

THE Tic Talk Times



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

Meeting minutes, Feb. 13, 2009

A Rainy Night

Vice President Doug Adams called the meeting to order at 8 PM. President Dave Weisbart was home with a cold. Doug welcomed guest Mark Kemmerer and new members Ben and Lan Hsiung. The minutes of the December meeting were approved. Doug thanked the Abbotts for the refreshments. Debbie Abbott passed around a sign up sheet for refreshment duty for upcoming meetings.

Upcoming marts are: Arizona Sunshine Regional, March 12-13, 2009. The National Convention will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 10-13, 2009. Our Mini Mart is Saturday, May 16, 2009.

The evening's presentation was a video on "Making Wooden Clock Gears," by George Bruno.

Show and Tell began with the letter "P", wooden works or Pasadena Purchases. Larry Squires brought an enamel dial that was redone for him by Proclocks. The dial was damaged in shipping.



*Larry's
Squires clock
with new dial*

continued on page 2

This Month

"The Standard Electric Time Company"-by Alan Bloore



Alan Bloore with a few of his Standard Electric Clocks

Our video presentation this month was recorded in October 2008 at the Ward Francillion Time Symposium in Springfield, Ill. Alan's interest in electromechanical clocks, especially those tied to systems, led to his investigation of the beginnings of selling standard time. Alan discusses the founding of Time Telegraph Company by Chester Ponds in 1883 and the founding of the Standard Electric Time Company by Charles Warner in 1884. He details the development of master clocks and slave (secondary) clocks and the solutions to problems delivering standard time to schools, cities, banks, railroads, government buildings, and hospitals. Alan shows many examples of master and secondary clocks, briefly discusses restoration, and shows how he runs

continued on page 3

Greater L. A. Regional 2009 A Surprising Success!

By Laurie Altieri Conti



Pouring rain and an uncertain economy were not enough to dampen the spirits of most attending the Greater Los Angeles Regional at the Pasadena Convention Center on February 6 & 7. While one might expect grumbling at the entrance, there was laughter and an air of excitement followed by a silence as folks first looked out over the sea of tables full of horological treasures.

The 2009 counts are in with 1,210 paid attendees, including the Saturday public count of 315. Another 22 were allowed free admittance after 2:30 p.m. Total tables sold were 331. By the end of this year's event, tables were reserved and registrations for 2010 had already begun.

With NAWCC elections just around the corner, many took the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with some of the candidates for four open positions for National Director including California's

continued on page 3

Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

Doug Lynn showed us a Seiko and New Haven clock he picked up at the Pasadena Regional for not much money!



Some clocks bought at the Greater LA Regional

The door prizes winners were Don Bendz, Doug Lynn and Bernie Peralta (again!).

Remember to vote for Bob Linkenhoker for NAWCC Director!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



George Bruno Presentation

By Mary Jane Dapkus,

July 2001 NAWCC 148

George's presentation focused on the subject of a video taped "live" at the Eastern States Regional in 1998. In the film, George illustrates the evolution of wooden movement manufacturing technology culminating in Eli Terry's Porter contract movement ca. 1806. The Porter contract was the first known successfully completed mass production project in the United States.

Earlier in the day, George explained that his clockmaking career began in 1966. Employed in manufacturing at the time, he was approached by a prominent collector. The man requested George's assistance in making castings for a wagon spring movement. The completion of this project marked a major change in George's life. As he relates it, scrap gears from failed experiments provided fuel to heat his family's home throughout the following winter.

No doubt a key consideration for both George and Eli Terry was minimizing costs. The extensive array of tools and equipment presented in the video was essentially reinvented and handmade by George based on his research and discoveries. The collection represents tools, techniques and equipment which have generally not

survived until the present but which were likely to have been used to complete the Porter contract.

Gear teeth may be cut in a variety of ways. George discovered that during Porter contract movement production, gear tooth crowns were cut in a separate step, after the leading and trailing edges of the teeth were cut. Evidence was provided by a Porter contract movement which happened to be brought into the shop for repair. Upon examination, the cause of the problem was a gear with one tooth much



Plate jigs & masks and an escape wheel cutting engine as used in the Porter contract technology.

longer than the others. Having either been skipped or not cut completely through, the faulty gear provided evidence that an integral cutter operating on both leading and trailing edges of the teeth simultaneously with the crown must have been a later invention, and could not have been used in making the Porter contract movements.



Because, as he says, it looked so crude, George initially doubted the appropriateness of the machine he designed for filing escape wheels six at a time—until NAWCC member Ward Francillon discovered a similar machine that was more than two hundred years old. Next, after making and experimenting with a

treadle-operated lathe, George concluded that pinions of comparable quality and quantity could not have been cut using such a lathe for the purpose of the contract. The video provides a step-by-step demonstration of likely Porter contract pinion manufacturing, beginning with preparation of the raw material, laurel wood. To accomplish the task of cutting pinions, George designed a machine which utilizes a pair of face keys driven by the mechanism, a hand-held maul, and snap gages to mark the thickness of the various sections as the pinion is turned. As a final step, he explained how to make the necessary tool with which to burnish the pinions.

This Month *(from page 1)*

his own clocks. He concludes by discussing companies that competed with The Standard Electric Time Company and what happened to the key players in the Company.

Beginners' Corner

The Care and Handling of Clock Mainsprings is our topic this month and will be presented by Doug Adams. Doug will cover the best procedures for dealing with both new and used mainsprings. Removing, replacing, installing of mainsprings and the best methods for cleaning and lubrication will be discussed. Doug will also tell us his technique for removing the binding wires on new springs to avoid damage to the springs or horologist.

GLAR *(from page 1)*

Robert Linkenhoker, Mike Dempsey of Wisconsin, Jerry Thornsberry, and Tom McIntyre of Massachusetts. Candidate for the Nominating and Elections Committee, Mary Ann Wahlner of California was also present.

The Field Suitcase Workshop Program was well represented this year. Education Chairman and FSW Instructor Mike Dempsey of Wisconsin, FSW Instructor Fred Tischler and his wife, FSW Administrator Pam Tischler of Texas, FSW Instructors Ferdinand Geitner, and Ray Marsolek of California also attended.

The National Representative to GLAR, Renee Coulson of Tennessee and husband Jim, also a former officer and 2007 National Chairman in Cattanooga attended the event along with National Board of Director Vice Chairman John Hubby and National Treasurer, Peter Klein.

The exhibit theme this year was Early AC Clocks arranged and displayed by decade from the 1920's through the 1970's and included information on each.



Excellent programs included "19th Century Clockmaking" by Andy Dervan, "Early AC Clocks" by Ray Brown, "Le Bulle Clock" by John Hubby, and "Ezra

C. Finch, Watchmaker, Salesman and Inventor" by Tom McIntyre.



Fifty guests attending the banquet on Saturday night took a trip down Memory Lane as Elvis impersonator, George Thomas, brought the King's songs back to life with all the excitement of a Las Vegas show. Audience participation got National Board of Director candidate Tom McIntyre and his wife Jane out on the dance floor and "Elvis" coaxed National Treasurer, Peter Klein, GLAR Chairman Marshall Knowlton and others up on stage to sing and dance along. The banquet was a wonderful way to wrap up the Regional.



The success of the Greater Los Angeles Regional is the result of the hard work of many, often volunteering year after year and having finessed their duties to the point that makes putting on this

event look simple.

The following are the GLAR 2009 Committee:

Chairman: Marshall Knowlton, Co-chair: Ray Brown, Treasurer: Kim St. Dennis, Banquet: Dave Weisbart, Computers/Registration Envelopes: Les Lesovsky, Display: Harry Larson, Facility/Hotel: Jim Gilmore, Hospitality: Laurie Conti, Mart: Mary Ann Wahlner, Photographer: Steve Murphy, Pre-registration: Terry Cunningham, Programs/Audio Visual and Chapter 133 Representative: Neil Kuns, Property/Signs: Jim Chamberlain, Publicity and Publishing and Chapter 75 Representative: Ken McWilliams, Local Publicity/Parking: Scott Van Sant, Registration: Chris St. Dennis, Security: Bob Linkenhoker, Silent Auction: Darlene Chinery.

Chairman Marshall Knowlton said, "While now the 2009 show is only a memory, many buyers and sellers were to be found with smiling faces. Of course, the socializing is priceless".

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o Cora Lee Linkenhoker
7186 Calico Cir.
Corona, CA 92881

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



Our Next Meeting: Friday, March 6, 2009

Program:

VIDEO PRESENTATION
"Standard Electric Time Co"
by Alan Bloore

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

"Care & Handling of Mainsprings" by Doug Adams

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "Q" or "R"

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

