



Building the Fields of Dreams!

B.A.J.A. Sporting Club

Article and photos contributed by Chuck and Mary Lu Catino.



*2007 winners of the over 70 tournament
at the Tucson Showdown.*

A new community park with softball fields is underway in Green Valley that brings new opportunities to the area, thanks to the Born Again Jocks Association (B.A.J.A.), and other community leaders.

In 1997, a committee of interested softball players from the Green Valley area started meeting to review and discuss the viability of forming a team sports group.

Many of the members of the committee at that time had played and/or coached competitive sports in high school, college and the military.

In 1998 the BAJA Sporting Club was formed as a non-profit organization in Arizona by Jim Kelly, Chuck Catino, Ray Fleener, Mickey Green, Jim Carr, John Fawcett and Ivan Allison.



Chuck Catino at new site.

In 2004 B.A.J.A., in partnership with National Resources Parks and Recreation, received a Block Grant of over \$47,000 to complete field #2 at Sahuarita Park.

*Dreams
become a
reality for
many area
residents!*

Recently Chuck Catino, one of the founders of B.A.J.A., has been working with a developer who has now donated around 57 acre parcel of land on Camino de la Canoa to Pima county for a Green Valley Community Park.



*Work has begun with local businesses and volunteers
helping clear the area.*

The organization has now grown to approximately 500 family members including 130 softball players, 120 golfers, and 60 bowlers. One portion of the Park will have a four-field softball area, managed and maintained by National Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) with assistance from B.A.J.A.



Gary Grizzle and Karol Stubbs at new site.

Phase One, which is all pro bono by Community Organizations, has now been nearly completed.

Early March 2011, perc tests were complete, with the cleaning, grubbing, and grading underway. Caterpillar, FICO, the WLB Group, the Anza Trail Coalition, B.A.J.A and the Marine Corp League have volunteered to help with debris removal maintenance.

Phase Two and Three will be completed with Tax Deductible donations to the Pima County Parklands Foundation, a 501c3, restricted for Project #137.

Contact Gregoria Tucker at: Pima County Parks and Recs, 3500 W. River Road, Tucson, AZ 85741 for more information.

Phase Four, a \$4 million Tier 1 Bond Issue when passed, will complete this project.

B.A.J.A. has served the Greater Green Valley Area in assisting with charitable events, local civic programs, Little League Baseball umpiring, roadside cleanups, Habitat for Humanity building projects, and local Food Bank drives.

They work with and are supported by the Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce, the Green Valley Council, the Green Valley Community Foundation, Pima County Council on Aging, Green Valley Recreation, Green Valley Assistance Services, Hazardous Waste Pickups and many other businesses.

B.A.J.A. Sporting Club has a game plan.

Their mission is to assist active seniors to maximize their retirement years.

Their vision is to be the “Best Senior Sporting Club” and service organization in Pima County.

Their values are dedicated to providing legendary, organized, recreational and social activities to their members.



2009 B.A.J.A Rec League Champions with mascot Gordo.