

# THE Tic Talk Times



September 2011  
Vol. 31, No. 2

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

*Meeting minutes, Aug 5, 2011*

## Electric Indian Chief?

Our August meeting was called to order at 8:00 by President Ray Brown. He welcomed two guests: Dee Mason and Kris Robinson. It's always good to see fresh faces. Ray also thanked Ken Lynn for the refreshments. His pizza was a hit!

The minutes from the last Tic Talk Times were approved as published. There will be no board meeting in August; the next one will be September 12 at Ray's house.

Under new business, Ray shared with us the menu choices for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet. We'll start with relish-tray appetizers, and then the "Riviera Salad." For the entrée we'll have a choice of salmon, chicken marsala, or pepper steak flambé, and we'll finish with a peach melba dessert. Sounds like we'll all be well-fed! The Riviera restaurant also has a full bar.

Doug Lynn called for discussion of the recent change to our publications, namely, moving the chapter highlights from the *Bulletin* to the *Mart*. Several opinions were expressed. One person noted that financial considerations entered into this decision – the newsprint of the *Mart* is less expensive than the coated paper in the *Bulletin*. Others expressed concern that the *Mart* was more ephemeral and would be more likely to be discarded, meaning that the history of our chapters would be lost. In the

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*This month*

## Take a Picture

One skill that's not taught at the School of Horology, but is very useful for a horologist, is photography. The many uses for photographs in horology is the topic of Doug Adams' talk this month.

Doug has given several presentations to NAWCC chapters that center around photographs of his work. So presenting is one use. Making a record of repairs, often in a before-and-after fashion, is another. This can come in handy when you're working on someone else's clock. Publications are another area – whether for a book or a periodical like the *Bulletin*, good photos are essential. And when faced with a complex and unfamiliar movement, taking a picture can be invaluable when it's time to reassemble it.

Doug will also cover some basic photo editing, including using a photo-editing program to enhance contrast and size digital images for their intended use.

For our Beginner's Corner, Dave Weisbart will talk about basic concepts and adjustments to clock escapements. This will include strap pallets, both half-deadbeat and recoil, and anchor escapements that have some adjustment mechanism in their design. Dave will cover the concepts of drop and lock, which are essential to understanding how to work with escapements. If you've ever been puzzled by clocks that should run but won't, this will be useful information.

*Visit us at [www.nawcc69.org](http://www.nawcc69.org)*

*President's Message*

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

This month we will celebrate Chapter 69's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

We have planned a luncheon at an upscale restaurant, the Riviera at the Fireside in Westminster from noon until 3 PM on Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. We also will show pictures of years gone by of earlier meetings and member's activities over the 40 years of our chapter. Finally, Dave Weisbart has offered to provide musical entertainment as an added bonus!

The meals at the Riviera are always outstanding and will be served in a private room.

Our selections are:

- Broiled Salmon with Béarnaise Sauce
- Chicken Marsala with Mushroom Sauce
- Pepper Steak with Mustard Cream Sauce



Included is a relish tray at the beginning, the Riviera Salad, Peach Melba for dessert and coffee or tea. No-host wine, beer and cocktails can also be ordered and served with your meal. The cost of the meals will be

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## Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*



end, the consensus seemed to be that there wasn't a whole lot we could do about it anyway.

Our program was a video from the 2008 Ward Francillon Symposium. It was the after-dinner talk by Robert Lanphier III about the history of the Sangamo Electric Company. Since his talk did not cover much about their short-lived clock manufacturing (1929 –

1931), President Ray Brown filled in that gap with a short talk of his own regarding Sangamo clocks.

We learned that the company name was not Japanese as many assume, but came from the name of a Native American chief! Ray read from an article on Sangamo by Les McAlister, telling us that the company started in the late 1890s making watt-hour meters. He brought several examples of Sangamo clocks from his own collection. These clocks used AC power to wind a spring which, in turn, powered a jeweled movement made by the Illinois Watch Co. He showed a mantel clock with the balance wheel showing through the dial; it had an 11-jewel movement. He also showed a wall clock with a seven-jewel movement. Ray explained that these clocks could run on virtually any AC power source, 50 or 60 cycle, even “dirty,” intermittent power would keep the clock going.



Ray told us that General Time purchased the Sangamo clock business in 1931, shortly after they came out with clocks driven by synchronous motors.

Bob Lanphier III is the grandson of one of the founders of the Sangamo Electric Company. In his video, he went into more detail about the history of the company. He talked about the links between the Lanphiers and the Bunns, who were among the founders of the Illinois Watch Co. The Bunn family had many holdings, including banks.

Bob's grandfather wrote a very forward-looking paper in 1897 on energy distribution over long distances. Bob talked about the development of watt-hour meters to measure the consumption of this new commodity.

He also talked about the philosophy of both Sangamo and Illinois – the ethic of product quality and customer relations.

Sangamo got involved in several other businesses, including radios and capacitors. They provided 90% of the shipboard sonar equipment used in WWII. They also built equipment for Western Union and Western Electric.

### Show & Tell

Les Leovsky brought a Sangamo movement mounted in Lucite, so we could see every part. He said the movements are sought by watch guys because the Illinois parts fit perfectly in a 16-size Bunn Special!

Doug Lynn brought a selection of pyramid clocks, similar to those covered in an article in the August *Bulletin*.



Door prizes were won by Les Lesovsky, Doug Adams and Doug Lynn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Weisbart, Secretary.



*A Sangamo I.D. Tag from sangamoclocks.com*

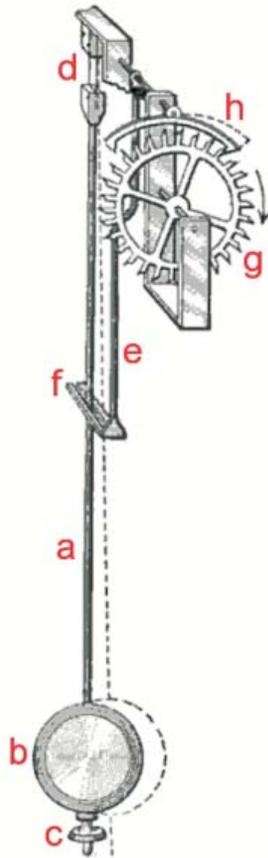
# Anchor Escapements

The anchor escapement is a type of escapement used in pendulum clocks. An escapement is the mechanism in a mechanical clock that maintains the swing of the pendulum and allows the clock's wheels to advance a fixed amount with each swing, moving the hands forward. The anchor escapement was probably invented by British scientist Robert Hooke around 1657, although some references credit clockmaker William Clement who popularized the anchor in his invention of the longcase or grandfather clock around 1680, and disputed credit for the escapement with Hooke. Joseph Knibb probably built the first working anchor clock at Wadham College, Oxford, around 1670. The anchor became the escapement used in almost all pendulum clocks. A more accurate variation called the deadbeat escapement was introduced by British clockmaker George Graham around 1715.

## How it works

The anchor escapement consists of two parts; the escape wheel, which is a vertical wheel with pointed teeth on it rather like saw teeth, and the anchor, shaped vaguely like a ship's anchor, which swings back and forth on a pivot just above the escape wheel. On the two arms of the anchor are angled flat faces which the teeth of the escape wheel push against, called pallets. The central shaft of the anchor is attached to the pendulum, so the anchor swings back and forth, with the pallets alternately catching and releasing an escape wheel tooth on each side.

Each time one pallet moves away from the escape wheel, releasing a tooth, the wheel turns and a tooth on the other side catches on the other pallet, which is moving to-



*Anchor escapement.*  
 (a) pendulum rod  
 (b) pendulum bob  
 (c) rate adjustment nut  
 (d) suspension spring  
 (e) crutch  
 (f) fork  
 (g) escape wheel  
 (h) anchor

ward the wheel. In a recoil escapement, the momentum of the pendulum continues to move the second pallet toward the wheel, pushing the escape wheel backwards for a distance, until the pendulum reverses direction and the pallet begins to move away from the wheel, with the tooth sliding along its surface, pushing it. Then the tooth slides off the end of the pallet, beginning the cycle again.

The more modern deadbeat escapement doesn't have recoil. One way to determine whether an antique pendulum clock has an anchor or deadbeat escapement is to observe the second hand. If it moves backward slightly after every tick, that shows it has a recoil.

## Crutch and fork

The shaft of the anchor, called the crutch ends in a fork which embraces the shaft of the pendulum, giving it transverse impulses. The pendulum rod is hung from a short straight suspension spring attached to a sturdy support directly behind the anchor. The pivot of the anchor is aligned with the bending point of the spring. This arrangement results in a more stable pendulum support than simply suspending the pendulum directly from the anchor.

*Excerpted from Wikipedia*

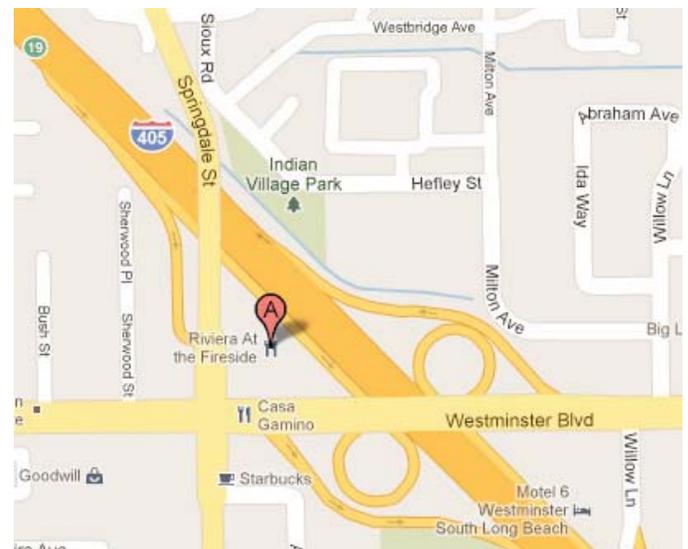


## President's Message *(cont. from page 1)*

\$25 per person including tax and gratuities. This represents a \$10 savings with the difference covered by the Chapter 69. We need to get a commitment from attendees, as the Riviera will be bringing in special help to cover our event.

Let us know at our September meeting if you plan to attend or if you can't make that meeting please call or email me an RSVP! 714 290-4702 or raybrown@att.net.

~Ray Brown



**DATED MEETING NOTICE  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

Orange County Chapter No. 69  
c/o Cora Lee Linkenhoker  
7186 Calico Cir.  
Corona, CA 92881

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



**Our Next Meeting: Friday, Sept. 2, 2011**

*Program:*

**LIVE Presentation**

**"Uses for Photography  
in Horology"  
by Doug Adams**

*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:*

Adjustments to clock escapements by *Dave Weisbart*

*Show & Tell:*

Horological items beginning with the letter "C"

*Board Meeting:*

**Monday, Sept. 12 at 7:30 P.M.** at the home of  
Ray Brown  
10432 Falcon Ave.  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
(714) 968-5526

