

SAN DIEGO TED WILLIAMS SABR CHAPTER

<http://sandiego.sabr.org>

December 1, 2005 e-NEWS, Issue No. 27

- **Winter Regional Meeting Scheduled for **Saturday, February 5, 2006**...**
Program: "Up for Grabs!"
2 Additional Regional Meetings to be Scheduled in 2006: Spring and Summer
- **Recap of Summer 2005 Regional Meeting**
- **Nathan Hicks Wins Kavanagh Award**
- **Chapter Steering Committee Changes**
- **Wanted: Baseball Research!**
- **Baseball Research Center (BRC) at Central Library Continues to Expand**

WANTED: Web Master

We need someone to help us maintain our Chapter's web site. If interested, then please contact Tom Larwin at Lar.11@cox.net or 619-287-6474.

WINTER REGIONAL MEETING:

"UP FOR GRABS"

Date: Your Steering Committee has decided to schedule three regional meetings in 2006, with the first one coming up the day before the Super Bowl, Saturday, February 5, 2006. We will also have a spring regional meeting and our traditional summer meeting. The dates have not yet been set for these subsequent meetings.

Time and location: The February 5th meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and take place in one of our normal central San Diego meeting locations. Details are still being worked out and you will receive further confirmation of the specific time and location within the next month.

Program: We will have a one-subject program that will focus on the movie "Up for Grabs"...

"Michael Wranovics' UP FOR GRABS might have been considered the next can't-miss mockumentary, except it's all REAL. This biting funny picture exposes the custody fight that erupted over Barry Bonds' record-setting 73rd home run ball. From the embattled litigants who wouldn't settle, to the impassioned eyewitnesses and their contradictory accounts, to the bemused reporters who covered the bizarre case, Wranovics presents a rich cast of characters who prove that truth is funnier than fiction.

With all the farcical qualities of This is Spinal Tap or Best in Show, UP FOR GRABS invites us to laugh, and sometimes cringe, at the outrageous behavior of two grown men chasing down an elusive pot of gold. Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Los Angeles Film Festival, UP FOR GRABS tells a tale of absurdity that will leave you muttering "only in America."

The movie is 90 minutes in length and we will follow it with a panel discussion that will invite discussion of various issues related to "the ball," such as:

- The legal definition of "possession" or, "when is a catch a catch"?
- How is the monetary value of the ball determined?
- How is the value influenced by the actual event as opposed to other subsequent events?
- How does the individual hitting the home run (e.g., Barry Bonds) affect value?
- Has the significance of the home run record been diminished given the subsequent controversy related to performance enhancing drugs?
- What makes two individual fans decide to resolve the ownership controversy through the courts?
- Is it all about money?

Within the next month we will have an update with more details on the panel that has been assembled for the discussion, along with location specifics. In the meantime, for further information on the movie you can also go to this web site:

<http://www.upforgrabsmovie.com/>

**SUMMER REGIONAL MEETING:
RECAP**

35 members and guests turned out for the August 20, 2005, meeting at San Diego State University (SDSU) that was followed by a Golden League (Independent) ballgame at Tony Gwynn Stadium.

The first part of the program centered around three outstanding authors and was held in SDSU's Athletic Administration's auditorium.

- **Andy Strasberg** led off the program and introduced Arnold Hano, author of numerous articles and several books, notably [A Day in the Bleachers](#), a story recently re-published about his day in the bleachers at the 1954 World Series where he saw Willie Mays make "the catch." Hano kept us in stitches with humorous and blunt talk about his baseball experiences.
- Next up, **Anna Newton** introduced **Jean Ardell** author of [Breaking into Baseball, Women and the National Pastime](#). This book was the result of significant research by Ardell into a subject not very well covered by SABR.
- Finally, meeting chair **Dan Boyle** introduced our own **Bill Swank** who recently contributed another publication to the history of baseball in San Diego, [Baseball in San Diego: From the Plaza to the Padres](#). Bill's stories began with the first recorded game in 1871 and continued through 1936 when the minor league Padres first started. Many of baseball's greatest names including Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Walter Johnson, Ty Cobb, Grover Cleveland Alexander, and Satchel Paige all played in San Diego.

For the 2nd part of the meeting we moved to SDSU's Tony Gwynn Stadium home to the Golden League's San Diego Surf Dawgs. Here **Jay Walker** emceed a "meet and greet" sessions with the managers of two Golden League teams playing that night: former major leaguers Terry Kennedy of the San Diego Surf Dawgs and Warren Cromartie of the Japan Samurai Bears. Both managers offered insight into their teams and personal feelings about the new league nearing (at the time) the conclusion of its first season. Ironically, Cromartie wasn't in uniform this night since he was working off a suspension for some on-field activities earlier in the month. Kennedy expressed positive comments about the new league and some of the advantages of being independent of a major league franchise.

The meeting ended with an extra inning win by San Diego as the Surf Dawgs beat the Sumarai Bears, 4-3, in 10 innings.

NATHAN HICKS WINS "JACK KAVANAGH MEMORIAL YOUTH BASEBALL AWARD"

Late summer our Chapter received this message from **Nathan Hicks**:

"I wanted to inform you that I was notified last week by Richard Hunt that I won the Jack Kavanagh Award. I wanted to thank you for forwarding my ".400 paper" to the awards committee. Had it not been for you I would have never been aware of this award and opportunity. Thanks again to you and Mr. Boynton for the scholarships the past two years. I enjoyed my first year at Cal Poly, and am looking forward to my future profession of designing sporting complexes."

We are happy for Nathan and also pleased that our Chapter's baseball research scholarship program achieved its objectives by helping boost Nathan's interest in baseball.

CHAPTER STEERING COMMITTEE CHANGES

We are pleased to announce that we have two Steering Committee members who have agreed to serve as officers: **Dan Boyle** is our new Vice President and **David Kinney** has assumed the role of Secretary.

On behalf of our Chapter members we express thanks to departing Committee members who voluntarily served our Chapter well over the years: **Kathy Larwin**, **Darren Munk**, and **Frank Myers**.

With these changes our Steering Committee members are:

Andy Aguinardo

Ron Andreassi, Treasurer

Dan Boyle, Vice President

Bob Boynton (Emeritus member)

Vic Cardell, Library/BRC Liaison

David Kinney, Secretary

Tom Larwin, President

Anna Newton

Andy Strasberg

Jay Walker

We are always interested in potential new Committee members and invite anyone who wants to learn more about the Committee's role or who wants to become more active to contact **Tom Larwin** at Lar.11@cox.net or 619-287-6474.

WANTED! BASEBALL “RESEARCH”

We know that the “R” in SABR stands for “Research.” That’s what we are all about even though we also know that the definition of baseball research takes many twists and turns, and may mean different things to different members. Our Ted Williams Chapter invites all kinds of research as long as it relates to baseball.

We are very interested in our members offering the results of their baseball research at our regional meetings. Statistics, personal stories, biographies, book summaries, histories can all fit the definition. They can be short reports of about 10 minutes in length, or they can be longer.

So, think about it and then contact Chapter Vice President **Dan Boyle** with any research ideas you have that could be part of one of our upcoming regional meetings. He can be reached at dboyle34@pacbell.net or (858) 259-6515.

BASEBALL RESEARCH CENTER (BRC) AT CENTRAL LIBRARY CONTINUES TO EXPAND

Arian Collins with the San Diego Central Library passed along this news release:

Thanks to a large donation of baseball books and periodicals, the City of San Diego Public Library is becoming a major league player for information about America's Favorite Pastime.

***Jonathan Fraser Light**, author of "The Cultural Encyclopedia of Baseball," recently donated more than 1,150 books and periodicals that focus on baseball. Significant additions include reference books, biographies of players and managers, team histories, juvenile literature, fiction, baseball humor, and books about the business of baseball.*

The San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center was begun in 2000 as a result of a partnership between the San Diego Public Library and the San Diego Ted Williams chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), which has been active locally since 1984. The Center's collection is held at the Central Library.

Mr. Light's contribution is the largest single donation the Baseball Research Center has yet received, and the fourth major contribution to the Center in the past year.

*Between September 2004 and March 2005, the Library received approximately 250 books from **Andy Strasberg**, steering committee member for the San Diego SABR chapter. Gifts contain mostly media guides for individual Major League Baseball teams from the 1970s to the present. In addition, in February and March 2005 the Library received 2004 and 2005 media guides for all Major League Baseball teams, as well as 40 copies of the 2005 Padres media guide for distribution throughout the San Diego Public Library system. Previous gifts from the Padres include copies of significant baseball games from the Padres' videotape archives. Earlier this year, the Library also received about 75 baseball books from **Joe Naiman**, co-author of "The Padres Encyclopedia."*

Below is a list of New Acquisitions in Central Library and Branches, July-September 2005, compiled by **Vic Cardell**, our Chapter's BRC Liaison with the Art, Music & Recreation Section. All holdings are at the Central Library only unless noted otherwise.

Adomites, Paul et al. *The Golden Age of Baseball*. Lincolnwood, Ill.: Publications International, 2003.
Call number: 796.35709/GOLDEN

Allen, Lee. *Kings of the Diamond: The Immortals in Baseball's Hall of Fame*. New York: Putnam, 1965.
Call number: R796.357/ALLEN

Allen, Maury. *Now Wait a Minute, Casey!* Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1965. Call number:
R796.35764/ALLEN

Aylesworth, Thomas G. and Benton Minks. *The Encyclopedia of Baseball Managers: 1901 to the Present Day*. New York: Crescent, 1990. Call number: R796.357/AYLESWORTH

Block, David. *Baseball Before We Knew It: A Search for the Roots of the Game*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. Call number: 796.35709/BLOCK

Boswell, Thomas. *Why Time Begins on Opening Day*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1984. Call number: R796.357/BOSWELL

Caillault, Jean-Pierre. *A Tale of Four Cities: Nineteenth Century Baseball's Most Exciting Season, 1889, in Contemporary Accounts*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2003. Call number: 796.357/CAILLAULT

Cheek, Tom. *Road to Glory*. Toronto ; Los Angeles: Willowdale, Ont., 1993. Call number: R796.35764/CHEEK

Dorward, Jane Finnan, ed. *Dominionball: Baseball above the 49th*. Cleveland, OH: SABR, 2005. Call number: R796.357/DOMINIONBALL

Eckhouse, Morris. *This Date in Pittsburgh Pirates History*. New York: Stein and Day, 1980. Call number: R796.35764/ECKHOUSE

Great Baseball Stories. Avenel, NJ: Crescent Books, 1994. Call number: 796.35709/GREAT

Hawkins, John C. *This Date in Baltimore Orioles & St. Louis Browns History*. New York : Stein and Day, 1983. Call number: R796.35764/HAWKINS

Humber, William. *Let's Play Ball: Inside the Perfect Game*. Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys, 1989. Call number: R796.357/HUMBER

Iooss, Walter. *Baseball*. New York: H.N. Abrams, 1984. Call number: R796.357/IOOSS

Johnson, Lloyd. *Baseball's Book of Firsts*. Philadelphia: Courage Books, 1999. Call number: R796.35709/JOHNSON

Johnson, Lloyd. *Baseball's Dream Teams: The Greatest Players Decade by Decade*. New York, N.Y.: Gallery Books, 1990. Call number: R796.35709/JOHNSON

Lehmann-Haupt, Christopher. *Me and DiMaggio: A Baseball Fan Goes in Search of His Gods*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986. Call number: R796.35709/LEHMAN

Leptich, John. *This Date in St. Louis Cardinals History*. New York: Stein and Day, 1983. Call number: R796.35764/LEPTICH

Luhrs, Victor. *The Great Baseball Mystery: The 1919 World Series*. South Brunswick, N.J.: A.S. Barnes, 1966. Call number: R796.35764/LUHRS

Mazzone, Leo. *Leo Mazzone's Tales from the Braves Mound*. Champaign, Ill.: Sports Pub., 2003. Call number: 796.35764/MAZZONE

McGough, Matthew. *Bat Boy: My True Life Adventures Coming of Age with the New York Yankees*. New York: Doubleday, 2005. Call number: B/MCGOUGH Branches only

Mercurio, John A. *A Chronology of Major League Baseball Records*. New York: Harper & Row, 1989. Call number: R796.35764/MERCURIO

National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Yearbook. Cooperstown, N.Y.: The Hall of Fame. Call number: R796.35764/NATIONAL Library has: 1984, 1986-1992, 1994-2000, 2002-2005.

Nemec, David and Saul Wisnia. *100 Years of Major League Baseball: American and National Leagues, 1901-2000*. Lincolnwood, IL: Publications International, 2000. Call number: 796.35764/NEMEC Branches only

Professional Baseball, the First 100 Years. New York: Proetz-Ross, 1969. Call number: R796.35709/PROFESSIONAL

Reidenbaugh, Lowell. *Cooperstown: Where the Legends Live Forever*. Rev. ed. New York: Gramercy Books, 2001. Call number: 796.357/REIDENBAUGH

Rice, Grantland. *The Tumult and the Shouting: My Life in Sport*. New York: Barnes, 1954. Call number: R B/RICE

Schlossberg, Dan. *The Baseball Catalog*. Updated ed. Middle Village, N.Y.: Jonathan David Publishers, 1983. Call number: R796.357/SCHLOSSBERG

Super Register. Durham, N.C.: Baseball America. Call number: R796.357/SUPER Library has: 2005

Swank, Bill. *Baseball in San Diego: From the Plaza to the Padres*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2005. Call number: 796.357097/SWANK

Thomson, Bobby. *The Giants Win the Pennant! The Giants Win the Pennant!* New York: Kensington Pub. Corp., 1991. Call number: R796.357/THOMSON

Titchener, Campbell B. *The George Kirksey Story: Bringing Major League Baseball to Houston*. Austin, Tex.: Eakin Press, 1989. Call number: R796.35764/TITCHENER

Torrez, Danielle Gagnon and Ken Lizotte. *High Inside: Memoirs of a Baseball Wife*. New York: Putnam, 1983. Call number: R B/TORREZ

Who's Who in Baseball. New York, N.Y.: Baseball Magazine Co. Call number: R796.357/WHO'S Library has: 1943, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954-57, 1959, 1960, 1962-65, 1967-75, 1979-82, 1994