

Tic Talk Times



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

Meeting minutes, Jan. 7, 2005

Gluing Dials?

Our meeting was called to order by President Charles Register at 8:02 p.m.

We were very pleased to see Charles so soon after his transplant. Charles said that while he's feeling fine, he is a little weak right now, so Dave Weisbart would run the rest of the meeting.

With Dave now running the meeting, we welcomed our guests Jeries and Jerry Ayyoub, Paul Wilson and Robert Tatar.

Thanks to Elle Clark for bringing delicious refreshments.

Next, we had the installation of officers presided over by Bernie Peralta. Thank you Bernie! Officers and board members installed were: Charles Register, Jana Smith, Cora Lee and Bob Linkenhoker, Dave Weisbart, and Dennis Woodson.

Announcements for this month:

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Lloyd Porter. Lloyd was a Silver Star Fellow, NAWCC Membership #7493. He was 95 years old. Lloyd's wife Jane passed away in 1977 but he is survived by his son Stephen and two grandchildren. Lloyd served as NAWCC Council Director and he hand carried Chapter 116's charter from council meeting in Columbia, Pennsylvania, to the chapter's first official meeting in June 1980. Over the years, he served as an officer or director on many of the Southern California Chapters. Lloyd

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This month

Patek Phillippe

Did you know that Patek Phillippe was actually two people's names and not just one person's first and last? I didn't until I watched this month's program, a wonderful video called "Patek Phillippe-The Watchmakers of Geneva: Tradition is Our Future."



I also was surprised at the amount of hand work that still goes into the making of a Patek Phillippe watch movement, its case and the bracelet that holds it to your wrist.

Come to the meeting in February and learn more about the history and current production methods of possibly the most prestigious watch company in the world today.

A Brief History

The Company known today as Patek Phillippe was founded in Geneva in 1839, by an exiled Polish

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Message from the President

Best Wishes for New Year

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish the Officers, Board Members, and General Membership of NAWCC chapter 69 a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. I'd also like to thank those who wished me well as I went through the kidney transplant process. Thank you. And thanks to those who are working to make Chapter 69 the best ever. Those of you with talent should step up in service to the chapter for the sake of our new, young members to continue a long established tradition. Thank you all for your contributions and may 2005 be a great year.

— Charles Register

Different Meeting Day!

Due to the Greater Los Angeles Regional on February 4 and 5, the Chapter 69 meeting will be held on the second Friday of the month, **February 11**. Mark your calendar **NOW!**

Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

will be missed!

Bob Linkenhoker brought to our attention a motion that was made by John Hubby during the NAWCC Board of Directors' January Electronic Meeting. The motion involves allowing chapters to host marts and auctions that are open to the public provided that such events are publicly advertised in promotion of the NAWCC and that public educational programs of a horological nature are included. Another, less ambitious motion would be to allow non-members into marts if they are escorted by a member and are only allowed admittance for observation. These proposals will be voted on at a future meeting.

Don't forget the LA Regional will be held on February 4th and 5th, 2005. (It was suggested that we push the February General Meeting back a week since our regular date would conflict with the regional.)

Phyllis Adams brought to our attention an article that was in the Orange County Register on December 18th. There was an article about a bicycle shop and Hoke Dillon was mentioned!

She also had an article that mentioned that the artists now using the Spurgeon Building had disabled the clock because the striking bothered them!

We also learned that Bud Saiben is in a convalescent home having recently had pneumonia.

Cora Lee sent around a sign-up sheet for refreshments.

This month's Beginner's Corner was "Maintaining Power" by Dave Weisbart. Maintaining power is a mechanism that allows the clock train to keep running while you wind the clock thereby keeping the time accurately set. Dave demonstrated this on a Seth Thomas #2 Regulator movement.

If you do work on clocks, it's nice to know what it is and how it works. It can be a surprise when taking apart a movement if you thought that you had let the power down! Dave took it apart to show us how it works.

One of our members brought up the fact that the first form of maintain power was an "endless rope."

This month's program was "Making a Wooden Clock Case." The video used as a model an Ansonia Queen Elizabeth from around 1895. Dave mentioned that the Ansonia Queen Elizabeth came in two case styles. Dave's clock (left) shows up in the 1894 catalog. The one on the video shows a similar case but no finials.



This video of The American Woodshop takes us through the cutting, sanding and assembling of a wooden clock case. The creation of the case was quite interesting and the case looked very nice. Interestingly however, when it came time to put the clock movement in, the woodworker glued

in the face of the clock. (Oh dear...)

This month's show and tell was for horological items beginning with the letter "H"

Gene Osten brought in a great old Hamilton pocket watch (top). This watch was displayed during our National. The name of a Santa Ana jeweler is on the dial and on the movement.

Ray Brown brought in a clock with a "floating" balance. The movement, attributed to Hettich is battery powered and inexpensive according to Ray. Ray also had another movement that incorporated the same idea of a floating balance. We could see a little blue box in this one that contained the electromagnet.

Bernie Peralta brought in two Hamiltons. The first was a railroad watch. It had outstanding, bold numbers and was housed in a gold-filled case. The movement dates to 1931. Bernie's Hamilton wristwatch was a nice Tuxedo model with hinged lugs (bottom). His driver's-type watch dates to about 1940.



This month, door prizes were won by Peter Bowers, Charles Register, Jan Duwe, Gene Osten, Rich Edmonston, Dick Pridham, Elle Clark and Evelyn Buster. Congratulations!

It was announced that the board meeting would be at the Armentrouts'.

Shirley Lefkowitz donated Murray's NAWCC Bulletins to our chapter. With this donation we have a complete collection of bulletins. Thank you, Shirley!

Our meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jana Smith, Secretary



Benny Goodman to the Rescue!

It's amazing how the brain works sometimes. There I was, faced with a perplexing problem with a cuckoo clock, and the Benny Goodman CD I was listening to in my shop provided the answer!

I was assembling a cuckoo using parts from several dilapidated clocks that I had acquired from an estate. This one had a nice case and an easily refurbished movement, but was missing one of the flutes (or whistles). So, with one flute installed, I went looking for another one with the right pitch (a major third higher, for you musical types) to install in this case.

I found one that sounded about right fairly quickly, installed it, hooked up all the lifting wires, and ran the cuckoo train. Yikes! That's not it! The pitch was lower than I needed. (About this time, Benny was playing "Avalon.") So I took the flute out.

I couldn't quite fathom why it didn't work, so I tried it again outside of the clock. There was my major third again. Why did it sound good outside the clock and not inside? I wondered, 'Could the case be changing the resonance somehow?' As I puzzled over this, and Benny was playing "Sing, Sing, Sing," I spotted the culprit.

Cuckoo flutes are traditionally secured to the case with a screw and a nail. There was a hole in the side of the flute where the screw went in. Just like... a clarinet! I put my finger over the hole and moved the bellows. There was the lower pitch that I couldn't use. Finger off, major third. Finger on, minor second (a really ugly interval, trust me).

So now what? I could continue searching for just the right flute among all the derelict cuckoo clocks. But I had already invested more time in this one that I wanted to. This flute could produce the right pitch with a hole in the side, but that hole was being filled when the flute was installed. The solution became immediately apparent. I drilled another hole on the back side of the flute, the same distance from the top as the mounting hole. It worked perfectly. Thanks, Benny!



Brief History (from page 1)

Nobleman. Count Antoine Norbert de Patek and his compatriot Francois Czapek.

The earliest watches were signed Patek, Czapek & Co. until 1845 when Czapek left the partnership. Several years later the company was joined by French watchmaker, Jean Adrien Philippe, who later became the inventor of their famous stem-winding and hand setting mechanism, a modern and reliable concept.

From May 1845 to January 1851 the firm was known as Patek & Co; Philippe lent his name to the company in 1851 when he became a full partner.

Among the reasons for their initial success was the high standard of watch making and practicality of Philippe's new stem-winding system. In the early years of partnership. Queen Victoria of England herself was already a client.

From the middle of the 19th century, Patek Philippe assumed a leading role in the Swiss watch making industry by raising the standards of workmanship and timekeeping through the introduction of technical improvements (the free mainspring, the sweep seconds hand), in addition to implementing improvements to regulators, chronographs, and perpetual calendar mechanism.

As early as 1867 the Paris Exhibition, Patek Philippe displayed watches featuring functions that were to become the standard for complicated watches at the beginning of the 20th century; namely a perpetual calendar, a repeater, and a chronograph with split-seconds.

The two most complicated watches of all time were made by Patek Philippe. The first, made for Henry Graves Jr. New York, was completed at the beginning of the century, and the second, the Caliber 89, the world's most complicated watch, completed in 1989 (hence the name) to mark the firm's 150th anniversary.

In 1932, Patek Philippe changed hands, and its new owners became Charles and Jean Stern. Toady the third generation of this family still owns and manages the company.

Shortly after world war II, Patek Philippe established an electronic division, and in the 1950's the company pioneered quartz technology, filling several patents and winning multiple awards.

Today, Patek Philippe SA, Geneva, is still a family company, owned jointly by its president, Mr. Henri Stern, and his son and Vice President, Mr. Philippe Stern. The firm has traditionally made complete timepieces, watches and clocks, employing craftsmen who are master-watchmakers capable of designing and finishing the most complicated watch movements. Other specialists such as goldsmiths, chain smiths, enamellers, jewelers, and engravers complete the firm's manufacturing capabilities.

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**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



SECOND Friday!

Our Next Meeting: February 11, 2005

SECOND Friday!

Program:

VIDEO PRESENTATION

"Patek Philippe"

(See page 1 for details)

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

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

To Be Announced

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "I" & "J"
Or items purchased at the Pasadena Regional

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, February 16, at 7:30 P.M. at the home of:
Julie Stevens
31266 Flying Cloud Drive
Laguna Niguel CA 92677
(949) 487-9080

