

“The Ruthian News”
BRC’s eNewsletter
BabeRuthCentral.com: The Site That Ruth Built
Inaugural Edition

Welcome to the first edition of The Ruthian News, the companion e-newsletter to the BabeRuthCentral.com website. We hope you enjoy this first issue and invite you to take a look at the features below. We expect to publish The Ruthian News approximately 4-6 times per year and will deliver it directly to the email address of your choice. If you would like to receive future issues, please opt-in and subscribe here.

THIS ISSUE’S FEATURES:

"Review": The latest about the Babe in print, by an author who spent two decades in research. A look at author Bill Jenkinson’s new book, “The Year Babe Ruth Hit a 104 Home Runs.”

"Report": A visit to the annual Babe's Birthday Party in Detroit, MI. - twenty years of a passionate fan’s celebration of the Babe.

"Heard from a Fan": Neil's Story about the Babe and an Inn in New Hampshire.

QUICK BRC INFO:

"Announcements" – The launch of BRC’s website membership club - Fans’ Dugout

"What's New Now" – The latest and greatest additions to the Site that Ruth Built.

"Coming Up at BRC" – New stuff on the horizon at BabeRuthCentral.com

THIS ISSUE’S FEATURES

"Review":

A look at author Bill Jenkinson’s new book, “The Year Babe Ruth Hit a 104 Home Runs: Recrowning Baseball’s Greatest Slugger.”

Just published in January 2007, author Bill Jenkinson offers a very different and interesting look at the Babe in his new book “The Year Babe Ruth Hit 104 Home Runs”. Bill Jenkinson, being the most recent author to capture Babe’s life, was kind enough to send BRC an advance copy of his work. The good news for true Babe Ruth fans out there -- this book is a “homerun”.

Through extensive analysis of Babe’s homeruns -- both professional and exhibition -- Bill is able demonstrate just how powerful and unique a home run hitter Babe Ruth really was. Bill has poured through thousands of newspapers that captured Babe’s homeruns on their baseball pages. He has also cross-referenced articles recounting the same events to ensure accuracy in the descriptions of where the Babe’s hits landed. Through his exhaustive research and analysis related to the events and the distance of some of Babe’s homeruns, Bill concludes that Babe is truly the king of the homerun.

The story behind the book is nearly as interesting as the book itself, as Bill embarked on a nearly two decade passionate trek to find out who has been baseball's greatest hitter. Luckily, BRC had the opportunity to interview the author: "Originally, it was not my intent to write a book on Babe Ruth. I've always been fascinated with home runs and the concept of 'power' in Baseball. Then, in 1979, I decided that I really wanted to know, 'Who is the most powerful hitter in baseball history?' And, after awhile of looking for books and asking baseball experts and sportswriters, I realized that no one really knew."

"Then, I decided to take it upon myself to try and find out. And, within a year, I was getting into some Babe Ruth research and the findings indicated that maybe he was the strongest batsmen ever. Frankly that didn't make sense to me and so I continued digging. I have to say, by the mid to late 80's, I was convinced that he was the strongest... a scientific anomaly. The results of my research are irrefutable, he really is the strongest."

To hear Bill talk about the book, his passion for baseball and his findings on the Babe in his own words, jump over to BabeRuthCentral.com's Section 9 Voices. Listen to Bill now.

To understand just how masterful a hitter Babe was, you'd have to read the book for yourself – a definite must-read for any true Babe Ruth fan or enthusiast for baseball statistics. Purchase at Amazon.com now.

"Report":

A visit to the annual Babe's Birthday Party in Detroit, MI

If you've had a chance to read Section 6 Passion of BabeRuthCentral.com, you've had the opportunity to hear about Mr. Tom Derry and his annual birthday party in tribute to the Babe, held on the first weekend of every February.

Well, Tom and a small group of close friends have been hosting several hundred people each year. And, on the twentieth anniversary of the event, BRC was able to attend this year's celebration on February 3rd, to honor Babe's birthday and we were very glad we did!

This party is open to anyone and everyone with an affection for the Babe. It's held at a neighborhood pub that has seen its days, but that's only part of the atmosphere. The event began at 5:00pm and ended (from what we hear) early in the next morning! BRC got there around 7:15pm and, by then, the place was pretty crowded. By the time we left a few hours later, the hosts had moved all tables out of the bar to the freezing cold outdoors and the place was still jam-packed. It was wall-to-wall people, all having a great time in honor of the Sultan of Swat!

Upon arriving, we were greeted warmly by Tom, the party host, and were handed the 2007 version of the annual Babe's Birthday Party pin as we walked through the door. The ceilings were covered with helium balloons. Also hanging from the ceiling by string

were dozens and dozens of Cracker Jack pouches, Baby Ruth candy bars and cut-outs of signed Ruth balls. Half the crowd was wearing these eerily-authentic masks, with a cutout of Babe's face, on the backs of their heads. Out of the corner of your eye, you were left thinking that someone was constantly staring at you. Or that the bar was filled with several hundred Babe Ruth look-alikes!

At the bar, they offered "Big League Brew" which is made by a hometown microbrewery, Helmar Brewing Company ([pop-up link to Helmar](#)), as well as "Coneys" or chili dogs -- a local dining staple for Southeastern Michigan residents. The owners of the bar, who essentially hand over the place to Tom and friends each year for this weekend, participated as chef and server, keeping everyone happy and full.

The best part of the night, of course, was the party participants. In addition to all the locals, we met attendees from Duluth, MN, from South Florida and straight from Brooklyn. A large number of people had been coming to this party for many years over and plan to come back long into the future "as long as the party goes on."

The reception to the BRC team was excellent and it was made very clear why this party is such a big hit every year. And, since one of Babe's great grandsons was in attendance that night, many people in the place wanted to say hello or have their picture taken with him.

The crowd at Tom's Tavern was diverse in character and everyone was warm and engaging. For many people, this party has become a reunion of sorts. It's an opportunity to recognize Babe's greatness and share in Babe's jovial personality. The party-goers were a down to earth crowd, that considers the anniversary of Babe's birth the perfect event and opportunity to celebrate.

As the BRC team left, the crowd broke into a rousing version of "Happy Birthday", sung for the Babe. During the evening, we were asked many times over, "Do you think Babe would have liked this party?". In BRC's opinion, it was Babe's kind of party. Babe probably would have eaten it up.

"Heard From a Fan":

A Babe Ruth-related story from one of the fans of BRC.

"Several years ago my wife and I took a trip to New Hampshire and we stayed in what was then a bed & breakfast in the Mt. Washington area. The place had some photos of the Babe and was introduced to us as the former home of the Babe's daughter and <that> the Babe would go up there on occasion to vacation. There was a room on the second floor in the north/west corner, I think, that was advertised as the room that Ruth slept in and supposedly still had the original dressers' and mirrors and a similar bed. The owners then were in-fact people we had known from our temple who formerly lived in So. California and had purchased the place as a business venture.

Once I found out that information about the place, my wife and I called to reserve the room I spoke of and, to my dismay, the room had been already booked for the days we wanted it for. So I became brave and wrote back to the innkeepers to ask those other people if they would be willing to take another room that weekend and that I would be willing to pay their room rent to have them move to another room. To my surprise, they agreed to this, so this is how we were able to make a DREAM COME TRUE and how I could have bragging rights to this day.

I recently purchased at auction a 1933G card of the Babe that I display in my store and make customers and kids ooh! and ahh! when I point out the card. It is graded a 4 and it is very nice except for centering, but I will never sell it.....I am still a kid a heart” –

Submitted by Neil O., from California

BRC would love to hear your stories about the Babe. And, if you allow us, we will share it with other like-minded fans. Please submit your story here.

"Announcements": Launch of Fans' Dugout

On February 6, 2007, the day of Babe Ruth's Birthday, BabeRuthCentral celebrated by launching the BRC Fans' Dugout. Fans 13 and older can now join this exclusive members-only website club.

For just \$28.00 (plus shipping & handling), you can get a Fans' Dugout Membership Kit that includes:

- An exclusive Fans' Dugout t-shirt with a full-color design screenprinted on a 100% cotton Hanes® Beefy-T®;
- An all-weather 4"x6" automotive-grade "BRC" oval bumper sticker, with the site's web address and tagline ("The Site That Ruth Built")
- A specially-created BabeRuthCentral Bic® WideBody® pen
- A durable Fans' Dugout 2007 Charter Member refrigerator magnet

Plus, you'll also get one year of access to a password-protected section of the site exclusively for the Babe's biggest fans. Inside this section, you'll find additional audio clips, never and rarely seen photos and other content that has been reserved just for Fans' Dugout members. You'll also have the opportunity to ask questions directly of the Family of Babe Ruth and other Babe experts (as well as the ability to see other fans' questions and the respective answers).

Purchase an annual membership today and become a 2007 Charter Member of BRC's Fans' Dugout! Join at www.BabeRuthCentral.com/Membership.asp.

QUICK BRC INFO

"What's New?"

1) New Voices - We've recently added new interviewees to Section 09 Voices. Go here to find new interviews and audio clips from our discussions with:

Bill Jenkinson: Baseball historian and author of the recent book, "The Year Babe Ruth Hit a 104 Homeruns."

Betty Hoyt: Widow of baseball great Waite Hoyt, who was a long-time friend and teammate of Babe Ruth.

George Vecsey: Pulitzer prize-winning columnist for the New York Times, as well as a best-selling author of multiple books.

2) BRC Blog - We've been working to improve Section 10, Interact and we've just launched the BRC Blog – a better way for our Babe Ruth fans to interact with BRC and each other. Check it out via BabeRuthCentral.com/Interact or directly at BabeRuthGrandstand.com today!

“Coming Up”

1) Kids' Clubhouse -- Coming this spring, we'll be launching Section 11 Kids, as well as a companion membership kit called Kids' Clubhouse for Babe Ruth fans under 13. Look for news of the opening of Section 11 on the site, as well as through our newsletters. And, if you're interested in signing up your kids for the Kids' Clubhouse, you can share your email address and we'll be sure to let you know when it is offered. Go here to pre-register: <http://baberruthcentral.com/kidsmembership.asp>

2) Waite Hoyt In the Rain -- Betty Hoyt, the widow of Waite Hoyt, was generous enough to share two special vinyl records from her personal collection, “Waite Hoyt in the Rain, Volumes I and II.” This unique set of records captures some of Waite's best baseball memories and anecdotes, which were saved for game-day rain delays when he was announcing games for the Cincinnati Reds. A lot of these stories focused on the Babe. BRC is in the process of converting these rare recordings to digital format. And, we're happy to be able to share some clips from “Waite Hoyt in the Rain” coming this summer!