

SCRAP IRON Softball



Spring 2023

Okay, I know it's winter but haven't we had enough snow? I'm anxious to get outside and hit some balls, hitting in the batting cage helps to keep our timing down, however it would be great to see the ball fly instead of into a net.

The Mesquite/Saint George tournament is fast approaching, this is a tournament where most all of our Scrap Iron teams go. Are you ready? I might not be physically ready but In my mind I'm absolutely ready to play!

In this issue please find some valuable information on Scrap Iron Wood Bat tournament, an informative article from John Parisi, our clubs President, plus some team news.

A few years ago we put out a newsletter dedicated to "Travel Buddies". I would like to do that again, please send me a short article on your Travel Buddy. Share some fun times you have had traveling together, thank him here for all those great times traveling to play softball. Last time we did this it was a success with lots of great stories. Please send them to me, Art, at firstbase17@me.com. Do it today, thank you!



Scrap Iron Senior Softball



Wooden Bat Tournament 2023

Hello Fellow Scrap Iron Members,

We are proud to announce that we will be having a Wood Bat Tournament and Scrap Iron Fundraiser.

Save the Date Sunday June 25th at the Schaefer Softball complex.

Prepare for a great event, with a concession stand with Food and Drinks (Hot Dogs, Burgers, water & Beer) and of course good Old Time Softball with WOOD BATS.

It will be a 3 game tourney with 4 Team in each bracket. Brackets will be set up of 4 teams of equal age groups. (2 AM Brackets Starting at 8:30) (2 PM Brackets starting at 1:00)

We have room for 16 teams, but even if you don't plan on playing come and join us for food and softball. We need of course Wood bats, Tables and Chairs to eat and sit at and we are looking for a Large Grill, as well as Volunteers to help run the concession stand.

Remember that this is a fund raiser to Support Scrap Iron Softball Club and Our Success is the Clubs depends on your participation. Interested please contact Eddie "B" Buonaiuto, Eddiebee14@aol.com.

Welcome one and all to the 2023 Wooden Bat tournament! We are proud to announce a renewal of this event to be held Sunday June 25 at Schaefer Athletic Complex at 9750 W. Hampden Ave. This will be a one-day event sponsored by Scrap Iron Senior Softball and will follow SSUSA rules. The cost will be \$240/team and will feature a three game guarantee.

Tournament format:

Brackets Five-year age divisions

Pitch Count 1-1 pitch count WITH courtesy foul

Run Rules five runs per ½ inning (EXCEPT open inning)

Mercy rule 15 runs after five or 20 runs after four innings

Tie Breakers Head to Head, least runs allowed, run differential, coin toss

Bat restrictions NO Bamboo Bats

Tournament Directors Eddie Buonaiuto eddiebee14@aol.com and Jim Yester jyester111@gmail.com

Registration Email Eddie or Jim by May 1 to register your team

SCRAP IRON CLUB MARCH UPDATE

John Parisi - President

Scrap Iron Club Board of Directors met on February 4, 2023. The teams will have sufficient funding to cover tournament fees for seven or eight during the year. You should be aware SSUSA rescinded their plans to change from a five game guarantee to four games for most tournaments. Your support in communicating your desire was heard as they tallied the votes from the players with 52.5% in favor of increasing tournament fees by \$75 and thus keeping the five game guarantee. I saw many of your responses and was impressed by the clarity of your comments and conviction.

We have some additional fundraisers planned this year that are intended to pull players from other senior softball organizations. We need your endorsements to spread the word to these other organizations. The Wooden Bat Tournament on Sunday, June 25 will be at Schaefer Sports Complex. While Scrap Iron is organizing and sponsoring this event, we are hoping several local Wednesday/Monday (CSSA) and Saturday (CSSTL) teams will

join us in this event. More teams registering for the tournament will increase the fundraising potential. A flyer will be available with additional information including registration fees. As Scrap Iron members, I encourage you to seek out players and teams you play in these leagues. This isn't an SSUSA tournament but a local, fun, low key tournament for players to come play the game they use to play many years ago, have a great time during the game as well as eating and socializing between games. On June 12-13, choose Monday or Tuesday, SLI Academy will be conducting hitting clinics for senior players. The all-day clinics are conducted in Denver – Vanderbilt Fields, giving you the option to attend either date. Last year, ten participants attended. The group learned the key components of hitting and driving the ball more effectively. Everyone left with great information, personalized to their needs to be much better hitters and given the opportunity to provide further opportunity to exchange their personal videos for further review. Changing habits can be very difficult so this will help keep the attendees on track for continued improvement. Several of the participants will be attending again this year. Only three players were Scrap Iron members with the rest from Wednesday and Saturday teams. We should be able increase the attendance to 15 to 20 players for each day to improve their skills and, subsequently, their team's performance. The cost is \$250 per player of which \$50 will be donated to our Scrap Iron Club. Lunch is included. For additional information and to register, click on the attached website:

<https://sliacademy.com/clinics>

The Scrap Iron Club Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, from 6 – 10 pm at Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. Wishing all a great season ahead! Have fun, play your best and be safe.



At a recent tournament an opposing player to a Scrap Iron man after the IF Game. "You're kind of hard to kill". The Scrap Iron response "We don't die, we multiply."

After a bad loss, two Scrap Iron players commiserate at a restaurant - You're staring at the cup of coffee like it called you a bad name.

(You can thank our very wise Bat Boy Billy for these comments)

Team News

Scrap Iron 80 AAA team won their division in the Palm Springs, CA Invitational tournament. In the round robin play, we went 3-1. We were tied with another team and became the number two seed because they scored a total of 59 runs, while we scored 57. In the bracket play, we lost our first game to the 85 major team that was in our pool, and then beat the two AAA teams in our pool. As a team, our batting average was 0.611, while our opponents hit 0.539. Our defense played pretty well for a bunch of old guys, and we had a lot of fun. The weather was very nice for this time of the year.

We are planning to play in eight tournaments this year. Our next three tournaments will be in St. George, Las Vegas, and Reno.

Written by: "J. C." Moore.

Scrap Iron Diamonds 70's. We elected to go to the Top Gun Bullhead City Tournament in middle January. I thought that we might be a bit rusty since we hadn't played since October, however, we were all very pleased with our performance. Our first game we were up against a good upper level team, our defense was awesome and hitting was as if we had been playing all winter. We won that game 21-4. Our second game again versus a good upper level team our stellar performance continued, we held the lead all game and lost in the 7th. We were happy, until the next day, cross winds of 25+ mph and a temperature of 50 degrees. Nobody wanted to be there, pitchers had a hard time pitching, lots of walks, and that was frustrating so of course everyone started swinging a bad pitches. Lost first game 7-5 (normally you don't loose to a team that only scored 7 runs. Weather really ruined that day, all we wanted to do was get out of the wind, what a blessing it was to get that day over. Next up is Saint George and then one to Vegas.



Don Vaughn passed a week ago and will be missed by many in the softball community.

Don Vaughn 01May1945 - 01Feb2023

Did you ever meet someone, and think...man...I need to be more like that person? Well Don Vaughn was one of those....he embodied all the good words: Devoted-Husband, Compassionate, Humble, Loyal, Empathetic, Caring, Christian, and he was THE MOST positive person you will ever meet. In fact...I could be 0 for 4 in a game...and stepping into the batter's box for that 5th at-bat...I hear that familiar voice..."Stay hot Chris!" But that's the way he was...always on your side...always saw the best in you...he made you better.

Don was inducted into the Colorado USSSA Hall of Fame as a sponsor in 2006, and has sponsored Colorado teams from 1985 through this year. Young-man's teams such as: Vaughn Mortgage, Parkmoor Storage, Capital Mortgage, Worth/Capital Mortgage, Storage Time, Peak Contracting/Capital Mortgage. Most recently in the senior Scrap Iron ranks: Rocky Mountain Thunder (10yrs) and Peak (this year).

Don loved the game of softball and would recall plays or at-bats in specific games from decades ago! He was so proud of his teams. Those who played for him...and even against him...to the player... have nothing but positive comments about him. If you made a great play in the field or got an important hit....he was the first one out of the dugout to give you a "high-five"! Don just loved the game...many times he would stay after our games to watch another team play...not scouting...just appreciating good ball.

The Peak team will be wearing a **DV#7** or **DV7** patch on our uniforms this season honoring Don. Feel free to come up and share a laugh or story about him.

Don leaves a hole in my heart and in the softball community...he leaves us a blueprint of how to be a better person...he will be forever remembered...

Stay Hot Don!

Chris McTigue

The following was submitted, and the author wishes to remain anonymous, (don't know why, it's a good article)

IMPORTANT PRE-SEASON STUFF: Well, you're another year older, and another softball season approaches. Back when I was playing in the big leagues (You believe that, don't you?), we always were told to get in "game shape" early so we would prevent injuries after the regular season starts. You know, stretching, exercising, eating right, and hydrating. Your old bones, joints, and muscles might not like it, but you best be getting on it, or you may be paying a high price early in the season nursing hammies, throbbing knees, sprained ankles, pulled muscles, torn ligaments, or a sore throwing arm.

Now, let's assume you come out of the chute this spring in great shape. What's your softball goal for 2023? Get on your favorite team to travel and play and have fun with your buddies, and be a good teammate.....right?

What is the definition of a "good teammate"?

In order to be a good teammate, you are supportive, kind, helpful, attentive, and encouraging in the dugout and on the playing field to your teammates.

All of that is true, and we all do that stuff, but what else can you do to be a better teammate while raising your game to the next level?

Consider these basic reminders regarding playing the game.

1. The team with the most runs wins.
2. How do you score runs? You get on base.
3. How do you get on base? Hit it where they ain't. That results in RBI's.(See #1)
4. How do you hit it where they ain't?
5. **PRACTICE-PRACTICE-PRACTICE!**

Consider these next things when you practice so you can be a teammate who usually drives his teammates around the bases to increase team scoring. (See #1 above again) Add these things to your muscle memory while you are practicing.

1. Nobody ever wants to hit into a double play. So why wouldn't you want to learn how "not to hit into a double play?" **Practice and Pitch Selection:** Make sure you only swing at pitches you can handle. **Don't swing at short pitches.** They usually cause ground ball outs. Practice going with the pitch into the biggest gap you can find in the grass. No routine ground balls. They usually cause "outs" not RBI's.
2. **CARDINAL SIN:** With men on 1st base or 1st and anywhere else, never hit a ground ball, but especially to the shortstop or to 3rd base. The result sets up a double play, or possibly a triple play. Hit the grass! There's a lot of grass out there. Practice.
3. While on offense or defense, always watch the ball until it either hits your glove or your bat.
4. While on defense, always be ready for the next pitch and plan ahead what you will do if the ball is hit to you.

NOW YOU AREN'T JUST A GOOD TEAMMATE, YOU ARE A GREAT TEAMMATE!!

HIT SAFELY, DRIVE IN RUNS, AND OUTSCORE YOUR OPPONENTS!

-BE SAFE, STAY HEALTHY, AND HAVE FUN-