

THE Tic Talk Times



May 2005
Vol. 24, No. 10

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

Meeting Minutes, Apr. 1, 2005

Let 'Em Down Easy

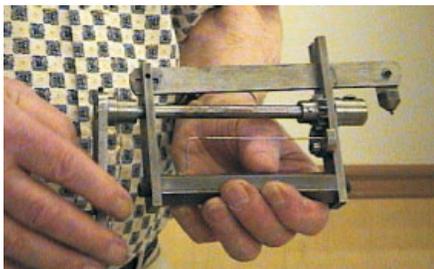
Our April general meeting was called to order by President Charles Register at 8 p.m.

The minutes from the last general meeting as printed in the Tic Talk Times were voted on and approved by the membership.

Thank you to Bud Saiben for donating material to the chapter library.

Thank you also to Doug and Phyllis Adams for bringing the refreshments this month.

We welcomed our guests for this month, Jack Woolf and Gary Burhanan.



One of many spring winders at the April meeting. More on Page 2.

We were reminded that there will be a Craft Competition at the National this year. You can get more information about the National at: <http://www.nawcc2005national.com>

Charles has arranged a special mart on May 18 at the Steelhead Brewing Co. in Irvine. Steelhead Brewing Co. often has work by local artists on display and for sale. Having

continued on page 2

This month

The Other Big Ben

We each use different criteria when we go to make a purchase, either the item's looks, its functionality or just because we want it. For this month's Beginner's Corner, Bernie Peralta will discuss what he looks for before he purchases a watch. Bernie is a long time member of Chapter 69 and one of our past presidents. He is also quite knowledgeable and it will be a great talk.

For our main program I have selected a video program from the National library titled "Westclox Factory Making Big Ben Alarm Clocks in 1938". This show has appeal to me for multiple reasons. For one, I collect Westclox and anyone who collects Westclox has to have a number of Big Bens. Another reason is I spent much of my working career in the support of manufacturing operations such as you will see displayed.

[See a history of Westclox on page three of this issue. – Ed.]

We are always looking for ideas both for the Beginner's Corner and the main program, so if you can give a talk, demonstrate a special way of repairing a clock or watch, or have a video you would like to see contact me anytime. The more variety we get the more interesting the meetings.

— Bob Linkenhoker



Mark your calendars

Upcoming Events

- 7-May-05
Chap #69 Goodyme Supermart
 - 12-May-05 to 5-May-05
Pacific Northwest Regional
 - 8-Jun-05 to 12-Jun-05
National Convention
 - 24-July_05
Chap. #75 Mini-Mart
 - 18-Sept-05
Chap #4 Merrimart
 - 27-Oct-05 to 29-Oct-05
Time Symposium
 - 11-Nov-05 to 12-Nov-05
San Jose Regional
 - 17-Nov-05 to 19-Nov-05
Southwest CA Regional
 - 2-Feb-06 to 4-Feb-06
Los Angeles Regional
 - 19-May-06 to 20-May-06
Pacific Northwest Regional
 - 21-Jun-06 to 24-Jun-06
National Convention
 - 26-Oct-06 to 28-Oct-06
Time Symposium
 - 16-Nov-06 to 18-Nov-06
Southwest CA Regional
- Provided by Mary Ann Wahlner*

Election Results

Dear Members,

The NAWCC Nominating and Elections Committee has received notification from Trout Ebersole and Groff, Certified Public Accountants, who were charged with the responsibility of receiving ballots and

continued on page 3

Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

nice clocks and watches for sale will be something of an extension on that concept. There will be 10 tables available to set up at. Set-up will be at 6 p.m. and the mart will run from 7-9 p.m. Please contact Charles if you have any questions or if you are interested in participating.

Don't forget, our Goodtyme Supermart will be held on May 7 at the Masonic Lodge. Applications are available for pre-registration and table purchase. Sign-up sheets went around the meeting for volunteers for the kitchen, set-up and tear-down. Please contact Dennis "Woody" Woodson if you have time to volunteer.

The Beginner's Corner this month was just a brief overview of some high-end watch makers. Charles passed around a handout that listed quite a few of these watchmakers along with brief histories of each company. Thanks Charles for a very handy reference!

We were reminded that this month's Board Meeting will not be on the usual Wednesday, but rather Sunday the 3rd at Jana Smith's home.

In honor of Spring, Bob Linkenhoker's April program was Spring Winders!

Bob demonstrated how to let down and wind up a spring using a spring winder that is from the Time Savers Catalog. He recommends using leather gloves when using this winder.



Next, Dean Armentrout demonstrated the use of a spring winder that he purchased as a kit.

Charlie Davis showed us three of his spring winders. He showed us how they work and demonstrated the barrels that go with them.



Woody Woodson demonstrated the use of his Webster mainspring winder. He's mounted his Webster to a block. Woody uses pipe clamps to hold barrels.

Dave Weisbart showed us how he adapted the Webster to handle winding squares that are larger than the Webster can accept. He also showed a commercially available device for the Webster that gives support to the other end of the winding arbor.

Finally, Bob demonstrated the use of an Ollie Baker-type spring winder.

There was a lot of discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the various spring winders that were shown with many members sharing their experiences. It was a very interesting presentation!

April's Show and Tell featured horological items beginning with the letters "M".

Bud Saiben brought in three beautiful miniatures.



Two were Royal Bonn and one was a New Haven. Bud explained that the Royal Bonn are more desirable.

This month's door prizes were won by Charlie Davis, Ellie Clark, Christopher Mabry, Julie Stevens and Bob Linkenhoker.

Respectfully Submitted by Jana Smith, Secretary

Mark Your Calendar

Marts!

The eleventh annual Goodtyme Supermart will take place the day after our meeting, Saturday, May 7. It will be held in our current meeting facility, the Garden Grove Masonic lodge. We'll be using both the main meeting room and the large foyer for selling. A lasagna lunch will be served, too! It looks like a sell-out for tables, so if you were planning a last minute appearance, talk to Woody.

Then, in June, the two-hour pre-meeting mart returns. We see more of everything at these marts: more clocks, more watches, more buyers, and more sellers. This will be at our June 3, 2005 meeting. The doors will open at 6:00 P.M. that night.

Tell your friends not to miss these great marts!

A Brief History of Westclox

Westclox began as the United Clock Company of Peru, Illinois in 1885. Charles Stahlberg headed a group from Waterbury, Connecticut, who came to Peru in 1884 to build clocks based on a new idea by Stahlberg. They incorporated the United Clock Company on December 23, 1885. We have not yet located a clock by United Clock Co. (which is different from the United Clock Corp. of Brooklyn, NY, a maker of electric clocks in the 1930's - 1960's).

Stahlberg's ideas were patented on Sept. 22, 1885 as US patent #326,602. His patent describes the process of making gear assemblies of lead alloy with hard metal acting parts. This patent also describes the casting of the movement plates from this lead alloy, with inset brass bushings for the pivots!

After United Clock Company went bankrupt, it was reorganized as the Western Clock Company in 1887. After another bankruptcy, it was reorganized by F. W. Matthiessen as The Western Clock Mfg. Co. in 1888. In 1912 the name was shortened to Western Clock Company. In 1916 the trademark "Westclox" was registered, but the name had appeared on the backs of clocks as early as 1909. In 1930, Western Clock Company was merged with Seth Thomas Clock Company as "General Time Corporation", and in 1936 it was renamed the Westclox Division of General Time Corp. In 1968, General Time was acquired by Talley industries, and in 1988, General Time was bought from Talley Industries by the current management. In 2001, General Time declared bankruptcy, and the trademarks Westclox and Big Ben were acquired by Salton, Inc.

The History of Westclox Big Ben, Baby Ben and Related Clocks

The Big Ben alarm clock was first sold in 1909 and has evolved through many case style and movement changes. The Baby Ben was first sold in 1910 and has evolved in a similar way.

The pictures opposite illustrate some of the 10 "mainstream" case styles of windup Big and Baby Bens. Style 1 was the first model made and style 10 is the last model. To identify a Ben, [go to clockhistory.com and] find out which of the case styles it matches. Pay particular attention to the shapes of the cases since various case colors were available in styles 2 through 10, and the dial on your clock might be different. For more exact dating, look on the movement - a date will be found on almost any Big Ben or Baby Ben made up until mid-1970's. Big Bens and Baby Bens were made up until 2001, when General Time Corporation declared bankruptcy. Style 10 Bens are now available online from Salton.

from clockhistory.com

Elections *(from page 1)*

tabulating members' votes in the 2005 Election. The results follow, with the successful candidates indicated by an asterisk (*):

Director - Two Year Term

*William Bryan	1182 votes
*Judy Draucker	1664 votes
*John Hubby	1250 votes
William Keller	778 votes
Joseph Kuechle	918 votes
Mary Ann Wahlner	873 votes

Director - Four Year Term

*Frank DelGreco	1385 votes
Andrew Dervan	878 votes
Rochelle Gaenger	706 votes
*Philip Gregory	1344 votes
Gary Landis	853 votes
*Tom McIntyre	1279 votes
Fortunat Mueller-Maerki	982 votes
*Joanne Orr	1298 votes

Nominations and Elections Committee - Four Year Term

*Douglas Cowan	1151 votes
Hugh Overton	732 votes
Philip Priestley	416 votes

A total of 2441 ballots were received by the audit firm. Of these, 105 ballots were invalid. Trout Ebersole and Groff explains these ballots were considered invalid because they had no membership number, the membership number was invalid or a duplicate number, or the membership number had been obscured or obliterated because of the way the individual had sealed the envelope.

About two dozen votes were received after the deadline date. These were not counted and would not have affected the outcome.

On behalf of the NAWCC Membership, the Interim Board of Directors, the Nominating and Elections Committee and the Staff, I offer congratulations to the successful candidates and extend appreciation to all candidates for their willingness to serve NAWCC.

— NAWCC Chair Judy Draucker



**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o Dean Armentrout
332 Forest Avenue, Suite 6
Laguna Beach CA 92651

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



Our Next Meeting: May 6, 2005

Program:

VIDEO PRESENTATION

**"Westclox Factory...
In 1938"**

(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:

"What to look for when buying a watch" by *Bernie Peralta*

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "N"
or Westclox clocks or watches

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, May 11, at 7:30 P.M. at the home of:
Charles Register
3023 S. Rita Way
Santa Ana, CA
(714) 545-8135

