



2024  
5th Edition

# AROUND THE BASES

## FALL SEASON UNDERWAY

### SCP 2024 SOFTBALL CLUB

Typically, less hectic during the fall season due to fewer players, shortening daylight, and little to no ability to play weekday doubleheaders, the fall schedule is more manageable. It's a great time for the Softball Board to try out a few new program options.



### Adjustments for the Ladies League

The Softball Board made some thoughtful adjustments for the fall season! The new approach for the Ladies League (LL), led by Lori Wallace and Sue Heiss, is particularly innovative. The LL has been divided into a nine-week season with 3-week sessions that shuffle players between teams. For each session, 11 LL players are assigned to one of three LL teams (Minit Car Wash, Georgia Banking and Linda Hilley ReMax). This not only keeps things fresh but also fosters a sense of camaraderie among more players. Additionally, the manager-mentor program is a fantastic way to build leadership skills and confidence.



Scott Martin  
Announcer/DJ

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### OCTOBER 21-22, 2024

- ◆ Hilton Head Ladies' Tournament at SCP

#### NOVEMBER 2, 2024

- ◆ Closing Day/All-Star Games

#### NOVEMBER 4, 2024

- ◆ Banquet/General Meeting

#### NOVEMBER 9, 2024

- ◆ Veterans Games

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***“Success is a project that’s always under construction.”***

*~ Pat Summitt*

### **Fun Co-ed Games**

Another new program, the co-ed pick-up games, creates opportunities for players, with similar skill levels, to enjoy the game in a more relaxed and fun setting. Board members Mark Rettig and Triffy Pacitti are coordinating this new program.

Teams will be assembled from available players who have expressed an interest in the program. Games will be held as the fourth Saturday game throughout the season. Some (but not all) of the games will be played with Senior Softball Co-ed Rules, in which each team has an equal number of men and women players alternate in the batting order. There must be two men and two women in both the infield and outfield, and the pitcher and catcher must be a man and women. The Co-ed games add an interesting twist and ensure a balanced and inclusive experience.

As an added benefit, the flexibility of this program allows players to choose which games to participate in based on their availability. Women will be using 11” softballs and the men will use 12” softballs.

### **Co-ed Recreational Team**

The CORT instruction program continues with an increase in participation from the membership. This program was designed to provide not only basic skills instruction for brand new players, but also offers current league players the chance to “drop-in” for additional practice; what a great way to foster growth and development within the community. Another smart move is the inclusion of scrimmage games as part of the Saturday game rotation. This inclusion provides players with practical experience in a game setting. Kudos to Bob Crane, Jim Wilson, and Patsy Cash for coordinating this program.

### **Men’s A&B Leagues**

The Men’s A and B Leagues are off to a fantastic start this season! It’s wonderful to see and hear the enthusiasm from new managers like Bob Cooper, Bill Garner, and Mark McCammon. The dedication of all managers and coordinators, including Chris Pacitti and Bob Baxendale, truly makes a difference in keeping the leagues vibrant and competitive.

With the cooler weather, it’s a great time to be out on the field. Enjoying or participating in a softball game is the perfect way to spend an evening or Saturday. Looking forward to seeing you out there!



### ***Welcome New Players!***

Our newest SCP Softball Club players include:

**Ray Hottinger** (pictured), Lorenzo Belga, Sharon Burke, Kim Des Jardines, Richard Holder, Kara Hospelhorn, Valerie Jennings, Lessie Linch, Tab Lipscomb, Ken Nears, Eric Plotner, John Proctor, and Craig Wilson.



## FUN FACT

For anyone who has a bucket list that includes “jumping out of an airplane,” **Bonnie Morton** has you beat 800 times! She was one of the first females to serve as a paratrooper in the Army’s elite 82nd Airborne Division based at Ft. Bragg. The 82nd is an airborne infantry division specially trained and equipped to leapfrog enemy lines and establish an “entry point” for advancing ground forces. Her service included two tours of duty in Mogadishu, Somalia under the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. The book *“Doorway to Hell: Disaster in Somalia”* provides a gripping account of her experiences and the challenges faced by her unit.

Bonnie recalled one story from her eight years of jumping from 3,000 feet (she jumped out of a variety of aircraft, including: C-130, C-141, CH-47 Chinook): “One time I was jumping at night with a beautiful full moon. As I got closer to the ground, I noticed a fellow parachutist coming toward me. As I got closer to the ground, he got closer and closer. I am yelling at him to slip away! I was preparing for a collision... It wasn’t until I hit the ground that I realized it was my own shadow! Of course, I never told this story to my fellow paratroopers.”

Bonnie’s been playing softball for two seasons, usually patrolling left field. She really enjoys playing in the Ladies League because of the support and camaraderie it provides. She shares, “I feel like these are friends forever.” While discussing one of her favorite things about living in SCP, she mentions the array of sports that are available – pickleball, softball and golf. “It’s fun and keeps you healthy.”

We acknowledge, with appreciation, that our community has numerous members of the softball club who have served our country. “Thank you for your service!”



***“The only limit to what you can achieve in softball, is the limit you place on yourself.”***

*~ Jessica Mendoza*

## SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

### Perdue's Paint and Body Shop

**Ronnie W. Perdue's vision** for Perdue's Paint and Body Shop is truly inspiring. As an employee of General Motors, Ronnie enjoyed his job and dreamed of creating a family-owned auto repair shop. It's impressive to learn how his aspiration has flourished over the past 35 years. Opening the business with his eldest son, Victor, in 1989 they now service multiple counties such as Spalding, Pike, Fayette, Henry, Lamar, and Upson; just to name a few.

#### **Dreams Come True**

Perdue is dedicated and committed to the community. Their long-standing presence at 1705 Ga-16 in Griffin since 1994 speaks volumes about their reliability and the trust they've built with their customers. CFO, Tracey shares that Perdue's Paint and Body Shop provides quality and exceptional services by qualified technicians. They require on-going training and development for all technicians and use high quality paint which has a Lifetime Warranty.

It's wonderful to see how Perdue's Paint and Body Shop has remained a true family business over the years. With Victor Perdue as President, Tracey Perdue-Goodman as CFO, Kirt Perdue overseeing the Paint Department, and Alex Perdue supervising the Body Shop, it's clear that the family's dedication continues to drive the business forward. Offering a wide range of services like free estimates, auto collision repair, windshield replacement/repair, spray in-bed liners, and 24/7 towing, along with working with insurance companies, shows their commitment to providing comprehensive and reliable service to their community.

It's always heartening to hear and report of local businesses that have such a positive impact on their communities. Perdue's Paint and Body Shop has been a sponsor of SCP Softball for approximately 10 years. "We love being a sponsor." "... grateful to this community and are proud to continue sponsorship. We appreciate our customers and are proud to service our communities."

The SCP Softball Board and players appreciate the commitment and continued sponsorship of Perdue's Paint and Body Shop. They are open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm and closed on Saturday and Sunday. They can be reached by calling: 770-229-1044.



## HOMETOWN HEROES: Charity Begins at Home

The generosity of Sun City Peachtree residents is truly inspiring! **Hometown Heroes** is a fantastic tradition that not only brings the community together but also supports important causes. The softball club plays such a significant role in this annual event, fostering camaraderie and friendly competition between SCP softball players with the Griffin Police Department and the Griffin Fire & Rescue teams.

### Six Years of Fundraising

Celebrating the sixth year of this event is a testament to the dedication and spirit of everyone involved. It's heartwarming to see how sports can unite people and make a positive impact on the community.

Alan Smithwick's dedication to the Hometown Heroes event is truly commendable! It's great to see him continuing the tradition and maintaining the successful lineup established by Steve Kirchem. Alan's enthusiasm for chairing the event and his hope to continue in this role speaks volumes about his commitment to the community. The event's purpose of raising funds is heartwarming. Our donations, raffles, 50/50, and concessions are used to support local Police and Fire & Rescue Departments in taking underprivileged children Christmas shopping.

Kickoff for this "Hometown Heroes" community-wide event began August 25<sup>th</sup>, a week prior to the actual games. Pre-game events and activities included delicious walking tacos, music, and games. Additions to this year's activities included a corn hole and chipping contest.

On Saturday, August 31, 2024, Hometown Heroes were scheduled to play three opposing games: two with the Griffin Police Department and one with the Fire Department. This year's games began with a co-ed team of residents against the Griffin Police Department. The second game was comprised of SCP Men's A and B league players opposite the Griffin Police Department. The Men's A League All-stars played the event's final game against the Griffin Fire & Rescue Department. Of course, this game was a nail-biter; but with pride we report that, at the very end, the SCP All-stars came out on top!

A total of \$7800 was raised during this year's event. This amount will be split equally between the Departments. We are extremely thankful for the commitment of volunteers, supporters, and participants who continue to make this event a success.



Together we can ...



***"Wherever there is a human in need, there is an opportunity for kindness and to make a difference."***

*~ Kevin Heath*

## FAN BASE

If you've ever watched a game at Veterans' Field, chances are you've seen **Jim and Jan Hines**. Originally from Saint Charles, Missouri, the couple moved to Sun City in September 2014. Soon after, they immediately became softball fans. Although Jim never played the sport, he has always had a passion for it.

Prior to moving to SCP, they spent 47 years in the same house. Jim, a former Manager of Engineering at Boeing, and Jan, a former teacher, enjoy watching SCP softball games and meeting with friends; both old and new and are often seen at Wind Down Wednesdays.



For over 20 years, Jim and Jan were “snowbirds”; dividing their time between Missouri and Arizona from January through March. Their time as “snowbirds” in Arizona was filled with adventure and new experiences. Discovering pickleball in a 55+ active living community with over 1000 RV lots was a fantastic way to stay active and meet new people. It's great to see how they've embraced different activities and sports throughout their lives. Pickleball is such a fun and engaging game, perfect for staying fit and socializing.

Jim and Jan truly embody the spirit of community and active living! Celebrating 57 years together is a remarkable milestone. They balance their shared love for softball with their individual interests—Jan with her water aerobics, card games, and Tastebuds, and Jim with golf, walking, and gym workouts.

Jim's role as a volunteer scorekeeper shows his dedication to the sport and the community. Their message to all players, “Just have fun!” is a perfect reminder of what sports are all about.

## DO IT RIGHT: TECHNIQUES

### Batting

There is no blueprint for how someone should hold the bat, but there are some basic steps to keep in mind:

- ◆ Comfort (begin with both hands on the bat with your knuckles lined up)
- ◆ Adjust from that alignment for a comfortable grip
- ◆ Begin with your feet under your shoulders (again, adjust for comfort)
- ◆ Watch the ball, from the pitcher's hand release all the way to contact with the bat as you swing
- ◆ Do not try to over swing, contact is more important than bat speed, at this point
- ◆ As you progress, there will be time to refine your grip, stance, bat speed and footwork

