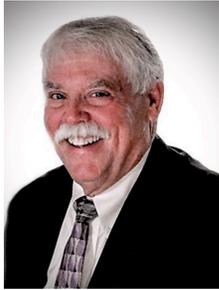


April 2020 newsletter



If we clean the ball after every pitch, can we play? I'm sure most of us are feeling the softball withdrawals, I go for a hike almost every day which leads me around the golf course, when did golf become essential? This course is crowded every day! I understand social distancing and most of these golfers are able to obey the rules, I also believe that a softball practice can achieve social distancing. Yet, we are forbidden to practice! Do you think money has something to do with that? Personally I have not heard of any of our Scrap Iron members being sick with this virus. Hopefully that is the case and we all remain healthy and as soon as the quarantine is lifted we are ready to play ball.

I was hoping that this newsletter would be filled pictures and stories of the victorious wins our teams had in Mesquite and Las Vegas, looking on the bright side, my team has not lost a game yet in 2020!



William "Ridge" Ridgeway Hooks passed peacefully into eternal life on Sunday, April 5, 2020 in Tyler, Texas, surrounded by his family. He was born in Waco, Texas, to Brian and Geraldine (Ridgeway) Hooks on December 22, 1945. He was welcomed by older brother, Wallace "Wally" Brian Hooks who promoted Ridge's interest in sports.

Ridge's family moved back to Oklahoma City where he attended school at Sequoyah Elementary, Taft Middle School, and graduated high school at Northwest Classen in 1964. He went on to study at Oklahoma Baptist University, Casper Junior College in Wyoming, and Oklahoma State University, where he was a walk-on on the Cowboys Football team. In 1969, he proudly joined the United States Army and served in the Vietnam War as a Scout Dog Handler, attached to the 101st Airborne (Green Berets), with his K9 partner, Bliss, and finished his service as an MP at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

After serving in the military, he returned to Oklahoma City to raise his two young sons, Bryan and David Hooks. He worked as an assistant manager for Piggly Wiggly grocery, he was a salesman for WJ Jones Brokerage, and he then began an amazing 25-year career with M&M/Mars. Ridge was affectionately known as "The Candy Man" among his family and friends because he always had a stash of candy with him and had a knack for producing just the right piece of chocolate at just the right time to brighten someone's day. He was a member of the elite Mars Tie Club and in 1988, he was a recipient of the Vice President's Award for Excellence. He served as District Manager in Memphis, TN and Houston, TX, and ended his career with Mars as Customer Relations Manager, covering 32 states. Although his work in candy came to a close, his candy jar was always open.

In May of 1988, he married the love of his life, Ann Stewart, and her two daughters, Holly and Wendy Stewart, joined their family.

Ridge had a lifelong love of all sports. Baseball, basketball, football...you name it. He would have a statistic or "one to watch" to discuss! He was a huge OSU Cowboys fan and loved going to the games in Stillwater. After years of playing softball, he became involved with USSSA in Oklahoma in the 1970s. When he was appointed State Director, he took pride in developing free youth clinics, where every child received M&M candy, with stuffed animals given as prizes. Ridge was known for sending the most teams to National and World tournaments every year. After serving as National Church Director and Southern Region President with USSSA, he went on to work with NSA in Texas, which piqued his interest in senior softball. In 2000, he purchased Softball Players Association, which has become one of the largest and most respected senior softball associations in the country. He was instrumental in developing the National Senior Summit, an annual conference in which all the associations came together to work to improve the game of senior softball. He also continued to support and grow the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame. He still found the time to play softball over the years, playing for various teams, and

winning many awards for his talent in the game, including a membership in the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 1997. Ridge developed lifelong friendships during his softball career and was well respected and loved by many colleagues and teammates.

Ridge was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and friend. He treasured the love of his wife, Ann, and he loved her with every fiber of his being. Ridge especially loved and excelled in his role as “PawPaw” (AKA Grandpa). He was a fixture at his grandkids’ scholastic and sporting events and was one they could always count on to “show up” for them. Ridge had a mischievous and vivacious personality and always made those around him happier for being in his presence. He never shied away from donning a costume (ranging from the Easter Bunny to a reindeer to the gorilla, and anything in between) if it meant making someone smile. Ridge was a man of great character. He sought to glorify God in all areas of his life. The motto for SPA is “To God Be The Glory”, and he lived that every day. He was known for asking people he’d just met, “Do you know Jesus?” and, if they didn’t, he would do what he could to introduce them to his Savior. He was a “Man’s Man” who made it okay to openly be a Christian. When Ridge spent time with his family or friends, when he worked with his colleagues, or when he was hosting tournaments, you could always count on three things: his laughter, which could be heard from afar; his prayers, which could be felt for miles; and a smile that lit up the room and lifted the spirits of everyone around him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Brian Hooks and Geraldine Hooks-Smith and his brother Wally Hooks. He is survived by his beautiful wife of 32 years, Ann Hooks; his children Bryan Hooks (Kasey), David Hooks (Christy), Holly Hightower, Wendy Van Bommel (T.J.), and Ginny Felton; his grandchildren Brandon Hooks, Alexis Hooks, William Ethridge, Elijah Hooks, Noah Hooks, Whitney Ethridge, and Micah Hooks; his nieces Debbie Carlin (Rick), Tiffany McBride (Jerrald) and nephew Brian Hooks (Scott); and lastly, his cousins Richard Holcomb, Linda Felton, Virginia McCombs (Don) and their families.

Six feet apart and a maximum of 10 people just cannot do justice to the force of nature that was Ridge Hooks, so a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Ridge wasn’t into flowers, but he was very into giving back to the community, so his family requests that in lieu of bouquets, donations can be made in his honor to the Ridge Hooks Memorial Scholarship Fund. PayPal account at <https://tinyurl.com/RIDGEHOOKS> or checks can be sent directly to the following: Brandon Hooks, CPA at 13600 North Blackwelder Ave., Apt. #174, Oklahoma City, OK 73134.

Godspeed, Ridge. We will miss you

Heres an article submitted by my good friend Jim Yester, Jim plays on my Fun League team, and is now traveling with the Scrap Iron Diamonds 70's.

It is my great pleasure to return to Colorado after a 40 year absence – the need to work interfered with my ability to live in this great state. Retirement graced me with the opportunity to move close to my family which brings a smile each and every day.;

This will be only my second year in the Scrap Iron organization, but I have enjoyed 20 years of travel softball in Pennsylvania. I would like to give a shout out to the guys who helped make senior softball the great sport that it is. You may not know Bob Peters, Lew Hoffman, Ron Kummerer or Ray Firlie, but if you ever run into the Springford 70 team, trust me when I say these men are great human beings along with many others on an excellent team. We were fortunate to be two-time SSUSA World Champions.

I would also like to recognize some great Scrap Iron players who have welcomed me into the organization. Many thanks to Art Graebe, Bart Prieve, Ed Berguis, Mike Anderson, Gil Patron, Bob Holland and Dick Moore for smoothing my transition to Colorado softball. Like many others, I appreciate championships and victories, but really play our great game for the relationships. The hours of practice, travel and meals together forms a connection that transcends the game. I am grateful for the moments we have shared and look forward to many more.

Here's a picture of Jim before Covid19 and after:



Carl Bennett, manager of the Scrap Iron Patriots, has been working through his Adidas Melee contact to get bulk pricing for some bats. This pricing only requires us to purchase a minimum of 10 bats. If we get a larger order, say 50 or 100, the price could be lower. The Player still pays the originally negotiated price and any discounted price amount will be considered a donation to the Scrap Iron Club.

The following 2019 Adidas Melee bats are currently available on a FIRST COME... FIRST SERVE BASIS. *They are being offered to our Scrap Iron Softball Club from Suncoast Marketing.*

Suncoast purchased from Adidas all remaining inventory of the Melee models with the Adidas branding on each bat.

COST PER BAT: \$165.00

FREE FREIGHT !!!

The description of all models currently available:

Adidas Melee / 2019 / 2 piece /

12" Barrel

RED / WHITE GRAPHICS

END LOADED

Weights:

25.5 oz.

26.5 oz.

27.5 oz.

28.5 oz.

29.5 oz.

Adidas Melee 2 / 2019 / 2 Piece /

13" Barrel

Blue with Green Graphics on barrel

BALANCED

Weights:

25 oz.

26 oz.

27 oz.

28 oz.

29 oz.

30 oz.

Adidas Melee / 2019 / 12" Barrel

1 piece / Orange Graphics on barrel

END LOADED

Weights:

25 oz.

26 oz.

28 oz.

29 oz.

30 oz.

NO 27 oz. AVAILABLE IN THIS MODEL.

Adidas Melee / 2019 / 13" Barrel

1 piece / Neon Green Graphics on the barrel

END LOADED

Weights:

25 oz.

26 oz.

30 oz.

NO 27 oz. / 28 oz. / 29 oz. Available

Adidas Melee / 2019 / 13" Barrel

1 piece / RED GRAPHICS on the barrel / BALANCED

Weights:

25 oz.

26 oz.

27 oz.

28 oz.

29 oz.

30 oz.

I am asking that each Team Manager acquire bat orders from their players, then forward your Team Order and checks to Jim Casswell. Managers of the Senior Saturday leagues using senior bats are also welcome to get their players to join in the purchase.

Jim Casswell needs to get a player names and checks from the team managers buy April 22 (12 days). Jim will send one check to Carl Bennett who will place the order the following week. Bats will be delivered to Team Managers for disbursement to individual team players and should be in time for the Rock n' Reno tournament.

Please act quickly, thanks,

John Parisi

Scrap Iron Club President

John.SI@comcast.net

307-286-1936

From our president, John Parisi

I went to the park today in hopes of taking some hits off a tee but the gates are all locked now. I have little to do but yard work, yuck! So I thought I'd share some stay at home humor, mostly female humor.

- Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
- I used to spin the toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
- Still haven't decided where to go for Easter . . . The Living Room or The Bedroom.
- PSA: every few days, try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job!
- Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.
- Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year." I'm offended.
- I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to Twilight Zone.
- This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into the house, told my dog . . . we laughed a lot.
- So, after this quarantine, will the producers of My 600 Pound life just find me or do I find them?
- Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business!
- My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I piss it cleans the toilet.
- I'm so excited . . . it's time to take out the garbage. What to wear, what to wear?
- Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks women with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.
- I'm so excited . . . it's time to take out the garbage. What to wear, what to wear?
- Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks women with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.
- Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under!
- If they had called it The Stay at Home Challenge and posted it on facebook the virus would be gone by now.
- I am glad I didn't waste my money buying a day planner for 2020!
- Now I know why dogs get so excited to go for walks.

And my personal favorite:

- I made the mistake of telling my husband an early symptom of covid is loss of smell....He has taken to passing gas in my vicinity and then when I react, informing me he is helpfully 'performing a wellness check'

God bless America, we are strong and will get through this stronger than ever, from the nightly 7:00 PM cheering on the east coast to the 8:00 PM Coyote howling here in Colorado. We thank our first responders, our brave health care workers, and all of us who are doing our part to beat this unseen enemy. Pray for our country.