

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 8, Edition 1

Senior Softball-USA <news@seniorsoftball.com>

Mon 2/7/2022 12:16 PM

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



Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 8, Edition 1

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SSUSA is proud to host Midwest Championships in St. Charles, MO. Left: Wapelhorst Park (St. Charles, MO.) Right: Founders Park Sports Complex (Lake St. Louis, MO.)

### Important: Date Changes

Tidewater Classic: March 23 - March 27, 2022

Windy City: April 8 - April 10, 2022 (moved to April this season)



### Please Support SSUSA Host Hotels

SSUSA Host Hotels support our sport and help keep your entry fees down. In addition, unlike online hotel reservation services, SSUSA can assist you with any host hotel concerns. Thank you.

### SSUSA Boldly Goes Where It Has Not Gone Before: Missouri's 2022 MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Softball USA is holding its [2022 Midwest Championships](#) in Missouri for the first time! Games will be in St. Charles and Lake Saint Louis.



In years past, the Midwest Championships have been in Kansas, Arkansas and Illinois. We are thrilled to welcome Missouri to the club!

The Championships will be July 8 - 13, 2022 with two different fields in St. Charles and the other in Lake Saint Louis. **The registration and payment deadline is June 24, 2022.**

No stranger to sports, Missouri is home to 15+ SSUSA teams over the years and is home to two Major League Baseball teams. See teams step up to the plate in the "Show Me State", [more info here](#).

"On behalf of the Greater Saint Charles, Missouri Convention and Visitors Bureau, we are thrilled and grateful to be the host site destination for the 2022 Senior Softball USA Midwest Championships in early July", said Chris Wilson of the Greater Saint Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau. "With that said we would like to extend a personal welcome to each participating player and their accompanying family members."

## [From the Dugout - By Terry Hennessy](#)

From the Dugout Column  
By Terry Hennessy

The optimists of the world, America and our sport have lurched into 2022 with an abundance of hope and not a little trepidation.

Most of us are sick of anything to do with the pandemic – and so hope springs that 2022 will see a return to a more normal life.

Senior Softball USA celebrates its 34th year in 2022 with a full slate of more than 100 tournaments, leagues in 250 cities, international tournaments in Eastern Europe, the Caribbean and Canada. Even more important, we are seeing more teams and players signing up for the tournaments and leagues.

We are extremely grateful to the players and teams that compete in SSUSA tournaments – and to the sponsors, host hotels and cities that help us keep the cost of tournaments down. We are also very grateful to the families and friends who support our players.

As our sport has grown, we have begun running short of room at some tournaments and last year had to establish waiting lists. Fortunately, we were able to take most of the teams on the waiting list.

We expect to see the growth of the sport continue in 2022 and will likely have waiting lists for some tournaments.

So, beginning in 2022, please be aware that your team is not officially entered in a tournament until the entry fee is paid – and some tournaments will likely fill up before the entry deadline. So, please send your entry as early as possible.

As many of you know, the U.S. Postal Service has been experiencing some serious delivery delays. We are seeing delays of up to about three weeks in some mail – so mail the entry fee early. You can, of course, pay over the phone by credit card if you wish.

And please, please use the host hotels listed for tournaments. Those hotels provide sponsorship based on their business – and those sponsorships help keep your entry fee down. In addition – unlike online hotel services – if you have a problem with a host hotel, we are more than willing to address the problem on your behalf.

I look forward to seeing you on the field!

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

## [National Senior Softball Hall of Fame Inductees](#)

Mr. Wilson also added, "We would also like to wish the teams the best of luck and invite them to Discover Saint Charles! While in-between games, explore Historic Main Street, Historic Missouri Wine Country, the Streets of Saint Charles, the Ameristar Casino and Spa, and much more for unique dining, entertainment, and shopping experiences. We are looking forward to this terrific event!"

Thank you [SunCatcherStudio](#) for the image above.



In addition to Softball and sports, the St. Louis area has a lot to offer. Less than an hour away from the fields, [St. Louis](#) is home to its famous Arch, hands on museums, beautiful [Forest Park](#), a [Sculpture Park](#), [ziplines](#), and [amusement parks](#).

[Forest Park](#)

## [2022 Top Gun - Bullhead City - Winter Classic Wraps Up](#)



Bullhead City, AZ - The 2022 Top Gun's Bullhead City Winter Classic Qualifier wrapped up last month with 64 teams competing January 18th to the 23th.

All divisions battled for the top spots at Bullhead City Rotary Park, overlooking the Colorado River with neighboring Nevada on the other side.

Playing on January 18 - 20, the divisions included Men's 65+, Men's 70+, Men's 80+, and Men's 85+ teams. On January 21 - 23, the Men's 50+, Men's 55+, and Men's 60+ teams competed.

Starting off with the **Men's 65+ Platinum Division**, with 4 teams participating, Top Gun Elite (CA), ([photo below](#)), ultimately came out on top winning the division overall with a 7-0 victory over the Samurai 65's (CA).

The Samurai 65's (CA) started strong with two consecutive wins, including defeating Top Gun Elite (CA) in their first match up together, but Samurai 65's (CA) narrowly lost their their second match up, 20-21, and lost the championship game 0-7 against Top Gun again.



The Sidewinders 65's (AZ) came in 3rd, losing their initial game to Top Gun Elite (CA) as well as coming second to Top Gun in the elimination bracket in a close game, 22-24.

In the **Men's 65+ Silver Division**, with 11 teams competing, the **65+ AAA Championship** was taken by Git-R-Done 65 (CA), with an impressive 5 game winning streak from start to finish at game 16.

The Weekend Warriors (CA) came in second, winning their first two games including defeating seed #1, Sin City Mob (NV), but narrowly lost to Git-R-Done (CA) in their third game. Defeating Peak/Scrap Iron (CO) in elimination, the Warriors made Git-R-Done again in the championship, where the Warriors lost 31-44.

In third place was Peak/Scrap Iron (CO), spending most of their time in the elimination bracket, they had two straight wins before losing to the Weekend Warriors (CA) in the game leading up to the final game.

For **Men's 65+ AA Division**, consisting of only two teams, the Majestic (CA) came out on top, winning the two consecutive games against Los Vatos Viejos 65 II (AZ).

In **Men's 70/75+ Gold Division**, with 11 teams in total, combined with 3 teams competed in the **Men's 70+ Major Division**. R&R 70's (CA), #1 seed, ([photo right](#)), had a wild ride to become the champions, winning their first game against Over The Edge (CA), lost their second one against OTE (CA) by only one point, then won the 3rd and final game 15 - 8. OTE (CA) came second with an initial win against the Sidewinders 70's (CA), followed by one win and two losses to R&R 70's (CA). The Sidewinders 70's (CA) had rough luck, losing their first game by one point then their second and last elimination game against OTE (CA).



For **Men's 75+ Major Division**, also with 3 teams, SoCal Gusto (CA) ran the tables as #1 seed, winning both their first games, winning the championship. Both the Sidewinders 75+ (AZ) and Tharaldson's (NV) had



A pair of managers, Karen Honey and Carrol Phillips, were officially inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) during a recent Palm Springs Senior Softball tournament at Big League Dreams in Cathedral City, Calif.

Honey is a member of the Class of 2020, while Phillips is a member of the Class of 2021.

Honey's senior softball career spans 13 years, coaching California Spirit 50 and then 55 from 2002 – 2014. Those years included three Triple Grand Slam crowns (2004, 2007, and 2009).

Phillips joined California Spirit 50's in 1997 and played until 2004, when a back injury put her out of commission. She then teamed up with Karen Honey and helped manage the California Spirit 50 and 55 teams.

**[Congratulations to the Top Gun Blue Angels 85's: Triple Crown Winners](#)**

Congratulations to Top Gun Blue Angels 85s (CA) of the Men's 85+ Major Division

They were our Triple Crown Winners from our last edition



**[OBITUARIES - Feb 2022](#)**

**Larry M. Noble**

one loss and one win, with Tharaldson's (NV) being eliminated first by the Sidewinders 75's (AZ).

In the **Men's 70+ AAA Division**, with 5 teams, the SoCal Warriors 70's (CA), #1 seed, narrowly defeated the Home Plate Legends (NV) then won their other two games, taking first place.

In second place was the Home Plate Legends, winning two elimination games after losing to the SoCal Warriors 70's (CA), only to play them again in the final game, losing 18- 22. Cut Loose 70's (CA) came in third with an initial win, but lost to SoCal Warriors in their second game only too lose their first elimination game against the Home Plate Legends.

Sidewinders/Rattlers (AZ) and Las Vegas Desert Heat (NV) came in 4th and 5th, respectively.

Moving on to **Men's 70/75/80+ Gold Division** with 7 teams, AL's Sports Shop (CA), #4 seed, won the championship with 4 consecutive wins, including defeating #1 seed, Vegas Strong (NV).

Top Gun Olde Dawgs (CA) had an interesting path into second place, losing their first game to AL's Sports Shop but winning their next two elimination games, only to meet AL's Sports Shop again in the final game and losing 5 - 20. For 3rd place, Mustangs (CA) won their first two game, then had two losses, narrowly losing an elimination game to Top Gun Olde Dawgs, 5 - 6, before the final game.

For the **Men's 75/80/85+ Gold Division** with 4 teams, its champion had a bizarre path. Triple Play 75 (CA) won their first game 19 - 0, lost their second by one point, won their first elimination by one point, won the second by 3 points, then won the championship against Top Gun Blue Angels 85 (CA), 20 - 9. What a wild ride.



Top Gun Blue Angels 85 (CA) came in second place, initially winning 18 - 17 to Triple Play 75, but lost the next game against them 21 - 24, and again lost the championship against Triple Play, 9 - 20. Git-R-Done Silver (CA) and Balance of Nature 80's (UT) placed 3rd and 4th respectively.

In the **Men's 50+ Gold Division**, with 5 teams, the #1 seed Top Gun Diamonds (CA), (photo right), won three games in a row for the championship, winning their first two games by only one run and winning the championship 20 - 11. For second place, Damage NV lost to Top Gun Diamonds 20 - 21, but won their following elimination game leading them to the championship game against Top Gun Diamonds again, losing 11 - 20.

Pro Vision/Cafe Elite (WA) took 3rd place overall, with an initial loss, then two wins in the elimination bracket, ultimately losing to Damage NV 6 - 19.

For **Men's 55/60+ Gold Division**, with 10 teams, #1 seed Top Gun Phantoms (CA), (photo below), won 3 games in a row and won the championship by forfeit. Second place went to Peak/Scrap Iron 60's (CO); they won two games before losing 8 - 24 to Phantoms, then won their elimination game before forfeiting to the Phantoms.

Third place went to the Weekend Warriors 55 (CA), who lost their first game but won 4 consecutive elimination games before losing to Peak/Scrap Iron 60's (CO).

In **Men's 55+ Major Division**, with 4 teams, SoCal 55 (CA) placed first, winning three games in a row scoring 30+ runs in all three! PX 40/40 (NV) placed second, with an initial loss 33 - 34 to SoCal 55, but won the following elimination game, leading them to the championship against SoCal 55, losing 21 - 31.

For thrrd place, NW/Oregon Elite (CA) lost their first game, but won their first elimination game 27 - 12 against Fossil Fuel 55 (CA) before losing to PX 40/40 (NV) 31 - 34.

Last but not least, **Men's 60+ Silver Division**, had 8 teams overall, with five **60+ AAA** teams and three **60+ AA** teams. 60+ AAA started with a forfeit win then 3 straight wins for the Sin City Gamblers (NV) took first place winning the championship 21 - 18 against the Desperados (NM).

Second place went to #2 seed, Desperados which spent most of their time in the elimination bracket, losing their first game, then winning 3 elimination games by only 1 or 2 runs each before losing a close championship game. Baker Boyz (CA), #1 seed, placed thrid, winning their first game but losing their last two.



In the **60+ AA**, with 3 teams, So-Cal Titans 60's (CA) won three straight games to take first place, winning the championship by only one run. Second place was #1 seed, Arizona Blaze 60, which lost its first game by a run, won its elimination game by a run, then lost the championship by a run, 20 - 21.

Rolling Thunder (NM) took third which lost its initial game and narrowly losing its elimination game to Arizona Blaze 60, 24 - 25.



Larry Noble, 71, of Longview, WA, died on Oct. 19, 2021.

Noble last played with Mr. Plywood 70 (OR) in 2019, and previously played with Auto Accessory Dist. (AAD) 65 (WA), and Stagecoach Saloon 60 and 65 (OR), among others.

Noble's Auto Accessory Dist. (AAD) team finished third at the 2016 World Championships.

"Larry was very passionate about his softball," said Leslie Gipe, manager of AAD. "He was a very good teammate in all aspects, but an even better person."

Noble worked for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union out of Local 21 in Longview for 45 years before retiring in 2012.

**Antonio "Tony" Carbajal**



Antonio Tony Carbajal, 51, of Willcox, AZ, died on Oct. 27, 2021.

Carbajal was a long-time member of Tucson Hammertime 40s (AZ), starting in 2014. He most recently played with the Tucson Hammertime Softball 50s (AZ) team in 2021. Carbajal served as a Conductor for the Union Pacific Railroad for the last 17 years.

**Brian G. Buhl**



**Top Gun Recognizes Bullhead City Parks & Rec For Hosting**

Top Gun recognizes the hard work, cooperation and accommodations the Bullhead City Parks and Recreation Department provides in supporting the Top Gun tournaments held there. Joel Hawk and Jerry Smith presented Dave Heath and the Recreation Department a token of sincere appreciation. You are very professional, responsive and hard workers.

L-R: Jerry Smith, Orville (OJ) Williams, Dave Heath, Joel Hawk

**Upcoming TOC Qualifiers - Don't Miss Out**

The World Championships Return to Las Vegas - Sept. 15 - Oct. 2, 2022



Don't miss the biggest tournament in Slow-pitch Softball: **The World Championships**, the Granddaddy of National Senior Championships! The World Championships returns to exciting Las Vegas for the 9th time in 2022 with the largest divisions, free QUALITY Rings, and fair competition because we check rosters.

Look for exciting new promotions and updates for the World Championships in TOC Qualifiers.

Teams, don't miss out on other upcoming marquee 2022 SSUSA events, with division winners earning a berth to the 2023 **Original Tournament of Champions (TOC)**.

Deadlines for some TOC Qualifiers are quickly approaching in the next few weeks. Look [here](#) now!

**PLEASE BE ADVISED:** Due to the high influx of teams signing up for TOC tournaments, we do not consider teams entered in a tournament until we receive the entry fee. In some tournaments, wait lists are established even before the entry deadline.

With the COVID-19 Pandemic still around, SSUSA would like to thank our players, teams, and our hosting partner cities, such as Virginia Beach, Las Vegas, and Raleigh, among others, for their continuing partnership.

**2022 Spring World Championships**

Location(s): Mesquite, NV / St. George, UT  
Dates of Play: March 18-27, 2022  
**Deadline: Friday, February 25, 2022**  
Entry Fee: \$580



**Sand Hollow**, only 20mins North of St. George, perfect for paddle boarding.

**2022 Spring National Championships**

Location: Polk County, FL  
Dates of Play: March 18-20, 2022  
**Deadline: Friday, March 4, 2022**  
Entry Fee: \$555



Brian Buhl, 62, of Boulder City, NV, died on Nov. 7, 2021.

Playing softball for over 40 years, Buhl began playing SSUSA in 2009 with Las Vegas 50s (NV), and has played with numerous teams in NV, CA, and AZ. He most recently played during the 2021 season with Weekend Warriors 60 (CA) and Freak Show 55 (NV).

Previous teams include Sidewinders 60s (AZ), Arizona Scorpions 55s, Vegas Strong 55 (NV), Top Gun Hornets 55 (CA), West Coast Water 50s (NV), Sin City Warriors 55 (NV), LVSSA 55 Hitmen (NV), Vegas Warriors 50 (NV), and Top Gun 50s (CA), among others.

Buhl earned MVP honors as a member of LVSSA 55 Hitmen at the 2016 Tournament of Champions.

Buhl owned and operated Boulder Tree Service.

**Jesse "Cobra" Silvas**



Jesse S Silvas, 73, of El Mirage, AZ, died on Jan. 31, 2022.

Joining SSUSA in 1999, Silvas has left a mark on Arizona senior softball. Beginning with his first time, AZ Blasters 50, has played with Arizonans 50/Camarena Softball 50 (AZ), AZ Amigos 50, AZ Triple Play 50, Los Gonzales 60 (AZ) and has played with Los Vatos Viejos 50/55/60/65 (AZ) since 2006. Before senior softball, he played fastpitch for 20 years.

"Mr. Silvia loved the game of Senior Softball. Always told us he would pass away on a softball field. I've never met a man who had so much passion for the game of senior softball... he struggled with his health, suffering a massive heart attack three years ago... But he never stopped trying to get back in shape like he was the prior years." Said his friend and coach, Moises Longoria. "Softball has lost a great man, a player and I lost a great friend."



[VisitCentralFlorida.org](http://VisitCentralFlorida.org) has a long list of everything to do while in Polk County, FL. From fish, museum, nightlife, to Disney World. Polk County is in the middle of everything!

**2022 Tidewater Classic**

Location: Virginia Beach, VA  
Dates of Play: March 23 - 27, 2022  
**Deadline: Wednesday, March 9, 2022**  
Entry Fee: \$555



[Virginia Beach Boardwalk](#)

**2022 Southwest Championships**

Location: Las Vegas, NV  
Dates of Play: April 19 - 24, 2022  
**Deadline: Tuesday, March 29, 2022**  
Entry Fee: \$640



[Hoover Dam](#), less than an hour from the Las Vegas Strip.

**2022 Texas State Championships**

Location: Grapevine, TX  
Dates of Play: April 26 - May 1, 2022  
**Deadline: Tuesday, April 12, 2022**  
Entry Fee: \$555



[Grapevine Vintage Railroad](#), 30mins from Dallas, 10mins from DFW Airport.

Cobra, as everyone knew him as, will be remembered.

**2022 Atlantic Coast Championships**

Location: Raleigh, NC  
Dates of Play: May 10 - 15, 2022  
**Deadline: Tuesday, April 27, 2022**  
Entry Fee: \$555



**Historic Yates Mills County Park**, 15mins Southwest of Raleigh, NC.

Visit the [2022 SSUSA Tournament Page](#) to view a qualifier near you. Please support SSUSA host hotels. They support our sport and help keep your entry fees down. In addition, unlike online hotel reservation services, SSUSA can assist you with any host hotel concerns. Thank you.

**As a reminder, teams must play in at least one (1) qualifier during the season in order to secure its qualifying roster to play in the Eastern/Western National Championships, and the World Championships. Hope to see you soon!**

Thank you to [Times of India](#), [TimesTravel](#) for the amazing photo of Las Vegas!

**Regional Series Events Return for 2022**

Specific SSUSA events that make up the Midwest Series, Mid-Atlantic Swing, and Gulf Coast Swing, respectively, will once again give teams an opportunity at discounted tournament entry fees in 2022 by playing in multiple events.

**MIDWEST SERIES**

The Midwest Series includes:

- Cow Town Classic
- Oil City Classic
- Missouri Open
- Kansas City Classic

The top five teams in points earned, from the entire entries per tournament series, will get half of their SSUSA World Champs fee paid.

One wild card will be additionally drawn and receive half of their World Champs fee paid as well.

In order to qualify a team must play in two (2) of the first three (3) legs of the series, and MUST play in the Kansas City Classic.

- Points Breakdown
- 5 points for first
  - 4 points for second
  - 3 points for third
  - 2 points for fourth
  - 1 point for showing up.

If there are ties, the half of the world fee will be distributed evenly between the tied teams.

Further, teams are allowed a \$25 per tournament discount after entering and paying the \$400 entry fee with their first entry of the year into the Midwest Series.

For more information on the Midwest Series, please contact Tournament Director Will Rogers:  
willsharkdaddy@aol.com  
816-916-7891

**MID-ATLANTIC SWING**

The Mid-Atlantic Swing series is comprised of the following qualifiers:

- Wayne Gilmore Memorial
- Maryland Classic #1
- Maryland Classic #2
- Quad-State Showdown
- Don Brooks / Crabtown Classic
- Old Line State Showdown

**Bert Bennett Memorial**

After playing in 3 Mid-Atlantic Swing events, teams will get a \$50 discount to each additional series event that they play.

Early commitment bonus: Pay for 3 Mid-Atlantic Swing events by March 1 and get a \$150 discount.

For more information on the Mid-Atlantic Swing Series, please contact Tournament Director Tim McElroy: PotomacSports1@gmail.com  
301-514-2676

**GULF COAST SWING**

The Gulf Coast Swing series is comprised of the following qualifiers:

- Florida Spring Training Challenge
- Polk County Senior Showcase
- Sunshine State Showdown
- Pelican Classic (Women's event)
- Florida Last Chance Qualifier

After playing in 2 Gulf Coast Swing events you get a \$50 discount to each additional series event that you play.

Early commitment bonus- Pay for 2 Gulf Coast Swing events by February 10 and get a \$100 discount.

For more information on the Gulf Coast Swing Series, please contact Tournament Director Tim McElroy: PotomacSports1@gmail.com  
301-514-2676

**[Umpire Communications: A Step Back and A Hop Forward](#)**

By Tim McElroy  
SSUSA National Director  
Mid-Atlantic Regional UIC

The [SSUSA umpire program](#) is jumping into the social media market, where we plan to build relationships with new talent. We've recently launched "[SSUSAumpire](#)" pages on the Facebook, Instagram & Twitter platforms. We encourage umpires, players and fans of the senior game to follow those pages and help us recruit and share important updates.



In addition, after a two year break, our monthly umpire newsletter "The Indicator" will start hitting umpire inboxes.

Connecting with prospective umpires requires that we use new methods. All of these efforts are designed to attract and recruit the best possible umpires for Senior Softball.

The Indicator will feature articles that cover a number of areas that are important to SSUSA and our team of umpires. Regular topics will include case studies where we dissect on-field scenarios and applicable playing rules. As we strive for consistency on rules, we will do the same when it comes to positioning & mechanics. The newsletter will also include a rundown of upcoming umpire opportunities and a re-cap of recently completed tournaments. That information is great for umpires already registered to work with SSUSA, but the goal is to recruit umpires. There are talented umpires calling games in leagues across the country that our UICs simply don't have access to.

We need your help.

As players, many of you see these folks regularly but may not know where to point them for tournament work. All eyes will be on Polk County in a few weeks when the Original Tournament of Champions kicks off. The tournament will feature over a hundred teams from around the country with each looking to take home the title. The umpire pool is equally as talented and geographically diverse. We are using 26 umpires from eight states (FL, GA, VA, MD, TN, KS, MO & TX).

For more information, or to receive The Indicator Newsletter please contact Tim McElroy at: [tim@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:tim@seniorsoftball.com)

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