

## 2022 SABR Annual Report Appendix 1: Chapter Reports

### Rickwood Field Chapter (Birmingham, AL)

On February 12, 2022, Rickwood Field hosted the Chapter's annual meeting, which was well attended. Attendees were treated to grilled bratwursts and Italian sausages and got an update on the Rickwood Hall of Fame Project with a PowerPoint presentation.

The prologue to this project occurred at the 13th annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference, which was held in Birmingham in 2010. The conference program reported that "A record 107 Cooperstown Hall of Famers stepped onto Rick Woodward's Rickwood Field." That number has been considered final for a decade.

However, new sources have revealed additional Hall of Famer members who appeared in games at Rickwood. The Friends of Rickwood soon realized that 107 was merely the floor, not the ceiling, and additional research was needed. Last summer, members of the Friends of Rickwood and SABR, Joe DeLeonard, Ben Powell, Lamar Smith, and Jeb Stewart formed the Rickwood Hall of Fame Project committee. The goal of the project is to confirm every member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame who appeared in a game at Rickwood Field as an active player, manager, coach, or umpire. The committee has now identified 181 Hall of Famers, who appeared in games at the ballpark with more research needed for 27 other Hall of Fame members, as well as executives.

**Local Grant:** On February 25, 2022, as part of its Local Grants Program, SABR awarded \$2,500 to the Rickwood Field SABR Chapter to help the Friends of Rickwood repaint the public display on the third-base side of the ballpark's grandstand, which honors championships won by the Birmingham Barons, Black Barons, and Athletics. Both the chapter and the Friends are thankful for SABR's generosity.

**Southern Association Conference:** On March 5, 2002, the Chapter, in conjunction with the Friends of Rickwood, held the 18th Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference at Rickwood Field. The Southern Association was a professional baseball league that existed from 1901 to 1961 and was preceded by the Southern League (1885-99). Rickwood (1910-61), Engel Stadium in Chattanooga, Tennessee (1930-61), and Luther Williams Stadium in Macon, Georgia (1961), are the three remaining ballparks, which regularly hosted league games. The conference is an annual event dedicated to preserving the history of the league and baseball in the South.

After morning coffee and snacks, Clarence Watkins, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, and the former executive director of the Friends of Rickwood, opened the conference with introductory remarks. We remembered Chris Drago, Gary Higginbotham, Jay Gauthreaux, and David Jenkins,

all of whom attended or supported the conference in various ways over the years. They will all be missed.

Clarence introduced each speaker throughout the day and kept attendees on their toes with trivia questions. He opened the conference by presenting “**Baseball Before Rickwood**” when ballparks in the old Southern League had grandstands that were exclusively constructed of wood. When the Barons were founded in 1885, the rules of the game were a far cry from today’s rules, which mostly began to take shape by 1901 when the Southern Association began. The Barons played games at the Fairgrounds and Lakeview Park before finally taking up residence at West End Park in the last 1880s where they would stay until 1910. The park was nicknamed “The Slag Pile” for the enormous mountain of slag that extended beyond the outfield fence. Slag was a byproduct of Birmingham’s burgeoning iron industry, and the mountaintop was poised neatly above the field. Budget-minded fans who did not want to purchase a ticket to sit in the park’s wooden grandstand would make the hazardous climb to the top to watch games for free.

Clarence selected the events of 1908 to juxtapose with the rising popularity of baseball in Birmingham. That year Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer wrote the song, “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” Birmingham’s population was just 75,000. The divorce rate was 1 in 1,000. Houses did not have electricity. Radio broadcasts did not yet exist, and filmmaking was in its infancy. People learned popular songs of the day from sheet music. They got their news from Birmingham’s 4-5 newspapers. And their entertainment was live, from Birmingham’s Vaudeville theaters to sporting events like horse racing, boxing, wrestling, and baseball. The Barons kept fans abreast of the schedule and rainouts by posting game announcements during business hours downtown. Most patrons traveled to games using Birmingham’s extensive network of streetcars.

By 1909, A.H. “Rick” Woodward purchased the Barons during their final season at the Slag Pile. He soon decided to build a showplace – a park with a state-of-the-art grandstand – that was the very best in the Deep South, Rickwood Field, which opened on August 18, 1910. When it opened, the ballpark was a rarity indeed, as it was the first concrete and steel ballpark constructed in the Deep South. At that time, only three major league ballparks were also made of concrete and steel: Forbes in Pittsburgh, Shibe in Philadelphia, and Comiskey in Chicago. Rickwood is the last surviving ballpark.

Skip Nipper, who traveled to the conference from Mt. Juliet, Tennessee is also an expert on an old ballpark from the Southern Association. He presented next on “**The Quirky Confines of Nashville’s Famous Ballpark, Sulphur Dell.**” Skip is arguably the most knowledgeable historian of the park, which existed in various forms from 1870 until it was torn down in 1969. His presentation included a nice slide show of photos taken from every angle of the park.

The ballpark was located at Sulphur Springs Bottom between Summer and Cherry Streets near the Tennessee State Capitol and the Cumberland River and was originally named “Athletic Park”. Famed sportswriter Grantland Rice later dubbed it Sulphur Dell and the name stuck. The Nashville Vols began playing at Sulphur Dell in 1901.

In its early years, Sulphur Dell was unusual, as batters often had difficulty seeing pitches because of the setting sun. By 1927, the field was rotated 180 degrees and a concrete and steel grandstand, which seated 7,500, was added to complete the park.

Even with that change, Sulphur Dell remained one of the most idiosyncratic places to play baseball. When the Cumberland River flooded, so did the playing field until the construction of the Hickory Dam. The park had intimate confines as only 26 feet separated the third-base line to the grandstand, while the first-base line was also close at 42 feet. Its dimensions were 334 feet to left, 421 feet to center, and an incredibly short 262 feet to right. In 1954, Bob Lennon took advantage of the short porch to set a Southern Association record with 64 home runs.

Despite the short porch in right, the outfield was primarily known for its steep inclines. The right-field fence was 22 and 1/2 feet above the playing surface. After seeing the incline in 1927, Babe Ruth reportedly said, “I’m not going to play on anything a cow won’t graze on.” However, he hit a home run during the first game. Because of the incline, Phil Weintraub once made three errors on one play (with a hit ball rolling between his legs both up and down the incline, and a subsequent throwing error to third).

The Southern Association collapsed following the 1961 season. The Vols briefly brought baseball back to Sulphur Dell in 1963 as a member of the South Atlantic League, but the franchise dissolved forever after the season. The park was primarily used as a speedway until it was torn down in 1969.

In 2015, the Triple-A Nashville Sounds opened First Tennessee Park (now First Horizon). The ballpark was partially constructed on the footprint of Sulphur Dell.

Following a break, John “JayJay” Guinozzo, who traveled to the conference from Memphis, Tennessee closed out the morning session with a presentation on “**58 Years of Scoring Pro Baseball.**” JayJay is an official scorer for the NBA, the Memphis Redbirds, the University of Memphis, and Ole Miss.

When he was a freshman in high school, he first discovered his love for scoring. Other young men emulated their favorite players, such as Stan Musial’s batting stance. JayJay emulated Henry

Chadwick, who was most responsible for creating baseball's rules and scoring. When he was only 13, he cut class and took a trolley into downtown Memphis where he purchased a rule book and a scorebook.

Despite missing class, he eventually became a professional scorer. In the 1960s, he used to fill out his scorecards and mail them to the Southern League office. Now, he scores games with the assistance of a computer, which has revolutionized his job. However, scoring decisions remain his judgment calls. He joked that half the people watching any game hate the scorekeeper. The key is to be fair and to know the rules. These days, when any player or manager at AutoZone Park has a complaint regarding one of his calls, he will invite them into the press box and show them videos of a particular play.

JayJay also gives Major League Baseball's Office Scorers Certification Test to would-be scorers, coaches, and any parent who complains about a scoring decision. Most people are only able to answer 30% of the questions right.

He recalled one game in the early 1980s when Stump Merrill was the manager of the Nashville Sounds, who were playing the Memphis Chicks. Willie McGee hit a chopper on the infield Astroturf and an infielder let the ball go by. JayJay called it an error. McGee was in the midst of a hitting streak, which ended as a result of the game. Merrill was furious and berated JayJay over the call. He responded, "*you may have the same guy manage and score in Nashville, but in Memphis it's separate.*" Merrill cussed him out.

JayJay recalled that Merrill later had an issue with another Southern League scorer and told him, "*You're not the worst scorer in the league, but when that son-of-a-bitch in Memphis dies you will be!*"

After the morning session, attendees were treated to a delicious barbeque lunch, which was catered by Full Moon Bar-B-Q. In addition, they were joined by special guest Bobby Durnbaugh, who played professional baseball from 1951-61, including stints in the Southern Association with the Nashville Vols (1955-56 and 1958-59), Mobile Bears (1961), and the Shreveport Sports (1961). Most attendees were already familiar with Bobby because his nephew, Gregory Bennington of Louisville, Kentucky, presented his story at the 2020 conference.

Bobby entertained the group with stories about his playing days, including the time the Cincinnati Reds briefly called him up in 1957. He was asked about his favorite ballpark to hit in and jokingly replied, "*I would have liked to have been able to hit in any of them.*" He also recalled that after he had his best professional game, going 5 for 5, he immediately went into a slump, going 0-15.

After lunch, members of the Rickwood Field SABR Chapter presented Clarence Watkins with an Ebbets Field Flannel cap of the Memphis Red Sox as a way of saying thank you for his years of hosting the conference.

Jim Windisch opened the afternoon session with an interesting presentation on “**Memphis Baseball.**” Jim is originally from Chicago and is a White Sox fan. When he moved to Memphis, he saw the Chicks play during the team’s final season at old Tim McCarver Stadium. He fell in love with Memphis baseball and recalled attending at least 60 of the club’s 71 games at AutoZone Park the next season.

Jim considers himself to be a sports memorabilia archaeologist. He regularly attends estate and yard sales, where he has made some incredible finds over the years. He once purchased boxes from a storage unit, which had belonged to Tommy McMillan, who was a player with the Brooklyn Superbas from 1908 to 1910 and also briefly played for the Reds and Highlanders. McMillan had a 24-year career as a player in professional baseball and later became a manager. Jim obtained boxes of correspondence, which included letters signed by Ty Cobb and Wilbert Robinson.

Joe DeLeonard, Ben Powell, and Jeb Stewart then presented the findings of the Rickwood Hall of Fame Project with a PowerPoint presentation, which included photographs of some of the 181 Hall of Famers who appeared in games at the park as players, managers, coaches, and umpires. The talk included an “inside baseball” discussion of how the project grew out of DeLeonard’s research on the more than 230 major league teams that played games at the park from 1911 to 1986. With Newspapers.com including the Birmingham News through the end of 1963, this made finding box scores of these games much easier.

Powell uncovered a game from April 4, 1927, when 13 future Hall of Famers took the field at Rickwood. The Washington Senators, managed by Stanley “Bucky” Harris, were led by Sam Rice, Tris Speaker, Goose Goslin, and Stan Coveleskie. The Senators were overmatched losing 10-3 to the New York Giants, who were managed by John McGraw. The Giants’ roster featured Mel Ott, Freddie Lindstrom, Edd Roush, Rogers Hornsby, Bill Terry, and Burleigh Grimes. In addition, future Hall of Famer, Bill Klem, umpired the game. The game would have had two other Hall of Famers, but Travis Jackson had an emergency appendectomy and Walter Johnson was at home nursing a bad ankle.

Attendees participated in a discussion on how to commemorate the Hall of Famers who appeared at Rickwood and whether executives in the Hall of Fame, who visited the park, and who are not yet included among the 181 Hall of Famers, should also count towards the total.

Clarence Watkins then presented his closing remarks on the conference, along with a discussion

about finding another Southern Association city to host the event in 2021.

**Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference:** On July 25, 2021, Jeb Stewart presented on Piper Davis at the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference, which was presented virtually as part of the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series.

From June 2 to June 4, 2022, SABR will present the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. The Chapter, in conjunction with the Friends of Rickwood, will assist with the conference and will give tours of Rickwood Field to attendees. SABR member Lamar Smith has led the local efforts for the conference.

Several articles about the conference have also been written by SABR members (Dr. Leslie Heaphy and Jeb Stewart). The articles have appeared in several editions of Rickwood Tales, the official newsletter of the Friends of Rickwood

**Research and Writing Projects:** As always, several members have been busy with research and writing projects. As noted, research on major league games and Hall of Famers at Rickwood has proved fruitful for the chapter.

In May 2022, SABR member Art Black released his latest book, *At Bat: Journeys To Fame And Glory Through Rickwood Field*. The official launch of the book will occur on June 9, 2022, from 5:30-7:00 PM at Vulcan Park in Birmingham.

The book is the third in Art's trilogy about the history of the ballpark. The first two books, *Showdown at Rickwood: Ray Caldwell, Dizzy Dean, and the Early Years of America's Oldest Ball Park* and *Fame and Fortune in The Show: Baseball at Rickwood Field and Beyond in the Middle 1900s*, are both excellent.

Jeb Stewart contributed a chapter on Paul Hardy in SABR's *When the Monarchs Reigned: Kansas City's 1942 Negro League Champions*. He will also have a chapter on Jelly Gardner in SABR's upcoming book about the 1920 Chicago American Giants.

**Social Media:** The Rickwood Field SABR Chapter maintains an active page on Facebook, which evolved from a predecessor baseball group, the Triple Play Club. With 271 members in the public group, the baseball conversations are always lively.

— **Jeb Stewart**

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

The Robinson-Kell chapter held regular Zoom meetings. Guest speakers included:

- David Jerome who spoke about his book *Bill Virdon: A Life in Baseball*. Virdon's widow Shirley participated in the presentation and answered questions from the participants.
- Former major league pitcher Sam McDowell and author Martin Gitlin. They discussed McDowell's career and Gitlin's book *The Saga of Sudden Sam: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of Sam McDowell*.
- Larry Lester, Arkansas native and co-founder of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Mr. Lester, along with Robinson-Kell member Caleb Hardwick, gave a presentation on the history of Negro Leagues in Arkansas.

In August, several Robinson-Kell members attended the fourth annual baseball weekend in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The event featured former players Andre Dawson, Goose Gossage, Jim Edmonds, and Al Hrbosky.

At the event, the Robinson-Kell members attended the dedication of the Mike Dugan Room at the Hot Springs Convention Center. It was named after Mike Dugan, local baseball historian and community leader.

Mike, a Robinson-Kell founding member, and was one of the founding historians of the Historic Hot Springs Baseball Trail.

Other areas of Mike's influence on baseball history in Arkansas:

- He was the founder of the Hot Springs Baseball Weekend, which has been held since 2017.
- He was a leader in planning the new Majestic Park Baseball Complex and led the campaign to approve the facility's financing.
- He was a consultant in the filming of the award-winning documentary, "The First Boys of Spring," which traced Hot Springs' role as the place where Major League spring training had its birthplace in the 1880s. He also appeared in the film as a Boston innkeeper who was one of the Boston Red Sox's biggest boosters.
- He handled all of the city's media requests for interviews and tours about the history of Hot Springs as a baseball landmark.

— **Madison McEntire**

## Allan Roth Chapter (Los Angeles, CA)

**November 6, 2021 meeting in Anaheim:** Andy McCue presented research on Ford Frick and how his reputation as a do-nothing commissioner is rooted in misunderstandings of his job. Barry Mednick led a discussion of the 2021 season.

**SABR Day, February 5, 2022 in Pasadena:** Dodgers broadcaster Tim Neverett presented his book “Covid Curveball” about the 2020 World Series. Jack Bales presented his book “*The Chicago Cub Shot for Love: A Showgirl’s Crime of Passion and the 1932 World Series.*” It’s the story of Billy Jurgens and Violet Popovich, the Cubs’ pennant, and a World Series that included Ruth’s “called shot.” Dan Joseph has written a biography entitled “*Baseball’s Greatest What If: the Story and Tragedy of the Brooklyn Dodgers’ Pistol Pete Reiser.*” The book is a comprehensive look at the life and career of Reiser, the 1941 National League batting champion, who famously piled up injuries and lost his talents by running into outfield walls. Noel Hynd previewed his book on the 1957 National League, “The Sputnik Season.”

**April 27, 2022, co-presented by the Allan Roth (LA), Lefty O’Doul (SF), and NWSABR Chapters:** Professor Robert Elias and Professor Peter Dreier

[\*Baseball Rebels: The Players, People and Social Movements That Shook Up the Game and Changed America\*](#), University of Nebraska Press.

[\*Major League Rebels: Baseball Battles Over Workers’ Rights and American Empire\*](#), Rowman & Littlefield.

Both books focus on the mavericks, rebels, dissenters, and reformers in baseball – players, managers, sportswriters, umpires, and owners (yes, there have been a few owner rebels – think Bill Veeck). They tell stories of baseball’s reformers and radicals who were influenced by, and in turn influenced, America’s broader political and social protest movements, making the game—and society—better along the way. The battles have taken place on the playing field, in the executive suites, in the press box, and in the community.

— Barry Mednick

## Dusty Baker Chapter (Sacramento, CA)

### Overview

- Due to the comfort of many members and the slow reopening of California restaurants, all but one 2021-22 chapter activity was held virtually through Zoom.
- Attendance for virtual meetings has ranged greatly from approximately 20 to nearly 50 and has included SABR members nationwide.
- There is frequent collaboration with the Lefty O’Doul – San Francisco Bay SABR Chapter.
- One virtual meeting was held in collaboration with the Pacific Coast League Historical Society.



- Recordings of virtual chapter meetings can be found on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO9cklIvr8flitI1kC3DxcQ>).
- The chapter has maintained a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/DustyBakerSacramentoSABR/>).
- Many SABR activities are also shared through chair Zak Ford's personal social media profiles (links found at [www.zakford.com](http://www.zakford.com)).
- The return of more in-person activities are planned for 2022-23. However, regular virtual meetings will continue.

#### 2021-22 Activities (virtual unless otherwise noted)

- June 1, 2021 – Author Steve Treder, who is also the Lefty O'Doul-San Francisco Bay Area SABR chapter co-chair, spoke with the Dusty Baker-Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul-San Francisco Bay Area SABR chapters about his new book on Horace Stoneham, "Forty Years a Giant."
- June 5, 2021 – Author Lincoln Mitchell spoke with the Dusty Baker-Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul-San Francisco Bay Area SABR chapters about his new book "The Giants and Their City." The book covers major league baseball in San Francisco from 1976-1992.
- July 27, 2021 – The Dusty Baker - Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul - SF Bay Area SABR Chapters met for a special virtual chapter meeting focused on "Women in Baseball." Lefty O'Doul - SF Bay Area SABR Chapter Co-Chair Marlene Vogelsang facilitated a discussion with Sherry Davis, Giants Public address announcer from 1993 to 1999; Perry Barber, professional umpire; and Anika Orrock, author and illustrator. Additionally, filmmaker Jon Leonoudakis showed the trailer for his film, "Shutout- The battle American Women Wage to Play Baseball."
- October 2, 2021 – The Dusty Baker – Sacramento SABR Chapter held our first in-person gathering (a dinner) in nearly 1 ½ years. Speakers included Jason Turbow, best-selling author of They Bled Blue; Dynastic, Bombastic, Fantastic; and The Baseball Codes; Brad Balukjian, best-selling author of The Wax Pack; Sherry Davis, San Francisco Giants public address announcer from 1993-1999 and the first full-time female public address announcer for a major league baseball team; and Doug McWilliams, Topps baseball card photographer from 1971-1994.
- November 4, 2021 – The Dusty Baker-Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul-SF Bay Area SABR chapters met virtually for a meeting with author Dave Newhouse to discuss the late Charlie Silvera, longtime Yankee backup catcher, and co-author of their book "The Yankee Way: Baseball's Greatest Dynasty, 1949-53." Silvera was a Bay Area guy, and an incredible storyteller.
- November 13, 2021 – Dusty Baker-Sacramento SABR Chapter chair Zak Ford (Advisory Committee Member) and Mark Macrae (Director) hosted the annual Pacific Coast League Historical Society's reunion virtually. Attendees included author Dave Newhouse who discussed the late PCL player Charlie Silvera and their book "The Yankee Way: Baseball's Greatest Dynasty, 1949-53," longtime PCL Director of Operations Dwight Hall, former players Don Farber and Kit Krieger who shared their unique stories of being one game PCL players, former batboy Steve Heath, and many family members and fans of the "old" league.

- December 7, 2021 – The Dusty Baker-Sacramento and Lefty O’Doul-SF Bay Area SABR chapters met virtually for a meeting honoring the legendary sportswriter Arnold Hano, who passed away in October. Hano is best known for his book, "A Day in the Bleachers." He was honored by his good friends, author Jean Ardell, and filmmaker Jon Leonoudakis. Leonoudakis showed clips of his film on Hano, "HANO! A Century in the Bleachers." Additionally, Hano's son, Stephen, was a surprise guest.
- January 20, 2022 – The Dusty Baker - Sacramento and Lefty O’Doul - SF Bay Area SABR chapters met for an early joint chapters “SABR Day” virtual event with Janet Marie Smith, Executive Vice President of Planning and Development for the Los Angeles Dodgers! A well-known ballpark architect, Smith oversaw the recent improvements to Dodger Stadium. Smith is best known in baseball for her work on Oriole Park at Camden Yards, which set the standard for a new wave of ballparks after its opening in 1992. She also helped transform the 1996 Olympic Stadium into Turner Field and oversaw the preservation and expansion of Fenway Park.
- March 9, 2022 – Christina Kahrl, longtime baseball writer and analyst, founder of Baseball Prospectus, ESPN writer and editor, and current Sports Editor of the San Francisco Chronicle joined the Dusty Baker-Sacramento, Lefty O’Doul-Bay Area, and Emil Rothe-Chicago SABR chapters. She provided an overview of her career and insights on baseball.
- April 27, 2022 – The Dusty Baker-Sacramento SABR Chapter joined the Northwest, Lefty O’Doul-Bay Area, Allan Roth chapters for a meeting with authors Robert Elias and Peter Dreier who discussed their new books on baseball rebels, “Baseball Rebels: The Players, People and Social Movements That Shook Up the Game and Changed America” and “Major League Rebels: Baseball Battles Over Workers’ Rights and American Empire.” The Northwest SABR Chapter led this meeting.
- May 3, 2022 – The Dusty Baker-Sacramento and Lefty O’Doul-Bay Area SABR chapters welcomed Shane Barclay, President of Japanball. Shane and his team have been guiding baseball fans from around the world (even some from the Lefty O’Doul Chapter) through the beautiful country of Japan to enjoy excellent baseball, great stadiums, and passionate fans for many years.

— **Zak Ford**

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

#### **Regional Meetings**

We have not held any regional in-person meetings during the year due to the pandemic. Our Steering Committee reviewed this matter in May 2022 and decided to continue this position, at least through the coming summer months, and re-consider the matter at our next Committee meeting in the Fall 2022.

Over the past 12 months we have sponsored two chapter meetings via Zoom:

- October 19, 2021, with Jeff Figler, a nationally-recognized collectibles expert.
- February 19, 2022, with Jack Bales, author of the book. *The Chicago Cub Shot for Love: A Showgirl’s Crime of Passion and the 1932 World Series.*

## Steering Committee Meetings

Our chapter's Steering Committee consists of nine members and a liaison member from the City of San Diego Public Library. We held three Committee meetings, all via Zoom, on: September 15, 2021, January 5, 2022, and May 18, 2022.

**Projects and Newsletters** (to view past newsletters go to:

<https://sabr.app.box.com/v/sd-ted-williams-chapter>)

June-August 2021

### **Grave Marker Project, Joe Quest.**

Our Chapter completed a grave marker project in June 2021 for 19th Century player, Joe Quest. An article on the project, and SABR's role, was published in the August 30, 2021, *San Diego Union-Tribune*. The June 2021 *Newsletter* included an article on Joe Quest, and the project.



June 2021

*Newsletter*. Six articles, 16 pages.

October 2021

*Newsletter*. Eight articles, 23 pages.

February 2022

*Newsletter*. Six articles, 18 pages.

June 2022

*Newsletter* (in preparation)



June-July 2022

### **Grave Marker Project, Hick**

**Carpenter.** This is our chapter's second grave marker project for a 19th Century player, Hick Carpenter. It is in the final stage of completion. Installation will be in late June or early July. SABR's 19th Century Committee has partnered with our chapter in sharing the funding of the project costs.



On-going

**Digitization.** This past year we have digitized 89 *Guides* (1880-1951) and 68 *Baseball Registers* (1940-2007).

Work-in-progress include digitizing items such as: official and unpublished minor league season records (some that date back to the 19th Century), scrapbooks (primarily containing box scores for various seasons and leagues), and personal files of player career records and minor league ballparks.

## City of San Diego Public Library (Baseball Research Center) Partnership

The [Baseball Research Center](#) (BRC) was created in 1999 in a partnership between the San Diego Public Library and our chapter. It is located on the 8th Floor of the Central Library in downtown San Diego. As a chapter we provide volunteer support to Library staff in the management and operation of the BRC. Our general functions are to: (1) coordinate with the Library on the processing and organization of new material, (2) offer input related to acquisition

of newly issued baseball-related items, (3) provide items for BRC displays, and (4) provide assistance with special research requests that are received.

The BRC has also served as a convenient venue for our chapter's in-person regional meetings.

The Library has a staff member, Jeremy Davies, who provides liaison with our chapter and serves as an ex-officio member on our Steering Committee.

This past year we received a donation of books and publications from the Pacific Coast League headquarters that closed in 2020. Another donation is in process from a private party that would include books, publications and scrapbook articles, mainly related to the Pacific Coast League. Our role is to inventory, sort, and review the material on behalf of the Library. In certain cases, as noted above, we will digitize some of the material.

**“New” Chapter Website:** Our Steering Committee has decided to use the SABR.org Chapter page for our web site. This has saved us effort in trying to find a web master plus keeps the information on the site up-to-date. Our chapter newsletters and project reports are stored on the site, too. The web site can be accessed via this link:

<https://sabr.org/chapter/san-diego-ted-williams-chapter/>

— **Tom Larwin**

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

The Lefty O'Doul Chapter continues to take advantage of technology and offers monthly zoom meetings, cohosted with Zak Ford and the Dusty Baker-Sacramento Chapter. It has been a silver lining to be able to have regularly monthly meetings!

Our guests included authors Peter Dreier and Rob Elias who are co-authors of several titles. Dave Newhouse talked about his new book on Charlie Silvera.

We enjoyed a visit with Christina Kahrl, Sports Editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, co-hosted with the Chicago chapter. Shane Barclay shared a delightful glimpse of baseball in Japan with JapanBall Tours.

We celebrated Women in Baseball with umpire Perry Barber, former SF Giants PA announcer Sherry Davis, and artist/writer Anika Orrick.

Guest Janet Marie Smith highlighted our SABR Day virtual meeting! Thanks to Zak for organizing.

Partnering with other chapters and organizations works well for us. In addition to our longtime partnership with the Sacramento Dusty Baker Chapter, we enjoyed a first West Coast regional zoom meeting with the Sacramento, Pacific Northwest, Los Angeles and San Diego chapters. This was with authors Rob Elias and Peter Dreier.

We also partnered with the Pacific Coast Historical League for a zoom meeting. Thanks to a recent zoom meeting with Shane Barclay and JapanBall, we have been invited to join the JapanBall West Coast Tour at a Pecos League game in nearby Martinez.

Our programs are recorded and then uploaded to the Dusty Baker YouTube channel. Again, thanks to our Zak Ford!

Thanks to our partnership with the San Francisco Public Library, we have been invited to co-host an in-person meeting at the Main Library in June.

We remain tentative about scheduling indoor events. Covid concerns continue. Unfortunately many of the venues we used to use are either closed or have changed ownership and not available to us. Our public libraries in the East Bay have not yet opened their doors to allow outdoor groups to host events.

Chapter leaders are now meeting regularly to discuss issues. We appreciate this opportunity to share with and learn about how other chapters are operating. We've got some great things going on! Thanks to SABR for supporting this effort and to Pete Cottrell for his work with our group.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to move forward with Baseball Reminiscence program efforts. Perhaps someone in the chapter will step up to work on that effort.

Our current membership is around 330. Our aspirational goal is to get a few of these members involved in chapter planning. We look forward to getting together in person sooner or later. Folks planning to come to Baltimore are looking forward to a wonderful convention and celebration of SABR 50. Thanks to everyone for their work on this and other SABR initiatives.

Much appreciation to our "team", longtime Treasurer Pete McPhail, sorry we haven't had much for you to do lately; to our Co-Chair, Steve Treder, appreciate your input immensely, and to our Dusty Baker buddy, Zak Ford. Thanks for all you do.

— **Marlene Vogelsang**

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

With the pandemic starting to settle down, the past fiscal year has been one of continued growth and success for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of SABR ("RM Chapter").

Since June 1, 2021, the RM Chapter has grown its membership by exactly 10% to a total of 150 members within the RM Chapter geographic region, including well over 200 members and followers worldwide!

The RM Chapter was also able to continue its success of holding well-attended events, virtually and in-person. Firstly, the RM Chapter sponsored a special "Larry Walker Retirement Ceremony" event September 25 at Coors Field to pay homage to former Colorado Rockies Larry

Walker, who over this past calendar year was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and the first to do so as a Colorado Rockie. It was a great celebration that was attended by about 50 RM Chapter members and guests.

To close out the 2021 calendar year, the RM Chapter held a Special Holiday Dinner to celebrate all the great accomplishments and recognition of the RM Chapter Board of Directors and of course all its wonderful members.

To start to the 2022 calendar year on January 1, we were excited to start a new Board of Directors lead by newly elected President Dan Evans! We are honored and excited to have Dan lead the RM Chapter into a new era!

The RM Chapter then first held a special virtual event on January 18 with a special guest, baseball writer Jay Jaffe, to discuss the upcoming 2022 Baseball Hall of Fame candidates and ballot vote. The RM Chapter also held a mock Hall of Fame vote allowing its members to cast their vote for the 2022 Hall of Fame class and the results were given at the event, with the RM Chapter selecting two candidates, including the actual sole candidate elected David Ortiz and current Hall of Fame candidate and former Colorado Rockie Todd Helton.

Then on February 5, the RM Chapter held its annual SABR Day with a special virtual event hosting two great individuals and representatives of the baseball community. Our first presenter was Jillian Geib, Major League Baseball stat-caster and first official female scorekeeper for Colorado Rockies baseball home games. Jillian was also the first female official scorekeeper in Coors Field history. Next was Gar Ryness, American sports entertainer and YouTube phenomenon, and better known to all on social media as “The Batting Stance Guy.” Both were fantastic guests and all participants enjoyed their wisdom and in-depth baseball acumen.

Next the RM Chapter held another special virtual event on February 16 with award winning author and longtime SABR member (including his long running weekly podcast “SABRcast”), Rob Neyer. Rob discussed numerous current topics into the world of baseball, including the ongoing labor negotiations for the next collective bargaining agreement between Major League Baseball owners and players.

Then recently with the labor negotiations settled and the baseball season underway, the RM Chapter on April 8 held a “Colorado Rockies Opening Day After Party” celebration hosted by the RM Chapter Board of Directors.

Also during the 2021-22 fiscal season, the RM Chapter continued its long standing tradition of monthly lunch meetings. The RM Chapter was able to continue the success of holding virtual luncheons as well as starting up again the popular in-person monthly luncheons at the Blake Street Tavern in downtown Denver. During one of those in-person monthly luncheons we celebrated the 90th birthday of long-time member and distinguished former professional baseball player Herb Shankman. The RM Chapter had a great 2021-2022 fiscal season and look forward to its continued growth and success in the months to come!

— **Alex Marks**

## Connecticut Smoky Joe Wood Chapter (Hartford, CT)

We started to have more in-person activities in the past year. We still had Zoom meetings, including on February 18, 2021, when we had Aaron Gaberman, a friend of Bobby Murcer, and Neil Scherer. On April 27, 2021, also via Zoom, Bill Ryczek discussed his Dick Stuart book, and Paul Hensler talked about his book, *Gathering Crowds*. Paul has also written and published a book about the Naugatuck HS baseball team.

Our in-person fall meeting on October 9, 2021, featured a 19th-century theme, where Joanne Hulbert did a presentation on Wicket, and our April 23, 2022 general meeting was highlighted by an enjoyable point-counterpoint about Jim Bouton's *Ball Four* book, featuring authors Bill Ryczek and Paul Hensler.

We have regular chapter breakfasts, with our most recent one on June 4, 2022, and a chapter luncheon on February 5, 2022. There was also a chapter luncheon last July 10, and our annual holiday luncheon was on December 18, 2021, organized by Stan Dziurgot. It featured speaker Bill Ryczek, on the topic of Fritz Peterson and Mike Kekich, which was well attended.

We enjoyed a chapter outing to the Hartford Yard Goats game last September 2021, organized by Alan Cohen, who does stats for the team.

We issue our chapter newsletter, *The Woodpile*, which has a lot of interesting articles, trivia, and other matters of interest. It's edited by Stan Osowiecki, and comes out twice a year. Some of our members also participate in the Southern New England SABR chapter meetings, and many of us will attend the national SABR convention in Baltimore, the first in-person one in 3 years. Paul and Steve will present there.

One of our key members, our communications director, Karl Cicitto, stepped down from his leadership position, so as to get involved with the Springfield chapter, close to his home. That is a big loss for us, and he has not been replaced yet.

At the recent Southern NE chapter meeting, we again raised the idea of having a regional meeting in a centralized place, which could involve a number of chapters in our NE area. We hope to get this off the ground!

We hope to move in some new directions in the future.

Chapter officers:	President:	Steve Krevisky
	Treasurer:	Alan Cohen
	Membership Coordinator:	Stan Dziurgot
	Newsletter Editor:	Stan Osowiecki

— Steve Krevisky

## **Bob Davids Chapter (Washington, DC)**

We managed to pull off a fairly successful year despite COVID rearing its ugly head from time to time, to wit:

**Annual chapter meeting (by Zoom):** When in 2021 we learned that we could get the likes of Washington Nationals play-by-play TV broadcaster Bob Carpenter (from Oklahoma) and centenarian and former original Washington Senator Eddie Robinson (from Texas) to participate, we decided the sky was the limit. So, for our January 29, 2022, meeting, we secured presentations from Retrosheet founder Dave Smith (from Delaware), MLB historian John Thorn (from Cooperstown) in conversation with Presidential historian Craig Fehrman (from Indiana), Baseball Prospectus Nationals analysts Sydney Bergman (from Connecticut) and Jared Seidler (from New York), and former Nats reliever Chad Cordero (from California), we thought we had it made. And we did. But the icing on the cake was someone still close to home: expansion Senators slugger Frank Howard (in northern Virginia). While the 2021 chapter meeting attendance topped out at 104, this January 2022 program was consistently in the 125-135 range.

**Talkin' Baseball:** The first-Saturday-of-the-month (usually) book talk and author presentation is now on a monthly streak closing in on Cal Ripken, Jr.'s streak, at least in terms of years. We hardly skipped a beat when we converted to Zoom -- arguably a good thing, as the program had been busting at the seams at the senior center where it had been conducted over the past several years. Here was our lineup over the past year:

- June 5, 2021: Bill Nowlin, "Working a Perfect Game: Conversations with Umpires"
- July 3, 2021: Tim Wendel, "Escape from Castro's Cuba"
- Aug. 14, 2021: Steve Bratkovich, "The Baseball Bat: From Trees to the Major Leagues, 19th Century to Today"
- Sept. 4, 2021: Steve Steinberg, "Comeback Pitchers: The Remarkable Careers of Jack Quinn & Howard Ehmke"
- Oct. 2, 2021: Luke Epplin, "Our Team: The Epic Story of Four Men and the World Series That Changed Baseball"
- Nov. 6, 2021: David Gordon, "Baseball Generations: Career Value Index -- A New Look at the Hall of Fame and Rating the Greatest Players of All Time"
- Dec. 4, 2021: Jack Bales, "The Chicago Cub Shot for Love: A Showgirl's Crime of Passion and the 1932 World Series"
- Jan. 8, 2022: Jay Jaffe, "The Cooperstown Casebook"
- Feb. 8, 2022: Ralph Carhart, "The Hall Ball: One Fan's Journey to Unite Cooperstown Immortals With a Single Baseball"
- Mar. 5, 2022: Clayton Trutor, "Loserville: How Professional Sports Remade Atlanta — and How Atlanta Remade Professional Sports"
- Apr. 2, 2022: Marty Gitlin, "The Saga of Sudden Sam: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of Sam McDowell"
- May 7, 2022: Jerry Manheim, "Baseball -- The Cooperstown Trilogy"



**Maryland Hot Stove:** COVID case spikes played havoc with our third-Tuesday- of-the-month dinner gatherings in Silver Spring, Md., perhaps just a mile north of Washington. We had shut down in December 2020 and finally resumed in spring 2021. Then, when the weather started getting chilly again -- too cold to sit outside on the makeshift patio of the Taste Diner -- we moved around the corner to Mi Rancho, a Tex-Mex restaurant that has a semi-enclosed patio that can be cold-proofed but which also can have its plastic windows rolled up to take in the fresh air. Even with the resumption of warmer weather, there seems to be a consensus to stay at Mi Rancho. The Virginia Hot Stove has yet to resume.

**Ballgames:** We sponsored no game outings at any level of baseball (big leagues, minor leagues, or collegiate leagues) in 2021. We had our first outing of 2022 on May 28: a doubleheader at Virginia Credit Union Stadium to see the Fredericksburg Nationals (relocated from Woodbridge in Prince William County, Va.) take on the Salem Red Sox. Future outings are slated for Saturday, June 18, a collegiate game between the Gaithersburg Giants and the Bethesda Big Train, and Saturday, July 16, Atlanta Braves at Washington -- followed, of course, by SABR 50 in Baltimore.

**Newsletter:** The chapter's quarterly newsletter, *The Squibber*, continued to be published, baseball or no baseball.

**Bob Davids Papers:** After the announcement that the Bob Davids papers and correspondence had transitioned to SABR, the Board identified a historian at the Library of Congress and facilitated a review of the papers by him. He said that the collection is a nice fit for LOC, and expressed interest by the LOC in acquiring it should the SABR board agree to donate the papers. It is our understanding that this topic will be presented at a SABR Board meeting in June.

**Two losses:** The chapter lost two stalwarts in the past year. One was chapter treasurer Dave Paulson, who created the "Talkin' Baseball" book series, and Retrosheet webmaster Mark Pankin, who made "Markov" an essential part of SABR lingo and whose Virginia license plate bore the declaration "NO DH." It may have been a blessing in disguise that he left this mortal coil before the universal DH was instituted in the majors.

— **Mark Pattison**

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

The North Florida/Buck O'Neil Chapter, based in Tallahassee, Florida, has survived the pressures and challenges of the pandemic, continuing to meet monthly, whether via Zoom or in-person when conditions allow. Zoom meetings have continued to facilitate presentations by SABR members and Chapter members who otherwise would not be able to attend Chapter gatherings. Virtual presentations have included SABR member Clayton Trutor's discussion of his recently-published book on Atlanta professional sports history, *Loserville*, and presentation by Chapter members on Type Cards from 1950 – 1970 (Roger Raepple), the best catchers in MLB history (Chuck Rosciam), and the exhibition between the New York Yankees and Florida State

Seminoles on April 5, 1978 (Kent Putnam). When in-person meetings have been possible, presentations have included a history of Florida State baseball (Judge James Joanos, retired) and the life of an umpire (Chapter member and professional umpire Matt Hudson).

As always, every meeting always involves lively discussions about the baseball topics of the moment. Recurring debates have revolved around the current MLB season, the BBWAA and Era Committees ballots for the National Baseball Hall of Fame; the latest strange behavior of the MLB baseball; ongoing labor struggles between players and owners (mercifully no longer an active topic for discussion); predictions for the forthcoming MLB season; and the perennial review of the chances for Florida State to finally win the College World Series.

The Chapter did return to its past precedent of hosting an in-person SABR Day event on February 5, 2022. Special guest Josh Weaver shared his collection of Chapter namesake Buck O'Neil memorabilia, including a few items on-loan from his collection on display at the Carrabelle History Museum in Carrabelle, Florida, Buck's hometown. Josh also covered Buck's life and playing career, regaling the Chapter with details about Buck previously unknown to many members.

Despite the ongoing challenges of the past few years, the North Florida/Buck O'Neil Chapter continues to thrive, offering a forum for seamheads from all backgrounds and interests to gather on common ground and share their passion for all things baseball. This purpose remains at the core of the Chapter's existence, now and in the years to come.

— **Matt Keelean**

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

The South Florida Chapter is pleased to announce that we continued to meet the goals SABR initially laid out in 1971. The aforementioned lofty goals are the continuation to foster 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 what the South Florida Chapter offers its 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.

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

### **2021 Events**

In accord with many of the Covid-19 issues that were present in the country during the year, the South Florida Chapter (SABR) hosted Zoom meetings. Our guest presenter/speakers included Stephen M. Bratkovich, Gary Cieradkowski, Jim Halloran, and Dan Taylor.

— **Sam Zygmier**

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

The Magnolia Chapter remained active in 2021. Below is a summary of the chapter's doings:

#### **Third Thursday – monthly chapter meeting**

The chapter continued our tradition of holding a get-together on the third Thursday of every month. Because of Covid, these meetings were held virtually via Zoom from January 2021 to June 2021. During this period we had several scheduled speakers, see more in the listing below. We typically had between 20 and 25 attendees for each online meeting. From July 2021 to December 2021, our Third Thursdays were held in person at the Taco Mac restaurant on Roswell Road in Atlanta. At Taco Mac, we typically have reserved a curtained room that allows us separation from the remainder of the restaurant. We meet at 6:45pm for food and drinks and stay until about 10:30pm. We have anywhere from 15 to 25 members attending. With every Third Thursday, be it virtual or in person, the meeting is highlighted by a trivia session run by chapter member Dave Washburn.

#### **January Zoom meeting, January 21, 2021**

Our guest this month was nationally-recognized sports artist Graig Kreindler. A New York City native, Graig has a specific passion for painting the history of baseball, from George Wright to George Brett. Graig shared a few of his favorite paintings with us, telling the backstory and the research that went into each.

#### **March Zoom meeting March 18, 2021**

This was organized by the Magnolia Chapter as a joint virtual meeting with the Larry Doby chapter of South Carolina. The meeting featured a roundtable discussion on the 2021 Atlanta Braves, with viewpoints on the team's strengths and weaknesses from Braves beat writers and bloggers. Panelists were Will Cheney, Sports Reporter for the *Augusta Chronicle*; Kris Willis, Managing Editor of Talking Chop; and Fred Owens, Contributing Editor of Tomahawk Take.

#### **April Zoom meeting, April 15, 2021**

At our monthly Third Thursday meeting chapter member Brian Morrow presented a recap of the recent SABR Analytics Conference that he attended.

#### **May Zoom meeting, May 20, 2021**

This month our guest speaker was Jerry Manheim. Jerry is the author of the recently published *This Never Happened: The Mystery Behind the Death of Christy Mathewson*. This is a work of "speculative fiction," calling into question the established story of Mathewson's exposure to poisonous gas in WWI. Much of the action took place in Georgia.

### **June Zoom meeting, June 17 at 7:30pm**

Craig Brown walked the chapter through his recent SABR presentation studying baseball team photos before 1900 -- the era where mustaches far outnumbered home runs. This presentation was given by Brown at the virtual SABR Fred Conference in April 2021.

### **Rome GA (high-A) baseball game – August 21**

About ten members traveled an hour and a half north of Atlanta to see a minor-league baseball game. As is our tradition, we first stopped for an early dinner at Scott's Walk-Up BBQ in Cartersville, GA. The trip was organized by chapter members Brian Morrow and Terry Sloope.

### **Other highlights in 2021**

Chapter member Sam Gazdziak took the lead role heading up SABR's 19th Century Grave Marker Committee. In the fall of 2021, Sam led over 20 attendees in a marker dedication in Chicago for White Stocking slugger Ned Williamson.

Chapter member Craig Brown presented a study on baseball team photos of the 19th century at the Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Conference, held virtually in April 2021.

Chapter member Terry Sloope organized our annual mock Hall of Fame voting for the chapter. Members voted for players nominated by both the Early Years Era Committee and the Golden Years Era Committee. None of the candidates on the ballot in either of the two groups received the support of 75% of the Magnolia Chapter voters.

Chapter members Terry Sloope and Johnny Tallant each organized their annual prediction contests at the beginning of the season for the chapter to participate in. Chapter member Alan Mooneyham was the 2021 Braves prediction contest winner. Alan had 21 correct predictions out of 30.

Chapter member Johnny Tallant held hot stove meetings at his house in Cumming, GA. These meetings were held each month in January, February and March 2021.

Chapter member Terry Sloope continued to maintain the chapter website, adding research projects written by members in previous years.

<https://sites.google.com/site/magnoliasabr>

Chapter president John Hill continued the responsibility of welcoming new members to the chapter each month via email.

Because of Covid, we did not have a specific SABR Day presentation and instead held a virtual Third Thursday meeting in January.

— **Craig Brown**

## Emil Rothe Chapter (Chicago, IL)

In 2021-2022 the Chicago SABR Chapter participated in the following activities since the last report.

### Virtual Meetings

**August 21, 2021:** In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Black Sox trial, Dr. Sharon Hamilton, chair of SABR's Century Committee, led a panel discussion highlighting the aftermath of the Chicago Black Sox criminal trial. Dr. Hamilton was joined by Jacob Pomrenke, Bill Lamb, Dan Levitt, and Willie Steele. Topics included discussion of the trial and verdict, the trial's aftermath, post-trial dinner with jury and players, Commissioner Landis' appointment and banning of the eight players, and a discussion of W.P. Kinsella's "Shoeless Joe" and "Field of Dreams."

**October 2, 2021:** Jack Bales discussed his recent publication *The Chicago Cub Shot For Love: A Showgirl's Crime of Passion and the 1932 World Series* which profiles the lives of Billy Jurgens and Violet Popovich and traces the ripple effects of the shooting on the Cubs' tumultuous season. Dan Taylor discussed his new book *Lights, Camera, Fastball: How the Hollywood Stars Changed Baseball* which looks at the Hollywood Stars and their glorious twenty-year run in the Pacific Coast League.

**October 23, 2021:** Dan Epstein discussed his recent book *The Captain and Me* which explores the relationship between back-to-back New York Yankee No. 1 draft picks, Ron Blomberg and Thurman Munson. Dan included a bonus discussion of Blomberg's time with the White Sox in 1978.

**December 11, 2021:** The chapter welcomed former major leaguer and current MLB Network and 670 AM The Score baseball analyst Cody Decker for a freewheeling discussion about the 2021 postseason, the state of Chicago baseball, the game's pending labor challenges, and audience questions.

**February 19, 2022 (joint SABR Day meeting with Ken Keltner Chapter):** In a joint meeting with the Keltner Chapter, the following speakers appeared:

Ila Borders, Little League prodigy, MVP of her otherwise all-male middle school; the first woman awarded a college baseball scholarship; and the first to pitch and win a men's collegiate game. Ila, author of *Making My Pitch: A Woman's Baseball Odyssey*, shared her experiences with the attendees.

Jasmine Dunston joined the Chicago White Sox in December 2021 as the team's new Director of Minor League Operations. Jasmine discussed her job and experiences as a daughter of a former major leaguer.

Sara Sanchez shared her experiences as the leading voice of *Bleed Cubbie Blue* (SB Nation's Chicago Cubs community), as a writer for *FanGraphs*, and as co-host of the Cuppa Cubbie Blue podcast.

**March 9, 2022 (joint meeting with Dusty Baker and Lefty O'Doul Chapters):** Three SABR Chapters jointly welcomed Christina Kahrl, longtime baseball writer and analyst, co-founder of *Baseball Prospectus*, *ESPN* writer and editor, and current Sports Editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle* for a conversation.

**March 23, 2022:** The chapter welcomed Rachel Folden, fastpitch softball legend and current Minor League Hitting Coach for the Chicago Cubs for a lively discussion. In addition to acting as Cubs minor league hitting guru, Folden is founder of Folden Fastpitch, a baseball and softball training facility in Northwest Indiana that offers cutting edge instruction incorporating biomechanics, science, technology, and data.

**April 26, 2022:** The chapter held a discussion with Elizabeth Muratore, homepage editor for MLB.com and the Internet Baseball Writers Association of America. She also writes for Rising Apple, the New York Mets site within the FanSided network, and Girl at the Game, a female-founded sports media company that promotes female voices in sports. In addition, she co-hosts a Mets and MLB-focused podcast, Cohen's Corner.

### **In-Person Meetings, Ballgames, Luncheons**

**June 26, 2021:** The Chicago SABR Chapter held its first in-person event in two years with a luncheon at Murphy's Bleachers, in Chicago, right across the street from the Wrigley Field center field gate. Great conversation, food, and drinks were enjoyed.

**July 17, 2021:** Chapter Members caught a Frontier League game between the Joliet Slammers and the Gateway Grizzlies at DuPage Medical Group Field in Joliet, IL.

**September 11, 2021 (joint with Ken Keltner Chapter):** In a joint meeting with the Keltner Chapter, Chapter Members caught a Class A game between the Beloit Snappers and the South Bend Cubs at newly-opened ABC Supply Stadium in Beloit, Wisconsin.

**November 6, 2021 (joint with the 19th Century Grave Marker Project):** The chapter worked with the 19th Century Grave Marker Project on the dedication of an official grave marker for 19th Century legend Ed Williamson at Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago, IL.

**January 22, 2022:** The chapter gathered for a luncheon at Pints Elmhurst in Elmhurst, IL.

### **Miscellaneous Activities and Accomplishments**

Chicago SABR Member Bruce Allardice won the 2022 SABR Analytics Conference Research Award for Historical Baseball Analysis/Commentary. The winning paper, "Runs, Runs, and

More Runs: Pre-Professional Baseball, By the Numbers,” was published in the Fall 2021 *SABR Baseball Research Journal*.

Chicago SABR members John Racanelli and Chris Kamka were named co-chairs for the new SABR Landmarks Committee and Bill Pearch and Richard Smiley assisted verifying sites in Illinois.

Chicago SABR Member and Newsletter Editor Bill Pearch ran for SABR’s Board of Directors. Bill also helped get the Central Illinois SARR Chapter established.

The chapter submitted a SABR Local Grant Application to get a historic marker placed for Chicago’s White Stocking (Lake Front) Park.

### **Communications**

- **Chapter Newsletter** - Our chapter's renowned newsletter is on a bimonthly schedule. Six issues have appeared since the last report: July-August 2021, September-October 2021, November-December 2021; January-February 2022, March-April 2022, and May-June 2022.
- **Social Media** - During 2021-22 we continued our presence on Facebook using it as a calendar for upcoming chapter events. Other meetings were run via the Zoom account the chapter acquired. The chapter also had a presence on Twitter.

— **Richard Smiley**

### **Central Illinois Chapter (Peoria, IL)**

**Formation** – The Central Illinois chapter of SABR was approved on February 16, 2022.

**Events** – SABR-CI held two events to kick off the new chapter. First Zoom Meeting – Held April 19, 2022. The guest speaker was Bill Kemp, librarian at the McLean County Museum of History, who discussed the Three-Eye League and in particular central Illinois and McLean County baseball.

First In-Person Meeting – Held May 14, 2022 at Dozer Park in Peoria, Illinois. The guest speaker was Cory Schindler, broadcaster for the Peoria Chiefs. After the Q&A with Cory, members and guests enjoyed the Peoria Chiefs vs Cedar Rapid Kernels game.

**Membership** – Currently 35

**Co-Chairs:** Chad Kahl and Ryan Van Der Karr

— **Ryan Van Der Karr**

## Oscar Charleston Chapter (Indianapolis, IN)

This document includes the recap emails sent to Oscar Charleston SABR Chapter members for the three meetings that took place from June 1, 2021–May 31, 2022:

### October 30, 2021 Meeting Recap

This email will recap the Oscar Charleston SABR Chapter meeting from Saturday, October 30, 2021, which met at the Haughville Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library. First, Walter Biskupski detailed his early baseball card collecting adventures with the 1962 Topps set. Relying on this set's photography and the poignant nostalgia that card-collecting sparks—he noted that “we always remember our first set”—Walter crafted poems about players appearing in the 1962 set. The attached folder includes the poems juxtaposed against each corresponding card. [This link](#) also connects to the August 2021 edition of the academic journal *NINE*, which featured five of Walter's poems.

Andy Heckroth presented an intimate take on Game 1 of the 1951 World Series. Among other details, Andy described the peculiar pitching rotation strategy that Giants' manager Leo Durocher needed to use, based on the top Giants pitchers' recent, significant workloads, along with Monte Irvin's spectacular home plate theft, which was the first in a World Series game in over thirty years.

Finally, I brought the meeting home with an informal presentation—think of it as a conversation starter—about how baseball fans, journalists, and statisticians have tried to define, and have changed their view of what comprises, individual greatness in baseball over the past few decades.

### January 29, 2022 Meeting Recap

Last Saturday, January 29, 2022, the Oscar Charleston Chapter hosted its annual SABR Day meeting, which took place at the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library, but which we also streamed live, the recording of which is at [this link](#). Here's a recap:

- **Dave Bohmer** (Director Emeritus, Pulliam Center for Contemporary Media and Media Fellows Program, DePauw University) presented some of the initial reactions (around July 1961) to Ford Frick's decision to treat Roger Maris's single season home run record as separate from Babe Ruth's mark. Dave mentioned that when MLB made this decision, most sportswriters and many top MLB players agreed on the difference in historic significance between a 154-game record and a 162-game record. Indeed, the idea of a distinct 162-game record made sense in the moment given that, with the upcoming team expansion, MLB envisioned returning to a 154-game format soon after the 1961 season; with the continuing and normalizing of the 162-game seasons came the steady-building and eventual disagreement with Frick's decision to “asterisk” Maris's record.
- **Howard Kellman** (longtime Indianapolis Indians radio broadcaster) previewed the 2022 Indianapolis Indians' season, indicating that several of the top prospects drafted in 2020 and 2021 aim to begin the 2022 season in Single-A or Double-A. Although the Indians



played in the International League (fourteen (14) teams) since 1998, that League has disbanded, with the Indians switching to the newly-formed Triple-A East, which includes twenty (20) teams. Most important, Howard brought good news: regardless of the MLB strike, Indians baseball will start their season on April 5, 2022.

- **Dave Brayfield** (independent researcher and chronicler) described the playing and administrative career of Les Mann, who helped spread baseball internationally and developed the earliest literature on baseball fundamentals, using professional players to demonstrate technique on both lantern slides and on film, in the 1920s. On the international front, Mann pushed to make baseball an Olympic sport, advancing the ball, so to speak, to the point where baseball served as the official Olympic demonstration sport for the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, despite baseball having little notoriety in Germany. Dave's presentation of the baseball fundamentals slides (several originals of which he also brought to the meeting) revealed irreplaceable perspectives on stadiums and city skylines, visible from field level, in 1921.

I've attached, as an added bonus, the trivia that the attendees participated in. As always, if you're interested in presenting or if you have questions, please let me know. We look forward to the next meeting, which I envision taking place in late-April, but I'll be in touch with details.

### **April 30, 2022 Meeting Recap**

Thank you to all who attended and tuned in to last Saturday's meeting of the Oscar Charleston SABR Chapter. Geri Strecker (formerly of the English Department at Ball State University) discussed Indianapolis' role in the formation of the Negro National League (C.I. Taylor, who helped establish the ABCs, and Dave Wyatt, who wrote for the newspaper, *The Indianapolis Freeman*). The entire presentation is available at [this link](#).

As I mentioned during the meeting, this Chapter will benefit from more frequent communication among a greater number of its members. This democratization, so to speak, will surely help increase the number, and quality, of our Chapter's meetings. Thus, would anyone receiving this email like to participate in periodic planning meetings, over the next few months, to brainstorm future events and, simply, to gather and talk about baseball, in an informal setting? I'm all ears. Whether it's two or twenty-two people who respond to this request, I think we can collectively improve this Chapter.

— **Trenton Morton**

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

After a year of not meeting the Kekionga Chapter (Fort Wayne, IN) finally met on January 29, 2022. We met at the Allen County Public Library with 6 attendees including 2 new. Our meeting was a recap of the past baseball season and discussed some MLB free agent landing spots. Play by Play announcer for the FW Tincaps John Nolan talked about the potential prospects that the

San Diego Padres will assign to Fort Wayne. We also discussed the difference Fort Wayne fans may see going from the Midwest League going from Low A to High A. We finished up with the local and national trivia. We met for two hours and had a great conversation. I am working on setting a summer time at Parkview Field, the home of the Fort Wayne Tincaps, for June or July.

— **Tim Tassler**

### **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. Below is a summary of our activities for the period from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 (plus a little more).

The Chapter continued to hold a series of Zoom sessions with authors and other guests. On June 19, we hosted author David Krell, author of *1962: Baseball and America in the Time of JFK*. Umpire Perry Barber, a friend of Krell's, joined us for the session and sang the theme song to "Car 54, Where Are You."

On Saturday night, July 24, 2021, the Chapter hosted its annual night at a Louisville Bats game (against the Memphis Cardinals), with the suite furnished by the Bats. We had excellent attendance, including members Harry Rothgerber, Jon Borie, Jack Sullivan, Mike Zanone, Rodger Payne, Chris Betsch, Bob Sawyer, Ryan Schroer and Steve Silverman. Jon brought his friend Tommy Newman and Jack brought his buddy Bill Nixon, who has since joined the chapter. It was great to meet Steve Silverman at last, who came down from Cincy with his engaging son Brian. And what a delight to have Ryan join us, along with his father Dan and mom Taffy. Ryan seemed like he was in seventh heaven and I learned only later that that was his first time in a suite (and not the last). Dr. Jack Sullivan administered his famous and painful trivia contest. The Cardinals beat the Bats 4 – 1 behind Miles Mikolas who was making a rehab start. As he does every year, Greg Galiette (president of the Bats) dropped by to say hello, and the Bats staff were exceptional. A good time was had by all.

The Chapter had plans to travel once more to Bowling Green, Kentucky on Saturday, August 14, to attend a Hot Rods game. Several of the folks who were planning to travel or join us there had justified concerns about the Delta Variant and others just had late-arising conflicts, so we had to pull the plug on that trip and rolled our deposit over to 2022.

Our SABR friends Monte and Linda Cely visited us in Louisville at the end of August. Monte has been the engine behind SABR's Baseball Reminiscence Project and has joined us on a number of Saturday morning Zoom sessions (and in turn invited us to his Rogers Hornsby Chapter (on one visit, I somehow won the trivia contest, which earned me the honors of administering the following one: Dr. Jack ably pinch-hit). Monte and I did a tour of the Louisville Slugger Museum, with our tour guide Bailey Mazik of the Museum. We attended the Bats game Tuesday night, tickets courtesy of our member Ken Draut. Monte, Linda, my wife Nancie and I dined out both nights and had a great time.

Felton Snow. We have been trying to drum up interest in getting a group to put together a history of African American baseball in Louisville. Our new member and friend Dr. Wayne Tuckson took me to dinner at the Thai Café in Holiday Manor Tuesday night, where I was introduced to Billy Snow, who owns the restaurant with his Thai wife. Billy told me about his uncle, Felton “Skipper” Snow, who moved to Louisville from Alabama as a youngster. Not a big man, Snow was a decent hitter with a powerful arm, and played shortstop for the Elite Giants (as the team moved from Nashville to Columbus to Washington and ultimately to Baltimore). Snow started his career with the Louisville White Sox and the Louisville Black Caps. He ultimately became player-manager for the Elite Giants and then manager (hence the nickname “Skipper”). After his playing days, Snow returned to Louisville and worked at the Louisville Armory until an on-the-job injury ended that. He then took a job at the Hubbard’s Lane Barber Shop and worked there until his death in 1974 from a heart attack. He was just 69 years old. St. Matthews Little League has had a team named after him since 1987. I asked Bobby where Felton was buried and he told me Eastern Cemetery. In an unmarked grave. That caused me to look into Eastern Cemetery, which I drive by (and occasionally walk by) frequently. Nobody owns Eastern Cemetery. Why? Because ownership of the land brings with it a \$58 million liability resulting from the scandalous behavior of the previous owners. I discovered, however, an organization called the Friends of Eastern Cemetery. <https://friendsofeasterncemetery.com/>. It is a shaped-up organization that has cleaned up and rehabilitated the graveyard. It also has collected histories of those buried there, including of Mr. Snow. <https://friendsofeasterncemetery.com/felton-snow/>. The President of FOEC is Andy Harpole, who I reached out to. I had a good conversation with him. He told me that there is a process for placing a tombstone that involves the Kentucky Attorney General’s Office, but that they’ve done it many times and it’s become fairly routine. He also told me there was a company on Bardstown Road that makes headstones and has been very supportive of FOEC. He also sent me this documentary about the cemetery. It’s not short but worth every minute of it. <https://tubitv.com/video/565197> The Friends of Eastern Cemetery have located where Skipper Snow is buried. Section 16, Row 12, Grave 19. His last resting place is unmarked. We’re going to fix that. More later.

On Saturday, September 25, we were joined on Zoom by the ever-amazing Perry Barber. Perry was generous with her time and told us her amazing story, only part of which involves her youthful decision to become a professional umpire. It is not often we get to be in the presence of such an indomitable spirit, blessed with humor, grace, dedication and, as I said before, a sublime singing voice. A few weeks later, we hosted Roger Snell, one of our own, who presented on his book, *Root For the Cubs*. Roger is one of those naturally cheery fellows who delights in the history of the game. The book was inspired by Berly Horne, Roger’s next door neighbor and his personal “Moonlight Graham” who won one game during the ’29 season and never won another, and also is highlighted by the conversations Roger had every Sunday with Charlie Root’s daughter, who was 90 years old with wit and memory fully intact. This session was one of my favorites.

Our friend, member and author Chris Betsch decided to do a SABR bio of John Lewis Dodge and, as part of his research, went to Louisville’s famous Cave Hill Cemetery to find that, while buried there, Dodge had no marker. When we put out the call, our Chapter answered and we quickly raised enough that Cave Hill saw that we were serious. John Dodge’s short life was

marred by tragedy. His mother died when he was 13 and his (physician) father when he was 15. Dodge surfaced as an infielder who played a couple of seasons in the majors at age 19 and 20. He had a decent season with the Reds in 2013, but his weak hitting was not enough to offset his superior fielding and, after 2013, he commenced bouncing around in the minor leagues. Mr. Betsch's excellent bio lays it all out: <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/john-dodge/>. Chris also wrote a SABR game story about the game Dodge was hit, sustaining an injury that killed him. <https://sabr.org/gamesproj/game/june-18-1916-death-johnny-dodge/>. How did Dodge get to Cave Hill? His father was born to a prominent family in Louisville, and he and his wife were laid to rest in Cave Hill after their early deaths, and were too soon joined by their only son. Thanks to Michael Higgs and Bill Evans at Cave Hill in helping us out and a big shout-out to Chris. Chris has utilized the wonderful work of Bob Bailey and located some other ex-MLBers buried at Cave Hill and we're now considering next steps on those. (I also noticed that his bio of Dodge resulted in the Baseball Reference entry fixing an error regarding Dodge's place of birth, so Chris does his homework).

We are still talking up a "baseball day" in Louisville that would start in the morning at the Louisville Slugger Museum and continue with a visit to Cave Hill as part of a "baseball tour" there. Pete Browning is buried there; Sportswriter Ron Coons; Jimmy "Chicken" Wolf; Bud Hillerich, who made the first Louisville Slugger bat; and more to come. And, of course, continuing out Bardstown Road, one can find the monument to this chapter's namesake, at Resthaven: And right next door to Cave Hill is the slowly recovering Eastern Cemetery, which has several Negro Leagues baseball players.

We are also in discussions with Layla George, Executive Director of Olmstead Parks to place an historical marker at Elliott Park in Louisville's West End, which was home to the original Eclipse Park ([more excellent work](#) from Bob Bailey) and also where Fleet Walker broke the color line over 60 years before Jackie Robinson took the field for the first time in an MLB game. The Courier Journal published an article on Walker earlier this year, mentioning that there was no marker commemorating the event.

On Monday, November 22 2021, the Chapter was joined, again on Zoom, by Josh Rawitch, the new President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Josh was engaging and told of us of his baseball background, his perspective on the Hall of Fame and some of his plans.

The John Lewis Dodge monument was commemorated on December 2, 2021. Our Chapter raised over half of the cost and the Cave Hill Heritage Foundation gave a grant of \$1,000 to get us over the top. The afternoon ceremony received great press coverage and good attendance by Chapter members.

Our great run of Zoomcasts continued with some special guests. Joe Posnanski joined us on Saturday morning, December 4 and was a blast. His book, *The Baseball 100*, is an instant classic. Then, on Monday, December 13, we were joined by Jim Kaat, just-elected member of the Hall of Fame. Our author-member Kelly Park knows Kaat from the profile of him Kelly included in his book, *Just Like Me*, and was able to score the interview. At the time it was scheduled, there was no assurance that Kaat would be voted in, so it was pretty cool for our visit to be so soon after his election. I passed on the good wishes of his Paducah friend and batterymate, Phil Roof, and Kaat

was as good as expected, with some very nice things to say about his White Sox teammate, Dick Allen.

Next up was Jay Jaffe, author of *The Cooperstown Casebook*, who joined us Thursday night, January 13 of the New Year. Jay was also a blast and combined his deep knowledge of the game with a sort of blue-collar approach that proved to be a winner for the Chapter. Then, on Thursday night, February 1, we were honored by another Zoom visit with Sudden Sam McDowell and his co-author, Marty Gitlin, to discuss his upcoming book, *The Sage of Sudden Sam: The Rise, Fall and Redemption of Sam McDowell*. Sam has seen it all and conveyed his amazing story with warmth and wit. We had Zoom guests from all over, including a number of Indians fans. Our member Ryan Schroer was able to connect with Mr. McDowell by reaching out to his co-author.

On Saturday morning, February 22, the Chapter held a somewhat belated SABR Day at the Louisville Slugger Museum. It was a blast. In addition to Gary Cieradkowski, we were graced by John Kiesewetter, author of the delightful *Joe Nuxhall: The Old Lefthander and Me* and Lew Freedman, author of many books, baseball and otherwise. All speakers were engaging and entertaining and stuck around afterwards to gab and sign books. Attendance was great and everything went off without a hitch. Much thanks to the folks at the Slugger Museum and to Ken and Andy Draut, who helped us get set up. Very successful meeting, and Gary added to the spirit with his newly-created Peewee Reese cards.

As mentioned above, we have had a Felton Snow initiative that is now taking shape. We spoke to a fellow at Friends Of Eastern Cemetery and asked him who they used for gravestones. He recommended Evans Monument, a family-owned monument company on Bardstown Road not too far from Eastern Cemetery. Ken Draut and I met several times with Tom Evans and set our fundraising goal (Evans Monument kicked in \$1,000). And we've raised it, some \$10,000, including Louisville Urban League: \$3,000; Louisville Slugger Museum: \$1000; Louisville Bats: \$1,000, Billy Snow: \$1,000, SABR members: \$4,500. The stone is due in on July 5 and we have put together a nice design for the front of it.

We collaborate with the Louisville Bats and three or four months ago, Greg Galiette, the Bats president, reached out to me to see if we wanted to be part of an effort called [The Nine](#). MLB has tasked minor league cities that once had Negro League teams to join in this initiative. Nine was Jackie Robinson's number when he was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers and sent to the minor leagues in Montreal. We have monthly meetings involving the Bats, the Louisville Sports Commission and the Slugger Museum.

As part of this, Wayne Tuckson and I met with one of the two baseball coaches in Louisville's West End (coaching for West End Sports that plays at the Shawnee Sports Complex). The Bats had a day of service there in April (cleaning up the fields, etc.) that also involved Humana employees. These are two guys who've been doing this for 20 years plus while interest in baseball amongst Black kids has waned. These two coaches (Howard Jones and Nate Payne) have kept the game alive. We hope to raise funds to upgrade those facilities after the early September events (below).

On September 2, 2022, at its regularly scheduled game, the Bats will host a Felton Snow night honoring the Negro Leagues, a night that is far beyond our wildest dreams when we first started on this. The Bats will trolley young ballplayers from West End Sports to the game (free admission to them) and, among other things, will give out Felton Snow baseball cards to the first 2,500 customers. Gary Cieradkowski has developed a Felton Snow card that he donated to our Chapter, which we in turn are donating to the Bats for the game.

I was in Kansas City three weeks ago and got to meet with Bob Kendrick, the president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, and asked him if he might want to attend the September 2 festivities. Since then, the Bats have reached out to him and are making arrangements to bring him in and host him for that. He wants to visit with friends at the Bats and the Slugger Museum and go to the Muhammed Ali Center. We also have gotten a commitment from Leslie Heaphy, newly elected SABR VP and a scholar on the Negro Leagues who teaches history at Kent State.

On September 1, in the early afternoon, there will be a ceremony dedicating Felton's gravestone. Michael Higgs of the Cave Hill Heritage Foundation wants to be part of that and fully recognizes the significance of the wall between Cave Hill and Eastern Cemeteries. Representatives of all the organizations that have donated and more will be there, and we're hoping that Bob Kendrick and Leslie Heaphy will be able to attend that. Rachel Platt at the Frazier Museum has agreed to moderate a panel with Bob, Leslie and Greg Galiette before the game (either September 1 or 2). Dr. Tuckson has a show on Kentucky Educational Television and we've enlisted his producer, Laura Krueger, and our friend Lavel White (a documentarian who has done pieces on the Beecher Terrace, Sheppard Square and other housing projects) to film the activities with the hopes of turning it into a KET show. We will collaborate with the Roots 101 Museum, and have met several times with its executive director, LaMonte Collins, who has a deep knowledge of Negro Leagues Baseball.

Next year: one of the best second basemen to play in the Negro Leagues and possible Baseball Hall of Fame candidate: Sammy Hughes. Mr. Hughes is also buried in an unmarked grave. We intend to fix, too.

This Thursday evening, June 9, we hosted Eric Gray, author of *Bases to Bleachers: A Collection of Personal Baseball Stories From the Stands and Beyond*, for a reading from his book. Eric is a native New Yorker, now a San Franciscan, who divides his allegiance between the Mets and the Giants. Eric and his wife Lynn have travelled from D.C., where they were visiting their son and his family, to North Carolina, Tennessee and Louisville, before jetting back to San Francisco. The event was held on the second floor of the Bristol Bar & Grille. Eric is a good storyteller and it was fun to make new friends.

We have our night at the Bats scheduled for Saturday, June 25 and a Bowling Green Hot Rods trip is in the works.

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

— **Tad Myre**

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

### **Chapter Membership**

The total number of SABR members currently registered in the Schott-Pelican Chapter was 55 on May 1, 2022 (per the SABR membership directory). A general breakdown of membership by geographic location is:

- 25 from the metro New Orleans area, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and Southeast Louisiana, who are the most likely candidates for regular attendance at chapter meetings
- 12 from the remainder of Louisiana and Mississippi, not included in the above areas.
- 18 from outside of Louisiana.

### **Chapter Meetings**

The chapter held quarterly meetings in the metro New Orleans area in July (in-person) and November (in-person) 2021 and January (virtual) and April (hybrid) 2022. The meetings were also open to non-SABR members.

The chapter typically had 10-12 attendees at each of its quarterly meetings.

There were usually 2-3 presentations and a baseball trivia quiz presented by attendees and guests at these meetings.

Virtual meetings allowed our chapter to include chapter members and guests from outside the New Orleans area. We will continue the hybrid meetings in the future to facilitate more non-local resident participation.

### **Chapter Meeting Highlights**

The chapter welcomed Bill Pearch from the Emil Rothe Chicago Chapter at our in-person November meeting, which coincided with a personal visit he was making to the city.

Jack Bales presented his new book *The Chicago Cub Shot for Love: A Showgirl's Crime of Passion and the 1932 World Series*.

Member James McDonald presented extensive biographical research about Joe Bernard, who pitched only major-league inning, in 1909, and never appeared in the minors.

Member Brother Neal Golden provides a baseball quiz at each meeting.

Member Richard Cuicchi presented a game story in which the Larkin and Boone brothers made up the Reds infield in a game.

### **SABR Events and Activities**

Member Richard Cuicchi contributed to several SABR BioProject books and attended the 2022 SABR Virtual Analytics Conference.

Members Kyle Sharamitaro, Brother Neal Golden, and Richard Cuicchi contributed St. Louis Cardinals game stories for the 2021 Project in conjunction with the Century Committee.

— **Richard Cuicchi**

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

2021 continued to be both a blessing and a curse for the BBRC as in-person events were kept to a minimum but we still had at least two Zoom meeting a month.

The Peeps @ the Peeb (Peabody Heights Brewery) was usually much better attended. That event happens every first Monday of the month at 7 PM.

Our Called Shot Lunch occurs on the third Wednesday of the month at 12 noon.

And our chapter started Baltimore Baseball Babble – an engaging baseball discussion on the last Sunday of the month at 7 PM. It is unscripted and no speakers are featured.

With the threat of COVID lessening, we returned to in-person meetings in March 2022. The Peeps @ the Peeb meeting will be hybrid (Zoom and in-person) while the Called Shot Lunch at the Babe Ruth Birthplace will be in-person only. And the Sunday night Babble meetings are Zoom only.

Numerous SABR members presented at our meetings in 2021/22 regarding their research or published books. Some big name speakers included Geoff Arnold (Orioles broadcaster), Adam Pohl (Bowie Baysox broadcaster), Adrienne Roberson (Orioles PA Announcer) and MLB ballpark legend Janet Marie Smith who is currently an EVP of the LA Dodgers.

The BBRC did not host a game at Camden Yards in 2021 but did put together a joint minor league outing on September 4 with the Philadelphia, Williamsport, and Harrisburg chapters. Approximately 30 members/friends attended a double-header at the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders over Labor Day weekend. Scranton is the AAA affiliate of the NY Yankees and were very generous and gracious hosts.

Because of the ongoing pandemic worries, the BBRC did not host a SABR Day in early 2022 at the Peabody Heights Brewery but plan on returning in 2023 after a 3 year absence.

*The Baltimore Chop* newsletter continues to be published quarterly and is received by close to 800 people between members and non-members.

As we approach SABR 50 happening in August of 2022, the BBRC is thrilled to be the host chapter and looks forward to having everyone in Charm City.

Our chapter website is not yet up and running but you can follow us on Facebook in the meantime.

— **Peter Coolbaugh**



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

We can pick up where we left off last year with a report from Worcester, where the Boston Chapter held the first in-person meeting at a Triple-A Worcester Red Sox game. The most recent meeting the Boston Chapter enjoyed together, in person, in one place, face-to-face, occurred more than 18 months ago, and finally we are back together in person once again, on Saturday, July 17, 2021. While planning the meeting we had no inkling whether people would be ready — and willing — to meet in person, but 36 people attended. After a few presentations, and also a welcome from WooSox coach Rich Gedman, we looked forward to the game — which we did attend as a group and saw one inning before the rain came in a deluge ‘of a historic proportion’ — and we were left to run for our cars - it was, an “unfitting” ending to an otherwise great meeting.

And so, what to do for future meetings? The Boston Chapter figured it might be wise, economical, and more inclusive if we attempted a series of Zoom meetings as had other chapters, which we figured we would stick to as long as the indoor mask mandate was enforced – and we figured many people were still hesitant about meeting in person. Since Boston is blessed with a plethora of resources regarding baseball and all it can offer, we set about organizing an eclectic roster of presentations. First, we thought about asking a member from each New England SABR Chapter to provide us with a presenter. Clayton Trutor of the Vermont Chapter, author of *Loserville*, was the first we reached out to in November 2021. He was an excellent first choice for the Boston Chapter November meeting. The Boston Chapter was now settled into the Zoom universe. Since we encountered hesitation and perhaps shyness among the other New England Chapters regarding sending us a speaker, we branched out.

- December 6, 2021 – John Vampatella, Game Five of the 2004 ALCS.
- January 6, 2022 – Bill Ryczek, *Dr. Strangelove, The Life and Times of All-Star Dick Stuart*.
- February 10, 2022 – Andy Andres, Boston University, “The Science Behind the Sticky Stuff”
- March 10, 2022 – Reynaldo Cruz Diaz, Universo Beisbol
- April 14, 2022 – Robert Brady, Boston Braves Historical Association
- May 12, 2022 – “Baseball Then and Now” – stories from the recent SABR Nineteenth Century Conference at Cooperstown, Dixie Tourangeau
- June 12, 2022 – Rob Neyer and Dale Scott, *The Umpire is Out*.

When the Boston Chapter considered holding a series of Zoom meetings, we did not know how well they would be received, and how they would hold up against in-person meetings.

We have found a few advantages. One is that Zoom meetings are economical especially when considering the cost of rental space in Boston venues, Zoom meetings reach a wider geographical audience because we can now reach all SABR members even those who live far from New England, and also it has been a great advantage for people who cannot travel or are home-bound.

Although the Boston Chapter is still committed to holding in-person meetings – somehow, somewhere, sometime, we have seen the advantage of Zoom meetings which will become an integral part of Chapter activities.

— **Joanne Hulbert, Saul Wisnia, David Laurila**

### **Cool Papa Bell Chapter (Starkville, MS)**

The Cool Papa Bell Chapter currently has a membership of 34 registered members. This past summer we held an in-person meeting in Pearl, MS at Trustmark Park. The chapter meeting began at The Lost Cajun restaurant for an early dinner, business meeting, and a great presentation by Thomas VanHyning on his research into the career of Tony Perez. Following our meal, we headed over to the ballpark to watch the AA South Champion Mississippi Braves (AA affiliate of the Atlanta Braves) square off against the Birmingham Barons. It was an exciting game as the Braves won on a walk-off wild pitch! Eleven members of the chapter attended, and a good time was shared by all.

We held a virtual SABR Day meeting with guest speaker Dan Evans. Dan recounted numerous baseball stories about his tenure with the White Sox and Dodgers. Several interesting discussions ensued regarding the Hall of Fame voting, economics in baseball, the use of specialist pitchers, and more. Dan even discussed his role in bringing Michael Jordan to Birmingham to play for the Barons following his 3 championship seasons with the Chicago Bulls.

A great deal of work was put into attempting to host an in-person research conference in the spring at Mississippi State University to be held on the anniversary of Cool Papa Bell's 100th anniversary in professional baseball. Unfortunately, the conference did not happen, but the work was not for naught. As part of the plans, I contacted the widow of Lonnie Wheeler. Lonnie has published a wonderful biography of Mr. Bell. Mrs. Wheeler agreed to allow the Mississippi State University Library, at our base of operations in Starkville, MS, to house Lonnie's papers regarding his research for his book. We still hold hope that our plans for this research conference may happen next year.

The Chapter has maintained an active Twitter feed, @mississippisabr, to promote our meetings as well as those of other SABR chapters. In addition, I have actively emailed our members with updates and links to other prominent SABR events.

— **Michael Jaffe**

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

The Monarchs Chapter had their annual meeting on SABR day with local authors Pat O'Neill and Tom Coffman talking about their book on early 20th century baseball figure Ted Sullivan.

— **Roger Erickson**

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

The Bob Broeg SABR Chapter in St. Louis, Missouri continues to meet twice monthly. Happily, we were able to meet in-person again starting in June 2021. Regular meetings, with a set agenda that includes a guest speaker, this date in baseball history, research presentations, general discussion, and trivia are held at The Sports Cafe in Bridgeton, MO. The more informal fellowship meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at Lester's Sports Bar & Grill in Ladue, MO.

A benefit from the previous year of holding only zoom meetings is that we still continue to have several speakers and guests join the in-person attendees for the regular meetings via zoom, pushing our "attendance" to the 20+ level consistently.

Our list of guest speakers included the following:

June 10, 2021: John Coulson and John Sherdel, co-authors of "Wee Willie Sherdel: Cardinals Winningest Left-Hander". John Sherdel is the grandson of Wee Willie Sherdel.

July 12, 2021: Steve Treder, author of *Forty Years a Giant: The Life of Horace Stoneham*, which was awarded SABR's 2022 Seymour Medal.

October 18, 2021: Ron Jacober, St. Louis sports broadcaster on TV and radio for 45 years. He has co-authored two books with local SABR member Bob Tiemann, "Immortal Moments in Cardinal History", and "'64 Cardinals: A Team, A Season, and a Showdown For The Ages".

November 15, 2021: Randy Covitz, sportswriter for the *Kansas City Star* from 1981-2015.

January 10, 2022: Dr. Kat D. Williams, founder and president of the International Women's Baseball Center and Professor of Women's Sports History at Marshall University.

March 14, 2022: Jason Schwartz, co-chair of the SABR Baseball Cards Research Committee.

April 18, 2022: Jeff Copeland, author of *After Jackie: 15 Pioneers Who Helped Change the Face of Baseball*, and former part-owner of the Waterloo, IA minor league club.

On September 18, 2021 the chapter sponsored the 7th Annual Jim Rygelski Research Conference, hosted and organized by the Webster University Sports Media and Analytics Club. Bill Marston was declared the winner of the Rygelski Award with his research on unassisted triple plays.

The chapter was also able to hold our annual Hot Stove Luncheon once again on January 29, 2022 at Favazza's Restaurant. Our special guest speakers were Bill DeWitt III, President of the St. Louis Cardinals and Derrick Goold, lead Cardinals beat writer for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and past president of the BBWAA.

Officers for the current year were approved at the luncheon and are: President - Rick Zucker, Vice-President - Allison Levin, Secretary - Jim Leefers, and Treasurer - Mark Stangl.

— **Jim Leefers**

### **Maddux Brothers Chapter (Las Vegas, NV)**

The Las Vegas chapter has been largely dormant since the onset of COVID, having last met on SABR Day, January 25, 2020. However, in the past year, efforts are underway to revive it. Two actions in particular are worth noting:

Member Rob Sheinkopf had been part of the national “Baseball Memories” program and sought to implement it in Las Vegas. After meetings with various groups, he was able to start programming at the Oakmont of Las Vegas assisted living facility. He and two others from the chapter have presented several programs, with great feedback and support from the staff and the residents.

Member Michael Green accepted the duties of chapter president in place of Rick Swift, who has not communicated with the chapter or SABR. He is in the process of setting up a night at a Las Vegas Aviators AAA baseball game in the suite of the law firm co-owned by fellow SABR member Chris Kaempfer’s law firm, and has heard back from several members about their interest.

This is, we hope, the beginning of more Baseball Memories programs, which would require additional volunteers, and of regular meetings. Summer travel makes consistency difficult, but we are working around it.

— **Michael Green**

### **Elysian Fields Chapter (Jersey City, NJ)**

The Elysian Fields Chapter of SABR continues to draw terrific guests with compelling topics for our Zoom meetings. We average 15-25 attendees. The SABR Day event draws 30-35.

Typically, the guest is interviewed by the chapter chair or gives a presentation. On occasion, a member will do the interviewing. We will increase those opportunities going forward.

We’ve also had some other formats to increase participation by the members: baseball trivia quiz and open forums. The latter includes a provocative topic—Who Should Be in the Hall of Fame? Responses included Al Oliver, Tommy John, Charles Ebbets, Steve Garvey, and Billy Martin. We plan to boost the number of these types of events as well.

We will also have sessions that consist of the members discussing what they're working on, whether it's a presentation, article, or book.

To date, we have not had a social event since the Covid-19 lockdowns of Spring 2020. We hope to have one this summer, but it's tentative because of the recent surge.

A list of our events from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 is below. Our 2022 SABR Day agenda is attached.

**June 7**

Jessica Brand  
Baseball statistician

Open discussion: Problems with umpiring

**June 28**

David Krell  
Author, *1962: Baseball and America in the Time of JFK*

**July 26**

Dan Taylor  
Author, *Lights, Camera, Fastball: How the Hollywood Stars Changed Baseball*

**August 16**

Paul Hensler  
Author, *Gathering Crowds: Catching Baseball Fever in the New Era of Free Agency*

**September 20**

Willie Steele,  
Author, *Going the Distance: The Life and Works of W.P. Kinsella*

**October 4**

Clayton Trutor  
Author, *Loserville: How Professional Sports Remade Atlanta and How Atlanta Remade Professional Sports*

Bill Lamb

Editor, *The Inside Game*, SABR's Deadball Era Committee newsletter  
Winner, SABR's 2019 Bob Davids Award  
Author, *Black Sox in the Courtroom: The Grand Jury, Criminal Trial and Civil Litigation*

Duke Goldman

Baseball Historian, Frequent contributor to SABR journals  
Former lecturer, University of Massachusetts - Amherst  
Topic: History of the New York Giants

**October 18**

Jack Bales

Author, *The Chicago Cub Shot for Love: A Showgirl's Crime of Passion and the 1932 World Series*

Tony Ciulla

Co-host, *This Podcast Is Making Me Thirsty*

Jessica Kleinschmidt

MLB reporter

**November 8**

J'nelle Agee

Daughter of Tommie Agee

Kristie Ackert

Yankees Beat Writer

*New York Daily News*

Luke Epplin

Author, *Our Team: The Epic Story of Four Men and the World Series That Changed Baseball*

**November 22**

Gabrielle Starr, *Girl at the Game*

2021 AL East roundup

Olivia Garvey

WJLA-TV Sports Anchor

2021 NL East roundup

**December 13**

Jason Turbow

Pandemic Baseball Book Club

Jim Gates

Former Librarian, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

**December 27**

Perry Barber, Umpire

Peter Golenbock, co-author with Bobby Valentine, *Valentine's Way: My Adventurous Life and Times*

**January 3, 2022**

Jean Ardell

*Making My Pitch: A Woman's Baseball Odyssey*

David Krell  
Baseball and TV Dialogue

**January 10**

Stu Shostak  
TV Historian

Open Forum—Hall of Fame discussion

**January 24**

Mark Macrae  
Director, Pacific Coast League Historical Society

Andy McCue

Author, *Mover and Shaker: Walter O'Malley, the Dodgers, and Baseball's Westward Expansion*

**January 31**

Tim Wiles  
Executive Director of Guilderland (NY) Public Library and Former Head Librarian, Baseball Hall of Fame

Michael G. Long

*42 Today: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*

*Jackie Robinson: A Spiritual Biography—The Faith of a Boundary-Breaking Hero* (co-author with Chris Lamb)

*First Class Citizenship: The Civil Rights Letters of Jackie Robinson*

**February 5 (SABR Day)**

8:25 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcement – Recipient of the 2022 Russell Gabay Award

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. (Interview)

*A Random Walk Down Main Street: Baseball Research at the Hall of Fame*

- Interviewer: Perry Barber, Umpire
- Cassidy Lent - Reference Librarian  
Giamatti Research Center, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (Panel discussion)

*Keeping Up with the Kellys: Vintage Baseball, Historical Society of Princeton, and an Annual Baseball Tradition*

- Moderator: David Krell, Elysian Fields Chapter Chair
- Russ McIver - Monmouth Furnace Base Ball Club
- John Zinn - Baseball Historian
- Eve Mandel - Director of Programs and Visitor Services  
Historical Society of Princeton

9:30 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. (Break)

9:40 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. (Research Presentation)

*All Roads Lead to the Bronx: A Look at Yankee Stadium's Architecture*

- Rolando Llanes - Architect, Civica

10:10 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. (Break)

10:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. (Research presentation)

*Eight Men Out: Fact, Fiction, and Film*

- Jacob Pomrenke  
Director of Editorial Content, SABR  
Editor, *Scandal on the South Side: The 1919 Chicago White Sox*

10:50 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (Break)

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. (Interview)

*Author Spotlight*

- Interviewer: David Krell, Elysian Fields Chapter Chair
- Dave Jordan and Dave Parker, *Cobra: A Life of Baseball and Brotherhood*

11:45 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. (Closing comments)

### **February 7**

Kira Mamula

Wellness Consultant

Nick Vitalo

Friend of the Ray Sadecki family

### **February 21**

Paul Hensler

Contributor, "Cheers, Reggie! Everybody Knows Your Name!" (*The New York Yankees in Popular Culture*)

Bill Ryczek

Author, *Baseball on the Brink: The Crisis of 1968*

### **February 28**

Keith Danish

Baseball and Trademarks

Elizabeth Muratore

Homepage Editor for Major League Baseball



**March 14**

Peter Mancuso

Co-Chair, SABR's Frederick Ivor-Campbell Base Ball Conference

Neil Lanctot

Author, *Campy: The Two Lives of Roy Campanella*

**March 21**

John Fredland, editor, SABR Games Project

Dan Levitt

“Sign Stealing Before The Astros: The Tangled Web of What Was Legal”

**April 4**

Donna Halper

“‘Listening’ to the Game: How Fans Followed Their Favorite Team in the Era Before Radio”

Jeff Idelson and Jean Fruth

*Grassroots Baseball: Route 66*

**April 11**

Mark Altschuler and Mark Weisman

Presentation: “Tris and Lefty: An Unlikely Pair”

Lee Lowenfish

Author, *Branch Rickey: Baseball's Ferocious Gentleman*

**May 2**

George Boziwick

Presentation: “Take Me Out to the Ball Game”

Howard Megdal

Author, *The Baseball Talmud*

Jonathan Popovich

Presentation: Elysian Fields

**May 9**

Lauren Meyer

Director, *The Other Boys of Summer*

David Krell

*Revisiting “Casey”*: *Baseball, Storytelling, and the Real Villain in “Casey at the Bat”*

— **David Krell**

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

### **July 25, 2021 - SABR Meeting (Tillapaugh's Funeral Home-Cooperstown)**

Meeting took place on originally scheduled 2021 HOF Induction Day, as it turned out to be what would have been chapter namesake (and SABR co-founder) Cliff Kachline's 100th Birthday.

#### **Presenters;**

2021 Cliff Kachline Award Presentation to Tom Sheiber (by Bill Deane)

"Cliff Kachline at 100" presentation by his daughter Joyce Thomas

"1947 Utica Blue Sox" presentation by Pete Pagliaro

"Baseball, Saints and Sister Leopoldina" presentation by Mike Hauser

### **August 10, 2021 - SABR 50th Anniversary Commemoration on HOF Library steps**

Ceremony on HOF Library steps to commemorate SABR's 50th Birthday. Present were; Mark Armour, Cassidy Lent, Tom Shieber, Jeanne Armour, Bill Francis and Mike Hauser

### **September 2021; Bud Fowler Headstone Clean-up**

Ahead of Bud Fowler's HOF induction announcement, our chapter utilized funds to have Fowlers headstone in Frankfort, NY cleaned up. The stone had been created and donated by SABR in 1987 and had become very weathered. Now looks brand new in time for his July 2022 Enshrinement.

### **October 2021 - Parkhurst Field Foundation (Gloversville) received \$1M Grant**

The Parkhurst Field Foundation received a grant from Fulton County for \$1M to go toward their \$3.5M Renovation Project set to begin construction in July 2022. [www.parkhurstfield.org](http://www.parkhurstfield.org)

### **November 2021 - NYS Baseball HOF announced plans to open new museum building**

Very first NYS Baseball HOF building/museum to be located across the street from Parkhurst Field on Harrison Street in Gloversville.

### **November 2021 - NYS Baseball HOF held its 2020 & 2021 ceremonies**

Notable inductees included; Ken Burns, Bernie Williams, Tino Martinez, Tommie Agee, Mookie Wilson, Jay Horowitz and Perry Barber.

### **February 5, 2022 - SABR DAY Meeting**

Meeting took place in the Bullpen Theater at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Presenters included:

**Tony Morante** – Former New York Yankee Usher & Director of Stadium Tours, talked about his book called "Baseball The New York Game How the National Pastime Paralleled US History"

**Greg Kleine** – Author-writer-producer, spoke about his new book called "The Paper Tigers: The untold true story of how eight guys from the streets of Philadelphia became major league players for one day"

**Rene LeRoux** – Founder and president of the NYS Baseball HOF, gave updates on the organization and its plans for a museum slated to open in Gloversville NY in 2022

**Jeff Katz** – Former chapter president talked about the Friends of Doubleday Field group and their plans to upgrade the Bud Fowler kiosk located at Doubleday Field.

**Peter Henrici** – Long-time (50 years) Cooperstown Memorabilia store owner presented updates to his “Baseball HOF Members Stat Sheets.”

### **February 23, 2022 – Virtual Cooperstown Meeting (Kachline at 100)**

We held our chapter’s first Zoom meeting/presentation. Joyce Thomas, daughter of Cliff Kachline, re-presented the same presentation on her Dad that she had done at our July 2021 meeting. This was to allow a larger audience from around the country to participate and hear the presentation.

### **February 26, 2022 - SABR Grant Awarded**

Our chapter received word that our grant application in the amount of \$400 was awarded for is to build the “Glovers Park Museum Display” at the House of Pizza restaurant that now sits on the site of the former Gloversville Glovers Park. The display will chronicle the history of the park that includes Canadian-American League baseball from 1937 to 1951. As of 6-13-22 the exhibit has not been started (awaiting the contractor to be available)

### **May 28, 2022 – Celebration of the Life & Career of Jay Kirke**

The Mountain Athletic Vintage Baseball Club (MAC) held their opening day game of the 2022 season at the MAC Grounds in Fleischmanns NY. A pre-game ceremony honored the life and career of former Major Leaguer Jay Kirke, who was born in Fleischmanns.

— **Mike Hauser**

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

In the past year, most of the activities in the NYC Casey Stengel Chapter were virtual, including Zoom talks with Sean L. Gibson, the great-grandson of Negro Leagues legend Josh Gibson, and the Executive Director of the Josh Gibson Foundation, author Dan Joseph who spoke about his new book, *Baseball's Greatest What If: The Story and Tragedy of the Brooklyn Dodgers' Pistol Pete Reiser*, our long-time chapter member Marc Gold who presented 'The Early New York Mets' as part of his ongoing research, Shakeia Taylor’s interview of ESPN’s Mina Kimes, and the New York Giants Preservation Society President Gary Mintz who interviewed Marty Appel about the Casey Stengel and NY Giants-related sections of his books.

Webmaster Kevin Carter did get some requests which were shared with chapter members, such as the kind when an author or researcher needs additional assistance, as with Professor Robert A. Elias, who is writing a biography of the former New York Giants left-fielder Danny Gardella,

and he continually maintains and updates the Casey Stegel biographical information on the chapter website. Our Member Projects, Research, Publications and Links area has links to members Marty Appel, Clifford Blau, Rory Costello, David Firstman, Rob Fitts, David Lippman, Lee Lowenfish, Howard Megdal, Alan Raylesberg, Ken Samelson, Dan Schlossberg, Matt Silverman, Jon Springer, John Vorperian, and Brian Wright, along with their research products.

New York members hope to resume in-person meetings as long as COVID restrictions are lifted and infection rates decline in the city. Many members have said they are "zoomed out" which was why our chapter opted to share all SABR Day zoom meetings to give members a choice in "where to go" to attend a virtual meeting. Nevertheless, we are looking forward to a non-virtual meeting in 2023.

— **Evelyn Begley**

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

The Luke Easter SABR Chapter continued to hold several virtual events over the past year including an interview with former Rochester Red Wings and current Minnesota Twins coach Tommy Watkins, a panel on Baseball's Labor Negotiations featuring Michael Hauptert, Dan Levitt, and Jeff Katz; a panel on Baseball Data Visualization featuring Benjamin and Stephen Dertinger discussing using ToxPi and Ethan Singer of @umpirescorecards; and a conversation with former Red Wings batboys Max Robertson and Dave Parlet.

We look forward to returning to some in person events; as well as continuing at least a quarterly Zoom meeting.

— **Ryan Brecker**

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

The SABR Carolina Chapter had a tough year; COVID restrictions and individual scheduling made the fall difficult. The first half of the year enjoyed zooms and presentations. We expect to get back on track this year.

The chapter has grown nicely over the last few years, and we are excited to get back to in-person chapter meetings.

We expect to continue with Zoom to expand our gatherings beyond the people who can make the trip to the meeting.

— **Chris Dial**

## Jack Graney Chapter (Cleveland OH)

This annual report will be divided in sections so as to not only capture the chapter's activities over the period requested but also provide some contextual background information.

**Management:** Prior to Covid, the chapter completed a long standing open action to complete the drafting of a set of by laws and submit to the chapter membership for ratification. Once this was done, a tellers' committee was formed and a chapter election of officers was held. The chapter officers selected according to the terms and conditions of the by laws were:

Joe Shaw-President  
Dave Bodemer-Vice President  
Vince Guerrieri-Treasurer  
Jeremy Feador-Board Member  
Stephanie Liscio-Board Member  
Dave Scott-Board Member

The term of performance for the chapter officers was up during the reporting period for this annual report and given that all officers were willing to serve for another period this was submitted to the chapter membership and accepted by them. Thus the previously selected officers continue to serve as the Jack Graney chapter leadership team.

Thanks should go to Steve Johnson (a former Jack Graney chapter president) and John McMurray for their efforts in finalizing the chapter by laws which were accepted by chapter membership.

**Meetings:** Given the continuation of Covid, all meetings during the reporting period were held by Zoom. It is our hope that face to face meetings can be resumed in 2022 but if they occur it will be later in the year. Inputs from chapter membership were sought on this question and a limited number of responses were received. All of the responses were favorable towards holding face to face meetings as long as appropriate cautions were exercised. The Zoom format for meetings allowed our chapter to attract a number of speakers which we never could have gotten for face to face meetings. In addition, the number of people attending our meetings (typically between 40 and 80) was significantly greater than we are able to attract for chapter face to face meetings (typically between 20 and 50). Going forward it is our desire to offer a blend of Zoom meetings and face to face meetings. We will also explore offering hybrid meetings when appropriate and when possible.

Some highlights from our Zoom meeting offerings over the past year are as follows.

### **Winter meetings 2022 (Part 1 on February 5 and Part 2 on April 4)**

Typically our winter meeting is focused on the off season hot stove league and a look ahead to the new season. However this year we split our winter meeting into two separate Zoom sessions.

The first Zoom session was held February 5 and was focused on the celebration of Jack Graney being selected for the 2022 Ford Frick award for broadcasting excellence, a most prestigious

award. Our Zoom session focused on Jack Graney the player, broadcaster, and person. We had a great array of speakers and a most engaged audience.

Our speakers included Curt Smith, well known baseball author, Indians/Guardians historian Jeremy Feador, Barbara Gregorich author of the book “Jack and Larry”, and Scott Crawford from the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. Our special guest was Ms. Perry Mudd Smith, Jack Graney’s granddaughter. She talked about Jack Graney as a family member and in particular as her grandfather. As a special treat she showed those in attendance the two World Series rings Jack Graney received—one from 1920 as a player, and one from 1948 as a broadcaster. This very special event was enjoyed by all those who attended and we all look forward to the ceremony at Cooperstown this summer.

The second part of our winter meeting occurred on April 4 after the CBA was signed and focused on the upcoming season. We were pleased to have Jared Diamond, baseball reporter for the *Wall Street Journal* as well as Mandy Bell, Guardians’ beat reporter for MLB.com and Zack Meisel, Guardians’ beat reporter for The Athletic. We had a large attendance and were treated to some lively presentations and conversations as all three speakers welcomed the opportunity to dialogue with the attendees.

## **2021 Meetings**

**November 18:** We were presented with a great opportunity to have a private showing of the film *War on the Diamond*. This film is based upon Mike Sowell’s book *The Pitch that Killed* which recounts the Cleveland Indians’ 1920 world championship season including the death of Indians’ star shortstop Ray Chapman after being hit by a pitch from NY Yankee pitcher Carl Mays and the beginning of the Indians/Yankees rivalry. The attendees very much enjoyed the film as well as a post film panel discussion moderated by Morris Eckhouse which included producer Andy Billman, Mike Sowell, and noted author Scott Longert.

**September 15:** Our chapter enjoyed a session devoted to Negro League baseball and in particular the 1945 Cleveland Buckeyes who won the Negro league championship defeating the heavily favored Homestead Grays. Our speakers included Neil Paine, senior editor for FiveThirtyEight, and Negro League researchers Ike Brooks, Dominick Denaro, and Ray Danner. Neil discussed the software tool developed by FiveThirtyEight to compare a wide variety of Negro league players with comparable major league players, past and present. Needless to say these comparisons generated a lot of conversation. Ike and Domick focused on the 1945 season and the Negro League World Series won by the Buckeyes. They utilized some of the output from the FiveThirtyEight tool in their discussion. Ray Danner talked about his research to uncover statistics from heretofore lost Negro League games and provide the information to Seamheads for inclusion in the official records of the Negro Leagues.

**August 17:** We devoted this meeting to scouting and player development. Dr. Chris Phillips from Carnegie Mellon University gave an insightful overview on the history of scouting drawing upon his recently published book *Scouting and Scoring*. The rest of the meeting was devoted to a conversation about the then Cleveland Indians’ 2021 draft class and how the Cleveland organization develops its minor league talent. Two members of the Cleveland baseball club, Sam Giller, Assistant Director of Baseball Operations, and Clint Longenecker, Assistant Director of

Amateur Scouting, provided insightful comments and engaged with the audience in a lively discussion.

### **Special Interest Groups**

**Book Club:** We have continued to have a very active book club group led by Dave Scott. Our sessions, typically on Saturday mornings, occur roughly every couple of months and we have had a wide array of books written by SABR members, local authors, and national authors. One very attractive feature of our meetings is we endeavor to get the authors to join us and their presence adds so much to our discussions.

**Baseball Analytics:** A number of members of our chapter expressed a desire to meet to go more deeply into various aspects of analytics. To meet this need, we have formed an informal special interest group and we meet on a regular basis. The meetings provide an opportunity for those interested to bring topics of interest for discussion as well as present any analytics based research they are doing or have completed.

### **Projects**

Our chapter has two projects we are pursuing, one we initiated during the period and one we started over two years ago. We have a third project we hope to begin this next reporting period.

**Baseball Memories Program:** Over two years ago our chapter began an effort to work with the Cleveland chapter of the Alzheimers' Association to prepare and present monthly baseball sessions for persons with dementia/early stage Alzheimers. Currently we have completed 15 monthly Zoom based sessions and are finding it to be the most worthwhile effort as we have seen the impact that baseball conversations can have on the quality of life, not only for the person with the disease but also for the caregiver. More recently we have begun a second effort with a private organization, the Farrell Foundation, to offer similar sessions. The sessions with the Farrell Foundation will be hybrid events with some participants being present and others connected via Zoom.

Our chapter efforts have become part of the SABR wide Baseball Memories program being led by Jon Leonoudakis of the LA Chapter. This SABR wide connection has been a very worthwhile experience for our chapter in that it gives us a chance to share our experiences and lessons learned as well as pick up best practices from other chapters who have similar efforts underway. Our current team executing this project is Dave Bodemer, Ike Brooks, and Joe Shaw. We will be looking to grow our team going forward.

**Northern Ohio Baseball Tours:** Northern Ohio has a rich baseball history with the Major League presence dating back to 1901 as well as several Negro League teams, several minor league teams, and a rich sandlot/amateur baseball past. Currently there are no available baseball tours that allow fans whether they are local or visiting the area to sample this rich baseball history. We initiated a project in the past year to collect as rigorous a set as possible of potential tour sights using a taxonomy we developed to guide our collection process.

We are collecting information so that we can populate a multi format database (written narratives, vintage photographs, current photographs, videos, maps). This data will be the basis

of constructing a wide variety of baseball tours given the customer desires. We already have two external partners in this project who wish to work with us to construct a variety of tours. Destination Cleveland desires to have a walking tour of downtown Cleveland for out of town baseball fans who have a few hours before attending a Guardians' game and want to sample some of Cleveland's rich baseball past. The Community Cup Classic Foundation desires to have a web based tour highlighting Cleveland's Negro League history and more recently conversations have begun about a possible bus tour.

We believe these partners and tours represent our pilot efforts and more partners and tour opportunities will follow as our effort gets some public notoriety. We submitted a proposal to the SABR Research Grants competition this past winter to secure funds to bring on an intern to support this effort and were most pleased to have been selected. We see this intern providing great assistance to our project as well as helping our chapter begin to build partnerships with the regional higher education institutions. We hope this effort with the intern and the instructions will help us kick off an effort to increase the awareness of SABR and our chapter and begin a more dedicated effort to recruit new members. Right now sadly SABR is a very well kept secret in Northern Ohio. We hope to change that. The chapter members involved in this project are Dave Bodemer, Ike Brooks, Jeremy Feador, Vince Guerrieri, Alex Harnocz, Stephanie Liscio, Dave Scott, and Joe Shaw.

— **Joe Shaw**

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

We generally schedule a local chapter event of some sort each month. Like many chapters, during the past year our chapter utilized a hybrid-style meeting of meeting both in-person while offering a Zoom option for those who were uncomfortable with in-person meetings due to the lingering COVID-19. However, it did enable us to keep in touch with out-of-town participants who joined us during the zoom only year of 2020. The following is a list of this year's activities:

-- Quarterly SABR Baseball Book Club – Our book club met in-person with a Zoom option this past year. We met at various Columbus Metropolitan Public Library branches to discuss each quarter's selection. Blake Sherry was the moderator. Generally attended by about 20+ members.

August 2021 – *Leo Durocher: Baseball's Prodigal Son* – by Paul Dickson. Discussed the book and the colorful life and times of Leo Durocher

October 2021 – *John McGraw* – with in-person guest and author Charles C. Alexander on the life and times of legendary manager John McGraw    May 2021 – *Ballpark: Baseball in the American City* by Paul Goldberger was discussed along with member stories from their favorite ballparks.

November 2021 – *Our Team: The Epic Story of Four Men and the World Series that Changed Baseball* with guest and author Luke Epplin on the Cleveland Indians, the season of 1948, Larry Doby, Bob Feller, Bill Veeck and Satchel Paige



February 2022 – *Oscar Charleston: The Life and Legend of Baseball's Greatest Forgotten Player*, by Jeremy Beer. After the chapter meeting, the author joined us as a guest several weeks later.

May 2022 – *The Machine: A Hot Team, a Legendary Season, and a Heart-Stopping World Series: The Story of the 1975 Cincinnati Reds*, by Joe Posnanski– discussion included a lively discussion of the best team's ever in baseball.

-- Normal activities such as Columbus Clippers games at Huntington Park, Prospect League games in Springfield and Chillicothe, Ohio State University Spring and Fall Baseball games. Once again, Clipper President and General Manager Ken Schnacke met with our group an hour prior to our Clippers event.

– Happily, our annual Opening Day and World Series events at the BW3 sports bar on Polaris Parkway were back on after a year of postponement due to the pandemic.

-- October, December 2021, January, February and March 2022: Informal Hot Stove Baseball talks, discussing the state of Minor League Baseball, winter meetings, trades, the free agent market, both Veteran and BB Writers Hall of Fame voting, and all else baseball. These were conducted concurrently in-person and via Zoom this past year. One of the meetings was and is always scheduled on national SABR Day. This has been a well-attended activity for our chapter through the years.

-- March 2022– Online draft for Chapter Fantasy Baseball. Normally conducted through Yahoo Fantasy Sports site and administered by chapter member Aaron Koch.

-- Fall 2022- Annual Meeting – This past year's annual SABR Day meeting was postponed due to Covid-19. We hope to hold the meeting in the fall.

— **Blake Sherry and Rick Huhn**

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

**Chapter Meetings** – Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Oklahoma Chapter managed to stay busy with multiple meetings over the past 12 months, both in person and via Zoom. The chapter also decided on a new president, celebrated its 10th anniversary, launched an official chapter Facebook page, and continued its excellent research into the state of Oklahoma's rich tradition and connections with America's Pastime.

**July 25, 2021** – A Zoom meeting was facilitated by chapter member Ken Fischer and was used to discuss the recently released Hall of Fame ballot and the merits of those on the ballot. We also discussed logistical issues and the future of chapter, the best ways to go about outreach and recruiting new members, meeting regularity and possible destinations for future meetings, and

the possibility of more frequent informal meetings. We decided to create a social media presence that would end up involving all members to encourage mutual participation and contribution. We also worked on expanding our mailing list to make sure all active members were on it. We began to determine the future of leadership and having a possible tribunal of sorts in lieu of one chapter leader. Several members then engaged in an email chain post-meeting to ask questions and offer their ideas and suggestions.

**September 19, 2021** – With the minor league season winding down, the Oklahoma SABR chapter held an in-person meeting at an Oklahoma City Dodgers game at Bricktown Ballpark to celebrate the chapter's 10th anniversary. In 2011, the chapter's first ever meeting occurred at the same ballpark (when the team who played there was known as the Redhawks), so it seemed appropriate to come back to the scene of the crime. The weather was almost perfect, the Dodger Dogs were amazing as usual, and the game itself delivered as well. The action culminated in the 10th inning, with Zach McKinstry hitting a walk-off home run to send the Dodger fans home happy. The chapter had great seats down the first-base line, and several original members were able to come out to celebrate and take in the game.

**November 7, 2021** – Author Jack Bales joined us to talk about his book *The Chicago Cub Shot for Love: A Showgirl's Crime of Passion and the 1932 World Series*. The presentation focused on the life of Violet Popovich, the Cubs' Billy Jurges' would-be assassin, and all the circumstances along the way that led the two to fatefully cross paths. His presentation featured original news articles, family pictures, and other artifacts not seen before outside of Ms. Popovich's family. The second half of the meeting was used to discuss the future of our chapter and confirm a new president. Outgoing president Howard Johnson had been the chapter's only president since its creation in 2011 and wanted to step aside from his leadership role. Ken Fischer, who to that point had been the chapter's second in command, would be leaving the state and could not assume the president role. Jesse Asbury, who joined the chapter in 2017, announced his interest in taking on the position and was unopposed in his confirmation to be the chapter's new president.

**Feb 6, 2022** – The chapter held a Zoom meeting to celebrate SABR Day. The first half of the meeting was a discussion facilitated by Jesse Asbury centered on the recent Hall of Fame inductees on the BBWAA and Veterans ballots (David Ortiz, Tony Oliva, Buck O'Neil, Minnie Minoso, Jim Kaat, Gil Hodges, and Bud Fowler). We then discussed some of the likely players/coaches to appear on future ballots and the possible role of PEDs in the careers of some current and future Hall of Famers. We reached a consensus on managers Bruce Bochy and Dusty Baker likely being inducted in the near future, and we also discussed the possibility of Lou Piniella and Jim Leyland getting in on the Veterans Committee vote. Longtime member Kevin Johnson then gave a presentation on Major League Ballparks in Oklahoma now that the Negro Leagues have been rightfully recognized as major leagues. His research determined that at least 80 major Negro Leagues games were played in Oklahoma from 1933-1948 in three Oklahoma cities (Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Muskogee). The presentation included photos, newspaper articles, and maps showing where each park was in its respective city.

## Other Chapter developments

After a discussion during a SABR Leaders Zoom meeting, it was decided that joint meetings via Zoom with neighboring or smaller chapters might work to increase attendance and involvement in chapter meetings. Fred Worth with the Arkansas chapter reached out to us, and members of our chapter attended two of their most recent meetings, including one featuring guest speaker Sam McDowell. Sam and his co-author, Marty Gitlin, joined the Arkansas chapter to discuss their book *The Saga of Sudden Sam: The Rise, Fall and Redemption of Sam McDowell*. The other joint chapter meeting focused on Negro Leaguers with Arkansas ties and their role in the game's history. We look forward to working with Fred and the Arkansas chapter on future joint meetings.

— Jesse Asbury

### Connie Mack - Dick Allen Chapter (Philadelphia, PA)

The Connie Mack-Dick Allen chapter had a quiet year but did partake in several events.

- September 2021: Co-hosted a multi-chapter outing at a Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Railriders game with the Baltimore SABR chapter which was attended by 30 people, including members and family from the Williamsport, Harrisburg, and Manhattan chapters.
- September 27, 2021: Zoom discussion with Rich Wescott about his book *Amazing Phillies Feats, The Greatest Performances in Philadelphia Phillies History*. A Q&A followed. Attended by 14 people.
- February 19, 2022: Hosted the chapter's SABR Day event, both in person and digitally via Zoom, at Temple's Center City campus in Philadelphia. Meeting time was from 8am-2:00pm.
  - Stephen Glassman, "1966 BBWAA and Veterans Committee Elections and its Rulings"
  - Matt Edwards, "The Relief Room"
  - Josh Mould, "Quantifying Hitter Plate Discipline in Major League Baseball"
  - Brian Engelhardt, "Baseballtown's Time of Troubles"
  - Matt Albertson, "The Phillies' Unfair Advantage: Piece Chiles, Morgan Murphy and the Phillies Sign Stealing Scandal of 1899-1900"
- March 28, 2022: Zoom discussion with Craig Calcaterra about his latest book *Rethinking Fandom*.
- April 21, 2022: Zoom discussion with Ed Achorn about his book *The Summer of Beer and Whiskey*.

Upcoming Activities:

- The Connie Mack-Dick Allen chapter is coordinating with the Babe Ruth chapter (Baltimore) to attend an Aberdeen IronBirds game in early September.

Goals:

- Enhance the chapter's activity digitally and in person.
- Explore additional officer positions.
- Increase chapter visibility on social media in an effort to attract new members.
- Publish a semi-regular chapter newsletter to highlight chapter events and activities and research conducted by chapter members.

Chapter leadership remains Matt Albertson (Co-Chair), Rock Hoffman (Co-Chair) and Steven Glassman (Secretary).

— **Matt Albertson**

### **Jimmy Sebring-George Stovey Chapter (Williamsport, PA)**

The approval of the Williamsport Chapter took place on May 20, 2021 by the National Organization of SABR -- chapter designation letter from Leslie Heaphy and Jacob Pomrenke was sent to Jack Houston..

#### **Founding Members of the Williamsport Chapter and Coordinating Leadership**

**Committee:** Jack Houston, Marc Pompeo, Lou Hunsinger, George Jansson, and Brad Nason. Lou Hunsinger is the "Official Historian" of Minor League Baseball in Williamsport, PA.

Membership in the local SABR chapter is a free and open way for members to join in conversation and discussion with topics on baseball history, tradition and statistics. Local members are informed and encouraged to view the website of SABR and join as members of the national organization..

The setting in Williamsport, PA- with Little League Baseball International and World Series, the "MLB Classic" in August,, the Williamsport Crosscutters, a member of the new "MLB Draft League" - - all provide an enriching way for baseball enthusiasts of all ages..

The Williamsport SABR chapter meetings are held at the James V. Brown Library on 4th Street in Williamsport - - 3rd Floor - media room - the "Lowry Room"; Williamsport Chapter of SABR and James V. Brown Library share the same mission of research, writing, literacy, dialogue, learning, and literature. Attendance at Chapter Meetings - 25-30 members.

The name of the local SABR chapter is the Jimmy Sebring-George Stovey Chapter, named for two Williamsport area players who played interesting and prominent roles in baseball history. "Jimmy Sebring" -(1882 - 1909) from Williamsport, played in the 1903 World Series with the Pittsburgh Pirates and was the first player in World Series history to hit a home run. "George Stovey" (1866-1936) from Williamsport, is widely considered the best African American baseball pitcher of the 19th century. Both Sebring and Stovey are buried in the Wildwood Cemetery in Williamsport, PA.

### **Chapter Meetings:**

2021-2022 - Saturday Mornings - 11am

Attendance - 25-30 members

mailing distribution list is 65 interested SABR fans.

### **August 21, 2021 - James V. Brown Library - 11am: Inaugural Chapter Meeting: "Baseball, Williamsport, and the American Dream"**

Jack Houston - Welcome; Lou Hunsinger - "Williamsport's Baseball Heritage

Marc Pompeo - "MLB Trivia Presentation"; Discussion: The State of Baseball Inside the Big Questions.

### **October 30, 2021 - James V. Brown Library - 11am - "October World Series Meeting";**

Lou Hunsinger: "From Williamsport to the MLB World Series";

Marc Pompeo - "MLB Trivia Presentation" Discussion - The World Series; and, the "Possible MLB Work Stoppage on Dec 1, 2021

### **January 29, 2022 - James V. Brown Library - 11am - "National SABR Day Meeting";**

Lou Hunsinger: "From Williamsport to the Cooperstown -- Hall of Fame";

Gabe Sinicropi: Vice-President of Marketing and Public Relations - Williamsport

Crosscutters: "The New Prospect Pipeline and Williamsport Crosscutters Place in It"

### **April 30, 2022 - James V. Brown Library - 11am**

"The Art of Baseball - Baseball's Game in Painting

Beth De Jesus England - local Lycoming County, PA - Artist - "En Plain Air Paintings of Baseball" - Landscapes - Portraits - and Still Life"

**July 12, 2022 - SABR Williamsport Chapter - "Picnic Gathering" - Bowman Field Williamsport Crosscutters vs. Frederick Keys - Game Time is 6:35pm "Cutters Cove - 3rd Base -- Great View of the Game.**

National SABR Annual Conference and Meeting: Baltimore, Maryland: August 17-21, 2022 (Wednesday to Sunday) Attending from Williamsport Chapter: Jack Houston, Anne Hetzel, Lou Hunsinger

— **Jack Houston**

### **Lajoie-Start Chapter (Providence, RI)**

With the multiplicity of SABR groups in New England, the Lajoie-Start Chapter focuses its activities on its two regional meetings, in June and November.

The June 2021 meeting was held via Zoom and lasted for two hours. Presentations were made by two chapter members and an author:

Chapter member **Paul Hensler**, author of the newly published book *Gathering Crowds: Catching Baseball Fever in the New Era of Free Agency*.

Chapter member **Dixie Tourangeau**, continuing his ongoing exploration of Cy Young's career with a talk titled "Hey Cy, Who's Your Daddy???"

**Erik Sherman**, author of the book *Two Sides of Glory: The 1986 Boston Red Sox in Their Own Words*.

The November meeting was live, held at our usual Thanksgiving weekend venue, St. Philip's Parish Center in Greenville, Rhode Island. As a guest speaker we welcomed the return of **Lenny DiNardo**, a former major-league pitcher and now an analyst on Red Sox broadcasts. **Erik Sherman** made a return visit, this time live, to talk about the 1986 Red Sox. Chapter member and prolific author **Bill Ryczek** dispensed anecdotes from his new biography, *Dr. Strange-glove: The Life and Times of All-Star Slugger Dick Stuart*.

As usual, the November meeting was the occasion for the chapter's annual Hall of Fame straw vote, conducted by chapter member **Mike Darowski**. The members "elected" David Ortiz, just as the sportswriters did, but no one else.

Holding a live meeting enabled us to resume our baseball book raffle, trivia contest, and ballpark lunch.

The Lajoie-Start's primary activities have traditionally been its two in-person meetings, one in November and one in June (assuming a November-June chapter year). The pandemic cut deeply into that agenda.

The November meeting, traditionally held on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend at St. Philip's Parish Center in Greenville, Rhode Island, with an attendance of 50 to 60, could not be held because gatherings of that size were prohibited in the Southern New England states at the time.

For a number of years our June meeting has been held at McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket, R.I., home of the Pawtucket Red Sox of the International League. In the midst of the pandemic, the Pawtucket Red Sox became the Worcester Red Sox and McCoy Stadium was shut down. We began looking for a new home, and were pleased when chapter member Stephen Trimble offered us the use of the meeting room at First Baptist Church in North Attleboro, Massachusetts, where he is the pastor. Our first meeting at our new site was scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2022.

— **Len Levin**

### **Larry Doby Chapter (Aiken, SC)**

During the time frame for this report, the Larry Doby Chapter had monthly Zoom meetings and went to the Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum.

We also scheduled a trip to watch the Charleston Riverdogs minor league game in conjunction with their Larry Doby Day celebration. Unfortunately, it rained, and they could not reschedule before the end of their season.

Our monthly meetings usually consist of trivia contests, information on "This Day in Baseball History," "Players Born on this Day," and a guest speaker. If we don't have a speaker, we will talk about what was listed on the meeting agenda.

I am trying to start an Annual Award Ceremony to bring recognition to a local student athlete for outstanding achievement.

It is still enjoyable having the meetings and encouraging people to be involved with SABR.

During the meetings I will ask if anyone is working on a project or wants to be involved in something with SABR.

— **Tim Deale**

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

The last year has been a mixed bag for the Rogers Hornsby Chapter; while we have mostly returned to in-person meetings, we've also had to shift to virtual meetings as precautions against the continuing pandemic.

In addition to lunch meetings, the chapter organized multiple outings to the Dell Diamond and a World Series watch party.

One particular highlight was the May 2022 meeting in which chapter members gathered for a barbeque dinner before a Round Rock Express game at the Dell Diamond. The game was followed by a screening at the ballpark of *Facing Nolan*, the new documentary about the career of Nolan Ryan.

For our in-person gatherings, we usually met for lunch, but in March, we had breakfast tacos at a local barbeque restaurant. We plan to mix breakfast and lunch meetings in the coming year.

We also had our 16th annual Bill Gilbert Winter Meeting in January on Zoom, featuring former Astros executive Tal Smith, baseball writer Rob Neyer, umpiring pioneer Perry Barber and Mike Capps and Tim Nolan of the Express. In addition, Ryan Pollack coordinated this, his sixth winter meeting, and elected to step down from that role, but he remains an active member and continues

to serve as our webmaster. Active member Jerry Miller will take on the coordinator role and lead the effort to organize our winter meeting next year.

Whether in-person or virtually, the chapter continued its streak of meeting at least once monthly for 186 months, a streak dating to December 2006.

In addition, Hornsby volunteers are beginning their eighth year offering Talking Baseball programs to participants and care partners living with Alzheimer's, dementia, or who are living in isolation or are institutionalized. Biweekly programs are held in Austin and Georgetown.

Volunteers are hoping to restart the program soon at the Kerrville VA Medical Center and are exploring starting a program in Seguin. Chapter members have also been instrumental in the expansion of these programs to other SABR chapters. Currently, SABR Baseball Memories programs are offered in seven other cities nationwide, with several other SABR chapters exploring local possibilities.

Also, longtime SABR and chapter member Jim Baker continued running Predictatron, a contest to predict win totals for all teams and playoff teams and World Series champions. This year, he added trophies for the season-long Predictatron champion and for the playoff portion of the contest. The trophies include the names for each winner, going back to 2008 for the season champion and 2007 for the postseason champion.

— **Gilbert Martinez**

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

The Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan DFW Chapter activities were slowed somewhat because of the continuing issues with the pandemic but hosted a Zoom meeting on April 22, 2021 featuring award-winning baseball writer TR Sullivan who discussed the prospects for the Texas Rangers in 2021 and beyond. In addition, we heard from Dan Taylor, author of the recently published *Lights, Camera, Fastball: How the Hollywood Stars Changed Baseball*, a great read about the Hollywood Stars and the old Pacific Coast League.

On November 30, 2021 the chapter hosted a Zoom meeting that featured Tom Grieve, the Rangers legendary broadcaster, former general manager, and player. Grieve, who was the sixth pick in the first round of the 1966 Major League Draft, related many stories from his signing and early days with the Washington Senators and Texas Rangers, including what it was like to play under manager Ted Williams. Bill Brown, longtime (and now retired) broadcaster for the Houston Astros also spoke to the chapter about his days broadcasting for the Cincinnati Reds and Astros and gave a most memorable impression of Harry Caray. Finally, the chapter heard from Jack Bales, author of *The Chicago Cub Shot for Love: A Showgirl's Crime of Passion and the 1932 World Series*, a book about the 1932 shooting of Chicago Cubs shortstop Billy Jurges by an estranged girlfriend.



The chapter awarded its annual Howard Green SABR Metroplex Collegiate Player of the Year Award for the 27th time. The award, named in honor of the chapter's founder, the late Howard Green, is for the most outstanding Division I baseball player in the Metroplex. The 2021 award, after a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, went to Jackson Glenn of Dallas Baptist University. Glenn was the 2021 Joe Carter Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year and helped guide the Patriots to the regular-season and tournament titles in the MVC, the NCAA Fort Worth Regional championship, and a trip to the NCAA Columbia (S.C.) Super Regional where the Patriots won their first NCAA Super Regional victory in history and came within one game of a first-ever trek to the College World Series.

Glenn, a senior from Cedar Hill, Texas, had returned as a fifth-year senior after the 2020 season was canceled and became one of the top offensive players in college baseball in 2021. His 21 home runs were the fourth-most in the nation and rank as the third-most in a single-season in DBU's Division I era dating back to 2004. He also compiled a .732 slugging percentage and batted a team-best .366 with 19 doubles and 55 RBI. Glenn was also a perfect 13-13 in stolen base attempts for the 41-18 Patriots. He was a fifth round selection of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Chapter Vice-President Bo Carter presented Glenn with his award at the DBU annual baseball banquet on January 28, 2022.

The chapter also awarded its tenth 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 tenth award winner is outfielder AJ Liu of UT Dallas. Liu also won the award in 2020 and is thus its first repeat winner.

Liu, a 5-10, 185-pound outfielder from Plano, Texas, started all 42 games for the 2021 Comets who won both ASC divisional and American Southwest Conference titles, earning a spot in the DIII NCAA post-season tournament. He was selected second team all-region by the ABCA and D3baseball.com. The first team All-American Southwest Conference outfielder was also selected to the NCAA Regional all-tournament and ASC Blue Bracket all-tourney teams. He led his team with a .385 average, 18 doubles, a triple and five home runs. Liu also scored a team-best 54 runs, and had 41 RBI. Chapter Vice-President Bo Carter presented the Beringer Award to Liu in a pre-game ceremony at home plate on April 29, 2022 before a UTD-Belhaven doubleheader.

The Banks-Bragan Chapter also initiated an ongoing "My Greatest Day in Baseball" project among its members and others with a strong baseball connection. The chapter plans to distribute the project periodically within and without the chapter with the hopes that more and more people will add their greatest baseball memory to the compilation.

— **Paul Rogers**

## Larry Dierker Chapter (Houston, TX)

The Larry Dierker SABR chapter met 14 times during the past year using both joint in person meetings and zoom broadcasts. Typically, we had 25 members attend in person and another 15 on zoom. Many of our speakers were from out of state and appeared on zoom. A trivia contest is a constant at every meeting and as well we have an Astros Win Contest. In addition, over the past year, the chapter published four quarterly chapter newsletters.

On Monday, July 26, 2021, our chapter held its midsummer meeting in a hybrid format; of the 36 attendees, a little over 50% met in person at the Spaghetti Western restaurant in Houston while the remaining number joined in via Zoom. Our guest was former Boston Red Sox and Los Angeles Angels General Manager and MLB Vice President Mike Port. Mike supervised MLB umpires and had interesting stories about umpire discipline. Mike reported on his many tasks with MLB including rule changes, interleague play, plus the development of the Arizona Fall League.

On Saturday, August 7, 2021, while not an official chapter meeting, five members of the chapter participated in the Annual Houston Astros Hall of Fame induction ceremony as they serve on the ten-member selection committee. The chapter members on the selection committee include Larry Dierker, Bill Brown, Bob Dorrill, Mike Vance and Mike Acosta.

On Saturday, August 14, 2021, our chapter met at Constellation Field in Sugar Land, Texas, to watch the Independent League Skeeters (Houston Astros AAA club) host the Albuquerque Isotopes (Colorado Rockies AAA club). Twenty-one members and guests, including our chapter namesake, Larry Dierker, enjoyed a very pleasant evening of buffet dining and open-air baseball. Ryan Posner, Director of Media Relations for the Skeeters, spoke to our group and explained the new league rules. An interesting side note for the evening: Larry Dierker caught a foul ball during the game and gave it to Marsha Franty's grandson.

On Monday, September 20, 2021, our chapter met again in a hybrid setting with some on location at the Spaghetti Western restaurant in Houston while the remaining joined in via Zoom. Our featured speaker was Clayton Trutor, a history professor and SABR chapter chair of the Gardner–Waterman (Vermont) Chapter. He discussed his book *Loserville, How Professional Sports Remade Atlanta and How Atlanta Remade Professional Baseball*. His interesting research from the 1960's and 1970's focused on economic, social, cultural, political, and demographic trends. He then traced Atlanta's fall and rise in sports that was an example for other cities to follow.

On Saturday, October 23, 2021, the chapter broke out our "Houston Babies" vintage baseball uniforms to play the Barker Red Sox at the George Ranch Historical Park located near Richmond, Texas as they celebrated "Texian Market Days." A large crowd watched as the two teams played our unique game until the drenching rains came. The Babies were ahead at the time.

The regular October meeting of the Larry Dierker Chapter was held on the fourth Monday of the month, October 25, 2021, due to the Astros being in the playoffs on the third Monday. This was a hybrid meeting with 16 people meeting in person while 12 others joined in via Zoom. Chair Bob Dorrill noted the recent passing of long-time member Jo Russell. For many years, Jo was responsible for the annual Houston Baseball Dinner in January and was an avid Astros fan. Our featured speaker was Peter Coolbaugh, active SABR member and VP of the Baltimore chapter. He provided an overview of the Babe Ruth Museum and current activities to celebrate the Babe's home and Baltimore's baseball history for the upcoming convention in 2022. Chris Chestnut showed a power point presentation on "Baseball Chart for Morning People." Thirty-five chapter members participated in the annual contest to predict the number of Astros wins for the 2021 season. The winners of the annual Astros Win Contest for the season were Mark Hudek and Greg Moore who both guessed ninety-five wins for the club.

On Monday, November 15, 2021, twenty-two SABR members from Houston, the United States and Canada attended our chapter meeting. The chapter met again in a hybrid setting with some on location at the Spaghetti Western restaurant in Houston while the remaining number joined in via Zoom. Our featured speaker was Dr. Christopher Phillips, professor of history at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, who joined us via Zoom to discuss his book *Scouting and Scoring: How We Know What We Know about Baseball*. Using statistics and analysis, Phillips told the group that while many analysts try to use numbers to evaluate players, teams still need live scouts to make sound judgements.

On Tuesday, December 7, 2021, the chapter leadership board had its annual meeting to discuss the upcoming year. The leadership board chose to make the following changes: Starting in January 2022, chapter Vice President Joe Thompson would take over as chapter President. Other officers include: First Vice President Herb Whalley, VP for Membership Chris Chestnut, VP for Special Projects Mike McCroskey, Newsletter Editor Tony Cavender, Assistant Editor Scott McKay, Secretary Marsha Franty, and President Emeritus Bob Dorrill.

Due to the holiday schedule, our chapter held its December meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, December 14, 2021, rather than the third Monday. Members joined in person at the Spaghetti Western restaurant in Houston while the remaining number joined in via Zoom. Our featured speaker was Jack Bales, retired Research Librarian from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. His focus that evening was on "No Shrinking Violet and the Chicago Cubs Shot for Love" recapping a showgirl's crime of passion that occurred in 1932 plus comments on the 1932 World Series. Member Chris Chestnut presented an analysis on hitting that he called "One Only."

The Larry Dierker Chapter opened 2022 with its first monthly meeting of the year on Monday, 17 January. New Chapter President Joe Thompson recognized President Emeritus Bob Dorrill for his many years of dedication to building our chapter to its current status. Joe was joined by member Bob McCann in presenting Bob with a custom print honoring his eighteen years of leadership. Forty-two members, 23 in-person at the Spaghetti Western restaurant in Houston and

19 members attended online via Zoom. Our special guest for the evening was Houston Astros radio broadcaster Robert Ford, introduced by long time Astros announcer Bill Brown. Robert traced his history from Syracuse University to the Astros assignment where he joined the club in 2013. His primary job, as he said, is to "paint a picture" of the game as it unfolds. Another guest, Nick Thornberg, summarized his development as a baseball player from high school in the Dallas area, to UTSA, to now playing on a rookie contract with the White Sox. The final presentation of the evening was offered by Bill Brown, Mike Acosta, and Phil Boudreaux who described the role each played in the writing of their recently published book, *Houston Astros' Golden Era*.

### **SABR Day – February 5, 2022**

Traditionally our chapter has used the annual Houston Astros Fan Fest where we can interface with 10,000 - 15,000 Astros fans as our event and expose them to SABR. Our table is staffed by local members, and we pass out free baseball cards and explain the benefits of joining our chapter. We also showcase books written by chapter members.

On Saturday, February 5, 2022, in place of Fan Fest, which was postponed, Mike McCroskey arranged an afternoon gathering at the Jax Grill in Houston where chapter members celebrated SABR Day in America. Each of the 20 attendees was asked to bring some of their favorite memorabilia and talk about how they had acquired it. Herb Whalley brought a baseball signed by Connie Mack, Tris Speaker and the 1939 Philadelphia Athletics. Mike McCroskey played the song "Willie, Mickey and the Duke" plus showed off a unique set of plastic cups. The cups were a complete set of 20, a different Astros player on each, purchased at Stop N Go in the early 1980s. Chapter President Emeritus Bob Dorrill was dressed in a Minnesota Twins jersey and had a game-used bat presented to him by Mark Davidson who Bob had coached in Little League. Bob also told a story about another of his Little League players who went on to NFL fame, San Francisco 49ers great Dwight Clark. Lou DeScoli had a baseball signed by Bobby Thompson and Ralph Branca while Joe Thompson shared some of his collectables. Others had key game programs and vintage baseball cards. During the session at least 50 books found new homes at the book exchange. It was a fun afternoon and one the chapter plans to repeat in the future.

On Monday, February 21, 2022, the regular monthly meeting of the Larry Dierker Chapter was held as a hybrid meeting with a total of 31 members in attendance either in person in Houston at the Spaghetti Western and online via Zoom. The speaker for the evening was Mike Capps, broadcaster for the Round Rock Express. Mike told numerous stories about his career in baseball and mentioned he is writing a book called *Grinders*. Next up was Chris Chestnut with an analysis on the impact of baseball's largest contracts and how 104 players performed after they signed for record numbers. Rogers Hornsby chapter member Dave Walsh also spoke on the history of baseball through postage stamps.

On Monday, March 21, 2022, the Larry Dierker Chapter gathered again for its monthly meeting continuing in its hybrid format. A total of 30 SABR members enjoyed a very interesting program. President Joe Thompson announced that win total predictions for both the Astros and the Space Cowboys 2022 seasons were due to Herb Whalley by April 5, 2022.

Our special guest was film producer Gaspar Gonzales and Deacon Jones. Gaspar and Deacon shared some opening comments about the documentary *A Long Way from Home*. It was a moving film of what black players faced in trying to get signed and advance in organized baseball. Besides Deacon Jones, former Houston Astros Jimmy Wynn, JR Richard, and Enos Cabell appeared in the film. Chapter member Vinnie Vrotny then recapped a project done by his high school students at the Kinkaid School in Houston entitled “Making Sense of Stories and Numbers: Negro League Analytics.” His project gave ten students the opportunity to research and analyze the data of some of the players from the Negro Leagues whose records and statistics might qualify them for the Baseball Hall of Fame. Vinnie’s power point demonstrated what the students had learned as they applied sabermetrics to the available information for those players in order to compare them with players already admitted to the Hall of Fame.

On Saturday, April 16, 2022, our chapter held a small monthly meeting at Constellation Field, the Sugar Land Space Cowboys ballpark. Twenty-eight members and guests gathered prior to the game to hear from Mike Capps, the announcer for the Round Rock Express (Texas Rangers AAA Club) and Gerald Sanchez, the announcer for the Space Cowboys (Houston Astros AAA Club). Both entertained us with interesting stories from their extensive broadcasting experiences. After the meeting, attendees enjoyed dinner and a great game of minor league ball on a beautiful spring evening.

On Monday, May 16, 2022, continuing in its hybrid format, a total of 30 SABR members gathered in-person at the Spaghetti Western Restaurant and online via Zoom. Joe Thompson discussed a variety of topics including the upcoming SABR convention and health requirements, the newly released Nolan Ryan documentary *Facing Nolan*, and our upcoming newsletter before turning the session to Ted Meyer. Ted is a recognized labor and management attorney plus a passionate baseball fan. He spoke on leadership using baseball examples as he described both good and bad leadership and its effect on team and individual performance.

On Monday, June 20, 2022, our speaker will be journalist and author Arlene Lassin who will relate her experiences of being a member of the "Hot Pants Patrol" for the Philadelphia Phillies. Arlene has published her first book, a compilation of her best essays including her baseball years stories, in *The Very Best of the Hot Flashes Blog*, now available on Amazon. She has promised to bring plenty of props including her “Hot Pants Patrol” costume. Stay tuned.

— **Joe Thompson & Bob Dorrill**

### **Gardner-Waterman Chapter (Burlington, VT)**

The activities of the Gardner-Waterman/SABR Vermont chapter have been exclusively on zoom. We have held approximately 15 meetings with an average attendance of 10 per meeting. Most of our gatherings have featured informal question and answer sessions with authors including Dan Epstein, T.R. Sullivan, Eric Chalek, and David Krell. We've also held several trivia contests on zoom on a wide range of subjects. On June 12, we will be participating in an event to honor soon-to-be BBHOFer Bud Fowler being held by the Vermont Mountaineers, a New England College Baseball League team. I envision us continuing on zoom for the near future. We have upcoming talks with Dale Scott, Sean Foreman, and Danny Gallagher.

— **Clayton Trutor**

### **Bud Metheny Chapter (Norfolk, VA)**

6/13/2021 – Met for MiLB game - Richmond Squirrels vs. Harrisburg

7/28/2021 – Zoom Meeting – Baseball Card Art with Adam Korengold

8/1/2021 – Met for MiLB game - Norfolk Tides vs. Durham Bulls

8/19/2021 – Zoom Meeting – Jack Bales – 1932 World Series and Crime of Passion

1/22/2022 – Zoom - 2022 Planning Meeting

3/24/ 2022 – Zoom Meeting – Joe Gregory GM Norfolk Tides. Managing MiLB Operational changes.

5/1/2022 – Met for MiLB game – Richmond Squirrels vs. Bowie

— **Andrew Noe**

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

This year all NW Chapter activities were virtual. While we missed the fellowship of our all-Saturday in-person meetings we deemed it more practical to meet online, finding that we attracted more members with weeknight sessions, held more often, and limited to one or two presentations. We have also expanded the roll of enthusiastic, active members by including participants from all over our multi state (and country) area. In the near future we hope to return to some in-person meetings (perhaps better described as a gathering of friends) while also continuing the mix of virtual events.

This year's calendar:

- 6/6/21 Three books, three authors, presented in conjunction with Elliott Bay Books: Larry Baldassaro, Steve Steinberg, and Don Zmida discussed their new books in a forum moderated by Mark Armour.
- 8/25/21 Ruppert Jones, former all-star outfielder for the Seattle Mariners, discussed his life, career, and his autobiography, *Never Give Up: a Memoir of Baseball and Traumatic Brain Injury*.
- 9/16/21 NW SABR Social meeting: Members (re)connected and swapped stories.
- 11/10/21 Live from the Winter Meetings! We hosted the *Seattle Times* Mariner beat writer (and good friend of our chapter) Ryan Divish, to answer our members' questions about the Mariners/MLB 2021 season and the season ahead.
- 2/1/22 One analytic topic and one historical topic: NW Chapter member Barry Hyman spoke on the "Overall Offensive Performance" system of measurement, as detailed in the latest *Baseball Research Journal*. Member Rob Bauer followed with a presentation on "The Demise of the American Association" with a revised analysis of the break ups of the Players League and the American Association.
- 3/1/22 We were joined by Kiona Sinks, Community Engagement & Digital Strategy Manager of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, who fielded our questions and shared upcoming projects and exhibits at the NLBM.
- 3/7/22 "Sudden Sam" McDowell shared his life story and introduced his autobiography, *The Saga of Sudden Sam: The Rise, Fall and Redemption of Sam McDowell*, with co-author Martin Gitlin.
- 4/27/22 Our chapter joined with the Allen Roth, Lefty O'Doul, and Dusty Baker chapters to sponsor Professors Robert Elias and Peter Drier in an engaging discussion of their recently published books, *Baseball Rebels: The Players, People and Social Movements that Shook Up the Game and Changed America* and *Major League Rebels: Baseball Battles Over Workers' Rights and American Empire*.
- 5/17/22 Melissa Booker gave us a preview of her presentation, "Snoopy, Baseball's Top Dog" – which she'll deliver at the Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture in June.

Thanks to Tip Wonhoff whose initiative made many of these meetings possible, to members who stepped in to present and participate, and to Jacob Pomrenke and SABR staff who facilitate our virtual events.

— **Bob Russon**

## **Ken Keltner Chapter (Milwaukee, WI)**

For the year 2021-2022 we saw more of the same meeting by Zoom. Thanks to SABR providing Zoom, we were able to reach members further out in Wisconsin who normally cannot attend meetings as well members nationwide with excellent speaker opportunities. But we did have several opportunities to meet in-person including our first live chapter meeting in April. Our book club remained active as did our monthly newsletter.

### **Virtual Meetings**

June, 125 Years of Badger State Baseball Cards with Jason Schwartz

July, New American Association Team and Ballpark in Oconomowoc in 2022 with Tom Kelenic

September, Dillard Style, Baseball Stories and More with Tim Dillard

November, *Eddie Plank, A Pitchers Journey to the Hall of Fame* with author Dave Heller

January, Marcus Hanel, former Milwaukee Brewers Bullpen Catcher for 21 Years

February, Joint Meeting with Emil Rothe Chapter featuring Ila Borders, Jasmine Dunston and Sara Sanchez

March 2022, Buck O'Neil and the Exciting Events Planned at the Negro League Museum with Bob Kendrick

May 2022, *Beauty at Short, Dave Bancroft the Most Unlikely Hall of Famer and His Wild Times in Baseball's First Century* with author Dave Alesia

### **Live and In-person Meetings**

The Milwaukee County Park District has beer gardens in several parks and we used those to meet, outside. We originally scheduled an in-person chapter meeting for August but the speaker, Tim Dillard had to back out and, with COVID spiking, we did not reschedule a replacement

July, Talking Baseball at Southshore Park Beer Garden

April, first live chapter meeting in 26 months with new Brewers broadcaster Josh Maurer and Brewer Batboy Jake Oakland.

### **Keltner Book Corner**

Mary Shea is the Chair of the Keltner Book Club and continues to select a good variety of books to read.

June, virtual meeting to discuss Jim Bouton's *Ball Four* with special guest Mitchell Nathanson the author of *Bouton*.

August, at Estabrook Park Beer Garden discussing *A Year of Playing Catch* with author Ethan Bryan zooming in that culminated in playing catch; including the unique use of two 1940's gloves.

December, virtual meeting discussing *Our Team the Epic Story of Four Men and the World Series that Changed Baseball* with author Luke Epplin.

March, Virtual meeting to discuss *The Baseball 100* by Joe Posnanski as well as a Talking Baseball session

### **Keltner Hot Corner Newsletters**



We continued publishing a monthly newsletter with a variety of features and contributors who helped make a big difference. Some of our coverage included Bob Buege's special monthly feature with 13 bonus chapters that didn't make it into his book *Borchert Field*. We followed the creation of a new minor league team and their ballpark construction. Profiling Keltner members continued in our Get to Know Series. Plus, we started a monthly trivia contest, Schabowski's Super Stumpers by Rick Schabowski. In addition, we had recaps with recordings of our virtual meetings and SABR news.

#### Get to Know Profiles

June, Cory Ritterbusch

July, Lee Kluck

August, Dave Heller

September, Dave Klement

January, Rex Hamann

February, Mary Kusmirek

March, Jack Liebl

April, Peter Wilt

May, Tom Alesia

#### Keltner Hot Corner Contributors:

Bob Buege

Dennis D Degenhardt

Rex Hamann

Matthew Prigge

Cory Ritterbusch

Rick Schabowski

Mary Shea

Paul Tenpenny

Wally Thiel

Stew Thornley

— **Dennis Degenhardt**

### **Ottawa Chapter (Ottawa, ON)**

Within you will find a summary of activities of our chapter here in Ottawa.

Because of covid restrictions over the past two years we have been limited to hold meetings in 2020 and 2021, and into 2022 via Zoom.

Still we have enjoyed some interesting meetings as we organized our chapter under the leadership of George Rigakos.

Some of our activities have been the following:

- 1) Organization, election of a board and adoption of local bylaws of governance. (With input and assistance from members of the Montreal S.A.B.R. chapter).
- 2) Startup of a local website
- 3) Launch of a Shaughnessy Chapter Twitter account
- 4) Baseball Card Project lead by Tom Crist (Card Project)
- 5) The Way We Looked: A review of some early research of the history and evolution of baseball uniforms, presented by Ron Grossman

The card project continues under the set committee. George Rigakos will be looking into a printer who will produce the cards once they have been designed. The cards represent ballplayers who have connection to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada/USA etc.

We have waited for the start-up of the Frontier League season here where the local team, The Ottawa Titans play at RCGT/Ottawa Stadium. We hope as a group to attend a game later this year.

With the easing of the pandemic we hope to hold live in person meetings eventually.

— **Ron Grossman**

## **Hanlan's Point Chapter (Toronto, ON)**

### **The Year in Review:**

The Chapter had a strong year despite challenges created by pandemic restrictions. Building on initiatives noted in last year's report:

- Establishment of a Chapter Planning Committee, currently comprised of ten members; and,
- Establishment of a quarterly Chapter Newsletter lead by Chapter members Elena North and Mike Anderson;

The Chapter engaged in group projects nearing completion and increased the number of meetings held.

The Chapter engaged in two group book projects:

- *Our Game, Too*, led by Chapter member Andrew North, published by SABR late May 2022.
- A book commemorating the 1992 World Series Champion Toronto Blue Jays, led by Chapter member Adrian Fung, targeted for publication by SABR in late summer/early fall 2022.

The Chapter held four meetings during the operating year.

The fall 2021 meeting was a virtual event featuring SABR member and author David Krell, speaking about his recently published book *1962 Baseball and America in the Time of JFK*.

The SABR Day 2022 meeting was also a virtual event. In addition to discussing the year plan for calendar 2022 in conjunction with the updated SABR Chapter standards that had been released in October 2021, the meeting featured two speakers. Chapter members Andrew North and Adrian Fung, spoke about the upcoming books as listed above.

With pandemic restrictions easing, the Chapter held its first hybrid meeting in March 2022. With a group gathered at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in St. Marys Ontario and other members attending by Zoom, Chapter member Brian "Chip" Martin spoke about his recently published book *Barney Dreyfuss Pittsburgh's Baseball Titan*.

On May 29, Chapter member Anne Chamberlain organized a group trip with the Brantford Red Sox hosting the London Majors in an Intercounty League game (IBL). Before the game, Anne provided a tour of the stadium, history of the Red Sox and mentioned a few alumni of the teams. Although there are over 100 MLB, Negro League and multi-sport professional alumni associated with the IBL, a recognizable name associated with the Brantford Red Sox is Wayne Gretzky (1978) and a recognizable name with the London Majors is Fergie Jenkins (1994-85).

### **A Look Towards Fiscal 2022**

Going forward, the Chapter has designed a Scorecard to assist the Chapter Planning Committee with monitoring and reporting on achieving the Chapter standards outlined by SABR.

In addition, the Chapter has identified the importance of continuing to use Zoom for hybrid meetings as often as possible. A unique challenge for Canadian chapters, currently 3 (Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal) is the distance some Canadian SABR members live in relation to the closest Canadian or American SABR chapter. The three Canadian chapters roughly form a triangle with Toronto on the west, Montreal on the east and Ottawa in between to the north. The distance between Toronto and Montreal is approximately 310 miles. For context, the distance from a western most city of Victoria British Columbia and eastern most city of St. John's Newfoundland is approximately 3,100 miles. This geography reinforces the value of using Zoom hybrid meetings whenever possible to help serve all SABR members, Canadian and American, who have an interest in our Chapter programming that often includes topics about Canadian aspects of baseball.

— **Allen Tait**

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

Despite an ongoing pandemic, the SABR Quebec chapter is proud to report that it had another positive year in 2021.

Our virtual meetings were well attended. Our first one featured Jack Anderson who talked about an article he wrote on Jackie Robinson's season in Montreal for a SABR book project. Our Spring meeting was all about Christian Trudeau's research on the Eastern Canada League of 1922-24. Finally, Marcel Dugas took the floor at our Fall meeting to discuss how the Royals left Montreal in late 1960. We usually organize our August meeting around a baseball game in Quebec City. Although the Quebec Capitales were back to playing, our members felt it was too soon in the pandemic to organize a meeting at the stadium so we cancelled it. We might return to Quebec City in 2022 if the covid situation continues to improve.

A number of interesting new members joined SABR and our chapter during the calendar year. As noted in previous annual reports, it is a challenge for our chapter to recruit new members as our basin is predominantly French speaking and not necessarily baseball oriented. We do, however, have a high retention rate. Those members who join tend to remain members for a long time. We keep making recruitment efforts through social media, word of mouth and media exposure. Our membership numbers have been steady for over a decade.

Our website was extremely popular again this year, thanks in part to Jack Anderson's article on Jackie Robinson. We published it online both in English and French, and in full, as the published SABR version had been amputated by a third to fit the organization's book format. Overall, traffic on the website more than doubled as compared to the previous year and three times as many pages were seen. New user visits have also increased significantly.

As always, we will make renewed efforts in the next year to attract new members and publish interesting content on our website. It is at times an uphill battle because of our geographic location and our cultural peculiarity, but one our chapter has always been willing to accept as seen by our longevity and diversified activity.

— **Patrick Carpentier**