



Travel Buddies

TRAVEL BUDDIES APPRECIATION EDITION

Thank you to all the contributors to this months newsletter, what a great time to acknowledge that travel Buddy. That fellow crazy softball player that you spend lots of time with, your good friend that you have bonded with over the years. You have rejoiced together over many wins and cried together over many losses. That brother from another mother, you have spent countless hours on the road and way too many hours sitting at the airport with. That special friend that understands you and likewise you understand him. I hope you all enjoy the following stories.

My Travel Buddy

By Gary Jones

In my business life I was a road warrior spending, many years, 60-90 days in hotels around the world.

Doing that you pick up a few tricks, like never ever share a room with someone.

That worked well for me in business so I assumed it would be the same when I began traveling to play senior softball. I did however forget one major factor; I no longer had a company paying for all my travel related costs. So I started a project to develop the perfect roommate.

In other words someone just like me.

The vetting process began in earnest about 10 years ago. I needed to find someone who could and would be willing to share in all the travel knowledge I had so painfully developed over my long and glorious working life. Needless to say I found my list of possible candidates to be extremely limited. By carefully listening to my teammates share stories about, shall we call them overnight events, I had all but come to the conclusion that no one I was playing softball with was worthy of the great adventure I was willing to take them on.

Here I was with this vast set of "Travel Knowledge", and no one to pass it on to.

Then the skies cleared and the sun returned as I meet a guy playing on my Saturday travel team that somehow just seemed different. He had worked for the National Park Service all his life and had travelled all over North America. He understood life in hotel rooms and the fun times in airports waiting for delayed flights. We shared stories together about the road that only kindred road warriors know, in other words, he spoke my language. Did I mention he also had a government pension?

I decided I could work with this background and with patience on my part, build him into a suitable roommate. All I needed to do was get him on my travel team.

It all came together in 2007 when he joined my first travel team.

You would not believe how well he has responded to my education on the finer points of travel.

He has embraced going to the airport 3 hours before a flight so he could enjoy my kindness in letting him join me in the United Club for food and drinks.

He knows that I secure a proper room at the hotel that is upper floor and not close to the ice machine or elevator and insists that I receive the hotel stay points. He understands that he must not unpack until I give the room the quiet test and deem it acceptable for us after a Purcell wipe down.

He does not stay up late at night and he always closes the toilet lid.

We still have room for improvement on his dining selections, but that is getting better as well.

Yes, I could not be prouder of how well Terry Goodrich has turned out as my Softball Travel Buddy.

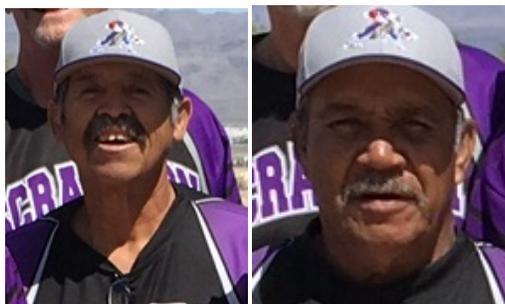
Humbly submitted by Gary Jones



My Travel Buddy By Art Graebe

Fourteen years ago I teamed up with my friends Andy and Marce to travel to Seattle to play in a tournament. This was the first time I decided to share a room with another teammate, my mindset prior to this had always been to stay alone because it would be private and more comfortable. It was a little awkward at first but I soon found out Andy and I had a lot in common and shared a lot of the same beliefs. We both owned our own businesses and it was great to have the opportunity to vent to another business owner about employees, the government, and the wonderful joys of being self employed. We bonded quickly and our friendship took off.

I'll never forget that first time with a roommate, both of us were early risers normally and at 4:00 in the morning I heard him stirring and asked "are you awake?" His answer was "yes, let's get out of here". So we grabbed Marce and were off to breakfast at 4:30 in the morning. Our first game wasn't until noon, so we had lots of time to kill. We decided to go cruising to see the area, it wasn't long before we were walking through the doors of an Indian casino, I thought this is crazy, 5:30 in the morning and I'm going to a casino! After our games that day we returned to find that the maids never cleaned our room, we inquired about getting clean towels only to find the maids partying and getting drunk at the pool, very funny site. That was the start of thousands of tremendous memories I'll never forget. If I took the time here to tell you just half of the memories we have shared together it would be pages long and you wouldn't believe most of them.



Andy Jaramillo

Marce Leija

I have traveled so much with my roommates, I have told my wife more than once, "It just doesn't seem right going out of town without Andy & Marce.

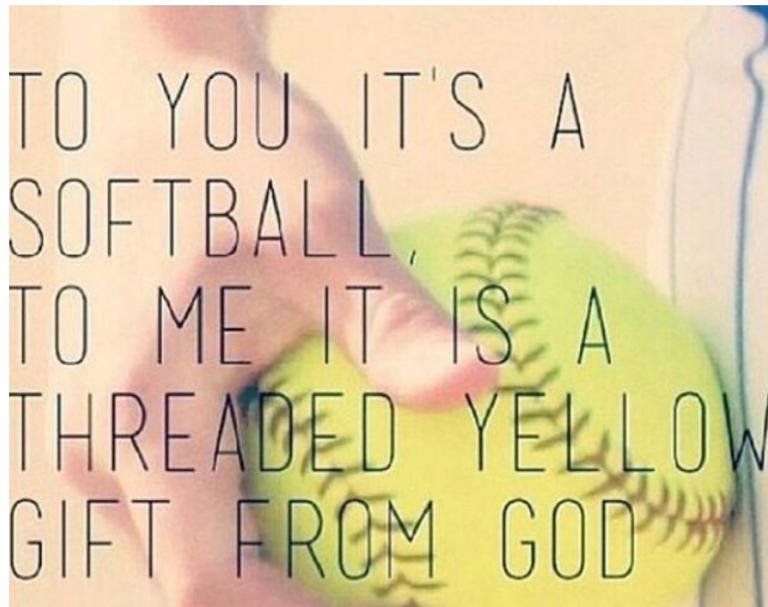
To sum it up, I'm truly thankful for all the memories I have since my senior softball career began, it's not all about playing the game, it's about the friendship and experiences. Thank you Andy & Marce my travel buddies my friends, looking forward to many more years of the same!

Why was Cinderella so bad at softball ? She had a pumpkin for a coach!



Our teams Travel Buddy

Many of you know Dan Silvey's wife Nan. Nan never misses a Saturday game or a tournament game. And not only is Nan a great cheerleader, she **ALWAYS BRINGS FOOD!** We joke around a lot, we really don't care if Dan shows up, as long as Nan is there! :-). She is our team's great travel Buddy! Barry Jark - Scrap Iron Xplosion



Billy the Bat Boy

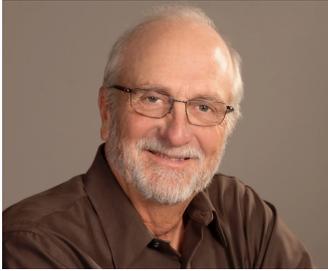
Dear Billy,

When looking for a roommate to share expenses with while traveling out of town to a tournament, what qualities in the person you're considering do you look for?

Signed, Looking to Hook up.

Dear Looking,

First and foremost, look for someone who doesn't snore! Second and almost as important, look for someone who doesn't leave their dirty underwear in the bathroom. Other than these two things I'm good with anyone.
Billy



They are “The Greatest”

By Don Carpenter

I’ve been a member of Scrap Iron since 2006, the year I turned 60. I was invited to join the Scrap Iron Diamonds (AA) only because there wasn’t a “Single A” level available to join! I have played at all 4 levels during the 13 years I’ve played, AA, AAA, MAJOR, and MAJOR PLUS. I’ve been very fortunate to play at all 4 levels since I still consider myself a Double-A player! (Well, someone has to drag the team down!)

During most of my playing time I have been fortunate to be on the same team(s) with Greg Broeckelman, Dennis Lutz and Stan Suichta. We have

almost always traveled together on the same flights or in the same car if the tournament is within driving distance.

Wow! What a lucky guy I have been to travel with such neat Travel-Buddies!. Not only are they nice guys, but also great players and representatives for Scrap Iron.

Lately however, I’ve been thinking how fortunate these guys are to have me around! They have played ball for years at a high level, and they have been very successful. But listen to this.....It wasn’t until after they met me that they entered into **The Senior Softball Hall of Fame!**

It must be all the great advice I give them on how to play the game. Yeah, that’s it. Or is it the great example I set for them on how to be a great player? Yeah, maybe that’s it. Or is it really the truth that they have adopted me as a Travel-Buddy and have set a great example for me on how the game should be played? Yeah, That’s the straight scoop, fer-sure!

All four of us love to travel together and to be together....especially when there’s ice cream involved. Yummy! We measure the success of a tournament on how good the ice cream is in the city we play in.

Greg Broeckelman plans all the travel for us and gets the best prices available for our travel. He should go into the “Senior Trip-Booking Hall of Fame” soon since he leads the pack in that area. He was already in the “I-can-out-eat-you-anywhere-anytime Hall of Fame” when I met him years ago. You all know I speak the truth! And, what a great and knowledgeable all-around ball-player!

Greg’s a Great Travel-Buddy, and man, can he put it away!!

Dennis Lutz is a great player and a great friend. We spend time at home and on the road talking softball. He has spent hours pitching to me and hitting me ground balls to make me better. We have lots of fun and hit 200-300 balls each most every week the temperature is above 40 degrees in Longmont.

Dennis is a Great Travel-Buddy, and man, what a ball-player!!

Stan Suichta is one of the few true “5-Tool Players” still playing, and age doesn’t seem to change his level of play any. Stan and his wife Diane are both inducted into the USSSA Colorado HOF. Stan is one of the greatest pitchers in the league, and he is a game-changer when he pitches. He can cover any base on defense and can defend his position at a high level. The rest of his game ain’t bad either!

Stan’s a Great Travel-Buddy, and man, does he ever make a difference!!

Yep, I have great Travel-Buddies. And I thank God in Heaven for ice cream, and that they let me tag along!

Remembering good times playing ball with my Buddies

By Arlan Amundsen

Here are a couple pretty old photos of early teams. Also two of my traveling buddies were Ken Green and Geordie Ledford.



Team News

Scrap Iron Xplosion traveled to Sacramento to play in the Northern California State Championship at the end of June and came back with the 1st place trophy and got some revenge. We tried to escape the 100 degree heat but ran into the same heat there.

We played seven games and went 6 and 1. "The Crew" knock us out of Mesquite when we took 5th and again beat us in the championship game in Vegas and they also won Reno, but this time we stayed in the championship bracket and beat them in the if game, winning two out of three from them over the weekend.

Our all tourney team was Gary Petersen, John Bellatti, Barry Jark, Gregg Pearson and Dan Silvey

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 5280' in Salem, Oregon

Scrap Iron Heavy Metal, had an excellent showing, finishing second in 60AAA. After winning both seeding games against the Electrifiers and Utah Coyotes, we were seeded 4th. We drew the 65 Major team, Las Vegas Stars, losing to them and the Electrifiers in our first two bracket games. With tremendous effort and camaraderie we then beat Texas Thunder, Dallas Spurs, PDC Yankees, Electrifiers, and the Las Vegas Stars before losing by 4 to Scrap Iron Xplosion going 7 and 3 for the tournament. Everyone on the team contributed to our success and we really started to gel as a team. We're looking forward to Vegas and with the addition of a few new all stars for 2019 season, expect to be a force to be reckoned with next year. All Tournament Players for the Rocky Mountain Championships were Alan Fejes, Bruce Brothis, Eddie Buonaiuto and John Kirar.

Scrap Iron Diamonds played in the Western Nationals in Sacramento, Ca. We played well and held on until the final four, let's just say the Thursday morning game at 8:00 wasn't nice to us. However we had a great time, Fields were in good shape and the weather was warm. Plus it's always wonderful to be 65 + and play ball! Thank you to Jimmy Casswell and Mike Anderson for filling in. The Diamonds also played in the Rocky Mountain Tournament in Aurora, we continue to dish out many blessings to the visiting teams, we won our first seeding game against the Dallas Spurs, than down hill from there, we were such good hosts to the Oklahoma Hooks we gave up 35 runs, they were very thankful!

Scrap Iron Players Participate in First Ever USA-Canada Senior Border Battle

The weekend of August 3-5, 2018 saw two players from the Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder 55s play in the first ever USA-Canada Senior Border Battle hosted by ISSA and held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dave Fortier and Tommie Edwards joined a team out of Illinois (with players from WC Thunder and DLB) and finished 1-3 in this event.

The event had 16 registered teams with 250 players ranging in age from 50 to 65-plus. The 12 U.S. teams hailed from Florida, Illinois, Michigan (three teams), Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio (two teams), Texas and West Virginia. The four Canadian teams were comprised of players from cities throughout Ontario. Next year's tournament will be held in Ontario.

Dave mentioned that there was "some really good competition, all close games, it was a great event. The Canadians won 3 out 4 age brackets. It was an honor to play in this tournament." Tommie added that "if Rocky Mountain Thunder would've been asked- we would've waxed some asses."

For mor information:

<https://www.quickscores.com/Orgs/ResultsDisplay.php?OrgDir=issa&LeagueID=943707>

Scrap Iron Business

From Our Treasure, Jimmy Casswell

If you have a Safeway grocery card it needs to be replaced, please contact Jimmy he can be reached at (303)906-5979 or email jimcasswell@hotmail.com

From our President, Andy Shapiro

By the time you read this the Rocky Mountain Tournament will have been played and hopefully everybody came out of it healthy. A few reminders there are several of us on the executive committee for Scrap Iron that have served in our posts now for more than several years so if you have an interest in being the Treasurer or President or any of the other positions please let me know. Also know that you will not have to step into the position cold and that both Jim and I as well as others will be here to help etc...

Also it is the time of year to be thinking about Team MVPs and who might be nominated for the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame as well as the Founder's award (the new name for the Ken Green award) information for all of these can be found on the web site.

If you have questions please give me a call. 303-257-8463 or andrew.shapiro@centurylink.com

Support Scrap Iron with your purchase of a Scrappy Logo sweatshirt. The sweatshirts are a 50-50 polyester-cotton fabric blend in 3 styles; crew neck, pullover hoodie and a zipper hoodie. Grey color only with the Scrappy logo and Colorado located on the upper left side of the sweatshirt. Price is \$26.00 (crew neck), \$30.00 (pullover hoodie) and \$32.00 (zipper hoodie). Text or call Kathy Huls at 720-541-3851. A large crew neck, a large pullover hoodie and an XL zipper hoodie are available for trying on. Medium and larger sizes are available. See picture below.



Message from the editor

With regrets your newsletter may be going to every other month or even once a quarter. This is not my desire, I truly enjoy doing this newsletter for our members. However, I do not enjoy having to beg to get input from our members. I am truly thankful for the contributions many of you have volunteered and responded to when I have asked. It's you that have made this worth reading. The old pictures from the past are awesome!

When I volunteered to take this on my goal was to bring us all closer together, our club is different from most clubs, take a car club for example, on several occasions during the year they get together for rallies and shows, book clubs meet often to share ideas on a book they read. We get together once a year at our banquet (and unfortunately not all attend) the tournaments we go to we rarely see each other, the 65' plus play during the week and the below 65's play weekends. With this newsletter I hope to bring us closer as individuals by sharing your fondest memories from the ball field, by sharing your bio, and by telling other club members what's going on with your team. We are only achieving part of the goal. Believe it or not, I have four Scrap Iron teams that have *never* shared any news about their team even though I have asked several times. There are individuals I have asked to write something for the newsletter and they have said no or simply ignored me. I do not want to be the guy everyone runs away from when they see me coming because they are afraid I'll ask them for input for the newsletters. This months issue is dedicated to our travel buddies, what a great opportunity to honor that guy or guys you travel with, tell some of your stories, you know our club is not only about softball it's our teammates, our memories, our fellow club members who share the same passion. So please, help me keep this newsletter monthly, who wants to read about your big win that happened three month ago? Please get more involved in your club, it doesn't get better than what we have! Thank you, Art



Year to date total donated to our club from this program \$99.65



Year to date donated to our club from this program \$4,118.00

Rocky Mountain Skills competitions, total raised \$745.00 up almost \$200.00 over last year!

Thank you Bruce and all who helped make this a success.

Very Good news !

It is with great joy to end this newsletter with good news, I talked to Robin Mastas during the Rocky Mountain tournament, she told me the treatments have been successful and she is cancer free! All the prayers, well wishes, and outpouring of love works!

Even more good news!!! 85+

For the first time ever our Scrap Iron club is very proud to announce that our 85 plus team has officially formed and will be playing in the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Tournament in Las Vegas this September. If your free, please go by and cheer them on. They will be playing Monday-Thursday September 24-27. Field location has not been posted yet, but will be easy to look up. Their team name is Scrap Iron Hawaiians