

THE Tic Talk Times



July 2011
Vol. 30, No. 12

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

Meeting minutes, Jun. 3, 2011

Observing Observing Time

President Ray Brown opened the meeting at 8:00 P.M. Thanks for everyone for helping: Phyllis, Annette, Sally. Ray Brown brought the refreshments also.

We had no guests.

Minutes of last month's meeting were accepted with no corrections. The next Board Meeting will be on the 9th of July at Ed Athey's home in Santa Ana and will be annual potluck open to all members and their guests.

New Business: We made over \$1,000 net at the Mart. The club is celebrating its 40th Anniversary in September. Reservations for a dinner have been made and the cost will be \$20 per person with the club paying the additional \$15 per person.

Dues are due: \$10 per person or, with an optional annual pass, \$54 which covers door fees for the whole year.

There will be a 3 day class in Ventura on repairing pocket watches given by Chapter 190.

Beginner's Corner: Ray Brown gave the Beginner's Corner on Woodgraining – showing us how to put woodgrain on plastic, metal, ceramic or other surfaces. Ray used as an example the metal dash and metal window trim on his 1939 Buick. The dashboard had 5 coats of paint on it. The process involves putting ink on the surface or a metal plate and it is

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This month

The Ticking Heart of a Town

Last month, Ray Brown presented images and stories of his trips to the Greenwich Observatory and the observatory in Elgin, Illinois. This month, we will get to learn much



The Elgin Watch Co. Clock Tower

more about the city of Elgin and how the watch factory transformed and dominated city life in Elgin.

A video documentary, "Circle of Time," produced by the Elgin Area Historical Society, uses a wealth of photos and documents to show us the early history of Elgin, Illinois. It documents how the founders of the National Watch Company came to establish their plant in Elgin, how they lured quality workers away from Waltham, and eventually came to dominate the watch industry.

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Visit us at www.nawcc69.org

President's Message

Time for Chapter 69's Annual Potluck Picnic!

Saturday, July 9, 6:00 P.M.

I want to thank Ed and Karen Athey for offering to host this meeting at their home in Santa Ana. This location is convenient to the majority of our members and has lots of shade trees and a place for barbeque. Ed is going all out this year; ordering the same Brats that we have had at past events including the fixings for kraut dogs, chili dogs plus of course the traditional ketchup, onions, and mustard. To round out the picnic we need your help with a special dish to share: appetizers, salads, side dishes, desert or something you know would be welcome! This is an opportunity to bring family and friends to meet or get reacquainted with chapter members.

Because Ed will be buying for all those attending, please make a special effort to RSVP so we have enough Brats and fixings (but not too much) for everyone who comes. If you have not been able to signup at our monthly meetings, still please make it to the potluck; RSVP to Ed 714 835-1696 or by email at [ed_athey \(at sign\) roadrunner.com](mailto:ed_athey@roadrunner.com).

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, July 9! We have always had a good turnout and a great time.

— Ray

**DUES are DUE
For a Few!**

(See page 3 for renewal form)

Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*



similar to silkscreening. First metal, then primer, basecoat, grain pattern, toner and then clear coat. Ray found the supplies and information on the website of Woodgraining.

Presentation: Ray Brown: A Tale of Two Cities: London, UK and Elgin, USA

Introducing us to England's Royal Observatory, Ray related the story of the search for longitude. In the 1600's the observatory provided information on navigation to the ships, including a large red ball which could be seen for miles that was dropped at noon. The scientists and astronomers there recognized the need for accurate timekeeping to help ships determine their longitude – at the equator, a 2-minute error would put the ship 30 miles off course. A



£20,000 prize was offered for a timepiece that was accurate enough to meet this need. John Harrison took the challenge. Today, the Greenwich Observatory, located at 0 degrees of longitude (the Prime meridian) houses Harrison's first three attempts, designated H1 (left), H2 and H3.

Three months later, Ray went to the University of Illinois to restore a clock. While there, he visited the observatory at the University of Illinois (below). The observatory was built in 1910 by the Elgin Watch Co. to provide accurate time measurements. The observatory in Elgin used the same type of transit telescope used in Greenwich. Ray showed pictures of that observatory and



discussed how the techniques at Greenwich and Elgin served a common purpose.

The Elgin watch factory was completely demolished except the observatory which was given to the Public School System. (See "This Month" for a continuation of this story.)

Show & Tell: X, Y, Z or Marine Chronometer: Doug Adams brought in his "GPS" system: Hamilton model 21 Marine Chronometer for navigation in WWII. He also showed a sextant from 1868 or so which was calibrated in 1899 in Liverpool.



Raffle prizes were won by Bernie Peralta, Phyllis Adams and a third person.

This month *(from page 1)*

Especially interesting is the inclusion of many interviews with people who worked in the Elgin factory, which was demolished in 1966. They give insights into the mass-manufacture of watches that few others can offer.

The program's climax (or anti-climax, depending on how you look at it) is actual footage of the Elgin factory's famous clock tower being demolished. The factory was demolished from back to front, and the clock tower was the last piece standing.

Whether you're a watch person or a clock person, this well-produced program is definitely worth viewing – you'll learn a lot!

Dues are Due!

It's time to renew your membership to Chapter 69. Your support of our activities is very important to the chapter's well-being, so we're counting on every member to send in his or her renewal.

Please fill out the form on the right and bring it with you to the meeting. If you can't attend this month's meeting, please mail your dues today!

Don't Like to Stand in Line?

Get the annual pass option! This permanent badge gets you into every regular meeting without having to pay at the door. This pass gets you into 12 meetings for the price of 11.

For an individual pass, include \$44 plus your dues (\$54 total). For a couples pass, include \$66 plus dues for two (\$86 total).



Orange County Chapter 69 Membership Application

New Member Renewal
(check one)

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name

First Name

Spouse Name

Street Address / P.O. Box #

City, State, ZIP

NAWCC #

Phone

Email Address

Check here to receive the Tic Talk Times by U.S. Mail (\$5.00 Extra)

Dues for 2011-2012 are \$10.00.
Please make your check payable
to: "Orange County Chapter 69."

Check below for options. Amounts
are in addition to dues.

Individual annual pass (\$44)
 Couples annual pass (\$66)

Complete this form and mail to:
Cora Lee Linkenhoker
7186 Calico Cir.
Corona, CA 92881

COME TO THE ANNUAL POT LUCK PICNIC!

Saturday, July 9, 2011, at 6:00 P.M.
At the home of Ed & Karen Athey



GOOD FOOD, GOOD FRIENDS

**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, July 1, 2011

Program:

Video Presentation

**"Circle of Time –
Elgin and the
Watch Company"**

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

No Beginner's Corner this month

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter A
or Elgin timepieces

Board Meeting:

Annual Directors' Pot Luck
See page 3 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

