

# DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO ([WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)) -- MAY 2013

## **CLUB MEMBERSHIP GROWS: WILL THERE BE MORE TEAMS IN 2014?**

*(The following coverage of the May 13 general meeting by Dave Vargo provides the basis for the June electronic edition of the Dugout Chatter. The print edition will return in July with plenty of news, including league standings, stats and game highlights. -- Ron Roach, editor.)*

Growing pains? GSSCS President Tom Sansone announced at the May 13 general meeting that the club already had 67 new members as of mid-May, an increase of eight over all of 2012 -- and more new members can be expected during the rest of 2013. Sansone said the club's new membership growth has already been about 20 per cent above the average of 50 new members per year -- "and we're not done for the year!"

The club invested in radio advertising and had articles in local print media, and individual members volunteered time to sign up players at shopping centers as part of a campaign to gain more new members. Details of this effort have been reported in previous issues of the Dugout Chatter.

Besides new members, Dick Latimer, the club's first vice president, announced 40 paid sponsors for 2013 and already one new paid sponsorship for 2014. He said his goal is to have 50 paid sponsorships next year.

In other news:

**Coed Membership.** The Board of Directors discussed a possible by-laws change to reduce the age limit for females to 40 or 45, instead of 50. Mel Tennyson, commissioner of L-3 on Tuesday nights, reported that there are 18 women in the six-team league -- two teams have four, two teams have three and two teams have two. To gain added exposure, the board discussed offering to pay the \$85 cost for a night league coed or all-star team to play in the city's Tournament of Champions in September at the Complex. (SEE PAGE 2)

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:  
JULY 8, 2013  
7:30 P.M.  
VFW HALL  
2784 STOCKTON BLVD.**

## **IN THIS ISSUE ...**

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## **NEWS FROM MAY GENERAL MEETING (FROM PAGE 1)**

**Expansion.** The board and L-3 would welcome the challenge of adding teams to the league. Similarly, Larry Shelton, a L-3 manager, and Dick Reisinger, a L-4 (Wednesday night) manager, reported that all teams in those leagues have at least 13 players. Additional teams would reduce bench time for all players. It would ease the burden on managers by making it easier to comply with the club edict that each player play at least three innings on defense.

**Club Picnic.** Mark your calendars: Saturday, Sept. 7 at Howe Park. Bill Hill, L-3 player whose business sponsors two teams, has volunteered to chair the event.

**Club Officer Nominations.** John Mizerak will chair the committee that will produce nominations to be announced at the July 8 general meeting for the seven Board of Director positions -- president, first VP, second VP, Club Commissioner, Player Agent, Secretary and Treasurer. The election will be in August. Filling the vacant second VP position is crucial. This officer is responsible for planning and ordering uniform jerseys, hats and equipment, including balls.

**Rules.** There was discussion of the baseline length and use of a scoring plate. Sansone noted that batting averages increased by over 50 basis points in 2012 with the addition of hotter bats and use of Trump balls. He closed the discussion by indicating that the club will look at batting averages and runs scored over all of 2013 before reviewing whether the club would continue to play under Senior Softball USA's 2013 regulation that added five feet to the distance between bases for all GSSCS leagues except the Monday morning L-1 for players 70 and older.

The club will attempt to obtain and use more secure scoring plates that won't slip. About 70 percent of the 30-plus members on hand favored elimination of the plate. (The scoring line would be used so that runners would still be declared out for touching the regular home plate.) #

## ***MONDAY MORNING NEWS***

### **NIELSEN REALTY WINS FIRST ROUND IN MONDAY PLAY**

*From Henry Low and George Hodsdon*

With one game remaining in League One's first round of play, the Nielsen Realty team, managed by Norm Blackwell Sr. and Bob Nielsen, clinched winning the first round with a May 20 victory. No games were scheduled on the Memorial Day holiday and L-1 will complete the first round of play on June 3 with a make-up of the April 1 games that were rained out.

Ted Slauson reported that he has suffered a stroke and cannot play ball or drive, but would like to come out to some of the games. If you can give him a ride, give him a call at 961-8517. He lives in Citrus Heights.

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# ***SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT***

## **REST IN PEACE: BOB HONDA**

Honorary Life Member **Bob Honda** passed away peacefully on April 18 and has been remembered by many -- including Mayor Kevin Johnson -- whose lives he touched on the ball fields and coaching sidelines. The native of Hawaii was a major force behind the Islanders softball tournament team. He also pitched for championship teams in the Golden Seniors before he suffered strokes and could no longer play.

Mayor Johnson said Coach Honda saved his basketball career. According to an article in the May 4 Sacramento Bee by Joe Davidson, Johnson was a sophomore guard on the Sacramento High junior varsity when, after a defeat, he decided he wanted to quit. "I wanted out, but Bob Honda wouldn't let me. It would have changed my life." Honda was a teacher, coach and counselor for 37 years in the Sacramento City School District. He was 74 when he died of a heart attack.

Honda and Varsity Coach Ron McKenna considered Johnson the fastest baseline-to-baseline player they had ever seen, the Bee reported. When recruiters came to evaluate players in the area, Honda advised them to look at Johnson. Kevin went to Cal-Berkeley and then to the National Basketball Association for a 12-year career.

The mayor said the values instilled in him by Honda helped him as he worked to keep the Sacramento Kings from moving to Seattle. "You see the role he played with me, even in this fight to keep the Kings here. Coach Honda's tenacity is still with me. It's helped me. Never quit, keep fighting."

GSSCS directors decided in 2011 to make Honda an honorary life member as his failing health kept him from achieving enough years of membership. #

## ***SAFETY REPORT***

Safety Coordinator J.C. Terry has compiled a list of GSSCS members who are trained and certified to provide CPR/AED assistance. The club has provided two Red Cross training opportunities for members this year, at no cost to the members who took advantage of the classes. This continues a safety program launched years ago by the late Jerry Jodice.

Here is the list, which has 39 names:

Jim Jackson, Chuck Knutson, Donald Shank, Jon Ellison, John Taylor, Michael Immoos, Curtis Holcomb, Ken Taylor, Ron Roach, Joe Sugimoto, Tom Bussey, Cloicec Wade, John Hains, Dick Latimer, Paul Rogers, Dave Tanner, John Lack, J.C. Terry, Nancy Diehl, Trudy Smartt, Bill Greene, Glenn Cummings, Ron Thomas, Al Tirapelli, Richard O'Brien, Gerry Rohlfes, Ernie Kidwell, Jerry Moody, Don Maciel, Ray Ward, Don Tajbl, Arnold Disney, Joe Kline, Foster Maxwell, George Hodsdon, Casper Greif, Ken Dempsey, Hank Fontes, Lou Ve'Lez.

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# **GOLDEN SENIORS SPONSORS FOR 2013**

First VP Dick Latimer lists these club sponsors for 2013 and urges club members to reward their support by giving them their business (\* = new sponsor for 2013):

**AMERICAN MEDEQUIP**  
**ARNOLD PROPERTIES**  
**AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS (TEAM 1)**  
**AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS (TEAM 2)**  
**BECKS, IN MEMORY OF**  
**BERTOLUCCI BODY & FENDER SHOP, INC.**  
**\*JOHN BRENDLE CONSULTING**  
**C&C PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES**  
**\*CAPITOL BARRICADE**  
**COTTONWOOD ESTATES**  
**OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.**  
**\*EG THREADS**  
**ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)**  
**ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)**  
**EXECUTIVE LIMOUSINE**  
**GEREMIA POOLS**  
**GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**HARPER PROPERTIES**  
**\*BILL HILL ROOFING & VINYL SIDING**  
**\*BILL HILL WINDOWS, HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING**  
**JERRY JODICE, MEMORY OF**  
**JOLLY ROGERS**  
**\*KLUMPP'S FUNERAL HOME**  
**LIVINGSTON'S CONCRETE SERVICE**  
**L&S SURVEYS**  
**MARK E. WHITE, DDS**  
**MERRILL'S BOOKKEEPING AND TAX (Ray Merrill)**  
**R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE**  
**OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.**  
**\*RAPID SOLUTIONS PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS**  
**RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)**  
**REINWALD'S HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS BROKERAGE**  
**\*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**  
**WION'S BODY SHOP**

## **LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2013**

**L-1 Henry Low 391-3938; Asst. George Hodsdon 481-9304**

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

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

**L-4 Bud DeSouza 424-6115**

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

**L-6 Bill Greene 391-5559**

# **SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES**

**Number 60 for Norm and Peaches.** Congratulations to **Norm Blackwell Sr.** and his bride Peaches for their 60th wedding anniversary in April. In keeping with large families (Peaches had 22 brothers and sisters), she and Norm have had 10 children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Lou Coppola**, life member who has continued to be one of the Golden Seniors biggest boosters, even after health issues curtailed his play, was featured in the Sacramento Bee on April 29 under this headline: Big-band era finally closing for longtime Sacramento devotees. Lou, who is 85, has been keeping the sound of the big bands alive as executive director of the NorCal Big Bands Preservation Society. The group has hosted 110 dances since its inception in 2001. Lou, who was hurt in a fall, and his wife, Betty, decided to make the May 19 event at the Elk's Lodge in Greenhaven the society's final dance their "farewell ball." Lou has held numerous volunteer leadership positions in the club over the years. He is the club's entertainment chair and is a contact to get discount tickets at RiverCats games. Until this year he devoted considerable time and energy taking team photographs. #

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2012-13**

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

First Vice President **Dick Latimer**  
363-9555 (Responsible for team  
sponsorships.)

Second Vice President (Vacant)  
(Responsible for team uniforms.)

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:**

Asst. Secretary Henry Low  
391-3938

**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))