

THE Tic Talk Times



September 2005
Vol. 25, No. 2

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

Meeting minutes, Aug. 5, 2005

Cuckoo for Cuckoo Hands

August general meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. by Vice President Bob Linkenhoker.

We welcomed our guests Ken and Alan Lynn, Walk Cieslak, J. and C.A. Boo, Jim Allensworth, Larry Mendel, Barb Lounsbury, Hal Spaulding and Glenn Downen. We were very pleased to meet all of our



Charlie Davis went through great pains to make his bone cuckoo hands

guests, especially Glenn who has been a member of NAWCC since 1952! (Photo, page 2)

Thank you very much to Julie and Les Lesovsky for bringing the refreshments!

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

There was no old business.

continued on page 2

This month

The Seven Crafts

A few months ago we watched a video produced by the Patek Philippe Company. The National's library has three different videos produced to promote the products of this prestigious watch making company and this month we will see the second of these, 'Patek Philippe: The Seven Crafts'. This company not only makes the movements but also produces the case and bracelets for it watch. In this video we see the various different crafts required to make one of this company's fine products.

For Beginner's Corner, Ray Brown will provide an overview of why compound pendulums require special treatment when trying to regulating rate. We will look at why swingers behave different from most pendulum clocks and how to make sense of their contrary behavior. Also we will look at some other unexpected results of swinger design.

Ray was to give this talk last month but due to a family emergency he had to miss the meeting and Dave Weisbart filled in at the last minute. Thanks, Dave.

Note: I need people to step forward and volunteer to give live presentations, particularly watch related ones. An occasional video is ok but everyone enjoys a live presentation. If you have an idea for a presentation please contact me at the meeting or call me at 951/898-5825 and we'll discuss it.

Thanks,

Bob Linkenhoker

Very Important People

Averting a Crisis

At our last Chapter 69 board meeting, a straw poll of current board members revealed a potentially troubling issue. There's an unprecedented number of officers and board members whose terms are set to expire who may not be returning to help run the chapter. In several cases, it's because they have reached the term limits imposed by our by-laws. One of our members, our very able secretary, Jana Smith, is due to have a baby in late October. (We suspect she's going to have her hands full for a while!)

Our elections are just two months away! We must get some of our members to step forward and volunteer to help run the club – *without delay.*

Chapter 69 is certainly one of the most active, best organized, and friendliest chapters in California. Every month, it *earns* the support of all its members with a newsletter, web site, mart and meeting, and interesting programs. Now, the chapter needs a few people to step forward and help keep it running.

The investment of time varies by the job, but the rewards are seen each month in how much enjoyment, education, networking, camaraderie and commerce we foster.

Please, if you've ever even considered how you could help support the traditions and advancement of Chapter 69, step forward this month and volunteer to join our board. You'll be glad you did.

Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

We were saddened by the news that Ed Samoaker has passed away. He used to be a regular at chapter #69 meetings.

Bob mentioned some dates to mark on our calendars:

- **September 18th** – Chapter 4 will hold its annual Merrimart at the Bellflower Masonic Lodge.
- **September 24th** – Vista Chapter 136 will hold their picnic mart at the Antique Gas and Steamer Museum in Vista, California.
- **October 22nd** – Chapter 116 will hold their 25th annual Super Mart at the Arcadia City Community Center
- **November 17-19th** – Chapters 59 and 136 will co-host the Southwest California Regional in Del Mar.
- **June 21-24th, 2006** – The 61st National Convention will be held at the Cleveland Convention Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Our Beginner's Corner was to be Ray Brown talking about "Those Strange Swingers," but Ray had a family emergency. Dave Weisbart graciously (and quickly) filled in with an informative discussion on the hardening of metals.

Dave started by passing around a hand that had been blued in a bluing oven as well as a steel rod upon which we could see a gradation of colors. The colors are the result of the metal being heated to different temperatures. The colors are actually oxidation. Heating to different temperatures changes the properties of the metal making it appropriate for different uses.



Steel needs to be heated and cooled properly (tempered) or else it can become brittle.

Someone mentioned that there are other ways to achieve "blued" steel hands, but heating is the proper traditional way! Thank you, Dave!

This month's presentation was "Bone Hands for Cuckoo Clocks" by Charlie Davis.

Charlie actually had carved his own bone hands and his Powerpoint presentation showed us how!

First of all, where do you find the bone? Charlie used a shin bone from a cow. He got his from Stater Bros. Charlie did mention that you don't want the joints. These can be sawn off by the butcher.

Charlie then cooked the bone outside on his Coleman stove. This was to get any meat off the bones. Next, he



Longtime national member, first-time chapter visitor Glenn Downen

used a saw and chisel to start cutting the bone down to size. Sawing through and cleaning out the marrow was smelly! (He says that Millie relegated him to working outside because it smelled so bad!) He finally managed to get the bone cleaned off and slabbed.

He found design suggestions on the internet. He printed and then glued his chosen pattern to the bone slab. He drilled some

holes in the bone so that he could get in onto a jeweler's saw.

Charlie says that you just can't rush the modeling process! He used various blades and saws to get the details and contours onto his clock hand.

It was all a learning process for Charlie and we're so glad he shared the experience with us! Thank you for a really entertaining presentation Charlie!

This month's Show and Tell was for horological items beginning with the letters "R" and "Q". (Les, thank you for bringing in the lighting!)

Gene Osten shared an 1887 Rockford pocket watch (left). This company didn't make a lot of watches and this particular one has the second hand at the 3 o'clock position. The movement was probably made to go into a hunter case. By rotating the face, the movement could go into an open-faced case. Interestingly, this watch also has an arbor to accommodate a key but is also crown-wound. Gene believes that at the time this watch factory was transitioning to crown-wound watches, they had an overstock of the plates with the arbor. They just used them rather than scrap them!

Bernie Peralta brought in a beautiful wrist watch. It has a nice Swiss, quartz movement, but what makes this watch really special is that the face is made out of opal and the synthetic sapphire crystal is cut with twelve facets. Wow!



Doug Adams showed us a wonderful reversed fusee movement in a hunting case (opposite page, top). The watch is by Audemars Piguet and is a minute repeater. This watch even has jewels on the hammers!

Les Lesovsky brought in a Chester Ponds Patent clock. The movement is electrically wound every hour. Les



had this clock for awhile but wasn't sure what to do with it since it wasn't in a case. Then one day he saw the same clock in an auction catalog. These clocks were used in the London underground and the one in the catalog was under a glass dome. This is how Les shows his clock today!



This month the door prizes were won by Larry Mendel, Dean Armentrout and Glenn Downen. Congratulations!

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jana Smith, Secretary

From the NAWCC web site

Clocks in Motion

Travelers have benefited from any number of portable timepieces over the years—from pocket sundials to pocket watches. During the 19th century, as more and more people began to travel by carriage, they needed timepieces that could travel with them. One such timepiece was the carriage clock, whose remarkably shockproof movement was perfected by the French watchmaker Abraham Louis Brequet in the late 18th century. In other instances, pocket watches were placed in leather holders that fit over the front board of the carriage. As inventors and manufacturers like Karl Benz, Gottlieb Daimler, Charles and J. Frank Duryea, Henry Ford, and Ransom E. Olds furthered development of the automobile, a new breed of clock was introduced—the car clock.

By 1908, speedometer companies were producing and marketing clocks as after-market accessories. Over the next decade, the car clock grew in popularity and several companies began catering to the growing market, including the Phinney-Walker Keyless Clock Company, the Warner Instrument Company, the Seth Thomas Clock Company, the Stewart Speedometer Company, the Chelsea Clock Company, and the Boston Clock Company. In some cases, there was a clear crossover between marine clocks and automobile clocks. Waltham, a major supplier of car clocks, marketed identical timepieces for both automobiles and boats.

Manufacturers gave customers many choices offering models that mounted on general interior surfaces, dashboards, steering wheels, gearshifts, and rear-view mirrors. The winding mechanisms also evolved from key-wind clocks to stem-wind clocks to rim-wind clocks. During the 1930s and 1940s, electric automobile clocks were in production, but mechanical clocks were still being offered. It was not until 1950s and 1960s that electric clocks truly dominated the market, at least up until the advent of quartz technology. Today's car clocks mostly have quartz movements, however new technologies like Global Positioning Systems (GPS) are available as both production and after-market accessories.

Your Last Issue?

Did you renew your membership in Chapter 69? Check your mailing label. Does it say "04-05"? If it does, this could be the last *Tic Talk Times* you receive. Don't let that happen! Renew your membership today.

Membership applications can be found in the June and July issues of the *Tic Talk Times*, and on-line at our web site, www.nawcc69.org. You can also renew at the upcoming meeting. Dean Armentrout will be happy to take care of all the details.

And if you don't renew, we're going to send the old prospector and his mule over to your house to camp out on your lawn until you do!



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. You can also view the current and past issues at www.nawcc69.org

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

**DOES YOUR LABEL SAY "04-05" ?
IF SO, SEE PAGE 3!**

Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o Dean Armentrout
332 Forest Avenue, Suite 6
Laguna Beach CA 92651

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



Our Next Meeting: September 2, 2005

Program:

VIDEO PRESENTATION

**"Patek Philippe:
The Seven Crafts"**

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:

"Those Strange Swingers" by Ray Brown

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "S"

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, September 7, at 7:30 P.M. at the home of:
Dennis Woodson
5802 Shasta Circle
La Palma, CA
(714) 522-1945

