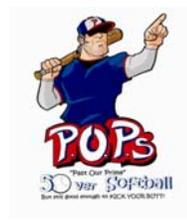


# POPS Softball Newsletter



November 2013 - Year-End Issue

Volume 6, Number 3

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## POPS Softball Newsletter

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## Letter From the Editor

Well, another summer and fall year of POPS is behind us. We had an unusually high amount of rain this year, but it seemed to be selective. A couple of people told me that they were rained out 3 weeks in a row, and others said they didn't have one rainout. Why did that happen? Is it random? Do some teams have connections to Mother Nature? Is it based on the collective religious conviction of the teams? I came to the field on one rain-threatening day and saw a team gathered in a circle performing an ancient anti-rain ritual, and guess what - it didn't rain that night. So, who knows...

Speaking of rituals, during one game I saw a team pushing pins into a Voodoo doll dressed like an ASA umpire. But that's a story for another day.

I hope everyone enjoyed POPS in 2013. I wish everyone a healthy and safe off season, and look forward to seeing you next year for the 2014 POPS season.

Thanks.

Andy Eisner, Director of Fun & Publicity, Editor-in-Chief  
POPS Softball Newsletter



by...  
**Keith "Commish" Pastuch**

Another year is complete and POPS continues to get better!

We continue to grow and improve each year. It was great to hear from so many of you and your wives how much you are really enjoying POPS. Ultimately that is what it is all about and I am thrilled that you are all appreciating the opportunity to socialize, laugh and even get a little exercise that POPS provides.

There was much less policing of players this year making it a

Steve Cohen  
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much more relaxing, fun year. Every year we strive to ensure a safe, aggravation free environment. We eliminate those players who act out or cause issues. This year was no different as we suspended a few players for 2014. POPS will do so until ALL of POPS Softball understands we are all here to play, compete to win, but leave as Gentlemen at the end of the day.

I am already being swamped with requests from new teams from within POPS as well as new teams and players from outside to join POPS for 2014. I've spoken to many of you and have heard some teams are considering splitting up to form two teams, a ritual in POPS. Some players are looking to switch teams or leagues, and some have asked how to play in more than one league - it's starting to get crazy, but that's POPS Softball!

\* If any of you are considering bringing in a new team for 2014, contact me ASAP. There are quite a few teams from outside POPS who will be applying to join our league. If you are considering adding a player to your team who played in POPS last year, contact ME to confirm that player's eligibility with regard to our Free Agency rules.

POPS is so much more than softball. Our agenda includes helping out in the communities we play in. As most of you know at the end of each year, with any money left over we try to give back to our communities. Its one of the reason we play on the great fields we do. Thanks to the efforts of Mike Callahan with the "POPS Charity game" and your donations, we are donating over \$3,000 to "Families in Need" after already spending thousands on the POPS Scholarships. If any of you know of any families who need financial help in the next few weeks for the holidays, contact me at:[commish@popsoftball.com](mailto:commish@popsoftball.com)

We've been attempting to "fix" the Oceanside HS field. Howie Gallub has gotten us clay for home plate. Tony is looking into getting a water hose to eliminate the sand box we sometimes play on. Our new Director Jimmy Hughes is looking into a "turf-like batters box" to eliminate the holes at home plate and I am discussing with our insurance company the possibility of a 2nd home plate which will eliminate the line to cross at home. Andy is working on a new website for the new POPS Business Network. The POPS Softball Board listens to your comments; as we strive to continue to be the best men's adult softball league on LI every year.

Talking about adults, we are attempting to start a new league in POPS Softball for 2014..."The POPS 60 & Over Division". If you are turning 58 by 2014 you will be eligible for play in the new league, which will be played on Friday nights. Contact the Commish, if interested...Stay tuned!!!

In order to help us "Over-40's" get ready to enjoy an injury-

free 2014 season, I have arranged for FREE "get in shape for the season" classes to all POPS Players. These classes will be provided by "Cross Fit King of Island Park". They will start in late April, end early May. For more information, contact the Commish.

Now that I am officially retired- POPS has really become a full time job. I could not run this league without the help of our Board of Directors. I want to thank the Board as well as the Managers for their hard work in making POPS the most successful Men's adult softball league on the Island.

Looking forward to seeing you on the field...

Keith Pastuch AKA- The Commish

## ***Congratulations to the Winners!***



Congratulations to all of the winning teams of the  
2013 POPS softball season!

Champion	POPS League
Summer Season	
Team Hughes	40 & Over - American
Team Eisner	40 & Over - National
Team Lashinsky	40 & Over - Central
Team Ferrante	50 & Over - American
Team Barnofsky	50 & Over - National
Fall Season	
Team Labeck	American
Team Walsh	National

Our 2013 playoffs were filled with many exciting, well played games. Teams exhibited great competition and sportsmanship. A fitting end to another successful season of POPS softball.

## ***What to Watch For...***



There are lots of POPS developments in the wings for the 2014 season. Here are some things to watch for - details will be follow.

- POPS Over 60 League. Since we're not getting any younger, we'll be organizing this new POPS league to commence during either the summer or fall of 2014. We plan to play on Friday nights. Say tuned for details.
- POPS Business Network. We're going to be rolling out the POPS Business Network in

2014. It will provide opportunity to advertise your business or service on the POPS website. And when looking to hire someone, who better to trust than fellow players? More to come.

- More fields. We continue to look for more fields to play on, as POPS expands. We've been meeting with several towns and exploring possibilities.

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## **POPS End of Year Dinner Celebration**



Our seventh annual End of Year Dinner was another smashing success. The Oceanside Jewish Center provided great food and we provided great company. Championship awards, including the coveted Pastuch Diamonds, were handed out.

The dinner was attended by over 160 people, including players, spouses and friends, and a great time was had by all. The 50-50 raffle raised over \$1,000, \$500 of which went to the raffle winner with the balance to be used to offset managers' fees for 2014.

Please remember: The dinner is not just for the players of winning teams - it's for ALL players in POPS and their spouses. Everyone is welcome to attend each year.



## **2013 All Star Games**

This year's POPS All Star games were held at year-end due to lack of field space as a result of the large number of rainouts. There were good games in both the 40 & Over and 50 & Over divisions. The All Star shirts looked good, Bill Bogatz did his usual spectacular job as MC, and everyone had a great time.

In a continuing effort to improve this tradition, in 2014 the All Star classic will be held mid-season and will be combined with the annual Charity game.

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## **Fall Ball - Another Successful Season**



Our 6<sup>th</sup> season of POPS Fall Ball was a tremendous success. We had 14 teams this season, split into 2 divisions. Some teams were complete summer league teams, while others were a mix of players from various teams. The fall season is a great way to play with and against new players - a good chance to meet more POPS guys.

As we've done for the past, Fall Ball games were umpired by 2 POPS players - Directors, Managers and other players with umpiring experience. Based on the feedback we received, this once again worked very well. Some actual comments: "Andy E. is a great ump", "I wish Andy E. could ump all of my games", "I love Andy E's outfits".

Thanks again to Tony Spataro for running a smooth season and personally keeping the field playable.

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## **Father and Son League - The 2nd Season Was**

### **Great!**

The 2nd season of POPS Father and Son League is now behind us. I think all participants will agree that it was another success. Think about it - an opportunity to play ball with our next generation.

We had 6 teams and played on Thursday nights during the POPS Fall Ball season. It was all about fun with lots of joking and a relaxed style of play. It was great to see the fathers do all they could to impress their young relatives - and definitely not always succeeding! And we were all impressed at the talent waiting in the wings to participate in POPS down the road.

We envision expanding in 2014 and seeing this league grow just like the Fall Ball has over the past several years. If you did not participate in 2013, consider doing so in 2014.

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### **Ideas? Suggestions? Concerns?**



If you have an idea, suggestion, or concern relating to POPS, please tell your manager or any director who will bring it up at the next Board meeting. Or contact the Commish...Keith Pastuch at: [commish@popssoftball.com](mailto:commish@popssoftball.com). We value your input and will address any concerns you may have.

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### **Can You Stop the Rain?**



I looked around for ways to prevent games from being rained out. I came up with - a bunch of spells that have been proven to prevent rain at a specific location. Please try them out and let me know if you are successful. Remember to chant these with lots of feeling!

Hear my thoughts, hear my plea, mother nature I call on thee,  
Stop the rain, I ask of thee, hear my plea so make it be.

Gods of power, Gods of might, I bid you now, stop this plight,  
Stop the rain, we need no more, let it fall, nevermore.

Wind, water, fire, and earth, please make it stop raining under this hearth,  
Water stop dropping your drops, wind stop blowing your blow,

And please do this now as I have said so.

Morrigan goddess of the storm, I ask for your help in every form,  
Turn it back into the sea, absorb it into the rock into the tree,  
Send this storm far from me, and if my Goddess does agree, then please make it be!

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