

Society of American Baseball Research



Emil Rothe Chapter - Chicago

Chair, Rich Hansen
Director, Richard Smiley
Treasurer, Peter Yee
Newsletter, David Malamut

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National Chapter Website <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms,c,1058,9,0>
Member Chapter Website <http://malamut.net/sabrchicago.html>

May 17th, 2008 —(Upcoming Meeting)

Combined Chicago (Emil Rothe) and
Milwaukee (Ken Keltner)

Pohlman Field, Beloit, Wisconsin

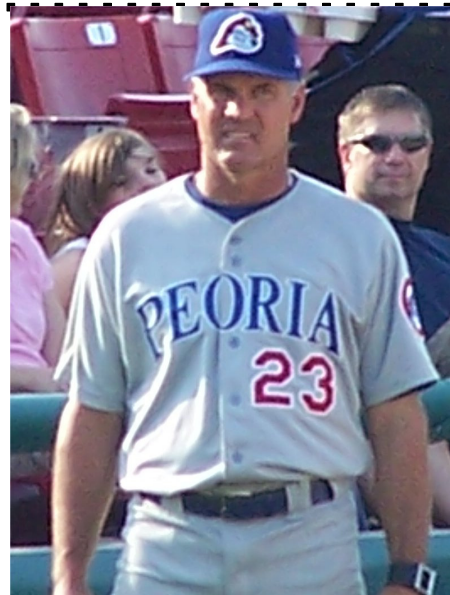
Peoria Chiefs (Chicago Cubs) vs
Beloit Snappers (Minnesota Twins)
Game Time 6:30 Meeting Time 4pm

Tickets-Box Seats are 6 dollars, for more info
contact David Malamut david@malamut.net
The deadline for tickets is April 1st, 2008,
David will mail the tickets out in Mid April

The manager of Peoria will be Ryne Sandberg for the second year in a row.

Speakers

Beloit General Manager Jeff Vohs, Director of Media and Community Relations/
Marketing Erik VanDyck, Player/Coach This Is In the Class A Midwest League



The Chicago Chapter newsletter is always looking for researched articles to publish, if you are interested please email David Malamut.

Also for an upcoming newsletter we need people who remember Emil Rothe to write about their experiences with him, and about him. We are looking for stories and biographies

Remember this newsletter is for you, We also will publish research needs, so if anyone is researching something and needs help please email David and it will be in an upcoming newsletter. The deadline for the May newsletter is May 17th, 2008

David Malamut david@malamut.net

Last Meeting:

Society of American Baseball Researchers (SABR) Chicago Chapter
February 16th, 2008 meeting
Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago

1:08 meeting start by Rich Hanson, 13 people

Rich Hanson introduction to the meeting and agenda.

David Malamut newsletter info and upcoming meeting info, and book drive. The Chicago Chapter is starting a baseball book drive to benefit the Chicago Public Library, for more info please contact David Malamut.

Barry Evans, update on the convention.

Eddie Bedford talk about the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference in Willowbrook, April 19TH, 2008 Minnie Minoso celebrated by Sox at Comisky.

Mark Fimoff's presentation on Roy G. Sanders from photo from Janet Miller, on slides, along with indentifying photos, and other baseball cards, and errors on photos.

Richard Smiley presented more info on SABR, then we had a Dave Zeman trivia quiz, Barry Evans and Peter Yee tied at 6 correct answers on the trivia contest.

The book drive, please send or give any lightly used baseball books to the Chicago Public Library. Help kids learn to read, and love baseball. For more info please email David Malamut david@malamut.net



Pictures from the meeting. From Left to Right:, Rich Hansen, The Irish-American Heritage Center, Eddie Bedford, David Malamut

Next Couple of Meetings:

Saturday, August 9th, 2008

Standard Bank Stadium, Windy City Thunderbolts
Crestwood, Illinois

1-4 pm
Speakers

Steve Tahsler (GM Windy City)
Dale Klein (Baseball Travels)

Saturday October 11, 2008

The Chicago SABR Chapter is planning to hold a meeting in the fall to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Cubs last World Series title in addition to celebrating the exciting 1908 Season. We plan on holding the meeting at a location on the West side of Chicago and finishing it off with a walk over to the nearby West Side Grounds site. The date chosen, Saturday October 11, falls on the 100th Anniversary of Game Two of the 1908 World Series which was played on the West Side Grounds. We anticipate having some exciting speakers for this meeting and will share more information on the program as it comes available. Please contact Richard Smiley at smileyr@georgetown.edu with any questions about or suggestions for this meeting.

Trivia Answers from the last newsletter:

- 1) John Smiley
- 2) Greg Luzinski
- 3) Danny Goodwin (White Sox), 1971; Harold Baines (White Sox), 1977; Shawon Dunston (Cubs), 1982
- 4) Phil Cavarretta and John Felske
- 5) Sherm Lollar
- 6) Albert Belle in 1998
- 7) Gary Redus
- 8) Stan Hack (1092) and Ron Santo (1071)
- 9) Bill Lee with nine in 1938
- 10) Dutch McCall



The 2008 SABR Convention is in Cleveland.

Clear out your calendar for June 26 to 29, 2008, and make plans to come to Cleveland, Ohio, for the SABR Annual Convention.

When we last met in Cleveland in 1990, both Cleveland and SABR were very different. Cleveland now has Progressive Field (formerly Jacobs Field), a new wing for its amazing public library, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a Sports Archives featuring the SABR Archives and the Frank Phelps Collection at Western Reserve Historical Society, and the Great Lakes Science Center.

The host Jack Graney Chapter is planning a wonderful program for the convention and hopes that you will attend.

The Cleveland Indians are a proud supporter of SABR and the 2008 Annual Convention.

The Renaissance Cleveland Hotel, located on Cleveland's Public Square and extremely convenient to and from the airport, Jacobs Field, and other attractions, is the host hotel for SABR 38. The room rate is \$119/night plus tax for a single or double (plus tax, currently 15%).

To make your hotel reservation, please call 1-800-HOTELS-1 and mention that you are making reservations for the Society for American Baseball Research annual convention.

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May 2008 Trivia Quiz by Dave Zeman:

The 1958 Season

- 1) What pitcher who won just 38 games over an eight-year major league career topped the National League with four shutouts as a rookie for the Milwaukee Braves?
- 2) Besides Ernie Banks, what four Cubs hit at least 20 home runs?
- 3) Name the only player be on both the Cubs and White Sox in '58. (He spent some of the season on Cincinnati between his Chicago stints.)
- 4) Who were the opposing pitchers for the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Francisco Giants in the first major league game on the West Coast?
- 5) What pitcher whiffed 225 batters, becoming the first National Leaguer since 1941 to top 200?
- 6) What stadium hosted the All Star Game for the only time in its existence?
- 7) On May 13, Stan Musial collected his 3,000th hit. Off what pitcher did he hit a double?
- 8) What two Hall-of-Famers tossed the major league's only no-hitters of the season?
- 9) On June 27, Billy Pierce just missed throwing a perfect game. What batter – who would be American League Rookie of the Year this season – struck out to end Pierce's one-hitter?
- 10) While nobody was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1958 who was the only future inductee to be born that year?

SABR News:

Sports Reference LLC, owners of baseball-reference.com, will use the contents of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) encyclopedia of baseball as the core data of its highly regarded website.

Sean Forman, President of Sports Reference, said “SABR’s data sets represent the gold standard for baseball player biographic information and historical player performance stats. Its research committees have developed a terrific amount of ancillary data. Sports Reference is pleased to strike an agreement that will allow us to bring this information to the general public.”

The collaboration between SABR, Sports Reference, and 24-7 Baseball means that baseball fans will find that the foremost online sources of historical baseball information will agree with The Baseball Encyclopedia for the first time ever.

The SABR online encyclopedia is presently available only to members. It does not have the extensive search capabilities that baseball-reference.com offers. It is, though, the only place on the web where Pete Palmer’s historical player records are available, the only place the SABR Biographic committee database of player demographic information is available, and it is the only source for the Home Run Log, which has extensive information about every home run hit in major league history. Several other data sets, such as the Scouts database identifying who signed various players and the Pictorial History database identifying locations of photos of players and teams, are integrated into the online encyclopedia and most will be licensed to Sports Reference as well.

“Licensing the material in the SABR baseball encyclopedia only became possible after SABR reached agreement with Pete Palmer and Gary Gillette in 2006,” noted SABR Executive Director John Zajc. “That made it possible to finally unify the source databases individuals and committees have been working on for generations.”

The history of baseball statistics, which as many SABR members know were not always carefully compiled or maintained, and which are influenced by rule changes over time, has led to a situation where there is no recognized definitive source for this information. Over the past two decades SABR members have had a hand in proving that the statistical record is often in error, which has led to changes. Those changes include the total hits credited to Ty Cobb and the RBI’s credited to Hack Wilson in his record-setting 1930 season. By working to bring together the key data sets regarded by the baseball community as best-of-class, SABR seeks to create such a source and serve as the central clearinghouse for future updates.

Gary Gillette, co-editor of the ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia with Palmer and head of 24-7 Baseball, L.L.C., a sports information distribution firm in Detroit, observed “With the Society acting as the long term storekeeper of this critically important data, the research community’s effort to develop a mechanism for agreeing on changes to historic player data will gain traction. SABR’s proven ability to sustain long term committee-based research projects was a key factor in our working agreement with them.”

Continued from page 5:

Gillette also chairs the Union Project, a group of representatives from key organizations that collect and publish baseball data. The project is attempting to establish a consensus on how to evaluate historical research with regard to when changes should be made to baseball records.

“SABR is the natural forum for this work,” said Dick Beverage, who chairs the society’s board of directors. “We are a non-profit organization, 7,000-members strong that is committed to preserving an accurate history of baseball. We are, in effect, owned and operated by the very people who care most about this information being both correct and available, and we have no commercial axe to grind.”

SABR recently concluded an agreement with XML Team to develop an open-source version of its online encyclopedia for its members and to market the information to new media providers. Its Minor League committee is currently compiling an online encyclopedia of minor league playing statistics and this material will be made available as well.

“Our future course is clear,” said Zajc. “We have a licensable encyclopedia for commercial use and we will be making the data available to the researchers’ private noncommercial use at little or no cost. We will support the Union Project and implement its work. We will also continue to encourage both individual and collective research projects. The future of the baseball encyclopedia is a bright one.”

SABR's Baseball Biography Project has as its mission to research and write journal-length biographies of every player or otherwise significant figure in baseball history. As part of that effort, several projects have been formed to focus on a particular team or region. Bill Nowlin, as a Vice Chair of the Bioproject Committee, is the chief contact. The following list shows the status of each of these efforts, ordered roughly by how far along they are.

1975 Red Sox. Book published in November 2005 as *'75: The Red Sox Team That Saved Baseball* (Rounder Books). Edited by Bill Nowlin and Cecilia Tan.

1967 Red Sox. Book published in March 2007 as *The 1967 Impossible Dream Red Sox: Pandemonium on the Field* (Rounder Books). Edited by Bill Nowlin and Dan Desrochers.

1968 Tigers. Book to be published in April 2008 as *Sock It to 'Em Tigers: The Incredible Story of the 1968 Detroit Tigers* (Maple Street Press). Edited by Mark Pattison and Dave Raglin.

1918 Red Sox. Book to be published in spring 2008 as *When Boston Still Had the Babe: The 1918 World Series Champion Red Sox* (Rounder Books). Edited by Bill Nowlin. Associate editors Mark Armour, Len Levin, Allan Wood

1948 Boston Braves / 1948 Boston Red Sox. Book to be published as *Spahn, Sain, and Teddy Ballgame: Boston's (Almost) Perfect Baseball Summer of 1948*. Edited by Bill Nowlin. Associate editors Mark Armour, Bob Brady, Len Levin, Saul Wisnia.

1969 Mets. Book to be published in spring 2009 (Maple Street Press). Edited by Ken Samelson and Matt Silverman. All but about six biographies have been assigned, and some pieces have been completed.

1959 White Sox. Coordinated by Don Zminda and R. J. Lesch. Of 54 total biographies, all but three have already been assigned. No publisher has been found yet.

Minnesota. Book to be published in spring 2009 as *Minnesotans in Baseball: Players and Personalities from the Gopher State* (Nodin Press). Edited by Stew Thornley. This is a collection of biographies of 40 or so Minnesotans who played baseball.

1984 Tigers. Led by Mark Pattison and Dave Raglin. Seven of the players on this team have yet to be assigned to biographers. All others—including all other 1984 roster members, the manager, coaches, general manager, owner, and broadcasters—have been assigned. Fifteen non-biographical essays or stat charts have been spoken for, with room for more according to participants' imagination.

1939 Red Sox. Edited by Bill Nowlin. Publication anticipated in spring 2009. All biographies are underway.

1961 Angels. Project in the works, coordinated by Stephen Roney. Approximately 50 bios targeted, of which 14 are currently assigned.

Red Sox Stars of the 1950s. Edited by Mark Armour and Bill Nowlin. Most of the biographies are underway. Possible publication in 2010.

All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. A collaborative effort between SABR and the AAGPBL. More than a dozen biographies are currently in the works.

1964 St. Louis Cardinals. Edited by John Stahl. Publication in 2012.

Rhode Island. Under the general leadership of Ray Birch, a collection of biographies, underway.

Connecticut. A collection of biographies conceived (and perhaps underway) through the Smoky Joe Wood chapter.

1947 Brooklyn Dodgers. Under the direction of Lyle Spatz, about half the biographies have been assigned.

1960 Pirates. Discussions underway.

1961 Yankees. Discussions underway.

To read the 500+ completed biographies in the Biography Project, head to <http://bioproj.sabr.org>.

Research Needs:

Information on the promotion/advertising/signage of beer at major league ballparks from 1940 to 1970 with particular interest in the following brands: Ballantine, Schaefer, Hudepohl, Hamm's, Carling Black Label, Narragansett, National Beer, and Goebel. Particularly interested in details about signs and any unusual promotions by beer makers. For mail contact, write to: Mark Noon, PO Box 1312, Conyngham, PA, 18219-1312

Brian Cooper, a SABR member in Iowa and author of "Red Faber: A Biography of the Hall of Fame Spitball Pitcher" (McFarland, 2007), is researching and writing a full biography of Hall of Fame catcher Ray Schalk (White Sox, 1912-28). He would like to make contact with acquaintances or relatives of Schalk, or inspect articles or documents concerning Schalk, especially from his later years.

Brian Cooper
3462 Crestwood Drive
Dubuque, IA 52002-5117
Home: (563) 588-3658
Work: (563) 588-5662
E-mail: briancooper78@hotmail.com

We are compiling a list of baseball parks built or renovated by the WPA (Works Progress Administration). This organization functioned approximately from 1935-1944. Many of these stadiums also had plaques affixed to them verifying the work of the WPA. If you know of any WPA stadia in your area please let me know. If you responded to this request previously through the Minor League Committee you need NOT resubmit. Thank you for your interest and aid All the Best John Schlepfi

I am collecting information on Fred Merkle, this being the 100th year of his infamous mis-play. I would appreciate clues as to where to locate more obscure references to Fred. I am particularly interested in Fred's peer's view of Fred (like those in Ritter's "Glory of Their Times") and Old Timer's Day 1950 at the Polo Grounds. Thanks in advance! PS Spring training is only weeks away! Mike mpiazzi@twcnny.rr.com

The Halsey Hall Chapter (Minneapolis) is looking for information on John Donaldson who played in the Chicago City League from 1935-1938. They are looking for help with his Chicago seasons, with looking in the paper for stuff about him.

For more info, please contact Pete Gorton, Halsey Hall chapter member at pwgortonmb@hotmail.com

I am a postgraduate student in England, and I am currently investigating a primary source relating to the completion and opening of the Chicago White Stockings West Side Park I in 1885 (the article itself comes from the Chicago Tribune, 31 March 1885). I was wondering if you may be able to tell me if there is an estimated/ known figure for the average attendance at the games of the White Stockings for this first year at the ground dletcher@chicagobaseballmuseum.org

Chicago Area Baseball Calendar:

March 31st

Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland Indians

April 3rd

Kane County Cougars at Beloit Snappers

May 15th

Fargo-Moorehead at Schaumburg

May 23rd

Winnepeg at Joliet

May 27th

Evansville at Windy City

July 25-27,

Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference
Holiday Inn in Willowbrook

August 9th,

SABR Chicago Meeting
Presenting-Dale & LuAnn Klein "Baseball Travels"

October 11th,

SABR Chicago Meeting
