

# DUGOUT CHATTER

## ELECTRONIC EDITION

**On the Internet:** [www.gsscs.org](http://www.gsscs.org) ... **GSSC Hotline for Meeting Info:** 491-1721

### ***HERCULEAN EFFORTS KEEP SIX TEAMS IN THURSDAY NIGHT LEAGUE***

In just a week's time, numerous recruiting calls increased the signups for the Thursday night league from only 53 players on the draft list, which would have meant a four-team league, to a 72-player list for a traditional six-team league. Robert Reinwald, one of the L5 managers, expressed appreciation for the work of Player Agent Tom Sansone and the following volunteer phone callers who made this happen: Bill Hall, George Lamb, Allen Riker, Pete Ward, Matt Tedrow and Mark Cordell. They not only avoided having a four-team league, they also surpassed the 66-player mark that would have (See Page 4)

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### ***GSSC Club Members Come Through Again***

From Fred Fischer, 1st Vice President

What do GSSC Members Foster Maxwell, Bob and Trudy Smartt, Larry Shelton, Bill Beck, Bob Schwan, Tom Osborne, Rich Del Chiaro and Monte Fuller have in common? Here's a hint that gives away the answer: This year they join an exclusive club that includes Ray Merrill, Bob Nielsen, Al Cross, Bob Rogers, Les Harper, Wally Jeffery, Bill Hill, Bob Fenton and Tom Arnold. To cover the two years that I have served as the 1st Vice President of the GSSC, also add the names of Don Shank, Larry Campbell, Jerry Nevis and Mickey Schliecher. Of course, you would be correct if you guessed that each, perhaps in slightly different ways, has facilitated sponsorships of our club. Some directly sponsor GSSC teams through their own businesses. Some have brought in friends or relatives as sponsors. And some have assisted in the payment of fees for sponsors. I'd like to thank each of these individuals for their important contributions to the Club, and for making my job just a little easier.

Given the current economic climate in the Sacramento area, I was concerned as to our chances of realizing the income we had budgeted in sponsor fees for this season. We ended up losing eight paying sponsors from the 2009 season, several citing economic factors. However, primarily as a result of the contributions of the individuals noted in the first sentence above, we have now added seven new sponsors for the 2010 season, and will actually exceed our budgeted target for sponsor fees. Just as we are seeing an increasing number of GSSC player/sponsors, many of our other sponsors enjoy the idea of supporting senior softball. Some in fact, have told me that they look forward to becoming GSSC playing members themselves.

I know I've said this before, but sponsors are important partners of our club. Let's encourage these continued partnerships through our direct support of their businesses. #

### EMERGENCY INFORMATION UPDATE

Each member has been sent an emergency information card that can be filled out, inserted in a plastic envelope and kept in equipment bags or in a player's wallet. A handy baggage loop was supplied for attaching the card to equipment bags. This is far better than the old system of photocopying player applications that include medical and emergency information and having team managers maintain them for use by emergency personal should the need occur. "The board decided to use this new system because it has a greater chance of providing helpful information should you encounter a medical emergency on the playing field," said Player Agent Tom Sansone. It also serves as a means of identifying your equipment bag if it is lost or misplaced. Should you need a new card to update the information at any time, call Sansone at 686-1654. #



Nice catch!  
From the files of photog Lou Coppola is this action shot from 2009 Tuesday play. ID of the player was not available, however.

**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. #

### KUDOS FOR GSSC HOTLINE

From George Hodsdon

**Don Shank** really does a super job on the answering machine. Our first game day, March 15, was really iffy on whether field conditions would allow us to play. We would not get clearance from Howe Avenue Maintenance until 6 a.m. We got the word at 6:05, Don put it on the Answering Machine. Those players coming in from Fairfield, Yuba City, El Dorado Hills and other places a long way out were able to get the word and all arrived on time. Thank you, Don, for a job well done. **(MAKE A NOTE OF THE NUMBER: 491-1721.) #**

**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**

**Jess Yrigoyen**, a life member, passed away in March at the age of 93. In 1987, he played with the world champion over-70 Sacramento Limelighters. Jess dropped out of the club in 1995 due to ill health.

**Mike Brunelle**, a L3 player, suffered a broken arm between his elbow and shoulder in a fall while running the bases.

**George Langan**, L1 manager, had a six-way bypass on April 5, and was expected to spend a week to 10 days in a hospital.

**Karen Merrill**, wife of sponsor Ray Merrill, recently was hospitalized for several days.

**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.***

## **MONDAY MORNING NEWS**

From George Hodsdon:

League One started March 15 at Howe Ave Park with nine teams of 13 players, and one new manager, George Langan with Nielsen Real Estate taking over for Gordon Kennedy.

First two weeks went fine but the inch of rain April 4 knocked out all Monday games April 5. We started with 9 teams, the same as last year, as 8 teams would have too many players and 10 teams means the third game starts at noon, so in the summer some would end up with extremely hot temperatures.

When a team is going to be short a player they can get any player off the bye team, as long as they are one draft pick lower than the person that they are replacing. That player can only play catcher, right or right-center field.

All teams started off with a full complement of players but so far several have dropped out. Fortunately, two new players have signed up with Vic Vickland replacing Bobby Dippel (heart operation) on Wion's Body Shop, and Chuck Burns replacing Lee Elam on Bob Schwan's Avalon Hearing.

That leaves us very low on replacement players but fortunately we have Frank McNamara, Bob Silvis, Bob Havrilla, and Ray Gallagher coming back from knee operations. Recovery times vary but most think late June or early July.

After three games, Dick Horkey's Dumont Pest Control has all the muscle and will be the team to beat. #

## HERCULEAN EFFORTS (From Page 1)

resulted in 11 players on each team.

**NOTES FROM GSSC BOARD MEETING.** All leagues are running with full rosters and the club's budget is some \$2,000 in the black. Those were highlights of updates at the Board of Directors meeting on April 5. President Ray Mendonsa accepted reports from club directors, including Player Agent Tom Sansone and Club Commissioner Bob Smartt.

Club Treasurer Glen Cole reported that the budget for the current fiscal year has a surplus of \$2,060, which includes allocating \$4,000 for the club picnic in September. First VP Fred Fischer reported that the club's target for sponsorship fees has been met with 36 paid sponsors totaling \$9,050 in fees. New sponsors include American Medequip, Silver Cats, Geremia Pools, Cottonwood Estates and Uptown Cafe. Second VP Pete Ward noted that uniform shirts have been distributed and he cautioned that there will be a need to replace additional team shirts next year as old ones wear out.

The board discussed the status of club playing rules and agreed to rescind a base-running rule that had created some controversy. Directors also talked about ways to drum up more interest in the club to enhance recruitment of new players.

**Rules.** Based on reactions to a rule change that triggered some confusion, the board on April 5 did an about-face and decided to restore the ability of fielders to tag players out on the base paths. The decision was effective with games of April 6.

Directors continued to stress that runners causing an avoidable collision with a fielder should be called out or, if it is deemed flagrant or intentional, risk ejection. Managers should stress proper base-running techniques, particularly with new club members.

**Batters' Box.** Club Player Agent Tom Sansone, who also is a pitcher, said he is exploring future adoption of chalked batters' boxes with players required to stay within those dimensions. It is an unfair advantage for hitters to run up several feet toward the pitcher to hit a ball, he said.

**Public Relations/Publicity.** The board expressed intent to form a committee or task force to focus on club public relations and publicity, possibly including an advertising budget. The goal is to gain media coverage of GSSC play and explore placing of ads in local newspapers. Such a campaign would coordinate with the club's Internet web site and Dugout Chatter newsletter on ways to increase membership.

**Wood Bat League.** President Mendonsa said he wants to hear from members interested in forming a league that would be limited to wooden bats. It might play on Monday nights, he said. He has asked the Planning Committee to take a look at it.

**Planning Committee.** The committee is compiling a database of softball facilities in the area should the club find it advantageous to explore an alternative to the complex, according to Dave Vargo, a committee member. #

### LEAGUES 3-5-6 HIGHLIGHTS

*From Sandy Begg, scorekeeper:*

First-week results: Tuesday day (L6) : Mark White 27 v. GSSA 19; Uptown Cafe 12 v. Compass Strategies 10. Larry Davis and George Garcia each hit triples for Uptown.

Tuesday night (L3): Old Hornets 3 v. Geremia Pools 2 (lowest scoring game of the first week); ReMax 11 v. Maita Chevrolet 10, with Sherrill Morton at first base for ReMax turning in a "web gem" (apologies to ESPN) for the second out of the last inning; Silver Cats and Livingston Concrete each had 4 runs when their 9 p.m. game was called when rains came in the bottom of the third. If needed, this game will be replayed later. Home Runs: Bill McMahon and Pat Morrison (Maita), Bill Greene (Livingston), Steve Casarez (Hornets), and Jim Andres (ReMax). Triples by Ron Roach (Maita), Jerry Horton (ReMax), and Rich DelChiaro (Geremia). There were also 12 doubles.

Thursday night (L5): NorCal Jackets 18 v. Visions Eyecare 10; California Energy Systems #2 18 v. Overhead Door 17; Espanol Restaurant 21 v. Miller's Munchies 16. Home Runs by Reggie Rogers (Espanol) and Gary Holmes (NorCal). Triples by Russ Carlson and Mark Nives (Overhead), Jeff Massengale, Jim Powell, and Reggie Rogers (Espanol), Ed Frantz and Emilio Lobato (NorCal), Dane Burrell and Doug Gedestad (Calif.), and Bob Gill (Visions). There were also 21 doubles.

I am very impressed with the quality of play and sportsmanship. This early in the season one would expect many more errors both physical and mental. #

### LEAGUES 2-4-7 HIGHLIGHTS

*From Colette Barnes, scorekeeper:*

Jolly Rogers (led by Bob Rogers) went 2-0 for the first two weeks of the season to stake an early claim to the top rung of the L2 Tuesday Day league. Players of the Week (as selected by the scorekeeper) were Jerry Horton (Harper Properties) for going 5 for 5, including a homer, with six RBI in the week of March 30. Rambit's Mike Jordan was selected for the week of April 6 as he went 3 for 3 with a triple and pair of ribbies.

In L7 Tuesday Day, Auburn Oaks Senior Living and Better Softball Bats and Equipment were 2-0 after the first two weeks. Players of the Week, both with 4 for 4 games, were John Massetti of Auburn Oaks for the week of March 30 and Wally Dorei, also of Auburn Oaks, for the week of April 6.

In L4 Wednesday Night, Bill Christian of unbeaten CA Energy Services #1 had two doubles and five ribbies in a 5 for 5 game on April 1. The April 7 Player of the Week, Bud Lefforge of Bertolucci's Auto Body and Fender, went 3 for 3 with two sacrifice flies, driving in five runs. #

### Dugout Chatter -- Electronic Edition.

So far, more than 30 members have asked to be taken off the mailing list for the printed Dugout Chatter, preferring to read it online and save the club the expense of mailing the newsletter. Postage totals \$4.40 a year per member when all 10 issues are delivered by the post office. To take your name off the mailing list, contact Dugout Chatter editor Ron Roach at 422-2500. #

**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](mailto:COACHRWR@COMCAST.NET)**

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

**[WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://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  
COTTONWOOD ESTATES  
DENNY'S GRAND SLAM  
DUMONT PEST CONTROL  
EAST LAWN INC.  
ESPANOL RESTAURANT  
GEREMIA POOLS  
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](mailto:coachrwr@comcast.net))

**Planning:** Dave Vargo, contact,

[dvargo@frontiernet.net](mailto:dvargo@frontiernet.net) 689-7061

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