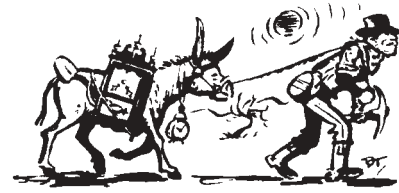


Tic Talk Times



January 2005
Vol. 24, No. 6

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

Meeting minutes, Dec. 3, 2004

Not *That* Ugly!

Our December general meeting was called to order by Vice President Dave Weisbart at 8:10 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who brought treats for our meeting. Everything was yummy!

We were happy to welcome our guests Bill Johnson and Bint Osten.

Dave had some very exciting news to share with us. Our president, Charles Register was not in attendance because he has received a new kidney! Charles is on the road to recovery and sent holiday greetings!

In addition, we were excited to hear that Ed Athey's wife, Karen received a new heart! Wow! Congratulations and best wishes!

Some bad news was that Bud Saiben has been admitted to an acute hospital again. Of course we all send Bud (and Pat) our love and good thoughts.

Upcoming dates to remember are:

- December 5th – The Riverside minimart at 9:30 a.m. in Sun City
- February 4th and 5th – Greater LA Regional at the Pasadena Center

Also, the nominees for national offices are in the current issue of the Bulletin.

For this month's program, we had an ugly clock and watch contest!

Tony Baker brought in a clock that actually belongs to a friend. It has

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This month

Making a Case

We have a very enjoyable video presentation this month, "Making a Wooden Clock Case." It's from the PBS series, *The American Woodshop*. It starts with view of an old Seth Thomas column clock, and there's an Ansonia wall clock that they use as a pattern for the new case.

This program will have wide appeal, but if you have a garage full of woodworking tools, it will probably appeal to you a just little bit more. We get to see just about every stage of constructing this clock case from hardwood and plywood stocks, and there's even a segment on making your own router table.

The consulting horologist on the show gets a few things wrong, but is nevertheless dubbed a "Master Horologist" by the show's host at the end. The Ansonia clock case they're copying is substantially incomplete; I'll bring a complete one for comparison. It's still a well-produced, nicely paced show that we should all enjoy.

We'll also have a brief Beginner's Corner on maintaining power. You'll get to see the gear arrangement that allows the clock to keep running while it's being wound.

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**



Message from the Vice-president

New Year, New Responsibilities

Here we go! It's 2005 and Chapter 69 is starting on a new way of operating. Last April, we approved a revised set of bylaws that brings our committee structure more in line with the tasks that we actually need to perform to make the chapter run. The changes go into effect this month.

I want to stress that the idea here is to have actual committees, not foist the entire responsibility for a particular function onto a single individual. As you read the descriptions below, if you see one that you think you could do for a month or two, or could otherwise help with, please step up and volunteer.

Some things will stay the same. The President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership and Ways & Means committees all have the same duties.

The Mart Chair has been an almost ceremonial post in past years. No longer! The Mart chair will be in charge not only of setting up and taking down the tables at each of our monthly meetings, but also coordinating our annual Goodtyme Supermart. The Mart committee needs help every single month with the tables at the Masonic Lodge. If you are able-bodied, please consider volunteering.

A new committee is Publications. This chair is in charge of producing the Tic Talk Times, as well as maintaining the chapter's web site,

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Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

a nautical theme complete with little fish!

Ray Brown brought in a clock that he got from his aunt and uncle's home. Ray says that amazingly, the inside of the clock is even uglier inside than it is outside! Dick Pridham mentioned that the clock looks a lot like one the LA Times used to give away with subscriptions.



Julie Stevens brought in a "Kool" retro blue watch. It was quite eye catching!



Ed Lackey brought in a "wrong handed, one legged, faceless old timer!" Boy what a clock that is!

Dean Armentrout showed us his "Arsenic and Old Lace" clock. He didn't have much else to say about it!

Bill Acuna brought in a flea market find. It's an old Gilbert that Bill uses as his garage clock!

Dick Duwe brought in, what else but a good old Phinney Walker! Interestingly, this was a watch not a clock!

Dave shared with us a \$1 clock. Hmm...kind of an interesting blending of design styles?

Bernie Peralta brought in two watches. One of the watches was a Dickey Nixon watch and the other was a Spiro Agnew watch! Dick Pridham recalled that the watches were designed by a former member of chapter 69!



Phyllis Adams showed us a chicken clock that was a gift from a friend. Bernie thought the smaller chicken looked like a tumor on the bigger chicken!

We voted for our favorite ugly watch and clock by applause. Julie won the watch division and Phyllis won the clock division! Congratulations!(?)

We had our annual sing-a-long of the 12 Horological Days of Christmas. After we got done, we managed to talk Dave into playing us something else. He blew us away with a beautiful rendition of "Campanas del Alba" which translates to "Bells of the Dawn." It's Spanish piece and Dave has a wonderful story of meeting up with a street

musician in Barcelona. Dave asked the guitarist if he was familiar with "Campanas del Alba." The man said, "no" and proceeded to hand his instrument to Dave to play. As Dave played the church bells began to ring.

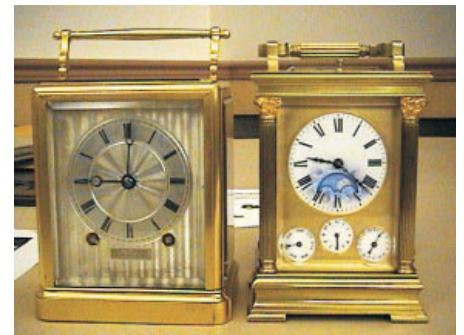
This month's show and tell was for horological item beginning with the letter "G" or holiday themed horological items.

Bernie Peralta showed us a beautiful Gerrard Perregaux 18 karat gold wristwatch. It has a satin dial, and a 17 jewel movement. He says it's very precise.

Ed Lackey showed us a picture of a wonderful old grandfather clock case that he turned into a case for his clocks. He has a lot of Baby Bens, some Russian clocks, and a few electric clocks in there!

Doug Adams brought in a beautiful clock (top) that he figures has gilding on it somewhere or another! The clock has an enamel dial and sweep seconds. The case is Chinese mahogany. He was told not to put oils or polish on the case. Instead, every 10 years or so he is to crush a walnut in a cloth and to use that cloth to polish the case. The clock dates to around 1850.

Roy Irick brought in a Paul Garnier carriage clock. It has a "chaff cutter" escapement. He showed us another clock signed by LeRoy but it has the same escapement and was possibly also made by Garnier. Roy also showed us his special find from the Del Mar Show. It is a wonderful Grand Sonnerie with a moon dial. He bought the clock and was quickly offered a \$1000 profit on it by someone else!



Dick Pridham showed us a picture of a clock made by John Priham to prove that clocks are in his blood!

Coralee also put out a request for refreshment volunteers!

This month the door prizes went to Arlean Selene, Jan Duwe, Dick Pridham, Julie Stevens, Elaine Irick, and Bill Johnson. Congratulations!

Our meeting was adjourned by Dave.

Respectfully Submitted by Jana Smith, Secretary

Forensic Horology

Sometimes it's fun (and even necessary) to figure out what the last person who tinkered with your movement did to it to get it so screwed up. A chapter member brought me a clock with a really rough movement that caused me to have to really think about what had happened to it.

These gears come from a 3-train, one-weight Vienna Regulator. The quarter-hour and hour strike trains are spring driven. These are the #2 gears from the two strike trains. You may note that the tooth tips of the left one look flattened, and the teeth are thicker and shorter than the one on the right. It was this gear with the flattened teeth that was having trouble meshing with the next pinion in the train.

You might also notice the double set of spokes on this gear. What you can't see is the black oxidation on one end of that arbor. What's up with this gear?

Here's a big clue. This movement had springs in barrels with the not-so-brilliant design feature of having the ratchets on the inside (spring side) of the great wheels. There's no easy way to let down the power in the springs! But, as I suspect the tinker found out, you *must* let down or contain that power before you take the plates apart. The most straightforward way to do this is to remove all the stopping levers and allow the trains to spin freely until there's nothing – I repeat, *nothing* – left in the springs. I even push the wheels forward after they've stopped until I get a little backspin at the end to make sure of this.

So what of the apparently impatient tinker who took the plates apart with power still in the springs? Well, he saw the #1 wheel spinning wildly, and the #2 wheel, which couldn't get out of the way, spun even more wildly. The #3 arbor kind of fell over and jammed in place, so all those thin gear teeth on the #2 wheel were bent over flat by colliding repeatedly with the #3 pinion. It was all over in a second.

So now we know what happened to that gear. The one that's in there now is a replacement from another movement. It must have had the same tooth count, been slightly larger in diameter, with a somewhat longer shaft. The tinker took this other gear, annealed the end of the arbor, turned it down, hardened it, then, when it wouldn't turn in the movement, he used a file to take some material off the ends of the teeth.

He made two errors here. His filing job resulted in an eccentric outer circle, so some teeth went deeper into the pinion than others. The correct way to do this is to put the

gear in the lathe and lightly touch your file to the spinning teeth. If you hear a steady tone, the teeth are concentric; if you hear a chatter, they're not. (This is easier to detect at lower speeds.) Once you've gently filed all the teeth even, you must reshape the tips. That generally means patiently hand filing each tooth tip, which is another clue that the tinker was the impatient type. Did I make perfect cycloidal tips when I filed them? No. Did I vastly improve the running of that train? Absolutely.

What about the double spokes? The tinker, not wanting to remount all the little hammer lifting pins that were on the original gear, chopped off all of what remained of the original gear's teeth, soldered the old wheel onto the new one, and bent the hammer lifting lever to accommodate the now-thicker gear.

So, with the mystery solved and the gear now functional, all I have left to do is make an entirely new hammer lifting lever for the other side (the tinker chopped it off and bent the remaining piece so it pushed the hammer down instead of lifting it), replace both the broken pallet arbor pivots, straighten the escape wheel teeth, and replace the dental floss weight cord. Hmm. Forensic Dentistry in Horology. I think there's a *Bulletin* article there.

New Year (cont.)

and coming up with flyers for the Goodtyme Supermart. We always need volunteers in this area. If you have any knowledge of computerized layout, please step forward!

The Library chair is now also concerned with other educational areas such as workshops and field trips. Any ideas? Can you man the library table in a pinch?

The Vice-president is still in charge of programs, but the Program Committee now has the additional formal responsibility of storing, setting up and maintaining the chapter's considerable audio-visual equipment. If you can operate a camera, please volunteer.

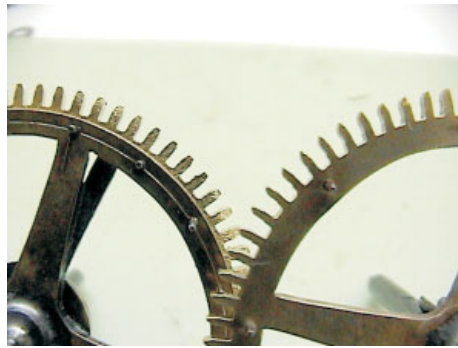
And what would our meetings be without our Hospitality committee? We need volunteers each month not only to provide refreshments but to help out in the kitchen.

As you can see, these changes, combined with our recent move (and loss of James's able assistance) mean that our volunteer spirit must be rekindled in a big, big way. A lot of folks, each making small contributions, will keep the chapter running smoothly.

I'm looking forward to 2005. I think the opportunities for Chapter 69 to maintain its high levels of camaraderie, education, and activism are better than ever. Please don't just let it happen around you – be a part of it.

Happy New Year!

— Dave Weisbart



**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

The National
**ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.**
Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o Dean Armentrout
332 Forest Avenue, Suite 6
Laguna Beach CA 92651



Our Next Meeting: January 7, 2005

Program:

VIDEO PRESENTATION
**"Making a Wooden
Clock Case"**

(See page 1 for details)

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

"Maintaining Power"

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "H"

Board Meeting:

To be announced

Time: 7:00 – Doors open

8:00 – General Meeting

Admission: \$4.00 – General

\$6.00 – Couples

Location: Acacia Grove Masonic Lodge

11270 Acacia Parkway

(in the Civic Center)

Garden Grove, CA

