

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC EDITION

On the Internet: www.gsscs.org ... GSSC Hotline for Meeting Info: 491-1721

PLAY BALL!!! GOLDEN SENIORS SCRAMBLE TO FIELD SIX TEAMS IN ALL NIGHT LEAGUES

LET'S PLAY BALL!!! The nine-team League 1 on Mondays got a head start on the rest of the club when they were scheduled to begin regular-season play on March 15, just as other leagues were getting set for first practice games of the year.

Could it be that the league for 70-and-over Golden Seniors can get it going without practice? Many of them play year-round, anyway, and with nine teams, they want it to count when they take the field.

Actually, GSSC used to have four weeks of practice games. This was reduced to two games in recent years. Seems to be enough, especially when the weather cooperates. The regular season begins for the rest of the club during the week of March 30-April 1.

DRAFTS. Leagues 4 and 5 (Wednesday and Thursday nights) scrambled to field six-teams in each circuit. They drafted 11-player teams on March 10 and 11 after an all-out recruiting effort enabled them to have enough players to avoid four- or five-team leagues. On March 1, about two weeks after drafts would normally be held, and the other leagues were on schedule, L4 had 61 players signed up; L5 had only 53, but both had at least 66 players within 24 hours of rescheduled draft dates. The club offered discounted multiple-league fees for current members who answered the call to add L5 as an additional league.

Commissioners of the under-subscribed leagues were provided membership lists of other leagues to seek players who would add another league.

CLUB CONSIDERS STRATEGIES FOR BOOSTING SIGN-UPS. The club's Planning Committee, making its first recommendation to the Board of Directors on March 9, suggested incentives for GSSC members to get more involved in recruiting new players and team sponsors. Committee Chairman Merritt Davis found unanimous support among the committee for a plan that would go into effect for the 2011 season. The committee's ideas will be considered by the board at its April 5 meeting, Club President Ray Mendonsa said. The Planning Committee was appointed late last year to consider ways to grow club membership and evaluate various requests or proposals from members. (SEE PAGE 4)

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SAFETY: FIVE MEMBERS COMPLETE CLASS; JESSUP UNIVERSITY OFFERS \$10 CPR/AED COURSE

On Feb. 23, five GSSC members passed the Red Cross CPR/AED course to gain certification for 2010. Glenn Cummings, Ron Thomas and Al Tirapelli become new "Red Hat" recipients. Ron Roach and Joe Sugimoto completed the course to be recertified to provide cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillation.

Safety Chairman Jerry Jodice, who arranged for the class at the Howe Avenue Park community center at no charge to GSSC members, urges members to who want CPR/AED training to sign up for a class offered Saturday, March 20, at William Jessup University in Rocklin. The registration fee is \$10. Five classes, each running three and one-half hours, are offered that day, starting at 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 2:15 p.m.

Pre-registration is required and classes fill up quickly. Register online at www.sacsierraredcross.org or call toll-free 1-866-656-9272. All class materials are free and include a \$10 value American Red Cross breathing barrier key-chain. #

2010 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS. L1 -- Jim McNamara 424-1402; L2 -- Curtis Holcomb 600-6065; L3 -- Jerry Toenyas 354-4126; L4 -- Bill Greene 391-5559; L5 -- Monta Little 606-4776; L6 -- Rich Edwards 483-12903; L7 -- Larry Campbell 485-4843. Assistant Commissioners: L1 -- George Hodsdon 481-9304; L2 -- Jim Wait 455-4440; L3 -- Brent Korff 359-6872. #

DUGOUT CHATTER DELIVERY PROCESS STRESSES ONLINE READERSHIP, LESS SNAIL MAIL

We resume our limited snail-mail distribution of the Dugout Chatter with the April issue. Look for it online before the 15th of the month. Check the website regularly for breaking news and updates, photos and stories in greater detail.

The web site is:

www.gsscs.org

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GO GREEN! READ THE CHATTER ONLINE! IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY TAKEN YOUR NAME OFF THE MAILING LIST, DO SO NOW TO SAVE PAPER AND POSTAGE. CONTACT RON ROACH AT 422-2500.

SUNSHINE & HEALTH

JOE MUCCIACCIO, 81, died Feb. 9 of a very aggressive cancer. He left the Feb. 1 general meeting when he felt ill and was hospitalized the next day for surgery. He never left ICU. He became a GSSC life member in 2008 and was honored as Man of the Year for all his hours spent on GSSC computer work, maintaining rosters, schedules, rules and by-laws. Joe, who joined the club in 1993, pitched, played left field and was a very strong hitter in L1.

A Memorial Service for Joe is scheduled for Thursday, March 25 at 11 a.m. at Luau Gardens, 1890 Arden Way, in Sacramento. (929-3690). RSVP is requested to George Hodsdon at 481-9304.

RICK MOWER died Feb. 25 after a lengthy illness. Rick played in the Golden Seniors in the 1990s. The tall first-baseman played last year with the Sacramento Blues 70s tournament team.

ANN GREND AHL MILANO, wife of Bob Milano, passed away on Feb. 19.

JOHN HAINS is recovering from a heart attack, requiring two stints. He says he will be ready to umpire when the season begins and also plans to play this season with the Sacramento Blues 65s.

JIM HOFFMAN is sidelined with a back ailment. The strong-hitting outfielder is a veteran of L2 and L6 play.

DAVE VARGO, 2009 GSSC Award of Merit winner who underwent double knee surgery, reports that "the old, fat, balding, pale plowhorse is back! Taller but slower. (Some say he's an inch or two taller since his legs are now straightened out.) "On your favorite homefield #2 at Carmichael Park, I belted a few far enough for extra bases,

even with very easing loping. Played double-header in LF and LCF -- somewhat less range, but still comfortable until knees became sore in late innings of second game. Almost ready to get my name on waiting lists." Dave has accepted an appointment to manage a team in L4, so he now has managed a team in all the night leagues plus L6. He was known as an Iron Man for playing in so many leagues. Now he says he qualifies as an Iron Head.

Club Treasurer **GLEN COLE** missed the March 1 meeting, when he was hospitalized for treatment of gallstones.

Club Entertainment Chairman **LOU COPPOLA** is taking a respite from L1 play as he adjusts to medicines prescribed to treat a "racing" heart. (It didn't keep him off the dance floor or prevent him from assisting in the publication of this newsletter.) #

**GSSCS SAFETY PROCLAMATION:
ALL UMPIRES AND MANAGERS MUST ENFORCE THE GSSCS SAFETY RULE THAT NO GAME MAY START WITHOUT THE SAFETY CART IN PLACE BY THE FIELD BEFORE EACH SOFTBALL GAME IS PLAYED! NOTE: THE CLUB MAY BE LIABLE IF THIS SAFETY RULE IS NOT IMPLEMENTED. -- JERRY JODICE, SAFETY CHAIRMAN. #**

***GSSC GENERAL MEETINGS
JULY 12 -- 7:30 P.M. VFW HALL,
2784 STOCKTON BLVD.***

***OTHER GENERAL MEETINGS ARE
AUG. 9 AND IN SEPTEMBER. THE
SEPTEMBER MEETING IS HELD IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNUAL
PICNIC & PLAYOFFS SATURDAY.***

GENERAL MEETING NEWS (From Page 1)

Mendonsa, at the March 1 general meeting, said the club would have to reduce the number of teams, not leagues, if signups were insufficient to bring in the revenue needed to operate the club. L5's Bob Reinwald lobbied for a full six-team league with 11-player rosters, contending that managers would find it easier to get more players additional innings on defense.

There was considerable discussion at the general meeting on methods to recruit more players, particularly those just turning 50. The main method is for members to encourage their friends and ex-teammates from younger leagues to join the club. L7 Commissioner Larry Campbell said more managers would recruit more players if they could be assured of having their recruits on their teams.

Player Agent Tom Sansone reported that, as of March 1, there were 28 new members, compared to 53 players new to the club in 2009. Out of a total roster of 528 last year, he said 74 playing members did not renew. Of total members, 97 did not respond to renewal applications and letters sent in the mail, including 21 or 22 non-playing life members.

According to data maintained by Henry Low, Sansone said as of March 1 there were 91 multi-league players filling 206 slots on teams. In 2009, the club had 126 multi-league players. The club offered a limited-time incentive for those who agreed to add L5 after a certain date, reducing the second-league fee from \$90 to \$60.

OLDER PLAYERS SIGN UP QUICKER. Sansone said this year's difficulties underscore the importance of timely membership renewals and new-player signups. Older players are quicker to respond. L1 (70+) had 125 players signed up early on, and L2 (60+) had 80. Through Feb. 28, L3 on Tuesdays continued to be the most popular night league, with 79 signups. League 6 (60+) on Tuesdays and L7 (70+) on Tuesdays, had 48 and 52 players signed up, respectively, for their four-team leagues.

SPONSORS. First Vice President Fred Fischer continues to pursue leads for additional team sponsors. On March 1, he reported 31 sponsors had paid, three of them new, plus one returning after an absence last year. Some have simply replied to his pitches that "we just can't afford it this year." He confirmed the loss of five sponsors, and he said he was 99% sure two others won't be back. On March 10, Fischer reported that he had 34 teams with "firm" sponsors. While the club expects to have 41 teams this year, Fischer continues to work with other potential sponsors. Meantime, Second Vice President Pete Ward is coordinating the use of the best uniform shirts held over from former sponsors that would be replaced with new sponsor shirts as they come aboard.

IRONHEAD VARGO. League 4 had to add a sixth manager and Dave Vargo was appointed, giving him the distinction of having served as a manager in all three night leagues and L6. The former Ironman (who has played in many leagues at the same time) suggested that he might now qualify to be an "Ironhead." #

ATTENTION GOLDEN SENIORS: Here is a wonderful opportunity to get healthy and fit.....

Commit to your health and I will commit to your nutrition and fitness



Hello Everyone, I am Toni Tirapelli, and I have been involved in the fitness industry for 28 years now.

My mission over the years has always been and will always be, to deliver and plant the seeds of good healthy living, which includes proper exercise, nutrition and balance in your life.

So I came up with a solution. Let's get a group of 10 or more teammates together and make all of your health and fitness goals come true.....

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For more information:

916.730.9411

ttirapelli@msn.com

WANTED: MEMBER OR MEMBERS SAVVY IN WEB SITE MANAGEMENT AND DESIGN TO ASSIST IN MAINTAINING THE CLUB'S WEB SITE WITH REGULAR UPDATES. CONTACT RON ROACH, 422-2500 OR COACHRWR@COMCAST.NET

GO ONLINE TO SEE MORE NEWS AND PHOTOS; CURRENT AND PAST DUGOUT CHATTERS:

WWW.GSSCS.ORG

WET OR RAINY? CHECK THE CLUB'S HOTLINE TO CONFIRM THAT FIELD CONDITIONS WILL ALLOW PLAY. THE NUMBER IS 491-1721

PAID SPONSORS FOR 2010

AMERICAN MEDEQUIP
ARNOLD PROPERTIES
AUBURN OAKS SENIOR LIVING
AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS
BERTOLUCCI'S BODY & FENDER
C&C PLUMBING
CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICES #1
CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICES #2
COMPASS STRATEGIES
DENNY'S GRAND SLAM
DUMONT PEST CONTROL
EAST LAWN INC.
ESPANOL RESTAURANT
GREATER SACRAMENTO
SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
HARPER PROPERTIES
I FORGOT
JOLLY ROGERS
L&S SURVEYS

MERRILL BOOKKEEPING & TAX SERVICE
NIELSEN'S REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL
NOR-CAL JACKETS
OLD HORNETS
OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO
RAMBIT (RAY MERRILL)
REMAX
SILVER CATS
BOB & TRUDY SMARTT (MAITA)
SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS
TEICHERT CONSTRUCTION
UPTOWN CAFE
RICHARD WILL, ATTORNEY
VFW POST 67
MARK WHITE, DDS
WION'S BODY SHOP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2009-2010

President **Ray Mendonsa** ... 686-3894

First Vice President **Fred Fischer** ... 685-5044
(Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President **Pete Ward** ... 989-4722
(Responsible for team uniforms.)

Treasurer **Glen Cole** ... 966-4561

Secretary **George Lamb** ... (530) 681-8070

Player Agent **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654
(Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Bob Smartt** ... 973-8269
(Responsible for league rules, oversees all league commissioners.)

**NEXT GSSC GENERAL MEETING: 7:30 P.M.
JULY 12 AT VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BLVD.**

TELEPHONE HOTLINE

Club Answering Machine

(managed by Don Shank):
491-1721 for meeting news
and field conditions.

Phone or Address Changes:

Henry Low 391-3938

Player Applications: Tom
Sansone 686-1654

Sunshine & Health: Trudy
Smartt 973-8269

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:

456-1500

Safety: Jerry Jodice
349-8949

Entertainment: Lou Coppola
444-6138

Dugout Chatter: Ron
Roach, editor 422-2500

(coachrwr@comcast.net)

Planning: Dave Vargo, contact,
dvargo@frontiernet.net 689-7061

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Ray Mendonsa, President
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Elk Grove, CA 95757

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