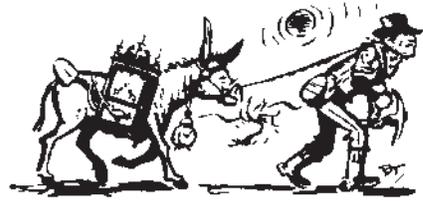


THE Tic Talk Times



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

Chapter meeting highlights

Perpetual Motion? Humbug!

The physical impossibility of “a mechanism which, once set in motion, continues to do useful work without an input of energy, or which produces more energy than is absorbed in its operation” didn’t stop many inventors from trying to create such a machine. Roy Irick gave us a fascinating presentation on what may be the closest we’ve come to such a device, the Atmos clock.

Using handsomely designed slides created and displayed on his computer, Roy began with a history of the inventor of the Atmos clock, Jean-Leon Reutter. Born in Neuchâtel in the French-speaking region of Switzerland just before the turn of the last century, Reutter’s early technical training took him into the field of telephone and high-frequency electronics.



Roy and a small portion of his Atmos collection

Reutter’s first attempt at the Atmos clock apparently didn’t work, but his mercury engine, eventually produced by Jaeger LeCoultre and called Atmos I, did. Roy displayed some very interesting diagrams showing the workings of the original mercury engine, as well as the engine of the Atmos II, which used the current arrangement of a flexible bellows filled with

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Message from the President

In the Best Interests of the Chapter

I am so lucky! I have the privilege of taking the helm of a chapter that is solid, robust, and active. Now my responsibility is clear – to make it even more so.

With the 2002 National Convention less than a year away, it is tempting to devote myself to that endeavor. After all, we *are* the sponsoring chapter. It’s *our* seed money that has financed the effort so far. By putting my effort into the convention, I’d be serving the chapter, right?

As I see it, that’s backwards. First, the convention has a large committee of very talented, experienced, and dedicated members from several chapters all over Southern California who are working diligently to make it a success. Planning and control of the convention rests with them.

From the chapter’s perspective, this is a chance to take advantage of an extraordinary publicity

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Directors’ meeting highlights

What every member should know

The proposed increase in door admission prices will be decided at this month’s meeting! Your presence and participation in this decision is important to the future of the club. Please make an effort to attend.

We will also be passing around a **sign-up sheet** for volunteers to help out at the Pac Rim Regional in Del Mar this September.

The chapter is implementing a **mentor program** to help new members get the most out of chapter membership. Gene Osten has agreed to coordinate the program. If you have a specialty and you’d be willing to share some helpful hints with new members who share your interest, or if you are a new member with questions, please contact Gene at the next meeting.

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Meeting Highlights *(from page 1)*

a saturated mixture of ethyl chloride. For those of us who've always wondered about the details of the Atmos movement, it was very instructive.

Roy continued with a survey of major case types and movement calibers. Most of his slides were made using photos from his own extensive collection. And just for us, Roy took the extra step of bringing this collection to the meeting, making a very impressive display that filled a large table at the front of the room!

The narrative was peppered with anecdotes and tips that Roy had picked up during his long experience in collecting these clocks. These included, for example, a caveat about not placing the Lucite-cased models in direct sunlight (causes a crystalline breakdown of the material).

The presentation was highly informative, well organized and handsomely displayed. Our congratulations and thanks to Roy for offering it to us.

In other news

Remember that every time you bring something for Show & Tell, you not only get into that month's meeting free, but you are also entered into a drawing for a free annual admission pass. This year's pass winner is Bud Saiben. Congratulations, Bud! For the rest of you, August's Show & Tell letter is "L", so let's see some LeCoultres, Lenzkirches, and Luxes!

Installation of the new directors and officers took place at the July meeting. Murray Lefkowitz did the honors this year, after which Dave Weisbart took the helm. His first act was to present an engraved gavel to outgoing president Roy Irick.



Show and Tell



For the letter "K" Bud Sabien displayed a "crazy" electric-powered novelty skeleton clock. He likened it to one of Rube Goldberg's contraptions. Made mostly of welded rods, it featured funny little figures hanging on to the moving parts, and some novel gear and pinion construction. It's a real treat to watch, but a lousy timekeeper.

Terry Cunningham showed a great auction find – an original Ingersoll Mickey Mouse Watch from 1933 with its original fob. It runs well and has animated characters for the seconds bit.

Les Lesovsky displayed a Rockford 15 jewel watch from Hutchinson, Kansas that was made around the turn of the century.

President's Message *(from page 1)*

opportunity, and to multiply our activity, growth, and prestige. By growing the chapter over the coming months, and by increasing the enthusiasm and participation of our members, we can better support the convention come June and July. If it's well publicized, I'm convinced that the convention can be a membership bonanza for both the National and Chapter 69, giving us momentum that will help carry the chapter forward for many years to come.

Therefore, as chapter president, I will be doing everything I can to make Chapter 69 "the one to join." This means making meetings interesting, inviting, and informative. It means mentoring new members to help make their early collecting experiences enjoyable. It means greater inclusion of watch interests in our programming and Show & Tell, and much more.

Chapter 69 will also be spearheading a new membership initiative based on a plan I presented to enthusiastic response at the National Membership & Publicity Committee meeting in New Orleans. Come to this month's meeting to hear the details!

One issue that could impact these efforts will be decided at this month's meeting. Of course, I'm referring to door admission prices. The board has spent a good deal of time trying to reconcile the need for operational solvency with maintaining the affordability and attractiveness of meeting attendance. Compromises will be made, feathers will no doubt be ruffled, but in the end, the will of the members will be heard and implemented. Please make an effort to attend and participate in this important decision.

We'll also get a taste of N'Awlins at this month's meeting. Several members will be relating their experiences from the mart to the council meeting to Bourbon Street! You won't want to miss it.

See you there!

Summer Photo Supplement

The Quest for Riches



Twenty-one intrepid souls gathered at base camp – the Ebell Club – early in the morning on Saturday, June 30. There they partook of meager rations (doughnuts and juice thoughtfully provided by Doug and Phyllis Adams), and then braved the trek across the street to board the cushy, air-conditioned tour bus.



After traveling for miles and miles, the voyagers disembarked into a cavernous, below-ground structure, filled with amazing old cars and antique musical instruments. This, they eventually came to realize, was the *garage*.

A guide mysteriously appeared and led the group up a long flight of steps and through ornate, heavy cast bronze doors into yet another cavernous room. This



was no garage, but an sumptuously decorated chamber, built at the whim of a powerful potentate.

In the corner of this room, which was filled with still more amazing automobiles, stood a magnificent tall case clock. The guide told us that its movement was made by Elliott, and the case was hand carved from exotic woods.



He showed us many other treasures, including a case filled with wonderful old pocket watches, many of which were said to play music.

Trekking through this palace of riches for nearly two hours had taken its toll on the group – they were tired and hungry. The bus was pressed into service again, this time transporting them over rugged streets to a nice Italian restaurant.



Their hunger satisfied and their spirits uplifted, the group once again boarded the bus for the journey home. This was something to tell the grandkids.

Summer Photo Supplement

Our annual Directors' Pot Luck was held on July 19th at Bud and Pat Saiben's. The barbequed polish sausages that Bud cooked were great, as usual. The food that everyone brought was so good that many of us were still not able to eat the next day because we stuffed ourselves too much. It was also a chance for us to see Bud's collection of clocks again and to also see the new ones that he acquired this year.

— Marsha Cunningham



Above left: Doug Adams, Terry Cunningham, Mary Ann Wahlner, Murray Lefkowitz and Ray Marsolek enjoying themselves. Above right: Jay McAlister, Bernie Peralta, and the back of John Ballard. (That's how Jay looks when he's enjoying himself. Really.) Below right: Hors d'oeuvres and good company.



What Every Member Should Know (from page 1)

Can you help with refreshments? New Hospitality Chairman, Ed Athey, is looking for members who can bring goodies to one of our meetings.

How are you at running a video camera? The Audio-Visual Committee needs a back-up camera operator to help occasionally. See Dave or Terry.

Dues are due for a few

Check the dates on the mailing label of this issue. If it says "00-01", you need to get your renewal in right away or risk being dropped from our mailing list.

Make a check for \$10.00 to "Orange County Chapter 69," and bring it to the meeting. If you can't make the meeting, mail the check, along with your name, address and NAWCC membership number to:

Mary Ann Wahlner
28897 Paseo Sabatini

Mission Viejo, CA 92692-5900

Be part of this historical year for our chapter. Don't delay, renew today!

General Meeting Minutes July 6, 2001

Roy Irick called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone and thanked Pat Saiben for bringing the refreshments. The new visitors were: Arnold from Whittier, Don Buster, and Mike Murray. He announced the Santa Anita Mini Mart would be held on Saturday, October 27, 2001.

Murray Lefkowitz installed the new officers: President: Dave Weisbart, Vice-President: Terry Cunningham, Secretary: Marsha Cunningham, Treasurer: Bob Linkenhoker, and new Directors: Sally DiMino, Charles Register, and Mary Ann Wahlner.

The meeting was then turned over to Dave Weisbart who presented Roy Irick with an engraved gavel for his fine work this past year. Dave also thanked Terry Cunningham for his involvement in getting us live presentations for every meeting this last year. Dave then discussed his vision in getting "younger blood" into our membership. He plans to shake things up, build on momentum, and have a one-third increase of members by this time next year. Old-timers will be asked to get involved in helping achieve this plan.

There were no corrections to the June Meeting minutes as printed in the Tic Tock Times.

General Meeting Minutes *(cont. from page 4)*

Announcements:

The Annual Pot Luck Dinner and meeting will be held at Bud and Pat Sabien's house on Thursday, July 19. Anyone planning to attend needs to contact Bud and Pat to let them know, and should also to sign up for food.

The Santa Anita Mini Mart is being held, Saturday, October 27.

The Palomar Regional is being held on September 13-15.

Large Button Pins with the words, "Ask me about 2002 Adventure" were given to those people who planned to attend the New Orleans National Convention. They were all asked to wear the pins and discuss our National to anyone asking.

The Nuthercutt museum trip was a huge success and everyone enjoyed it immensely.

Old Business: None

New Business: Discussion on our current and projected finances and possible increases in the door charges was held. A chart was shown of our finances for the first part of the year 2000 with the current membership and current door admissions and with and without the interest on our CD's. We are losing money each year and the Board was recommending an increase of \$1 each month. The interest on our CD's are presently going down and there is no guarantee that we will make money at our National Convention next year. Three of the last four conventions had losses.

There were many recommendations from the floor, for many various solutions as well as for doing nothing. Don Bendz moved and it was seconded that we increase the door fees to \$4. Gene Osten made a motion and it was seconded that the matter be tabled until next month so we could see a financial report. A verbal vote was taken and it was passed to table this discussion until next month. The board was asked to have the budget for next year printed in the newsletter so everyone can study it and be better prepared for the next discussion.

Roy Irick gave a wonderful computerized slide presentation on Atmos Clocks and also brought 11 clocks for display for everyone to examine. Roy started with the book by Yeager Le Coultre and the inventor, Jean Lon Reuter. He said there are two types of motors. The Atmos I acts like a teeter-totter with the mercury moving back and forth. The Atmos II has chain pulls and relaxes as the bellows contract and expand. He showed pictures and discussed many calibers and styles of Atmos clocks. He also brought a large number of clocks from his collection for close inspection by our members.

We had our yearly drawing for a year's free admission to our chapter meetings. One ticket for each person doing a show and tell during the year was entered into the drawing and the lucky winner for this next year was: Bud Sabien. Way to Go, Bud!

Show and Tell: Bud Sabien brought a friend's novelty electric skeleton clock to share. It had characters doing odd things like riding the pendulum and hanging from sides and on the bottom. There was a bell on top that actually rings. It runs but doesn't keep good time.

Terry Cunningham brought a 1933 Ingersoll Mickey Mouse Watch with a fob that he acquired at an auction. It runs and the second hand has characters moving around.

Les Lesovsky brought a Rockford 15 jewel Kaiser watch from Hutchinson, Kansas that was made around the turn of the century.

The door prizes were given out to: Arnold (our new member), Eric Leung, and Ray Marsolek.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marsha Cunningham, Chapter 69 Secretary

Directors' Meeting Minutes July 19, 2001

The July Board meeting was held at Bud and Pat Sabien's house after a wonderful potluck dinner. We very much appreciate the Saibens making their home available for this event.

Dave Weisbart called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were: Dave Weisbart, Terry and Marsha Cunningham, Bob Linkenhoker, Charles Register, Sally Dimino, Mary Ann Wahlmer, Doug Adams, Ray Marsolek, and Ed Athey. Dave issued some new assignments: Doug is in charge of the mart, Ed is in charge of the Hospitality, Charles is in charge of the Library and Ray will do the door admissions. A sign-up list was sent around for the board meetings for this next year.

The subject for the program for August's Chapter meeting will be the National held in New Orleans. Participants will be: Bob Linkenhoker on the Banquets, Mart and the Food, Mary Ann Wahlmer on the Business, Ray Marsolek on the Seminars, and Dave Weisbart on the Promotional Efforts. Doug Adams will be doing an expanded Show and Tell.

Dave Weisbart brought up the discussion that was held at the last Chapter 69 meeting on the possibility of raising the admission fees. He has the yearly financial chart to present to the members and talked on how he would present it to them. We also discussed the yearly passes and how to implement them. It was decided that for the initial offering, we will give 10 months for the price of 9 (based on the amount approved by the membership). To get the yearly pass at the discounted price, the members will have to buy them prior to the starting of September's meeting.

Dave Weisbart discussed the new program that he wants to start for increasing the new membership. He plans to have members distribute membership applications to antique stores in their area of residence. The applications will also have a space for those members to put their NAWCC numbers so they will get credit for them.

Renewals are slowing. We are currently at 87 members and should be closer to 150. Dave will put a reminder in the Tic Tock Times. Dave also gave us a memo entitled "Food for Thought" goals.

Charles Register talked about mentoring for new members. Dave Weisbart told us that he has asked Gene Osten to coordinate the choosing of mentors for our new members.

Sally Dimino discussed the budget on refreshments. We are currently using \$35 per Chapter meeting. We decided to put this discussion off until next month.

Ray volunteered a clock stand that he made and the pliers he got at the National for door prizes.

Ed Athey discussed the monthly refreshments and it was decided to ask the general membership to volunteer. He will do this at the next general meeting.

Bob Linkenhoker gave out the Annual Profit and Loss Statement and a small discussion was held on it. Marsha Cunningham moved and it was seconded that we accept the Financial Statement as written. A verbal vote was taken and passed.

Angelo DiMino had submitted an idea for Outstanding Member Awards a month ago and it was decided to table the discussion on this until next month when we would have more time to talk about it.

Ray Marsolek talked about the opening times for our meetings and it was decided to leave them as they currently are.

Sally Dimino moved and it was seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marsha Cunningham, Chapter 69 Secretary