

# THE CHRONICLE

BASE BALL PLAYER'S  
FALL 2022  
QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION

VBBA PRESIDENT'S CORNER FALL 2022

## FALL OF 2022 HAS QUICKLY PASSED AND THE CHILL OF THE WINTER HAS ARRIVED

Most cold weather clubs have held scheduling meetings or have independently worked on their 2023 schedules.



### VBBA Logo Trademarked

After more than three and a half years of working on it the Vintage Base Ball Association has successfully applied for and been granted trademark classification for the VBBA logo. "Your trademark for Vintage Base Ball Association has been officially registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office." Griffith Xidias Law Group, September 23, 2022

### Winter Vintage Base Ball

Vintage base ball is now being played in Florida and Arizona. Consider traveling to their warmer winter sites to play or watch a vintage base ball game.

#### FLORIDA VINTAGE BASE BALL CLUBS INCLUDE:

##### Awkwards Vintage Base Ball of Central Florida

- **Contact:** Bill Pollifrone,
- **Cell Phone:** 813-993-9749,
- **Website:** <https://www.facebook.com/VBBCF/>

##### Vagabonds Base Ball Club

- **Contact:** Kevin Doyle
- **Website:** <https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Myers-Vintage-Base-Ball-1335744179914750/>

##### Bradenton Shamrocks Vintage Base Ball Club

- **Contact:** Tim Pierce
- **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/BradentonShamrocksVBBNew2022Club>

#### ARIZONA VINTAGE BASE BALL CLUBS INCLUDE:

- **Bisbee Black Sox**
- **Higley Haymakers\***
- **Maricopa Maidens\***
- **Mesa Miners**
- **Peoria Smelters\***
- **Phoenix Senators**
- **Tucson Saguaro**
- **Yuma Aces\* New 2022 Clubs\***

Contact them at <https://arizonavintagebaseball.org/>

## VBBA DUES INCREASED AFTER 26 YEARS

For the past several months, the Board has solicited and received detailed financial reports on the VBBA's treasury and both figures for the last 10 years and projections for the years ahead. The bottom line is that without some change in dues, the organization will no longer be financially sustainable.

#### SO, WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING?

• **VBBA Conferences:** A big part of it comes from costs associated with the annual conferences and, in particular, two conferences in the past six or seven years that were in the red. Traditionally, the host club or clubs underwrites much of the cost. In these two cases, the clubs were unable to do so and the VBBA picked up the bill. There has also been discussion of ending the conferences, but the feeling is that these are an important educational opportunity for member clubs & individuals. VBBA YouTube [www.youtube.com/vbba307/playlists](http://www.youtube.com/vbba307/playlists) (Conferences 2014-2022, except 2015 & 2017)

• **Liability Insurance Policy:** A great service to most of the clubs who, unlike the Ground Squirrels and others who are not part of a historical society or park. In an effort to encourage new clubs and help them get on their feet, the organization offers a small amount to underwrite equipment and other costs as well as subsidized membership for the first year.

#### VBBA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The \$50 per year membership fee for clubs is the original one instituted when the VBBA was organized in 1996. The same is true for the \$10 individual membership and the \$35 associate club dues. As you can imagine, those fees do not "buy" what they did in 1996. The equivalent of \$50 in 1996 would be \$84 today.

Effective in January 2023 new fees for all three categories go into place:

- **Full Member Clubs: \$75 per year**  
**BUT teams can purchase two years' membership for \$125**
- **Associate Clubs: \$50**
- **Individual Membership: \$20**

As I noted, these figures were arrived at after much debate and consideration of members' financial challenges. The Board believes this fee schedule will keep the organization going.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME! – GARY THE PROFESSOR SCHIAPPACASSE  
PRESIDENT, VBBA

## VBBA Executive board and trustees

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**PRESIDENT**

**Evette**  
**Griffore-Jacobson**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**

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THE BASE BALL  
PLAYER'S CHRONICLE  
LAYOUT BY  
**KIDGARCIA.COM**



REMEMBER AS YOUR CLUB PLANS FOR THE FUTURE THAT THE VBBA IN ADDITION TO LIABILITY INSURANCE, OFFERS ITS MEMBER BALL CLUBS UP TO A 15% DISCOUNT ON SEVEN VENDOR'S PRODUCTS. THE MERCHANT CODE FOR VBBA MEMBERS IS VBBA1996. THEY INCLUDE:

**15% Discount**  
**Phoenix Bats:**  
[www.phoenixbats.com](http://www.phoenixbats.com)

**Stockbridge Sewing Works:**  
[www.stockbridgesewingworks.com](http://www.stockbridgesewingworks.com)

**K&P Weaver, LLC:**  
[www.baseballamericaspastime.com](http://www.baseballamericaspastime.com)

**19cbaseball:**  
[www.19cbaseball.com](http://www.19cbaseball.com)

**James Country Mercantile:**  
[www.jamescountry.com](http://www.jamescountry.com)

**Smacker Bats:**  
[www.smackerbats.com](http://www.smackerbats.com)

**Cooperstown Bats:**  
[www.cooperstownbats.com](http://www.cooperstownbats.com)

**James Country Mercantile:**  
[www.jamescountry.com](http://www.jamescountry.com)

**10% Discount**  
**K&P Weaver, LLC:**  
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**GET CONNECTED WITH THE VBBA**  
**[www.vbba.org](http://www.vbba.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/  
vintagebaseballassociation](http://www.facebook.com/vintagebaseballassociation)**

**[twitter.com/VBBA19C](https://twitter.com/VBBA19C)**

**[www.instagram.com/  
Vintage\\_Base\\_Ball\\_Assoc](http://www.instagram.com/Vintage_Base_Ball_Assoc)**



## VBBA MEMBERSHIP

# Join or Renew your membership in the VBBA

Membership in the Vintage Base Ball Association is open and available to clubs as well as to individuals who would like to support the organization. Memberships are vital to the organization's success.

### • FULL MEMBER CLUBS

**\$75/year or \$125/two years\*:**

full-fledged vintage club nines who play at least six games a year.

### • ASSOCIATE CLUBS

**\$50/year\*:**

vintage clubs who play less than six games/year

### • INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

**\$20/year\*:**

individual ballists, civilian interpreters,

	Full Member Clubs	Associate Member Clubs	Individual Membership
Base Ball Player's Chronicle newsletter	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to National Convention	✓	✓	✓
VBBA Directory Listing	✓	✓	
Voting Rights (2 votes)	✓		
<b>General Liability Insurance</b> The VBBA is covered whenever a local team plays. If, for example, a spectator gets hit by a stray ball and sues, the policy will respond to cover the national organization. If the local team has no money, but is recognized as a VBBA member club then litigant will go to where the money is, the VBBA.			
<b>***VBBA member clubs must contact the VBBA for VBBA certificates of insurance as required by specific venues and dates ***</b>			

Access to Base Ball Historical Archivists	✓	✓	✓
Access to Rule Interpretations for Reenactments	✓	✓	✓
Page with Team Picture, Schedule and Brief History	✓	✓	✓
Annual Membership	75	\$50	\$20
Paying online? Be sure to include your team name in the "Special Instructions."	Donate	Donate	Donate



# Vintage Base Ball Conference Update Dayton, Ohio, MARCH 31 TO APRIL 2

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Bob Kendrick, President Negro Leagues Museum

## PRESENTERS:

- Eric Laudenbacher, Umpiring,
- Rich Heinick, "History Isn't Always Pretty - Pennsylvania's Involvement in the Segregation of Base Ball in 1867",
- Bill Helm, Newspaper Editor, Lynden Tribune Connecting to the Media,
- Tracy Martin, "The History of Baseball Uniforms," Special Exhibition: Martin's Baseball Museum

## CONFERENCE HOTEL:

The Radisson Convention Center closed at the end of October the 2023 Conference will now be held at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton – Miamisburg

To get the \$119 room rate use the VBBA Home page link.

ALL COMERS MATCHES: Held at Dayton's Carillon Historical Park. [www.daytonhistory.org](http://www.daytonhistory.org)

## NEW VBBA CLUBS:

- Hutchinson Base Ball Club, Kansas, Steve Miller;
- Wahoo Base Ball Club of Royal Oak: Mark Woody Stewart;
- Champaign Clippers, Jed Willard;
- La De Dahs, Marcus Dickson;
- Camp Nelson Bulls, Nicholasville, Kentucky, Dakota Walker;
- Higley Haymakers, AZ
- Maricopa Maidens, AZ
- Peoria Smelters, AZ
- Yuma Aces, AZ

## 2023 CONFERENCE PRESENTATION GUIDE

Watch this page for more about the 2023 Presenters Line Up. <https://www.vbba.org/2023-presenters-guide/>



**Bob Kendrick,**  
2023 VBBA CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bob Kendrick was named President of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) in March 2011. Founded in 1990, the NLBM is the world's only museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of African-American baseball and its profound impact on the social advancement of America.

And while he doesn't fashion himself to be a historian, Kendrick has become one of the leading authorities on the topic of Negro Leagues Baseball history and its connection to issues relating to sports, race and diversity. He has been a contributing writer for "Ebony Magazine" and the national Urban League's "Opportunity Magazine."



**Richard "Grumpy" Heinick,**  
UMPIRE, KEYSTONE BASE BALL CLUB OF HARRISBURG  
"History Isn't Always Pretty - Pennsylvania's Involvement in the Segregation of Base Ball in 1867"

The role of the Keystone Base Ball Club of Harrisburg D.D. Domer, in 1867, of preventing the 267th applicant, the Pythian Base Ball Club of Philadelphia, a club comprised of African American players, from joining the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Base Ball Players. And the reputation of the NABBP in December of 1867 when at the national convention, a policy of excluding clubs with 1 or more African American players was adopted by NABBP.



**Bill Helm**  
"HOW TO CONNECT WITH THE MEDIA & COMMUNITIES"  
Tips and suggestions on how to tell newspapers, radio stations and television stations about your team and your games so even more people can take part in the phenomenon that is vintage base ball. Learn how and when to write short stories and briefs to get the word out about your team not only to expand participation but also to increase fandom. Learn how to develop relationships with sports editors and sports reporters.

Founder of the Whatcom Aces Vintage Base Ball team of the Pacific Northwest Vintage Base Ball Association, Bill Helm is editor of the Lynden Tribune and Ferndale Record newspapers in Whatcom County, Washington. Bill also is secretary of the VBBA and is responsible for writing content used in the VBBA's quarterly newsletter. Before he moved to Washington in May 2021, Bill played on and then captained the Fort Verde Excelsiors of the Arizona Vintage Base Ball League.



**Eric Laudenbacher**  
"THE ART OF UMPIRING AND MORE"  
THE HISTORY OF RULES, UMPIRING ETIQUETTE AND PROPER DRESS. THE UMPIRE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

- Red's Bio
- Began VBB in 1991 with the Ohio Village Muffins
  - Played for the Muffins through 1995
  - 1996 researched and designed baseball exhibit at the Greensboro History Museum as well as teaching Town Ball to students
  - 1997-2000 taught 1835 Town Ball to students at Duke Homestead Living History Museum
  - 1998 to current have traveled the country as a revolver playing for teams that were desperate for a player. (If you've seen me play, you would understand)
  - 2007 keynote speaker at the Salisbury Confederate Prison Symposium speaking on Base Ball during the Civil War.
  - 2007-2012 Player/Manager of the Greensboro Patriots and Carolina Moonshiners
  - 2012 invited to NC Governors Mansion and NC Sports Museum to represent Vintage Base Ball
  - Have played/umpired at 12 Ohio Cups
  - Have played/umpired in 16 states
  - Played/umpired in 12 Major/minor league stadiums
  - Since 2018 umpired VBB charity games at Durham Athletic Park
  - 2022 became umpire for Wytheville



**Tracy Martin**  
"THE HISTORY OF BASEBALL UNIFORMS"  
Tracy C. Martin is a baseball collector and historian. His love for history and baseball collided when he began playing vintage base ball for the "OHIO VILLAGE MUFFINS". With a vision of putting together a baseball collection that shows the evolution of equipment from the 1850's - 2000. He is the founder of the Baseball Collectors Hall of Fame, [Vintagebaseballcollector.com](http://Vintagebaseballcollector.com) a website set up to honor those who have a passion and knowledge to research and preserve artifacts of our national pastime.



**Special Exhibition:**  
TRACY MARTIN'S VINTAGE BASEBALL MUSEUM

Dedicated to preserving baseball, our national pastime through research, collecting, and displaying baseball memorabilia. I have been collecting since 1975 and my dream was to amass a timeline that would show the evolution of Baseball with equipment and memorabilia. Today my collection consist of over 2,000 items dating back to the 1850's.

# VBBA 2023 CONFERENCE

## DAYTON – MARCH 31 – APRIL 2, 2023



### **DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Dayton – Miamisburg**

Reservations are open! The room rate is \$119 for One king bed or Two double beds 2 room suites w/ sofa bed. Get your reservation in before March 15, 2023.

Guests are able to call 844-201-3472 and identify themselves with the “Vintage Base Ball Association” for the group rate.

### **Booking link for attendees:**

[https://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DETHSES-VBA-20220421/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](https://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DETHSES-VBA-20220421/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

### **The top things to do in Dayton:**

#### **America's Packard**

**Museum:** features more Packard automobiles than any other collection in the world.

[www.americaspackardmuseum.org](http://www.americaspackardmuseum.org)

**Oregon District:** Walk this historic downtown district full of stunning late-Victorian architecture. Galleries, boutiques, coffee shops, and restaurants abound, and the area hosts live events as well. [www.oregondistrict.org/](http://www.oregondistrict.org/)

#### **National Museum of the US**

**Air Force:** Boasting more than 360 airplanes. [www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil)

#### **Carillon Historical Park:**

65 acres of history: Explore 30 historic buildings, ride the Carousel of Dayton Innovation, and visit Carillon Brewing Company. [www.daytonhistory.org](http://www.daytonhistory.org)

#### **Cox Arboretum MetroPark:**

Discover Dayton's outdoorsy side at this 189-acre park, which features nature trails, a tree tower, a butterfly house, and a children's maze. [www.metroparks.org/places-to-go/cox-arboretum/](http://www.metroparks.org/places-to-go/cox-arboretum/)

**Dayton Art Institute:** Housed in an iconic historic building, this 27,000-piece collection includes Monet paintings, Chihuly glass sculptures, and ancient ceramics from the Mediterranean region. [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org)

**Boonshoft Museum of Discovery:** Zoo, Planetarium, Children's museum & science & technology center. <https://boonshoft.org/>

## WWW.VBBA.ORG





# Rules Interpretation of the 1825 “BASS-BALL” Game in Hamden, New York

BY COLLIN MILLER

On July 12, 1825, nine men from the newly formed Town of Hamden, New York issued a challenge in the next day's edition of the *Delhi Gazette* seeking a competitor for a “game of BASS-BALL.” It is unknown whether the men were able to find opponents and play the game as no further mention of it made it into the public record, but experts believe this may be the first evidence of money being offered for a baseball game. And this was 14 years before Doubleday was purported to have “invented” baseball in Cooperstown! The finding even garnered the attention of Ken Burns while he was making his famous documentary on baseball. So much so, that he flew over the Chace homestead where this game may have occurred.

Almost 200 years later, the Delhi Polecats (who play their home games at Crawford Field - another historic ballfield in Hamden) and the Mountain Athletic Club, two teams of the Delaware County Vintage Base Ball Association, sought to re-create a portion of the 1825 game in Lackawaxen, PA. But first, we had to figure out by what rules would the men have played in 1825? No one really knows because the first rules of pre-modern baseball were not written down until the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club arrived on the scene in New York City in 1845.

According to the sections on pre-modern baseball in *Strike Four: The Evolution of Baseball* by Richard Hershberger, 2019 and conversations with other baseball historians, here's what we think we know (and thus, how we staged this match):

- Two teams of equal numbers (more or less than nine) alternating between batting and fielding.
- One batter at a time attempting to hit a ball and run a circuit of bases (wooden stakes) to score points before being put out.
- Fielding team tries to prevent points by making a pre-determined number of outs...“One out – all out” was common but there may have also been games where every player bat until they were put out.
- Outs (or “hands lost”) can be made when a batted ball is caught by the fielder either on the fly, one bounce, and/or sometimes two bounces (aka a “bound out”) or by hitting the runner with the ball (aka “soaking”).
- Ball was hand sewn, slightly smaller and lighter. It was lobbed by the pitcher to the batter either overhand OR underhand with the sole purpose of enabling the batter to put the ball in play.
- The bat could be two-handled, round or flat and likely primitive in its design (little taper and smaller barrel)
- NO gloves.

## FIELD ARRANGEMENT

- Bases were wooden stakes arranged in the round more than at least 20 feet apart. You would not be smart as to overrun your base for fear of being put out by the baseman.
  - There was no foul territory...the object of the striker (batter) was to hit the ball as far from fielders as possible to avoid being put out.
  - There was no short fielder (aka “shortstop”).
- Other assumptions:
- The first team to score 21 points wins.
  - No umpires.
  - No balls/strikes were called.
  - No conventional uniforms.
  - No conventional feet first sliding...it would later come to be called “lying flat” or “falling down” to avoid a tag or being soaked



So how did it go and what did we learn? Here are a couple of highlights... No sooner did we start the game when the second batter up belted the only ball we had (a handmade replica from Corky Gaskell of the Rooster Base Ball Club in Rochester, MN) into the woods along the railroad track, stopping the game for ten minutes while we looked for the ball. When I emerged from the brush, ball in hand, I explained to the crowd that I thought the concept of a “home run” and a tally awarded to the batter may have come with much chagrin by the other players if the “round-tripper” resulted in loss of the only ball they had for the day. It is likely there was not a large stock of balls available the local leather-maker. Another fun thing for me was hitting the ball backwards over the catcher's head and making it to fourth base. Although we did not play until the first team reached 21 runs, we had a very good time connecting to the game of our Delaware County ancestral roots and will most certainly do it again, only next time in a larger field with no fences.



# PIONEERS OF VINTAGE BASE BALL

BY BOB SAMPSON, VBBA HISTORIAN

Vintage base ball has two histories. There is one rooted in the mid-19th century, traced and written by historians such as Peter Morris, John Thorn and others.

The second begins in the early 1980s at Old Beth Page Village on Long Island, NY, and Ohio Village in Columbus. The modern vintage game has been around long enough to deserve its own look.

Here is a start — a condensed version of a piece first appearing on Facebook.

## **Don “Big Bat” Andersen, Ohio Village Muffins**

A tree once grew in Brooklyn and became a bat. Not just a bat but “Big Bat,” and the possessor of the nickname, Don Andersen of the Ohio Village Muffins, is one of the best known and most influential players in the vintage game.

Early in life, Don became a Dodgers fan and earns envy, from me and others, for having sit not only in the lamented Polo Grounds but Ebbetts Field as well. And you can get a rise out of him by bringing up Bobby Thomson’s shot heard round the world. Years later, Don met Thomson “and let him know he made me cry.”

Fortunately for the vintage game, Don left Brooklyn, where he played stickball in the streets, moving to Columbus, Ohio in 1971. Tall and athletic, he played industrial league basketball and softball for many years. In 1986, Don was the manager of his church’s softball team when he received a request from a fellow church member who played for the Ohio Village Muffins, the team widely believed to be the instigator of the game in the Midwest. Don accepted his teammate’s request to schedule a game with the Muffins.

“As you know, it’s hard to say no when someone wants to play ball,” he recalls. However, what was a one-shot deal quickly mushroomed. “A couple of weeks later (the Muffins) invited us back to play again because Sports Illustrated was coming to Muffin Meadow to do an article about the team.”

Don and another early and legendary Muffin, “The Colonel” Nick Herold, had so much fun that they became volunteers in the Muffin program in 1987. And when the Muffins had a large turnover a few years later, Don was one of five, along with his two sons, “The Colonel,” and another player who remained with the team.

While Don is a remarkable player, his massive hands at first base are hit-killers, he spends as much time chatting up spectators as hitting and fielding. Due to failing knees, the 82-year-old rarely bats today but still pitches, fields, and umpires.

“First and foremost, we are a historical re-enactment group whose main purpose is to demonstrate how base ball was played and by who

back in the early 1860s,” he explains. “I like to interact with the fans by showing them the bats and balls, asking and answering questions about the game and its origins.”

While winning is nice, he adds, “I try to emphasize to new teammates that winning isn’t our main goal.”

His philosophy of pitching contains a bit of self-preservation as Don never occupies the center of the pitching line. “Outside, inside, suicide,” he insists.

The Muffin club is a family. A big part of that family comes from the Andersen household. Don’s two sons, Craig “Aces,” and Steve “Chuckwagon” have played for the club. Their mother and Don’s wife, Marilyn, has been a costumed interpreter at Ohio Village and frequently travels with Don to games and conferences.

With nearly 40 years in the game, he, not surprisingly, has several favorite moments.


“I have had my boyhood dreams of playing on a major league field come true four times, been featured on an award winning PBS special, had my picture on the front page of a Sunday supplement, participated in the 150th celebration of the first base ball game in Hoboken, New Jersey, and had a catch with my son on the Field of Dreams,” he recalls.

“But if I had to pick one it would be celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary with Marilyn, who was also on the field in costume, on April 4, 1994 on Opening Day at the then-Jacobs field.”

And about that “big bat.”

“This goes back to the game at Cooperstown when the Muffins played on Doubleday Field for the first time. I was the team captain that day and since the Cooperstown team all had nicknames, we had to come up with our own on the fly,” he says. “I chose ‘Big Bat’ because my bat was 37,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long. It really had nothing to do with my striking ability.”

More importantly, “Big Bat” is a great ambassador of the game, the kind of a player and man you don’t easily forget. He has influenced and helped many with timely advice and information. He is a pioneer of vintage base ball.



Members of the Higley Haymakers and Yuma Aces scrimmage recently in Arizona.

# Arizona vintage base ball league back to 8 teams

**BY BILL HELM**

VBBA SECRETARY

Eight years I lived in Arizona. Much of that time I played – then captained – the Fort Verde Excelsiors of the eight-team Arizona Vintage Base Ball League.

Almost a year-and-a-half ago my wife and I moved to Washington, where my attempts at growing the vintage base ball movement in the PNW have been slow at best.

However, my history in Arizona, the friends I have made and the vintage teams I have come across will always be a part of me.

As with everyone else, the COVID-19 pandemic forced a shutdown of vintage teams. The past several months, teams have begun playing ball again. Last year in Arizona, games were few and far between, with only three teams suiting up to play the league's November-to-April schedule.

According to Phoenix Senators captain Dave Marli, four of the league's eight teams from the pre-pandemic season of 2019-2020

“appear to be on life support at best.”

Those teams, the Tempe Tip-Tops, Bisbee Bees, Prescott Champions and Fort Verde Excelsiors are not active at this time.

Scott Shaw, captain and founder of the Mesa Miners, said that despite efforts “to get things with the league restarted, there just wasn't enough involvement from around the league to do anything structured or formal” a year ago. Eventually, he and Marli “started to coordinate games outside the league,” Shaw said.

“We took turns hosting games once a month, then began involving other captains from around the league,” Shaw said. “This past April, Bisbee was finally able to host a tournament and that helped get things restarted. The tournament was as awesome as its ever been. Colorado couldn't make it, but an all star team from California could.”

With four newcomers: Higley Haymakers, Yuma Aces, Peoria Smelters, and the all-female Maricopa Maidens, the Arizona league again has eight teams. They join the Mesa Miners, Bisbee Black Sox, Tucson Saguaro and the Phoenix Senators.

However the Smelters and the Senators will play this year as a combined effort.

“We just decided to partner with the Phoenix Senators as a joint all-star team this season in order to help their team keep going and get ours off the ground,” said RJ Carvis, founder and captain of the Smelters.

The Arizona league, formerly run by a three-member leadership board, also has a new commissioner: Scott Shaw.

“We had a captain's meeting to discuss what (the role of former commissioner Jacob Pomrenke) had been and potential candidates to replace him,” Shaw said. “The result of that meeting was that I accepted the role of commissioner. Patrick Murphy (of the Bisbee Black Sox) and Darren Roberts (of the Tucson Saguaro) offered to help and both have been extremely helpful.”

So far, the Arizona has three dates scheduled for games through December, with a captain's meeting in December to hammer out the remaining schedule.

Visit [ArizonaVintageBaseBall.org](http://ArizonaVintageBaseBall.org) for more on the Arizona Vintage Base Ball League.





VBBA NEW MEMBER TEAM:

# Higley Haymakers

**BY BILL HELM**

VBBA SECRETARY

The Vintage Base Ball Association is now publishing short profiles of new member teams. For this edition, we bring you the Higley Haymakers of the Arizona Vintage Base Ball League.

For the past four seasons, dues paid by Arizona league teams include membership into the VBBA.

Patrick Murphy, founder of the Higley Haymakers, got his start in vintage base ball with the Bisbee Black Sox and eventually became their captain.

"I grew up a base ball fan and love the history of the game," Murphy said. "Playing the vintage style really brings back that pure game and the different strategy it takes. The vintage style is also not for the weak, which is what makes it enjoyable to me. Standing in front of a hot shot at third base, knowing you have nothing but hands and a body to deal with it, makes you feel like you are back in the 1860s just playing a fun game."

After playing with a team located a few hours from home, Murphy decided to create a new team closer to where he lives in the Phoenix area.

"I talked to a couple other players while at the Bisbee tournament about the plan and a couple wanted to join me on this new team," Murphy said.

It wasn't that long ago when Murphy had a total of four players for his new team, with no team name and no team colors.

"The four of us met at a bar and discussed the plans," Murphy said.

"Another team captain had suggested the Haymakers due to the hay industry in the Gilbert and East Valley area. The name was too good to pass up."

The Haymakers decided on yellow and black for the team's colors "due to the yellow symbolizing the hay/straw, the black to represent the wire binds which holds it together."



Once the team had its plan set out, Murphy took to social media to recruit players,

"Right now we have 12 players on our roster," Murphy said. "Most of them are brand new to vintage base ball."

If you are starting a new vintage base ball team, or if your vintage base ball team is new to the VBBA, email [bch](mailto:bch).

[cameraeye@gmail.com](mailto:cameraeye@gmail.com). Be sure to tell us the name of your team, how long your team has been in existence, how long you have been a VBBA member, the year/rules your team play by, which association or league your team plays in, how many players your team has, and anything else you think your readers might find interesting. Thank you.



VBBA NEW MEMBER TEAM:

# Bradenton Shamrocks

**BY BILL HELM**

VBBA SECRETARY

The Vintage Base Ball Association is now publishing short profiles of new member teams. For this edition, we bring you the Shamrocks of Bradenton, Florida.

Although the Shamrocks recently held a scrimmage in Zolfo Springs, the team will play its home games at Sutton Park in Palmetto.

The Bradenton Shamrocks adopted 1864 rules “to maintain similar game play as the two other Florida teams play by these rules,” said Tim Pierce of the Shamrocks.

Pierce explained that the team’s strengths right now would consist of “having a young, ambitious group who are excited to begin playing a new style of base ball.”

“Most of us have played baseball throughout grade school and high school,” Pierce said. “A few of us have played men’s league softball.”

On Oct. 5, the Shamrocks posted to their Facebook page that the official start of their vintage base ball season will be at 11 a.m. Nov. 12 at Franklin Locks in Ft Myers.

“Come one, come all to watch how the game used to be played back in 1864,” the post stated.

With 10 core players, the Shamrocks have about 15 total players including potential substitute players. However, Pierce posted on the team’s FB page that the team is “always looking for interested ballists who think they have what it takes to play.”

For more information about the Bradenton Shamrocks, email Tim Pierce at [timperce19@gmail.com](mailto:timperce19@gmail.com).

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sure to tell us the name of your team, how long your team has been in existence, how long you have been a VBBA member, the year/rules your team play by, which association or league your team plays in, how many players your team has, and anything else you think your readers might find interesting. Thank you.







VBBA NEW MEMBER TEAM:

# Maricopa Maidens

**BY BILL HELM**

VBBA SECRETARY

The Vintage Base Ball Association is now publishing short profiles of new member teams. For this edition, we bring you the Maricopa Maidens of the Arizona Vintage Base Ball League.

For the past four seasons, dues paid by Arizona league teams include membership into the VBBA.

Michelle O'Connell, founder of the Maricopa Maidens, said her interest in vintage base ball began when she met my fiancé, Scott Shaw, several years ago.

"I started out as a mere crank, enjoying watching a sport that I have grown up with, but now enjoying it in a whole new light," O'Connell said. "I was, also, instantly fascinated with all the different looking vintage uniforms that all the various teams were wearing. Before long, I was invited to play on the Mesa Miners Base Ball Team, and had a blast. The experience of playing base ball as they did back in the mid-1800s set way for the baseball we all know today."

This season, O'Connell has fielded her own team, the all-female Maricopa Maidens. The Maidens are the only all-female team in the eight-team Arizona Vintage Base Ball League.

"Over the years of playing and spectating, I have been posting several pictures and videos from the Bisbee tournaments on my social media, and have been approached several times by different ladies over the years who expressed interest in playing. One day, I just decided that it was time for me to get something started so these ladies can have an opportunity to be a part of all this fun, too."

Leading into the Arizona league's Nov. 12 opening day, the Maricopa Maidens have more than a dozen players.

"Within two days of making a post on my social media of starting up a new



ladies vintage base ball team, I've already received enough interests to fill almost two teams," O'Connell said. "But I will just concentrate on running just one team at the beginning and see how it goes the first year. I figure, I can always expand it to additional teams within the following years, if needed. So it's clear the interest is definitely out there."

O'Connell explained that with any new team comes the responsibility of giving that team a name. A name, she said, should represent not only that era but the players.

"So I have decided to call us The Maricopa Maidens," she said. "Maricopa

County was established in 1871, so it's representation was a perfect fit for that era and our team."

O'Connell said that other than pitcher, she can play any position on the field.

"So I'll just wait to see what positions the other girls play before I decide where I should play," she said.

The Maricopa Maidens may be the first all-female vintage team in Arizona. However, they are not the movement's first all-female team. In our winter issue, we'll take a closer look at the history of all-female vintage base ball teams.



VBBA NEW MEMBER TEAM:

# Peoria Smelters

**BY BILL HELM**

VBBA SECRETARY



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As founder of the Peoria Smelters, RJ Carvis is new to vintage baseball but a long time lover of the game and its history.

After he finished his college baseball career, Carvis then spent almost five years working on the professional side of the game, from public relations with the New York Mets to baseball operations with both the Dodgers and Cubs. Carvis received a World Series ring thanks to his efforts with the 2016 Cubs.

Carvis said he learned about the league after reading about Bisbee and Warren Ballpark, built in 1909.

"Did some research and realized all the fun I was missing," Carvis said. "Also, Arizona has such a deep baseball history."

Carvis explained that the Smelters name was inspired by the Ray Mining League at the turn of the century.

"Currently we are still in the uniform design process and this season, our first, will be a blueprint year," he said. "We just decided to partner with the Phoenix Senators as a joint all-star team this season in order to help their team keep going and get ours off the ground. Excited to get the season underway."

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## VBBA NEW MEMBER TEAM:

# Yuma Aces

**BY BILL HELM**

VBBA SECRETARY

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Juan and Darci Peralta pay tribute to playing vintage base ball, as well as the team's name, to a dear friend who passed away a year ago.

"The team name was chosen my Bear and I in memory of our Prescott Champions coach Mike 'Ace' Adrian who recently lost his battle with cancer," Darci Peralta said. "Everything we have learned and love about vintage base ball is because of him. So we are the Yuma Aces."

The Peraltas played vintage base ball in Prescott in the four years they were there in the mile-high city of Prescott, Darci Peralta said. "We absolutely fell in love with the game."

About a year-and-a-half ago, the Peraltas returned to their Yuma roots where the pair has wanted to start a team.

"Things had been put on hold in Prescott due to COVID-19 so my attempts to reach the League contacts had not been successful until just a few weeks ago," Darci said. "I was able to get our team put into the rotation so we scrambled to see if people were still interested."

So far, the Yuma Aces are a team made up of family members "who have seen us play and played with us and random games," Darci said.

Juan and Darci chose uniforms similar to the Prescott Champions uniforms.

"We chose navy blue slacks (eventually moving to vintage knickers as we grow the team), a button white shirt, navy blue suspenders, long white socks, and black shoes," Darci said. "Hats are on the list as well as we grow the team. We



are extremely excited to start this team in Yuma and to build the team with the community support."

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A member of the Yuma Aces attempts a catch during a recent scrimmage.

# VBBA vendor spotlight



## COOPERSTOWN BAT COMPANY

Since 1981, Cooperstown Bat Company has specialized in game bats for play, custom personalized engravings and autographed bats.

Their pro model bats are available for players of all levels from the beginner through to the Major Leagues. Cooperstown bat is being used in several MLB organizations, American Legion, Babe Ruth, travel team, and high school players.

Cooperstown Bat Company also makes various vintage base ball bats, including acorn, knobless, bottle bat and split grip (double knob). You can see their bats being turned at the company's factory location in Hartwick, just 15 minutes from Cooperstown. Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit [cooperstownbat.com](http://cooperstownbat.com) for more information.



## JAMES COUNTRY MERCANTILE

James Country Mercantile started life in 1985 as James Country Muzzleloading, right in the heart of the area which bred and nurtured Frank and Jesse James.

James Country Mercantile is now one of the largest sutleries in existence, offering a full line of historically accurate goods, custom sewing, research, consultation, and associated services. Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit [jamescountry.com](http://jamescountry.com) for more information.



## K&P WEAVER

Since 1994, K & P Weaver, LLC features reproductions of historic vintage base ball uniforms of the 19th Century and early-20th Century, equipment and more.

K & P uniforms, clothing and accessories can be found across the ballfields of America to

historical landmarks and museums such as the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Smithsonian Institution, MLB All-Star FanFest, and they've been seen in the HBO Documentaries "The Curse of the Bambino," "Hitler's Pawn," and films such as "Dummy Hoy" and "Cop Out."

Member Code vbba1996 to get your 10% discount due to rising material costs for the purchase of team shirts, and knickers and trousers.

Visit [baseballamericaspastime.com](http://baseballamericaspastime.com) for more information.

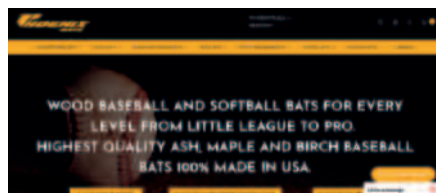


## STOCKBRIDGE SEWING WORKS

Stockbridge Sewing Works has all of your 19th century needs for hats and other sewing projects.

Contact Norma Hildebrand to discuss hats, banners, and any other items she may be able to make for you. No head to big or too small. Fit and quality guaranteed. Hand crafted one at a time in the USA.

Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit [stockbridgesewingworks.com](http://stockbridgesewingworks.com) for more information.



## PHOENIX BAT COMPANY

Since 1996, Phoenix Bat Co. has been crafting wood bats outside of Columbus, Ohio. Phoenix Bats starts by purchasing only pro-grade wood to deliver a quality bat to you and pros alike. Their bats are only made from American top-grade woods like rock maple, yellow birch and northern white ash. History and Background of Phoenix Bat Co. Founder and former owner Lefty Trudeau started playing 19th Century baseball for the Ohio Historical Society in 1991. In 1996, he was restoring old houses for a living and had a small wood shop.

"The Historical Society knew my shop included an old lathe and they asked if I could make some bats typical of the 1860s," Trudeau recalled. "I agreed. Little did I expect how much I would have to learn or how much fun I would have. Not only did my team like the bats but the teams we were playing started asking me to make bats for them as well."

Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit [phoenixbats.com/vintage-bats](http://phoenixbats.com/vintage-bats) for more information.



## 19TH CENTURY BASE BALL

If you want to get the ball that started it all, then you want 19th Century Base Ball. Call Eric Miklich at 631-796-5200 or e-mail [info@19cbaseball.com](mailto:info@19cbaseball.com).

Said Ron Swoboda, star of the 1969 New York Mets, 19cBaseball.com is "truly a one-of-a-kind resource for in-depth information related to the history of our great sport. I encourage all baseball enthusiasts to visit the site to learn more about how the game really began." Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount. Visit [19cbaseball.com](http://19cbaseball.com) for more information.



## USA SMACKER BATS

USA Smacker Bats makes all its bats by hand, not by machine.

"If a vintage ballist wants to be true to the time period of play, we are the company to use," proprietor Brian Carter says. Smacker Bats are handmade by craftsmen (including Carter) behind a lathe ... shaping, sanding, staining/ painting and striping the bats just like the originals back in the 1800s. With a quick turnaround between 1-2 weeks, these bats are all American, with all American tools and materials.

"We believe in quality of quantity," Carter says. Their pricing is competitive as well.

"We love the history of the base ball bat, which bleeds into our passion for making them. We are obsessed with base ball bats." Don't forget when ordering to use your VBBA Member Code vbba1996 to get your 15% discount.

Contact Brian Carter at [smacker@comcast.net](mailto:smacker@comcast.net) or visit [smackerbats.com/vintage](http://smackerbats.com/vintage).

