



Our Scrap Iron Newsletter has gone quarterly, with possibly an issue or two of breaking news as needed. After consulting with the executive board we have decided that there just wasn't enough news to warrant a monthly newsletter. We will publish summer, fall, winter, and spring editions. Please don't wait to send in any news you have about your team, articles, or anything you would like to tell our membership, I will be accepting your input anytime, deadline for the next newsletter is October 31, so please don't leaving us hanging, this is your newsletter your club get involved. Send your articles to firstbase17@me.com



Bat Boy Billy.

Dear Billy,

Most of my team is moving up to the next age division, I still have two more years before I am eligible to move up. I love my teammates and my manager plus I'm not ready to quit playing ball, I'm finding out that being the youngest on the team has disadvantages. Any suggestions?

Signed,
Orphan Annie

Dear Annie,

First talk to you current team manager, he comes to the clubs meetings and is current on all our club has to offer, plus he knows almost all the other managers. Also, did you know our Scrap Iron Club has a "player coordinator"? He also serves a our clubs Vice President, John Parisi. Contact him he can possibly aid you in finding a team. Another great possibility is to become a team manager, chances are there are other orphans just like you, most likely enough to form a new team. Signed, Billy.

Side note on the above: John is in the process of organizing a meeting with all the team managers to address this problem and he has a few names of new players looking for a team. It seems we have a large amount of 65's turning 70 in the next couple years and are dealing with this same issue. Please express your thoughts, comments, and concerns with John, email him at jdparisi2@comcast.net

I love senior softball

Please tell me why you love playing senior softball, or how about you the “Better Half” tell why you love watching your hero play senior softball. Please submit your story to firstbase17@me.com

Why I love playing senior softball, by, Art Graebe

As I get older the need to play every inning of every game is not as important as it once was, in fact I am finding the most important thing to me isn't really the softball game, it's my teammates (don't get me wrong here, I love the game and playing it). What a great time just hanging out with these guys, some of the jokes told in the dugout are just funnier than if told somewhere else. Recently my team was in Reno, I rented a 9 passenger Chevy Tahoe and shared it with 7 other teammates, by the way a 9 passenger Tahoe really doesn't fit 9 passengers, actually it doesn't fit 7 ball players and 7 bat bags. So here we are packed in like sardines laughing and having a good time, it's amazing what is said in situations like this, most of which I cannot repeat here, no, none of which I can repeat here or anywhere! They say what happens in a Chevy Tahoe “STAYS IN A CHEVY TAHOE”!

In addition to hanging out with the best teammates ever it's the other players I have had the privilege to meet over the years. It's awesome seeing and playing against guys from all over the country that I have bonded with. I have said plenty of times in the past “you meet some of the nicest people and you meet some of the biggest jerks playing ball, but the nicest guys remain in your heart forever”.

I love playing senior softball because as I age I seem to gather much wisdom from my mentors, for example when I first started playing senior ball at the age of 49, I played with my good friend Roger Weildelman, still one of the best third baseman I'd ever play with, I remember him saying he didn't enjoy playing against the 50 years olds any more. I just didn't understand why, now that I'm approaching 70, I totally understand why!

Each year as I age I am realizing how blessed I am, here I am 69 years old and out on the ball field thinking I'm a still 12 years old. You realize this when you see others that are not able to play ball or in some cases even walk. One of our Wednesday league games a week or so ago we had an umpire who was in a wheelchair. He looked to be in his late 20's, first I admire him for being out there, as we played you could see in him the strong desire to be out there with us, but unfortunately he can't. That's when it hits you how blessed we are. By the way, he was one of the best umpires we have had all year!

My new motto is “winning or losing, enjoy every second of every game”.



Thank you Bruce Brothis for organizing this fundraiser for our club. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Rocky Mountain Tournament

Team News

Scrap Iron Diamonds 70s Win Western States Tournament!

Prescott Arizona was the site of our first tournament win! After strong performances in this year's prior tournaments, we put together a winning effort to win first place.

It wasn't all that easy, as we lost all three seeding games and became the last-place seed in the single elimination tournament. We lost two of those games by only one run.

But a second day come-back saw us sweep all 3 games, beating two of the opponents that had beaten us the day before. Hitting and defense were the high points; our team batting average was .769 and on-base percentage an astounding .842. Eight players' batting average were above .700 and one hit over .800!

Scrap Iron High Octane Rocked Southern California !

We played in San Clemente at the "Beach Bash" put on by So. Cal. Senior Softball Ass. over the July 4th weekend. The weekend started out with a BANG as we all experienced the largest earthquake in California in 20 years! 7.1 on the scale and there was no doubt what it was while it was happening, shook buildings and rattled everything in them. No thanks on being a part of the "Big One".

The next morning we started playing in the tournament. Played 3 games, all close and came away one and two. One loss came at the hands of Timberworks, who is arguably the best 65's team in the country. Sunday we started the elimination and on our way to the CHAMPIONSHIP we avenged our two loss's including beating Timberworks. They were not happy, but we were congratulated and they were gracious in defeat. Very classy group of men. We also beat our old nemesis Top Gun who we have played many times and they've had our number lately. Felt good to beat some old rivals and it really felt good to go to California and win THEIR tournament.

Several of the guys made vacations out of the trip and we all had a great time. Enjoyed the area, the weather was great and winning is the best.

Scrap Iron Rockies are the 60 AA Champions- Southern California Championships in Hemet.

Undefeated in the tourney, we had 5 team members who hit over 800 as well as great defense played by all. Rick Frahm, Steve O'Connell, Jose Valiente, Dan Saban, and Charley Mylander were our all tourneys.

Scrap Iron Alliance, won the 50 AAA Wes Weddle Classic, 27-28 July with an overall record of 5-1. Placing 2nd after pool play with a record of 2-1. Losing their first game to a 50 Major team and then winning the next two which included an impressive 32-20 win over a 50 Major team. Alliance then ran the table in the bracket with three straight wins. The team played great all weekend long and won three of the five games with walk off hits. Leading hitters were Sammy Cofield .826, Tony Jones .800, Will Connor .750, and Kevin Ciesla .739. This is a good tune up before the Rocky Mountain Championships said Coach John Karagiannes. We are looking to reclaim the title we won three years ago.

Scrap Iron Diamonds 65's, attempted to play in the Western Nationals in Sacramento, with a very sick left fielder, a sick Pitcher, a third baseman with a puller hamstring, and a shortstop who twisted his knee. However, we did win one game! All in all it was still a good time. It was great to be able to watch the 70's Legends play and go on to a second place finish.

Scrap Iron Legends 70's, We had a good tournament in Sacramento. The Scrap Iron Legends took 2nd place in the 70 Major division of the SSUSA Western Regional Tournament. Despite losing all three seeding games and ending up as the 4th seed we beat R&R (the number 1 seed) twice. Once to knock them into the losers bracket, and then in bracket play we punched their bus ticket home. R & R was a Major Plus team recently allowed to drop down to Major. They also won the 70 Major division in Reno this year. In the championship game the Styxx out of California had us down by 14 runs. We managed to get 10 in the bottom of the 7th but fell a few short to end up taking 2nd place. All tourney awards went to Dan Hovgaard, Ralph Perkins, Ed Clark, and Don Carpenter. Other members of the team were Ron Hefner, Orville Strain, Stan Suichta, Greg Broeckelman, Mike Ebbing, Dennis Lutz, Mike Edwards, Jim Casswell, Seb Muzio, and Mike Massong. Bill Nero, was our coaching guru. Stan Suichta, who is on our team will be inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame at the Rocky Mtn. Championships. I would like to see as many Scrap Iron members attending to congratulate him on this outstanding achievement. I have had the honor of playing many years with Stan, Greg Broeckelman, Dennis Lutz, and "Doc" Demarco , all of whom are in Scrap Iron and share this great honor in the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame.

Scrap Iron Heavy Metal, 60AAA, had a breakout showing at the Jim Sherman Northwest Championships in Salem, Oregon the weekend of July 12-14 taking first place honors. After going 2-1 in the seeding round, Heavy Metal was the 2nd seed with the one seeding game loss to their arch nemesis, Senior Bend Elks. Metal came upon the Elks again in bracket play and lost to them again 28-15 making it around 7 straight losses to them. Coming through the loser's bracket, Metal met the over-confident Elks in the Championship game and beat them in flip-flop game 16-9 while going on to beat them again in the "if" game by a score of 20-17. There were, as you might expect, many stars of the tournament. The five all tournament patches went to Pete Ayotte (batted .862, 4 jacks and a slugging percentage of 1.690), Rick Shaum (also batted .862 and a slugging percentage of 1.034), Dave Lussier (the new guy on the team, strutted his stuff both in the infield and outfield while batting a team 3rd high average of .692), Eddie Buonaiuto (played a "lights out" shortstop, pinch ran like a gazelle, and batted a real nice .625) and Andy Shapiro (who's pitching was fantastic, striking out Elks' top hitter (swinging!) and making the second to last out in the "if" game with a great stop and throw to first). Mark Gembarowski and Bruce Edstrom contributed defensively and at the plate with equal .690 batting averages. Bruce Brothis contributed at first, John Kirar, Chip Hartney and Randy Ashford kept opponent's score low with excellent outfield play and Steve Krowczyk, back off IR, had a breakout game with some fantastic catches in the outfield and a career high .593 batting average. Metal also wants to shout out to "little" Randy (Randy Ashford's grandson) who helped contribute to the team's success by constantly cheering the team on, acting as bat boy, shagging foul and home run balls and maintaining a positive attitude even when the team was down a few runs during the tournament. This win gives Heavy Metal a TOC berth which they

expect to take full advantage of in Florida this coming February and if successful, would mean second TOC winning rings for several of the Heavy Metal squad (Brothis, Buonaiuto and Miller). Brothis, team co-manager, is extremely fired up about this win for Heavy Metal, who will be entering their next three tournaments (Aurora, Vegas and Ft Meyers) with a renewed level of confidence after getting the Elks' monkey off their back. Dilly Dilly!

