

# THE Tic Talk Times



April 2009  
Vol. 28, No. 9

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

*Meeting Minutes, Mar. 6, 2009*

## A History of Time

With 25 members in attendance President David Weisbart call the meeting to order at 8:00pm.

Phyllis Adams was thanked for bringing the refreshments tonight. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the Tic Talk Times. There will be a Board meeting held at Dave's home on Monday night. All members are invited but are requested to let the host know so he will have an idea of the number of attendees.

Up coming events are:

- April 4<sup>th</sup> the Inland Counties Faire in Pomona
- May 16<sup>th</sup> our own Goodtyme Supermart in Anaheim
- May 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter 190 minimart in Ventura
- June 10-13<sup>th</sup> the National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- July 26<sup>th</sup> Chapter 75 minimart in Granada Hills

It is with sorrow that the death of long time member Ralph Havickhovst was announced.

Gene Osten was thanked for auditing the financial books for last fiscal year.

Instead of a 'Beginner's Corner' tonight President Weisbart gave a 'State of the Chapter' report. In it he reported the overall financial condition of the Chapter is good. Even though the monthly income at the meetings is less than the monthly

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*This Month*

## "Eureka!"

by Doug Adams

Our April presentation will be a tale of woe and redemption by Doug Adams. Doug will recount one of his more frustrating moments when he unintentionally broke a pinion on an antique electric clock, in this case an electro-mechanical Eureka. Doug will provide us with the trials in repairing the clock which was made more difficult by the hardened parts and the attached balance wheel which could not be removed from the arbor. But finally, through perserverance Doug came to a successful conclusion with no doubt a shout of "Eureka!"

### *Beginners Corner*

Although the NAWCC has been an organization for over 50 years, the relationship of the national organization and the local chapters was never carefully defined. Now however, a uniform charter has been developed which spells out these relationships for the benefit of the chapter and national. Bob Linkenhoker, will take a few minutes at our meeting to explain the new charter that applies to all NAWCC chapters.

*Presidents Message*

## State of the Chapter

The overall state of the chapter is good.

On the financial side, thanks to our predecessors, we still have significant cash reserves held in certificates of deposit in a couple of different financial institutions. These act as an endowment, providing interest income to help offset our traditional operating deficit.

Our cumulative deficit for normal operations for the fiscal year starting in July stood at about \$550 dollars at the end of January. This does not include our expenditure on equipment (that is, the new podium) nor the deposit on the room for the Goodtyme Supermart. Our regular monthly expenses average around \$343 for the hall, refreshments, insurance, newsletter, and door prizes. I want to point out that our treasurer, Bob Linkenhoker, has recently found an insurance company that saves us about \$30 a month, so that number will come down as we continue to look for ways to stretch the chapter's dollars.

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*Whatever you're looking for...*

**Come to the Fifteenth Annual**



## GOODTYME SUPERMART

May 16, 2009 • El Bekal Shrine, Anaheim

## Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

expenses we usually make up the difference with the income from the annual Goodtyme Supermart and membership dues. The major concern is in volunteerism. We need more members to come forward with programs for the monthly meetings. Also there is a great need for future leadership. As many of the Board members will term out of office this year all members that have served in the past and those that have never served on the Board are encouraged to consider giving a small amount of their time and energy to keeping this Chapter viable and healthy.



*How synchronized school clocks started Alan in his fascination with Standard Electric master clock systems (from the video presentation, "Standard Electric Time."*

The program this evening was a National video of a lecture given at the last Ward Francillon symposium by Alan Bloore on the Standard Electric Time Company, its founder and the devices they produced from the 1880's till the 1970's.



*Some of Alan's master and secondary clocks from Alans video presentation.*

Show and tell items were brought by:

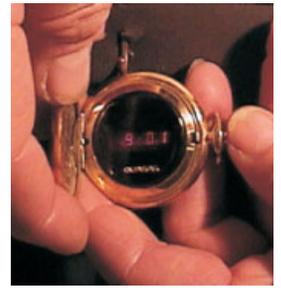
Greg Bunch brought an oak Royal clock possibly of Japanese manufacture with a pin lever escapement.



Greg also brought two 1970's LED watches, one a wrist watch and the other a pocket watch. These were the first quartz watches with a digital display. They were not manufactured for many years because of the great

inconvenience of having a blank display until a button was pushed on the side of the watch to display the time for a few seconds.

Ray Brown showed a Seth Thomas clock for the city series. This one was a Rome (either New York or possibly Georgia as Seth Thomas never identifies the State) clock. The date on these clocks can be determined by a code(1981L) that was pressed into the wood on the back and this particular one was assembled in December 1891.



Door prizes were won by Bill Clark, Greg Bunch and Bob Linkenhoker.

The meeting was closed at 9:15 with a request for help rearranging the meeting room tables and chairs.

Substitute Secretary Cora Lee Linkenhoker

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## Mr. Lincoln's Watch

*from the New York Times, Mar. 11, 2009*

Confirming a rumor that has circulated for generations, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History opened a gold pocket watch that belonged to Abraham Lincoln on Tuesday and discovered a message secretly engraved there by a watchmaker who repaired it in 1861. "Jonathan Dillon April 13- 1861 Fort Sumpter was attacked by the rebels on the above date. J Dillon," the brass underside of the watch movement reads. The inscription continues: "April 13- 1861 Washington thank God we have a government Jonth Dillon."



The story of the engraving had been passed down through the years by descendants of Jonathan Dillon, the watchmaker, without ever being verified. Then recently one of his great-great-grandsons, Douglas Stiles, a lawyer

from Waukegan, Ill., discovered an April 1906 article in The New York Times in which Mr. Dillon described making the engraving. In the article Mr. Dillon, then 84, recounted that he was working at M. W. Galt & Company, a watch shop on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, in April 1861 when the shop's owner, Mr. Galt, hurried upstairs to tell him, "War has begun; the first shot has been fired." "At that moment I had in my hand Abraham Lincoln's watch, which I had been repairing," Dillon told The Times, adding that he later learned it was the first watch that Lincoln ever owned.

The National Museum of American History acquired the watch in 1958 through a bequest by a great-grandson of Lincoln. Approached by Mr. Stiles last year about the Times article, the museum's curators brought in expert watchmakers to open the timepiece. Working under a strong light with magnifying glasses and minute tools, George Thomas, a master watchmaker from Towson, Md., opened the back to reveal the underside of the watch movement. "The moment of truth has come," he said. "Is there or is there not an inscription?" He called Mr. Stiles, who attended the event with his brother, Don, 57, of Bloomington, Minn., to deliver the verdict. "There is an inscription!" Mr. Stiles said with elation. "My goodness, that's Lincoln's watch," he said later in wonderment. "My ancestor put graffiti on it."

### ***Board Meetings Minutes March 9, 2009***

The meeting was held at the home of President Dave Weisbart. He called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Those in attendance were Phyllis and Doug Adams, Debra and Ron Abbott, Ray Brown, Doug Lynn, David Weisbart, and Bob and Cora lee Linkenhoker.

Bob Linkenhoker is making up an inventory list of equipment belonging to the chapter. Doug Adams said we have six chairs instead of eight, and there are 4 more tables than are on the list now. It was also ask that the Corel Ventura Publisher software, the projector screen and the wireless mike be included in the inventory.

The upcoming mart was also discussed. There will be a sign up sheet passed around at the April meeting asking for volunteers to help with the mart. Bob has the security hats. Debra said she will be able to get subway sandwiches delivered to the mart site. It was decided to sell a 3 inch sandwich, chips, and drink for \$4.00. We will have the sandwiches delivered at 10:00 am. Phyllis Adams volunteered to bring doughnuts. Bob and Julie will bring coffee pots. Debra will bring the chapter's coffee mess. All volunteers to arrive at 7:45 am on the day of the mart for setup. We will allow multi table holders in at 8:30 single table holders in at 8:45 with the doors opening at 9:00 for all others. Dave said he wants to be sure all local chapters get mart flyers. Doug Lynn and David are going to do a mass e-mail to all attendees and table holders from last year's mart.

Ray Brown is going to schedule the meeting programs for the rest of the calendar year. We will try and achieve an even mix of live and tape programs. Gene Osten will give a live program at the April meeting discussing the way time is used in Global Positioning Systems and Bob will do the Beginner's Corner outlining the new Chapter Charter which was sent out to all chapter presidents recently.

Phyllis Adams is going to mail out post cards to members who have past due books from the library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

## **State of the Chapter** *(from page 1)*

Our monthly income at the door averages about \$114. Through February, we've taken in an additional \$535 in chapter dues and \$532 in interest income from the certificates of deposit. Note that the dues number includes only those members who renewed or joined after the June renewal due date.

Traditionally, our operating deficit is erased by the combined income from the Goodtyme Supermart and memberships. Last fiscal year, largely thanks to a highly successful mart, we ended with a surplus. I anticipate we will be close to breakeven this year, but may not achieve it due to the purchase of the amplified podium. However, I view this as a long-term asset that will benefit and enhance the chapter meeting experience for many years to come.

Overall, our meeting attendance continues to be good, but the numbers have been erratic month-to-month. My impression is that the attendance is declining very slowly, probably tracking the attrition in NAWCC membership world-wide. On the plus side, we are seeing guests and new members almost every month.

I see a few weaknesses in the chapter, and they center mostly around volunteerism. First, we need more people coming forward with programs and beginner's corners. I want to thank Ray Brown and Bob Linkenhoker for their recent efforts to find programs, and for Ray's offer to take over programming for the remainder of the year.

My game plan of having volunteers distribute NAWCC applications and meeting invitations to antique stores did not receive the level of participation it did back in 2001-2002. That was a disappointment.

The other weakness I see is in future leadership. I have made it very clear that this will be my last term on Chapter 69's board. Other board members will term-out this year, meaning that they cannot, according to the by-laws, run again for a third consecutive term. This means that we may have many vacancies to fill for the next board. I would ask all our members, both those who have never served and those who have served in the past, to seriously consider donating some time to the chapter to help keep it running smoothly.

A quick word about our video conversion project: As you may know, I have been converting all our library's VHS tapes to DVD. With only a dozen or so tapes to go, the project became stalled when my mother fell ill. I hope to resume the conversion soon.

We hear about other chapters having to cut back on meetings, and some closing up shop entirely. I'm happy to report that Chapter 69 is not in that situation. With continued support from active and engaged members, we can continue to offer our programs and services for a long time to come.

**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, April 3, 2009**

*Program:*

**LIVE PRESENTATION  
"Eureka Clock Operation &  
Maintenance"  
by Doug Adams**

*Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:*

"Chapter Charters" by Bob Linkenhoker

*Show & Tell:*

Horological items beginning with the letter "S"

*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

