



Meeting Minutes: August 6

Breguet Examined

Our April general meeting was called to order by President Charles Register at 8 p.m.

We welcomed our guests John and Sandra Daley and Joanne Levesque.

We extended many thanks to the Saibens for once again hosting the annual potluck.

Thank you also to the Armen-trouts for this month's refreshments.

We had some sad news this month. Murray Lefkowitz passed away. Many of us knew Murray for his love of fine clocks and for his many years of service on the board of chapter 69 (he even served as Vice President for 2 years).



Fewer of us knew that Murray was born in Poland. During World War II, he served as a tail gunner on a bomber. He was a chemist who

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This month

Making A Case

Many of us focus on the inner working of watches and clocks, almost completely ignoring the cases or containers they come in. Well this month's presentation may cause you to take a closer look and consider the art and craft that goes into creating them.

Martin Matthews is a fourth generation watch case maker having plied his trade for fifty years. In the video to be shown this month and next (it is too long for one meeting) Martin makes a silver pair watch case from raw material. He includes all the steps required to complete the case, utilizing almost exclusively equipment that was originally used by his great-grandfather. Throughout the video, titled "Four Generations of Watch Case Makers," Mr. Matthews maintains a concise and sometimes humorous commentary.

I believe there is something that will appeal to everyone, be you interested in watches, clocks, tools or horological history, in this presentation.

This and many other videos are available from the National for loan. Consult your Bulletin for details. By the way, our own library has many videos available.

Also this month, Dave Weisbart will give a Beginner's Corner on clock lantern pinions, and a very helpful tool for dealing with them.

— Bob Linkenhoker

Message from the President

Summer closing

Now that summer is coming to a close, I hope that everyone has enjoyed their time in the sun. We must continue to reinforce our membership by reaching out to young people, as young as high school age. I've opened a dialogue with the Boy Scouts of America and hope that between us we may develop a horological merit badge. Please share your ideas so that we may continue to grow Chapter 69, and don't forget all educational recommendations shall be routed through Dave Weisbart. Thank you for your participation.

— Charles Register

Extended Mart Next Month!

Earlier this year, Chapter 69 held a very successful two-hour-long pre-meeting mart. Well, mark your calendars for Friday, October 1 – we're doing it again!

The sellers at the last two-hour mart brought lots of merchandise (including a good selection of clocks) and our postcard campaign really brought out the meeting guests. We hope to duplicate that success in October.

Notes from National

Occasionally I receive emails about what's going on at National and I thought some of you might be interested.

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Meeting Minutes (from page 1)

worked in textiles and in fact, some of his work was key to the development of permanent press! Murray touched many of our lives and he will be sorely missed.

Upcoming dates to remember include:

- September 11th - Chapter 136's Picnic Mart
- October 23rd – Chapter 116 Supermart, Arcadia Community Center
- October 28th for the 2004 National Seminar in Portland Oregon
- November 21st – Chapter 4's mart at the Bellflower Masonic Lodge
- February 4th and 5th – Greater LA Regional at the Pasadena Center

The minutes from the last general meeting as printed in the Tic Talk Times were voted on and approved by the membership.

Gene Osten announced that Julie Stevens has purchased the video of the Modern Marvels program on clocks for the chapter. It will be available through the chapter library. Thanks Julie!

This month's Beginner's Corner is on adding patina to brass by Tony Baker. Tony embarked on the project of learning to patina brass after working on a clock for a customer. A brass part needed to be replicated for the clock. When the clock was returned, the customer commented, "Hmmm, that's a different color isn't it?"

Tony's patina techniques work for all sorts of parts such as winding grommets, hands, screws, finials, etc.

To prepare the surface of your brass item, remove any oxidation with a buffing wheel. Next, clean the item with alcohol and then clean again using brake part cleaner.

Next, you need to decide what color you want to patina your item, and what method you want to use to achieve your goal.

There are many different choices if you use a patina solution. These solutions are available from suppliers such as Timesavers. When using these solutions, you can't step away from the project. The patina reaction happens really quickly. You need to watch carefully so that you can stop the reaction once it reaches the strength of color you want.

On the other hand, you might choose to patina your item using a vapor method. Tony uses a large plastic ice cream container as his vapor chamber. You can use ammonia vapor or vinegar vapor. The reactions happen a lot slower than with the patina solutions giving you better control over the results.

Tony also passed around samples of the different patina colors obtained using different solutions and methods. The patinas are quite durable and don't just rub off. He also kindly offered to e-mail copies of the hand-outs to anyone that it interested. Just let him know.

Thanks, Tony for an interesting presentation!

This month's presentation was about Breguet by Garret Graves.

Garret told us that his presentation was based on the book, The Art of Breguet by George Daniels.

Abraham-Louis Breguet was born in 1747 in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. His uncle was a watchmaker. Around 1762 he became apprentice to a watchmaker in Versailles, France. In 1792, during the French Revolution, he fled to Switzerland because he was closely associated with French royalty. He returned to Paris in 1795 to set up a workshop helping to return industry to France.

Breguet's workshops made about 170 watches a year. The low production was because the watches were so complicated and time-consuming to make.

Breguet died in 1823. The workshops were taken over by Louis A. Breguet. Breguet is still in operation today producing high-end watches as well as fine jewelry and writing instruments.

During his lifetime, Breguet invented many advancements in watches. He created the over-coil hairspring, the tourbillon and one-handed watches. We see Breguet hands and Breguet teeth. He's said to have invented the wire gong and watches with thermometers. He made many repeaters and invented the secret signature. (Not all Breguets have the signature.) He made touch watches because it was rude to check your watch in polite company.

Garret showed us pictures of some beautiful clock set watches and the watch Breguet made for Marie Antoinette.

Breguet also made marine chronometers, pocket chronometers, true chronographs and observatory clocks.

Thank you, Garret for a fascinating look at an important watch maker!

This month's Show and Tell was horological items beginning with the letter "C".

Bernie Peralta brought in a beautiful, classic Cartier tank watch. Bernie's watch is vermeil and contains a 17 jewel movement.

Christopher Mabry brought in an interesting clock with a circuit on it! The problem with these clock is that the circuits degraded over time. Christopher repaired his clock and then had to time it by continual "messaging" and trial and error!

Dick Duwe brought in some really wonderful cat clocks! Dick had seen some statue clocks featuring big cats that he really liked but the cost was prohibitive. He was inspired enough to actually make the first two clocks he showed us. He was later able to buy the last clock he showed us - a magnificent French statue clock that came with 2 matching urns, and signed Cartier!

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Bud Saiben brought in a collection of car clocks. These neat little clocks were after market items from the 20's and 30's. He even brought in a couple that were in their original boxes. Bud's favorite was an 8 – day, amber glass, Waltham that probably cost about \$2.50 brand new!



Carl Carlson showed us a great old colorful clock in a “handle carefully” case! This clock had a date on it of April 1943 and contains a Seth Thomas movement. The clock is a bit of a mystery, but the

general consensus is that it was used by naval ships to synchronize their turns.

Les Lesovsky brought in two compound pendulum clocks. Interestingly, part of the mass is above the center of oscillation on these clocks. The larger of the two clocks is battery driven.

Charlie Davis showed us a 60 day Japanese clock he got from Julie. It was in pieces and he brought it in to see if he could get some advice on putting it back together. Someone was able to help out alright!

Roy Irick shared two LeCoultre Atmos clocks. One of the cases was almost perfect, in beautiful condition. The second case was quite worn and had lots of abrasions and marks. The newer of the clocks was the one in the beat-up case! So...don't polish your Atmos case! Roy did wonder if they did a better or heavier plating job on the older clocks?

Phyllis Adams is a caregiver and she showed us her caregiver's watch! It has a little thermometer and stethoscope in it!

Dave Weisbart showed us a really interesting bellows from a cuckoo clock. Someone had actually repaired the bellows using duct tape and a plastic Vons shopping bag!

Doug Adams brought in pictures from his recent trip to China (top right). While he was there he spotted an interesting looking building. After asking around about the building he found that it was a museum full of antique astronomical and observatory equipment and instruments! He showed us pictures of celestial globes, observatory clocks, seasonal clocks and a model of the early water driven Chinese clock. He also saw the world's earliest seismograph. What a great place to stumble across!

This month the door prizes were won by Don, Bill Clark, John Daley, Phyllis Adams and Garret Graves. Congratulations!

Our meeting was adjourned by Charles.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jana Smith, Secretary



Volunteers Needed!

Earlier this year, the Chapter voted to move its election of officers and directors to November's meeting. Well, November is just around the corner, and we need members to step forward and volunteer to take over for some of our “retiring” board members.

Board members serve two-year terms, are asked to attend both our general meetings and monthly board meetings, and must fill one of the positions such as librarian or hospitality chairperson. Officers serve one year terms.

Several of our board members have served their maximums of two consecutive terms, so we need fresh faces (and returning faces) to fill their spots. Please consider joining the chapter leadership – you can be a big help in keeping Chapter 69 one of the best chapters in Southern California! Any of our board members will be happy to answer any of your questions.

Notes from National *(continued)*

2. A number of special events and showing are scheduled for the next months. Go to [and](#) click on the message board to see the schedule.

By the way if you hear of anyone making a trip to the Pennsylvania area mention the NAWCC to them and suggest that they consider visiting our museum.

3. September 30th is the deadline to submit nominations for the upcoming elections of National Directors. Details can be found in the June Bulletin and Mart. The form for nomination (including self nomination) can be found on the NAWCC web site under Member Documents.

— Bob Linkenhoker

**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: September 3, 2004

Program:

VIDEO PRESENTATION
**"Four Generations of Watch
Case Makers"**

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

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

"Lantern Pinions" by Dave Weisbart

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "D"

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, September 8, 7:30 P.M. at the home of
Julie Stevens
31266 Flying Cloud Drive
Laguna Niguel CA 92677
(949) 487-9080

*Parking and entry
off Mortimer St.*



Ramp
available