

**Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs (DHSOS)
San Francisco International Headquarters**

Officers

President (DUH PREZ)	Bill Diefenbach
Communications Czar (da Czar)	Geoff Noakes
AgendaMeister (ListMan)	Ken Monk
Archivist of Knowledge (Notes)	Dale Fehringer

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Minutes of Meetings

Thursday, June 29, 2023

Waterfront/Epic, La Mar

and

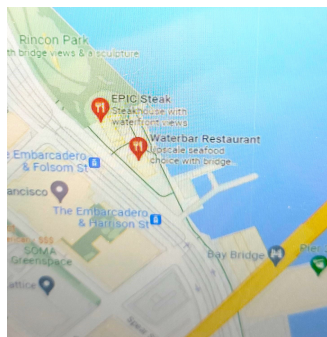
Sunday, July 9, 2023

Oracle Park

Two-Fer

These are minutes for two recent DHSOS gatherings. The first was our regular meeting, which was arranged by ListMan. The second was the baseball game between the Colorado Rockies and the San Francisco Giants, at Oracle Park, organized by da Czar.

EPIC Drinks



ListMan was the temporary PoV for the night, and he instructed us to meet at the Waterfront Restaurant for a drink before dinner at La Mar. He was the first one there, and he sat down at a table for four in the back, near the bay. He saw Notes walking up and summoned him over to join him; then he did the same with DUH PREZ. But where was da Czar? Shortly after the

three of us were seated we got a text from da Czar, who said he had a table at Waterfront, and where were we?

“We are at Waterfront, at an outside table,” we responded, “Come out back and join us.”

“I am out back,” he responded, “And I don’t see you.”

That’s because we were at EPIC Steak, next door to Waterfront Restaurant.

Eventually, da Czar got up, came over, and joined us (and he was rather gracious about it all). We were finally all together!

Call to Order

At precisely 7:39 PM Da Prez called the meeting to order by banging his knife on a water glass. A hush grew over the group, and we looked to ListMan for guidance.

“We’ve got a bucket load of items to get ahold of,” He announced. But we could tell that there was something else on his mind, and his usual adherence to a carefully constructed list of topics was reduced to an occasional review. We fell into a more relaxed and talkative conversation.

La Mar



Studying the Menu

La Mar is a Peruvian restaurant on the San Francisco waterfront, that specializes in empanadas, ceviche, and sea food. Oh, and pisco sours. Da Prez ordered up a round of pisco sours, Notes ordered empanadas and ceviche for the table, and we set out to tackle that “bucket load of items”.

Da Burd



Da Burd joined us for the evening, escorted by DUH PREZ. He emerged from his wooden nest and perched in the middle of our table, keeping an eye on everything and everyone who approached.

Well, Wilmer, I'm sorry indeed to lose you. But I want you to know I couldn't be fonder of you if you were my own son. But, well, if you lose a son, it's possible to get another. There's only one Maltese Falcon.

A Rather Significant Day



ListMan had a certain well-pleased look about him. Something was up. It came out shortly after the meeting was called to order.

“I had a rather significant day yesterday,” he reported. “I shot my age!”

He explained:

“In golf, as in most sports, there are a few major accomplishments. A hole-in-one, for example, is a once-in-a-lifetime accomplishment.” (ListMan accomplished that a few years ago).

“Shooting your age is another major accomplishment!”

ListMan had just done it.

He replayed the day for us, and the drama was compelling!

It all came down to the final hole, and he aptly described his tee shot, his (remarkable) second shot, and the birdie putt that secured his feat!

ListMan is 73. Par for the course he was playing is 72. That left very little room for error, and after the 13th hole, he already had two bogies. So it all came down to the final hole – a par wouldn't do it, he needed a birdie. He came through and accomplished a remarkable feat!

We congratulated him! He's generally a humble guy, and he seldom takes credit for his achievements, so we were there with him for this one!

(From Golf News Net: For high-quality players, their true earliest opportunity to shoot their age is in their early 60s. Shooting 64 at age 64 is a tremendous accomplishment.

Really, though, the achievement gets more impressive as a golfer gets into their 70s and even their 80s. If a golfer can break their age at that point in their life, they're demonstrating an incredible longevity and skill level that few golfers possess.)

And here are a couple of shoot your age records:

When it comes to the oldest one to shoot his age, Arthur Thompson holds the record. Thompson was 103 years old when he made the remarkable accomplishment at the Uplands Golf Club in 1972.

On the other hand, Bob Hamilton holds the record for the youngest age shooter. He shot his age when he was 59 and this happened in 1975 at Evansville's Hamilton Golf Club. Hamilton was also the winner of the PGA Championship in 1944.

Baseball Stats

COMPLEX SABERMETRI

SO IF A LIGHT HITTING TEAM THAT
DEPENDS ON PITCHING AND DEFENSE
DOESN'T HIT AND THEN GETS BAD
PITCHING AND TERRIBLE DEFENSE...



Growing up, there were just a few key statistics that were commonly used to help us understand and compare baseball players' performance. For hitters, it was batting average, RBIs, and home runs, and those were listed on the backs of players baseball cards. For pitchers we studied wins, ERA, and strikeouts.

But lately, there have emerged a plethora of sabermetric statistics that are being used to measure a player's overall performance. Some of us have figured some of them, but none of us can understand them all. The newer stats include OPS, which adds the hitter's on-base percentage (number of times reached base by any means divided by total plate appearances) to their slugging percentage (total bases divided by at-bats). That places more emphasis on reaching base by any means, and coaches and players now strive for more walks.

And for pitchers, OPS is also useful to determine level of success. "Opponent on-base plus slugging" (OOPS) is becoming a popular tool to evaluate a pitcher's actual performance. When analyzing a pitcher's statistics, some useful categories include K/9IP (strikeouts per nine innings), K/BB (strikeouts per walk), HR/9 (home runs per nine innings), WHIP (walks plus hits per inning pitched), and OOPS (opponent on-base plus slugging).

Notes recently noticed yet another baseball statistic and wondered what it meant. In baseball divisional standings, local newspapers have long listed GB (games behind), which reflects the number of wins a team is behind the divisional leader. And now, another statistic is listed next to GB – which is WCGB. After looking that up, he realized that it stands for Wild Card Games Behind, and it tracks the number of games each team is ahead of or behind in qualifying for a Wild Card playoff berth.

Honeymoon Trip



DUH PREZ gave a detailed and very positive report on the honeymoon trip he and his honey recently completed. He described the national parks they visited in California, Oregon, and Washington and the grand old lodges they stayed in. He reported that at Yosemite (their first stop) there was “water everywhere” after a record amount of snow the past winter. And there was “snow everywhere” at Crater Lake. They enjoyed their stay at the Timberline Lodge at Mt. Hood and the Paradise Inn at Mt. Rainier. They also visited PJ’s relatives in Portland and saw the play “Rent” at Ashland.

He reported only two negative experiences: first when they were forced to go out of their way in Washington, due to a road closure, and second when they were constantly tailgated by enormous pickups.

Leftover Booze

There was quite a bit of booze left over after the Potomac Cruise DUH PREZ orchestrated the day after his wedding, so he had Christina and Andrew retrieve it from the boat, and he has now stored it in his San Francisco garage, along with his other earthquake supplies. Now the DHSOS knows where to head after the next big earthquake!



Treehouse Back in Order

DUH PREZ reported that his house in Healdsburg (the Treehouse) is now fully repaired, following damage after a major windstorm. Then he invited the DHSOS to the Treehouse for the next meeting of the DHSOS. Da Czar confirmed that meeting is scheduled for September 13 and 14.

Homeless Experiences

Da Czar and Notes had recent negative experiences with members of San Francisco’s homeless population.

Da Czar’s was with a guy shooting fentanyl near his house. When he called the police, they talked to the man (who was bent over nearly double – a troubling side effect of the drug) – but when he refused help, they left him to just walk away.

Notes’ experience was with a homeless man who stuffed all his worldly belongings in Notes’ hedge, pooped and peed on Notes’ sidewalk, and left a huge mess of trash in front of Notes’ house. When Notes retrieved the items and called the city to take them away, the guy again stashed them in the hedge.

San Francisco is currently suffering a world-wide hit to its reputation caused by the number of long-term homeless, open air drug use, and street crime, and we all agreed that extraordinary measures need to be taken soon to curtail those issues and repair the damage to the city’s reputation.

Hearty Good Night

It was time to go home. We had shared drinks at EPIC Steak, a great Peruvian meal at La Mar, and each other’s company. We exited La Mar and enjoyed views of the Bay and Bay Bridge. We paused, gave hearty fist bumps all around, and wandered off into the cool, windy Embarcadero air. It had been another excellent night with the DHSOS!

Oracle Park



The DHSOS has tried to go to at least one baseball game together for the past several years. We might have missed a year or two during COVID, but now we're back at it. We all enjoy baseball, and the Giants, and going to a game is a good excuse to spend a day with each other. Da Czar had planned this one for some time. The Giants versus the Rockies in the most beautiful ballpark in the country!

Joc Peterson Bobble Head Day

It turned out to be an excellent baseball game; well-played (if you like pitcher's duels), close, and it had a happy ending for our team.

Da Czar organized it – getting the date on everyone's schedule, buying the tickets, reminding us of the date, and ushering us in to what turned out to be excellent seats!

Logan Webb pitched for the Giants, turning in a full-game shutout – his first. J.D. Davis produced the only scoring for either team when he blasted a solo home run in the fifth inning.

And, on top of all that, it was Joc Peterson bobble head day, so each of us now has a priceless bobble head of Joc!

We watched Joc play catch before the game with his two little kids. We saw his three-year-old son toss out the opening pitch. And we saw Joc come into the game

in the late innings and contribute to the Giant's win. He's a stud – much like the DHSOS!



After the game, the DHSOS shared drinks at the Brickhouse Café and Bar, which is a semi-respectable dive bar on Brannan Street. There are several sporting events on big TV screens, and lots of sports fans with backward caps and tats.

Unfortunately, the day we were there they had just one person mixing drinks and serving them, so they came out a little slow. DUH PREZ boldly ordered an Irish Coffee, which the bartender/server creatively made without coffee. We saw her pour a dark liquid into the glass, then a clear liquid, then a cloudy liquid, and she topped it with a huge squirt of whipped cream. DUH PREZ carefully sipped it and declared it "wasn't bad!"



As we shared our drinks DUH PREZ revealed a deep secret: He has been pining for a 1965 Corvette. From there, he went on to specify the color, make, type of wheels, windows, etc. But the best part is that he offered to let the DHSOS officers in on a purchasing partnership – each of us could offer to pay

any portion of the car, with a \$25,000 minimum. We're thinking about it.

We finished our drinks, stumbled out of the Brickhouse Café and onto the Brannan Street sidewalk, gave fist bumps all around, and headed out into a foggy and windy San Francisco summer afternoon. It was another good day out for the DHSOS!

That's it for now, man.

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