

THE Tic Talk Times



July 2004
Vol. 23, No. 12

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

Meeting minutes: June 4, 2004

Modern Marvels

Our April general meeting was called to order by Vice President Dave Weisbart at 8 p.m.

We welcomed our guests Paul Wilson and Jon Rosenbaum.

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

We extended many thanks to Murray Lefkowitz for the tasty refreshments.

James reminded us that the Ebell Club's annual rummage sale was scheduled to take place on June 25th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on June 26th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There's always a lot of interesting items for sale and don't forget, donations are always welcome!

Membership dues are due! Please see Dean Armentrout about renewing your membership.

Murray and Dean recruited volunteers to bring refreshments to the general meetings. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Dean or Murray. Any help is always appreciated. Remember, if we don't have volunteers we won't have refreshments!

Upcoming dates to remember include:

- July 25th for Chapter 75's mart at the Granada Pavilion
- July 1-4th for the National in Oklahoma City.

continued on page 2

This month

Asian Adventure

I found an absolute gem of a video in our very own library! Marked only as "Video #16," the video is actually titled "The Forbidden City: Clocks Collected in the Palace." Now before you "watch people" run away, there are also many watches featured in the video.

This program features absolutely astonishing, jaw-dropping, mind-boggling clocks, music boxes, automata, and watches. The intricacy of design, movement, music and decoration on these gifts to the emperors of China is beyond description. There are also clocks and watches commissioned by the emperors, as well as ancient Chinese artworks that depict timepieces.

This video is not so much about horology as it is about pure opulence; the luxury in which the Chinese royals lived. It's not a very long program, but I promise it will not leave you wanting – unless you miss it!

For the Beginner's Corner this month, I will be presenting an introduction to adjustable dead-beat escapement pallets, a critical part of many grandfather and anniversary clocks.

—D.W.



Directors' Pot Luck

Once again, Bud and Pat Saiben will be hosting Chapter 69's annual Pot Luck starting at 6:00 P.M. on July 7. If you've never attended this event, you're missing out on great food (including Bud's famous bratwurst, which he calls "weenies") and great company (including many of our long-time members who often can't make our nighttime meetings). You can also get a peek at Bud's fabulous clock collection! The event is for the entire membership and their spouses or significant others.

A pot luck sign-up sheet will be circulated at the general meeting. A meeting for members of the board will follow dinner.

So come, relax, and share food and drink al fresco under the setting summer sun. We'll see you all there!

The Return of the Ladies

At our last meeting, one of our long-time members recalled to Charles a custom at pre-meeting marts of long ago: The Ladies' Table. This table was typically devoted to non-horological items such as jewelry and crafts, often the handiwork of the ladies themselves.

At our last board meeting, the directors decided to try re-establishing The Ladies' Table.

continued on page 3

Meeting Minutes (from page 1)

- September 11th for Chapter 136's Picnic Mart
- October 28th for the 2004 National Seminar in Portland Oregon

The Board Meeting for June will be held at the home of Charles Register.

The Saibens are again hosting the annual Directors' potluck on Wednesday July 7th. Thank you Bud and Pat!

Our Goodtyme Supermart brought in over \$500.00! Thank you to everyone who pitched in to make this event a success. Special thanks to Dean and Robyn Armentrout who donated the lasagna and to Doug Adams who donated the badges and chaired the event.

We need an auditor! If you are an accountant or know of one who would be willing to help, please talk to Julie Stevens.

This month's program is a program that originally aired on the History Channel. "Clocks and How they Changed the World," is for the series "Modern Marvels." (Thank you to Julie Stevens who donated the video to our chapter.

In ancient times, humans first began to track the passage of time when they noticed the changing positions of shadows throughout the day. Eventually they learned how to create and use sundials. The first recorded mention of a sundial is in a Roman play from the 3rd century B.C.

Over time, graduated clocks and sand-glasses were developed to help man mark time.

In 13th century England the first mechanical clocks appeared. They are thought to have been used by monasteries to mark the time of the daily prayers.

Interestingly the earliest clocks didn't have faces. Bells were used to indicate time.

The development of the escapement, springs and pendulum over time helped to improve the reliability and accuracy of clocks.

Then in the 17th century, John Harrison set out to design and build a clock that could be accurate at sea. Sailors could measure the time wherever they were by observing the sun but navigation required that they also know the time at some reference point so that they could calculate their longitude. Though accurate pendulum clocks already existed at the time, they motion of ships and changes in temperature and humidity interfered with that accuracy.

It took years and several different designs, but Harrison eventually created a clock and then eventually a watch that kept accurate time at sea and solving the longitude problem.

The first mass produced clock was made by the Terry Clock Company in the early 1800's. It's interesting to note that when these clocks were first exported to England, they were confiscated because officials thought it impossible for them to be accurate time-keepers because they were so inexpensive.

The program also took us through the development of the railroad watch, standard time, wristwatches and atomic time.

All-in-all, it's a video worth seeing. If you missed this program, it will be available to borrow from the chapter library.

This month's Show and Tell was horological items beginning with the letter "A".



Gene Osten brought an Ansonia pocket watch. This watch has no jewels!

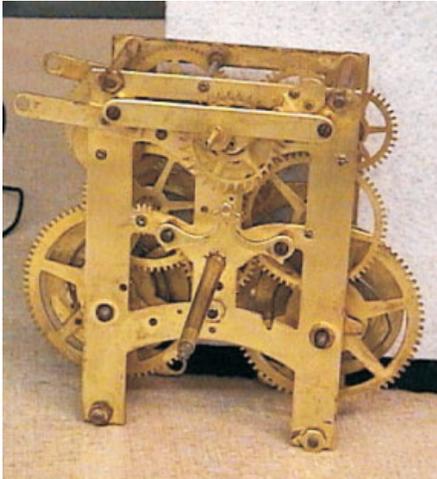
Doug Adams brought in an 18 karat pink gold cased



Audemars Freres minute repeater. This watch features a 25 jewel movement and Jurgensen's lip. It was made around 1880 to 1890.

continued on page 3

Meeting Minutes *(continued from page 2)*



Dennis Woodson brought in an “anonymous” clock. Woody is trying to restore the clock which was originally presented to the city of Whittier. There are parts missing...can anyone help?



Dave Weisbart brought in two wonderful Ansonias! The first was a green onyx clock. The “Walpole” was made around 1900. The other clock was an elegant statue clock with its matching candelabras! The base of the clock is called

“Fleur-de-lis” and the beautiful lady is “1175” out of the Ansonia catalog!

This month the door prizes were won by Don Bendz, Jan Duwe, Bill Clark, Millie Davis, Roy Irick and Doug Adams. Congratulations!

Our meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully
Submitted by,

Jana Smith, Secretary



Tic Talk Times On Line

Would you prefer to 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

Ladies' Table *(continued from page 1)*

So, if you are handy in a way that doesn't fit into the usual horological categories, and you have items you think would be of interest to our members, you're welcome to set them up on the designated table. (It will be the one next to the refreshment table.) Please mark your items clearly with price and source if you plan to leave the vicinity of the table.

Dave's Shop Talk

Roll Out The Barrel

Every once in a while, I'll run across a clock that isn't running properly due to a problem with a spring barrel. Apart from the obvious problem of worn bearing holes, other things can be a source of grief.

First, make sure the spring is the correct size for the barrel. A clock that came through my shop a couple weeks ago had a spring that was exactly as wide as the barrel was deep. Wrong! There needs to be a little bit of side-to-side “play” inside the barrel, so I ordered the next size down. (Amazingly, the last “repairman” went to great lengths to mangle the barrel cap to try to make it stay in place. It didn't, which is why the clock ended up coming to me.)

I covered correct spring length in my Beginner's Corner some months back. Contact me if you need a copy of the handout.

Another barrel I got had a strange “catch” in it. My spring winder has the ability to disengage the ratchet altogether, which allows me to hold onto the barrel (with my leather gloved hand) and slowly wind and unwind the spring. At one point, I could hear a click and feel a little bit of extra resistance. I opened the cap, and on the inside I found that the manufacturer had punched a triangle of three craters into the brass. The ridges around the craters looked like they might be tall enough to rub on the spring, so I filed them down. Lo and behold, the catch went away.

Always install and remove the springs using a proper spring winder that keeps the coils in alignment. Pulling springs from a barrel by hand (by allowing the spring to unwind out from the center) is almost certain to cause a side-to-side distortion in the spring. This can be seen when you lay the unwound spring down on a flat surface; the spring doesn't lay flat. This can translate to extra friction inside the barrel.



**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

The National
ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.

Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o David Weisbart
13077 Springdale St.
Westminster, CA 92683



Our Next Meeting: July 2, 2004

Program:

VIDEO PRESENTATION
"The Forbidden City: Clocks*
Collected in the Palace"

*watches, too

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

"Adjustable Dead Beat Escapements" By Dave Weisbart

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "B"

Board Meeting:

IT'S THE DIRECTORS' POT LUCK!

Wednesday, July 7, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of:

Bud & Pat Saiben
18072 Santa Clara Ave.
Santa Ana

Time: 7:00 – Doors open
8:00 – General Meeting

Admission: \$4.00 – General
\$6.00 – Couples

Location: The EBELL CLUB
625 French Street
(at Civic Center Drive)
Santa Ana, CA
(714) 547-6331

*Parking and entry
off Mortimer St.*



Ramp
available