



## Spring 2021

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For most of us the season started in March with the Mesquite/Saint George/ Vegas tournament. I call it the ice breaker. A few other teams started in January in Bull Head Arizona and a couple teams attended the Tournament of Champions in Florida. Isn't it great to be back on the field with your teammates, hitting, fielding, and running around like we have done since we were kids?

We all have been blessed with our organization that was formed by our founders almost 20 years ago. Murl Skala, Ken Green, Bob Wiltgen, Phil Field, Jerry Reidy, and Bob Gryzmala the founders of our club, had the vision of what we have become today. This season we have 20 Scrap Iron teams making us even stronger than anyone imagined almost 20 years ago. Next year 2022 we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary, let's start thinking of ways to make our anniversary year something special. Please send in ideas to me Art, email [firstbase17@me.com](mailto:firstbase17@me.com) and I'll take them to the board, let's make it awesome!

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As we begin our season please remember our code of conduct written by our founders.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

**WHILE REPRESENTING THE SCRAP IRON SOFTBALL CLUB, I WILL CONDUCT MYSELF AS A GENTLEMAN AT ALL TIMES.**

**ON THE FIELD OF PLAY, I WILL DISPLAY THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SPORTSMANSHIP.**

**MY ACTIONS ON AND OFF THE FIELD WILL NEVER DISCREDIT THE SCRAP IRON SOFTBALL CLUB AND ITS MEMBERS.**

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We would like to thank John Karagiannes again for putting together a March Madness pool with some of the money being donated to our club, and thank all of you for your participation.



The above have programs which support our club, free money to help our cause, if you shop at these establishments please ask your team manager how you can enroll in these programs. When you shop at these sponsors they give back a portion of your purchase to us. How cool is that!

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## Team News

### Scrap Iron Alliance 50's

After the 2020 season, two Colorado Springs teams (Alliance and Good Times) merged to create two new teams: Alliance / Scrap Iron 50+ AAA and Alliance / Scrap Iron 55+ AAA. The Spring World Championships in St George Utah was the first SSUSA tournament of 2021 for both squads. The Alliance / Scrap Iron 50+ AAA went to St George with 12 players and finished the tournament with 4 wins and 2 losses. We won both pool play games and entered the 12-team bracket with the #4 Seed. During bracket play, both our losses were heart breakers that were decided by a single run. The team finished the Spring World Championships with an On Base Percentage (OBP) of 0.699. Obviously, all 12 players performed exceptionally on both sides of the ball. Our offensive leaders were Dean Cohrs and Tony Jones, both with an OBP of 0.741. In addition, our defensive standouts were Mike Hinkle and Joe McDonald. The 2021 season looks promising for both Alliance / Scrap Iron teams as we prepare for our next SSUSA tournament at the end of April, the Texas State Championships.

### Scrap Iron Tenacity.

We went 2-3 at Spring Worlds. We made some big improvements from the Yuma Tournament. First game we did not play well. We were very rusty and got beat pretty easily by the Easton Reds. Second game we beat Battleborn from Las Vegas. They won this tournament last year. It was a much better game for us. Our first bracket game was another win vs. Freak Show from Las Vegas. We won on a walk off homerun by Mike Monetti! The next game was against the #1 seed, Elevated 50's. We lost by one run in the

7th. The fifth game was against 805 PE Class from CA. We had a good battle going, and lost on a walk off homer in the bottom of the 7th. We had some encouraging improvement from our first tournament, but we still have a lot of work to do to play at a high level. We are starting to gel as a fairly new team, we need a lot more game time situations and practice games.

### **Scrap Iron Alliance 55**

The 2021 version of Alliance/Scrap Iron 55 took the field for the first time in St George, Utah. The team played 5 close games that could have gone either way. After two pool games losses, 22-15 and 19-17, the team was seeded 11th. We won the first bracket game 13-9. But then suffered back to back losses by the scores of 27-22 and 17-13 for a 1-4 showing. "I don't see a team that is better than the others or that we can't compete with" said Coach John Karagiannes. It was just a pleasure to be back on the field with a great group of guys. We incorporated 10 new players so the chemistry will come. Everyone was disappointed with the results but the heads were held high. "I believe everyone can see the talent we have and know it's just a matter of time before things click and the wins pile up". The teams leading hitters were Rex Mitchell .750, Ron Trodler .750, and Dave Bretton .700. Next up for the team is the Texas State Championships in Grapevine, Texas.

### **Mile High 55 AAA**

3-2 record at SSUSA's Spring World Championships in March finishing in the middle of the 16-team bracket. We appeared a little rusty at the plate as a team after a month of snowy weather in the Rockies. The team finished fourth in the November Winter Worlds in Phoenix and placed first in the February Spring Training Classic in Phoenix. Next up SSUSA's Southwest Championships.

### **Scrap Iron Rockies 60's**

Rockies were 3rd in Spring Worlds in Mesquite. All tourneys were Jose Valiente, Dave Hernandez, Jim Riley. Next up is Southwest Championships in Vegas, looking forward to a great 2021.

### **Scrap Iron XPlosion**

7-2 record and a 4th place finish. Moral of story--don't lose your first game of the bracket play. We were number one seed and lost our first game in the tournament, making it a long road to finish high in the tourney. We keep on base percentage. We had nine players above 700 for the tourney and 4 of those were above 800. (Moo Richardson, Arlis Bader, Carl Markey, Ed Dilley, John Bellatti, Scoop Peterson, Tim McIlvain, Dan (Master) Silvey and CJ Anderson). Our team OBP was 750. Averaged 24 runs a game with a high of 36 and a low of 16. With that kind of offense, why didn't we finish first or second? Simple answer: we lost our first game of the tournament. Looking forward to Las Vegas  
"Rock on Scrap Iron"

### **The Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder 60s**

Team finished 4th out of 14 60-Major teams at Spring Worlds in Mesquite, NV. After finishing round robin play with a 2-0 record and the number one seed, they won their first bracket game by scoring 9 runs in the bottom of the 7th. However, the favor was returned in the second bracket game when the eventual tournament winner scored 9 runs on them in the bottom of the 7th. Overall, the performance reflected a team of players that hadn't played for several months, especially on defense.

The RMT 60s hit a total of 19 homeruns in 5 games with 9 different players contributing. Kim Oliverson (Ollie) and Dave Schultz lead us with 4 and 3 homeruns, respectively. Just a great show of the power this team has. Our brilliant lead-off hitter, Tommie Edwards, lead the team in OBP at .842 and also hit 2 homeruns. Dave Dix was next with a .800 OBP and 2 homeruns. And Steve Antonczyk, Mike Mouton, Jack Donnelly, Mark Troxel and Dave Schultz all had an OBP over .700. Just a great job by all of them.

### **Scrap Iron MH Sports**

Went 4&2 in our first tournament together. Had fun! Good group of guys. Looks like a good year ahead. Defense was solid. Kelly Hallman and Terry Liverant let the team in hitting. Both over 800 We played with 11 players all week, and no injuries. We had 2 players hurt before the tournament started.

### **Scrap Iron Diamonds 65's**

We had to shake off a lot of rust and it really showed our first day, the second day we came out on fire winning 30-15. The rust showed up again in the middle of our second game when we showed we were not in softball shape yet. The game that put us out, we lost in the 7th by one run, if we were home team we would have won, that's my story and I'm sticking to it. Next up is Las Vegas than Reno.

### **Scrap Iron Diamonds 70's**

Well, we have done a lot better than our 0-5 performance in Mesquite/St George. We lost 2 games via mercy rule and flip-flopped in another. We were only really in one game, leading by 2 runs going into the bottom of the 7th, but couldn't hold on. Kinda a downer, but the Diamonds will rise again!

### **Scrap Iron 5280'**

Competed in the Spring Worlds in St. George finishing 2nd out of 12 teams with a 6-2 record. 5280' won its first three games before playing Valley Fog out of California. We lost 29-23 sending us to the losers' bracket. On the final day 5280' won three in a row to get into the championship game—again against Valley Fog. Despite some great hitting, we lost, 24-23. We are in the process of choosing All-Tournament Players. Some highlights: Mark Soloway batted 0.895. Jim "crazy legs" Casswell had 7 inside the park homeruns, Mike Edwards pitched all but one inning, and Wayne Bradley batted 0.704 with 8 doubles and 18 RBI's. As a team, 5280' batted 0.719. In April, 5280' will play in the Southwest Championships in Las Vegas and Texas State Championships in Dallas.

In January, 5280' played in the Tournament of Champions in Lakeland, FL. After winning both seeding games, 5280' was the number one seed. Then 5280' won its first bracket

game, followed by losses to Lane Construction (FL) and Mid States Seniors (IL). 5280' finished in 3rd place. All-Tournament players were Pat McGuigan ( 0.813 batting average), Alan Wiechmann, and Hal Meyer.

### **Scrap Iron Legends**

The Scrap Iron [75 AAA team took first place in St George, Utah](#) at the Spring World Tournament. Scrap Iron ended up with a 6 and 1 record and had one game that we won in 9 innings at 33 -32. We had 17 in the park home runs and one over the fence. Not bad for a bunch of 75 year old coots. All tournament players (of which most all of the team could have been) were Wayne Fields, Ken Armbruster, Rick Purdy, Mike Anderson, and Larry Ouret.

