



## *Happy Holidays*

*Wishing only the best to all our Scrap Iron members and families. We sincerely hope you have a wonderful holiday season and the very best 2019 has to offer.*



## Ask Billy the Bat Boy

Hey Billy,

What's your opinion of the movement of having the ball/strike count start at 1/1 when you come up to bat? Signed I Don't Like it!

Dear I Don't,

Personally I don't like it either, however I do understand why it's needed. It speeds up the game, which I don't like, but again, I understand. In a tournament with lots of teams it's necessary to keep on schedule, as in our Saturday league. Personally I feel the game rules have been changed some for the better some for the worst, some for our safety some for more money. Enough said!

Hey Billy,

It's the holiday season, please share the secret to a successful life, in your opinion.

Signed, Searching

Dear Searching,

Once upon a time, there was a wise old King, who asked the same question, so he gathered up his wise men and sent them out into the world with a mission to find the **"secret to a successful life"**. After a long absence the men returned with several stacks of bound books, "in these volumes they declared, King we have it, the secret to a successful life". The King looked at the books and without hesitation said "its to long, nobody will take the time to read them, condensed them". After another long absence the men returned with three books and said "here it is the secret to a successful life". "No!" Shouted the King, "still to long, condense it!" After a while they returned with a single volume, again the King was demanding it's too long, it must be shortened. The men slaved and working for hours day and night finally returned to the King with a single sentence. When the King read the sentence he shouted for joy, " you have it...you have found the secret to a successful life, when people everywhere read this they too will have all that need to know to have a successful life!" The single sentence simply said "There is no free lunch". Happy Holidays, Billy.

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## The "Lost Boys" of Scrap Iron 5280' (2018 Version)

By Hal Meyer



Getting to know your teammates is important to having a successful team. The following is a synopsis of the team member responses about themselves. 5280' teammates were born in 10 states: Ohio, Michigan, Iowa (2), New York, Virginia (2), Nebraska, Minnesota, Maine, California and Colorado (2). Their early experiences playing ball include hitting rocks with a splintered board, bouncing the ball off cement steps and trying to catch the rebound, catching balls off a slanted roof, playing sandlot pick-up games, and organized little league games. Seven players played fast pitch softball before

transitioning to slow pitch.

Six players have been World Champions and two have won the Huntsman Senior Games. Three players are members of the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame. Reasons for their success include:

encouragement from others, great teammates who challenge them to do better, a strong work ethic, persistence, stickability, passion for the game, a good ball tracking eye, a strong arm, and can run fast.

Fourteen players are married—three to their high school sweethearts. Two players have significant others. They have an average of two children.

Past/present careers include: farmer, battery salesman, mechanical engineer, teacher/coach (4), sporting goods salesman, commercial airline mechanic, lumber broker/trader, electrical and computer science engineer, United Parcel Service, construction (3), pest control business, San Francisco Giants farm system, Australian baseball player, certified professional accountant, business and accounting. Five teammates are veterans: three in the Army during Viet Nam, one in the Navy, and one in the Air Force. Almost everyone wants to travel more, especially world-wide, in the future.

Advice for younger players: find a team where you like the other players and the coach; focus on the team, not individual stats; don't waste time being negative, life is too short; practice, practice, practice so you get better and know what to do in a game; get plenty of sleep and relax; get involved; learn from your mistakes; winning isn't everything, play the game for the love of it; give 100% or get out; and finally softball is a humbling sport. Happy Hitting!



**Why is John Parisi so happy here?**

- a. His French fries were cold*
- b. We just got eliminated from the tournament and now he has to eat an In & Out Burger*
- c. He just got elected Vice President of the Scrap Iron Club*
- d. All of the above.*

*Answer... d.*

## *Team News*

**Scrap Iron Co. Elite** went 2-0 in pool play and 4-2 in bracket play to finish 2nd out of 14 teams in Men's 50+AAA. Pool play wins came against No New Mexico Softball (24-11) and Tom Ranalls Realty, AZ (23-10). Bracket play started off with a win against No New Mexico (22-11), Prime Time, AZ (13-10) Sin City, NV (26-12), a loss to Grayed and Confused, UT (12-6) in the winner bracket final, a win against Sin City (24-12) in the losers bracket final, and a 15-11 loss to Grayed and Confused in the Championship game.

The following were named all-tournament.

Jeff Wright - Jeff led the team in batting average, going 18/22 for a .818 average. He was 11/12 the last 4 games and played solid defense in the outfield.

Rick Lundy - Rick was on fire, going 17/17 before making his first out. He finished the tournament 22/27 for a .815 average.

Tom Sutak - Tom finished 18/24 for a .750 average. He had several critical unassisted double plays at first base that helped us get out of innings.

Ken Lindow - Ken was also one of our hot starters, finishing 22/30 for a .733 average.

Ken always plays solid defense in the outfield, and never gets credit for usually being the first guy out the dugout to pinch run.



2018 Scrap Iron Elite, Winter Worlds, Phoenix Arizona

**Scrap Iron Gray Berets 80's**, Won the Phoenix Winter World Tournament in the "If" game. There were 6 teams in our 80's division. My new 2019 team is going to be very good, I have added 6 new players. We have 14 players from Colorado, 4 from Utah, 1 from Arizona, and 1 from Wyoming.





***“THIS YEAR WE PLAYED IN 5 TOURNAMENTS , A 5TH LV MASTERS, A 4TH IN SPRING WORLDS, A 3RD IN MESQUITE, A 2ND (SILVER MEDAL) AT HUNTSMAN AND 1ST IN PHOENIX, WE GOT BETTER WITH AGE. THERE ARE 44 80 TEAMS IN THE NATION UNDER SENIOR SOFTBALL USA.” “We are AAA and rising”. Cheers, Fred Matteo’s***

***Scrap Iron Legends 70 Major team.*** We took our new team for 2019 to Phoenix and had a very successful tournament even though we only finished in 4th place. In the seeding games we beat the team that took 2nd in the LVSSA/SSUSA world tournament - Ponchos. We then beat Omen 70's, a Major Plus team. In the bracket play we went 2 and 2 and our two losses came to the Winners of the tournament (Sidewinders) by 2 runs. The other bracket game we lost by 1 run. We were in the running to win this tournament but a few things did not fall our way. Top hitters and MVP's were Ed Clark, Dennis Lutz, Don Carpenter, and Ron Hefner, Everyone did a great job and we are looking forward to 2019.  
Mike Massong

***Scrap Iron High Octane*** Played in Phoenix in the Winter Worlds. We decided to move up in age to the 65's and still play in the Major division. Almost all of us were age eligible, only leaving behind 4 really good Guys from our 2018 Team. We are hoping they all find new teams to join for 2019. We went 4-3 in Phoenix and came in 4th. We went 1 & 1 in pool play and played Timberworks real tough, they are the premier 65 team in the Country and have earned a Plus, Plus Rating ! We played 2 on Thursday and sent a couple of teams home. All in all, we felt pretty good about our play and are looking forward to playing during the week against guys our own age. Rick Loy led the way hitting .800 and making a game saving snow cone catch in our first bracket game. Jamie Gowdy and Terry Liverant were not far behind at .724 each and Terry made 3 unassisted double plays at 1st base.

Our Team would like to wish Everyone in the Scrap Iron Club to have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. We'll see you back on the field next Spring.

Dave Adams

***Scrap Iron Diamonds 65AAA,*** had a magical tournament in Phoenix, funny story, we have been struggling in triple A for the last two years, finally we decided to petition SSUSA and see if we could move down to double A. We were granted that request by George at SSUSA, however we had to play in Phoenix one last time at the triple A level in order to qualify one of our new players moving up from the 60's. George said “if you take first or second, the deal is off” we took second out of 17 teams! It was awesome for our team to play so well, all our games we very close, in one of our magical moments we scored 17 runs in the top of the 8th! We are looking forward to staying in triple A next year and continue the magic. All tournament players were, Jimmy Casswell for offense, Jesus Bencomo for defense (outfielder playing shortstop), Charlie Powell for his running (a lot) and Art Graebe team manager (still don't know why).

***Very happy group of Scrap Iron Diamonds***



**Scrap Iron Heavy Metal** finished 5th out of 14 teams in the 60AAA Division at the Winter Worlds in Phoenix. Heavy Metal struggled in the seeding games, losing to the AZ Sidewinders (who we beat soundly in our second bracket game) and the Silver Stars. After nearly blowing a flip flop game to Git-Er-Done, we lost to the eventual Division winner, X-Men out of British Columbia. Heavy Metal had the pleasure of 2 guest players, Don Difiore and Dan Silvey, from SI Xplosion who helped contribute to our successes. Our catcher, Randy Ashford, went down with a knee injury on Saturday and ended up in the ER and was not able to play on Sunday. Hopefully, the injury isn't significant and he should be back with us in Kingman / Bullhead City in the Spring. Top 5 ACTUAL batting averages (yes, we do take into account errors and do not count walks) for the tournament were:

1. Dave Miller - hit .750 - slugging .750
2. Rick Shaum - hit .739 - slugging .870
3. Bruce Brothis - hit .727 - slugging .909
4. Don DiFiore - hit .700 - slugging 1.300 (2 jacks)
5. Don Casuse - hit .700 - slugging .636

The team continues to gel both on and off the field with a nice team dinner at the O.H.S.O brewery on Friday night, Scottsdale Beer Company on Saturday night and Top Golf Sunday afternoon. We are looking forward to a successful 2019 season and plan to expand our tournament horizons with discussions for possible tournaments in Raleigh, Ft. Meyers and Salem.

**Scrap Iron 70 Reds** our 2018 season did not fair well due in part to injuries, illness and surgeries. But we are off to a fairly good start as we took 4th at the Worlds in Phoenix this month. We were seeded 3rd and won 4 of our 7 games. We plan on playing our first spring training games in Bulhead City at the first of March, 2019 and a few weeks later starting our tournament games in Mesquite with SSUSA.

**Scrap Iron 5280'** had a good time in Phoenix at the Winter Worlds. We split in the seeding round with a poor start and strong finish. Managed 10th seed. As much as we know better, we played a close one in the first bracket game but lost to an arch rival, Sidewinders. Playing in the dark under lights could have had something to do with it. Day two started with us playing the same team we beat on day one...and we won, again. After a very long wait, our 3:30 game was a forfeit. Guess we were to intimidating...NOT. So we played the 5:00 game early against our arch rivals, the Sidewinders, again. We still ended up playing in the dark with extra innings but this time we beat them. Day three had us back out there at 8:00 am. We stole one in the last inning with the hammer and moved on to game 8. Not so lucky this time as we lost to the OC Mustangs. We ended up tied for 5th out of 17 teams in the division. The highlight of our day was watching our brothers, Diamonds 65s, play in the championship game. Congratulations on second place, Diamonds!



#### 2018 Season

This was a good year for 5280'. We started strong with a second place finish in Mesquite and winning the Southwest Championship in Vegas. We tried our luck on the east coast at the Atlantic Coast Championship near Washington DC next. Our advice, don't go anywhere but the dessert before June. Between intense record breaking rain storms we lost more than we won and finished poorly.

Had plenty of time for sightseeing in DC, however, and it was great.

Our next new adventure was the Northwest Championship in Salem, OR. Very nice place; lots to see and do in Oregon; but a small tourney with few teams. We did finish second, however. You all know how busy August is for softball in Denver. Lots of local ball and the Rocky Mtn Championship. 5280' was second seed but stumbled against our brothers, Still Kicking, and finished in 4th place. As if August wasn't busy enough we decided to play in two World Championships in September. We went to Dalton, GA and had a great start, number one seed. Advice - If you go to HOT Georgia do not volunteer to play an extra charity game. After three games in the morning we laid an egg when the brackets started and finished poorly. In Vegas we had the largest division - 27 teams. We split in the pool games and were 15th seed. What are the odds that we would end up playing Still Kicking in the first bracket game...and we stumbled again. We rallied in the losers bracket and were the last Scrap Iron team standing, finishing in 13th place. Not bad considering we were down to 8 healthy players at the end. That might explain the senior moments that may have kept us from going further. All in all it was a good year for 5280'! We played a lot of ball; had some really good times; and are looking forward to 2019. As of now we have 100% of the team returning.

# **Save the date, January 26, 2019**

## **Annual Scrap Iron Banquet**



**Our annual Scrap Iron fund raising banquet is set, Saturday January 26, 2019 at the beautiful Denver Aquarium 11:00-3:00. If your a member of the Scrap Iron club this is a must! Great opportunity to introduce new players to our club so they can see first hand what we are all about. Bring the family and stay after to visit the aquarium with discount tickets and free parking. We will be honoring individual MVP's for each team, Hall of Fame induction, and our Founders Award recognizing outstanding service to our club. There will be a raffle, silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. See your team manager for tickets.**

### **Message from your treasurer**

With the substantially increased standard deduction many will not be itemizing their deductions on their tax returns. Thus, their charitable donations will not have tax benefit. For those of us that are in their 70's we are faced with our required minimum distribution (RMD) from our retirement accounts. One way to lessen this impact is to make their RMD payable to a charitable organization, of course, Scrap Iron Softball Club (SI) is one. The amount that is paid to a charity is not included in income on the tax return. The check can be for the full or any portion of the RMD, but must be made payable to the non-profit (as designated by IRS) directly. It can be mailed to IRA owner and then forwarded to the following:  
Scrap Iron Softball Club Attn: Jim Casswell  
PO Box 260699 Lakewood, CO 80226



"inherited IRA's" apply also and the person doesn't have to be 70 1/2 in this case. There may be some individuals that have inherited an IRA and are under 70 1/2, but are still required to take distributions based on the deceased's RMD. They qualify also.

A confirmation of the donation will be sent to all contributions greater than \$250.00. Of course, everyone should consult their tax and/or their advisor to see if this something that works for them.



Scrap Iron is a fellowship of brothers by different mothers.... sharing a bond, a bond best expressed by someone long ago as “for the love of the game.” What else drives these guys to play triple headers on Saturday's during the summer ? What else drives a guy to limp to the plate because if he didn't there would be an out recorded against his teammates. Why else dive for the ball ? For the love of the game. I started playing for Scrap Iron long ago. Of course, in my foggy memory it is even more in the distant past. Five major operations later, I get to play for SI again, to step on that field, gaze around and drink in “that feeling” .... “for the love of the game” SI has afforded me

the opportunity to play a kids game long after others think anyone should. SI brings together those of us who live for “the love of the game.”

SI is a great bunch of guys who lift each other up when there is an error or encourage their team mate when a hit wasn't made, a bunch of guys who win together and lose together but together they are “for the love of the game.”

I have always been proud to wear the Scrap Iron logo, and always will because of those guys who encourage and lift up each other “for the love of the game.”

Stacy Michaels

Wandering about in AZ, looking for SI !!! LOL

## *Spotlight on Bruce*



Bruce Brothis, 61, from Elizabeth, Colorado, is the current manager of the Scrap Iron Heavy Metal 60AAA team and Fund Raising Chairman / Banquet Guy for Scrap Iron as well as the scheduler for the CSSTL. Bruce has been playing organized ball since he was 8, from Little League and high school in Rhode Island to college intramural softball in Colorado and West Virginia, young guy's

softball since the mid 80's and senior softball for the past 5 years. Aside from SI Heavy Metal, Bruce also plays for Springs Fever in CSSTL, Alibis Bar & Grill in the Wednesday CSSA League and MWC in Parker's Tuesday night senior league. Bruce throws left and bats right and plays first for all the teams he plays on and regularly bats over .700 with occasional yard power.

Brothis' greatest softball achievement so far has been a 2016 TOC Championship ring with the 55 SI Coyotes along with 8 All Tournament patches from various SSUSA tournaments. Bruce plans to continue playing organized senior softball, health permitting, and volunteering for Scrap Iron and CSSTL well into his 80s.

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*On December 1, the board of directors held its fall meeting, some of the items discussed were team and player bylaws, policies review, updates. Finances and team budgets, fund raising, and new team potentials. An Election of officers was held, Terry Goodrich has offered to give up his seat as Vice President after serving for over 7 years, thank you very much Terry for your dedication and service to our club. Andy Shapiro has agreed to remain president for another year, the remaining officers and executive board remains the same. We will have more information for you in our next newsletter once the official minutes are distributed. We would like again thank Alan Wiechmann for organizing a great meeting place for us and also thank his company Jvation.*

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