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Atlantic Coast Championships and Rock 'N' Reno Challenge Cup Logos, by Elite Sports

Join Us for the Worlds

By Nic Francois

The pathway to the 2022 World Championships in Las Vegas is paved with hard work, fun, sportsmanship and several upcoming TOC tournaments.

SSUSA officials confirmed that the 2022 World Championships will be returning to Las Vegas for the 9th year. SSUSA, which has run major tournaments in Las Vegas for the past two decades, has already lined up numerous fields, host hotels, and sponsorships for Sept. 15 through Oct. 2.

Last year's 2021 World Championships was record breaking with 650 teams representing 40 states, Guam and two Canadian provinces. The championship took 15 days for 2,103 games across 35 divisions on nine softball complexes.

Officials are expecting an even bigger turnout for this year's World Championships as the country eases up Covid-19 restrictions and more people are ready to return from quarantine.

To join the fun this September in Las Vegas, consider playing in these upcoming TOC Qualifiers:

2022 Northeast Championships

Location: Syracuse, NY  
 Dates of Play: July 8-13, 2022  
 Deadline: Friday, June 24, 2022  
 Entry Fee: \$555



The historic Erie Canal runs right through Syracuse. Photo courtesy of Syracuse.com

2022 Midwest Championships

Location: St. Charles, MO  
 Dates of Play: July 8-13, 2022  
 Deadline: Friday, June 24, 2022  
 Entry Fee: \$555

Forecasts Can't Stop the Atlantic Coast Championships 2022

By Donna McGuire

Though a wet forecast prompted some teams to withdraw before play began, the 60 teams that participated in the Atlantic Coast Championships enjoyed mostly fine conditions in Raleigh, N.C., in mid-May.

"The rain stayed away for the most part and the staff at Walnut Creek easily handled a Saturday afternoon downpour," said Tim McElroy, the tournament director.

Fifteen teams earned berths for the 2023 Tournament of Champions by capturing titles during the May 10-15 event.

The 40s divisions bragged the tournament's largest number of entrants with 13 and featured teams from seven states: Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

South Carolina-based Killman's/Lewis Lawn/Rockhill (photo below) raced through the 10-team 40+ Platinum division unbeaten in six games. Killman's defeated HDI of Virginia 33-21 for the championship after dealing HDI its first tourney loss, 26-18 earlier in bracket play. Suncoast Adidas of Florida won four elimination games to place third, with its final three games decided by one run each.





St. Louis' Gateway Arch, 30 minutes out of St. Charles.

## 2022 Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships

Location: Salem, OR  
Dates of Play: July 12-17, 2022  
**Deadline: Friday, June 28, 2022**  
Entry Fee: \$555



Oregon State Capitol Building, located in Salem

## 2022 ISA Senior World

Location: Columbus, IN  
Dates of Play: July 21-24, 2022  
**Deadline: First 46 Teams**  
Entry Fee: \$575



Indianapolis World War I Memorial, less than an hour from Columbus. Please contact ISA President, Mike Caldwell to enter this tournament.

The ISA Senior World is the last TOC Qualifier tournament that leads us into the Eastern National Championships and the Western National Championships.

Teams must play in a qualifier during the 2022 season to secure a qualifying roster for the either of the National Championships. Winners of both National Championships play each other in U.S. National Championship Game at the World Championships in Las Vegas this September.



Three teams participated in the **40+ AAA** division won by WarPath of Maryland (photo below), which defeated Smokin' Aces/American Legion Post No. 327 of Virginia 15-10 in the title game. Autism Pride of Maryland took third.



Old Skool/GTS Sports of Pennsylvania edged Born Free Softball of North Carolina 24-23 to capture the seven-team **50+ AAA** division. That marked the second time Old Skool nipped Born Free by one run in bracket play. FFE/LBT of Maryland placed third after winning three elimination games.

Two Virginia teams, BACKSIDE and Longshoremen, played a high-scoring, three-game thriller to decide the **50+/55+ AA** winner. BACKSIDE, the 50+ team, won the first game 26-25 but lost the second 27-21 before earning a 21-14 victory in the finale.

In the four-team **55+ AAA** bracket, the Northeast Merchants of Maryland (photo below) capped a 6-0 tournament run with a 18-14 championship victory over Infoquest.com of Pennsylvania. The Holy City Hitmen of South Carolina finished third.



Two teams earned TOC berths in the **50+ Platinum** bracket when the 50+ Major Plus Florida team of Suncoast/Shades captured first place with a 24-13 victory over Ground Thunder/Triage of North Carolina. Ground Thunder earned the 50+ Major TOC berth. Covello Sanitation of Connecticut finished third in the three-team division.

Dan Smith/Dudley of Georgia won the three-team **55+/60+ Platinum** bracket by defeating the Carolina Legends of North Carolina 18-3 in the title game. Next Level of Georgia took third.

After the Eastern and Western National Championship games, our late Summer TOC Qualifiers will lead us to the long awaited 2022 World Championships. See you there.

### Player in Need of Kidney

Kenneth Brandon, 72, of Fremont, Calif., needs a kidney transplant.

The former Out of Storage 65 AA player is in stage-4 renal failure and a new kidney would save his life and repair related issues.

He was approved for a transplant from the deceased organ donor database. However it takes an average of about five years to receive such a transplant, which might be too late. Therefore, he and his life partner Linda are seeking a live kidney donor.

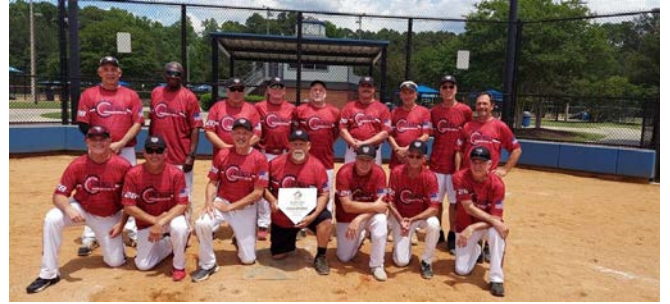
Linda planned on donating her kidney, but she was not a match.

A new kidney would allow him to continue his passions, such as softball, coaching youth softball, walks with Linda, and continue their dream of seeing family in Denmark that he's never met before.

If you are able and so inclined to help Ken, please consider registering to donate to see if you are medically a match by visiting his webpage on the National Kidney Registry website: <https://nkr.org/hfg564>.



In the six-team **60+ AAA** division, champion Friendly Transmission of North Carolina (photo below) defeated top-seeded Hudson Valley Cyclones of New York twice in bracket play, including 13-10 in the finale. Curtis Engine of Maryland took third.



In a nod to the closeness of the competition, no team finished pool play unbeaten in the four-team **60+ Major** division. In addition, it took two championship games to decide the winner. The Bank of Delaware lost the first title game 10-9 before exploding to a 27-19 victory over Classics/Rheem of Virginia. Olympian Athletics of Pennsylvania finished third.

Bassa/Old Skool of Virginia (photo below) never lost enroute to winning the four team **65+/70+ Gold** division. It defeated Spring Ford of Pennsylvania 20-16 in the championship. Both are 65+ AAA teams. The High Street Bucs 70+ Major team from Maryland finished third.



Six teams battled in the **65+/70+ Platinum** division won by the 65+ Major team Dan Smith/FAI/Dudley of North Carolina. Dan Smith edged the High Street Bucs, also a 65+ Major team, 18-17 in the finale. Superior Senior Softball of Virginia, a 70+ Major Plus team, finished third.

The Northern Virginia Force 70s won the four-team **70+/75+ Gold** division in a finale that pitted the first and second seeds, both of which are 70+ AAA teams. Northern Virginia, the top seed, notched a 23-14 victory over Scrap Iron 5280 in the title game. Spicer Properties of Maryland, a 75+ Major team, took third.

Northern Virginia Force 75s swept Code Electric/Oaks Grading Cobras of North Carolina in a best-of-three bracket to win the **70+/75+ Silver** title, 18-17 and 25-20.

Two North Carolina teams also played a best-of-three bracket in the **80+ AAA** division. Carolina Blue Sky swept the Blazers 16-8 and 21-6.

### Generations and Generations



Senior Softball USA is proud to bring generations together for the love of the sport, or for the love of family in this case.

Above is John Crane (center) supporting his sons, James Crane (right) and Keith Crane (left), and their team, Cali Gold 50 AAA at 2022 Reno 'N Reno Challenge Cup's Reno Softball Complex Rancho San Rafael.

Cali Gold 50 was the finalists for the 50+ AAA division.

John Crane managed Bringin The Pain 50 AA (CA) and the California Olden Bears 70 AAA.

### Obituaries - May-June 2022

Frank Bersterman

### Senior Softball USA Players Make the News in Reno!



Frank J. Bersterman Jr., 67, of Eatontown, N.J., died on April 5 after a long battle with cancer.

Frank has a long history with Senior Softball USA, going as far back as 2007 and has played on a handful of Mid-Atlantic and New England teams.

He was a computer and IT technician and worked for Fort Lee Police Department and Paterson Parking Authority. But his true passions were senior softball and his family. "What truly set him on fire, was being a part of the traveling softball leagues he played with all of his buddies," states his online obituary.

Frank will be remembered by his senior softball buddies for playing with Sweet Construction Softball Club 50 Majors of New Jersey, Sweet Construction 55 Majors of Pennsylvania, Northeast Storm 50 Major+ of New York, Connecticut SportPlex 55 Major+, and Promotion/Phoenix Tube 65 Majors also of New Jersey.

Paul Frenette

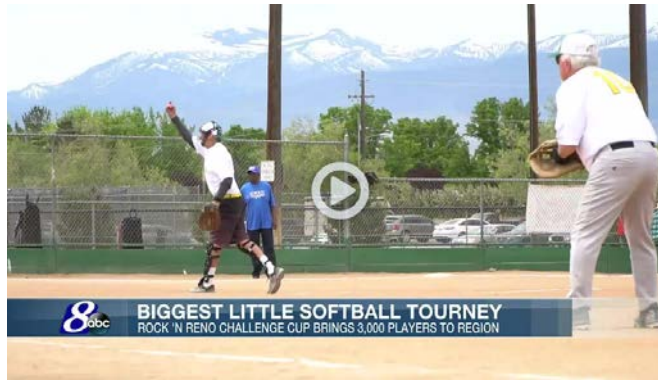


Paul J. Frenette, 72, of Manchester, CT, died on May 27, 2022

Paul's love of sports brought him in to Senior Softball USA in 2010 as well as other senior softball organizations and leagues.

"Paul enjoyed...traveling to softball tournaments and experiencing global adventures with his old softball friends," according to his obituary. Starting off in the younger USSSA leagues, he continued to play the game he loved within the senior league up until his death as a player and manager with Talaga Construction Senior Softball Team. Just ask anyone whose played softball in New England and they will have a story about Paulie Frenette.

While playing softball and spending time with family, Paul worked for the IRS as a project manager and enlisted in the Coast Guard and was deployed to Vietnam, 1969-1971. Frenette is remembered through his management of Talaga Construction 65 Major, and his association with the HermTech 65 Majors and Edge Technology 60 AAA.



Mike Stefansson of Reno's KOLO-ABC 8 News featured Senior Softball teams and players on Friday, June 3rd of our 2022 Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup, session two

Rock 'N Reno is North America's (and likely the world's) longest running senior softball tournament with this year's being our 34th annual.

The news clip features SSUSA's Scheduling Director, **Dave Dowell**, SSUSA's National Director and Timberworks/Suncoast 70 Major+ Manager **Doug Robbins**, Enviro-Vac Marauder (Canada) 65 Major+'s **Rick Parker**, and Scrap Iron Diamond (CO) 65 AA's **John Parisi** across Golden Eagle Regional Park and Shadow Mountain Softball Complex in Sparks.

"We offer a big thank you to Reno for hosting us and to Mike Stefansson of KOLO-ABC 8 for highlighting us," said Fran Dowell, Senior Softball USA Executive Direct

### Reno Brings Winners and Heartfelt Stories

By Donna McGuire

Thirty teams captured berths to the 2023 Tournament of Champions by winning their divisions in the 2022 Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup played May 27 through June 5 in Nevada.



And while all champions forged unforgettable memories, the event carried special significance for the top-finishing men's 50+

Major team, Shakas (photo below) from the San Francisco Bay Area.



Shakas live-streamed its games so that teammate Howard "Jimbo" Ritchie could watch back home as he continued to rehab from a serious stroke. Ritchie, who put the 2022 team together, is unlikely to play again, said co-manager Manny Gutierrez. The team has dedicated this season to him.

"This was probably the biggest tournament we wanted to win for him," Gutierrez said. "And he wanted us to win because of the competition."

Shakas, which began playing SSUSA tournaments 15 years ago as a 40s team entered bracket play seeded sixth of 10 teams. It survived thrilling 32-31 and 20-19

contests before earning a 28-16 title-game victory over Junkies/Onyx/NVS Sports Apparel of California.

After returning home, Gutierrez and two teammates delivered the tournament trophy and Rock 'N Reno shirt to Ritchie (pictured below), who recently transferred to a Santa Clara rehabilitation center.



"That is when the emotions came out," Gutierrez said.

The **50+ Major** division's runner-up, Junkies, built its own share of memories by winning six elimination games to reach the championship. Gold Nation of California finished third in the division.

Overall, 203 teams from across the age spectrum entered the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Rock 'N Reno, the oldest senior softball tournament in the country. The largest division involved 25 teams battling in the 40+ Masters men's Major division. Twenty-three women's teams also competed. So did nine men's teams age 80 and older. Games were played at parks in Reno, Sparks and Carson City.

In the men's **40+ Major** division, Supreme Athletics reigned supreme. The California team won each of its seven games by at least six runs and capped the tournament with a 22-6 title victory over another California team, HMR/DS Construction. Project 57 from Idaho won seven elimination games – three by one run – to finish third.

Another unbeaten team won the men's five-team **40+ AAA** division. Sicarios went 5-0 and defeated HBM 25-21 in the title tilt. Both are California teams, as was third-place finisher Game Over.

The NW Jokers of Washington (photo below) went 7-0 to win the 18-team men's **50+ AAA** division. The Jokers defeated CaliGold 22-18 for the championship. All-Quip/South Oregon Window Cleaning took third.



In the three-team men's **55+ Major Plus** division, the Texas team Rock N Legends 9 (photo below) double-dipped Assured Products Group of California 22-1 and 23-15 for the title. Aftershock 55 of California finished third.



WPI/Jayco of Idaho (photo below) tallied 40 runs in each of its first two bracket games and went on to win the eight-team men's **55+ Major** division. It defeated the Wolfpack/Washington Legends 16-4 in the championship game after edging Wolfpack by one run in an earlier bracket game. BTI of California won four elimination games before finishing third.



Ten teams competed in the men's **55+ AAA** division won by CaliGold (photo below), which double-dipped the Desperados NMU of California 29-26 and 20-5 after losing to them 20-7 earlier in the bracket. Quicksilver of California finished third.



Arizona teams won the men's **60+ Major Plus and Major** divisions. In the three-team Major Plus division, top-seeded Legacy Sports USA defeated LPC of California 25-14 for the title. CornerStone of Oregon took third. The eight-team Major division title went to Arizona Old School, which lost the first championship game 35-34. The Washington Legends, which had played five games in a row at that point, forfeited the second title game. Old Giants from California took third.

In the 16-team men's **60+ AAA** division, Wilson Motors 60s of Idaho completed 7-0 tournament with a 25-11 championship victory over Top Gun Lightning. Wilson Motors had nudged Top Gun by one run in pool play before winning four of its five bracket games by double-digits. Chelu of Oregon took third.

The **60+ AA** teams played a best-of-three format, with Tri-City Legend/Time of Washington defeating the Idaho Merchants 19-14 and 21-13.

Demolition of California (photo below) crushed Texas Crush Sixty Fives 21-9 to win the four-team **65/70+ Major Plus** division after nudging Crush by one run in earlier play. The 70+ Timberworks/Suncoast team finished third.



The Nor-Cal Reds (photo below) went unbeaten in six games to win the four-team **65+ Major** division. The Reds defeated the Oregon Crabs 12-6 in the finale. REH Second Wind of Washington placed third.



Washington's Stor-A-Way/Grey Sox (photo below) also completed an unbeaten tourney and won the 13-team **65+ AAA** crown by defeating Last Call 65 of Nevada 16-14. Last Call won five elimination games. Mountain Mike's Pizza of California took third.



Cascade Thunder of Oregon won the three-team **65+ AA** title by defeating the Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado 16-10 in the championship game. East/West Aircraft 65s of Idaho placed third.

Teams from three different states won the three 70+ men's titles.

The Oregon Crabs (photo below) knocked off the Codgers 70s of Idaho 22-21 to win the six-team **70+ Major** title with an unbeaten record. Animals of California finished third.



A Utah team – Ryan's Way (photo below) – won the 11-team **70+ AAA** championship by coming out of the elimination bracket, playing five games the final day, and double-dipping Last Call 70s of Nevada 19-16 and 16-12 for the title. The Lincoln Hills Coyotes 70s of California took third.



The East/West Aircraft Sales team from Idaho needed three games to capture the best-of-three **70+ AA** bracket. East/West lost 22-5 before defeating Brunette/Spikes of Washington 20-18 and 22-11.

A best-of-three format also settled the **75+ AA** bracket won by Triple Play of California, which defeated the California Oaks 10-7 and 19-12.

Eight teams in the **75+ AAA** division played a five-game round robin to set up one final game apiece, with the top two seeds playing for the title. Maverick Construction of Texas defeated Last Call 75s 21-3 in that game. Al's Sport Shop of California took third by defeating Mr. Plywood of Oregon 19-4.

The five-team **75+/80+ Platinum** division crowned two champions. Omen 75 (photo below) earned the 75+ Major Plus title by defeating Sidewinders 75s of Arizona 18-14 for the overall title. That meant Sidewinders won the 75+ Major crown by finishing as the top Major team. Valley Fog of California took third overall.



The five teams in the **80+ AAA** bracket played a full round robin to determine a champion. The Lincoln Hills Coyotes 80s of California swept the competition to win with a 4-0 record. Gold Rush of California finished second at 3-1. Third went to the 2-2 Balance of Nature 80s team from Utah.

In the **80+ Major** division, General Equipment of Oregon defeated the Scrap Iro Gray Berets 8-6 and 7-2 in a best-of-three format.

In the **85+ Major** division, the Top Gun Blue Angels (photo below) defeated the Jaguars of California 22-7 and 19-1 in another best-of-three format.



The women's teams divided into four divisions, two of them for 40s Masters teams.



TABU of California won the three-team **women's 40+ Major** title by defeating the Fun Bunch of California 18-9 in the title game. Still Grubbin' of California finished third.

Nine teams battled in the largest women's division, the nine-team **40+ Silver** bracket won by the Firestarter Oldies of Washington. The Firestarter Oldies averaged 23 runs a game in bracket play and finished with a 17-9 victory over B.O.O.B.s 40s of California. Not Today of Nevada won three elimination games before finishing third.

In the seven-team **women's 50+ Gold** bracket, the Old School 50s team lost its first bracket game before stringing together six victories in a row, including 21-15 and 16-11 championship game victories over Snap, Crackle, Pop of Washington. Old School won the **Major division** TOC berth while Snap, Crackle, Pop earned the **50+ AAA** berth. Old Nasty Curves of California finished third.

The Arizona Dream Team won the four-team **55+ women's division** by going 5 overall and winning the finale 17-1 over B.O.O.B.s 55s of California. Running Vintage of Oregon placed third.

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