



Meeting Minutes, July 7, 2006

Superb Resoration

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by President Doug Adams. The members welcomed guests Brian and Joan Williamson who are visiting from Australia. The members then thanked Cora Lee Linkenhoker for providing the evenings refreshments. Doug announced the upcoming events:



Ray Brown showed us useful techniques for cutting glass

- July 12 – Directors’ Potluck at the home of Bud and Pat Saiben
- July 23 – Chapter 75 Mini-Mart in Granada Hills, CA
- August 27-28 – Silver Dollar Regional in Sparks, NV
- September 17 – Chapter 4 Merrimart in Bellflower, CA

Bob Linkenhoker reported that the National Convention in Cleveland included 3 field suitcase courses, 19 lectures, 17 general

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This month

A Twist on Time

At the 2005 Ward Francillon Symposium in Houston, John Hubby gave an outstanding lecture titled “A Twist on Time – The Torsion Pendulum Applied.” This month’s program is a video recording of that lecture.

John introduces his talk with the perception of the torsion clock as “a horological aberration,” “cantankerous, unreliable,” “poor timekeepers,” and “like collecting bricks.” So he asks “Why bother?” He goes on to answer this question about the perception/issues with these clocks and reviews their history and the contribution of American inventors and their influence on the development of these unique timepieces.

His presentation includes well known horological figures and some that have almost disappeared from history. John describes a torsion clock that was built for the 1876 US centennial exposition that was designed to run for 100 years on one winding and the current development of the a 10,000 year torsion clock sponsored by the Long Now foundation, <http://www.longnow.org/>.

This presentation has a great deal of information beyond that commonly encountered about 400 day clocks and is entertaining too!

For our Beginner’s Corner, Bob Linkenhoker ties into the theme of

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Food for Thought

Why The Chapters Are So Important

The following article by Robert Putman is from a recent Time magazine. Note the reference to diminishing membership in clubs. – Ed.

A study finds that Americans are getting lonelier

Americans are more socially isolated today than we were barely two decades ago. The latest evidence of that comes from a topflight team of sociologists who, after comparing national surveys in 1985 and 2004, report a one-third drop in the number of people with whom the average American can discuss “important matters.”

That startling report raises four questions: 1) Is it true? 2) Why has it happened? 3) Does it really matter? And 4) if so, what can we do about it?

I confess a personal stake in the first question. Six years ago in a book I wrote called *Bowling Alone*, I argued that the fabric of American communities has frayed badly since the mid-1960s. I traced plummeting membership in PTAs, unions and clubs of all sorts; long-term declines in blood donations, card games and charity; and drops of 40% to 60% in dinner parties, civic meetings, family suppers, picnics and, yes, league bowling.

Just as the debate about global warming began with controversial claims made by a few iconoclasts, so

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chapter meetings, and 15 committee meetings. The mart had 1868 attendees with 921 tables and the auction included 103 items. Bob advised us that lifetime membership now costs \$5000.

Les Lesovski reported that the Western Electrics Chapter 133 will host a picnic on August 5 in the Fountain Valley Mile Square Park. This event is open to all NAWCC members, hot dogs and beverages will be provided. Please bring an electric clock for show and tell plus discussion. Even electric watches will be welcomed.

It was reported that Roy Crowe is still ailing.

New Business:

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the June 2006 meeting be approved. Motion passed

Old Business:

Bob Linkenhoker reported that our chapter's Goodtyme Supermart took in \$1349 with expenditures of \$649.99, thus \$699.01 was made.

For the Beginner's Corner this month, Ray Brown demonstrated glass cutting. Ray stated that the outer surfaces of the glass are under compression while the glass between is under tension. In order to cut glass one needs to cut through the outer layer, which is the strongest, while not cutting the inner which may shatter. Start by laying out a compliant surface such as a towel, smooth out to remove any lumps. Score the glass surface in one smooth motion using a glass cutting tool that you have applied something like kerosene to. Once the outer layer is cut, slowly bend the glass to get the fracture to propagate through the inner layer then pull it to tear the pieces apart. Ray demonstrated the usage of some tools made by the Morton Glass Works available from <http://store.allstainedglass.com/morton.html>. These gadgets help in slowly propagating the fracture through the glass.

The main program for the evening was a video called Dial Repair for Long Case Clocks. The dial in the video was a Wilson dial from a long case clock made in 1772 that had a 30 hour movement. The back of the dial can provide much history of the clock such as maker; dial painters mark, repair dates, or maybe an auctioneer's number. A UV light is often used to note where damage exists and areas of possible problems. The procedure for restoration is not at all for the novice.

One starts by washing the dial to remove surface dirt. Should the numerals need repair remove the paint, knowing how much to remove is important. Use a solvent to remove blotches, thumbprints etc. from the painted dial. Rinse off and dry. Body filler is used to fill chips and other defects. Remove excess filler and touch up as required. Wash the dial again and dry thoroughly. Next do any gold leafing that may be needed. Coat the dial with clear artists varnish to preserve the original colors. Mix colors as required to match designs on the dial that will be touched up. Repainting the numerals, whether Roman or Arabic, is an art in itself. The name(s) of the makers often need to be reapplied. Finally, the restorer may need to repaint some of the design that has been worn off. Thus you can see that the repair of this type of dial takes knowledge and skill with a lot of practice and certainly isn't for the faint hearted.

Show and Tell featured an empty table this month

Door prizes were won by Evelyn Buster, Paul Martyn and Dave Weisbart.

Our guest, Brian Williamson, reported that he and Joan had attended an auction in Mebane, North Carolina, of the Ryan collection consisting of 450 clocks of all types, some very expensive. The auction grossed \$550,000 including \$30,000 for boxes of "junk" parts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Great Pot Luck

The Saibens hosted another wonderful Directors' Pot Luck last month. A good time was had by all! Thanks, Bud & Pat!



Coralee serves up a tasty salad



As always, Bud was in charge of the "weenies" (actually freshly-made bratwurst)

From the NAWCC website

Watch Exhibit

The story of American watchmaking, as an American achievement with worldwide implications has quite a fascinating history. American watchmaking played an influential role in the development of American factory systems. The railroad industry and the military helped to determine its development and industrial entrepreneurs helped to ensure its early success.



The National Watch and Clock Museum's special exhibit "American Watchmaking" opens Saturday, April 8. The support for this exhibit from Hamilton Watch Company, Donegal Mutual Insurance Company and other community organizations has allowed the Museum to present an exhibit that truly captures the American entrepreneurial spirit. The exhibit highlights how the American wristwatch got its start and examines the application of American production methods to the watchmaking industry. The height of the craft, as well as its decline, is emphasized through unique timepieces and horological objects.

The factory system is what truly spurred the American watchmaking industry by being one of the first to use interchangeable parts. This exhibit highlights the crossroads where technology, economic conditions, and government intersected to help build an industry. The public will be encouraged to explore how the factory system utilized innovative production methods and brought new technology into the hands of the average American.

"With so much emphasis placed on boosting the American economy and supporting American-based companies, the Museum is proud to present an exhibit that showcases American ingenuity and entrepreneurship through the world of American watch manufacturing," stated Museum Educator Katie Cassarly.

"American Watchmaking" will run through February 2007 and is included with Museum admission.

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the program with a brief talk on identifying 400 day clocks by their back plates. He will discuss how the many versions of 400 day clocks can be identified by information on the back plates and will bring example(s) for illustration.



Lonelier *(from page 1)*

too were many sociologists skeptical of my findings about lonely bowlers. No complex issue is ever settled by a single study. Advancing the global warming argument has required decades of research, and it may take another decade to convince the final doubters that social connectivity in the U.S. has, in fact, disintegrated. But that latest study is an important milestone.

Ironically, the authors began their work deeply skeptical about my argument. To their credit, when the unexpected results came back, they scratched their heads, kicked the tires really hard to ensure there was no mistake and last week reported their findings in a paper aptly called "Social Isolation in America."

Why this sharp increase in social isolation? Both the new study and mine found sharp generational differences – baby boomers are more socially marooned than their parents, and the boomers' kids are lonelier still. Is it because of two-career families? Ethnic diversity? The Internet? Suburban sprawl? Everyone has a favorite culprit. Mine is TV, but the jury is still out.

Does it really matter? As a friend said, "So what if the average American now has two close friends, not three? Two is plenty." But that's exactly like saying, "If global temperatures rise from 65°F to 70°F, I wouldn't even notice." That's fine, as long as you ignore the indirect effects, like mega-hurricanes in the Gulf.

Social isolation has many well-documented side effects. Kids fail to thrive. Crime rises. Politics coarsens. Generosity shrivels. Death comes sooner (social isolation is as big a risk factor for premature death as smoking). Well-connected people live longer, happier lives, even if they have to forgo a new Lexus to spend time with friends. So what can be done? Unlike global warming, we can solve this problem fairly easily by simply getting more involved in our communities and spending more time with family and friends.

Family-friendly workplaces would help too. Reaching out to a neighbor or connecting with a long-lost pal – even having a picnic or two – could just save your life.

Putnam is a professor at Harvard University and the author of Bowling Alone

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

The National
**ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.**
Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o Dean Armentrout
332 Forest Avenue, Suite 6
Laguna Beach CA 92651



Our Next Meeting: Friday, August 4, 2006

Program:

VIDEO PRESENTATION
"The Torsion Pendulum
Applied"
by John Hubby

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:

"Identifying 400-day movements" by Bob Linkenhoker

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "G" or
torsion pendulum clocks

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, August 9 at 7:30 P.M. at the home of
Ray Brown
10432 Falcon Ave.
Fountain Valley, CA (714) 968-5526

