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# DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO ([WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)) CLUB HOTLINE: 491-1721

## **SHORT-HANDED NIGHT LEAGUES: ADAPT AND WILL PLAY BALL!!!**

Golden Seniors club leaders announced decisions at the March 9 general meeting for two short-handed night leagues to go ahead and conduct drafts with what they have and play ball the week of March 16.

Members also learned that the 2015 club rulebook is available online at the updated Golden Seniors website ([www.gsscs.org](http://www.gsscs.org)) with significant changes in base-running interference calls and moves to guard against unfair use of replacement players.

The fate of Wednesday and Thursday night leagues at the Sacramento Softball Complex has been in doubt because neither had at least 72 players on their draft lists -- the minimum for six 12-player teams.

Six of the club's eight leagues had already conducted drafts and were deemed ready to go, according to Player Agent Dave Tanner. These include the new L8 for players 75 and older playing Tuesday mornings at Howe Park. Two leagues for players 70 and older (L1 and L7) play on Monday mornings at Howe Park. A third night league (L3) plays Tuesday nights at the Complex.

Wednesday night (L4) managers will draft five teams of 11 players from 56 signups. Rosters are expected to expand at least somewhat with late signups, Tanner said, and there will still be three games each night with a doubleheader instead of a bye for one of the five teams. (See Page 3)

**THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 7 P.M. MONDAY, MAY 11 AT THE VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BOULEVARD.**

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

***News from March 9 general meeting; Short-handed night leagues will draft and play, joining six other leagues getting under way this month. Rulebook for 2015 is online. New rules include the Home Plate Safety Zone with greater use of umpire judgment to reduce automatic outs. Parity is goal of new system for replacement player assignments.***

***Sunshine & Health: Rest in Peace Dick Latimer, Mary Lou Mashburn.***

***List of Sponsors for 2015.***

***Short Hops: Check with Lou for beauty of deal on 2015 RiverCats Tickets.***

***Club Contacts.***

# SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

## REST IN PEACE: DICK LATIMER, MARY LOU MASHBURN

**Dick Latimer** joined the Golden Seniors in 2007 and health issues kept him from playing softball. But they didn't prevent him from making a difference. Latimer jumped at the chance to volunteer for service on the club's Board of Directors. He worked tirelessly as the club's first vice president until his failing health forced him to step down in 2013.

Yet he still worked to sign up sponsors. He was an ambassador for the Golden Seniors. As the chaplain for VFW Post 67, where the club has general meetings, Dick was able to step up and get the hall unlocked when soon-to-be-honored life members and their families were gathering in the parking lot. "Just give me 10 minutes," Dick told club President Tom Sansone before the Jan. 12 meeting, which began on time.

Dick died Feb. 19. He was 71. Suzanne, his wife of 48 years, said he fell, hit his head and didn't recover. He had suffered a stroke a few years ago, but continued to do what he could for the betterment of the Golden Seniors. He attended club meetings when his back was so painfully injured that he could barely walk.

Latimer was a 30-year veteran of the Army National Guard. He volunteered his time with numerous organizations, including the Boy Scouts, as a reserve Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputy, and helping the fire-fighters search and rescue teams. And, of course, senior softball.

He was a 1961 graduate of Sacramento High School who earned his BS in education at Sacramento State, then his master's from the University of Louisville. He also set up engineering graphics at several universities.

**Mary Lou Mashburn** passed away Feb. 15 in a rest home. She was 84. Her husband, Gil, died in a tragic tree-trimming accident about 10 years ago. He was an excellent Golden Senior and club oldtimers remember Mary Lou as an excellent lady.

**Don Doolittle**, L1 player and life member, has informed the club that he can no longer play due to health issues. He joined the club in 1994 and turned 82 on March 7.

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## CLUB MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 1)

Club President Tom Sansone said the club must pay for three games for each night league -- even if one game is not played. Player fees are enough to “break even” with nothing extra for general club expenses because the board agreed to pay umpire and scorekeeper costs (\$750 for the season) for the third game. Fortunately, he said, the club can afford to provide the umpires and scorekeepers for the five-team league.

The Thursday night (L5) league, with 65 signups, will draft six teams of 11 players to begin the season. It is hoped that late signups, as well as new players coming in during the season, will allow the rosters to grow.

Sansone noted that leaders of short-handed leagues have worked tirelessly to recruit more players (Bob Ellison in L5 and Russ Barnes in L4).

Getting at least 72 signups for the L4 and L5 drafts has been a problem in years past, but seemed moreso this season as a number of players decided to move to the day leagues when they became eligible. Night league players have to be at least 50 during the year (45 for women). Tuesday day L2 and L6 players must be at least 60 (55 for women) and the L1 and L7 players have to be at least 70 (65 for women). Making its debut this year, L8 is for players 75 and older (70 for women).

**Running the Bases.** Club Commissioner Jerry Nevis declared there will be no more “needless out calls” at home plate. He said no runner should be called out unless he or she interferes with the catcher, in the umpire’s judgment, or actually steps on home plate mat. There have been instances in the past that frustrate and infuriate those called out when there wasn’t even a play being made.

The “automatic out zone” is now called the “home plate safety zone.” The chalk lines are still there but the runner will not be called out unless interference is ruled by the umpire.

Also, a runner will not be called out at first base for running across the inside or white base instead of the outside orange base if the umpire rules there was no interference.

**Replacement Players.** The club also has adopted rules governing replacement players with the overriding goal of protecting what Nevis called league balance and parity. Generally, replacement players are considered on temporary assignment until a majority of managers and the league commissioner approve a permanent assignment to a team. A league commissioner can assign a player to a team with a vacancy regardless of whether a manager has made a request. If a manager loses a first- or second-round draft choice, he can recruit a new player to the league for a replacement. If the vacancy is a third- or lower-round draft spot, and there is no player on the waiting list, the recruited player is a temporary assignment until talent is evaluated. (See Page 4)

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## **CLUB MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 3)**

**Warmups and Time Limits.** New rules also clarify the umpire's authority to limit infield and pitcher warmups between innings -- after two innings -- to help keep games within time limits that have been modified by shortening games by reducing by 10 minutes the time a new inning may begin.

Rule books for 2015 will be printed for league commissioners, managers and those who have no Internet for access to the online rule book. (Kudos to the Rules Committee, led by Bob Smartt and including Chief Umpire Tom Bussey, Club Commissioner Nevis, Jim Stinson, Dick Reisinger, Ernie Shaffer, Bob Ellison, and board members President Tom Sansone and Secretary Dave Vargo.)

**Safety Classes.** It was reported that eight members completed Red Cross AED/CPR training on March 6 and will qualify to wear red hats that show they can help players in distress. The club pays the \$75 cost of such training. Sansone said J.C. Terry deserves praise for his work as club safety coordinator, setting up the training. Lives have been saved.

**Pitcher Face Masks.** Chuck Knutson, club second vice president, reported that he has purchased five protective masks, at a discounted Anaconda rate of \$32 each, for pitchers to use. This season, all pitchers must wear protective masks and are expected to purchase their own masks. The five club-purchased masks are to be available as back-ups in case a team's regular pitcher is absent or a mask breaks. The club will use wipes or spray to keep the masks clean.

**Sponsors.** Jon Ellison, club first vice president, said he was nearing his goal of having 40 sponsors. He said five sponsors have taken advantage of the club's multi-year sponsorship plan. He said he had 35 sponsors with four more promised. New sponsors for 2015 include Photo Finish (Mick Tursky), Wenelli's Pizza (Steve Pegos), RDR Financial Services and Fire Fighters Local 522.

**Sun Screens.** The club authorized the expense of up to \$1,000 for acquiring portable sun shade cloth to cover dugouts. Jim Mays is working on the issue of providing shade for dugouts in the hot summer months.

**Picnic Date.** The board has scheduled the annual picnic for Saturday, Sept. 5 at Howe Park.

**Updated Website.** Sansone said credit should go to Marti Ikehara, who plays on Tuesdays, for helping Jamyn Jodice update material on the club website. #

## **2015 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS**

**L1 Henry Low; Asst. Dick Reisinger Sr.**

**L2 & L6 Myron Dahl and Bob Smartt (co-commissioners)**

**L3 Mel Tennyson**

**L4 Russ Barnes**

**L5 Bob Ellison**

**L7 Jim Stinson**

**L8 Cloicic Wade**

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## SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Sponsors Committed for  
2015 as of March 9:

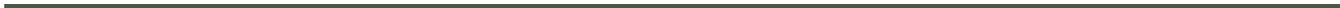
AMERICAN MEDIQUIP, LLC  
AVALON HEARING AID  
CENTER, INC. (TEAM 1)  
AVALON HEARING AID  
CENTER, INC. (TEAM 2)  
BECKS, IN MEMORY OF  
BILL AND SHIRLEY BECK  
BERTOLUCCI BODY &  
FENDER SHOP, INC.  
BILL HILL REPLACEMENT  
WINDOWS  
BILL HILL ROOFING &  
VINYL SIDING  
C&C PLUMBING AND  
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES  
EG THREADS  
ESPANOL ITALIAN  
RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)  
ESPANOL ITALIAN  
RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)  
GEREMIA POOLS  
GSSA (GREATER  
SACRAMENTO  
SOFTBALL ASSN.)  
HARPER PROPERTIES  
JERRY JODICE, IN  
MEMORY OF  
JOLLY ROGERS  
L&S SURVEYS  
L&S SURVEYS #2  
MARK E. WHITE, DDS  
MERRILL BOOKKEEPING  
AND INCOME TAX (Ray  
Merrill)  
\*PHOTO FINISH  
R.H. NIELSEN REAL  
ESTATE/APPRaisal  
R.H. NIELSEN REAL  
ESTATE/APPRaisal  
(TEAM 2)

OVERHEAD DOOR  
COMPANY OF  
SACRAMENTO, INC.  
RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)  
\*RDR FINANCIAL  
SERVICES --  
TAX PREPARATION  
REINWALD'S HEALTH AND  
DENTAL INSURANCE  
\*SACRAMENTO AREA  
FIRE FIGHTERS  
LOCAL 522  
SAM'S HOF BRAU  
SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS  
SPORTS LEISURE  
VACATIONS  
TANNER AND ASSOCIATES  
TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF  
AUBURN, INC.  
VFW POST 67  
\*WENELLI'S PIZZA  
RYAN R. WILGUS, DDS  
YANCEY COMPANY  
\* = New sponsor in 2015

For information on how to  
become a sponsor for 2016  
or take advantage of two-  
year sponsorship terms,  
contact Jon Ellison, first  
vice president, at 880-0202.

***THE NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER WILL  
BE PUBLISHED AFTER THE MAY 11  
GENERAL MEETING.***

***WATCH FOR CLUB PRESIDENT TOM  
SANSONE'S EMAIL "BLASTS" FOR  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION.***



# SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

**RIVERCATS.** Go any day. Parking is free at Raley Field with Lou Coppola's flexible exchange tickets. \$21.50 per seat. Section 116, Row 15, third-base side behind dugout of Giants' AAA farm team dugout. Call Lou (444-6138) for details. Tickets are good any date in 2015. "The beauty of these tickets is they can be exchanged for games before or after the dates on the tickets for seats in the same section," says Lou.

**GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE.** No meeting in April. Next meeting is May 11.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2014-2015

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

1st Vice President **Jon Ellison** ...  
880-0202 (Responsible for team  
sponsorships.)

2nd Vice President **Chuck Knutson** ...  
524-9763 (Responsible for uniforms and  
equipment.)

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

Secretary **Dave Vargo** ... 689-7061

Player Agent **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941  
(Responsible for player applications,  
player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Jerry Nevis** ...  
683-3232 (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:** Dave  
Tanner 216-1941

**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))