

2019 SABR Annual Report Appendix 1: Chapter Reports

Magnolia Chapter (Atlanta, GA)

The Chapter SABR Day Meeting, organized by Program Chair Craig Brown, featured the research and contributions of several speakers: Russell Carleton (author of “The Shift”), Wayland Moore (baseball artist and designer of the 1974 Braves uniform), John-Pierre Caillault (measuring “almost” triple crown scores), and Terry Sloope (1928 Southern Association pennant race.) Forty-five members and fans attended the SABR Day event, and many enjoyed an informal barbeque lunch before heading to the local library that hosted the event.

Members travelled to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they toured Engel Stadium, home to the Chattanooga Lookouts and the Chattanooga Choo Chos after its opening in 1930. They attended a game between the Montgomery Biscuits and the Lookouts at AT&T Park.

Rickwood Field, America’s oldest ballpark and site of the annual Rickwood Classic, also hosted the Fifteenth Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference, which was dedicated to the Dixie Series. Chapter members Karl Green (1907, The Southern Association vs The Sally League) and Ken Fenster (The 1954 Dixie Series, Atlanta vs. Houston) presented their research.

Several members of the Magnolia Chapter attended the Celebration of the Ty Cobb Museum’s Twentieth Anniversary in Royston, Georgia.

Many members have received attention for their research activities.

- Craig Brown’s website, www.threadsofourgame.com, continues to expand through his own research and the cooperation of numerous “diggers.” He has received national attention for his rendering of baseball uniforms of the 19th Century and has presented his research at the Frederick Ivor Campbell 19th Century Base Ball Conference at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.
- [Sam Gadziak’s blog](#) ‘R.I.P. Baseball’ and his website www.ripbaseball.com chronicle his visits to gravesites of baseball players across the United States and includes their obituaries.
- Frank Ittner contributed an article to the SABR Games Project, in which he reported on his attendance at the first win of the Montreal Expos in Olympic Stadium in 1977.
- Alan Morris regularly leads a “Boys of Summer” Baseball Tour through Atlanta’s historic Oakland Cemetery. The tour celebrates the first baseball game played in 1866 amid the ruins of the Civil War and visits the gravesites of many of the participants.

Chapter members continue to hold informal meetings each month at various settings in and around Atlanta, including Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker, The Hudson Grille-Sandy Springs, and the Tallant Baseball Museum in Cumming. These gatherings can have as many as twenty attendees. Non-members frequently attend, and the Chapter is pleased to report that many baseball enthusiasts have been added to our membership roster. The new general manager of the Gwinnett Stripers, Adam English, visited a Cumming Hot Stove meeting.

We also attended, as a group, minor league games played in Rome and Gwinnett. Chapter members attended the SABR 48 Annual Convention in Pittsburgh, the Arizona Fall League

Experience, and the SABR Analytics Conference.

The Magnolia Chapter is employing various social media to reach our community. Our newest effort is a [Twitter account](#), which was established consistent with SABR guidelines, and now has followers outside the Magnolia Chapter. We are gratified by the number of “likes” and retweets generated by followers.

The Magnolia Chapter has a website, which is maintained by Terry Sloope and can be found [here](#). Bob Barrier has established a [Facebook group](#) through which the Magnolia Chapter can provide updates on its activities.

— **John Hill**

Rogers Hornsby Chapter (Austin, TX)

The Rogers Hornsby Chapter enjoyed another year of baseball-related activities and said goodbye to chapter founder Bill Gilbert in the last year.

Gilbert, who also founded the Larry Dierker Chapter in Houston prior to moving to Central Texas in the mid-2000s, brought baseball enthusiasts together in the Austin area to form the Rogers Hornsby Chapter. He also started our tradition of annual winter meetings filled with research presentations and visits from former ballplayers, managers, umpires, agents and front-office staff. In recognition of his contributions to SABR and the chapter, we have named our annual winter meeting after him, which will now be known as the Bill Gilbert Winter Meeting of the Rogers Hornsby Chapter.

At the 13th annual winter meeting in January 2019, we honored Bill Gilbert and had a videoconference with acclaimed baseball writer (and commissioner of the West Coast League) Rob Neyer. Bob Joyce, son of former Major League pitcher Bob Joyce, recounted his father’s career, pitching with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1939 and with the New York Giants in 1946. In addition, Joyce won 94 games as a starting pitcher for the Double-A San Francisco Seals from 1942 to 1945, including a 31-game win total in 1945. In addition, Bob Joyce shared his own collegiate baseball experiences playing for the University of San Francisco. Other presentations included Gilbert Martinez’s “Baseball in Japan,” in which he described attending Chunichi Dragons games in June 2018, visiting the Ichiro Suzuki museum near Nagoya, Japan, and presenting Ichiro’s father with a photo of Ichiro’s 3,000th professional hit (Nippon Professional Baseball hits plus MLB hits). In addition, longtime broadcaster for the Round Rock Express Mike Capps shared details about the long-anticipated return of the Triple-A affiliate to the Astros’ farm system.

The chapter’s “Talking Baseball” reminiscence program celebrated its 100th session in April 2019. Our SABR chapter’s program in Austin, offered in conjunction with Alzheimer’s Texas, has been running for four years. This session concluded our 11th “season” in Austin. The monthly program in Kerrville, in cooperation with the Veterans Administration there, has been in operation for three years.

Monte Cely also attended and filed dispatches about the Caribbean Series 2019 from Panama City, Panama. Panama defeated Cuba to take the Serie del Caribe crown.

In May 2019, the chapter met for the 150th consecutive month, a streak dating back to December 2006. Many of the monthly meetings include lunch at a restaurant in the Austin area, sometimes involving baseball trivia quizzes.

— **Gilbert D. Martinez**

Boston Chapter (Boston, MA)

Since the last Chapter Report, one year ago, the Boston Chapter has been active in local research keeping an eye on both ancient and current baseball developments.

One event that developed locally and impacts local SABR Chapters in Southern New England, is the anticipated move of the Pawtucket Red Sox to the new location in Worcester. Although the distance is not very far, the chasm it has caused between the loyal Pawtucket fans and the future Worcester fans, is deep and heart-wrenching, especially for the Rhode Islanders, who had hoped for a new ballpark in Providence. The Boston Chapter does not intend to take over the Worcester “territory” but instead, we have encouraged local Worcester SABRites to resurrect the Worcester Chapter and coordinate with the new Worcester ballpark when it is opened in 2012. Already, there has been interest from locals in Worcester, and the Boston Chapter will help bring them back as an active chapter.

At the Chapter meeting on November 3, 2018, Bill Ballou, from the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, explained in great detail how the Worcester move came about. Although not comforting to the Pawtucket fans, the explanation, that included Rhode Island’s decision not to fund a new ballpark, was a factor in causing the move to Worcester.

At the November Chapter meeting, Gordon Edes, Fenway Park historian, presented a great history about a Harvard-Yale football game at Fenway. Mark Kanter presented about his recent baseball trip to Japan, and Donna Halper once again educated us very well about how sportswriters covered the Red Sox and Braves in the 1920-1950 era.

Our next meeting on MLK Day, January 21, 2019, was cancelled due to inclement weather. Despite the weather, I did meet with three stalwart members who braved the ice and cold and we met for lunch at GameOn at Fenway Park. We then held the SABR Day meeting on January 26, and despite the Phantom Gourmet event that impeded our way to the Bleacher Bar, at last minute we moved the meeting up the street to Boston Beer Works. Somehow, despite weather and events, we managed to meet. Several new members arrived, and many of our usual suspects attended. The food, the beer, the atmosphere — all good.

— **Joanne Hulbert, Daigo Fujiwara, David Laurila**

Vermont Gardner-Waterman Chapter (Burlington, VT)

The Vermont Gardner-Waterman chapter of SABR returned with a vengeance in 2019. We held 3 research meetings, held gatherings at games of the Vermont Lake Monsters in the NY-Penn League and the Vermont Mountaineers of the New England College Baseball League, and

started a book club. We have approximately 25-30 active members. I made several appearances in the local media to promote the organization.

— **Clayton Trutor**

Emil Rothe Chicago Chapter (Chicago, IL)

In 2018-2019 the Chicago SABR Chapter participated in the following activities:

June 2, 2018: Evanston Meeting

The Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Evanston Public Library. The meeting included a presentation by chapter member Abbey Botkin on young baseball dynasties which compared the current Cubs team to the early 1940's Cardinals teams and a hot stove discussion on the MLB Draft led by chapter member Richard Smiley.

September 15, 2018: Chicago Meeting

The Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Chicago Public Library's Austin-Irving Branch. The meeting featured author David Rapp, whose acclaimed book *Tinker to Evers to Chance: The Chicago Cubs and the Dawn of Modern America* explores one of baseball's early dynasties. Prior to the meeting, members gathered at the Burgundy Restaurant for a hot stove discussion.

November 3, 2018: Lisle Meeting

The Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Lisle Library. The meeting featured Jesse Goldberg-Strassler, author of *The Baseball Thesaurus*, contributor to *BallparkDigest.com*, and play-by-play announcer for the Lansing Lugnuts. In addition, an update was given by a representative from "Friends of Beyer Stadium" on the restoration of Beyer Stadium, home of the Rockford Peaches who played from 1943 to 1954 in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League.

February 2, 2019: SABR Day Meeting in Evanston

In commemoration of SABR Day, the Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Evanston Public Library. The meeting included presentations by analyst Scott Lindholm who discussed the best teams in baseball history; chapter member Jon Daniels who updated the chapter on his longstanding efforts to get a marker placed in Millennium Park to commemorate the site of two Nineteenth Century professional ballparks; Gary "The Professor" Schiappacasse of the Chicago Salmon who will spoke about vintage baseball; and Neal Johnson from *Thinking Baseball*, who demonstrated his training/coaching app. The meeting concluded with a Groundhog Day themed trivia faceoff between Dave Zeman and Chris Kamka. Prior to the meeting, members gathered at The Celtic Knot for a hot stove discussion.

April 27, 2018: Chicago Meeting

The Chicago SABR Chapter held a meeting at the Chicago Public Library's Roden Branch. The meeting included talks from chapter members Chris Kamka who presented the case for Minnie Minos being selected into the Baseball Hall of Fame, Dan Helpinstine who discussed his Arcadia Press book on the Black Sox Scandal, and John Racanelli who gave a presentation on

various baseball-related sites in the Chicago area. Prior to the meeting, members gathered at Mo Dailey's Pub & Grille for a hot stove discussion.

Ballgames and Ceremonies

July 21, 2018: Kane County Game

Chicago SABR Chapter members gathered at Northwestern Medicine Field in Geneva, IL to watch the Kane County Cougars take on the South Bend Cubs in Midwest League action.

August 18, 2018: Windy City Thunderbolts Game

Chicago SABR Chapter members gathered at Standard Bank Stadium in Crestwood, IL to watch the Windy City Thunderbolts take on the Washington Wild Things in Frontier League action.

September 30, 2018: Bob Caruthers Grave Dedication in Graceland Cemetery

Chapter members and representatives of SABR's 19th Century Committee dedicate the new grave marker of 19th Century baseball legend Bob Caruthers in Chicago's Graceland Cemetery. After the dedication Mike Bojanowski led attendees on an extended tour of Graceland's baseball-related sites in the cemetery.

March 23, 2019: Northwestern Game

Chicago SABR Chapter members gathered at Rocky and Berenice Miller Park at Northwestern to watch the Northwestern Wildcats take on the Purdue Boilermakers in Big Ten action.

May 4, 2019: Clinton Game – Joint Meeting with Field of Dreams Chapter

Chicago SABR Chapter members gathered at Ashford University Field In Clinton, Iowa to watch the Clinton LumberKings take on the South Bend Cubs in Midwest League action. Prior to the game there was a joint meeting with the Field of Dreams SABR Chapter.

Luncheons

Chicago Chapter members also gathered for lunch and hot stove discussions on the following dates:

- December 8, 2018 at Palmer Place in LaGrange, IL
- January 12, 2019 at Pints in Elmhurst, IL
- February 16, 2019 at Portillo's in Naperville, IL

Communications

- Monthly Newsletter - Our chapter's monthly newsletter was reinstated beginning with the September 2018 issue. We have published nine consecutive issues. Prior to September's issue, the last newsletter available on our website was the January 2014 issue.
- Social Media - During January 2019, our chapter revived its [Instagram account](#) and started a [Reddit account](#). We continue to have a following on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

— **Richard A. Smiley**

Jack Graney Chapter (Cleveland, OH)

The Jack Graney Chapter (JGC) had an active year with three well attended meetings as well as several other activities detailed below that contributed to what we believe was a successful year for our chapter.

Fall Meeting (November 10, 2018)

In lieu of a regular fall meeting, the JGC partnered with and supported the 19th Century committee to plan and conduct a one-day symposium on 19th century baseball with a focus on baseball in Cleveland at that time period. The following write up of the symposium was provided by the chair of the 19th Century Committee, Mr. Peter Mancuso. The SABR Cleveland 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium took place on Saturday, November 10, 2018, at the majestic Main Branch of the Cleveland Public Library in the heart of downtown Cleveland. The daylong Saturday symposium was devoted to 19th-century baseball as it was played and evolved in Cleveland and its greater region of northeastern Ohio. A keynote luncheon address of interdisciplinary history by David Goldberg, Professor of History at Cleveland State University, provided a look at late 19th-century Cleveland with a particular understanding of one of that city's most important and powerful forces, its transportation system. Other speakers included John Thorn, MLB's Official Historian; John Skrtic, Director of Public Services, CPL; Jeremy Feador, Cleveland Indians, Historian & Curator; and four SABR researchers and authors with specific focus on elements of 19th-century Cleveland area baseball: David Fleitz, Joseph Wancho, Ken Krsolovic, and Bryan Fritz.

Winter Meeting (February 2, 2019)

JGC partnered with the Cleveland Indians to hold our winter meeting at Progressive Field. Thanks to the assistance of Mr. Bob DiBiaso, Indians' Senior VP for Public Affairs, the meeting was held at the Terrace Club restaurant. The Terrace Club restaurant, with its beautiful view of the playing field, provided a great venue for the daylong meeting which had an array of interesting speakers. Mr. Kevin Tenenbaum, Indians' Assistant Director, Baseball Research and Development, addressed those in attendance about his role set as part of the Indians' analytics efforts, which are well recognized within MLB. He also answered a number of questions from the audience. It is worth noting that Kevin has not only participated in the Diamond Dollars case competition held each year at the SABR Analytics Conference as an undergraduate at Middlebury College, but he has also been a judge multiple times. Mr. Sheldon Ocker, former Cleveland Plain Dealer baseball reporter and 2018 winner of the J. G. Taylor Spink Award from the Baseball Hall of Fame was interviewed by Jack Graney Chapter member John McMurray as a highlight of the afternoon portion of the meeting, and he provided some fascinating insights into not only the Tribe but baseball in general during the many years he covered the team. He also provided some interesting thoughts about the current team. Again those in attendance had a number of questions, and the format of an interview seemed to work very well. Dr Jim Albert from Bowling Green State University gave an update on the findings of the study team commissioned by MLB to determine the potential cause(s) of the home run explosion in MLB over the past few seasons. Legendary Cleveland Indians drummer John Adams entertained the audience with his many humorous stories about his 45 years of banging the drum for the Tribe while seated in the left field bleachers. John somewhat shocked those present by noting in the 45 years he (and his drum) have only missed 45 games! Dr Stephanie Liscio, former president of the Jack Graney Chapter gave a very interesting overview of her PhD dissertation on "Sports

Stadiums, Civic Pride, and Neighborhood Displacement, 1930-1970". Some 50 SABR members and guests attended the winter meeting, a long but enjoyable day of talking baseball conducted at a beautiful venue again thanks to the Cleveland Indians.

Spring Meeting (May 5, 2019)

The Cleveland (Jack Graney) chapter and the Columbus (Hank Gowdy) chapter had a very enjoyable, well received joint meeting at Canal Park, home of the Akron RubberDucks. The RubberDucks are the AA affiliate of the Cleveland Indians. The SABR members and guests enjoyed some great speakers who had a variety of interesting baseball stories to share with the 30 plus attendees. Chris Sabo, former major league infielder with the Cincinnati Reds, Baltimore Orioles, Chicago White Sox, and St. Louis Cardinals told the crowd how he is rebuilding the University of Akron's baseball team as head coach. Akron has not had a baseball team since 2015 and will resume play in the Mid America conference in 2020 so Sabo is rebuilding the team from scratch. In addition he told some interesting stories about his MLB career, which included being NL Rookie of the Year in 1988, and a key member of the Reds' world championship team of 1990. He related what it was like to play for both Pete Rose and Lou Piniella who served as Reds' managers during his years with the team. He also recounted the first time he faced Nolan Ryan when the Ryan Express pitched for the Houston Astros. Those in attendance were also treated to some great Cleveland Indians' storytelling from two regional authors who talked about their recently published books. Mr. Jim Clark, play by play announcer for the RubberDucks talked about his book "Rally 'Round Cleveland-The Story of the 1974 Franchise- Saving Cleveland Indians" and included in his stories was the infamous June 4 ten-cent beer night game against the Texas Rangers managed by Billy Martin, a game that will never be forgotten by Tribe fans. Scott Longert recounted some of the trials and tribulations of the 1937-1941 Indians taken from his book "Bad Boys, Bad Times". Scott's stories included the attempt by some members of the team to get manager Oscar Vitt fired and the team getting the nickname "the crybabies". RubberDucks owner Ken Babby was also kind enough to break from his hectic game day schedule to stop by an offer his welcome. After the joint chapter meeting and a networking lunch, SABR members and guests enjoyed a double header with the RubberDucks taking on the Reading Fightin' Phils. Unfortunately, the RubberDucks dropped both games of the doubleheader, but nevertheless it was a great day at the ballpark.

In addition to the chapter's three meetings over the past year, JGC also planned and conducted some other efforts that added to the portfolio of activities.

TribeFest (January 20, 2019)

One of the goals of the JGC is to expand our outreach activities to market not only SABR but our chapter. Our goal is to increase the attendance at our meetings with the hope that the guests will become SABR members of the future. A major element of this outreach strategy included for the first time active participation in the Cleveland Indians' TribeFest . With the help of SABR (in particular Jacob Pomrenke and Jeff Schatzki) our chapter designed and constructed a booth and engaged with a great number of fans in the daylong affair. Over 60 people provided us with their contact information and became eligible for winning a year's membership in SABR or one of four baseball books on the Tribe. A number of these people attended our winter meeting as a result of this connection made at Tribefest. It became apparent to those of us who staffed the booth throughout the day how few people really knew much if anything about SABR and how many others thought SABR was strictly a numbers oriented organization (i.e. a bunch of staheads

meeting and talking). Clearly SABR needs to look at an updated marketing strategy as part of a program to attract new members. Our chapter sees a booth at Tribefest being part of our yearly efforts going forward.

Talkin' Baseball Sessions

We have a customer survey form we use as part of each of our meetings to evaluate how those in attendance felt about the particular meeting and any suggestions they would have for future meetings. One recurrent theme we have been getting is the desire to have time to just talk baseball. To begin to address this need, we have instituted a series of what we call "Talkin' Baseball" sessions held at various library locations in NE Ohio to provide a no speaker, no presentation, no trivia, no book sales get together to just talk about anything baseball (or sometimes other topics) of interest to those in attendance. We are just starting our third month of these get togethers and plan on continuing them through the season as those attending are providing very positive feedback.

Education Days with the Akron RubberDucks (May 14,15 & 23, 2019)

The Akron RubberDucks recently approached our chapter about supporting their multiple education days events during the month of May, 2019 and thanks to the commitment of one of our members, Dave Scott, we took them up on the offer and had a booth with an emphasis on teaching interested children about how to keep score at a baseball game. Over 5000 grade school and junior high students attended one of the three education days events and chapter members interacted with a number of students who expressed interest in learning how to keep score. The chapter views this as a successful effort given the short period of planning we were afforded and we look forward to an even better experience in partnering with the RubberDucks in 2020.

Book Review Session (August 1, 2019)

JGC partnered with the Baseball Heritage Museum at League Park to play host to author Jerry Amernic who talked about his book "Babe Ruth-A Superstar's Legacy". Jerry gave a most interesting overview of the book and told many interesting stories about the Babe and his impact on society that extended far beyond the baseball field. One of the many interesting points Jerry made was that Jack Graney, after whom our chapter is named, was the first batter to face Babe Ruth during the pitching portion of the Bambino's career when he stepped into the box against the southpaw on August 11, 1914.

Live Broadcasts of JGC Events

In an effort to attract increased participation in our events, JGC has started to broadcast our meetings using Facebook Live to video stream our speakers and presentations. We are still in the experimental stages of using this tool but it is our hope that it will allow people to engage in SABR events who are not able to be physically present at the meetings.

— **Joe Shaw**

Hank Gowdy Chapter (Columbus, OH)

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

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

May 2018 – *The Team that Changed Baseball*, by Bruce Markusen - the author participated by phone.

August 2018 – *Where Nobody Knows Your Name*, by John Feinstein

November 2018 – *The Arm*, by Jeff Passan

February 2019 – two books on Casey Stengel – some read the Robert Creamer biography, while others read the latest by Marty Appel

May 2019 – *The Baseball Codes: Beanballs, Sign Stealing, and Bench-Clearing Brawls: The Unwritten Rules of America's Pastime* by Jason Turbow – the author participated by phone.

— August, 2018 - Columbus Clippers games at Huntington Park. Prior to some of the games our members met in the ballpark’s Hall of Fame Bar to talk baseball with Ken Schnacke, Clippers President and GM, and Joe Santry, Clippers team historian. 22-25 members and guests attended.

— October 2018 – Several Ohio State Fall Baseball games attended by members at each game.

— October 2018 - Our annual event, members of the chapter met at the BW3 sports bar on Polaris Parkway to watch Game One of the 2017 World Series.

— December 2018, January and March 2019– Informal Hot Stove Baseball talks, discussing the winter meetings, trades, the free agent market, Hall of Fame voting, and all else baseball. These were conducted at the public library and also included continuing discussing over lunch at a local eatery. This has been a well-attended activity for our chapter the last two years.

— March 2019– Online draft for Chapter Fantasy Baseball. Conducted through Yahoo Fantasy Sports site and administered by chapter member Aaron Koch.

— March 2019 - Columbus SABR member Jim Tootle gave a talk on Hank Gowdy, our chapter's namesake, at the Westerville Library. This event was co-sponsored by SABR as part of the Columbus Historical Society’s WWI exhibit “We Shall Remember Them: How Columbus Remembered the Great War.” Jim’s presentation was entitled “Hank Gowdy: From the World Series to the World War and Back.”

— April 2019—Winter Meeting - This year’s annual SABR Day meeting at the Worthington Public Library was attended by 40 members. The day opened with our annual Business Meeting, followed by featured speakers: Steve Leppert on “A Forgotten Buckeye: Rasty Wright, Ohio State, St. Louis Browns;” Dave Herman on “Almost Yankees (1981 Columbus Clippers);” Bryan Fritz on “The History of League Park.” Rick Huhn was the moderator. As usual a trivia contest (by Chris Gallutia), Hall of Fame balloting, 2019 MLB Season Predictions and a book raffle were included. A large contingent met for lunch following the meeting to continue talking baseball.

— April 2019 – Another annual event, members of the chapter met at the BW3 sports bar on Polaris Parkway to watch MLB Opening Day baseball.

— April 2019 – Members of the chapter attended the baseball film classic “Damn Yankees” at

the Wexner Center on Ohio State University campus.

— May 2019 – A new joint event in conjunction with the members of both the Columbus and Cleveland SABR chapters met at the Akron Rubber Ducks Game. Prior to the game, members heard a welcome from owner of Akron Rubber Ducks, Mr. Ken Babby, stories from Jim Clark, play by play announcer for the Akron Rubber Ducks, and author of "Rally 'Round Cleveland - The Story of the 1974 Franchise-Saving Cleveland Indians;" stories from Chris Sabo, former MLB player and currently Head Coach of U of Akron Baseball; and insight from Scott Longert, author of "Bad Boys, Bad Times: The Cleveland Indians and Baseball in the Prewar Years, 1937-1941". To cap it off, the Rubber Ducks played a double-header against the Reading Fightin' Phils.

— April and May 2019 – Several Ohio State Baseball games were attended by chapter members at each game.

— **Blake Sherry and Rick Huhn**

Cliff Kachline Chapter (Cooperstown, NY)

The Cliff Kachline Chapter held its annual Induction Sunday meeting on July 29, 2018, at Tillapaugh's Funeral Home in Cooperstown. A large crowd of 56 people heard:

- Chris Dial talk about Gold Gloves in the Advanced Metric Age
- Cary Smith on The Building of Comiskey Park...in Minnesota
- Ralph Carhart read an excerpt from the book he's writing about his travels with The Hall Ball
- Richard Sandomir speak about his latest book, Pride of the Yankees: Lou Gehrig, Gary Cooper and the Making of a Classic.

Our SABR Day meeting was held on January 26, 2019, at 1 PM at the Bullpen Theater. Presenters were:

- Pete Henrici - Update on his continuing research on Hall of Fame Inductions
- John Odell - HOF curator will give us a sneak peek of the new Shoebox Treasures baseball cards exhibit slated to open in 2019.
- Tom Shieber - HOF senior curator and Chadwick Award winner on Babe Ruth in the movies.
- Jim Gates - HOF librarian on recent library happenings.

Group discussion on the recent Hall of Fame voting results followed during our traditional post-meeting pizza!

— **Jeff Katz**

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

The Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan DFW Chapter had several events during the last 12 months. We had two successful chapter meetings, each drawing over 60 attendees. We first met on August 27, 2018, at the Globe Life Ballpark where our special guest was **Anne Keene**, author of *The Cloudbuster Nine*, a book about baseball in the military in World War II which focused in particular on the Cloudbuster Nine team that contained Ted Williams, Johnny Pesky, Johnny Sain and other major leaguers.

The Chapter next met on March 27, 2019 at the same location. Our special guests were **Jane Leavy**, author of the New York Times bestseller *The Big Fella – Babe Ruth and the World He Created*, and **Ron Rapoport**, author of *Let's Play Two: The Legend of Mr. Cub, the Life of Ernie Banks*. Jane has previously authored best-selling biographies on Mickey Mantle and Sandy Koufax while Ron is a long-time columnist and sportswriter who has been the recipient of the Ring Lardner Award for Excellence in Sports Journalism. **Eddie Robinson**, 98 years young, shared his experience of handing Babe Ruth a bat to lean on during the Babe's last appearance in Yankee Stadium just months before he died in 1948.

The chapter also had a booth at the Rangers Winter Carnival on January 26, 2019 where chapter members, led by **Jeff Wood**, visited with and encouraged patrons to join SABR.

In addition, the chapter, led by **Bo Carter**, awarded its annual Howard Green SABR Metroplex Collegiate Player of the Year Award to **Devlin Granberg**, consensus All-America outfielder from Dallas Baptist University. This marked the 26th presentation of the award, which is named in honor of the chapter's founder, the late **Howard Green**. Chapter President **Paul Rogers** and Vice President **Bo Carter** presented Granberg with his award at the DBU Baseball Banquet on February 8, 2019.

Granberg, from Hudson, Colorado, hit a resounding .443, second nationally, with 13 home runs and 70 RBI's in 2018. His 112 hits ranked first nationally, his .541 on-base percentage was third in the country while his 1.221 OPS and 72 runs scored were both fifth. The standout senior was named the Most Outstanding Player in the Fayetteville Regional with 12 hits in 18 official at bats. For the season, he stole 26 bases in 27 attempts and had a .982 fielding percentage with just three errors in 166 chances. He was named the Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year and also captured the Bobby Bragan Collegiate Slugger Award as the top college player in the state of Texas. In addition, he was named to the Academic All-American team with a 4.0 grade point average in kinesiology. Granberg was drafted in the 6th round of the Major League Draft by the Boston Red Sox.

The chapter also awarded the seventh 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 seventh award winner was Texas Wesleyan outfielder **Kiki Menendez**. Chapter Vice-President **Bo Carter** and **Lisa Neunaber**, daughter of **Carroll Beringer**, presented Menendez with his award at halftime of a Texas Wesleyan basketball game on February 7, 2019.

Menendez, a senior from Austin, Texas, batted .466 (third nationally in the NAIA) with a .995

slugging percentage which was first in the NAIA. He also was first in the NAIA with 26 home runs, 89 hits, and 190 total bases, all school records. His 84 runs batted in were second nationally. For his tremendous season, he was named NAIA Player of the Year as well as a NAIA first team All-American. He also was signed as a free agent by the Los Angeles Angels.

— **C. Paul Rogers III**

Rocky Mountain Chapter (Denver, CO)

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

The 2018 calendar season began with the Chapter's annual SABR Day. The day was initiated by a hallmark RM-SABR event: the annual, regardless-of-the-weather mass game of catch! After the mass game of catch, there was a well received and attended lunchtime. We then had two outstanding presenters. The first being Roger Kinney, former baseball player and alumnus of the University of Colorado baseball team and lifelong contributor to baseball in Colorado. Mr. Kinney gave an outstanding presentation about the history of baseball at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Then came Dan Evans, former Major League Baseball Scout and General Manager. Mr. Evans gave a presentation on the current professional baseball culture of the Far East and Pacific Rim Countries.

In April, in the opening weeks of the 2018 regular season, the Chapter again hosted a "State of the Rockies" with Assistant GM Zack Rosenthal. About 40 SABR members and guests enjoyed lunch and a reprise of the "State of the Rockies" format, which, again, featured lively Q&A.

Then in August, the Chapter held the first annual "Softball and BBQ Extravaganza." The event featured a very lively and spirited softball game between the Bears and the Zephyrs, followed by a great barbeque and social interaction among RM-SABR members and guests.

In November, the Chapter held its premier event with its 21st Annual Banquet (at Coors Field), which a wonderful gathering of about 85 paid participants. The banquet had many guests and featured speakers, including the following individuals:

Keynote Speaker: Jamey Wright, former MLB Player and Colorado Rockie.

Featured Speaker: Doug Marino, Statistician for AT&T SportsNet

Lifetime Achievement in Baseball Award: Paul Ekins, Director of Baseball Operations for the Colorado Rockies.

Special National SABR Guest: Emily Hawks, member of national Board of Directors of SABR.

Master of Ceremonies: former Major Leaguer Jason Hirsh.

A popular recurring event, a silent auction, as well as a book sale accompanied the occasion.

Popular monthly luncheons maintained in average attendance at around 20-30 participants and reached 145 consecutive recurrences (over 12 years!) by the concluding month of the 2018 season. Members and guests can count on energetic conversation, trivia and general baseball camaraderie: all particularly appreciated during the off-season, "Hot Stove" months!

— **Alex Marks**

Detroit Chapter (Detroit, MI)

Shared Leadership. In an effort to share more of the chapter responsibilities, changes have been made in our leadership beginning in January 2019. I have assumed the duties of chapter president, Steve Weingarden remains as vice president, Brandon Robetoy serves as our chapter secretary and social media director, and Gary Gillette now serves as chapter chair. We are the most active members of the Detroit Chapter and work together primarily by consensus.

Growing the Chapter. Although we are designated as the Detroit Chapter, I see our organization as a **Great Lakes State** chapter. The attendees at our events come from all over the state of Michigan and northern Ohio. We routinely invite the Toledo and Grand Rapids chapters to join us in our events. Recently, we learned that there is a group of University of Michigan students in Ann Arbor, Michigan, who have formed a SABR-affiliated student chapter, M-SABR. We have reached out to these groups and intend to hold events in various cities across Michigan.

Newsletter. We established our own electronic newsletter in December 2018, which we have named **The Catcher's Mitt** (TCM). Two editions of our e-newsletter have been published. Brandon Robetoy, who maintains our [informal website](#) and [Facebook page](#), serves as our editor. Our first issue (TCM_001) focused primarily upon the 50th anniversary of the 1968 World Series championship team. The second edition was produced as a special edition to honor the memory of Lenny Green, a native Detroiter and former Major League Baseball player. Green played baseball for the Browns/Orioles, Senators/Twins, Red Sox, and Detroit Tigers. We reached out to SABR chapters in various cities, hoping that each chapter and MLB team will remember Lenny Green during the 2019 season. Our third edition will be published later this year.

The Year in Review. In May of 2018, we invited our members to attend a short chapter meeting and the opera '*The Summer King*', about the life of Josh Gibson. Composer Daniel Sonenberg was our guest for dinner during the chapter meeting.

During the summer of 2018, Gary Gillette was able to organize a fall chapter meeting to commemorate the 1968 championship season. The meeting was held at the Detroit Public Library on October 20. Our main guests were World Series MVP Mickey Lolich and retired Detroit News reporter Tom Gage, who are the co-authors of the book **Joy in Tiger Town**. In addition we were honored to have Joe Lapointe, former Detroit Free Press writer, and Dan D'Adonna as guest panelists to discuss the demise of our beloved championship team from 1969-1974.

On February 2, 2019, we held our winter SABR Day meeting. Our agenda included the following topics: a discussion of catcher Bill Freehan's book, **Behind the Mask** (1970), and what impact the book had upon the 1970 Detroit Tigers team; a brief history of Negro League baseball cards; a tribute to Lenny Green, which was the inspiration for our special newsletter (TCM_002); author Mike Betzold's recollections about the political controversy surrounding the preservation of Tiger Stadium; and a presentation regarding Jackie Robinson's 100th birthday.

Later This Year. On Saturday, May 18, the Detroit Chapter will host an informal luncheon followed by a screening of the mockumentary '*Screwball*' at the Adrian International Film Festival in Adrian, Michigan. The film is about the PED scandal involving Alex Rodriguez.

The Detroit Chapter is also cosponsoring the **Detroit Stars Centennial Conference**, which will be held August 8 through 10, in Romulus, Michigan. We are proud to support this event with the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium, Wayne State University, Piast Institute, Detroit Historical Society, and the Detroit Tigers. We believe that Metro Detroit is an excellent convention venue, and we hope that one day SABR will bring a summer convention to Metro Detroit.

— **Peter Hoyos**

Kekionga Chapter of Fort Wayne (Fort Wayne, IN)

This year's SABR Day meeting was attended by eight baseball fanatics. Due to a mixup, probably on my part, the meeting was held in meeting room B on the first floor.

We first discussed the proposal to change the name of SABR from the Society for American Baseball Research to Society for the Advancement of Baseball Research. Most of us had no firm opinion and would support it but Mark stood steadfast in his opposition, asserting a name change would serve no good purpose and would not encourage more members from other countries.

Tim then gave three excellent mini-presentations. He covered Sanborn Maps, which are available online, and passed out an example of part of one which had League Park. He followed with a plethora of nuggets he had unearthed while doing his research on Negro baseball in Fort Wayne. My favorite was that the legendary Jim Thorpe played baseball in Fort Wayne on August 5, 1926 and recorded three catches and one dropped fly.

He noted that Smokey Joe Williams pitched in Fort Wayne. Williams was one of the greatest Negro League pitchers of all time and was elected to the baseball Hall of Fame in 1999.

Those who love baseball cannot help but appreciate the depth of research that goes into Tim's presentations.

Don Graham updated his research, though in Don's case he already knew it and did not have to research it, on Dwenger Park. He noted that the 1950 World Champion Capehart-Farnsworth team which won the World title in Japan was forced out of necessity to add a half a dozen "ringers" to replace those who either could not get away from work or who still harbored resentment over World War II. This was entirely within the rules. Among those was ace pitcher Charlie Shipman who was threatened with termination if he left work. Shipman, however, was also a member of the Allen Dairymen team which won its world title in 1956 at County Stadium in Milwaukee. Don brought a program from the game indicating the eight teams in 1956 were from the US, Canada, Mexico, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Holland, Columbia and Japan.

He noted the team was knocked out of the finals in 1957 by former Major Leaguer Clint Hartung's home run off Dairymen hurler, Parnell Hisner. Hisner played one game in the Major Leagues and had the distinction of not only striking out Mickey Mantle twice, but of also giving up Joe DiMaggio's final hit.

Don and I updated everyone on the proposed Dwenger Park sign. We talked with City Utilities officials Friday afternoon and found them to be extremely friendly and supportive of our efforts. We discussed the general area that would work best for a sign and they even volunteered to

connect us with a few sign makers who could handle the project. There is currently a sign behind closed gates which is not easily viewable from Dwenger Avenue. We were invited inside and took the photographs below.

Don immediately noticed the information was incomplete. He is composing the verbiage for the proposed sign.

They even went to the trouble of creating a map showing the park overlaid upon a current overhead photo. The first photo shows the area as it is today and the second overlays the ballpark.

Tom Blessing recruited two people to join his retro fantasy league which uses the stats from past years to decide a winner for a decade.

I stated that if I could put two people in the baseball Hall of Fame they would be Sadaharu Oh for his legendary contributions to Japanese Baseball and Rachel Robinson for her support of Jackie. Don, who bleeds Dodger Blue, suggested Gil Hodges. Mark suggested Minnie Miñoso for being a double pioneer as well as having a worthy Hall of Fame career as a player. Tom questioned why Alan Trammell is in and Lou Whitaker is not.

Mark mentioned that his love of Nellie Fox, his favorite childhood baseball player, helped him connect and form a lasting friendship with a political opposite.

We will keep you informed of the progress of the Dwenger Park project.

I tried hosting my first meeting on January 19th this year, but weather did not cooperate.

It was rescheduled for March 2nd. We had Mitch Lutzke from Williamston, MI, come down and talk about his book on the Page Fence Giants. Mitch did a great job and everyone in attendance enjoyed his presentation. We also discussed Hall of Famers and I did a powerpoint presentation on Hall of Famers' stats versus those of players who are not in the hall, but have comparable stats to HOFers. It brought some great discussion and it was agreed that Mickey Lolich has a strong case for induction.

Sadly, on March 20th, we lost Bill Griggs.

— **Tim Tassler**

Connecticut Smoky Joe Wood Chapter (Hartford, CT)

Once again, our chapter has had a busy and productive year. Many of us attended the annual SABR convention in Pittsburgh last June. We continue to have chapter breakfasts, and also luncheons at Rein's Deli in Vernon. We have held a number of stratomatic events, which our members enjoy. We attended a Yankee game in early September, which was quite enjoyable.

Our October meeting was highlighted by Bill Ryczek's radio recreation of a 19th century game. Duke Goldman presented as well. We hosted Colorado Chapter leader Paul Parker at a fall chapter breakfast. Our annual holiday gathering in December featured a presentation by Mark Kanter. We put out our Woodpile newsletter twice a year, edited by Karl Cicitto, which features a number of articles written by our members. Karl also edited the chapter book on Jeff Bagwell, to which a number of our members contributed. Our March meeting featured a Black Sox panel,

as this year is the centennial of that infamous event. Paul Hensler and Mark Kanter presented as well. Paul and Bill also presented at RJ Julia bookstore in Middletown, on the books that they have written.

We also attend and present at the RI and Mass chapter meetings, and a number of us will attend the annual SABR convention in San Diego. Our members will present there, and Alan Cohen has completed his 50th bio! Another of our members, Stan Dziurgot, was on channel 8 to talk about the Braves. Our members are active researchers, enjoy going to ball games, and are happy to help others who ask for assistance. We have a strong leadership team, consisting of Stan, Alan, Karl and Steve, and we look forward to more good work in the future!

— **Steve Krevisky**

Larry Dierker Chapter (Houston, TX)

Our SABR chapter has had another excellent year with regular monthly meetings, attending 2 professional baseball games, having 2 members write baseball books and four members chosen for the selection committee for the brand new Houston Astros Baseball Hall of Fame.

The selection committee for the Astros Hall of Fame has 11 members including Astros president Reid Ryan, Hall of Famer Craig Biggio and four local chapter members; **Larry Dierker, Bill Brown, Mike Vance and Bob Dorrill**. To be inducted on August 3rd will be three present or deceased chapter members; Jimmy Wynn, Larry Dierker and Gene Elston.

Greg Lucas and Maxwell Kates wrote respectively *Astros Legends* and *Time for Expansion Baseball*.

We again had a wide selection of speakers from all over the country and beyond. And, of course, our members contributed a variety of presentations plus monthly trivia contests. Following are some of the highlights:

Attended a Houston Astros game where key members of the Astros statistical staff provided pregame analysis of their job responsibilities and how they make informed decisions for the annual draft and trades. A very sophisticated and smart group.

Attended a Sugar Land Skeeters game with manager Pete Incaviglia sharing stories about his highly successful major league career and his first managerial post.

Participated in the annual Houston Astros FanFest with a booth and passed out hundreds and hundreds of baseball cards.

Held a surprise party for longtime SABR member **Bill McCurdy** in August attended by many of his baseball and SABR friends. Sadly, Bill passed this month.

Ben Reiter, author of *Astroball*, flew in from New York City to discuss his now classic book.

Former Astro players Shane Reynolds and Chris Sampson shared highlights of their careers and expressed grave concerns about changes being made to the game.

Tal Smith devoted a meeting to discussing recent rules changes now in place and the proposed initiatives that will be tested in the Atlantic League this season. We plan to attend a Sugar Land Skeeters game after these changes are implemented, especially to observe the use of an

electronic strike zone.

Media representatives Chandler Rome, the *Houston Chronicle* beat writer for the Astros, and Julia Morales, Houston Astros TV broadcaster, each spoke to us during the year.

Fred Rodgers who makes out the game assignments for major league umpires showed us the spreadsheet he had just filed with MLB. A very difficult project considering how many off days and vacations the umpires receive yearly.

Maxwell Kates from Toronto brought us his new book, *Time for Expansion Baseball*, and discussed the books contents. At the same meeting we had a panel discussion on expansion teams, particularly the Houston Colt 45s, with MK as moderator and Bob Aspromonte, **Larry, Dierker, Tal Smith and Bill McCurdy** panelists..

Award-winning Houston Chronicle photographer Karen Warren who specializes in sports photography showed us some of her work with the Astros through the years plus incredible pictures of President George H.W. Bush's funeral.

Timely and in some cases multiple presentations were made during the year by **Joe Thompson, Chris Chestnut, Dick Bily, Bob Stevens, Tony Cavender, Bob McCann, Mike McCroskey, Bill Brown, Karen Walker, Greg Lucas, Fred Rodgers, Bill McCurdy, Kevin Rosell, Tal Smith, Larry Dierker and Bob Dorrill**

In all another busy year.

— **Bob Dorrill**

Oscar Charleston Chapter (Indianapolis, IN)

This report summarizes the first two meetings the Oscar Charleston Chapter hosted in 2019, and provides dates for the two meetings scheduled for later this year.

1. January 26, 2019 Meeting Recap

Twenty-four diehard fans converged at the Irvington Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library for the SABR Day observance of the Oscar Charleston chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research on Saturday (January 26).

Howard Kellman, the Voice of the Indianapolis Indians, led off the program with an interview of former major leaguer Dyar Miller, a Batesville native who pitched for the Orioles (1975–77), Angels (1977–78), Blue Jays (1979) and Mets (1980–81). Miller served as a coach and instructor when his playing days ended. He retired after spending 2018 as pitching coach for the Fresno Grizzlies (AAA Pacific Coast), the top farm team of the Houston Astros.

Geri Strecker followed with a presentation on Indianapolis native Oscar Charleston, the legendary Negro league player and manager. Pete Cava followed with a tribute to Peter Bjarkman, the award-winning author from Lafayette who passed away last October in Havana. Andrew Reinbold provided a talk on the results of a chapter survey.

The session ended with a trivia contest based on the 1969 season. John Rickert scored over 90 percent for first place and received a copy of Peter Bjarkman's final book, *Fidel Castro and Baseball: The Untold Story*. Providing the prize was Ronnie Wilbur, wife of the late Cuban

baseball expert.

2. April 27, 2019 Meeting Recap

This past Saturday, April 27, SABR's Oscar Charleston Chapter met at the Haughville branch of the Indianapolis Public Library. The meeting included three presentations.

First, Professor Todd McDorman introduced Pete Rose's efforts in image repair following the revelation of the allegations that he gambled on baseball games during his career. Through *several* autobiographies and public appearances, Rose's image repair tactics have included denying culpability, evading responsibility, dampening the offensiveness of the gambling allegations, personal mortification regarding the allegations, and efforts to correct any harm the allegations might've caused. Professor McDorman referred to Rose's story as exemplifying the American Dream, in its best (Rose's hard work bred great success) and worst (the allure of success and fame tainted that success) manifestations.

Second, Professor Geri Strecker chronicled the history and evolution of the Indianapolis Indians logo and marketing. The logo's look has ranged from a Coca-Cola-sponsored Native American stereotype in the 1940s, to more innocuous geometric shapes in the 1960s, to a Chief Wahoo lookalike in the 1980s during the Indians' time in the Montreal Expos' franchise. Geri contrasted the controversies that have surrounded other teams' logos with the Delaware-Miami tribe's tacit approval of the modern Indians logo, which Mr. Carlos Sosa constructed based on his research into traditional Delaware-Miami woven arts.

Third, Reid Duffy interviewed former Major League (of the Expos, Royals, and Angels) pitcher Bill Sampen. Bill discussed his professional experiences, detailing the challenges of transitioning from a

starting role to a relief one, and described his perspective on developing young players in our current age of advanced metrics. For example, Bill's son, Caleb, who pitches in the Tampa Bay Rays system, routinely analyzes launch angles that opposing hitters achieve off of his pitches. In conjunction with Bill's youth player development, he and his wife also run a nonprofit called Strikeout Type 1 Diabetes that raises money to help raise awareness of, and assist medical professionals in finding a cure for, Type 1 diabetes.

Finally, Walter Biskupski won Saturday's trivia contest and received the top prize: a copy of *Cuban Baseball Legends*, coedited by the late Pete Bjarkman, and donated by Bjarkman's wife Professor Ronnie Wilbur.

3. Upcoming meetings: July 27, 2019 and October 26, 2019

— **Trenton Morton**

Elysian Fields Chapter (Jersey City, NJ)

SABR Day in 2017 was the first event for the Elysian Fields Chapter in at least six years. This previously dormant chapter is poised for a strong revival. We were able to get more than 40 people to this event hosted at the Hoboken Public Library.

A second event was planned for the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center at Montclair State

University in July. The topic was opioids and sports, with an expert from Rutgers as the speaker. Unfortunately, this idea had to be canceled on site because nobody showed up. Clearly, the timing was a factor and the embarrassing experience was a learning moment—summer months are very difficult for scheduling events, especially on weekends.

SABR Day in 2018 was hosted at the Hoboken Public Library. There, we had approximately 30 people in attendance. Authors Ron Kaplan, Lincoln Mitchell, and Howard Megdal were on a panel about baseball journalism. The chapter chair gave a presentation on Jersey City's Roosevelt Stadium—the site of Jackie Robinson's first game in Organized Baseball.

In May, we had an event featuring a one-on-one interview with Dan Cichalski of MLB.com. Also, Paul Hensler, a contributor to *The New York Yankees in Popular Culture*, gave a presentation about Reggie Jackson's ascendance from superstar with the Oakland A's to icon with the Yankees. This event did not do very well in terms of attendance—we got about a half-dozen people.

Clearly, there's some work to be done to boost awareness and attendance. This is a formidable task but a surmountable one.

Summer Action Plan:

- Update contact list offered by SABR. Phone calls and emails will get current information to create a new contact list.
- Reach out to the contact list regarding the types of events that they want to see the chapter hold.
- Select an advisory board of six people in addition to the chair based on previous SABR involvement. Meetings would take place quarterly.
- Begin quarterly chapter newsletter in the Fall.
- Plan September event to be held at a library in northern New Jersey.

— **David Krell**

Monarchs Chapter (Kansas City, MO)

The Monarchs Chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research had two meetings during the calendar year since the last convention. The first meeting held on November 3 and featured Gene Chavez, the curator of the Kansas City Museum who has co-written a picture book called *Mexican American Baseball in Kansas City*.

SABR Day 2019 in Kansas City featured two speakers, former Dodger pitcher Fred Kipp, and former Royals trainer Mickey Cobb on February 2. Kipp is the subject of the recent Ron Gabriel Award nominated book, "The Last Yankee Dodger: Fred Kipp from Brooklyn to LA and the Bronx."

— **Mike Webber**

Maddux Brothers-Las Vegas Chapter (Las Vegas, NV)

Since the last annual report, the Chapter has only had one meeting. On SABR Day 2019, we came together at a new location, central to most members.

Larry Brown, former minor-league pitcher for the Las Vegas Stars and current Clark County Commissioner, was our guest speaker. He discussed what was being done by the county for youth baseball (we have some of the best youth complexes in the country.) He talked about the new stadium in Summerlin, the new home of our Triple-A team, the Las Vegas Aviators. He gave all the members in attendance an Aviators baseball cap. Brown then discussed his baseball career and said he could remember every home run he gave up, but was unable to remember his only career hit. We gave him a SABR coffee cup and a copy of his career stats.

We also had a presentation about the 100-year anniversary of the 1919 World Series and why the Reds would have won even if none of the White Sox had fixed the games. It was well done. I discussed the Arizona Fall League and some of the young players to look out for in the upcoming season. We are planning an outing to the ballpark on June 22, and another chapter meeting for September 2019.

— **Rick Swift**

Sweet Lou Johnson Lexington Chapter (Lexington, KY)

Saturday April 14—Chapter Meeting. Guest Speaker: Jerry Sudduth (Vintage Baseball Historian). Talked about baseball as it was played in 1869. Played Baseball Trivia.

Thursday May 17—Chapter Meeting. Guest Speaker: Zack Getsee (Head Baseball Coach at Transylvania University). Talked about recruiting for college baseball and his time playing in the minor league. Played Baseball Trivia.

Thursday July 13—Chapter Meeting. Member Discussion: first half of the season, the All-Star Game, and Predictions for the Second Half. Played Baseball Trivia.

Sunday July 15—SABR picnic at Bluegrass Barons Base Ball Club game.

Sunday August 5—SABR picnic at Bluegrass Barons Base Ball Club game.

Sunday September 30—SABR picnic at Bluegrass Barons Base Ball Club game.

Saturday October 13—Chapter Meeting. Guest Speaker: Joe Cox (Baseball author: “Almost Perfect”, “A Fine Teammate”). Talked about his research on Jackie Robinson. Played Baseball Trivia.

Saturday January 26—SABR Day Meeting. Guest Speaker: David Baker (the History of Gambling & Baseball). Played Baseball Trivia.

Saturday February 23—Chapter Meeting. Guest Speaker: Clinton “Doc” Riddle (baseball photographer). Talked about his experience taking photographs around the minor leagues. Played Baseball Trivia.

Saturday March 16—Chapter Meeting. Guest Speaker: Emma Tiedemann (first female announcer in the South Atlantic League; Announcer for the Lexington Legends). Talked about her career path working in baseball and announcing. Played Baseball Trivia.

Saturday April 27—Chapter Meeting. Guest Speaker: Jacob Pomrenke (Chairperson of SABR Black Sox Scandal Committee). We skyped with Jacob. Talked about the “Eight Myths Out” and gambling in baseball. Played Baseball Trivia.

Saturday May 18—Potluck Picnic: Bluegrass Barons Base Ball Club Game.

— **Cindy Baker**

Allan Roth Chapter (Los Angeles, CA)

The Allan Roth Chapter met on Saturday, August 25, 2018, for our final meeting in La Habra, California. We enjoyed pizza provided by the chapter. Jon Leonoudakis provided an update on the SABR Alzheimer's project. We heard from author Amy Essington, “The Integration of the Pacific Coast League, Race and Baseball on the West Coast.” Reprinted from the SABR Convention, Joe Price presented “In Harmony, the National Anthem for the National Pastime,” his story of traveling around the country singing the national anthem at minor league ballparks. We discussed the Convention and watched highlights of the 1958 season. The trivia contest focused on last place teams.

We convened in Pasadena on SABR Day, Saturday, January 26, 2019. The book auction was a huge success. Noel Hynd discussed revisions to his book “The Giants of the Polo Grounds: The Glorious Times of Baseball's New York Giants” Texan Anne Keene presented her work “Cloudbuster Nine” which included a discussion of Ted Williams military duty. Peter Dreier spoke about the life of Sam Nahem. Barry Mednick offered thoughts on “The Real Mr. October,” players whose postseason stats exceeded their regular season results. Jon Leonoudakis gave an update on the wonderful SABR Alzheimer's project. Agent Mario Phillips talked about the winter meetings. Canadian Warren Campbell told us about the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. The trivia contest involved baseball jargon.

— **Barry Mednick**

Pee Wee Reese Chapter (Louisville, KY)

The Pee Wee Reese SABR Chapter serves all of Kentucky with the largest percentage of its members residing in the Louisville area. Despite our best efforts, Chapter membership has continued to shrink since we hosted the very successful 1997 Annual SABR Convention in Louisville. Our main neighboring chapter is the Hoyt-Allen Chapter from Cincinnati, some of whose members do reside in Northern Kentucky. Also, in February 2018 the Sweet Lou Johnson Chapter was formed in Lexington, KY.

This is a summary of our activities since our last Chapter report one year ago.

On Saturday, July 7, 2018 nineteen (19) SABR members and prospective members, enjoying a sunny and pleasant evening, attended the AAA Louisville Bats game as guests of the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory in their air-conditioned ballpark suite. In a celebration of Louisville's distilling heritage, the Bats again were competing as the "Louisville Mashers," and most everyone arrived early enough to take home an Evan Williams Bourbon glass.

Although the Bats looked ugly in their 5-2 loss to the Toledo Mud Hens, much camaraderie prevailed in the suite. In addition, the chapter provided a fine spread of snacks, appetizers and desserts. The 10-question written trivia contest presented by Dr. Jack Sullivan saw Ed Goldstein winning with Joe Cox and Jon Borie finishing second and third. As prizes, Ed and Jon each chose 2 tickets to see the Louisville Stars play in the Bluegrass World Series event, while Joe selected a pair of Louisville Bats hats for his daughter and him. Three silent auction collectibles, raising funds for the Chapter, were won by Steve Silverman, Jeff Hollis and Ricky Gettleman.

Special guest Greg Galiette, Senior Vice President and a 34-year club employee, appeared at the event, presented a Bats update and fielded questions. Much fun was had by all. Thanks again to the kind folks at LSMF for donating their suite to our Chapter for the 9th year.

On Saturday, July 28, as part of a "Louisville Colonels weekend," the Bats showcased a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Pee Wee Reese, which was actually July 23. The first 2,000 fans who entered the ballpark received a replica of the Pee Wee statue that sits on Main Street in front of Slugger Field. Plus, Reese family members were recognized, as was our SABR chapter. Chapter co-chair Tad Myre was in charge of this event for the Chapter. The Bats provided a table on the concourse at which we handed out membership information to interested baseball fans before the game and for the first 3 innings. Ken and Andy Draut staffed the table, along with Steve Rogers. Cory Ritterbusch from Wisconsin SABR also joined them. It's the first time we did this this, and we reached many people with SABR information.

The Chapter's primary regional meeting was held on January 19, 2019 at the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, courtesy of Museum Director Anne Jewell. The Pee Wee Reese Chapter's meeting was successful both in terms of program and attendance.

Missing a serious ice and snowstorm only by twelve hours, twenty-six (26) SABR members and guests braved heavy rains to attend the annual gathering. Participants travelled from as far away as Bowling Green and Elizabethtown, KY; Columbus, IN; and Wisconsin to attend. It was necessary to hold this meeting one week prior to the official SABR Day due to meeting site availability. As always, the kind folks at LSMF provided an attractive, ample meeting space, including bottled water, light refreshments and staff assistance.

After introductions and a brief business meeting, co-chair Harry Rothgerber presented an entertaining look at the history of the Chapter since its first meeting under the supervision of Bob Bailey in 1984. Indiana author Doug Wilson discussed his newest book, *Let's Play Two: The Life and Times of Ernie Banks*, soon to be released. The audience, which included many Cubs fans, appreciated hearing several "inside" stories about Banks, especially his relationship with Manager Leo Durocher. Then, Wisconsin SABR member Cory Ritterbusch presented a fascinating look at his lifetime personal relationship with the legend of Pee Wee Reese, especially his trip to Reese's Kentucky landmarks during the summer of 2018. He answered questions and received much acclaim for his insightful presentation.

Dr. Jack Sullivan again prepared a challenging 30-answer written Trivia Contest, with Louisville

Bats director of media relations Alex Mayer retaining his crown, edging out faithful SABR member Robert Sawyer for first place. Both received cash prizes. Members Jon Borie, Charlie Sawyer and Joe Cox all tied for third place. All in attendance left with a door prize, part of the book and memorabilia collection donated by the estate of deceased member Charles Faber. Guest Chris Betsch of New Albany, IN won a one-year complimentary SABR membership, courtesy of the Chapter. Three silent auction prizes generated fan interest and helped replenish the Chapter's coffers, as did the new donation box. Much laughter and camaraderie filled the day.

Steering committee member Ryan Schroer was recognized for his leadership in developing and maintaining the Chapter Facebook page since 2017.

On Saturday April 13, 2019, a group of Louisville members of the Pee Wee Reese SABR Chapter journeyed down I-65 to Bowling Green, Kentucky for a fabulous day of baseball and camaraderie. The day began with a gathering of seventeen (17) people at the Warren County Public Library, courtesy of SABR member Joe Cox. After lengthy and interesting introductions, Dr. Gerald Sullivan, centered his discussion on his lifelong baseball memorabilia collecting hobby, salted with rare baseball cards he brought with him and peppered with wonderful side stories and quips. Jerry is a natural raconteur and passed around only a fraction of his collection of (mostly) baseball cards. Joe Cox followed up with a great presentation about the process he uses for writing his fine baseball books while also discussing his latest offering, *A Fine Team Man*, about Jackie Robinson. The two and a half hours seemed to fly by. Among others in attendance were Frank Wakefield, decked out in a 1934 St. Louis Cardinal uniform, Mike Zanone (Louisville SABR member and old-time baseball expert who performs as turn-of-the-century HOF'er Pete Browning), and Skip Nipper, head of Nashville's Rice-Russell Chapter.

From there, most of the attendees plus a few additions headed over to the Bowling Green Ballpark (opened in 2009), where we were greeted by Jon Barhorst, Box Office Manager for the Bowling Green Hot Rods, single A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays. Jon guided us to the Stadium Club, where we met with Hot Rods General Manager Eric Leach. Eric provided us with excellent overview of life in the minors, the Hot Rods team, the ballpark, and the new owner, while patiently answering all our questions.

Next, Paul Kilgus, former MLB pitcher from Bowling Green, arrived and treated us to an informative wide-ranging give-and-take about his days with the Rangers and the Cubs, along with entertaining snippets about former teammates and games of yore, including one hilarious spring training story about the time he hit three batsmen in a row, the last one unintentionally. We then retreated to our suite and watched as Joe Cox and Paul Kilgus threw out first pitch(es) down on the field. Following that, Dr. Jack Sullivan administered one of his famous trivia contests, shortened to 10 questions. Jon Borie took the honors, with Joe Cox coming in second and Ron Coleman third.

The Hot Rods' opponent that evening was the Fort Wayne TinCaps. The game was scoreless until the top of the fourth, when TinCapper Michael Curry powered an opposite field shot through the mist and over the right field wall, with two on base. Then the rains came, the tarp came out and the game was suspended (eventually to be finished the next day). All was fine, though, for it had been a long good day. Plans to repeat next year are already being considered. The one downer on this otherwise excellent day came from the fact that chapter co-chair Harry Rothgerber, got IL'd by pneumonia.

LSMF, with Anne Jewell as its Director, continues to be an excellent and faithful corporate

partner, both to national SABR and to our Chapter. As always, our fiscal status is good, although our treasury is in slight decline. We are always looking for ways to use the funds in our Chapter Treasury to benefit the membership.

The most significant, ongoing challenge facing the Chapter is its dwindling membership, combined with the wide geographical distance that members in rural Kentucky must travel to attend any meetings or gatherings. Our low membership numbers sometimes inhibit an increase in formal meetings. However, our trip to Bowling Green represents a strong recruitment initiative by co-chair Tad Myre.

On a more positive note, the Pee Wee Reese Chapter has always excelled in developing and maintaining positive relationships with its local partners, such as the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, the Louisville Bats Professional Baseball Club, the Louisville Sports Commission, civic groups and political and governmental leaders.

The coming months will feature a major transition in the Chapter's leadership ranks as the succession plan continues. Co-chair Tad Myre will become the primary Chair for the Chapter while Co-chair Harry Rothgerber ends 20 years in command by becoming the immediate past chair. Our other steering committee members are: Ken Draut (Treasurer, Louisville), Ryan Schroer (Vice-Chair of Speakers and Technology, Columbus, Indiana), Bill Marshall (Lexington), Chris Krebs (Bowling Green), and Rodger Payne, Robert Sawyer and Jon Borie (Louisville).

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

— **Harry Rothgerber and Tad Myre**

South Florida Chapter (Miami, FL)

Headed up by Chairman, Sam Zygnier, the South Florida Chapter continued to hold a regular meeting, kept active communication lines open with the local members and satellite members as well as promote friends, family and prospective members to attend all of our meetings and get-togethers. Also promoted local authors Lou Hernandez and Peter Kerasotis with exposing their newest books to the public.

On January 27, the South Florida Chapter celebrated national SABR day at our home base, the Tamarac Public Library. Clark Spencer, Miami Marlins beat writer, regaled us with stories of the team and answered several questions for attendees at the get-together.

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

— **Sam Zygnier**

Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter (Milwaukee, WI)

The Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter of SABR continues to help share the history and promote current interest in the sport for the entire Wisconsin area.

We have four Chapter meetings each year. They are open to the public and are held at J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar and Grill located on Bluemound Road right near Miller Park. Some of our guest speakers have been Brewers radio announcer Lane Grindl, and *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* Brewers reporter Tom Haudricourt.

Our Chapter donates books to the Milwaukee Public Library System, and assists in events conducted by the Brewers Community Foundation. A SABR book about the 1982 Brewers will be released later this year.

Chapter members are involved in other baseball related groups including the Milwaukee Braves Historical Association, the Wisconsin Old Time Ballplayer's Association, and the World Series Club.

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

— **Rick Schabowski**

Quebec Chapter (Montreal, QC)

The 2018 season was another good one for the SABR Quebec Chapter. We again were able to hold our traditional four meetings a year, one for every season. And our members participated in an interesting and important academic event.

The year opened on SABR Day, January 27 as fellow member Marcel Dugas gave a presentation on the 1946 Montreal Royals. Our friend explained that, beyond the historical and sociological importance of Jackie Robinson being a member of the team, the Royals had what was probably the best season ever by a Montreal ball club. They won an even 100 games, claimed the International League championship, and emerged a winner in all three postseason series in which they played to end up as Junior World Series champions for the first time in their history.

Our Spring meeting was held on May 5, 2018. We celebrated the inauguration of Delorimier Stadium, the Montreal Royals' home between 1928 and 1960. The stadium opened exactly 90 years before our meeting, on May 5, 1928. Construction began on January 12, 1928 and 4 months later, the Stadium was ready for its first game, a 7-4 Montreal win against Reading before a sellout crowd of 22,000. The Stadium cost \$1,500,000 to build and was regarded as the most modern ballpark in all of Minor League baseball. Lights were first installed in 1933. The stadium was renamed Hector Racine Stadium in 1956. Racine was long-time president of the Royals and was instrumental in having the Dodgers make the Montreal ball club International affiliate.

As is customary since our chapter's inception, our Summer meeting once again took place at the

Quebec Municipal Stadium were we witnessed the local Quebec Capitales team lose 7 to 5 against the New Jersey Jackals in a regular game of the independent Can-Am League. Our meeting was saddened by the death a few days earlier of Norm King, our chapter's secretary. An expert on the Expos, he had been the editor of the book *Au Jeu/Play Ball: The 50 Greatest Games in the History of the Montreal Expos* and was finishing writing a book on the 1979 Expos season. The members present for the meeting unanimously appointed Philippe Cousineau as chapter secretary in replacement of Norm. Philippe was already our official translator and is doing a nice job writing the summaries of our meetings.

We all gathered again for our Fall meeting on November 10, 2018. Our guest was Robert Elias, a member of the Lefty O'Doul chapter, who was in Montreal for the current university semester. A Professor at the University of San Francisco, he had been invited as guest lecturer at McGill University where he taught a class on sports and society focussing on the history of baseball in Canada. Some of the members of our chapter were guest presenters at his seminars, including Marcel Dugas who spoke about the Montreal Royals, and Jacques Doucet, who spoke about the Expos. We took advantage of Mr. Elias's presence to exchange on some of the topics he covers in his course, and on which he has conducted additional research during his stay here.

In October, an election was held as the terms of our chapter president and vice-president were coming to a close. At the Fall meeting, the chapter took note of the re-election of Patrick Carpentier for a two-year term as president and confirmed that Robert Duval will assist him as vice-president. Philippe Cousineau was appointed again as chapter secretary.

All in all, the SABR Quebec Chapter had another very good year.

— **Patrick Carpentier**

Dorothy Seymour Mills Chapter (Naples, FL)

This year has been a banner year for our chapter. We held four successful events:

A panel discussion with three Naples, FL residents: Don Carmon, Chris Resop, and Carmen Cali, all with many years of MLB experience which drew a capacity crowd including a lot of media coverage.

A wonderful event with Perry Barber was on our next month agenda & her powerpoint presentation drew rave reviews from all attendees.

A talk with Art Shamsky & Erik Sherman highlighted our April meeting. In attendance was Warner Wolf who is a NY favorite. After their talk they had a book signing at Barnes & Noble. It was a six-hour day, yet people were still hanging around kibbutzing.

We had a dinner party with Cookie Rojas as our distinguished guest to wind up our season. Cookie is a great story teller & has attended most of our meetings in Naples.

I want to thank Jeanne Glazer & Juan Romero who helped me put together these events this year.

— **Mel Poplock**

Bud Metheny/Virginia Eastern Shore Chapter (Norfolk, VA)

Feb 10, 2019 – Formal request to form chapter

Mar 17, 2019 – Received approval to form new chapter

May 7, 2019 – Inaugural meeting held in Norfolk. The agenda was:

1) Introductions

- Name and city
- Favorite team
- SABR member since

2) Who is our namesake Bud Metheny? - Frank Holman

3) 1920 - Important Year in Baseball History - Paul Boren

4) Future Meeting logistics

- Norfolk coordination – Andrew Noe
- Williamsburg coordination - Paul Boren
- Richmond coordination - Justin Mattingly
- Frequency and Length
- Book Club interest
- Norfolk Tides game
- Richmond Spiders game

5) Open Discussion

May 13, 2019 – 17 group members

— **Andrew Noe**

Hemond-Delhi Arizona Chapter (Phoenix, AZ)

During the SABR Arizona Fall League Experience, we played host to about 30 attendees from around the country, and introduced new executive director Scott Bush at our chapter meeting. National board of directors member Bill Nowlin also set up an informative session at Scottsdale Stadium with MLB director of umpire development Rich Rieker and Arizona Fall League umpires.

We also established a series of regular luncheons, held in a Casino Arizona buffet room. Attendance has been in the 20-30 range, and the lineup of featured speakers has included:

- * Bob Nightengale of USA Today
- * MLB executives Mike Port and Joe Garagiola Jr.
- * Diamondbacks beat writers Nick Piccoro (Arizona Republic) and Steve Gilbert (MLB.com)

- * Player agent Jeff Borris
- * KNBR pre- and post-game radio host Marty Lurie
- * Scouts/front-office execs: Ed Lynch and Terry Kennedy

In a further effort to connect with members, we also started a monthly online newsletter, which features a recap of the last luncheon, upcoming schedule of events and national SABR news. The newsletter is put together by Max Madden, from the ASU Cronkite School program.

— **Tony DeMarco**

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

Because there are so many SABR chapters in the region, the Southern New England (Lajoie-Start) Chapter confines its activities to two meetings a year, in June and November. Contrary to the calendar, we consider our chapter year to run November-June. But we will revert to the calendar for this report.

The June meeting was held on Saturday, the 9th, under a picnic tent beyond right field at McCoy Stadium, home of the Pawtucket Red Sox. Although it had been a gloomy week – dark clouds abounding – the meeting day was clear and warm.

There were presentations by four chapter members: Mark Kanter on the Phillies and Pirates; Joanne Hulbert and Jay Hurd on the planned new publication SABR Arts Journal; and David Kaiser on an example from his new book "Baseball Greatness: Top Players and Teams According to Wins Above Average, 1901-2017."

The guest speaker was Upton Bell, a Boston area sports talk show host whose career also includes a stint as an executive of the Baltimore Colts and GM of the New England Patriots. Bell, whose father, the late Bert Bell, was a onetime commissioner of the NFL, had plenty of baseball anecdotes to please the 42 SABR members and guests in attendance.

Kevin Boles, the manager of the Pawtucket Red Sox, and Rich Gedman, the team's hitting coach, stopped by and answered questions from the group. The winner of Father Gerry Beirne's trivia quiz was Norm Ginsberg.

The chapter has been meeting at McCoy Stadium in June for at least a decade. Since the Pawtucket Red Sox will move to Worcester, Massachusetts, for the 2021 season, we will have to find a new home for the meeting.

The November meeting is always held at the St. Philip's Church Parish Center in Greenville, Rhode Island. This time the five-hour meeting (11 a.m. to 4 p.m., including a lunch break, was a lively one. The audience of 50-plus heard research presentations by David Kaiser (an analysis of the World Series-winning Red Sox according to Wins Above Average); Bill Ryczek (the life and career of Joseph Start, one of our chapter namesakes); Stephen Trimble (the trivia quiz given to job applicants at the Hall of Fame); Mark Kanter (seeing baseball games in Japan); and Dixie Tourangeau (19th-century player Herman Long).

As we always do at the November meeting, we held a mock Hall of Fame election, and "elected" Mariano Rivera, just as the BBWAA did, but no others.

Father Gerry Beirne's trivia quiz, mostly about the 2018 season, was won by Mark Kanter.

Our guest speaker was Peter Abraham, a Red Sox beat writer for the *Boston Globe*. He shared his insights on the World Series-winning Red Sox.

As a heads-up, our 2019 meeting at McCoy Stadium will feature former major leaguer Bernie Carbo as the guest speaker.

— **Len Levin**

Luke Easter Chapter (Rochester, NY)

The Luke Easter Chapter held several events over this past year to promote baseball research and discussion in the Rochester and Western New York area. Our major event is a Hot Stove Dinner held on SABR day. Our featured speaker this year was Fred Costello, organist of the Rochester Red Wings since 1977.

We also held a well attended meeting near SABR Day in Buffalo, NY at Sahlen Field, home of the Buffalo Bisons. This was well attended and afforded many of our members in the Western side of our chapter a chance to get to a live event.

Returning events included a World Series party, tour of Mt Hope Cemetery focusing on Rochester baseball history, multiple vintage baseball exhibitions, as well as talks at local libraries and community centers. We have continued to have a twice-yearly Hot Stove Talk series with sets of three SABR-convention style talks book-ending the baseball season.

We look forward to continuing to provide programming to serve the baseball fans of Western New York.

— **Ryan Brecker**

Dusty Baker - Sacramento Chapter (Sacramento, CA)

SABR's Sacramento Chapter convened for the first time in Sacramento on Saturday, November 5, 1994, so this coming fall we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary since our initial meeting. Previous to our formation, SABR members residing within Sacramento region were part of the Lefty O'Doul Chapter in the San Francisco Bay Area, with whom our chapter maintains a close association, with members of each chapter receiving respective meeting notices. A special thanks to Marlene Vogelsang for her outstanding efforts on behalf of greater northern California SABR members.

The Sacramento Chapter was named for Dusty Baker in early 2017 after we received permission from Dusty to associate our chapter with him. Baker moved to the Sacramento area with his family while attending high school, and where he became an outstanding athlete in numerous sports before being drafted by the Braves. In addition to a long, distinguished playing career, Dusty served as manager for the Giants, Cubs, Reds, and Nationals and was named National League Manager of the year three times.

Since our inception nearly 25 years ago, the Chapter has typically hosted between three and four meetings per year, which have usually been Saturday afternoon luncheon affairs. From the outset, Greg King has facilitated the chapter meetings and sent out notices, with great help over the years from John Moist. Unfortunately, John's health has declined in recent years and it has forced him to step aside from Chapter activities. In 2019, longtime member Zak Ford, who has been steeped in baseball history, especially the Pacific Coast League, since being a teen, readily agreed to accept the role of co-chair with the plan for him to begin facilitating chapter meetings and help arrange for speakers, and for Greg to soon take more of a secondary role. Other chapter members have stepped in to assist the success of the meetings, including selling tickets for the popular baseball book raffle (especially Don Sgamba), and handling the trivia quizzes (usually prepared by Rick Liebold and Steve Cardella).

Due to some member complaints about excessive adjacent room noise, parking difficulties, security concerns, and a tight sitting squeeze, we looked for an alternative restaurant location from the Limelight Bar and Grill in Sacramento, where we held most of our meetings between 2015-2017. For the first time, we elected to have our meetings at a restaurant location (Mimi's Café, 2719 E. Bidwell Street in Folsom, a town located about a 20 minute drive east of downtown Sacramento. Positive feedback from this venue induced us to hold successive Chapter meetings in that same location, though it does not appear it can accommodate more than about 42 attendees, so the Chapter will continue to identify other possible meeting locations in the long term.

Our meetings generally kick off with self-introductions (sometimes tied with brief announcements), together with presentations, a trivia contest (with a book or DVD prize going to the winner) and a book raffle featuring books and other baseball-related items generously donated by members or purchased. The money collected via the raffle pays for non-SABR member speaker lunches and allows for money to buy still more books for the raffle as part of a continuous cycle. While our meetings typically include an affordable luncheon (less than \$20), buying a lunch is never required of attendees. Our meetings usually last about 3 hours but it is not unusual to see members gather in small groups even beyond that time.

During the one-year period since the last annual report was prepared and submitted, the Dusty Baker-Sacramento Chapter were involved in these activities:

- July – December 2018 – Chapter member Alan O'Connor, with participation also from SABR members Rich Macaluso, Tom Crisp, and Dwight Martenia, brainstormed ideas and loaned historic artifacts and photos for a new exhibit, "California at Bat: America's Pastime in the Golden State," held at the California State History Museum in Sacramento.
- Saturday afternoon, September 8, 2018 -- 35 SABR members and friends gathered at Mimi's Café in Folsom, CA. for a luncheon meeting featuring two main speakers. David Rapp presented an illustrated talk on the subject of his new book, *Tinker to Evers to Chance: The Chicago Cubs and the Dawn of Modern America*. While he provided an overview of the trio, Rapp put a special spotlight on Frank Chance who had a strong connection to the Central Valley of California. Jack Kohn spoke of his 65-year long involvement with baseball simulation games, from his use of cards/dice in the early years to the later use of computers. Given the new baseball exhibit at the California State Museum (discussed above), we invited volunteers to speak on an object or two of their

choice they brought that would reflect their love of the game, some aspect of baseball history, something they experienced or even researched. It could be a baseball card, autographed glove, pin, photograph, scorecard, ticket stub, trophy, or former uniform. This proved to be an extremely popular meeting component, and it was incorporated into future chapter meetings, as well. Prospective speakers notified chapter leaders in advance if they wanted to participate.

- Saturday afternoon, November 10, 2018 – 26 SABR members and friends attended a luncheon held at Mimi’s Café in Folsom, CA. Member Tom Crisp spoke on the subject of his new book, *Sacramento's Winter Baseball League: History of the National Division, 1914-1991*. The Sacramento Valley has always been a fertile ground for baseball talent; still, the story of Sacramento's WBL is largely unknown, despite over 100 big-league ballplayers appearing on its rosters over the years, but Tom’s prodigious research removed the veil. In addition, the chapter meeting once again featured several attendees participating in a “show and tell” segment.
- Saturday afternoon, February 9, 2019 – Members of the Dusty Baker Chapter traveled to the East San Francisco Bay Area and joined with members of the Lefty O’Doul Chapter who hosted a terrific joint meeting representing a slightly-delayed SABR Day in America event at Ricky’s Bar and Grill in San Leandro, CA. See the write-up under that Chapter’s annual report for meeting details.
- Saturday, March 16, 2019 — 36 SABR members and friends attended a luncheon meeting at Mimi’s Café in Folsom, CA. Member Clay Sigg brought and discussed his collection of game-used bats from former big league players. Member Tony Oliver presented a talk on the evolution of baseball ticket stubs, a research project in which he is involved. Greg King spoke about the 35 best baseball movies of all time, with attendees voting their favorites. The winners? *Field of Dreams*, followed by *Bull Durham*, *The Natural* and *A League of Their Own*. New chapter co-chair Zak Ford held an open dialogue with attendees about potential future chapter activities.
- Sunday, June 23, 2019 — Zak Ford took the initiative to reserve for SABR members the “Back Porch” for a Stockton Ports game and all-you-can-eat BBQ as a joint Chapter activity in partnership with the Lefty O’Doul Chapter. Billed as the California League’s version of the Bay Bridge Series, the Ports (affiliated with the A’s) and the Giants will square off the Sunday prior to our organization’s national convention in San Diego.

— **Greg King**

Ted Williams Chapter (San Diego, CA)

Regional Meetings: Our chapter held four regional meetings during the year. A summary of the meetings is contained below:

Saturday, July 7, 2018, Petco Park Auditorium

“The 1950s -1960s, The Golden Age of Juvenile Baseball Fiction” *Mike Wickham*

“The Remarkable Mr. Spalding” *Eric DuVall*

“Diamond Insights 2018” *Geoff Young*

“The Art of Player Development” *Ben Sestanovich, Assistant Director of Player Development, San Diego Padres*

Thursday, August 30, 2018, San Diego Central Library Baseball Research Center
TED WILLIAMS: A CELEBRATION OF HIS 100th BIRTHDAY

“Ted Williams: At Hoover High School” *Dennis Donley*

“Ted Williams: His Debut with the 1936 San Diego Padres” *Dan Boyle*

“Ted Williams: His 1937 Season with the Padres...and Back to San Diego in 1941” *Bill Swank*

“Ted Williams: Reflections of Ted with Frank Shellenback, Earl Keller, Tony Gwynn, and Petco Park” *James D. Smith III*

“Ted Williams: From San Diego to Boston to Cooperstown” *Bill Nowlin*

Saturday, January 26, 2018, San Diego North University City Library
10th SABR DAY

“British Tomboys’ Influence on American Baseball” *Katie Neipris*

“SABR 49 Coming to San Diego, June 26-30, 2019” *Deb Jayne*

“The Art of Developing the Umpire Assignment Schedule” *Fred Rodgers*

“60th Anniversary of MLB Move to west Coast” *Andy McCue and Rob Garratt*

“Joe Murphy’s Memorabilia Collection from Early 20th Century” *Steve Murphy*

Saturday, April 6, 2019, Petco Park Auditorium

“OUR 2019 San Diego Padres” *Josh Stein, Assistant General Manager, San Diego Padres*

“The Lost Art of Baseball Humor” *Jerry Petrone*

“A Chat with Former MLB Pitcher Jerry Johnson” *Bob Chandler, Jerry Johnson*

“A Visual Remembrance of Lane Field” *Bill Swank*

1.1 Steering Committee Meetings

Our chapter’s steering committee consists of eight members and a liaison member from the City of San Diego Library. During this 12-month period we had three meetings: November 14, 2018, January 16, 2019, and April 9, 2019.

1.2 “Talkin’ Baseball” Lunches

Our chapter initiated informal lunches in 2018 where members have lunch and “talk baseball.” Three lunches were held on: August 25, 2018, December 1, 2018, and March 2, 2019, and one is scheduled for June 1, 2019.

1.3 Yahoo Chat Group

This chat group was initiated in July 2018. At present there are 13 members. The address is:

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SABR_San_Diego/conversations/messages

1.4 Projects

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. We continue to coordinate with the Library on the processing and organization of material from the Bill Weiss Archive and offering input related to acquisition of newly issued baseball books and annuals.

Our regional meetings are typically held in the Padres' Petco Park auditorium, and in City of San Diego libraries with the Central Library's 8th floor BRC being a common venue.

San Diego Padres 50 Years SABR Book. Several of our chapter members collaborated with the SABR Bioproject Committee on the preparation of SABR's book *San Diego Padres: The First Half Century* (published in May 2019 at SABR.org/ebooks.)

Bill Weiss and Ray Nemeč Baseball Archives. The Weiss Archive was acquired in January 2014. This past year ownership of Archive materials have been clarified through an agreement between the City of San Diego and SABR. One outcome of the agreement is the availability of over 100,000 player questionnaires now accessible on Ancestry.com. Chapter members continue to work on digitizing Archive material.

In April 2019, baseball research material from the Ray Nemeč family was donated to our chapter. Included are player records, unpublished minor league averages, and minor league game scrapbooks. Chapter members have initiated work on digitizing this Archive's material.

Preparation for SABR 49. Chapter members, and our Library partners, are working with SABR staff to support various functions in preparation for the 49th annual convention to be held in San Diego, June 26-30, 2019.

Miscellaneous. Projects underway in various stages are to prepare articles on the following San Diego professional baseball teams: 1899-1900 San Diego teams (Southern California League), 1913 San Diego Bears, 1929 San Diego Aces, and 1946 San Diego Tigers.

Several of our members completed a book on the 1936 Padres published in January 2019. It is entitled *San Diego's First Padres and "The Kid", The Story of the Remarkable 1936 San Diego Padres and Ted Williams' Professional Baseball Debut*.

— Tom Larwin

Lefty O'Doul Chapter (San Francisco, CA)

The Chapter continues to present several programs and events during the year. We have recently determined to add some more casual/informal no-host events around the Bay Area in the hope to draw some new chapter members to attend.

SABR Day, co-hosted with the Sacramento Dusty Baker Chapter, featured a look at East Bay baseball players, coaches and teams. Guests included sportswriter, Dave Newhouse, and a player panel talking about more modern day ball.

Speakers include Dr. B (George Baljeovich), Mark Macrae and Doug Williams.

It was a very well attended event held at Ricky's Sports Lounge in San Leandro, a Bay Area legend in its own right.

A Day at the A's featured early entry into the ballpark, a lively discussion with longtime PA announcer Dick Callahan, chapter member and longtime photographer Doug McWilliams and Mike Ono talking about their coffee table book honoring the A's 50 years in Oakland. Mike also gave us a tour of the photo mural that was a timeline of great events in Oakland Athletics history. We had great seats, although we were very much in the sun, and the A's won! Thanks again to Justin Jabs and the A's for making it happen. And welcome to Justin who joined SABR!

We are very happy with our ongoing relationship with San Francisco Main Library and thank Joan Jasper, programming Librarian and Cubs fan, for all her work with these programs. Jon Leonoudakis has done several events featuring clips and stories from his Sweet Spot series: this year we've featured his piece on African Americans in baseball and his piece on women in the game. "Shut Out: The Battle American Women Wage to Play Baseball".

We are excited to visit the Stockton Ports with the Dusty Baker Chapter this June. Thanks to Zak Ford for organizing. It should be lots of fun.

We look forward to the annual Pacific Coast League Reunion and this annual visit with old ballplayers from the Pacific Coast League. We are now joined by their families to carry on the tradition. Thanks to Mark Macrae and Dick Beverage for their dedication to the league and these players.

Upcoming plans include a visit to the San Jose Giants, an author talk later in the summer, hopefully at the new Lefty O'Douls Restaurant.

I am also pleased that chapter member Jeff San Gabriel has agreed to participate in the SABR Ambassadors program. We have chatted about smaller local meetings and bringing in some more analytics focused writers to talk with our chapter.

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

As always, I would like to thank SABR HQ and Board for all the support they provide.

Welcome to new Board leadership, as well. Welcome again to Scott Bush, our new CEO. I enjoyed meeting you at Fall Ball and look forward to your visit to the Bay Area. Deb, Jacob and Jeff make my life as chapter leader a joy. Thanks again for all you do for all of us.

— **Marlene Vogelsang**

Korea Chapter (Seoul, KOR)

The chapter currently has eleven members, but only two besides me currently reside in Korea. I know a couple of people interested in Korean baseball and have spoken to them about SABR, but they have not decided to join yet. Additionally, there are a few ex-members that I am still trying to persuade to rejoin.

We didn't have any official meetings in the past year as I was the only member living in Korea

this past year. We will hope to have some meetings this year though.

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

I have remained in contact with Dan Evans from the Rocky Mountain Chapter and we are still talking about exploring possible collaborations between the two chapters. We will continue to discuss this. I have also spoken to the Tokyo chapter about doing something with them, but nothing concrete has been set.

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

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

— **Patrick Bourgo**

Taiwan Chapter (Taipei, TWN)

Last year, we released the scoring program developed by National Taiwan University of Sport and hosted 3 workshops in the north (Taipei), center (Taichung), and south (Kaohsiung), respectively. We are trying to create a project like Retrosheet here in Taiwan, but have a long way to go. Not too many people came to the workshop, still need to work on promoting it.

On December 21, 2018, we held Talks and Open House at National Taiwan University of Sport, a free event for all. This event was successful. We had a pitching talk, then Rapsodo pitching open house; hitting talk, then Rapsodo hitting open house. About 50 people attended and had a good time. Talks were given by Professor Kawamura from Japan, University of Tsukuba.

— **JyhHow Huang**

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

The North Florida / Buck O'Neil Chapter, based in Tallahassee, Florida, enjoyed another year of membership growth and ongoing activities. While the total number of members is modest, it remains constant, even growing in size over the past year.

Our monthly socials (typically on the first Wednesday of the month) continue to both lively and well-attended. Topics discussed include, but are never limited to, the ongoing Yankees/Red Sox rivalry, the annual Baseball Hall of Fame ballots, rules and voting results (always engaging), college baseball and the future leadership of the Florida State University program, hot stove developments and machinations, and Chapter members' annual MLB predictions for the coming season. A recent complement to the ongoing free-flowing discussions at each social is the time

set aside each month for one or two brief presentations on a topic or item of interest to a particular Chapter member, who then shares said topic or item with the group. Presentations have included SABR 48, a summary and discussion of Jane Leavy's *The Big Fella: Babe Ruth and the World He Created* (Harper, 2018), the concept of "Game Score" as first proposed by Bill James and refined by Tom Tango, the experience of watching a vintage baseball game, and a report on *The Cloudbuster Nine: The Untold Story of Ted Williams and the Baseball Team That Helped Win World War II* (Sports Publishing, 2018).

The Chapter also has carried on the nascent tradition of attending a Florida State baseball game as a group. This year, attendees took in an April mid-week contest against Stetson, which proved more entertaining than expected, or perhaps desired if one were standing at the top step of the Seminoles' dugout.

As always, a highlight of Chapter activities was the 2019 SABR Day meeting. While future plans for Chapter activities and the annual trivia contest were conducted (both staples of SABR Day) the focus of the meeting was noted author and Chapter member Rick Swaine's presentation on his latest work, *Do It For Chappie: The Ray Chapman Tragedy* (Tucker Bay Publishing, 2019). An authentic account of the Cleveland Indians' 1920 season, including the pennant race with the New York Yankees and the Chicago White Sox, as well as the tragic loss of their star shortstop, Ray Chapman.

Chapter members carried the Chapter flag in strength to Pittsburgh to attend SABR 48, where they enjoyed the conference (especially Frank Thomas' shout-out to Tallahassee as the first stop on his professional journey to the majors), multiple trips to the baseball palace that is PNC Park, and the Steel City itself. The Chapter's planned trip to Atlanta in July 2019 for a Braves-themed junket for members to take in three games in three different venues (Rome, Gwinnett and the parent club), also is eagerly anticipated as a worthy addition to the Chapter's catalog of hardball-focused adventures.

— **Matthew Keelean**

Hanlan's Point Chapter (Toronto, ON)

The Hanlan's Point Chapter had a very successful year.

Following a valuable Chapters Leaders session at the Pittsburgh National Convention, Chapter operations were reviewed to determine how to enhance Chapter services provided to members. Concurrently Hanlan's Point was approached by a cluster of SABR members located in the London area of South Western Ontario. London is approximately 120 miles SW of Toronto. Agreement in principle to adopt a regional service model was quickly reached.

During the fall, members were surveyed to obtain opinions on projects of interest and suitable meeting locations in addition to the existing Toronto base. Analysis of the input received, led to the development of a year plan for calendar 2019 and presented to the membership.

The first event held was a discussion of the year plan and support for SABR members at the SABR Day class of Spring Training for Baseball Fans held in Toronto.

In March, a Chapter meeting was held in London. The agenda included updates on the Canadian

Baseball History Conference planned for November, Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame plans for the year and an update about the ongoing batting order project being led by a Chapter member. The Chapter year plan was also discussed and future activities including support for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame induction weekend in June, group attendance at a July Intercounty game in London, a fall Chapter meeting in London and support for the November Canadian Baseball History Conference.

In May, a Chapter meeting was held in Toronto. In addition to presentations on the 19th Century History Conference and on-going research on the statistical preponderance of Canadian left-handed hitters in major league baseball, discussion of the year plan and Toronto based activities were discussed. Subsequent to the meeting, a volunteer has come forward to lead an interest group in collectables. Formation of the interest group is ongoing.

The Chapter is energized and looking forward to planned activities for the balance of the calendar year.

— **Allen Tait**

Oklahoma Chapter (Tulsa, OK)

The chapter has met twice since the last annual report.

Tulsa, OK, Sunday, August 19, 2018 at the Tulsa City-County Library

Kevin Johnson conducted an in-depth Q&A session with Garrett Totty, a native Oklahoman who in 2018 played independent minor league baseball with the California City Whiptails of the Pecos League. Mr. Totty described life in the low minors and his experiences playing college baseball in the Oklahoma/Kansas region. He grew up a Tulsa Drillers fan and served as bat boy for that AA club. That experience led to his becoming the Drillers' bullpen catcher while still in high school. As such, he was able to establish continuing friendships with several players who passed through Tulsa.

Following the Q&A, Kal Zitterkob entertained the group with several anecdotes about early-day Oklahoma minor leaguers. Ken Fischer gave away several books as part of a trivia contest. Howard Johnson closed out the meeting with a presentation using statistics compiled from Retrosheet.com data sets to illustrate the transition of major league baseball from a game largely comprising base runner adventures ("small ball") to the homerun/strikeout domination of today's game.

Norman, OK, January 19th at Gaylord College on the University of Oklahoma campus.

Ardent baseball fan and Gaylord College Dean Ed Kelly welcomed the chapter members to the OU campus. Chapter President Howard Johnson then convened the meeting and turned the proceedings over to the day's moderator Ken Fischer. The program comprised four segments, separated by Fischer-provided trivia questions.

Card collector/OK-SABR member/OU student Jesse Asbury discussed the evolution of the baseball card from its 19th century origin to the present, showing examples and alluding to factors that enhance or detract from the monetary value on individual cards (demand, condition and availability being the central features). Jesse's slide presentation included examples of errors

and other anomalies in certain cards and other interesting tidbits.

OU student reporter Collin Kennedy showed an entertaining video reviewing his experiences while reporting from the 2018 College World Series.

Historian Jake Cromwell paid tribute to two recently deceased personal friends from the Tulsa-area baseball community, former Negro League player Porter Reed and country-music legend Roy Clark, whose investment in the Tulsa Driller franchise was instrumental in saving minor league baseball in northeastern Oklahoma.

A panel of Glenn Leshner, a former front office official of the (pre-movie) Durham Bulls, Oklahoma City Dodgers Communications Coordinator Lisa Johnson, former Oklahoma City Redhawks play-by-play announcer and occasional official scorer Jim Byers, and SABR-OK member and Seamheads.com contributor Kevin Johnson discussed various aspects of the off-field world of minor league baseball.

SABR-OK's will next meet sometime in August, somewhere in the Tulsa area. We thank all our presenters, as well as the attendees, some of whom traveled considerable distance in cold and very windy conditions to get to Norman.

Through the efforts of regular Seamheads.com contributor and SABR-OK member Kevin Johnson, research on historical Pitcher-Catcher relationships conducted by SABR-OK member Howard Johnson has been published on the [popular website](#).

— **Howard Johnson**