

KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

May 2022 In This Issue:

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Upcoming Events:

Keltner Virtual Chapter Meeting

Author **Tom Alesia**

Thursday, May 26 @ 7 PM CDT

Register in Advance [Here](#)



Madison Mallards

Saturday, June 25

Contact [Dennis](#) if interested



Keltner Virtual Book Club

Author **Craig Calcaterra**

Wednesday, July 6 @ 7 PM CDT

Register [here](#)



Beloit Sky Carp Game

with Halsey Hall Chapter

Saturday, August 13

Info: contact [Stew Thornley](#)



SABR Annual Convention

SABR 50

August 17-21, 2022

Learn More [Here](#)

Direct questions or comments to:

Dennis D. Degenhardt

bovine9@icloud.com,

262-339-9968

**Welcome New Members: Ralph Deptolla - Cedarburg,
Justin Held - Milwaukee, and Scott Flynn - Cudahy**

Upcoming Events

Keltner Virtual Chapter Meeting

Thursday, May 26 @ 7 PM CDT

Author **Tom Alesia**

Beauty at Short, Dave Bancroft the Most Unlikely Hall of Famer and His Wild Times in Baseball's First Century

Tom Alesia of Madison has a new book on Hall of Famer Dave Bancroft, who died in Superior after living in the Northern Wisconsin city for 60 years, titled *Beauty at Short, Dave Bancroft the Most Unlikely Hall of Famer and His Wild Times in Baseball's First Century*. The undersized Iowan signed his first minor league contract at age 17 but

lasted only 3 weeks and the next team also released him but his persistence paid off with a career topped off with enshrinement in the Hall of Fame. Along the way, his aggressive play changed the shortstop position, holding the longest-standing season record for fielding chances by a shortstop. He earned the nickname Beauty. His eighth grade team included a black player but he wouldn't have another black teammate until 1959, at age 68, when Jackie Robinson was his keystone corner mate in an old-timer's game.

Everyone attending the meeting will be eligible for a drawing to win a copy of Tom's new book.

Register in advance for the meeting [here](#). SABR will email you the Zoom login information.



Keltner Hot Corner Archives

You can now view or download past copies of the Keltner Hot Corner at: [Ken Keltner Badger State Newsletters](#)

Use of Links

Links in the *Keltner Hot Corner* are used to enhance the articles with the majority going to players SABR [BioProject](#) and [baseball-reference.com](#) as well as other sites.

Who is Ken Keltner? See his SABR [Biography](#).

LIVE Meeting April 30

The Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter did something it hasn't done in over 26 months, held a live meeting; no need to mute your mic or be careful of what you are or are not wearing. We met at our old stomping grounds, J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar & Grill on 53rd and Bluemound. During the past two years, J&Bs did a great job remodeling the back room with new bath rooms, new bar, flooring and less. Less? The bowling alleys are gone. It's a better place for us to meet.



Our guest included Josh Maurer, the new Brewers road announcer. He related how growing up in Philadelphia, at age 12, that he wanted to do radio play-by-play like his idol Harry Kalas. He got to work with his hero filling in for a short time. Josh started broadcasting in



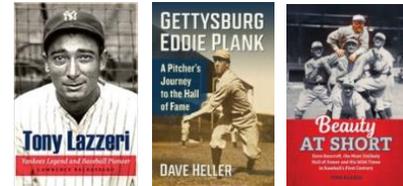
2003 in independent baseball. Moving to the minor leagues he spent 16 years in the minors working mostly for two organizations, the Yankees and Red Sox working his way up to Triple A Pawtucket Red Sox. In his first year at Pawtucket, he worked with Jeff Levering who left to work for the Brewers. He was one of the few people he knew when he came to Milwaukee. He also spent 19 years broadcasting college sports but knew that his true love was baseball.

He spoke about his moment of doubt considering leaving the broadcast booth for another career feeling stuck in Triple A. Maurer was going to give it one more year when COVID hit stopping the 2020 season. The good news is the Sox kept him on the payroll. The bad news is Pawtucket turned the outfield into a restaurant and he became a waiter. But it showed Josh how much he would miss baseball and luckily for us, he decided to remain in the game; the rest is history.

He also talked about the Brewers hiring process which was not like most teams looking for a "name" but someone who would fit. As most of us know, part of interviewing includes breakfast with Bob Uecker. Josh said it was amazing since has known about Ueck his entire life. He figured even if he didn't get hired it was worth the time with the legend.

Answering questions and talking baseball, the members were very impressed with Josh. He's a great guy and an excellent fit for Milwaukee. He stuck around for lunch and talking baseball. One of the twins, liking Maurer, said he is going to listen to more radio games.

Speaking of lunch, Dennis sold raffle tickets for a chance to win one of the three books published by Keltner members in the last year. Also, Brewer items donated to Mary Shea where sold to raise funds to support the chapter.



Our second guest speaker was Brewer's batboy, Jake Oakland a senior at UWM majoring in Finance. Joining him was his girlfriend Erika, dad and grandparents who never attended a SABR event before, they enjoyed it. Jake is also Dennis's nephew.



Oakland talked about what batboys do. Regaling us with stories talking about how he keeps his head down and does his job yet he is part of the team. When Milwaukee clinched the playoffs, they were given champion's t-shirts and goggles for the celebration. The worst part of the job is cleaning the players shoes. Oakland explained it was harder this time of year with the roof closed because it keeps the moisture in requiring hard scrubbing to clean the footwear, especially the infielders. Also, they have some neat and expensive shoes.

Although he didn't name names Jake did say that Willy Adames is especially friendly although they are generally treated well. He appreciated the year end tips and the thank you the new guys received, an autographed copy of the Opening Day lineup card. He answered questions and impressed the members with his poise and obvious love of the game and his job.

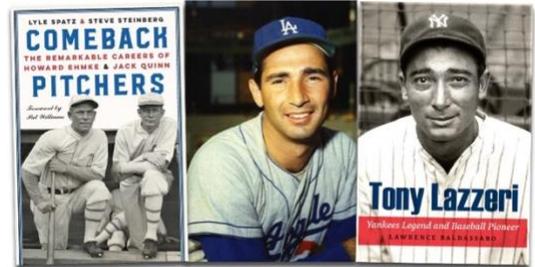
Congratulations Larry Baldassaro

Congratulations to Larry Baldassaro winner of the 2022 [SABR Baseball Research Award](#) for his excellent book, [Tony Lazzeri Yankee Legend and Baseball Pioneer](#). The long time Ken Keltner Chapter member and professor emeritus of Italian at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, was recognized for outstanding research projects completed during the preceding calendar year that have significantly expanded our knowledge or understanding of baseball.

Baldassaro, Chetwynd, Spatz, Steinberg win 2022 SABR Baseball Research Awards

The 2022 SABR Baseball Research Awards, have been awarded to:

- **Lawrence Baldassaro**, *Tony Lazzeri: Yankees Legend and Baseball Pioneer* (University of Nebraska Press)
- **Josh Chetwynd**, “Taking Your LUMPs: Major League Baseball’s History of Pitchers Failing to Retire a Single Batter in an Outing” (*NINE Journal*)
- **Lyle Spatz and Steve Steinberg**, *Comeback Pitchers: The Remarkable Careers of Howard Ehmke and Jack Quinn* (University of Nebraska Press)



The SABR Baseball Research Award is designed to honor projects that do not fit the criteria for the Seymour Medal or the McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award.

To see a complete list of SABR Baseball Research Award winners, [click here](#).



Interest in Madison Mallards game on June 25



It's been a number of years (10+?) since the chapter went to Madison for a Mallards game. And, we have added many new members in the middle of the state during that time. Since 2001, the Mallards have made going to a Northwoods game fun and interesting. I spoke with owner Steve Schmidt who is excited to have us come back to Madison and we could have a pregame “chapter meeting” with some Mallard’s officials talking about their organization. From Milwaukee, we could have some car pools (or elsewhere in the state as well).

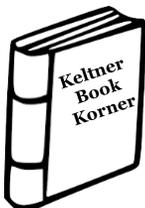
The key is having enough interest to do more than just attend the game but pregame activities as well. Please contact [Dennis](#) with your interest so we can have an idea of the number of members participating. Also, any ideas you may have for the day would be appreciated.



Keltner Book Club

Book Report by Mary Shea

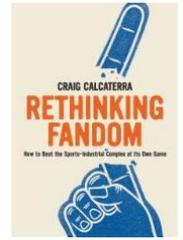
Rethinking Fandom: How to Beat the Sports-Industrial Complex at Its Own Game by Craig Calcaterra



My relationship with baseball? It's complicated. I was born into a Milwaukee Braves family that eventually rooted for the Brewers, but not as much. My mother and her family were big Yankees fans back in the day, but 27 World Championships are too much winning for me, so I became a diehard Cubs fan and remained one for decades. The memories and friendships associated with that fandom are held dear, and winning the World Series in 2016 was amazing. But I've developed into somewhat of a non-practicing Cubs fan, as the full-tilt, no-limit pursuit of income generation at every turn has left me feeling empty, and as my loyalty as a fan has been overexploited. However, the Cubs are not the aberration. I've witnessed worker exploitation from the MLB team that I work for, despite accruing over a billion dollars in net worth while benefiting from a taxpayer-funded stadium. Many

would be surprised that the Brewers have been willing to bus employees from Chicago and elsewhere to work concessions at the ballpark rather than increase poverty wages.

If you find yourself disenchanted with major sports, or you're just tired of the astronomical amount of money involved, I highly recommend [Rethinking Fandom: How to Beat the Sports-Industrial Complex at Its Own Game](#). Calcaterra lays out many examples of the misguided corporate greed and fan and taxpayer exploitation that are pervasive in major sports. But there's hope. He also suggests various strategies to fight back, or at least alter your fandom so that supporting a team can be enjoyed rather than endured, as it's supposed to be fun, right? And even if you're not a disgruntled fan, this book is extremely eye-opening. You'll enjoy the author's tremendous knowledge, wit, and humor, and you might even be inspired as you reconsider your relationship with sports.



Here's a [link](#) to Calcaterra's website with more info on the book.

We will have a **Keltner Virtual Book Club Meeting** with the author on **July 6th at 7:00 PM CDT**. The book can be ordered through Calcaterra's [website](#) (only \$14.95 plus shipping) or [Boswell Books](#).

You can register in advance for this meeting [here](#).

You can also check out this [podcast interview](#) with the author by Sara Sanchez, who was one of our fabulous SABR Day guests.

Please direct any Keltner Book Club questions or comments to [Mary Shea](#).

Happy reading, and enjoy the baseball season!

Mary



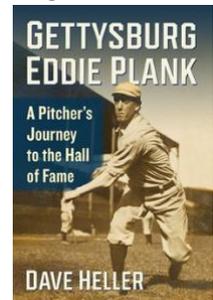
Dave Heller 2022 Larry Ritter Book Award Finalist

Each year, SABR's Deadball Era Committee presents the Larry Ritter Book Award to recognize the best new baseball book primarily set in the Deadball Era that was published in the previous calendar year.

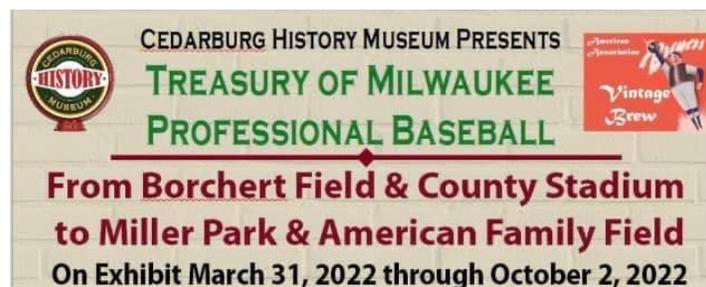
Included in the finalist is Keltner Chapter member Dave Heller for his excellent book on Eddie Plank. Congratulations Dave, we are pulling for you.

Here is the list of [Larry Ritter Book Award](#) finalists for 2022:

- *Gettysburg Eddie Plank: A Pitcher's Journey to the Hall of Fame*, by Dave Heller (McFarland & Co.)
- *Wahoo Sam Crawford: The King of Sluggers*, by Kent Krause (Kodar Publishing)
- *Barney Dreyfuss: Pittsburgh's Baseball Titan*, by Brian Martin (McFarland & Co.)
- *Comeback Pitchers: The Remarkable Careers of Howard Ehmke and Jack Quinn*, by Lyle Spatz and Steve Steinberg (University of Nebraska Press)
- *Double Plays and Double Crosses: The Black Sox and Baseball in 1920*, by Don Zminda (Rowman & Littlefield)



The winner will be announced in the coming weeks and honored at [SABR 50](#) this summer in Baltimore. For a list of past Ritter Award winners, click [here](#)



Get to Know...Tom Alesia

Most writers are thrilled to get a book published in their lifetime. Few have two books published in a six month period on subjects without anything in common other than both have entertainment at the nexus. One was an accumulation of a career's work and joy, the second about the game he loved.

A near 30 year resident of Madison, Tom Alesia is a career newspaper journalist as an entertainment writer. Much of his work was with the *Wisconsin State Journal* but he has also penned articles for major dailies in Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, St. Louis, San Diego, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh and Minneapolis plus *USA Today*. Alesia has been recognized for his work winning the Music Journalism Award as well as being a finalist for the same award. His work can be enjoyed on his website, www.TomWriteTurns.com with profiles of musicians of all sorts, actors and comics, some sports, concert reviews and even some short fiction.



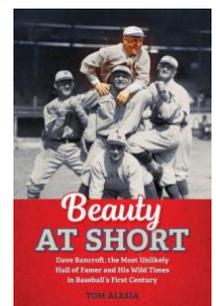
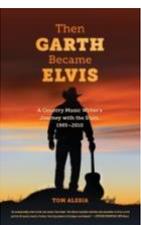
Alesia wasn't originally from Madison, growing up near O'Hare Airport in Mt. Prospect, Illinois before there were lights at Wrigley Field. His earliest baseball memories include attending a game at the Northside ballpark, he started going there when he was at five. Another early memory is Wausau's Athletic Park, another vintage ballpark he saw on a family vacation. By age 12, he and his same age friends went by themselves to many Cub games from 1979 to 1981.

But one of Alesia's highlights was attending Milt Pappas near perfect game with his family on [September, 2 1972](#). Pappas was one strike away from the tenth perfect game when he walked Padre pinch-hitter Larry Stahl after getting ahead in the count with two strikes and a ball. He wasn't happy with the home plate umpire, Milwaukee's Bruce Froemming, losing his cool and the perfect game, but he settled down and retired the next hitter preserving the no-hitter.

Like most boys of his generation, he played baseball. As a 12 year old, Alesia pitched in the championship game of the [Bob O'Farrell](#) Tournament in Waukegan. O'Farrell, a catcher with the Cardinals and the 1926 MVP award winner was in the press box, "watching me throw the most wild pitches that he'd ever seen." Although his baseball days were numbered, Alesia became a long distance runner and he is still a competitive runner at age 56. "I've finished 35 marathons, including five Boston Marathons (from 2010 to 2021)."

Continuing his education, he attended Indiana University majoring in journalism and history. "I was at Assembly Hall when Bob Knight threw the chair during a game." But his education went beyond the classroom. Alesia discovered a country radio station in Bloomington that was artist-friendly with many singer, songwriters visiting. Prior to this breakthrough, he had not been exposed to country-western but he continued exploring the music and began writing about the genre for the university newspaper. He did reviews and interviewed many of the acts that came to town with articles also appearing in newspapers and magazines. This was the start of his award winning entertainment writing career leading Tom to interviewing numerous country artist collecting nearly 1,000 stories that he wrote. He turned those interviews into a Larry Ritter like book of these country artists, [Then Garth Became Elvis: A Country Music Writer's Journey with the Stars, 1985-2010](#), published in November 2021.

Vacationing upnorth, as we say in Wisconsin in 2011, Tom searched the internet for anything interesting in the northwest part of the state when he discovered that Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Bancroft was buried there. So, his family agreed to visit the cemetery to see if they could find the grave site. The hard to find plot, with a plain marker next to his wife Edna, only listed dates of birth and death plus "husband." Nothing about baseball or the Hall of Fame. As he wrote in the Preface to his second book published in six months (March 2022), [Beauty at Short, Dave Bancroft the Most Unlikely Hall of Famer and His Wild Times in Baseball's First Century](#) "That piqued my curiosity. Who



was Dave Bancroft? And, ahem, what was he doing alongside the sport's greatest in Cooperstown?" From there it became a "labor of love" as he researched Bancroft's interesting life and career. Bancroft, who earned the nickname "Beauty, changed how shortstop was played with his aggressive style, holding the longest standing season record for fielding chances by a shortstop. Plus, so much more. Although born in Iowa, the Hall of Famer spent the last 60 years of his life in Superior, WI.

For Alesia, if he could have a "time machine moment" and go back in time, he would want to visit Dave Bancroft in 1922, the year he set the single-season fielding chances by a shortstop and his Giants second consecutive World Series championship over the cross-town rival Yankees. Also 1971 when he was elected to the Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee.

When and why did Tom join SABR? "I joined too late. SABR materials were pivotal to writing my biography of Dave Bancroft."

Tom and his wife, Susan, have one son, Mark. His father-in-law, Bob Frisk, was the sports editor at the suburban *Chicago Daily Herald* for more than 50 years. What writing stories do they have to share?



Beloit Sky Carp Game

ABC Supply Stadium
217 Shirland Ave, Beloit
Saturday, August 13 @ 6:35



The Halsey Hall Chapter (Minnesota) has invited members of the Keltner Chapter to join them at the Beloit Sky Carp ballgame on Saturday, August 13 in Beloit to watch fellow MN SABR member, Emma Charlesworth-Seiler umpire the game. Emma is the seventh or eighth woman to umpire in the minor leagues. They are looking at meeting with Emma over lunch and having a program at the ballpark.

Stew purchased 25 tickets. You can get them by sending a check for \$11 for each ticket to him at: **Stew Thornley, 1082 Lovell Ave, Roseville, MN 55113-4419**

You can also transfer Stew money via PayPal at stew@stewthornley.net.

For questions or getting a ticket, contact [Stew Thornley](#) of the Halsey Hall Chapter.



What's Happening with the DockHounds in Oconomowoc?

The opener for the [Lake Country DockHounds](#) is about two weeks away with the home opener of their inaugural season on May 20 versus the Winnipeg Goldeyes. See the [Schedule](#) for their entire season's games.

The Dog Pound [roster](#) has 26 players; 13 pitchers, six infielders, five outfielders and two catchers. Five members of the squad hale from Wisconsin; [Alex McRae](#), RHP from West Allis; [Evan Kruczynski](#), LHP from Franklin; [Cyrillo Watson](#), RHP from Cudahy; [Brady Kais](#), LHP from Milwaukee; [Connor Bagnieski](#), 2B from Milwaukee.

The Home Opener has only a handful of Bret's Backyard lawn seats available. It will be a full house! We will have 100 seasonal employees and 34 interns helping out this summer.



All the final touches are happening at the stadium. The site will really transform over the next 10 days.

[Trish Raspberry](#), General Manager
Lake Country DockHounds

Up Pg 1

Schabowski's Super Stumpers

By [Rick Schabowski](#)

May Trivia

1. Who is the only MLB player to have 3,000 hits, 500 home runs and a triple crown?
2. Which MLB team holds the record for the most error-less games to start the regular season?
3. Combined no-hitters have been happening regularly with pitch counts being watched closely. What year did the first one happen and who was the HOF player that got ejected after arguing with the umpire after walking the lead-off batter?
4. In Prince Fielder's rookie season of 2006, when he belted his 18th round tripper, which Brewers player did he surpass for home runs as a rookie?
5. Who had the first pinch-hit home run in Milwaukee Brewers history? Hint: He was also the last batter in Seattle Pilots history on October 2, 1969.



I did not have my usual, one; shockingly, I met this month's goal of two; going for three next month - gulp! Let [Rick](#) and/or [Dennis](#). know how you did on the trivia

Member's Stump the Stumper Question

Dave Klement submitted the following question to Rick and he stumped the stumper.

When was the last time a major league recorded more triples than home runs?

See [trivia answers](#) for the reply.

Do you have a baseball trivia question to stump the stumper like Dave did? If so, send it to [Rick](#) to see if you can stump him and he'll include it in a future *Keltner Hot Corner* giving you credit - bragging rights - for your stumper.



Trivia Answers are [here](#).

The Keltner Hot Corner Want's You

Do you have an article or topic you would like to publish in the newsletter? If so, that's great. Please contact [Dennis](#).



EMIL ROTHE CHICAGO CHAPTER

MARCH-APRIL 2022 • VOLUME 13 • EDITION 2

RICH HANSEN, CHAIR - RICHARD SMILEY, VICE CHAIR
DAVID MALAMUT, SECRETARY - PETER YEE, TREASURER - BILL PEARCH, NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Above: On Saturday, February 19, 2022, Chicago's Emil Rothe chapter hosted a virtual SABR Day with the Ken Keltner chapter. We had a lively discussion with *It's Borders*, Jasmine Dunston and Sara Sanchez. If you were not able to attend the live session, click the link above to watch the video.

CLICK TO WATCH THE VIDEO

GREEN'S GAMBLE: THE SANDBERG TRADE

BY: BILL PEARCH

On October 15, 1981, Chicago Cubs Board Chairman Andy McKenna introduced Dallas Green as the team's new executive vice president and general manager. Green, who managed the Philadelphia Phillies to a World Series championship in 1980, was adamant about his plan to transform the Cubs into perennial contenders.

"The Cubs have not been successful," Green said at the time, "and somebody besides the players has to take responsibility for that." He added, "Three agents are something we live with in this era of baseball, but I don't believe in buying a team."

He rolled the dice and acquired a new franchise in Cooperstown, who became the franchise's first general manager.

Open Chicago Newsletter

Schabowski's Super Stumpers

April Answers:

1. Miguel Cabrera.
2. San Diego Padres 2022-16 games.
3. June 23, 1917: Babe Ruth. Ernie Shore came in and the batter that Ruth faced, Ray Morgan, got caught stealing, Shore retired the next 26 batters he faced.
4. Greg Vaughn:1990
5. Jerry McNertney

Stump the Stumber from Dave Klement:

In 1931 the National League recorded 532 triples and 493 home runs. That surprised me because there was an offensive explosion around 1930 when batting averages and ERAs were high.

[Return to Trivia Questions](#)

[Up Pg 1](#)