

# Calhoun a triple threat in senior competition

By Kirk Kern  
*Mesquite Monthly*

Herb Calhoun moved to Mesquite in 2010 to retire after a successful career in real estate in Vancouver, Washington. Ten years later, he's as busy as ever.

Not only has Calhoun continued his real estate career, but he also plays a key role in Mesquite Senior Games: as both a participant and a member of the board of directors. He even runs the concession stand during softball tournaments. All at age 78.

"I just want to stay active and help give seniors some activities to do," Calhoun said. "Mesquite Senior Games gives everyone the opportunity to participate in their chosen sport with others their same age. ... We even have events for those that don't have a lot of athletic skill or ambition. We have a lot of events like poker and putting contests."

Amy Bradshaw, director of Mesquite Senior Games, said the organization relies on people like Calhoun and others who devote a good deal of time to the cause.

"At 78 year old, I've never seen a guy work so hard," she said. "He's been the chief workhorse of this organization and he never ceases to amaze me. He's also been a great steward over the entire organization. He's been a wonderful help to me since I only started with MSG in



**Herb Calhoun**

December 2018. He has taught me so much. He loves these games."

When Calhoun first moved to Mesquite, he participated in softball. Since then, he's also added track and field events (50 and 100 meter dashes) and the long drive contest.

"I've always liked to be active, from high school teams, service softball teams and local softball teams though my 40s," he said. "Now, I'm into old guy softball."

Calhoun plays second base and outfield and says he's a fairly good hitter.

"I can't hit it far, but I can find the open grass," he said.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit in March, the Senior Games season was just getting under way. But just like pretty much everything else, COVID-19 wiped out the rest of the schedule.

"We were able to get through two or three events," Calhoun said. "The long drive was the last event before we shut down."

Calhoun, who had won the long drive many times in the past, finished third this year. His best drive was 246 yards. In his "younger days," Calhoun won the event with drives of 288 and 267 yards.

"I felt like I never got a real good connect," he said.

The softball season was just getting started when everything was shut down and track and field — along with all the other events — never even got started.

Although actual competition had to be cancelled, about two months ago Gov. Steve Sisolak relaxed restrictions to allow teams to practice, although social distancing and other limitations must be followed. Calhoun says softball players practice every Monday and Wednesday. And although they can't play locally, the Huntsman Games are still planned for early October in St. George.

If the Utah event takes place, Calhoun will be pretty busy. He's signed up to play for two teams out of Detroit along with the Mesquite squad.

Right now, Mesquite Senior Games is hoping to schedule a regular slate of events and games beginning in February as usual. They also have a bowling event scheduled in August and possibly pickle ball and horseshoes in the fall.

Mesquite Senior Games first started in 2001 as an offshoot of the Nevada State Senior Games. The city had just built a new recreation center and some new ballfields and Frank Pati took the reins to build a very successful senior softball tournament that attracts teams from 42 states.

**WELCOME MESQUITE MONTHLY!**



**Mesquite Senior Games hopes you all stay Mesquite Healthy, Mesquite Safe, and Mesquite Strong.**

Sign up at [www.MesquiteSeniorGames.org](http://www.MesquiteSeniorGames.org)

So we can tell you when we're back in action with fun events!