

**BATTER UP**  
**SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWSLETTER**  
**Sun Cities Senior Softball League**  
*News Beyond the Hits and Runs*  
**APRIL SHOWERS**  
**BRINGS MAY FLOWERS**

*"You don't stop playing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop playing!"*

April 2010

"The BATTER UP" Newsletter is published for the Sun Cities Senior Softball League, and is made possible through the generosity of our sponsors.

Dennis Farrar – Editor  
 Email: [editor@getnet.net](mailto:editor@getnet.net)

## ☪ 2010 “Hall of Fame” Inductees ☪

MIKE GRAHAM △ WAYNE MITCHELL △ ART NELSON △ TEX WELLS



MIKE GRAHAM

Mike was born in Scottsbluff Nebraska in 1943 but moved to Casper Wyoming when he was only 2 years old. He grew up in Casper and spent all of his childhood actively involved in sports even though he was typically the smallest boy in all of his activities. He aggressively played Basketball, Football and Baseball all the way through high school. When Mike entered his senior year of high school he was 5 foot 2 and weighed 65 pounds due to a couple of surgeries. When it was found that he had a thyroid deficiency they started him on medication and he graduated at 5 foot 8 and 125 pounds.

Mike stayed in Casper through 2 years of Junior College and left for the University of Colorado for his junior year. *Read more p.2*



WAYNE MITCHELL

Born 72 years ago in Los Angeles he lived, went to school, worked, and raised a family in and around L.A. area.

In 1997, after 37-1/2 years as a teacher, counselor, head counselor, assistant principal, principal with the Los Angeles Unified School District, he moved to Sun City West. Wayne and his wife, Ann have been married for 20 years, and they often travel back to visit their daughters Laura, and Andrea as well as their 2 grandsons Joey and Tommy. *Read more p.2*



ART NELSON

Arthur A. Nelson was born on April 12, 1946 in Watertown, South Dakota. He was the second child in a family of 5 sisters and 1 brother. When he was 11 years old, his triplet sisters were born.

Art grew up in Portland, Oregon, attending Beaumont Grade School and graduated from US Grant High School in 1964. He played football for 4 years, and was on the 1963 State Championship team. He was an All-City line backer. Art also wrestled for 4 years at 191 pounds. He took 4th in the City his senior year. Art played 4 years outfield on the baseball team and was All City. He hit 450 in his senior year. Art also played American Legion baseball for 3 years. *Read more p.2*



TEX WELLS

Tex was born in Mauston, Wisconsin on a dairy farm; in the barn with soft hay as my bed. There were 4 feet of snow on the ground and it was coming down about an inch an hour, 10 degrees with a steady wind. The doctor came by horse drawn sleigh.

He started playing fast pitch softball at 16 for all the bars in the town, 6 days a week and never looked back. At the high school he played football, basketball, track, wrestling, fast pitch softball and hardball (baseball). He moved to San Antonio, Texas after high school where he went back to ranching and raising cattle. Tex studied engineering seven nights a week to finish his college degree. *Read more p.2*

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## LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THE SEASON

– Dennis Farrar –

This will be the last newsletter until the fall. The next newsletter will come out in September and will only be available in electronic format [pdf] through the league web site. Look for the November issue in the dugouts late October. ★



2010 "Hall of Fame" Inductees cont'd

— Mike Graham

Mike met his wife Linda during his sophomore year in junior college. They were both avid bowlers and spent a lot of their dating time at bowling alleys. They married before his junior year at C.U. and had their son just before he graduated. Their daughter was born 3 years later. Mike started playing golf with his son when he was about 15 and was decent competition for him for a year or so. Once he started playing on the golf team, Mike got left in the dust and he eventually became a teaching pro. Their daughter has always been a very compassionate person and now works in a hospital in Scottsdale. She has provided them with 3 grandkids that are the light of their lives.

Mike started work straight out of college for Coors in Golden Colorado as a programmer analyst. He also worked for Kodak in Colorado before they moved to Arizona. They have been in Arizona for 32 years so it is difficult to answer when someone asks him where he came from. He worked in Information Technology for 36 years in positions ranging from a base programmer to the manager of a systems development department of 50 people. Working for companies like American Express and Motorola where he retired in 2001.

Since retiring Mike spends most of his time involved in softball and golf. Mike kids that he reflected off of 40 and now he is in his second childhood. Mike says he is currently 14. Every day when he goes to the softball field he recreates the same memories he had as a kid. The only difference is now he has a lot more friends to play with thanks to the great organization we have here in the Sun Cities. △



— Wayne Mitchell

In 1998 he joined the Sun City West Softball Club and became involved with the Sun Cities Softball League, now the association serving 2 years as President and Vice President for 1 year. He managed for 9 consecutive years for the Lund Cadillac, Heritage Traditions, and Rosie's Italian Café. He also served on the on the American League rules committee for 3 years and the draft committee for 3 years.

He has also been involved with the Sun City West Softball Club as Vice President for 1 year, President for 1 year and served on the Tin Cup Golf Tournament committee for 5 years and served as the Treasurer for 4 years. △

— Art Nelson

Art attended Portland State University for 2 years. In 1968 he married his high school sweetheart, Mary. They will soon celebrate their 42nd wedding anniversary. Art was a foster parent to several troubled teenage boys.

In 1966 he went to work in the family business, Speedometer Service and Instrument Company in Portland, Oregon. He eventually became the owner of that business. He continued to work there until 2001.

In 1973 he moved to Sandy, Oregon, the Gateway to the Mt. Hood National Forest, and 20 miles East of Portland. In 1978 he joined the Sandy Fire Department, and was a volunteer firefighter for 20 years. He was elected Firefighter of the Year in 1981. Art ran for public office and won a position on the Board of Directors of the Sandy Fire Department. He served from 1996 to 2000.

As an adult he played tournament racquetball for 8 years. Art plays golf, and is a member of the SCW Grandview Men's Club.

As far as Art's softball career goes, it began when he played as a catcher and coached a fast pitch team from 1969 to 1980.

He started playing slow pitch ball in 1981 and continues to present. For many of the past several years he has played fast pitch during the summer in Oregon.

Art moved to Sun City West in September 2001, and began league play in October. At one time he managed the Grandview Terrace team. Art was Sun City West Softball Board President for 2 years. Currently he is a player and manager for the 60's Sidewinders. △



— Tex Wells

His next job was as a jet mechanic for the US Air Force. When he decided to get out of the service, he moved to Aurora, Colorado. He loved to go big game hunting there. Tex started working for the Colorado State Highway Department as an engineer. He helped design utilities, buildings, bridges and roads. After 31 years, Tex decided to retire to a warmer climate where he could continue to play ball. Arizona was at the top of the list!

And you know what? Tex is still playing and enjoying life to the fullest through softball; 53 years! It doesn't get any better than this. Guess you could say he just like playing ball for the competition, sportsmanship and winning. Loving life! △



**CONGRATULATIONS  
MIKE, WAYNE, ART, AND TEX**



Red passed away on March 1, 2010 having bravely battled brain cancer. In the last few months, he was able to spend time with family and friends. Red will be remembered for the extra effort he put forward to welcome new players into the league and always being ready to play, wherever or whenever. He managed teams, was a Sun City Board member and longtime member of the Guys and Gals. He traveled with the Sidewinders as well as other tournament teams. One of Red's other favorite pastimes was dancing. He and Barb used to put on quite a show square dancing. Until very recently, he was still dancin' up a storm at Joe Gallo's entertainment events. His laugh and twinkling smile will be missed. No public services are planned. Contributions in Red's name will be forwarded to Sun City Senior Softball Club and Angels in the Outfield. Our condolences go to Barb and the family. 🕊



HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY



## NEWS FROM THE SUN CITY BOARD

— Linda Graham, President —

Lots of chatter these days regarding safety and personal responsibility. Most of you are aware that the Sun City West Club has passed a rule (trial?) requiring all pitchers to wear masks, ONLY AT LIBERTY FIELD AND ONLY FOR TUESDAY/THURSDAY GAMES AND FOR THE SPRING FLING. Even though the Board of the Sun City Softball Club would be as devastated as anyone if a player received a serious injury while playing the game, no action was taken to implement the same rule at Sun Bowl Field. It is our belief that Senior Softball players are adults and are aware that the game can be dangerous and that they are free to protect themselves using personal equipment, however, they see fit. The equipment technology may have increased the danger of our Recreational play. However, it is the assigned duty of the American and National League Committees to bring proposals to the joint board regarding such rule or equipment changes so that we can remain consistent between communities and continue to play together in a cooperative manner. Well meaning people apparently felt pressured to disregard this process or simply didn't understand the process through lack of experience. At the very least, it would be my hope that before any local board would take such a bold step in the future, the other boards would be consulted first. ★

## NATIONAL LEAGUE SPRING FLING TOURNAMENT 2010

— Bob Williams, NL Coordinator —

The National League Spring Fling was held at Liberty Field, March 4 and 5 with eight teams putting on a great show for the fans. The fling has flung and it was good, and it was my privilege to be the coordinator again this year. Both new and old managers did a great job! Congratulations to the first place Hawks (yeah!), the second place Mavericks, the third place Mighty Bobcats and the fourth place T-Birds. Any event like this takes many pairs of hands and volunteers to make it a success. Special thanks to my wife, Kay. Thank you to Ken Skinner and his professional umpires: Ron Blackwell, George Karras, Art Nelson, Mike Hester and Jim Montgomery for officiating the tournament. A special thanks to Jim Tramel and Duane Newkirk who spent two days scorekeeping and running the scoreboard. Thanks also to Dennis Farrar for all of his work in the booth and on the field.

Thanks to all the players and the managers who stepped up to make this such a success and to all the fans who cheered us on. George Karras gets a Golden DeMarini for having the field in such wonderful playing condition each morning and put away securely in the evening. Thanks to all the pitchers for wearing protective head gear, whether they wanted to or not, putting the Club's wishes above their own. (Pitcher Joe Difiore, who was reluctant to wear a mask, had a hot comebacker ricochet off of his helmet in the area of his right ear and is glad he had the mask on.)

Don and Linda Swanson and John and Pauline Dewey stuck with us both days helping with set up, cooking and clean up – a million thanks! Cooking duties were also provided by Walt Worley and Tony DiBiasio. Our apologies to anyone we may have missed, but we are extremely grateful. This was a fabulous tournament and we could not have done it without you!

This was an extremely competitive tournament and as one player told me, "I haven't had this much fun in 40 years!" I feel the same way. When the Championship Game is decided by a two out, seventh inning, grand slam home run, you can't ask for much more excitement than that.

P.S. The women's team, the Pony Express, was thrilled to have been included as a unit for the first time this year and are already talking pay back for the 2011 Fling. You did a great job, ladies! ★

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## AS I SEE IT!

— Dennis Farrar —



As another softball season comes to an end I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for being a part of the game we all love to play.

I'm so glad that the SCW Board has taken action on trying to protect our players; particularly the pitchers by requiring them to wear a mask when pitching. However, I believe this should be extended to all games, not just Tuesday and Thursday. Even though this is on a trial basis I think it is a step in the right direction and more safety implications could follow.

I will be leaving mid May to go visit my kids in Minnesota and then calling square dances on my annual square dance calling tour in June & July. I will be returning on July 11 and hope to get placed on a summer team. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again.

Finally, if you are leaving soon for the summer or just taking a little time away from the game to visit the kids or grandkids please travel safe. We want to see all of you behind the plate next fall. Wherever your travel leads you, please remember to be safe off the field too.

Have a Happy April Fool's Day and try not to play too many tricks on others.

That's how I see it! Have a good game and get home safe. ★

— Editor ✍

# AMERICAN LEAGUE REPORT

— Bob Dobbins, American League Committee —

With the 2010 Spring Session coming to a close, we would like to thank all the managers who volunteered their time and effort to manage a team in the Spring Session. As we approach the first summer session, if you have not been contacted by your manager or someone from the American League Committee, as to whether you are playing in any of the summer sessions or in the fall, please contact Bob Dobbins at [raiderctry@msn.com](mailto:raiderctry@msn.com) or by phone at 623-792-8993.

If you are interested in being a manager for the summer sessions or in the fall, please call Bob and let him know.

If you are a snowbird and will not be playing this summer, please have a safe and wonderful summer and we will see you in the fall. ★

### Important dates:

- 4/6/10 – 6/3/10 First summer session
- 6/8/10 – 7/29/10 Second summer session
- 8/3/10 – 9/30/10 Third summer session
- 10/26/10 – 1/19/11 Fall session

## SPONSOR'S UPDATE

— Ron Eppley —

There will be a new billboard "PEORIA VOLKSWAGEN" on the outfield fence this spring. Look for the billboard in center field in the near future.

It is ALWAYS beneficial to the SCW Softball Club to have our members frequent the businesses represented on our team shirts or billboards. Please make sure you mention you are a softball club member and appreciate their continuing support of our club! Without them we would only have a dream of how much better the club and field could be. ★

Redeem this coupon for your free cup of coffee

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## 🌀 CALENDAR OF EVENTS 🌀

April 10, 2010

– SCW Annual Palm Desert Tournament  
Liberty Field • Sun City West

★ There will be 4 games starting a 9:00pm with lot of food and fun for all.

Contact Herb Clark at (623) 444-7778 or email Herb at [oldabner@yahoo.com](mailto:oldabner@yahoo.com) for more information.

# SAVE THOSE TABS

— Bob Wenners —

I want to encourage you to keep saving those tabs for Ronald McDonald House.



Did you know? — It takes 1267 tabs to make 1 pound and 144 pounds to allow 1 family to stay one night in a Ronald McDonald House.

So again my thanks for helping and let's save all the tabs we can during the summer. Thank you! ★

## ☞ SUMMER WORD SEARCH PUZZLE ☞

Find and circle all of the summer words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell an additional summer item.

|             |               |                                     |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| ANTS        | JULY          | J U N E S T S S S S Y K S E U L B M |
| AUGUST      | JUNE          | U S M E A U Y E O U H I K I N G S A |
| BARBECUE    | MOSQUITOES    | S M W E E A N L U B N W A S E Y R E |
| BASEBALL    | NO SCHOOL     | U T W I R R S G I C A B L N A R E R |
| BEACH       | PICNIC        | N S H V M T C C L T E A U D T V L C |
| BEEES       | ROLLER BLADES | T Y U G I M Y S E A D B I R S S K E |
| BICYCLE     | SANDALS       | A G L C I C I R N N S L R R N D N C |
| BLUE SKY    | SKATEBOARD    | N R E U L F M N A U O S E A R G I I |
| BOATING     | SOCCER        | O E A E J E R S G H S W E A B N R C |
| BREEZE      | SOLSTICE      | S E D A L B R E L L O R O S R I P R |
| CAMPING     | SPRINKLERS    | C N A O F L O G T L T B T E E T S E |
| FISHING     | SUNBURN       | H G N I H S I F F A E O A E E A H C |
| FLIES       | SUNGLASSES    | O R C A M P I N G T W T H B Z O C C |
| FLOWERS     | SUNSCREEN     | O A C I N C I P A W A S P S E B A O |
| GARDENING   | SUNSHINE      | L S F L I E S K M O S Q U I T O E S |
| GOLF        | SUNTAN        | T S U G U A S I L L A B E S A B B O |
| GREEN GRASS | SWEAT         | G N I N E D R A G S U N S H I N E N |
| HAT         | SWIMMING      |                                     |
| HIKING      | U V RAYS      |                                     |
| HOLIDAYS    | WASPS         |                                     |
| HOT         | WATER FIGHTS  |                                     |
| ICE CREAM   | WATERMELON    |                                     |

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### SCW SOFTBALL CLUB SPONSORS ITS' 3RD ANNUAL SPONSORS' APPRECIATION FUN DAY IN THE PARK



Sam Barian (*foreground*) show a one of a kind hot dog that cooks and servers prepared him as well as all the attendees at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sponsor' Appreciation Day in the Park held on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at Liberty Field. The line-up cooks behind Sam are: *Left to Right:* Laurel Andrew, Ron Eppley, Bob Peck and Wendell Osborne. There was lots of food and fun had by all who attended.

— Photo by Dennis Farrar



Brenda Elders (*center*) and friend Jackie Drumheller (*right*) are busy signing up folks for their raffle and at the same time giving away a coupon for a free cup of coffee at "Brenda's Kitchen" at their booth at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sponsors' Appreciation Day in the Park held on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at Liberty Field. Didn't get your coupon for that cup of "Joe"? Cut it out of this newsletter and enjoy!!

— Photo by Dennis Farrar

# FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

## — KILL THE UMPIRE

— Chuck Wittreich, Acting President —

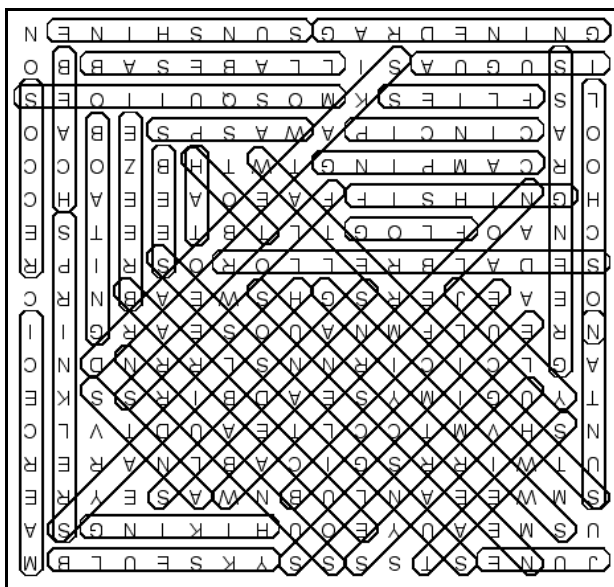
I know this saying has been around for a long time and some of us have actually used it at times. Working with the softball association board I feel like the umpire in our games. We have two teams, SC and SCW. No matter what the umpire does, one side or the other will not li

ke the decision. My understanding of the association board was to oversee the two clubs. With this in mind I know we try on the board to appease both sides, while trying to keep peace on both sides. Sometimes this seems rather difficult, because both sides want the call to go their way.

I assure you we take no sides when we make our decision. We try to make our judgment call for the betterment of both clubs. Just remember we are a club for recreation of our members, and our decisions are always based on what is best for both clubs.

I want to thank you all for your understanding and help, and wish you all a very enjoyable summer and see you all at the ballpark in the fall. ★

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE SOLUTION



Remember, No Cheating?  
The hidden message is: SUMMER VACATION

## THANK YOU SPONSORS — WE SUPPORT YOU!

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- Denny's TV
- Desert Rose Concrete Coating
- Desert Golf Cars
- Edward Jones
- Farmers Ins. – Paul Tone
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- Golden Eagle Distributors (*Budweiser*)
- Gonstead Family Chiropractic
- Grandview Terrace
- Ken Meade Realty
- Larry Ott Realty
- Liberty Buick
- Lund Cadillac
- Newton's Automotive
- Northern Trust Bank
- Peoria GMC
- Peoria Volkswagen
- The Reategui Law Firm
- Rosie's Italian Café
- Sue Pahlke Realty
- Van's Pro Shop / Ping
- VFW – Post 10695
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