

THE Tic Talk Times

XVII
January 2006
Vol. 25, No. 6



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

Meeting minutes, Dec. 2, 2005

Fun & Games

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 by Vice President Bob Linkenhoker. He welcomed our guest Jim Clark, from Alaska and wished Ken Lynn a happy 39th birthday. The 50/50 drawing had two winners, Bud Saiben won \$25 and Doug Lynn won \$11.

The refreshments for the night were brought by the members. We had a huge assortment of treats!



Among the first 1,872 photos taken of David Kenji Smith, Jana's son

The minutes from the November 4, 2005 meeting were approved. Bob gave everyone the sad news of Etta Serr's passing. President Charles Register took control of the meeting and announced the upcoming regionals & marts:

- February 2, 3, 4, Los Angeles.
- March 25, 26, Arizona
- Saturday, April 15 is the Inland Counties Mart.

continued on page 2

This month

What's In Your Pocket?

Instead of a beginners corner this month we will start off the New Year by installing a new board. You may recall that the Board members of Chapter 69 have traditionally taken office in July. Last year the Board decided it would be better if the terms started in January and ended in December. All Board members at that time agreed to serve an additional six months but now it is time to let the new Board take over.

The program this month will be a live presentation by member and past president Gene Osten. Gene is an avid collector of pocket watches and will describe "Unusual American Pocket Watches."

I've seen this presentation and can tell you it will be of interest to all, no matter what your horological interest. Gene has quite a collection of these unusual pieces and will display many. The one I saw that was of most interest was a stop watch with an escapement that ran at 30,000 beats per hour. You could hardly see the escape wheel as it rotated.

Come and see the new Board take office as well as celebrate the start of the New Year with your Chapter 69 friends. See you all on January 6.

Bob Linkenhoker



Message from the President

The New Year

Now that we've entered the new year, I hope this message finds the membership of Chapter 69 in the best of health.

We must again focus on the things that make us a great chapter, which are:

- **Active participation** – we need a couple more volunteers for the board.
- **Membership/recruitment** – we must continue to vigorously recruit. I will have meeting invitation coupons to distribute at the upcoming meeting.
- **Support of your elected officers and board** – give all the help you can to those who have volunteered to run the chapter.

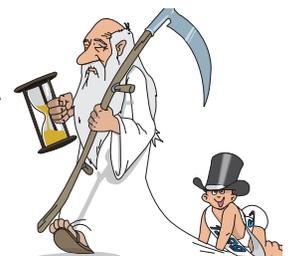
These are the mainstays of a successful organization, and we must keep Chapter 69 in the forefront. And we should have fun doing all of the above.

Enjoy your year and have health and success. Thank you in advance for your contributions to Chapter 69.

Charles

Charles Register

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**



Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

Secretary Jana Smith and her husband, Chris, are proud, first time parents to David Kenji Smith, born October 24, 20005, 8 lb, 1 oz, 20". Congratulations! We haven't received his membership application yet. Annette DiMino asked for three more volunteers to bring refreshments next year.



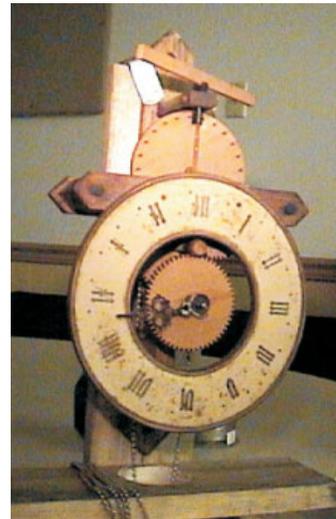
Our featured program was a "Time Trials," a video produced by chapter member Dave Weisbart in 2000 at the NAWCC Chapter 75 meeting. The video is available through the NAWCC lending library. It is a spin-off from the game show Jeopardy and Dave Weisbart is Alex Trebek. Order this video and test your horology knowledge! Dave also

provided us with a Christmas sing-a-long of "On the First Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a Seth Thomas Pillar and Scroll." Very clever!

Show & Tell began with the letter, "W". Charles Register brought his Waltham Art Deco wristwatch from the late 1920's which sold in for \$75. Gene Osten brought a quartz sundial and compass. Ed Lackey brought a wooden clock with a bead chain. The bead is not the correct size, so he's looking for the next size. Ken Lynn brought a Waterbury pocketwatch in its original box. It works perfectly and is six jewels, from the 1890s. Doug Adams brought a Waltham Railroad grade, Riverside



A compass and model of Stonehenge – that's all you need, right?



Maximus in a 14KT gold case. With 23 jewels, it was the top of the line for Waltham in its day. Doug Lynn brought an Illinois, 15 jewels, pocketwatch from the 1870s. It is in a coin silver case. It is a model 5, lever set, "conversion" (key- or stem-wind) watch. Bob Linkenhoker brought a clock mainspring made of rolled steel, probably from 1840. Bud Saiben

brought a Welch blue glass paperweight clock. This clock has the original carrying case made for the clock. In 1904 Sessions bought Welch. Sessions used the same paperweight case, but beveled the edges of the case.

Door prizes were won by Doug Lynn, Doug Adams and Alan Lynn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.



History of the Mechanical Watch

The watch was not a true “invention” so much as a further miniaturization of the small spring-driven table clock introduced by Italian clockmakers in the late 15th century. It is probable that the Italians were producing clocks small enough to be worn on the person by the early 16th century. It did not take long for watchmaking to spread throughout Europe and England, and London, Paris, and Geneva flourished as centers of fine watchmaking in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Early watches were very poor timekeepers (much less reliable than clocks of the same period), and remained so until the introduction of the balance spring in 1675. Only after this innovation did the minute hand regularly appear on watches. Better escapements further improved watch performance, as did “jewelling,” the use of jeweled bearings to reduce friction.

However, if watches of the 16th and 17th centuries were not terribly successful as instruments, they were very successful as ornaments. Cases and dials were painstakingly handcrafted, and reflected the specialized skills of casemakers, gilders, engravers, enamellers, and jewelers. French watches were especially decorative and opulent, while English, German, and Dutch designs were generally more sedate. However, even French designs simplified as technical advances improved the watch’s image as a serious timekeeper.

Until the middle of the 19th century, watches were individually assembled from handcrafted parts. Even in the early days of the trade, several craftsmen were involved in the fabrication of a watch, one artisan making the rough castings, others making such parts as the spring, case, dial, and hands, and another—the “watchmaker” who put his name on the final product—finishing the parts and assembling them into a working watch. More because of the labor than the raw materials (although these were hardly negligible), watches were extremely costly. Not until the second half of the 19th century and the American developments in mechanized watch production would they become widely affordable.



GRUEN 50th ANNIVERSARY POCKET WATCH, 1924

*Gruen Watch company
Cincinnati Ohio and Biel,
Switzerland*

*This very prestigious watch
was designed by Fred and
George Gruen to celebrate
the company's 50th
anniversary. A total of 650
of the watches were made
with serial numbers 1-600*

*and 1-050. This watch is number 408 and is cased in an
18K white gold pentagon shaped case patented by the
Gruen Company.*

*Technical specifications: 17L, 23J with 2 diamond cap
jewels, 8adj, 12K gold hand engraved gold bridges gold
plated train wheels Breguet hairspring, SW, PS.*

FOR SALE

HONDEN LATHE	10" CRAFTSMAN
8" Swing by 27"bed	OVERARM SAW
Many accessories	4 Extra blades
\$450.00	1 Shaper blade set
	\$150.00

For information contact Bob Linkenhoker at
951/898-5825 or rlink3@juno.com

The Horological 12 Days of Christmas

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me:

*Twelve Willard Banjos
Eleven Time Recorders
Ten Rolex Oysters
Nine German Cuckoos
Eight Railroad Watches
Seven Jeweled Movements
Six French Repeaters
Five Golden Fobs
Four Sonora Chimes
Three Ogees
Two Lantern Clocks
and a Seth Thomas Pillar and Scroll*

Tic Talk Times On Line

Would you like to save the chapter some money and 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**

Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o Dean Armentrout
332 Forest Avenue, Suite 6
Laguna Beach CA 92651

The National
**ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.**



Our Next Meeting: Friday, January 6, 2006

Program:

LIVE PRESENTATION
"Unusual Pocket Watches"
by Gene Osten

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

No Beginner's Corner this month

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letters "XYZ"

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

