

# DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO ([WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)) -- FEBRUARY 2014

## **PICNIC DATE SET FOR SEPT. 27**

Club President Tom Sansone announced at the Feb. 10 general meeting that the 2014 club picnic will be held Saturday, Sept. 27, at Howe Avenue Park, along with championship games for the four day leagues.

Night leagues have discretion of holding their championship games on the nights they are regularly scheduled to play at the Complex. This provides flexibility for the night leagues who may have a number of players out of town for senior softball national tourney play on Sept. 27.

Club directors originally sought to schedule the picnic on Oct. 4, moving it back to the Complex where there are four fields that can accommodate all league championship games. However, the Complex is booked for all Saturdays in September and October.

"We anticipate availability of three fields this year (at Howe Avenue Park) so there is room for more games," Sansone said. "The Sept. 27 date minimizes conflicts with other tournaments."

Freddie Miller expressed strong concerns about the playability of the third field at Howe Avenue Park, noting that many L1 players, especially those with artificial knees, will not want to risk injury by playing on a substandard diamond. Sansone replied that he believes the Fulton-El Camino Park District is committed to upgrade the additional field.

Night leagues can also consider fielding all-star games on Picnic day at Howe Avenue Park. Last year L3 (Tuesday night) staged an all-star game at the picnic.

**GAMES THE WEEK OF MARCH 17.** Sansone said the Complex will be open for games the week of March 17 and the board is letting each league decide whether they want to schedule practice games for one or two weeks in March or launch the regular season before April. The club pays for use of the Complex fields regardless of whether they are for practice or regular season games.

Leagues will have between 20 and 26 games, depending on playoffs and rainouts. (See Page 2)

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:  
MARCH 10, 2014  
7:30 p.m. at VFW  
HALL, 2784  
STOCKTON  
BLVD.**

**IN THIS ISSUE ...**

**Board Sets Sept. 27 Picnic Date; Hotline is Restored; Complex Available for Games Week of March 17; Other News from Feb. 10 General Meeting.**

**Sunshine & Health Report: Foster Maxwell recovering from stroke. Charter Members update.**

**Monday Morning News.**

**Safety Report. Terry sets up CPR/AED training classes.**

**Club Sponsors for 2014.**

**Club League Commissioners.**

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## NEWS FROM FEB. 10 MEETING (FROM PAGE 1

It was noted that the Monday day leagues (L1 and the new L7) will be scheduled for only two off-days due to holidays: Labor Day and Memorial Day.

**CLUB HOTLINE IS UP AND RUNNING.** The club's telephone hotline, which went down Dec. 18 to incorporate an AT&T upgrade, is operational, reported Don Shank, the "voice" of the club. The number to call is 491-1721 for meeting news and field conditions.

**CLUB DATA BASE.** The huge chore of transferring the club's data base from Henry Low's computer to that of Dave Tanner has taken plenty of time and effort, and the draft lists were not available for the L-1 and L-7 drafts that had been planned for Feb. 10. They were postponed to Feb. 17. Other league drafts were to be scheduled once the draft lists are finalized.

**SIGNUPS.** Player applications for the Wednesday and Thursday night leagues were, as usual, coming in slowly. Sansone said the drafts for these leagues will be held off as long as possible but L4 and L5 could be reduced from six teams to five or even four if necessary. It seems an annual issue of recruiting enough players, making the draft and schedule decisions an 11th-hour ordeal.

L-7, new this year on Mondays for players 70 and over, will have four teams playing at 11 a.m. at Howe Avenue Park. The league has 48 signups. L1, which plays at 9 a.m., has 116 and may have seven teams instead of nine.

**PICNIC VOLUNTEERS.** Picnic guru Bill Hill said he will work to establish two food lines so folks are not likely to be stuck in long lines. He also said he needs more volunteers to help with the event. Contact Hill at 804-2243.

**STORAGE ISSUES.** Bill Hill also volunteered to room in his warehouse where the club can store uniforms and equipment between seasons. The storage locker at the Complex has no air circulation and materials have been damaged by mildew. The space also is infested with countless spiders, reported Chuck Knutson, club 2nd vice president.

**CLUB EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS.** Sansone reported that his informational email "blasts" reach 406 members, or 80 percent of the membership. He reported that 114 of those clicked on the link to read the Dugout Chatter online via the club web site. But 112 club members did not open the email. The club mailed 165 copies of the January newsletter, with postage costs limited to sponsors and members who say they lack email access.

**SPONSORS.** First VP Dave Vargo's report on sponsors noted two new ones, The Yancey Co., home-builder and remodeling contractor, and a second team sponsored by Bob Nielsen's real estate/appraisal company. Vargo said he expects to have 39 paid sponsorships for the 2014 season. He is grateful for the assistance and advance work provided by Dick Latimer, who had to step down as first VP due to health issues.

**UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT.** Second VP Chuck Knutson said the same type of ball used last year, the Stote Evil from Anaconda, has been ordered. He also reported on new sets of uniforms, colors and hats. Chuck also thanks former 2nd VP Pete Ward for all his help. #

# SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

Life Member **Foster Maxwell**, 82, suffered a stroke Dec. 28 while visiting in Palm Springs. "He's improving and hopes to be home by mid- to late-March," George Hodsdon said at the Feb. 10 meeting.

**M.R. Evans**, L3 player, is recovering from early February surgery on his right shoulder. He said the doctor told him to expect a six-month recovery period. #

## CHARTER MEMBER SURVIVORS UPDATE

In the January Dugout Chatter report on the passing of Ernie Santiago, it was noted that Ernie was one of 37 "charter" members of the club when it was officially incorporated in 1979. The list was published in Volume One of the club's newsletter, dated April 1983. It begged the question: Was Ernie the last survivor of the charter members? He is survived by at least one: Russ Menke. According to a Sacramento Bee obituary, George Menke died on Jan. 6 and survivors include his 97-year-old father, Russ.

The list of 37 men who held club membership cards as of July 1979:

*Joe Bettencourt, C.B. Brady, Frank Chico, Alden Clark, Bill Clark, Wayne Crary, Bud Ehlers, Fir Galli, Milo Gates, Lyle Hummel, Ed Jagla, Glenn Kelly, Jim Knoble, Ted Larson, Larry Lawston, Charles Lee, Russ Menke, Harold Moos, Joe Moreno, Adron Murphy, Don McPherson, Phil Nasca, Sam Patti, Pete Pina, Tony Pina, Fred Rainey, Gean Rockhill, Ernie Santiago, Charles Sass, Cliff Shirk, George Smith, Deni Treaster, Joe Virgen, Bud Weygandt, Dave Williams, Tom Witcher, Steve Zupan. #*

## MONDAY MORNING NEWS

### League Officials for 2014

L1 Commissioner Henry Low announced that Dick Reisinger Sr. is his assistant commissioner with Ernie Shaffer in charge of rules and Ray Soden in charge of safety.

Low also listed L1 team managers and assistants: Norm Blackwell and Bob Nielsen; Bennie Benson and Eugene Malone; Fred Fischer and Chris Nishioka; Bob Havrilla and Ron Thomas; Joe Kline; Dick Reisinger and Claude Wilson; Ernie Shaffer and Doug Hatley.

Low also is commissioner of L7, and Bob Annecone is assistant commissioner. L7 will have four teams playing on Mondays at 11 a.m. at Howe Avenue Park. Low listed managers as Blackwell, Kline, Al Tirapelli and Tom Watwood. Blackwell's assistant is Nielsen; Kline's is Jack Warren.

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## **GOLDEN SENIORS AWARD OF MERIT RECIPIENTS**

Twenty-eight recipients since 1991:

2013: John Mizerak, Arnold Wilkerson	
2012: Trudy Smartt, Ron Roach	2000: Ernie Kidwell
2011: Henry Low, Tom Sansone	1998: Lou Coppola, George Hodsdon
2010: Bob Havrilla	1997: Benny Benson
2009: Dave Vargo	1995: Dante Ciardella, Bill Sullivan
2008: Dick Seward	1994: Ralph Congdon, Daryl Cook
2007: James Powell Sr., Susan Tucker	1993: Ken Dumont, Jack Pressley
2006: Henry Fontes	1991: Bill Turner
2005: Ed Campini, Doug McCreary	#
2004: Foster Maxwell	
2003: Jim Lortz	
2002: Ken Wollenberg	

## ***SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES***

### **SOFTBALL PRACTICES HELP SENIORS STAY IN SHAPE IN “OFF-SEASON”**

The 2014 GSSCS season is right around the corner. There is opportunity to keep those bat-swinging, ball-throwing muscles in shape over the winter months.

Monday Morning Commissioner Henry Low reports batting practices are held at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays on Field #3 at Howe Park. Field #3 is the diamond adjacent to the parking area at the rear of the park off of Bell Avenue.

Meanwhile, practice games at Carmichael Park are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. during the fall-winter “off-season.” Carmichael Park’s Ernie Kidwell makes it happen and Ronny Smith preps the field. Sign up by 8:30 for the opportunity to play in the first game. Late arrivals can hit on a nearby field and play in the second game against the winner of the first game. “Hot bats” are not allowed. Contact: Greg Leurgans [gleurgan@yahoo.com](mailto:gleurgan@yahoo.com).

### **THE GLOVEMAN GIVES OLD, WORN FIELDING GLOVES NEW LIFE**

Howard Shaw is the “Glovesman” for new lacing, reconditioning, cleaning and service at reasonable pricing. Howard can also help break in a new glove. Give him a call at 421-6643. His cell is 996-9490. #

### **TPA DINNER-DANCE IS MARCH 1**

The annual Tournament Players Association (TPA) Dinner-Dance is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, at the Lakeview Village clubhouse in Citrus Heights, according to TPA President Bob Lowery. The event is free for TPA members. Guests, including Golden Seniors members, are \$15. Contact Lowery at 275-0953. #

# **GOLDEN SENIORS SPONSORS FOR 2014**

(Paid sponsors as of February 2014)

**AMERICAN MEDEQUIP, LLC**

**ARNOLD PROPERTIES**

**AVALON HEARING AID CENTER, INC. (TEAM 1)**

**AVALON HEARING AID CENTER, INC. (TEAM 2)**

**BECKS, IN MEMORY OF BILL AND SHIRLEY BECK**

**BERTOLUCCI BODY & FENDER SHOP, INC.**

**C&C PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES**

**CAPITOL BARRICADE**

**EG THREADS**

**ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)**

**ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)**

**EXECUTIVE LIMOUSINE**

**GSSA (GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSN.)**

**HARPER PROPERTIES**

**JERRY JODICE, IN MEMORY OF**

**JOLLY ROGERS**

**SACRAMENTO CATHOLIC FAMILIES -- GEORGE L. KLUMPP CHAPEL  
OF FLOWERS**

**LIVINGSTON'S CONCRETE SERVICE, INC.**

**L&S SURVEYS**

**MARK E. WHITE, DDS**

**MERRILL BOOKKEEPING AND INCOME TAX (Ray Merrill)**

**R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE/APPRAISAL**

**\*R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE/APPRAISAL (TEAM 2)**

**OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.**

**RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)**

**RAPID SOLUTIONS**

**REINWALD'S HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE**

**SAM'S HOF BRAU**

**SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS**

**SILVER CATS**

**SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS**

**TANNER AND ASSOCIATES**

**TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF AUBURN, INC.**

**VFW POST 67**

**RYAN R. WILGUS, DDS**

**\*YANCEY COMPANY**

\* -- New Sponsor for 2014

## **LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS -- 2014**

Club Commissioner Curtis Holcomb has appointed the following league commissioners:

**L-1 Henry Low 391-3938; Asst. Dick Reisinger Sr.**

**L-2 Dave Vargo 689-7061**

**L-3 Mel Tennyson 838-6811**

**L-4 Russ Barnes 332-2832**

**L-5 Allen Riker 873-3779**

**L-6 Dave Vargo 689-7061**

**L-7 Henry Low 391-3938; Asst. Bob Annecone**

**#**

# SAFETY REPORT

**From J.C. Terry, club safety coordinator**

American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED classes were scheduled for Saturdays Feb. 15 and 22. The club pays the \$72 cost for club members and umpires.

Each class is open to up to eight GSSCS members or umpires. Fifteen people had signed up for the classes as of this writing.

The classes, for those seeking certification or recertification from the Red Cross, are held at the Cottage Center, 3097 Cottage Way. from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The AED training is for use of the club's defibrillators, which are on standby with other safety gear in the club's red "crash carts" at Howe Avenue Park and the Sacramento Softball Complex.

Those who are certified become eligible to wear special red GSSCS caps so that they are easily recognized as trained in life-saving techniques.

It should be noted that the Red Cross no longer sends out certification cards. Instead, those who complete the class will receive their certificate by email to the address provided by the member.

For more information, contact Terry at 916 505-2570.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2014

President **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654

1st Vice President **Dave Vargo** ...  
689-7061 (Responsible for team  
sponsorships.)

2nd Vice President **Chuck Knutson** ...  
441-4144 (Responsible for team  
uniforms and equipment.)

Treasurer **Don Wall** ... 434-8308

Secretary **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941

Player Agent **Myron Dahl** ... 451-2450  
(Responsible for player applications,  
player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Curtis  
Holcomb** ...600-6065 (Responsible for  
enforcement of playing rules, oversees  
league commissioners.)

### TELEPHONE HOTLINE

#### Club Answering Machine

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

**Phone or Address Changes:** Dave  
Tanner 216-1941

**Player Applications:** Myron  
Dahl 451-2450

**Sunshine & Health:** Trudy  
Smartt 973-8269

**GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:**  
456-1500

**Safety Coordinator:** J.C. Terry  
457-3393 Cell: 505-2570

**Entertainment:** Lou Coppola  
444-6138

**Dugout Chatter:** Ron Roach,  
editor 422-2500

([coachrwr@comcast.net](mailto:coachrwr@comcast.net))