

2014 *SUN LAKES SPLASH* ARTICLES

Lady Sluggers Set to Open Season

-by Larry Wolfe

The Lady Sluggers senior softball team opens its season on January 6th with a road game against the Stingers at Prospector Park in Apache Junction. They will open their home schedule at the Field of Dreams on January 8th. The team plays in the nine-team Valley of the Sun Ladies Senior Softball League. The full home schedule is shown below. Go to the Schedules Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) to see their full schedule. Come on out to the field and cheer on our ladies!

Lady Sluggers Home Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Opponent</u>
Wednesday, January 8	1:00 PM	Viewpoint
Wednesday, January 15	1:00 PM 2:30 PM	Desert Stars Sunland Village East
Monday, January 20	1:00 PM	Fountain of the Sun
Monday, January 27	1:00 PM	Valle del Oro
Wednesday, January 29	1:00 PM	Resort
Monday, February 3	1:00 PM	Stingers
Wednesday, February 12	1:00 PM	Canyon Vistas

January 2014

Ron Brown Inducted Into Senior Softball Hall of Fame

By Larry Wolfe

Ron Brown was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame at a recent ceremony held during the Winter Worlds Championship Tournament at Rose Mofford Park in Phoenix. Ron was certainly deserving of this great honor. He was previously inducted into the Illinois Senior Softball Hall of Fame.

Ron's been playing softball at a high level since the 1970s, including stints with the professional Chicago Storm team and the Lantern Softball Club, one of the top amateur teams in the country. Since relocating to Arizona in the mid-90s, Ron has been a key member of over two dozen championship teams, including ten world championship squads. His individual accomplishments and awards are too numerous to list, but they include earning numerous All-Tournament Team accolades and being named MVP in several major national tournaments. Congratulations, Ron, on a well-deserved honor!

In other news, the Winter League season begins on Tuesday, January 7 with six teams again vying for the title. League play features four games every Tuesday and Thursday with the first contest starting at 9 a.m.

At press time, the A-1 Golf Carts team, with an 11-1 won-lost record, held a commanding five-game lead over Brenden Financial Services and Mutual of Omaha Bank in our Fall League. The top ten hitters (based upon a minimum of 40 at bats) were Gary Hillabolt (.851), Mike Gloyd (.810), Chuck Myrick (.791), Ken Brenden (.776), Chuck Schaan (.773), Nick Kusenko (.765), Steve Hilby (.763), Steve Schaider (.758), Dennis Kennedy (.750) and Larry Wolfe (.745). Go to the Stats Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) to check out the final Fall League standings and stats.

We'd like to thank Kokopelli Winery and owner Dennis Minchella for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website for links to all of our advertisers and team sponsors.

January 2014

Ron Pennington is D-backs MVP

By Larry Wolfe

Ron Pennington, long-time Sun Lakes Senior Softball player and Arizona Diamondbacks Golden Glover, was named the 2013 Most Valuable Player in the D-backs Game Operations Department. For those unfamiliar with the Golden Glovers, they are the guys who act as “ball boys” each game. You’ll see them stationed along the first and third base lines about half way between the infield and the outfield wall. These guys (and a few gals) help maintain the speed and safety of the D-backs’ games at Chase Field by retrieving foul balls along the first and third base lines. They’re very popular with the fans seated along those areas as they toss the retrieved balls to those fans, generally to little kids in D-backs gear!

Ron has been a member of the Golden Glovers since their inception in 1999, the second year that the Arizona Diamondbacks were in existence. Ron was named supervisor of that group that same year and has held that position ever since. As a part of his duties, he is responsible for scheduling the work assignments for each game. There are a dozen Golden Glovers overall, with two assigned to each game. Around 100 “active adults” try out for these dream jobs every year.

For a real baseball fan, the Golden Glovers really do live the dream. Imagine being down on the field with all those major leaguers and getting to know many of them on a first-name basis. Ron’s biggest thrills include being on the field during two of the four 2001 World Series home games when the D-backs became World Champions, chasing down foul balls at the 2011 MLB All-Star Game and “working the lines” during the World Baseball Classic. He’ll return for his 14th year of duty this spring.

Ron is also proud of the nine different D-backs uniforms he’s been given. Up until the last couple years, the Golden Glovers wore whatever uniforms the players were wearing, so he has all the old purple “uni’s,” as well as the new Sedona Reds.

In addition to his Golden Glovers duties, Ron is one of our league’s top players and has been on several of our tournament championship teams.

He's a versatile player, equally adept at pitching, playing the infield and the outfield. He's also a "line drive machine," usually hitting .650+.

Ron's wife, Sarah, is also a big D-backs fan. She has worked in the Diamondbacks' ticket department since 1999. And, would you believe she was named MVP of that department last year! Congratulations, Ron and Sarah!

January 2014

Sun Lakes 65s Win Winter Worlds Softball Championship

By Larry Wolfe

Our 65s senior softball tournament team, sponsored by Poncho's Mexican Food & Cantina, recently captured the 2013 Winter Worlds Championship. The tournament was held at Rose Mofford Park in Phoenix. In addition to Arizona teams, the tournament included squads from California, British Columbia, Nevada and New Mexico.

The Poncho's dominated their Majors Division, rolling over six straight opponents while scoring an average of 23 runs per game! Their average margin of victory was ten runs. Terry Schmitgal led the team with an incredible .889 on base percentage. He was supported by Bruce Stricklett (.870), Marc Alop (.826), Rollin Marion (.826) and Don Larsen (.792). Terry, Bruce, Rollin, Marc and Don were all named to the All-Tournament Team.

This championship win qualified the team for the Tournament of Champions which will be held in Florida in February 2015. The Poncho's will next play in the Doc Metcalf Memorial Tournament later this month. (Doc was a long time Sun Lakes player and Director of the Senior Softball-USA association. He passed away in 2013.) The team also plans to play in the Phoenix Gold Glove Classic, the Spring Training Qualifier and the Southwest Championships before heading to Vegas to participate in the World Masters Championship Tournament this fall.

Many thanks go out to Poncho's Mexican Food & Cantina and owner Ralph Vasquez for sponsoring the team. Ralph is a strong supporter of our Sun Lakes program. His State Farm Insurance Agency has sponsored a team in our regular league for several years.

February 2014

Hillabolt Leads A-1 Golf Carts to Softball Title

By Larry Wolfe

Manager Gary Hillabolt led the A-1 Golf Carts-sponsored team to a 12-2 record in capturing the six-team Session 1 Sun Lakes Softball League title. Gary also led the league in hitting with a robust .851 average. The Mutual of Omaha squad, managed by Mike Gloyd, and the Brenden Financial Services team, under manager Ken Brenden, tied for second place with 7-7 records. The remaining top ten hitters were: Chuck Myrick (.808); Ken Brenden (.776); Larry Wolfe (.768); Nick Kusenko (.765); Steve Hilby (.763); Billy Kreisman (.755); Chuck Schaan (.753); Steve Schaider (.747); and Dennis Kennedy (.745).

Our Winter League began January 7 and will run through February 22. Go to the Stats Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) to check out the up-to-date standings and stats for the Winter League.

In addition to our six team league play, we also have a recreational program which operates on Monday and Saturday mornings. For more information, see the website or call Association President Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716.

We'd like to welcome our newest advertising sponsor, the Sirvent Law Firm. Attorney Francisco P. Sirvent and his staff specialize in estate planning, probate and elder law, family law and civil and corporate matters. They're located at 10450 E. Riggs Road, Suite 112, in the Sun Lakes Professional Village. We'd also like to thank Frank Margiotta and his Farmers Insurance Agency for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website for links to all of our advertisers and team sponsors and to learn how your company or organization can advertise at the field.

FYI: Due to the "Holiday Hiatus" there is no softball player profile article this month, so you can stop looking. The profile series will continue next month.

Lady Sluggers Season is Underway

-by Larry Wolfe

The Lady Sluggers senior softball team's season is well underway. The team participates in the nine-team Valley of the Sun Ladies Senior Softball League. Only two regular season home games remain: Monday, February 3 vs. The Stingers and Wednesday, February 12 vs. Canyon Vistas. Both

games start at 1 p.m. Come out to the Field of Dreams and support our Lady Sluggers!

Go to the Ladies Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for up-to-date news regarding the team.

Lady Sluggers Off to Great Start
-by Larry Wolfe

The Lady Sluggers senior softball team began their season by winning ten of their first twelve games. The team participates in the nine-team Valley of the Sun Ladies Senior Softball League. Manager Henry Ellis stated that he's really pleased with how this year's team has jelled. He said, "Our team exhibits very strong hitting, a finely-tuned defense and the stalwart pitching of Betty Whitlock. It's been a real team effort." At press time the Sluggers had six remaining games so they had already assured themselves of a winning record. We'll recap the full season in next month's *Splash*.

Go to the Ladies Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for up-to-date news regarding the team.

March 2014

State Farm Leads Winter Softball League
By Larry Wolfe

The State Farm Insurance team, managed by Larry Kaufmann and sponsored by Ralph Vasquez' Agency, led the league with a sparkling 11-3 record at press time. That was good for a four game lead over the Brenden Financial Services and Frank Margiotta's Farmers Insurance Agency squads. Chuck Myrick was the league's top hitter, posting a robust .817 average. Based upon a minimum of 100 plate appearances, the remaining .700+ hitters were: Gary Hillabolt (.780), Bill Whitely (.769), Ken Brenden (.768), Steve Hilby (.745), Dan Bradfield (.737), TJ Tjernlund (.736), Dene Ekholm (.735), Larry Kaufmann (.733), Chuck Schaan (.729), Steve Schaider (.705), Larry Wolfe (.703), Mike Gloyd (.702), Frank Tanner (.701) and Rich Nadler (.700). Go to the Stats Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for up-to-date standings and batting statistics. Our Winter League concludes with a tournament on Saturday, February 22. We then continue with our Spring League which runs through April. League play takes place every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Come by the field and watch our guys in action!

In addition to our six-team league play, we also have a recreational program which operates on Monday and Saturday mornings. For more information on this program, see the website or call Association President Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716.

Thanks to Alumanline, Inc. and Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino for renewing their advertising banners at the Field of Dreams. Alumaline has been a sponsor since 2003 while Harrah's sponsorship dates back to 2007. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website for links to Alumaline and Harrahs as well as to all of our other advertisers and team sponsors and to learn how your company or organization can advertise at the field.

We recently lost two long time members of our Association: Jerry Berg and Bobby Thompson. Our condolences go out to Jerry's wife, Bobbi, and to Bobby's wife, Phyllis, as well as to all of their family and many friends. RIP Jerry and Bobby. You'll be missed.

April 2014

A-1 Golf Carts Captures Winter Softball Tourney By Larry Wolfe

The six-team Sun Lakes Winter Senior Softball Tournament was held at the conclusion of the winter season. A large crowd enjoyed the games and refreshments at the Field of Dreams. Thanks to Dr. Roger Spark for coordinating the event and to the many others who helped out, including some players' wives and members of the Lady Sluggers.

In the opening game of the seeded tournament number five-seeded A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Gary Hillabolt, outlasted the number four-seeded Brenden Financial Services team, managed by Ken Brenden. Bill Cheney, Gary Hillabolt and Don Scoggins led the victors with two hits each while Ed Sowney banged out three hits for the losing squad. Second baseman Lou Ricci "saved the day" for A-1 with a diving catch that he turned into a double play....shades of Bill Mazerowski!

Game two featured number the three seed, Farmers Insurance, versus the sixth-seeded Mutual of Omaha Bankers. Acting Manager Bill Whiteley led the Farmers to a 17-16 victory with three doubles and a walk while Dene

Ekholm also added three hits. Manager Mike Gloyd's Bankers were led by Hal Kime, Bruce McClain and Larry Wolfe with three hits each.

The Farmers then took on Manager Steve Hilby's Desert Cove squad. Desert Cove scored five runs in the bottom of the seventh to eke out a 17-16 win with Tom Lorgan, "Big Al" Grefsheim and Hilby contributing three hits each for the winners. Chuck Myrick and Dennis Colbert led Farmers with four hits each.

In the penultimate contest, A-1 beat the number one seed, State Farm Insurance, by a 15-13 score. Lou Ricci led A-1 with four hits while Don Scoggins and Tim Loeffler added three hits each. Rich Nadler and Al Angel banged out three safeties for the losers.

A-1 continued to roll in the championship game besting Desert Cove 23-15. A-1's seven-run final inning proved too much for Desert Cove to overcome. Manager Hillabolt and Chuck Swanson had four hits each while Tim Loeffler reached base four times with two walks, a single and a long homerun. Tom Lorgan contributed four hits in the losing cause.

Congratulations to the Winter Tournament champion A-1 Golf Carts team!

Lady Sluggers Complete Stellar Season

-by Larry Wolfe

The Lady Sluggers Senior Softball Team completed their season with a record of 15 wins and only three losses. Their .833 winning percentage tied the 2009 team as the best in team history. Congratulations, ladies!

The team was managed by Henry Ellis with assistance from Coach Rick Ebel. The leading hitters were Terry Finley (.659), Betty Whitlock (.651), Alyson Stephens (.646) and Kim Ursitti (.622). Special kudos go out to Betty "Trooper" Whitlock who pitched every game even when she was injured and ill. Also, special thanks to scorekeeper Bob Ferrington.

According to Manager Ellis, "The team really jelled this year. We excelled at all aspects of the game: Good fielding, timely hitting and the top-flight pitching by Betty. Every lady on our team contributed to our super record. I'm really proud of this team and can't wait till next season!"

Other members of this year's Lady Sluggers were Sandy Bell, Sandy Black, Lynn Casey, Debbie Caruso, Teresa Dorman, Deb Ebel, Charlene Ellis, Nancy Ferrington and Judy Grefsheim.

The Lady Sluggers will begin practice for next season in November or December. Contact Henry Ellis at 480-883-1745 for additional information.

April 2014

State Farm Wins Winter Softball League Title

By Larry Wolfe

The State Farm Insurance team, sponsored by the Ralph Vasquez Agency, and managed by Larry Kaufmann, captured the Winter Softball League Title with a record of 12 wins and 8 losses. They edged out the Desert Cove squad by one game. State Farm's leading hitters were TJ Tjerlund, Larry Kaufmann and Rich Nadler. Chuck Myrick of the Farmers Insurance team was the overall league batting leader through the end of the winter session with a robust .806 average.

Our Spring League is now well under way. At press time, the Mutual of Omaha Bankers were off to a 4-0 start and leading the league. The top ten hitters, based upon a minimum of 120 at bats, were Chuck Myrick (.797), Ken Brenden (.782), Bill Whiteley (.778), Steve Hilby (.766), Gary Hillabolt (.758), Larry Kaufmann (.732), TJ Tjerlund and Chuck Schaan (both at .730), Dan Bradfield (.723) and Dene Ekholm (.717). Go to the Stats Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for up-to-date standings and batting statistics. League play continues through April 15 and is followed on April 17 by a season-ending tournament, social event and awards ceremony.

In addition to our six-team league play, we have a recreational program which operates on Monday and Saturday mornings. We also have a summer program which commences after league play concludes. For more information, see the website or call Association President Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716.

A big thank you goes out to Saba & Romanin Dental Associates for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. Drs. Saba & Romanin have been valued sponsors of Sun Lakes softball since the year 2000! Go to the Sponsors Page on our website for links to all of our advertisers and team sponsors and to learn how your company or organization can advertise at the field.

Thompson, Delaney and Domas Honored at Softball Banquet By Larry Wolfe

The Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association's Annual Banquet was held at the Oakwood Ballroom on Saturday, March 29. Over 160 players and guests attended the event. The Spirit of Sun Lakes Softball Award winners were the late Bobby Thompson, Larry Delaney and Larry Domas. The award, which was established in 2010 by Association member Rich Nadler, honors those who go "above and beyond" to make our organization a success. Accepting the award on behalf of the late Bobby Thompson were his wife, Phyllis, and daughter Beth Thompson. Bobby always gave his all, helping out wherever needed, even after retiring as an active player. The two Larrys were honored for their hard work and dedication in keeping the Field of Dreams in excellent playing condition.

Also recognized were outgoing officers President Denny Davidson and Vice President Dr. Roger Spark for their many years of service to the organization. A highlight of the event was a slide show prepared by Mike Core which depicted all of our members as comic book heroes. In addition, Mike established the First Annual Geezer Awards. You'll have to go to the Photos Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) to understand!

Thanks to Dr. Spark, the event coordinator, Mike Core, photographer extraordinaire, and our anthem singers Jesse Washington (USA) and Henry Ellis (Canadian). Other key contributors to the success of the event were Ed and Karen Sowney, Sandy Spark and Pat Wolfe.

In other news, Sam Giordano and Steve Hilby were installed as new directors at the April board meeting. They join incumbents Mike Core, Henry Ellis, Ed Sowney, Jesse Washington and Larry Wolfe. Officers elected for the upcoming year were Ed Sowney (President), Sam Giordano (Vice President), Mike Core (Secretary) and Larry Wolfe (Treasurer).

Our Spring season ended after the deadline for this publication but you can find the championship teams and league leaders on the Stats Page of the website. We'll recap the season, tournament, annual awards and season-ending social event in the next *Splash*.

Our summer program is now underway with batting practice and pick-up games every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning. For more information, see the website or call Association President Ed Sowney at 480-305-0007.

Thank you to Ocotillo Foot & Ankle Center and Sun Devil Auto for renewing their advertising banners. Drs. Robert Evans and Mary Peters specialize in heel pain and diabetic care, orthotics and the treatment of fractures. They're located at

270 W. Chandler Heights Road. Sun Devil Auto is a complete auto services provider with twenty valley locations. Our “home” Sun Devil Auto is located at 9716 E. Riggs Road. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website for links to all of our advertisers and team sponsors and to learn how your company or organization can advertise at the field.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of former Sun Lakes lady softball player Lorraine Seger. Our condolences go out to her family and many friends. RIP, Lorraine.

June 2014

Mutual of Omaha Wins Spring Softball Title

By Larry Wolfe

The Mutual of Omaha sponsored team won the spring softball title with a record of 15 wins and only five losses. Their top hitters were Manager Larry Kaufmann (.726), Frank Tanner (.681) and Tom Lorgan (.671). The team sparkled defensively and pitcher Owen Bae kept opposing hitters “at Bae” with his high arcing pitches. Congratulations, Bankers!

Our summer program is now well underway with batting practice and pick-up games every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning. For more information see our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) or call Association President Ed Sowney at 480-305-0007.

A special thank you goes out to our local Walgreens for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. As most of you know, our local Walgreens is conveniently located at the corner of Riggs and Alma School Roads. Walgreens was one of our earliest advertisers, having first sponsored a banner at our previous field in 1998. They’ve been a valued supporter of our program ever since. Also thanks to Pat Wolfe for designing and donating the new Field of Dreams banner in centerfield. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website for links to all of our advertisers and team sponsors and to learn how your company or organization can advertise at the field.

As things slow down and many of our players, including yours truly, escape to cooler climes, the player profile articles will be published periodically rather than every month. Don’t look for one this month. How about a baseball joke instead to soothe your pain? As of this writing our Arizona Diamondbacks were not off to a great start. In fact, it’s been the worst start in their history. Assuming they

continue their struggles....What would you call a Diamondbacks player with a 2014 World Series ring? Answer: A thief!

June 2014

2013-2014 Softball Award Winners

By Larry Wolfe

The 2013-2014 Senior Softball Award Winners were announced at the April season-ending tournament. The Sportsmanship Award went to Kenny Brenden while TJ Tjerlund was named Rookie of the Year as the top first year player. Steve Schaider won the Most Improved Player Award.

The Board of Directors also recognized Dennis LePore with a special Certificate of Appreciation citing all of the volunteer work he does including recruiting and scheduling umpires, scorekeepers and scoreboard operators for all league and tournament games.

Association President Ed Sowney announced the members of the Lady Sluggers 600 Club. Terry Finley led the team with a .659 batting average. Other 600 hitters were Betty Whitlock (.651), Alyson Stephens (.646) and Kim Ursitti (.622).

The Top Ten hitters in the men's league, based upon a minimum of 150 plate appearances, were Chuck Myrick (.791), Bill Whiteley (.782), Steve Hilby (.770), Ken Brenden (.754), Tim Loeffler (.736), TJ Tjerlund (.732), Gary Hillabolt (.729), Larry Kaufmann (.726), Dan Bradfield (.720) and Steve Schaider (.705).

All award winners were presented with special certificates that included an action photo of themselves and a description of their specific accomplishment. Thanks to our photographer, Mike Core, for designing the award certificates.

June 2014

Spring Softball Tournament Highlights

By Larry Wolfe

The Sun Lakes Senior Softball Spring Tournament and Awards Ceremony was held in late April. The event featured a six-team seeded tournament, a cook-out and the annual awards ceremony. A large contingent of fans and players were on hand for the festivities. Thanks to event coordinators Dr. Roger Spark and Mike Core and everyone who helped to make the event a huge success. Special thank yous go out to the cookout Chefs Bill Serdar and Lou and Elaine Ricci and to the Kitchen Krew: Shirley Brenden, Charlene Ellis, Terry Finley, Santa Marie Giordano, Lorna Hatch, Karen Sowney, Jody Strauss and Lynn Tanner.

The opening contest of the tournament featured fourth-seeded State Farm Insurance, managed by Mike Gloyd, and fifth-seeded Desert Cove Rehab Center, managed by Steve Hilby. Manager Hilby and third sacker Dennis Colbert led Desert Cove to a 9-7 victory with three hits each while outfielder Doug Friesen paced the Farmers with three hits.

In the second game the third seeded Brenden Financial Services club, managed by Kenny Brenden, drubbed Manager Dennis Kennedy's sixth seeded Farmers Insurance team 16-3. Ronnie Pennington had three hits and three RBI for the winners while Dennis LePore had three singles for the losers.

In game three, the second-seed, A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Gary Hillabolt, played the game two winners, Brenden Financial Services. The finance guys "upset the Carts" 11-6 with a well-rounded offensive attack featuring five players with two hits a piece. Bill Whiteley and Kenny "Goombah" Ponzio led the winners with three RBI each.

After a break for the cookout and awards ceremony, the fourth contest pitted Desert Cove against the top-seeded Mutual of Omaha Bank team managed by Larry Kaufmann. The Bankers topped the Rehabbers 15-7 with Manager Kaufmann, Sammy "The Bull" Giordano and Ralph "Poncho" Vasquez leading the way with three hits a piece. Steve Hilby stroked three safeties for the losing squad.

The Championship Game featured the upstart finance guys from the Brenden team against the Omaha Bankers. In an exciting tight knit affair the Bankers scored three runs in the bottom of the last inning to beat Brenden's Boys 7-6. With two outs Sam Giordano stroked a single up the middle scoring "Steady Eddie" Sowney with the winning run. Denny Davidson paced the winners with three base hits. Congratulations to the Mutual of Omaha team, winners of both the spring league and the championship tournament.

See a separate article featuring this year's award winners.

July 2014

Summer Softball Update

By Larry Wolfe

It's vacation time; however, Sun Lakes Softball never takes a vacation! Even though our formal league play has taken a hiatus until late October, our summer recreational program is in full swing. The Field of Dreams is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning for batting practice and a "pick-up game." This is a good time to get in shape for the coming season. If you're a new resident or just haven't got around to checking out our program, now is the perfect time to come by the field and take a few swings. See our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for start times and other details.

Thanks to the Charles Company, Retirement Insurance Specialists (The RIS Agency) and Sun Lakes Disposal for renewing their advertising banners at the Field of Dreams. The Charles Company has been a valued sponsor of our program since 2003 while the RIS Agency and Sun Lakes Disposal have been supporting our program since 2011. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website for links to their websites and to all of our other sponsors. Support all the companies who support Sun Lakes!

Our condolences go out to Association members Don Scoggins and Bill Ligon whose wives Sherry Scoggins and Sue Ligon recently passed away after extended illnesses. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families and friends. RIP, Sherry and Sue.

August 2014

Softball Sixties Team Escapes Heat

By Larry Wolfe

Our 60+ tournament team, sponsored by Brenden Financial Planning, recently escaped the heat by participating in the Annual Pinetop Senior Softball Tournament. Even though the weather was about twenty degrees cooler than here in the Valley, our boys ran into some hot teams and finished the tourney with two wins and three losses. Two of the three losses were one-run “heartbreakers,” including the semi-final game that could’ve allowed the team to reach the championship round. Our top hitters were Gary Hatch (.789), Sam Giordano (.750), Ken Brenden (.733) and Jim Entwistle (.714). Entwistle, Giordano, Steve Schaidler and Chuck Schaan smashed homeruns for the Sun Lakers. A fun time was had by all.

Our summer program continues through late October and features a round of batting practice followed by a pick-up game. The Field of Dreams is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning. Come by the field and get in shape for league play. See our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for start times and other details.

Thanks to the Flooring Gallery & More for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. The Flooring Gallery has been a valued sponsor of our program since 2007. They’re located at 9666 E. Riggs Road next to Ace Hardware. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website for links to their website and to all of our other sponsors. Support all the companies who support Sun Lakes softball!

Just wondering.... Why do we sing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” when we’re already there??

September 2014

Hot Times at the Ballpark

By Larry Wolfe

Yes, it’s hot, even at 7 AM! That’s when batting practice starts at the Field of Dreams during the summer months. BP is followed by a pick-up game. Hot or not, there are always 20 to 30 guys willing to brave the high

temperatures to play the game they love. Our playing in the heat got me wondering about the hottest major league game ever played: it turns out that the highest temperature was 109. It happened twice, both times at the Texas Rangers stadium, in 1980 and 1988. Of course, that's the record for actually playing in the heat. We know it's hotter outside Chase Field, but that doesn't count. (Yes, somebody keeps track of this stuff!)

Our summer program continues through late October when league play begins. The Field of Dreams is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning. Come by the field and get in shape for league play. See our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for more information.

October 2014

Fall Softball Season Approaches

By Larry Wolfe

It may be football season to a lot of folks, but for members of the Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association it's almost softball season! Our fall league begins on Tuesday, October 28 and runs through December 18. Each of our six teams will play ten doubleheaders (twenty games) during the season.

In the interim our recreational program continues at the Field of Dreams every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning. Come by the field and get in shape for league play or to just have some fun playing softball. See our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for more information. We'll also have a booth at each of the HOA Activities Open Houses during October. Stop by to learn more about both our recreational programs and league play. We'll also have information regarding our ladies' softball program.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of long time Association member Ralph Thomas. Ralph loved the game and played through the 2006 season when bad knees forced him to hang up his cleats. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Trudey and his other family members and many friends.

November 2014

PLAY BALL!

By Larry Wolfe

Our fall league got underway on Tuesday, October 28 and runs through December 18. Each of our six teams will play ten doubleheaders (twenty games) during the season. Each team is sponsored by a local business. Our team shirts feature the name and other information about the businesses on the backs of our shirts. Our team sponsors this year are: A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Services, Farmers Insurance (Frank Margiotta's Agency), Mutual of Omaha Bank, State Farm Insurance (Ralph Vasquez' Agency) and Terry & Susan Young, West USA Realtors. This year's team managers are: Ken Brenden, Mike Gloyd, Gary Hatch, Gary Hillabolt, Larry Kaufmann and Bob Reeves. Our coordinator of umpires and scorers is Dennis LePore. Thanks, guys!

Up-to-date team standings and individual statistics may be found on the Stats Page of our website, www.sunlakessoftball.com.

We are pleased to welcome our newest advertising sponsor, Spooner Physical Therapy. They have locations throughout the Valley and recently opened a new facility in Sun Lakes at 10325 E. Riggs Road, Suite 102. Also, thanks to Terry & Susan Young, West USA Realtors, for renewing their advertising banner. Terry & Susan focus on real estate in all of the Sun Lakes communities. For links to their websites and to those of all of our other sponsors, go to the Sponsors Page on our website. Support all the companies that support our community!

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Ken Nelson, one of the early pioneers of Sun Lakes Softball. Ken played back in the late '80s and early '90s when our organization was called the Sun Lakes Blues Softball Organization and consisted of just a couple travel teams. It was players such as Ken that helped build our organization into what it is today. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Joan, and his family and many friends. RIP, Ken.

December 2014

FALL SOFTBALL SEASON IS UNDERWAY

By Larry Wolfe

Even though it is softball, not football, our fall season “kicked off” in late October and will run through December 18th. Each of our six teams plays a twenty-game schedule. The State Farm Insurance-sponsored team, managed by Larry Kaufmann, got off to a strong 7-1 start and was leading the league at press time. Larry Kaufmann was leading his team and the league in hitting with an incredible .897 average. Three other members of that squad (“Big Al” Grefsheim, “Tim Terrific” Loeffler and Jack “Gimpy” Strauss) were all hitting over .700. Up-to-date team standings and individual statistics may be found on the Stats Page of our website, www.sunlakessoftball.com.

In addition to league play, we have an ongoing recreational program. Our Monday program includes two sessions. Session 1 runs from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. It is for tournament-level players and is by invitation only. Mike Gloyd is the coordinator of that program. Session 2 is designed primarily for players who prefer not to participate in league play. It is our “true rec program.” Batting practice begins at 10 a.m. and is followed by a pick-up game. Red Waterfield is the coordinator of that program. We also have a Saturday morning program consisting of batting practice and a pick-up game which is open to all Association members. Ken Brenden is the Saturday program coordinator.

Come out to the field on Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14 to see four area tournament teams in action. The two-day tourney starts each morning at 8:30 a.m. and continues through the early afternoon. The championship game is slated for 12:15 p.m. on that Sunday.

We are pleased to welcome our newest advertising sponsor, Dr. Matthew Hansen of Mezona Orthopaedic. Dr. Hansen is an orthopaedic surgeon with sports medicine and shoulder replacement expertise. His office is located in suite 207 of the Rome Tower, 1760 E. Pecos Road in Gilbert. For links to his website and to those of all of our other sponsors, go to the Sponsors Page on our website. Support all the companies that support our community!