

Thank you !

Our thanks goes out to all the generous donations that were given to our Scrap Iron club in memory of our dear friend Bob Wiltgen, the donations totaled close to \$1,500.00. Another big thank you goes out to John Karagiannes for raising \$1,000.00 for our club through his March Madness pool.



King Soopers has announced a revised program for Scrap Iron to receive benefits. In most ways, this new program should be more convenient to use than the current Gift Card. For those already using the Gift Card, the value on the Card will remain after April 1 when the new program goes into effect; but, recharges AFTER March 31 will not benefit Scrap Iron — so recharge your card before April 1, use it up any time, and discard it when it reaches \$0.

Now, and this is very important, you need to enroll in the new program by logging onto the King Soopers site. This is needed if you had a Gift Card or not. If you already have an online account, just login. If you don't have an online account, you need to sign up for one. You will need to use your King Soopers rewards card (or Frys VIP card) number OR your alternate id (like probably your phone number).

Open website KingSoopers.com and sign in.

On top ribbon, click Savings&Rewards, then choose King Soopers Community Rewards

Click Enroll Now

In the Search box, type in Scrap Iron Softball Club and click Enroll

Out of state participants, must choose a Colorado Store in their MY ACCOUNT page set up in the King Soopers website BEFORE taking the steps to enroll in the King Soopers Community Rewards selection. If they have an out of state store in their account set up, the search engine will not find Scrap Iron Softball Club because they will be searching in the state designated in the account page set up. The individual would need to go to My Account page after signing in to edit the store location and then follow the steps beginning with "click Savings&Rewards "

Then you will be able to enroll: find and enroll in the program for Scrap Iron. This is a one-time enrollment. Every time you make a purchase from then on using your Rewards card or number, Scrap Iron will benefit. You don't have to do anything more.

Already talk of next year

(If you are 60, 65, or 70 please read this)

I can't believe that it's early May, the season had barely gotten started and a lot of questions about next year. I am asked at least 3 or 4 times a week "what's going to happen next year"? It's the baby boomers messing things up again! My response has been it's too early to talk about next year, but maybe not!

Currently there are two 65's Scrap Iron teams and three 70's teams. I hear that out of the two 65's teams we have approximately 15 players who can move up to 70's next year. Obviously this would disrupt the current rosters of the 70's teams to try and absorb these players, unless they have the same numbers moving up to play 75's. So that makes the possibility of another new 70's team forming. To add to the complicated numbers game, what happens to the 65 year old players on their current 65's teams if they are left behind? Are there enough 60's turning 65 next year who want to move up to keep two 65's teams rostered? It's a tough situation when we travel out of town and play another Scrap Iron team and possibly put them out of the tournament, yes it happens quite frequently. If a new 70's team is formed next year then there will be three 70's AAA teams in the same division.

Our club was formed for the purpose of providing a place for seniors who want to play competitive softball in tournaments a place to play, as a club we don't want to leave anyone out. The two 65's team managers have briefly talked about this situation and there will be many more conversations in the future. You can help us come up with a plan that works for everyone and hopefully leave no body behind.

If you are 60 now and can (or want to) play 65's next year, please send me your information. The same goes for those who are 65 now and can (and want to) move up to 70's next year. Please send me (Art) your contact information, send to firstbase17@me.com I will start a list and keep you informed as to what's happening, I'm sure no major decisions will be made right now, however come July & August things should be finalized. So please be patient, don't hesitate send in your information now so you don't get lost in these changes.

Please know that if you are on a team and plan to stay on that team I do not need your information, I'm not try to break up any team or steal players, I just want to make sure everyone who wants to play has a chance.

If any of the other age groups are experiencing the same situation, please let me know and I can help you get the word out.



Bat Boy Billy

Dear Billy,

I love playing softball, I have been playing ball since I was 9, I have played in all types of leagues from military, coed, city league, young men's tournaments, and now senior ball. As I have aged and had a few surgeries, I have lost a step or two. I am not the strong stud player I once was, however, I'm still pretty good and will not hurt any team I play on. In the senior tournaments I'm not a major player, in fact I'm kinda weak in triple A but too strong for double A. Any suggestions? Signed Good but not Good Enough.

Dear Good,

I have found that attitude, enthusiasm, and support from your teammates will make anyone a better player. Look for a team that appreciates you and your willingness to improve, a team that is made up of others like you, or better yet... manage your own team and you can set the standard. Signed, Billy

The Executive Board

The current Scrap Iron executive Board is Andy Shapiro (Present), John Parisi (VP), Jim Casswell (treasurer), JC Moore (secretary) Greg Brockleman, Mark Haupt, and Art Graebe. In this issue we would like to turn the spotlight on one of our newest members, John Parisi.

I have been playing with tournament teams for six years now and Saturday League for 10 seasons. I have been managing a Saturday League team for the past three years. My passion to play softball has been #1 in my heart since I was in Little League and will continue until I am physically unable. The possibility to be the Vice President was my opportunity to support the game I love through Scrap Iron. I am thankful and blessed to still play this sport and couldn't have done so without the support of our unique club. As Vice President this is my way to give something of myself back to the organization and help support others.



My role as VP and a member of the Executive Board is flexible. I help new players interested in joining SI Softball Club and playing on a tournament team. Some are not ready to commit playing in tournaments, but want to "get back in the game". This is one of the reasons to work more closely with Wednesday and Saturday League organizations. Since we are a Colorado based organization, one of our priorities is to build the awareness and opportunities for men interested in playing senior softball. Our organization's strength is in our membership, participation and fellowship. My personal expectation is to build upon these strengths.

I welcome any ideas or discussions you may suggest to make our club stronger now and in the future.

John Parisi

Jdparisi2@comcast.net

307-286-1936

Message from our web master

By now you may have noticed that we have a new website. The new site address is <https://www.coloradoseniorsoftball.net/> although the old Scrap Iron address will still work as it will immediately redirect to the new site.

As you will see, I have edited the current Scrap Iron site and have added 2 components to it, one for CSSTL (Saturday League) and one for CSSA (Monday/Wednesday league).

There are advantages to combining websites for all 3 senior softball organizations.

- The main reason is that now we can present a unified front in recruiting and informing new player prospects. As our organization's age, it is very important to help keep "filling the funnel". And if a new player joins just one of our senior softball organizations, then there is a good chance that he will eventually join the others as well.
- There are some cost savings by running one website vs. three.
- The new website is optimized for smartphone use, which is becoming a more common way to view it.
- Mark Gembrowski has agreed to help me manage the website, although most of his work will be for the benefit of CSSA. Still, it will be a big help having Mark.
- And lastly, it is much easier for me to manage one larger website than 3 smaller websites.

Feel free to explore the website. I would welcome any feedback or comments. Thanks!
Barry Jark

Cartoon provided by our president Andy Shapiro, this must be a normal occurrence for him.





JR is retiring

That was on the email subject line, it went on to say "This is one of the hardest emails I have ever written. I am going to retire ASAP. I am in good health if you consider this good. It is just time for me to go. I plan on playing in the in town leagues on Monday and Wednesday, which could help me stay in some kind of playing condition. I am eligible to play with the 85's and that would be good if they ever play(maybe once a year). I have had a good run and will always be thinking of you guys. Good Luck. JR

Jerry is a great blessing to many people, even those who didn't know him, he is one of the founders of our club, his vision along with Bob Wiltgen, Merl Skalla, Ken Green, Bob Gryzmala, and Phil Field has grown in the worlds largest softball club, one that we are all proud to be part of. Thank you Jerry.

Here are just a few replies after hearing of his retirement:

Jerry, I heard it might be happening but I remember when we were both on the Executive BOD together and even had to address a couple of negative issues which doesn't happen very often which is a real tribute to this club. Your contributions to the club, both in hours spent and contributions, will not be forgotten by a lot of us for many years to come. You were one of the early pillars of the club and without you and a hand full of others, this best and biggest club in the world may never have happened.

Thank you for all you've done and may the Good Lord bless you with many more good days to come.....Greg Broeckelman

Jerry:

You are an inspiration to all of us! I hope to see you around!! You have and will continue to make this a better place!!! Your commitment to our organization has been unmatched and we will be forever grateful for it... Jim Caswell

This is a sad day for the Gray Berets, Scrap Iron and me personally. You are a great friend and good ball player. We will miss you on the field of battle. Scrap Iron is going to miss one of its "pillars". Without you and a few others, Scrap Iron would not exist and become the worlds largest softball club. You have held up the club all these years with your wisdom and contributions. All of us old guys who love to play softball "can not" thank you enough !! I know that you love to play this great game and hope you continue to play in local leagues. Traveling at our age is not easy. People like me are not wise enough to know when to quit. I can see how difficult this email was...Fred Mattos

Hope we can play together again sometime. One of my fondest memories is playing the Huntsman Tournament with you, Bill Brown and the gang. Loved it. See you around and you definitely can help an 85 team...Larry Bradsby

Team News

Scrap Iron 65's Diamonds, let's put it this way, we had a great time!!! Our top three hitters were Tim Kirby, Norm Freedman, & Jerry Vigil. Our team was missing 4 of our key players which definitely would have helped. They will be back for Reno, that coupled with a little more time to shake off this Colorado winter rust and we will have a much stronger showing.

SI Xplosion Tourney Results for Bullhead City

First tournament of the year and we were all wondering if we could hit and field again. We ended up taking 2nd place out of 12 teams. We came out and won the first game 26-1. The second game we ended up scoring 30 runs but our opponent had the winning run on 2nd base with two out, but our defense held. Then the highlight of the tournament was the 3rd game was much the same. We came from 7 runs down in the open inning to take what we thought was a safe lead only to be faced with a similar scenario; winning run on 3rd base with 1 out and their home run hitter up with no HRs left. Some clutch pitching by Randy "Santa Claus" Kunkel gets him to hit into a double play to force extra innings where we beat them by 3 runs. On Sunday we lost to Weekend Warriors then beat Sin City and then lost to Weekend Warriors again to finish in 2nd place. In 3 games on Sunday we hit into 6 double plays and had 6 additional runners thrown out at the plate. Yikes.... we need to improve on that part. Yet we were still in every game. All tournament players were Dave "Superman" Schultz, Greg "Slappy" Pearson, Ed "Dilly Dilly" Dilley and Kevin "Commander" Flynn. Also need to mention Don "Big Don D" DiFiore for a great tournament as well.

Scrap Iron Gray Berets 80's 2019 record is, CHAMPION IN PHOENIX, CHAMPION IN MESQUITE AND 2ND IN LAS VEGAS.

Team managers, the rest of our club is really interested in what's going on with your team, please send in your tournament results, interesting news, your MVP's, anything that's news. Thank you!