



SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: RED WATERFIELD

By Larry Wolfe

Wayne “Red” Waterfield is an Arizona Original. He’s that rare Arizona native: born in Phoenix; raised in Chandler; worked in Tempe, Chandler and Sun Lakes and has now semi-retired in Sun Lakes. He did take a four-year “break” after graduating from Chandler High School by serving in the Navy.

Red’s Navy adventures included serving in the Honor Guard in Tokyo, Japan and in the Far East Command in Yokosuka, a large port city in southeastern Japan. (The U.S. Navy has used that port continuously since WWII ended in 1945.) Red also did “sea duty,” serving on the USS Samuel N. Moore for 16 months in the Pacific. That famous destroyer earned five battle stars during WWII, three for Korea and seven for Vietnam. Red’s most unforgettable life memory involves his surviving a fierce typhoon off the coast of the Philippines while aboard that ship.

Well, survive he did, and after returning home from the Navy, Red went to Barber School; however, he began working in a steel mill in Tempe and never practiced that trade professionally. Red then owned his own service station at Frye Road and Arizona Avenue before going to work for Ed Robson, who in 1974 was just beginning to develop something called Sun Lakes. In fact, when Red started work for Robson Communities, Sun Lakes consisted of about 150 mobile homes. He was involved in the construction of the area’s infrastructure and later held both construction and maintenance positions with the company. Red spent nearly 25 years with Robson and helped develop Sun Lakes into the community it is today. Red now keeps busy with his own handyman business.

Red, along with Don Drake and others, is a real Sun Lakes softball pioneer. He began playing here shortly after beginning to work with Robson. He and the other pioneers first played on a grass field that is now the open area at the entrance to Cottonwood on the corner of Riggs and Ed Robson Blvd. They then built a field at

what is now the site of the First Baptist Church, then moved it across Riggs Road. After that area began to be developed, the Field of Dreams was moved to its current location at Riggs and Price Roads. Red has now been a part of Sun Lakes softball for over thirty years. In addition to playing in the regular league, he has been on the 60s, 65s and 70s travel teams. He still plays on the 70s team and has also managed the Association's informal Monday League for the past five years. Red also claims he played three years before making his first out! We believe ya, Red.....

Besides being a long-time softball player, Red also was an avid mountain climber, having climbed all the major mountains in this area. Today, he says he's not climbing any more mountains, but he does "take a long hike" whenever his better half, Patricia, tells him to!