



2024
2nd Edition

AROUND THE BASES

A New Season Begins

When you drive through the gates of Sun City Peachtree, you can't help but see the beauty that surrounds this community. The trees are sprouting colorful leaves, and the blooming flowers provide a welcome display of color. There's evidence that a new season is about to begin.

As you continue down Sun City Parkway, it won't take long for you to notice golfcarts occupying their lane, traveling south on Del Webb. Some will be going home from their various activities enjoyed at the Amenity Center while others are hurriedly heading to Veterans Field. What's the hurry; you ask? Our answer, "We're on our way to the 2024 SCP Softball Spring Preseason Tournament; Saturday, March 23rd. Oh, and by the way, the seasons' Opening Day is Saturday, March 30th!"

Before you arrive at the field, we'd like to formally introduce you to the League Coordinators, Managers, Grounds Crew, CORT, a Fan, as well as one of our many sponsors. With over 230+ member-based players, one of the largest member-based clubs in SCP, it's nearly impossible to mention and acknowledge the support of everyone involved. However, we sincerely acknowledge and appreciate the following supporters and fans of the SCP Softball League: co-managers, sponsors, umpires, scorekeepers, scoreboard operators, announcers, subs, photographers, and all non-playing members. Thank you for your continued support.



CALENDAR REMINDER

- * **Pre-Season Tournaments**
Saturday, March 23 –
Saturday, March 30
- * **Opening Day**
Saturday, March 30
- * **Spring Break (no games or makeups)**
Saturday, April 27 &
Sunday, April 28
- * **Hilton Head Tournament (away)**
May 20-22 (tentative)
- * **Memorial Day (no games)**
Monday, May 27
- * **Closing Day (All-Star games)**
Saturday, June 1
- * **Banquet and General Meeting**
Saturday, June 1
Alternate General Meeting
(if needed) Monday, June 3

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LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024 SCP SOFTBALL MEN'S A-LEAGUE



Coordinator

Chris Pacitti is the 2024 Men's A-League Coordinator. Originally from Jamestown, NY, Chris served 10 years in the Marine Corps primarily flying CH-46 helicopters for both tactical and Search & Rescue (SAR) missions. After moving to Conyers, GA, to accept an EMS flying job, Chris met his wife Triffy, who was a flight nurse at the time. In July 2017, he and his wife moved to Sun City. Chris has been a member of the SCP Softball League for five years; thereby playing 10 seasons. In the fall of 2023, Chris was unable to continue playing softball for a few seasons due to a scheduled medical procedure; however, he wanted to remain an active participant and contributor in the SCP Softball League. When the Men's A-League Coordinator position became available, Chris figured that this would be a great time for him to volunteer in a different capacity.

As the Coordinator, Chris states that his goal is to “keep the managers informed as to what's going on and involve them in the decision making; as well as the players in the league when appropriate.” Although Chris is looking forward to coordinating the 2024 seasons, he eagerly awaits the opportunity to join the Men's league players on the field.

ML-A Managers

Former educator, veteran SCP Softball player, coach and manager **Gary Mistovich** is back for another season, representing the *Sons Honda* team. Gary and wife, Kim moved to Sun City in 2015. In his spare time, Gary enjoys softball and golf. When asked his handicap, he replies, “Every club in my bag!” No stranger to sports, Gary played hockey and baseball throughout his high school years. He has over 12 years of combined coaching experience in baseball, basketball, and ice hockey in high schools in Georgia and Vermont. Since 1973, Gary has coached, umpired, and played fast pitch and unlimited arc slow pitch softball competitively. After 22 years of playing, he decided to stop playing competitive ball; however, since moving to SCP, Gary's competitiveness was reignited as a player, coach, and manager.

Gary knows the importance of staying active and states, “sports are important at SCP ... it keeps us moving and exercising, into our later years.” He conveys this message to all players, “Have fun. There is a scoreboard, so play hard, try your best but, always have fun.” He adds, “play every game as if it might be your last game ever; because it just might be!”





Sports enthusiast **Morgan Fisher** is a returning ML-A manager/player for the *Betsill Remodeling* team. Morgan doesn't recall when he didn't play a sport. He notes that he played football, basketball, and baseball and earned a College Football Scholarship to Southeast Missouri State University. Morgan notes that football and baseball are his favorites although he does enjoy pickleball. Prior to moving to SCP with wife Windy, he was a member of the ATF SRT (SWAT) in Washington State, Atlanta, GA, Waco, TX, an Air Marshall after the 911- terrorist attacks, various task forces, as well as Secret Service protection to various Presidents, the Pope, and various dignitaries. After all of that, one would imagine that Morgan would welcome retirement, and he did. Morgan shares what's great about SCP softball, "It's a great way to meet people, the sporting competition, and activity keeps you healthy." As a manager he hopes to 1) display a positive demeanor, 2) always show a level of respect to team players and opponents, and 3) understand that winning is not everything. Morgan would like to convey this message to his team, "Always try to have fun and don't be so serious!"

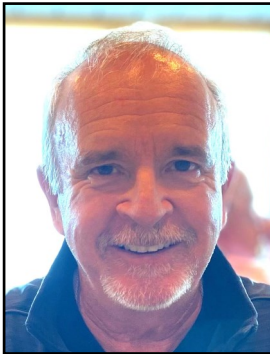
Seasoned, 30-year baseball player turned SCP softball player, **Brett Pippin** is now a ML-A manager/player for the *Perdue Paint and Body* team. Originally from Indiana, Brett and his wife, Diane (2024 LL Manager) moved to Atlanta in 2004; however, later moved to Florida. Since moving to SCP, in September 2021 from Santa Rosa Beach, FL, Brett has been actively involved in the SCP softball league as a player. Although he enjoys exercising at the Amenity Center and playing pickleball, his primary joy is "a LOT of softball." Brett and Diane can often be found on the softball field. He states that his role as a manager is to "Facilitate fun!" His reminder to all players, "Be kind, thank the volunteers, and remember to thank those who keep the field in amazing shape." His message to ALL softball enthusiasts, "Volunteer in some way. There are plenty of small ways to contribute."

"One of the reasons we moved to Sun City was the SCP softball league." As a returning manager and manager for the *Blasingame Pest Management* team, **Jeff James** states that, since moving to SCP in 2020 with his wife, Michaela, he's been involved in "all things sports." At a very early age, Jeff was introduced to, gained an appreciation for, and understanding of, sports while playing games such as kickball, stickball and "kick-the-can." Incorporating the knowledge and skills into a long career, Jeff has submerged his "inner person" into all things competitive. His short list of activities include softball, baseball, golf, pickleball, billiards, ping-pong, and cards. Surprisingly, although he had very little interest in football, as he's grown older, he now enjoys watching the Superbowl game and states, "Most likely because of the food and camaraderie."



Jeff shared that he enjoys being a manager because he likes to support the players as well as the entire SCP softball league. The message to his team, "Communication is what I strive to achieve while understanding different skill levels and being creative. And of course, HAVE FUN." He sends an additional message to ALL softball players, "Enjoy the game. Enjoy the opportunity. And Enjoy life."

2024 MEN'S B-LEAGUE (AKA: THE B-LINE)



Coordinator

Introducing **Bob Baxendale** ... the “2024 Men’s B-League Coordinator.” Originally from Western Canada, in May of 2000, he and his wife Nancy moved to Sun City Peachtree (SCP) from Oklahoma City. Bob joined the softball league in the fall of 2021 and has played four seasons. When asked why he accepted the role of B-League Coordinator, Bob replied, “I wanted to give back to the softball club. So far, it’s been a real treat working with the players, managers, the Softball Board, as well as the B-League Operations Team. I’m hoping for a fun and injury-free 2024 softball year.”

ML-B Managers

Recognized as one of the pioneers of the SCP Softball League, softball veteran **Wayne McBride** has been involved with the league since its inception in 2012. At that time, the league consisted of three co-ed teams. During the early league formation, Wayne served as secretary on the SCP Softball Board and continued to play for over eight years while bearing witness to the leagues’ continual growth and transition. In 2021, after Covid, Wayne transitioned from player to manager and continues to contribute to the ML-B. The SCP Softball league is comprised to 14 teams (4 ML-A teams, 6 ML-B teams, and 4 LL teams). This season, Wayne will manage the *Christian Plumber* team.



Tom Rodems, manager of the *Cool Screens* team moved to Sun City seven years ago. He was told there was a softball league and of course, he laughed as “how good could a bunch of old people be?” Ha! What a great surprise when he joined. Tom states, “I’ve made so many good friends and



can’t wait to get to the ballpark every day.” Tom managed twice in the A league and once in the B league (plus this season managing in the B league.) Tom shares, “I am quite proud that I have won two batting titles in the A league and my “golden bat” for my first home run over the fence sits prominently in my office!” Congratulations Tom on your accomplishment and we’re sure you are no longer amazed at the talent the “bunch of old people” has.

“Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference.”

~ Winston Churchill



Jerry Libby, manager of the *Bryan Miller C.P.A.* team, played his first season in the SCP Men’s Softball League in 2019. Jerry had never played sports in school; however, in his 30’s he was finally exposed to softball through a church league. Feeling that he lacked skills and confidence, Jerry signed up for SCP softball at the SCP Club Fair. After joining, he immediately began enjoying the camaraderie of the players and his new-found friends. In the fall of 2021, Jerry volunteered to manage his first ML-B team. He states, “This Spring will be my sixth season managing a team. It’s great to play a small part in a wonderful club here at SCP.”

When **John Heavener**, manager of the *Pace Physical Therapy* team, moved to SCP in May of 2021, he was amazed to hear all the softball buzz. In the Spring of 2022, John began playing in the SCP ML-B. He states, “I’ve been blessed to be a player on three championship teams.” In the fall of 2023, John took his first swing as a manager managing an SCP ML-B Team; *Pace Physical Therapy* (sponsor). He enjoyed him-

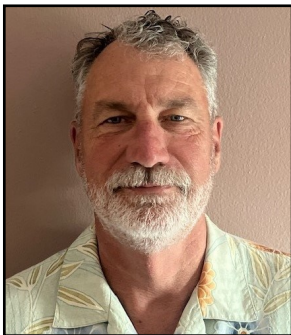
self so much in this role, that he decided to continue; and amazingly, representing the same team sponsor.



Former 2023 B-League Coordinator, **Dr. Thad Long**, is an experienced leader and player. Thad has played in both A and B leagues here at SCP and will manage the *Welcome Home Realty* team. He is looking forward to adding manager to his list of accomplishments



and is looking forward to another great softball season.



Jay Knight, team manager of *Auning Masters*, is no stranger to SCP Softball. Since moving to SCP in 2021 with his wife Robin,

Jay has played three seasons: two in the sub-pool and one on a B-league team. Jay knows the ins and outs of softball as he has served as an umpire for two seasons. Prior to moving to SCP, Jay played on numerous adult and military teams all over the world and is looking forward to another opportunity to be a part of the SCP softball league.

Did you know.....

There’s really nothing “soft” about a softball, it just leaves a “bigger” bruise.

THE 2024 SCP LADIES LEAGUE



Coordinator

April Morgan serves as the “2024 Ladies League Coordinator.” April moved to SCP in June of 2019. The 2020 Spring season would have been her first season of play; however, with the virus that was discovered in late 2019, which spread rapidly round the globe, the season ended abruptly with restrictions. Once restrictions were released, in the Fall of 2020, April resumed play and has remained a player in the SCP LL Softball League.

April is actively involved in and enjoys playing softball, tennis, golf, pickleball and bowling. In her spare time, she likes to travel, crochet, and spend time with her husband, John, two sons, and two dachshunds (Mia and Clover). She states that “one thing I would like to achieve in softball this season is that everyone be happy. And that all participants leave this season feeling they have found their place and feel at home being a member of the Softball Family.”

LL Managers



Seasoned manager, **Missy Kirchem** is back serving in a position she has been quite successful with in the past. A retired dental hygienist, Missy, and her husband Steve are both SCP softball veterans since moving from Dallas, GA to SCP in November 2014. When not playing or facilitating softball, Missy is busy playing pickleball and golfing. She likes to stay active; and states that she once paddle boarded around an entire island in Mexico. However, for a slower change of pace in her activities, she enjoys reading and loves to take long walks as she is very often seen walking throughout the SCP community. Missy states that her personal goal for her team this year is to “build strong friendships with each other, and to learn something

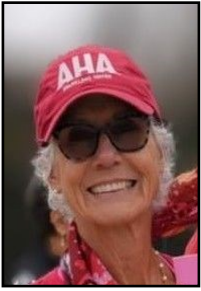
new.” Missy will be managing the *Georgia Banking Company* team.

In April 2017, **Teresa Pierce** and husband Steve moved to Sun City Peachtree. Prior to moving to SCP, Teresa had never been on a softball field; however, that was not apparent even during her first season of play. Teresa shares that she’s worked hard to build skills to become a competitive player. Off the field Teresa enjoys traveling, singing, and recently picked back up her flute and began teaching herself to play by ear. She’s a self-proclaimed “nerdy bird watcher” who can identify birds by their sounds and flight patterns. As a returning manager, Teresa’s personal goal for her team is that the players take the attitude of focusing on their own growth. She will be managing the *Hand & Stone Massage* team and states, “Winning is good, but growth is the most important thing.”



“Take it one pitch at a time. Take it one day at a time.”

~ Amanda Scarborough



Michelle Glantz will be taking on her first season as a manager for the *Linda Hilley ReMax* team. Michelle and husband, Andy moved from Marietta, GA to Sun City Peachtree in January 2022. After becoming a flight attendant at the age of 50, and after 18 years of service (something she likes to surprise people with to see their reaction), we're confident that Michelle will manage a team of LL players with no problem. In her spare time, Michelle enjoys arts and crafts, tennis, gardening, yoga, and working out at the gym. As a new SCP LL manager, Michelle states that her goal is "... to learn more about being a good manager," and she hopes her team has a fun time.

Managing the *Minit Car Wash* team is returning LL manager, **Diane Pippin**. Diane and husband Brett moved to SCP in September 2021 from Santa Rosa Beach, FL after having previously lived in the Atlanta area. Retiring from an HR position, this Indiana native played the drums in high school, has three sisters, and has a son who lives in Marietta. When not busy with softball she enjoys pickleball and traveling, especially cruising, working out at the gym or just relaxing by the pool. Diane's personal goal for her team this season is "to help each player elevate in the area of play that they want to."



With this Ladies League leadership lineup in place, it looks like our Ladies League is set up for a fun and successful 2024 Spring season.

CO-EDUCATIONAL RECREATION TEAM (CORT)

Coordinator



At the helm of CORT is softball veteran **Bob Crane**. At the age of 6, Bob started playing catch with his dad and sort of just kept up the process for the past 70 years. He states, "I played every position in Little League and Pony League and then became a full-time pitcher in High School and college at Western Michigan University." Unfortunately, when a line-drive broke two joints on his pitching hand, he lost his curve ball. Bob shares that, "After sulking for a couple of years, a couple of guys asked me to join the neighborhood softball team and I guess the rest is history." Bob has never lost his passion for softball as evidenced by helping his son, and son-in-law coach four grandsons and a granddaughter.

Bob has always been a stickler for learning through a process of development. When he and wife Nola started their own industrial supply company, Nola was charged with developing a procedural manual as well as a sales manual. Although the manuals were designed for employees to follow procedures, employees were encouraged to provide input, recommendations, and feedback on the processes and/or procedures since Bob and Nola were open to change. Bob shares, "I believe that this is the same approach that Patsy Cash, Jim Wilson, and I work with for our CORT program participants." Aligned with two other team members who 1) know the importance of individual attention, and 2) understand the process of learning to avoid injury, Bob, Patsy, and Jim are turning "I don't think that I can" into, "I can" players.



2024 SCP Softball Communications Committee

- Bev Callahan
- Darlene LeFlore
- Dave Warner
- Jan McFarland
- John Heavener
- Tina Young

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

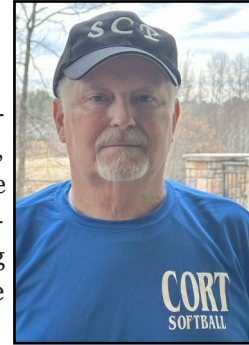
SKILLS

- * Artists
- * Editors
- * Layout Assistants
- * Photographers
- * Writers/Typists

Contact: SCP Softball
Communications Committee
comm.team321@gmail.com

CORT: Player in Action

Since starting little league at the age of 6, **Rick Peel** enjoyed and continued playing baseball through the age of 15. Years later he started playing softball in a church league but, admits “that’s been several decades ago; before moving to SCP.” In 2022, Rick and wife Connie moved to SCP from Florida, by way of Savannah. They loved Savannah but the older home became what Rick called a “money pit.” So, since he has two sisters-in-law living in SCP, he and Connie decided to make the move to Giffin after a quick sale of their house in Savannah.



Since moving to SCP, Rick has been enjoying a variety of activities. Those activities include chair yoga, working out in the gym at least three days a week, stickball (something that he had never heard of before moving to SCP) and softball. It’s a no-brainer that he chose to play in the CORT league because he “still loves the game.” Rick acknowledges that although he has health and mobility challenges, he’s comfortable playing in the CORT league because he wanted to participate in an activity with less commitment. His biggest enjoyment in CORT, “seeing people come to CORT, who have not played softball at all, and in one season they have improved enough to play in the regular league.” Rick shares this sentiment, “I love CORT and I’ve learned so much; therefore, I plan to remain on CORT throughout my softball career here at SCP.”

WELCOME TO FAN BASE



With great anticipation coordinators, managers, players, and spectators alike anxiously await Preseason Tournaments, Opening Day and the First Pitch of the 2024 SCP softball season. But what about the individual who is motivated to demonstrate their commitment by changing their lifestyle or delaying duties to accommodate their devotion to the sport and/or team; is that a FAN? Most definitely!

Some fans come to every game no matter who is playing, and **Sue Rees** is one of many dedicated fans. She and husband, Bill met while working together for the U.S. Postal Service. Both are natives from, as Sue labels, “the great state of Ohio.” She became a softball fan while watching Bill play, on various teams, throughout their marriage. After Bill retired, they moved from Ohio to Florida. Unfortunately, the hurricanes and hot weather proved unbearable, so they decided to find a home in a Del Webb 55+ active community. With that intent, in 2018, they purchased the first house that they toured here in Sun City Peachtree.

Although Sue doesn’t play softball, she enjoys going to the field for several reasons. Those reasons being: to watch great, entertaining games, cheering on both ladies’ and men’s teams, interacting with other spectators and she notes that “It’s also a great way to socialize.” When not at the softball field, Sue enjoys playing tennis, pickleball, and darts and is often seen walking throughout our beautiful community. She asserts that softball has something to offer anyone who wants to be involved; be it, a player, umpire, scorekeeper, working with the grounds crew preparing the field, helping with concessions and/or events, just to name a few. As a former contestant in the Pillsbury Bake-Off Contest in Ohio, Sue enjoys baking and is often found selling her baked goods at the Annual SCP Craft Fair. Why not join Sue and become a part of the SCP Softball “FAN BASE?”

SCP SOFTBALL FIELD GROUNDS CREW

Since 2017, **Tom Rodems** has been immersed in turf management primarily in a succession of golf course leadership positions. Tom holds an accounting degree from Western Illinois University and an advanced degree from the Turfgrass Science Management Program at Penn State University.

Tom and crew, Jeff James, Lindsay Lancaster, Phil Holbrook, and Mark Rettig, work tirelessly to maintain the softball field. From measuring and marking the basepaths, chalking infield foul lines, and setting up bases, to sweeping the field to move loose materials from the grass and applying supplemental applications of fertilizer for thicker/healthier grass. The grounds' crew work diligently to ensure that the field is in the best condition for play. These are just a few of the tasks that are performed continuously throughout the season. We haven't begun to touch the surface of responsibilities they have as we failed to mention pre-season prep. We'll save that for another edition. Just remember, "Teamwork makes the dream work!"



If you're in the community, take the opportunity to visit Veterans Field and see for yourself its beautiful condition. You won't be disappointed! Lastly, when you see a member of the Grounds Crew, thank them for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to the SCP Softball Community!

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT— MINIT CARWASH



1608 N Expy, Griffin GA 30223

Monday	8:30 AM - 6PM
Tuesday	8:30 AM - 6PM
Wednesday	8:30 AM - 6PM
Thursday	8:30 AM - 6PM
Friday	8:30 AM - 6PM
Saturday	8:30 AM - 6PM
Sunday	Closed

In 1959, T. Calvin Cox opened Minit Car Wash. At that time, his son Tommy, was just a little boy; however, he would soon learn to appreciate the meaning of responsibility. At the age of 10, Tommy would go to work with his father and wash towels for \$5 a day. Tommy recalls that at that time, there were two Minit Car Wash locations, East Point and Marietta. He shares that his father created a legacy of giving great service and often told him to "get to know your customers on a personal level"; a mission that he works to achieve every day.

In 1993, Tommy and wife Angie, now owners of Minit Car Wash, began running the business at their Griffin location. Although this is their only location, they can't help but recall how, prior to Covid, they were able to provide more services such as car detailing, headlight restoration, and waxing. Unfortunately, these services are no longer being offered due to an inability to obtain workers.

Tommy and Angie share that placing Sun City Peachtree in Spalding County has helped the demographics and increased their business exposure. They "... love supporting and sponsoring our community." Minit Car Wash has been a sponsor of SCP Softball since 2014. They remain dedicated to supporting the SCP Softball league and others throughout the community. In their spare time, Tommy and Angie share a love for the outdoors, "junkin", and finding treasures. Tommy enjoys golf, restoring guns, and riding his tractor on their 11-acre property.

As Spring is fast approaching, pollen season is sure to make its "grand green" appearance. What better way to get rid of that green film than with a great car wash from Minit Car Wash, located at 1608 N Expy, in Griffin, GA. Tommy and Angie would love to meet you; and just so you know ... they offer a "Wonderful Wednesday" discount. While there, please be sure to thank them for their support of the SCP Softball League.