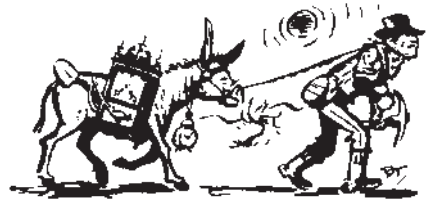


THE Tic Talk Times



January 2004
Vol. 23, No. 6

Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Meeting minutes: Dec. 5, 2003

Games and Goodies

Our October meeting was called to order by President Charles Register at 8:03 p.m.

We started our holiday meeting with the annual 50/50 drawing. Anyone who wanted to participate bought tickets. 50% of the money goes to the club and the other 50% goes out as prizes. We had two \$20 prizes this year and they went to Bob Selene and Les Lesovsky.



A table full of holiday treats is a big draw at our annual Holiday Party

Next, there was a motion to accept the November meeting minutes as printed in the Tic Talk Times. The motion was seconded and the motion accepted.

There was an announcement that Chapter 130 was having a mini-mart on December 7th from 9:30 to 1:00.

Bob Linkenhoker and Roy Irick reminded us to be sure to take a good look at The Mart this month. In it you will find the merger documents and a ballot for you to fill out. We can't

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This month

Tumbling Without Gymnasts

A couple years ago, I took a movement to our January speaker, Ray Marsolek, needing a part fabricated for it. While I was there, Ray said something like, "You want to see something neat?" He then told me about how he had been tumbling clock movements in a lapidary tumbler as a method of removing stains and tarnish from the brass. He took this old movement of mine, arranged and wired together the parts in a well-practiced fashion, and dropped them into a large cylinder filled with small metal pellets and a cleaning solution.

After several minutes of watching this cylinder going round-and-round, he retrieved the movement and rinsed it off. What a difference! What had been dark, unsightly brass was now bright and shiny. None of the parts had been degraded in any way, and this ugly duckling movement now looked like a million bucks.

At this Friday's meeting, Ray will explain the whole process of movement tumbling in detail. While there isn't enough time in the presentation to actually complete a tumbled movement, he will have "before and after" examples (just like the cooking shows on TV).

Some of you may have read Ray's article on movement tumbling in a recent Bulletin. Here's your chance to

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Message from the President

To-do List for 2004

Preserving the health of our national organization and chapter 69 is job one for the new year. Several things must be done to accomplish our goal.

- We must vote in February to maintain our tax-free status.
- We must court the next generation to maintain our organization.
- We must recruit new members so that we'll grow.
- We need to exchange ideas to remain in the forefront of technology.
- We must cultivate new leadership.

It seems as though our plates will be full. However, we can accomplish our goals and have fun in the fellowship of our passion for watches and clocks.

I'd like to thank you in advance for your participation, and wish you on behalf of the officers and board of chapter 69 a healthy, productive and prosperous New Year.

—Charles A. Register

Our Web Site

For what it's worth, I received an email today which stated that our site, www.nawcc69.org, is ranked 719,577 among the top 900,000 sites on the Net. —Ed.

Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

stress how important it is for you to make your opinion heard on this matter. The outcome of this vote will determine the future of the NAWCC. **Please read the documents and vote!**

Bob also shared a few memories of Hoke Dillon. Hoke was a long-time member of Chapter 69 and long-time resident of Santa Ana. He was the proprietor of Hoke's Bike and Fix-It Shop where he would take in all manner of mechanical paraphernalia to be repaired. He was known as the "Candy Man" because he always had a pocket full of candy to pass out to the neighborhood children. He'll be remembered as a very well-liked and active member of the NAWCC. Hoke, you'll be missed!

We presented James with our annual Holiday gift, to which he cheerfully stated, "I can already see it's the right color and that it's going to fit really nicely!" Thank you James for taking good care of us throughout the year!

Charles did confirm that we will have our January meeting on January 2nd.

We were then onto Dave's Gear of Fortune! Julie Stevens acted as "Vanna," spinning the wheel and keeping score. Our contestants were Christopher Mabry, Phyllis Adams and Charles Register.

The first category was *Name*. Charles won with "Hamilton Watch Company"

The second category was *Things*. Christopher won that round with "Westminster Chimes"

The third category was *Event*. Christopher won that one too with "Pasadena Regional"

The fourth category was *On the Map*. Phyllis got that puzzle with "New Haven, Bristol and Thomaston. She also correctly answered the bonus question!

The fifth category was *Phrase*. This also went to Phyllis with "A stitch in time saves nine."

With an overall score of 220, the game was won by Charles. Christopher came in second, and each contestant won a prize.

Next we had our sing-a-long of the 12 Horological Days of Christmas. We have some talented singers in our midst!



Show and Tell this month was horological items beginning with the letter P.

Bob Selene brought in a very interesting pyramid shaped clock (left). It supposedly is from the estate of Red Skelton. The pyramid is held above a base by three "legs". The whole thing periodically

rotates. There's no key or battery. On the base are what appear to be solar panels.

Doug Adams brought in a beautiful pendant watch (right). This Swiss demi-hunter hangs from a pretty enamel and pearl pin and is signed I. Hershel.

Doug also brought in a purchase from the Del Mar Regional, a wonderful clock in an inlaid case (below). The clock has a platform escapement.



Phyllis Adams brought in her purchase from the Regional, a pill box that looks just like a pocket watch!

The door prizes were won by Christopher Mabry, Bernie Peralta, Cora Lee Linkenhoker,

Dick Pridham, Dick Duwe, Gene Osten, Bud Saiben and Dave Weisbart.

A special "Thank You" to Jan Duwe for donating the Santa tea pot door prize!

The meeting was then adjourned by Charles.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

– Respectfully submitted by Jana Smith, Secretary

Complications

Calendar, lunar, tidal, astronomical and astrological dials

Besides giving accurate time, clocks were ... harnessed to providing all kinds of information which in those days [late 17th century] was of great importance.

Newspapers of a sort were beginning to appear, but not daily, and they reached only a tiny fraction of the population. Printed calendars were also rare. There was thus a real difficulty in keeping a check on the date, as people, even today, may find if they are away from home for long without a newspaper. Almost all long-case and bracket clocks after 1660 had a calendar aperture, usually rectangular or square, but sometimes round, through which the day of the month appeared on a ring that was mechanically operated once every twenty-four hours. A favourite position for the aperture was inside the chapter ring above the figure VI. The calendar ring had thirty-one teeth and so had to be adjusted by hand back to 1 at the end of any month with less than thirty-one days. Some clocks

also displayed the name of the month. Exceptional examples had perpetual calendar work which did not require any hand adjustment as they registered the correct date by allowing for the varying length of the months and even for leap years.

It will be remembered that medieval mechanical clocks, like that at Wells, showed the age and phases of the moon. It still remained an urgent matter for people to know the state of the moon, for it was dangerous, in those days of very inadequate lighting, to venture out after dusk unless there was a full moon. Even in the late 18th century the famous Lunar Society of the Midlands, which included distinguished men like Josiah Wedgwood, James Watt, Matthew Boulton and Joseph Priestley, could meet in rotation in their homes only once a month at full moon – hence their name. Late Stuart clocks began to incorporate moon dials, usually at first a circle within the chapter ring with a “man-in-the-moon” face showing the phases of the moon (see photo) and an adjacent aperture showing its age (i.e. the lunar cycle of 29½ days). Later these dials were set in the arch of the clock. They were found much more frequently on 18th-century clocks.



The moon dial was the simplest form of astronomical dial. Other forms of celestial movement were also introduced. As there was a close connection in the 17th century between astronomy and astrology, for there was a widespread belief in the influence of the planets on persons and events, special dials showed the courses of the planets and the position of the sun and moon in the zodiac.

The state of the tide concerns very few people today (apart from seafarers) except perhaps briefly during a seaside holiday. But in those days, when overseas and coastal trade was expanding, when rivers were the main means of internal transport, and when even in remoter areas it might be necessary to know when a river could be safely forded, the times of the tides at London and other principal ports were obviously of great importance. Once the relation between lunar and tidal cycles had been established, tidal dials were added to some clocks to give the times of high tide at a selected port on any day of the year. The twice-daily tides were marked on the lunar dial of 29½ days, which was set according to the time of high tide at new moon at the port concerned.

From The Country Life Book of Clocks by Edward T. Joy

This Month *(cont. from page 1)*

see the procedures in person and ask any questions you may have about the process. A long-time member and past chairman of the Education Committee, Ray is a fine teacher, so this is sure to be an outstanding program.

Another fine teacher is Doug Adams. He'll be presenting our Beginner's Corner on screwdrivers. We'll learn how to select just the right tool for the job. Don't miss it!
—D.W.

Dave's Shop Talk

The Hercules Clock Repair Co.

The title was suggested by Garret Graves, the watchmaker who works in my shop. He came up with it as I was cursing some previous repairperson who had cranked the living daylights out of a screw – tight as it could possibly be – for no darned good reason.

When tightening screws and nuts, give some thought to what task the screw needs to perform. For example, Hermle chime movements often have a donut-shaped retaining ring that keeps the shaft of the “flirt” from coming out. It's not uncommon to see the set screw on this ring cranked so hard it creates a crater in the steel shaft. The outside ridges of this crater make it much harder to get that ring off. This part does not need to be tightened that much. Basically, it only needs to be tightened enough that it won't fall off by itself.

On the other hand, the set screw on the piece that stops the chime train at the end of its run must endure thousands of abrupt hits. The gear that drives the “music box” portion of a chime train carries a fair amount of load. These set screws can certainly stand to be tightened more. A cam that does nothing but allow a testing lever to rest on it occasionally can get by with less tightening.

If a clock plate is being held in place by four or five nuts, again, they only need to be tight enough so they won't come loose with the minimal vibration they'll get from the action of the various trains. They really don't get that much stress.

One way of avoiding over-tightening is to use screwdrivers and nut drivers with small handles. A big handle makes it easy to apply a lot of torque, whereas a small handle provides a built-in limitation – even if you're Hercules.

Tic Talk Times On Line

Would you prefer to receive the Tic Talk Times over the Internet?

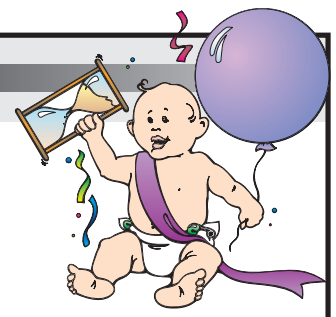
Send an email request to webmaster@nawcc69.org. You can also view the current and past issues at www.nawcc69.org

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

The National
ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.
Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o David Weisbart
13077 Springdale St.
Westminster, CA 92683



Our Next Meeting: January 2, 2004



Program:
"Tumbling Clock
Movements"
by Ray Marsolek

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:
"Screwdrivers" by Doug Adams

Show & Tell:
Horological items beginning with the letter "Q" and "R"

Board Meeting:
Wednesday, January 7, 7:30 P.M. at the home of
Dean Armentrout
2683 Victoria Dr.
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
(949) 246-3647

Time: 7:00 – Doors open
8:00 – General Meeting

Admission: \$4.00 – General
\$6.00 – Couples

Location: The EBELL CLUB
625 French Street
(at Civic Center Drive)
Santa Ana, CA
(714) 547-6331

