s. It's a two day tournament with the 65s thru 80s playing Thursday, and Friday, and the 50s, 55s, and 60s playing Saturday, and Sunday.

The 2015 dates aren't published yet, but it will probably be January 8-11, or January 15-18. **It's up to Scrap Iron to step up first in this exchange.** *What could be better than January softball in San Diego?*

I hope that 6-8 of our teams can find a way to put the Top Gun Winter Classic in their 2015 schedule. Please start promoting this tournament among players on your team. We have to step up first and trust that Top Gun will have 6-8 teams at the RMC.

Midwest Championships End in a Rainout

Three Scrap Iron teams went to Shawnee, Kansas for the Midwest Championships. The 55 Moore Plumbing, 60 Diamonds, and 60 Legends played on a wet weekend when many Sunday games were rained. We can arbitrarily award first place to the 60 Legends, because they were one of four teams alive when the rains ended competition.

There were four Kansas City area teams at the Rocky Mountain Championships, and we had three Scrap Iron teams at the Midwest Championships. There are at least a dozen Kansas City teams that travel to several tournaments each year. While they are not organized in a club like Scrap Iron, we are going to contact the senior softball leaders in the Kansas City area, to get more teams to the RMC. It may take a larger commitment by Scrap Iron teams to play in the Midwest Championships. This is similar to what we're trying with the Top Gun Softball Club of San Diego.

55 Rocky Mountain Thunder Win Western Nationals

Four Scrap Iron teams played in the Western Nationals in Sacramento. Our 55 Rocky Mountain Thunder won the 55 Major Division, and will play a National Championship game against Triangle Master of North Carolina at the SSUSA World Masters Tournament in Las Vegas.



2014 Western Nationals 55 Major Champion, the Scrap Iron 55 Rocky Mountain Thunder

Bats Available from Mike Massong

Mike has helped the Club with the best prices on bats, balls and other equipment for years. He has two new bats still in the wrappers that are left over from his efforts:

COMBAT CENTENARIAN 30 OZ WHITE BAT - \$ 160
2-PC BALANCED MIKEN ULTRA II 26 OZ GREY BAT - \$ 190

If one of these bats interests you, please contact Mike at 303 324 6421 or amassong@aol.com

Five Scrap Iron TOC Qualifiers

With only the World Masters Championship remaining for the 2014 roster year, five Scrap Iron teams have qualified for the 2015 Tournament of Champions. The 70 Force, 70 Legacy, 65 Phiten, 65 Classics, and 60 Freedom have won TOC qualifying tournaments this year.

SSUSA Moves Up the 70 Force!

Our 70 Force team was moved up to AAA in July after wins in Mesquite, Las Vegas, and Reno. They then proceeded to win the AAA level at the Rocky Mountain Championships.

Alan Wiechmann