



# THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH'S BASEBALL AND THE MEDIA COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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Chair: Chuck Hildebrandt ([ch@sabrmedia.org](mailto:ch@sabrmedia.org))

Vice-Chair: John McMurray ([jmc Murray@sabrmedia.org](mailto:jmc Murray@sabrmedia.org))

## VIEW FROM THE PRESSBOX

This is the first-ever newsletter for the Baseball and the Media Research Committee, which was founded in March of 2013.

We have had a pretty solid first year as an active SABR committee. As of the newsletter release date of June 16, we are up to 163 members, and we hope to see many of you at the SABR 44 convention taking place July 30 through August 3 at the Royal Sonesta Houston Hotel.

Since our inaugural meeting at SABR 43 in Philadelphia last August, we have started and made good progress on four key baseball media databases:

- 1) Radio Station Affiliates, listing every radio affiliate for each major league team.
- 2) MLB Broadcasters/Flagship, listing all TV and radio flagship stations and their broadcasters for each major league teams going back to 1921.
- 3) Network TV Broadcasts, a comprehensive list of networks, going back to the first game

ever shown on network TV since the very first one in 1947.

- 4) Sportswriter Database, a list of baseball writers going back to the 19th Century.

The other top project we worked on was the Local Game Broadcast Reviews for 2013. This was an ambitious project which sought to provide a lively review of all sixty English-language radio and TV broadcast teams, one radio and one TV for each team, and rank them against each other. While we fell short of the goal of reviewing all sixty for 2013, we did finish the majority of the broadcasts.

The databases and the reviews are all available on our new website, [sabrmedia.org](http://sabrmedia.org). See page 3 for more information.

We've gotten off to a pretty good start, and there is much more that we can do, and we are asking for your help. See page 5 to learn how.



## THE CONVENTION

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual SABR convention takes place between July 30 and August 3 at the Royal Sonesta Houston Hotel, located at 2222 W Loop S Fwy., Houston, TX 77027.

That means the convention is only about six weeks away as of newsletter release, so if you've been planning to go but you haven't registered for the convention yet, now is the time to do so and, if you need to, book your flight and hotel room. As of June 16 there appear to be rooms still available at the Sonesta, but if they sell out by the time you try, [click here](#) to search for other hotels around the area, or type this into your web browser: <http://goo.gl/bmteWW> (NOTE: goo.gl web addresses are always case-sensitive).

You will have to register for the convention in order to attend any of the meetings, presentations or other events. The cost of registration is \$199 for SABR members, and \$249 for non-members. The convention runs for five days, but if you can't make it for the entire convention, you can also register on a individual day basis for \$79 each day.

Click on the graphic at the top of the page for more information about SABR 44, or if you are

offline or prefer simply pretty blue links, here you go:

<http://sabr.org/convention>

Start here for registration and cost information, booking your hotel room online, schedules of event, research presentations and committee meetings, and more.

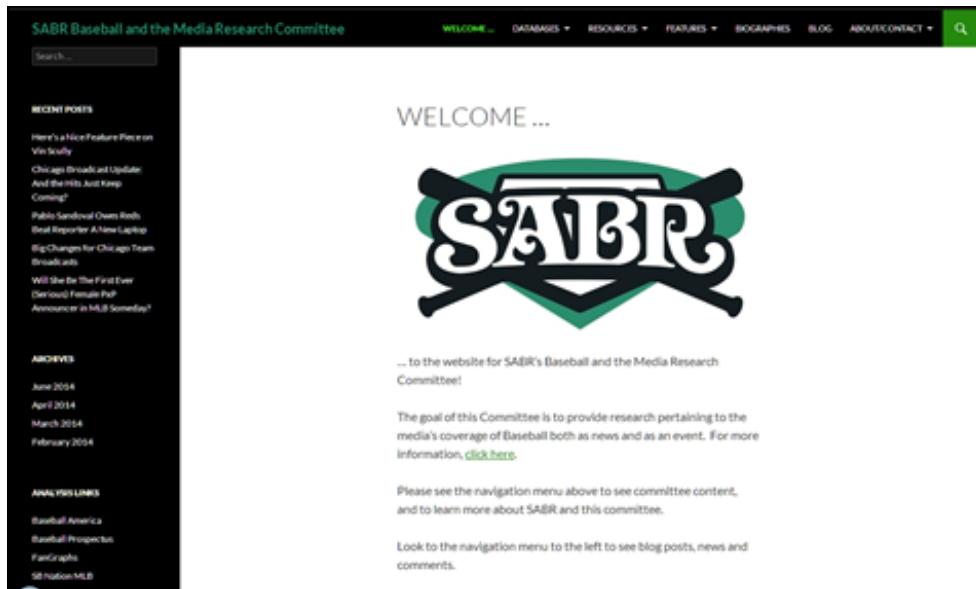
## THE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Baseball and the Media Committee meeting will take place on Saturday, August 2 at 8:00am, in the Champions I/II ballroom on the 2nd floor of the Sonesta Hotel. The meeting will last up to one hour. We hope you will be there to attend.

At the meeting we will be providing an update of committee activities and projects; discuss current and potential future projects; and review the recently released Baseball and the Media Committee website.

But know, too, that this is a meeting of your Baseball and the Media Committee, so if you have something you would like to present, or there's a media-based topic you would like to lead discussion on, email us at [chair@sabrmedia.org](mailto:chair@sabrmedia.org) and we can work to get you scheduled. We will have AV equipment available for you if you would like to use it.

# THE NEW COMMITTEE WEBSITE: SABRMEDIA.ORG



We are pleased to announce the release of the new website we have developed for the Baseball and the Media Committee, located at [www.sabrmmedia.org!](http://www.sabrmmedia.org)

It is the intention of the committee to centralize baseball media information in one easy-to-find, always available location, and we are very excited that we've taken the first step towards doing so.

The goal of the website is to be the go-to resource for all information having to do with the media's coverage of the game of baseball, not only for committee members and SABR members, but also for anyone throughout the world who has an interest in baseball media, or is doing research about baseball that needs to refer to the media in any way.

Content featured on the website will include the latest in baseball media news; research pieces and feature articles of both current and historical media subjects; biographies of and interviews with the people who have made baseball media their vocation or avocation; and databases pertaining to baseball broadcasting and journalism.

Some of the great content you will find on the website today includes:

- Local Game Broadcast Reviews: reviews of radio and TV broadcast teams undertaken by members of the SABR community in 2013. Link: <http://goo.gl/Doiz5k>
- Baseball media databases including Radio Station Affiliates (<http://goo.gl/SvNL5>); MLB Broadcasters and Flagships (<http://goo.gl/uZg8gO>); and Network TV Broadcasts (<http://goo.gl/sGo8oH>); all of which are either downloadable as an Excel workbook, or searchable online by attribute such as team, station or network, announcers, date and more.
- The Baseball and the Media blog (<http://sabrmmedia.org/blog/>), including news items, feature articles and links to outside content about baseball media

More content will be added as time goes on, but this is also your Media website and you can contribute to it as well. Turn to page 5 for details about how.

# COSTAS CRACKS TOP TEN; CHAPPELL, WEDGE, VIRK, FS1 BREAK IN

(This article first appeared as a blog post by Media committee member Tony Miller on [sabrmedia.org](http://sabrmedia.org) in April. Click here to see the original article: <http://goo.gl/13hYI>)

Three new announcers, a new network, and one NBC stalwart replacing another in the top ten highlight today's update to the national-telecast listing.

**Fox Sports 1** became the first new network since 2009 to air an MLB regular-season game when it presented the Twins-Indians tilt from Cleveland on Saturday, April 5. MLB Network was previously the newest network in the fold; while TNT has aired five full games in the past (plus about 22 innings' worth of overflow from TBS games that ran long), all of those were in the playoffs.

The **Sydney Cricket Ground**, home of the two-game LA/Arizona set in March is the 70th stadium to host a U.S. national television audience. With its first game, the Ground passed Colt Stadium (Houston), Wrigley Field (Los Angeles) and Seals Stadium in San Francisco, which never hosted national TV. Later that night, based on Eastern time, the second broadcast from Sydney vaulted that venue past Aloha Stadium (Honolulu), Estadio de Beisbol Monterey and Sicks' Stadium (Seattle), which each hosted but one game. The Ground now has 656 broadcasts to go before it catches Fenway Park for the most common host venue.

(Yes, even the lowly expansion Pilots hosted national television. The game was against the Tigers on May 31, 1969.)

That Australia series also introduced America to the 409th national commentator. **Ian Chappell**, the former captain of Australia's national cricket team who now works for Channel Nine in that country, presided as a field reporter for the opening series.

**Speaking of field reporters**, FS1 used both Ken Rosenthal and Erin Andrews on the Giants/Dodgers

game April 5. That was the first regular-season game with two reporters since Yankees/Tigers, on Fox April 6 of last year, and the first game to employ five commentators since Sept. 21, 2011.

ESPN's **Adnan Virk** and **Eric Wedge** became the 410th and 411th announcers as the season continued stateside. Wedge analyzed the Red Sox/Orioles game on March 31 with Dave O'Brien and Rick Sutcliffe, while Virk teamed with Eduardo Perez to handle play-by-play of Astros/Blue Jays on April 9.

With the departure of Tim McCarver from Fox (and thus the dissolution of the Buck/McCarver tandem that had handled many Fox games for 19 years), **O'Brien and Sutcliffe** become the elder statesmen of active national-broadcast duos. The March 31 game, their only appearance to date this year, was their 220th game together. The pairing has appeared regularly for ESPN since 2002, also covering two games together since 2000.

In other news of longevity, **Bob Costas** cracked the top ten play-by-play announcers list, and he knocked out an NBC mainstay of an earlier age in the process. Costas, who started as a backup voice on the Game of the Week in 1982, then handled parts of three World Series and ten League Championship Series for the peacock network, called his 334th game when the Brewers met the Red Sox on April 4. That broke a tie with **Jim Simpson**, who appeared on NBC's Game of the Week from 1966 to 1979.

**On tap:** Fox Sports 1's next game will be its fifth, as many full games as have aired on TNT ... Tropicana Field is two appearances shy of 100 ... The MLB Network broadcast Thursday night between Washington and St. Louis will make and break several ties in the record books as **Matt Vasgersian**, **John Smoltz** and **Sam Ryan** each appear ... **Tom Verducci's** next game will tie him with **Peter Gammons** at 74 appearances.

## CALL FOR HELP

The realm of media is a rich and previously unmined area of baseball research. There is a deep reservoir of information that yearns to be unearthed about the history, structure, personalities, present conditions and future prospects of the media's coverage of the game of baseball, on all levels from the majors to the minors to college, and all around the world.

We need your help in unearthing this information. As researchers and enthusiasts of both baseball and media, you represent the best hope we have of developing this history and presenting a clear picture on just how much impact media coverage has on the game of baseball, and vice versa.

The areas we need the most help in are:

- Databases: we currently have four databases, all of which need to be updated and proofed. If you are a person who is very detail-oriented and likes things to be neat, accurate and in order, this is where we could really use your help.
- Blog: The [sabrmedia.org blog](http://sabrmedia.org/blog) could use people who like to keep up with news and features, and can update our blog with interesting new items on an as-warranted basis. You would obtain

author status to enter and update site content at your leisure.

- Website help: If you have even a little website or blog experience, especially using WordPress, you could help us make the website look clean and sharp, while also making it user-friendly and easy to navigate. You would obtain admin status to go in and make changes at your leisure.
- Feature content: Interesting stories are always the best part of any committee's content. There are practically an unlimited number of baseball media topics that could be explored: historical and present; broadcast and print; online and offline; major leagues and minor leagues; American and world. Biographies of and interviews with baseball media professionals are good topics to explore, too.
- Newsletter: yeah, you can see we could use some help making this product look better, too.

If you can help us in any of these areas; please let us know at [chair@sabrmedia.org](mailto:chair@sabrmedia.org).

