

**APPENDIX 1:**  
**CHAPTER REPORTS**

## CHAPTER LEADERS

Clarence Watkins  
Lamar Smith  
Madison McEntire  
Ryan Broad  
Scott Levens  
Rian Crowther  
Barry Bloom  
Marlene Vogelsang  
Barry Mednick  
John Moist  
Gregory King  
Daniel Boyle  
Thomas Larwin  
Paul Parker  
John Paul  
Bill Achbach  
Mike Sullivan  
Stephen Krevisky  
Larry Levine  
Peter Cottrell  
Dave Raglin  
Julio Rodriguez  
Sam Zygnier  
Sean Holtz  
Mel Poplock  
Gregory Chaberski  
Rod Caborn  
David Larson  
Matthew Keelan  
John F Hill  
Craig Brown  
Tim Rask  
R.J. Lesch  
Richard Hansen  
David Malamut  
Bill Griggs  
Noel Fliss  
Pete Cava  
Steve Kraha

Michele Pepe  
Ichiro Shinohara  
Yoshihiro Koda  
Harry Rothgerber  
Richard Cuicchi  
Daigo Fujiwara  
Joanne Hulbert  
David Laurila  
Jim Winston  
Stephen Maniouakis  
Bernard McKenna  
Peter Coolbaugh  
D. Bruce Brown  
Gary Gillette  
Douglas Redford  
Howard Luloff  
Tom Flynn  
Hans van Slooten  
Doug Skipper  
Stew Thornley  
Roger Erickson  
Mike Webber  
Brian Flaspohler  
Jeff Ecker  
Jim Leefers  
Mark Dugo  
Chris Dial  
Kieran Kelly  
Terry McDermott  
Gary Herron  
Dave Kunsman  
Kris Shepard  
Rick Swift  
Ben Pawlowski  
Jeff Katz  
Evelyn Begley  
Ryan Brecker  
Richard Gibson  
Stephanie Liscio

Joe Shaw  
Blake Sherry  
Rick Huhn  
John Lewis  
Mark Miller  
Steven Lauer  
Howard Johnson  
Allen Tait  
David Matchett  
Barry Naymark  
Seamus Kearney  
Dick Rosen  
George Skornickel  
Jorge Lopez  
Patrick Carpentier  
Robert Duval  
Leonard Levin  
Patrick Bourgo  
Thomas St. John  
Brian Purvis  
Mark Aubrey  
Skip Nipper  
Warren Simpson  
Gilbert Martinez  
Jan Larson  
Monte Cely  
Ryan Pollack  
C. Paul Rogers  
Jeff Wood  
Bob Dorrill  
Bruce Greenberg  
Stephen Laski  
Patrick Carroll  
Leonte Landino  
Gil Reyes  
Bob Russon  
Tip Wonhoff  
Richard Schabowski  
Dinesh Bajagain  
Keshav Thapa

### **Col. Abner Doubleday-Judge Howard Green Chapter (Abilene, TX)**

We continue promote the SABR at Vintage Base Ball events in our area of West Texas. We have also promoted it in graduate, and some undergraduate, classes at Angelo State University, where I direct the graduate program in Coaching, Sport, Recreation, & Fitness administration. One of the professors even assigns a project every fall on Baseball History as part of a Sport Sociology class.

Our local SABR and Vintage Base Ball leaders did hosted our second annual Baseball Heritage Symposium weekend on April 1, 2017 at Fort Concho in conjunction with its 150th anniversary year events. Best of all it was again promoted and reported about on local TV, radio, print media, and on across the Angelo State University campus. We doubled our attendance from our first attempt a year ago. A major highlight was our featured speaker, Lefty O'Neal, a former (white) Negro League Veteran!

The program included 7 presentations in addition to a SABR Recruiting presentation. The presentations were as follows:

Baseball After the Civil War

The Evolution of the Game

Interactive Vintage Baseball Skills Clinic

BOOK SIGNINGS BY invited local authors

Baseball Leagues and Memberships Opportunities

Memories of the Negro Leagues

Chicago Cubs and the Curse of the Billy Goat

Baseball Games Off the field (table games, etc)

Once again several folks donated baseball books and cards as giveaway door prizes and trivia contest prizes. We were also able to give away College Hall of Fame media guides left over from past induction ceremonies; previously donated by a the Director of the College Baseball Hall of Fame (Dr. Mike Gustafson); as gifts to all attendees.

We continue to market the SABR whenever we can and are looking to possibly publish an article about the organization in the Authentic Texas magazine. While we do get quite a few college students to come to these events and participate we have been unable to increase local membership. When asked why they wouldn't join if they "loved" baseball and its history. The overwhelming reply is lack of money. I realize the membership fees for those under 30 years of age is quite reasonable, it just may not be cheap enough in today's current economy.

Again I put forth the idea of perhaps it is time to consider a lower or a special "2 Years for the Price of 1 year" membership fee for students. This is done by several educational associations that design fee structures just for student members. Often times this entices student members and the younger you get them the higher the probability you can retain them.

The West Texas region is large and very spread out. This could be one of the reasons we have some difficulty in retaining and growing new members. It is something myself and some others have been pondering. The hope is to find a way to generate more interest and attendance in our yearly program. Marketing is essential but it's a bit hard when everyone is working full time in different areas. That is why we have determined that we will try to develop consistency by holding our annual symposium the first weekend in April yearly for the foreseeable future.

### **Allan Roth Chapter (Los Angeles, CA)**

Sept. 24, 2016

Twenty seven members and guests met in La Habra. Mark Langill, Dodger Historian, discussed Vin Scully's amazing career. James McConnell, biographer of Bobo Newsom, offered insight into his book and the antics of Newsom. Andy McCue, presented research on Del Webb and the 1961 expansion, indicating the haphazard and volatile nature of the situation. Jim Battenfield displayed his collection of Dodger replica gear and reviewed the history of baseball in its infancy. The trivia contest focused on twenty-game losers.

SABR Day, 2017

Seventeen members and guests met on SABR Day, 2017, in La Habra, California, for a lively and rewarding meeting. David Ezra presented his outstanding analysis of the case against Barry Bonds, which he documented in his book "Asterisk—Home Runs, Steroids, and the Rush to Judgment." Ezra, an attorney, spoke for over an hour to a spellbound audience about the lack of real evidence against Bonds. Tom Wellman talked about his research into the Sherman School for Native Americans and the highly successful baseball teams the school produced. Don Zminda presented his photographs of the South Side

Hitmen, as the 1977 White Sox were known. He brought to life the exciting season and ultimate disappointment that Chicago fans experienced that year. Barry Mednick conducted a trivia contest on single game records, leading up to a discussion of Mike Benjamin's remarkable accomplishment of 14 hits in a three game span in 1995.

#### **Auker-Seminick Chapter (Orlando, FL)**

The Auker-Seminick Chapter has been inactive the last year. We have found a general lack of interest among the Central Florida members.

Rod Caborn and I have put out a request the group to see if there is someone else who would like to re-energize the chapter. But to date, no one has stepped up.

We will try again for a meeting in the next couple months to gauge interest.

#### **Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter (Baltimore, MD)**

This is the second annual report of the Babe Ruth-Baltimore. We are pleased with what we have been able to accomplish in our sophomore season.

Our activities since SABR 46 last summer in Miami have included:

Organization: This winter we re-elected Board member Peter Coolbaugh to begin his first full term as Vice-president and Michelle Freeman, former Board member at large to Chapter Secretary, replacing retiring member Bernard McKenna. Our newly-elected member at large is David Stinson, who now begins his two-year term. Marty Payne is our chapter editor (see below) and Ruth Sadler has accepted the challenge of getting our web site up and functional. The chapter (<http://sabr.org/chapters/baltimore-babe-ruth-chapter>) is now 120 members strong and growing at a steady pace.

Second Annual Chapter (SABR Day) Meeting: We met again at Towson University (Gary Levy is our "in" there.) and with 30+ in attendance, we heard great presentations from - Adam Pohl, veteran minor league broadcaster,

- Ted Patterson, legendary Baltimore sportswriter and original SABR member,
- Phil Hochberg, long-time sports broadcaster,
- Larry Sheets, former Orioles outfielder and current high school varsity coach,
- Richard Hershberger, SABR historian specializing in the evolutions of rules and
- Kevin Tenenbaum, from the Orioles' Analytics department.

Bruce Brown again delivered some tough but appropriate trivia (attached).

Annual Major League meeting: Our second SABR/Orioles meeting at Camden Yards on Saturday, May 20, with speakers, a ballpark dinner and game with the Blue Jays. This is a tradition that we plan to continue every season.

Annual Minor League meeting: Another tradition likely to stay with us in perpetuity is our yearly minor league event. On Saturday, August 13, 2016, before watching the Frederic Keys play the Potomac Nats, we heard from

- Dave Ziedelis, General Manager of the Keys,
- Geoff Arnold, Director of PR/Radio Announcer for the Keys and
- Keith Bodie, Field manager of the Keys

In 2017, we will co-sponsor minor league events in Aberdeen, Maryland and Altoona, Pennsylvania.

"The Called Shot". Beginning in the middle of the year, we launched a brown-bag lunch program for members to gather every month. Named "The Called Shot", we meet at the Babe Ruth Museum in mid-town Baltimore mid-month, mid-week at mid-day and with several members in attendance, there's always a lively baseball discussion.

"The Baltimore Chop". With Mary Payne at the helm, this spring we had our first issue of our quarterly chapter chronicle with a title honoring the rich baseball heritage of Charm City. All issues will be on our chapter web site

### **Bob Broeg Chapter (St. Louis, MO)**

The Bob Broeg SABR Chapter meets twice monthly. The Original Crusoe's Restaurant in South St. Louis is the location for the more formal monthly meetings, usually on a Monday or Tuesday, from February thru December. These meetings follow an agenda that includes any old or new business topics, a today in baseball history segment, research presentations, book reviews, a 13-run pool during the season, time for some general baseball discussion, and concludes with a trivia quiz. The average attendance at these meetings during the past year was 17 members and guests.

This past year saw the chapter begin holding less formal meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at the Sports Café in Bridgeton. These meetings have no agenda, and generally include watching a game, good food and drinks, and in-depth baseball discussions on a variety of topics.

On Saturday, August 20, 2016, the chapter held its second annual Research Conference at the Indian Trails Branch of the St. Louis County Library. There were four presenters: Brian Flaspohler – “Racial Bias in Hit By Pitch Data”; Bob Tiemann – “Rating Today's Ballparks – A Whirlwind Tour”; Ron Wolf – “The 1886 National League Kansas City Cowboys”; and Tommy Schaff – “Getting Maximum Leverage from All-Star Game Attendance”. All four presentations were very informative and enjoyable, and the judges chose Flaspohler as the recipient of the second annual Jim Rygelski Research Award. The 2017 conference will be held on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

At the October meeting, Barbara Sheinbein was pleased to announce that she had been chosen to serve on SABR's “Diversity & Inclusion Committee”. It was discovered last year the ballpark marker, that the chapter had placed on the site of Robison Field had been stolen. The chapter will work toward replacing it this year.

Another project the chapter is currently working on is the development of a database containing baseball sites in around the St. Louis area, with hopes of publishing it in some form.

The chapter held its annual Hot Stove Luncheon at Favazza's Restaurant on SABR Day, January 28, 2017 with 48 in attendance. Featured speakers this year were former major league pitcher and current scouting director for the St. Louis Cardinals, Randy Flores; 2007 Spink Award winner Rick Hummel; Dan Martin, sports cartoonist for the St. Louis Post Dispatch; and Gary Kodner, author of “St. Louis Cardinals Uniforms & Logos”. The current officers were retained for this year and are as follows: Brian Flaspohler – President, Jeff Ecker – Vice-President, Jim Leefers – Secretary, and Wayne Hebden – Treasurer.

### **Bob Davids Chapter (Washington, D.C.)**

The Bob Davids Chapter, covering the Washington DC and the mid-Atlantic area along with the Babe Ruth Chapter in Baltimore, had a very successful year. It was the first full year since the Babe Ruth Chapter was formed, and the two chapters worked together to help spread the word of SABR throughout the region.

The Chapter has three annual events: a Washington Nationals game event, a minor league game event, and the Annual Meeting for SABR Day. The Annual Meeting, held on Saturday February 4, was a huge success. We had about 140 people at the meeting, held at the same location that we've held the Annual Meeting for the last few years in Arlington, VA. (We feel that helps attendance, as people are familiar with the venue.) Our most interesting speaker was Glenn Donnellan, a violinist with the National Symphony who has played the National Anthem on his “Electric Slugger” (a baseball bat violin he created) for Nationals games. He started the meeting with the Anthem and led us into lunch with “Take Me Out to the Ballgame”. Other speakers included Paul Dickson, talking about his new book on Leo Durocher, Bruce Adams and Tim Wendel on their respective Cuban baseball trips, Jerome Nelson on baseball arbitration, Mark Zuckerman of MASN on the Nationals, and Mark Pankin, subbing for Dave Smith with Smith's award-winning presentation from the National Convention on relief pitching.

The minor league game last year was a trip to Potomac where 20 members saw the P-Nats take on the Frederick Keys on August 20, 2016, and the major league game was on June 6, 2016, with 60 members seeing the Nationals-Phillies game. This year, the minor league game, in conjunction with the Babe Ruth Chapter, will be in Aberdeen on July 29, and the major league game will be in Washington on August 26.

The chapter also sponsors three monthly events that have been going on for years—Talking Baseball in Columbia, MD, on the first Saturday of the month, a Hot Stove dinner the second Wednesday of the month in Arlington, VA, and another Hot Stove Dinner the second Tuesday of the month in Silver Spring, MD. The Arlington dinner had to move around a bit for the first time in years—the restaurant we were at for years closed, as did the one we picked to replace it. Fortunately, we have settled into another restaurant that proved to be a good choice. If you're going to be in the DC area, especially during the times of our monthly meetings, let us know and we'd love to have you come on by!

### **Boston Chapter (Boston, MA)**

Since the last SABR convention in Miami, Boston Chapter members have participated, organized and held several major events in and around Boston.

On August 11, 2016, Ty Waterman was instrumental in bringing to the attention of the Red Sox organization, the significance of Harry Hooper and his four appearances in Red Sox World Series winning seasons. Several Boston chapter members attended, and we met with Hooper family members after the meeting at the Bleacher Bar. As a successful endeavor as it was, to bring history to the attention of the Red Sox organization, a clear example of who we are and what we do.

The annual Boston Chapter Fall Meeting was held on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at the WBUR radio studio on Commonwealth Avenue. A walk over to the site of Braves Field after the meeting and adjournment to the Dugout Café concluded the meeting at a rather late hour.

The MLK Day meeting on Monday, January 16, 2017 was held at The Baseball Tavern, as usual, a high attendance gathering at a time of the year when we need the most an infusion of baseball to carry us over to Truck Day, Spring Training and Opening Day. Along with the several presentations that included Red Sox historian Gordon Edes, Clayton Trutor on the Tony Conigliaro winners and the history of the award, Donna Halper on "Honoring Black Baseball Writers" and David Kaiser on "The Luckiest Pitchers," we also welcomed Dave Wallace, former pitcher and coach. Dave said this was the first time he had "done anything like this- giving a talk to a group of presumably intimidating baseball researchers" – he was calmed by the atmosphere of a classic, comfortable barroom and he was pleasantly surprised by the reception he received, and "hey, I'd do this again!!" And we will hold him to that.

Each year near Opening Day, for the past few years, we have participated in a joint program with the Gibson Museum on Beacon Street in Boston. The theme is always Boston baseball history. This year, on May 9, historians Bill Nowlin, Donna Halper, Wayne Soini, Joanne Hulbert and Robert Goodof contributed knowledge and history to this year's theme, "Boston's Colorful Characters" a subject that has no end of stories.

Also, Boston Chapter members have offered their help and expertise in projects. Dixie Tourangeau's plea to Northeastern University to remember the South End Grounds and be aware of its location and history was successful and proposing a plaque be placed near the site.

Joanne Hulbert assisted Erez Ben-Akiva, a student at Brookline High School with a project he was working on about the Federal League. How Erez became interested in such a relatively obscure part of baseball history – for a teenager at least, started when he purchased a baseball cap and he learned about the history of the team represented on that cap. Always good to encourage a new generation of baseball researchers.

As this report is being submitted, plans are being organized now for a program on June 3, at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Boston, where Mike King Kelly and 12 other baseball players are buried. Working with the Mt. Hope staff, we will bring greater understanding about those buried there, as well as several that the staff had no knowledge of.

Baseball research is never done, and we here at the Boston Chapter are constantly finding new stories and history sometimes just buried beneath the surface. We will keep digging.

### **Bresnahan-Mudhens Chapter (Toledo, OH)**

The Roger Bresnahan/Mud Hens Chapter of SABR enjoyed two events during the 2016/2017 year. On August 15 of 2016 chapter members attended a game at Fifth Third Field between the Syracuse SkyChiefs and the Toledo Mud Hens. Over twenty members and friends attended the game on a cloudy evening with pleasant temperatures in the 70's. The home-standing Mud Hens took an 8 to 1 loss before a decedent crowd of 5,589. The SkyChiefs received excellent pitching, as starter Austin Voth and 3 relievers held the Hens to 5 hits and 1 run. Toledo starter Cesar Ramos was touched for 5 earned runs in 4 plus innings of work.

We started out the 20167 season in May, by taking in another game at Fifth Third Field. The game was played on May 7, and it pitted the Mud Hens against the Louisville Bats. It was a cool but sunny Sunday afternoon, and our small but loyal group was rewarded with a 6 to 5 Mud Hens victory in 10 innings. The home team used 5 pitchers to eke out the victory in the first extra frame. The Bats tied the game at 5 to 5 in the top of the ninth after the Hens had taken the lead in the bottom of the seventh. In the bottom of the ninth James Loney singled for Toledo, and he moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Argenis Diaz. Michael Almanzar then doubled to right field to score pinch runner David Lough with the game winner. Daniel Stumpf had pitched a perfect top of the tenth to gain the win for the hometown nine.

### **Carolina Chapter (Durham, NC)**

The SABR Carolina Chapter had good year – the meetings kicked off with Speaker Bill Nowlin in September. Bill regaled the group with stories of Ted Williams and the BioProject. We also met on SABR Day, where we heard from members about writing for BioProject and opened baseball cards.

We had a get together on Opening Day to watch the Cardinals and Cubs, and continue to work with the local teams to have an outing. We also met with the NC Baseball Museum to see where we could have a joint project.

We look forward to the continued momentum after many years of inactivity.

### **Casey Stengel Chapter (New York, NY)**

The Casey Stengel Chapter of New York City held its annual meeting on National SABR Day, this year Saturday, January 28, 2017 at the Mid-Manhattan branch of the New York Public Library. Chapter leader Ernestine Miller coordinated the day's program (10 am-3:00 pm), welcomed well over 100 attendees, and moderated the events of the day.

Marc Appleman, SABR Chief Executive Officer, discussed the growth of SABR and the exciting plans for SABR 47, the National Convention in New York City from June 28-July 2. Volunteers were encouraged to join a local committee work and 2 dozen members signed up to make SABR 47 a success!

Kristie Ackert, the New York Daily News beat reporter for the New York Mets, shared the history and personalities of New York baseball as well as the new realities of the game as she delivered "Meet the Mix: Covering the experience-based old school and the new age data-driven Mets." Additionally, she shared with us the Mets outlook for 2017.

Marty Appel, author, historian, and baseball Public Relations man, distributed for all the complete first chapter (in booklet form) of his latest book "Casey Stengel: Baseball's Greatest Character" and the New York Times bestselling author also presented his research of Charles Dillon "Casey" Stengel, one of the most iconic figures in baseball history. Stengel is the only man in baseball history to have been affiliated with all four New York teams: Dodgers, Giants, Yankees, Mets.

Steve Nadel asked the audience, "Where were you, before 2014, when we needed you?" as a partly tongue-in-cheek opener for his presentation "The Replay Rule" that focused on critical calls made before 2014 which would have been overturned by the current Replay Rule and therefore would have changed baseball history.

Eric Weiss supplied trivia for the younger set as well as for the more seasoned baseball trivia enthusiasts. Besides being the proprietor of the Bergino Baseball Clubhouse (on 11th Street in Greenwich Village, Manhattan), chapter member Jay Goldberg makes major donations each year to the raffle prizes during our meetings. All year, Goldberg hosts baseball book authors, former ballplayers, and other events.

Webmaster Kevin Carter created a brand-new chapter website with more links and updates to member sites, Facebook and other social media, including youth baseball blogs.

### **Cliff Kachline Chapter (Cooperstown, NY)**

Our chapter year began when we met on July 24, 2016 after the Hall of Fame Induction of Mike Piazza and Ken Griffey, Jr., the second largest Induction ever (50,000) in Cooperstown. We had a solid turnout of our own, over 40 people. Erik Sherman discussed his latest book, *Kings of Queens*, a *Boys of Summer*-type account of the 1986 Mets. Mike Aronstein, baseball card pioneer and co-founder of TCMA, had the crowd in stitches with his account of the ups and downs of the card business. Bill Himmelman, former NBA historian, gave an informative presentation on multi-sport athletes.

We next met on October 15 at the Bullpen Theater at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Historian Bill Deane gave a fun (and funny) look at the history of the hidden ball trick (Bill's book, *Finding the Hidden Ball Trick* is the definitive volume on the subject). Bruce Markusen tied baseball and Halloween together with stories and pictures of Boris Karloff playing ball dressed in his Frankenstein monster costume and the ghoulish "Foul Play!" a classic horror story from EC Comics' *The Haunt of Fear* (May/June 1953). Gabe Schechter gave us an account of the colorful career of Charlie Berry and HOF senior curator Tom Shieber showed photos and film of early baseball board games. The great thing about meeting at the Hall is that Tom was able to bring out some of the games for us to see!

Our SABR Day meeting was held on Saturday, January 28, 2017, again at the Bullpen Theater at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Mike Hauser and David Karpinski told us about the history of Parkhurst Field in Gloversville, New York, and plans to restore this ballpark to its rightful place in history. Peter Henrici handed out his latest data on Hall of Farmers and the accurate dates of their election and

Induction (as well as what group elected them). Mike Piazza walked us through a century-old baseball postcard that caught his eye. Jeff Katz gave the recently revived SABR Baseball Cards Committee and blog, Facebook page and Twitter feed a push.

### **Connie Mack Chapter (Philadelphia, PA)**

Since our last report in 2016 the Connie Mack Chapter has organized: our Annual meeting [June 2016], 2 Hot Stove Sessions [February and March 2017] and our annual SABR Day gathering in January 2017.

2016 Annual Meeting, June 2016

33 members attended the gathering to listen to research presentations from members:

#### PRESENTATIONS

Matt Albertson: Update on Jefferson Grounds historical marker

James Hawking on "How to Use a Scorecard"

Paul Ember on "40th Anniversary of the Bicentennial All-Star Game on Baseball Cards"

Seamus Kearney, Update on 75th Anniversary of Ted Williams Walk

Dick Rosen "The California Winter League"

Jerry Casway on "The Phillies Come to Philadelphia"

Matthew Whitehorn on "Jews in Baseball"

#### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Bob Warrington, "The Phillies Spring Training Experience at St. Petersburg in 1915"

Courtney Smith, "Ed Bolden and the Philadelphia Stars"

John Shiffert, "The 20 Greatest Baseball Books of All Time."  
and former player and executive, Howie Bedell

SABR Day 2017

We had 38 members in attendance at the Temple Center City site.

#### Presentations

Steven King on "Andy Coakley: Man of Mystery"

Phil Williams: 'Joe Bush's Tragic 1913 Offseason'

Ed Morton: The ball, double cover to cork center

Seamus Kearney on John Kruk, a baseball life

GUEST SPEAKER: Howie Bedell & Jim Bronson

Charles Kupfer: will present on his book on 1979-1982 Orioles

Mark Kanter: A CubaBall Trip

Dennis Link: "Tom Terrific" Almost a Phillie

#### HOT STOVES

##### FEBRUARY

Because of flooding at our regular venue we were unable to host our

December Hot Stove

February's featured a long-awaited member recap of the 2016 season.

Go Cubbies!!



## MARCH

Stephan Glassman: "Baseball Movies at The Razzies." The Razzies are Oscars for bad movies.

Matthew Dodge: "2016's Unexpected Leadoff Hitters"

Mike Gimbel: Top 10 Teams + Phils WAR/RPA

Our 2017 Annual Meeting is scheduled for September.

### **Dayton Chapter (Dayton, OH)**

The Dayton (OH) SABR Chapter has held their two regular meetings since the last convention. Our regular November meeting was held Saturday Nov.12 at the University of Dayton Library. Ten members and six guests were present to hear three member presentations, our bi-annual Trivia contest, our annual book auction and our featured presentation by Jeff Mercer the baseball Coach from Wright State University.

The May meeting was Saturday the 13th in the Media Room at the Dayton Dragons 5th/3rd Field. Eight members and four guests attended. Presentations were made by three member plus guests author Mark Figley on his book Queen City Dynasty, Dragons pitcher Patrick Riehl and former major leaguer and Dragons coach Kevin Mahar. Those attending had the opportunity to watch Dragons' batting practice and attend the game that evening.

### **Detroit Chapter (Detroit, MI)**

The Detroit Chapter was privileged to hold its annual SABR Day 2017 meeting again in the Friends Conference Room at the beautiful Detroit Public Library in Midtown Detroit. The meeting began with the screening of a short new promotional video about Hamtramck Stadium.

Joyce Stearnes Thompson and Rosilyn Stearnes-Brown, daughters of Hall of Famer Norman "Turkey" Stearnes, were featured guests at the meeting. Other featured guests were former Negro Leaguer and legendary Detroit prep coach Ron Teasley and Mike Wilson, founder of the Woodbridge Baseball Academy.

Joyce gave a presentation entitled "A Stearnes Family Album" before she and Rosilyn answered questions about their father and their family history. Later in the meeting, all four featured guests participated in a fascinating panel discussion on "Black Baseball in Detroit", moderated by chapter MC Steve Weingarden. Afterward, many members attended the annual Babe Ruth birthday party at Nemo's venerable sports bar near the former site of Tiger Stadium.

In the second half of 2016, the Detroit Chapter enjoyed two convivial meetings at community bookstores that focused on well-known Michigan historians and authors.

In August, the chapter met at EVERYbody Reads bookstore on the East Side of Lansing, engaging in afternoon-long, wide-ranging discussion of the works of the eminent Peter Morris, former SABR member from the Lansing area. Peter accommodated the attendees by taking questions for hours about his impressive oeuvre. After the meeting, many members attended the Midwest League Lansing Lugnuts game, where SABR member and Lugnuts broadcaster Jesse Goldberg-Strassler as the host.

In November, the chapter met at Pages Bookshop in Northwest Detroit to discuss the works of highly respected Detroit area journalist and author Tom Stanton. Tom read from his new book, Terror in the City of Champions, and graciously took questions from the attendees for the rest of the afternoon about several of his popular works.

Brandon Robetoy maintains our chapter's informational Web site at [www.SABR-Detroit.org](http://www.SABR-Detroit.org), which has audio clips and other information from chapter meetings.

### **Emil Rothe Chapter (Chicago, IL)**

In 2016-17 the Chicago SABR Chapter participated in the following activities ...

August 27, 2016: Lisle Library Meeting

On August 27, 2016, the Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Lisle Library. The meeting included a presentation by Evan Gersonde, General Manager for the DuPage Drones (a summer college league team playing in the Prospect League); a presentation by chapter member Jim Walker who gave insight into his research of predicting Major League baseball's standings; and a presentation by chapter member Matt Mitchell who gave a summary of the baseball-related research he presented at the 2016 Joint Statistical Meetings held in Chicago. □

November 19, 2016: Cubs World Championship Celebration in Little Italy

On November 19, 2016, people gathered for lunch at Pompeii in Chicago's Little Italy neighborhood to celebrate the Cubs' 2016 World Series Championship.

January 28, 2017: SABR Day with the Milwaukee and Chicago Chapters

□ On January 28, 2017, in commemoration of SABR Day, there was a joint meeting of the Chicago and Milwaukee (Ken Keltner) SABR Chapters at The Brat Stop in Kenosha, WI. The meeting was co-organized by Rich Schabowski of the Milwaukee chapter and David Malamut of the Chicago Chapter.

Speakers included writer Scott Lindholm, on starting pitchers and complete games, and Chris Kamka of CSN Chicago.

April 1, 2017: North Riverside Library Meeting

On April 1, 2017, over 20 people gathered for a meeting of the Chicago SABR Chapter in celebration of the return of the baseball season at the North Riverside Public Library. The meeting followed a baseball book fair held at the library and featured a presentation by Chuck Billington, author of Wrigley Field's Last World Series: The Wartime Chicago Cubs and the Pennant of 1945; a discussion with Jim Flood, who served as a Cubs batboy in the 1968 and 1969 seasons; and a viewing of highlights from 1945 World Series.

May 4, 2017: Ring Lardner Induction into Chicago Literary Hall of Fame

On May 4, 2017, the Chicago SABR Chapter served as a co-sponsor for an event held at the Newberry Library which celebrated Ring Lardner's induction into the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame. The event included a reception featuring materials from the library's Ring Lardner collection and was by a program featuring veteran sports journalist Ron Rapoport, Lardner's grandson James Lardner, Brian Bernardoni, Don De Grazia, James Finn Garner, Christina Kahrl, and Fred Mitchell.

### **Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan Chapter (Dallas, TX)**

The Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan DFW Chapter had several events during the last 12 months. We met on May 18, 2016, at the Legends Museum Auditorium at the Globe Life Ballpark where our special guest was Dr. Bobby Brown, former third baseman for the New York Yankees and former President of the American League. The 91 year-old Brown shared stories from his time with the Yankees in the late 1940's and early 1950's involving Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, Casey Stengel, and Marilyn Monroe, to name just a few. Dr. Brown spoke for about 45 minutes but the chapter would have been happy for him to continue speaking into the night. The chapter also heard from Homer Bush, former major league infielder with the Yankees, Blue Jays, and Marlins and current Director of Youth Baseball for the Texas Rangers. Bush spoke about his baseball career and also his work with the Rangers in supporting and encouraging baseball in the inner cities. About 75 people attended, one of the chapter's highest attendance figures ever.

The chapter next met on September 29, 2016 at the same location. Our special guests were Bobby Jones, video replay coordinator and coach for the Texas Rangers who was completing his 50th year in professional baseball, and Don (Full Pack) Stanhouse, former major league pitcher with the Rangers, Expos, Orioles, and Dodgers. Both spoke about their lengthy professional baseball careers and Jones gave behind the scenes insight into the challenge rules stemming from video replay.

The chapter also met on December 15, 2016, in the Hyundai Club of Globe Life Ballpark. Our first speaker was Evan Grant, Dallas Morning News Rangers' beat writer, who gave the chapter an up-to-date Hot Stove look at the Rangers off-season. Our second speaker was chapter Vice-President Bo Carter, who spoke about his new book about Dizzy Dean's broadcasting career, co-authored with the late Gene Kirby, titled Dizzy – Dean of Baseball & My Podnah. Bo spoke about his collaboration with Kirby, who was the producer for Dean's Game of the Week telecasts during the 1950's and early 1960's.

The chapter also had a booth at the Rangers Winter Carnival on January 21, 2017 where chapter members, led by Jeff Wood, visited with and encouraged patrons to join SABR.

In addition, the chapter, led by Bo Carter, awarded its annual Howard Green SABR Metroplex Collegiate Player of the Year Award to co-winners Darick Hall, All-America first baseman-pitcher from Dallas Baptist University and TCU pitcher-DH Luken Baker. This marked the 24th presentation of the award, which is named in honor of the chapter's founder Howard Green. Chapter President Paul Rogers and Vice President Bo Carter presented Hall with his award at the DBU Baseball Banquet on February 10.

Hall started at first and was also one of the top rotation pitchers in the MVC with a .302 batting average, team-most 20 home runs, 72 RBI, 9-3 mound record, and squad high 94 strikeouts to compliment a 3.43 earned run average. The Arizona resident had the second-most homers by a DBU standout in the post-2004 NCAA DI history while the 72 RBI represented the fourth-best total in DI Patriots history as do his 94 batters struck out. He was the first DBU player to attain All-America honors from five different publications, was 2016 Joe Carter MVC Player of the Year, first team All-MVC, MVC All-Tournament, and Lubbock Regional All-Tournament. He also was a finalist for the 2016 CBF John Olerud Two-Way Player Award and semifinalist for the prestigious Dick Howser Trophy. Baker literally carried coach Jim Schlossnagle's Horned Frogs on his back as they won the Phillips 66 Big 12 baseball tourney, the NCAA Fort Worth Regional and the College Station Super Regional en route to TCU's third appearance in the NCAA World Series in the last four seasons and 2-2 mark in Omaha.

The 6-4, 265-pound true freshman from Spring, Texas, was named Outstanding Player in the Big 12 tourney at Oklahoma City with a .682 batting average (15-for-22, tourney-record 15 hits, four homers, and 11 RBI). Then he followed that by going 5-for-10 (.500) in the NCAA Fort Worth Regional and a 2-for-4 evening with three RBI to pace the Frogs to their opening win over host Texas A&M in the Super Regional. Later, the freshman belted a three-run homer against Texas Tech to propel TCU to a 5-3 victory over Texas Tech in the 2016 NCAA World Series opener.

A consensus first team Freshman All-America, Baker was first team All-Big 12, conference Freshman of the Year, NCAA Fort Worth Region All-Tournament, and Big 12 Newcomer of the Week on two occasions. He was also 3-1 as a pitcher with a 1.70 ERA in 10 starts along with 41 strikeouts in 47 2/3 innings before switching almost exclusively to the designated hitter's post. The yearling was one of four TCU players to start all 67 games and topped the Big 12 in batting average at .379, total hits with 94, runs scored at 59, and RBI with 62. He tied Josh Watson for the Horned Frogs' team high of 11 home runs and was tied for second in the Big 12 by drawing 45 walks.

The chapter also awarded the fifth annual Carroll Beringer SABR Metroplex Collegiate Division Player of the Year Award, named for Carroll Beringer, long-time chapter member, former Texas League All-Star and Player of the Year (1959) and major league coach with the Dodgers and Phillies. Beringer, who passed away in 2011, was very active in supporting college baseball in the area. The award is for the top Metroplex collegiate player from four year colleges playing Division II, Division III, or NAIA baseball. The fifth award winner was East Texas Baptist first baseman Conner Combs. Combs, the American Southwest Conference 2015-16 Male Athlete of the Year, racked up multiple awards for the ETBU Tigers. The Southlake, Texas, product and son of Pat Combs, former Major League pitcher and a Baylor pitching legend, was the most highly decorated player nationally in 2016 NCAA Division III baseball.

Conner Combs was 2016 CoSIDA NCAA Division III Academic All-America of the Year along with being ETBU's first-ever CoSIDA Academic All-America first team selection voted on by the College Sports Information Directors of America and the first ASC student-athlete ever to attain CoSIDA Academic All-America of the Year in any sport.

The junior in eligibility from Southlake completed his bachelor's degree in three years and was the ASC's Player of the Year, All-ASC, ABCA All-West Region, and both D2baseball.com and American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings All-America second unit. He led the ASC in home runs in 2016 with 15 and was the conference pacesetter in slugging percentage at .734. He also was second in ASC RBI with 52 and total bases with fifth in hits with 63. In final NCAA Division III stats, Combs was fourth in home runs overall and in the Top 10 in homers per game. He won the 2016 ASC Scholar-Athlete Baseball Medal of Honor award and was ETBU's Distinguished Scholar-Athlete and Community Service Award nominee.

### **East Tennessee Chapter (Knoxville, TN)**

We met three times in 2016.

January 30, 2016 - SABR Day

Former MLB player Buddy Gilbert was our main speaker at SABR Day. Mark Aubrey made a short presentation about the Nomadic Appalachian Cannery of 1940, as well as providing an overview of his research on the Appy League. Marshall Adesman led a discussion about banning the Save stat.

August 6, 2016

We met on the grounds of Historic Ramsey House in Knoxville to watch a vintage baseball (the Knoxville Holstons hosted the Franklin Farriers.). Ken Mayes, one of the Holston players, talked to us about the equipment and rules of the game. There were 2 SABR members present and 8 guests.

November 19, 2016

There were 14 members and guests in attendance at the East Tennessee Historical Society for the final 2016 meeting of the East Tennessee Chapter of SABR. Maryville College Baseball Coach Cody Church shared some of his coaching philosophies and recruiting ideas that's made the MC Scots a winning program. Bryan Steverson reprised his presentation from the 2016 Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference, "Brothers in our Game". It looked at established ballplayers, coaches and executives that reached out and formed a bond with incoming players of different races. Bryan gave a very good and impassioned talk. Mark Aubrey presented some fluff research, looking at which league won the World Series when which president was in the White House. He could not find any correlation between the WS results and which party held office at that time. After a two hour meeting, which included the typical off topic discussions, several of us went to the Blue Coast Grill & Bar to continue the baseball talk.

### **Field of Dreams Chapter (Des Moines, IA)**

Activities during the past year:

June 12, 2016

Steve Elsberry hosted an informal gathering at Principal Park in Des Moines for a Pacific Coast League game between the Iowa Cubs and Round Rock Express (the I-Cubs lost, 10-7)

January 29, 2017

The Chapter held its SABR Day in America meeting, albeit the day after SABR Day.

Ten members and guests met at the Twisted Vine Brewery in West Des Moines to talk baseball and enjoy some fine beers.

Steve Elsberry provided a chart outlining the number of no-hitters, by franchise, from 1901 to 2016. Steve was inspired to make the chart when he noted his Giants had no-hitters in four consecutive seasons, from 2012 through 2015, and he wondered if any other franchises had accomplished that feat. (Answer: yes, by the Dodgers and more specifically, by Sandy Koufax all by himself).

John Liepa spoke about his upcoming presentation at the Des Moines Civil War Round Table. John will be speaking on "Baseball's Origins: Reaching Iowa, and the Role of the Civil War" at the Round Table on April 19 at the Cub Club inside Principal Park in Des Moines.

May 21, 2017

Fourteen chapter members and guests gathered in Suite 314 at Principal Park in Des Moines on Sunday for a chapter meeting and Iowa Cubs Baseball game.

We had a terrific guest speaker, Tommy Birch from the Des Moines Register. Birch covers the Iowa Cubs for the Register, and he offered insights into the life of baseball at the Triple-A level. Although covering a minor league club may not be as glamorous as the same job in the Majors, it sounds like Birch still has a great time at his job.

The Tacoma Rainiers beat the I-Cubs in a slugfest, 8 to 7.

### **Forbes Field Chapter (Pittsburgh, PA)**

SABR DAY 2017

Craig Britcher and Dan Martin shared visuals of where the first ball field was located on the North Side. San Reich did his annual report on the latest Hall of Fame Inductees. He then informed us he is moving to Florida. He will be missed. Regina Connolly of the Pittsburgh Opera gave us a preview of "The Summer King," an opera about Josh Gibson premiering in May. After lunch, Eliza Richardson discussed whether or not high pitch count and near no-hitters threaten pitchers' careers. GeorgeRyden won our trivia contest and we concluded with Brian Engelhardt discussing the importance of minor league games in Reading.

May 6, 2017

We opened with Pete Peterson discussing and signing copies of his book "The Slide." Joe Guzzardi regaled us with the 100 year history of "Who's Who in Baseball." George Skornickel gave an update on the Pud Galvin gravestone which will be installed in the fall. George then gave an account of the career of Amos Rusie, pitcher supposedly responsible for the pitcher's mound being moved from 45 feet to 60 feet and six inches. George Ryden recounted his experiences as a memorabilia dealer. Special guest Kent Tekulve related his experiences as a member of the 1979 world champion Pittsburgh Pirates.

### **Grantland Rice-Fred Russell Chapter (Nashville, TN)**

The Grantland Rice-Fred Russell (Nashville) chapter attended a Nashville Sounds game together at First Tennessee Park on July 7. Sounds VP of Operations Doug Scopel met our group under the iconic guitar scoreboard and told us about construction of the ballpark.

We also met at the Nashville (Downtown) Library on Saturday, October 8 to view "Play! The Art of Mike Schacht". Mike's wife, Linda, met us and guided us through her husband's exhibit.

Our chapter celebrated SABR day on Saturday, January 28th, as we acquired a table for our group at Lipscomb University Baseball's First Pitch Dinner & Auction. 2012 Cy Young Award winner and current Atlanta Braves pitcher R. A. Dickey was featured speaker and some of us were able to greet R. A.

### **Halsey Hall Chapter (Minneapolis, MN)**

The Halsey Hall Chapter has been one of SABR's most active chapters for years and 2016 was no exception as the chapter had a table at TwinsFest Jan. 29-31.

For the first time in chapter history, attendance exceeded 40 member for the Halsey Hall Chapter Spring Meeting April 9. Former Twins infielder Julio Becquer was the guest speaker and research presentations were on Baseball: The Early Years by Denny Laudel; Dan Levitt's presentation was The Nuances of Free Agency: How Collective Bargaining Agreements Affect Team Building; Phil Lowry's presentation was on International Baseball Competitions 1857 to the present; Bob Tholkes on pioneer George Wright and Lee Temanson on Norman Rockwell and Baseball.

On May 14, Jon Leonoudakis brought his documentary Hano! A Century in the Bleachers that also included a panel discussion that featured chapter member Stew Thornley. Two days later on the 16th, chapter member Hans Van Slooten gave a special presentation on his website [baseballreference.com](http://baseballreference.com).

Michael Hauptert organizing an outing to LaCrosse on July 9 in conjunction with a Loggers game that ended on a squeeze bunt in the 10th inning that won the game for the Loggers. Twenty people were in attendance for a trivia contest, an official scorer's panel and guest appearances by the team's general manager and broadcaster. Several members also took a road trip to an amateur baseball game on July 23 to see the Miesville Mudhens in action at Jack Ruhr Field.

On October 29, another attendance record was set as 64 people attended the Fall Meeting which was highlighted by Pete Gorton's presentation on Negro Leaguer John Donaldson. Other presentations were by Sarah Johnson on Baseball in France and its ties to Minnesota; Michael Fallon on How the Dodgers Saved Baseball in 1977 and Rich Arpi on Baseball at Stillwater State Prison. Former Twins infielder, manager and broadcaster Frank Quilici was the guest speaker.

Other events included bimonthly breakfasts at Curran's in Minneapolis and book and video club meetings.

### **Hank Gowdy Chapter (Columbus, OH)**

During the past year the chapter continued to sponsor established activities and added new ones. The following is a list of this year's activities:

-- July and August, 2016—Columbus Clippers games at Huntington Park. Prior to each game our members met in the ballpark's Hall of Fame Bar to talk baseball with Ken Schnacke, Clippers President and GM, and Joe Santry, Clippers team historian. 25-28 members and guests attended each.

-- October 2016 - Our annual event, members of the chapter met at the BW3 sports bar on Polaris Parkway to watch Game One of the 2016 World Series.

-- Quarterly SABR Baseball Book Club – Our book club meets at various Columbus Metropolitan Public Library branches to discuss each quarter's selection. Blake Sherry was the moderator. Generally attended by about 20 members. Each discussion is then followed by a lunch at a nearby restaurant.

May 2016 – The Sizzler: George Sisler, Baseball's Forgotten Great by Rick Huhn; the author is a member of our chapter and participated.

August 2016 – Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy, by Jane Leavy

December 2016 – The Victory Season, by Robert Weintraub – the author participated by phone.

February 2017 – The Catcher Was a Spy: Mysterious Life of Moe Berg, by Nicholas Dawidoff

-- November 2016, January and March 2017– Informal Hot Stove Baseball talks. These were conducted at the public library and also included continuing discussing over lunch at a local eatery. This was a new activity for our chapter this year.

-- March 2017-- Online draft for Chapter Fantasy Baseball. Conducted through Yahoo Fantasy Sports site and administered by chapter member Aaron Koch.  
-- April 2017 -- Another annual event, members of the chapter met at the BW3 sports bar on Polaris Parkway to watch MLB Opening Day baseball.  
-- April 2017--Winter Meeting - This year's annual SABR Day meeting at the Whetstone Public Library was attended by 33 members. The featured speaker was Jeremy Feador, Indians Curator on "Preserving Cleveland Indians History; Baseball's First Team Hall of Fame". Local presenters were Steve Leppert (A Game of the Past, or is it? The Ethan Allen Cadaco Baseball Game), Steven Hernandez (Molesworth and His Men) and Len Gucwa (A Man for Two Seasons). Rick Huhn was the moderator. As usual a trivia contest, Hall of Fame balloting, and a book raffle were included.  
-- April and May 2017 -- Several Ohio State Baseball games attended by 8-12 members at each game.

### **Hemond-Delhi Chapter (Phoenix, AZ)**

The just concluded fiscal year was an eventful one for the newly-renamed Hemond Delhi Chapter, beginning with Vice President Barry M. Bloom being honored with a nomination and concluding with leadership changes and a new chapter name.

Bloom was suggested to a panel of the Baseball Writers' Association of America as a nominee for the J.G. Taylor Spink Award, given annually to honor lifetime achievement in print journalism. While the award was eventually voted to Clare Smith, Bloom stated he was honored just to be thought of in that vein.

At SABR 46 at Miami in July, Bloom moderated player panels featuring Don Mattingly, Barry Bonds and Andre Dawson. A highlight was a one on one conversation between Bloom and long-time friend, then Marlins hitting coach Bonds.

Throughout the year our members stepped up to promote the values of SABR membership and community involvement by volunteering at baseball related events including Arizona Diamondbacks FanFest and the Arizona Major League Alumni Golf Outing. In addition, Bernie Pleskoff, Jacob Pomrenke, and Don Drooker have lent their talents to the Sun City Speakers Guild. Members Chuck Johnson, Rodney Johnson and Pomrenke have contributed pieces for the BioProject, Book Project and Research Journal.

In November we hosted the eighth annual Arizona Fall League Experience. Attendees saw four AFL games at four different ballparks including the Fall Stars game at the Surprise Recreation Campus. On Friday evening, attendees enjoyed a pre-game barbecue on the patio at Scottsdale Stadium, which featured former major leaguers Lou Klimchuck, Byron Browne and John D'Aquisto. The event was highlighted by a surprise guest, AFL Executive Director Steve Cobb who regaled the audience with stories of past AFL players including the first alum elected to the Hall of Fame, Mike Piazza. On Saturday, Pleskoff and Bloom headlined a morning of baseball panel discussions. Pleskoff's analysis of Fall League prospects is always well attended.

We suffered a significant loss in early November with the sudden passing of co-VP Mark Smith. A longtime member of the Oakland Athletics front office, Smith was just 41 years old.

In January, Chapter co-founder and longtime President Rodney Johnson announced he would step down due to health reasons. Johnson made many contributions to SABR over the years including serving a four year stint on the National Board of Directors and landing the National Convention for Phoenix in 1999.

At SABR Day in January, elections were held to fill the positions of President and Vice-President. Chapter members unanimously elevated Bloom to President, with Tony DeMarco elected VP, filling the spot previously held by Bloom and the late Mark Smith. Chapter Co-Founders Chuck Johnson and Bill Suphan were elected Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

The panel discussions included a lively presentation by Pleskoff, who had just returned from a baseball-related trip to Cuba led by chapter member Marty Lurie, who conducts weekend pre and postgame shows for KNBR before and after Giants games. Bloom, DeMarco and D'Acquisto led a long discussion about the Hall of Fame vote, which had great audience participation and has become an annual staple of the event.

Additionally, it was voted to change the name of our Chapter, adding that of longtime SABR member Roland Hemond. A legendary figure in the game whose career dates back over 60 years, Hemond currently serves as a Special Assistant in Scouting and Player Development with the Arizona Diamondbacks. It was also voted to honor outgoing President Johnson with the title of "President Emeritus." Both Hemond and Johnson were presented plaques recognizing their achievements in a pre-game ceremony prior to a recent Dbacks game.

We are now known as the Hemond-Delhi Chapter and have updated our Twitter and Facebook pages to reflect the changes and will soon launch a new and improved website.

In March, Pleskoff was granted membership in the Baseball Writers Association of America, joining fellow members Barry Bloom and Tony DeMarco.

As we move forward into a new year we are excited with our recent changes and a new direction. We are looking to expand our partnerships with the Arizona Major League Alumni, Arizona Diamondbacks and Arizona Fall League. Our Executive Leadership will once again play prominent roles at SABR 47 in New York City. Our new social media platforms and website will allow for more interaction with our members and eventually members around the world.

### **Hoyt-Allen Chapter (Cincinnati, OH)**

2016 SABR Day Meeting of the Hoyt-Allen Chapter of SABR, Cincinnati, OH

Agenda

9:00 - 9:15: Introductions and General Information

9:15 - 9:45: Mark Bricker (SABR Member & Researcher): Statistic Analysis of Key Cincinnati Reds Players During the 41-9 Streak During the 1975 Season

9:45 - 11:00: Mark Sheldon (MLB.Com) & C. Trent Rosecrans (Cincinnati Enquirer) – Discussion, Stories and Q&A

11:00 - 11:10: Break

11:10 - 11:40: Doug Feldmann (SABR Member, Author, MLB.Com): Reds vs Cubs on 9/3/1969 at Crosley Field – Discussion on the game and the two-hit shutout performance by Jim Maloney.

11:40 - 12:30: Chris Felix (Chris Felix Fine Art) – Discussion and presentation of examples of his art, and his passion and continued involvement in baseball

Summary

Approximately 30 people attended the 2016 SABR Day Meeting on January 30, 9:00am in the theater at the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame & Museum. Following the meeting, attendees were invited to tour the museum, including the new Bobblehead Exhibit, free of charge.

Prior to presentations, the group discussed the following topics:

How can we increase membership, attendance at meetings, etc

How can we publicize the chapter more effectively (social media)

Potential ideas for philanthropic initiative

Members also signed cards for fellow members, Dick Miller and John Schleppe. Each had experience health issues recently.

Plans for 2017

We had planned to hold a chapter meeting on SABR Day in 2017 but were unable to do so due to a combination of problems, mostly with scheduling presenters. I have since spoken with the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame & Museum about holding a meeting sometime during this season but specifics have not yet been determined.

On May 8, several SABR members participated in a ceremony to dedicate a grave marker in Wesleyan Cemetery for former Cincinnati Reds player, Fred Waterman. He was the starting third baseman for the first all-professional 1869 Cincinnati Reds. The cemetery had reached out to local baseball historians and the Reds HOF after locating the unmarked gravesite. The group collectively funded the creation and installation of the marker.

### **Jack Graney Chapter (Cleveland, OH)**

Over the past year the Jack Graney Chapter (JGC) has revised its leadership approach to one by committee and has conducted three very successful meetings. The leadership team going forward consists of long time SABR members Dave Bodemer, Greg Crouse, Morris Eckhouse, Stephanie Liscio, Joe Shaw, and Joe Wancho. One of the leadership team's first efforts was to conduct a survey of the current JGC members to ascertain topics of interest for future meetings and then used these inputs to plan the three meetings conducted. The team also initiated efforts to mount a social network campaign (Twitter, Facebook) to reach out to non-SABR members who might be interested in attending future meetings and hopefully becoming SABR members.

Two of the meetings were held in partnership with the Baseball Heritage Museum located at League Park, the home of the Cleveland Indians for over 50 years and the oldest Major League Baseball stadium in the country. The first meeting was held on December 3 and the featured speaker was architect/artist Thomas Woodman. Tom gave an informative talk on some of the lesser-known facts about League Park and then JGC members were treated to a display of some of Tom's legendary ballpark artistic creations.

The second meeting at League Park was held February 4 and the featured speaker was Matt Underwood, television broadcaster for the Indians. Matt provided a most informative and lively talk about the history of former Cleveland pitching great Addie Joss and shared information that later became part of a 30 minute television documentary that debuted earlier this spring on the local Fox Sports Channel. Matt also shared some of his personal experiences from covering the Tribe during its exciting, almost World Championship run in 2016 and his thoughts on the 2017 season. A second speaker at this meeting was Jeremy Feador, the Cleveland Indians' historian who delighted the over 50 people in attendance with stories about the Cleveland Indians' Hall of Fame.

On April 22, The JGC held its spring meeting at Canal Park in Akron, OH home of the Indians' AA-affiliate the Akron RubberDucks. The meeting was planned with the help of RubberDucks' staff and the featured speaker was Mr. Ken Babby, the owner of the RubberDucks. Ken gave a very informative and interesting talk on what it is like to own a minor league baseball team and how it might compare with owning a major league team. Ken also talked about some of the challenges he faced with refreshing the baseball team's brand when he purchased the franchise almost five years ago. After the meeting, JGC members attended the RubberDucks' game with the Altoona Curve, the AA-affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The JGC leadership team is finishing the planning for our fall meeting which will be held November 4 and beginning to make plans for our all day winter meeting which we hope will again be at Progressive Field, home of the Indians.

### **Juan Marichal Chapter (Santo Domingo, DR)**

Summary of our activities for the year 2016,

The chapter had 11 monthly meetings, at the evening hours, usually a 8:00 PM to 10:30 PM affair. No meeting took place in December, because this month Dominicans have too many social activities and we preferred to have a vacation.

We had as guests major league players Juan Marichal, Julian Javier, Osvaldo Virgil, and the poet Miguel Batista. Also we had the Dominican Winter League's only triple-crown winner Domingo Michel.

Average attendance to the meetings was 14 people. We send pictures of several of these meetings that were published in the weekly SABR news.

We gave plaques to our guests and have trivia questions contest about them. The winner was the member with the most correct answers, who then received a bottle of wine and a card signed by our guest

In April, we had our April Fool's contest, where the members predict who will win the World Series in October (or November). There is a form they fill out predicting the winner of the Wild Card games, division winners, National League and American League Champions. They receive a point for each correct prediction but, if they do not predict who will win the World Series, no matter what other predictions they did correctly, they are disqualified. Out of 14 contestants, the winner was Domingo Jimenes, who got 8 points and received a trophy and a bottle of wine.



### **Ken Keltner-Badger State (Milwaukee, WI)**

The Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter of SABR maintains an active role promoting baseball in our state. Our meetings are held at J&B's Blue Ribbon Sports Bar, located near Miller Park, and Major Goolsby's in downtown Milwaukee. The advantages of these locations are easy accessibility for attendees, especially for visitors from out-of town; an excellent audiovisual system for presentations, and the proximity to Miller Park, allowing meeting attendees to also attend games at Miller Park, and proximity to the downtown area. Our recent Guests of Honor have included: Brewers radio announcer Jeff Levering, former player and Brewers TV analyst Dave Nelson, and STATS Inc.'s David Schultz.

We also have a lot of presentations from members at our meetings. Our Chapter continues to celebrate SABR Day having a joint meeting with the Chicago Chapter. The meeting takes place at the Brat Stop in Kenosha, Wisconsin, which is a good half-way point for us to meet.

We're planning a meeting on July 29 at Major Goolsby's. Our Guests of Honor are Gregg Hoffmann author of the recently released book "Immortalized in Bronze," a history of the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, and Bob Buege who also has a recently released book, "Borchert Field: Stories from Milwaukee's Legendary Ballpark." Bob Buege and Rick Schabowski are members of the Milwaukee Braves Historical Association and contribute articles to their newsletter, "The Tepee." The Association holds two Banquets each year. Larry Baldassaro, and Gregg Hoffmann are contributors for the Brewers publication, Brewers Game Day, which is distributed for all Brewers games at Miller Park. Gregg Hoffman maintains a web site called the Midwest Diamond Report, which has great info on Brewers, Cubs, Twins, White Sox, and minor league activities.

Our chapter officers are: President: Rick Schabowski Vice-President: Matt Bednarski. Treasurer: Dennis Degenhardt Secretary: Tom O'Connell

Our chapter has not accepted or requested SABR funding. We have been and expect to remain financially independent and self-sustaining.

Our meetings are free and open to all.

The website for our Chapter is at: <http://www.keltnersabr.com/>. Feel free to contact me with any questions at RICKIU76@aol.com or by calling me at 414-322-4997.

### **Kekionga Chapter (Fort Wayne, IN)**

It is doubtful that any other chapter experienced the highs and lows of the Kekionga Chapter last year. Here is an excerpt from last year's report:

Our goals are twofold, to increase our membership and attendance and to correct the plethora of errors by the Hall of Fame, Baseball Reference, and nearly every other source about the location and details of what was long recognized as the first major league game, but is now considered the first game in a professional league.

In September our founder, Bob Gregory lost his long battle with cancer, but that nadir begat our zenith. Bob's final correspondence with me indicated that rather being remembered for any personal accomplishments he would rather see a monument recognizing the correct location of the Kekionga ball grounds. Unfortunately he passed within the next few days and did not live to see it, but his dream came to fruition on May 4, 2017, the 146th anniversary of the first major league baseball game, now known as the first game in a professional league. The work was a coalition of diverse people creating a confluence of efforts striving for the same goal. Many of the people who contributed the most may have never heard of SABR or Bob Gregory, and just wanted Fort Wayne to receive its just due, while others did it in express tribute to Bob and his legacy.

We essentially did this in quasi-partnership with the Northeast Indiana Baseball Association who had done the original work in 1971 while still named the Fort Wayne Oldtimer's Baseball Association. In a recent communication to the local chapter I wrote: We can never thank the people enough who made this possible. I know I will leave many out, but here are a few in approximate chronological order:

Bob Parker and the FTW Oldtimer's Baseball Association who did the work originally and arranged a dedication in 1971 by Mayor Zeis with the unfulfilled promise of a future marker. Don Graham who unearthed newspaper accounts of that dedication and rekindled the idea and connected us with NEIBA, the current incarnation of the FTW Oldtimers' Association. Bob Gregory whose love of 19th century baseball gave us the impetus to do this. Geoff Paddock who cut all the red tape with the city and tirelessly supported our efforts. Steve Krah who referred us to Archie Monuments who specialize in baseball monuments. Tim Tassler who acted as treasurer for the fund-raising and handled all the stuff that would have driven me crazy. (Those that know me, substitute "kept" for "driven.") Mike Nutter and the Tin Caps

who were the first to pledge support and everyone after them. Dave Stalker for being the liaison between Archie Monuments and us. Blake Sebring who helped us publicize our efforts and wrote undeserved kind things even before our check cleared. Mindy Gregory for donating books and being very supportive of our efforts and Caitlin who helped catalog and transport them. Archie monuments for doing a magnificent job and quoting an exceptional price. The myriad of contributors too many to mention who donated and bought books including SABR & NEIBA, The Fort Wayne Park Board for helping us plan, as well as receiving, storing the monument, and even landscaping the area. Everyone else who supported us whose name I either omitted for space considerations or because I am too stupid to remember them all. (You choose which).□

In late October I visited the Hall of Fame as a representative of the Kekionga Chapter but found the research area was closed on Saturdays. I was able to later contact Cassidy Lent via email, who was nice enough to email me their files on the May 4 game. I found a letter by historian Al Kirmisch who called the site first Harrison Field then Hamilton Field and called for virtually a national celebration and a plaque to commemorate the 100th year anniversary of the event in 1971. This would have been absolutely hilarious because while the HOF and the myriad of his other proposed invitees including the vice president of the United States were celebrating at Central Catholic HS, where no known baseball game has been played since 1863, the mayor and local baseball historians were celebrating the same thing at the former Kekionga ball grounds. That letter either caused or was the result of the mass confusion surrounding the true location. The ultimate irony is that most of Fort Wayne forgot the true location within two years and from that point most probably would have been over with the VP on his annual trip to FTW to celebrate the first game. Of course, the VP lasted only slightly longer than the Kekionga ball grounds.

I include that for the sole purpose of demonstrating the frustration that we have had to deal with, so that you will understand why it is so important for the Kekionga chapter to extirpate any mention of Hamilton Field, which absolutely, positively unequivocally never existed. I also sent the HOF an essay I wrote proving that there never was a ballpark named Hamilton Field in the history of Allen County, Indiana. I am reluctant to submit it for publishing because I do not own any of the copyrights for the maps I used as reference.

Baseball Reference never did respond to my email, but either took down or hid their page on Ft Wayne ball parks which unfortunately had every single item wrong which has got to be some sort of record. As you can see they are still claiming that the first game was played in a ball park that never existed.

The monument is being received very well by the local residents, most, if not all, of whom had no idea they were living upon historic ground, or perhaps to us, hallowed ground. It has generated a fair amount of publicity that hopefully will leave the local community without excuse and put an end to the endless false proclamations of the location of the May 4 game. We still have a long way to go as the Baseball Reference blunder above proves, but I would give us an A on that portion. Unfortunately it sets the bar beyond reasonable reach in the future. There is virtually nothing we could do to match this year. We just do not want to be Joe Charboneau. I am not sure there is whole lot more we can do to correct the errors. John Thorn sent a very nice note. If he is on board, most of those problems will eventually be solved. I think until SABR issues a definite statement in some form accessible to the masses that the May 4, 1871 was definitely played at the Kekionga ball grounds, the controversy will never fully die because so many prominent writers have written to the contrary that their works will live on to falsely contradict everything we have done. Our other goal met with mixed success. Attendance was up until the last meeting which I hope was an anomaly because several people had conflicts. We had two new people express interest because of the publicity the monument generated but have yet to follow through on it. I have contacted Mike Nutter of the Tin Caps about speaking, but have not heard back from him. Realistically the pursuit of the monument sapped most of our time and energy. Because we were waiting on particular speakers to commit who never did and monument related events to happen, we limited ourselves to only three meetings. I will attach summaries of those meetings. We expect at least four in the next 12 months.

At this point our goal for the coming year is to get better at everything we do, especially finding more ways to attract baseball fans of all kinds. I am afraid that we have the image of a bunch of nerds who sit around arguing about who was a better shortstop, U.L. Washington or Buddy Biancolana. Now that I think of it that may not be all that inaccurate, because that is what we enjoy the most, though we would probably be arguing who was better Bobby Mathews or Al Spalding. (Al's mistress and second wife was the first wife of 1870 Kekionga captain, George J.E. Mayer.) I will continue to contact websites that have gross errors on Kekionga baseball, but that is more an individual goal, than a group project. Most do not respond and continue to post their nonsense.

Our chapter is fortunate to have experts in several diverse areas. Tim Tassler has done extensive research on early 20th century baseball, black baseball in particular. I can't imagine there is anyone on the face of the earth who knows more about black baseball in Fort Wayne. Mark Souder probably understands the connection between politics and baseball as well as anyone. Roger Hawks has no peer that I am aware of on college baseball, especially local colleges, and Don Graham, who is not a member but attends every meeting, is the undisputed most knowledgeable person on all Fort Wayne sports. Hopefully, I can speak authoritatively on the Kekionga base ball club of Fort Wayne. I believe the secret to group success is finding the most optimal way to utilize the talents and knowledge of those around you. This was, is, and will continue to be my ultimate methodology.

Since writing the above I have scheduled the rain-delayed ceremony for the monument on May 20. At that point we must turn the page and find new projects.

### **Korea Chapter (Seoul, South Korea)**

The chapter currently has eight members, but only two currently residing in Korea. I know a couple of people here with jobs in the baseball industry and have spoken to them about joining, but they have not decided yet. Additionally, there are a few ex-members that I am trying to persuade to rejoin.

We didn't have any official meetings in the past year, but I have met with the other member that lives here individually, and had a few informal gatherings with him and non-members. During these meetings we talked about trying to arrange a more formal meeting.

One main issue regarding this chapter is that I am working for a Korean baseball team, which significantly limits what I can do for the chapter publically. While I'm still willing to remain involved, and handle administrative related matters of the chapter, I'm still looking for someone who can replace me in terms of publicity matters and who is less restricted with the types of limitations I have.

Another issue, which I have mentioned before is related to attracting new members in Korea. The price for a global membership is \$65, which I think is a barrier to recruiting new members here in Korea. I know that it has been reduced, but it is still a little high, especially for younger baseball fans here. As an overseas member, it's difficult to take advantage of many of the perks of being a SABR member and given that electronic options are available for the publications, I'm not sure why the global membership is priced the way it is.

I spoke with Dan Evans from the Rocky Mountain Chapter last year about exploring possible collaborations between the two chapters. We will continue to discuss this. I have also spoken to the Tokyo chapter about doing something with them, but nothing concrete has been set.

Additionally, I have met a few people interested in Korean baseball cards here and am trying to get them to join SABR and have mentioned the relaunched Baseball Cards Committee to them.

My plan for the rest of this year will be to try to have a few informal events to promote SABR here and try to recruit a few more Korea based members and continue talks with the other SABR chapters.

Chapter Officers:

Chair / Secretary: Patrick Bourgo

#### **Larry Dierker Chapter** (Houston, TX)

During the past 12 months our chapter met 14 times to share the joy of baseball. Following is a report on those activities.

May 16th. We held our regular monthly meeting attended by 36 members. Guest speakers included Joe Perez, president and Erika Everett of the relatively new OTW Bat Company that furnishes OTW bats to many major leaguers including Jose Altuve and Colby Rasmus. Local members Jim Kreuz reported on the Rogers Hornsby's chapter annual meeting and Mike Vance spoke on an upcoming Astrodome presentation.

June 10th. The Houston Babies, our vintage baseball team played a game against the Barker Red Sox at Constellation Field in Sugar Land, Texas as part of the Sugar Land Skeeters "Turn Back the Clock Night". The professional game followed our contest. It was HOT!

June 27th. Former St. Louis Cardinal pitcher Andy Chavazos, a member of 2007 club, talked about playing for Tony LaRussa as a rookie and the hazing. Funny now but not too pleasant then. He was followed by former Detroit Tiger Jim Foor who spoke about playing baseball in the 1950s. They were followed by former Houston Astros Public Relations Director Wayne Chandler who told us about his part in designing the Amazing Astrodome Scoreboard.

August 27th. Our annual meeting at Minute Maid Park prior to an Astros game. The team made their boardroom available to us and we were honored to have Astros President Read Ryan address our members and then take multiple questions. 80 members and friends attended.

September 19th. Carl Warwick former Astro and St. Louis Cardinal along with his wife Nancy attended the session. Carl made it a point to introduce himself to everyone in the room and then went on to talk about his early career, his signing bonus and playing with Stan Musial and Bob Gibson. Herb Whalley told us about attending the Annual SABR Convention in Miami and his goal of visiting every MLB park.

October 17th. . It was a huge honor for our chapter to recognize one of our own, Houston Astros broadcaster Bill Brown who is retiring after 30 years with the local ballclub. We had a special memento prepared for Bill and presented it to him. When asked what he was planning to do in retirement Bill said "Attend more SABR meetings". Bill, who is a regular attendee in the off season, took a number of questions and was very candid about the team and their prospects for the future.

Phil Boudreaux, Bill's longtime associate who produces statistical information of the television broadcasts shared his vast baseball knowledge and showed us stats he has developed over the years. Bob Dorrill talked about fulfilling a "bucket list" item by sitting in the television booth with Bill Brown on his next to last broadcast. We also congratulated Ira Liebman on the Skeeters Atlantic League Championship and Ira brought the winning trophy for all to see.

November 21st. Brian McTaggart of MLB.com who primarily covers the Astros was our featured guest. Brian has keen insight into what is taking place within MLB and had interesting comments about the makeup and selection process for Baseball's HOF. He also shared with us his new book "100 Things Astros Fan Should Know and Do before they Die". Cliff Roberson shared his experience at the recent SABR Arizona Fall League Experience, Mike McCroskey reported on his recent visit to the Negro League Baseball Museum and Bill McCurdy shared a story about former Houston Buff Jerry Witte.

December 19th. Greg Lucas, former Fox broadcaster led a spirited discussion on analytics vs analysis and how player performances have changed over the years. He feels some of the new metrics go far beyond what is needed. Tony Cavender made an excellent book report on "This OldMan", Tal Smith talked about membership in the Hall of Fame. He believes that an individual is a HOFer or he is not. Bill Brown brought his new book "Breathing Orange Fire, Jose Altuve" and was swamped with requests for autographed copies.

January 16th. Our very special guest was Houston Astros Manager A.J. Hinch brought to us by Sarah Smith. A. J. spoke for about an hour and a half about his club, their prospects for 2017 and his efforts to create a positive attitude in the clubhouse and at spring training. Some of his ideas to introduce new players to the team were really funny. Bill McCurdy and Mike McCroskey were also on the agenda.

January 21st. In conjunction with the Astros Fan Fest our chapter staffed a table promotion SABR. We had 12 volunteers, including Bill Brown, who interacted with some of the 10,000 fans in attendance and passed our free baseball cards to those who stopped by our booth.

February 20th. Maxwell Kates, a friend of the chapter and SABR member from Toronto, Canada came all the way from the cold country to be with us for 4 days. At our meeting MK discussed his special interest on 3 members of the 1969 Miracle Mets. At the conclusion of his remarks Greg Lucas presented Maxwell with the very unique gift. Joe Thompson then discussed his research on "Mexican Baseball in Houston", also the name of his new book. Mike Vance brought us up to date on the current status of the project to preserve the Astrodome and Larry Dierker, who has a vested interest in the Dome made some comments on both the ballpark and the 1969 Mets. Jim Kreuz then told the infamous Mike Vance, Ferguson Jenkins and Jody Davis story

March 29th. We were pleased to have former Houston Astro Jeff Calhoun with us. Jeff now heavily involved with a church here in Houston told us about his travels from Ole Miss where he was an All American and minor league All Star to being low man in a major league roster. Bo Carter, co-author with Gene Kirby of "Dizzy Dean and my Padnah" was next and he entertained us with lots of Diz stories.

April 8th. It was vintage baseball time again as the Houston Babies were invited to participate in the Sealy, Texas Spring Fest. The team played a doubleheader against the Red Sox and only modesty prevents me from providing the scores.

April 17th. Kevin Roswell, just back from the SABR Analytics Convention filled members in on the presentations and activities there with a slide show. Greg Lucas introduced his new book "Houston to Cooperstown, The Houston Astros Biggio and Bagwell Years" and we announced that 33 members had entered the 2017 Astros win contest.

May 8th. Back to Constellation Field to take in a Sugar Land Skeeters game. Skeeters broadcasters Ira Liebman and Brett Dolan came by to say howdy and answer questions. On display was the championship ring given to each player and staff.

At each of our regular meeting we had a trivia contest that was prepared by the previous winner. Some contests were of the PHD variety while others were a little easier.

On average we had 35 members in attendance at every regular session.

### **Lefty O'Doul SABR (San Francisco, CA)**

The Lefty O'Doul Chapter had a good year. Our membership has dropped slightly, we are a bit under 300 members. However, we continue to enjoy good support and turnout at our various chapter events. Sadly, our favorite meeting spot, the historic Lefty O'Douls restaurant, near Union Square, closed. We are waiting impatiently for owner Nick Bovis to reopen at another location

Our annual events are the core of our season and help put structure to our year.

*SABR Day*, cohosted with the Sacramento Chapter, has become a well attended meeting and kick-off to the new year. SABR Day 2017 found us back at a local pub with members and friends presenting projects and books. Jon Leonoudakis returned to share his video series "The Sweet Spot", showing clips of Nancy Finley, chapter member and former Tops photographer Doug McWilliams. Dan Taylor, author of a new book on super scout George Genovese talked about the art of scouting; Nancy Finley, niece of Charlie, told stories from "Finley Ball".

Lincoln Mitchell, author of "Will Big League Baseball Survive" spoke about factors affecting the game in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We also welcomed filmmakers Michael Pickman-Thoon and Randy Field who showed their award winning documentary on pioneering sportswriter and activist Lester Rodney. Pete McPhail, longtime Chapter Treasurer and Doug McWilliams, photographer and PCL historian, were honored with the chapter's Lefty O'Doul Award.

*The PCL Reunion* - we look forward to this annual visit with old ballplayers from the Pacific Coast League. Thanks to Dick Beverage and Mark Macrae for their dedication to the league and these players.

*Partnering with San Francisco Public Library* –We continue to co-host a variety of baseball talks with Cubs fan and SFPL Librarian, Joan Jasper . Jon Leonoudakis presented clips from “The Sweet Spot”. Dennis Snelling is presenting his new book, “Lefty O’Doul: Baseball’s Forgotten Ambassador”

*Partnering with Mechanics Institute Library:* Dennis Snelling will also present at the Mechanics Institute.

We are excited about the launch of an updated chapter website: [www.leftyodoulsabr.wordpress.com](http://www.leftyodoulsabr.wordpress.com) . I would like to thank SABR for supporting this effort.

I want to thank the Lefty O’Doul Chapter members for their support. Thanks to Pete MacPhail for taking care of our treasury for all these years. Thanks to Mark Macrae for his support and assistance with all our efforts.

As always, I would like to thank SABR HQ and Board for all the support they provide. We appreciate all that you do to run the organization. Jacob Pomrenke continues to be a wonderful resource for both technical needs and information support. Deb Jayne, still feeling the glow of her Cubs WS, is always there when I need her. (Thank you, Deb, especially this last year). I look forward to continuing good work with Leslie and Blaine.

Baseball shares many gifts with us and SABR is certainly one of my favorites!

#### **Lou Criger Chapter (South Bend, IN)**

Chapter members have been regulars at the national convention and have met with special guests or just to talk about “the grand old game” in the decades since forming at a Notre Dame game. The group hopes to gather again soon.

#### **Luke Easter Chapter (Rochester, NY)**

The Luke Easter SABR Chapter worked to expand programming in our fourth year of existence.

Our major event continues to be a Hot Stove Dinner held on SABR Day. This years event once again took place at Frontier Field, home of the AAA Rochester Red Wings. Our featured speaker was Tom Shieber, Senior Curator for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Returning events included a World Series Gathering, a tour of Mt Hope Cemetery focusing on Rochester baseball pioneers, a Rochester Red Wings baseball game, vintage baseball exhibitions, and talks at local libraries.

Two new ongoing events we added this past year are a book club that meets quarterly and a twice-yearly Hot Stove Talks: Baseball Lecture Series. The lecture series is a set of four SABR style talks given on an afternoon; once during spring training and once in November after the conclusion of the World Series. We have had eight great speakers so far; including three reprising presentations from SABR Annual Convention or the SABR Analytics Conference. We record these talks and place on you tube after the event for all to share.

We continue to work closely with the Rochester Baseball Historical Society to cross promote events. We look forward to continuing to bring baseball fans of western New York together.

#### **Luis Castro Chapter (Maracaibo, Venezuela)**

The Luis Castro Chapter has been really busy on the first month of the year on our mission to spread the awareness and vision is SABR through Latin America where our efforts are spread across the most impactful baseball communities and groups.

We have been actively working in planning and holding events and conferences and this month we have started.

Our Venezuelan Director Gil Reyes hosted the Sabermetrics and Scorekeeping workshop along with the Baseball Academy Support group (BAS) for a weekend at the New York Yankees complex in the Dominican Republic with the participation of over 100 players, coaches and supporting Yankees personnel. The event was a success and the plan is to continue offering the workshop to other baseball organizations in the Dominican Republic.

This week Chapter director Leonte Landino joined the Mexican National Sports Commission (Top governmental sports agency) for a program called Academia Conade where trainings and clinics will be spread through 16 cities in Mexico and the SABR awareness is being spread on Clinics aimed for professional and amateur baseball coaches and parents. This event has also the active involvement on the Chapter of former MLB Mexican pitcher Ismael "Rocket" Valdez and former Mexican league pitcher Marco Mendoza. The first of these events with SABR content is being held this weekend at Estadio Monumental in Chihuahua, Mexico.

This month also marks the release of SABRs BioProject book on the best No -Hitters in history where Landino is featured as co-author for the chapter on Venezuelan pitcher Wilson Alvarez.

In the upcoming months these efforts will continue as we keep spreading and encouraging membership and information in Spanish of SABR and research opportunities for our members.

### **Maddox Brothers-Las Vegas Chapter (Las Vegas, NV)**

During the last year we have grown the chapter membership to over 25. But only able to get six to 10 members to attend meetings.

Following the annual convention we had hoped to increase attendance, but had a very bad last half of 2016. In August we organized a day at the ball game but only three members came because it was the hottest day of the year 114 degrees. October 1 meeting had to be canceled at the last minute due to family emergency.

SABR Day January- 28 Worked hard putting together a good program that I hoped would increase attendance. At the last minute the ex-ballplayer author canceled to take another speaking engagement. I had arranged for one of the members to give presentation did not show up. Ben Pawlowski and I pieced together a program and then ended the meeting two hours early. We met at the Mob Museum and had 10 members in attendance.

The March meeting was organized and run by Ben Pawlowski. Four members in attendance. Ben gave a presentation and the members shared a piece of baseball memorabilia from their collection. We then made plans for former meetings and events.

May 13 was take me out to ball game. Four members attended the the ball game between the 51s and the visiting Storm Chasers. Before the game we had the chance to talk with the 51s GM Chuck Johnson, and with Betsy Helfand, sports reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal..

Upcoming events: SABR 47 with one member attending. Ben Pawlowski and I will be attending a game in Odom Utah as part of the radio broadcast with A.P. Herald to discuss SABR. This is taking place on August 19 during the game with the Ogden Raptors. September 16 Chapter meeting, special guest Jim Vlasich SABR member from Utah and author of *A Legend for the Legendary* will give presentation about the Origin of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Chapter Meeting late October or early November.

### **Magnolia Chapter (Atlanta, GA)**

Chapter members, individually and in groups, bade farewell to Turner Field, the Braves' home for the past twenty-five years, and have begun to acclimate themselves to the new SunTrust Park.

The Chapter SABR Day Meeting, organized by Program Chair Craig Brown, celebrated baseball executives who have presided over baseball franchise relocations.

John Carvalho, discussed his new book, Ford Frick: Baseball's Third Commissioner.

Alan Morris reflected on Bill Bartholomay, who was one of the owners of the Braves when they moved from Milwaukee to Atlanta.

Mil Fisher described his newest research on the life of Bill Veeck.

Trivia-master David Washburn presided over a trivia contest.

Craig Brown's web site, [www.threadsofourgame.com](http://www.threadsofourgame.com), continues to expand through his own research and the cooperation of numerous "diggers." He has received national attention for his rendering of baseball uniforms of the 19th Century.

Members travelled to Greenville, South Carolina, where they toured the Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum and visited Jackson's grave site and his statue in downtown Greenville. They attended a game between the Greenville Drive and the Augusta Greenjackets at Fluor Field, which is adjacent to the Museum. We also played catch on the same baseball field that Jackson trod as a young man.

Chapter members attended the Twenty-First Annual Rickwood Classic baseball game in Birmingham, Alabama. The game featured minor-leaguers clad in period uniforms, playing in Rickwood Field, America's Oldest Ballpark.

Rickwood Field also hosted the Fourteenth Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference. Chapter member Bob Barrier presented his research on baseball in Selma, Alabama, 1908 and afterward.

Chapter members continue to hold informal meetings each month at various settings in and around Atlanta, including Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker, The Hudson Grille-Sandy Springs, and the Tallant Baseball Museum in Cumming. Non-members frequently attend, and the Chapter is pleased to report that many baseball enthusiasts have been added to our membership roster.

We also attended, as a group, minor league games played in Rome and Gwinnett. Chapter members attended the SABR 46 Annual Convention in Miami, the Arizona Fall League Experience, and the SABR Analytics Conference.

The Magnolia Chapter has a web-site, which is maintained by Terry Sloope and can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/magnoliasabr/home>. Bob Barrier has established a Facebook group through which the Magnolia Chapter can provide updates on its activities.

#### **Monarchs Chapter (Kansas City, MO)**

The Monarchs chapter's annual SABR day meeting had an attendance of 20 as well as two special guests. Ken Berry and Bill Young.

Ken Berry entertained the crowd of slightly over 20 people with stories about his baseball career and life. He played for 11 different major league managers, but his three favorites were Del Crandall, Chuck Tanner, and Eddie Stanky. These three men taught him things that he would use throughout his 26-year career as a minor league coach and manager. The most important thing he learned from Crandall was how to use a delayed steal. Bill Young is the author of a pair of baseball books, John Tortes "Chief" Meyers: A Baseball Biography, and J.L. Wilkinson and the Kansas City Monarchs Trailblazers in Black Baseball. His talk focused primarily on J.L. Wilkinson, recapping his life and contributions to baseball from forming barnstorming Bloomer Girl teams, on to the integrated All-Nations team, though a 29-year ownership of the Monarchs.

#### **Nepal Chapter (Kathmandu, Nepal)**

When I got an invitation to be part of the chapter, I was obviously delighted. Through this, we hope to take baseball to greater heights here in our country. I'm really happy to be working with Society for American Baseball Research. Now, I feel we can look to spread baseball with ease. We've formed a group while including those who are interested in making baseball a success. At present, our goal is to raise awareness and let people know baseball does exist over here. It's a challenge but we are always ready to face it. We hope that there will be an increase in participation and that more kids would come out to play. We'll start spreading baseball across the country, with the help of this research. Now we just setup our Chapter office in Nakhu-4, Lalitpur.

#### **North Florida-Buck O'Neil Chapter (Tallahassee, FL)**

The North Florida/Buck O'Neil Chapter, based in Tallahassee, Florida, continues its active pace, both in terms of activities and membership growth.

Our monthly socials (typically on the first Wednesday of the month) are both lively and well-attended. Topics discussed (sometimes *ad nauseam*) include Florida State University's baseball program, the resurgence of the pinstriped Evil Empire, the annual Baseball Hall of Fame ballots, rules and voting results (never a dull discussion), the brilliance of Clayton Kershaw, and the burgeoning dynasty evolving at the southern end of Lake Michigan (so much more than just one so-called "Magical Year", according to some).

Chapter members also keep their research and writing skills sharp, submitting offerings as part of the ongoing SABR Bio Project and SABR Baseball Games Project. Chapter attendance at SABR 46 in Miami in 2016 was at its highest level in the history of the Chapter. Members enjoyed both the conference and the associated activities, and even found time to take in a total of three Marlins games over four nights, in hopes of witnessing Ichiro achieve his 3000<sup>th</sup> hit.

Other Chapter activities have included hosting a 2017 SABR Day in America event, which finished up with a viewing of the documentary film Fastball. Several Chapter members also joined together in May 2017 to take in a series of Southern League (AA) games, watching three games at three different ballparks on three consecutive days. The outing proved so successful and was so well received that similar future Chapter junkets are already in the works.

### **Northwest Chapter (Seattle, WA)**

During the last 12 months the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research held several chapter meetings and events, including the annual SABR Day meeting hosted by the Seattle Mariners. Our chapter has one of the largest geographical footprints of any, and our meetings, mostly up and down the I-5 corridor reflect membership across Oregon and Washington, and into British Columbia.

Our members are used to traveling a considerable distance to attend a meeting, and this willingness to travel is reflected in our chapter's participation in the National Convention. We have some of the most active members in the national organization.

Following the Convention last summer, a small group of our members took a group trip across Puget Sound, visiting the baseball exhibit at the Puget Sound Naval Museum, and enjoyed the Mariner game that evening.

The chapter's Fall meeting was on Saturday, November 5, at the Seattle Pacific University Ames Library seminar room. The meeting presentations included Emily Hawks and Anthony Salazar, "Introduction to SABR's Diversity Committee"; Luke Arkins, Prospect Insider, "Challenges Facing the 2017 Seattle Mariners"; Jack Peters, "A Kid Remembers the Rockford Peaches"; Tim Herlich, "The Four-Home Run Club"; and Bruce Baskin, "Anonymous Heroes: Seattle Rainiers Baseball in the 1970s"

During SABR Day weekend, the chapter staffed an informational booth again this year both days. The booth was located along the main concourse near the King's Court. Several chapter members volunteered again this year. In addition, the Seattle Mariners again provided meeting space and speakers for our Winter chapter meeting. Speakers included Mariners Director of Baseball Analytics Jesse Smith; Mariners Quantitative Analysts Joel Firman and Dan Meyer; and an extended discussion with Mariners General Manager Jerry Dipoto, who proved to be right at home in an informal SABR meeting. Another SABR Day meeting was held by Canadian members in Victoria.

The chapter's annual Oregon meeting was over President's Day weekend at the Living Savior Church, Tualatin, Oregon. Presenters included Donald R. Nelson, who has written a number of books exploring Portland history -- He showed photographs from his latest, the story of baseball in the Rose City. Bob Webster spoke on his work with the Hillsboro Hops, scoring and entering MLB Game Day stats and working with the Diamondbacks. Jared Ravich, MLB Advanced Media talked about his work as a correspondent with MLB.com; and the meeting concluded with a February staple, Mike Rice's pre-season insights into the latest iteration of the Seattle Mariners.

The Spring meeting was on Saturday, May 6, hosted again at Seattle Pacific University Ames Library seminar room. Speakers included Ryan Divish, allowing the chapter to do a Q&A with the Seattle Times' Mariners Beat Writer; Chuck Putnam. The World Series Trifecta; Steve Steinberg -- Urban Shocker: Silent Hero of Baseball's Golden Age; and Mark Armour, 1969: The Year of Miracles.

Coming up this summer, our chapter will participate in the "Fanfest" activities complementing the AAA All-Star game in Tacoma (Rainers) and the A All-Star Game in Hillsboro OR (Hops).

### **Oscar Charleston (Indianapolis, IN)**

The Oscar Charleston Chapter has met twice this year. On January 28 for SABR Day, we heard a preview of the 2017 Indianapolis Indians season from "Voice of the Tribe" Howard Kellman. Author Peter Bjarkman spoke about Castro and baseball, and Chris Lamb spoke on Jackie Robinson and his faith. A surprise from the audience, Jerry Harkness spoke on his having met Jackie as a boy at the Harlem YMCA. On April 28, the chapter met at Victory Field to honor long-time Indianapolis Indians owner Max Schumacher. We checked back in with Peter Bjarkman on the World Baseball Classic, and took in an Indians game.



### **Oklahoma Chapter (Oklahoma City, OK)**

The Oklahoma Chapter of SABR met only once during the spring 2016-spring 2017 reporting period.

The Oklahoma Chapter of SABR met January 21, 2017 at Stillwater, OK within the confines of Allie P. Reynolds Stadium on the campus of Oklahoma State University. A group of 17 enthusiasts heard remarks from head baseball coach Josh Holliday, assistant baseball coach James Vilade, Dr. Justin Moss, horticulture professor and member of the turfgrass breeding team in the Division of Agricultural Sciences and and Natural Resources, and athletic fields superintendent Todd Tribble.

### **Orlando Cepeda Chapter (San Juan, Puerto Rico)**

The chapter was basically dysfunctional during the last year.

My objectives for the next two years is to reorganize the chapter, increase the chapter memberships , assist at the SABR convention every year and be active in all Puerto Rico baseball history, statistics, investigations, etc.

Enclosed are the most important activities related to the chapter during 2016-2017.

#### **May 2017**

1-The chapter elects a new president for the PR chapter Mr. Jorge Lopez (2 years) all others positions are pending for a new election by the chapter.

2-Mr. Nestor Duprey member of the chapter presents his new book ...

"Clemente En la Víspera de la Gloria" The story of Roberto Clemente as a manager for the San Juan Senadores 1971 season , Puerto Rico League (see copy of book cover enclosed)

#### **April 2017**

One of our local hero Mr. Luis Rodriguez Olmo passed away on April 27 2017.

SABR Puerto Rico Chapter support and helps his family on the details and logistics related to his funeral service.

Mr. Rodriguez Olmo was 98 , second Puerto Rican in the MLB ( 1943 Brooklyn Dodgers) first Puerto Rican in a WS.

Also the last player alive of our first Puerto Rico semi-professional baseball league established in 1938.

#### **March 2017**

Jorge Lopez member of SABR PR, present his book "Hiram Bithorn About His Life "

A biography of Hiram Bithorn "First Puerto Rican in the MLB" Chicago Cubs 1942

This is the activities that I recall ....

I will keep SABR posted regularly with all the activities/investigations related to the Puerto Rico Chapter.

### **Pee Wee Reese Chapter (Louisville, KY)**

The Pee Wee Reese SABR Chapter serves all of Kentucky with the largest percentage of its members residing in the Louisville area. Despite our best efforts, chapter membership has continued to shrink since we hosted the very successful 1997 Annual SABR Convention in Louisville. Our satellite chapter is the Hoyt-Allen Chapter from Cincinnati, some of whose members do reside in Northern Kentucky.

The Chapter's primary regional meeting was held on SABR Day, January 28, 2017 at the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, courtesy of Museum Director Anne Jewell. The Pee Wee Reese Chapter's meeting was successful programmatically, but not in attendance. Only 12 members and guests were present to hear excellent presentations from former MLB pitcher Chad Reineke and author Doug Wilson. Attendees hailed from Louisville, and also from Sellersburg and Columbus, Indiana.

Dr. Jack Sullivan again prepared and conducted the challenging 25-question written Trivia Contest, won by Dr. Wilson, who edged out faithful SABR member Jon "Ace" Borie for first place. They both won cash prizes. Everyone present left with a door prize, courtesy of the book collection donated by the estate of recently-deceased SABR member Charles Faber. In addition, Tad Myre won a one-year complimentary

SABR membership donated by the Chapter. Outgoing Treasurer Bud Thieman was applauded for his leadership for the last 20 years, and steering committee member Ryan Schroer was recognized for his leadership in proposing and developing the Chapter's new Facebook page. Much laughter and camaraderie filled the day.

Last summer, on Sunday, July 24, 2016, 17 members, prospective members and guests met at Louisville Slugger field to enjoy the game between the Louisville Bats and the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all who braved the 95-degree hot and humid day. For the seventh year, the kind folks from Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory donated their air-conditioned suite to the Chapter for the evening.

Although Amir Garrett, a top Reds pitching prospect, took the loss to the Iron Pigs, 5-1, much camaraderie, food and drink prevailed in the suite. In addition, the chapter provided a fine spread of snacks and desserts. The written trivia contest ended in a three-way tie, with Robert Sawyer winning the tiebreaker over Jon Borie and Rodger Payne, in that order. Robert's prize was a one-year subscription to Baseball America.

Guests who showed up at the event included Gary Ulmer, President of the Bats; Greg Galliette, Senior Bats Vice President; and Dominic Latkovski, founder of the Zooperstars entertainment show which has performed for 200 sports teams around the world. Much fun was had by all. Thanks again to the kind folks at LSM & F for donating their suite to our Chapter.

LSM & F, with Anne Jewell as its Director, continues to be an excellent and faithful corporate partner, both to national SABR and to our Chapter.

As always, our fiscal status is excellent, although our treasury is in decline. We are always looking for ways to use the funds in our Chapter Treasury to benefit the membership.

Throughout the year, several members held informal gatherings in various casual settings to discuss baseball. Our steering committee members are: Harry Rothgerber (Spokesperson, Louisville), Ken Draut (Treasurer, Louisville), Craig Combs (Richmond), Bill Marshall (Lexington), Ryan Schroer (Columbus, Indiana) and Rodger Payne, Chris Krebs and Robert Sawyer (Louisville).

The most significant, ongoing challenge facing the Chapter is its dwindling membership, combined with the wide geographical distance that members in rural Kentucky must travel to attend any meetings or gatherings. Our low membership numbers inhibit an increase in formal meetings.

On a positive note, the Pee Wee Reese Chapter has always excelled in developing and maintaining positive relationships with its local partners, such as the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, the Louisville Bats Professional Baseball Club, the Louisville Sports Commission, civic groups and political and governmental leaders. This fall, we are planning to sponsor another event, perhaps at a restaurant, open to the public, in the hopes of attracting the public's attention and increasing membership. Plus, Stephen Ringler is in charge of planning a major future event: a 100th Birthday Anniversary celebration, to be held around July 23, 2018, to honor Pee Wee Reese.

Once again, we look forward to supporting the national mission of SABR during the upcoming new fiscal year.

### **Quebec Chapter (Montreal, QC)**

2016 was a good year for the SABR-Quebec chapter. We started the year by celebrating SABR Day. We visited Perry Gee, a friend of our chapter and an avid Montreal Expos collector. Perry would like one day to open an Expos museum showcasing his vast collection of baseball artefacts. In the meantime, it was in his basement that he received us. We were able to see the uniforms of countless former Expos, from manager Gene Mauch to Gary Carter and Vladimir Guerrero, baseball bats, signed balls and programs. We had a fun time discussing and reminiscing about professional baseball in Montreal.

Next came May 7 and our special guest, Jean Allard. Jean is a public address announcer in amateur baseball leagues in Montreal. He also served in that capacity at baseball the tournament of the 2004 and 2008 Olympics. Jean also worked in marketing for the Montreal Expos. He told us about his time with the team and also of his experiences at the Olympics. Jean keeps files about all the Quebec born players who played at the Olympics and his working on a documentary on the Quebec baseball Olympic participation. Jean was so thrilled with his time spent with us that he joined SABR soon after and has since become our resident Olympic expert.

On August 6, we travelled to Quebec City. This summer trip is a longstanding tradition originating in our first year as a chapter. As usual we attended a baseball game of the Quebec Capitales of the CanAm League. This time around was also different since it was induction weekend at the Quebec Baseball hall of Fame, which is housed at the Quebec Stadium. Quebec born Gus Dugas who reached the majors with the Pirates and the Senators in the 1930s was being inducted in the Hall of Fame. One of our members, Robert Duval, was instrumental in having him elected after submitting his name to selection committee and having written his biography for the SABR BioProject. Robert represented Gus Dugas' daughters on the field for the presentations as they were unable to attend from Connecticut.

We met for our fall meeting on November 12. Philippe Cousineau, one of our founding members, had just come back from France where he worked for several years. While there, he followed closely the French baseball scene and gave us a presentation about it. He mentioned the differences between North-American baseball and what happens in France. We learned that quite a few baseball players played for college baseball in the U.S. Philippe's talk was quite informative.

We can't ignore one of our members' accomplishment. Norm King's edited the book *Au jeu/Play Ball!* for SABR. The book is about the 50 greatest games in Montreal Expos history and Norm wrote a number of stories in it as did Bill Young, our chapter's co-founder. And special thanks to Philippe Cousineau who now writes and translates our meeting summaries on a regular basis.

Finally, our new website was brought online between Christmas and New year's eve. We had been without an updated website for a while now and the news of this new communication tool rejoiced our members. If things go well, phase 2 of the website will be implemented in 2017 by adding the encyclopedia section of the old website to the new one. Things are going as planned for the chapter. We have steady meetings, get new members and inaugurated a new website. Things look bright for 2017!

### **Rabbit Maranville Chapter (Springfield, MA)**

The Springfield, MA chapter had two meetings last year. On April 25, 2016 we had Tommy Shea & Mitchell Nathanson and September 26, 2016 we had Howard Bryant & Steve Kettman. Both meetings were well attended.

### **Rickwood Field Chapter (Birmingham, AL)**

Our chapter's first full year of existence has been very enjoyable for our members. We have conducted several chapter meetings and a major baseball conference. Some of the highlights for the year are as follows:

A weeknight meeting provided a real treat for the attendees. The guest speaker was Laurits "Larry" Andersen who lives in Birmingham but played three of his six minor league seasons for the Montgomery Rebels. He made several appearances with the Birmingham Barons in 1954. The eighty-seven year old former catcher told stories about his teams and teammates. The most notable teammate in Montgomery was Earl Weaver who obviously had quite a career in baseball. Several of our chapter members occasionally visit with Larry on the back deck of his house and listen attentively to stories about his playing days.

Another highlight of the year involved a meeting featuring another former Birmingham Baron. Paul Seitz pitched the first integrated baseball game for the Barons in 1964. A year later he pitched a no-hitter in Chattanooga against the Lookouts. In all he played ten minor league seasons including four in Birmingham and several seasons in AAA ball in the Pacific Coast League with Portland and Vancouver. After baseball Paul purchased a Little Professor Bookstore franchise and opened his store in a Birmingham suburb. At that time more than one hundred franchised stores were located around the country. The seventy-seven year old former pitcher has just relocated his store which is one of the two franchises remaining.

Another important meeting of our chapter was a fireside chat with local longtime SABR member Bill Plott. Bill entertained and informed us with stories included in his recent book "Negro Southern League." Bill is a well-known sports writer now retired after many years with the Birmingham newspaper. His book is a great complement to the Negro Southern League Museum which opened less than two years ago in Birmingham. Bill and several of our chapter members serve on the Museum's "Research Committee."

Like many chapters across the country, we conducted a lunchtime meeting on National SABR Day in January. Our speaker, Professor John Carvalho, drove a couple of hours from Auburn University to be with us. We thoroughly enjoyed his discussion of his recent book "Frick\*: Baseball's Third Commissioner." With many of our older members being avid New York Yankees fans, his commentary on Roger Maris and the 1961 home run laden season was quite interesting.

Our March meeting took the form of a partnership with the annual Southern Association Conference held at historic Rickwood Field. Two of our long term SABR members, David Brewer (Executive Director of the Friends of Rickwood) and Clarence Watkins (Co-President of our chapter and FOR Board Member), founded the conference over a decade ago. The annual meetings have been held at Rickwood as well as venues in Chattanooga and Nashville and Atlanta. The theme this year involved presentations related to teams and players in cities outside the traditional eight Southern Association cities.

Due to the unfortunate closing of Rickwood Field in March due to structural problems, the annual Rickwood Classic scheduled for May 31 was cancelled. Our anticipated May meeting was also postponed and is now being rescheduled. Speakers for this meeting will be Art Black discussing his new novel "Showdown at Rickwood" and Clarence Watkins relating stories from his new book "Baseball in Montgomery."

We were very fortunate this year to have so many former players and authors speak to our group. Chapter members are currently discussing the idea of a conference this fall centered around the 1948 Negro League World Series. Other co-sponsors would be the Negro Southern League Museum and one or two departments at UAB (University of Alabama in Birmingham). We are hopeful that structural repairs at Rickwood Field can be completed in time to host the Southern Association Conference in March of 2018.

### **Rio Grande Chapter (Albuquerque, NM)**

This year, we experimented with a different kind of meeting, a “show and tell” where a number of our members shared a baseball experience they’ve had. We had a couple who were in attendance for “Yogi Berra Day” at Yankee Stadium which was also when David Cone threw his perfect game. Another member, shortly before he retired, attended the Red Sox fantasy camp where almost all the others were three decades younger. He ended up being a successful pitcher as muscle memory returned for control in general and a curveball in particular. Another told of his experience as a radio sportscaster in the PCL. A fourth, over 30 years ago, was the owner of a T206E Honus Wagner baseball card. And lastly, a member spoke of his good friend, Catfish Hunter. All agreed the meeting was a smashing success. We shall hold more “show and tells” in the future.

On SABR day, we emphasized New Mexico baseball: we toured the new clubhouse of the UNM Lobos baseball team and while there, Austin House was our speaker. House is Albuquerque born and raised: Little League, high school, UNM Lobos. Currently, he is a relief pitcher for the hometown Isotopes, the AAA affiliate of the Rockies, and in his first 12 appearances this year, he has pitched 16 innings, with 15 Ks, 4 BBs, and allowed only one run. At the end of his talk, House said he looked forward to having a successful season into early September, but we told him to have a successful season into early November.

Other speakers included John “T-Bone” Shelby, Bronswell Patrick, and Mark Brewer. Shelby was the ’16 Isotopes hitting coach and told of his years playing in the minors with Cal Ripken and in the majors for Earl Weaver, Tommy Lasorda, and Sparky Anderson. Of note was his first MLB game when the Orioles played in Yankee stadium and his idol, Reggie Jackson hit a homerun. The fan in him got the better of him and he cheered until he realized that.....he was an Oriole and.....Jackson was a Yankee. Earl Weaver’s comment will not be repeated here. Patrick was the pitching coach for the El Paso Chihuahuas, the Padres’ AAA affiliate and was the pitcher who surrendered Sammy Sosa’s 61st home run in 1998. Finally, Mark Brewer is the ’17 Isotopes pitching coach with more than 20 years experience, and he also recalled growing up in the environs of Dodger Stadium, where his father, Jim, was a long time Dodger reliever—lefty, screwball.

Furthermore, we were able to help three people who contacted us about old time players with New Mexico connections.

Lastly, the chapter has no bank account and has no financial information to report.

### **Robinson-Kell Chapter (Little Rock, AR)**

January 30, 2016

The featured attraction was the viewing of Larry Foley’s documentary *The First Boys of Spring*, which chronicles the rich history of spring training in Hot Springs, Arkansas and featured commentary from Robinson-Kell members Mike Dugan and Don Duren.

Next was Fred Worth with another update of his adventures as he visited the graves of major league players. The one entitled “Coast to Coast: A Cross-Country Tour of Baseball Graves” in which Fred drove 9,632 miles and visited 375 baseball graves in 21 states.

Jim Yeager continued his series of *Back Roads and Ballplayers: Baseball in Rural Arkansas* with a feature about the Bee Branch Boys – in this installment he focused on the McKnight family, father Jim and sons Jimbo, Jack, and Jeff who played in a total of 3,766 major and minor league games.

Caleb Hardwick finished the meeting with a presentation featuring a short film about Negro league pitcher Booker McDaniels, who possessed one of black baseball’s most fierce fastballs of the 1940s. The film described McDaniels’ early life in rural Arkansas and his ascent from local semi-pro ranks to the uppermost echelons of baseball outside the major leagues, all during an era of wartime hardships and fundamental changes to the game.

August 20, 2016

The guest speaker was former major league pitcher and Texarkana, Arkansas, native Dustin Moseley who now owns and operates Proformance, a baseball training facility in Little Rock.

Fred Worth began the presentations with “Highlights and Lowlights on the way to 5,000” in which he detailed some of the adventures and challenges he has encountered while locating and visiting the gravesite of more than 5,000 former major league players, the 5,000th being that of Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra.

Jim Yeager presented another installment of “Back Roads and Ballplayers: Baseball in Rural Arkansas”. This one was entitled “Doctor Earl T. Williams: The story of the father of Arkansas’ Semi-Pro Baseball, founder of the Greenbrier Baseball School, and the Boys of Summer he developed”.

Madison McEntire followed with “Making That Triple Count: Players who hit for the cycle despite hitting just one triple for the season”. Interestingly, John Olerud did it twice.

Bob Reising concluded the meeting with “A Tribute to Robin Roberts.” He began by noting why 2016 was a special year for honoring Roberts: 90 years had passed since his birth, 50 since his last major-league pitching win, and 40 since his election to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

January 28, 2017

The guest speaker was former major league pitcher Rick Croushore, accompanied by his son Jake, who recounted his unlikely path to the major leagues, including his time with the Cardinals during Mark McGwire’s 70-homer season of 1998.

Jim Yeager gave the first presentation of the meeting with “A League of Their Own”, the latest installment of his “Back Roads and Ballplayers” series. This installment focused on the short-lived, Class “D” Western Arkansas League of 1924 which featured the Atkins Boys, (population 1,529), Clarksville Reds (2,127), Dardanelle White Sox (1,835), Paris Blues (1,740), Ozark Bears (1,262), and Russellville Miners (4,505).

Caleb Hardwick followed with “The Ultimate All-Arkansas Leader Board” in which he presented various statistical lists showing the rankings of “native” Arkansans.

Fred Worth gave a brief report on some of the more interesting, obscure, and hard-to-find cemeteries that he has visited while researching the final resting places of former major league players. Fred also presented “Amusing Facts about the 500 Home Run Club”.

### **Rocky Mountain Chapter (Denver, CO)**

The past year has been one of growth, success and some change for the Rocky Mountain Chapter.

The 2016 season began with a well-received presentation, at Coors Field, from Colorado Rockies Director of Communications, Warren Miller. Mr. Miller spoke to the Chapter about the challenges of representing club (as well as individual player) interests.

Although the Chapter phased out its longtime Game-of-the-Month activity during 2016, other ongoing activities prospered. Popular Monthly Luncheons gained in average attendance and reached 125 consecutive recurrences (over 10 years!) by the opening month of the 2017 season. Members and guests can count on energetic conversation, trivia and general baseball camaraderie: all particularly appreciated during the off-season, “Hot Stove” months!

In August 2016, the Chapter sponsored another luncheon event, featuring a “State of the Rockies” presentation and Q&A, with Rockies GM Jeff Bridich. An Annual Trivia Contest was also featured.

The Chapter’s premier event, its 19th Annual Banquet (at Coors Field), again met and exceeded expectations. In November 2016, former Rockies (and “Blake Street Bombers”) Vinny Castilla and Ellis Burks were joined by the club’s inaugural GM, Bob Gebhard, on a panel moderated by RootSports’ Marc Stout. A popular recurring event, a silent auction, as well as a book sale accompanied the occasion.

SABR Day in America again helped to fill in the off-season void in January 2017. A well received and attended lunchtime, media-themed panel—featuring RootSports’ Jeff Huson, KOA Radio’s Ed Henderson, MLB’s Thomas Harding and the Rockies Warren Miller—was followed by a hallmark RMSABR event: the annual, regardless-of-the-weather mass game of catch!

Before the start of the 2017 season, Rocky Mountain Chapter’s Board of Directors undertook the task of amending its by-laws, primarily to streamline the Chapter’s leadership. That effort was overwhelmingly endorsed by the membership and, it is hoped, will add to the success of RMSABR going forward.

In the opening weeks of the 2017 Regular Season, the Chapter again hosted Rockies GM Jeff Bridich. Over forty SABR members and guests enjoyed lunch and a reprise of the "State of the Rockies" format, which, again, featured lively Q&A.

### **Rogers Hornsby Chapter (Austin, TX)**

The Rogers Hornsby Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research in Central Texas continues to be a highly active chapter, with an annual winter meeting, several group outings to watch the Round Rock Express, and watch parties for the World Series and regular season games. In addition, chapter members have volunteered to help Alzheimer's patients in the baseball reminiscence project.

The chapter extended its consecutive meeting streak, reaching 126 straight months with a meeting in May 2017. Many of the monthly meetings include lunch or dinner at a restaurant in the Austin area, sometimes involving baseball trivia quizzes.

The highlight of the year was the chapter's 11th Annual Winter Meeting at historic Old Main at Texas State University in San Marcos. Guest speakers at the meeting included Dr. Bobby Brown, former World Series champion with the Yankees and retired cardiologist; Mark Saccomanno, former Astros first baseman who hit a homerun on the first pitch he saw in the big leagues; Mike Capps, entering his 18th season as broadcaster for the Round Rock Express; and Bo Carter, longtime college sports information director who co-authored a book about Dizzy Dean, and Sara Kirby Burke, daughter of longtime broadcaster Gene Kirby who collected and wrote much of the text in the Dizzy Dean book.

Meanwhile, chapter member Jim Kenton continues to lead the chapter's effort in BasebALZ, a partnership with Alzheimer's Texas to help Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers recover baseball memories. The therapy program involves six bi-weekly meetings, which include discussing favorite players and teams, remembering details of attending a ball game, and handling baseball items such as gloves and memorabilia. The BasebALZ effort here was also expanded to include monthly sessions at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Kerrville, Texas. We have also been in touch with other SABR chapters in hopes of expanding this program around the country.

Another highlight of the year was Monte Cely's dispatches from the Caribbean World Series in Culiacán, Sinaloa, Mexico. Posting daily updates during the tournament, Cely shared photos and details of Puerto Rico's 1-0 championship win in extra innings over Mexico.

The chapter also created a Wordpress site to house all of the chapter's meeting summaries and photos, giving the leadership team an effective means to collect and preserve the chapter's activities and to communicate with other chapters and the general public.

### **Sacramento Chapter - Dusty Baker Chapter moving forward (Sacramento, CA)**

The Sacramento Chapter of SDABR convened for the first time ever at Joe Marty's restaurant in Sacramento on November 5, 1994, with the first meeting organized by Woody Wilson and Greg King.

The chapter was renamed the Dusty Baker Sacramento Chapter in 2017 after receiving approval from approximately 80% of the chapter members who voted by email and after Dusty Baker approved of the name association himself. Several members had in recent years expressed a desire to associate our chapter with a specific name beyond the simple geographic locale we had employed since the beginning. Dusty Baker was a natural choice. He attended high school and college in Sacramento and was a local sports all-star, and he has been a resident of Sacramento County for over 50 years. Not only did he have a successful career playing in 19 big league seasons, belting 242 career homers in an era of the big ballparks, but Baker has been named National League Manager of the Year three times, once each with the Giants, Cubs and Reds. Other possible chapter name suggestions included Tony Freitas, John McNamara, Joe Marty, and Larry Bowa.

Since our inception, the Chapter has typically hosted between three and four meetings a year, usually Saturday afternoon affairs. The Chapter has never officially elected officers and there seems to be little desire to do so on the part of the membership when asked of the group, but an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) consisting of Greg King, Alan O'Connor, John Moist, Clay Sigg, Tom Crisp formed in 2016 and discusses ideas for future meetings following the regular meetings or by phone or email afterwards. The ESC is not exclusive; anyone can join. Greg facilitates the meetings and sends out notices; longtime member Alan O'Connor has stepped in to help organize the meetings and arrange for speakers. Other members have stepped in to assist during the meetings, including selling raffle tickets and organizing the trivia quizzes.

Our meetings generally kick off with self-introductions (sometimes tied with brief announcements), two key presentations, a trivia contest (with a prize going to the winner) and a book raffle featuring books and other baseball-related items generously donated by members, or purchased. The money collected via the raffle pays for speaker lunches and more books for the raffle as part of the cycle. While our meetings

usually include an affordable luncheon (\$15-\$20), buying a lunch is never required of attendees. Our meetings usually last about 3 hours but it is not unusual to see members gather in small groups even beyond that time.

The Chapter held luncheon meeting on August 27 and November 5, 2016, and February 25, 2017, with a meeting also scheduled for June 10, 2017, prior to the SABR national convention in New York City. Attendance has been ranging from 27 to 36 attendees per chapter meeting. For the August and November meetings (and as it will be true of June 10, 2017 meeting, as well) we gathered at the Limelight Bar & Café in downtown Sacramento, with interiors decorated with historic Sacramento baseball photos, baseball cards, and scorecards. For the February 2017 meeting, prior to enjoying lunch at the Folsom Bar and Grille, we first convened at the Folsom History Museum where we viewed the exhibit, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game - Sacramento Professional Baseball, 1886-1976," an exhibit organized by SABR members Alan O'Connor and Tom Crisp. The exhibit also had materials on early Sacramento Valley Semi-Pro Baseball and Folsom Prison Baseball.

Speakers for the reporting period (July 2016-June 2017): Graham Womack, Sporting News columnist and author of the blog: Baseball Past and Present. Richard Macaluso, author, From Buck to Pudge: The Evolution of Baseball's Catcher's Mitt.

Greg King on the baseball career of Berkeley native Augie Galan.

Alan O'Connor on an exhibit highlighting Sacramento Professional Baseball, 1886-1976.

Bill McPhoil, author, Sacramento Baseball.

Cuno Barragan, former catcher, Sacramento Solons of the PCL and the Chicago Cubs.

Dennis Snelling, author, Lefty O'Doul: Baseball's Forgotten Ambassador.

Harry Dunlop, Sacramento native, longtime pro baseball manager and coach.

We are exploring holding a chapter meeting in Reno, Nevada (2 hour drive from Sacramento), combined with a group outing to attend a Reno Aces game of the PCL (Arizona Diamondbacks). Only about a third of the attendees in a straw poll taken in February, 2017 said they would make the trek, which may demonstrate a sufficient lack of interest. Chapter member Tom Howell, a resident of Reno, has offered to help arrange the meeting, which could be held on a Saturday in late summer, if we decide to pursue.

### **Schott-Pelican Chapter (New Orleans, LA)**

#### Chapter Membership

The total number of SABR members currently enrolled in the Schott-Pelican Chapter remains at 46 (per the SABR membership directory on 5/3/2017), the same as last year at this time. A general breakdown of membership by geographic location is:

24 from the metro New Orleans area, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and Southeast Louisiana, and are the most likely candidates for regular attendance at chapter meetings

9 from the remainder of Louisiana, outside of the above areas.

13 from outside of Louisiana.

#### Chapter Meetings

The chapter held quarterly meetings in the metro New Orleans area in January, April, July, and October. The meetings were also open to non-SABR members.

The chapter typically had 8-10 attendees at each of its quarterly meetings.

There were usually 3-4 presentations and a baseball trivia quiz presented by attendees at these meetings.

The meeting on July 16, 2016, was held at a New Orleans Zephyrs (Miami Marlins Triple-A affiliate) home game in honor of the birthday of Arthur Schott, the deceased founding member of the New Orleans-based SABR chapter.

At the October 2016 meeting, Nolan Vicknair was a special guest attendee. The 91-year-old Vicknair played minor league baseball in 1946-1947. Although Vicknair only had a brief pro career, he crossed paths with Mel Ott, who recruited him in New Orleans to sign with the Giants; Branch Rickey who scouted him as an American Legion player in New Orleans; and Carl Hubbell, whom Vicknair met at the Giants' spring training site.

#### SABR Events and Activities

Chapter members David Harlan, Richard Dempsey, and Carl Rhoads attended the Annual SABR Convention in Miami.

Member Ryan Whirty attended the Jerry Malloy Negro Leagues Conference last July in Kansas City  
Member Richard Cuicchi contributed to the SABR BioProject book "Dome Sweet Dome."

#### Member Research/Writing Activities

The following chapter members were active in research and writing published through the following websites:

Neal Golden - <http://goldenrankings.com/baseballpage.shtml>

Ryan Whirty - <https://homeplatedontmove.wordpress.com/> Ryan's work is frequently listed in the weekly SABR Notes communications.

Jim Miller - <http://www.jwmillersports.com/>

Don Hammack - <http://donhammack.com/>

Richard Cuicchi - <http://thetenthinning.com/> and <http://baseballrelatives.mblogs.com/>

#### **Seymour-Mills Chapter (Naples, FL)**

Dorothy Seymour Mills Chapter had a busy season:

1. Ken Berry, former White Sox OF & then minor league manager & coach gave an excellent presentation at a meeting this winter. Great feedback from many of the 75 people that attended.
2. Another meeting we featured a movie "Town Teams: Bigger Than Baseball" introduced by Dorothy Seymour Mills. She also had a part in this documentary movie!
3. Another time our SABR Chapter was given a VIP tour of Hammond Stadium in Ft. Myers FL, home of the Minnesota Twins spring training. We toured the clubhouse, press box, stat room & then were guests at the Class high-A game between the Ft. Myers Miracle & Daytona, a thriller as Ft. Myers won on a walk off HR in the bottom of the 10th.

#### **Smokey Joe Wood Chapter (Hartford, Connecticut)**

Our chapter has had a high level of activity in the past year. We note that following activities and achievements of our group.

We have regular chapter breakfasts, and have outgrown the restaurant where we have been holding this event for the past several years. We have had three Strato-matic Game Day events, with 8 to 12 attendees each time. John Garcia from Strato-matic was at the April event, did Q and A, and gave out complete Strat games and team sets. Our March 25 General meeting, at Quinnipiac University, featured presentations by Mark Stoler, Joe Runde and Mark Kanter. A highlight was the HOF Panel discussion (organized by Karl) with Jeff Bagwell's coach, teammates, and GM: Gerry Berthiaume, David Sizemore, Dan Gooley, Brian Crowley, and George Grande.

Our Oct. 15 general meeting at QU featured presentations by Bob Wirz, David Kaiser, Vernona Gomez, Matt Merullo, and Jim Berardinucci.

Alan Cohen brings numerous boxes of baseball books to our meetings, and we do conduct book sales. We had a successful Yankees Ticket Auction, which raised \$270. Mark Stoler graciously donated a pair of 1960's Polo Grounds seats for our next auction.

Karl Cicitto edits our chapter newsletter, The Wood Pile, which was published in August (21 pages) and January (11 pages). They carried contributions from 12 chapter members! Bob Wirz was inducted into the Nebraska Sports HOF, in honor of his long career in the professional game, and with the media. A new book by Bob Wirz was published, and he scheduled appearances to promote his books, as did Karl and Alan, who held book talks at the Bloomfield and Suffield libraries for the Mike Sandlock book that we did. Alan managed our annual holiday banquet, which was a big hit, in spite of the snow and sleet. Featured speakers included Peter Tucci of Tucci Lumber, which makes baseball bats, Jason Klein of Force 3 Gear, which makes catchers' masks, and Marjorie Adams, who displayed copies of the laws of baseball, written in her Great Grandfather's hand (Doc Adams).

We had a chapter outing to Old Timers Day at Yankee Stadium, organized by Alan and Steve, which we will do again. We also attended New Britain Bees and Bridgeport Bluefish games. Many of our members attended the SABR convention in Miami last year. We will also be present at the SABR convention in NYC, where several of us are presenting, and we will help with convention logistics where we can. Our members attend other conferences, such as the SABR Analytics conference (Mark Stoler), and the Cooperstown Symposium (Paul Hensler).



We also regularly attend and present at the Southern NE chapter meetings as well, and we also attend meetings in Boston and Springfield. We have regular communication with our members, either through Jacob Pomrenke in the national office (done by Steve), or through Facebook. Karl also writes the content for our web-site, and distributes links to it via Facebook and e-mail. Several members attend the 19th century conference in Cooperstown, and Joe Williams was on one of the panels. Bill Ryczek and Paul Hensler have books in the works, and we look forward to hearing from them on this.

Our next book project will be on Jeff Bagwell in CT, as a follow up to our Bagwell panel at our March meeting.

### **South Florida Chapter (Miami, FL)**

Message from the Chair:

The South Florida Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research is pleased to announce that we continue to meet the goals that SABR originally laid out in 1971. The aforementioned lofty goals are the continuation of fostering the study of baseball, past and present, and to provide an outlet for educational, historical and research information about the game.

I am excited about the future of not only SABR, but the Chapter and what it offers to our members, and prospective members. As a Chapter leader, I continue to seek out interesting and thoughtful speakers that share topics that interest everyone. It is a priority that everyone is made to feel welcome and has a forum to share common and budding new interests as they apply to the game of baseball.

My goal is to continue to provide this outlet and promote SABR not only to our membership, but to those who have like interests. I look forward to the upcoming year and all that SABR has to offer.

2016 Chapter Highlights:

Headed up by Chairman, Sam Zygnier, the South Florida Chapter continued to hold regular meetings, keep active communication lines open with the local members and satellite members as well as promote friends, family and prospective members to attend all of our meetings and get-togethers.

In addition, several members of the South Florida Chapter were involved in the SABR National Convention, held in Miami from July 27-31. The various members served in several capacities including; volunteering, organizing, and serving as speakers at various presentation forums.

Summary:

There were two important contributors, whose assistance was invaluable, towards making a success of the South Florida Chapter. Special thanks to Barbra Zygnier who played a vital role in helping to coordinate and organize all of our Chapter meetings. Barbra ensured that all guests were made to feel welcome and her efforts towards helping put together all of our events were important. Without her efforts the meetings would not have been possible. In addition, Gerry Garte has taken on the active role of Trivia Master and donated prizes to the members to encourage participation in our meetings as well as challenge the most trained of baseball minds.

### **Southern New England/Lajoie-Start (Providence, RI)**

The Southern New England (Lajoie-Start) Chapter's activities consist primarily of two meetings a year: one on the Saturday after Thanksgiving in November at St. Philip's Parish Center in Greenville, Rhode Island, and one at McCoy Stadium in June on a Saturday when the Pawtucket Red Sox are playing at home. Both meetings draw good crowds, November better than June.

Since we consider the post-Thanksgiving meeting the beginning of our chapter season, I'll start with that. The meeting, on November 26, 2016, drew a crowd of 70 members and guests.

Larry Smith, treasurer of the Southern New England Brooklyn Dodgers Fan Club, presented a check for \$1,418.22 to chapter chairman Len Levin. The fan club is winding down its activities and since many of its members are also SABR members, the club decided to turn its treasury over to the chapter. The money will be used to help pay expenses of future meetings.

The annual mock Hall of Fame election, conducted by Mike Darowski, was a bit of a surprise, as none of the players on the ballot got the required 75 percent of the vote from those who balloted. The top two finishers were Jeff Bagwell and Tim Raines, both of whom were elected on the subsequent baseball writers' ballot.

Three authors made brief presentations and had copies of their books for sale: Herb Crehan (The Impossible Dream 1967 Red Sox: Birth of Red Sox Nation), Jim Kaplan (Clearing the Base: A Veteran Sportswriter on the National Pastime), and Gregory Rubano (In Ty Cobb's Shadow: The Story of Napoleon Lajoie, Baseball's First Superstar).

Research presentations were given by Steve Krevisky (1916 World Series), Jay Hurd (Jerry Malloy Conference), David Kaiser ("Who Really Won the Pennant: Breaking Down the Red Sox 1967 to 2016"), Fr. Gerry Beirne ("Cape Cod Cardinals: The Post WWII Boston Braves"), Dixie Tourangeau ("Leaves From a Researcher's Notebook"), and Rick Harris ("Early Baseball in Rhode Island").

After a ballpark lunch prepared by a St. Philip's women's group, much of the afternoon was devoted to an appearance by Gordon Edes, a former sportswriter and now the Boston Red Sox team historian.

Going back in time, the 2016 McCoy Stadium meeting was held on June 26 under a picnic tent beyond the right-field bullpen. Forty-five members and guests attended. The main speaker was Dr. Charles Steinberg, president of the Pawtucket Red Sox. As always at this meeting, we had a visit from some of the team's on-field brass, this time manager Kevin Boles and hitting coach Rich Gedman. Research presentations were given by Herb Crehan and Alan Cohen, and Rick Harris and Bill Nowlin had books for sale.

Looking ahead, our June 2017 meeting at McCoy Stadium is scheduled for June 17. As our guest speaker we will have Blake Carnahan, one of the umpires for that night's Pawtucket Red Sox doubleheader. (He may also bring along the rest of his crew.) We look forward to an interesting and enjoyable time. (Thanks to Bill Nowlin for arranging the umpire appearances.)

### **Ted Williams Chapter (San Diego, CA)**

#### Two Regional Meetings

Saturday, July 9, 2016, 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., San Diego Central Library Auditorium  
"TALKING BASEBALL"

This was an all-day meeting scheduled to coincide with the MLB All-Star baseball game activities that were going on in San Diego that week. Our program, listed below, included an eclectic assortment of baseball speakers, singers, documentary...and a legendary no-hitter:

The program got underway with a welcome by Chapter President Dan Boyle, and a special presentation by Topps Co.

Jacob Pomrenke (well known!) gave an interesting history on the 1919 White Sox entitled "The Black Sox Scandal: A Cold Case, Not a Closed Case"

Bob Kendrick, Negro League Baseball Museum president, gave a rousing presentation on a wide range of Negro League historical events

Joe Rathburn, a San Diego baseball singer/songwriter, performed baseball songs

Matt Nokes narrated a video of Jim Abbott's 1993 NY Yankees no-hitter vs. Cleveland Indians...batter-by-batter

Matt Thompson presented "Ted Williams: A Tip of the Cap" a one-man show

Filmmaker Jon Leonoudakis screened his documentary, "Hano! A Century in the Bleachers"

The Baseball Reliquary presented folk singer Ross Altman's baseball songs

Gene Locklear, former Padres outfielder discussed his life as a Native American Indian artist and professional baseball player

There was no admission for the program and attendees were allowed to come and go at their pleasure. Over the course of the day Library personnel counted 250 people had been in attendance, with the peak when Matt Nokes made his presentation.

Saturday, January 28, 2017, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., San Diego Central Library

For this regional meeting we had four presentation covering a wide range of subjects:

Carlos Bauer and Tom Larwin: "Die-hard Cubs Fans—Rebirth?!" Two long-suffering Cubs fans discussed their team and its 2016 championship.

Mike Port, former Angels and Red Sox General Manager, gave a very interesting presentation on a number of current day issues, covering:

Process of making a trade with another team; his worst and best trades

How analytics has changed the GM's job

Advantages and disadvantages of obtaining a Rule 5 player

Impact of umpire review challenges on the game

Professor Joe Price is Co-Director, Institute for Baseball Studies, Whittier College: and he spoke on the subject of "Ballpark Closures."

Last up was Carlos Bauer who discussed the results of his recent minor league research entitled: "1939 Pioneer League Season—Show and Tell from the Bill Weiss Archive."

We had a total of 29 members and guests in attendance.

#### Next Regional Meeting is Scheduled

Our next regional meeting will be held on June 17, 2017 in the auditorium of the San Diego Central Library.

#### One Chapter Steering Committee Meeting and No e-News Issues

Our steering committee met on December 13, 2016.

Our new secretary will resume the preparation of e-News summaries of past and upcoming activities.

#### Projects

Our members continue to go through the Bill Weiss Archive to identify reference and circulating material for the Library. (On-going)

San Diego Library-BRC Partnership—acquisition of newly issued baseball books and annuals. (On-going)

We contributed a major article to the Minor League Committee newsletter in March 2017 that went through considerable detail on research activities in San Diego led by our Chapter.

Also in March, our Chapter was recognized for research assistance in the article by Josh Johnson on MiLB.com News, “Williams, Padres gave San Diego thrill in '30s, When PCL came to town, 17-year-old was ready to compete with pros”. (March 13, 2017)

Over the course the past year we have established a n informal partnership with Whittier Institute of Baseball Studies contributing hundreds of duplicate books and publications resulting from our inventory of the Bill Weiss Archive.

Members of our Chapter are in the process of completing a publication on The First Padres which will cover the 1936 PCL San Diego Padres.

In the past year our Chapter's historical marker for Lane Field was relocated to a prominent location in a new pocket park at the corner of Broadway and Harbor Drive in downtown San Diego. Our members were involved in the relocation process.

#### **Tokyo Chapter - (Tokyo, JPN)**

Annual activities from July 2016 to June 2017

The TOKYO CHAPTER organizes quarterly meetings every year, scheduled for the third Saturday of January, April, July, and November. Two or three chapter members are designated to be the speakers for each meeting. They show their own view and/or research about baseball. Some report their visits to American stadiums while others one analyze statistics, and so on. Each talk is followed by free conversation then which continues into with meal after the formal meeting.

The meeting dates, speakers, and themes for this period are as follows:

1. July 16, 2016

Yoshihiro Koda

Koda-san (Mr. Koda) presents what a player's off field life was like now compared to the past.

Masaru Ikei

Ikei-san takes a look at the 30 MLB clubs' manager statues.

Ichiro Shinohara

Shinohara-san goes through the first international baseball game in Japan: Yokohama Country Athletic Club vs. First Higher School.

2. November 19, 2016

Ichiro Shinohara

Shinohara-san asks the question, do MLB pitchers really have better control than Japanese pitchers? He explores this by looking primarily at walks and hit batsmen.

Masahiro Nanbu

Nanbu-san takes us back in time to the Chicago Cubs' heyday, talking about Joe Tinker and Johnny Evers.

Shinichi Ota

Ota-san talks about Free Agent compensation in Major League Baseball.

3. January 21, 2017

The annual auction took place after the talks and before dinner. The auction comprises of various memorabilia that members bring in, ranging from goods picked up at MLB ball parks to books.

Yasuo Kunugi

Kinugi-san presented summations and content overviews of the books that various former Japanese baseball managers have written over the years.

Hisatoshi Takazawa

Takazawa-san illustrated how public high schools have slowly disappeared from dominance and even participation in the annual National High School Championships at Koshien.

Shogo Harumoto

Harumoto-san gave a short report about the 2012 and 2013 seasons that he spent abroad.

4. April 15, 2017

Steven Wisensale

Wisensale-san gave the group an overview of his current course in international relations through baseball.

Takeyuki Inohiza

Inohiza-san discussed additional results to his research into the twisting model for batting.

Junkichi Harigaya

Harigaya-san went over his findings of how much moving a runner over has contributed to scoring.

### **Wally Pipp Chapter (Holland, MI)**

I attempted last year to see if I could re-start the West Michigan (Wally Pipp Chapter) of SABR. At a meeting I put together, I was only able to draw two other men. While both were interested in doing something, there wasn't enough interest to merit pursuing it further. The email responses I received from those who were unable to attend also indicated a low level of interest in doing anything as a local chapter. Those that were interested in doing something, very few, had a wide range of interests in what they wanted to see.

After communicating with Gary Gillette in Detroit, we decided to keep-to whatever degree possible-the West Michigan Chapter joined to the Detroit Chapter. I also sent him a full report of my efforts to pull something together in West Michigan.