

# Tic Talk Times



JULY 2018  
VOL. 37, NO. 11

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

*Meeting Minutes, June 1, 2018*

## TIME PIECES OF LONDON

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Paul Martyn. Last month's minutes were approved as written, moved by Dave Weisbart and seconded by Bob Linkenhoker. Thanks to Cora Lee Linkenhoker and Phyllis Adams for refreshments.

We had three guests: Reis Evans, Kathryn Hoffmann, and Kenton Boettcher. Welcome!

Upcoming Events:

September 20 – 22, 2018, Michigan, Symposium on Car Clocks and Watches

Sunday, June 24 – Chapter 75, San Fernando Valley: Summer Mini Mart in Granada Hills at 11 a.m., their normal meeting time!

Dave Weisbart is scheduled to be inducted into The Worshipful Company of Watchmakers, which is a great accomplishment!

There is no Beginner's Corner tonight.

Program: "Clocks of the London Museums" Dave Weisbart has made a video of clocks and their placards which he saw when he visited two British museums. He went to the Science Museum

and the British museum but only saw their clock rooms. "Clocks of the London Museums"

Following is a list of some of the clocks we saw on the screen tonight.

- Late 17th Century Nichols Massy & Joseph Knibb Fusee.
- Edward East 8 day from 1665 or so.
- 'NEFF' which is shaped like a ship and dates from 1585. It plays music: organ, drumming, walks across the table, and has cannons going off!
- Duchesne table clock 1720.
- Long case from 1680 Tomas Tompion.
- Anchor escapement with meter pendulum from Knibb.
- 1701 Draper, also Tompion.
- Edward Funnel "Constant Force" escapement from 1860.
- "Detached level escapement" (accurate moon dial) Thomas Mudge.
- Thomas Mudge tortoiseshell drum case.
- Benjamin Vuillamy grasshopper escapement.

*(Continued on page 2)*

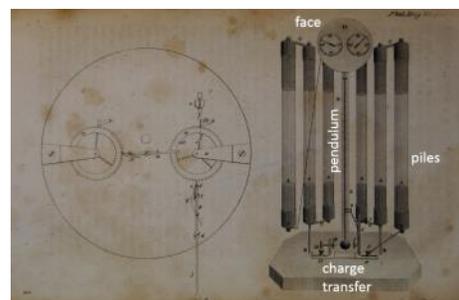
*This Month*

## EARLY BATTERY CLOCKS

This month's program is "Early Battery Clocks" by Glenn Marsh. It's a very well done presentation on battery powered clocks of the early 1900s. Discussed are the Reason, the Eureka, the Le Roy all from 1910; the Bulle and the Barre clocks of 1920.

Phyllis Adams will provide our Beginner's Corner with a series of annotated drawings made by Doug Adams on making gears.

See you at the Meeting!



## TIME TRIVIA

*In 1814, Sir Francis Ronalds (1788-1873) of London invented the first electric clock for his telegraph. It was powered with dry piles, a high voltage battery with extremely long life but the disadvantage of its electrical properties varying with the weather. He trialed various means of regulating the electricity and these models proved to be reliable across a range of meteorological conditions*

## ABOUT THE POCKET WATCH

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station!



Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

Why were the best watches found at the train station?

*(Continued on page 3)*

## JUNE MINUTES — CTD FROM PAGE 1

These clocks were from a different museum:

- Thomas Tompion with a 4 meter long pendulum!
- Watches: German, from 1545 or so with count wheel.
- Ogee, Chancey Jerome, Bristol, Connecticut.
- 1778 Astronomical with music. It is titled "Aire by Mudge" and was written by the brother of the clock-maker.
- Stephen Rimbault woodworking automata scene.
- 1598 clock plays different music for quarter, half, 3rd and 4th quarters!
- 1560 Planispheric with a map of the heavens.
- Thomas Tompion "year running" made for King William's bedchamber.

SHOW & TELL: 'F':

Jerry Kleeb put a a Morbier together from last month. Paul Martyn showed us a Fusee movement chain drive and a clock with Chancey Jerome Movement "Gateshead".

The raffle prizes were won by Mr. Goltman, Ken Lynn and Tom Wang.

## UPCOMING MARTS

### JULY 2018

[2018 National Convention](#)

When: 7/18/2018 - 7/22/2018  
 York Expo Center Utz Arena  
 334 Carlisle Ave  
 York, PA 17404

### AUGUST 2018

[2018 Eastern States Regional](#)

When: 8/3/2018 - 8/4/2018  
 Holiday Inn Convention Center  
 441 Electronics Parkway  
 Liverpool, NY 13088

[2018 All Texas Chapters Regional](#)

When: 8/23/2018 - 8/25/2018  
 Houston Marriott  
 Westchase 2900 Briarpark Dr  
 Houston, TX 77042

[2018 Mid-South Regional](#)

When: 8/31/2018 - 9/2/2018  
 Chattanooga Convention  
 Center 1 Carter Plaza  
 Chattanooga, TN 37402

### SEPTEMBER 2018

[2018 NAWCC Ward Francillon Time Symposium](#)

When: 9/20/2018 - 9/22/2018  
 Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village  
 20900 Oakwood Blvd  
 Dearborn, MI 48124

[2018 Mid-America Regional](#)

When: 9/28/2018 - 9/29/2018  
 National Military History Center  
 5634 County Road 11A  
 Auburn, IN 46706



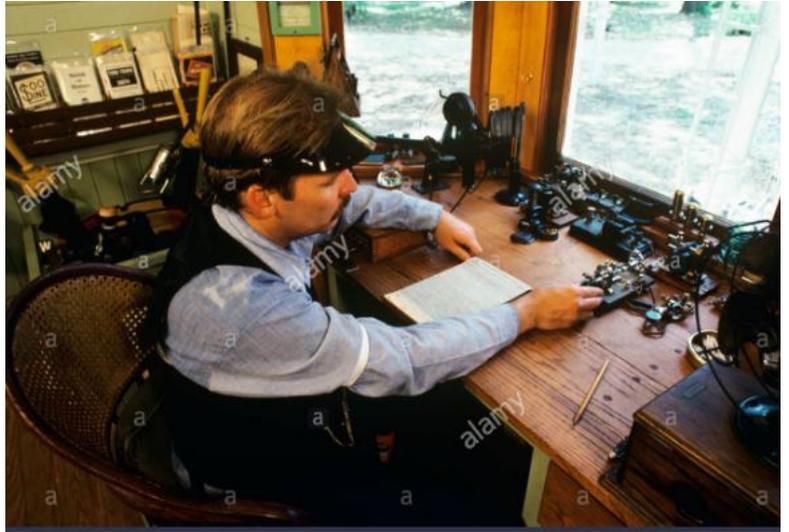
Full details for all upcoming marts: <http://net.nawcc.org/NAWCC/Events/Events/NAWCC/Events/Events.aspx>

Visit us at [www.nawcc69.org](http://www.nawcc69.org)

## ABOUT THE POCKET WATCH — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-way had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and it was the primary way they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.



This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them. So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit. That started it all.

He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to



spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watchmaker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest is history as they say. The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there..

YES, IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: Richard Sears and partner Alvah Roebuck!

Bet You Didn't Know That!

**DATED MEETING NOTICE  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER NO. 69  
C/O CORA LEE LINCKENHOKER  
7186 CALICO CTR.  
CORONA, CA 92881

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



**OUR NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY JULY 6, 2018**

*Program*

**EARLY BATTERY  
CLOCKS**

**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:***

Practical Talk on Gear Cutting

***Show & Tell:***

Any horological item beginning with the letter “G”, or any early battery clocks, or something to do with Gear cutting

***Board Meeting:***

No board meeting this month

