



Fall 2022

Happy Holidays to all who read this, 'tis the season again, the season to plan for the next season of ball. Teams moving up, new teams forming and the awesomeness of teams not changing a thing! As we wrap up the Thanksgiving holiday and look forward I like to look back on the year and dwell on things that I'm very thankful for. I'm so very thankful for our Scrap Iron club and all the volunteers and contributors that make it successful. Without your help and involvement we wouldn't exist. I'm also so very thankful that I'm still able and have the opportunity to play senior softball. I'm thankful for my teammates I honestly believe I have the best guys and best attitudes a manager could ever ask for. Hopefully, you believe the same towards your team.

I hope you enjoy this issue, it's rather short this month, I guess, not a lot going on.

A message from our Treasurer, Mr. Jim Casswell

Many of our members will not be itemizing deductions on their tax returns this year. Consequently, your charitable donations may not have as great a tax benefit. For those members in their 70's (including inherited IRA's even if the recipient is under 72) faced with a required minimum distribution (RMD) from retirement accounts, one way to lessen the tax impact is to make RMD payments payable directly to a charitable organization. *Scrap*

Iron Softball Club is an eligible charitable organization. The check can be for the full amount or any portion of the RMD, but must be made payable to the non-profit (as designated by IRS) directly. Please check with your IRA custodian to see if your retirement account allows said contributions. It can be mailed or forwarded to the following:

Scrap Iron Softball Club
Attn: Jim Casswell
PO Box 260699
Lakewood, CO 80226

Our annual Banquet this year was another success, we inducted 5 new member to our Hall of Fame,

Welcome class of 2022

Orville Strain
Randy Huls,
Bob Knowles,
Carl Markey,
Michael "Moo" Richardson,
Jerry Vigil

We recognized the following MVP's

Scrap Iron Mile High 55AAA, Anna Montoya

Scrap Iron Thunder 50, Lou Scirrotto

Scrap Iron 5280', Kelly Hallman

Scrap Iron Xplosion 65 Major, Ed Dilley

Scrap Iron Gray Berets Base Force 80, Dennis Lutz

Scrap Iron Peak 65, Don Walton

Scrap Iron Alliance 55, Doug Wesselink
Sammy Award- Joe Divido

Scrap Iron Alliance 50, Steve Sullivan
Sammy Award- Russ Pollard

Scrap Iron Storm, Randy Drenning

Scrap Iron Diamonds 75, Ed Clark

Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder 60, Kim "Ollie" Oliverson.

Scrap Iron Peak 60, Scott Graham

Scrap Iron Rockies, Steve Murphy

Scrap Iron Heavy Metal, Arthur Talbot

Scrap Iron High Octane, Mitch Saunders

Scrap Iron Diamonds 65, Tom Bechtel

A message from our Fundraising chairmen

Scrap Iron teams take flight! On Saturday 10/29 the Scrap Iron community ascended on Wings Over the Rockies for the yearly banquet. It's always a treat to walk among some of the greatest planes our armed forces have used over the years. This is the one time of the year when players and their wives can get together on the same floor. These are some of the best people you will see all year and spending even this short time together is a reminder of that fact!

The banquet featured the fine culinary delights from Good Foods. The bar was staffed from Peak Beverage, and Eddie B. greeted everyone at the door in his Star Trek uniform complete with phaser.

At this year's banquet, 6 players heard their names called as members of the class of '22 entering the prestigious Hall of Fame. It was a pleasure to listen to the stories the new HOF's shared about their life of playing Senior softball. Art/John – do you have the names of the inductees and current team?

Club President John Parisi manned the microphone as Master of Ceremony and presented the individual team awards. Our Scrap Iron team's work hard, play hard, and win/lose together. It takes a total team player to win these individual awards, and this year recipients are a shining example of players who put the team first. Art/John do you have the list of winners of the team awards?

The BIG winner of the night was Bruce Brothis. Bruce was presented with the Founders Award. The Founders award is the club's highest honor, and was awarded to Bruce for all of the work that he does for our organization. Fortunately, Bruce's daughters were able to attend the banquet and cheer on the dad when he received this award!

The Silent auction tables turned into a popular place to reuniting with old friends and bid on some exciting items. Bids were being placed at a rapid pace for some golf outings, softball bats, Olympic watches and numerous adult beverages. A BIG thanks to all of the teams for donating items. The money raised here has a huge financial impact to our overall budgets.

The 2023 Season kicks off the new tournament year, next week with Winter worlds in Phoenix. In 12 short months we'll be gathering again at the '23 banquet to share the highs, lows, wins and losses of Scrap Iron softball.

Jim Riley
Eddie "B" Buonaiuto
Banquet Co-Chairs

TEAM NEWS

75 Scrap Iron Diamonds

We are very fortunate to able add several quality individuals and players in Don Carpenter, Terry Goodrich, Pat McGuigan and Hal Meyer with the start of the new travel softball

season! Unfortunately, Pat was not able to join us at the Winter Worlds, since he was staying home to help Carol better health. We are looking forward to having him join us in future tournaments.

For the Winter Worlds we added Len Gann and Ralph Thies. Both quality individuals. For the tournament we went 5-0, with wins of 25-17 15-0, 17-8, 16-0, 18-6 for a total of 91 runs scored against 31 allowed. This is an amazing group of guys (the wives that come along are terrific also) that I am honored to be the coach. The starting pitcher was Len Gann, and the above scores show why we left him in for most of the games. We have an outstanding pitcher in Tony McIlroy, but he agreed to leave Len in. We also found a little more about Len. He can and did send the ball to places where nobody is going to find it!

Our infield is manned by Don Carpenter with his accurate and strong arm, Alan Wiechmann at shortstop ranging left and right to gobble up ground balls, Ed Clark with his strong arm and quick lease dooming numerous runners and completing double plays, Terry Goodrich making non-stop plays to get us out of innings and then there is Hal Meyer being very solid at first base. Then there is Ron Hefner playing each position like he has played it all his life and allowing the infielders a chance to take a break and keep the play at a high level!! As an outfielder we see a guy on first base and fully expect a double play. In the batting department we had 4 individuals hit over 800, Mike Anderson, Terry Goodrich, Tony McIlroy and Hal Meyer. As a team we hit 706. Playing fields with 336 foot fences, Don Carpenter saw several long blasts caught because they were playing so deep. Other than that each player provided hits when needed and we are looking forward to when we are back on the field together with our full roster.



From Mark Gallegos

We started Worlds 2022 in Las Vegas with a fairly healthy Squad. We started off vs. a KIA'I from Hawaii. We came out hot and won 28-12 in the first pool game. We then played a pretty good team named Team Arkansas. We stayed with them for the first four innings, then our bats went cold, we lost the second pool game 11-24. Our first bracket game was against 50 Oh My from CA. We came out on fire offensively and defensively. We won 21-1. Our next game was against Senior Dogs from MO. It was close the entire game, and we had a poor 6th inning at the plate, and we ended up losing this crucial winners bracket

game, 15-17. This put us in the losers bracket, and we beat a good Chi-Town team out of Illinois, 22-21. We then played a team from British Columbia names WC Evolution. We beat them 19-13. We played Smash from New York. It was a close game that we should have won easily, but that doesn't always happen in softball. We ended up winning 16-10. Our next game was against Gold Nation from CA. It was close the first 3 innings, then we had a lot of bad mental plays on the bases and the field, and could not overcome their solid hitting. We ended up losing this game 11-23, and that concluded our run in the 2022 World Championships. Top Hitters for the Tournament were, Stephen Wilkins, Mark Gallegos, Josh Stull, and Jerry Villagrana.

Scrap Iron Thunder 50's is officially done as a Team. Some of us have moved up to 55's to form Scrap Iron Thunder 55's. A new 50's Team will be a Scrap Iron Team in 2023, I don't know what name the Team will be as of now.

Scrap Iron Diamonds 65's

Unfortunately, we were not able to attend the Phoenix tournament this fall we had a couple players undergoing surgery to fix issues caused by years of ... let's just say issues of getting old!

We are moving up as a team to play in the 70's division in 2023, we are struggling to find players, please, let me repeat, "please" if you are interested or know someone who can play 70's send them my way firstbase17@me.com thanks, Art

Players Deserve a Second Chance

The book from John Feinstein, "Where Nobody Knows Your Name", talks about minor league players trying to get to the major leagues. Most players make several moves between AAA and the major leagues. This can be due to major leaguer injuries, their return from injury or the minor leaguer's lack of performance in "the show". Many adversities may get in their way whether by others or inflicted by themselves. However, they have an unrelenting passion to keep trying, some for over ten years, to get to the majors for the first time or back again. Often the player is released and waits by the phone to get picked up by another team and get another shot at their dream.

How far are we, senior softball players, from that situation. We have players without a team or playing at a level they know they can do better. However, these players may have a stigma from their past injuries, playing hurt or below their ability. They may not play well in one of the skill areas (hitting, fielding, throwing, running), not a good teammate, etc. Like minor leaguers, do they deserve a second chance with the same or a different team. All either group asks is to be told what they need to do to fulfill their passion and be given a chance to play again. That comes down to the players and coaches to talk to these individuals and then give them a chance. Historical perspectives can be overrated and judgmental.

Book quotes from players:

John Lindsey fielder: At least now I feel confident that I'm given a chance. That's all I ask for in the game, a chance.

Scott Elarton pitcher: I need to show them they can give me the ball every fifth day, expect a quality start out of me. Of course after this year, I have to earn my way back up there. I know I have fallen back in the pecking order some but I think I showed them I have the potential to be a good pitcher, I just need another chance. I guess that's what everyone says, isn't it, give me one more chance. Well I can say it too, I hope I get it.

Jim Bouton in his book "Ball Four", You see you spend a good piece of your life gripping a baseball. In the end, it turns out that it was the other way around all the time.

John Parisi
Scrap Iron Club President
John.SI@comcast.net



Bat Boy Billy

Bat boy Billy is lonely, nobody has written him in a couple months, please help keep him employed, like everyone else he is blaming the situation on the Pandemic!

Billy's advice for coaching bases " **Base runner with two outs: You're off like a prom dress.**"

Here's a funny situation, the picture below is my granddaughter's travel team at a tournament in Phoenix last week, Santa asked if some of them wanted to sit on his lap for the picture, all responded in unison "NO". My daughter asked why I don't have any pictures of my team like this one... I didn't even give her an answer!



Our Scrap Iron club wishes you and your family the very best of times during this Holiday season... the off season. During this time we usually eat too much, watch too much football and do little to stay in shape. Just remember, the new season of softball is fast approaching, remember last year, the first time you got out on the field it felt so good until the next day and everything hurt! Well that can be avoided, it's called off season training! I personally don't like the sound of that, but I want to get better as I get older so join me in staying in shape this winter and when the season begins this spring we can laugh together at those who can't get out of bed the next day.



In Remembrance of our good friend Bart Prieve

As many of you have already heard Bart passed when his plane crashed while flying in the Tucson area where he lived during the winter months. Bart was a teammate of mine and a good friend. He was very active in our Scrap Iron club and senior softball in the Tucson area. Bart will be missed very much next season when it starts up, I'm still in a state of miss believing that he won't be walking up to the dugout next year with that infectious smile of his. I do believe that he will be watching over us as we play and hopefully not laughing too much at us.

Bart, we all miss you, your one of the good guys!