

## Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 7, Edition 1

Senior Softball-USA <info@seniorsoftball.com>

Fri 1/8/2021 2:00 PM

To: Info At Senior Softball <info@SeniorSoftball.com>



Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 7, Edition 1

### Jan. 8, 2021 - In This Issue:

Inaugural Mardi Gras Qualifier Highlights February Tournaments

Renew Your SSUSA Player/Team Registration Online

World Softball Brotherhood Donates Masks to Hospital in Venezuela

From the Dugout - Players Have The Choice

UPDATED SSUSA OFFICE HOURS

Canadian Softball Pioneer, Bill Miller, Dies

OBITUARIES - 1/8/21



SSUSA wishes all of our players, sponsors, and city partners a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all on the field.

### From the Dugout - Players Have The Choice



**By Terry Hennessy**  
**SSUSA CEO**

Doing the right thing is sometimes difficult – especially when it is not exactly clear what the “right” thing actually is.

In the case of the upcoming Tournament of Champions, we agonized over whether to try to push the tournament back or even cancel it. Ironically, it was not the tournament itself we were worried about – we know our protocols have been effective. It was the potential danger of air travel. This tournament, unlike many others, requires many teams to fly.

### Inaugural Mardi Gras Qualifier Highlights February Tournaments



The Bayou State welcomes SSUSA with the **Mardi Gras Qualifier**.

The tournament will take place February 6 – 7 at Broussard Sports Complex at St. Julien Park in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Teams interested in participating in the inaugural tournament should contact SSUSA (916-326-5303 / [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com)) ASAP.

**Entry deadline in January 22.**

The pandemic is spiking in several areas throughout the country and new, more contagious strains, have started to pop up, as well. And, if the health forecasters were right, the spikes would be worse a few weeks after the conclusion of the Christmas holiday period ... exactly when players would be traveling to the TOC.

The TOC is a very special tournament, one that includes several extra events. We canceled three of the events – the banquet and two All-Star Games – because it was too difficult to maintain our pandemic protocols during those events.

We will be able to hold the Hitting Clinic, Skills Competition and Practice Games for teams because we are able to maintain distancing and mask requirements.

This decision, like many during the pandemic, is about balancing players' safety and personal freedom. We have control over providing safety protocols during tournaments that have proven extremely effective. Obviously, we do not have control over air travel.

In the end, we decided that players – not us – had the right to decide whether they wanted to fly. Both flying and playing have risks. While we are confident of our protocols at the tournament, there is still a real risk.

We respect the right of players to weigh the risks and make their own decisions.

***Terry Hennessy is chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA and can be reached at [terryh@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:terryh@seniorsoftball.com).***

## UPDATED SSUSA OFFICE HOURS

The Senior Softball USA (SSUSA) Sacramento Office will be operating under the following conditions during the current pandemic spike in California:

SSUSA will have limited in-office staff on duty in the office to answer phones

## Top Gun Spring Worlds Tune Up



The Top Gun Spring Worlds Tune Up is scheduled for February 16 – 21 at Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex in Yuma, Arizona.

**Entry deadline is February 4.**

Interested teams should contact Joel Hawk (858-539-9456 / [Joel@JoelHawk.com](mailto:Joel@JoelHawk.com)) and Jerry Smith (951-867-8650 / [ote\\_525@yahoo.com](mailto:ote_525@yahoo.com)).

## Florida Spring Training



The Florida Spring Training is scheduled for February 25 – 28 at Northwest Sports Complex in Cape Coral.

The tournament will provide an opportunity for Northern teams to escape the cold weather back home, and enjoy Florida's sunshine and beaches.

The Florida Spring Training is the first leg of the Gulf Coast Swing. Other tournaments include:

Sunshine State Showdown in Ft. Myers, FL (April 23-25)

Harbor Classic in Punta Gorda, FL (May 21-23)

Florida Last Chance in Punta Gorda, FL (August 27-29)

The following incentives are being offered to teams that commit early to playing in the multiple legs.

First event - \$400

Second event - \$375

Third event - \$350

Fourth event - \$325

Florida based teams will be happy to know that the Gulf Swing Series tournaments do not conflict with Florida Half Century offerings.

from 8 am - noon (Pacific Time)  
Monday through Friday, and staff  
working from home will be responding  
to emails sent  
to [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

To help ease the number of calls and  
better serve our members, we ask  
players that need to renew to please  
do so online, if possible. If you need  
your password, please email us at  
[info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

Tournaments will continue as planned  
in those states that are open, using  
the **SSUSA Pandemic Rules**.

Thank you for your understanding.

### **Canadian Softball Pioneer, Bill Miller, Dies**



**Bill Miller (1950 - 2020)**

Bill Miller, one of the founders of Slo-Pitch National (SPN) in Canada, died after an extended illness in December.

Miller was the force behind a joint venture with Senior Softball USA to build the sport in North America since 2007.

"Bill had a simple vision, to create a Canadian Slo-Pitch organization that allowed the worst to be the best for a moment in time," said Trish Harrow Rodic, who worked with Miller for 30 years and became president of Slo-Pitch National when Miller retired in 2018.

Miller started the Centennial Slo-Pitch league of Etobicoke in 1975, founded

Teams interested in participating in any of the Gulf Swing Series qualifiers should contact Tournament Director Tim McElroy ([PotomacSports1@gmail.com](mailto:PotomacSports1@gmail.com) / 301-514-2676).

## **40s Gold Glove Tournament Spring Training Classic**



The month of February will close out with the 40s Gold Glove Tournament and Spring Training Classic qualifiers, scheduled for February 27 – 28.

The tournaments will be held at Victory Lane Sports Complex in Glendale, Arizona - the 2020 SSUSA Complex of the Year.

Interested teams should contact Tournament Director Rick Seifman (623-776-2143 / [tournsport@aol.com](mailto:tournsport@aol.com)).

**Be sure to visit SSUSA's 2021 tournament schedule to view the current qualifiers scheduled for the new season.**

### **Renew Your SSUSA Player/Team Registration Online**

The 2021 Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) season is well underway!

Players, if your SSUSA National ID card has expired, now is the time to renew.

To renew your registration, please sign into your player account with your e-mail address and password.

If you do not know your password, or never set up your online account, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

Managers, if you haven't done so already, please pay your 2021 team registration fee online and begin building your master roster for the new season.

Thanks for playing SSUSA and good luck in 2021!

Slo-Pitch Ontario and launched the Canada-wide Slo-Pitch National in 1989.

Under the joint venture with SSUSA, winners of the SPN National Championships are given berths to the SSUSA Tournament of Champions in Florida, and the all remaining teams are invited to the World Championships in Las Vegas. In addition, senior teams playing in SPN Can Am and SPN Provincial Championships Tournament are invited to the SSUSA World Championships in Las Vegas.

"Bill Miller was a lively and very effective force in the development of Slow Pitch softball in North America," said Terry Hennessy, chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA. "Billy had the vision to extend the sport he loved across borders – to him, there were no borders to the sport, or friendship."

Harrow Rodic has continued Slo-Pitch National's international efforts to grow the sport, joining the Pacific Rim Slow Pitch Federation as the Canadian delegate in 2019. The Pacific Rim Federation includes Canada, the United States, China, Japan, Taiwan and Guam.

"Bill Miller's dedication and passion for the sport of slo-pitch has been enjoyed across Canada by slo-pitch players young and old. He was very proud that so many people are enjoying what he helped to create. He leaves behind many dear friends and colleagues across North America who he met through his years of organizing, umpiring and playing, with endless stories and antics experienced along the way," said Rodic.

"If you build it they will come! And they certainly did! Rest In Peace dear Billy," she concluded.

## OBITUARIES - 1/8/21

## World Softball Brotherhood Donates Masks to Hospital in Venezuela

**By Tulio Ontiveros**  
**Co-Director SSUSA Caribbean Classic**

We are very grateful for the donations of facial masks by our SSUSA brothers.

We first gave them to the renowned hospital in Caracas, Venezuelal - San Juan de Dios.

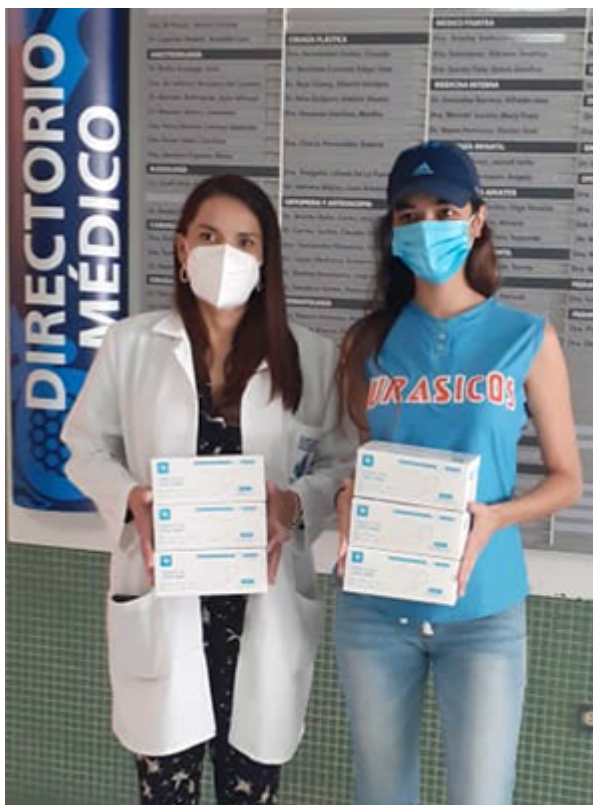
The hospital seeks to prioritize patients with cancer conditions.

Medical staff are always the first to face and are most affected in the contagion of COVID-19.

I have also personally given masks to many people in Venezuela.

Cases of the virus have increased aggressively in our Latin countries, precautions have been lowered and it is estimated that by the end of this January the additional cases will be spiking because of the Christmas festivities.

This effort to provide protection masks has prevented many cases of contagion. From God's hand we will continue to help and aid.



**Tulio's daughter, Maria, giving mask donations to hospital personnel in Caracas.**





**Mark Henry Stone, Sr.**

Mark Stone, 62, of Hernando, Fla., died on Nov. 14, one day shy of his 63rd birthday.

Stone began playing in SSUSA in 2017 with Levin/Ameriprise 60 (formerly Pompano Crush 60s). He also played with Globe Trailers 55 in 2018 and also played with RedHawk Nation 60.

During the 2019 and 2020 seasons, he split his time between Levin/Ameriprise and RedHawk Nation.

"Mark was well liked and respected by his teammates and all who knew him," said David Dennison, manager of RedHawk Nation. "His passion for softball, his sense of humor, and his take on life were just some of the things that made Mark the fine person he was."



**Lonnie Springs, Sr.**

Lonnie Springs, 74, of San Antonio, Tex., died on Dec. 3 from cancer.

Springs last played SSUSA in 2016 with Team Texas 65, participating in the Heart of Texas, Rocky Mountain Championships, Labor Day Classic, and World Championships.

Along with Team Texas, Springs also played with San Antonio Legends, Team Texas (SA), and Texas Tornados.

Springs began play with Austin Lonestars in 2008.

“Lonnie was a key member of our San Antonio Senior Softball League (SASSL) family,” said John Beard. “Lonnie was long time coach and player with Team Texas and a key member of our board besides being our head umpire for years. I will miss working with him during our annual banquets that he was always a big help with. So long to a true Hall of Famer here in Texas.”



**James Elton Turner, Jr.**

James Turner, 82, of St. George, UT died on Dec. 6 due to COVID-19.

Turner last played in 2019 with Magic Stuff 80, participating in the Bullhead City – Laughlin Senior Games/Top Gun Winter Classic, Spring World Championships, and the Rock ‘N Reno Challenge Cup.

Formerly from the Pacific Northwest, Turner was a long-time member of SSUSA, dating back to the early 2000s.

Along with playing with Magic Stuff/Forever Young Diamonds; Turner also played with Magic Stuff 70s, Slammers, The Zone, D-99, ABR Old Bones, Colorado Cougars, FastSigns, Freddie Northwest Legends, and Emerald City Masters, among others.



**Steve Kenner**

Steve Kenner, 70, of Sacramento, Calif., died on January 4 due to complications from COVID-19.

Kenner was a long-time member of Old Dawgs 55 and 60.

He last played in the 2017 season, participating in the Southwest Championships, Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup, Western National Championships, and World Championships.

"Steve was the kind of third baseman who wasn't afraid of getting dirty going after the hot shots," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's CEO. "He always played his heart out."

Contact Information:  
Senior Softball USA  
9823 Old Winery Place, Suite 12  
916-326-5303  
[info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com)

This email was sent to [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com) by [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | [Unsubscribe securely](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Senior Softball-USA | 9823 Old Winery Place, Suite 12, Sacramento, CA 95827