



## *In our Thoughts*



## Roy Irick

1923 - 2007

Roy Irick, a past chapter president and frequent contributor to our programs, passed away in December while visiting his daughter in Phoenix. We will all miss Roy, as he and his wife Elaine have been common sights at club meeting and marts for many years.

Roy began collecting clocks in earnest over 30 years ago when he retired as a member of the technical staff from Hughes Aircraft Company. The extra time gave he and Elaine the opportunity to shop the antique malls and Roy began serious additions to his clock collection. Roy developed a passion for his clocks and was best known for his extensive collection of carriage clocks and Atmos clocks. Elaine told us that for Roy's idea of a pretty face were the ones on clocks, which sometimes made her a little jealous!

Roy and Elaine moved to southern California ten years ago and Roy soon became involved in the

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## *This month*

## *"It winds itself."*

*The Rise & Fall  
of the  
National Self-Winding Clock Co.*



In the closing years of the 19th century, a mechanical engineer, a lawyer, a physician, and a chemist were key players in a start-up company which designed and built a line of battery powered, self-winding clocks that distinguished themselves from the competition by offering special features and aggressive pricing. The combination of skills resulted in clocks with unique characteristics and the company's business activities were driven by creative financing that would put to shame some of today's bankers.

Ray Brown, last year's VEEP and now newsletter editor, will provide an entertaining account of the

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## *Message from the President*

## Here's What We're Doing

*What are you doing?*

At the first meeting of the new board of directors, we decided which areas of responsibility we would each assume according to the new structure of the by-laws. In this new structure, board members may have more than one area of responsibility, but they are tasked with finding volunteers to perform the extra duties. These volunteers would not be part of the board.

Bob and Cora Lee Linkenhoker continue to be dedicated anchors of our chapter. Bob will continue as treasurer, and has agreed to supervise door admissions. (Volunteer Don Bendz has been serving in that position for some time and has agreed to continue. Thanks Don!) Cora Lee will continue as membership chair.

Doug and Phyllis Adams will also continue providing important support. In addition to being Vice-president, Doug will be in charge of programs. He has also agreed to take responsibility for the mart duties, but he needs a volunteer for this! Phyllis has agreed to take responsibility for the library.

Past "veep" Ray Brown is taking on double duties. He will be in charge of publications (including this newsletter) and the publicity duties, which consist primarily of sending

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## Making Wood Look Good

Doug Adams opened the meeting at 8:00. Bernie Peralta installed the new officers, Dave Weisbart, Bob Linkenhoker, Julie Stevens, Phyllis Adams, Deborah Abbot and Ray Brown. New President Dave Weisbart presented Doug Adams with an appreciation plaque.

Dave introduced Gene Chavez, a guest and new member Greg Bunch. He thanked Ellie Clark for bringing the refreshments. With great sadness, Dave announced the sudden passing of Roy Irick.

Upcoming marts:

- Greater L.A. Regional is February 7-9.
- The National is June 11-14, in Springfield, MO.

We need a librarian and a mart person. The mart person will coordinate our annual mini mart and the monthly mart.

Dave wants publicity for the chapter. He ordered NAWCC applications to give to antique stores to put in their display racks. He has offered to make a half hour video for public tv, "The Fun of Watch and Clock Collecting." Dave hopes to have pocket watches, general collections, high end clocks and other horological items included in the video.

The Drager Clock was outside Knotts Berry Farm for many years and recently removed. It's a part of Orange County history. Dave wants the chapter to get involved with this clock.

The National is asking our chapter for \$500 for the Presidential time clocks and watches exhibit.

The program was presented by Mark Bausman. Mark has 30+ years in restoring antiques and wood. He has restored over 5,000 chairs. He won't modify pieces or sandblast. He is opposed to refinishing, he will only restore, but pointed out that restoring is only an opinion.



Mark provided examples and pictures to illustrate his talk

## February Program from page 1

development of the National Self-Winding Clock Co. from its start up in Chicago, first factory in Bristol and its ultimate demise ten years later in Champaign, Ill. The story will include how Ray was able to piece together information on this company through visits to the library archives at the University of Illinois and the Champaign County Archives at the Urbana Free Library. Ray's story incorporates material from then current newspaper articles and quotes from those involved to bring alive the characters in this story.

And yes, we will spend some time on the technical aspects that set these clocks apart but will also look at how the business developed. We will find out that the lawyer set up several companies incorporated in different states but with the same name. We find out that the chemist's wife came to have a role in the companies business resulting in the chemist's fall from grace. We also see how the chemist's technical risk taking contributed to the financial ruin of the company.

Finally, Ray will follow this same chemist's fortunes following the fall of the National Self-Winding Clock Co. You will hear how he ended up on the hit list of the American Medical Association and about his ultimate demise and redemption, which has effects even now 100 years later.

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### January Show & Tell

Show and Tell was the letter "D". Doug Adams brought pocket chronometer or Deck watch, with a Detent escapement made by A. Aubert.



## Message from the president (from page 1)

the chapter highlights to the Bulletin. He will be assisted by me and Ron Abbot, who will be taking high-resolution pictures for the Bulletin articles. Ron's wife Deborah is our new Hospitality person.

So we're in pretty good shape, volunteer-wise, but we do need someone to take on the mart duties. On a month-to-month basis, this is a very easy job: you simply check to see that anyone selling at the pre-meeting marts is a chapter member, and that they're selling horological goods. Once a year, you handle preparations for our annual Goodytyme Supermart. In this, you would have a lot of help – many of our past mart chairs are still active and can offer lots of guidance and useful procedures. It's a few hours work that's one of the most important fund-raising functions in the chapter. Think about it!

In other news, I have been in touch with the management of the lodge regarding the noise that the other group using the building has been making. This is a faith-based youth group, and they have been notified that they must be quieter in the lobby and not jump around upstairs. If they persist, they will lose their use of the lodge on the first Friday of the month.

I also found out that the sound system was removed because they thought no one was using it! They will look into replacing it.

Finally, we will be distributing the NAWCC membership applications at the coming meeting. If you have a watch, clock or antique store in your neighborhood, consider picking up a bundle of applications to place in your nearby store.

See you at the meeting!

— *Dave Weisbart*

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## Roy Irick (from page 1)

many local chapters of the NAWCC. In addition to our chapter, Roy held leadership positions in several other chapters in our region. He enthusiastically supported our programs based on his extensive collection of clocks and could be counted on to have a show and tell clock for most of our meetings. In 2007, Roy organized and contributed most of the clocks for the carriage clock exhibit at the Greater Los Angeles Regional in Pasadena where he also was the celebrity for a Huell Howser program (*right*).

Elaine says Roy's interests were covered by 3C's, clocks, computers and his church...to which he gave his best with enthusiasm and dedication.

We will all miss Roy but will have fond memories of his dedication to our hobby and to our chapter.

## Board of Directors Meeting

01/10/08

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Dave Weisbart at his house. Phyllis Adams agreed to take the minutes.

Discussion followed on assignments for board members and it was decided that Ray Brown will handle Publicity (Chapter Highlights) as well as Publications (Newsletter); Ron Abbott will take photos at the meetings and Phyllis Adams will be the librarian.

Goodytyme Supermart – Location: Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach locations are too expensive and there is no availability Saturday at Huntington Beach. Westminster or Midway City Women's Club are still a possibility. We need a new venue to attract members to the mart. We also need a Mart Director. Dave suggested holding a pancake breakfast at the mart instead of a lunch and this is a possibility but not decided yet. Members seemed to think it was a good idea but needed some more thought.

Donations – Request for donation to Dreger Clock Repair Fund: It was moved by Ray to give \$100, this was seconded by Debbie and passed.

National is requesting a donation from the Chapter of \$500 for the Presidential Clock and Watch Exhibit. It was suggested to send National \$50 but split the donation among all the California chapters for a total of \$500 and Dave will contact the other chapter Presidents about this.

We are going to continue to distribute "free" invitations to our meetings. Dave will also have 150 brochures at the next meeting for distribution to antiques shops, etc.

A DVD on our chapter will be made for national distribution to all the NAWCC chapters by Dave Weisbart. The cost is \$300 for 200 copies. He suggested several members to show off their personal collections and our chapter.

Lectern – We will ask the lodge to replace the sound system. Dave will ask about the noise from upstairs during meetings, and tell them we feel there is not enough supervision.

We will have to check with the lodge about availability of a for a meeting on July 11th to avoid conflict with July 4th, which is the normal first Friday meeting date.



**DATED MEETING NOTICE  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

*The National  
ASSOCIATION OF  
WATCH & CLOCK  
Collectors, Inc.*  
Orange County Chapter No. 69  
c/o Cora Lee Linkenhoker  
7186 Calico Cir.  
Corona, CA 92881



**Our Next Meeting: Friday, February 1, 2008**

*Program:*

**LIVE PRESENTATION**  
**"It Winds Itself"**  
**by Ray Brown**

*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:*  
No Beginner's Corner this month

*Show & Tell:*  
Horological items beginning with the letters "E"  
or an early electro-mecnanical clock or watch.

*Board Meeting:*  
**Monday, February 4 at 7:30 P.M.** at the home of  
Ray Brown  
10432 Falcon Avenue  
Fountain Valley (714) 968-5526

