

# SCRAP IRON *Softball*



Volume 1

August 2018

Issue 8



---

***Thank you to all the wonderful ladies who have contributed to this newsletter. You have made this months edition very special!!!***

\*\*\*\*\*

**Next month, the September edition will be dedicated to “Travel Buddies”. Please share some of your experience’s with you travel Buddies. Tell us why your travel buddy is special, share a funny story, or a great memory. Email your story to [firstbase17@me.com](mailto:firstbase17@me.com)**

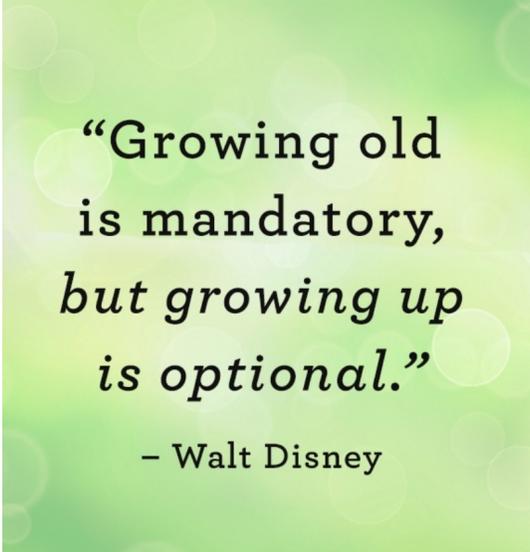
\*\*\*\*\*



## Ladies, Your Scrap Iron Teams Need You! by Sharon Withrow

I was asked to write an article about the women who support our Scrap Iron players, and the one conclusion I've come to - there needs to be more of us. At tournaments, each Scrap Iron team may have up to half a dozen fans. But at league games, I'm frequently the only one. Shout out to JoAnne LaRoue, Joe's daughter, for keeping me company on Wednesdays at Aurora Sports Park. When there are several of us, it's great camaraderie. You'll get to meet the wives of the players, sometimes their children or grandchildren, and your friends will be impressed with how many new Facebook friends you've acquired. You'll see devastating losses, but also great comebacks. Sometimes you'll see errors that will remind you of the Keystone Kops and other times you'll be amazed how a 65+ year old guy still has the quick reflexes to snag a line drive at third base in less than a second. And if you bring snacks, you'll be like Sally Field. The guys will really, really like you. It doesn't even have to be real homemade snacks. Pillsbury cut and bake cookies will do. They're guys. They'll eat anything. So come out to the ball field during the week or travel to the next tournament with your significant other. You'll see some amazing softball games, make some new friends, and you'll even get to work on that tan. At tournaments, you can find me scorekeeping for Scrap Iron major 70's team 3N2. Come by and say hello. I'll even add you as a Facebook friend!

\*\*\*\*\*



“Growing old  
is mandatory,  
*but growing up  
is optional.*”

- Walt Disney



It all started in the early 70's. You remember that decade, I'm sure. I met my husband, Lupe Peña, at a softball diamond, and I have been following him around to diamonds ever since.

He started out playing competitive softball in a city league. That progressed to competitive traveling softball, both 12 inch and 16 inch. Over the years, he has played many types of slow pitch ball, including coed. I have attended most of his games

and tournaments. I'm the wife who looks for the best available shade where I can still keep score.

Lu and I have met some amazing people through the years and have had some adventures along the way. We are proud to call our softball team mates our family, not just our friends. Yes, the men are a little crazy at times, but at least they are still active and enjoy playing the game. I will worry more when he no longer has a desire to play. The Scrap Iron club has helped these somewhat crazy ball players to keep doing what they absolutely LOVE!! For that, I thank them.

***Mary Peña***



***I have many memories with senior softball, this one I'll never forget***

By Tiffany Peck, SSUSA

My favorite story was a lady that called and asked me to email a few players from her dad's old softball team. He was ill in the hospital and that's all he spoke about. So, I found each player and sent an email with her contact information.

She then wrote an email to Terry saying that they all went to the hospital and visited with him and she hadn't seen her dad that happy in a long time. It felt good to hear that and know that just by going a little step further I was able to help that man. Those are things I enjoy hearing about.

I am going on my 9th year here with SSUSA, I started out making player ID cards, and through the years have progressed to making cards, answering phones, building rosters, etc. Pretty much an assistant to George Moreno. I live in Carmichael, CA I am 32 years old with 3 children, Destiny is 8, Serenity is 7, and Avery he is 4.

***I asked Tiffany to write something for this special edition, she has always be so very nice to deal with and extremely helpful. Thank you Tiffany.***

\*\*\*\*\*

**Quote of the month: "A trophy carries dust. Memories last forever."**

**~ Mary Lou Retton**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **My husband is 65 and still playing softball. What??**

**By Donna Parisi**

I met my husband when I was 16. He played summer softball in an employee league. Wow, he was a good player! He could hit the ball really far. He played left field most of the time. I quickly discovered this was because, 1) he had a good arm; 2) most of us couldn't hear all the remarks he constantly yelled from the field. Little did I know when we were married a few years later, that softball would be a way of life for us. John was still with this company when our kids were born. So every summer I watched softball, and babies. Why did I need to be there? He likes to have fans. So I sat in the sun, nursing babies, changing babies, walking babies, napping babies, all the while "watching" him play. I really didn't need to watch because he would recap every play on the drive home.

We lived in Utah for eight years. He played with our church team and with the LDS teams; anywhere he could play. Our kids spent a lot of time at the ballpark and eventually became ball players. One time John played in a snowball softball tournament in January. It was about 30 degrees and the ground was covered with snow. The area around home plate was wet due to all the action. The ump kept laying down sawdust to soak up the water. John had a memorable game. On one play he rounded 3rd and headed home. Did I mention there was snow? He slipped and fell about 10 feet from home plate and swam the rest of the way home through the water and sawdust. Yes, he was safe. I would show you the video but the camera froze. (and I was laughing too hard!)

John has had a few injuries along the way. One time it was a collision in the field that knocked him unconscious. He got an ambulance ride to the hospital and a nasty concussion. A couple years later he did a swat tag at 3rd base. He hit the runner with the back of his glove. Crack! It broke the back of his hand. Back to the ER. He's had lots of bruises, sprained ankles, a few smashed fingers, a couple broken fingers, cuts, and a few other concussions. But he keeps playing.

As John has aged his body has disagreed with his playing. He has had 3 shoulder surgeries, a hip replacement, knee meniscus repair, and other treatments on his knee & hip. But, like the energizer bunny, he keeps going.

Senior softball has been a wonderful addition to John's life. He enjoys the game, but more, he enjoys hanging out with other ball players. Being around other guys who understand his passion to play, and don't tell him he is too old, is a blessing in his life. Whether it is a local game or an out of town tournament, spending time in the dugout or at lunch, being with other ball players keeps John active and enthused. Now, if the body would just cooperate!

Me, I've sat in the sun, dust, cold, snow, rain, hail, dark of night. I've made lots of cookies for teams. I've washed his team shirt at 2pm when he remembers he has a game at 4pm. Hang it out the car window to dry on the way to the field! I've entertained teams, and their families, at my home after games, always keeping snacks on hand. I've sat in the cold with my blanket wrapped around a bat, keeping it warm between innings. I've been to local games and traveled to tournaments. I've seen hundreds of softball games. After watching John play softball for 45 yrs I know his swing better than he does. I can read his attitude and feelings from the stands. I am his personal coach, if only he would listen to me! As Yogi Berra said, "You can learn a lot by watching."



Hello

My name is Nanette Silvey, most softball players know me as Dan's wife or Master's wife. We have been married 20 years and the first day of marriage was spent in Loveland watching my husband play in the "C" State Championship and feeding his team. I have really enjoyed his time playing senior softball with most of it involved with Scrap Iron teams. Jaimie Gowdy refers to me as the loudest fan in Colorado. I love cooking and bringing all kinds of food for his teams to feast on and cheering for 88. We

have made many friends in the Scrap Iron community and really enjoy getting together with everyone anytime we can. I am always cheering for my hubby and saying honey do this or that and his team and the other teams will start calling him honey, which is pretty funny when they do that. When you see us having a banquet at the ball games, don't be shy, stop by and share some food with us.

\*\*\*\*\*



### **Ask Billy the Bat Boy**

Dear Billy,

As the wife of a Scrap Iron travel player, I would like to ask you if it is permissible to be excused from some games. Sometimes there is shopping to do in a new city or the pool beckons! The bleachers get a little tiresome to sit on and the conversation between games replays every aspect of the previous game (boring). I can easily ask my dear player at a later time how the game went and I will be given more details than I ever thought possible! I am there to support him of course, but is it necessary to witness every single pitch?

Signed - a loyal softball wife

Dear Loyal Softball Wife,

You are correct, we Softball players will give you every account of the games you miss, and even the ones you watch. First, consider yourself a very lucky lady... your husband wants you there, how sweet! Second, I wish for my wife's sake that you Scrap Iron ladies would get together for lunch, or shopping, or sightseeing. One of the reason my wife stays home is because she, like you, is tired of the bleachers. Third, your husband is a very lucky man, because you go with him, how sweet! Billy

***Billy has a player who disagrees with last months comments, Billy said "it's more important when you hit than how often you hit".***

Dear Billy,

While batting averages are sometimes misleading and overrated, I'd take a guy who hits a 1.000 over a guy who hits .500 every time. It's not his fault if guys aren't in scoring position when he gets those hits. He's on base twice as often as the guy who hits 500 giving the team the opportunity to score twice as many runs. More hits generate more runs. Doesn't matter who gets credit for the RBIs. Signed Disagreeing



### ***Our Amazing, but Somewhat Crazy Men***

I've been traveling to senior softball tournaments with Al for 14 years. It's been something we can do together. I rarely go to his local games so the tournament games are just the right amount of softball viewing for me. I think that all tournament players are a little crazy for putting yourselves through these endurance events, but I'm very proud of how well you play, and it's wonderful to see how much it motivates you to stay active.

I see how much softball keeps Al occupied. He's never bored, he has a huge circle of softball friends, and it keeps him going to the gym. I think it's a wonderful way for men to have strong friendships, especially after they retire. After retirement I see that many men need to develop a whole new set of friends, and if they're involved in an activity like senior softball, it's almost automatic that they will develop those new friendships.

Sometimes we all need advice and I have a few tidbits for our Scrap Iron men from the wife's perspective. First is find a way to make every trip special. Leave a few days early and make the trip a mini-vacation. We've hit spots like Charleston, Nashville, the Florida Keys, Seattle, Lake Tahoe, Victoria B. C., Portland, OR, Napa Valley, San Francisco, Palm Springs, Daytona Beach, the Great Lakes, and the Ozarks. If you ever go to the TOC, ask us about the best strawberry shortcake place. You'll feel like you've had a special date. My next advice is to look for new places to play. When the guys can't agree on new tournaments, I'm okay letting Al go alone to Mesquite, Vegas, or Reno, and many times he enjoys a tournament with only the "boys." Lastly, we've had some great couples with whom we've shared the experiences. Al can have a softball focus for days, but he rejoins the world when he's around our great friends.

Like many of you, Al uses the sayings of Kenny Green over and over, because Kenny was spot on. Al's favorite is "you don't stop playing because you get old, you get old because you stop playing." So, all of you wonderful, but slightly crazy men, I hope you keep playing.

***Carolyn Wiechmann***

***(Reprinted, because this editor left out the picture in the June edition of this lovely couple)***



Hi softball fanatics... I was asked to give my thoughts on my husband, Dick Moore, traveling with the Scrap Iron organization. For as long as I can remember Dick has always played co-ed softball, and around 13 years ago Dick mentioned that there was a senior softball league that travels to different states, and would like to potentially join. After his first tournament Dick returned so excited and eager to tell me about his trip. He also mentioned that many of the spouses were there and he thought I might enjoy going and join in the fun. My first tournament

was in St George, Utah, and Dick was right. The majority of the spouses were there and we ended up not only enjoying the games together but meeting for dinners afterwards with the team. From that point on I tried to go to as many games as possible since I was still working full time (luckily at that time Dick was young enough that the games were on the weekends – leave Friday and back either Sunday night or Monday). I'm not sure about the other Scrap Iron teams but Dick's teams (Diamonds and Diamonds 65) had so much camaraderie within the group, we always had a wonderful time and to this day consider them great friends.

People are always surprised when I tell them about my husband playing senior softball. I try to explain how it keeps my husband young and active, he loves playing the game, enjoys his “guy” time, and we both enjoy the time we spend with both the team and spouses. I hope Dick can keep playing with this organization for a very long time to come (if there is a team for him to play on), and now that I'm retired too I will be able to join in the fun every time!

***Mary Moore***



Rob starting playing with the Scrap Iron in 2009. I had just retired and he asked if I would like to go to some of the tournaments with him. He mentioned many of the wives went and provided great moral support by attending the games, cheering them on and dining out together afterwards. I decided to go and soon found great comradery with the other wives. It was nice to associate with women my age and share similar life experiences and interests. Rob and I now run a family business in Greeley so I keep things running while

he is away at tournaments (he owes me big time when we finally retire). I've come to appreciate that Scrap Iron is not just a softball club; it is a family.

***Carol Minner***

a boy once told me  
i play like a girl,  
i told him if he  
played hard enough,  
he could too

*Anonymous:*

### ***Why Stay Home? See the World!***

By Kathy Bechtel

Since my husband, Tom, started playing Sr. Softball years ago, I have been supportive. I attended some of the local games and enjoyed watching him play. He was getting exercise, making friends and I was glad that he was doing something he enjoyed so much.

I ALSO received a great benefit when we started traveling to new places. We moved to Colorado from Kansas in December 2016. Tom had secured a spot on Scrap Iron Rockies and we made plans for the first tournament in Mesquite, NV. I was expecting a boring, barren, Utah desert view out the car window for 10 hours. I was so surprised! There was plenty of time to take a wonderful side trip on the way --- awe-inspiring Arches National Park. In just a couple of hours break from the highway, we enjoyed some needed exercise hiking in and around the massive red rocks and lunched in Moab. AWESOME!

While in Vegas, we visited the cool Mob Museum and saw Beatles LOVE. I highly recommend them both. We were glad to leave those tourney losses behind, just like everything else that's supposed to "stay in Vegas". The Reno trip gave us a lovely drive around Lake Tahoe and the Donner Museum in Truckee. So interesting! Phoenix wrapped up the year with a visit to my sister's, something I might not have gotten to do as soon had we not played there.

In March 2018, we headed to stunning St. George, UT. This time, it wasn't raining as we drove on I-70 through the mountains and we were so surprised at the many-colored rock formations, cliffs and canyons. Instead of watching ball Saturday, another wife and I got pampered at the spa in Mesquite. I found out I can go watch half the games and still be a good wife. Who knew?

This year, while in Vegas, we drove up to Zion National Park. It's a beautiful example of God's glorious creation and everyone should see it. Why not when you are so close? Our May trip to Georgetown, TX included a day doing everything "Fixer Upper" in Waco and spending time with friends in Dallas. Another blessing!

I know some of you wives prefer to stay home and enjoy your quiet time. I get it. But spending some time exploring God's wonder with your guy is good for your soul. I have thoroughly enjoyed the sport, hanging with "the girls" in the stands and dinners and drinks with the team, all while seeing more of this amazing world. You should give it a try!



My name is JoAnne LaRoue. I'm sure most of you know my dad Joe LaRoue, he can't go anywhere without knowing at least one person. Some of my very first memories are playing on the bleachers of a ball field while Dad played softball. I've grown up at softball complexes across Colorado, rain or shine, cheering on #44.

I asked my dad why he likes to play senior softball! He stated: "JoAnne, It's the awesome people (players & fans), the travel, and just to be able to play a kid's game and still enjoy it so much! And, it helps keep the body & mind in pretty good shape too!"

Joe LaRoue turns 70 in just a few weeks and he isn't slowing down! He may need a runner here and there but softball is in bones (and his titanium left knee). I love watching him play because I can see the moments of pure joy on his face. He feels like a kid again...and so do I.

JoAnne LaRoue

## *Team News*

**Scrap Iron Heavy Metal** lost in the "IF" game at the 2018 Chili Pepper Classic in El Paso June 23 and 24. After a second round bracket loss the Scrap Iron Mile High team, Heavy Metal battled back through the losers bracket to meet El Paso Old School in the championship game beating them by 2 before losing to them in the "IF" game. The "IF" game was Heavy Metal's 7th game in 2 days in 105-107 degree heat and the acclimated local team got the better of them despite a brilliant triple play spearheaded by Eddie Buonaiuto in the 6th inning. Heavy Metal's next tournament will be the Rocky Mountain Championships in August.

**Scrap Iron Diamonds**, are anxiously waiting, we will play in the Western Nationals in Sacramento, Ca. Followed by the Rocky Mountain Championships in Aurora. We will be missing our speedster, Charley Powell, he is running in a world track meet in Spokane, Wa. Last world competition he ran in was in South Korea and he set a new world record, we wish him luck and definitely will miss him in Sacramento.

**Scrap Iron Elite** will travel to Sacramento , August 3-5, to play in the Western Nationals (50 AAA).

**Scrap Iron Alliance** is heading to Lee's Summit at the end of the month for the KC Monarch Qualifier. Also, I'd like to mention that just 9 weeks after the brutal injury Sammy Cofield is back playing some outfield and hitting....

**The Scrap Iron Beams** are going to the Western National Championships in Sacramento the end of this month. It looks like 14 of the 16 players on our roster will be coming. We should have our strongest lineup of the year, as Hall Of Fame pitcher Don Pierson says he is now healthy enough to play after dealing with blood clots and pneumonia the past six or so months.

We played in the Rock 'N Reno tournament and finished in second place against three other 75 major level teams. We "limped" into this tournament with just 11 of the 19 players on our roster. We entered the championship game from the winner's side of the bracket and lost it by six runs. As soon as that game was over, two players immediately left for the airport because they had not changed their flights to a later time, once they were aware of the time the "If" game was scheduled. By rule, we had to forfeit.

**Scrap Iron 5280'** participated in the Northwest Championships in Salem, OR July 10-12. Twelve of us played 8 games in 3 days including an extra inning in the championship game but fell just short and finished in 2nd place. Although it was a small tourney we all agreed that it was worth going back in the future. The weather was great, the complex was excellent, and Salem was very friendly and accommodating. Extra time in the northwest was also a treat - beautiful country. Last week we participated in Robin's Rally in Broomfield. A good time was had by all on a perfect day for softball. Someone should organize something like that as a fund raiser for the Scrap Iron Club! Next up is the Rocky Mtn. Championships in Aurora in late August. Like most SI teams we expect a full roster for that one. We plan to finish the season in September with the SPA Worlds in Dalton, GA and the World Masters Championship in Vegas.

**Scrap Iron Colorado Home Fitness** (55 AAA) recently traveled to Columbia, MO June 2-3rd to play in the Missouri Open, a SSUSA-sanctioned tournament. We played several close games in Friday's pool play, going 1-3 against solid teams such as KC Renegades, Bears Ballers, KC Classics and Iowa City Antiques. On Saturday, we stepped up our game, going a perfect 3-0 to win the tournament, which included a 17-16 win against the KC Renegades to play for the championship. KC Renegades is a team we just couldn't seem to beat in the past. Our team MVP was Mike Paul (3B). Next we are headed to play in the Western Nationals, Sacramento, CA. August 3-5th.

Pictured below is our **Scrap Iron Xplosion**, champions of the Sacramento Northern California State Championships in late June. Congratulations guys, well done!



\*\*\*\*\*



Amazon Smile donations as of today total \$79.70. Double from all of last year. Every little bit helps. Our club receives 1/2 percent of your purchases from Amazon. To sign up ask your coach.



Total donations from our King Soopers grocery program to date is \$3,722.00. Our club receives \$5.00 for every \$100.00 loaded on your King Soopers card. See your coach for details.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Please Help if you can

We're going to need some volunteers at the Rocky Mountain shoot out to help with the skills competition if you have time to help. Please contact Bruce. Just so you know this raises approximately \$800-\$1000 for the club.

If you have any questions Bruce has the answers.

Bruce Brothis

303-994-1685

[bbrothis@allegientbilling.com](mailto:bbrothis@allegientbilling.com)

## ***Robins Rally***

Robin and I would like to express our deepest appreciation to all those who participated and supported this event. We are humbled by everyone's generosity, prayers, positive thoughts and support.

We started this journey back in January after Robin was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Robin had been clean from breast cancer for 10 years and this recent news was devastating. Immediately we consulted with Robin's Oncologist, obtained a surgeon, and established an aggressive treatment plan to fight the cancer. 7 months into this plan, the diagnosis and treatment has been "miraculous" in terms of results. We use the term miraculous because we believe without the talent of the medical teams, the prayers for healing, our faith, and the unending support from ALL of you, we would not be in this stage of recovery. Even when we had setbacks during these 7 months, there were numerous situations where individuals were calling Robin, visiting her, sending flowers, texts or greeting cards through the mail that renewed her hope and faith to continue the fight. Through each of you, we have found hope, healing and love!

Many scientific studies have shown that high levels of hope can reverse all diseases known to man and with God at the center of our lives hope springs eternal. We are now rounding 3rd base and heading for home and believe the healing process will be completed.

We would be remiss if we didn't offer special appreciation to all those that made this event such a great success. To Obie Oberhelman for his vision, coordination and energy in establishing the event. Mark Gembrowski for the endless hours of creating and revising brackets, Mark and Kay Gallegos ( Wendy's ) for the donation of their time, talent, food and coordination in the concession area, the marvelous wives who spent their entire day volunteering in the concession area ( Kay Gallegos, Sharon Hessler, Yvonne Liverant, Evelyn Longo, Barb Upp, Sue Shapiro, Pat Gembrowski, and Carol Loy )--it certainly was not our intent to keep them cooking the whole time, yet they did it with smiles & a great sense of humor!!! All those who donated items for the raffle, Broomfield softball complex, Gary and Cindy Nation ( MI Sports ) for donating the Saturday league High Octane pink team jerseys and last but not least, to the teams, players, and fans who gave up their Saturday to participate and make this event such a success. In total Robin's Rally generated around \$6000!!!

When it is all said and done, you don't remember the hits, the batting average, the home runs or even the wins or losses. However, you never forget the special bond, fraternity and fellowship you share with all the ballplayers and their wives. This is what defines senior softball and makes it so special. So to all of you, we will be eternally grateful and thank you for being extra special to Robin and I.

As Robin and I have discussed many times, how do you thank those who have contributed to saving her life by the power of prayer, positive thoughts, and support.... the message remains simple in context, thank you, God Bless and love you all !!!!

David & Robin Maestas

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAMPIONSHIPS

## 2018 SKILLS COMPETITION



SPONSORED BY  
SCRAP IRON SOFTBALL

**AUGUST 24**  
AURORA SPORTS PARK  
**11:30-1:00 POD B**

- \* HOME RUN CONTEST
- \* PRECISION HITTING
- \* PRECISION PITCHING



All prizes (bats, shoes, sunglasses, etc.)  
provided by ADIDAS

\*\*\*\*\*

Please remember I need some stories from you regarding “traveling with your teammates,” I’m calling next months edition Travel Buddies. I have a couple submitted already and they are great, however I need more. Please send me your stories and make the September edition extra special. The deadline for submission is August 22.

\*\*\*\*\*