

THE Tic Talk Times



February 2006
Vol. 25, No. 7

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

Meeting minutes, Jan. 6, 2006

Watches Galore

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by President Charles Register, who wished the members a Happy New Year. Charles announced that in lieu of a Beginner's Corner the installation of officers and board members would take place. He requested that Doug Adams (president), Phyllis Adams (director), Ray Brown (vice president), Derald Kliem (secretary), Bob Linkenhoker (treasurer) and Charles Register (librarian) come forward. Past President Gene Osten was given the honor of performing the installation procedure. Gene quickly performed the installation and Doug Adams took over the function of President of Chapter 69 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. The membership presented outgoing President Charles Register with the traditional gavel which Charles graciously accepted.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the December 2005 meeting be approved with three corrections. Motion passed.

Doug reminded the members that there is a need for two more board members and urged the members to consider volunteering for these positions. Doug then announced that the next board meeting would be held at the Adams home on Wednesday, January 11, at 7:30 P.M.

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This month

Electrifying Time!

This month we are combining themes for our beginners corner and main presentation; the topic is early battery operated clocks. Ray Brown, Chapter 69 vice president for 2006, will discuss how battery power was first used to drive clocks before the availability of reliable central AC power distribution. Ray's presentation will describe several approaches to electrifying clocks from using batteries for winding conventional movements to new



designs departing from those of the last few hundred years. Animations of some interesting approaches to battery movements will be shown to illustrate how some of the more exotic designs operated. Ray will also show several examples from his collection of battery clocks from the early 1900's to the mid 20th century. A brief discussion of time distribution using battery operated master/slave systems will also be included.

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Message from the Veep

Programs and the Beginner's Corner

One of the most important duties of the vice president is planning the monthly programs and Beginner's Corner. One of my goals for 2006 is to have as many live presentations as possible thus sharing information between members and allowing audience participation. With that in mind, I am asking for your support. We need more presenters for both the main program and Beginner's Corner. If you can present or know of someone who can, please contact me at our February meeting (or via phone 714 290-4702 or e-mail raybrown@att.net). Feel free to propose any topic related to horology or you may consider these following suggestions:

- Member's collections
- Pocket Watches
- 400 Day Clocks
- Wrist Watches
- Carriage Clocks
- Clocks and Watches of a particular manufacturer or local; e.g. Ansonia, French clocks etc.
- 18th and early 19th century clocks: e.g. wooden works, strap movements etc.
- Marine Chronometers
- Car Clocks
- Novelty Watches and Clocks
- Asian Horology
- Ancient Timepieces: sundials, water clocks, etc.

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Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

The members welcomed guests Richard Gottlieb, Craig Burnett, Ron Abbott, and Jeff and Patty Lombardi.

Doug announced the upcoming regionals and marts:

- February 2, 3, 4 Greater LA Regional
- March 25, 26 Arizona Sunshine Regional
- April 15 Inland Counties Mart
- June 21-25 National Convention in Cleveland Ohio

There is a need for volunteers to bring refreshments to the August and October meetings.

There was no Old Business.

Gene Osten presented the evening's main program on pocket watches that he considered interesting, watches out of the ordinary, but not necessarily those that would dazzle our eyes. Gene informed us that the US watch industry had produced about 100 million jeweled watches, most of which had the seconds bit, not the sweep second, a separate sub-dial located at the three or six hour positions, depending on whether the watch was to be housed in a hunter case or an open faced case.

This was a very competitive business, and every one was looking for a way to attract buyers. Perhaps the most obvious way was to make the watch attractive to the eye. There are a number of ways to make a watch look good, whether or not it is internally. Plates may be engraved or otherwise impressed with a pattern, or the watch may have plates that are gold plated. The dial itself may be highly decorated. After 1892, many of the watch manufactures placed something on the dial or face pertaining to railroads, since everyone knew that if it were a railroad watch it had to be good. But many of these could not hope to be approved as railroad watches.

Gene went on to tell us of other ways manufacturers used to sell their watches. Transition models were stem wound and included a square arbor on the barrel to enable being wound with a key. Some models such as stop watches and chronographs were aimed at specific potential customers. Other watches had special features such as up/down indicators or lever or stem set or even double hour hands. Gene showed one watch that would run for two days before it would need to be wound. Some manufacturers even added an anti-magnetic shield to protect the watch; Gene suggested that this might go with a "tin foil" hat.

For Show & Tell, Bud Saiben brought a Seth Thomas Ship's Bell called a Yaught. This is a rare clock with the bell on the top. Bud informed us that the clock was turned upside down to put the bell on the top thus the winding holes are at the two and ten positions and the seconds bit is at the top. He also informed us that the clock is for sale.

Les Lesovsky had a Seth Thomas clock with the pendulum motion back and forth in the "Y" direction

rather than from side to side. This required a special escapement, quite a novelty.

Doug Adams brought a Simca clock which has faces on both sides of the clock. Winding is done from the bottom.

Door prizes were won by Ray Brown, Julie Lesovsky and Dick Pridham.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Derald Kliem, Secretary

Programs *(from page 1)*

- Buying Watches and Clocks; Auctions live and on-line (experiences and horror stories accepted!)

The main presentation should last about 30 minutes including Q&A; this isn't really all that long, especially with audience participation. We can provide video support from a computer or VCR if needed but totally spoken presentations are ideal too. Beginner's Corner topics can also be from the list above but are more focused on how to's and can include:

- Repair and restoration
- Use of horological tools
- Cleaning and lubrication
- Adjustment and regulation
- Horological materials and techniques
- Any other horological how to's

The Beginner's corner presentation should be short, 5-10 minutes, and focused on a key topic that's of use in horology.

With your help, we should have an outstanding 2006 program!

This Month *(from page 1)*

The Beginner's Corner will follow the main presentation focusing on a major shortcoming of many of these clocks. This problem was long-term reliability of the electrical contacts used to operate the electromechanical mechanism. Damage to the contacts due to electrical arcing was not well understood or controlled. This often resulting in early failure of these clocks. Solutions to this problem using 19th and 20th century technology will be presented plus a handout sheet for future reference.

— Ray Brown

Tic Talk Times On Line

Would you like to save the chapter some money and receive the *Tic Talk Times* over the Internet?

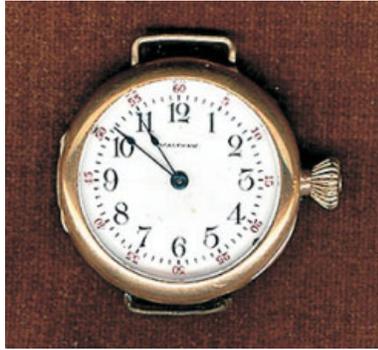
Send an email request to webmaster@nawcc69.org. You can also view the current and past issues at www.nawcc69.org

Time at a Glance

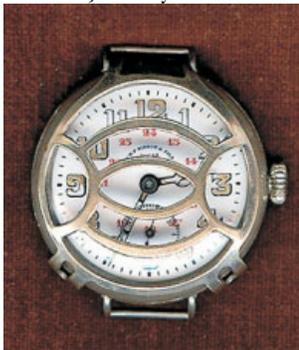
Occasionally during the Renaissance, a miniature mechanical watch movement would be attached to a decorative bracelet as a lady's accessory. This idea reemerged during the 19th century, as women's pocket watches were fitted with a bracelet or leather strap so they could be worn on the wrist. Military personnel recognized the practicality of the timepiece, and by 1880, German naval officers were being supplied with Swiss-produced watches.

Companies like Cartier, Omega, Movado, Waltham, and Patek Philippe were producing wristwatches for a small but emerging market by 1910. The general popularity of wristwatches, however, grew tremendously during World War I, as soldiers worldwide took advantage of the accessible and efficient timepieces.

Although the wristwatch was initially an ornamental piece of jewelry for women, the wide military use of the timekeeper helped make it an acceptable timepiece for everyone and it quickly grew in popularity. For Instance, in 1920, approximately 25% of the watches exported by Switzerland were wristwatches, while 75% were pocket watches. By 1934, wristwatch exportation had climbed to an unprecedented 65%, while pocket watch exportation had dropped to 35%. These years saw great



*Wristwatch, c 1914
American Waltham Watch
Company*



*Wristwatch, c 1916
C.H. F. Tissot & Fils
Locale, Switzerland*

developments in wristwatch technology. Automatic self-winding and water-resistant models were in production by the late 1920s, and shock-resistant movements were in the works by the late 1930s.

Between 1915 and 1940, watch companies introduced thousands of unique styles for both men and women. Dials and cases were produced in almost every shape imaginable, while watchbands were manufactured in a wide array of materials, colors, and styles. By the mid 20th century, the wristwatch had become the most versatile and reliable personal timepiece available.

The Era of Personal Timepieces

In the midst of significant international competition, watch companies consistently researched and experimented with new designs in an effort to increase accuracy. In 1954, the Hamilton Watch Company teamed up with the National Carbon Company to develop a battery. Consequently, Hamilton released the world's first commercial electric watch in 1957. While the battery was a great innovation, the watch still lacked the accuracy that an oscillating quartz crystal could provide. While quartz technology had been harnessed in clocks for nearly thirty years, it was still too large to be incorporated into a wristwatch. The invention of the integrated circuit in 1959, however would eventually make quartz wristwatch technology possible. Within ten years, the integrated circuit was successfully incorporated into watches, making the quartz crystal oscillate and dividing the quartz frequency down to one pulse per second.



The first quartz watch on the market was the Seiko 35 SQ Astron. It was made available on Christmas Day in 1969 and retailed for 450,000 yen, or about \$1,250. The Swiss were not far behind. By 1970, a quartz watch movement called Beta 21 was being produced by a consortium of watch manufacturers in Switzerland. Further advancements were made in 1972, when the Hamilton Watch Company introduced the first digital watch, the Pulsar. By the mid 1970s, quartz watches were produced internationally and many models were very affordable. A new timekeeping revolution was well underway.

Today, watchmaking is a diverse and flourishing multi-billion dollar worldwide industry. While quartz technologies such as kinetic watches and radio-controlled watches have generated significant enthusiasm. For consumers who prefer the tradition and artistic elegance of mechanical watches, they too are still in production.

FOR SALE

HONDEN LATHE
8" Swing by 27"bed
Many accessories
\$450.00

10" CRAFTSMAN
OVERARM SAW
4 Extra blades
1 Shaper blade set
\$150.00

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

**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: Friday, February 3, 2006

Program:

LIVE PRESENTATION
"Electrifying Time"
by Ray Brown

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:
"Electrical contacts in battery clocks" by Ray Brown

Show & Tell:
Horological items beginning with the letter "A"

Board Meeting:
Wednesday, February 8 at 7:30 P.M.
Location 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

