

2021 SABR Annual Report Appendix 1: Chapter Reports

Rickwood Field Chapter (Birmingham, AL)

COVID-19's ripple effects were again felt throughout the year. The Rickwood Classic, which had been scheduled for June 8, 2020, was canceled in the wake of Major League Baseball's decision to scrap the entire minor league season. Although we had planned for the Classic to return in 2021, MLB's COVID-19 restrictions will not allow the game to occur. After consecutive "rainouts", we remain hopeful that MLB will allow the 24th annual Rickwood Classic to be played in 2022.

Other casualties to the virus were the **18th Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference**, which would have been held at Rickwood Field in early March 2021, and the **Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference**, which had been rescheduled for late July 2021. However, with case counts lowering and the arrival of vaccines, we are confident both conferences will go forward in 2022.

As always, several members have been busy with research and writing projects. Joe DeLeonard, Ben Powell, Lamar Smith, and Jeb Stewart have started the **Rickwood Hall of Fame Project Committee** to confirm every member of the Baseball Hall of Fame who appeared at Rickwood Field as a player, manager, coach, or umpire. So far, they have added 30 new Hall of Famers to the previous total of 107. We will report our findings next year. Jeb Stewart also contributed a chapter on Greenlee Field in SABR's recent book, *Pride of Smoketown: The 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords*. And in July, chapter members were thrilled with the release of Art Black's latest book, *Fame and Fortune in The Show: Baseball at Rickwood Field and Beyond in the Middle 1900s*.

Last year, the Chapter conducted a poll of its members to vote on the best Barons, Athletics, and Black Barons at each position from the Rickwood-era in Birmingham baseball (1910-1987). As a follow-up, from May 30 to June 21, 2021, the Chapter conducted a Facebook poll to determine the best team in Rickwood's history. 16 teams were selected from the Birmingham Barons, Black Barons, and A's. Clubs were seeded based on their records, winning percentage, regular season pennants, post-season performance, statistical data, and anecdotal evidence based on the pitchers and player rosters of each team. After two weekends of voting, just four teams remained.

The final four featured the 1958 Birmingham Barons, the only Barons team to ever win the Southern Association pennant, the SA Playoffs, and the Dixie Series in the same season. Their opponent was the 1948 Birmingham Black Barons, who won the Negro American League pennant and appeared in the last Negro League World Series. The '58 Barons prevailed by a single vote.

The other side of the bracket included two Dixie Series winners. The 1931 Birmingham Barons won the SA pennant and an exciting Dixie Series over Dizzy Dean's Houston Buffaloes. The Barons opponent was the 1967 Birmingham A's, who had three future Hall of Famers on the roster (Reggie Jackson, Rollie Fingers, and Tony LaRussa) and won the Southern League pennant before defeating the Albuquerque Dodgers to win the last Dixie Series. SABR Chapter voters overwhelmingly favored the A's in this imaginary matchup.

In the final contest, the '67 A's squeaked by the '58 Barons by just one vote. For more information, please like the Rickwood Field SABR Chapter on Facebook.

The vote for Birmingham's best team was more than just a fun baseball distraction during the pandemic. The biographies for each club provided members with new information about the teams, players, leagues, and seasons, and will prove helpful in updating Rickwood's championship list on the third base grandstand.

On Saturday, March 6, 2021, Rickwood Field hosted the Chapter's annual meeting, which was well attended. Attendees were treated to grilled bratwursts and Italian sausages and watched a slide show of about 350 photographs from the Friends of Rickwood's collection of 2,000 photographs from 1931-1987, which the organization obtained from the *Birmingham News*.

It was nice to spend an afternoon talking baseball, even while social distancing and wearing masks. The event raised \$236 in donations for the Friends of Rickwood in the organization's efforts to restore Rickwood Field, America's Oldest Ballpark.

As a bonus, Miles College played Stillman College in a doubleheader that afternoon. The Golden Bears swept both games from the Stillman Tigers, 11-10 and 16-2. For most of us, it was the first live baseball game we had attended in person in over a year.

— **Jeb Stewart**

Allan Roth Chapter (Los Angeles, CA)

Chapter Meetings

1. Saturday, December 5, 2020

Marshall Garvey, author of the book *The Hidden History of Sacramento Baseball*; book author for the Davis, CA-based research group History Specialists; former staff writer for Dodgers Nation, a leading Dodgers blog; co-founder and lead editor of Last Token Gaming, a popular Sacramento-based video game blog; member of the Dusty Baker Chapter of SABR in Sacramento; board member for the Sacramento Historical Society; currently working on a book about the 1985 World Series, as well as a novel based on the Korean War

Bill Nowlin: *Baseball's Biggest Blowout Games*, featuring the most lopsided games from 1901-2019; focusing on the Dodgers and the Angels.

Assisted by Bob Timmermann and Jeff Kallman

2. Saturday, February 27, 2021

Jacob Pomrenke— a virtual tour of the updated SABR.org website.

Brian Vikander—*Dalko: The Untold Story of Baseball's Fastest Pitcher*

Both fascinating and tragic, the story of Steve "Dalko" Dalkowski is one of the most gripping tales in the history of baseball. The fastest pitcher to ever take the mound, this story explores Dalko's unmatched talent and the forces that worked against him.

Dan Taylor—*Lights, Camera, Fastball – How the Hollywood Stars Changed Baseball*

The Hollywood Stars were the most inventive team in baseball history, known for their celebrity ownership and movie star following during the Golden Age of Hollywood.

Jarol Manheim—*This Never Happened: The Mysterious Death of Christy Mathewson*

A few years ago, the author came across two WWI military documents indicating that several future Hall of Famers served together briefly in a Chemical Weapons Service training unit in June 1918. Mathewson was the Lieutenant in charge of the unit, which was clearly intended for propaganda purposes. Yet its very existence has never been mentioned anywhere — in the press of the period, in biographies, or in histories. Accounts of Mathewson's and Ty Cobb's exposure to gas in France in the fall of that year do not reference the earlier training. What can account for this? In his forthcoming novel (Summer Game Books), the author shares the papers and offers one possible explanation — a

century-long effort by baseball and the military to cover up a terrible, and in the circumstances, highly embarrassing event. The story is fiction. But if *this* never happened, what did?

Stephen Bratkovich—*The Baseball Bat: From Trees to the Major Leagues, 19th Century to Today*. The author combined the two topics he loves, trees (wood) and baseball.

— **Barry Mednick**

Dusty Baker-Sacramento Chapter (Sacramento, CA)

Overview

- Due to the pandemic, all 2020-21 chapter activities have been held virtually through Zoom.
- Attendance for virtual meetings has ranged from 25-55 and has included SABR members nationwide.
- There is frequent collaboration with the Lefty O'Doul – San Francisco Bay SABR Chapter.
- Two virtual meetings were held in collaboration with the Pacific Coast League Historical Society.
- The chapter hopes pandemic restrictions will ease enough to meet in-person by the end of the 2021 baseball season.
- Recordings of virtual chapter meetings can be found on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ9ckllvr8flitl1kC3DxcQ>).
- 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).

2020-21 Activities

- July 14, 2020 – The Dusty Baker-Sacramento SABR Chapter joined with the Lefty O'Doul-San Francisco Bay SABR Chapter to welcome Chris Epting, author of "Roadside Baseball: The Locations of America's Baseball Landmarks," as our guest.
- July 27, 2020 – The Dusty Baker-Sacramento SABR Chapter held an informal meeting. There was no agenda and no presentations. This provided an opportunity for more member interactions than a typical virtual meeting.
- August 18, 2020 – The Dusty Baker - Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul - San Francisco Bay SABR chapters joined together for a special conversation with San Francisco Chronicle sportswriter John Shea and longtime KNBR radio host Marty Lurie to discuss Shea's book on Willie Mays, "24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid."
- September 21, 2020 – The Dusty Baker - Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul - San Francisco Bay SABR chapters joined together for a special conversation with Bob Kendrick, President of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Kendrick discussed the museum and centennial celebration commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Negro Leagues.

- October 29, 2020 – The Dusty Baker-Sacramento SABR Chapter held an informal meeting. There was no agenda and no presentations. This provided an opportunity for more member interactions than a typical virtual meeting.
- November 9, 2020 – The Dusty Baker - Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul - San Francisco Bay SABR chapters joined together for a conversation on SABR's new book, "Baseball's Biggest Blowout Games." The book's editor, Bill Nowlin, was joined by contributors Paul Hofmann and Gary Belleville (Athletics games), and Bill Enos and Diane MacLennan (Giants games).
- December 12, 2020 – In collaboration with SABR chapters, chair Zak Ford (Advisory Committee Member) and Mark Macrae (Director) hosted the annual Pacific Coast League Historical Society's reunion virtually. Attendees included former players Don Farber and Tommy Munoz, former batboys Chuck Symonds and Steve Heath, and many family members and fans of the "old" league.
- January 5, 2021 – SABR's Director of Editorial Content, Jacob Pomrenke, joined the Dusty Baker-Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul-SF Bay Area SABR chapters to provide an overview of SABR's website. SABR's website, www.sabr.org, has an abundance of information and resources available to SABR members. This includes an incredibly extensive digital library, research tools, and more.
- March 2, 2021 - The Dusty Baker - Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul - SF Bay Area SABR chapters held an informal meeting. There was no agenda and no presentations. This provided an opportunity for more member interactions than a typical virtual meeting.
- April 20, 2021 – The Dusty Baker - Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul - SF Bay Area SABR chapters met on April 20, 2021, for a special virtual chapter meeting. Teaming with the Pacific Coast League Historical Society, Dan Taylor spoke of his new book, "Lights, Camera, Fastball: How the Hollywood Stars Changed Baseball."
- May 18, 2021 – SABR CEO Scott Bush joined the Dusty Baker-Sacramento and Lefty O'Doul-San Francisco Bay Area SABR chapters on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Bush discussed the changes and re-organization of Minor League Baseball, and shared news about upcoming SABR events and initiatives.
- 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 will talk about his new book "The Giants and Their City."

— **Zak Ford**

Ted Williams Chapter (San Diego, CA)

Regional Meetings

We have not held any regional meetings during the year due to the pandemic.

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 one meeting via Zoom this year (March 10, 2021).

Talkin' Baseball Lunches

Our chapter initiated informal lunches in 2018 where members have lunch and "talk baseball." No lunches were scheduled this year due to the pandemic.

Yahoo Chat Group

This chat group was initiated in July 2018. It was not very active and has been discontinued this year.

Projects and Newsletters

- **July 2020:** All-Time Padres Team. The project was managed by three of our members: Geoff Young, along with Dan Boyle and Greg Funk. Selection of the All-Time Team was guided via a vote by chapter members.
- **August 2020:** Padres 2020 Opening Day: 9 Viewpoints. Nine chapter members wrote essays concerning the unique 2020 Opening Day that was delayed by the pandemic.
- **November 2020:** Padres 2020. This was a look back at the Padres' pandemic-shortened 2020 season. Five essays were contributed along with the results of a survey of members regarding the season. The report's Appendixes provided an extensive historical review of the season.
- **February 2021:** Newsletter. Seven articles were included.
- **June 2021:** Newsletter (in preparation)
- **June 2021:** Grave Marker. Our Steering Committee has approved an annual effort to prepare and install historical baseball markers in San Diego. For this year we will complete a grave marker for former MLB player Joe Quest. His career covered 10 seasons (1871 and 1878-1886). He was part of the major league's first rookie class (1871) and given credit for originating the term "charley horse." Andy Strasberg took the lead on this project.

City of San Diego Library (Baseball Research Center) Partnership

The Library's Baseball Research Center (BRC), now called the Sullivan Family Baseball Research Center, was created in 1999 in partnership with our chapter. 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, and (3) provide items for BRC displays.

The Library has a staff position who provides liaison with our chapter, and serves as an ex-officio member on our Steering Committee. Until promoted recently, Bob Surratt served in this position. A process is underway to select a replacement.

Thanks to three SABR members, significant donations were received by the BRC in the past year:

- **November 2020:** The Joseph P. Murphy Jr. Baseball Autograph Collection consists of 10 volumes accumulated by lifelong fan and long-time SABR member Joe Murphy. There are 1,300+ items in the Collection, which includes authentic autographs, stat sheets, and

biographical clippings. There are autographs of Baseball Hall of Fame members such as Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Lou Gehrig, and Honus Wagner.

- **December 2020:** Through the generosity of Jim Wohlenhaus, a SABR member from Flagler, Colorado, we received another 53 *Baseball* magazines from 1942, 1943, 1946, 1947, 1952, 1964, and 1965. These filled gaps in our collection to the extent that we have a near-complete run.
- **May 2021:** The entire run of *Baseball Gold* publications was donated by SABR member Fred Rodgers who was editor/publisher of the publication. The monthly publication existed from September 1982 through June 1986 and focused on San Diego Padres' players from those years plus San Diego baseball history.

Ray Nemecek Baseball Archives

In April 2019 baseball research material from the Ray Nemecek family was donated to our chapter. Included are player records, unpublished minor league averages, and minor league box score-game scrapbooks. These scrapbooks represent 344 league-seasons between 1934 and 1950. Chapter members engaged in digitization of the books and to date nearly 30% have been digitized. However, progress has paused because most of the remaining books are in bad shape (mainly due to the glue holding the box scores has disintegrated with the result that a large number of the box score clips, which are undated, are loose).

— **Tom Larwin**

Lefty O'Doul / Bay Area Chapter (San Francisco, CA)

In spite of lockdown and quarantine, the Lefty O'Doul SABR Chapter enjoyed a successful year.

I am delighted to announce that Steve Treder has joined Lefty O'Doul leadership as chapter co-chair. Thanks, Steve, and thank you to Pete MacPhail, our longtime treasurer.

Zoom technology allowed us the opportunity to be available to all our members and to invite speakers from across the country! We continue to partner with Zak Ford and the Dusty Baker Chapter. This worked very successfully virtually. Matter of fact, Steve Treder noted that the ability to participate virtually was key to his agreeing to be co-chair! SABR support, as always, was invaluable. Thanks to Peter Cottrell who did an early zoom training with Zak Ford and me; and to Jacob Pomrenke, for always being willing to share technical and other support.

We presented programming regularly once we moved to the zoom platform. These programs were recorded and posted to the Dusty Baker Chapter YouTube channel.

Our guests included chapter member Brad Balukjian sharing his "Wax Pack" travels; Bob Kendrick, from the Negro Leagues Museum; John Shea, author of "24" the new Willie Mays book; SABR's own Jacob Pomrenke, who gave us a comprehensive tour of resources on [www. SABR.org](http://www.SABR.org) ; Chris Epting shared stories of his Roadside Baseball book; Mark Macrae and the Pacific Coast Historical Society joined us for a meeting with talk on the Hollywood Stars, by Dan Taylor; SABR's Scott Bush gave us an update on the reorganization of Minor League Baseball; and in June we'll feature Steve Treder on his new book on Horace Stoneham "40 Years a Giant" and Lincoln Mitchell will talk about his new title "The Giants and Their City".

The Chapter is still interested in participating in the Baseball Reminiscence Program and is looking into possible locations in the Bay Area or Sacramento for outreach. Greg Johnson and Cesar Love are involved with this effort.

Thanks again to Zak Ford. Our chapters continue to work well together. Thanks to our speakers, we appreciate their dedication and research. Thanks to SABR Board members for their efforts on behalf of us all. Thanks to SABR staff for their support and the incredible effort to move to a virtual platform for chapter programs and offering an excellent virtual annual conference. Thanks to Pete and Steve for their work. Thanks to our chapter members and all the SABR members who joined us this past year for virtual programs.

We look forward to seeing folks in person here locally at some point and at SABR 50 celebration in Baltimore next year.

— **Marlene Vogelsang**

Rocky Mountain Chapter (Denver, CO)

"Hey, where did that year go?!" No idea. Beginning in March, 2020, as the pandemic hit, we began having monthly Zoom calls with a variety of interesting guests, including Rockies manager Bud Black, HOF President Tim Mead, former Rockies assistant GM Bill Geivett, former relief pitcher Brad Lidge and MLB.com writer Thomas Harding, among others.

Unfortunately, we did not hold our annual November banquet, which had been a 20-year tradition and the highlight of our Rocky Mountain SABR calendar.

Another disappointment, to be completely candid, for several of our members, was the cancellation of the national convention two years in a row. Here's hoping we can all gather safely and happily in Baltimore in 2022!

In a sign of the changing, and improving times, we are targeting Thursday, June 17, 2021 as the date of the return of in-person monthly luncheons.

— **Paul Parker**

Central Florida Chapter (Orlando, FL)

After years of dormancy, the Central Florida Chapter of SABR, reformed with Warren Rogan as President, Peter Gordon as Vice President and Jim Bard as Secretary.

The Chapter had high hopes upon its revival and then was sidetracked due to the pandemic. In an effort to keep interest, a few zoom meetings with guests were held at first. These included:

- Saturday, July 25, 2020 we held a zoom meeting with Jeremy Beer about his book on Oscar Charleston.
- Monday, October 19, 2020 we held a zoom meeting with Victor Rojas who was, at the time, a TV Broadcaster for the Los Angeles Angels (he has since moved on).

- Beginning February of 2021, we started regular monthly zoom meetings. Our first was held on February 17. Our focus was to discuss regular meeting times, a few discussions about the upcoming baseball season and a presentation by Peter Gordon about Fred McGriff.
- Our March 10, 2021 meeting we discussed the new rules put in place for the 2021 Spring Training Season, the Hall of Fame and Warren Rogan made a presentation about the Seattle Pilots.
- Our April 14, 2021 meeting was filled with predictions for the upcoming season, but mainly focused on a lengthy presentation given to us by member Bob Schafer about all the different Major Leagues that have existed.
- Our May 12, 2021 meeting, we welcomed guest David Krell who spoke to us about his book, “1962: Baseball and America in the Time of JFK.”

— **Warren Rogan**

Chicago Emil Rothe Chapter (Chicago, IL)

In 2020-2021 the Chicago SABR Chapter participated in the following activities:

Virtual Meetings

- **August 22, 2020:** Tom Stone discussed his recently published book *Now Taking the Field: Baseball's All-Time Dream Teams for All 30 Franchises*.
- **October 31, 2020:** Sharon Hamilton, co-chair of SABR's Century Research Committee, discussed the committee's work and explored opportunities to celebrate important Chicago baseball anniversaries. SABR Board Director Bill Nowlin shined a light on the recent SABR Digital publication, *Baseball's Biggest Blowout Games*.
- **January 16, 2021:** Ralph Carhart discussed his book, *The Hall Ball*, in which he detailed his endeavors to collect photos of a single baseball with each member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, whether living or dead.
- **March 20, 2021:** Former Chicago Cub center fielder Bob Dernier joined the chapter meeting to discuss his career. He was surprised on the Zoom call by his former teammate and Hall of Fame member Ryne Sandberg.
- **April 17, 2021:** Sean Gibson, great-grandson of Negro League legend Josh Gibson, along with prominent baseball historians Ted Knorr and Thomas Kern, joined the chapter meeting. They presented the life and career of Josh Gibson as well as the campaign to name the MLB MVP awards in Josh's honor.
- **May 22, 2021:** Dr. Gregory Wolf, SABR's BioProject Co-Director, discussed the recent SABR Digital publication: *The Base Ball Palace of the World: Comiskey Park*. Don Zminda, SABR member and author, discuss his newly published book: *Double Plays and Double Crosses: The Black Sox and Baseball in 1920*.

In-Person Meetings, Ballgames, Luncheons

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no in-person meetings were held, no ballgames were attended, and luncheons were organized.

Communications

- **Chapter Newsletter** - Our chapter's renowned newsletter shifted to a bimonthly schedule in 2020. Six issues have appeared since the last report: July, September, and November 2020; January, March, and May 2021.
- **Social Media** - During 2020 we expanded our presence on Facebook using it as a platform for some of the virtual meetings. Other meetings were run via the Zoom account the chapter acquired.
- **New website** – Our chapter migrated its website from its former home to chicagosabr.com. The new site will allow members to contribute content directly while offering a greater range of features including support for video.

— **Richard Smiley**

Oscar Charleston Chapter (Indianapolis, IN)

May 9, 2020 meeting

Thank you to Professor Todd McDorman for presenting and to Andrew Reinbold for running the trivia, at the Oscar Charleston SABR Chapter meeting on Saturday, May 9, 2020.

Professor McDorman built off of his 2019 Cooperstown presentation called “‘Nobody’s Perfect’: Armando Galarraga’s (Im)Perfect Game and Instant Replay.” Professor McDorman analyzed the controversial (and almost certainly botched) call on what would’ve been the final out of Galarraga’s perfect game, when Galarraga’s Detroit Tigers played the Cleveland Indians on June 2, 2010. We can view this episode through Kenneth Burke’s idea of perfection, which helps analyze social rhetoric. According to Burke, humans constantly seek perfection and when we fail to achieve it we seek redemption in one of two ways: tragedy or comedy.

Viewing the Galarraga episode as tragic redemption, some commentators blamed umpire Jim Joyce for his call, blamed Commissioner Bud Selig for MLB’s inaction in remedying the call, or advocated for better instant replay, to avoid future mistakes. Here, tragedy means scapegoating and victimization. Viewing the episode, however, as comic redemption, other commentators observed Galarraga’s forgiveness, Joyce’s contrition, and baseball’s imperfect beauty. Here, baseball as comedy means humility and compassion, despite the conflict. Professor McDorman noted that in MLB’s desire to perfect the game, it might also fall into Burkean tragedy with the Zapruder-like parsing of each umpire call. Instead, Burkean comedy acknowledges—even embraces—the fact that no one’s perfect.

Finally, as for trivia, Professor McDorman claimed victory, scoring seventy of ninety possible points.

Thank you to everyone who attended. I’ll be in touch as July approaches with information about our next gathering. Given the uncertainty surrounding the circumstances under which we’ll gather in July, please let me know if you have ideas on presentations, activities, or locations, depending, of course, on city and state COVID-19 guidance.

July 25, 2020 Meeting

Saturday, July 25, Bruce Schumacher, chairman and chief executive officer of the Indianapolis Indians spoke to the Oscar Charleston Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research. We

met at the beautiful, new Elements Financial Club at Victory Field. Bruce answered several questions, which I'll summarize under three categories.

First, Bruce addressed the canceled 2020 Indianapolis Indians season. The Indians received a loan of just over \$900,000 from the Paycheck Protection Program, and the organization has also tried to make the most of Victory Field in the midst of the canceled season. This summer, Victory Field has hosted the College Summer League, which features around 270 college baseball players. These games maintain Covid-19 safety measures including mask requirements, temperature checks, unidirectional foot traffic lanes, prepackaged concessions, and a cap of 3,500 attendees. Beyond the College Summer League, Victory Field has hosted (or will soon host) high school baseball tournaments, a blood drive, a nine-hole golf course, and a classic car show.

Second, Bruce shared his thoughts on the MLB-MiLB working agreement negotiations. He foresees longer agreements than the current deals, which are a minimum of two years. This discussion also touched on the historical, and probably continuing, consolidation of MiLB. MLB has proposed moving toward a uniform, four-team (AAA, AA, A, and Rookie League) MiLB system. This contemplated contraction stems, at least in part, from changes in some teams' talent development strategies; these teams believe that they can save money with fewer MiLB teams, while relying on advanced metrics and scouting to find and cultivate sufficient talent.

Third, Bruce touched on how the Indians' name fits into the recent conversations regarding sports team names. He mentioned that the team's nickname originally stemmed from our state's and city's names of Indiana and Indianapolis, both of which lead neatly into the "Indians" nickname. Despite this, Bruce indicated his openness to addressing suggestions or concerns from any local Native Americans or Native American advocacy groups. Saturday's meeting didn't touch on the Indians creation of a committee to review the name, which was announced on Tuesday, July 28.

Finally, Bruce mentioned that, recently, for the first time in several months, he was able to visit his dad, Max, who's 87-years-old. Max is the Indians' former chairman and chief executive officer. Closing with good news, Bruce said that Max is doing well and in good health.

January 28, 2021 Meeting

Everyone, On Thursday, January 28, the Oscar Charleston Chapter for the Society for American Baseball Research hosted its virtual "SABR Day" meeting, albeit a couple days before the official SABR Day of January 30, 2021. The agenda proceeded as follows:

- Howard Kellman previewed the Indianapolis Indians' and Pittsburgh Pirates' 2021 season, touching on the potential increased team numbers in the Indians' International league and the Victory Field's 25th anniversary, on July 11, 2021.
- Kimberly Parkhurst (a paper related to her topic is attached) discussed baseball's modern origins from 1845, when the earliest known teams debuted, seeking gentlemanly, cosmopolitan leisure, to the tumultuous period during and after the Civil War, and up to 1905, two years after the first World Series.
- Andrew Heckroth covered Henry Aaron's early career, starting with the Indianapolis Clowns — which included almost nonexistent ties to Indianapolis!—leading up to his debut with the Milwaukee Braves, whose scout said, about Aaron, "This kid could be the answer."

The silver lining of our Zoom-based world is that we can provide those who missed the meeting with a recording, via [this link](#). I apologize for not pressing "play" early enough, which resulted in cutting off the first few seconds of the first presentation. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing the recording. Thank you to everyone who presented!

Please pencil in Saturday, April 24, as the date of our next Oscar Charleston Chapter meeting, although that might still change. If you or anyone you know would like to present at a future meeting, please contact me.

— **Trenton Morton**

Boston Chapter (Boston, MA)

Who knew, on January 1, 2020, that so much would be changed and life so different one year hence. On March 17, 2020, just as orders for stay at home and quarantine were announced, Bill Nowlin sent an email to the Boston Chapter co-chairs, asking: No baseball – but what about VIRTUAL baseball? And from then on forward to one year later, we have embarked on alternatives to the ways we once conducted Chapter activities. We all learned about Zoom, that is for sure.

Of course, we all kept in contact via email, throwing around ideas about how to keep communication active. Co-chair Saul Wisnia enhanced activity on the Boston Chapter Facebook page, offering trivia questions and general news about what was happening in Boston. He also kept up via Instagram. The Mudville Dispatch articles began in March, 2020 and continued for 52 weeks and were published on This Week in SABR as well as distributed to Chapter members. All three outlets kept baseball in Boston alive and open for discussion and feedback. We used traditional ways of communication working, but now we here facing new ways.

Since the annual convention was cancelled, and since face-to-face meetings were set aside too, now it was imperative that we embrace Zoom. Our first dive into the world of Zoom occurred on April 12, 2020. Luckily, we used this first meeting sort of as a dry run to see if we were successful – the meeting was between the Chapter chairs, and a few other brave souls. We want to thank Sean Facey and Jordan Leandre, our two interns from Emerson College, who were instrumental in helping us through it. We all survived and started to get the hang of it.

On June 12, 2020, two Chapter members attended the Welcome to Ballpark dining at McCoy!

Sort of a farewell visit, McCoy's last season would sadly coincide with the shutdown of in-person attendance at games. Certainly, the last visit to McCoy Stadium was bittersweet.

The Great Fenway Park Writers Series – “sports most celebrated literary forum” – returned to Boston after a brief hiatus. Gordon Edes, Red Sox historian promoted the return of the popular event, and the Boston chapter co-sponsored the first program. The first event via Zoom on June 25, 2020 featured the book co-authored by Willie Mays: “24: Life Stories and Lessons Form the Say Hey Kid.” A second Fenway Writers Series Zoom meeting was held on August 6, 2020, featuring “The Last Pass; Cousy, Russell, the Celtics and What Matters in the end.” What matters is that we sometimes can use stories about.... Ahem.... other sports, in order to broaden our understanding of sports in general – especially in Boston. In September, when Gordon Edes was no longer working as historian for the Red Sox, the Chapter was cast out alone to navigate Zoom without him. The next Zoom meeting, entirely of the Chapter's invention, was held on October 15, 2020, featuring Luis Tiant and “the 45th anniversary of his 163-pitch win over Cincinnati in Game Four of the 1975 World Series.” What a great presentation. What a great story to inaugurate a series of Chapter Zoom meetings – now that we have a better idea how to do it!

With bold resolve, we jumped into Zoom. November 11, 2020, Chapter co-chair David Laurila agreed to be the lead speaker and described what it was like to cover the Red Sox and other major league teams, especially during this year of quarantine and ballparks with no spectators.

Moving right along now that we were more comfortable with Zoom meetings, on December 3, 2020, Bill Nowlin lead an interview and discussion with guests Andy Sharp and Tony Valley about the recent SABR publication – Baseball’s Biggest Blowout Games.

And then the Chapter looked forward to what special presentation could be offered on SABR Day in Boston. The search and decision: Curt Smith agreed to speak via Zoom on MLK Day – January 18, 2021. Curt had recently authored “The Presidents and the Pastime.” This Zoom presentation, along with so many others produced by SABR chapters, are still available via the SABR Virtual Meetings Archive.

The highly anticipated Zoom meeting featuring Joe Castiglione was held on February 10, 2021. The most popular voice on the radio in Boston when it comes to listening to the Red Sox, Joe did not disappoint. He is just as dynamic at a Zoom meeting as he is on the radio.

We weren’t done yet. The March 23, 2021 Chapter Zoom meeting featured Rico Petrocelli who talked about his long-running radio show about Boston baseball, past and present. The hour presentation was way back, way back – too short!

The Great Fenway Writers Series on March 25, 2021 featured “The Wax Pack: On the Open Road in Search of Baseball’s Afterlife,” by author Brad Balukjian. Brad’s book was one of the notable books published during the pandemic, a highly recommended baseball memoir. Read it – and laugh – and weep.

The Great Fenway Park Writers Series continued to present memorable presentations, as the April 29, 2021 program featured “Fenway 1946: Red Sox, Peace, and a Year of Hope” by author Michael Connelly. Bill Nowlin joined the author and provided his extensive knowledge about the era. On May 27, 2020, the Writers Series presented the story of Fred Lebow and the New York city marathon history. The Writers Series continues to provide a wide range of sports stories to the Boston fans. The Boston Chapter supports their work to bring sports history to Boston audiences. And we also thank the Series for providing another great resource about Boston sports history.

Perhaps, in the near future, in-person meetings will return. The Chapter co-chairs met at the Bleacher Bar on June 6 to start working on future events. As venues open up and games are now seeing the return of fans to the stands, the Boston Chapter is also looking toward Worcester as the Red Sox Triple A Polar Park opens up. Once upon a time, there was a SABR Worcester – Jesse Burkett – Chapter. We encourage the revival of the Chapter, but until then, the Boston Chapter will take Worcester under our wing until that new chapter is hatched.

— **Joanne Hulbert**

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

Normally the Bob Broeg SABR Chapter meets twice monthly. However, the world has been anything but normal this past year and we hope and pray that we can begin meeting in person again before too long. The last in-person meeting we held was March 2, 2020 at the Sports Cafe in Bridgeton, MO.

Luckily, we are the home chapter of Allison Levin, one of the national directors of SABR, but also an educator at Webster University who has experience in conducting ZOOM meetings. That is the direction we were able to go beginning on June 22, 2020. Since then we have held a total of ten ZOOM meetings. A great advantage of these type of meetings has been the ability to have a wider range of speakers.

Speakers for our June 22, 2020 meeting were J.J. Cooper, executive editor of Baseball America and Ed Wheatley, president of the St. Louis Browns Historical Society and Fan Club.

July 2, 2020 speakers were Brian Finch, St. Louis Cardinals Team Historian and Tours and Museum Operations Manager, and Mark Simon, Senior Research Analyst for Sports Info Solutions.

August 17, 2020 we had Jacob Pomrenke, SABR National Director of Editorial Content and Chair of the Black Sox Scandal Research Committee, and Meg Rowley, Managing Editor of FanGraphs.

October 12, 2020 speakers were Bob Schron, lead researcher for Bob Gibson's book "Stranger to the Game" and author of "Taking a Knee, Taking a Stand", and chapter member Brian Flaspohler reported on the dedication of John Donaldson Field in Glasgow, MO.

Our November 17, 2020 meeting was 4 days shy of what would have been Stan Musial's 100th birthday so our first speaker that evening was Stan's grandson Brian Schwarze. Our second speaker was Mark Saxon, a senior writer for The Athletic.

December 14, 2020 our lone speaker was Jeremy Beer, author of "Oscar Charleston: The Life and Legend of Baseball's Greatest Forgotten Player".

The January 19, 2021 speaker was Eno Sarris, baseball analytics writer and editor for The Athletic.

Former SABR Vice-President and a current director Bill Nowlin was our speaker for the March 1, 2021 meeting.

Jerry Reuss, former major league pitcher and author of "Bring in the Right-Hander" was our speaker for the April 12, 2021 meeting.

Our most recent meeting on May 17, 2021 featured Dan Evans, former GM for the Los Angeles Dodgers and current President and CEO for Evan's Baseball Consulting.

The meetings have been getting great participation, averaging 20+ "attendants".

Our meetings have continued to have a Today in Baseball History segment which often creates further lively discussions, and the evening ends with a trivia contest.

Sadly we postponed our annual Jim Rygelski Research Conference this past year, but were pleased to learn that local member Steve Gietschier was selected as a 2021 McFarland SABR Baseball Research Award winner for his article "Before We Forget: The Birth, Life, and Death of The Sporting News Research Center".

During the January meeting the four officers were retained for the coming year. They are Rick Zucker - President, Jeff Ecker - Vice-President, Jim Leefers - Secretary, and Mark Stangl - Treasurer.

— **Jim Leefers**

Cool Papa Bell Chapter (Starkville, MS)

As a new chapter that was just granted a charter in 2020, it has been a difficult time, but we have tried to be active as best we could.

Our inaugural meeting was held in Starkville on SABR Day in January 2020 and it was yet our only in-person meeting. We had 13 members participate and it began with a voting for Chapter President (Michael Jaffe) and Vice-President (Mac Deaver). During our meeting we enjoyed a Q&A with John Cohen, the current Athletic Director at Mississippi State University. John was the head coach at

Mississippi State University who took the Bulldogs to the NCAA Finals championship game at Omaha in 2013. John has an amazing baseball resume. John was head coach at State from 2009-2016 amassing 284 wins in 8 seasons (over 600 for his head-coaching career)! Prior to that John was head coach at Kentucky and Northwestern State. In 2006, John was named the CBI National Coach of the Year. During his tenure as head coach, State had 138 players drafted and 10 make it to the majors. John was also a first team All-SEC player at State and was drafted by the Minnesota Twins where he played 2 seasons for their minor league affiliate in the high A league. John joined us to talk about his career as a player, coach, and his experience at Omaha as both a player and a head coach. We also enjoyed a great presentation on 10 American League Rookies of the Year who played their winter baseball in Puerto Rico by Chapter member Tom VanHyning who has performed extensive research and personal experiences. and a Mississippi sports trivia contest by Chapter member Glen Lautzenhiser.

After that, due to COVID shelter in place restrictions, we held two virtual meetings that were attended by members and non-chapter members alike. Our first was held by Zoom in the summer with guest author Jeremy Beers who discussed his recent biography on Oscar Charleston and a discussion about Negro League baseball. Bob Kendrick from the Negro League Museum was also a guest. A second virtual meeting was held in the fall with guest author Bill Nowlin who discussed his recent book about his interviews with MLB umpires and we enjoyed a great discussion about umpires in general. Both virtual meetings were well-attended and well-received. Our SABR Day 2021 meeting was virtual and coincided with the National SABR virtual meeting with guest speaker Bob Costas. As of this writing our Chapter membership stands at 22 registered members which we hope to grow in 2021 when we plan to meet in Jackson, MS this summer for a live meeting and attend a minor league baseball game as a group. We hope to be more active in scheduling live meetings as Covid restrictions are loosened.

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**

Carolina Chapter (Durham, NC)

The SABR Carolina Chapter had another good year – We have established a regular routine and the chapter grows with each meeting. We had another SABR Day. We began utilizing Zoom in 2019, pre-pandemic, and had non-local speakers all 2019-2020, and into 2021. Rob Neyer, Mark Armour, Jay Jaffe, Dan Szymborski, Ralph Carhart, and Jason Schwartz have all been invited speakers. We have seen internal presentations from Keith Robbins, Dave Thomas, Chris Dial, and every meeting have a tough quiz, with prizes, from Howard Wasserman. The most exciting part of our local chapter meetings is regular attendance from non-locals. We routinely have people from California, Oregon, Illinois, Washington, DC, and more.

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**

Elysian Fields Chapter (Jersey City, NJ)

This past year has presented terrific challenges for the Elysian Fields Chapter of SABR. When the Covid-19 lockdowns began in March, I put aside any ideas and plans for in-person events.

In August, we held a meeting on Zoom with a guest speaker. A month later, we did another one. Soon, we were holding meetings 2-3 times a month with a turnout averaging 20-25 attendees per meeting. Our SABR Day events had approximately 40 attendees. We've been attracting top-level guests: broadcasters, bloggers, executives, authors, journalists, and baseball insiders.

With increased daylight and the re-opening of the country because of the vaccines, people will be spending more time outside their homes. So, we're scaling back our events for the spring and summer to take place every 2-3 weeks.

Moving forward, I plan to keep this paradigm year-round. By the fall, we should be able to do an in-person event. Based on my conversations with members, it will be optimal to do a social event in the fall and spring. Most probably, these will be brunches. Meetings will continue to take place on Zoom, including SABR Day.

Guest Speakers at Chapter Meetings

August 10, 2020

Joshua Prager, author of *The Echoing Green: The Untold Story of Bobby Thomson, Ralph Branca and the Shot Heard Round the World*

September 14, 2020

Jacob Pomrenke, Director of Editorial Content, Society for American Baseball Research

September 30, 2020

Paul Hensler and Marty Lessner, contributors, *The New York Mets in Popular Culture*

October 19, 2020

Mitchell Nathanson, author, *Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original*

November 16, 2020

Anika Orrock, author, *The Incredible Women of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League*

November 30, 2020

Deesha Thosa, *New York Daily News*; Elizabeth Muratore, *Rising Apple*; Linda Surovich, *Amazin' Avenue*

December 14, 2020

Gabrielle Starr, *Girl at the Game*

December 28, 2020

Anne Keene, author, *The Cloudbuster Nine: The Untold Story of Ted Williams and the Baseball Team That Helped Win World War II*

January 11, 2021 (Rule Changes)

Olivia Garvey, Sports Reporter, WJLA-TV (Washington, D.C.); Tim Wiles, Executive Director, Guilderland (NY) Public Library, and former Director of Research, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

January 25, 2021 (Jackie Robinson, Buster Keaton)

Ron Schweiger, Brooklyn Borough Historian; Patricia Eliot Tobias, President Emerita, International Buster Keaton Society; Melissa Talmadge Cox, Buster Keaton's granddaughter

SABR Day – January 30, 2021

Matt Silverman, author, *100 Things Mets Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die*; Erik Sherman, author, *After the Miracle: The Lasting Brotherhood of the '69 Mets* (with Art Shamsky); Jim Gates, Librarian Emeritus, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum; Peter Golenbock, author, *The Bronx Zoo* (with Sparky Lyle); Ouisie Shapiro and John Florio, authors, *One Nation Under Baseball: How the 1960s Collided with the National Pastime*; Paul Hensler, author, *The American League in Transition, 1965-1975: How Competition Thrived When the Yankees Didn't*; Dan Epstein, author, *The Captain and Me: On and Off the Field with Thurman Munson* (with Ron Blomberg); Jeremiah Chechik, Director, *The Bronx Is Burning* miniseries

February 8, 2021 (Baseball's Greatest Moments)

Dan Schlossberg, author, *The New Baseball Bible: Notes, Nuggets, Lists, and Legends from Our National Pastime*; Thom Henninger, author, *The Pride of Minnesota: The Twins in the Turbulent 1960s*

February 15, 2021 (Negro Leagues)

Richard Puerzer, contributor, 1942 SABR BioProject book on Kansas City Monarchs; Brian LoPinto, President, Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium

February 22, 2021 (David Wright, Minor League Baseball)

Anthony DiComo, author, *The Captain: A Memoir* (with David Wright); Emily Giangreco, Weekend Sports Anchor, KVUE (Austin); Jared Orton, President, Savannah Bananas; Branch Barrett Rickey, President, Pacific Coast League; Steve Wagner, President, Expedition League

March 1, 2021

Carol Ford, author, *Bob Crane: The Definitive Biography*; Charlie Vascellaro, contributor, "Sky King of Queens" (essay in anthology *The New York Mets in Popular Culture*); John Burbridge, "The Dodgers in Jersey City"

March 8, 2021

Douglas Branson, author, *Greatness in the Shadows: Larry Doby and the Integration of the American League*; Bill Ryczek, author, *The Life of All-Star Slugger Dick Stuart*; Mark Armour, SABR Negro Leagues Task Force; Lou Cristillo, grandson of Lou Costello; Lee Lowenfish, author, *Branch Rickey: Baseball's Ferocious Gentleman*

March 15, 2021

Gary Mitzner, President/Founder, NY Giants Preservation Society; Randy Robbins, contributor, "Warren Spahn's Insane Stats at the Twain" (*Baseball Research Journal*, Spring 2021); Paul Hensler, author, *Gathering Crowds: Catching Baseball Fever in the New Era of Free Agency*

March 22, 2021

Andrea Arcadipane, Scoutgirlreport.com; Geoff Arnold and Brett Hollander, Baltimore Orioles broadcasters

March 29, 2021

Jim Keller, writer, *A Pitch from Satchel Paige* (play); David Mickey Evans, Writer/Director, *The Sandlot*

April 12, 2021

George Sommerfeld and Monte Cely, Baseball Reminiscence Therapy Project

April 26, 2021

Emily Nemens, author, *The Cactus League*

May 17, 2021

Open discussion: Who should be in the Hall of Fame?

— **David Krell**

Cliff Kachline Chapter (Cooperstown, NY)

The Cliff Kachline Chapter - Cooperstown has not held any meetings or events during the year due to COVID restrictions. On Monday May 17, 2021, long-time Chapter President Jeff Katz announced that he was stepping down from his role in heading up the group. He announced chapter member Mike Hauser as his replacement. See Mike's background below.

Mike has maintained an active interest in sports history since joining SABR in 1989. He promoted the long-running Twin Cities at Johnstown Sports Card & Memorabilia Show for 25 years (1990-2015) and is active with the Parkhurst Field Foundation and the Fulton County Museum. In 2012 he founded the Fulton County Baseball & Sports Hall of Fame. Mike continues to document the rich sports history of New York State through a monthly column that runs in the *Leader-Herald* newspaper called "Upstate N.Y. Sports Lore." In addition, he has published two baseball history books (Hometown Sports Heroes Volume 1 and Volume 2) and several baseball & football history E-books available through Amazon.com, also under the "Hometown Sports Heroes" series. Mike resides in Gloversville with his wife Lori and their two daughters, Katie and Kerri.

Plans are underway for the chapter's first meeting of the year on Sunday, July 25 at the Tillapaugh Funeral Home in Cooperstown. The date coincides with the 2021 HOF Induction Day and also marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Cliff Kachline, whom the chapter is named after.

— **Mike Hauser**

Hank Gowdy Columbus Chapter (Columbus, OH)

Like many chapters, during the past year our chapter had to suspend a number of our regular activities due to COVID-19. However, it did enable us to provide some established activities via Zoom and added new ones. The following is a list of this year's activities:

Quarterly SABR Baseball Book Club – Our book club meets via Zoom in the past year. Previously 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.

- May 2020 – *K: The History of Baseball in Ten Pitches*, by Tyler Kepner – conducted online via Zoom

- August 2020 – *Voices of the Game* – books with theme of baseball broadcasting were discussed with the group
- November 2020 – Negro League theme – with guest Leslie Heaphy, author of *Negro Leagues – 1868 - 1960*
- February 2021 – *Willie Mays* books on the Say Hey kid were discussed, along with where Willie might have fit on the Mt Rushmore of Baseball
- May 2021 – *Ballpark: Baseball in the American City* by Paul Goldberger was discussed along with member stories from their favorite ballparks.

We co-hosted meetings with the Jack Graney (Cleveland) Chapter and the Toledo Chapter over the past year via Zoom. Guests included Tom Stone discussing *Now Taking the Field*; Zack Meisel discussing *Cleveland Rocked* about the 1995 Cleveland Indians; and J.B. Manheim discussing *This Never Happened: The Mystery Behind the Death of Christy Mathewson*.

Normal activities such as Columbus Clippers games at Huntington Park, Ohio State University Spring and Fall Baseball games along with our annual opening day and World Series events at the BW3 sports bar on Polaris Parkway were postponed this year due to the pandemic.

October, December 2020, January, February and March 2021– Informal Hot Stove Baseball talks, discussing the state of Minor League Baseball with special guest International League President Randy Mobley, winter meetings, trades, the free agent market, Hall of Fame voting, and all else baseball. These were conducted 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 the years.

March 2021 – Online draft for Chapter Fantasy Baseball. Normally conducted through Yahoo Fantasy Sports site and administered by chapter member Aaron Koch.

Fall 2021? — 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**

Hanlan’s Point Chapter (Toronto, ON)

Meetings

The Chapter held two virtual meetings, plus supporting the SABR Day 2021 virtual meeting, over the past year.

The primary speaker for the November meeting was Chapter member Maxwell Kates who spoke about the book he co-edited “Time for Expansion Baseball”, published by SABR in 2018.

The primary speaker for the March meeting was Chapter member Brain “Chip” Martin who spoke about his book *The Man who made Babe Ruth: Brother Matthias of St. Mary’s School*.

Going forward, Chapter activities will include, where practical, a virtual option for events.

Other Developments

Building on increasing Chapter activity, a planning committee has been established to support organizing Chapter meetings and projects.

In addition to the on-going long-term baseball sites projects, the Chapter has established a quarterly newsletter and completed a membership survey. The results of the survey will be used by the planning committee to help organize future events that will continue to support increasing attendance at Chapter events. One example in the planning stage is to develop a series of ad hoc meetings to discuss current baseball topics as they arise throughout the calendar year.

The Chapter provided a letter of support in a successful bid by Tourism London to launch a partnership of three organizations supporting the Southern Ontario Baseball Heritage Pass. The pass will include admission to The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in St. Mary's; the Beachville District Museum that includes a display on June 4, 1838, recorded baseball game; and, tours of Labatt Park in London, that continues to be in use since being established in 1877.

Conclusion

The Chapter looks forward to continuing to build on the momentum and success of the past year.

— **Allen Tait**

Connie Mack-Dick Allen Chapter (Philadelphia, PA)

The Connie Mack-Dick Allen chapter experienced significant changes in 2020 and early 2021.

- Due to COVID-19, the chapter's monthly offseason in-person Hot Stove meetings were not held for the first time since their inception in 2014.
- August 2020: the chapter initiated weekly baseball discussions, now known as "Mack Chats", via Zoom each Sunday at 2pm. Attendance is typically between 10-20 people and discussions are organic and range from current baseball topics to unique historical topics. Two presentations have been conducted during Mack Chat time slots.
- January 2021: chapter members Rock Hoffman and Matt Albertson were promoted to leadership roles as chapter co-chairs. Seamus Kearney and Dick Rosen have stepped back from leadership but retained their co-chair status.
- January 30, 2021: the annual chapter SABRDay event was conducted via Zoom. Presenters and their presentations were as follows:
 - Steven Glassman, presented on Wayne Redmond
 - Justin Klugh, presented a live episode of his successful podcast "The Dirty Inning"
 - Tom Gilbert, on Athletic president Col. Thomas Fitzgerald
 - BASEBALL QUIZ(!) and Lunch/Break
 - Tyler Kepner, Q&A
 - J. Daniel, talked about the 1980 season and 1980 Phillies
 - Matt Lieb, presented on the disgraced pitcher Jim Devlin
- February 2021: a new chapter website was created to establish a traditional online presence. The site - <https://phillysabr.com/> - hosts general chapter information, Mack Chat recaps, and offers space for member research publication (if desired). Links to the main SABR website and SABR 43 are also included.
- February 2021: Matt Aber transferred the chapter's Twitter admin duties to Matt Albertson. Aber lost his battle with cancer later in the month. The chapter mourns his passing and

appreciates the work he put into the Twitter account. Rock Hoffman maintains the chapter's Facebook account.

- April 2021: chapter member Stephen Glassman became the chapter's first secretary and takes notes of the weekly Mack Chats.
- April 27, 2021: co-chair Rock Hoffman acted on an idea raised in a Mack Chat to add Dick Allen's name to the chapter's title. Through family friend and "Dick Allen Belongs in the Hall of Fame" leader Mark Carfagno, Rock obtained the Allen family's permission to use Allen's name. With the family's permission obtained, SABR's Board of Directors approved the chapter name change and has since been identified as the Connie Mack-Dick Allen Chapter.

Upcoming Activities:

- The Connie Mack-Dick Allen chapter is coordinating with the Babe Ruth chapter (Baltimore) to attend a Wilkes-Barre Scranton Rail Riders (AAA) game either August 14 or September 4.
- Member Phil Williams is leading the effort to dedicate grave markers at the historic Eden Cemetery in Delaware Co. to black baseball greats Dan McClellan and S.K. Govern.
- A volunteer cemetery cleanup activity at Mount Moriah's section 44 may be scheduled this October in conjunction with Mount Moriah volunteers and the Athletic Base Ball Club of Philadelphia (vintage baseball team). Former Athletic club president Col. Thomas Fitzgerald is buried in section 44.
- The chapter would like to nominate a Philadelphia-based baseball subject for a Pennsylvania Historical Marker.
- In the fall, we may conduct a chapter Strat-O-Matic fantasy league.

— **Matt Albertson, Rock Hoffman, and Stephen Glassman**

Quebec Chapter (Montreal, QC)

In spite of a worldwide pandemic that disrupted several aspects of our daily lives, the SABR Quebec Chapter is pleased to report another fantastic year.

It began in late January when we gathered at our usual Montreal restaurant to hear Patrick Carpentier and Marcel Dugas talk about the evolution of French baseball terms in the Province of Quebec. Up until the late 1940s, most baseball terms were not translated and the English vocabulary was used in French newspapers. For the Expos' first game in 1969, several newspaper people developed a complete French baseball vocabulary. Our very own Jacques Doucet was one of them. He told us how he contributed to the effort and how several of the terms he invented are still in use today.

Our next meeting was a virtual one. Christian Trudeau made a presentation on his research into the life of Charlie Culver an African American player who signed a contract in 1922 with Montreal in the Class-B Eastern Canada League, 24 years before Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier. Culver played only a few games before being transferred to a semi-pro club outside of Montreal. Christian's research has raised significant interest, with an article published in Montreal daily *La Presse* and another in the *Baseball Research Journal*.

We usually gather in Quebec City in August to attend a baseball game. The covid situation in Quebec was so good that we had hoped that small gatherings might be allowed but it never materialized. We decided to skip our summer meeting altogether.

We next met through Zoom in November to hear Daniel Papillon talk about the history of baseball in Quebec City as seen through ten great baseball players who played in the city. Daniel was the co-founder of our chapter together with Bill Young, and it was a treat to have him entertain us about a subject to which he dedicated a lifetime. As a bonus, Bill told us a few stories from his teenage years, including the time when he had a conversation with Jesse Owens, who visited Quebec City with a barnstorming Negro Leagues team, the Indianapolis Clowns.

As mandated by our chapter by-laws, we held an election in October in order to select our chapter leaders for the 2021-2022 term. Patrick Carpentier and Robert Duval ran unopposed and were elected president and vice-president, respectively. Philippe Cousineau was asked if he wanted to continue as our chapter secretary. He gracefully said yes. So, our chapter leadership remains the same for the next two years.

The pandemic had a welcome positive effect in that many members who live too far away from Montreal to attend our meetings now virtually could. This was the case of Christian Trudeau and Daniel Papillon, whom we could have never heard without the Zoom platform. As a consequence, our meetings were well attended, more so than before the pandemic.

Our membership is also at its highest level since 2011. Our promotional efforts on social media and a couple of articles in newspapers enhanced our visibility in the community. Several new Quebec-based members joined SABR and therefore our chapter.

Our website has seen record traffic in 2020, thanks to added content and stories. Website visits have almost doubled while pages seen increased by more than 40%.

2020 was a strong year for our chapter. We expect 2021 to follow the same trend.

— **Patrick Carpentier**

Lajoie-Start Southern New England Chapter (Providence, RI)

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.

It was replaced by a Zoom session on Saturday, February 13, that had a peak attendance of 40 viewers.

The Lajoie-Start (Southern New England) Zoom session on Saturday lasted a bit over two hours and had a peak attendance of 40. Mark Kanter and Bill Nowlin presided. The agenda consisted of three research presentations and a trivia contest. The presentations were by Steven Glassman (The 1971 Hall of Fame Class and Its Balloting); Bill Nowlin (Interviews with Umpires); and Dixie Tourangeau (Do You Know Denton True "Cy" Young?)

The trivia contest, given by Bill Carle, from the Kansas City area, focused on New England major leaguers. It was won by a non-New Englander, Steven Glassman, from the Philadelphia area.

A nonscheduled highlight occurred when a technical glitch arose in the Zoom presentation. A solution to correct it was provided by Herman Krabbenhoft's grandson, who (by my eyeball guess) was about 9 years old.

Another Zoom session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, from 8 to 10 P.M. There will be three presentations.

Meanwhile, the chapter is looking for a new venue for its June in-person meetings starting in 2022. Our traditional meeting site, McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket, is pretty much shut down because the Pawtucket Red Sox have moved to Worcester. The new ballpark in Worcester is eyed as a possible new site, but no decision has been made yet.

— **Len Levin**

Larry Doby Chapter (Aiken, SC)

Our chapter had just been approved by SABR early in 2020 and we voted for a chairman and vice-chairman. I became the chairman and we voted for two vice-chairpersons, Steve Benke and Tina Whitlock. Unfortunately, Steve passed away soon thereafter.

We were meeting in person from January-March. After that we met with Zoom meetings each month. Fortunately one of our members has a Zoom account.

We started with eight members and have grown to over 60.

One of our chapter members, John Strubel, started a website for our chapter as well as putting us on most social media outlets.

During our meetings we have, "this day in baseball history" report and a "players born on this day" report, and a trivia contest. Then we talk about what was posted on the agenda or we have a guest speaker.

We had guest speakers ranging from women working for major league teams, retired major league players, professional scouts, someone from the video department for a major league team, college players, and a college pitching coach.

During our meetings we discuss what SABR projects the members are working on or if anyone has interest in starting a project but not sure what to do. I encourage members to write me an email or phone me if they want help starting a project or if they have questions about anything related to SABR and baseball.

I like to have competitions among our members, such as asking members before the season starts, how many games their favorite team will win during the season and which teams will be in the World Series. After the season we will review the list of contestants and their projections. The member(s) that are correct will win a prize.

Another competition was, before the Hall of Fame voting results were publicized, I asked each member if they were a voter, who they would vote for.

These are fun things that I hope will bring members together as well as have fun. There are other competitions I create that requires research, which is educational as well as fun, such as searching for

the names of all of the Negro League players that were born in South Carolina and searching for the minor league ballparks in S.C. There are other projects I created that we are working on.

Our trips to minor league games and the Shoeless Joe Jackson Nuseum in South Carolina and the Ty Cobb Museum in Georgia were delayed until the Covid-19 virus restrictions were lifted.

Looking for ways to attract new members to SABR and our chapter is an ongoing project.

— **Tim Deale**

East Tennessee Chapter (Knoxville, TN)

The pandemic has greatly affected our chapter, most notably the canceling of all in person meetings.

Email and other online conversations continued throughout the year.

On Saturday, May 22, the first ever statewide virtual meeting was held online. Much thanks is due to Skip Nipper, leader of the Grantland Rice-Fred Russell Nashville Chapter, for coordinating and leading the meeting. Presenters included Mark Aubrey (Knoxville), Brian Purvis (Chattanooga), and Skip Nipper (Nashville). Sixteen members from across the country attended.

Looking to the future the East Tennessee Chapter plans to meet in person during the coming months, most likely at an Appalachian League game.

— **Mark Aubrey**

Rogers Hornsby Chapter (Austin, TX)

Like much of the world, the Rogers Hornsby Chapter shifted all meetings to online to cope with the impact of COVID-19 from June 2020 to May 2021.

Thanks to video conferencing, the chapter maintained its streak of consecutive months with a meeting to 174 months, a streak dating to December 2006.

Among the brightest highlights were having Oakland Athletics' utility player and former Houston Astros player Tony Kemp and former major league pitcher Ross Ohlendorf join us for our online winter meeting in January 2021. The winter meeting also featured longtime Round Rock Express broadcaster Mike Capps. It was the 15th Annual Bill Gilbert Winter Meeting.

During the summer of 2020, many of our online discussions were about the pandemic's impact on Major League Baseball which had its season shortened and delayed. We also talked about professional baseball occurring in other parts of the world such as Japan, South Korea and China.

In November, the chapter bestowed the Rajah Award to Jim Kenton, the creator of the chapter's BaseALZ reminiscence program, which has continued to offer online programs for Alzheimer's patients and caregivers throughout the year. In addition, program leaders continue to work with other SABR chapters in hopes of expanding these programs elsewhere. The program is now in its seventh year.

The online format gave our chapter members a chance to meet and interact with SABR members from across the country, making for interesting baseball chatter beyond the usual discussions. Being online

also helped us attract a number of guest speakers and book authors that we normally would not have heard from.

Longtime Astros broadcaster Bill Brown joined us in October 2020 to talk about the recent passing of Hall of Fame player Joe Morgan, and his new book, “Sportscasting 101: The road to play-by-play.”

In March 2021, Halsey Hall Chapter member Dan Levitt told us about baseball’s first drug scandal involving Hal Newhouser’s use of Novocaine injections (relatively new at the time for ballplayers) to help pitch during the 1945 World Series in which he won two games, including a complete-game win in the clincher.

In February 2021, former award-winning baseball broadcaster Dan Taylor shared stories from his new book, “Lights, Camera, Fastball: How the Hollywood Stars Changed Baseball,” about the Hollywood Stars in the Pacific Coast League.

On SABR Day, Pee Wee Reese Chapter member Kelly Park shared anecdotes from his book, “Just Like Me: When the Pros Played on the Sandlot,” and stories about his 10-year interviewing and writing project.

A member of the Larry Dierker Chapter in Houston, Scott Barzilla talked about his newly published book, “The Hall of Fame Index Part II,” in December 2020.

During our online meetings, we’ve enjoyed hearing stories from one of the chapter’s newest members, Joe Gallagher, who had a long career in baseball broadcasting. He worked as a producer for the New York Mets television and radio broadcasts and NBC’s Game of the Week in the 1960s.

We also heard from Tim Jackson, general manager of the Round Rock Express – once in August 2020 when the club was affiliated with the Houston Astros, and again in May 2021 after the club reunited with the Texas Rangers as its parent club. Jackson gave the chapter tremendous insight into the tumultuous changes in Minor League Baseball in 2020 and forecasts for what the 2021 Minor League season might bring.

During the year, the chapter lost two active members – Craig Lukshin and Tom Melicki. Both were active in monthly meetings, chapter outings and chapter activities, and have been greatly missed.

— **Gilbert D. Martinez**

Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan DFW Chapter (Dallas, TX)

The Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan DFW Chapter had several events during the last 12 months as we went to a virtual format due to the pandemic. After the chapter’s planned March 2020 meeting was postponed because of Covid-19, on May 20 the chapter conducted a conference call with **Art Stewart**, a veteran of 67 years with major league baseball who is still scouting for the Kansas City Royals. During his long career, Art signed over 70 future major leaguers, including Bo Jackson. Art was interviewed by chapter member **John Mayeron**, who was a long-time friend of Stewart’s, as Stewart recalled his long history in the game. The chapter had 34 people on the conference call. Sadly, John Mayeron passed away just a few months later from complications following a bicycle accident.

On November 11, 2020, the chapter hosted a Zoom meeting with special guests Rangers’ manager **Chris Woodward**, followed by **Jon Matlack**, former Mets and Rangers pitcher. We owed

special thanks to **Katherine Sartain**, Director of Special Events for the Major League Players' Alumni Association for securing Jon.

On February 3, 2021, the chapter hosted a Zoom meeting with special guest new Rangers general manager **Chris Young** and also had a lively baseball discussion led by recently retired award-winning baseball writer **TR Sullivan**.

On April 22, 2021, the chapter hosted a Zoom meeting again featuring **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.

The pandemic ended the 2020 Division I college baseball season after teams had played 25% or fewer of their games, so for the first time in 28 years the chapter did not award its annual **Howard Green SABR Metroplex Collegiate Player of the Year Award** which is named in honor of the chapter's founder, the late **Howard Green**.

Since Division II, Division III and NAIA college teams were able to play about one-third to one-half of their 2020 schedules before the pandemic ended their seasons, the chapter did award its the ninth 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 ninth award winner is outfielder **AJ Liu** of UT Dallas.

Liu, a 5-10, 185-pound outfielder from Plano, Texas, started all 16 games for the Comets as a transfer from Swarthmore where he starred during the 2018 and '19 seasons. The junior gardener led the America Southwest Conference with a .492 average to go along with six doubles, four triples and one home run. He also drove in 16 runs (one per game) scored 18 runs and reached base safely in all 16 games. Liu also managed 11 multi-hit contests with six three-hit games and one 4-for-6 outing. Liu led UT Dallas with a 1.307 slugging percentage, batted 65 times, belted 32 hits, had a .754 on-base percentage, recorded 49 total bases. Before he came to play for the Comets, he batted .309 with 14 doubles as a sophomore starting outfielder at Swarthmore in '19.

Chapter president **Paul Rogers** and chapter Vice-President **Bo Carter** presented the award to Liu in a pre-game ceremony at home plate on April 25 before a UTD game versus LeTourneau University.

He joins inaugural recipient Chase Brown of UTD in 2012 and Brandon George in 2015 as three winners of the DFW SABR Chapter Beringer Award from the Comets program in nine seasons.

— **C. Paul Rogers III**

Northwest Chapter (Seattle, WA)

Following the switch to virtual events, we moved ahead with several presentations:

On June 6, 2020, we refreshed our Seattle Pilots memories when we heard from Rick Allen, author of the latest release, *Inside Pitch: The Story of Major League Baseball's Shortest-Lived Team and its Quirky Characters — From the Dugout to the Front Office*. Discussion followed.

On July 22, we presented KL Wombacher, President and GM of the Hillsboro Hops, speaking on “Minor League Baseball in a Summer of Pandemic and Contraction”.

We usually have a President’s weekend meeting in Seattle – this year online on November 7 with presentations from Amanda Lane Cumming “War, Pandemic, and Seattle Baseball in 1918”, followed by Gary Belleville and Bill Nowlin, speaking on the new SABR publication “Baseball’s Biggest Blowout Games”.

We began the new year on February 28 with our delayed SABR Day “Hot Stove” event which was our largest attended of the year. Bart Waldman, the Seattle Mariners' former legal council (and an accomplished Senior League pitcher) moderated the discussion with SABR President Mark Armour, author and West Coast League Commissioner Rob Neyer, and John Choiniere, Manager of Analytics for the Mariners. Their topic: “As Baseball Evolves from Art to Science, Are We Losing the Magic? Concerns with Today’s Game; Imagining Solutions”

Along with our hopes for the new season, April brought author David Krell, introducing his new book “1962: Baseball and America in the Time of JFK” on the 27th.

When one path closes another opens, and in one (perhaps twisted) way, the pandemic has benefited our spread-out chapter in that it’s put us in touch with members, some chapter stalwarts and many others new, who would not otherwise been in communication. While we can now begin to plan in-person events we also anticipate a hybrid schedule of events from now on.

— **Bob Russon**