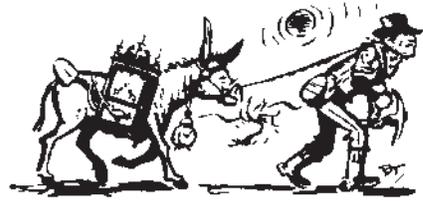


# THE Tic Talk Times



September 2003  
Vol. 23, No. 2

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

## Meeting Minutes, Aug. 1, 2003

### Balancing Act

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Dave Weisbart at 8:00 pm. (President Charles Register was not able to attend the meeting.)

James from the Ebell Club opened our meeting with information on the Ebell Club rummage sale. This annual event helps raise money that is used to keep the Ebell Club in shape. We were invited to help out by donating items to the event.

Thanks to Bud and Pat Saiben for providing the refreshments. The ice cream really hit the spot!

Welcome to our guests, Bob Renwick, Jim, Mr. Mickey, Julian Silver, Cliff Hope, and Steve Mitchell. A special welcome to our new member Garret Graves. (Garret is the watch man in Dave's new shop! Stop by and visit them if you have the chance.)

The Director's meeting for August will be held at Dave's home. As always, the general membership is invited to attend.

Upcoming marts that were mentioned included Chapter 4's Merrimart on November 16th, Vista's Picnic Mart on September 14th, Chapter 116's mart on Nov. 21st, and the Del Mar Regional Nov. 20 - 22.

Mary Ann Whalner reported that the NAWCC Council is discussing paying off the mortgage using an approved e-meeting procedure. Also

*continued on page 2*

## This month

### French Time & World Time

Just as Willard's Patent Timepiece (aka the banjo clock) is quintessentially American, so the clocks from the Morbier-Morez-Foncine region in France are unmistakably French. Morbier clocks are most often characterized by round porcelain dials, repoussé-adorned shields and pendulums, and either verge & crown wheel or anchor escapements (depending on age) in iron plate movements.



We're lucky to have a resident authority on Morbier clocks in Chapter 69: membership chairman Dean Armentrout. At this month's meeting, Dean will be talking about Morbier clocks and will illustrate his talk with an ample collection of slide

photographs.

Our resident expert on Global Positioning Satellites (GPS) is past president Gene Osten. He'll be delivering a short Beginner's Corner on various electronic time sources, from the old standby, WWV, to the latest in highly accurate satellite time standards. Make plans to be there!

## Message from the President

### Goodbye, Summer

As we convene our next meeting, Labor Day will have passed, signaling the end of summer. It is my sincere hope that all the membership has a pleasant summer and/or vacation period. Thanks again to Pat and Bud Saiben for a great barbecue.

With that said, let's look ahead to a wonderful season in which we may boost our membership by spreading the word of the wonderful world of clocks and watches.

We're already planning a Good Tyme Supermart for next May, and we'll be soliciting your help as we get closer.

The fall holidays are ahead and we'd like to see everyone involved in planning chapter events. We'll keep you up-to-date in the Tic Talk Times and at the meetings.

We're looking for people who would like to share their collections with the group. Please contact our Vice-president, Dave Weisbart

—Charles Register

### Evangelists!

Please note: If you were one of the "Product Evangelists" who put out membership applications and meeting invitations in local shops, a new supply of applications and invitations will be available at the upcoming meeting. If you have any questions on this program, please see either Charles or Dave at the meeting.



## Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

under discussion is an exchange of educational materials with AWI. If anyone would like to receive approved council meeting minutes, please give Mary Ann your e-mail address and she'll pass them along as she receives them.

Remember last year when we went around to our local antique shops and jewelry stores and asked them to display our flyers and membership pamphlets? Well, it's time to do it again this year! Please see Dave if you need pamphlets and pamphlet displays.

This month we had a video presentation which was a 35 minute segment from the four hour long "Clock Works II". The segment we viewed showed Wayne Griffith disassembling a Hermle floating balance. He demonstrated how to use micrometers and, in turn, how to use those micrometers to determine the size of wire needed to replace the pivot wire. Incidentally, a guitar string is used as the new pivot wire! He then showed how to reassemble the balance. Dave highlighted the presentation by bringing in an actual Hermle floating balance for us to look at. (The micrometer section of the video also served as our Beginner's Corner for this month.)

This month's Show and Tell was for horological items beginning with the letter "L". Gene Osten brought in a beautiful pocket watch (below). The watch, by the Dueber Watch Co. was signed R. Engleskind Jeweler, hence it is a



private label watch. Dave Weisbart brought in his wonderful Ansonia "Cabinet B" clock (right). How is that an "L" horological item? Well, the clock was given to Dave as a 50th birthday gift and the Roman numeral for 50 is "L"! Eric Leung brought in a block used for printing images of Lux cuckoo clocks as well as a book that



contained such a print. He also showed us a humorous beer drinking novelty clock (below) and an attractive blue glass paperweight clock both of which were also by the Lux Clock Co. Charlie Davis brought in a let-down key.



Bob Linkenhoker shared a lanyard pinion clock or postman clock. It was apparently made in Germany for export and sale in England. Phyllis Adams brought in her little collection of little porcelain clocks and Doug Adams showed an E. Howard, L-sized pocket watch. He explained that the E. Howard Watch Co. did not produce pocket watch movements in standard sizes. Instead, they produced movements to their own sizing system using letters such as G, J, N and L. As such, E. Howard watches don't fit in standard sized cases and so it's relatively easy to tell if one of them has been re-cased. Doug's watch is in its original case! [*Apologies for no pictures of the last three items. I ran out of camera memory! – Ed.*]

The door prizes were won by Cora Lee Linkenhoker, Mary Ann Wahlner, Eric Leung, Ed Athey and Bud Saiben. Congratulations!

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Weisbart at 9:10 pm.

*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](mailto:webmaster@nawcc69.org). You can also view the current and past issues at [www.nawcc69.org](http://www.nawcc69.org)

---

## Dues Are Due For A Few!

If you're not sure whether or not you've renewed your chapter membership, check your mailing label. The date code should read "03-04." If it doesn't, **you are about to be dropped from our mailing list!**

To renew your membership, send a check for \$10.00 made out to "Orange County Chapter 69" with your name, address and NAWCC number to:

Dean Armentrout, Membership Chair  
2683 Victoria Dr.  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651-3948

---

### Dave's Shop Talk

## A Nice Hawaiian Punch

Remember the 1960's ad icon "Punchy"? When a tourist in a flowered shirt approached Punchy, he was greeted with the seemingly generous statement "Hey, How about a nice Hawaiian Punch?" When the tourist said "Sure!" Punchy pulled back his fist and clobbered the unsuspecting Island visitor with a roundhouse punch to the face.



I think it's an apt metaphor for what happens to a trusting customer who brings a clock in for service and gets back a plate with bearing holes that have been punched closed. I would contend that in virtually all cases, punching holes closed is just plain wrong and does a disservice to the clock.

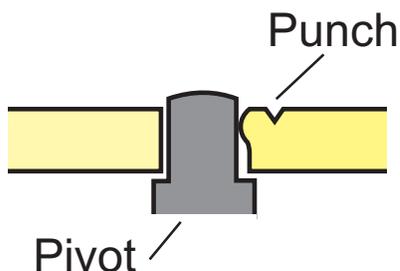
Done by itself, punching a hole closed creates a non-cylindrical hole, one that bulges when viewed in cross section. This means that the pivot will be rubbing against a

much smaller area than it was designed for. The result? Faster and more uneven pivot wear – and if some dirt or metal gets into the hole, or if the punching itself causes small surface cracks in the brass, you can get nasty pivot scoring. In addition, punching weakens the brass, meaning that the "closed" hole will wear quicker.

What about punching both sides of the plate? Still not cylindrical, and even weaker brass. OK, how about punching it really closed and then reaming it out? That's functionally better (your hole will be smooth and cylindrical), but you still have weakened brass and ugly scars on the plate.

I've heard the following argument from several mechanics: "But it's just a (*insert your least favorite early 20th century clockmaker here*). It's not worth the time it takes to bush it." I find this argument specious. These clocks are often treasured objects that have been gracing people's homes for 80, 90, 100 years (Sessions will be 100 years old next year). To my way of thinking, that alone makes them worthy of proper treatment. (Imagine if your vet said, "Well, it's just a mutt.") And I don't know about others, but I charge the same to overhaul a Sessions as for an Ansonia or a Gustav Becker – and they get the same treatment. Plus, bushing doesn't take all that long to do; it's a small sacrifice for me to know that the job was well done, and that I've increased the chances that the clock will live on for another century.

My final word on the subject is that long after the hole-punchers are gone, there will some future clockmaker who sees their work, shakes his head, files down the mangled pivot, and puts in a proper bushing. My goal is to do work that no one has to shake his head over.



**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: Sept. 5, 2003**

*Program:*

**LIVE Presentation:**  
**"Morbier Clocks"**  
**by Dean Armentrout**

*Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:*  
"Time Signal Sources" by Gene Osten

*Show & Tell:*  
Horological items beginning with the letter "M"

*Board Meeting:*  
**Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Location to be announced

*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

