



## December 2021 Newsletter



Well, here it is The Holiday season again, it seems like just a few weeks ago it was Christmas 2020 and it seems like we just started our 2021 season. Time is flying by and it's hard to believe I have been playing senior softball for 17 years. It's also hard to believe that some of my teammates have been playing with me all that time. Speaking of teammates, I hope all of you have been blessed over the years with great teammates like I have. Yes, I love the competition of a softball game but what really is the icing on the cake is our teammates! I have found that going out of town to play ball is very rewarding, not just because of the softball, it's the hanging with your teammates between games, watching other Scrap Iron teams, at the restaurant, or the hotel pool. We all have been very blessed to be able to play ball at our age, extra blessed to be part of our Scrap Iron club. I hope you enjoy this issue, and remember the off season is not just for lying on the couch watching football, the off season is for getting in shape for spring softball!

Earlier this month our club held its fall board meeting, (see... your team manager *is* hard at work for you). We would like to thank Mark Gallegos for allowing us to use his boardroom. Thank you for the great attendance from all the team representatives that attended. We are pleased to announce that Scott Cameron has joined the executive board. It's nice to walk away from a 3 hour board meeting and feel like we accomplished much and all went well.

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## ***Here's some fun news***

Jim Davidson, a long time Scrap Iron club member, and Scrap Iron Hall of Fame member, who now lives part time in Colorado & part time in Florida was inducted into the Florida Half Century Hall of Fame on December 3, 2021. Most all of you reading this know Jim, he is a terrific fellow... O' and a pretty darn good ball player. This honor is very well deserved. I'm lucky to have him on my Wednesday softball team and to call him a friend.

Jim's letter to me:

The induction ceremony was at a banquet on December 3rd.

That I was already a member of the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame was mentioned during my introduction. Scrap Iron is known to (and respected by) those who play on Florida travel teams.

FHC is the Florida organization that puts on an in-state tournament twice per month, once for under-60 teams and once for over-60 teams. Teams come from all over Florida. All players must be Florida residents. In 2021 there were 199 teams registered. Teams are assigned to brackets, similar to how we do it in Denver. I now play for a 74+ team. We play in the top bracket and went undefeated this past year. I started playing in FHC tournaments the first year I came to Florida (2009) and have played every year since. I miss the summer tournaments while I am in Colorado, which my team has consistently frowned on but managed to overlook (so far).

***Congratulations Jim, from all of your friends in Colorado.***



## **Safeway grocery cards**

You all know about the King Soopers grocery card program, but a lot of you didn't know that Safeway also has one, actually it's better than King Soopers in the fact that we get a full \$5.00 for every \$100.00 you spend plus you can use the Safeway card for gas. Jim Casswell has some of these cards available, if you shop at Safeway, grocery or gas you can really help out our club. See Jim or respond to this email and we will pass your name on to him.



## **Bat Boy Billy**

Bat Boy Billy is here for you, questions or comments about anything relating to our Scrap Iron club or sports or your love life. Think of him as your "Dear Abby".

Please write to him through me, Art, [firstbase17@me.com](mailto:firstbase17@me.com) and I will pass it on to him. Please be assured I will not pass your identification on to him or others, that being said I am the only one who knows Billy,

and will keep the secret.

Billy is upset because nobody wrote to him last month, he is so upset he sent me these corny jokes. Sorry!

*Why can't you trust a softball pitcher?  
Because they use underhanded tactics.*

*What does a softball player do when they lose their eyesight?  
The become an umpire.*

*Two old guys - Mike and Ed had been friends all their lives. When it became clear that Ed was dying, Mike visited every day. One day Ed said to Mike - "We have been playing softball for many years - do me a favor and when you get to Heaven, let me know if there is softball up there." Soon after that, Ed passed over. A few weeks later Mike was awakened from a sound sleep with a voice he seemed to recognize - "Mike Wake up!" Mike was startled and asked "Who is it?" Ed replies "It me - Ed! You asked me to get back to you if there was softball in Heaven - and I have good news and bad news - The Good news is there is softball in Heaven and we play on the best fields, have the best equipment and can play whenever we want! All our old buddies are there and the best news is we are all young again!  
Mike says "That's Fantastic! What's the bad news?"  
Ed says "Your pitching Thursday."*

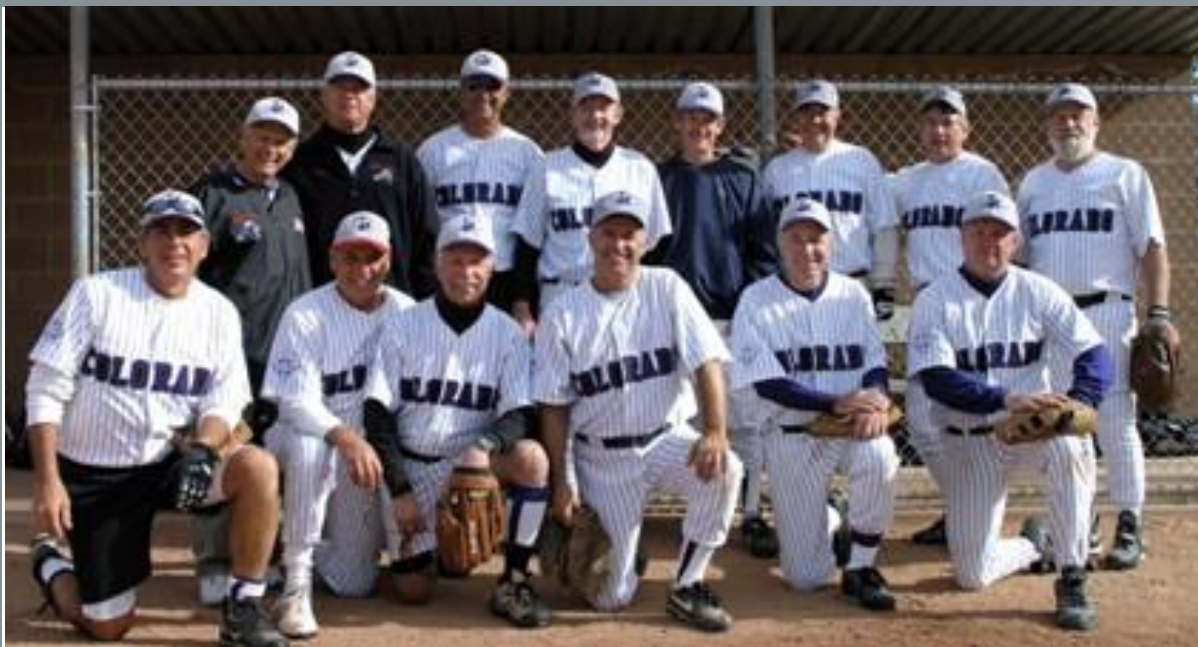
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## **Story behind the Diamonds**

By Art Graebe

Our Scrap Iron club has had many teams come and go over the years, with many players going from team to team as they move up in age, and divisions, but one Team the Scrap Iron Diamonds is the longest running team in the history of our club. The Scrap Iron Diamonds were originally started by Jerry Reedy under the name "Diamonds in the Rough". Over the years the team was managed by Steve Lents, Dennis LaBlanc, and Larry Alma. In 2009 Bart Prieve took over until 2013 when The Diamonds split into two teams, Terry Goodrich took over the 60's Diamonds and Bart ran the 65 Diamonds. In 2017 I took over as manager when Bart moved up to the 70's and continued on as the Scrap Iron Diamonds 70's. Unfortunately, Barts 70's Diamonds changed managers this year and voted to change the name to the Scrap Iron Storm. Enter now Jim Casswell, Jim has started a new 75's team, he asked me if I minded if he named his team the Diamonds 75's, in honor of Jerry Reedy and the Diamonds history. Of course, I said yes! I'm proud to be part of this legacy, like the Pink Floyd song goes "shine on you crazy Diamonds".

Here's a picture of one of the very early Diamonds teams.



In looking back over the years there has been a lot of Diamonds players, I would hate to try to name them in fears of a senior moment and someone gets left out. I do count 14 players in the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame who were once Diamonds.

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Our team had to replace one of our jerseys due to just being wore out, I asked Fred at Athletic Lettering to design a logo for us showing our 30th anniversary to place on our jersey sleeve. He can also do patches. If interested please contact your uniform committee or contact me Art, [firstbase17@me.com](mailto:firstbase17@me.com). Also, your uniform committee can help you with Scrap Iron merchandise, sweat shirts, jackets, pull overs, etc. If you need new ball jerseys and are stumped for a design let us help, that's just one of the reasons we have a uniform committee. Thank you Jim

Yester and Andy Shapiro, O' yea me also until someone volunteers. Maybe that someone is you!!!

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## Team News

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**Scrap Iron Peak Softball** After being re-classified to the SSUSA Major division from AAA the Peak softball/ Scrap Iron team finished 4th. at the SSUSA Winter World tournament in Phoenix.

Peak was led by Pitcher Scott Graham (.667) outfielders Kenny Lindow (.778), Chris Crumrein (.792). C.J. Anderson (.696), First baseman Tom Sutak (.818), and shortstop

Ross Guillen (.571). Other players who contributed greatly were Ken Zito , Mike Pike . Bob Anderson, Rodney Pelkola, Micah Ebersol, Joe Riberio and Kevin Flynn  
Peak is coached by Charlie Graham.

Our Team Goal in our first year as a Majors' Team was to get to Sunday at Worlds. We came a little short on that goal, but we ended up 9th out of 47 Teams. When we look back on that now, we are pretty happy with the success we had in our first year. Some of our Team accomplishments for 2021 are:

- 2nd Place in 50 Majors at the Southwest Championships in Las Vegas.
- 1st Place in 50 Majors at the Rock 'N' Reno Challenge Cup in Reno.
- 1st Place in the NCS Mid-Summer Classic in Commerce City.
- 1st Place in the 50 Majors Rocky Mountain Championships in Aurora.
- 9th Place Finish at the 50 Majors World Masters Championships in Las Vegas.

Thanks to the Scrap Iron Organization again for all that they do to help us play the game we still love. I heard all year from other players that "The Scrap Iron Teams are always good", "The Scrap Iron Teams play with integrity and grit", etc

**Scrap Iron Tenacity** started their 2022 Season at the Winter World Championships in Phoenix Arizona. We added 5 new players to the Team this year, with a couple of players who played their first Senior Tournament. We started off in Pool Play vs. Enough Said / Onyx out of AZ. We played them really close till the last inning, and they had a monster open inning, and ended up beating us pretty bad with a score of 18 to 36. Our second pool game wasn't much better, we scored 7 runs on very poor hitting, and lost to Amigo's 50 out of CA by a score of 7 to 14. Some learning curves with a "new" team, and some definite rust showing that we hadn't had any live pitching for quite some time. Friday was a new day with Bracket Play. We came out and played stellar defense against a 50's Major Plus Team named Arizona Heat. We beat them 14 to 11 in our first bracket game. Next Bracket Game was against Homer Lovers from Canada. They assumed they were going to mow through us, but our bats came alive, and we also played outstanding defense against them. We ended up beating them by a score of 21-14. We drew the Amigo's 50 from CA again in our next Bracket Game. It was a close contest all game. We hit better this time around, and our defense was solid. It was tied in the bottom of the 7th, and all we had to do was score one run. We couldn't get it done, so we went extra innings. We turned a crucial double play against them, and shut them down to no runs in the top of the 8th. We then scored a run in the bottom of 8th, and won the game 18-17. We were in the semi-finals on Saturday versus a Team named Stadium from CA. This team is pretty legendary, and has been around for quite some time. We played very well against them, and once again, our defense was phenomenal. We ended up beating them by a score of 21-16. This put us in the Championship Game, and on top of the hill in the winners bracket. We ended up playing Stadium again in the Championship. We came out and put up 5 runs in the first inning, and things were looking good. We went flat offensively, and made a few mistakes in the field, and their bats were very hot from their previous game. We came back in the 7th inning, and ended up losing by a score of 20 to 21. This put us in the "IF" Game, and we were extremely flat. We were never in the game, hit into too many double plays and ground outs, and their bats were still on fire. We lost by a score of 7-22. We ended up taking 2nd Place in our first tournament of the 2022 Year. Not what we were hoping for given our position, but once we reflected on it, it's a very good accomplishment, given our new team stature, and being our first tournament of the season. The Team chose the four All-Tournament Selections by vote. The All-Tournament Selections for the Winter World

Championships for Scrap Iron Tenacity are: Pete Medina, Warren Baum, Alan Hom, and Mark Gallegos.

**Scrap Iron Diamonds 65's**, attended the Winter Worlds in Phoenix last month, we were fortunate to get to play at Cactus yards complex in Gilbert. On paper I had the strongest team going, everyone was healthy and healed from previous injuries. However, that's where it stayed on paper, I have no idea what went wrong and why we didn't hit the ball. Our defense was good and our bats were good just not good when needed. We left a lot of runs on base, no make that a lot... a lot... of runs on base. We went 5 and out, ouch! We did have a good time and that's why we do what we do. Looking forward to the off season with Mesquite up next.

**Scrap Iron Diamonds 75's** is a new team formed by the maturing of 7 individuals from the 70 SI 5280 team and several others from other SI teams. We have chosen the Diamonds name to honor one of the amazing examples of what it is to be a Scrap Iron person and was also a very major contributor. This is none other than Jerry Reidy with his company of Jr's Diamond in the Rough. Thank You Jerry!!

For our first tournament we exhibited what our team is all about. We had solid performances from everyone and we have a team that is fully in support of each one of us no matter the outcome. We went 5-2 and finished 3rd. Our outfield stumbled to the finish line with several injuries that made it fine to be done after 7 games. We also have some terrific fans with wives and significant others to help us through it all. Ed Clark's significant other, Deb, is a nurse and we kept her plenty busy. She is a blessing to have around. She is also the score keeper and does a real good job of keeping us in line!

Just about everyone got an MVP vote with Ed Clark, Alan, the farm hand, Weichmann and the coach getting the most. Ed is always a solid rover and adapts to whoever else is next to him. He does terrific when at the plate with around 800 the norm and, of course, he knows what to do when he is on base. Alan is a coach's dream with him being able to play any position on the field (not pitcher) at a high level. The high level doesn't stop in the field with his average always the tops and knowing when to take that extra base and when to stay put.

I feel very blessed to be the coach (they take very little coaching) of this outstanding group of people!! Jim Casswell, manager.

**Scrap Iron Storm**, formally Scrap Iron Diamonds 70's. With the start of a 2022 season nearing, the SI Diamonds 70 team was faced with a need for a new manager and additional players. Bart Prieve moved up to 75s and several of the out-of-state players moved on. I was asked to come on board from the Diamonds 65 team to be the manager and recruit enough players to keep the team going. Thankfully, we were able to find 8 players to make that happen. With the help of Norm Friedman we played our first tournament in Phoenix. The Diamonds 70 ended the year on a high note by winning the Rocky Mountain Championship in Aurora and then the World Championship in Las Vegas (which automatically move them up from AA to AAA). With roughly a 50/50 mix of existing/new players, we were excited to see how we would do at AAA. We ended up going 2-3 for the Phoenix tournament (out of 13 teams) and lost a game by 1 run. We came away confident we can compete at the AAA level. Our team also decided to have a unique team name and voted to change our name to Scrap Iron Storm.

Rob Minner, manager.

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## Super Bowl Squares

John Karagiannes is doing a super bowl board/squares that will put \$1,000.00 into our club. The squares are \$20.00 apiece with 12 chances to win. Contact him at [jpkdog8@yahoo.com](mailto:jpkdog8@yahoo.com) if you are interested. This is not sponsored by the Scrap Iron club, but is a great way to generate a thousand dollars to the club. Total payouts to winners is \$1,000.00.

If you want a square simply e-mail John the number of the squares you want. It's first come first served.

Payments can be made by cash app to \$JPKDOG8 or by check to

John Karagiannes  
4659 Kiskadee Ct  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80911

Payments can also be sent to James Casswell. He can take payments via PayPal to [jimcasswell@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcasswell@hotmail.com) or by check made out to Scrap Iron, mail to:

James Casswell  
PO Box 260699  
Lakewood, CO  
80226

\*\*\*If using Paypal please mark "Friends and Family" so we don't get taxed. Also DO NOT mention anything about gambling or football pools. You can mention Scrap Iron or your numbers but I'll know what the payment is for. Let's get the board out to your players and filled up.

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At the end of each year I like to recognize and thank our vendors and sponsors. Thank you for the outstanding service your company has given us and to King Soopers, Safeway, and Amazon Smile for your programs that support our club.



## Get Informed!

By John Parisi.

There are two excellent resources to learn more about Senior Softball and your Scrap Iron Club. [ColoradoSeniorSoftball.com](http://ColoradoSeniorSoftball.com) website is a combination of two page sets: Scrap Iron Club and CSSA (Colorado Senior Softball Association, i.e. Wednesday League). For Scrap Iron, there is several drop down pages organized by informational group. How many have heard the Scrap Iron poem created by Kenny Green? It is on the "Scrap Iron About Us" page. Any new players interested in playing on a Scrap Iron team can submit their information on the "Scrap Iron Contact Us" page. Please pass that along. In the Scrap Iron News page, learn how we operate. This page has historical information – past newsletters and board meeting minutes, and a section on our policies, procedures and forms. Of course you need to check out the Scrap Iron Rewards Programs page if you haven't signed up for one or more of these important fundraising programs. Many of these web pages have been recently updated so check out the latest information.

Senior Softball USA, <https://seniorsoftball.com/> is loaded with tournament information, SSUSA playing rules, and a great place to read and communicate with other players nationally. The latter is the message board. I check this site often and respond to messages that interest me. I have also started several messages that get a lot of responses. It is fun and informative. Check it out.

To all, be safe, enjoy the holiday season and see you next year for a wonderful fun time playing softball and sharing stories.



That wraps it for this year, next year we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary 1992-2022. I would like to focus every issue of our newsletter on this great achievement. If you have any pictures from the early days, or stories, anything that will help us celebrate, please send them to me. No matter how small or large the information is. With many new teams in our club we need to get our history out. Does anyone have a complete copy of the Scrap Iron poem that Kenny Green wrote many years ago? For those who knew our founders well, please share some

stories so our new club members can get to know them. I'm also in need of some stories from the present, not just the good old days, please share some stories of your team, not wins and losses, real heart warming stories, funny stories, tell us about your travel experiences, your travel buddies. I know I have some awesome memories of traveling to play softball if I were to write a book nobody would believe them. Of course I travel a lot with Andy Jaramillo & Marce Leija so that explains the craziness! Please flood me with information!!!

Send to me Art, [firstbase17@me.com](mailto:firstbase17@me.com).

Happy Holidays to all